



## 2018 Cornea Day preview

# CORNEA DAY 2018

Sponsored by the Cornea Society and ASCRS

**T**he 2018 Cornea Day will take place on April 13, in Washington, D.C. **Francis Mah, MD**, La Jolla, California, chair of the ASCRS Cornea Clinical Committee and one of the members of the Cornea Day Planning Committee, shared what attendees can expect at the meeting and some of the topics that will be covered.

Like last year, Cornea Day will take place on the same day as Refractive Day. Dr. Mah said there was a bit of “friendly competition” between the two programs to try to draw the most attendees and keep them in their respective sessions. But Dr. Mah said it’s a great opportunity for physicians to attend presentations in both the Cornea Day and Refractive Day programs, and many of the topics will be complementary. Attendees of either program can move back and forth between the sessions.

The program will be slightly different this year. “Instead of just didactic lectures, we have different formats for the sessions,” Dr. Mah said. This year, Cornea Day will be comprised of four different sessions: “Surgical Scenarios: Managing DMEK Disasters and Other Cornea Catastrophes,” “Smoke or Fire?” “Advances and What’s Trending in Ocular Surface,” and “The Great Debate.”

For the first session on surgical scenarios, Dr. Mah said they wanted to incorporate surgical videos with pearls on handling complications. There will be a panel discussion regarding the best way to handle these surgical issues.

The second session will focus on inflammatory and infectious eye conditions. During this session, typical cases that challenge clinicians every day will be presented with a panel discussion on

tips and pearls for management.

Ocular surface disease, the focus of the third session of the program, is a hot topic, Dr. Mah said. “Clinicians and surgeons understand the importance of identifying and managing ocular surface disease, and it is the first or second reason most patients visit eyecare specialists.” During this session, topics such as new ocular surface algorithms, new treatments, and dry eye masqueraders will be covered.

The final session will cover debates and controversies within cornea and external disease, Dr. Mah said, adding that “controversial” topics will be discussed, many of which don’t have a right answer. Attendees may be interested to hear how physicians around the country are doing things differently. Among the

topics discussed will be crosslinking, with debates on progression and how young a patient can be.

“Instead of just lecturing, I think people respond to different formats,” Dr. Mah said.

The Cornea Day program is largely applicable to both the cornea and comprehensive ophthalmologist, with more advanced topics specifically geared toward the academic or tertiary care cornea specialist.

“I am really looking forward to this year’s program because we’ve made extensive changes in the format,” said **Elmer Tu, MD**, Chicago, Cornea Society president and member of the Cornea Day Planning Committee. “Although we’ve reduced the number of didactic lectures, the topics and speakers have been carefully chosen to be informative and engaging.” They’re designed to set up a series of case-based panel discussions, which will guide the attendees through the application of new techniques and technologies in practice, he

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Attendees at the 2017 Cornea Day in Los Angeles



# Cornea Society

*Advancing the treatment of corneal disease*

## President's message

Dear Cornea Society members,

I am humbled to assume the leadership of the Cornea Society in 2018 and am thankful for the support of such an active membership, Board of Directors and Executive Committee to advance a variety of focused missions of the Cornea Society. Special recognition goes to **Christopher Rapuano, MD**, who finished his term as immediate past president, as well as **Choon-Ji Kim, MD**, and **Francis Price, MD**, who both finished very active roles as members of the Board of Directors. I also want to recognize the wonderful leadership of **Marian Macsai, MD**, who will continue on the Executive Committee as immediate past president along with **Kathryn Colby, MD**, as president-elect/secretary/treasurer, **Barry Lee, MD**, as VP for industry relations, and **Bennie Jeng, MD**, as VP for international affairs.

Our core mission, the advancement of the treatment of corneal and ocular surface disease, has been served through education, collaboration, research, and advocacy. Just in the past year, the Cornea Society has organized educational activities on almost every continent, has facilitated the collaboration of the world's leading corneal specialists in defining corneal diseases, and helped to establish taxonomy codes to firmly establish cornea as a recognized subspecialty in the United States. We continue to establish and maintain guidelines for fellowship training and cultivate an energized, involved next generation of cornea subspecialists through educational programs and Cornea Society University, conceived and developed by **Jessica Ciralsky, MD**. Cornea Day at the ASCRS•ASOA Annual Meeting is an ideal example of a collaborative effort between the Cornea Society and the Cornea Clinical Committee of ASCRS to bring together speakers and topics that will inform, teach, and stimulate.

Just as winter gives way to spring, the Cornea Society continues to evolve to meet the needs of its members and their patients. The next 2 years will see significant challenges, but also great opportunities. We will seek structural changes to the Society to improve member access and investment in its current missions. We will seek new initiatives from our membership to improve the care and treatment of patients with corneal disease here and across the globe. Your talents and hard work will be critical to their success.

In a conversation recently with fellow members of an editorial board, we realized how lucky we are to be ophthalmologists, a unique specialty whose practitioners cherish the opportunity to teach their peers and to give back. Nowhere is this better reflected than in the Cornea Society, and I am excited about what we can accomplish together. Join us!

Elmer Tu, MD  
President  
Cornea Society



**Elmer Tu, MD**

# Cornea Society symposium to highlight pediatric cornea topics

This year, a Cornea Society sponsored symposium will take place at the ASCRS•ASOA Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., focusing on the topic of “Diagnostic and Therapeutic Challenges and Solutions in Pediatric Cornea.”

**Anthony Aldave, MD**, Los Angeles, one of the symposium’s chairs, commented on the topics for this year’s symposium and what attendees can expect.

“As the majority of presentations and publications on the diagnosis and treatment of anterior segment disorders are based on series involving adult patients, less is known regarding the clinical features and the treatment outcomes in the pediatric population,” he said, commenting on why this year’s session will focus on topics in pediatric cornea. “Comprehensive ophthalmologists and corneal specialists will encounter conditions that are either unique to this younger population or that have distinct clinical characteristics or responses to intervention compared to the adult population.”

He added that the symposium will feature invited faculty presenting some of the most common and most challenging disorders encountered in the pediatric population and providing

evidence-based guidelines regarding the diagnosis and treatment of these disorders.

Dr. Aldave said that he is looking forward to hearing about the many topics that will be discussed in the session, including when and how to treat challenging disorders in pediatric cornea. Some of these include the treatment indications and outcomes associated with corneal collagen crosslinking for keratoconus, and knowing when to

watch and when to treat conjunctival lesions in the pediatric population.

Other presentations will highlight tips and techniques for performing pediatric keratoplasty, and diagnosing and treating blepharokeratoconjunctivitis, congenital corneal opacification, severe allergic conjunctivitis, and chronic anterior uveitis in the pediatric population.

The symposium will take place on April 14 from 1:00–2:30 p.m. in room 150AB. **CN**

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said. The discussants were chosen to offer a range of opinions and approaches that should convey nuances of disease management that can’t be provided in a lecture format, Dr. Tu said.

“In our section ‘Smoke or Fire,’ for example, we will be presenting an array of newer, more effective, and often safer therapies for the treatment of inflammation,” he said. “This will be followed by a series of cases to illustrate their potential role in the practitioner’s armamentarium.” In addition, the committee has assembled a lineup of ocular infectious disease experts to help navigate a number of diagnostic and therapeutic challenges in corneal infections. **CN**

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**The Cornea Network ...  
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Welcome to CORNEA SOCIETY UNIVERSITY (CSU), the Cornea Society’s newest online educational initiative geared toward cornea fellows and young physicians

**CSU Update:** An educational website for cornea fellows and young physicians to view year-long corneal education content, watch relevant clinical and professional development videos, and post and share complicated cases with interactive comments

- **CSU Connect:** Secure site to upload your complicated cases for discussion with your peers, where you define the user group
- Watch trending videos from Cornea Society VideoEd, and view Cornea Society News and CSU Update archives
- **Cornea Calendar:** Post your upcoming events with our online request or view educational opportunities

*We hope that CSU provides you with guidance and mentorship as you embark on your personal journey to a successful and fulfilling career in ophthalmology!*



**Cornea Society**  
Advancing the treatment of corneal disease

**Register Today!**

CorneaSocietyUniversity.org

## Cornea Society University (CSU) update



### CSU Dinner: Friday, April 13, Washington, D.C.

We are excited to announce a new dinner meeting developed by the Cornea Society Young Physician Task Force and sponsored by Cornea Society University (CSU). This educational program will be geared toward young physicians. The next dinner will focus on working with industry do's and don'ts, and will be held on **April 13, in Washington, D.C. from 5:00–7:00 p.m.**, immediately following the 2018 Cornea Day.

This new dinner series concept will provide young physicians with an opportunity to interact and network with colleagues as well as learn more about professional development and practice building. Watch your inbox for the invitation.

[corneasocietyuniversity.org](http://corneasocietyuniversity.org)

We hope to see you there! Contact Gail Albert at [galbert@corneasociety.org](mailto:galbert@corneasociety.org) for more information.

### CSU booth at Cornea Day and ASCRS•ASOA Annual Meeting

Be sure to visit the CSU booth at the 2018 Cornea Day on April 13, and the ASCRS•ASOA Annual Meeting on April 14–17. Stop by for the latest meeting news and to learn more about what CSU offers you. We look forward to seeing you in Washington, D.C.

Have an idea or topic you'd like to know more about? A question for CSU? Send us your feedback on the monthly newsletter, dinners, and more. Email [galbert@corneasociety.org](mailto:galbert@corneasociety.org) with ideas and feedback. We are waiting to hear from you. **CN**



## WORLD CORNEA CONGRESS VIII

Save the date  
May 13–15, 2020

For information and updates:  
[corneacongress.org/2020](http://corneacongress.org/2020)

# Boston 2020

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[www.CorneaSociety.org](http://www.CorneaSociety.org)



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## Cornea 2018

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Chicago | Oct. 27

Program Directors:

Carol L. Karp, MD

Jennifer Y. Li, MD

Sanjay V. Patel, MD, FRCOphth

Your registration for Cornea Subspecialty Day includes:

- Flexibility to float among all Subspecialty Day meetings on Saturday.
- Access to the AAO 2018 exhibit hall on Saturday.

Member Registration Opens: June 13

Nonmember Registration Opens: June 27



**Cornea Society**

*Advancing the treatment of corneal disease*

In conjunction with the Cornea Society

[aao.org/2018](http://aao.org/2018)

## Subspecialty Day AAO 2018

## 2018 Castroviejo Medal and Dohlman Award recipients

This year **Alan Sugar, MD**, Ann Arbor, Michigan, was selected to receive the Cornea Society's highest honor, the Castroviejo Medal.

Named in honor of **Ramon Castroviejo, MD**, the father of modern corneal transplant surgery who inspired the foundation of the Cornea Society, the Castroviejo Medal is presented to an individual who has made significant contributions to cornea as a subspecialty and anterior segment surgery as a whole.

Dr. Sugar, professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences at the Kellogg Eye Center, University of Michigan, is considered a leading cornea expert in the U.S. In a press release, **Elmer Tu, MD**, Cornea Society president, said, "Dr. Sugar has pioneered research into every

phase of corneal transplantation," including eye banking, corneal transplant practice and technique, and transplantation outcomes research. Dr. Sugar has also researched the genetics of Fuchs' dystrophy and treatment for severe dry eye.

Dr. Sugar, a past president of the Cornea Society, serves as editor-in-chief of *Cornea*, the Cornea Society's journal, is on research committees for the Eye Bank Association of America and the Michigan Eye Bank, and is a co-chair of the Institutional Review Board for the University of Michigan Medical Center.

The Cornea Society's Dohlman Award, which is named in honor of **Claes Dohlman, MD, PhD**, and recognizes a lifetime of teaching excellence

in cornea and external disease as well as contributions to the profession, is being awarded posthumously to **Ronald Smith, MD** (1942–2014).

Dr. Smith, who was honored with the Castroviejo Medal in 2003, was the former chair of the Department of Ophthalmology, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California, served as president of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, was a former chair of the American Board of Ophthalmology, and earned numerous awards for his contributions to the field.

Dr. Tu described Dr. Smith as "a generous and humble teacher to numerous residents and fellows," noting that he had a "very positive and often witty demeanor." **CN**

### Cornea journal report

The journal *Cornea* remains very busy. In 2017, 1,212 new manuscripts were received, and 30.7% were accepted. The rate of submissions has increased about 50% over the past 5 years.

A major change in the associate editors of the journal is the retirement from the board of **Ivan Schwab, MD**. Ivan has been an outstanding editor for many years. He is renowned for his intellect, knowledge, and skills as the director of the cornea service at the University of California, Davis. His breadth of interests is highlighted by his extraordinary book on the evolutionary development of vision, *Evolution's Witness: How Eyes Evolved*. His associate editorship role will be filled by **Esen Akpek, MD**, and **Benjie Jeng, MD**, who will be promoted from their current assistant editorship positions.

We anticipate the publication this spring of a supplement on the imaging of donor corneas as an aid to corneal surgeons and eye bank



personnel. Titled "Current and new technologies in corneal tissue evaluation: Comparative image atlas," this is authored by **Jonathan Lass, MD**, and his associates.

The Cornea Society's journal encourages your comments and your submissions of clinical and laboratory science related to the cornea. **CN**

—Alan Sugar, MD, editor-in-chief

### Cornea journal news

- **PDFs for corresponding authors:** Coming in the second quarter of 2018, corresponding authors will receive a link to a free PDF of their article after it has been published in an issue of *Cornea*.
- **2017 Cornea and Eye Banking Forum abstracts:** Abstracts from the forum are available in PDF form on *Cornea's* website, [www.corneajnl.com](http://www.corneajnl.com). **CN**

# CORNEA and EYE BANKING FORUM 2018

**CHICAGO, IL**  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26



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Advancing the treatment of corneal disease



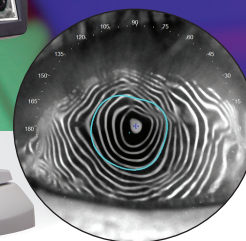
Join us for a one-day educational program featuring the latest scientific developments in corneal surgery, eye banking, and more.

Call for Abstracts will open April 2018.  
[forum.corneasociety.org](http://forum.corneasociety.org)

# Cornea



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Integrated Wavefront  
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## ASSESSMENT



Cynthia Matossian, MD  
Matossian Eye Associates  
Hopewell, New Jersey

“Ocular surface condition and dry eye is a critical assessment. I use the placido disc map of the OPD III to illustrate patients’ level of dry eye: if the rings are not perfectly round, a little wobbly, irregular, broken up, or have dark spots on the corneal surface. I show my patients and let them know they have a pre-existing disease called dry eye syndrome that will not be affected by cataract surgery – that this disease process may indeed get worse over time so we can treat that separately. I distinctly want them to know that cataract surgery did not give them dry eye. Patients are able to understand for the first time the irregularities of their tear film and ocular surface condition.”

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