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Contact:

Laurie Brown

Drs. Fine, Hoffman and Packer, LLC

541-687-2110

**LOCAL OPHTHALMOLOGIST RECEIVES BENEDETTO STRAMPELI MEDAL FOR EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ART AND SCIENCE OF CATARACT AND REFRACTIVE SURGERY.**

Eugene, Ore. – Eugene ophthalmologist I. Howard Fine, MD has received the Benedetto Strampeli Medal awarded jointly by the Italian Ophthalmological Society and the Italian Society for Cataract and Refractive Surgery. The yearly honor is awarded to someone who has contributed extraordinarily to the art and science of cataract and refractive surgery. In 2008 the award was given to Dr. I. Howard Fine, Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology of Oregon Health and Science University, and Director of the Oregon Eye Institute, in Eugene, OR, for innovative work in the development of cataract surgery techniques and technology. The meeting was attended by over 5,000 delegates from around the world, and the award was presented on stage by the President of the Italian Society of Ophthalmology.

On the evening following the award, a special dinner on a terrace overlooking the Mediterranean at the Naples coast was attended by the officers and dignitaries from the Italian Society of Ophthalmology, the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Ocular Surgery News.

Dr. Fine did his undergraduate training at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and medical and ophthalmology training at the Boston University Medical Center. Specializing in cataract/intraocular lenses and refractive surgery, he has been in private practice for 37

years in Eugene, Oregon. He has held local, state, and national instructional leadership positions within organized medicine and ophthalmology. He served as the president of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery in 2001 and is President-elect of the International Intraocular Implant Club.

Dr. Fine is among the cataract surgeons listed in all editions of *The Best Doctors in America*, and the first edition of *Marquis' Who's Who in Medicine and Healthcare*. In 1999 he was named one of the 25 most influential ophthalmologists of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century by a vote of 16,000 ophthalmologists worldwide, polled by the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery. Dr. Fine has been a visiting professor at 30 medical schools in the United States and abroad, and has delivered 18 named lectureships. He has designed instruments and implants and has innovated many surgical instruments and implants and has innovated many surgical procedures. He has contributed hundreds of publications to refereed medical journals and the medical press, written chapters in textbooks and surgical atlases, lectured and taught extensively throughout the world and demonstrated his surgical techniques with lens surgery in more than 20 countries.

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