



OPEN MEDICAL INSTITUTE

# OPHTHALMOLOGY

SEMINAR REPORT 2019

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## **SALZBURG WEILL CORNELL SEMINAR OPHTHALMOLOGY**

**March 31 – April 6, 2019**

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| • 36 fellows from 27 different countries and regions           |
| • 9 faculty members from the United States and Austria         |
| • 20 lectures and 1 case presentation session given by faculty |
| • 34 interesting case presentations by fellows                 |
| • 9 excellent case presentations selected by faculty           |

### **Faculty Photo (L-R)**

Marc Dinkin, MD; Gary J. Lelli Jr., MD (Course Director); Susanne Binder, MD (Co-Course Director);  
Paul Petrakos, DO, MS and Sarah H. Van Tassel, MD

Not pictured: Talin Barisani-Asenbauer, MD, FEBO; Simon Brunner, MD;  
Christiane Isolde Falkner-Radler, MD and Ulrike Stolba, MD



**Group Photo of Faculty and Fellows**



**2019 Salzburg Weill Cornell Seminar in Ophthalmology**  
**Sunday 31 March - Saturday 06 April 2019**



		<b>Sunday</b> 31.03.2019	<b>Monday</b> 01.04.2019	<b>Tuesday</b> 02.04.2019	<b>Wednesday</b> 03.04.2019	<b>Thursday</b> 04.04.2019	<b>Friday</b> 05.04.2019	<b>Saturday</b> 06.04.2019
07:00	08:00		<b>BREAKFAST</b>	<b>BREAKFAST</b>	<b>BREAKFAST</b>	<b>BREAKFAST</b>	<b>BREAKFAST</b>	<b>DEPARTURES</b>
08:00	09:00		<b>Introductions Pre-Seminar Test</b>	<b>Evaluation of the Glaucomatous Eye</b> Paul Petrakos, DO, MS	<b>Treatments for Glaucoma</b> Sarah H. Van Tassel, MD	<b>Biomarkers in OCT One antiVEGE for All Diabetic Complications?</b>	<b>Retinal Vascular Occlusions: An Interdisciplinary Approach</b> Simon Brunner, MD	
09:00	10:00		<b>AMD and Cataract Surgery: When and How?</b> Susanne Binder, MD	<b>Narrow Angle and Angle Closure Glaucomas</b> Paul Petrakos, DO, MS	<b>Primary and Secondary Open Angle Glaucomas</b> Sarah H. Van Tassel, MD	<b>Submacular Hemorrhage: Guidelines and Treatment Options</b> Ulrike Stolba, MD	<b>Update on Retinal Vascular Occlusions Including Vitreoretinal Interface</b> Simon Brunner, MD	
10:00	10:30		<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
10:30	11:30		<b>Vitrectomy: Current Technique and New Indications</b> Susanne Binder, MD	<b>Uveitis I</b> Talin Barisani-Asenbauer, MD	<b>Macular Surgery - What's New?</b> Christiane I. Falkner-Radler, MD	<b>Inflammatory Optic Neuropathies</b> Marc Dinkin, MD	<b>Complex Cases in Glaucoma: Congenital, Pediatric and Cataracts</b> Paul Petrakos, DO, MS Sarah H. Van Tassel, MD	
11:30	12:30		<b>News on Cell-Derived Therapies and Retinal Implant</b> Susanne Binder, MD	<b>Uveitis II</b> Talin Barisani-Asenbauer, MD	<b>Trends in Retinal Detachment Surgery</b> Christiane I. Falkner-Radler, MD	<b>Adventures in Nystagmus and Higher Cortical Visual Syndromes</b> Marc Dinkin, MD	<b>Lid Lesion Recognition and Repair of Eyelid Defects</b> Gary J. Lelli Jr., MD	
12:30	14:00		<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	
14:00	15:00		<b>The Pain of Periocular Trauma</b> Gary J. Lelli Jr., MD	<b>Workshop Fellows' Case Presentations</b>  Gary J. Lelli Jr., MD Paul Petrakos, DO, MS Sarah H. Van Tassel, MD	<b>Free Afternoon</b>	<b>Workshop Fellows' Case Presentations</b>  Marc Dinkin, MD Ulrike Stolba, MD	<b>Post-Seminar Test Evaluation &amp; Discussion</b>	
15:00	16:00	<b>Workshop How to Present a Case</b> Gary J. Lelli Jr., MD						
16:00	17:00	<b>Workshop Case Presentations by Faculty to Fellows</b>  Marc Dinkin, MD Gary J. Lelli Jr., MD Paul Petrakos, DO, MS Sarah H. Van Tassel, MD						
17:00	18:00		<u>17:00 - 17:15</u> <b>OMI/AAF PRESENTATION</b>					
18:00	19:00	<b>FACULTY MEETING TO REVIEW THE WEEK</b>					<b>FAREWELL RECEPTION</b>	
19:00	20:00	<b>WELCOME RECEPTION &amp; DINNER</b>	<b>DINNER</b> FACULTY DINNER IN PRIVATE HOME	<b>DINNER</b>	<b>DINNER</b>	<b>DINNER</b>	<b>GRADUATION DINNER</b> Certificates Awarded	
20:00	21:00					<u>20:30 - 21:30</u> <b>CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT</b>		

**WEILL CORNELL  
SEMINAR  
in  
SALZBURG**

**"Ophthalmology"**

March 31 – April 6, 2019

**FACULTY**



**Wolfgang Aulitzky, MD** is the Medical Director of the American Austrian Foundation. He is Associate Dean for International Medicine and Distance Learning, Adjunct Prof. of Clinical Urology and Adjunct Prof. of Clinical Reproductive Medicine at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University/New York Presbyterian Hospital. In 2016, he was appointed Adjunct Professor of Pediatrics in the Associated Faculty of the Perelman School of Medicine at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He is also Associate Prof. of Urology at the Medical University of Innsbruck and Visiting Professor at the Medical University of Vienna. Amongst others he is a member of the American, German and Austrian Societies of Urology and was awarded the Zuckerkindpreis of the Austrian Society of Urology in 1989. In 1995 he received the Silver Medal, in 2007 the Golden Medal for Merits to the Republic of Austria and in 2014 the cross of honor of the Land Salzburg. As Director of the Medical Program of the American Austrian Foundation he has initiated the Open Medical Institute, a scientific and educational collaboration of Weill Cornell and the New York Presbyterian Hospital, the Children Hospital of Philadelphia, Duke University, Columbia University, the Cleveland Clinic and leading hospitals in Austria. Dr. Aulitzky earned his medical degree at the University of Innsbruck in 1977, was a research associate at the University of Uppsala, Sweden and the Rockefeller University, New York. He received his training as an urologist at the University of Innsbruck and the General Hospital of Salzburg. He is the author of more than 140 publications on Urology, Andrology and Health Care issues and is co-author of books on basic and clinical urology/andrology.

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**Gary J. Lelli Jr., MD (Course Director)** is an ophthalmologist who specializes in ophthalmic plastic, reconstructive and orbital surgery. Dr. Lelli grew up in the Northeastern United States, just outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor for his undergraduate studies. He graduated from Mount Sinai School of Medicine and completed his ophthalmology residency at the University of Michigan, where he was chief resident. His sub-specialty training consisted of a two-year American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (ASOPRS) fellowship in New York City at Columbia University, New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital and New York University. Dr. Lelli's research interests include clinical and anatomic aspects of the eyelids, orbit and lacrimal system. Current studies are investigating reanimation of facial palsy patients with nanomagnets and collaborative efforts with otorhinolaryngology studying novel surgical treatments for lacrimal disease. Dr. Lelli is currently on the faculty of Weill Cornell Medical College and New York Presbyterian Hospital, where he serves as Vice Chairman, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and Director of Ophthalmic Plastic, Reconstructive and Orbital Surgery. Gary lives in New York with his wife (Kelly) and four children (Michael, Grace, Nora and Emily).

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**Susanne Binder, MD (Co-Course Director)** is born in Vienna and had her medical training at the medical University in Vienna. She received a sub-specialized training in vitreoretinal surgery and research in 1979/80 at the Johns Hopkins University in Maryland and the Duke Eye Center in Durham, both USA. She is Professor of Ophthalmology since 1988. In 2017 she was appointed Professor of Special Ophthalmology at the Sigmund Freud University in Vienna. Until 2015 she was chairman at the Department of Ophthalmology at the Rudolf Foundation Clinic in Vienna, a teaching hospital of the Medical University Vienna and was leading the Eye Center Project of the Wiener Krankenanstaltenverbund (KAV) in Vienna until 2017. In addition, she chaired a research institute, the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Retinology and Biomicroscopic Lasersurgery between 1997 and 2015.

Today her scientific work is continued at the Karl Landsteiner Institute for Imaging and Retinal Research at the Rudolf Foundation in Vienna and the Sigmund Freud University. She was vice-chairman of the University Eye-Clinic Vienna since 1990 before she received the chair (Primariat) at Rudolf Foundation Clinic in 1995. Her sub-speciality is vitreo-retinal diseases and microsurgery, research in age related macular degeneration (AMD), retinal regeneration treatments like retinal cell transplantation and retinal implants and imaging. In optical coherence tomography (OCT) she has developed a new OCT -integrated microscope together with Carl Zeiss Meditec/Oberkochen.

After her medical training in Vienna in Ophthalmology she spent time in Johns Hopkins University and Duke University for further research in retinal diseases and vitreous surgery. Dr. Binder has published more than 380 original peer reviewed articles in both English and German. She was Editor in Chief of the Austrian Ophthalmic Journal, the "Spektrum für Augenheilkunde".

In addition, she was editor on 4 books and has written many book articles. Dr. Binder is a member of many ophthalmic societies including the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO), the Retina Society, the Macula Society, the Club Jules Gonin, the Association of Retina Specialists and also the Austrian and Viennese Ophthalmic Society. She was President of the Austrian Ophthalmic Society between 2004 and 2009 and secretary of the Austrian Ophthalmic Society between 2009 and 2011 and a member of the Medical Council for the Minister of Health in Austria and the Mayor of Vienna. Since 2012 she is appointed as Adjunct Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology at Weill Cornell Medical College/New York.

Dr. Binder has trained many young ophthalmologist and organized surgical training weeks (Wet labs) for hands on training as well as several international conferences in Vienna. She participated in the American Austrian Foundation project, the European Society of Ophthalmology and is a regularly invited lecturer and speaker at national and international meetings.

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**Talin Barisani-Asenbauer, MD, FEBO** has studied Medicine at the University of Vienna, Austria. She started her career in 1987 at the Department of Ophthalmology as scientific coworker and from 1990 to 1997 she completed her residency in ophthalmology with special emphasis on ocular immunology and infectiology. In 1997 she became senior staff member of the Department and the director of the Uveitis unit and the working group “ocular immunology & infectiology”. In 2001 she was awarded the habilitation degree by the University of Vienna, the topic of her habilitation thesis being ‘Molecular methods to identify microbes in ocular tissues’. In 2009 she succeeded to obtain one of eight highly competitive peer-reviewed Laura Bassi Centre of Expertise grants. OCUVAC was established at the Institute of Specific Prophylaxis & Tropical Medicine and aims at achieving a multidisciplinary understanding of trachoma and ocular immunity that underpins the more translational research in the center, while having the potential for the discovery of innovative drug-delivery systems and ocular vaccines.

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**Simon Brunner, MD** was born in 1968 in Vienna, Austria, and absolved his medical education at the Vienna Medical University. After his graduation as medical doctor in 1994, he continued his medical training in internal medicine, plastic surgery and otolaryngology in different Viennese hospitals. He finished his education as ophthalmic resident at the Rudolph Foundation Hospital in 2003. As full ophthalmologist (senior physician), he has continued his work at the Rudolph Foundation Hospital and the Ludwig-Boltzmann-Institute for Retinology and Biomicroscopic Laser Surgery and the Karl-Landsteiner-Institute for Retinal Research and Imaging. Dr. Brunner has completed many international courses and workshops, and held lectures and talks in his special fields of interests: occlusive vascular retinal disorders, diabetic retinopathy and age-related macular degeneration, where he also performs a broad range of ophthalmic surgery, from anterior segment procedures (oculoplastic surgery, cataract, glaucoma) to vitreoretinal interventions (retinal detachment, macular pucker/hole surgery, diabetic retinopathy, retinal vascular occlusions and laser surgery). His research interests and scientific publications have been in circulating endothelial progenitor cells in diabetic retinopathy, vitreo-retinal surgery, silicone oil degradation after prolonged intraocular use, anti-angiogenic therapy for retinal vein occlusions and cataract surgery in nonexsudative age-related macular degeneration. Dr. Brunner is also being a member of the examination question board for Ophthalmology of the Austrian Ophthalmologic Society. He is working as lecturer for the Vienna Medical University School and is organizing web presence, online ophthalmic medical information and in-house training for the department of Ophthalmology at the Rudolph Foundation Hospital.

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**Marc Dinkin, MD** is director of Neuro-Ophthalmology at Weill Cornell Medical College and New York Presbyterian Hospital, Associate Professor in Ophthalmology within the departments of Ophthalmology, and Neurology, and a Robert and Helen Appel Scholar. Dr. Dinkin specializes in diseases of the visual nervous system and optic nerve and treats patients with vision loss, double vision and nystagmus. After completing his undergraduate studies at Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts, he attended Weill Cornell Medical College and completed his Neurology residency at New York Presbyterian Hospital, where he was chief resident. Returning to Boston, he received his fellowship training in Neuro-Ophthalmology at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary / Harvard Medical School with Drs. Joseph Rizzo IIIrd, Simmons Lessell and Dean Cestari. Dr. Dinkin's research interests include the use of optical coherence tomography (OCT) to detect retrograde transsynaptic degeneration of the retinal ganglion cells after post-geniculate injury and is the co-investigator of a collaborative trial at Weill Cornell to treat medically-refractive idiopathic intracranial hypertension (IIH) with stenting of transverse sinus stenosis. His papers on both subjects have been awarded the J Lawton Smith award by North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society. He has also published papers on neuromyelitis optica, nystagmus, imaging of ischemic optic neuropathy and retinal toxicity and diplopia. He enjoys serving as a peer reviewer for multiple Ophthalmology and neurology journals. Dr. Dinkin is a passionate teacher, and his efforts have earned him teacher of the year awards from both the Ophthalmology and Neurology departments at Weill Cornell over the last few years. He is also Director of the Weill Cornell Neuro-ophthalmology fellowship which he founded 7 years ago. In his spare time, he enjoys writing musicals, but his greatest passion is for his family which includes his wife Julie and three children Max, Benjamin and Sophia.

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**Christiane Isolde Falkner-Radler, MD** graduated from University of Vienna Medical School in June 2000. Her areas of research interest are diagnosis and treatment for vitreoretinal disorders, including optical coherence tomography and surgical approaches. In addition, she investigates the treatment of retinal detachments. She has conducted research projects at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Retinology and Biomicroscopic Laser Surgery since 1999, and has started her residency at the Department of Ophthalmology, Rudolf Foundation Clinic; Vienna in August 2003. She passed her board exam for Ophthalmology of the Austrian Medical Society in September 2007. Since October 2008 she is a full time attending at the Department of Ophthalmology, Rudolf Foundation Clinic, Vienna. Dr. Falkner-Radler has already published several articles on vitreoretinal surgery in peer-reviewed journals and is currently conducting prospective studies on posterior vitreous detachment, retinal detachment surgery and macular surgery and on new advances in combined cataract and vitreoretinal surgery. She has presented free papers and posters at Club Jules Gonin, the Retina Society meeting, at ARVO, AAO and Asia-ARVO meetings as well as at other national and international conferences and courses. She has been member of the faculty of the International Conference on Vitreoretinal Diseases, Vienna 2002, 2005 and 2009. In addition, she has been accepted as member in the Retina Society, in the ASRS and in the Club Jules Gonin, and she has completed the SOE-Leadership development programme "EuLDP" 2010-2011. She finished several observerships (2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2017) with the Department of Ophthalmology at Weill Cornell Medical College, New York. In December 2011 her appointment to "Associate Professor of Ophthalmology was concordantly approved by the committee of the Medical University Vienna. Joining her scientific ambition is her advanced training in cataract and vitreoretinal surgery. She lives in Vienna with her husband Christof.

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**Paul Petrakos, DO, MS** is an Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at Weill Cornell Medicine. He is a fellowship-trained glaucoma specialist, specializing in the evaluation and treatment glaucoma, including medical management, laser, and surgical procedures. He also performs cataract surgery and is up-to-date on the latest advances in minimally invasive glaucoma surgery (MIGS). A native New Yorker, Dr. Petrakos graduated from Stony Brook University before attending the New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine. Here he served as an Academic Medicine Scholar and received a master's degree in Neuromusculoskeletal Sciences. Dr. Petrakos completed his residency at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical College. He then continued his training at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Harvard Medical School, completing his glaucoma fellowship and receiving specialized training in trabeculectomy, glaucoma drainage device implantation, laser trabeculoplasty and iridotomy, complex cataract extraction, laser-assisted cataract extraction, implantation of astigmatic (toric) and multi-focal intraocular lenses, and minimally invasive glaucoma surgery. Dr. Petrakos is committed to providing personalized glaucoma and cataract care supplemented by the newest technologies, instruments, and techniques. He is an author and co-author of a number of journal articles and book chapters. His areas of clinical and research interest include ocular imaging, medical and surgical treatments of glaucoma.

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**Ulrike Stolba, MD** is an ophthalmologist who specialized in vitreoretinal surgery with the focus on severe and complex diabetic complications. She completed her university education in Vienna and had her ophthalmology residency and fellowship at the University Eye Clinic in Vienna. The research interests included mainly the artificial substitute of the vitreous with heavy liquids. In 2004, Dr. Stolba became Associate Professor in Ophthalmology. In 1997, she moved to the Rudolf Foundation Hospital in Vienna where she manages the outpatient service for diabetic complications. She performs surgery in the complete spectrum of anterior and posterior segment disorders. Since 2016 Dr. Stolba is Retinal Consultant in St. Gallen (Switzerland) and Düsseldorf (Germany). She lives in a partnership in Vienna.

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**Sarah H. Van Tassel, MD** is a board certified ophthalmologist and fellowship trained glaucoma specialist. She is an Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at Weill Cornell Medical College. Dr. Van Tassel specializes in glaucoma evaluation and treatment, including medical management, laser, and surgical procedures. She also performs cataract surgery and is up-to-date on the latest advances in minimally invasive glaucoma surgery (MIGS). A native of Missouri, Dr. Van Tassel graduated *summa cum laude* from Duke University. She attended Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City, where she also completed her residency in ophthalmology. Dr. Van Tassel then returned to Duke for a fellowship in glaucoma where she received specialized training in trabeculectomy, glaucoma drainage device implantation, laser trabeculoplasty and iridotomy, complex cataract extraction, laser-assisted cataract extraction, implantation of astigmatic (toric) and multi-focal intraocular lenses, and minimally invasive glaucoma surgery. Dr. Van Tassel's research focuses on the latest advances in ocular imaging and their applications to personalized diagnosis and management of glaucoma. Her research has been published in peer-reviewed journals and presented at national conferences, and she has received several academic awards including the Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Fellowship and the American Glaucoma Society Mentoring for the Advancement of Physician Scientists (MAPS) award. Dr. Van Tassel is a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Glaucoma Society, Women in Ophthalmology, and additional societies and has served as an ad hoc reviewer for *American Journal of Ophthalmology* and *Journal of Glaucoma*. She is a founding member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology's Resident Self-Assessment Task Force, through which she develops educational materials for ophthalmologists-in-training.

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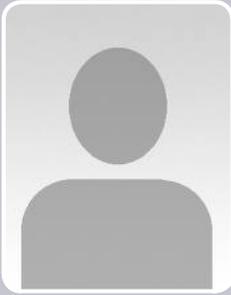
**WEILL CORNELL  
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**"Ophthalmology"**

March 31 – April 6, 2019

**FELLOWS**

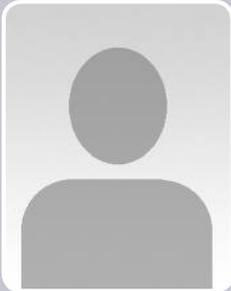
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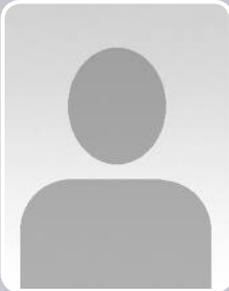
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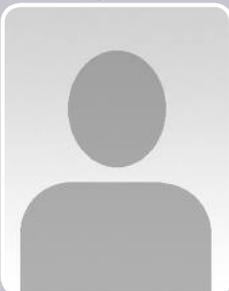
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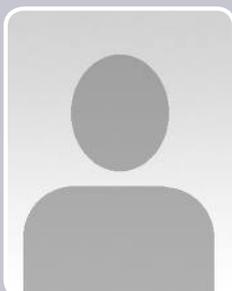
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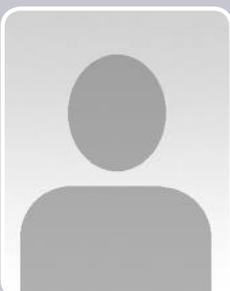
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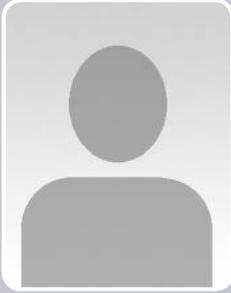
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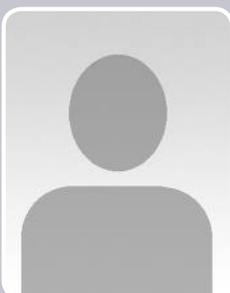
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## SEMINAR DIARY FROM FELLOW

**Svetlana Belova, MD**  
**East Tallinn Central Hospital**  
**Tallinn, Estonia**  
**March 31 – April 6, 2019**



**March 31, Sunday evening.** It was a warm and sunny afternoon in Salzburg, when my colleague Margarita and me arrived to Schloss Arenberg. Our plane was late, so the welcome reception has already started and about 30 young doctors were listening to the speech of Dr. Wolfgang Aulitzky about the course organization and traditions. I was really amazed that already 25 years doctors had attended the Salzburg medical seminars. Then, the participants were introduced and could chat with each other during the dinner.

**April 1, Monday.** First, we took pre- seminar test to gauge the progress achieved during the next five days. The test encouraged me to get in mind some aspects of different diseases and keep an ear to the ground for the next days. Then the lectures started. Dr.Susanne Binder talked about timing of cataract surgery in AMD patient. I realized how similar my patients doubts and concerns are, and how important it is to treat both diseases at the right time. We also watched the videos of RPE- patch transplantation and retinal implants. I think it is really worth to try to give a partial sight back to legally blind patients. After lunch Dr. Gary Lelli showed exciting collection of unbelievable cases of eye injuries. We've got some practical tips how to repair eyelid trauma (follow the lashes!). Then Stephanie Faschang shared information about the American Austrian Foundation, the goals of the seminar and that all participants can also apply for an OMI observership.

**April 2, Tuesday.** We started with a glaucoma lecture, Dr.Paul Petrakos gave a lecture about evaluation of the glaucomatous eye. It was worthwhile to remind how useful simple methods like gonioscopy are, and how to manage different types of glaucoma. Then we learned to understand and treat uveitis step-by- step. Dr.Talin Barisani-Asenbauer explained new points of view about immunopathology and new strategies in treatment of different types of uveitis. In the afternoon fellows started with case presentations and discussions in a very supportive atmosphere. In my opinion, it was a great opportunity to train presentation skills and to ask for advice about treatments.

**April 3, Wednesday.** In the morning Dr. Sarah Van Tassel started with a lecture about glaucoma medical and surgical treatment, and we discussed variations of methods between our countries. I realized that the best way to treat glaucoma depends on the experience of the specialist. After a nice coffee break Dr. Christiane Falkner-Radler showed very interesting videos of macular and retinal detachment surgery.

After lunch, there was a free afternoon and fellows hurried up to discover Salzburg and to do some sightseeing. I took a nice walking tour and found out that there was a lot to explore here. In the evening people shared pictures of their Salzburg adventures and talked about the places they have been.

**April 4, Thursday.** First, Dr. Ulrike Stolba introduced the topic of OCT biomarkers and I understood that improvement of instrumental investigation methods is useful only when you interpret it correctly. Then we listened to a very nice study-based lecture about diabetic retinopathy treatment (diabetes is expanding so quickly and we see more retinopathy patients) and what are the possibilities of the treatment of macular hemorrhage. After the break we continued with nystagmus masterclass performed by Dr. Marc Dinkin and the nystagmus videos were really outstanding. I liked the very nice explanation of anatomical and clinical correlations. Then we learned about new subtypes of optic neuritis discovered a few years ago. After lunch we moved on with the case presentations made by the fellows, there were a lot of challenging cases and I tried to repeat the name «Chikungunya». In the evening we enjoyed the Aurora Piano Quartet concert with Beethoven and Strauss music. This week I had a wonderful opportunity to expand my knowledge and to improve the management of patients. I was glad to meet young ophthalmologists from different countries and learned a lot. The faculty of the course wonderfully interacted with participants and each other.

I want to express my appreciation to all the team of the AAF and Schloss Arenberg for their hospitality and the well-organized seminar. I feel lucky being invited here.

*Svetlana Belova, MD (Estonia)*

## SEMINAR DIARY FROM FELLOW

Nelly Guylene Fopoussi, MD  
Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College  
Moshi, Tanzania  
March 31 – April 6, 2019



**March 31, Sunday evening.** I arrived to Salzburg in the Afternoon with a taxi, which took me from Munich airport to Schloss Arenberg. It was about 2 hours from Munich Airport to Salzburg and I really enjoyed that trip by admiring the beautiful environment. Actually, I had a long trip: From Moshi to Dar Es Salam, 2 hours' flight; then from Dar Es Salam to Zurich, almost 9 hours' flight; from Zurich to Munich, 30 min Flight and finally Munich to Salzburg by taxi. Once at Schloss Arenberg, I went to my room after filling in and signing some papers. What a wonderful surprise, my room was so big and beautiful. I took some rest before going to the first floor for the welcoming reception at 7 o'clock. The Director of the AAF, Prof. Aulitzky and the two Directors of the Course Prof. Susanne Binder and Prof. Gary Lelli. They were very friendly and introduced us to some main practical issues about the course, after giving us a brief history of the American Austrian Foundation. A very tasteful Dinner was served and that was the opportunity to get to know each other.

**April 1, Monday.** At 7 o'clock, we all met for breakfast, and the atmosphere was more friendly and relaxed than the day before. We had a copious breakfast before going to the Grand Hall. We were warmly welcome by Ms. Stephanie Faschang. The welcoming word was followed by the pre-seminar test. Many questions were doubtful to me and I felt bad, losing my enthusiasm and my joy, but later, many of us were reassured by Dr. Lelli, that, we will discover the clear answers as long as we listen to the lectures carefully. The first three lectures were given by the brilliant Prof. Susanne Binder on interesting topics in Retina. The content and the way of delivering the message were excellent. A complex topic like Cell-Derived therapies and retinal implants were clearly presented and explained, we were able to get the concept and she made it interesting. She also encouraged us by telling us that, we can be able to do it, it is not just for the professors. We had a coffee break between the lectures and after lunch. Before going for lunch, we took a group picture with the faculty. In the afternoon, we had a great lecture from the friendly, enthusiastic and brilliant Dr. Gary Lelli about Trauma. Instead of feeling asleep after a tasty lunch, we were instead awake and full of energy to answer his questions and get a price. He also taught us how to present case and that was very important and interesting for the fellows. The remaining afternoon consisted of the faculties' case presentations. Ms. Stephanie Faschang closed the day by a detailed presentation about the American Austrian Foundation, especially on the possibility of establishing further cooperation for continuous education with Austrian institutions. By 4:30 pm, we were done and everyone was happy. Some went for a relaxing walk, jogging and I went to my room in order to look at my presentation. We met at 7 o'clock in a very friendly atmosphere for a delicious dinner.

**April 2, Tuesday.** This was another great day at Schloss Arenberg. After Breakfast, we had the first two lectures about glaucoma. The majority of fellows asked a lot of questions. Most of us encounter glaucoma in their respective clinics, so we participated a lot during the lectures. Prof. Paul Petrakos from USA, shown some pictures about evaluating eye for glaucoma and the participation of fellow was very amazing, everyone wanted to say something. For me, it was very interesting to go through those pictures and the lectures about Angle closure glaucoma. It was very helpful to have some keys points about angle closure glaucoma, in order to improve my daily practice in terms of angle closure glaucoma diagnosis and management. Then we had a break and later came back for the uveitis lectures. In my hospital, where I am doing my residency (KCMC Eye Department in Moshi), we have a good number of patients with uveitis. Their management still remains a challenge. So Prof. Talin-Asenbauer from Vienna helps us to understand the current and proper approach to uveitis in adults and children; what is more specific about uveitis in children. We went for lunch and the fellows (12 of them) presented their cases. Many of the case presentations were actually rare cases, but we enjoyed sharing our cases, that we don't see often in our daily practice. By 4pm, we were done. The sunny afternoon made us very excited to go and visit the town. Some went jogging. Some went to have some rest. I went to have a walk by the river with friends. I was amazed by the beauty of Salzburg town. I really enjoyed my walk, while taking some pictures for our memory. A very delicious dinner was prepared for us this evening, made of some fresh fish with a tasty dessert. Almost all of the fellows appreciated specifically this dinner.

**April 3, Wednesday.** Today was another great day in Salzburg. We had two fantastic lectures with the Associate Prof. Van Tassel from USA about Glaucoma. As a glaucoma specialist, she took us through primary and secondary open angle glaucoma and glaucoma treatment. Many fellows shared with us their experience, as well as Dr. Van Tassel shared with us her own experience in her daily practice. I was amazed with the videos about the glaucoma devices. We don't use them at KCMC (Tanzania), so it was interesting for me to see how to insert those devices. The sessions were very inter-active. After a coffee break, Retina sessions about Macular Surgery and Trend in Retinal Detachment Surgery by Prof. Falkner-Radler followed. She is great lecturer and I enjoyed her two sessions. I was clarified about the different techniques of retina surgery and their respective indications. We went for lunch and were very excited because this afternoon was our free afternoon. I went with two others fellows to town to visit the cathedral, the Salzburg Museum and walked along the river side. I also went for shopping to the Europark. I bought some "souvenirs" for my family and friends. I really enjoyed my free afternoon

**April 4, Thursday.** As usual in Schloss Arenberg, one great day after another one, today was great one. We had interesting lectures on Biomarkers in OCT, followed by Guidelines and treatment options of submacular hemorrhage. It was particularly interesting for me to discover the new treatments of submacular haemorrhage, rTPA /gas which is not available in our setting at KCMC Eye Department. We took a small coffee break before the neuro-ophthalmology lectures given by Prof. Marc Dinkin started. Neuro-Ophthalmology used to be a frightened part of ophthalmology for residents, like me...However Prof. Dinkin had good skills in communicating and teaching, this made the session very understanding. I understood how to differentiate central from peripheral nystagmus. I also understood very well optic neuropathy and its treatment, with differential diagnosis. After and also during lunch most of us were stressed about the afternoon case presentations. Me too, I was nervous and anxious, because many fellows had presented rare cases found in Europe and me, I was to present a case of Infectious Retinitis, that we found in our practice at KCMC Eye Department. I was afraid that the faculty will not be interested in my case...21 fellows presented and each case presentation had its own particularity. After dinner, we were invited to enjoy the music culture of Austria with a concert in Schloss Arenberg. It was very relaxing and I enjoyed it, as well as the others fellows.

**April 5, Friday.** The last day was a full day of interesting lectures in Retinal vascular occlusions, complex cases in glaucoma and lid lesions. Once more, there were great lecturers. I was curious to know how

they manage pseudophakic glaucoma in children because we had many children which develop ocular hypertension after cataract surgery in our setting. Looking back at this week, I was grateful to GOD for this wonderful opportunity he gave to me. I learned a lot about ophthalmology, especially “what is new” about the conditions discussed this week. I made new friends and interacted with others residents and young ophthalmologists. I hope that I will be among the ones who will be offered an observership either a clinical or one in research. I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere and deep gratitude to the faculty for giving me the opportunity to attend this great seminar. I am very grateful. This wonderful experience has made me to grow as a doctor and gave me another perspective of ophthalmology. This is a unique experience in my life and I will never forget it. I will recommend this seminar to my classmates back in Tanzania and also to others young doctors in Africa. May GOD Bless the American Austrian Foundation.

*Nelly Guylene Fopoussi, MD (Tanzania)*