

S P R I N G 2 0 1 1

the
Visionary News

Happiness is found in giving to others!



***The Eye Cancer Foundation
Funds Results ~ !***

Starting January 1st, 2010, The Eye Cancer Foundation Board voted to fund six international fellowships in ophthalmic oncology. Young eye cancer specialists came from all over the world for exposure to new methods of eye cancer diagnosis and treatment (see page 2). Further each participated in or directed original research projects. Within this Visionary, several will be highlighted along with the work they have in press or submitted for publication. Call if you want to sponsor next year's fellows.

Save the Date!

ARVO
May 1st-5th, 2011
ECF researchers will present many ECF supported research studies!

AAO - Orlando
Oct. 22nd-25th, 2011
We will present on new methods to diagnose and treat ocular melanoma.

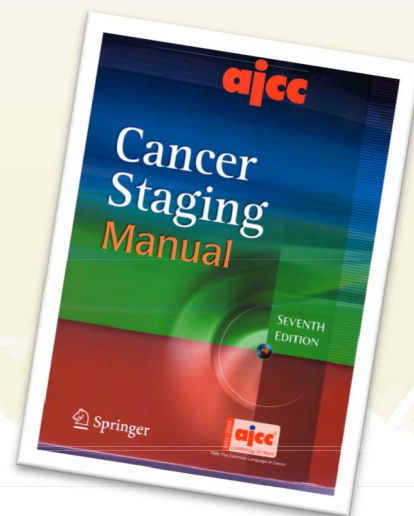
ECF Lunch
Call
Our ECF patient get together is scheduled for May 7th, 2011.

Do You Speak

In our last issue, we noted that The AJCC-UICC Ophthalmic Oncology Task Force completed its work to create an international language for describing eye cancers, as published by Springer in 2009.

However, since our last Visionary, AJCC Staging is now required for publication in 11 major ophthalmic journals.

This ensures that all future eye cancer research can be directly comparable and amenable to multivariate analysis. It serves as a foundation for our Eye Cancer BIG project (see page 5).



Learning New Techniques

Eye Cancer Foundation Fellows, Drs. Freton (France) and Petousis (Greece) are photographed as they attend surgery.

Fast Friends

We were blessed with a wonderful group of International fellows this year. Dr. Gerardo Graue from Mexico, Dr. Freton from France, Dr. Hadas Newman from Israel, Dr. Petousis from Greece (currently studying in Germany) and Drs. Natesh and Kathil from India. All worked hard and published important research in ophthalmology.

Dr. Pratima Kathil

Also an International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) Fellow training with Dr. Finger, Dr. Pratima Kathil's research on anterior uveal melanocytoma will soon be published in the journal, *Ophthalmology*.

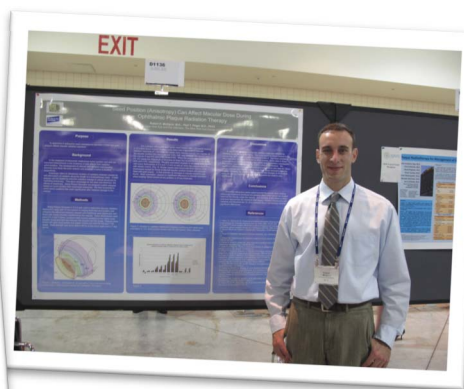
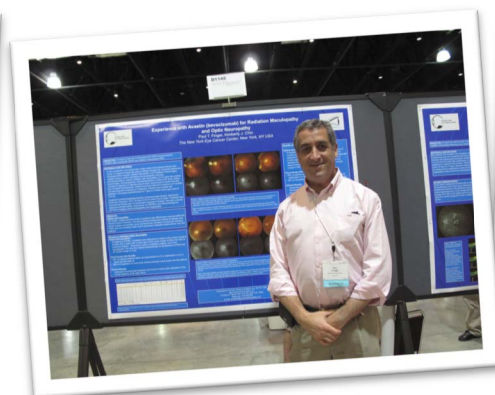
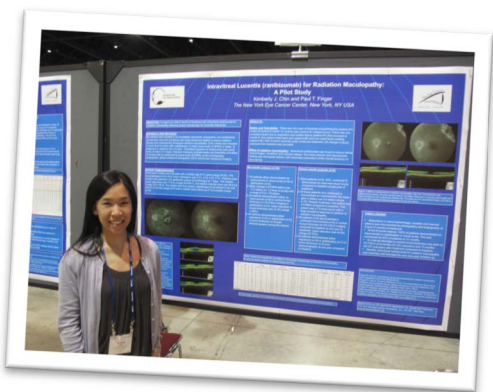
World Ophthalmology Congress

Berlin, Germany 2010, Dr. Samira Khan is seen presenting Eye Cancer Foundation supported research on malignant melanoma of the iris. The work involved an internet-based collaboration between 18 scientists from 8 eye cancer centers in 5 different countries. This study reveals new and important information about this rare disease (that couldn't be found by one center).

Dr. Aurélien Freton received a fellowship grant from The Eye Cancer Foundation to study PET/CT imaging to diagnose metastatic choroidal melanoma. This was the largest such study to date, examining 333 PET/CT scans at the time of choroidal melanoma diagnosis.

Dr. Freton not only revealed the ability of this technique to find metastatic melanoma, but also found that more than 8% of choroidal melanoma patients had other "hidden" primary malignancies.





ARVO 2010

In May 2010, Ft. Lauderdale Florida hosted the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology. From left to right, **Drs. Chin and Finger** presented their work on the use of anti-VEGF Avastin and Lucentis (Roche-Genentech, South San Francisco, California, USA) for treatment of radiation damage to the macula and optic nerve.

First discovered by Eye Cancer Center sponsored researchers, these anti-VEGF agents have been found to improve or restore the anatomy of the macula and optic nerve. This has allowed for less damage to these vision-critical structures and preservation of vision.

The right hand photograph shows **Dr. McGlynn**

presenting his work that demonstrated how the position of the radioactive seeds within ophthalmic plaques can be changed to lower the radiation dose to the normal macula.

Dr. Julian P.S. Garcia also presented a study that defined the normal sizes of the iris and ciliary body as measured by high frequency ultrasound imaging. These measurements are important in deciding if these structures are abnormally large, like when they are infiltrated by cancer.

In addition, **Dr. Khan** presented on clinical and pathologic characteristics of biopsy proven iris melanomas. This was the first ECF sponsored multicenter, international database study.



An Eye for and Eye

It's no fun having your eye covered for a week. So one clever patient decided to draw a substitute eye.

Eye cancer patients typically undergo surgery. Some have biopsies, excisions, radiation, cryotherapy and other interventions. Attitude is important, so it is great to see this patient's creativity and her smile.

One of the saddest things is to have surgery and then to go home alone. Not everyone has someone to turn to in their time of need. If you would like to help take people home from surgery, contact The Eye Cancer Foundation and be put on our list of volunteers.

Telephone: 1-212-832-7297

News from The ECF

The Spring ECF Lunch

Board members, patients and their friends met for lunch to discuss how to improve our foundation and for mutual support. Every year we expand our circle, including patients treated all over the northeastern USA. The Eye Cancer Network Bulletin Board also connects patients from all over the world.



The Fellows Lunch at Landmark

Here Doctors Graue and Petousis pose for a photograph during the fellow's lunch with Dr. Freton at the Landmark restaurant in the Time Warner Building.

We all celebrated their New York experience, their research work and getting to know each other from countries around the world.

New Spectral Domain OCT

A new, state of the art Heidelberg: Spectral Domain Optical Coherence Tomography imaging system is being used to discover previously obscure aspects of intraocular cancers. With both 2D and 3D perspectives we have already published new research due to your support of The Eye Cancer Foundation.



When Melanomas are in the Macula

ECF Fellow Hadas Newman, MD (Israel) researched the impact of having a choroidal melanoma occur right beneath the center of vision (macular fovea). This was the first study of these tumors and revealed unique natural characteristics and response to treatment. Her research work will soon be published in The Archives of Ophthalmology.

News from The ECF

Group Efforts

Our fellows not only learn about eye cancer and new surgical techniques, but they find that publication is often a group effort. They work with eye pathologists, statisticians and invited researchers from all over the world. Then each work is carefully focused before submission.



Hadas Newman, MD

ECF Fellow, Hadas Newman, MD has published ECF-sponsored research in two major ophthalmic journals and returned to Tel Aviv to practice ophthalmic oncology. She has presented her work in Barcelona, Spain and has a poster presentation at ARVO 2011.



Vasileios Petousis, MD

ECF Fellow Vasileios Petousis, MD published on a new method to treat diffuse iris melanoma with palladium-103 plaque radiation. He also coordinated the publication of paired articles on small incision biopsy for iris tumors and their pathology. He has returned to Berlin for more training and plans to practice ophthalmic oncology in Athens, Greece.



The WOC 2010 ECF Berlin Dinner

Eye cancer specialists from around the world met in Berlin to discuss the AJCC-UICC, **Eye Cancer BIG** initiative and other cooperative efforts. The Eye Cancer Foundation, sponsored the dinner as a way of saying thanks for 4-years of hard work on the AJCC-UICC Eye Cancer Staging System.

The ECF is For You

The Eye Cancer Foundation was created to promote multicenter, international cooperation for eye cancer care and research. The ECF is nimble, productive and charitable. We support education (patient and physician) and research. We include physicians from around the world. Remember, as long as you are alive there is hope. Be assured, we are working on it! – Paul T. Finger, MD



Life is Hope



[Recipient]

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