

2025 Copic Humanitarian Award—Utah:

Dr. Jeff Pettey

Copic and the Utah Medical Association (UMA) are proud to announce that Dr. Jeff Pettey is the 2025 recipient of the Copic Humanitarian Award. Dr. Pettey, an ophthalmologist from Salt Lake City, was chosen based on his impact and dedication to serving patients and his community.



Dr. Pettey is a Professor and Acting Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Utah and a visionary leader in global and local eye care outreach. Over the past 17 years, he has donated more than 2,000 hours of volunteer service, providing care and surgery to thousands of patients who otherwise would not have access to sight-saving treatment.

In 2012, Dr. Pettey co-founded the John A. Moran Eye Center at the University of Utah's first Charity Surgery Day, offering free cataract surgeries to uninsured and underinsured patients. This initiative became a national model and was adopted by the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery Foundation as part of its Operation Sight network. In addition, he also provides care on the Navajo Nation multiple times each year, where he and his team offer eye exams, glasses, and surgeries in areas with no ophthalmologists.

Globally, Dr. Pettey's efforts have created long-term improvements in care in some of the world's most underserved regions. He has led more than a dozen surgical education missions in countries including Nepal, Guatemala, and Tanzania. As Medical Co-Director of Moran's Global Outreach Division (2017–2022), he helped

establish an ophthalmology residency program at the University of Dodoma in Tanzania—a country with fewer than one ophthalmologist per million people.

Dr. Pettey also co-founded the Global Ophthalmology Summit, now hosted by the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), to foster collaboration and innovation in outreach. His accolades—including the AAO's Artemis Award, Humanism in Ophthalmology Award, and Senior Achievement Award—reflect the national recognition of his contributions.

In 2020 while serving as Moran's Vice Chair of Education, Dr. Pettey launched a Global Ophthalmology Resident Scholar Program. The program is a rigorous curriculum in public health, global ophthalmology ethics, and care delivery. It includes four years of longitudinal local outreach work with a four-week international rotation and a capstone research program.

The recipient of this award is asked to designate a \$10,000 donation from Copic to be provided to a healthcare-related nonprofit organization within their community. Dr. Pettey has selected the John A. Moran Eye Center at the University of Utah's Global Outreach Division.

To learn more about the Copic Humanitarian Award or to nominate a physician,
visit our website: www.copic.com/humanitarian-award/
or email Laura Wadleigh at lwadleigh@copic.com.