It is easy and tempting to sit on the sidelines and complain about what's wrong with things, but that is ultimately a fruitless pursuit. "By working with the New Mexico Academy of Ophthalmology (NMAO) and the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), we have the chance to affect change. I strongly believe in getting involved in the organizations that affect our careers," remarks Amar Joshi, MD, the current President of the NMAO who started his term as president in September, 2016, and will continue for three years. Dr. Joshi is also the Director of the Oculoplastic and Orbital Surgery Service at UNM Ophthalmology, and serves as the Medical Director of the UNM Eye Clinics.

The main goals for the NMAO are education and advocacy. The NM Academy works with the AAO to provide access to patient education resources and also actively advocate in state government on issues like vision screening, eye drop refills, and surgical scope. The main challenge in New Mexico is in access to sub-specialty care. We have good access to general ophthalmology and we have excellent ophthalmic sub-specialists but there are simply not enough of those sub-specialists to provide timely access to the very specialized care our patients need. "One of the things we can do is help educate patients on the importance of seeing their eye doctors and appropriately treating their eye conditions to prevent loss of vision", emphasizes Dr. Joshi.