

ASCRS Policy Statement

Support for Innovation and Regulatory Review of Ophthalmic Technologies

The American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS) supports the responsible development, scientific evaluation, and regulatory review of innovative ophthalmic technologies, including, but not limited to, surgical instruments, diagnostic devices, implants, pharmaceuticals, and related advances intended to improve patient care and visual outcomes.

ASCRS recognizes that continued innovation is essential to advancing the quality, safety, effectiveness, and accessibility of eye care for patients worldwide. The Society therefore encourages timely, evidence-based review by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other regulatory authorities of technologies that demonstrate the potential to provide meaningful clinical benefit to patients and to enhance the ability of ophthalmic surgeons to deliver high-quality care.

Consistent with its status as a nonprofit professional medical society, ASCRS does not endorse specific commercial entities, products, or proprietary technologies except where explicitly authorized through established Society processes. Rather, the Society supports fair, transparent, and scientifically rigorous pathways that foster innovation while maintaining appropriate standards for patient safety, clinical efficacy, physician education, and ethical conduct.

Constructive collaboration among physicians, researchers, industry, regulators, and patients is important to the continued advancement of ophthalmic care. The Society further recognizes that innovations benefiting patients may also improve physician efficiency, surgical effectiveness, practice sustainability, and access to care, all of which contribute to the broader public good.

ASCRS support for innovation and regulatory review should not be interpreted as endorsement of any specific company, product, investigational technology, or commercial interest.

Accordingly, ASCRS supports policies and regulatory frameworks that encourage the development and availability of safe and effective technologies that may improve patient outcomes and advance the field of ophthalmic surgery, especially as they pertain to the anterior segment of the eye.

Approved by the ASCRS executive board July 30, 2026