



Latest cornea news from the Cornea Society

Introduction

Welcome to the 14th issue of CSU (CORNEA SOCIETY UNIVERSITY). This month's CSU VideoEd will focus on "Refractive Surgery Disasters." We will also feature an article on "Meaningful research."

Meaningful research

Ophthalmology is one of the most innovative fields of medicine. Meaningful research drives that innovation. (Read more)

Refractive Surgery Disasters: Pulling patients back from the edge

Complications after refractive surgery are especially devastating given the elective nature of these surgeries. (Read more)

CSU webinar on Challenging Cases March 21

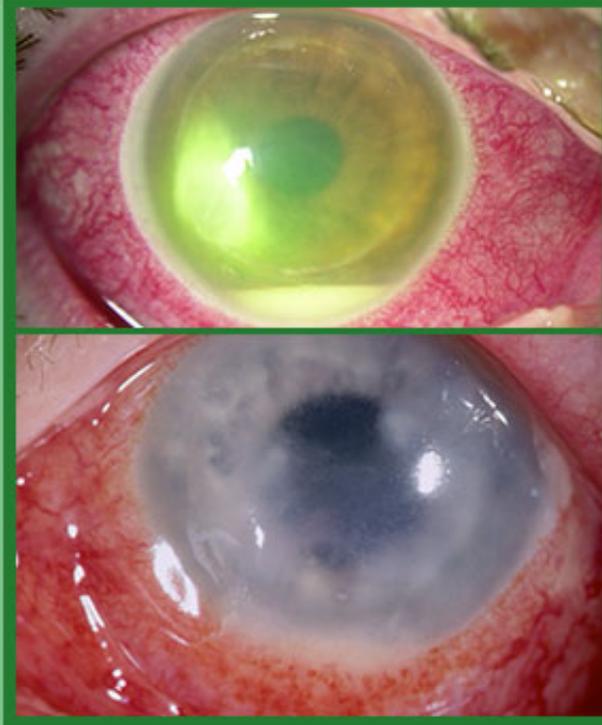
Cornea Society University (CSU) launched a free webinar series on surgical procedures. (Read more)

Save the date: CSU dinner, Friday, April 13, Washington, D.C.

We are excited to announce a new dinner series developed by the Cornea Society Young Physician Task Force and sponsored by CSU (Cornea Society University). (Read more)

CSU booth at ASCRS•ASOA Annual Meeting

Be sure to visit the CSU booth at the ASCRS•ASOA Annual Meeting, April 14–17, in Washington D.C. (Read more)



Full stories below

Meaningful research

Ophthalmology is one of the most innovative fields of medicine. Meaningful research drives that innovation. To ensure the continued vibrancy of our field, we need to encourage young cornea specialists to engage in research. Although many young trainees conduct research during medical school, residency and fellowship, much of this research is performed simply as a way to bolster a curriculum vitae. For many young specialists, their research careers peak and abruptly stop at the end of fellowship.

How can we impassion young graduates to continue to conduct meaningful research after graduation? I think the answer starts with finding one's motivation. I remember early in my career I had two distinct interactions with patients that encouraged me to rediscover my passion for research. The first patient was a lovely 15-year-old girl with familial dysautonomia who presented with a descemetocoele in one eye and extensive corneal scarring in the other. Patients with familial dysautonomia suffer corneal complications secondary to a combination of corneal hypoesthesia and alacrima. As I dug into the literature to find out what could be done for this devastating case, I was appalled to find that the literature was sparse and there weren't many options available. Motivated by the desire to help this patient and others like her, I started rigorously studying this population and different treatment options for their corneal disease.



The second patient presented shortly thereafter. This was a charming 65-year-old woman with a retinal dystrophy who desired cataract surgery. I performed surgery without complication, but the patient complained bitterly. I quickly consulted some of my mentors for advice. One of my favorite mentors described this phenomenon in these patients and recommended a different material IOL and different orientation of the haptics. I had scoured the literature for some guidance and hadn't come across this information. If we hadn't had that conversation, I would still be in the dark. It is important to perform meaningful research and to draw important conclusions from this research. It is equally important to share this knowledge with your peers, either through presentation or publication.

The main motivation for performing meaningful research is to ultimately improve patient outcomes and hopefully maintain or improve vision. Finding your motivation is unique for every person. Sometimes you draw on your unique background to find motivation. A family member with a corneal dystrophy or a PhD in genetics may draw you to corneal dystrophy research. Many times, our motivation comes from our own patients. The lack of resources for my young patient drove me to discover better treatment regimens and preventative strategies for other affected patients. Other times, you hear a great lecture or read a novel research paper and that sparks an idea for a related project. Wherever you find your motivation, make sure you pursue your research with passion and persistence.

Clinical research is so important to further our understanding of ophthalmologic conditions, medical and surgical treatments, and preventative strategies. Research should be well designed and carried out in a rigorous fashion. Research projects should try to address unmet needs and should be relevant to a larger population. By performing meaningful research, you contribute to the advancement of our ophthalmic knowledge and add value to the field of ophthalmology.

CSU is meant to be an interactive platform where your questions and concerns are addressed. If you have a specific area or question you want us to concentrate on in future issues, please send an email to jessciralsky@gmail.com with the subject "CSU." Additionally, CSU is designed for all young cornea and anterior segment ophthalmologists, so if friends or colleagues want to be added to the listserv, please send an email to info@corneasociety.org.

Refractive Surgery Disasters: Pulling patients back from the edge

Complications after refractive surgery are especially devastating given the elective nature of these surgeries. Surgeons must be able to quickly recognize and accurately diagnose a problem in order to appropriately treat the patient in a timely manner. In this [video](#), you will hear **Deepinder Dhaliwal, MD**, discuss "Refractive Surgery Disasters." You will learn about infectious keratitis, diffuse lamellar keratitis, epithelial ingrowth, traumatic complications, corneal haze, steroid-induced glaucoma, and mitomycin-C related problems.

CSU webinar on Challenging Cases March 21

Cornea Society University (CSU) launched a free webinar series on surgical procedures. The last webinar in the series is on Challenging Cases for the Corneal Surgeon.

March 21 – Challenging Cases for the Corneal Surgeon: Host **Jessica Ciralsky, MD**, and speakers **Bennie Jeng, MD**, and **Barry Lee, MD**

To register for the March 21 webinar on Challenging Cases for the Corneal Surgeon, [click here](#)

Contact Gail Albert, galbert@CorneaSociety.org, with questions.

Save the date: CSU dinner, Friday, April 13, Washington, D.C.



We are excited to announce a new dinner series developed by the Cornea Society Young Physician Task Force and sponsored by CSU (Cornea Society University). This educational program will be geared toward young physicians. The next dinner will be held on **Friday, April 13, in Washington D.C. from 5:30–7:30 p.m.**, immediately following Cornea Day 2018.

This new dinner series will provide young physicians with an opportunity to interact and network with colleagues as well as learn more about professional development and practice building. To RSVP for the dinner or for more information, contact Gail Albert, Galbert@CorneaSociety.org. We hope to see you there.

CSU booth at ASCRS•ASOA Annual Meeting

Be sure to visit the CSU booth at the ASCRS•ASOA Annual Meeting, April 14–17, in Washington D.C. We look forward to seeing you in April.