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<td>DR. ARTHUR J. BEDELL</td>
<td>Albany, NY</td>
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<td>DR. BERNARD SAMUELS</td>
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<td>Nedlands, Western Australia</td>
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<td>DR. LUDWIG VON SALLMANN</td>
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<td>DR. FRANK B. WALSH</td>
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<td>DR. THOMAS P. KEARNS</td>
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<td>DR. W. RICHARD GREEN</td>
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<td>DR. ALAN B. SCOTT</td>
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<td>DR. LORENZ E. ZIMMERMAN</td>
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<td>DR. WILLIAM S. TASMAN</td>
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<td>DR. STANLEY M. TRUHLENSEN</td>
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<td>DR. CROWELL BEARD</td>
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<td>DR. ALFRED SOMMER</td>
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<td>DR. ARTHUR JAMPOLSKY</td>
<td>Belvedere, CA</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>DR. STEPHEN J. RYAN</td>
<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
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RECIPIENTS OF THE AOS MEDAL

2020 .......... TO BE PRESENTED AT THE 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

FREDERICK H. VERHOEFF LECTURERS

1961 .......... DR. ARTHUR J. BEDELL
1964 .......... SIR STEWART DUKE-EDLER
1969 .......... DR. DAVID G. COGAN
1971 .......... DR. LORENZ E. ZIMMERMAN
1973 .......... DR. IRVING H. LEOPOLD
1975 .......... DR. ARTHUR GERARD DEVOE
1977 .......... PROF. JULES FRANCOIS
1979 .......... DR. SAIICHI MISHIMA
1983 .......... DR. RICHARD W. YOUNG
1989 .......... DR. FREDERICK C. BLODI
1992 .......... DR. FRANCIS I. COLLINS
1993 .......... DR. JORAM PIATIGORSKY
1997 .......... DR. GEOFFREY ARDEN
2002 .......... DR. PAUL SIEVING
   How Many Photoreceptors Do We Need for Vision?
2003 .......... DR. THADDEUS P. DRYJA
   How Molecular Genetics is Lifting the Fog: The Etiology of Retinitis Pigmentosa
2010 .......... DR. ADRIAN GLASSER
   Physiology of Accommodation and Pathogenesis of Presbyopia
2013 .......... DR. ALFRED SOMMER
   Preventing Blindness & Child Mortality with Vitamin A: an AOS Odyssey
2014 .......... DR. TIMOTHY STOUT
   The Rocky Road to Successful Human Gene Therapy
2019 .......... DR. MICHAEL TRESE
   A New Approach to VEGF Driven Retinal Vascular Leakage in Inherited and Acquired Retinal Vascular Disease

FREDRICK C. BLODI LECTURERS

2015 (Inaugural) ...DR. TIMOTHY W. OLSSEN
   The Age-related Macular Degeneration Complex: Linking Epidemiology and Histopathology Using the Minnesota Grading System

2016 .......... DR. ELIAS I. TRABOULSI
   Zonules and Molecules: The Underlying Pathophysiology of Ectopia Lentis

2017 .......... DR. JOSEPH CAPROILO
   Retinal Ganglion Cell Rescue in Glaucoma
MEMBERS

ACTIVE MEMBERS 2020

Adelman, Ron (2011)
Akpek, Esen (2015)
Alfonso, Eduardo (2008)
Alio, Jorge (2019)
Archer, Steven (2007)
Arevalo, J. Fernando (2019)
Arnold, Anthony (2013)
Asbell, Penny (1999)
Azar, Dmitri (2006)
Bakri, Sophie (2013)
Bartley, George (1994)
Baten, J. Bronwyn (1992)
Baudouin, Christophe (2012)
Bilyk, Jurij (2017)
Black, Bradley (2006)
Blomquist, Preston (2006)
Bobrow, James (1998)
Brodskey, Michael (2007)
Brown, Gary (1999)
Browning, David (2010)
Buckley, Edward (2007)
Budenz, Donald (2008)
Busin, Massimo (2014)
Buys, Yvonne (2019)
Cameron, J. Douglas (2014)
Cantor, Louis (2001)
Caprioli, Joseph (1994)
Chan, Chi-Chao (2003)
Chan, Clement (2014)
Chan, R.V. Paul (2015)
Char, Devron (1988)
Chen, Teresa (2009)
Chew, Emily (2005)
Chiang, Michael (2013)
Chodosh, James (2006)
Chow, Alan (2010)
Cioffi, George (2005)
Clark, Robert (2018)
Clarkson, John (1992)
Coats, David (2005)
Cohen, Elisabeth (2009)
Coleman, Anne (2007)
Collins, Mary (2019)
Correa, Zelia (2019)
Dana, Reza (2007)
Darias, John (2015)
Davis, Janet (2012)
Day, Susan (1995)
Donahue, Sean (2005)
Douglas, Raymond (2014)
Dua, Harminder (2014)
Dupps Jr., William (2016)
Durrie, Daniel (2006)
Eagle Jr., Ralph (1988)
Edward, Deepak Paul (2011)
Elman, Michael (1996)
Eliner, Susan (2002)
Eliner, Victor (2002)
Esmaeli, Bita (2012)
Fawzi, Amani (2019)
Ferris, Frederick (1996)
Fingert, John (2016)
Fish, Gary (2008)
Flaxel, Christina (2013)
Fountain, Tamara (2014)
Francis, Peter (2011)
Fraunfelder, Frederick (2008)
Freitag, Suzanne (2020)
Friedman, Alan (1984)
Galm, David (2019)
Gardner, Thomas (1995)
Garway-Heath, David (2017)
Gelender, Henry (2006)
Goldbaum, Michael (2005)
Goldberg, Robert (2011)
Golnik, Karl C. (2013)
Good, William (2001)
Gottsch, John (1996)
Gragoudas, Evangelos (1998)
Gross, Ronald (1999)
Grossniklaus, Hans (1998)
Gupta, Neeru (2019)
Hainsworth, Dean (2020)
Haller, Julia (1996)
Han, Dennis (2004)
Hannkenen, Anne (2017)
Harbour, James (2019)
Harris, Gerald (1993)
Hartnett, Mary (2010)
Hersh, Peter (2005)
Holland, Edward (1996)
Holland, Gary (2007)
Horton, Jonathan (1997)
Huang, Andrew (2007)
Huang, David (2013)
Humayun, Mark (2001)
Jabs, Douglas (1995)
Jager, Martine (2016)
Jampel, Henry (2001)
Jeng, Bennie (2018)
Johnson, Mark (2005)
Jonas, Jost (2014)
Kaiser, Peter (2009)
Karp, Carol (2019)
Katz, L. Jay (2013)
Kaushal, Shalesh (2006)
Kempen, John (2019)
Kerr, Natalie (2011)
Khan, Arif (2015)
Kikkawa, Don (2010)
Kim, Ivana (2016)
Kim, Judy (2012)
Kinoshiita, Shigeru (2012)
Ko, M. Gilbert (1993)
Koch, Douglas (1996)
Kokame, Gregg (2014)
Krueger, Ronald (2012)
Kuppermann, Baruch (2014)
Lai, Timothy (2015)
Lawrence, Mary (2004)
Levin, Alex (2014)
Lietman, Thomas (2020)
Lim, Jennifer (2018)
Lim, Michele (2020)
Lin, Shanying (2016)
Lisch, Walter (2016)
Ludwig, Irene (1999)
Lueder, Gregg (2012)
Macsai, Marion (2008)
Manche, Edward (2011)
Mannis, Mark (2000)
Mansberger, Steven (2013)
McCannel, Colin (2017)
McCulley, James (1990)
McKinley, Timothy (2013)
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Mian, Shazhad (2015)
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Nork, T. Michael (2000)
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Olsen, Timothy (2008)
Parke, Al (2007)
Parsa, Cameron (2013)
Pasquale, Louis (2013)
Pepose, Jay (2011)
Puro, Donald (2002)
Rapuano, Christopher (2003)
Reynolds, James (2007)
Rocha, Karolína (2020)
Sadka, Sriraj (2020)
Sadun, Alfredo (1998)
Sarraf, David (2014)
Schaefer, Daniel (2007)
Schanzlin, David (1999)
Schein, Oliver (2000)
Schmidt-Erfurth, Ursula (2020)
Schubert, Hermann (2005)
Schuman, Joel (2008)
Schwab, Ivan (1999)
Schwartz, Daniel (2003)
Sears, Jonathan (2013)
Sebag, Jerry (2005)
Seddon, Johanna (2019)
Sen, Nida (2017)
Sherwood, Mark (2006)
Shields, Carol (2000)
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Stamper, Robert (1984)
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Landers II, Maurice (1978)
Laties, Alan (1974)
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L’Esperance Jr., Francis (1968)
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Lindstrom, Richard (1990)
Little, Hunter (1976)
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Manchester, Jr., P. Thomas (1970)
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Mazow, Malcolm (1987)
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Nirankari, Verinder (1992)
Okun, Edward (1972)
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Payne, John (1980)
Pico, Guillermo (1957)
Pollard, Zane (1997)
Rao, Narsingh (1990)
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Regan, Ellen (1957)
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Sugar, Alan (1989)
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Tornambe, Paul (1997)
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Van Buskirk, E. Michael (1988)
Van Newkirk, Mylan (1997)
Veronneau-Troutman, Suzanne (1978)
Vine, Andrew (2000)
Waller, Robert (1982)
Waltman, Stephen (1984)
Watzke, Robert (1968)
Welch, Robert (1970)
Wilhelmus, Kirk (2000)
Wilkinson, CP (1981)
Wilson, R. Sloan (1983)
Wong, Vernon (1972)
Woog, John (2007)
Yanoff, Myron (1975)
Yeatts, R. Patrick (2005)
Younge, Brian (1984)
The 2020 AOS meeting was canceled due to COVID-19 after Council approval. The membership was notified via an eBlast on March 13th and the website. The cancelation was due to a Force Majeure. Torrey Pines rescheduled our meeting in 2024 without penalty. We had a virtual Council meeting on May 14th, and Executive Session voting was done by the membership via electronic ballot.

As of January 31, 2020, our financial balance was $9,230,210. There was minimal effect in our overall financial position due to the meeting cancelation. As of 2019, we had 220 active members and 143 emeritus members. There were 22 candidates in 2017, 13 in 2018, and 18 candidates in 2019. We sponsored the Heed Retreat on October 28, 2019, and again a virtual Heed Retreat on October 5th and 6th, 2020. The AOS contributed to the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Minority in Ophthalmology Mentoring (MOM) Program. The AOS also sponsored the Blodi and Verhoeff Lectures; the Blodi Lecture has been renamed as the Marilyn T. Miller Lecture, which will be presented for the first time at our Spring 2021 meeting. The AOS also helped sponsor non-AOS symposium speakers. We presented our annual symposium in combination with the American Board of Ophthalmology (ABO) at the AAO annual virtual meeting in November of this year. The title of the symposium was “Professionalism in Ophthalmology: Maintaining Resilience and Avoiding Burnout.” Speakers included Hans E. Grossniklaus, M.D., George Bartley, M.D., Donnie Suh, M.D., Jennifer Lim, M.D., Julia Haller, M.D., Mary Elizabeth Hartnett, M.D., Jane Bailey, M.D., and Alison Skalet, M.D.

The Howe Medal has been retired and we will introduce the AOS Medal at our spring meeting. The process for this was that Lee Jampol, M.D. brought concerns to me and the Council, we had a virtual meeting including the Council and Committee on Prizes which included prior Howe Medalists, a discussion ensued, and the Council voted on this at the Fall Council Meeting. This process will be presented as an on-demand video during our spring virtual meeting.

Regarding the TAOS, there have been 11 published theses since my report last year, including theses from Drs. John Kempen, G. Baker Hubbard, Donny Suh, Srinivas Sadda, Karolinne Rocha, Ursula Schmidt-Erfurth, Michele Lim, Eric Souied, Thomas Lietman, Dean Hainsworth, and Suzanne Freitag. There were 21 theses published in 2019 and 6 in 2018, bringing the total number of theses published in the American Journal of Ophthalmology to date to 38.

The nomination process is year-round, and the Council approves nominees in the spring, followed by nominees submitting applications. Once the Council approves an application in the fall, nominees are now candidates are invited to submit a thesis. Once the thesis is submitted, the candidate is accepted as a member in the AOS. These changes have worked out well as candidates are now able to submit their theses and have them published in a timely manner in the American Journal of Ophthalmology.
It was an honor and a privilege to serve as Chair of the AOS Council 2019-20. We welcomed new council member Stephen McCleod beginning in the 2019-2020 academic year along with current members Bill Mieler, Julia Haller, and Preston Blomquist. Ed Buckley has succeeded me as council chair (2019-2020). Emily Chew has served with distinction as our President. Woody Van Meter will serve as President during 2020-2021. Hans Grossniklaus continues to serve as both Executive Vice President and Editor for TAOS.

The Fall Council meeting was held at Mayo Square (Sports Medicine complex) in downtown Minneapolis, October 4-6, 2019 at the home of the Minnesota Lynx and Timberwolves, connected directly to Target Center. Council members in attendance for this event included: Preston Blomquist, Emily Chew, Hans Grossniklaus, Julia Haller, and Bill Mieler. We had a symposium on Friday afternoon with residents from both Mayo Clinic as well as the University of Minnesota. We had the good fortune to combine our meeting with the Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology so we also had a great community turnout from both local and national leaders in ophthalmology: George Bartley, Ed Ryan, Tom Samuelson, Sanjay Patel, Erik Van Kuijk, Scott Uttley, and others. We also had the American Academy of Ophthalmology Secretary for Advocacy, Dan Briceland from Arizona who addressed the state society later that evening. There were 2-hours of case presentations and fascinating lectures by our Council members. We also had a very dynamic discussion about how residents should view the evolving trends in Private Equity and how it will affect the practices that they will be joining. I still reference many of the unique perspectives raised during the discussion.

The Fall council meeting was productive. We reviewed prospective members, AOS finances, and made final plans for the Annual Meeting. We dined at a historic local restaurant, 112 Eatery and had walking tours of the Walker Art Center’s sculpture garden, visiting the Oldenburg-Bruggen giant cherry on a spoon and also the historic Stone-Arch Bridge by the Guthrie Theatre. We watched the start of the Twin Cities Marathon, Sunday morning. I must admit some nostalgia. Virginia and I used to take our small children (Christian and Anders; now in their late 20’s) through many of these scenic venues, so they really brought back memories for us and made the trip to the Twin Cities very special.

Of course, we had such a wonderful program all ready to roll in May 2020, when . . . COVID-19 and the mass shut-downs forced us to officially cancel the 156th annual AOS meeting, scheduled to take place in Torrey Pines, California. Such a tremendous disappointment. Ivan Schwab had a fantastic symposium planned on “Opsin Ecology: The Evolution, Function, and Diseases of Visual and Non-Visual Pigments”, and we had a symposium on “The Aging Eye”. Thus, we are greatly looking forward to reduction in COVID-19, and perhaps even a vaccine that will enable us to re-join, together with our AOS colleagues at an in-person meeting at some safe time in the future. However, the 2021 meeting is scheduled as a virtual meeting. Hope to see you soon.
REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THESES

IVANA K. KIM, MD

This year the Committee on Theses continued to review theses through the online AJO editorial platform. A standardized form has been utilized for submissions of thesis proposals which ensures that all the relevant information is provided. For thesis resubmissions, efforts were made to solicit re-review from the same reviewers providing initial comments.

Decisions were made on 10 theses over the past year.

1. Five theses were resubmissions
   a. One was accepted
   b. Three were accepted with minor revisions
   c. One required major revisions

2. Five theses were initial submissions
   a. Four were accepted with minor revisions
   b. One required major revisions

Twelve thesis proposals were reviewed.

Sincere thanks go to fellow committee members, Martine Jager and Elias Traboulsi for their insightful comments as well as Hans Grossniklaus, Amber Mendez, and Sarah Duncan (Managing Editor, AJO) for their guidance and administrative support.

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON MEMBERSHIP

CHRISTOPHER J. RAPUANO, MD

This year the Committee on Membership (Anthony Arnold, Natalie Kerr, Judy Kim and myself) reviewed 19 complete applications, and unanimously recommended that all nominees be invited to prepare a thesis. The strength of the individual candidates’ application was determined by the criteria as outlined below.

• National/International reputation
• Academic rank
• Peer-reviewed publications in last 5 years
• Ability to write thesis
• Boards or directorships
• Specialty(ies)
• Comments
• Sponsors
• Recommendations

Additional criteria discussed included:
• Grants (funding agencies)
• Teaching responsibilities
• Presentations within 5 years
• Scholarship
• Leadership
• Ethics
• Professionalism
• Communication skills

We felt the online application review process worked well. As one of the criteria we evaluate in deciding whether to recommend a candidate is our sense of their ability to complete a thesis, we were hoping that in the future applicants could include a comment in their personal statement on the resources available to them for their project. They could address access to research data, access to statistical expertise, and time to complete the project.

The future of the organization, as well as leadership in our profession, is dependent upon the continued growth of the AOS. All members are encouraged to identify potential candidates with robust records in teaching, research, clinical/surgical care, and service, and nominate them for membership in the Society. The deadline to submit membership nominations each year is April 30th.
The Annual Emeritus Luncheon during the AOS Annual Meeting was canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We look forward to welcoming AOS Emeritus members and their spouses to a future luncheon.

I regret to inform you of the passing of the following AOS members in 2019 and 2020 that we were notified of:

George W. Blankenship, Jr, MD
Hilton Head, NC
Member since 1986

Edward A. Jaeger, MD
Philadelphia, PA
Member since 1980

Frederick A. Jakobiec, MD***
Boston, MA
Member since 1984

Allan E. Kolker, MD
St. Louis, MO
Member since 1977

Richard P. Mills, MD, MPH
Seattle, WA
Member since 1998

Edward Okun, MD
Tesaque, NM
Member since 1972

Ellen F. Regan, MD**
Tuxedo Park, NY
Member since 1957

Paul E. Tornambe, MD
Poway, CA
Member since 1997

**Obituary unavailable
***Obituary will be published in 2021 TAOS
AOS Council – Stephen D. McLeod
AOS President – Woodford S. Van Meter
Executive Vice President – Hans E. Grossniklaus to cont.
Editor – Hans E. Grossniklaus to cont.
Member, Committee on Theses
Stephen H. Tsang to join
Elias I. Traboulsi, Chair
Martine J. Jager
Member, Committee on Programs –
Jennifer I. Lim to join
Jayne S. Weiss, Chair
Peter A. Netland
Sean P. Donahue
Member, Committee on Membership –
R. V. Paul Chan to join
Anthony C. Arnold, Chair
Natalie C. Kerr
Judy E. Kim
Members, Committee on Communications –
Bennie H. Jeng to join
Michael F. Chiang, Chair
RV Paul Chan
Anne L. Coleman
Committee on New Members –
Christina Flaxel and Edward J. Wladis to join
David K. Wallace, to join
Member, Committee on Prizes –
Joan W. Miller to join
Hugh R. Taylor, to join
George L. Spaeth
Chair, Committee on Emeriti – Thomas D. France to cont.
Committee on Athletics –
Frederick W. Fraunfelder
Woodford S. Van Meter to cont.
Audit Committee –
Marco A. Zarbin, Chair
Timothy W. Olsen
Hans E. Grossniklaus
Investment Committee –
Woodford S. Van Meter
Edward G. Buckley
Hans E. Grossniklaus
Archivist/Photographer – Ralph C. Eagle, Jr. to cont.
Representative to American Academy of Ophthalmology Council –
Sophie J. Bakri to cont.
Esen K. Akpek alt. to join
Representative to the International Council of Ophthalmology – Karl C. Golnik to join
Representative to the American College of Surgeons –
Robert A. Goldberg
George L. Spaeth alt. to join
Representative to the Pan American Association of Ophthalmology – Eduardo C. Alfonso to cont.
Representatives to the American Orthoptic Council –
James D. Reynolds
Steven M. Archer
Kanwal Nischal to cont.
Representative to IJCAHPO – Teresa C. Chen to join
Representatives to the Heed Ophthalmic Foundation –
David J. Wilson
Eduardo C. Alfonso
Julia A. Haller to cont.
Parliamentarian – Peter A. Netland to cont.
REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON NEW MEMBERS

DAVID K. WALLACE, MD, MPH

THE NEW MEMBERS LISTED BELOW WERE TO BE WELCOMED AT THE 156TH ANNUAL MEETING. SINCE THE 2020 MEETING WAS CANCELLED DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THESE MEMBERS WILL BE WELCOMED DURING THE 2021 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

J. Fernando Arevalo, MD, PhD, FACS
- The Wilmer Eye Institute - Johns Hopkins University
- Specialty: Uveitis/Immunology
- Thesis: Preoperative Bevacizumab for Tractional Retinal Detachment in Proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy: A Prospective Randomized Clinical Trial

Mary Louise Z. Collins, MD
- Greater Baltimore Medical Center
- Specialty: Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus
- Thesis: Depression, Anxiety, and Stress in Parents of Patients with Retinoblastoma

Amani Fawzi, MD
- Northwestern University
- Specialty: Retina/Vitreous
- Thesis: Improved Macular Capillary Flow on Optical Coherence Tomography Angiography After Panretinal Photocoagulation for Proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy

Suzanne K. Freitag, MD
- Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary
- Specialty: Oculofacial Plastics/Reconstructive, and Neuro-Ophthalmology
- Thesis: A Nomenclature to Describe the Sequence of Visual Field Defects in Progressive Thyroid Eye Disease—Compressive Optic Neuropathy

David M. Gamm, MD, PhD
- University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Specialty: Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus
- Thesis: The Role of FGF9 in the Production of Neural Retina and RPE in a Pluripotent Stem Cell Model of Early Human Retinal Development

Neeru Gupta, MD, PhD, MBA, FRCSC
- St. Michael’s Hospital
- Specialty: Glaucoma, and International Ophthalmology
- Thesis: Incision-Free Minimally Invasive Conjunctival Surgery (MICS) for Late-Onset Bleb Leaks After Trabeculectomy

Dean P. Hainsworth, MD
- Mason Eye Institute - University of Missouri
- Specialty: Retina/Vitreous
- Thesis: Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Using a Gold Nanoparticle-Based Paper Strip Assay for the At-Home Detection of the Urinary Biomarker 8-Hydroxy-2'-Deoxyguanosine

Carol L. Karp, MD
- Bascom Palmer Eye Institute
- Specialty: Cornea/External Disease, and Ocular Oncology
- Thesis: Use of High-Resolution Optical Coherence Tomography in the Surgical Management of Ocular Surface Squamous Neoplasia: A Pilot Study

John H. Kempen, MD
- Massachusetts Eye and Ear/Schepens Eye Research Institute; Harvard Medical School; and Addis Ababa University
- Specialty: Uveitis/Immunology, and International Ophthalmology
- Thesis: Remission of Non-Infectious Anterior Scleritis: Incidence and Predictive Factors

Michele C. Lim, MD
- UC Davis Eye Center
- Specialty: Glaucoma
- Thesis: A Comparison of Trabeculectomy Surgery Outcomes with Mitomycin-C Applied by Intra-Tenon Injection Versus Sponge

Tatyana Milman, MD
- Wills Eye Hospital
- Specialty: Ophthalmic Pathology, and Comprehensive Ophthalmology
- Thesis: Conjunctival Myxoid Lesions: Clinical-Pathologic Multiparametric Analysis, Including Molecular Genetics

Kourosh Nouri-Mahdavi, MD
- Stein Eye Institute, Glaucoma Division
- Specialty: Glaucoma, and Cataract/Anterior Segment
- Thesis: Longitudinal Macular Structure-Function Relationships in Glaucoma and Their Sources of Variability
Karolinne Rocha, MD
- Storm Eye Institute
- **Specialty:** Cornea/External Disease, Cataract/Anterior Segment, and Refractive Surgery
- **Thesis:** Static and Dynamic Factors Associated with Extended Depth of Focus in Monofocal Intraocular Lenses

Srinivas Sadda, MD
- Doheny Eye Institute
- **Specialty:** Retina – Medical
- **Thesis:** Quantitative Assessment of the Severity of Diabetic Retinopathy

Ursula Schmidt-Erfurth, MD
- Medical University of Vienna
- **Specialty:** Retina/Vitreous, and International Ophthalmology
- **Thesis:** Role of Deep Learning–Quantified Hyperreflective Foci for the Prediction of Geographic Atrophy Progression

Justine Smith, FRANZCO, PhD
- Flinders Medical Centre
- **Specialty:** Uveitis/Immunology
- **Thesis:** Angiogenic and Immunologic Proteins Identified by Deep Proteomic Profiling of Human Retinal and Choroidal Vascular Endothelial Cells: Potential Targets for New Biologic Drugs

Eric H. Souied, MD
- Hopital Intercommunal de Creteil
- **Specialty:** Retina – Medical
- **Thesis:** Spectral-Domain Optical Coherence Tomography Analysis of Fibrotic Lesions in Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration

Richard F. Spaide, MD
- Vitreous Retina Macula Consultants of NY, PC
- **Specialty:** Retina/Vitreous
- **Thesis:** Measurable Aspects of the Retinal Neurovascular Unit in Diabetes, Glaucoma, and Controls

Michael W. Stewart, MD
- Mayo Clinic, Department of Ophthalmology
- **Specialty:** Retina – Medical, and Retina/Vitreous
- **Thesis:** Can Baseline Computed Tomography Scans Be Used to Identify Patients at High Risk of Vision Loss due to Terson Syndrome?

Fotis Topouzis, MD
- AUTH, AHEPA Hospital
- **Specialty:** Ophthalmic Pathology
- **Thesis:** Twelve-Year Incidence and Baseline Risk Factors for Pseudoexfoliation: The Thessaloniki Eye Study

Thasarat S. Vajaranant, MD
- University of Chicago Medical Center
- **Specialty:** Glaucoma, and Cataract/Anterior Segment
- **Thesis:** An Association Between Large Optic Nerve Cupping and Cognitive Function

George Waring, IV, MD, FACS
- Waring Vision Institute
- **Specialty:** Cataract/Anterior Segment, and Refractive Surgery
- **Thesis:** Correlation of Intraoperative Optical Coherence Tomography of Crystalline Lens Diameter, Thickness and Volume with Biometry and Age

Tien Y. Wong, MBBS, PhD
- Singapore National Eye Centre
- **Specialty:** Retina – Medical
- **Thesis:** Patterns and Risk Factor Profiles of Visual Loss in a Multiethnic Asian Population: The Singapore Epidemiology of Eye Diseases Study
The AOS athletics program, cancelled in 2020 at Torrey Pines in La Jolla, California because of the COVID epidemic, now takes another hit in 2021 with the decision to make the 157th meeting in May 2021 at the Ritz-Carlton in Naples, FL a virtual meeting. We will expect great academic content, but, alas, no collegial athletic sporting events in 2021 either. However, the athletics committee applauds the wisdom of the AOS Council in taking the necessary steps to protect AOS athletes (and talented singers) in the spring of 2021 in order to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID, either at the meeting or in transportation to and from the meeting. We must optimistically look at the loss of our convivial athletic competition both these years as a temporary setback, and an opportunity to hone our games and skills with minimal distraction until the 158th meeting in 2022 at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, CO (the site of the 2008 and 2016 meetings).

The Broadmoor Resort has on site tennis and golf, and has consistently been ranked among the best golf resorts in the world. The Broadmoor recently hosted the 2018 US Senior Open to such great acclaim that the Senior Open will return there in 2025. Hiking, fishing and skeet shooting will all be available, and it should be a grand format for the resumption of AOS live meetings!

The Naples meeting which had been scheduled at the Ritz Carlton in 2021 will has been moved to May 2024, when we will be able to have the AOS golf outing there at the Hole in the Wall Golf Club in Naples (where it was scheduled in 20210. The Hole in the Wall Golf Club, a private club in Naples with one of the top-rated courses in Southwest Florida, is an Audubon certified nature sanctuary. Ospreys, raccoons, bobcats, iguanas, and countless shore birds live on the course. It should be a spectacular venue for our golf outing.

Meanwhile, during the off season rest up, heal your nagging injuries, and hone your skills for a return to the AOS athletic tradition at the Broadmoor in 2022. Meanwhile, I recommend reading some of the game improvement books written by our own members: for golfers “How to Hit It Close from 2 Feet” by Peter Netland, “How to get More Distance from the Shank” by Tony Arnold and “When to Regrip Your Ball Retriever” by Rick Ferris. For tennis players, there are “Why Calling ‘em Out is Easier than Hitting ‘em” by Rick Fraunfelder and “Double-faulting for Dummies” by George Spaeth.
I. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER
Dr. Woodford Van Meter, AOS Audit Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. PDT on Monday, July 20, 2020. The following Committee members, staff and guests were present:

Committee
Woodford Van Meter, MD – Audit Committee Chair
Marco Zarbin, MD – Audit Committee Member
Hans E. Grossniklaus, MD – Executive Vice President

Staff
Amber J. Mendez – AOS, Client Services Manager
Timothy Losch – Director, SF AMS
Alice Paw – Finance Manager, American Academy of Ophthalmology

Audit Partners
Rianne Suico – Senior Manager, Moss Adams

II. REVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2019 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Ms. Alice Paw provided an overview of the 2019 fiscal year end audited financial statements. Ms. Paw explained that since the financials are reported on a comparative basis, footnotes where amounts were reported included current and prior year balances.

Ms. Paw explained that cash increased by $42,000 due to a transfer from investments in the amount of $380,000, less expenses paid. Receivables increased by $75,000 due to a refund from Torrey Pines Resort and the 2020 annual meeting cancellation. These funds decreased the prepaid expenses by $32,000 with the remaining being reclassified for the 2023 annual meeting.

Ms. Paw further explained that accounts payable increased by $40,000 due to the timing of the 2019 membership dues payments received in 2020. Management expenses increased, and annual meeting and Council meeting expenses decreased due to the locations of the 2019 meetings.

Investment income increased by $23,000 due to interest and dividend earned on investments and improved market conditions. Net realized and unrealized gains increased by $2.0 million due to an increase in market values in 2019.

As a result, Ms. Paw reported that the AOS total net assets increased by $1.3 million due to the above actions.

ACTION: The Committee accepted Ms. Paw’s report as presented.

III. AUDIT PRESENTATION
Ms. Rianne Suico of Moss Adams presented the Report of Independent Auditors, which stated the opinion that the consolidated financial statements were fairly presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. She shared that no issues were discussed prior to their retention as auditors for the AOS, and that they had no disagreements with AOS management during the process.

ACTION: The Committee accepted the auditor’s report as presented.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION
Dr. Van Meter excused SF AMS staff and the American Academy of Ophthalmology Finance staff and the Committee met in an executive session with the representative from Moss Adams. The Committee did not identify any irregularities. Dr. Van Meter confirmed that processes did not warrant further investigation and that a separate audit on internal controls was not necessary.

V. ADJOURNMENT
Dr. Van Meter adjourned the meeting of the Audit Committee at 2:30 p.m. PDT on Monday, July 20, 2020.
This year the Mid-Year Forum was canceled due to COVID-19. The AAO Fall Council meeting was held virtually on October 17, 2020 and I attended as AOS Councilor to the AAO. A large part of the meeting was devoted to the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact it had on every aspect of ophthalmology including clinical care and the education of residents. The meeting began with David Parke, II, MD discussing the impact COVID-19 had on ophthalmology as a whole and on AAO. After that address, several state and specialty societies discussed how their societies had changed in response to COVID, in terms of member communications and switching to virtual meetings. Ann Coleman, MD, then moderated a session focused on how academic institutions and residency training programs had pivoted. Presentations ensued discussing how safety precautions had been taken, and how residency programs had been impacted and adjusted their education styles. In addition, this fall, interviews for prospective residents will be held virtually. The increase and wider availability and adoption of telemedicine was also presented. Many ophthalmology practices have adopted telemedicine, and CMS has created new billing codes for telemedicine during the pandemic. It was mentioned that these were temporary billing codes and may be subject to change in 2021. Diversity and inclusion was discussed and presentations were made on these efforts in AAO and other subspecialty societies. The importance of the Surgical Scope fund was emphasized and the relationship between ophthalmology and optometry discussed.

The American College of Surgeons is dedicated to improving the care of the surgical patient and to safeguarding standards of care in an optimal and ethical practice environment. The College carries out its mission through a wide scope of activities, including physician education, public education, development of safety and quality programs, and advocacy.

The Ophthalmology Advisory Council meets annually (virtually this year, as you would expect). Activities include education (we submitted a course proposal for this year’s meeting in Washington DC), advocacy (the ACS stands by Ophthalmology in the Surgery by Surgeons scope of practice issue, as well as appropriate valuation of surgical global fee), quality (we participated in trauma guidelines this year), and physician health. Although Ophthalmologists comprise only 2% of the ACS membership, our voice and our input are important. We initiated 28 Ophthalmologists this year. ACS participation fosters our connection to the greater House of Surgery and optimizes the opportunities to achieve our common goals.
1. GOVERNANCE INITIATIVES

Elected and installed new Officers for IJCAHPO Board of Directors for 2020-21:

Two Directors-at-Large: Barbara Harris, PA, MBA, COT, OSC; and Kent Rose, COMT

Welcomed new Councilors:
- Carla Blackburn, COMT, CDOS, ROUB – COTP
- Teresa Chen, MD – AOS
- Joann Kang, MD – ECLA
- Edward Lim, MD – ASRS
- Gary Legault, MD, MAJ (P), MC – SMO
- Vasudha Panday, MD – ASCRS

Awarded the 2019 Statesmanship Award to Karl Golnik, MD, MEd (Councilor) and Sue Vicchrilli, COT, OCS, OSCR (Non-Councilor).

Awarded the 2020 Statesmanship Award to Raymond Stein, MD, FRCSC.

2. MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR THE YEAR

Launched websites: IJCAHPO Career Center & Discover Eye Careers

Launched new Career Center with ophthalmic technician job board.

Expand awareness of the ophthalmic assisting profession and to increase the potential workforce
- Presented on the Ophthalmic Assisting career at the virtual Health Occupations Students of America and Chapter meetings.

3. GOVERNMENTAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS INITIATIVES

Conducted two webinars on COVID-19 (one free; one for $5), two free webinars on Women’s Eye Health; one free webinar (broadcasted 2 times) on Age-Related Macular Degeneration.

Promoted AAO’s EyeSmart monthly campaigns to certificants.
IJCAHPO joined the New York State Ophthalmological Society in support of amended language to the eye drop instillation bill that previously passed in the legislature.

4. EDUCATION & E-LEARNING INITIATIVES

IJCAHPO hosted its first Virtual Broadcast and On-Demand 48th Annual Continuing Education Program on November 7, 14 and 15, with on-demand open until December 30, 2020.

- Gary N. Holland, MD, Professor of Ophthalmology and Jack H. Skirball Chair in Ocular Inflammatory Diseases in the Department of Ophthalmology, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA presented the Harold A. Stein, MD, Lecture on COVID-19 and Other Emerging Infectious Diseases.
- Presented Capstone Lecture Series: Innovations in Ophthalmology by leading ophthalmologists.
- Partnered with AAOE on offering a Coding Camp program.
- Conducted Continuing Education Programs: 11 in-person and new virtual regional programs, 48 monthly CE Webinars, and 375 online courses for the entire eye care team.
- Conducted Allied Ophthalmic Personnel Programs with ASCRS.

5. CERTIFICATION INITIATIVES

Certified a total number of certificants – 31,292 worldwide.

Delivering performance examinations via Zoom.

Launched an online Certification and Recertification application process.

6. FOUNDATION INITIATIVES

Awarded over 150 Training Program Scholarships for more than $12,000 to support ophthalmic technicians’ academic education and four orthoptists scholarships totaling $950.

Awarded 11 certification and continuing education grants for more than $3,900.

Awarded 32 scholarships to 2020 ACE Program to AOP adversely and economically impacted by COVID.

Awarded the 2019 Harold A. Stein Prize for Best Scientific Paper to: 1st place - Xiaosong Zhu, COMT; 2nd place recipients: Wanda Lynn Pfeifer, COMT, CO, OC(C); Liam Redden, COT, OSA.

Awarded the 2019 Virginia S. Boyce Humanitarian award to Laura S. Rafferty-Mazzei, COT, OSA; and the 2020 Award to Michelle P. Herrin, COMT, orthoptist.

7. INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

IJCAHPO and the Singapore National Eye Center are partnering on AOP training in SE Asia.

Presented at the WOC 2020 and ICO Virtual program.
1. PAN-AMERICAN COUNCIL OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS (PACUPO)
Eduardo Mayorga MD (Argentina) chairs PACUPO. The purpose of this program is to unite and standardize university training programs throughout Latin American through exchange programs and other means. Towards this end, Dr. Mayorga, as Chair of the PAAO eLearning Committee, created “Campus PAAO” to offer PAAO webinars and over the years many PACUPO members have given more than 150 educational courses free of charge. Dr. Mayorga has created asynchronous courses students to take for a modest fee. The complete list of archived webinars and the schedule of upcoming webinars and asynchronous courses are available on the PAAO’s website www.paao.org.

2. FELLOWSHIPS COMMITTEE
Lihteh Wu MD (Costa Rica) chairs the Fellowships Committee. Scholarships are funded from a variety of sources. In 2020 approximately $90,000 in scholarships and other awards were given. In addition to using its Pan-American Foundation unrestricted resources, funding for these programs is provided by personal donations to the Pan-American Foundation, from donations from industry partners and private or family foundations, such as the Retina Research Foundation, the Tim & Judith Sear Foundation and the David E.I. Pyott Foundation, and partnering institutions such as University of Texas, Southwestern, in Dallas, Texas.

3. VISITING PROFESSORS COMMITTEE
José Antonio Roca MD (Peru) chairs the Visiting Professors Committee. The Visiting Professors Program sends Visiting Professors to present the “Pan-American Lecture” at national ophthalmological meetings in the Americas. Because of COVID-19, this program was put on hold as most meetings were postponed, canceled or went virtual. No travel awards were give in 2020.

4. NEW PROGRAM LAUNCHED: PAAO-YO
Camila Ventura MD (Brazil) and Jorge Fortun MD (USA) co-chair the PAAO YO program. The purpose of this program is to offer education and networking opportunities to young ophthalmologists around the world. The PAAO-YO are organizing one webinar per month and are collaborating with the YO’s of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

5. 2020 MEETINGS & EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES
Continuing education and prevention of blindness programs are the primary mission for the PAAO. Dr. Mayorga launched a series of very successful free webinars in English, Spanish and Portuguese that has generated much interest in a variety of subspecialties. Approximately two webinars are presented per month. Our face-to-face educational activities were greatly impacted by COVID-19. The 2020 cycle of the PAAO’s leadership development course was canceled.

• 17th Leadership Development Course “Curso de Liderazgo”
  Jointly with the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO)
  January 15-17, 2020
  San Francisco, California

• 18th Pan-American Research Day
  (one day before the ARVO meeting)
  Cancelled (Baltimore, MD)

• 33rd Lo Mejor de la AAO en Español
  Virtual format on December 5, 2020 via Zoom
The International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) is committed to improving eye health worldwide through its partnership with 182 national, regional and subspecialty member societies. High quality eye care is promoted through ICO educational opportunities and resources, including curricula, examinations, fellowships, the World Ophthalmology Congress, and teaching programs.

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the ICO Examinations and to date, over 45,000 ophthalmologists in 84 countries at 137 testing centers have taken the exams to further their careers, evaluate their knowledge, and meet requirements in their countries to practice ophthalmology.

The ICO Fellowship Program provides important opportunities for ophthalmologists primarily from low-resource settings, to improve practical skills and enhance their knowledge of ophthalmology before returning to their communities. To date, 1,200 ophthalmologists from 84 low-resource countries have received ICO fellowships, hosted by 136 hospitals and universities across 33 countries.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 World Ophthalmology Congress (WOC2020) held on June 26-29th was the first online global gathering in ophthalmology. With over 7,000 participants from 157 countries, the scientific contributions of our member societies and international leaders were instrumental in contributing to the success of WOC2020 Virtual®.

**Recommendation:** The AOS continue its support and membership in the ICO.
OBITUARIES

GEORGE W. BLANKENSHPH, JR, MD

George W. Blankenship, Jr., M.D., a talented innovator of vitreoretinal surgery, and one of the world’s leading experts in the management of patients with proliferative diabetic retinopathy, passed away on July 26 in Hilton Head, South Carolina. He was 79.

George became a member of AOS in 1986. Dr. Blankenship received his medical degree from Tulane University School of Medicine in 1966, where he also completed a residency in ophthalmology. He then completed a fellowship in vitreoretinal surgery at Washington University in Saint Louis. He joined the faculty of the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in the early 1970s and lead its efforts in the management of patients with diabetic retinopathy for nearly 20 years. At Bascom Palmer, he served as principal investigator on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) sponsored Diabetic Retinopathy Study and the Diabetic Vitrectomy Study, each of which demonstrated a beneficial effect of treatment. George worked closely with Dr. Robert Machemer and Jean Marie Parel to improve both instrumentation and clinical outcomes of pars plana vitrectomy. He authored or co-authored more than 200 publications and delivered sixteen named lectures.

A Bascom Palmer colleague noted: “George was energetic, and his enthusiasm was infectious among the Bascom Palmer faculty and staff. He was also known for emphasis on time efficiency and on more than one occasion would go to the floor to bring his patient to the OR when he felt the orderly was taking too long. He was more than a colleague - he was a friend.” Dr. Harry Flynn adds, “Beloved by colleagues and patients alike, George was a superstar at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. His concern for all of his co-workers and their families endeared him to all. His funny antics and quick wit kept us entertained. He will be missed by all.”

Dr. Blankenship left Bascom Palmer in 1989 to become chair of the department of ophthalmology at Pennsylvania State University where he served until his retirement. A highly respected leader in the field of ophthalmology, he served as president of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, and was a member of Club Jules Gonin, and Retina Society.

Following his retirement from Penn State in 2006, he and his wife, Barbara, moved to Hilton Head, South Carolina where for more than a decade, he volunteered weekly at the Volunteer in Medicine Clinic, serving the eyecare needs of the medically underserved and their families who live or work on Hilton Head Island.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Barbara, and daughters Ellery Blankenship Damiano and Mary Ellen Blankenship, grandchildren Mia Damiano and Michael Damiano, brother, Robert C Blankenship, and sister, Mary Ellen Blankenship Sims.

A beacon of positivity and humor, George was a consummate physician, family man and friend. He will be missed by all who knew him. George clearly left this world a better place.

By

JOHN G. CLARKSON, MD, Miami, FL
Physician educator par excellence, and longtime Director of Undergraduate Medical Education for Wills Eye Hospital and Jefferson Medical College’s Department of Ophthalmology, Ed Jaeger’s career and its reverberating legacy epitomize Henry James’ famous words, “A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.”

A true American patriot and hero, Ed was born on the 4th of July and raised by his widowed mother who encouraged the career aspirations that led him to Washington & Jefferson College and subsequently the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. After internship he enlisted in the Navy and served as a flight surgeon with a Marine Fighter Squadron deployed to the Far East. This was the start of a lifelong dedication to the Navy, including 23 years in the Reserves, retiring as Captain in 1985. Ed later developed a special medical school role as a mentor and advisor to students in the military. And each year at Jefferson’s Commencement, Ed Jaeger was the faculty member who administered the Oath of Office to the graduating students bound for the Navy.

Returning from service in Japan and Taiwan, Ed was admitted into the Ophthalmology residency at Jefferson, and the rest is history. He met his wife the delightful Sandra Bundy, a student nurse, and they married and became the proud parents of three wonderful children, Edward Jaeger, Jr., Karen Jaeger Thompson and Nancy Jaeger Kapp. Later came 7 terrific grandchildren, each the apple of Ed’s fond eye. After residency, Ed established a private practice at Riddle Eye Associates, always maintaining an active role however in academics, enabled by his close friendship with Dr. Thomas Duane, who served as Ophthalmologist-in-Chief at Wills Eye Hospital as well as Chair of Ophthalmology at Jefferson Medical College.

It was at Jefferson and Wills that Ed found his true métier as an educator and mentor, as well as canny and observant talent scout. For 35 years, Dr. Jaeger was the face of Ophthalmology for generations of medical students from around the country and the world, introducing them to our field, encouraging their explorations and aspirations, and supporting them loyally and forever.

A natural leader and educator, Ed had a genius for finding the best and the brightest, and steering them firmly but gently into the avenues where they could achieve their potential. He was the dedicated co-editor with Thomas Duane and later Bill Tasman, of the 10-volume textbook Duane’s Clinical Ophthalmology. He was an active member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Board of Ophthalmology as Associate Examiner, and the Pennsylvania Medical Societies, as well as notably serving the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, as Chair of the Section of Ophthalmology and later on the Executive Committee of the Board.

In 1980 he was inducted into the American Ophthalmological Society, having written a thesis entitled “Ocular Findings in Down’s Syndrome”. He and Sandy relished the AOS conviviality, rarely missing a meeting, a paper session, or a party. Warmly smiling, ever the consummate gentleman, Ed’s was a quiet, modest, true blue presence that never failed to be supportive, kind, and engaging. He was recognized for his educational and medical community leadership with many awards, including the signature Wills Eye Silver Tray award, and in 2012 a new honor, the Wills Citizenship Award was
created in his honor. His family has now endowed in his memory the Jaeger Lectureship at Wills Eye Hospital which will endure as an additional testimony to his life of impact and inspiration.

Ed loved sharing his interests and his life with his AOS colleagues, and we delighted at hearing about the children and grandchildren’s swim meets, baseball games, and cross-country races. An avid gardener, he gave freely of its bounty and surplus to the delighted surrounding neighborhood. The Jaeger family opened their home in Avalon, NJ to host a famed annual all-day extravaganza of a party for the Wills residents and faculty, featuring bounteous and homemade feasts, swimming, boating, and fun! Ed relished his long swims across the bay, and never missed rounding up the whole crew to catch the perfect sunset.

Ed Jaeger was one of those rare gifts to the world, a man who made everyone around him better. An example for us all of integrity and excellence, of humility, kindness and generosity, he left every place, and everyone he touched, the richer for his presence. Ave atque vale, dear Ed.

By JUlia A. Haller, MD, Philadelphia, PA

Dr. Allan E. Kolker passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family, at the age of 86 on March 29, 2020. He was the beloved husband of Jacquelyn Kolker for 62 years. His passion for his best friend and love of his life, Jackie, knew no bounds. He was a true family man- dear father of Robin, Marci, David, and Scott. His children were taught to be kind, caring, and strong adults. He was the Beloved “Pa” to eight grandchildren and a loving Great-grandfather of four.

Dr. Kolker was Professor Emeritus of Clinical Ophthalmology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri. He earned his undergraduate degree from Washington University in 1954 and graduated from the School of Medicine in 1957. He completed his internship at St. Louis Children’s Hospital and his residency in ophthalmology and fellowship in glaucoma (with Dr. Bernard Becker) at Washington University. He completed his internship at St. Louis Children’s Hospital and performed his residency in ophthalmology and a fellowship in glaucoma at Washington University with Dr. Bernard Becker. Dr. Kolker was appointed to the faculty at Washington University in 1963 as an instructor and become a Professor of Ophthalmology in 1974. He co-directed the University’s Glaucoma Service from 1967-1996 initially with Bernard Becker and Steven Podos, and later with Michael Kass. He was the first recipient of the Washington University Eye Alumni Award in 1990. Thereafter, he became Director of the Glaucoma Institute in St. Louis.

Dr. Kolker distinguished himself nationally and internationally as an expert in the field of glaucoma, with scientific publications numbering in excess of 130. Dr. Kolker delivered more than 250 lectures worldwide on the care of glaucoma patients. His main research interests focused on glaucoma therapies and improving patient outcomes. He was the recipient of the Senior Honor Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology and received the Missouri Ophthalmological Society’s Golden Medallion Award.
Dr. Kolker was elected to the AOS in 1977 and his thesis was entitled, “Visual prognosis in advanced glaucoma: A comparison of medical and surgical therapy for retention of vision in 101 eyes with advanced glaucoma.” Following patients for over 7 years, he concluded that IOP > 22 mmHg was a significant risk factor for progression of visual field loss and suggested that surgical intervention should be considered in this group of patients with advanced glaucoma. It has been noted that he played an important role in encouraging the development of some of our landmark clinical trials over the past several decades. A founding member of the American Glaucoma Society, Dr. Kolker served as its President from 1992-1994 and received the Society’s special Honor Award in 2002. He served on the editorial boards of several journals, including Ophthalmology and the Journal of Glaucoma. Dr. Kolker served on the Board of Trustees of the American Academy of Ophthalmology from 1994-1998, the American Board of Ophthalmology from 1994-1997 and chaired the Glaucoma 2001 National Scientific Advisory Board. Most recently, in 2016, Dr. Kolker was recognized by Washington University School of Medicine Department of Ophthalmology with the establishment of a Distinguished Ophthalmology Chair which will benefit future generations and continue his legacy and passion for research in the field of ophthalmology.

Al was a giant in our field as a colleague, mentor and superb teacher- a consummate and caring clinician with deep clinical insights and unending dedication to his patients. His excellence and compassion has made us all better physicians and more importantly, better human beings. As stated by Isaac Newton, “If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.” Dr. Kolker taught us that patient care is a labor of love and compassion, and by following the principles of the Golden Rule- treating patients as we would wish to be treated. He was a kind, humble and gentle soul and made patients feel that they were the only patients he was seeing all day. Allan had a smile and a hug for everyone he met. Al gave unconditionally of himself to family, friends, and patients. His kindness was unmatched and his bedside manner was unequaled. His patients became lifelong friends and family. He will be missed by many but forgotten by none. His legacy will live on through his decades of trainees and his loving family. Farewell, dear friend.

By
MICHAEL A. KASS, MD, St. Louis, MO
CARLA J. SIEGFRIED, MD, St. Louis, MO
Dr. Richard Pence Mills, died of COVID-19 on May 9, 2020, at the age of 76.

Dick is much greater than just his list of accomplishment: he was truly a brilliant and special person who was a giant as both a human, ophthalmologist, and glaucoma specialist. Anne Coleman expressed that “he was one of a kind, an independent, scientific thinker, a person who used words to convey thoughts, feelings, empathy and concerns; a person who never used words to belittle, hurt, or shame.” He possessed a balance of humility, intellect, common sense, compassion and sensitivity. He was warm, understated, supportive, and had a wonderful dry sense of humor. He was generous with his time, a brilliant teacher, and friend. Greg Skuta found that in all settings both professional and personal, Dick conducted himself with a steady and skilled hand; with eloquence, humility, and grace; but also with a quick wit and steady stream of one-liners. The consistency of his sage advice, fairness, thoughtfulness and unquestioned integrity always were valued. Moreover, his courage in living with a chronic medical disease was inspirational. His loves for the opera, hiking, and Chihuly glass were well-known as was his devotion to Karen, daughters Lianne, Elisabeth, and Emily, and his many grandchildren.

Dick was brought up on the North Shore of Chicago, the son of an argumentation and debate professor at Northwestern University. He then went on to college and medical school at Yale University where he was Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa. After a residency in ophthalmology at the University of Washington, he started his career in neuro-ophthalmology, with fellowships both in Utah and University of California, San Francisco. Then, according to Mike Patella:

“I met Dick Mills in 1984, when Anders Heijl and I were working on the first Humphrey perimeter. Dick was working in Seattle as a neuro-ophthalmologist, having trained both with William Hoyt and Henry Van Dyk. He usually appeared in classic academic attire, complete with tweed jacket and his ever-present pipe. However, his physical presentation always was punctuated by his even more characteristic grin, as if, lurking in the dark depths of his impish Yale heart there was a joke that he was about to tell you.

In those days, I was in and out of Vancouver with some regularity, taking advantage of Stephen Drance’s kindly assistance in working out some of the trickier aspects of automated perimetry. On one such visit, Dick unexpectedly appeared, and my query as to what had brought him to Vancouver that fine day immediately revealed the merry fellow who always dwelled within. “Well,” he said all the while giggling at his own joke, “I have finally realized that I must actually make a living while having the time of my life working as a neuro-ophthalmologist, so I am doing a glaucoma fellowship with Stephen!”

According to Robert Kalina, MD, the former chair at the University of Washington:

“Before joining the full-time faculty at UW in 1984 Dick took leave to study with Stephen Drance at the University of British Columbia where he gained Molteno valve expertise. He rose to the rank of Professor and Vice Chair of our Department and was granted an MPH degree from the UW School of Public Health. He remained educationally and clinically productive in spite of extensive travel as a popular guest speaker. During the year of his...”
Dick was a truly remarkable person. Always in good humor even in the face of adversity. Never hypercritical or demeaning of anyone. A distinctive laugh. Our monthly three star Thai lunches. Mushroom hunter. Wine connoisseur. Lover of opera. Thought nothing of going to NYC for a weekend at the Met. It pained him to tell me just a few months ago that he no longer could navigate Heathrow for opera in London. Volunteer chauffeur for visiting performers for Seattle Opera. Words, wit, and wisdom abounded always.

And with all this depth of talent, ability, and character, Dick was a good doctor. The highest compliment in my vocabulary.”

Dick’s accomplishments are many. Despite being a husband, father, grandfather, and clinician; he was president of the American Academy of Ophthalmology in 1995, Secretary of the American Glaucoma Society in 2009, Editor of Eyenet for 20 years, council chair and president of the American Ophthalmological Society, and chairman of the department of ophthalmology of the University of Kentucky, member of the Glaucoma Research Society, director of the American Board of Ophthalmology, delegate to the American Medical Association, and trustee of the Washington State Medical Association. He was on the board of directors of Prevent Blindness America, Vice-Chair of the Residency Review Committee for Ophthalmology, Director and fundraising chair of the Foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

He served the American Glaucoma Society above and beyond. He was on the board of directors and quality of care subcommittee. He was also on the editorial board of the Journal of Glaucoma. He was the guest of honor at the American Glaucoma Society meeting in 2017.

Finally Phillip Chen said: “Dick was my senior in glaucoma when I arrived at the UW, and we were colleagues for several years. After his retirement from community practice he increased his involvement with the department and attended grand rounds frequently; in fact I last saw him on the Zoom version of grand rounds in April, when he had been discharged after his first hospitalization with COVID. We here were all elated that he had seemingly beat the virus, so hearing about his death is especially devastating. As others have said, he was kind, funny, had a great sense of humor, and was so sharp.

Dick was a great friend and inspiration to all of us. He will truly be missed.

By
ALAN L. ROBIN, MD, Baltimore, MD
He joined the AOS in 1972, his thesis on “Photocoagulation of Presumed Histoplasmic Choroidopathy was published that year in the TAOS. He was a pioneer in the treatment of diabetic retinopathy and in vitreoretinal surgery, was one of the early retina surgeons to do vitrectomy, and was considered a highly skilled and compassionate doctor. As a professor of Clinical Ophthalmology at Washington University, he trained over 50 retina fellows who went on to practice around the world, many of them training fellows themselves.

After 30 years of practice in ophthalmology, he retired from St. Louis to Santa Fe, New Mexico, where with Barbara he started the Okun Gallery of Contemporary Art. Their gallery was responsible for launching the careers of many artists in their respective fields, particularly in ceramics, fiber, and metal works. Always a lover of the arts and the beauty of nature, Ed himself became an accomplished ceramist, painter, and photographer.

Some years after losing his wife to cancer, he was a friend of artist Ciel Bergman, who was with him until her own death in 2017. Dr. Okun is survived by his son, Dr. Neil Okun (Joan Sosnoff) of Maitland, FL; his daughter, Roxanne Gray (Jon) of Lafayette, Calif.; grandchildren, David Okun (Megan), Sarah Okun Cox (Jonathan), and Morris and Jason Gray; great-granddaughters, Nora and Maeve Okun; his brother, Harold Okun; and his sister, Martha Dalitzky (Milton).

His funeral was held on June 18, 2019 in Springfield, Mass., with burial in B’nai Jacob Cemetery.

By
WOODFORD S. VAN METER, MD, Lexington, KY
Dr. Paul Tornambe, a pioneer in the surgical management of retinal detachments and macular holes, died peacefully on Monday, December 23, 2019, at the age of 73 years, surrounded by his beloved wife Deborah and his four loving children. Paul founded Retina Consultants San Diego and dedicated his life to improving the medical and surgical care of patients with retinal diseases. He led an accomplished career spanning four decades and was respected and admired by his colleagues around the world, men and women who valued his clinical insights, creative ideas, and his loyal friendship.

Paul was born in Queens, New York, to a close-knit and loving Italian family. His father, a physician, practiced out of the family home and instilled his love for medicine in his sons. Paul credits his father for teaching him the proverbial words of wisdom that he used throughout his life. Sayings such as “Put the patient’s welfare ahead of everything else” and “There’s no right way to do the wrong thing” were two of his favorite quotes which he attributed to his father’s sage advice.

Paul was deeply committed to caring for his patients and worked tirelessly to improve their clinical outcomes. He approached each patient with caring and compassion. He had the ability to put every patient at ease when he came into the room, a talent which he accomplished by finding common ground. That commonality might have been golf, a sport that he loved and at which he excelled, or it may have been medicine, cars or music. His interests were vast. He used this talent, combined with his clinical expertise and his witty sense of humor, to build a strong rapport with his patients. He was never rushed and took as much time as necessary to answer all their questions and review all the options. His patients were as devoted to him as he was to them.

Paul was born with a creative and entrepreneurial mind. He graduated from Colgate University and Creighton Medical School, completed his residency at Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco, and attended a retina fellowship at Washington University in Saint Louis, MO. Early in his career, he pioneered pneumatic retinopexy as a less invasive treatment for the surgical repair of retinal detachments. He later endorsed macular hole surgery with no face down positioning to improve patients’ comfort after surgery. Paul promoted these innovations for decades with the resolve and determination that defined him professionally, sharing his knowledge, support, and insights with colleagues across the globe.

Paul was a popular speaker at national and international meetings. His keen wit and provocative comments attracted an audience of admiring fans. When he stood up to speak at the podium or make an editorial comment after a talk, the crowd eagerly anticipated his insights. There was neither a subject too complex nor an issue too small to bypass his attention. He never shied away from a controversial subject, another trait which defined him professionally and engendered much respect.

Paul was a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the Macula Society, the Retina Society, The American Ophthalmological Society, and many others. He was an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of California San Diego and served as the President of the American Society of Retina Specialists (2003-2004).

PAUL E. TORNAMBE, MD
Paul received several Honor Awards from the American Academy of Ophthalmology (1992 & 2003) and the Crystal Apple Award of the American Society of Retina Specialists (2004). He was the author of dozens of manuscripts and book chapters, a member of many medical advisory boards, and the principal investigator of numerous medical and surgical clinical trials.

Paul was often described as a humanitarian by colleagues in the medical community. He was active in the Diabetes free clinic screening program for decades and frequently gave his time and skills to the management of patients with no financial resources. He was active in the San Diego County Medical Society programs for the uninsured and was committed to providing excellent clinical care, regardless of the patient’s ability to pay.

Paul will always be remembered for his pioneering contributions to vitreoretinal surgery, his generosity of spirit, his devoted care of patients, and his creative and inventive mind. His legacy will survive in the hearts and minds of those who knew him well, and who will continue to honor his memory with values such as “Put the patient first” which he stood by as a philosophical way of life.

By
ANNE HANNEKEN, MD, La Jolla, CA