

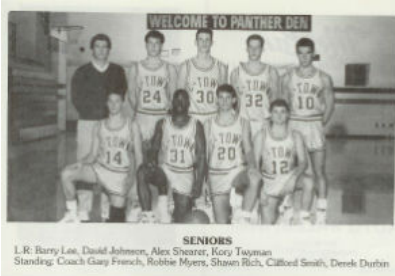
The Georgia Society of Ophthalmology Eye Openers

Get To Know A Member Of GSO

By W. Barry Lee, MD, GSO President

I joined Eye Consultants of Atlanta at Piedmont Hospital in 2003 after finishing a cornea/refractive fellowship at the University of California, Davis in Sacramento, California. Even though northern California had some amazing destinations like Napa Valley, Lake Tahoe, San Francisco, and the beautiful northern California coastline, my wife, Michelle and I, were excited to return to the southeast, having both been born and raised in Kentucky.

As a child growing up in Kentucky, my goal was to play professional basketball when I grew up (Figure 1). Much to my dismay, I realized in college that I would need to make a career change. Despite my new career path in medicine, basketball never stopped running through my blood. I have coached for the Northside Youth Organization (NYO) in Atlanta the last several years.



The highlight of my coaching career was coaching my son's team to the city championship last year and bringing home the championship title (Figure 2, right).

I also attend the University of Kentucky Father-son summer basketball camp annually with my son, Aidan. This summer was our fourth year to attend (Figure 3, below).



Outside of family time and basketball, eye-banking and corneal transplantation in the US and abroad have become big passions of mine. I have assisted in corneal transplant teaching courses in the US, India, Australia, Hong Kong, South Korea, Brazil, Italy (*see picture*), Mexico, and Peru with the Cornea Society. The governing body that oversees seventy-six eye banks in the US, Canada, and Puerto Rico is The Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA), and it has fueled my passion for eye-banking. I have been a member of the EBAA Board of Trustees for the last two years, and I served as the Chair of the EBAA Accreditation Board for four years.

Under the umbrella of the EBAA, Atlanta's very own Georgia Eye Bank provides over 1,700 tissues annually: for patients in Georgia who are blind from corneal conditions, and additional corneal tissue for transplantation to medical missions and surgeons abroad. As the medical director since 2009, GEB and I are dedicated to raising awareness of the gift of donation and to providing Georgia's citizens and surgeons with corneas to restore vision.

W. Barry Lee

W. Barry Lee, MD, FACS
President, Georgia Society of Ophthalmology



Center For The Visually Impaired

An Eye Openers
Spotlight

At age 74, advanced glaucoma had left Charles Thomas nearly blind in both eyes. He had come to rely on his sister for transportation, and if she was unavailable, plans would have to be cancelled. He

increasingly felt like a prisoner in his own home. Fortunately, his ophthalmologist introduced him to the Center for the Visually Impaired (CVI).

Charles' first appointment at CVI was with Nell, a community-based services case manager in the Florence Maxwell Low Vision Clinic (http://www.cviga.org/services/low_vision_clinic/), who assessed his needs and referred him to Ashleigh, one of CVI's certified orientation and mobility specialists.



During his first few one-on-one sessions, Charles learned how to safely navigate his environment, crossing streets, climbing steps and using escalators. Charles now has the confidence to travel on his own and perform other daily tasks independently, living life to its fullest, despite his vision loss. None of this would have happened without the initial referral to CVI from his ophthalmologist.

CVI is Georgia's largest comprehensive, fully accredited agency providing rehabilitation services for the blind and visually impaired. For more than 55 years, CVI has pursued its mission to empower people impacted by vision loss to live with independence and dignity.

Any person who is living with a loss of daily function due to vision impairment is a candidate to benefit from vision rehabilitation. CVI is the only agency in Georgia that serves people of all ages and all degrees of vision loss, from birth throughout their lifespan. Many of the rehabilitation services CVI offers are unduplicated in the entire state of Georgia.

Ophthalmologists should not hesitate to refer patients with vision loss to CVI: the agency does not provide medical care and does not compete with ophthalmic practices.

CVI has a staff of certified experts including orientation and mobility specialists, occupational therapists, vision rehabilitation therapists, teachers of the visually impaired, Braille instructors and medical social workers, providing services that include orientation and mobility training, activities of daily living skills, assistive technology, support groups, diabetes and nutrition programs, vocational skills and career training, and children and youth services.



For patients who are unable to travel to CVI's main building in midtown Atlanta, a rotating network of satellite clinics offers the opportunity to receive services in other counties in metro Atlanta. Services can be provided in the homes of patients, who also benefit from access to a network of additional resources, support and information.

By partnering with CVI to refer at the point of initial diagnosis, ophthalmologists can stress what can be done for patients, as opposed to what cannot be done, and give hope to people with vision loss by providing a path to continued independence and an improved quality of life.

CVI is able to make a huge difference in the lives of patients with vision loss, but is dependent on the referrals of Georgia's ophthalmologists to do so. Once you've examined your patient and are in the process of making a treatment plan, please remember low-vision therapy and its benefits.

CVI has a range of easy and efficient ways for doctors to refer directly: our program marketing team can provide referral resources and collateral for your practice, and we can work with your team to receive referrals via EHR systems, if you have one. To find out more, call 404.602.4374 or email bcoleman@cviga.org (<mailto:bcoleman@cviga.org>).



Ways To Support GSO: A Quick Guide

Three ways you can help ensure a bright future for ophthalmology

#1: The GA Medical Eye PAC

"Surgery by Surgeons"

The GA Medical Eye PAC represents the political interests of Georgia ophthalmologists and their patients. Your PAC contributions support Georgia's legislative candidates for office that share our philosophy and vision for the future of medicine and healthcare in Georgia. The Georgia Medical Eye PAC helps these officials get elected and re-elected, so they can continue to help our patients and our profession, as the force of opposition grows stronger.



A robust PAC fund is particularly important this year because there are 27 legislators who are not seeking re-election in 2018 (19 in the House; 8 in the Senate). This means there will be 27 brand new legislators next year--and potentially 27 new champions of medicine.

Click here to join the PAC and make a contribution today (<https://ga-eyemds.site-ym.com/donations/donate.asp?id=8617>).

#2: The GSO Foundation



The charitable arm of our society, The GSO Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization designed to promote projects that raise awareness of ocular disease and to fund programs which support underserved populations in Georgia related to eye health and access to care. The GSO Foundation helps fund projects like Camp Abilities, a sports camp for visually impaired and blind children (https://ga-eyemds.site-ym.com/mpage/EO_82017#Camp_Abilities). If you have another program in mind for the Foundation to support, click here to fill out a short online suggestion form (<https://ga-eyemds.site-ym.com/page/FoundationSubmission>).

The GSO Foundation is a great charity for anyone to give to! Click here to download a one-page informational handout that you can print and distribute at your practices. (/resource/resmgr/Foundation_one-pagerB.pdf)

All donations to the foundation are completely tax deductible and they can be completely anonymous. Contributions can be made on behalf of an entire practice, or in someone's name as a commemoration. All non-anonymous donors receive recognition on the GSO website.

Click here to donate to the GSO Foundation today. (<https://ga-eyemds.site-ym.com/donations/donate.asp?id=10718>)

#3: The SOS Legal & Advocacy Fund

"Safe Ophthalmic Surgery"



The easiest way to explain the difference between the GA Medical Eye

PAC and the SOS Legal & Advocacy Fund is to compare them to AAO's OPHTHPAC and the AAO Surgical Scope Fund. They use different methods to achieve the same goal: the PAC uses campaign donations to create and influence our friends in the legislature, and the SOS Legal & Advocacy Fund pays for other influential tools like social gatherings with lawmakers, public relations materials, and experienced lobbyists to represent our interests at the capitol.

Donations to the SOS Legal & Advocacy Fund can also be completely anonymous. Technically, the SOS Legal & Advocacy Fund is a rainy-day fund for GSO to tap when needed; but, in the words of Michael Jacobs, MD, Council Member and SOS Fund Chairman, "***the question isn't if, it's when***".

Help us fight the good fight--click here to contribute to the SOS Legal & Advocacy Fund. (<https://ga-eyemds.site-ym.com/donations/donate.asp?id=14155>)

2018 GEM Eye Meeting

A Perennially Popular Event

The 2018 GEM Eye Meeting had one of its biggest audiences to date, with approximately 100 physicians and almost 200 ophthalmic technicians in attendance.

In addition to the educational program, GSO hosted a lunch specifically for our Young Ophthalmologist members (also known as YOs). The YO lunch featured a presentation and discussion on the topic of how to handle difficult patients and tough conversations.



GSO also presented two major annual awards during the meeting:

Baker Hubbard, MD received the *2017 Ophthalmologist of the Year Award*, pictured below with GSO President Barry Lee, MD.



And the first-ever *Legislator of the Year Award* was presented to **State Representative Deborah Silcox**, pictured below (center) with Legislative Chairman Sid Moore, MD (left) and President Barry Lee, MD (right).



Another new feature of this year's GEM meeting was an exclusive prize raffle contest for the ophthalmic technicians. Each attendee received one 'free' ticket, and they could purchase additional raffle tickets by making \$5 donations to the GSO Foundation. Prizes included a football helmet signed by UGA Coach Kirby Smart, dinner at Davio's Steakhouse, a weekend stay at The Westin Buckhead, and a \$100 Amazon Gift Card. The contest was a big hit with the technicians and raised almost \$200 for the Foundation at the same time.



Thank you to everyone who attended the 2018 GEM Eye Meeting--and we look forward to seeing you this summer on Sea Island for the 2018 GSO Annual Meeting.

GSO Members At *Night For Sight*

Dr. Tom Harbin received an award for medical excellence

On a beautiful night last November, a handful of GSO members joined about 300 of their ocular-health-concerned cohort at Prevent Blindness Georgia's premiere annual *Night For Sight* event.



From left to right:

Elliot Levine, MD; Evan Loft, MD; Michael Roach, MD; Margaret Wong, MD; Tom Harbin, MD; Alan Kozarsky, MD; Bob Harbin, MD; Steve Hamilton, MD; Jim Joiner, MD; Bill Jarrett, MD

Attendees enjoyed dinner and dancing, along with live music from the *Macular Degenerates* (of which beloved GSO member Scott Pastor, MD was a member) and a special presentation of **The Scott Pastor Person of Vision Award** to Dr. Tom Harbin.

The Person of Vision award believes that our community is enriched by their vision and reflects a vision of "medical excellence" to be celebrated and emulated. Dr. Harbin's



recognition of a problem in the Georgia medical community and his efforts standing up to expose that wrong are indicative of true vision and valor.

New Members

Welcome to GSO

Joseph Christenbury, MD Recent Graduate Member Atlanta	Stephen McConnell, MD Recent Graduate Member Brunswick
Byron Cook, III, MD General Member Cumming	Jessica Shantha, MD Recent Graduate Member Atlanta
Clifton Fay, Jr., MD Recent Graduate Member Albany	Praneetha Thulasi, MD Recent Graduate Member Atlanta
Matthew Hollar, MD Recent Graduate Member Gainesville	Steven Yeh, MD General Member Atlanta

Spring 2018

Editors

D. Brian Kim, MD
W. Barry Lee, MD

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Leadership

President

Barry Lee, MD

President-Elect

Jeff Payne, MD

Vice President

Jeremy Jones, MD

Secretary/Treasurer

James G. Brooks, Jr., MD

Immediate Past President

Brian Kim, MD

Councilor to AAO

Anna Kao, MD

Alternate Councilor to AAO

Michael Jacobs, MD

Councilors Class of 2018

G. Baker Hubbard, MD

John Ervin, MD

William Marks, Jr., MD

Randall Ozment, MD

Emory Patterson, MD

Councilors Class of 2019

Amy Estes, MD

Nadeem Fatteh, MD

David Hemmings, MD

Tushar Suthar, MD

Margaret Wong, MD

Councilors Class of 2020

Casey Geringer, MD

Phoebe Lenhart, MD

Mary Lynch, MD

Purnima Patel, MD

Heather Weissman, MD

Legislative Chair

Malcolm S. Moore, Jr., MD

PAC Chair

Jeffrey A. Carlisle, MD

Foundation Chair

David Bogorad, MD

SOS Chair

Michael Jacobs, MD

CME Co-Chairs

Anastasios Costarides, MD

Purnima Patel, MD

Upcoming Events

(<https://www.aao.org/practice-management/coding/codequest-course/georgia>)



February 24, 2018

Third Annual Eye Ball (<https://giving.augusta.edu/eyeball>)

(<https://giving.augusta.edu/eyeball>)

April 18-19, 2018

GSO Congressional Fly-In (<http://www.ga-eyemds.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1075753>)

(<http://www.ga-eyemds.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1075753>)

Legislators Not Running for Re-Election in 2018

Georgia State House

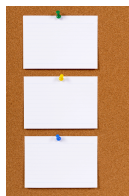
Bruce Broadrick [4]
Geogg Duncan (26)
Stacey Evans (42)
Lynne Riley (50)
Keisha Waites (60)
Stacey Abrams (89)
Brian Strickland (111)
Regina Quick (117)
Chuck Williams (119)
Amy Carter (175)
Paul Battles (15)
Howard Maxwell (17)
Rich Golick (40)
Brad Raffensperger (50)
Wendell Willard (51)
Tom Taylor (79)
Buzz Brockway (102)
David Casas (107)
Job Pezold (133)

Georgia State Senate

Michael Williams (27)
Josh McKoon (29)
David Shafer (48)
Hunter Hill (6)
Rick Jeffares (17)
Judson Hill (32)
Vincent Fort (39)
Charlie Bethel (54)

(<http://www.ga-eyemds.org/?jobs>)

(<http://www.ga-eyemds.org/?jobs>)



(<https://ga-eyemds.site-ym.com/>)

GSONline

GSO's Professional Job Board is an easy and effective resource that all GSO members should take advantage of. Click here to view the current listings.
(<http://www.ga-eyemds.org/?jobs>)



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Membership Survey

We want to know what you think! It just takes a few minutes to complete our multiple-choice survey:

(<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07ef5a0ejcjd2hte0/start>)
here to start.

(<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07ef5a0ejcjd2hte0/start>)

(<mailto:sally@ga-eyemds.org>)



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We want to hear from you!

Contribute to the next edition of GSO's Eye Openers newsletter! Just email your submission, idea, or suggestion to Sally Carter, Director of Communications at sally@ga-eyemds.org (<mailto:sally@ga-eyemds.org>)

(<mailto:sally@ga-eyemds.org>)



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