

InsideRetina Directory

Santa Barbara Offices

525 E. Micheltorena St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93103
(805) 963-1648

Paso Robles Office

220 Oak Hill Rd.
Paso Robles, CA 93446
(805) 237-1610

Research Foundation

525 E. Micheltorena St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93103
(805) 884-5185

San Luis Obispo Office

835 Aerovista Place,
Ste. 110
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
(805) 781-0292

Bakersfield Office

5329 Office Center Ct.,
Ste. 110
Bakersfield, CA 93309
(661) 325-4393

Santa Maria Office

1510 E. Main St.,
Ste. 103
Santa Maria, CA 93454
(805) 922-2068

Lompoc Office

611 E. Ocean Ave.
Lompoc, CA 93436
(805) 740-3080

Valencia Office

27420 Tourney Rd.,
Ste. 170
Valencia, CA 91365
(661) 253-2939

Oxnard Office

2901 N. Ventura Rd.,
Ste. 250
Oxnard, CA 93036
(805) 983-8808

Visalia Office

5405 W. Cypress Ave.,
Ste. 101
Visalia, CA 93327
(559) 627-5200

Palmdale Office

38660 Medical Center Dr.,
Ste. A-350
Palmdale, CA 93551
(661) 951-9519

For more information, visit us
online at www.californiaretina.com
and www.californiaretinaresearch.org.

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EYE SIGHTINGS

DR. ROBERT AVERY presented at the American Society of Retina Specialists (ASRS) meeting in San Francisco, as well as the subspecialty and American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) meetings in Chicago where he was honored with the AAO Senior Achievement Award.

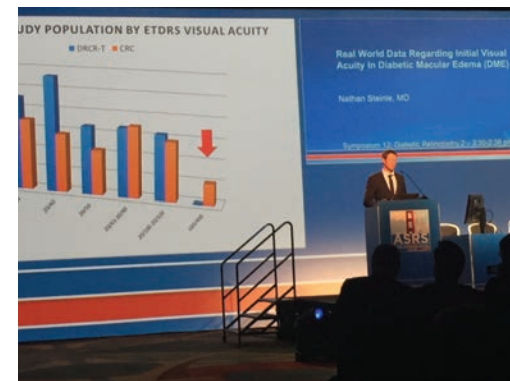
DR. ALESSANDRO CASTELLARIN attended the ASRS meeting in San Francisco and was honored with an American Society of Retina Specialists Award for his for outstanding service to the Society's scientific and educational programs. He also lectured on diabetic macular edema at a meeting of eye specialists in Los Angeles.

DR. STEVE COUVILLION has been invited to speak at the 10th Asia-Pacific Vitreoretinal Society Congress in Bangkok, Thailand this December. He will give a presentation on 3-D digital visualization for vitreoretinal surgery.

DR. DILSHER DHOOT was elected to the Retina Society this year and attended the annual meeting in San Diego; He also presented research at the Phoenix Ophthalmological Society, American Society of Retina Specialists (ASRS) and gave industry talks in Napa and Houston.

DR. MA'AN NASIR attended the American Society of Retina Specialists (ASRS) meeting in San Francisco.

DR. DANTE PIERAMICI presented at the American Society of Retinal Specialists (ASRS) meeting in San Francisco, the Retina Society meeting in San Diego, and the American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting in Chicago. He is also an invited quest speaker to the ART meeting in Vienna. Dr. Pieramici discussed age-related macular degeneration at dinner meetings with local eye care specialists in Chicago and Denver.



DR. NATHAN STEINLE delivered innovative research presentations at the American Society of Retina Specialists meeting in San Francisco and the American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting in Chicago. He gave educational

lectures in Seattle, San Diego and Jacksonville, Oregon. In addition, Dr. Steinle participated in retina advisory meetings in New York, Denver and Chicago.

CALIFORNIA RETINA RESEARCH FOUNDATION

525 E. Micheltorena Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93103

CRC EXPANDS THREE OFFICES

California Retina Consultants is on the move! Our practice has outgrown its offices in Santa Maria, Oxnard and Bakersfield, prompting expansions and moves to larger spaces to better accommodate patients.

Santa Maria nearly doubled its square footage, adding three more screening rooms and two additional exam rooms to its current location, which means less waiting time for patients. There is also a dedicated room for retinal laser treatments, giving patients more privacy during procedures. A research suite was added to allow for expansion of clinical trials in the northern areas.

The Oxnard staff moved to a beautiful new, 4,500-square-foot facility in mid-October. This cutting-edge treatment center

includes five patient screening rooms, six exam rooms, a laser treatment space, three diagnostic camera bays, and a spacious dedicated research area. Capabilities of the new cameras include OCT (optical coherence tomography) scans as well as color photography of the inside of the eye, and improved visualization of the vasculature of the retina and macula.

The Bakersfield staff will relocate this spring to a significantly larger, two-story facility, increasing space from 3,000 to 7,000-square feet. The ground floor will host the clinical operations of the practice, featuring eight screening and examination rooms, four diagnostic/photography barns and separate waiting areas for dilated and un-dilated patients. The second floor will focus on research, with

a separate waiting area for clinical trial patients as well as two visual acuity lanes to expedite patient intake. Study coordinators Jack Giust, James Cazares and Nancy Castillo will enjoy expanded office space as well.

Clinical research trials continue to be a priority for the doctors at California Retina Consultants; the Santa Maria office now has its own individual space for study coordinator Larissa Halsell to conduct clinical trials. And the new Oxnard location will begin seeing clinical trial subjects on a more regular basis with the new, dedicated research space. CRC is also transitioning to a new location in San Luis Obispo at 835 Aerovista Place, Ste. 110, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 and we will begin seeing patients at this new location on January 1st, 2017.



InsideRetina

FOUR KEYNOTE SPEAKERS HIGHLIGHT ANNUAL EDUCATION MEETING

VOLUME 3, 2016



Guest speakers and CRC physicians relaxing at dinner following the successful meeting. From left: Dr. Nasir, Dr. Darius Moshfeghi, Dr. Steinle, Dr. Avery, Dr. Dean Elliott, Dr. Daniel Learned, Dr. Andrew Moshfeghi, Dr. Dhoot, and Dr. Castellarin.

More than 150 eye care professionals attended this year's Annual Education Meeting, held on September 24th at the Fess Parker Doubletree Resort. The 15th annual meeting welcomed four guest speakers and the physicians of California Retina Consultants who discussed the latest treatments related to various retinal diseases.

Guest speakers included Dr. Dean Elliott, Associate Director, Harvard, Mass. Eye and Ear; Dr. Darius Moshfeghi, Professor of Ophthalmology, Stanford Medical Center; Dr. Andrew Moshfeghi, Associate Professor, USC Keck School of Medicine; and Dr. Daniel Learned, Harvard fellow. The doctors' discussions ranged from ophthalmic impact of the Zika virus to retina stem cell and gene therapies.

One of the most exciting talks of the day included a surgical 3D presentation that showed the actual surgery of an ERM/ILM peel, retinal detachment repair, and a macular hole repair. Local company TrueVision Systems created the groundbreaking technology for the three-dimensional screening, which allowed attendees to see the depth of the instrument placement behind the eye. This teaching technique has had dramatic results in increasing the learning curve for doctors and improving the outcome for patients.

All of the CRC physicians led discussions and shared case studies. Dr. Nasir presented an interesting and complex surgical

case in 2D and Dr. See rounded out the surgical panel with a few interesting videos he captured using an iPhone and his innovative 3D printed adapter.

Exhibitor booths provided more information from Genentech, Regeneron, Allergan, Alcon, Topcon, Dutch Ophthalmic Research Center, EVOA Supplements and Your Low Vision Store.



Dr. Ma'an Nasir presents research at the 15th annual education meeting.

It's clear from the information gathered at this annual meeting that diagnostic and therapeutic tools for retinal disease continue to evolve at an incredible pace and the doctors of California Retina work exhaustively to be on the cutting edge of these emerging technologies.

We want to continue to provide our patients with the latest possible options as well as the best, proven treatments available. Feel free to ask anyone on our research staff for more information on meeting topics.



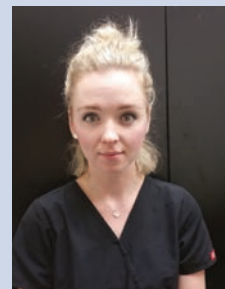
Some of the ladies behind CRC who helped orchestrate a flawless meeting, from left: Tamara Banville, Gina Hong, Sarah Fishbein and volunteer Lily Pieramici.

RESEARCH DEPARTMENT WELCOMES TWO NEW EMPLOYEES

California Retina Consultants welcomes Polina Erokhina and Nancy Castillo to our research staff. Polina, who hails from Russia, is a full time study coordinator in our Santa Barbara office. She came to the U.S. ten years ago and served for five years as an ophthalmic technician for Pacific Eye Associates in San Francisco before moving to Portland and working for an optometry clinic. Polina worked as a lead ophthalmic technician for CRC prior to transitioning to study coordinator in the research department.

Nancy is a native of the Bakersfield area, and served as an ophthalmic technician for seven years at Fritch Eye Care before joining CRC two years ago. She recently transferred to the research department as a part time study coordinator and has quickly become an important clinic team member.

“The skills and experience that both Polina and Nancy bring with them have been extremely valuable in their transitions to study coordinators and we are excited to have them join the research staff,” said Dr. Gabriel Gordon, Director of Research. CRC will miss Layne Bone, who has been with our practice for five years but recently gave birth to her second child and has decided to care for her family full time. We wish Layne and her growing family the best.



Polina Erokhina



Nancy Castillo

REGENERATIVE STEM CELL THERAPIES OFFER HOPE TO PATIENTS WITH GEOGRAPHIC ATROPHY

California Retina Consultants is excited to participate in two regenerative cell therapy studies for the treatment of geographic atrophy, an advanced form of dry age-related macular degeneration (AMD). Stem cells have long been discussed as the future treatment for degenerative eye diseases and these early trials are proving promising.

CRC is recruiting patients in the Regenerative Patch Technology study. Working closely with USC and UCSB, CRC is identifying eligible patients to undergo surgical implant of differentiated human embryonic stem cells seeded on a membrane. This novel approach hopes to bring back visual function of the retina, but is still in early stages of testing.

Enrollment for the Janssen-sponsored trial will begin in March, but our research team is currently training for patient screening. This study surgically injects a suspension of human umbilical cord cells under the retina with the goal of nourishing and supporting retinal cells to improve function.

With no FDA approved treatments currently available to those with advanced dry AMD, CRC is eager to offer these cutting edge research opportunities. For more information, call (805) 963-1648 and ask for Gina, Sarah, or Gabe.

GENE THERAPY OFFERS PROMISING TREATMENT OPTIONS



Stem cell therapies are making headway in treating a host of retinal diseases, and now scientists and pharmaceutical companies are also turning to gene therapy to correct genetic mutations that can cause a host of diseases throughout the body.

Gene therapy involves taking a virus that has the ability to infect human cells, removing the dangerous viral DNA, and replacing it with non-mutated human DNA sequences. The newly processed virus is then intentionally inserted into a patient suffering a genetic disease. When the virus infects a cell, it carries a copy of healthy human DNA enabling that cell to produce a healthy protein. This would ultimately alleviate the disease state. One company leading the charge in this field is Spark Therapeutics. Spark recently announced positive results from a phase III trial that used gene therapy to replace defective copies of the RPE65 gene, which makes a protein that is essential for normal vision. Many ocular diseases are associated with RPE65 defects, including retinitis pigmentosa. CRC is partnering with Spark to offer genetic testing and counseling to patients suffering from rod degeneration (progressively decreasing night vision) and is working on bringing a Spark-sponsored trial to our offices.

ONGOING CLINICAL TRIALS

At California Retina Consultants, we are currently conducting over 30 different retrospective and prospective studies testing treatments to improve vision for those suffering from diabetic macula edema, dry AMD, wet AMD, and other blinding retinal diseases. If you're interested in learning more about participating in one of our current or upcoming clinical trials, or just have general questions about research related to your particular condition, please give us a call at 805-963-1648.

DIME STUDY: The DIME study is an investigator-sponsored trial that looks at using an Ozurdex implant to treat persistent diabetic macular edema (DME). We recently reached our halfway mark for enrolling patients in this study, offered in Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, Oxnard, Visalia and Bakersfield.

EVADE STUDY: The EVADE study investigates the efficacy of altering the treatment schedule of Eylea, from standard to extended in the management of patients suffering from DME. The study is near capacity with space for one more patient, so please call your office and ask for research if you are interested in participating. This study is available in Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, Oxnard, Visalia and Bakersfield.

DRCR PROTOCOL W: Currently offered in Santa Barbara and Bakersfield, this trial considers using Eylea to treat subjects newly presenting with DME.

ERASER: The Eraser investigator-sponsored study examines the effect of treating DME with Lucentis and studying how that impacts quality of life. This trail is now closed for enrollment and results will be forthcoming.

TREATMENTS FOR WET AMD: We currently have two studies available in Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, and Bakersfield for treating patients with newly developed wet AMD. Santa Barbara is offering the CEDAR and LADDER trials. CEDAR is investigating the benefit of a novel therapeutic developed by Allergan. The second study, sponsored by Genentech, involves the use of an implant that slowly releases Lucentis into the eye over several months.

The Opthea and ONYX studies for naïve wet AMD are offered in Santa Maria. The Opthea study just completed enrollment, but the Regeneron-sponsored ONYX study, which uses a novel drug in combination with Eylea, is still recruiting.

In the Bakersfield area, the two studies looking at novel treatments for wet AMD are ONYX and AVENUE. AVENUE is a study sponsored by Genentech that uses a novel bi-specific antibody, specific for VEGF and Ang II, a molecule thought to be involved in AMD progression. Both of these studies are still open for enrollment.

CELL THERAPY STUDIES FOR DRY AMD: We have two cell therapy trials underway in Santa Barbara. The first, sponsored by Regenerative Patch Technologies, is currently enrolling and uses embryonic stem cells implanted in the retina to treat dry AMD. The second study, sponsored by Janssen, uses human umbilical cord tissue to regenerate failing cells in the retina. This trial is completing its second safety cohort and will begin enrollment in the early months of 2017.

Four studies sponsored by Genentech and using Lampalizumab to treat dry AMD are ongoing, but nearly fully enrolled. EXPOSURE, offered in Santa Barbara, treats subjects every 2 or 4 weeks for 6 months with lampalizumab; this study is 95% fully enrolled. The Chroma and Spectri studies, offered in Santa Barbara and Bakersfield, are completely enrolled. These studies look at treating subjects with Lampalizumab every 4 or 6 weeks. The final study is only open to subjects who have participated in one of the previously mentioned trials.

PACIFIC, a study sponsored by Allegro which treats PVD with Luminite is closed, but DEL MAR, which uses Luminite to treat DME is open for enrollment in our Santa Maria office.

In addition to research trials, CRC is also participating in a few genetic database collection studies that do not provide any therapy, but may help develop novel therapeutic agents in the future. We will also be initiating new studies in the next few months for naïve wet AMD, DME, and retinal vein occlusion (RVO).

PATIENT PERSPECTIVES ON CLINICAL TRIALS

California Retina Consultants is proud to be able to offer patients on the Central Coast access to national clinical trials that could improve their vision. Participating in a clinical trial is a unique experience and it requires patients to spend extra time in our office undergoing additional procedures. Yet, nearly all who participate agree the benefits of taking part in a clinical trial far outweigh the risks and added time. While the trials may improve their vision, many participants enroll to help future patients suffering from similar conditions.

One patient who received a surgical implant in order to receive sustained Lucentis for her wet AMD rather than receive monthly injections admitted that she had initial concerns about participating: “In the very beginning I was excited, but then I started reading all the things involved in the study. It was a process in my head to decide if the commitment would be worth it. After considering options, I’m confident that participating is the best choice.” Another patient who is halfway through a trial comparing Lampalizumab vs. sham for the treatment of dry AMD told CRC, “I was impressed initially with the attitude of the staff. I felt like the study would benefit so many people, including myself, so it’s been extremely worthwhile.” The patient added, “There are so few medical facilities today that are caring, and yours happens to be one of them.” Please ask your physician about your eligibility to participate in an ongoing or upcoming clinical trial.

Education & Support Group Meeting

Wednesday January 4th, 2017 at 10:30

Join us to discuss well-being in the New Year!

Discussion led by: Pam Beckman-Lyon
[A Certified Diabetes Counselor & Marriage and Family Therapist living with Diabetes & Visual Impairment]

All future meetings will be held the first Wednesday of every other month at 10:30am

Join us on the 3rd floor Conference Room @ 525 E. Micheltorena St. Santa Barbara

Time: 10:30AM-11:30AM

Refreshments will be provided

Family and friends welcome!

California Retina Research Foundation
Our Mission is Improving Your Vision

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