

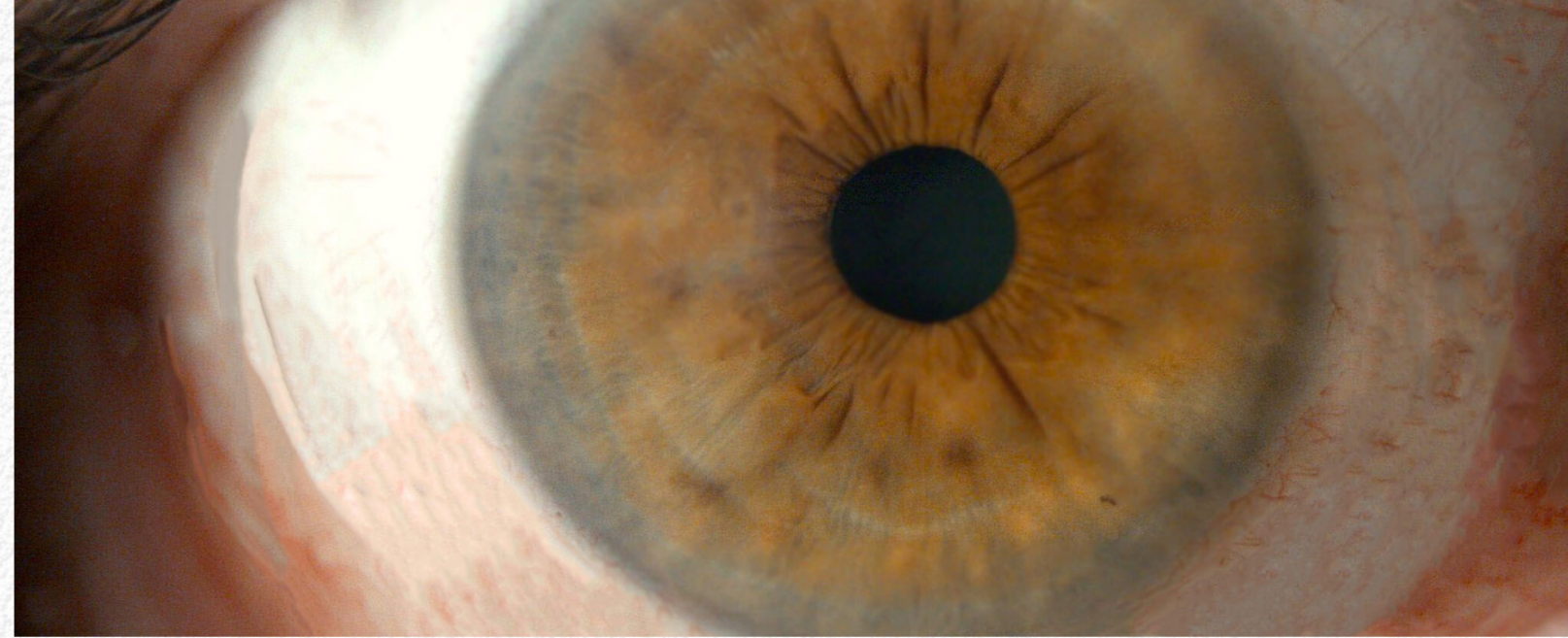


THE VISIONARY

THE EYE CANCER FOUNDATION  
25TH ANNIVERSARY

*Celebrating*

25 YEARS OF  
SAVING SIGHT AND SAVING LIFE

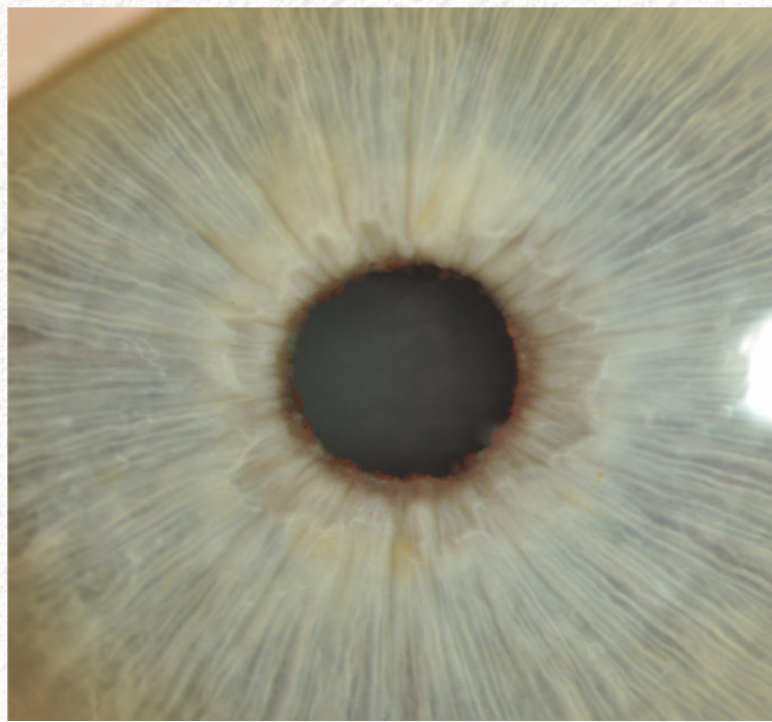


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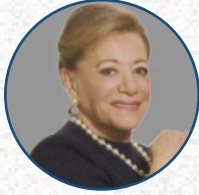
YEARS OF  
SAVING SIGHT AND  
SAVING LIFE

THE EYE  
CANCER  
FOUNDATION

*We thank you  
for all you do!*



## BOARD MEMBER APPRECIATION



**Myrna Daniels**  
Vice President



**Marci Margolin**  
Treasurer



**Paul T. Finger**  
CEO



**Scott Wiener**



**Beverly Sommer**



**Jack B. Friedman,**  
Esq.

We of The Eye Cancer Foundation wish to express our gratitude to Jack B. Friedman, Esq. who was instrumental in the establishment of our 401(c)3 charity in 1998. Since that time, he has served on our board, volunteered his services, and thus helped so many eye cancer patients around the world.

*Thank you Jack, we all wish you health and happiness in your retirement.*



**Maureen Devoe**



**Anne Marie Montijo**



**Robert Sauerhaft**



**Bradley Kendall**

DISTINGUISHED FELLOWS OF THE EYE CANCER FOUNDATION HAVE COMPLETED EYE CANCER FELLOWSHIPS HERE AT THE NEW YORK EYE CANCER CENTER AND AROUND THE WORLD!



### INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF OCULAR ONCOLOGY 2023

We are pleased to announce that we have provided 12 travel grants to ECF fellows to attend this years ISOO in *Mombasa, Kenya!*

The Eye Cancer Foundation is proud to sponsor these fellows, some of whom are presenting at the conference. We will be documenting this experience in real time. We will be live on our Instagram during ECF presentations, so please follow our Instagram (@eyecancerfoundation) and turn our post notifications on!



### CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. RAZAQ ALMASRY ON COMPLETING HIS ECF SPONSORED FELLOWSHIP UNDER DR. YACOUB YOUSEF

*Dr. Razaq Almasry of Iraq* completed his ECF-sponsored fellowship in Ophthalmic Oncology. He trained in Amman, Jordan under prestigious preceptor and ECF doctor, Dr. Yacoub Yousef, who has been training fellows from unserved and underserved areas of the world.

Dr. Yacoub Yousef, an ECF Fellow himself years ago, has spent his time paying it forward and training other ocular specialists in the science and art of ophthalmic oncology. Dr. Yacoub Yousef established the first internationally recognized eye cancer referral center at The King Hussein Cancer Center in Amman, Jordan. After years of building this center, Dr. Yousef has trained many eye cancer specialists from surrounding countries and has offered life and vision-sparing treatments for patients. His efforts have placed fellows in Jordan, Syria, Pakistan, Palestine and many other countries. Dr. Razaq Almasry expresses gratitude to Dr. Finger, Dr. Yousef and The Eye Cancer Foundation for the opportunity to receive invaluable training.

## FELLOWS SUPPORTED



### **GENEROUS DONOR, LYNNE SHEVLIN, GIFTS OPHTHALMOLOGY EQUIPMENT TO A FELLOW IN CAMBODIA**

*Ms. Lynne Shevlin, a generous donor of The Eye Cancer Foundation, asked to make sure her donation would help children with retinoblastoma in an underserved country. Thankfully, the ECF was able to send a state-of-the-art indirect ophthalmoscope to one of our Eye Cancer Fellow Graduates, currently treating children in Cambodia. This device is the headset worn by eye cancer specialists to examine the inside of the eye and get a clear picture of intraocular tumors.*

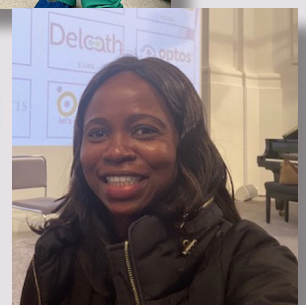
*Dr. Lom Ong Kiry said, "I would like to express my personal gratitude to Ms. Lynne Shevlin and The Eye Cancer Foundation for this donation. I am so thankful for all that the foundation has done and the effort you all put in, in order to make this happen. Thank you for your help. I believe this indirect ophthalmoscope will be helpful in our daily outpatient clinic. Thank you, again."*

Here we see the power of one donor helping The Eye Cancer Foundation to help a doctor. Imagine the possibilities if more donors follow Lynne Shevlin's initiative. *Please join us in this effort!*

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO CHIGOZIE IFEOMA ECHIEH ON COMPLETING HER ECF SPONSORED FELLOWSHIP UNDER DR. VICKTORIA DAI**

Dr. Chigozie Ifeoma Echieh completed her 6-month ECF fellowship in Israel under Dr. Vicktoria Dai at Goldschleger Eye Institute in Israel. This fellowship allowed Dr. Chigozie to learn new diagnostic techniques, be equipped to use a Ret Cam diagnostic retinoblastoma camera and improved her knowledge in ophthalmic care for children with eye cancer.

*Dr. Chigozie says, "The fellowship was a transformative experience for me. I look forward to transferring skills learned during my fellowship to my colleagues back in Nigeria. Special thanks to Dr. Paul Finger who has been a great mentor and ensured I took up this fellowship despite the challenges and uncertainties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Very special thanks to my Israeli professors Dr. Vicky Dai and Prof. Didi Fabian, my supervisors and trainers. The skills and training I received during your tutorship will be invaluable."*



## FEATURED PUBLICATIONS



### NEW YORK EYE AND EAR INFIRMARY OF MOUNT SINAI DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY SPECIALTY REPORT

Dr. Paul T. Finger, who is the Director of the Ocular Tumor Service at the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai, has been featured in the Department of Ophthalmology's magazine!

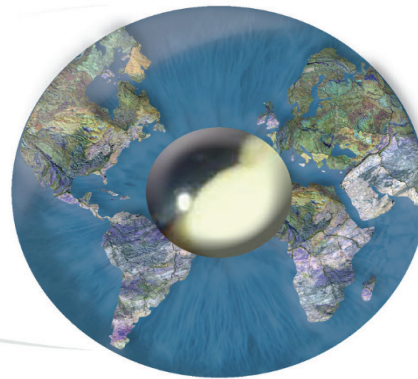
The article title, *"Eye Plaque Radiation Therapy Preserves the Sight of Patients with Invasive Carcinoma"* is located on pages 24 and 25 of the magazine!

In one case, saving sight in the patient's only functional eye, Dr. Finger states, *"The beautiful part of this procedure is that the radiation was very localized to the front of the eye where the cancer was located, and did not affect the rest of the eye."*

<https://www.eyecancercure.com/dr-paul-t-finger-featured-in-the-new-york-eye-and-ear-infirmarys-quos-newest-publication.html>

# IRBCC

International Retinoblastoma  
Comprehensive Course



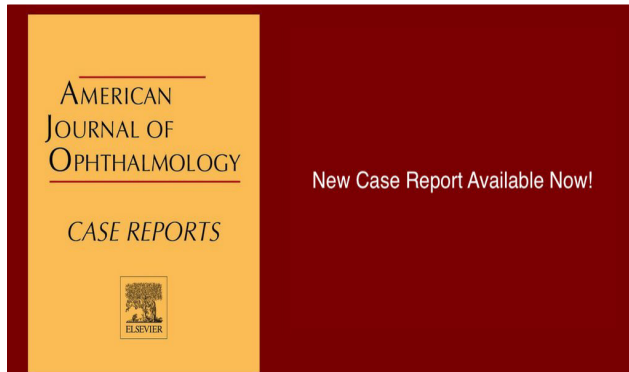
The Eye Cancer Foundation and vetted doctors in our network have worked to meet the challenge by brainstorming new ways to provide fellowship education through the internet.

We started the first comprehensive, open-access, online eye cancer physicians certification course in retinoblastoma – the International Retinoblastoma Certification Course (IRBCC). This way, ophthalmologists around the world may still equip themselves with the tools needed to treat retinoblastoma despite geographical limitations.

[HTTP://WWW.EYECANCEREDUCATION.ORG/](http://www.eyecancereducation.org/)

CONTACT DR. YACOB YOUSEF:  
YYOUSEF@KHCC.JO

# RECENT ECF SUPPORTED RESEARCH



## TARSOCONJUNCTIVAL FLAP FOR SCLEROMALACIA RELATED TO TREATMENTS FOR CONJUNCTIVAL MELANOMA

The Eye Cancer Foundation supported research published in the American Journal of Ophthalmology Case Reports. The authors describe the first use of a tarsoconjunctival pedicle flap for the repair of melting sclera, thereby preventing perforation of the wall of the eye caused by curative treatment for a patient's conjunctival melanoma.

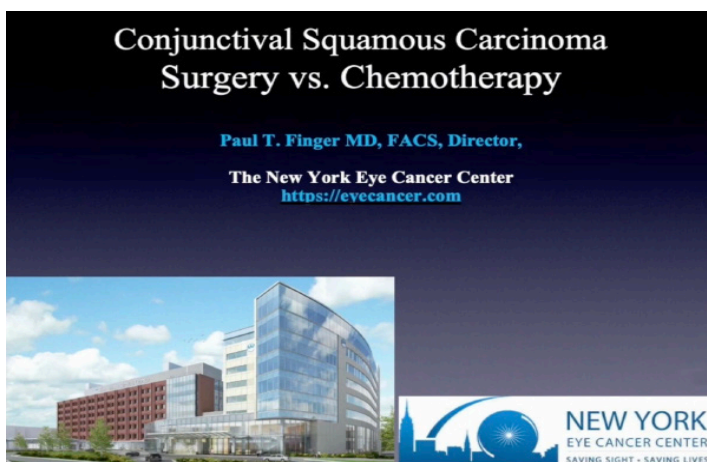
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2451993623000130>

## DEMARCATON LASER PHOTOCOAGULATION EXTINGUISHED PET/CT AVIDITY FOR CHOROIDDAL MELANOMA

*Drs. Abhilasha Maheshwari and Paul T. Finger-* Imagine being able to tell if treatment has caused an intraocular melanoma to cease metabolic activity. ECF researchers have reported on the use of PET/CT to show that the cancer was no longer active after treatment. While ophthalmoscopy, photography, optical coherence tomography, angiography, ultrasonography, and radiologic imaging have been used to detect or assess failure of uveal melanoma treatment, PET SUVs have emerged as a way to effectively quantify uveal melanoma metabolic activity.



[https://www.canadianjournalofophthalmology.ca/article/S0008-4182\(23\)00045-5/fulltext](https://www.canadianjournalofophthalmology.ca/article/S0008-4182(23)00045-5/fulltext)



## DR. PAUL T. FINGER GIVES A LECTURE ON CONJUNCTIVAL SQUAMOUS CARCINOMA

Researchers at The New York Eye Cancer Center pushed the envelope on the use of chemotherapy eye drops. So far, the drops have mostly eliminated the need for surgery for this eye cancer. Initially published by our ECF Fellow *Sonal Chaugule, MD*. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7GzLOun0e9E>)

This technique is described in Dr. Finger's lecture and is now widely used around the world.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gAVSXb-SnCs&t=26s>

# MEETINGS PRESENTED



## THE ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN VISION AND OPHTHALMOLOGY (ARVO)

ARVO annual meeting is the world's leading educational and networking forum for clinicians, researchers, students and trainees in the fields of eye and vision research and science. If you are committed to advancing research into understanding the visual system and preventing, treating and curing its disorders, consider an exhibit at the ARVO Annual Meeting.

We were pleased to have our ECF supported research presented at the 2023 annual ARVO conference. The research titled, *"Doctor Reported Outcomes: A 5-year review for our online results software"* revealed patient outcomes at The New York Eye Cancer Center, but can be used at any eye cancer center to determine the effectiveness of their methods of diagnosis and treatment.

## THE ASIA- PACIFIC ACADEMY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY CONGRESS (APAO)

APAO meeting brings together more than 5,000 delegates and over 800 top-notch speakers from around the world to explore new technology trends in ophthalmology and visual sciences. Our distinguished fellow, *Dr. Gaurav Garg* presented at this meeting.



His presentation was on the topic - *"Patients Presenting with Stage IV Uveal Melanoma: Lessons Learned"* as an e-poster in APAO 2023. In this study, multi-center, international data was used to study those patients who presented with metastatic eye melanoma.



## MEETINGS PRESENTED



### **ECF SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD MEMEBER, DR. ALBERTO CALLE-VASQUEZ, HAS STARTED AN OPHTHALMIC TRAINING CENTER IN BOGOTA, COLUMBIA**

At the beginning of 2022, Alberto Calle-Vásquez, MD, FACS joined the foundation's scientific advisory board. He is the President of the Colombian Association of Orbit, Ocular Oncology and Ocular Plastic Surgery as well as the program founder and director (oculoplastic, orbit and oncology fellowship program) at Military Central Hospital, affiliated with Nueva Granada Military University and Calle Ophthalmic Center.

With this new center in Bogotá, Dr. Calle has opened up the unique opportunity to people in Latin America to get trained in the fundamentals of ophthalmic radiation therapy, orbital disease and retinoblastoma. With the help of The Eye Cancer Foundation, Dr. Calle is currently training 2 fellows. One is from Bogotá, the home of Dr. Calle and his practice and the other is from Ecuador, a severely underserved area when it comes to ocular diseases.

We are grateful to grow our network and work with dedicated doctors such as Dr. Alberto Calle-Vásquez. We will continue to grow until the percentage of patients worldwide with retinoblastoma specifically has diminished to zero and there are eye cancer specialists available to all the children of the world!



*Dr. Alberto Calle-Vásquez, MD, FACS*

# SOCIAL MEDIA

JOIN US AS WE CONTINUE TO SPREAD AWARENESS, OUTCOMES AND OTHER OCULAR RELATED DISCOVERIES. SPREAD THE WORD AND HELP US GROW!



**THE EYE CANCER FOUNDATION OFFICIAL PAGE:**

<https://www.facebook.com/eyecancercure>

**OCULAR MELANOMA & EYE CANCER PATIENT FORUM:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ECNPatients>

**RETINOBLASTOMA FORUM:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1559675794291881/>

**TWITTER:** <https://twitter.com/eyecancernetwrk> **OR**  
search: The Eye Cancer Foundation.



**INSTAGRAM:** <https://www.instagram.com/eyecancerfoundation/> **OR**  
search: The Eye Cancer Foundation.

**LINKEDIN:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-eye-cancer-foundation/about/> **OR** search: The Eye Cancer Foundation.



**YOUTUBE:** <https://www.youtube.com/@theeyecancerfoundation> **OR**  
search: The Eye Cancer Foundation.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE** for all up-to-date information about The Eye Cancer Foundation: [www.eyecancercure.com](http://www.eyecancercure.com)



## WAYS TO GIVE

**CHECKS, CREDIT CARDS & CASH ARE PREFERRED. BELOW ARE OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP US SAVE SIGHT AND LIFE!**



### WILLS AND BEQUESTS

Imagine, you can leave a legacy of kindness by remembering The Eye Cancer Foundation in your will. Bequests can be cash, property, securities and even from your life insurance policy.

### LIFE INSURANCE

Consider making The Eye Cancer Foundation a beneficiary of your life insurance policy. Please let us know!

### TRUST AND ANNUITIES

Charitable Remainder Trust: The Eye Cancer Foundation accepts designation as remainder beneficiary of a charitable remainder trust. These instruments can provide an upfront tax deduction, while providing growth to your beneficiaries. Check with your banker or tax advisor!

### WORKPLACE MATCHING GIFTS

The Eye Cancer Foundation encourages individuals to enhance their gifts by taking advantage of matching gift opportunities offered by their employers.

### SELF-PLANNED FUNDRAISERS

Another way to give to ECF is to plan your own fundraiser. Any kind of admission- or donation-based event (dinner, cake sale, garage sale, concert, etc.) that designates The Eye Cancer Foundation as the beneficiary of the proceeds is acceptable.

### DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

The Eye Cancer Foundation will accept gifts from donor-advised funds. Gifts from a donor-advised fund may be recorded and recognized as coming from the donor at the time funds are transferred to The Eye Cancer Foundation, providing the fund manager has not been advised that the gift is anonymous.

### VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Legal, financial, computer or other assistance is appreciated!

## LETTER FROM DR. FINGER



**DEAR FRIENDS,**

Kindness is not what you do, it is who you are! I know this because you have read the Visionary Magazine. You made the first step toward improving the life of a person and family devastated by eye cancer. Perhaps you have been personally affected, know someone, or have a family member with eye cancer. Then you know the loneliness that comes along with that diagnosis, or you may know a child who will forever be at risk to lose vision or their life. Now, we need you to take the next kind step.

Consider making a contribution that allows The Eye Cancer Foundation to both continue the programs and research which has saved both sight and life.

Your contribution will create educational programs that serve as building blocks for our fellowship trainees and thousands of eye care specialists we will never meet. However, their learning will be paid forward in better methods of diagnosis and treatment. For example, the International Retinoblastoma Basic Comprehensive Course was directed by Dr. Yacoub Yousef. He put together a team of specialists worldwide to produce online, open-access educational modules to help teach doctors to treat their countries' children with retinoblastoma. However, with its completion we need to focus on melanoma, squamous carcinoma, and other eye cancers. With your help, we can fund additional educational modules and like the IRBCC, make them free to eye specialists worldwide.

Teaching Centers: The ECF supports centers of excellence. Already in Spain, Israel, Liverpool, Hyderabad, Amman, the USA, and Mexico, in 2023, we welcomed a new training center in Colombia, South America. Led by Professor Dr. C. Alberto Calle Vásquez, this center will reach many countries in South America.

Travel Grants: The ECF is committed to funding travel grants which help our international fellows present their ECF-research around the world and allow them access to the latest research and educational opportunities.

Today, The Eye Cancer Foundation needs your support. Though we have done so much, we have so much more left to do. Help us create the systems needed to improve patient care. Please consider making any donation. The amount is less important than the kind act of supporting The Eye Cancer Foundation. If our friends and benefactors would make a new contribution now, we can be assured that our current efforts will continue. If you ask your friends to donate, then we can start new projects. Let's join in the fight to save both sight and life.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dr. Finger', written over a white background.

Visit [www.eyecancercure.com](http://www.eyecancercure.com) or scan the QR code

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[contactus@eyecancercure.com](mailto:contactus@eyecancercure.com), (212) 832-8170

