



Introduction

Welcome to the 21st issue of Cornea Society University (CSU). This month's CSU VideoEd will focus on "DALK basics." We will also feature an article on "Ophthalmology meetings."

✓ Ophthalmology meetings

With the AAO Annual Meeting and the ASCRS•ASOA Annual Meeting approaching, I thought it would be a good time to discuss. ([Read more](#))

✓ DALK basics

Although endothelial keratoplasty procedures have exploded over the last 5 years in the United States, anterior lamellar keratoplasty numbers have stayed pretty stable. ([Read more](#))

✓ Save the date: Cornea 360

Join the leaders in cornea and anterior segment for a stimulating content and networking experience at the inaugural Cornea 360. ([Read more](#))

✓ CSU webinar series launching November 2018

Cornea Society University (CSU) is launching a four-part webinar series on surgical procedures in November. ([Read more](#))



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Full stories below

Ophthalmology meetings

With the AAO Annual Meeting and the ASCRS•ASOA Annual Meeting approaching, I thought it would be a good time to discuss why meeting attendance is beneficial for both cornea fellows and young cornea specialists. These meetings have a multitude of learning and networking opportunities.

The educational components of the meeting are the most obvious reason to attend. This is a great way to keep up your education after your formal training has finished. There are Cornea and Refractive Subspecialty Days as well as the Cornea

and Eye Banking Forum, all of which offer a day dedicated to your specific field. These are wonderful day meetings that allow you to stay on top of your field and see what's new in the world of cornea and refractive surgery. There are surgical skills instruction courses and labs to help you learn new techniques or hone your skills. Many of the symposia and lectures present data in exciting ways with point/counterpoint debates, panel discussions, case presentations, and surgical videos.

Meeting attendance may mean different things at different stages of your career. As a fellow or young cornea specialist, you may use these meetings as a chance to interview with potential employers. Most ophthalmology practices send at least one partner to these meetings so it is a great networking opportunity and a nice way to meet lots of people in one setting. If you are looking for a job, start planning early so you can optimize your time there and be prepared for these meetings the same way you would for any job interview. You should show up on time, dress professionally, and come prepared with questions tailored to each practice. If you are already in a

practice and looking to expand either your clinical or surgical instrumentation or learn about the newest innovations, the exhibit hall is an amazing experience. You can visit different booths to trial and learn about diagnostic modalities, surgical suites, or intraocular lenses. You can buy new instruments for your practice as you start to incorporate DMEK or DALK.

Ophthalmology meetings are also a great way to network, both with your peers and with other ophthalmologists in your field. I think that the networking component of these meetings is as important as the actual meeting content. I look forward to seeing my friends and colleagues all year, and I often find that I learn just as much chatting with my peers as I do in the formal sessions. That isn't to say that you shouldn't attend the formal educational sessions, but you should make time for both. It is important to find and cultivate your peer network as these are the people who will be experiencing similar challenges and successes as you all mature in your practices together. This network may consist of peers you met in residency or fellowship or through networking events. I try each year to spend dedicated time with my close peer group. Each year I'm amazed at how meaningful these interactions are. We are often going through similar changes in our work lives as well as in our personal lives, and their advice is invaluable. CSU holds a dinner each Friday night of the AAO Annual Meeting and the ASCRS•ASOA Annual Meeting that is dedicated to networking with peers and learning about a professional development topic.

Meetings are also an opportunity to get involved. If you are passionate about teaching, speaking, or performing research, meetings are a great way to showcase your talents. You can submit abstracts of original research or an instruction course where you can teach. You can also volunteer to be on a committee. There are often ample ways you can get involved. Many people ask me how they can get involved. The first step is to let someone in leadership know that you are interested in getting involved, and the next time they need someone to help out, they might think of you.

At every stage in your career, ophthalmology meetings are a valuable component. I think it is especially important in your early career to attend at least one or two meetings to get you engaged in the ophthalmology community and up to date on the newest innovations.

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 a future issue, 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.

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DALK basics

Although endothelial keratoplasty procedures have exploded over the last 5 years in the United States, anterior lamellar keratoplasty numbers have stayed pretty stable. Performing a DALK rather than a penetrating keratoplasty carries many advantages since the host endothelium is retained including decreased endothelial rejection, prolonged graft survival, and less rigorous tissue requirements. By avoiding the open sky approach there are also less intraocular complications. It is a technically challenging, long surgery, which may contribute to its slow adoption. In this [video](#), you will hear **Barry Lee, MD**, discuss "DALK basics." He will discuss indications for DALK and the advantages and disadvantages of DALK over PK. He will also review various techniques, individual surgical steps, and complications of DALK.

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Save the date: Cornea 360



Join the leaders in cornea and anterior segment for a stimulating content and networking experience at the inaugural Cornea 360. Cornea 360 will be an opportunity for learning the most up-to-date information, collaborating with leaders in the fields of corneal research and clinical practice, and communicating with industry leaders at the cutting edge of research in these fields. The conference will emphasize interactive sessions among audience and speakers, panel discussions, and live social media feedback. Plan to attend April 4–6, 2019, at the Westin Kierland Resort & Spa, Scottsdale, Arizona. Visit Cornea360.org to register and learn more.

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CSU webinar series launching November 2018

Cornea Society University (CSU) is launching a four-part webinar series on surgical procedures in November. The four-part series will feature webinars on DMEK, EK Complications, Surgical Options for Ocular Surface Diseases, and Surgical Disasters. Programming dates are listed below.

November 28: Tips for DMEK – host: Bennie Jeng, MD, speaker: Christopher Sales, MD

January 30: EK Complications – host: W. Barry Lee, MD, speaker: Michael Straiko, MD

March 27: Surgical Options for Ocular Surface Diseases – host: Jessica Ciralsky, MD, speaker: Deepinder Dhaliwal, MD

May 16: Surgical Disasters – host: Bennie Jeng, MD, speakers: Jessica Ciralsky, MD, and Barry Lee, MD

Registration for all four webinar program is now open, and there is no fee for these programs.

To register for the November 28 webinar on Tips for DMEK, click [here](#).

To register for the January 30 webinar on EK Complications, click [here](#).

To register for the March 27 webinar on Surgical Options for Ocular Surface Diseases, click [here](#).

To register for the May 16 webinar on Surgical Disasters, click [here](#).

For questions, contact Gail Albert at galbert@CorneaSociety.org.

