SEMINAR REPORT

OPHTHALMOLOGY

April 23-29, 2023

A Global Educational Initiative by the American Austrian Foundation
35 fellows from 26 countries

35 fellows’ case presentations

9 faculty members from the USA and Austria

8 excellent case presentations

20 didactic lectures

1 faculty case presentation workshop

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<td>BREAKFAST</td>
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<td>08:00</td>
<td>09:00</td>
<td>Introductions Pre-Seminar Test</td>
<td>Surgical Cases in Retina: Retinal Detachment</td>
<td>Indications for Surgery in Glaucoma: Which, When and How?</td>
<td>Biomarkers in OCT: AntiVEGF for all Diabetic Complications?</td>
<td>AMD and Cataract Surgery: When and How?</td>
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<td>09:00</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Orbital Tumors</td>
<td>Surgical Cases in Retina: Macular Hole</td>
<td>Digitalization and AI in Ophthalmology – What are the Roles of Future Ophthalmologists in Patient Care?</td>
<td>Submacular Hemorrhage: Guidelines and Treatment Options</td>
<td>Vitrectomy: Current Technique and New Indications</td>
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<td>10:30</td>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>Secondary Glaucomas</td>
<td>Identifying Eyelid Malignancies and Reconstruction Tips</td>
<td>The Challenge in Macular Surgery</td>
<td>Under Pressure: Mimickers of IIH</td>
<td>News on Cell-Derived Therapies and Retinal Implant</td>
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<td>11:30</td>
<td>12:30</td>
<td>Decision Making in Glaucoma Therapies</td>
<td>Update and Pearls in Periocular Trauma</td>
<td>Current Treatment in Retinal Detachment</td>
<td>Innervisions: Cortical Disorders of Vision</td>
<td>Transorbital Skull Base Surgery</td>
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<td>12:30</td>
<td>14:00</td>
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<td>14:00</td>
<td>15:00</td>
<td>Advances in Ophthalmology in 2023</td>
<td>Workshop Fellows’ Case Presentations</td>
<td>Workshop Fellows’ Case Presentations</td>
<td>Post-Seminar Test Evaluation &amp; Discussion</td>
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<td>15:00</td>
<td>16:00</td>
<td>Workshop How to Present a Case</td>
<td>Workshop Case Presentations by Faculty to Fellows</td>
<td>Free Afternoon</td>
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<td>16:00</td>
<td>17:00</td>
<td>Workshop Case Presentations by Faculty to Fellows</td>
<td>Kyle J. Godfrey, MD, FACS &amp; Leila Rafa-Demetrious, MD</td>
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<td>17:00</td>
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<td>17:00 - 17:15 OMI Presentation</td>
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<td>18:00</td>
<td>19:00</td>
<td>FACULTY MEETING TO REVIEW THE WEEK</td>
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<td>WELCOME RECEPTION &amp; DINNER</td>
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**Note:** The schedule includes a variety of sessions on different topics related to ophthalmology, including surgical cases, biomarkers, and decision-making in glaucoma therapies. It also features workshops, presentations, and meals, with special events like the Chamber Music Concert and the Graduation Dinner. The sessions are scheduled from Monday, April 24, 2023, to Saturday, April 29, 2023.
Gary J. Lelli Jr., MD
(Course Director)

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Gary J. Lelli Jr., MD is an ophthalmologist who specializes in ophthalmic plastic, reconstructive and orbital surgery. Dr. Lelli grew up in the north-eastern 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 Medicine 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, their four children (Michael, Grace, Nora, and Emily), and their black Labrador, Ozzy.
Herbert A. Reitsamer, MD
(Co-Course Director)

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Professor of Neuro and Sensory Physiology
Vice President, Innovation and Digitalization
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Herbert A. Reitsamer, MD is Chairman at the Department of Ophthalmology and Director of the research program of experimental Ophthalmology, Paracelsus Private Medical University/SALK in Salzburg, Austria. He was trained in engineering as well as in medicine. He is the Associate Professor of Neurophysiology at the Medical University Vienna and Full Professor at the Paracelsus Medical University, where he holds the Lotte Schwarz Chair and is the Director of the research Program for Experimental Ophthalmology and the Fuchs laboratories. He is the acting Vice president for innovation and Digitization at Paracelsus Private Medical University. Dr. Reitsamer is the secretary and a member of the Executive Board of the Austrian Ophthalmological Society. He is a member of the Scientific Board of the University of Applied Sciences in Salzburg, he served 14 years on the ethics committee of Salzburg and is a member of the high council of health care of Austria. After engineering school (informatics and electronics), Dr. Reitsamer attended the technical University of Vienna (electro technical engineering) and continued with medical school at the Medical University of Vienna. During his training with Dr. Kafka-Lützow at the department of comparative neurophysiology in Vienna, Dr. Reitsamer specialized in the field of sensory physiology and retinal neurobiology. His research focused on the role of dopamine in central nervous system signal processing and blood flow as well as impact of genetics on the phenotype of photopigment expression in the photoreceptor mosaic of the retina. Dr. Reitsamer continued his education as a postdoc in Jeffrey Kiel’s lab and Stuart McKinnon’s lab at the Health Science Center in San Antonio and spent several years in the United States and Canada at different universities for subspecialization (University of Texas, Northwestern University, Dalhousie University, Harvard University). Ever since, his scientific interests have been focused on neurodegenerative diseases of the visual system (glaucoma and retinal diseases). Dr. Reitsamer gives lectures and courses on sensory physiology, general neurophysiology, physiology of higher and integrative functions of the central nervous system as well as ophthalmology. He teaches at the Paracelsus Medical University, University of Applied Sciences, the Vienna Medical University, the University of Salzburg, and regularly gives guest lectures at universities and meetings elsewhere. Dr. Reitsamer serves on numerous scientific committees and advisory boards and is appointed as reviewer and editor in various scientific journals. Clinically, Dr. Reitsamer is specialized in glaucoma and neurodegenerative diseases of the retina. His surgical expertise is broad and includes surgery of the anterior as well as the posterior segment of the eye. He is involved with the development of glaucoma implants, the development of Nano second and Femto second lasers for corneal and intraocular surgery and diagnostic tools based on OCT technology, as
well as blood flow diagnostics including the application of neuronal networks and artificial intelligence in screening methods for glaucoma, artificial cornea, etc. His courses of minimally invasive surgery in Ophthalmology are known internationally and more than 800 surgeons from all continents have been trained in Salzburg by Dr. Reitsamer.
Susanne Binder, MD was born in Vienna and did her medical training at the Medical University of 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 in the USA. She has been a 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 of the Department of Ophthalmology at the Rudolf Foundation Clinic in Vienna, a teaching hospital of the Medical University of Vienna, and was leading the Eye Center Project of the Wiener Krankenanstaltenverband (KAV) in Vienna until 2017. In addition, she chaired the research institute 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 the vice-chairman of the University Eye-Clinic Vienna until 1990, then 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 at 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 the editor of four books and has written many 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 the Austrian and Viennese Ophthalmic Society. She was President of the Austrian Ophthalmic Society between 2004 and 2009, secretary of the Austrian Ophthalmic Society between 2009 and 2011, and a member of the Medical Counsel for the Minister of Health in Austria and the Mayor of Vienna. In 2012, she was appointed as an Adjunct Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York. Dr. Binder has trained many young ophthalmologists and organized surgical training weeks (wet labs) for hands on training as well as several international conferences in Vienna. She has participated in the Open Medicine Institute, the European Society of Ophthalmology, and is a regularly invited lecturer and speaker to national and international meetings.
Johann Colvin, MD

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Johann Colvin, MD is an ophthalmologist who specializes in medical and surgical retina. Dr. Colvin grew up in Austria in the state of Salzburg. He graduated from the University of Innsbruck School of Medicine and completed his ophthalmology residency at Paracelsus Medical University and Salzburger Landeskliniken Hospital, Salzburg. He is currently undergoing training in vitreoretinal surgery at the Department of Ophthalmology at PMU/SALK under Professor Herbert Reitsamer and Doz. Dr. Stefan Egger. Dr. Colvin’s current interests are YAG laser vitreolysis and translation of medical expertise in developing countries. Recent publications as a co-author are in the field of glaucoma in collaboration with Professor Reitsamer. Dr. Colvin is currently on staff at the Department of Ophthalmology at PMU/SALK as a consulting physician. He lives near Salzburg with his wife and two children.
Marc J. Dinkin, MD
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Marc J. Dinkin, MD is the director of Neuro-Ophthalmology at Weill Cornell Medicine 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. After 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 recently made several contributions regarding the neuro-ophthalmic complications of COVID-19. 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 Medicine. He is also the Director of the Weill Cornell Neuro-ophthalmology Fellowship, which he founded eight 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.
Christiane I. Falkner-Radler, MD

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Christiane I. Falkner-Radler, MD graduated from the 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, 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 a member of the faculty of the International Conference on Vitreoretinal Diseases, Vienna 2002, 2005, and 2009. In addition, she has been accepted as a member in the Retina Society, in the ASRS and in the Club Jules Gonin, and she has completed the SOE-Leadership development program “EuLDP” 2010-2011. She finished several observerships (2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2017) with the Department of Ophthalmology at Weill Cornell Medicine, 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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Kyle J. Godfrey, MD, FACS is an ophthalmologist specializing in oculofacial plastic surgery. His clinical practice is dedicated to expertise in surgery of the eyelids, orbit, lacrimal system, and surrounding face. Within this field, Dr. Godfrey has a special clinical interest in minimally invasive orbit and skull base tumor surgery. This interest has led him to collaborate with colleagues in neurosurgery and otolaryngology to develop and advance novel surgical approaches. For this work, he holds a joint faculty appointment in the Department of Neurological Surgery. He is also a member of Weill Cornell’s multidisciplinary craniofacial team, where he collaborates with other allied specialists in the care of complex congenital and acquired craniofacial conditions. In addition to his clinical practice, Dr. Godfrey is a dedicated medical educator and researcher. He is the Program Director of the Ophthalmology Residency at Weill Cornell Medicine/New York Presbyterian Hospital and Faculty in the New York Combined ASOPRS Fellowship Program. Based on research contributions, he is considered a top United States expert in several areas including Orbital Disease. A California native, Dr. Godfrey completed his medical and surgical training throughout the United States. His fellowship was in the New York Combined ASOPRS program through Weill Cornell Medical Center, Columbia University Medical Center, New York University Medical Center, and Manhattan Eye Ear and Throat Hospital/Lenox Hill Hospital. To gain additional experience, he traveled to the Moorfields Eye Hospital in London, England. His residency training was at the Shiley Eye Institute at the University of California San Diego where he served as the Chief Resident. He completed a preliminary medical internship at Highland Hospital/Alameda County Medical Center, the UCSF-affiliated safety-net hospital in Oakland, CA. He is a graduate of Georgetown University School of Medicine. He currently lives in Manhattan with his wife Alexis and daughter Emma. Outside of work, he enjoys tennis, golf, and scuba diving.
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Leila Rafla-Demetrious, MD is an ophthalmologist who does comprehensive eye care and specializes in the medical and surgical treatment of glaucoma. Dr Rafla-Demetrious grew up in Staten Island, one of the five boroughs of New York City, and completed her undergraduate education at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She went on to medical school at the State University of New York in Brooklyn, from where she graduated Summa Cum Laude, and did a preliminary year of Internal Medicine at St Vincent’s Hospital in Manhattan, NY. She completed an ophthalmology residency at New York Presbyterian and stayed on to complete a year of glaucoma fellowship training with Dr Gregory Harmon. Throughout her career, Dr Rafla-Demetrious has had a particular interest in treating the patient as a whole, stressing a collaborative therapeutic approach with her patients with the goal of optimizing their outcomes. As a longstanding attending physician with Weill Cornell Medicine, she enjoys clinical and surgical education, working with fellow and residents at all levels of their training. In her free time, she enjoys family, fitness, and experiencing the many interesting diversions that New York city has to offer.
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 an 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 2021, Dr. Stolba is Retinal Consultant in EMCO Clinic in Salzburg. She lives in Vienna with her partner.
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"Weill Cornell Ophthalmology partnered with Austrian ophthalmologists to deliver this week’s OMI seminar to 35 fellows from more than 25 countries. We focused on current concepts and updates in oculoplastic surgery, glaucoma, and retina. The fellows were outstanding - collaborative, motivated, and dedicated to furthering their knowledge. The goal is for them to share this new information with their colleagues and patients in their home countries."

Gary J. Lelli Jr., MD
Ophthalmology
OMI VOICES

Dr. Colvin presented very interesting cases from his practice and gave us useful information about the planning of an operation, eventual observation, and the postoperative care and results that we can expect.

Sabina Hasenjag, MD
OMI fellow from Montenegro

Just by watching Dr. Dinkin present, you can feel that he loves his job, patients, and students. He gave two of the most amazing lectures I have ever seen. There was so much interesting, new, and practical information that will surely help us all in our future practice.

Alexandra Elena Sertu, MD
OMI fellow from Romania

It was great to learn more about anti-VEGF for diabetic complications, submacular hemorrhage, mimickers of IIH, and cortical disorders. It was a really awesome experience to fellows present all different cases from all around the world.

Gerardo Lezama-Gu, MD
OMI fellow from Mexico
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