



## YES Newsletter—September

**Get to Know Your YES Clinical Committee Member: James Murphy, MD**

Instagram: @theeyeballguy LinkedIn: James Murphy, MD

### **Why did you go into ophthalmology?**

In some ways it's ironic I ended up an eye doctor: I've been glasses-free my entire life. Patients ask me this question frequently, and my answer is the same: The surgery is very technical, detail-oriented, technology-driven, and every case presents a unique challenge. My father has been a practicing emergency medicine (EM) physician for 30+ years, and I entered medical school with my mind open but leaning toward EM, because it is easy to grow up admiring your parents. When I finished my EM rotation in medical school, I reflected on the various eye complaints that occurred over the rotation. In retrospect, I was disappointed in my lack of ophthalmology knowledge, so I signed up for a rotation in ophthalmology to remedy this and become a more well-rounded future EM physician. The rest is history. During my ophthalmology elective, I really enjoyed the broad spectrum of laser procedures, microsurgeries, in-office minor procedures, and the minute complexities of the human eye. Ultimately, I decided that a specialty in which I can "choose my own path" in terms of medical, surgical, or any combination thereof was appealing. I wanted a flexible, diverse specialty that was amenable to multiple practice pathways that I could love and enjoy for decades, like how my father has enjoyed his career for decades. I chose a different path but in the hopes that we will share the same finish line.



### **If you weren't an ophthalmologist or even a doctor, what career would you like to try?**

Medicine and anatomy are just so fascinating to me that I'm going to go ahead and be boring here and say that the other career I was considering was veterinarian. Big animals, small animals, exotic animals, farm animals, doesn't matter, I'd care for them

all. I absolutely love animals. There are even veterinary ophthalmologists—didn't even realize that until recently! If you've ever done a wet lab at a conference using pig or cow eyes, you'll probably understand that that job would be a real challenge. Sometimes I think high hyperopes and high myopes (humans) are almost a different species from a surgery perspective.

### **What do you look forward to most at the ASCRS Annual Meeting?**

My favorite part about ASCRS is the collaborative way all subspecialties come together. A common practice that I rotate through every year is I sign up for a Subspecialty Day *other than* my own (glaucoma), so I tend to rotate through cornea, refractive, and glaucoma. Staying well-rounded and knowing and understanding what the “other people” are talking about in the next lecture hall is important to me to stay as up-to-speed as I possibly can.

### **What place is still on your travel wish list?**

This one is very easy for me. I need to go to outer space before I die. We're talking exit the mesosphere, pass the Kármán line, 50 miles above sea level, but way farther would be welcome. With recent developments, it *might* actually be possible in my lifetime.

### **What's your go-to movie theater snack?**

I am just a good old-fashioned massive bucket of popcorn guy. If you've ever seen a guy sitting in a movie theater with a “feeds-family-of-8” size bucket just gobbling away, and thought to yourself, “Is anyone going to help him with that?” but he just crushes it himself—that's me. Liquid butter? Yep, that too. Sometimes I finish it before the previews are done.

## **Now Accepting 2025 Resident Excellence Award Nominations**

The ASCRS Foundation is accepting [nominations](#) for its 2025 [Resident Excellence Awards](#).

This award [recognizes 10 exemplary residents](#) with consideration given for performance in research, patient care, leadership, and education. Awardees receive a travel grant, 4 nights' accommodation, complimentary meeting registration, and invitations to select leadership and social events at the 2025 ASCRS Annual Meeting.

[Submit a nomination](#) by **November 8**.

“ASCRS is a special meeting. It is enriching and exciting to be surrounded by leaders in our field. It is such a great blend of learning, engagement, and of course, FUN! It was my first time attending, but you can count on seeing me there from now on. I feel extremely grateful to be an ophthalmologist, and this meeting really jump started an internal excitement/motivation to keep it going! Thank you to the Foundation for considering me and supporting the Resident Excellence Award winners every year. I feel so lucky!” —Mahsaw Mansoor, MD, 2024 Resident Excellence Award recipient

There's still time to submit an application (due **September 8**) for the 2025 Young Eye Surgeons International Service Grant as well. [Click here to apply.](#)

## Annual Meeting Update

Coming soon! Registration for the [2025 ASCRS Annual Meeting](#) opens on September 27. Mark your calendars.

Registration is complimentary for residents and U.S. fellows and is discounted for surgeons in their first 5 years of practice. In recent years, ASCRS has greatly expanded YES specific offerings at the Annual Meeting. You won't want to miss it!

## Attend an ASCRS Live! Event

[ASCRS Live!](#), the new educational dinner series making its way to several cities across the U.S., has open registrations in the following states.

- [Cleveland, Ohio](#): September 12, 6:30 p.m.
- [Atlanta, Georgia](#): October 3, 6:30 p.m.

[Learn more](#) about these CME and networking events.

[ASCRS Live! Online Modules](#) are free. Find and watch all three CME programs now!

## Transitioning Fellows and PGY4 – Don't Lose Your Membership

*ASCRS Can Transform Your Career*

If you recently began a fellowship or transitioned from PGY4 into practice, it's time to change your ASCRS membership status. Surgeons in their first 5 years of practice become eligible for full-fledged ASCRS membership with a prorated discount, and U.S. fellows still receive complimentary ASCRS membership.

Maintaining your involvement and membership with **ASCRS can be transformative** for your career. Expand your network, connect with leaders in the field, and establish your career in ophthalmology on the solid foundation that ASCRS offers with year-round educational opportunities, advocacy efforts, and philanthropic endeavors.

Act now to maintain your membership by updating your training status, if needed, from resident to fellow or from resident/fellow to practicing physician.

- Fellows, complete [this form](#).
- Physicians entering your first year of practice, complete [this form](#).

## Take Advantage of These Educational Opportunities with ASCRS

- **[YES Connect Webinars](#)**: “Academic Private Practice: A Model to Achieve All of Your Academic Pursuits and More” with faculty Cristos Infantides, MD, Brenton Finklea, MD, Priya Mathews, MD, and Daniel Terveen, MD, is online now. Access it [here](#).
- **[Ophthalmology Quicksand Chronicles—Eureka Moments! Podcast](#)**: Hosts Nicole Fram, MD, and Elizabeth Yeu, MD, welcomed guest Sumit “Sam” Garg, MD, in the latest episode of their popular ASCRS podcast. [Watch the episode](#).
- **[ASCRS Grand Rounds](#)**: The latest episode, [“A Different White Dot Syndrome,”](#) is on demand! Grand Rounds is still accepting submissions for its future programming until **September 16**. Learn more and submit your case video(s) [here](#).

### Helpful Links and Resources:

[ASCRS YES Membership](#)

[ASCRS YES Education](#)

[ASCRS Clinical Education](#)

[ASCRS Online Tools](#)

Official YES Hashtag: #ASCRSYES

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