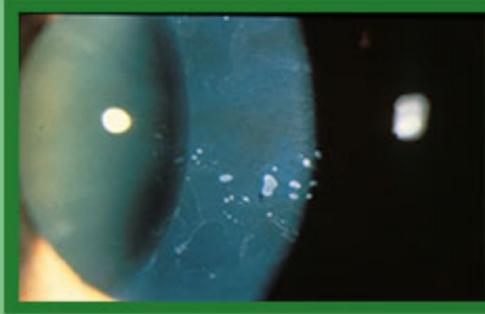




Latest cornea news from the Cornea Society

Introduction

Welcome to the 16th issue of Cornea Society University (CSU). This month's CSU VideoEd will focus on "Corneal Considerations in Cataract Surgery." We will also feature an article on "Novel mentorship program: A new Cornea Society University initiative."



Novel mentorship program: A new Cornea Society University initiative

The origin of the word mentor dates back to Homer's poem *The Odyssey*. (Read more)

Corneal Considerations in Cataract Surgery

Over the last decade, there has been an explosion of innovation in the field of cataract surgery. (Read more)

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Novel mentorship program: A new Cornea Society University initiative

The origin of the word *mentor* dates back to Homer's poem *The Odyssey*. In the poem, "Mentor" was a friend of Odysseus and adviser of his son Telemachus. The definition in modern English reflects this origin with mentor defined as a "wise and trusted counselor or teacher." Mentorship is such an important part of medicine and ophthalmology in particular.



Cornea Society University (CSU) is dedicated to providing medical education and professional development education for young cornea specialists, which includes both those in training and those in their first 5 years of practice.

Through CSU events, I have had the chance to interact with many young cornea specialists. We often discuss gaps in education and specific needs during these formative years. One of the most frequent requests I hear when I speak with these young physicians is the need for mentorship.

Finding a mentor can be challenging. Sometimes a mentor-mentee relationship forms naturally. I was fortunate enough to meet both of my influential mentors at my home institutions. I found mentors that I could relate to and who both had careers I wanted to emulate. For many, though, this doesn't happen naturally despite a lot of effort on the mentee's part. Furthermore, most institutions and organizations lack a formal mentoring program. I am often approached at this step and asked: 1) What makes a mentor-mentee relationship work? and 2) What avenues exist to find an appropriate mentor?

Defining what makes a mentor-mentee relationship work is difficult because it is different for every person. It will also change throughout one's career. When I started out, I needed guidance on choosing my subspecialty. My needs changed when I needed to find my first job and many new questions arose: academics vs. private practice, small vs. large practice, location, etc. Sometimes a desirable mentor lives close by and is able to advise you on the local environment and local job opportunities. Sometimes a mentor has specific experience in a new technology or surgical procedure you want to incorporate into your practice. It is wonderful to find one mentor who can guide you throughout your career and help you every step of the way. One mentor, however, may not be able to advise you on all of your different needs. Everyone will travel down a different path, and it is often more desirable to have multiple mentors along the way.

Our newest CSU initiative is dedicated to filling this gap on mentorship. When asked what avenues exist for finding an appropriate mentor, I now have an answer. The Defined Scope Mentoring Program is being led by **Peter Veldman, MD**, and is sponsored by CSU and the Cornea Society. Peter has designed a defined mentorship program for young cornea specialists that will be rolled out in the next few months on the CSU website.

The Defined Scope Mentoring Program will facilitate targeted mentorship engagements between junior and more senior members of the Cornea Society. Initially, the prospective mentee will complete a worksheet identifying a topic of interest and detailing their needs and goals for a mentor-mentee relationship. The mentee will then be paired with a volunteer mentor with expertise in the specific subject matter. Unlike a typical mentoring relationship, this pairing will have specific guidelines and a defined timeframe, typically around 4 months in length. During that period, the pair will meet several times, either remotely or in person, with the goal of providing high impact and goal-oriented mentorship in a defined period of time. Our intention is to provide valuable guidance to our junior members and increased integration of junior and senior membership.

Although mentorship is incredibly important throughout one's career, it is particularly important in one's first 5 years out of training. CSU is proud to introduce a new initiative focused on mentorship within the Cornea Society. Stay tuned for more about our Defined Scope Mentoring Program designed to fill the gaps in our current mentoring models.

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Corneal Considerations in Cataract Surgery

Over the last decade, there has been an explosion of innovation in the field of cataract surgery. All of these advancements lead to higher patient expectations. As physicians, we strive to meet these growing expectations. Luckily, most patients do well with cataract surgery, but the few that don't stick with you. In this [video](#), you will hear **Marian Macsai, MD**, discuss the importance of examining the cornea in detail preoperatively in her lecture "Corneal Considerations in Cataract Surgery." She discusses ocular surface disease, abnormal epithelium, abnormal topography, corneal ectasia, limbal stem cell dysfunction, and eyelid abnormalities.

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