



FROM THE DEEP

The Annual ACES/SEE Caribbean Eye Meeting delves into hot topics for anterior segment surgeons and health care professionals.

From February 2-6, 2018, the upcoming Caribbean Eye Meeting promises to be as engaging as previous years. This one-of-a-kind meeting, held at the Ritz-Carlton in Cancun, gathers well-known leaders in ophthalmology to discuss important topics in eye care with the breathtaking backdrop of the Caribbean Sea. The American College of Eye Surgeons (ACES) and the American Board of Eye Surgery (ABES) were started in 1989, with ACES as the educational arm. ABES began to ensure quality surgery throughout the United States, and its efforts were taken internationally 11 years ago. ACES and ABES, along with the Society for Excellence in Eyecare (SEE), are proud to be entering the 28th annual meeting! Together, ACES, ABES, and SEE share a commitment to the belief that the primary focus for today's ophthalmologist must, and should, be to promote, encourage, and enhance quality ophthalmic surgical care for the benefit of all patients.

DIVING INTO THE 2017 MEETING —WHAT YOU MISSED!

In 2017, Iqbal "Ike" Ahmed, MD, presented "MIGS Gets Complicated," where he discussed the tremendous growth and potential of microinvasive glaucoma surgery (MIGS). "MIGS is to phaco what toric lenses are to IOLs," he told the packed room. "When someone presents with glaucoma, do not consider MIGS is a lost opportunity."



Not only are there 3 million potential MIGS patients in the United States, but there has been a tenfold increase in the number of available devices. That presents both opportunity and complex decision-making, he explained, before delving into an exploration of how to choose the best device for each patient's needs. Surgeons should start by asking, "What is the target IOP and how far are we from it?" They also need to balance safety, efficacy, and reimbursement considerations.

Down the hall, Cynthia Matossian, MD, discussed enhancing patient experiences in her presentation, "It All Starts Here: Front Desk Optimization."

Dr. Matossian explains that many of the systems that practices use are inefficient and prone to errors. For example, instead of filling out paper forms, her practice uses a cloud-based front desk patient interface that allows previsit patient check-in via email or text. They also offer a system that verifies patient eligibility prior to his or her appointment as well as one that holds credit card information on file for future transactions.



While the patient is in her office, she offers an iPad-based patient education system to help patients understand why paying for out-of-pocket procedures is worth it. After every patient encounter, her practice sends out a 10-question survey that helps capture unhappy patients before they post negative online reviews. She then uses an automated post-appointment patient follow-up system that can be customized based on each patient's needs.

Watch full presentations of Dr. Ahmed's "MIGS Gets Complicated," and Dr. Matossian's "It All Starts Here: Front Desk Optimization" at caribbeaneyemeeting.com/video-presentations/

DIVE INTO THE 2018 CARIBBEAN EYE MEETING IN CANCUN, FEBRUARY 2-6, 2018

Highlights of the 2018 program include “Cases for Your Memory Book,” where Priyanka Sood, MD, and Elizabeth Yeu, MD, will present particularly challenging and interesting cases. In “Getting MIGY With It,” Jason Bacharach, MD, and Inder Paul Singh, MD, will discuss the latest about MIGS. While P. Dee Stephenson, MD, and Denise Visco, MD, will delve into “Cornea & Cataracts Conundrums.” Steven J. Dell, MD, will present the Sheets Martin Lecture on refractive innovations.

For administrators, the conference promises a fast-paced group of sessions designed to ensure that practices run as smoothly as possible, whether they are facing public relations challenges, human resources issues, or reimbursement changes.

Dan Chambers, Patti Barkey, and Allison Shuren, Esq., will start Saturday, February 3, with an interesting talk about what to do when the unexpected happens. Using a combination of case studies, the trio will cover a variety of approaches to handling “public relations nightmares.”

Also on Saturday, Scott Ford, Esq., will moderate a panel composed of Hayley Boling, Connie Richards, Cynthia Matossian, MD, and Craig Piso, PhD, who will provide tips focused on human resources challenges and provide an opportunity for the audience to interact by presenting their own challenges and ideas for managing their teams.

On Sunday, February 4, Austin Bird and Kirk Mack will tackle reimbursement issues and fee-for-service with an update for administrators on “where things stand with this paradigm shift for ophthalmology practices.” Later that day, all attendees will gather for the Video Academy Awards.

A beautiful Caribbean backdrop coupled with enlightening talks by leaders in ophthalmology make the 2018 Caribbean Eye Meeting a must-attend event for anterior segment surgeons and health care professionals.

DR. P. DEE STEPHENSON'S TAKE-HOME PEARL FROM THE DEEP

During her 2017 Caribbean Eye talk called “Topography: Your GPS for Refractive Cataract Surgery,” Dr. Stephenson said that her diagnostic armamentarium for taking care of postrefractive patients includes the IOLMaster 700 (Zeiss), iTrace with Toric Planning Software (Tracey Technologies), Cassini with Total Corneal Astigmatism (i-Optics), and ORA Intraoperative Aberrometry (Alcon). She explained that her confidence zone is when her preoperative topography calculations match her real-time ORA intraoperative aberrometry, but that does not always happen. The quality of the cornea’s surface is important: A quality surface is repeatable, while a poor surface is not repeatable. Dry eye disease can cause erratic measurements. Dr. Stephenson’s pearl is that **the key to accurate topography is assessment of the surface during capture, especially in postrefractive eyes.**



View Dr. Stephenson’s entire presentation from the 2017 Caribbean Eye Meeting, “Topography: Your GPS for Refractive Cataract Surgery” at caribbeaneyemeeting.com/video-presentations/



To learn more about the 2018 Caribbean Eye Meeting and register to attend, visit caribbeaneyemeeting.com