Best ophthalmologists in America
111 doctors in 10 areas are honored

FROM THE
chief medical editor
By David R. Guyer, MD

In this issue of Ophthalmology Times, we present the results of our poll of chairman and directors of residency training programs in all of the ophthalmology residency programs in the United States to select the best ophthalmologists in America.

It is extremely important to stress that we do not mean to emphasize the concept “best.” We all know that there are many, many excellent ophthalmologists who give the highest quality eye care to their patients. This list is by no means meant to imply that the physicians selected are significantly better than the rest or that patients should seek them out. Rather, this list was constructed to honor the outstanding achievements of about 100 outstanding American ophthalmologists.

Outstanding contributions

Thus, perhaps we should not call this survey the Best Ophthalmologists in America, but rather Awards for Outstanding Contributions to Ophthalmology.

This poll was conceived to honor a number of ophthalmologists prior to the 100th anniversary of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. There are always biases no matter how a survey is conducted. On the positive side, the chairmen and directors of residency programs are in a position to know who the top ophthalmologists are, and also to be more likely to have reviewed their work critically in various journals. These individuals are thus a good source for the survey.

CATARACT

Jack M. Dodick, MD, is chairman, department of ophthalmology, Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital. He has served as president of numerous ophthalmic societies and on the editorial board of several ophthalmic publications. He is a past president of ASCRS and has lectured worldwide on cataract and implant surgery.

I. Howard Fine, MD, of Eugene, OR, has designed instruments and implants and has innovated many surgical procedures including cortical cleaving hydrodissection, chip and flip and crack and flip phacoemulsification techniques, and the temporal self-sealing clear corneal incision. He has written many articles and chapters in textbooks and surgical atlases, and has lectured and taught throughout the world.

James P. Gillis, MD, is founder/director, St. Luke’s Cataract & Laser Institute in Tarpon Springs, FL. He is a clinical professor of ophthalmology at University of South Florida and has published more than 100 medical articles. He has also authored or co-authored seven medical reference textbooks. He is a member of the Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute Advisory Board, the American College of Eye Surgeons’ Board of Directors, Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society (Duke Chapter). He delivered the 1996 Innovator’s Lecture at ASCRS and was the 1990 Entrepreneur of the Year, State of Florida. Other awards: the 1995 Tampa Bay Ethics Award, 1990 Athlete of the Year, Athletes International...
Ministries; 1991 Tom Landry Award, Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

As medical director of the Gimbel Eye Centres, Howard V. Gimbel, MD, has been actively involved in surgery, research, and education in cataract and refractive surgery. He has a special interest in prevention of eye disease through lifestyle choices. He is clinical assistant professor at the University of Calgary, associate clinical professor at Loma Linda University, and clinical professor at the University of California, San Francisco. For 11 years he chaired the international Canadian Rockies Symposium on Cataract and Refractive Surgery in Kananaskis and Banff, Alberta.

John D. Hunkeler, MD, FACS, serves as chairman of the board of Hunkeler Eye Centers and chairman of the University of Kansas Medical Center's department of ophthalmology. He is a past president of ASCRS (1993-1995). Dr. Hunkeler has been in private practice in Kansas City, MO, since 1973 specializing in cataract, cornea, and refractive surgery.

Paul S. Koch, MD, of Warwick, RI, has helped a generation of eye surgeons convert to phacoemulsification. His deceptively simple books on this subject have become standard among residency programs. Dr. Koch is devoted to simplifying phacoemulsification and making it accessible for all eye surgeons. He is especially proud of his work developing Stop and Chop phacoemulsification, structurally analyzing incisions, and defining strategies for working through small pupils. He helped popularize bimanual vitrectomy techniques and intraocular anesthesia. He has also helped RK surgeons improve accuracy by developing the personalized K-Constant.

Stephen A. Obstbaum, MD, was a National Eye Institute Fellow in glaucoma at St. Louis, MO. He is professor of clinical ophthalmology at New York University Medical Center and director of the department of ophthalmology at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York. Dr. Obstbaum is a past president of ASCRS, the president of the IIOC, and is senior secretary for advocacy and a member of the AAO board of trustees. He is president-elect of the AAO. He is editor of the Journal of Cataract and Refractive Surgery and serves on the editorial boards of several ophthalmic publications.

Charles D. Kelman, MD, pioneered cryo-extraction and cryo-retinopexy, invented phacoemulsification, designed successful anterior chamber and posterior chamber IOLs, and designed the first silicone IOL. Dr. Kelman won the American Academy of Ophthalmology Achievement Award, First Outstanding Achievement Award for Excellence in Cataract Surgery (CSO), First Innovators Award (ASCRS), Binkhorst Medal (ASCRS), Ridley Medal (ICO), Inventor of the Year Award, and National Medal of Technology, which was awarded by President Bush. He has written several dozen articles and book chapters and an autobiography entitled Through My Eyes. He was the 1995 president of ASCRS.

Manus C. Kraff, MD, is a professor of clinical ophthalmology at Northwestern University. He is the past president and current program chairman of ASCRS; an Executive Committee member of AAO's Refractive Surgery Interest Group; and a past trustee of the AAO board of trustees.

Richard J. Mackool, MD, is the founder of The Mackool Eye Institute, which opened in 1983 as the first eye care center in New York to provide cataract removal without the need for hospitalization. An inventor of numerous instruments for cataract removal including phacoemulsification, he has published more than 100 scientific papers, textbooks, and textbook chapters, and has been granted 12 U.S. patents as well as patents in 15 foreign countries. He has lectured throughout the United States and abroad and conducts courses in ophthalmic microsurgery that are attended by eye surgeons from around the world.

Randall J. Olson, MD, is professor and chair of ophthalmology at the University of Utah. As founding director of the John A. Moran Eye Center, he is a corneal specialist with an interest in the complications of cataract surgery. His residency was completed at UCLA with fellowships at the University of Florida and ISU Eye Center.

Robert H. Osher, MD, is medical director of the Cincinnati Eye Institute. He completed his residency at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute and fellowships in Miami and at Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia. He has served as the editor of the Video Journal of Cataract & Refractive Surgery since its inception in 1988. Dr. Osher has designed IOLs and instruments for cataract surgery, and he remains active as an author.
and videographer. He has delivered more than 150 invited lectures in more than 25 countries.

**Walter J. Stark, MD**, is professor of ophthalmology and director of the corneal service, The Wilmer Institute, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He is a consultant and former chairman of the FDA’s Ophthalmic Devices Panel; medical director of the Medical Eye Bank of Maryland; member of board of directors of Tissue Banks International; Honor Award Recipient (1980), Senior Honor Award Recipient (1991), AAO; and consultant to the National Eye Institute of the NIH and the National Naval Medical Center. Major areas of study are in IOLs, corneal transplant immunology, and the use of lasers in ophthalmology.

An international consultant in cataract, refractive, and corneal surgery, **Roger F. Steinert, MD**, is the principal author of *Cataract Surgery* and has authored two other textbooks, more than 30 book chapters, and over 80 publications in the peer-review literature. He is a summa cum laude graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Medical School, and completed his residency at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. Dr. Steinert is assistant clinical professor at Harvard Medical School and in practice at Ophthalmic Consultants of Boston.

---

**A quick overview of the winners of OT’s best ophthalmologists survey**

### BEST U.S. OPHTHALMOLOGISTS 1996

**CATARACT**

Jack Dodick, New York; I. Howard Fine, Eugene, OR; James Gillis, Tarpon Springs, Fl; Howard Gimbel, Calgary, Alberta; John Hunkeler, Kansas City, MO; Charles Kelman, New York; Paul Koch, Warwick, RI; Manus Kraff, New York; Richard Mackool, New York; Stephan Ohstbaum, New York; Randall Olson, Salt Lake City, UT; Robert Osher, Cincinnati; Robert Sinskey, Santa Monica, CA; Walter Stark, Baltimore; Roger Steinert, Boston.

### BEST U.S. OPHTHALMOLOGISTS 1996

**REFRACTIVE SURGERY**

Dimitri Azar, Boston; Daniel Durrie, Kansas City, MO; Douglas Koch, Houston; Richard Lindstrom, Minneapolis; Robert Maloney, Los Angeles; Marguerite McDonald, New Orleans; Peter McDonnell, Los Angeles; Spencer Thornton, Nashville, TN; Steve Trekel, New York; George Waring, Atlanta.

### BEST U.S. OPHTHALMOLOGISTS 1996

**CORNEA**

Claes Dohlman, Boston; C. Stephen Foster, Boston; Dan Jones, Houston; Herbert Kaufman, New Orleans; Kenneth Kenyon, Boston; Peter Leibson, Philadelphia; Bartly Mondino, Los Angeles; Ron Smith, Los Angeles; Walter Stark, Baltimore.

### BEST U.S. OPHTHALMOLOGISTS 1996

**GLAUCOMA**

Douglas Anderson, Niami; Michael Kass, St. Louis; Allan Kolker, St. Louis; Paul Lichter, Ann Arbor, MI; Richard Parrish, Niami; Steven Podos, New York; Harry Quigley, Baltimore; Robert Ritch, New York; Bruce Shields, Durham, NC; George Spaeth, Philadelphia.
A quick overview of the winners of OT's best ophthalmologists survey

BEST U.S. OPHTHALMOLOGISTS 1996
OCULOPLASTICS
Richard Anderson, Salt Lake City, UT; Henry Baylis, Los Angeles; Richard Dorizzi, Madison, WI; Jonathan Dutton, Durham, NC; Joseph Flanagan, Philadelphia; Robert Goldberg, Los Angeles; Clinton McCord, Atlanta; Allen Puterman, Chicago; John Shore, Boston; Norman Shorr, Beverly Hills, CA.

BEST U.S. OPHTHALMOLOGISTS 1996
PEDIATRICS
Joseph Chavoyan, Philadelphia; John Flynn, Miami; David Guyton, Baltimore; Eugene Helveston, Indianapolis; Craig Hoyt, San Francisco; Arthur Jampolsky, San Francisco; Burton Kushner, Madison, WI; Marshall Parks, Washington, DC; William Scott, Iowa City, IA; Gunter von Noorden, Houston.

BEST U.S. OPHTHALMOLOGISTS 1996
MEDICAL RETINA
Neil Bressler, Baltimore; Stuart Fine, Philadelphia; J. Donald Gass, Nashville, TN; Kurt Glitter, New Orleans; Morton Goldberg, Baltimore; Lee Jampolsky, Chicago; Carmen Puliafito, Boston; Howard Schatz, San Francisco; Lawrence Singerman, Cleveland; Lawrence Yannuzzi, New York.

BEST U.S. OPHTHALMOLOGISTS 1996
PATHOLOGY
Daniel Albert, Madison, WI; David Apple, Charleston, SC; Ralph Eagle, Philadelphia; Robert Folberg, Iowa City, IA; Ramon Font, Houston; Frederick Jakobiec, Boston; W. Richard Green, Baltimore; Jerry Shields, Philadelphia; Morton Smith, Madison, WI; Myron Yanoff, Philadelphia; Lorenz Zimmerman, Kensington, MD.

BEST U.S. OPHTHALMOLOGISTS 1996
SURGICAL RETINA
Thomas Aaberg, Atlanta; Gary Abrams, Detroit; William Benson, Philadelphia; George Blankenship, Hershey, PA; Mark Blumenkrantz, Menlo Park, CA; Stanley Chang, New York; Steve Charle, Memphis; Donald D'Amico, Boston; Eugene de Juan, Baltimore; Yale Fisher, New York; Bert Glaser, Baltimore; Hillol Lewis, Cleveland; Robert Machemer, Durham, NC; Brooks McCuen, Durham, NC; William Tasman, Philadelphia; Matthew Thomas, St. Louis.

BEST U.S. OPHTHALMOLOGISTS 1996
NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY
Ronald Burde, New York; Joel Glasser, Miami; William Hoyt, San Francisco; Simmons Lessell, Boston; Neil Miller, Baltimore; Peter Savino, Philadelphia; Norman Schatz, Miami; Robert Sergott, Philadelphia; Stan Thompson, Iowa City, IA; Jonathan Trobe, Ann Arbor, MI.