

W I N T E R - S P R I N G 2 0 1 2

THE

Visionary

Happiness is found in giving to others!



We Fund Results ~ !

The Eye Cancer Foundation Board voted to fund six international fellowships in ophthalmic oncology. Young eye cancer specialists came from all over the world for exposure to new methods of eye cancer diagnosis and treatment. Further each participated in or directed original research projects. Within this Visionary, several are highlighted along with the work they have published in major ophthalmic and radiation therapy journals. You can sponsor next year's fellows, just call! (1-212-832-7927)

Save the Date!

ARVO

May 1st-5th, 2011

ECF researchers presented new methods for diagnosis and treatment.

AAO - Orlando

Oct. 22nd-25th, 2011

Dr. Finger presented on micro incision iris and orbital biopsy (see Page 3).

ECF Lunch

Call

Our ECF get together in May 7th, 2011, was successful (see Page 4).

Language

In our last issue, we noted that The AJCC-UICC Ophthalmic Oncology Task Force completed its work to create an international language for describing eye cancers. Since then, it has become a required element for eye cancer publication in 12 major ophthalmic journals. Funded (in part) by the ECF, this work ensures that all future eye cancer research can be directly comparable and amenable to multivariate analysis.



Learning New Techniques

Doctors from all over the world (Left, Brazil and India) come to watch and learn about eye cancer diagnosis and treatment at The New York Eye Cancer Center and related hospitals.

Eye Cancer Surgery

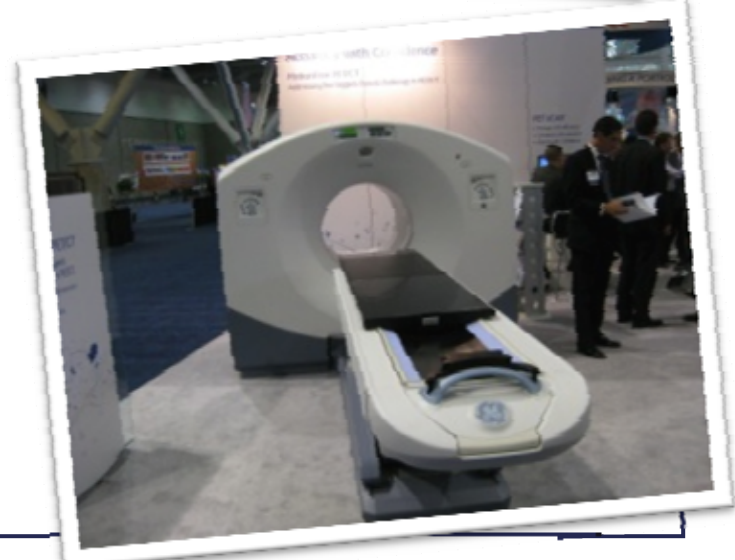
The operating room not only allows for patient treatment, but is also a place to teach new surgical techniques developed by Eye Cancer Foundation researchers. Left, a resident surgeon operates on a clinic patient. Below, observers from Thailand and Jordan watch and ask questions.

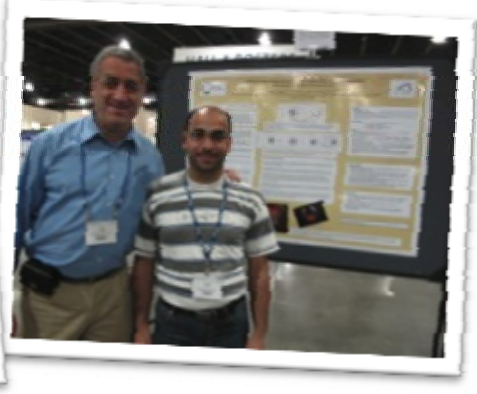
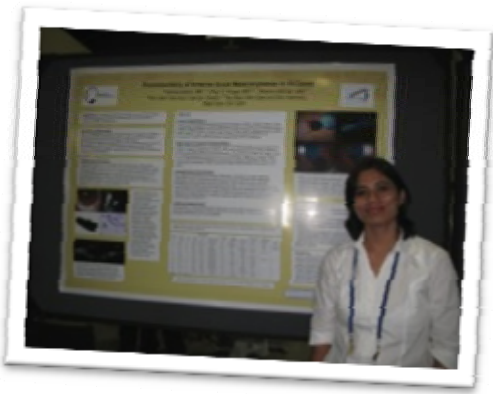


World Ophthalmology

Dr. Petousis (Greece) published a ECF-sponsored clinical analysis of a large series of patients that underwent iris biopsy utilizing a 25-gauge aspiration cutter. He found that all biopsies retrieved specimen and that complications were less than those reported using fine-needle aspiration biopsy (FNAB) technique.

Dr. Aurélien Freton (France) published a scientific study on PET/CT imaging for metastatic choroidal melanoma. Examining 333 patient scans at the time of choroidal melanoma diagnosis. This work revealed that almost all patients with metastasis had AJCC T3 or T4 advanced melanomas at diagnosis and that 3% were discovered to have previously unknown, non-ocular primary cancers.





ARVO 2011

In May 2011, Ft. Lauderdale Florida hosted the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology. From left to right, **Drs. Kathil** (From Rajasthan, India) presented her work on iris melanocytomas. During her fellowship, Dr. Khatil wrote and later published 4 research articles.

Middle, Dr. Finger standing with **Dr. Freton** from Nice, France. During his ECF fellowship he published unique findings discovered by optical coherence tomography of choroidal osteomas (intraocular bone tumors) and on PET/CT for the diagnosis of metastatic choroidal melanoma.

Far right, **Dr. Yousef** (from Amman, Jordan) performed an ECF sponsored Clinical Research Fellowship. During that time he researched and published on conjunctival squamous carcinoma, conjunctival melanoma, radiation optic neuropathy and plaque radiation therapy for iris melanomas. He is going onto a second fellowship in retinoblastoma with Brenda Gallie, MD.

In 2011, our fellows Drs. Freton, Graue, Kathil, Newman, Petousis and others have worked hard to produce and publish their works in the major ophthalmic journals and return home to care for eye cancer patients.



Micro-Incision Biopsy

Sometimes smaller is better.

Research sponsored by The Eye Cancer Foundation showed that 21 to 25 gauge aspiration cutters can be used to biopsy tumors around and behind the eye. Finger's Aspiration Biopsy Technique (FACT) was published in The European Journal of Ophthalmology. The first cases were used to diagnose metastatic prostate, uterine and lymphoma. Dr. Finger noted that the probes have no sharp edges to harm adjacent tissues and teaches that controlled aspiration-cutting is more effective than fine needle aspiration biopsy (FNAB).

News from The ECF

The Spring ECF Lunch

Board members, patients and their friends met for lunch to discuss how to improve our foundation and for mutual support. Every year we expand our circle, including patients treated all over the northeastern USA. The Eye Cancer Network Bulletin also connects patients from all over the world.



The Fellows Dinner at ARVO 2011

Here Doctors Petousis, Yousef, Graue, Finger, and Freton pose for a photograph during the fellow's dinner with Dr. Tena (bottom right) at the Capital Grill in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, USA.

Annual Lecture Series

The Eye Cancer Foundation sponsors an annual "eye cancer" lecture series for the residents and fellows at The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, New York University School of Medicine and ophthalmic board review open to the programs in the Tri-State area.



Multiple Myeloma and the Eye

In 2011, ECF researcher Kimberly Chin and co-workers published a case series and review of how multiple myeloma can affect the eye, eyelids and orbit. This work was published in the journal, Optometry.



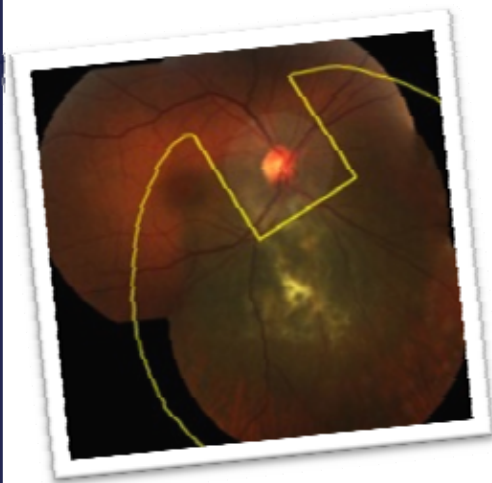
News from The ECF Group Efforts

In 2011, an Eye Cancer Foundation sponsored multicenter, international, internet-based cooperative study on Iris Melanoma was given special "Online First" publication distinction by the Archives of Ophthalmology. "This study reflects our mission to enable eye cancer specialists to work together."



Slotted Eye Plaques

In 2005, a first ECF-sponsored research publication in the British Journal of Ophthalmology described a specially designed radioactive eye plaques were created to reach around the optic nerve. This technique offered the first method to completely surround tumors that touched or encircled the optic nerve head. In 2011, ECF researchers have published a follow up paper. They found all of the slotted eye plaque surgeries had been successful in destroying these difficult to reach choroidal melanomas.



Tatyana Milman, MD

Excellence in ophthalmic pathology is necessary for both research and clinical care. At The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, Dr. Milman has contributed both in teaching our fellows and excellence in clinical research. In 2011, her work (sponsored in part by The Eye Cancer Foundation) analyzing iris biopsy specimens was published in the American Journal of Ophthalmology.



Frontiers for Lucentis

Drs. Chin and Finger have been participating in several Genentech-sponsored clinical trials using their drug, Lucentis. One study, recently accepted for publication describes its use for squamous carcinoma of the conjunctiva. The inventors of Lucentis (left) are seen immortalized in bronze.



2011 Eye Cancer Foundation Supported Research and Publication

1. [Initial PET/CT staging for choroidal melanoma: AJCC correlation and second nonocular primaries in 333 patients.](#)
Freton A, Chin KJ, Raut R, Tena LB, Kivelä T, Finger PT.
European Journal of Ophthalmology 2011 Sep 23 [Epub ahead of print]
2. [Minimally invasive anterior orbitotomy biopsy: Finger's aspiration cutter technique \(FACT\).](#)
Finger PT. European Journal of Ophthalmology 2011 Sep 13 [Epub ahead of print]
3. [Clinical and Pathologic Characteristics of Biopsy-Proven Iris Melanoma: A Multicenter International Study.](#)
Khan S, Finger PT, Yu GP, Razzaq L, Jager MJ, de Keizer RJ, Sandkull P, Seregard S, Gologorsky D, Scheffler AC, Murray TG, Kivelä T, Giuliani GP, McGowan H, Simpson ER, Corriveau C, Coupland SE, Damato BE.
Archives of Ophthalmology 2011 Sep 12. [Epub ahead of print]
4. [High-frequency ultrasound measurements of the normal ciliary body and iris.](#)
Garcia JP Jr, Spielberg L, Finger PT. Ophthalmic Surgery Lasers Imaging. 2011 Jul-Aug;42(4):321-7.
5. [Anterior segment tumor aspiration cutter-assisted biopsy: experience with pathology.](#)
Milman T, Petousis V, McCormick SA, Finger PT. American Journal of Ophthalmology 2011 Nov;152(5):776-783.
6. [Anterior segment tumor biopsy using an aspiration cutter technique: clinical experience.](#)
Petousis V, Finger PT, Milman T. American Journal of Ophthalmology 2011 Nov;152(5):771-775.
7. [Isolated Nocardia exalbida endogenous endophthalmitis.](#) Milman T, Trubnik V, Shah M, McCormick SA, Finger PT.
Ocular Immunology and Inflammation 2011 Aug;19(4):237-9. Review.
8. [Subfoveal choroidal melanoma: pretreatment characteristics and response to plaque radiation therapy.](#)
Newman H, Chin KJ, Finger PT. Archives of Ophthalmology 2011 Jul;129(7):892-8.
9. [Characteristics of anterior uveal melanocytomas in 17 cases.](#) Kathil P, Milman T, Finger PT.
Ophthalmology. 2011 Sep;118(9):1874-80.
10. [Spectral domain-optical coherence tomography analysis of choroidal osteoma.](#)
Freton A, Finger PT. British Journal of Ophthalmology 2011 Apr 27. [Epub ahead of print]
11. [Electron beam radiation for conjunctival squamous carcinoma.](#) Graue GF, Tena LB, Finger PT.
Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery 2011 Jul-Aug;27(4):277-81.
12. [Systemic bevacizumab \(Avastin\) for exudative retinal detachment secondary to choroidal melanoma.](#) Newman H, Finger PT, Chin KJ, Pavlick AC. European Journal of Ophthalmology 2011 Mar 23;21(6):796-801.
13. [Transpupillary Nd:YAG laser cystotomy for iris pigment epithelial cysts with secondary progressive angle closure.](#)
Kathil P, Chin KJ, Ghaznawi N, Finger PT. Ophthalmic Surgery, Lasers and Imaging. 2011 Mar 24;42 Online:e40-3.
14. [Palladium-103 eye plaque brachytherapy for primary adenocarcinoma of the ciliary body epithelium.](#) Finger PT, Reid JE, Iacob CE. Brachytherapy. 2011 Nov;10(6):503-7.
15. [Physiologic Positron Emission Tomography/CT Imaging of an Integrated Orbital Implant.](#)
Graue GF, Finger PT. Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery 2011 Mar 7. [Epub]
16. [Comparison of dose calculation methods for brachytherapy of intraocular tumors.](#)
Rivard MJ, Chiu-Tsao ST, Finger PT, Meigooni AS, Melhus CS, Mourtada F, Napolitano ME, Rogers DW, Thomson RM, Nath R. Medical Physics 2011 Jan;38(1):306-16.
17. [Antivascular Endothelial Growth Factor Bevacizumab for Radiation Optic Neuropathy: Secondary to Plaque Radiotherapy.](#) Finger PT, Chin KJ. International Journal of Radiation Oncology Biology Physics 2011 Jan 27. [Epub]
18. [Multifocal iris melanoma treated with total anterior segment palladium-103 plaque radiation therapy.](#) Petousis V, Finger PT, Milman T. Graefes Archive of Clinical and Experimental Ophthalmology 2011 Jun;249(6):937-40.
19. [Intravitreal anti-VEGF bevacizumab \(Avastin\) for external beam related radiation retinopathy.](#)
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20. [Ocular manifestations of multiple myeloma: three cases and a review of the literature.](#)
Chin KJ, Kempin S, Milman T, Finger PT. Optometry. 2011 Apr;82(4):224-30.
21. [Risk factors for cataract after palladium-103 ophthalmic plaque radiation therapy.](#)
Finger PT, Chin KJ, Yu GP, Patel NS; Palladium-103 for Choroidal Melanoma Study Group.
International Journal of Radiation Oncology Biology Physics 2011 Jul 1;80(3):800-6.

The ECF is For You

The Eye Cancer Foundation was created to promote multicenter, international cooperation for eye cancer care teaching and research. The ECF is nimble, productive and charitable. We support education (patient and physician) and research. We support physicians from around the world. In 2011 we have 21 ECF sponsored research publications. Want results? We are working on it! – Paul T. Finger, MD



With life, there is hope!



[Recipient]

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