

SPECIAL AWARDS

The Academy Recognizes Contributions to the Field

The Academy's 2007 president, C. P. Wilkinson, MD, is pleased to announce the recipients of this year's Distinguished Service Award and the Special Recognition Award. In addition, Dr. Wilkinson has extended an invitation to three individuals who have made significant contributions to ophthalmology and the Academy to be his Guests of Honor at this year's Annual Meeting. These hon-

orees and others were recognized during the Opening Session and are presented in the *Final Program*.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD STATE OPHTHALMOLOGY SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

The Academy is pleased to honor State Ophthalmology Society Legislative Committee Chairs as Distinguished Service

Award recipients at the 2007 Annual Meeting. The collective advocacy efforts made by these Eye M.D.s across the country have benefited the entire profession of ophthalmology and have greatly improved the ability of our Secretariat for State Affairs members to collaborate with states on legislative and regulatory efforts. The dedication and ongoing commitment that State Society Legislative Chairs have demon-

strated should be recognized by each and every ophthalmologist in the country. They deserve our recognition and sincere thanks, and we feel extremely fortunate to have them on ophthalmology's team.

It is with great appreciation and respect that we welcome and honor the State Ophthalmology Society Legislative Committee Chairs (see box) as 2007 Distinguished Service Award recipients.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The 2007 Distinguished Service Award goes to State Ophthalmology Society Legislative Committee Chairs, all of whom are listed below.

Alabama Academy of Ophthalmology	Jimmy M. Carter, MD, Charles Barry Dabbs, MD, Roy T. Hager, MD
Alaska Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons	Carl E. Rosen, MD
Arizona Ophthalmological Society	Robert C. Spurny, MD
Arkansas Ophthalmological Society	Stephen K. Magie, MD
California Academy of Ophthalmology	James Bradford Ruben, MD
Colorado Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons	Robert A. King, MD
Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians	Joseph F. Bentivegna, MD, William H. Ehlers, MD
Delaware Academy of Ophthalmology	Dorothy M. Moore, MD
Florida Society of Ophthalmology	Alan D. Mendelsohn, MD
Georgia Society of Ophthalmology	John E. Godard, MD
Hawaii Ophthalmological Society	George Plechaty, MD
Idaho Society of Ophthalmology	Lawrence D. Anderson, MD
Illinois Association of Ophthalmology	John Patrick Hanlon, MD
Indiana Academy of Ophthalmology	Derek T. Sprunger, MD, Andrew W. Tharp, MD
Iowa Academy of Ophthalmology	Christopher F. Blodi, MD
Kansas Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons	Gary B. Weiner, MD
Kentucky Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons	Syamala H. K. Reddy, MD
Louisiana Ophthalmology Association	Hilliard M. Haik Jr., MD, Daniel A. Long, MD
Maine Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons	William E. Atlee, MD
Maryland Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons	Allan D. Jensen, MD
Massachusetts Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons	Robert A. Lytle, MD
Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons	Paul Fecko, MD, MBA, John Denis Roarty, MD
Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology	Scott A. Uttley, MD
Mississippi Eye, Ear, Nose & Throat Association	Eric E. Lindstrom, MD, Curtis D. Whittington Jr., MD
Missouri Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons	John Bryan Holds, MD, James G. Luetkemeyer, MD
Montana Academy of Ophthalmology	Timothy J. McInnis, MD
Nebraska Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons	Peter J. Whitted, MD, JD
Nevada Ophthalmological Society	Steve M. Friedlander, MD
New Hampshire Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons	Christie L. Morse, MD
New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmology	Donald J. Cinotti, MD
New Mexico Academy of Ophthalmology	Kristin E. Reidy, DO
New York State Ophthalmological Society	Paul N. Orloff, MD
North Carolina Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons	Cynthia Hampton, MD
North Dakota Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons	Thomas I. Strinden, MD
Ohio Ophthalmological Society	Carl A. Minning Jr., MD
Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology	Amalia Miranda, MD
Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology	Robert E. Tibolt, MD
Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology	David S. Pao, MD
Puerto Rico Ophthalmological Society	Gustavo A. Hernandez-Maldonado, MD
Rhode Island Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons	Michael Edward Migliori, MD
South Carolina Society of Ophthalmology	C. Blake Myers, MD
South Dakota Academy of Ophthalmology	Geoffrey T. Tufty, MD
Tennessee Academy of Ophthalmology	James W. Felch, MD, PhD, David O. Ranz, MD
Texas Ophthalmological Association	David G. Shulman, MD
Utah Ophthalmology Society	David W. Faber, MD
Vermont Ophthalmological Society	Stephen J. Phipps, MD
Virginia Society of Ophthalmology	Kenneth M. Karlin, MD
Washington Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons	Aaron P. Weingeist, MD
Washington DC Metropolitan Ophthalmological Society	Robert A. Copeland Jr., MD, John R. Millwater, MD
West Virginia Academy of Ophthalmology	Stephen R. Powell, MD
Wisconsin Academy of Ophthalmology	Matthew G. Hattenhauer, MD
Wyoming Ophthalmological Society	John A. Millin, MD

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD OPHTHALMOLOGY'S "DREAM TEAM" AT THE RUC

It is with great pride and pleasure that the Academy recognizes those who are involved with the AMA/Specialty RVS Update Committee (RUC), better known as our RUC Team, as a recipient of the Special Recognition Award.

Formed in 1992 by the American Medical Association and the national medical specialty societies, the RUC functions to develop physician work relative values for procedure codes that are revised or added by the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Editorial Panel. These values are an integral part of how payments are derived by Medicare and other payers. Overall, the RUC is composed of 26 members; 20 are appointed by major national medical specialty societies, including one seat for the Academy. Additionally, there is an alternate member for each of those 26 RUC members, and every medical group that has a seat in the AMA federation can also name an advisor to the RUC. It is this team of Academy physicians and the staff that supports them that we are recognizing.

Major accomplishments of the Academy's RUC team over the past few years include helping defend the work value of



MEET THE ACADEMY'S DREAM TEAM.
William L. Rich III, MD, Cherie McNett, Trexler M. Topping, MD, Catherine Grealy Cohen, George A. Williams, MD, Gregory P. Kwasny, MD, Michael X. Repka, MD, Stephen A. Kamenetzky, MD, and Koryn Rubin.

MORIA Speakers' Forum AAO Booth #635

Saturday, November 10

- 10:00 am **Clinical advantages of Epi-LASIK**
Iftikhar Chaudhry, MD (Bensalem, PA)
- 11:00 am **Automated Lamellar Therapeutic Keratoplasty (ALTK) to treat anterior stromal disease**
Francois Majo, MD (Lausanne, Switzerland)
- 12:00 pm **Paradigm shift: LASIK to Epilase**
Jacqueline Griffiths, MD (Reston, VA)
- 1:00 pm **SBK with the One Use-Plus Microkeratome**
James Lewis, MD (Philadelphia, PA)
- 4:00 pm **My DSAEK technique and results**
Mark Garovay, MD (Fort Myers, FL)

Sunday, November 11

- 10:00 am **Why you should you perform DSAEK**
Francis W. Price, Jr., MD (Indianapolis, IN)
- 11:00 am **Clear corneal DSAEK: Early results & surgical pearls**
Sudeep Pransank, MD (Hershey, PA)
- 12:00 pm **Epi-LASIK: My procedure of choice**
Carlos Verges, MD (Barcelona, Spain)
- 12:30 pm **New frontiers in lamellar surgery**
Mark S. Garovay, MD (Fort Myers, FL)
- 1:30 pm **DSAEK technique minimizing dislocation and graft failure**
Mark Terry, MD (Portland, OR)
- 2:30 pm **DSAEK in 100 lessons**
Massimo Busin, MD (Forlì, Italy)
- 3:30 pm **DSAEK: Pearls for the converting surgeon**
Sadker B. Hannush, MD (Philadelphia, PA)

Monday, November 12

- 10:00 am **Epi-LASIK vs. PRK**
Samir Bechera, MD (São Paulo, Brazil)
- 11:00 am **Endothelial Keratoplasty: Long-term results**
George O.D. Rosenwasser, MD (Hershey, PA)
- 12:00 pm **Transepithelial PRK vs. Epi-LASIK**
Abu Elkheir, MD and Ahmed Shama, MD (Alexandria, Egypt)
- 1:00 pm **DSAEK Triple Procedure**
Steven Koenig, MD (Milwaukee, WI)
- 2:00 pm **A comparison of Epi-LASIK discarding and retaining the epithelial sheet**
Narmata Sharma, MD (New Delhi, India)
- 3:00 pm **Moria ALTK system for Anterior Lamellar Keratoplasty and DSAEK**
Thomas John, MD (Tinley Park, IL)
- 4:00 pm **Factors affecting donor adhesion in DSAEK**
David Vroman, MD (Charleston, SC)

*Topics and speakers are subject to change.



NOTABLE HONORS

the cataract code, which CMS has consistently targeted as overvalued under the Five-Year Review Process, and revising the retina and vitrectomy series of codes without damaging their overall payment. This year the Academy's RUC team scored a victory as CMS proposed to accept the RUC recommendation that payments for eye visit codes be improved and in line with the increases instituted in 2007 for Evaluation & Management services. As a result, Medicare payments for ophthalmologists would be increased by \$154 million annually, and that doesn't count increases that will likely also come in the third party insurance arena.

Upcoming projects for the RUC include preparation for the next Five-Year Review, oversight of efforts to implement updated practice expense payments, and ongoing work with the Academy's Health Policy Committee to monitor and review new technology and procedures for ophthalmology. The RUC team is constantly finding ways to ensure fair and appropriate payments—from Medicare and others—for ophthalmology.

The American Academy of Ophthalmology is proud to present the Academy's RUC team of dedicated physicians and staff with the 2007 Special Recognition Award:

William L. Rich III, MD, medical director of Health Policy for the Academy and chairman of the AMA Relative Value Update Committee

Gregory P. Kwasny, MD, Academy/Ophthalmology member of the AMA Relative Value Update Committee

George A. Williams, MD, Academy/Ophthalmology alternate member of the AMA Relative Value Update Committee

Stephen A. Kamenetzky, MD, Academy advisor to the AMA Relative Value Update Committee (and our chief presenter)

Trexler M. Topping, MD, Immediate past member of the AMA Relative Value Update Committee (and coordinator of the Academy's most recent Five-Year Review effort)

Michael X. Repka, MD, Academy advisor to the AMA Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Panel

Catherine Grealy Cohen, Academy vice president of Governmental Affairs

Cherie McNett, Academy director of Health Policy

Koryn Rubin, Academy Health Policy analyst.

THREE GUESTS OF HONOR VICTOR T. CURTIN, MD

The Academy honors Dr. Curtin for his contributions to ophthalmology as a clinician, ardent teacher and administrator of many years in the department of ophthalmology of the University of Miami.

Dr. Curtin was born in Lawrence, Mass. After graduating from Harvard College, he received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School in 1953. He interned at the San Francisco County Hospital and completed his residency in ophthalmology at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical

Center, where he met Edward Norton, MD. He finished his training with a fellowship in ocular pathology at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary and the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in preparation to join

Dr. Norton in 1959 and to help establish a full-time department of ophthalmology at the University of Miami. Within three years, the first building was completed and the department was named the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. During this period, Dr. Curtin was responsible for developing the residency training program, teaching medical students, setting up an ocular pathology laboratory, and establishing the Florida Lions Eye Bank, as well as running his own active clinical practice with an emphasis on retinal diseases and surgery.

As a clinician of 37 years, Dr. Curtin has trained numerous residents and fellows in medical retinal diseases and techniques in retinal detachment surgery. When medical students took an elective course at the Bascom Palmer, Dr. Curtin made sure that each one had the opportunity to view the fundus via indirect ophthalmoscopy. Over the course of his long tenure, approximately 800 residents and fellows trained at Bascom Palmer and went on to positions throughout the United States and many other countries. Twenty-five are or have been chairs of ophthalmology at their institutions.

Dr. Curtin's ocular pathology service and the Florida Lions Eye Bank have grown hand in hand and are preeminent in their field. In the early 1960s, he began to study and follow his patients with intraocular malignant melanomas for a 15-year period. He felt that a more conservative approach than immediate enucleation of the eye with small and medium-sized melanomas would not harm the patient. This concept was not well received initially, but in time there was a change in attitude and in the treatment of this disease in the ophthalmological community.

Dr. Curtin became emeritus professor in 1998 but continues to work voluntarily at Bascom Palmer and faithfully attends weekly grand rounds. His great pleasure is to watch the maturation of the residents and fellows during their period at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute.

HARVEY A. LINCOFF, MD

The Academy is proud of the accomplishments of Dr. Lincoff. His dedication to patient care, education and research has made him an outstanding role model in the field of ophthalmology.

Dr. Lincoff is professor of ophthalmology and Newhouse Clinical Scholar at the New York-Presbyterian Hospital Weill Cornell Medical Center in New York City.



Dr. Curtin.

Notable Honors, continued on page 14

NOTABLE HONORS

Notable Honors, continued from page 12

A native of Pittsburgh, he received his bachelor's degree from Harvard College and his medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1948. He did a residency in neurology and ophthalmology at Bellevue Hospital in New York City and subsequently completed a Heed Fellowship at the Wilmer Eye Institute with Frank B. Walsh, MD, and at Harvard with David G. Cogan, MD.

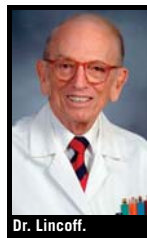
In 1961, Dr. Lincoff joined the faculty of the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, where he developed techniques for retinal detachment that have been adopted by ophthalmologists throughout the world. Most noteworthy, he pioneered the use of cryopexy for retinal detachment to eliminate scleral abscess, which he related to the scleral necrosis caused by diathermy. He later noted that excessive cryopexy would damage retinal tissue but could be used to destroy retinoblastoma. He was the first in

the United States to treat melanoma with radioactive (cobalt) plaques. He developed a soft silicone sponge to buckle retinal tears. The sponge that bears his name serves to close retinal breaks and reattach the retina without draining subretinal fluid, as proposed by Ernst Custodis, MD. He designed spatula-shaped needles to sew the sponge to the wall of the eye; the needle reduced the incidence of accidental perforation. His classic paper "Finding the Retinal Hole," published in 1971,¹ is uni-

versally taught to ophthalmologists in training and continues to retain its relevance. He pioneered the use of the straight chain perfluorocarbon gases for the treatment of complicated detachments.

Subsequently, he demonstrated that intraocular gas was not entirely benign and could be the precursor of preretinal proliferation. In 1988 he became interested in retinoschisis; he defined its presence in optic pit maculopathy and currently is proposing a new method for treating retinal detachment emanating from retinoschisis.

Dr. Lincoff continues to combine his clinical practice with research. Currently he is 1) testing a new position of gaze based on geometric calculations for pneumatic displacement of subretinal hemorrhage in the macula, 2) studying eyes with optic pit maculopathy for the source of the subretinal fluid, and 3) proving the efficacy of ambulatory binocular occlusion and laser for the treatment of retinal detachment emanating from retinoschisis.



Dr. Lincoff.

1 Lincoff, H. and R. Gieser. *Arch Ophthalmol* 1971;85(5):565-569.

NEIL R. MILLER, MD

The Academy is pleased to recognize Dr. Miller for his contributions to ophthalmology as an outstanding clinical professor of neuro-ophthalmology.

Dr. Miller was born in Wichita Falls, Texas. After graduation from Harvard College, he received his medical degree in 1971 from Johns Hopkins and interned in the department of medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He did his residency in ophthalmology at the Wilmer Eye Institute and was chief resident at Johns Hopkins Hospital, followed by a fellowship in neuro-ophthalmology at University of California with William F. Hoyt, MD. Subsequently, he was appointed an assistant professor, associate professor, and then full professor of ophthalmology at Johns Hopkins.

Dr. Miller is currently professor of ophthalmology, neurology and neurosurgery at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, where he is also the Frank B. Walsh Professor of Neuro-Ophthalmology and head of the neuro-ophthalmology and orbital division of the Wilmer Eye Institute. Dr. Miller has been an Academy member since 1977 and has served on and chaired several committees, both national and international.



Dr. Miller.

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