



## YES Newsletter—February

**Get to know your YES Clinical Committee Member:** Eric Weinlander, MD  
Cornea, Cataract, Refractive Surgery  
University of Wisconsin, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
Madison, Wisconsin

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

Good vision is so important, and it is deeply meaningful to work with patients, to help them see better, and improve their quality of life. I also enjoy the nuances of the profession—routine surgical cases can be elegant, complex surgery pushes me to be my best, and medical care requires a deep knowledge of pathophysiology. Ophthalmology is an excellent intersection of medicine and surgery, and caring for patients across these disciplines is highly rewarding and humbling.

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

Wisconsin has an amazing, little-known, 1,200-mile-long national scenic trail that is built and maintained by a non-profit organization called the Ice Age Trail Alliance. If ophthalmology was off the table, I could think of nothing better than spending my days planning, building, and keeping this trail network alive so everyone can enjoy the natural beauty of my home state.



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

It's great to catch up with friends and learn about the innovations and scientific advancements in anterior segment surgery over the past year. I always find a clinical pearl or surgical technique that changes my perspective and helps me take better care of my patients.

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

My wife and I love the outdoors. There is a trail that circumnavigates the Matterhorn, taking about a week and a half, including stops at small towns in the Swiss and Italian Alps. I am not much of a mountaineer, but I do love hiking, so viewing this iconic peak among high mountain trails, glaciers, and alpine lakes is truly a dream vacation.

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

Junior Mints if I want chocolate, popcorn if I'm hungry and want 2,000 of something!

## YES at the 2024 ASCRS Annual Meeting

Did you know **ASCRS YES members account for up to 20%** of physician attendees of the [ASCRS Annual Meeting](#)?

If you're not among of them, you'll be missing:

- YES Skills Transfer Labs
- YES programming
- YES networking luncheon
- YES Mentor Meetups
- YES Connect Industry Dinners
- All-access to the full ASCRS program, the ASCRS Exhibit Hall, Party for a Purpose
- Networking, networking, networking!

There's still time to [register](#)!

YES members receive [complimentary/discounted registration](#). [Register now](#) to ensure that your approvals and paperwork (required by residents and U.S. fellows) are submitted in time.

Learn more about YES at the Annual Meeting [here](#).

### Sign Up for Skills Transfer Labs

*Space Is Limited*

The popular [YES Skills Transfer Lab opportunities](#) at the ASCRS Annual Meeting are filling up. When registering for the Annual Meeting, be sure to add on a hands-on lab experience.

Lab Name/Number	Date	Time	Status
Phaco, YES STL-1	April 5	9:00–10:00 a.m.	Full
Phaco, YES STL-2	April 5	10:30–11:30 a.m.	
Phaco, YES STL-3	April 5	1:00–2:00 p.m.	
Phaco, YES STL-4	April 5	2:30–3:30 p.m.	

<del>Yamane, YES STL-5</del>	<del>April 5</del>	<del>9:00–10:00 a.m.</del>	<del>Full</del>
<del>Anterior Segment Surgery, YES STL-6</del>	<del>April 5</del>	<del>10:30–11:30 a.m.</del>	<del>Full</del>
<del>Anterior Segment Surgery, YES STL-7</del>	<del>April 5</del>	<del>1:00–2:00 p.m.</del>	
<del>Anterior Segment Surgery, YES STL-8</del>	<del>April 5</del>	<del>2:30–3:30 p.m.</del>	
<del>DMEK/DSAEK, YES STL-9</del>	<del>April 5</del>	<del>9:00–11:00 a.m.</del>	
<del>DMEK/DSAEK, YES STL-10</del>	<del>April 5</del>	<del>11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.</del>	<del>Full</del>
<del>DALK, YES STL-11</del>	<del>April 5</del>	<del>2:00–3:30 p.m.</del>	<del>Full</del>
<del>Yamane, YES, STL-12</del>	<del>April 6</del>	<del>2:00–3:00 p.m.</del>	<del>Full</del>

***New this year:*** Phaco-focused practice rooms will be available for those who are registered for labs (faculty will be on hand).

Already registered for the meeting? To add a Skills Transfer Lab to your schedule, [click here](#), login with your badge # and email address. From there, click the orange “Upgrade” button and follow the prompts to upgrade and add a Skills Transfer Lab experience. Don’t wait, labs are filling up fast!

**ASCRS Government Relations Update**  
*Urgent Action Needed to Stop 3.4% Cut!*

Thanks to the support of ASCRS members and the efforts of the ASCRS Government Relations Clinical Committee and department staff, there have been two recent successes:

- A proposed local coverage determination that would have required 20/50 or worse visual acuity to qualify cataract surgery as a medical necessity was withdrawn.

- Proposed coverage limits of several MIGS procedures by Medicare Administrative Contractors were withdrawn.

The work is far from done though. We need to **keep pressure on Congress to stop** the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule **cut of 3.4%**, which went into effect January 1. Contact your member of Congress before March 1 and ask them to stop this cut.

Click [here](#), enter your zip code, and send your representatives and senators a message!

*Stay up to date with the latest from ASCRS Government Relations by reading the [Washington Watch Weekly](#) e-newsletter.*

## **Take Advantage of These Educational Opportunities with ASCRS**

- **[YES Connect webinars](#)**: The latest YES Connect webinar is provides an “Introduction to Insurance: Because You Asked!”—**[check it out!](#)** Find this and other hour-long, **[binge-worthy webinars](#)** that include YES members and experts discussing various topics such as interviewing for your first job, basics to billing, working with industry, clinical research in private practice, ASCRS Advocacy and more!
- **[Ophthalmology Quicksand Chronicles—Eureka Moments Podcast](#)**: Coming this spring: podcast hosts Nicole Fram, MD, and Elizabeth Yeu, MD, are getting ready for Season 4! Catch up on the **[latest episodes](#)** and be sure to like and subscribe to receive alerts for Season 4.
- **[ASCRS Grand Rounds](#)**: Grand Rounds will return after the ASCRS Annual Meeting. There are dozens of **[episodes](#)** with fascinating cases to learn from already on demand.

### **Helpful Links and Resources:**

[ASCRS YES Membership](#)

[ASCRS YES Education](#)

[ASCRS Clinical Education](#)

[ASCRS Online Tools](#)

Official YES Hashtag: #ASCRSYES

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