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A Brief History of the Power List

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Sitting Down With
VEGF veteran, Napoleone Ferrara

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The 2018 Power List is our fifth Power List, and it's the third time we've produced a ranking of the Top 100 influencers in ophthalmology today. There have been a few misconceptions – and many people end up asking me the same questions. So let's review the concept, its processes, and its periodicity.

The Power List isn't a novel concept. The Ophthalmologist isn't even the first title within our publishing company, Texere, to have run one; that honor goes to our sister title, The Analytical Scientist. Our Editorial Director back then was driving and listening to BBC Radio 4, when he heard one of their programs, Woman's Hour, introduce the “Woman's Hour Power List”, in which a panel of seven female judges got together to decide (and rank) which women exhibited the most influence on society, under themes such as “Influencers” and “Game-changers”.

We took a slightly different approach by asking our readers to nominate the people who they felt were the most influential in ophthalmology today. But they didn’t necessarily have to be ophthalmologists; engineers, scientists and businesspeople have all made the Top 100 in the past (and have again this year). Early on, we recognized that there were definite attempts to “game” the system, so we turned to a judging panel that could act, in effect, as a quality filter.

We decided to change the theme for the next year, and looked to list ophthalmology’s up-and-coming influencers – “The Top 40 Under 40.” Given that these are the people likely to lead the field in the future, it was great to recognize and celebrate their hard work to date. But 40 years is rather young for an ophthalmologist – so the next time (in 2017), we relaxed the criteria slightly, and decided upon our “Rising Stars” theme.

So we've settled into a pattern of alternately ranking the Top 100 and the Rising Stars… or have we? We've been toying with ideas of what to do next – and we'd love to hear your thoughts. Would a women-only Power List work in our field – or would it be considered patronizing, as some people have suggested? Another option is to break the list down into subspecialties and other categories – pioneered by another sister magazine – this time, The Medicine Maker. Or is our current formula – alternate Top 100/Rising Stars – ticking all your boxes?

In any case, enjoy our – or rather, your – 2018 Power List!

Mark Hillen
Editor
Welcome to The
Power List 2018

For a third time, we have mapped the Top 100 most influential people in the world of ophthalmology. The list includes surgeons, scientists, engineers, CEOs and more – and each one has been nominated by you, our readers.

We realize our Power Lists can – and should – never be definitive. But who can argue that the faces within – both familiar and new – do not beautifully highlight the brilliance and diversity found within the field? Accordingly, we bring you 100 reasons to be proud of ophthalmology.

Check out the online version of the Power List – theophthalmologist.com/power-list – for full biographies and more on this year’s cadre’s mentors, career highlights, and goals for the future.
1. DONALD TAN

ARTHUR LIM
PROFESSOR
AT THE SNEC
AND DUKE-
NUS MEDICAL
SCHOOL;
PARTNER AND
SENIOR CONSULTANT
OPHTHALMIC SURGEON
AT EYE & RETINA SURGEONS
(ERS), CAMDEN MEDICAL
CENTRE, SINGAPORE

Donald has made some major contributions to ophthalmology, which include the development of new forms of selective lamellar keratoplasty such as DALK, DSAEK, and DMEK, including new surgical instrumentation and devices, keratoprosthesis surgery, and the development of low-dose atropine eyedrops as therapy to reduce myopia progression in children.

A recent Past President of the US-based Cornea Society, Donald is also the founding and current President of the Asia Cornea Society, which he formed in 2007, and the founding and current chair of the Association of Eye Banks of Asia (AEBA).

He has published over 350 peer-reviewed articles in the field of cornea, and is the recipient of over 20 international awards, which include the 2009 AAO/ISRS Casebeer Award, the 2012 EuCornea Medal, the 2013 Albrecht von Graefe Innovator’s Lecture, the CLAO 2014 Oliver H. Dabezies, Jr. Lecture, the CLAO 2015 Richard L. Lindstrom Lecture, the 2015 ASCRS Binkhorst Lecture, the 2017 APAO Jose Rizal Medal, the Netherlands Society of Ophthalmology 2017 Donders Lecture, and the 2018 Charles Tillett Lecture.

2. GERD AUFFARTH

PROFESSOR AND CHAIRMAN
OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF OPHTHALMOLOGY,
RUPRECHT-KARLS
UNIVERSITY OF HEIDELBERG;
DIRECTOR OF THE
IVCRC AND THE DAVID J
APPLE INTERNATIONAL
LABORATORY OF OCULAR
PATHOLOGY AT THE
UNIVERSITY-EYE CLINIC OF
HEIDELBERG, GERMANY

Gerd is one of the world’s leading experts on IOLs: their design, in terms of optics, haptics, and materials, and their surgical implantation, their safety and occasionally, their pathology too.

If an IOL has to be explanted, and if there’s an issue with it, it’s more likely than not it will be sent to the D.J. Apple lab (which Gerd leads) for analysis – his group is responsible for the post-market surveillance of many of the IOLs available today.

3. IKE AHMED

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO;
CLINICAL PROFESSOR,
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH;
DIVISION HEAD OF
OPHTHALMOLOGY AT
TRILLIUM HEALTH PARTNERS,
MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO,
CANADA

People aren’t joking when they refer to Ike as a “Rock Star of Ophthalmology.” If you’ve ever seen surgical videos of his cases – often some of the most complex in the world – you’ll know that he is one of the most sublimely gifted ophthalmic surgeons on the planet today. He’s developed many novel therapeutic approaches for glaucoma, cataract and lens implant surgery, and designed innovative microsurgical instruments, devices, implants and techniques for the management of the dislocated cataract, iris reconstruction, and even a diamond scalpel for use in glaucoma. He’s rightly acknowledged as “The Father of MIGS”; after all, he coined the term, and ushered in this new generation of surgical devices into glaucoma. He’s also an innovator in the bigger picture of eyecare; his cataract surgery triage system, e-CAPS, according to one nominator, “could very well remedy the cataract crisis in Ontario, and the entire country.”
4. ANAT LOEWENSTEIN

Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology, Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Centre (TASMC), Professor of Ophthalmology and Vice Dean, Tel Aviv University, Israel

Anat is a retina specialist, expert in retinal toxicity, and has a strong research interest in the early detection of retinal disease. Her expertise has led her to be in great demand as a consultant – not only with the big pharmaceutical companies evaluating medical retina therapies, but also in the diagnostics and device world. She’s led the development of a novel technology for detecting macular degeneration, automated retinal disease detection, and an augmented reality system that aims to replace the trusty old traditional surgical microscope. Her career path started with four years serving as a physician-officer in the Israeli Navy, a residency in TASMC, a fellowship in retinal vascular diseases and vitreoretinal surgery at The Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, before returning to Israel, where before long, she was appointed head of TASMC’s vitreo-retina unit, and then went on to become the Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology. Anat also managed to complete a Master of Health Administration degree at the Tel Aviv University Business School, and she also has found the time to publish more than 300 peer-reviewed articles, write multiple textbook chapters, and take on leadership roles within international societies (she is the current General Secretary of EURETINA and serves on the international committee of the Macula Society).

5. DAVID CHANG

Clinical Professor, University of California, San Francisco, CA, USA

David has chaired the AAO Annual Meeting program committee and their cataract guidelines (Preferred Practice Pattern) panel. David is a past Chief Medical Editor for both EyeWorld and Cataract & Refractive Surgery Today, and has written best-selling – and many would say definitive – textbooks on refractive IOLs and phaco chop/complex cases. As the ASCRS Foundation co-chair and Himalayan Cataract Project advisor, he is involved in efforts to improve access to cataract surgery in the developing world, and has delivered the ASCRS Binkhorst and AAO Kelman Lectures, the APACRS Lim Lecture, and received the APAO Rizal International Medal.

Chang was the first in the US to implant a light-adjustable IOL and the first to implant the Synchrony accommodating IOL.

6. AMAR AGARWAL

Chairman, Dr. Agarwal’s Group of Eye Hospitals, Chennai, India

Amar Agarwal is a name that’s perennially at the top of the Top 100 Power Lists in The Ophthalmologist. Why? He’s a pioneer of microincisional cataract surgery: he was first to remove cataracts through a 0.7 mm tip; first to develop no-anesthesia cataract surgery; first to implant a glued IOL, and the first to implant a mirror telescopic IOL in AMD. He coined the term “aberropia” to describe uncompensated HOA profiles following refractive surgery, and produced a modified Malyugin ring for miotic pupil cataract surgeries with posterior capsular defects. Most recently, he and Harminder Dua (qv) pioneered Pre-Descemet’s Endothelial Keratoplasty, which allows for the use of younger corneal donors than previous techniques, greatly increasing the donor tissue pool.

His passion is surgery: his surgical videos wow and amaze the audience – and have won numerous awards at the ASCRS, AAO and ESCRS film festivals. Amar also organizes the popular Ophthalmic Premier League sessions during AAO, IIRSI, AIOC and WOC.
7. RICHARD LINDSTROM

Founder and Attending Surgeon of Minnesota Eye Consultants, and Adjunct Clinical Professor Emeritus at the University of Minnesota Department of Ophthalmology, Minneapolis, MN, USA

It’s hard to overstate the difference Dick Lindstrom has made to ophthalmology. He’s served as President of the ASCRS, ISRS, IIIC and the IRSC, and is an internationally recognized leader in corneal, cataract, refractive, glaucoma and laser surgery. He has been at the forefront of ophthalmology’s evolutionary changes throughout his career as a recognized researcher, teacher, inventor, writer, lecturer and highly acclaimed physician and surgeon.

He is an innovator through-and-through, and his business nous is unparalleled: he’s been awarded over 40 patents and has developed a number of corneal preservation solutions, IOLs and instruments that are used in clinical practices globally. He serves on the boards of directors of nearly 20 companies. Amongst all that, Dick served for 20 years as Chairman and CEO of Lindstrom Cleaning and Construction, a three-generation family business. His list of top awards is long – it’s notable that he received the lifetime achievement award from the ISRS twice – once in 1995, and again in 2002!

8. BRENT SAUNDERS

Chairman, President and CEO, Allergan

Brent is a significant player in the pharmaceutical industry – and has been for some time, having served as President of Global Consumer Health Care at Schering-Plough, CEO of Bausch + Lomb, and CEO and President of Forest Laboratories. Forest was acquired by Actavis in July 2014; Brent became CEO and President of the combined organization. Nine months later, Actavis had acquired Allergan, and in July 2015, Actavis changed its name to Allergan.

But Brent isn’t all about acquisition and integration. One nominator stated, “His passion and commitment in eyecare is clear. He is prominent at key ophthalmology congresses where he spends most of his time talking with and listening to ophthalmologists’ needs and ideas.” Acquisitions and collaborations within eyecare include devices (Oculeve/TrueTear), new biologics (Molecular Partners/DARPIn) and even CRISPR gene editing (Editas/CRISPR) – and his high ranking in this year’s Power List – suggest both statements are true.

9. ADNAN TUFAIL

Consultant Ophthalmologist, Moorfields; Institute of Ophthalmology, UCL, London, UK

Adnan is the clinical and research lead for AMD at Moorfields, and he’s achieved a lot in that role. He was a co-principal investigator in the seminal ABC Trial that focused on examining bevacizumab for the treatment of neovascular AMD, which had a profound effect on eyecare in the UK: it defined anti-VEGF treatment protocols for wet AMD therapy within the NHS. He’s also an early pioneer of big data and machine learning in ophthalmology, with numerous publications to his name on that topic to date. He founded an ARVO AI special interest group that grew into an all-day course, and is involved in the validation of machine learning algorithms that are being introduced into the UK for diabetic screening.

10. KEITH BARTON

Consultant Ophthalmologist and Director of the Glaucoma Service, Moorfields, London, UK

Keith’s principal interests are the surgical management of glaucoma (especially with aqueous shunt devices and MIGS approaches) and secondary glaucomas – Keith runs an NHS clinic at Moorfields that’s uniquely dedicated to the management of glaucoma in uveitis. However, Keith’s skillset goes beyond surgery. He’s well known for organizing and running glaucoma educational symposia that have attracted significant acclaim, and he famously co-founded and organized (with Kuldev Singh [qv]) the Ophthalmology Futures Forum, investor networking events in ophthalmology that take place in both Europe and Asia.
11. DANIEL PALANKER

**Professor, Department of Ophthalmology and Director of the Hansen Experimental Physics Laboratory at Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA**

With more than 50 patents to his name, Daniel Palanker is a crucial innovator for ophthalmology. His research led to the development of the Pulsed Electron Avalanche Knife (Plasma Blade), the Pattern Scanning Laser Photocoagulator (PASCAL), the OCT-guided femtosecond laser system for cataract surgery (Catalys), and the neural stimulator for enhanced tear secretion (TrueTear). His research focuses on optical and electronic technologies for diagnostic, therapeutic, surgical and prosthetic applications in ophthalmology. His photovoltaic retinal prosthesis (PRIMA) aiming at restoration of central vision in patients with advanced AMD has entered its first clinical trial. He is also working on interferometric imaging of neural signals, electronic control of organs and, of course, laser-tissue interactions, their mechanisms and therapeutic applications.

*Career highlights?*  “I’m very proud to see many of our developments in clinical practice, and a few more in clinical trials. The longest and the most difficult project so far was the development of photovoltaic retinal prosthesis, PRIMA. I’m very excited to see excellent initial results with this system in patients with advanced AMD.”

12. JORGE ALIO

**Professor and Chairman of Ophthalmology, University of Alicante, Spain, and Medical Director of Vissum Corporation**

A leading authority in refractive surgery (and experienced – he’s performed 45,000 surgeries to date), Jorge is at the forefront of much of the research in this field. He is the medical director of Vissum, Europe’s largest eye institute and research facility, an ESCRS board member and co-founder (with his wife) of an eponymous foundation dedicated to blindness prevention. He created the concept of microincisional cataract surgery, pioneered multifocal, toric, phakic and accommodative IOLs, and many aspects of laser refractive surgery. Understandably, fellows come from around the globe to be trained under his supervision. Jorge has authored or co-authored over 525 peer-reviewed papers (his h-index is 57), and edited or co-edited 360 book chapters and 91 books, and he’s received 103 international and national awards to date.
13. KULDEV SINGH

PROFESSOR OF OPHTHALMOLOGY AND DIRECTOR OF THE GLAUCOMA SERVICE AT STANFORD SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, STANFORD, CA, USA

Kuldev's research interests include glaucoma and cataract surgical trials, epidemiology, genetics and health care delivery in underserved communities. His clinical practice focuses on medical, laser and surgical management of glaucoma and cataract. Kuldev is a Past President of the AGS and an advisor to the ISGS.

14. CAROL SHIELDS

CO-DIRECTOR OF THE ONCOLOGY SERVICE, WILLS EYE HOSPITAL, PHILADELPHIA, PA, USA

Carol runs Wills Eye Hospital’s Oncology Service with her husband Jerry (qv) and their associates. Wills manages over half of all the eye cancer cases in the USA and many more from around the world, every year. These often-complex cases include but are not limited to uveal melanoma, retinoblastoma and numerous other intraocular, orbital and adnexal tumors. Carol – and her husband Jerry – are pioneers in the field of eye cancer; they wrote the key textbooks used worldwide and created the number one method and acronym for diagnosing eye tumors. In 2011, Carol was the recipient of the AAO’s Life Achievement Honor Award, and has received many others, including the Donders Medal from the Netherlands Ophthalmological Society. She has authored or co-authored nine textbooks, over 1,000 articles, nearly 300 textbook chapters, and given almost 600 lectureships. On being the 2014 Paul A. Chandler Visiting Professor at Harvard Medical School’s Department of Ophthalmology, the Bostonians lauded her “expertise in ocular oncology that spans a range of specialties, including oculoplastics, retina, and cornea.”

15. ARTHUR CUMMINGS

CONSULTANT EYE SURGEON AND MEDICAL DIRECTOR, WELLINGTON EYE CLINIC, DUBLIN, IRELAND

Arthur is behind some of the smartest and most advanced interventions and instruments in refractive surgery, and his opinion – borne of years of experience at the leading edge of the field – carries considerable weight. He currently sits on the medical advisory boards of more than 10 companies in the ophthalmic space, including lasers, IOLs, diagnostics and dry eye diagnosis and management. His research interests include refractive surgery, cataract surgery and corneal surgery for keratoconus. Arthur’s an entrepreneur too; he was part of the team behind Clearsight Innovations’ ocular biometer, which recently made its way to a successful exit. If you had any doubts about his influence, let this fact put them to rest: he’s currently the President of the European Division of AECOS.

16. BURKHARD DICK

PROFESSOR OF OPHTHALMOLOGY AND CHAIRMAN OF THE UNIVERSITY EYE HOSPITAL BOCHUM, BOCHUM, GERMANY

Throughout his career, Burkhard has covered the full spectrum of ophthalmologic surgery, and regularly performs cataract surgeries, LASIK procedures, phakic IOL implantations, glaucoma operations, corneal transplants and pars plana vitrectomies. He is the author of several books and more than 300 peer-reviewed articles, and is the Editor of “The Use of the Femtosecond Laser in Ophthalmology” that many already consider to be the definitive textbook on the topic.

Burkhard is an active member of numerous ophthalmologic associations; currently, he is President of both AECOS and the German Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (the DGII).

He has received a number of international awards such as the Waring Medal in 2014 and the Visionary Award of AECOS in 2015. Both the German Ophthalmological Society, DOG, and the Australian Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery have awarded Burkhard their Gold Medal Awards. And in 2016, his endeavors as a researcher, educator and clinician were recognized by the AAO with the Academy’s Senior Achievement Award.
17. DAVID (TED) GARWAY-HEATH

IGA PROFESSOR OF OPHTHALMOLOGY FOR GLAUCOMA AND ALLIED STUDIES, CONSULTANT OPHTHALMOLOGIST, MOORFIELDS, LONDON, UK

Ted’s research has yielded many new diagnostic and monitoring tools, including the Moorfields Motion Displacement Test that identifies the loss of peripheral vision; the Moorfields Regression Analysis, software that assists glaucoma diagnosis from scanning laser tomography images; and the Garway-Heath Map, which is used in research and clinical practice to map the correspondence between visual field and optic nerve head damage. He was chief investigator for the UK Glaucoma Treatment Study, the first placebo-controlled trial for the medical treatment of glaucoma with a visual field loss outcome. In his research, he aims to continue to improve glaucoma diagnostic techniques, clinical trial design and identify risk factors for glaucoma. He recognizes the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration for successful research and has long-term productive collaborations with statisticians, computer scientists and academics in other fields of medicine.

18. DENNIS LAM

PRESIDENT, HONG KONG C-MER INTERNATIONAL EYE CARE GROUP LIMITED, HONORARY DIRECTOR OF THE ZHONGSHAN OPHTHALMIC CENTER (ZOC) OF SUN YAT-SEN UNIVERSITY, GUANGZHOU, CHINA; DIRECTOR OF ZOC’S STATE KEY LABORATORY; SECRETARY-GENERAL AND CEO OF BOTH THE APAO AND THE APVRS

Dennis has been described as a “visionary leader, physician-scientist, entrepreneur and philanthropist.” His contributions to the literature (>800 publications) and education (membership of >10 editorial boards, leadership roles in many ophthalmic societies) are great. Dennis has also served the National People’s Congress of China as a Congressman since 2008.

After building up the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences at the Chinese University of Hong Kong to a world-renowned eye institute, he moved on in 2012 to establish “CMER Eye Care,” which was listed on the HK Stock Exchange in January 2018 and currently has a market capitalization of more than US$1.4 billion. He is passionate about eliminating cataract blindness in China and instrumental in establishing two major charity projects in China, “Lifeline Express” and “Project Vision.”
19. GRAHAM BARRETT

Professor, Lions Eye Institute; Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon and Head of Department at Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital, Perth, Australia

Graham is the first Australian ophthalmologist to win, in the same year, the prestigious Binkhorst, Ridley, Sushruta, and Choyce Awards. He was also selected by the ASCRS to deliver the 2016 Kelman Innovator Lecture.

He devised the popular Barrett Toric Calculator in his quest to improve surgical outcomes and reduce refractive surprises in patients receiving toric IOLs and is a popular speaker at international congresses on all things IOL: from planning and conducting to speculating on the future of the art. Graham is also a founder of the Australasian Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgeons, and a former President of the Asia Pacific Association of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons.

20. FARHAD HAFEZI

Professor, University of Geneva; Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, USC Keck School of Medicine, Los Angeles, CA, USA; Chief Medical Officer, The Elza Institute, Zürich, Switzerland

Farhad is an eye surgeon dedicated to improving clinical treatments to solve some of the most complex cases in his field. As an internationally recognized pioneer of CXL and a pacemaker for newer indications like infectious keratitis, he combines his medical expertise to help translate research findings into clinical practice. Farhad and the members of his research groups were the first to publish a clinical study on treating ectasia after LASIK using CXL in 2007, they also proposed the use of hypo-osmolaric riboflavin to treat thin corneas in 2009 and identified oxygen as essential in the CXL process in 2013, all of which are in clinical practice today.

Farhad’s research revolves around the cornea, its biomechanics, and in particular, corneal ectasias like keratoconus and laser refractive surgery. His research labs are at the University of Zurich and the USC Roski Eye Institute, Los Angeles in collaboration with Brad Randleman (qv). With over 170 publications in peer-reviewed journals and 18 book chapters, Hafezi’s work has been cited 6,900 times. His h-index is 42 and his impact factor is 590.

Farhad and his wife Nikki are also responding to a market need to provide a low-cost portable, slit lamp mountable cross-linking device to help people perform this sight-saving procedure in a considerably more affordable, safe and effective manner. Farhad and Nikki also founded the Light for Sight Foundation, whose mission is to increase awareness about keratoconus, and screen children for this disease and to ensure that no child with keratoconus goes untreated.

A. JOHN KANELLOPOULOS

Clinical Professor, LaserVision Eye Institute, Athens, Greece and NYU School of Medicine, New York, NY, USA

Over the last 20 years, John has applied and described innovative laser approaches in the management of cataract and, in particular, irregular corneas such as keratoconus. His work with CXL has provided many of the technique’s evolutions: higher fluence, combinations with topo-guided PRK (“The Athens Protocol”) and LASIK, and as a sole refractive procedure. John has also contributed dozens of reports on more sensitive diagnostics for keratoconus and ectasia, and in the last few years, he has described “topography-modified refraction” as a potentially more accurate target for topography-guided laser vision correction.

ABHAY VASAVADA

Director of Raghudeep Eye Clinic and Ila Devi Cataract & IOL Research Centre, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India

A cataract/refractive surgeon and Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, Abhay has expertise in the successful resolution of complicated cataract and pediatric cases. This knowledge is in great demand: Abhay is a renowned educator and is regularly asked to share his experiences by performing live surgery. He started Raghudeep Eye Clinic as a cataract specialty center in 1984 in Ahmedabad, India.
ALAN BIRD
EMERITUS PROFESSOR
AND CONSULTANT
AT THE INSTITUTE OF
OPHTHALMOLOGY AT UCL
AND MOORFIELDS, LONDON, UK

Best known for his work on retinitis pigmentosa and research into inherited retinal degeneration, Alan studied neurology and neurosurgery, but later turned to ophthalmology. While at the Institute of Ophthalmology, he worked with numerous fellows in a variety of multidisciplinary activities involving electrophysiology, specialized imaging, psychophysics, immunology, and pathology – which resulted in the development of new technologies to define the clinical characteristics of retinal disease.

His studies have also correlated abnormal gene expression with metabolic dysfunction at the cellular level, which has led to a clearer understanding of retinal degenerative diseases, and has had significant implications for clinical management of these disorders, including better genetic counseling for patients and the development of new treatment approaches, including gene therapy. Bird has undertaken extensive international work: in Africa tackling river blindness, and in Jamaica, examining the retinal changes that occur in patients with sickle cell disease.

ALLEN HO
WILLS EYE HOSPITAL
ATTENDING SURGEON AND
DIRECTOR OF RETINA
RESEARCH, PA, USA

Allen specializes in state-of-the-art and compassionate patient care, and is a leader in the development of new medical and surgical treatments for retinal disease. He is principal investigator on several collaborative clinical trials evaluating new treatments for AMD and diabetic retinopathy, and maintains special interests in macular and surgical retinal diseases, as well as clinical trials investigating new treatments for vitreoretinal diseases.

ALLEN FOSTER
CO-DIRECTOR OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
EVIDENCE IN DISABILITY AND
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
EYE HEALTH, LSHTM, LONDON, UK

Allen’s interests encompass the control of blinding disease, cost-effectiveness and quality of life studies, the implementation of VISION 2020, and health service research for children and adults with disabilities.
ANDRE MERMOUD  
CONSULTANT CATARACT AND GLAUCOMA SURGEON, CLINIQUE DE MONTCHOISI, LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND

André has been involved in pushing forwards new and safer surgical treatments for glaucoma. He was also instrumental in creating (with other Swiss ophthalmologists) the “Vision For All” foundation that financed the construction of an ophthalmic hospital in Southern India in 2003, where he volunteers at least several weeks of his time each year.

BALA AMBATI  
PROFESSOR OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, MORAN EYE CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF UTAH, UT, USA

Bala is the world’s youngest person to graduate from medical school at the age of 17; since specializing in ophthalmology he has received many awards. Experienced in anterior segment surgery, his research focuses on ocular angiogenesis and the cornea; his group was the first to identify that sVEGFR-1 normally keeps the cornea clear of blood vessels. Bala also routinely volunteers in humanitarian projects.

BORIS MALYUGIN  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL AT S. FYODOROV EYE MICROSURGERY INSTITUTION, MOSCOW, RUSSIA

Boris says his career highlights include developing his eponymous Malyugin Ring pupil expansion device, which has gained wide-spread popularity internationally and allowed him to help surgeons on more than 1 million cataract procedures worldwide. Another highlight was delivering the Binkhorst medal lectures at the ASCRS and ESCRs meetings in 2017.

BORIS STANZEL  
CONSULTANT RETINA SPECIALIST AND DIRECTOR, MACULA CENTRE, KNAPPSCHAFT EYE HOSPITAL; GROUP LEADER, CLINICAL STEM CELL TECHNOLOGY, FRAUNHOFER INSTITUTE FOR BIOMEDICAL TECHNOLOGY, SAARBRÜCKEN-SULZBACH, GERMANY; SCIENTIFIC CONSULTANT, NEI, BETHESDA, MD, USA

Boris gained international renown for his transplantation of retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) into the subretinal space of rabbits – a first in a large-eyed animal model – followed closely by successful transplantation into pigs. Recently, he and his colleagues at the Singapore Eye Research Institute, the NEI and Tampere University, Finland, have successfully created a non-human primate model platform, guided by intraoperative OCT, for stem cell-based RPE replacement therapy evaluation – bringing this modality a step closer to clinical use. His next goal is to initiate a European cell replacement therapy clinical trial.

BRUCE SPIVEY  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT, ICO AND CHAIRMAN OF PACIFIC VISION FOUNDATION, SAN FRANCISCO, CA, USA

Recipient of the AAO 2015 Laureate Recognition Award, Bruce’s contributions span from educator and clinician to hospital and medical society CEO – he was the founding CEO of the AAO. Bruce now devotes much of his time to the Pacific Vision Foundation, an organization he founded in 1977. He says his future goals are to complete and ensure sustainability of the foundation.
Carl says one of his career highlights was becoming the Director of the Retina Service at Wills Eye Hospital. As the former Director of the Wills Eye Retina Research Unit, Carl has been principal investigator of several major international clinical trials investigating new forms of treatment for retinal conditions including macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy. He has authored over 100 scientific papers, lectured nationally and abroad, and has published five major textbooks in the field.

Cynthia’s research interests include corneal and ocular biomechanics in cornea, refractive surgery and glaucoma; in vivo measurement of corneal biomechanics, IOP measurement error, and ophthalmic imaging applications including corneal topography and OCT. She received a research award from the NEI/NIH to study the separate effects of IOP and stiffness on corneal biomechanics, and she has also received a foundation award to investigate a new biomechanical mechanism of optic nerve damage in glaucoma, which includes the influence of the pulsatile components of both IOP and intracranial pressure. She has given over 200 national and international invited lectures, has published over 120 papers in peer-reviewed journals, has contributed to more than 20 book chapters and has co-edited two books on corneal topography and corneal biomechanics.

Future goals? “To continue a world-class series of clinical research fellowships and grow the New Zealand National Eye Centre. Completion of a number of advanced clinical and laboratory trials on modifying, reshaping and replacing the human cornea including biological corneal substitutes, patented topical agents and stem cell therapies. To complete a series of risk stratification and outcome studies for cataract surgery (commenced in 2014) and introduce a validated, uniform, simple risk stratification system to the New Zealand public health system that will significantly reduce the complication rate of cataract surgery.”
DAMIENT GATINEL
HEAD OF THE ANTERIOR AND REFRACTIVE SURGERY DEPARTMENT OF THE ROTHCHILD FOUNDATION, PARIS, FRANCE

Damien is not only an excellent surgeon and innovator extraordinaire. He is also a co-inventor of the first trifocal IOL, and devised a new classification for HOAs in his applied mathematics PhD thesis. With his colleague, Alain Saad, he developed an AI system for the detection of ectasia-susceptible eyes, the SCORE analyzer. He leads one of the most advanced departments in cataract, cornea and refractive surgery in Europe at the Rothschild Foundation in Paris. He teaches and trains around 12 residents and fellows per year, has published more than 100 peer-reviewed manuscripts and has given more than 200 invited oral presentations all over the world. His website, www.gatinel.com, is a national and international reference for ocular optics and optical wavefront understanding, receiving above 2,000 visits per day. Damien is also the co-creator of the website www.defeatkeratoconus.com.

DAN LINDFIELD
CONSULTANT OPHTHALMOLOGIST AND GLAUCOMA DIRECTOR, ROYAL SURREY COUNTY HOSPITAL, GUILDFORD, UK

Career highlights? “Hopefully, I’m still on an upward trajectory. It’s exciting to trial new diagnostic and therapeutic technology, but I find seeing my patients every day the most rewarding. Gathering data and trying to evolve surgical techniques challenges me but it’s the translation to day-to-day practice that I most enjoy.”

What inspires you? “My trainees. The daily challenge to analyze what I’m doing and to find the words, means (and data) to explain why I’m doing it. It’s symbiotic. They push me and hopefully, I gently push them back. It’s great to see their energy and their potential flourish.”

DAWN SIM
CATARACT CONSULTANT OPHTHALMOLOGIST, MOORFIELDS, LONDON, UK

Dawn is a consultant ophthalmic surgeon in the medical retina service at Moorfields, and a former chief resident and current clinical lead for diabetic screening there. She has a PhD from the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology for her work on endothelial progenitor cells in retinal vascular disease, and has published extensively on diabetic macular ischemia. She also has a special interest in the area of virtual clinics and teleophthalmology and is working on device-agnostic platforms to facilitate acceleration of new technology into clinical practice.

DAVID FRIEDMAN
PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR OF THE DANA CENTER FOR PREVENTIVE OPHTHALMOLOGY, WILMER EYE INSTITUTE, JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL, BALTIMORE, MD, USA

Career highlights? “Directing a team of researchers trying to determine best practices in managing blinding eye diseases in less developed countries including trachoma, diabetic retinopathy and refractive error. Being elected to the Glaucoma Research Society (limited to the top 100 researchers globally in glaucoma) and to the Alcon Research Institute (which selects the six best researchers in all of ophthalmology each year). Finally, being listed as a Best Doctor many years in a row.”

DEAN ELLIOTT
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE RETINA SERVICE, MASSACHUSETTS EYE AND EAR INFIRMARY, BOSTON, MA, USA

Dean has clinical interests in diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, retinal detachment, vitreoretinal surgery and ocular trauma. He is a talented surgeon and is often sought out by his colleagues for difficult cases.
ERIC DONNENFELD
FOUNDING PARTNER OF OPHTHALMIC CONSULTANTS OF LONG ISLAND AND OPHTHALMIC CONSULTANTS OF CONNECTICUT; CLINICAL PROFESSOR OF OPHTHALMOLOGY AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER; SURGICAL DIRECTOR OF THE LIONS EYE BANK OF LONG ISLAND, NY, USA

During his nearly 30-year career, Eric has lectured and taught around the world, and has made significant advancements in the field; he was the first surgeon in the northeast US to perform laser cataract surgery, participated in the studies that led to FDA approval of the excimer laser technology, and he has been selected as an investigator for numerous other FDA clinical studies. Eric is currently Editor-in-Chief of EyeWorld, and has written over 190 peer-reviewed papers on cornea, external disease, cataract and refractive surgery, and 30 book chapters and books.

DOUGLAS KOCH
PROFESSOR AND ALLEN, MOSBACHER, AND LAW CHAIR OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, HOUSTON, TX, USA

A recipient of several prestigious honors, including the AAO Lifetime Achievement award, Douglas’ work focuses on improving the outcomes of cataract surgery and refractive surgery procedures, such as LASIK and PRK. He specializes in the management of complex conditions including cataract and IOL problems, iris repair and replacement, and management of LASIK and PRK problems, and conducts research and teaches internationally in these areas.

EMILY CHEW
DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND CLINICAL APPLICATIONS & AND DEPUTY CLINICAL DIRECTOR AT NEI/NIH, BETHESDA, MD, USA

Emily is a medical retinal specialist with extensive experience in the design and implementation of clinical trials across all phases. Her principal research interests are diabetic- and age-related eye diseases.

EDUARDO ALFONSO
CHAIRMAN AND DIRECTOR OF THE BASCOM PALMER EYE INSTITUTE, MIAMI, FL, USA

Eduardo is a renowned medical academic leader known for his clinical expertise and research in eye diseases, corneal surgery and ocular microbiology. In 2006, he documented the increased incidence of an aggressive form of fungal corneal infection related to soft contact lens use, significantly reducing the numbers of new infections worldwide. His research interests include bacterial and fungal sensitivity, and the development and clinical applications of keratoprosthesis.

EDWARD HOLLAND
DIRECTOR OF CORNEA SERVICES AT CINCINNATI EYE INSTITUTE AND PROFESSOR OF OPHTHALMOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI, OH, USA

Edward formerly served as the ASCRS President from 2011–2012 and was awarded the Binkhorst Medal by the ASCRS in 2008. He was awarded the AAO’s Life Achievement Honor Award in 2012 and has received both the Senior Achievement Award and The Honor Award. Further, Edward is the Past President of the Cornea Society and Past President of the Eye Bank Association of America. In his role of Director of Cornea Services at the Cincinnati Eye Institute, Edward has attracted worldwide referrals for medical and surgical corneal problems and for stem cell transplantation.

ERIC SOUIED
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, HÔPITAL INTERCOMMUNAL DE CRETEIL AND HENRI MONDOR HOSPITAL, PARIS, FRANCE

Eric has contributed to more than 380 peer-reviewed articles on AMD, ophthalmic genetics and retinal disease, and he was first to publish on genetic polymorphisms in AMD. He leads a dynamic group focused on multimodal imaging of the retina.

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FLORIAN KRETZ
CEO OF AUGENÄRZTE GERL, KRETZ & KOLLEGEN; LEAD SURGEON, AUGENTAGESKLINIKEN RHEINE & GREVEN; CONSULTANT & RESEARCH COORDINATOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL VISION CORRECTION RESEARCH CENTER NETWORK (IVCRC.NET), UNIVERSITY OF HEIDELBERG; AND CEO OF THE NGO AUGENÄRZTE FÜR DIE WELT GMBH, GERMANY

Who inspires you? “My grandfather with his dedication to perfection. Also, my 8-year old daughter planting her fantasies in my head and helping me to look for solutions in a different direction.”

Career highlights? “Performing CE & FDA studies at our clinics and yearly philanthropic missions to Cambodia or Uganda. Also having met my wife who continuously supports me and holds our family together so I can live my hobby: being an eye surgeon.”

FRANK HOLZ
CHAIRMAN, DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, BONN UNIVERSITY, GERMANY

Frank is a researcher whose many interests include the pathogenesis, prognostic factors, biomarkers and therapy of macular and retinal diseases with a particular interest in AMD. He also focuses on phenotyping retinal diseases using innovative high-resolution imaging technologies and the development and validation of outcome measures for clinical trials. He has also been involved in several high profile clinical trials involving innovative therapies for macular disease. Frank is coordinator of the large-scale IMI2-EU-funded MACUSTAR project on intermediate AMD. He has contributed in the context of the international MacTel consortium in the understanding of macular telangiectasia type 2, including characterizing the natural history and identifying early markers of the disease. For the last three decades, he has been at the forefront of clinical research using the most advanced retinal imaging modalities and is one of the early adopters of fundus autofluorescence and OCT-angiography. He founded the GRADE Reading Center, has published over 400 articles in peer-reviewed journals, is Editor-in-Chief of the journal of the German Ophthalmological Society (DOG), Der Ophthalmologe, a Past President of DOG, and President-elect of EURETINA.
GEORGE SPAETH
LOUIS J. ESPOSITO RESEARCH PROFESSOR AT THE WILLS EYE HOSPITAL, PHILADELPHIA, PA, USA

George discovered the disease homocystinuria as a resident at Wills Eye Hospital, and published much of the early work on the condition, including the use of pyridoxine as a successful treatment. He developed methods of describing the anterior chamber angle, the optic nerve head (The Disc Damage Likelihood Score), and detecting visual loss (SPARCS), that are clinically more useful than other systems.

A busy practitioner, teacher and investigator, he has been recognized by several awards, including the Weisenfeld Medal from ARVO, and the Albert Schweitzer Leadership Award (something that he has in common with Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Madeline Albright, Hillary Clinton and Mikhail Gorbachev, to name but a few).

GEORGE WARING IV
FOUNDER AND MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF THE WARING VISION INSTITUTE IN MOUNT PLEASANT, SC, USA

George is in the fortunate position of being described by one nominator as “a wonderful speaker, and an excellent clinician and researcher. He is quite involved in numerous projects and initiatives. Despite all of his accomplishments, he is very humble.” A lesser man might not be. While at the State University of New York, George was the first resident to win “Physician of the Year” twice in a row (and the awards haven’t stopped coming since); his publication record is long, he’s in great demand as a lecturer and instructor, and he was recently selected to be the Program Chair for the ISRS Refractive Surgery Subspecialty Day for 2019 and 2020. George has led the dysfunctional lens syndrome classification efforts, and is a leading figure in the surgical correction of presbyopia.

GERRIT MELLES
CORNEA SPECIALIST/ DIRECTOR, NIIOS, ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

Gerrit is a legend of corneal surgery, pioneering and developing techniques for corneal tissue preparation and transplantation, such as DALK, DLEK, DSEK/ DSAEK, DMEK, DMET and Bowman’s layer transplantation. He’s been described as “the father of lamellar keratoplasty,” particularly for DMEK, which represented a milestone in corneal surgery. His objective is to treat corneal disorders with minimally invasive techniques, and he has also developed several instruments and medical devices to facilitate these surgical procedures, as well as vital dyes (Vision Blue and Membrane Blue), and has invented a device, SurgiCube, that provides sterile airflow over a patient enabling certain procedures to be performed under sterile conditions, but outside of an operating theater. Melles has received several awards including the Barraquer Award in recognition of his contribution to ophthalmology.

GEORGIOS KYMIONIS
PROFESSOR OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF LAUSANNE, AND HEAD OF ANTERIOR SEGMENT, JULES GONIN EYE HOSPITAL, LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND

Georgios’ main areas of expertise are corneal and laser refractive surgery, and he has led the development of several new techniques and surgical protocols for the treatment of patients with corneal diseases. He is a board member of EuCornea, and has authored more than 300 publications in peer-reviewed journals and numerous textbooks. Georgios is also Associate Editor of the Journal of Refractive Surgery and serves on many journals’ editorial boards.
His principal interests are ocular imaging and the application of lasers to macular disease. His work extends to clinical trials and he is currently involved in more than 25 of them. A prolific author on both eye anatomy and disease, Giovanni is a fellow of ARVO, AAO and EURETINA.

Guy’s work focuses on the global delivery of surgery as the primary treatment of refractive errors and cost-effective models of cataract surgery to eliminate global blindness. He has overseen many FDA approvals for excimer laser platforms, and is the founder of the Refractive Surgery Alliance, as well as the Physician CEO Program at the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, USA.

Harminder is an active clinician, teacher and prolific researcher; one of his most notable achievements was the discovery of a new corneal layer in 2013. He is currently President of EVER and serves as Editor-in-Chief of the British Journal of Ophthalmology. Of his achievements, Harminder says “I have been very fortunate to have the trust and confidence of my peers and colleagues who have supported and promoted me to a number of positions on the national and international stage.”

Harry specializes in medical and surgical treatment of diseases of the retina and vitreous. He has a long and distinguished career in academic medicine through a combination of teaching, research and patient care. In November 2017, he received the “Secretariat Award” from the AAO.
Hendrik specializes in medical and surgical management of retinal diseases, especially inherited retinal degenerative diseases. He is a co-leader of the IOB, a new research institute in Basel, Switzerland, for which he played an instrumental role in securing funding.

Ioannis was the first to perform the LASIK procedure on a human eye. He went on to develop Epi-LASIK, and has a current research interest in corneal inlays. He is also an enthusiastic educator who has over 30 years of teaching experience in both Greece and Switzerland at undergraduate and post-graduate levels.

Irini’s expertise is in medical retina, and she was previously a Medical Retina Fellow at King’s College Hospital and Moorfields. She has published more than 125 publications in peer-review journals and participated in many clinical trials, as well as scientific congresses.

Jerry and his colleagues have made vast research contributions to the diagnosis and treatment of ocular cancers. He has authored or co-authored more than 1,200 articles and textbook chapters, and has authored or co-authored 13 major textbooks related to ocular tumors.

Jerzy invented and introduced the inverted ILM flap technique in repairing macular holes. He has also introduced a new technique for optic pit maculopathy.
many great physicians and great leaders, such as Gavin Herbert, David Pyott and Michael Kaschke; and to build and to lead world-class organizations and teams – both large and small – which have been pivotal in driving advancements that have shaped ophthalmic care – phaco, diagnostics, retinal implants, the first bi-focal contact lens, the refractive change with LASIK at AMO.

Creating AMO (Advanced Medical Optics Inc.) from a spin-off, and creating, with my mentor, Gavin Herbert, the Gavin Herbert Eye Institute at the University of California, Irvine, are two highlights that stand out in my mind.

I have also been honored to serve on the governing boards of ophthalmic societies – being the only non-doctor, non-MD on the ASCRS Governing Board, and being the first non-ophthalmologist on the IIIC.

I’ve had the opportunity to live and work overseas – to learn, understand and interact with different cultures.”

John Marshall invented and patented the excimer laser, and today more than 35 million laser vision correction procedures have been performed worldwide. He created the world’s first diode laser for treating the eye problems of diabetes, glaucoma and aging. Over the past 40 years he has held posts chairing the medical advisory boards of many international companies, held many academic positions across a great number of top academic institutions, been the Editor and co-Editor of many international journals, and has worked on many national and international committees concerned with protecting the public against the possible damaging effects of lasers and other artificial light sources – perhaps most notably, addressing the United Nations to obtain a Geneva Convention banning the use of anti-personnel laser weapons.

Julia has been at the forefront of some of the most groundbreaking work in the field of ophthalmology. She was one of the first physicians in the US to perform early intravitreal injections of anti-VEGF medications, and led investigations into their use – as well as novel steroid formulations – in retinal diseases. She has served as surgeon-investigator in many of the pioneering trials for new therapies to treat blindness, including the development of the ARGUS II chip for retinitis pigmentosa and gene therapy. With her colleagues, she has developed new public health approaches for reaching underserved populations, including telemedicine. She has led Wills Eye Hospital for more than a decade, and is the first and only female chair of a top-three US eye department.
MALIK KAHOOK

PROFESSOR OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, SLATER FAMILY ENDOWED CHAIR, DIRECTOR, GLAUCOMA SERVICE AND GLAUCOMA FELLOWSHIP, UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, DENVER, CO, USA

Malik is a phenomenal innovator: of his 60 patents filed, 25 have already been licensed by some of the biggest companies in ophthalmology – and four of his devices are either commercially available or in human trials, including the Kahook Dual Blade (New World Medical) and Alcon’s Harmoni intraocular lens. He’s received multiple “Inventor of the Year” awards, as well as the AAO’s Achievement (2011), Senior Achievement (2017), and Secretariat (2014) awards, and the Ludwig Von Smallman Clinician-Scientist award from ARVO in 2013. Malik is also a consultant to the FDA’s Ophthalmic Device Division. He’s also authored over 300 peer-reviewed manuscripts, abstracts, and book chapters, and is editor of Essentials of Glaucoma Surgery, MIGS: Advances in Glaucoma Surgery and the seminal textbook of glaucoma, Chandler and Grant’s Glaucoma.

KANG ZHANG

PROFESSOR OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, CHIEF OF OPHTHALMIC GENETICS, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO, CA, USA

Kang’s clinical and research focuses are on novel disease gene targets and treatment, gene and stem cell-based therapies in AMD, diabetic retinopathy, and inherited retinal degeneration. His laboratory uses genetic analyses to gain insights into the molecular mechanisms that underpin macular degeneration and other eye diseases; this knowledge is then used to make genetic changes that either protect the retina from damage, or actively encourage regeneration.

MARIE-JOSE TASSIGNON

PAST CHIEF AND CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY OF THE ANTWERP UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, ANTWERP, BELGIUM

A Past President of the EBO and the ESCRS, and the pioneer of bag-in-the-lens cataract surgery which avoids PCO, Marie-José is also a keen proponent of the need for ophthalmologists to understand physiology and the physics of optics, and she’s behind the development of a novel femtosecond laser floater treatment method.

LILIANA WERNER

CO-DIRECTOR OF THE INTERMOUNTAIN OCULAR RESEARCH CENTER AND TENURED PROFESSOR OF OPHTHALMOLOGY AND VISUAL SCIENCES, JOHN A. MORAN EYE CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF UTAH, UT, USA

Liliana’s career highlights include: promotion to full Professor and award of Tenure by the University of Utah; being a member of the JCRS editorial board since 2004; acting as Chair of the ASCRS Continuing Medical Education Advisory Committee since 2011; becoming a member of the International Intra-Ocular Implant Club (IIIC) in 2001; and becoming an Honorary Member of the Brazilian Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (BRASCRS) in 2014. “Also, any time any paper, presentation, video, or poster from our laboratory is recognized by peers I am very happy,” says Werner.

MICHAEL MROCHEN

FOUNDER AND CEO OF IROC SCIENCE; CO-FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AT VIVIOR, ZURICH, SWITZERLAND; AND PRESIDENT OF ALLOTEX, ZURICH, SWITZERLAND, AND BOSTON, MA, USA

Michael is most recently known for his pioneering work on CXL. He has many other notable achievements, including the co-development of both wavefront-guided and wavefront-optimized LASIK, which has transformed outcomes, minimized errors, and made LASIK a safer and more predictable procedure.
Mark Humayun
Director, USC Institute for Biomedical Therapeutics; Co-Director, USC Roski Eye Institute at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, USA

Mark has dedicated 30 years to the development of Argus II, a bioelectronic artificial retina to restore sight to the blind. His perseverance and ability to lead multi-disciplinary teams culminated in this artificial retina which was approved by the FDA; the first and only implant to have such approval.

Neil Bressler
Inaugural James P. Gills Professor of Ophthalmology, Wilmer Eye Institute, John Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, USA

Neil joined the Wilmer Eye Institute (Department of Ophthalmology) faculty at Johns Hopkins in 1988 and works in the Retina Division where he served as Chief (2005 to 2018) with 19 full-time clinical faculty in retina. He has authored over 400 peer-reviewed publications. He continues to work on the NIH-sponsored Diabetic Retinopathy Clinical Research Network that he chaired for 7 years, and currently chairs the National Eye Institute’s Data and Safety Monitoring Committee for intramural clinical trials. He also has been Chair of the FDA Ophthalmic Devices Panel, and was President of the Macula Society in 2013 to 2014. He currently serves as Editor-in-Chief of JAMA Ophthalmology and has been on The JAMA Network Editorial Board since 2013.

Oliver Findl
Chief of the Institute and Chief of the Department of Ophthalmology, Hanusch Hospital, Vienna, Austria

Oliver is a cataract and refractive surgeon with research interests in the field of optical biometry and post-surgical visual quality assessment. He is a prolific author, having published over 200 peer-reviewed articles in international journals, a popular podium speaker, an editorial board member of JCRS and an executive board member of the ESCR.

What inspires you? “Attempting to fuse clinical routine with cutting-edge technology and research to hopefully, at some point in time, achieve the perfect outcome for patients.”
Peter Kaiser
Chaney Family Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology Research and Professor of Ophthalmology, Cole Eye Institute, Lerner College of Medicine, Cleveland, OH, USA

Peter is actively involved in retinal clinical research and leads a team involved in the evaluation of vascular biology in AMD and diabetic retinopathy. He has been the study chairman of numerous major, multi-center, international clinical trials and a principal investigator on over 60 others. He serves on numerous scientific advisory boards, and has authored seven textbooks, 25 book chapters and more than 250 peer-reviewed manuscripts. Among other notable appointments, he is also currently Editor-in-Chief of Retinal Physician and the team ophthalmologist for the Cleveland Cavaliers basketball team.

Philip J. Rosenfeld
Professor of Ophthalmology, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Miami, FL, USA

Philip, a specialist in vitreoretinal diseases, pioneered the use of Avastin to treat wet AMD. This discovery has saved vision in millions, has become the standard of care for retina specialists throughout the world for its effectiveness, and has saved healthcare agencies billions of dollars. Philip also developed OCT-guided therapy, which has prevented unneeded injections and, once again, saved healthcare agencies billions of dollars. His numerous algorithms for SD-OCT and SS-OCT imaging are used in patient care and as endpoints in clinical trials. He has been heavily involved in developing anti-VEGF therapy for wet AMD and is now actively involved in developing novel therapies for dry AMD.

Renato Ambrosio Jr
Director of Cornea and Refractive Surgery, Instituto de Olhos Renato Ambrosio / Visarério Refracta Personal Laser in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

A major contributor to advances in corneal imaging, Renato Ambrosio holds multiple academic appointments. His work has helped from basic science, into the diagnosis and treatments for different corneal conditions, including keratoconus and post-LASIK dry eye. He is a strong proponent of pre-surgical Scheimpflug corneal tomography and biomechanical assessments, along with OCT for custom planning therapeutic and refractive procedures.

Pearse Keane
Consultant Ophthalmologist, Moorfields and NIHR Clinician Scientist at Institute of Ophthalmology, UCL, London, UK

What drives you? “Being a clinical academic is my dream job! Firstly, because it gives me the freedom to generate my own ideas and set my own goals. Secondly, because I love working with my research group to explore these.

Future goals? “I believe that healthcare will be transformed in the next 10 years by the introduction of AI, in particular deep learning. I would like ophthalmology to be the medical specialty leading the way in this regard (and I would like my institution, Moorfields Eye Hospital, to be playing a key role in this).

Peng Khaw
Professor and Consultant at Moorfields and the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology, Director of the UK NIHR BRC in Ophthalmology, London, UK

Peng’s many career highlights include being elected to the UK Academy of Medical Sciences, designing Moorfields’ Safer Surgery System which minimizes complications worldwide, helping to raise £20 million for Moorfields International Children’s Eye Center (the largest in the world) and over £100 million for eye research, and being knighted in 2013 for services to ophthalmology.

Finally, because I love the final process of writing about my research and sharing it with the world.”

What drives you? “Being a clinical academic is my dream job! Firstly, because it gives me the freedom to generate my own ideas and set my own goals. Secondly, because I love working with my research group to explore these.

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Richard Parrish II
Edward W.D. Norton Chair in Ophthalmology, Professor of Ophthalmology, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Miami, FL, USA

Richard is a world-renowned glaucoma specialist, dedicated scientist and educator. A widely published author and internationally recognized speaker, he has published more than 100 peer-reviewed original scientific publications and many more chapters and abstracts. His research interests have focused on improving patient care through clinical trials in glaucoma. In 1994, he was named Vice Chair and a principal investigator of the NEI-sponsored landmark Ocular Hypertension Treatment Study (OHTS and OHTS II) and will serve in this capacity for OHTS III, a 20-year follow-up investigation.

Robert Edward Ang
Senior Consultant and Head of Cornea and Refractive Surgery Services at the Asian Eye Institute, Makati City, The Philippines

A very active researcher and a clinical investigator for many of the biggest names in corneal, refractive and glaucoma spaces, Robert has authored several book chapters and international publications and is a much sought-after lecturer at international conventions. Robert is a five-time winner of Best Paper of Session awards at the ASCRS congresses, and in 2013, Robert received the Certified Educators Award from the APACRS, and won the Top Gun Instructors Award at ASCRS in 2017.

Robert MacLaren
Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Oxford, UK

The focus of MacLaren’s research is to develop gene therapy and other surgical technologies relevant to retinal diseases. In 2014 he co-founded Nightstar, a University of Oxford spin-out company established to develop gene therapy for choroideremia and which is now leading the Phase III trial involving seven countries across the EU and North America, making it the largest gene therapy clinical trial for any disease to date. He is also listed as an inventor on several patents for gene therapy, including a codon-optimization algorithm that overcame the inherent instability of the RPGR gene, which is the major cause of X-linked retinitis pigmentosa. In 2017 he led the first treatment of the disease with another landmark gene therapy trial in Oxford. He has also led pioneering clinical trials, collaborating on robotic surgery with Preceyes BV and the electronic retina with Retina Implant AG.
What inspires you? “Inspiration is everywhere, and I find it daily in my patients, research and mentoring. Patients inspire me by placing their trust in me to make the right decisions and always act in their best interests. As a physician-scientist, I am inspired by impactful innovation and discovery that is translated from the laboratory to the patient. Knowing that those I mentor will impact the lives of countless individuals throughout the world now and into the future is also very inspiring.”

ROBERT WEINREB
DIRECTOR, SHILEY EYE INSTITUTE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO, CA, USA

What inspires you? “Inspiration is everywhere, and I find it daily in my patients, research and mentoring. Patients inspire me by placing their trust in me to make the right decisions and always act in their best interests. As a physician-scientist, I am inspired by impactful innovation and discovery that is translated from the laboratory to the patient. Knowing that those I mentor will impact the lives of countless individuals throughout the world now and into the future is also very inspiring.”

ROBERTO ZALDIVAR
FOUNDER, INSTITUTO ZALDIVAR, MENDOZA, ARGENTINA

Roberto has designed more than 60 original instruments used for surgical ophthalmic practice and has collaborated with numerous companies in the development of technology including: STAAR Surgical, Nidek, ASICO, Technolas, ASICO, IntraLase, AMO, Carl Zeiss Meditech and Rumex. One of his major accomplishments was introducing excimer laser technology in Latin America. Roberto has received many accolades over the course of his career, including an Achievement Award from the AAO in 1999 and the Jan Worst Medal Award from the ASCRS in 2010.

ROBERT OSHER
PROFESSOR OF OPHTHALMOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI COLLEGE OF MEDICINE; MEDICAL DIRECTOR EMERITUS OF THE CINCINNATI EYE INSTITUTE, CINCINNATI, OH, USA

After completing his Residency at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute and three Fellowships there and at the Wills Eye Hospital, Osher limited his practice to referral cataract and implant surgery in 1980. He has designed many of the IOLs, instruments, and new surgical technology in this subspecialty. Many of these have been captured in video and Robert’s surgical videos have won over 25 first-prize honors at congresses across the world, including 3 Grand Prizes at ASCRS and ESCRS. A globe-trotting lecturer (who racks up over 100,000 miles a year traveling to teach), he has delivered over 100 international Named and Keynote lectures. He introduced the Video Symposium format in 1982 which changed the way surgeons learned how to manage challenging cases and complications, which still attracts standing room crowds at AAO, ASCRS, and ESCRS. He also started the very first video journal in medicine, the Video Journal of Cataract and Refractive Surgery which he has edited for 35 years. More recently, he started his own unique meeting, “Cataract Surgery: Telling It Like It Is!” which attracted just under 1,000 cataract surgeons and exhibitors in its eighth year in Florida.

ROBYN GUYMER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CENTRE FOR EYE RESEARCH AUSTRALIA AND DEPUTY HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE; AND SENIOR MEDICAL RETINAL SPECIALIST, ROYAL VICTORIAN EYE AND EAR HOSPITAL, EAST MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

What inspires you? “The loyalty and faith that patients put in us to do our best for them and continue researching towards advances that will help them. This inspires me to keep researching despite the time it takes to translate any new knowledge into actual tangible patient benefits. The amazing research advances made in the past decade for neovascular AMD inspires me to think that in one lifetime it is possible to make enormous advances that influence the quality of life of many millions of people now and into the future.”
RUDY NUIJTS
DIRECTOR
CORNEA
CLINIC, DEPARTMENT
OF OPHTHALMOLOGY,
MAASTRICHT UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER, THE
NETHERLANDS

Rudy identified the etiology of toxic endothelial cell destruction after cataract surgery (Toxic Anterior Segment Syndrome). His current research interests include innovations in corneal, cataract and refractive surgery, particularly the use of femtosecond lasers and transscleral drug delivery. He is treasurer of ESCRS, and serves on the Corneal and Educational Committee.

SEAN IANCHULEV
PROFESSOR OF
OPHTHALMOLOGY, DIRECTOR
OF OPHTHALMIC INNOVATION
AND TECHNOLOGY, NEW YORK
EYE AND EAR INFIRMARY,
ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE,
MOUNT SINAI, NEW YORK,
NY, USA

Sean is an ophthalmologist-innovator who pioneered and developed some of the biggest breakthroughs in the field over the last decade including Lucentis, intraoperative aberrometry, CyPass, miLOOP and micro-therapeutics.

SHIGERU KINOSHITA
PROFESSOR AND CHAIR OF
FRONTIER MEDICAL SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY FOR
OPHTHALMOLOGY, KYOTO
PREFECTURAL UNIVERSITY OF
MEDICINE, KYOTO, JAPAN

Future goals? “I would like to establish the cultured corneal endothelial cell injection therapy for bullous keratopathy, and to try to educate young, energetic clinician-scientists.”

What motivates you? “It’s really curiosity that motivates me – asking a question or encountering a problem, and then going out there to find the solution. I have a considerable dislike for dogmatic thinking and process and confess that when I find flaws, I do challenge them using fundamentals as a basis.”

SHERAZ DAYA
MEDICAL DIRECTOR, CENTRE
FOR SIGHT, EAST GRINSTEAD,
UK

Sheraz was amongst the first in the UK to perform LASIK, and he has pioneered a number of corneal and anterior segment techniques and invented several ophthalmic instruments.

What motivates you? “It’s really curiosity that motivates me – asking a question or encountering a problem, and then going out there to find the solution. I have a considerable dislike for dogmatic thinking and process and confess that when I find flaws, I do challenge them using fundamentals as a basis.”
SONIA YOO

PROFESSOR OF OPTHALMOLOGY WITH A JOINT APPOINTMENT IN BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING, ASSOCIATE MEDICAL DIRECTOR, BASCOM PALMER EYE INSTITUTE, MIAMI, FL, USA

Sonia's areas of clinical practice are cornea, cataract and refractive surgery, and her areas of research interest include laser applications in cornea, cataract and refractive surgery, and restoring accommodation. Her research in cutting-edge technology includes the use of high-resolution OCT imaging for anterior segment diseases. She is also using this technology to develop a novel-imaging device for the early detection of keratoconus. She holds several patents and has authored more than 150 book chapters and peer-reviewed journal articles, as well as serving as the principal investigator in numerous drug and device trials.

STANLEY CHANG

K.K. TSE AND KU TEH YING PROFESSOR OF OPTHALMOLOGY, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER, NEW YORK PRESBYTERIAN, NEW YORK, NY, USA

Stanley is a specialist in vitreoretinal disorders and surgery, and has pioneered many of the surgical techniques currently used in this field. He says he has been inspired by the amazing mentors throughout his career.

Career highlights? “Seeing something developed in my lab become used routinely by all vitreoretinal surgeons.”

The future of retinal surgery? “Improved recovery of vision after retinal detachment repair, gene therapy and stem cell treatments.”

SUNIL SHAH

CONSULTANT OPTHALMOLOGIST AT MIDLAND EYE AND THE BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND EYE CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM, UK

As well as being a cataract and cornea specialist, Sunil is an active researcher, innovator (he invented LASEK) and teacher. He is also International Medical Chair of the Khmer Sight Foundation, which organizes eyecare programs in Cambodia.

What motivates you? “When you love your work, you love to innovate further and try things which will help your patients even more.”

Future goals? “To develop a new charity hospital in Cambodia and improve the standard of training in the country.”

NIHR Researcher of the Year in 2017, Moorfields’ Innovator of the Year in 2016 and the recipient of the Macula Society's 2017, Sobha's 2018 Lancet paper was shortlisted as one of the finalists for the BMJ awards. She is the first Ophthalmologist to receive a Research Council UK funding of £6.3 million for a project that aims to increase research capability and capacity in India and the UK. She has active clinical and laboratory research interests in AMD, diabetic retinopathy, and retinal vascular disorders, and also runs several clinical trials in these areas and has over 200 peer-reviewed publications to her credit. She is also the Editor-in-Chief of Eye.
THOMAS FRINZI
WORLDWIDE PRESIDENT OF JOHNSON & JOHNSON VISION SURGICAL

Prior to joining Abbott Medical Optics – now Johnson & Johnson Vision Surgical – Tom held a number of leadership positions in ophthalmology and medical device companies. Most recently, he served as President and CEO of WaveTec Vision, a developer of surgical systems for eye surgery. He also held senior positions in commercial operations, business development, and sales and marketing at Bausch & Lomb Surgical, Refractec and... Johnson & Johnson.

THEO SEILER
FOUNDER OF THE INSTITUTE OF REFRACTIVE AND OPHTHALMIC SURGERY (IROC), ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

Theo is a specialist in corneal and refractive therapy, physiologic optics, lasers in ophthalmology, and anterior segment surgery. His doctorates in physics and medicine enabled him to become a pioneer of modern refractive surgery. Among his achievements are the development of the first clinical dye laser and the invention of CXL; he also performed the first ever PTK, PRK and wavefront-laser guided surgical techniques on the human eye, and was also the first to combine LASIK and rapid CXL. He also performed the first ever CXL in humans.

Future goals? “To promote scleral crosslinking and to make refractive surgery better and less expensive.”

Who have been your mentors? “Professor Josef Wollensak, Berlin and George O. Waring III, Atlanta.”

THOMAS KOHNEN
CHAIRMAN AND DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, GOETHE-UNIVERSITY, FRANKFURT, GERMANY

Thomas has over 25 years of clinical and research experience in cataract and refractive surgery, has performed or supervised over 35,000 procedures, authored more than 300 peer-reviewed publications, and he also managed to obtain a Health Economics degree during that period. His opinions and insight are widely sought, as reflected by his many podium appearances at international congresses. He is also a member of the editorial boards of many ophthalmology journals, and has received many awards over the years, including the AAO’s Achievement Award in 2002.

THOMAS SAMUELSON
GLAUCOMA SPECIALIST, MINNESOTA EYE CONSULTANTS, BLOOMINGTON, MN, USA

Thomas Samuelson is a glaucoma, refractive and cataract surgeon at (and also a founding partner of) Minnesota Eye Consultants, and a former Glaucoma Fellow at Wills Eye Hospital. He was described by a nominator as “One of the few truly knowledgeable, ethical, honest, innovative, most competent glaucoma surgeons in the world,” and He brings great observation, great organization, great honesty and great experience to what he does.”
TIN AUNG

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SINGAPORE EYE RESEARCH INSTITUTE; DEPUTY MEDICAL DIRECTOR (RESEARCH) AND SENIOR CONSULTANT OF THE GLAUCOMA DEPARTMENT, SNEC; PROFESSOR OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, YONG LOO LIN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE, SINGAPORE

Tin is a clinician-scientist whose research interests include angle-closure glaucoma and the molecular genetics of eye diseases. He is also active in clinical research, having conducted studies on therapeutics, imaging, screening and surgical outcomes of glaucoma. Tin says that one of his career highlights was helping to organize worldwide consortia for glaucoma genetics.

What drives you? “Challenging patients and tough research questions.”

USHA CHAKRAVARTHY

PROFESSOR, OPHTHALMOLOGY AND VISION SCIENCES, ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL (THE BELFAST TRUST) AND QUEENS UNIVERSITY OF BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND

Notable achievements? “Receiving a national honor (CBE) for services to ophthalmology, receiving the Alderman Award for macular degeneration research and being selected to deliver the Bowman lecture at the Royal College of Ophthalmologists.”

What excites you right now? “The increasing awareness of the importance of neural cell health and not just the amelioration of exudative manifestations of AMD and diabetes, as well as the consideration of combined therapies to reduce neural cell loss.”

WILLIAM LINK

PRINCIPAL, FLYING L PARTNERS, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF VERSANT VENTURES

A mechanical engineer by training, Bill is one of the biggest names in the eyecare business. Founder of both Chiron Vision and American Medical Optics, Bill served as President of American Medical Optics, and later on the Board of its successor company, Advanced Medical Optics. Bill was a partner at Brentwood Venture Capital, where he invested in a number of companies including eyeonics, Genyx, IntraLase, Intra Therapeutics, and OraMetrix. Now MD of Versant Ventures and Principal of Flying L Partners, his investments include: AcuFocus, Cameron Health, ForSight, Glaukos, Inogen, LenSx, Neurotech, Oculeve, Rox Medical, Second Sight and Wavetec.