MASTERING REFRACTIVE IOLs: 
THE ART AND SCIENCE

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Delivering the best in health care information 
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Dedication

This textbook highlights the latest advances in refractive IOL technology and surgery. No longer satisfied with simply treating cataracts, our efforts are now focused on reversing lens aging through the pseudophakic correction of presbyopia. Amidst such exciting advances, it is easy to forget that the greatest challenge in the field of cataract and IOL surgery continues to be the staggering and increasing backlog of cataract blindness in developing countries.

Modern phacoemulsification machines are expensive to purchase and maintain, incur relatively high disposable costs, and require extensive surgical training. Furthermore, for the more advanced and mature cataracts typical of underserved populations, performing phacoemulsification becomes more difficult and complication prone. What is needed is a high-volume, cost-effective, “low tech” procedure that can treat the most advanced of cataracts with a low complication rate in the shortest amount of time.

This very goal is being achieved in a handful of international programs that are providing a hopeful paradigm for overcoming cataract blindness worldwide. I have had the privilege of visiting and collaborating with doctors at both the Aravind Eye Hospital network in Southern India, and the Tilganga Eye Center in Kathmandu, Nepal. Observing first-hand how these 2 systems provide low-cost, high-volume and quality cataract surgery is an awe-inspiring experience for any visiting ophthalmologist.

Founded in 1976 by the legendary Dr. G. Venkataswamy, Aravind Eye Hospital has grown into a network of 5 regional eye hospitals providing high-level ophthalmic care to the poor population of Southern India. Private paying patients comprise approximately 30% of their patient base. This revenue funds the 70% of Aravind’s services that are provided at no cost to the indigent via a financially self-sustaining program that receives minimal government reimbursement. In terms of cataract surgery, this means that of the approximately 200,000 procedures performed annually in the Aravind system, 70% are provided for free.

While private cataract patients at Aravind may pay anywhere from $200 to $300 to undergo phacoemulsification with foldable IOLs imported from the United States, the nonpaying cataract patients are treated for less than $15 per case, including the IOL. This is accomplished by performing a manual, sutureless, small incision extracapsular procedure with reusable equipment and supplies. Their IOL manufacturing facility, Aurolab, produces PMMA IOLs for less than $5 per lens. Following a retrobulbar block, the nucleus is expressed through a capsulorrhexis and a temporal, self-sealing 6.0- to 6.5-mm scleral pocket incision. Manual cortical cleanup precedes capsular bag implantation of a square edge PMMA IOL. The technique is commonly abbreviated as manual SICS (small incision cataract surgery).

While the procedure itself seems straightforward, it is the stunning speed, skill, and efficiency with which it is performed that must literally be seen to be believed. By alternating between 2 parallel operating room tables, a single surgeon is able to perform over 15 cases per hour by consistently completing sub-5-minute procedures on the densest of cataracts with no intervening turnover time. To ensure efficiency across different surgical teams, every aspect of the procedure is standardized, from preoperative patient and instrument preparation to the surgical steps themselves. Having been screened in outlying rural eye camps, as many as 300 to 400 cataract patients will be bused to a regional Aravind eye hospital where they will all undergo their surgery on one single day. After several days of in-house follow-up, they are transported back to their rural villages where a local postoperative visit and refraction are performed 1 month later by the Aravind staff.

Founded in 1994 by Dr. Sanduk Ruit, the Tilganga Eye Center is a shining example of an efficient eye care delivery system on a smaller scale. Dr. Ruit has developed his own variation of the manual, sutureless SICS. Our prospective randomized trial comparing phaco and manual, sutureless SICS in a camp population showed that the latter method produces excellent results at
a fraction of the cost. Tilganga Eye Center is also financially self-sustaining wherein private care subsidizes charity care. They also have their own IOL manufacturing facility, which, like that at Aravind, is able to supply low-cost IOLs to other developing countries. Because the rural population in Nepal is so widely scattered amongst mountain villages that are accessible only by foot, the Tilganga system strives to deliver portable cataract care by transporting the necessary staff and equipment to remote eye camps. Using a single portable operating table, the Tilganga surgeons can also perform more than 10 cataract surgeries per hour. As at Aravind, the high-volume, cost-effective Tilganga surgical techniques and protocols are standardized across their surgical teams. Since 1994 when Dr. Ruit and Dr. Geoff Tabin co-founded the Himalayan Cataract Project, Tilganga ophthalmologists and staff have provided mobile cataract surgical care and physician training in numerous developing countries across mountainous Asia.

Though of a different scale and serving different types of communities, Aravind and Tilganga are complimentary models of how best to address the world's backlog of cataract blindness. They demonstrate that the solution requires not only a cost-effective surgical technique, but also an entire system of efficient and financially self-sustaining cataract care delivery. Beyond the impressive productivity of these 2 institutions, equally important has been their mission to train surgical teams from other developing countries in their methods of cataract surgery. An efficient, high-volume system utilizing low cost, sub-5-minute procedures to tackle advanced cataracts with minimal complications is clearly the best way to leverage the scarce and most precious asset of the system—the cataract surgeon.

I consider this work to be the most inspiring and impressive accomplishment in our field of cataract surgery and it is with great respect and admiration that I dedicate this textbook to my friends at the Aravind and Tilganga Eye Hospitals. They are the unsung but true heroes in our field, and as we struggle to meet the high refractive expectations of our premium IOL patients, we must remember and salute our colleagues in developing countries that are on the frontlines of the most important surgical battlefield.

Reference


In addition to his AMO, Alcon, and Visiogen consulting fees, Dr. Chang will also donate any royalties from this book to the Himalayan Cataract Project.
Contents

Dedication ............................................................................................................................................................................................................ iii
Acknowledgments ................................................................................................................................................................................................................ xix
About the Chief Editor ........................................................................................................................................................................................................ xx
About the Associate Editors ........................................................................................................................................................................................................... xxi
Contributing Authors ........................................................................................................................................................................................................... xxiii
Foreword by Spencer P. Thornton, MD, FACS ............................................................................................................................................................................ xxxiv
Preface ......................................................................................................................................................................................................................... xxxv

Section I  Why Offer Premium IOLs? ............................................................................................................................................................................ 1

Chapter 1  The Birth of the Premium IOL Channel ........................................................................................................................................................................ 2
Jim Denning, BS

Chapter 2  Refractive IOLs—Economic Demographics ...................................................................................................................................................................... 5
David Harmon

Chapter 3  Refractive IOLs—Economic Demographics ...................................................................................................................................................................... 8
Geoff Charlton

Chapter 4  Refractive Surgery and IOLs—Future Trends ................................................................................................................................................................. 12
I. Howard Fine, MD

Chapter 5  Refractive Surgery and IOLs—Future Trends ................................................................................................................................................................. 13
Richard L. Lindstrom, MD

Chapter 6  Refractive surgery and IOLs—Future Trends ......................................................................................................................................................... 15
Lee T. Nordan, MD

Chapter 7  What Is a Premium IOL Worth? .................................................................................................................................................................................. 17
J. Andy Corley

Chapter 8  What Is a Premium IOL Worth? .................................................................................................................................................................................. 20
Kay Coulson, MBA

Chapter 9  Understanding Who the Premium IOL Patients Are ................................................................................................................................................. 24
Shareef Mahdavi, BA

Chapter 10  Premium IOLs—Re-Engineering Your Practice ......................................................................................................................................................... 26
Darrell E. White, MD

Chapter 11  The Refractive IOL Patient’s Journey ................................................................................................................................................................. 28
Stephen S. Lane, MD

Chapter 12  Premium IOLs—External Marketing ................................................................................................................................................................. 32
Michael W. Malley, BA

Chapter 13  Premium IOLs—External Marketing ................................................................................................................................................................. 35
Shareef Mahdavi, BA

Chapter 14  Premium IOLs—Internal Marketing ................................................................................................................................................................. 38
Kay Coulson, MBA
Internal Marketing
Jim Denning, BS

Chapter 15  Lessons learned From Marketing Cosmetic Surgery ......................................................................................................................................................... 47
Marie Czenko Kuechel, MA
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Chapter 16: Premium IOLs and the Role of Your Staff</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>R. Bruce Wallace, III, MD, FACS</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Chapter 17: Premium IOLs and the Role of Your Staff</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Kevin L. Waltz, OD, MD</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Chapter 18: ASCRS Presbyopia Education Task Force—Challenge Ahead</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>John Ciccone</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Section II</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Transitioning to Presbyopia-Correcting IOLs</strong></td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Chapter 19: Lessons Learned From Keratorefractive Surgery</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Louis Probst, MD and John Lehr, OD</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Chapter 20: Transitioning From Cataract to Refractive IOL Surgery</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Kevin Denny, MD</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Chapter 21: Transitioning From Cataract to Refractive IOL Surgery</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Sandra Yeh, MD</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Chapter 22: Transitioning From Cataract to Refractive IOL Surgery</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Timothy B. Cavanaugh, MD</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Chapter 23: Transitioning From Keratorefractive to Refractive IOL Surgery</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Jay Bansal, MD</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Chapter 24: Transitioning From Keratorefractive to Refractive IOL Surgery</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Marguerite B. McDonald, MD, FACS</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Chapter 25: Transitioning From Keratorefractive to Refractive IOL Surgery</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Jose L. Güell, MD, Merce Morral, MD, Oscar Gris, MD, and Felicidad Manero, MD</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Chapter 26: Refractive IOLs in a Residency Program—Can It Work?</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Thomas A. Oetting, MD, Jeffrey J. Caspar, MD, Bonnie An Henderson, MD, and Terry Kim, MD</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Chapter 27: Refractive IOLs in a Managed Care Setting</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>William Jerry Chang, MD</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Chapter 28: Refractive IOLs in a Comanaged Optometric Network</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Paul Ernest, MD</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Section III</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Transitioning to Presbyopia-Correcting IOLs: Quick Start Guides</strong></td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Chapter 29: How Do I Get Started With the ReZoom?</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>George Beiko, BM, BCh, FRCS(C)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Chapter 30: How Do I Get Started With the ReSTOR?</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Richard Tipperman, MD</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Chapter 31: How Do I Get Started With the Tecnis Multifocal?</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Julian D. Stevens, MRCP, FRCS, FRCOphth</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Chapter 32: How Do I Get Started With the Crystalens?</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>D. Michael Colvard, MD, FACS</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Section IV</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Presbyopia-Correcting IOLs Today</strong></td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Chapter 33: AMO ReZoom Multifocal—Clinical Pearls</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>R. Bruce Wallace III, MD, FACS</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Contents

### Section V  Presbyopia-Correcting IOLs in the Future ................................. 191

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>Overview of Accommodating IOLs</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>George Beiko, BM, BCh, FRCS(C)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>Overview of Accommodating IOLs</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John A. Vukich, MD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>Visiogen Synchrony—Clinical Pearls</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ivan L. Ossma, MD, MPH and Andrea Galvis, MD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pearls for Implanting the Visiogen Synchrony IOL</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>David F. Chang, MD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>Visiogen Synchrony—Clinical Pearls</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>George Beiko, BM, BCh, FRCS(C)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>Lenstec Tetraflex—Clinical Pearls</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paul Dougherty, MD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>Lenstec Tetraflex—Clinical Pearls</td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conall F. Hurley, MB, BCh, BAO, FRCSI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>Shape-Changing IOLs: PowerVision</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Louis D. “Skip” Nichamin, MD and John A. Scholl, MS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>Shape-Changing IOLs: NuLens</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jorge L. Alió, MD, PhD, Joshua Ben-Nun, MD, and Paul Kaufman, MD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>Calhoun Light Adjustable Lens—Presbyopia Correction</td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arturo Chayet, MD, Federico Badala, MD, Christian Sandstedt, PhD, Shiao Chang, PhD, Paul Rhee, OD, and Daniel M. Schwartz, MD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>Calhoun Light Adjustable Lens—Presbyopia Correction</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jose L. Güell, MD, Merce Morral, MD, Felicidad Manero, MD, Maite Sisquella, OPT, and Daniel M. Schwartz, MD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>Acritec IOL</td>
<td>236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>José F. Alfonso, MD, PhD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>Vision Membrane IOL</td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lee T. Nordan, MD and David Castillejos, MD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>New Bioptics: Refractive IOLs Combined With Intracorneal Lenses</td>
<td>242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kevin L. Waltz, OD, MD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Section VI  Refractive IOLs—Quality of Vision ................................. 244

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>67</td>
<td>Measuring Our IOL Outcomes</td>
<td>245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pietro Giardini, MD and Nicola Hauranieh, MD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68</td>
<td>Presbyopia-Correcting IOLs—Interpreting Clinical Data</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kerry D. Solomon, MD, Luis E. Fernández de Castro, MD, Helga P. Sandoval, MD, MSCR, and David T. Vroman, MD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>Multifocal IOLs: Measuring Aberrations</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W. Andrew Maxwell, MD, PhD and Jim Schwiegerling, PhD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>Multifocal IOLs: Comparing Aberrations</td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lana J. Nagy, BS, Geunyoung Yoon, PhD, and Scott MacRae, MD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 71  Pseudoaccommodation and Spherical Aberration
Marc A. Michelson, MD ................................................................. 264

Chapter 72  Understanding Multifocal Haloes
Carlos Vergés, MD, PhD ............................................................... 267

Chapter 73  Understanding Multifocal Haloes
Kevin L. Waltz, OD, MD
Pearls for Managing Halos ...................................................... 273
Dwayne Logan, MD ................................................................. 276

Chapter 74  Aspheric IOLs—Matching Corneal and IOL Wavefront
George Beiko, BM, BCh, FRCS(C) .............................................. 278

Chapter 75  Aspheric IOLs—Matching Corneal and IOL Wavefront
Mark Packer, MD, FACS, I. Howard Fine, MD, and Richard S. Hoffman, MD 282

Chapter 76  Aspheric IOLs—Matching Corneal and IOL Wavefront
Roberto Bellucci, MD ................................................................. 286

Chapter 77  Monovision With Aspheric IOLs
J. E. “Jay” McDonald II, MD and David J. Deitz, MPhil ............... 291

Chapter 78  Neuroadaptation to Monovision
J. E. “Jay” McDonald II, MD and David J. Deitz, MPhil ............... 295

Chapter 79  Neuroadaptation and Multifocal IOLs
Robert M. Kershner, MD, MS, FACS ....................................... 302

Chapter 80  Neuroadaptation and Multifocal IOLs
Pablo Artal, MD ................................................................. 305

Chapter 81  Visual Function Training for Multifocal Patients
Hakan Kaymak MD and Ulrich Mester MD ................................ 308

Chapter 82  Adapting to My Own Multifocal Halos
Guy E. Knolle, MD, FACS ....................................................... 315

Chapter 83  How I see With the ReZoom
Tom M. Coffman, MD ............................................................... 317

Chapter 84  How I See With the ReSTOR
Daniel Vos, MD ................................................................. 319

Chapter 85  How I See With the ReSTOR
Jess C. Lester, MD, FACS ....................................................... 321

Chapter 86  How I See With the Crystalens
Harvey Zalaznick, MD ............................................................. 323

Chapter 87  How I See With the Crystalens
Brian D. Lueth, MD ............................................................... 324

Chapter 88  How I See With the Tecnis MF and Rezoom
R. Lee Harman, MD, FACS
How I See With Mixed Multifocals ........................................... 329
Anonymous
Section VII  Patient Selection and Education ................................................................. 331

Chapter 89  The Mindset of the Refractive IOL Patient ................................................. 332
           Kerry K. Assil, MD and William K. Christian, MD

Chapter 90  The Mindset of the Refractive IOL Patient ................................................. 335
           Alan Aker

Chapter 91  The Mindset of the Refractive IOL Surgeon ............................................. 338
           Alan Aker

Chapter 92  Screening and Counseling Refractive IOL Patients ............................... 340
           Steven J. Dell, MD

Chapter 93  Screening and Counseling Refractive IOL Patients ................................. 344
           David F. Chang, MD

Chapter 94  Screening and Counseling Refractive IOL Patients ................................. 347
           Mark Packer, MD, FACS

Chapter 95  Screening and Counseling Refractive IOL Patients ................................. 349
           Robert J. Cionni, MD

Chapter 96  Managing Patient Expectations ............................................................... 352
           David F. Chang, MD

Chapter 97  Managing Patient Expectations ............................................................... 354
           Jay S. Pepose, MD, PhD

Chapter 98  Managing Patient Expectations ............................................................... 356
           Richard S. Hoffman, MD

Chapter 99  Managing Patient Expectations ............................................................... 358
           Richard Tipperman, MD

Chapter 100 Managing Patient Expectations .............................................................. 360
           Frank A. Bucci, Jr, MD

Chapter 101 Managing Patient Expectations .............................................................. 363
           Kenneth J. Rosenthal, MD, FACS

Chapter 102 The Role of the Refractive IOL Counselor ............................................. 367
           James D. Dawes, MHA, CMPE, COE

Chapter 103 Who Is a Premium IOL Candidate? ......................................................... 369
           Alan Shiller

           Stephen G. Slade, MD, FACS

           Weldon W. Haw, MD and Edward E. Manche, MD

Chapter 106 Refining My Indications for Multifocal IOLs ........................................... 379
           James A. Davison, MD, FACS

Chapter 107 Refractive IOLs and Patient Office Flow ................................................. 382
           William D. Gaskins, MD, FACS
Chapter 108  Multifocal IOLs and Glaucoma—How Much Is Too Much? ................................. 384
Iqbal Ike K. Ahmed, MD, and Joshua Teichman, MD

Chapter 109  Multifocal IOLs and Glaucoma—How Much Is Too Much? .............................. 386
Parag D. Parekh, MD, MPA and Thomas W. Samuelson, MD

Chapter 110  Multifocal IOLs and Maculopathy—How Much Is Too Much? ............................ 389
Martin A. Mainster, PhD, MD, FRCOphth and Patricia L. Turner, MD

Chapter 111  What if Multifocal IOL Patients Develop ARMD? ........................................... 395
Johnny L. Gayton, MD

Chapter 112  Premium IOLs in Post-LASIK Eyes ................................................................. 399
Uday Devgan, MD, FACS

Chapter 113  Premium IOLs in Post-LASIK Eyes ................................................................. 402
Jeffrey D. Horn, MD

Chapter 114  Premium IOLs in Post-LASIK Eyes ................................................................. 405
Renée Solomon, MD and Eric Donnenfeld, MD

Chapter 115  Patient Education—Using the IOL Counselor .................................................. 409
Robert D. Watson

Chapter 116  Patient Education—Using Eyemaginations ....................................................... 414
Michael Sopher

Chapter 117  Ethics of Refractive IOL Counseling ............................................................... 418
Charles M. Zacks, MD

Chapter 118  Ethics of Refractive IOL Counseling ............................................................... 421
David F. Chang, MD

Chapter 119  Ethics of Refractive IOL Counseling ............................................................... 424
Lisa Brothers Arbisser, MD

Chapter 120  Risk Management and Informed Consent ......................................................... 426
Richard L. Abbott, MD

Chapter 121  Risk Management and Informed Consent ......................................................... 429
James J. Salz, MD

Section VIII  Presbyopia-Correcting IOL Selection ............................................................ 432

Chapter 122  Why Offer Multiple Premium IOLs? ............................................................... 433
David F. Chang, MD

Chapter 123  Why Offer Multiple Premium IOLs? ............................................................... 438
Joel K. Shugar, MD, MSEE

Chapter 124  Why Offer Multiple Premium IOLs? ............................................................... 441
Audrey Talley-Rostov, MD

Chapter 125  Why Offer Multiple Premium IOLs? ............................................................... 445
Sheri L. Rowen, MD, FACS

Chapter 126  Monovision With Monofocal IOLs ................................................................. 448
William F. Maloney, MD
Contents

Chapter 127  Monovision With Monofocal IOLs ......................................................... 450
  Graham D. Barrett, MBChB, FRANZCO, FRACS

Chapter 128  Multifocal IOL in One Eye? .............................................................. 454
  Frank A. Bucci, Jr, MD
  IOL Selection: Can I Implant a Multifocal IOL in Just One Eye? ....................... 458
  Richard J. Mackool, MD

Chapter 129  Mixing IOLs—What Are the Options? ............................................ 457
  Elizabeth A. Davis, MD, FACS and Richard L. Lindstrom, MD

Chapter 130  Bilateral Multifocals—Mixing Versus Matching ................................ 461
  Con Meshogen, MD, FRANZCO, FRACS

Chapter 131  Which IOL Combination? Clinical Results ....................................... 465
  Jay S. Pepose, MD, PhD

Chapter 132  Mixing IOLs—How Do I Get Started? ............................................. 467
  John F. Doane, MD, and Randolph T. Jackson, MD

Chapter 133  Mixing Multifocal IOLs—Clinical Results ....................................... 472
  Frank A. Bucci, Jr, MD

Chapter 134  Mixing Tecnis and ReZoom Multifocal IOLs .................................... 475
  Michael C. Knorz, MD

Chapter 135  Mixing Multifocal IOLs—Staged Implantation ................................ 478
  Kerry K. Assil, MD and William K. Christian, MD

Chapter 136  Pearls for Mixing Multifocal IOLs ................................................... 480
  Ángel López Castro, MD

Chapter 137  Pearls for Mixing Multifocal IOLs ................................................... 487
  Matteo Piovella, MD

Chapter 138  Mixing Accommodating and Multifocal IOLs ................................. 491
  J. Trevor Woodhams, MD

Chapter 139  Mixing or Matching IOLs—Why I Do Not Mix ............................... 494
  Richard Tipperman, MD

Chapter 140  Mixing Versus Matching—Who Is More Satisfied? ......................... 498
  Paul Mann, MD

Chapter 141  Matching Versus Mixing IOLs—Clinical Comparison ....................... 500
  Richard J. Mackool, MD and Richard J. Mackool Jr, MD

Chapter 142  Refractive IOL Selection—European Perspective ............................ 504
  H. Burkhard Dick, MD

Chapter 143  Refractive IOL Selection—South American Perspective ............... 519
  Leonardo Akaishi, MD

Chapter 144  Refractive IOL—Asian Perspective .................................................. 523
  Jerry Tan Tiang Hin, MBBS, FRCS, FRCOphth

Chapter 145  Case Studies—What Would You Do? How Would You Counsel These Patients Seeking Maximum Spectacle Independence ............................................. 528
  David F. Chang, MD, Steven J. Dell, MD, Warren E. Hill, MD, FACS, Richard L. Lindstrom, MD, and Kevin Waltz, MD
Section IX  Preoperative Ocular Assessment ................................................................. 532

Chapter 146  Hitting Emmetropia .................................................................................. 533
Warren E. Hill, MD, FACS

Chapter 147  Biometry Pearls .......................................................................................... 535
Steven J. Dell, MD

Chapter 148  Measuring Axial Length ............................................................................. 536
Warren E. Hill, MD, FACS and Thomas C. Prager, PhD, MPH

Chapter 149  Intraocular Lens Power Calculations for Multifocal Lenses ....................... 539
Jack T. Holladay, MD, MSEE, FACS

Chapter 150  Refining Your A-constant ......................................................................... 543
Guy M. Kezirian, MD, FACS

Chapter 151  IOL Calculation After Prior Refractive Surgery ........................................... 546
Kenneth J. Hoffer, MD, FACS

Chapter 152  Pupil Assessment for Refractive IOLs .......................................................... 554
Mujtaba A. Qazi, MD and Jay S. Pepose, MD, PhD

Chapter 153  Corneal Topography—Is It Necessary? ......................................................... 557
Matthew C. Caldwell, MD and Natalie A. Afshari, MD

Chapter 154  Corneal Topography and Refractive IOLs—What to Look For ....................... 559
Ming Wang, MD, PhD, and Tracy Schroeder Swartz, OD, MS, FAAO

Chapter 155  Corneal Topography and Refractive IOLs—What to Look For ....................... 564
David R. Hardten, MD

Chapter 156  Corneal Topography and Refractive IOLs—Case Studies ............................... 568
William Trattler, MD and Carlos Buznego, MD

Chapter 157  Optimizing the Ocular Surface Preoperatively ............................................. 571
Sherman W. Reeves, MD, MPH and Richard L. Lindstrom, MD

Chapter 158  Retina Assessment for Refractive IOL Patients—What Do I Do? ................. 575
David F. Chang, MD, Jay S. Pepose, MD, PhD, and Olga Konykhov, MD, Warren E. Hill, MD, FACS, and Kerry D. Solomon, MD, Luis E. Fernández de Castro, MD, and Helga P. Sandoval, MD, MSCR

Section X  Managing Astigmatism .................................................................................. 580

Chapter 159  Measuring Astigmatism .............................................................................. 581
Noel Alpins, FRACO, FRCOphth, FACS, and George Stamateatos, BSc Optom

Chapter 160  LRIs—How Do I Get Started? ................................................................. 586
Jonathan B. Rubenstein, MD, and Vanee Virash, MD

Chapter 161  LRIs and Refractive IOLs—My Way ......................................................... 588
Louis D. "Skip" Nichamin, MD

Chapter 162  LRIs and Refractive IOLs—my way ........................................................... 592
James P. Gills, MD, and Pit Gills, MD

Chapter 163  Peripheral Corneal Relaxing Incisions and Refractive IOLs—My Way ......... 597
Kevin M. Miller, MD
Chapter 164  LRIs and Refractive IOLs—My Way ................................................................. 601
Eric Donnenfeld, MD, and Renée Solomon, MD

Chapter 165  CRI and Terry-Schanzlin Astigmatome .................................................... 606
Allan M. Robbins, MD, FACS

Chapter 166  LRIs: An Alternative to Free-Hand Incisions ........................................... 612
Randall J Olson, MD

Chapter 167  LRI Pearls ................................................................................................. 615
R. Bruce Wallace, III, MD, Jonathan B. Rubenstein, MD, and Steven J. Dell, MD

Chapter 168  Laser Enhancement for Astigmatism—Bioptics ......................................... 619
Johnny L. Gayton, MD

Chapter 169  Toric IOLs—How Do I Get Started? ......................................................... 622
Jeffrey D. Horn, MD

Chapter 170  STAAR Toric IOLs .................................................................................. 624
Stephen Bylsma, MD

Chapter 171  Toric IOLs—Staar Versus Acrysof ............................................................. 627
David F. Chang, MD

Chapter 172  Acrysof Toric IOL Technique .................................................................. 632
Edward Holland, MD

Chapter 173  When Do I Use LRIs Versus Toric IOLs? .................................................. 634
David F. Chang, MD

Chapter 174  When Do I Use LRIs Versus Toric IOLs? .................................................. 637
Richard A. Lewis, MD, Louis D. “Skip” Nichamin, MD, Edward Holland, MD, and Kerry D. Solomon, MD, and Luis E. Fernández de Castro, MD

Chapter 175  Can I Combine Toric IOLs and LRIs? ...................................................... 641
Kevin M. Miller, MD

Section XI  Premium Cataract Surgery ......................................................................... 645

Chapter 176  Pearls for Improving Your Cataract Surgical Skills .................................. 646
David F. Chang, MD

Chapter 177  Pearls for Improving Your Cataract Surgical Skills .................................. 650
Uday Devgan, MD, FACS

Chapter 178  Pearls for Improving Your Cataract Surgical Skills .................................. 654
Brian Little, FRCS, FRCOphth, FHEA

Chapter 179  Pearls for Improving Your Cataract Surgical Skills .................................. 659
Rosa Braga-Mele, MD, MED, FRCSC

Chapter 180  Pearls for Improving Your Cataract Surgical Skills .................................. 662
William J. Fishkind, MD, FACS

Chapter 181  Pearls for Improving Your Cataract Surgical Skills .................................. 665
Lisa Brothers Arbisser, MD

Chapter 182  Sizing the Capsulorrhexis ...................................................................... 668
David F. Chang, MD, Steven Dewey, MD, Richard Tipperman, MD, and Barry S. Seibel, MD
Chapter 183  Improving the Corneal Incision Seal ................................................................. 673
Michael Y. Wong, MD

Chapter 184  Diffractive Multifocal IOL Centration .............................................................. 676
Paolo Vinciguerra, MD, and Fabrizio I. Camesasca, MD

Chapter 185  Why Use topical NSAIDs? .............................................................................. 680
John R. Wittpenn, MD

Chapter 186  Maintaining Patient Satisfaction Postoperatively ........................................ 683
Richard Tipperman, MD
Premium IOL Surgery Pearls for Postoperative Management ........................................ 685
Kevin L. Waltz, OD, MD

Chapter 187  Maintaining Patient Satisfaction Postoperatively ........................................ 686
Uday Dengan, MD, FACS

Chapter 188  Creating a Premium Refractive Patient Environment ................................ 688
James D. Dawes, MHA, CMPE, COE

Chapter 189  The Premium Patient Experience ................................................................. 690
Darrell E. White, MD

Section XII  Refractive Lens Exchange .............................................................................. 692

Chapter 190  The PRELEX Story ......................................................................................... 693
R. Bruce Wallace, III, MD, FACS

Chapter 191  Patient and Surgeon Mindset—What Is Different? ..................................... 695
Avery Alexander, MD

Chapter 192  Presbyopic Refractive Patients—LVC or IOL? ............................................ 698
Y. Ralph Chu, MD and Dan Davis, OD

Chapter 193  Presbyopic Refractive Patients—LVC or IOL? ............................................ 700
Sheraz M. Daya, MD, FACP, FACS, FRCS(Ed), FRCOphth

Chapter 194  RLE With Multifocal IOLs—Bioptics Approach ........................................ 704
José F. Alfonso, MD, PhD

I. Howard Fine, MD, Richard S. Hoffman, MD, and Mark Packer, MD, FACS

Chapter 196  RLE—Lens Removal: What Is Different? .................................................... 713
Steven Dewey, MD

Chapter 197  RLE— Lens Removal: What Is Different? .................................................... 718
Barry S. Seibel, MD

Chapter 198  Optimizing the Cornea and the IOL With RLE ............................................ 722
Michael B. Brenner, MD, FICS

Chapter 199  Retinal Detachment Risk in Myopes ............................................................ 727
Barry S. Seibel, MD

Chapter 200  Retinal Detachment Risk in Myopes ............................................................ 731
Jorge L. Alió, MD, PhD and Mohamed H. Shabayek, MD, PhD
Contents

Chapter 201  Retinal Detachment Risk in Myopes ................................................................. 735
  Kerry D. Solomon, MD, and Luis E. Fernández de Castro, MD
  Retinal Detachment Risk in Myopes ........................................................................ 737
  James P. Gillis, MD and Pit Gillis, MD

Chapter 202  Retinal Detachment Risk With Refractive Surgery ........................................ 739
  Yachna Ahuja and Suber S. Huang, MD, MBA

Section XIII  Enhancements ..................................................................................... 742

Chapter 203  Approaching Astigmatism in Presbyopia IOL Patients ................................. 743
  Jason E. Stahl, MD

Chapter 204  Approaching Astigmatism in Presbyopia IOL Patients ................................ 745
  Rick Milne, MD

Chapter 205  Tolerance of Residual Refractive Error After ReSTOR ................................. 748
  Luis Fernández-Vega, MD, PhD, José F. Alfonso, MD, PhD, Robert Montés-Micó, PhD, and Hussein Ambaz, MD, PhD

Chapter 206  Should I Learn PRK/LASIK or Refer These Out? ........................................ 752
  Helen Wu, MD

Chapter 207  Should I Learn PRK/LASIK or Refer These Out? ........................................ 755
  Leonard Yuen, MD, MRCOphth, MPH, and Brian S. Boxer Wachler, MD

Chapter 208  Teaming Up With a LVC Surgeon ................................................................. 758
  Michael T. Furlong, MD

Chapter 209  Differentiating Enhancements From Complications ................................... 761
  Kevin L. Waltz, OD, MD

Chapter 210  Indications and Timing for Laser Enhancement ............................................ 763
  Michael Lawless, MD

Chapter 211  Laser Enhancement—What Cataract Surgeons Should Know ....................... 768
  Elizabeth A. Davis, MD, FACS, and David R. Hardten, MD, FACS

Chapter 212  Laser enhancement—what cataract surgeons should know ............................ 771
  Jose. L. Güell, MD, Javier A. Gaytan Melicoff, Natalia Pelaez, MD, Merce Morral, MD, and Felicidad Manero, MD

Chapter 213  Post-Multifocal IOL Wavefront: Are the Readings Reliable? ....................... 775
  Charles Campbell

Chapter 214  Mini-RK: Indications and Technique ............................................................ 779
  Richard L. Lindstrom, MD

Chapter 215  Mini-RK: Indications and Technique ............................................................ 786
  Frank A. Bucci, Jr., MD

Chapter 216  Refractive Enhancement With Piggybacking IOLs ........................................ 789
  Richard S. Hoffman, MD, I. Howard Fine, MD, and Mark Packer, MD, FACS

Chapter 217  Refractive Enhancement With Piggybacking IOLs ........................................ 792
  Warren E. Hill, MD, FACS

Section XIV  Complications—Avoidance and Management ........................................ 794

Chapter 218  Troubleshooting Symptoms After Refractive IOL Implantation .................... 795
  Roger Steinert, MD
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>219</td>
<td>Troubleshooting Symptoms After Refractive IOL Implantation</td>
<td>David R. Hardten, MD</td>
<td>798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>220</td>
<td>Managing the Unhappy Presbyopia Correcting IOL Patient</td>
<td>D. Rex Hamilton, MD, MS, FACS</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>221</td>
<td>Managing Complaints Following ReZoom IOL Implantation</td>
<td>Tom M. Coffman, MD</td>
<td>805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>222</td>
<td>Communicating With the Unhappy Refractive IOL Patient</td>
<td>John W. Potter, OD, FAAO</td>
<td>807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>223</td>
<td>Lessons Learned From a Consultation Practice</td>
<td>Alan S. Crandall, MD</td>
<td>811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>224</td>
<td>Lessons Learned From a Consultation Practice</td>
<td>Sonia H. Yoo, MD, George D. Kymonis, MD, PhD, Yunhee Lee, MD, Terrence P. O'Brien, MD, and William W. Culbertson, MD</td>
<td>814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>225</td>
<td>Managing Crystalens Complications</td>
<td>Jeffrey Whitman, MD</td>
<td>817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>226</td>
<td>Yag Capsulotomy and Crystalens—Clinical Pearls</td>
<td>Jack A. Singer, MD</td>
<td>821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>227</td>
<td>Capsular Contraction After Crystalens</td>
<td>Harvey Carter, MD</td>
<td>823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Capsular Contraction After Multifocal IOLs</td>
<td>Richard Tipperman, MD</td>
<td>825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>228</td>
<td>Decentration of Multifocal IOLs—What Now?</td>
<td>Renée Solomon, MD and Eric Donnenfeld, MD, William Martin, MD, and Tom M. Coffman, MD</td>
<td>826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>229</td>
<td>Refractive IOL Exchange—Indications and Techniques</td>
<td>Michael E. Snyder, MD and Robert H. Osber, MD</td>
<td>831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>230</td>
<td>Refractive IOL Exchange—Indications and Techniques</td>
<td>Harry B. Grabow, MD</td>
<td>835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IOL Explantation</td>
<td>David F. Chang, MD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>231</td>
<td>Explanting the Crystalens—Technique</td>
<td>Jeffrey Whitman, MD</td>
<td>846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>232</td>
<td>Personal Experience With Endophthalmitis in RLE</td>
<td>Robert Morris, MRCP, FRCS, FRCOphth</td>
<td>849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>233</td>
<td>Capsular Tears, Weak Zonules—Can I Still Implant a Refractive IOL?</td>
<td>Uday Devgan, MD, FACS</td>
<td>851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Can I Put a Multifocal IOL in the Sulcus?</td>
<td>Richard J. Mackool MD</td>
<td>853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Can I Put a Multifocal IOL in the Sulcus?</td>
<td>Richard Mackool MD and Roger F. Steinert, MD</td>
<td>853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>234</td>
<td>Dry Eye After Refractive Surgery</td>
<td>Ahmad M. Fahmy, OD, FAAO and David R. Hardten, MD</td>
<td>855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>235</td>
<td>Do Multifocal Optics Compromise Retinal Treatments?</td>
<td>J. Michael Jumper, MD, Ron P. Gallemore, MD, PhD, and Robert A. Mittra, MD</td>
<td>863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 236</td>
<td>Do Multifocal Optics Compromise Retinal Treatments?</td>
<td>866</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdhish R. Bhavsar, MD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix A</td>
<td>Dell Questionnaire</td>
<td>870</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix B</td>
<td>Dell Questionnaire—Coulson Modification</td>
<td>871</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix C</td>
<td>Dell Questionnaire—Chang Modification</td>
<td>872</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix D</td>
<td>Preconsultation Handout</td>
<td>873</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David F. Chang, MD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix E</td>
<td>Multifocal IOL FAQ Handout</td>
<td>876</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David F. Chang, MD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix F</td>
<td>Crystalens FAQ Handout</td>
<td>879</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David F. Chang, MD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix G</td>
<td>Patient Information Sheet for Advanced Elective Options With Cataract Surgery</td>
<td>882</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barry S. Seibel, MD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix H</td>
<td>OMIC Informed Consent for Refractive Lensectomy</td>
<td>884</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix I</td>
<td>LRI Instrumentation</td>
<td>892</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Disclosures</td>
<td></td>
<td>893</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Compiling this textbook was a colossal venture and adventure that was completed in record time. I first approached SLACK Incorporated with the idea during the 2007 ASCRS meeting where, judging from attendance at symposia and instruction courses, interest in refractive IOLs was rising along a steep trajectory. The need for more physician-to-physician education on the subject was very obvious. However, whether it was a symposium, instruction course, booth presentation, or users meeting, there was always far too much material to cover in the available time. So many of the pearls I learned were beyond the realm of evidence-based medicine. Where could all of this information be found or collected? Recognizing the pressing and unmet need for a comprehensive textbook, we established the ambitious goal of completing this book in time for the 2008 ASCRS meeting—a 9-month publishing cycle.

My initial plan was to assemble a manual for transitioning to refractive IOLs. So many colleagues have yet to embark on this odyssey and the number of hurdles for the beginning refractive IOL surgeon is daunting. It soon became obvious, however, that the educational process is far more than a series of “transitioning” steps because there really is no endpoint. Regardless of our experience, we are all continually learning new insights and approaches in our quest to improve. What began as a modest beginner’s manual therefore morphed into a comprehensive 236-chapter textbook on mastering the multidisciplinary and multidimensional skills necessary for success as a refractive IOL surgeon.

I am truly grateful to my 4 associate editors, Steven J. Dell, Warren E. Hill, Richard L. Lindstrom, and Kevin L. Waltz, each of whom is among the most influential innovators, opinion leaders, and educators in the refractive IOL field. Whether as authors, editors, or as a collective sounding board for selecting topics and authors, their influence and guidance is evident throughout the book. I have enjoyed creating a lasting testament to our collaboration and friendship.

I particularly want to thank the more than 200 authors who have written original chapters for this textbook. To possess the expertise that makes each of them an effective teacher means that they are all very busy clinicians. Writing and illustrating chapters during weekends under tight deadlines is a thankless job. I hope you readers appreciate the generosity of their time in sharing their personal experiences and lessons with you.

Finally, this was a project that put SLACK Incorporated’s fine Book Division to the ultimate test. I am fortunate to have such an excellent working relationship with John Bond and Jennifer Briggs, who gave me the freedom and flexibility to steer this, our third textbook project, in the direction that I wanted. They are truly dedicated professionals who managed the entire process from pilot concept to final deadline. With the support of Managing Editor, Kimberly Shigo, Senior Project Editor, April Billick, turned in another unbelievable job with the layout and the editing process. Managing so much material from so many authors under such tight deadlines is a testament to April’s organizational skills and excellence as an editor. That I would even consider undertaking such an ambitious project is a measure of my respect and high regard for the SLACK Incorporated team.

Finally, writing on behalf of my 4 associate editors and our more than 200 coauthors, we would like to thank our families for allowing us to devote our precious time and energy toward compiling a resource that we hope will help all refractive IOL surgeons and their patients worldwide.

David F. Chang, MD
About the Chief Editor

David F. Chang, MD is a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Harvard College and earned his M.D. at Harvard Medical School. He completed his ophthalmology residency at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) where he is now a clinical professor. Dr. Chang is Chairman of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Annual Meeting Program Committee, having previously chaired the Cataract Program Subcommittee. He organized and was the program cochair for the first 7 AAO “Spotlight on Cataracts” Symposia. He is also on the program committees for the ASCRS Annual Meeting and the OSN Hawaiian Eye Meeting.

He has been selected to deliver the following named lectures: Transamerica Lecture (UCSF), Williams Lecture (UCSF), Wolfe Lecture (University of Iowa), DeVoe Lecture (Columbia-Harkness), Gettes Lecture (Willis Eye Hospital), Helen Keller Lecture (University of Alabama), Kayes Lecture (University of Washington, St. Louis), Thorpe Lecture (Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society), Schutz Lecture (New York University Medical Center), Wallace-Evan Lecture (Casey Eye, Oregon), Proctor Lecture (UCSF/Proctor Foundation), and the keynote address at the Chinese American Ophthalmological Society’s 20th anniversary meeting. He is a 3-time AAO Secretariat Award recipient (2003, 2006, 2007). He was the inaugural recipient of the UCSF Department of Ophthalmology’s Distinguished Alumni Award (2005) and in 2006 became only the third ophthalmologist to ever receive the Charlotte Baer Award honoring the outstanding clinical faculty member at the UCSF Medical School. He was the third recipient of the Strampelli Medal from the Italian Ophthalmological Society (2007).

Dr. Chang is chairman of the AAO Practicing Ophthalmologists’ Curriculum Panel for Cataract and Anterior Segment, which developed the American Board of Ophthalmology knowledge base for the MOC examination. He is also on the AAO Cataract Preferred Practice Pattern Panel and the AAO Revitalization Study Group. Dr. Chang is chair of the ASCRS Cataract Clinical Committee and is a member of the ASCRS Eye Surgery Education Council Presbyopia Task Force. He is on the Board of Directors for the Pan American Association of Ophthalmology. He is on the scientific advisory board for the UCSF Collaborative Vision Research Group, American Medical Optics, Allergan ATLAS, Calhoun Vision, Medennium, Peak Surgical, and Visiogen, and is the medical monitor for the Visiogen Synchrony accommodating IOL FDA monitored trial. He is cochief medical editor for *Cataract and Refractive Surgery Today* and developed the CRSToday Virtual Textbook of *Cataract Surgery*. He is the cataract editor for 2 online educational sites: the AAO’s “Specialty Clinical Updates” and the *Ocular Surgery News* “Ophthalmic Hyperguides.” He is an associate editor for the 3rd edition of *Cataract Surgery* (Elsevier 2008, Roger F. Steinert, editor). He was the chief editor for *Curbside Consultation in Cataract Surgery* (SLACK Incorporated, 2007), the series editor for the 7 SLACK Incorporated Curbside Consultation in Ophthalmology textbooks, and the principal author of *Phaco Chop* (SLACK Incorporated, 2004), which was the first ophthalmic textbook with a paired DVD featuring instructional surgical video. Finally, his coauthored 2005 report on IFIS and tamsulosin is one of the 5 most cited papers from the *Journal of Cataract and Refractive Surgery* (Source: Editorial, JCRS 1/08).
Steven J. Dell, MD is Medical Director of Dell Laser Consultants and Director of Refractive and Corneal Surgery at Texan Eye in Austin, Texas. He serves on the Refractive Surgery Clinical Committee of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery and is a popular lecturer at meetings worldwide. He is the inventor of several popular surgical instruments and medical devices. Dr. Dell serves on the editorial boards of Ocular Surgery News, Cataract and Refractive Surgery Today, The Video Journal of Ophthalmology, and Cataract and Refractive Surgery Today—Europe. Dr. Dell is a board-certified member of the American Board of Ophthalmology, a Fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, and a member of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery. He works closely with a variety of ophthalmic companies in the development of new products and technologies and serves as a consultant to several major companies in the industry.

Warren E. Hill, MD has served as the Medical Director of East Valley Ophthalmology in Mesa, Arizona for the past 22 years, specializing in consultative ophthalmology, challenging anterior segment surgery and intraocular lens power calculations.

Dr. Hill received BS and BA undergraduate degrees at the University of Maryland, a Doctor of Medicine from the University of Arizona, and completed an ophthalmology residency at the University of Rochester, in Rochester, New York. Dr. Hill is also a member of the International Intra-Ocular Implant Club, a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the International College of Surgeons, and the American College of Eye Surgeons.

Dr. Hill has devoted much of his professional activities to the mathematics of intraocular lens power calculations in complex and unusual clinical situations. He is a consultant to industry in the field of intraocular lens mathematics, intraocular lens design, and optical coherence biometry. He has published many scientific articles, served as visiting professor for numerous grand rounds, and has delivered more than 200 presentations to ophthalmic societies in both the United States and internationally in 20 countries and on 6 continents.

Aside from his interest in ophthalmology, Dr. Hill is a multi-engine, instrument-rated commercial pilot.

Richard L. Lindstrom, MD, founder and attending surgeon of Minnesota Eye Consultants and Adjunct Professor Emeritus at the University of Minnesota Department of Ophthalmology, is a board-certified ophthalmologist and internationally recognized leader in corneal, cataract, refractive, and laser surgery. He has been at the forefront of ophthalmology’s evolutionary changes throughout his career, as a recognized researcher, teacher, inventor, writer, lecturer, and highly acclaimed physician and surgeon.

After graduating Magna Cum Laude from the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota, Dr. Lindstrom completed his doctorate degree in medicine in 1972. He conducted research, residency, and fellowship training in cornea at the University of Minnesota and affiliated hospitals and extended his anterior segment surgery fellowship training at Mary Shiels Hospital in Dallas and was a Heed Fellow in Glaucoma at University Hospital in Salt Lake City. In 1980, Dr. Lindstrom returned to the University of Minnesota, where he spent 10 years on the faculty of the Department of Ophthalmology, the last two as a full professor and the Harold G. Scheie Research Chair. He continues as Adjunct Professor Emeritus, Chairman of the Vision Foundation, and Associate Director of the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank at the University of Minnesota. He entered private practice in 1989 and has led the growth and expansion of Minnesota Eye Consultants, serving as managing partner for 15 years. He is also medical director of TLC Vision, Midwest Surgical Services, and Refractec. He is Chief Medical Editor of the USA and International editions of Ocular Surgery News, which reaches 82,000 ophthalmologists worldwide.

Dr. Lindstrom currently served as President (2007-2008) of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons; he also serves on the Executive Committee and is the Chair of the Corporate Gifts Committee for the ASCRS Foundation. He has in the past served as the President of the International Society of Refractive Surgery, the International Intraocular Implant Club, and the International Refractive Surgery Club. He is the Global Education Liaison of the International Society of Refractive Surgery of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

He is Chairman and CEO of Lindstrom Cleaning and Construction, a three-generation family business. He has endowed funds supporting the University of Minnesota Department of Ophthalmology, the Eye Bank Association of America, and the University of Minnesota Tennis Team.
Dr. Lindstrom holds over 30 patents in ophthalmology and has developed a number of solutions, intraocular lenses, and instruments that are used in clinical practices globally. He serves on the Board of Directors of AcuFocus, Inc, TLC Vision, Occulogix, Eyeonics, Refractec, the Minnesota Medical Foundation, and Inner City Tennis.

A frequent lecturer throughout the world on cornea, cataract, and refractive surgery, he has presented over 37 named lectures and keynote speeches before professional societies in the United States and abroad, most recently giving the Blumenthal Memorial lecture in Jerusalem, Israel, the Benedetto Strampelli Medal Lecture in Rome, Italy, and the Albrecht von Garefe-Vorlesung Innovator’s Lecture in Nuremberg, Germany.

Dr. Lindstrom serves on a number of journal editorial boards, including Journal of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, Journal of Refractive Surgery, and Ophthalmic Surgery. He is the Honorary Editor-in-Chief of the US/Chinese Journal of Ophthalmology. He has coedited 7 books, published over 350 peer-reviewed journal articles, and 60 book chapters. His professional affiliations are extensive, including Liaison of the International Society of Refractive Surgery of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

He is the recipient of numerous awards for distinguished service by national and international ophthalmology associations, including the LANS, Barraquer and the first lifetime achievement award from the International Society of Refractive Surgery in October 1995 and also was honoured with another lifetime achievement award in October 2002, the Binkhorst Lecture Award from the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, the Bausch and Lomb Lifetime Achievement Award, April 2005, and the Paton Award and NACT from the Eye Bank Association of America.

Kevin L. Waltz, OD, MD was a founding partner of Eye Surgeons of Indiana in Indianapolis in 1993. He has a long-standing interest in refractive surgery as one of the few doctors who was trained in both optometry and ophthalmology. He graduated from the Indiana University School of Optometry in 1981 and the Meharry Medical College in 1987. He completed a 2-year fellowship at the Southern College School of Optometry in 1983. He completed an internship at Vanderbilt University in 1988 and his residency in ophthalmology at the University of Florida in 1991. He completed a 1-year fellowship in ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery in 1992. He was the first ophthalmologist in the world to receive the Array Multifocal IOL as a patient in 1998 and one of the first ophthalmologists in the world to implant the Array in refractive surgery patients. He coined the name PRELEX or presbyopic lens exchange to describe refractive lens surgery. He has taught other doctors from around the world how to successfully incorporate PRELEX into their practice. He first described accommodative arching of the Crystalens in 2004. He remains actively involved in the research and development of surgical eye care.
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Foreword

Ophthalmology is entering an exciting new era. The technology is rapidly changing, our boundaries are expanding, and today every cataract patient can expect to receive an intraocular lens that will not only replace their natural failing lens, but will, in the vast majority of cases, function safely, and at a better optical level, than the lens of a “normal” phakic individual of the same age.

The goal four or five decades ago was to restore useful vision after cataract removal without resorting to thick cataract spectacles; today we are able to provide clarity of vision unequaled even by the natural lens. The rapidly developing field of IOLs began with correction of basic power, then, aided by corneal surgery, astigmatism was conquered. Now a new frontier—presbyopia—has been targeted. In this monumental work, the editors and contributing authors, all active in clinical practice and research, have sought to bring the latest information to the reader. In Mastering Refractive IOLs: the Art and Science, Dr. David Chang and his coeditors, along with more than 200 contributors, have provided a comprehensive textbook on the art and science of refractive IOLs for the practicing ophthalmologist.

This new technology will continue to improve, and with it we share the joy, the excitement, and the sheer exhilaration of restoring sight to those who have never been able to see the world clearly. The premium IOL, the presbyopia-correcting IOL, offers a restoration of vision to pre-presbyopic levels with “better than ever” clarity.

Dr. Chang and his associate editors, Dr. Steven J. Dell, Dr. Warren E. Hill, Dr. Richard L. Lindstrom, and Dr. Kevin L. Waltz, present a comprehensive text, designed for surgeons wanting guidance from experts in making presbyopia-correcting IOLs part of their practice.

Covering everything from patient selection and education to management of complications, the text begins with the question, “Why Offer Premium IOLs?” In this section 16 authors share their experience and explain why they have transitioned from monofocal to premium presbyopia-correcting IOLs. Then other experts explain how to select the best IOL for patient needs.

Three things determine the outcome. 1) The patient potential (ie, the visual need and the health of the eye). 2) The technology, and 3) the skill and mind-set of the surgeon. The technology should be determined for the eye, not the eye for the technology. Premium IOLs are not “one size fits all.” The lens should be chosen to meet the patient’s needs and expectations.

It has been said that one who has a watch knows what time it is. If he has 2 watches, he is never sure. Optical characteristics of presbyopia-correcting lenses vary considerably, and the patient’s visual needs factor significantly in the decision of which lens to offer each patient. Each of these lenses has a unique combination of advantages and disadvantages.

Patients are much more interested in the visual outcome than a particular technology, and so the surgeon needs to make decisions that will meet their needs without confusing them with choices that only a scientist can understand. They are more interested in what you tell them about how they will be able to see.

Preoperative education and counseling is critical for success with any presbyopic IOL. Some lessons are clear. One should never promise the patient that he will not need glasses again, but tell him that he will need glasses at least “some of the time.” Then, if he does, you have prepared him and he is satisfied. But if he doesn’t need them, you are his hero.

That we have no universally perfect solution increases the importance of careful patient selection. The premium IOL appropriately allows surgeons to differentiate between refractive surgical goals. Understanding the differences between the available presbyopia IOL designs permits the surgeon to individualize his approach, which for some patients may include mixing different lenses.

This is one of the most thoroughly referenced texts to be published on the science, and the art, of vision correction with IOLs. It is truly a classic. I encourage any serious practitioner of refractive eye surgery to read this book to gain solid instruction in the use of presbyopia-correcting IOLs.

Spencer P. Thornton, MD, FACS
Preface

Prior to 2004, the distinction between refractive and cataract surgeons was straightforward. Our procedures, reimbursement process, and patient populations were entirely different. All of this changed with the introduction of new presbyopia-correcting IOLs and the landmark Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) ruling allowing patients to pay out of pocket for them. Suddenly a major segment of refractive surgery was intraocular, and nearly everyone needing cataract surgery was a potential refractive patient. The following editorial, “A Day to Remember”, which I wrote for the June 2005 issue of *Cataract and Refractive Surgery Today*, recalls our initial sense at that time of just how much things were about to change.

In case there was any lingering doubt, recent events have made it official: cataract surgeons are also refractive surgeons. Patients have always wanted spectacle independence, and we’ve sought all along to reduce the size of incisions and improve biometry in order to approach this goal. However, as a group, we never effectively educated patients and payers about the difference between refractive and medical care for someone with cataracts. AMO’s Array and Staar’s toric IOLs were the first purely refractive IOL innovations. The new technology intraocular lens (NTIOL) designation for ASC reimbursement made by CMS allowed manufacturers an extra $50 of reimbursement, but the patient did not pay, nor did the surgeon receive any additional premium for this service. In hindsight, implanting advanced refractive IOL technologies for no additional charge was a mistake, because it diminished their perceived value and made it even harder for patients to differentiate between the capabilities of multifocal and toric IOLs and the benefits of standard cataract surgery. As a result, patient demand for these IOLs became almost nonexistent.

For me, May 10, 2005 (my 25th wedding anniversary), became a doubly memorable date because of the major announcement from the CMS permitting Medicare beneficiaries to choose presbyopia-reducing IOLs at their own expense. By establishing an economic delineation between cataract and refractive IOL technology, this decision is a defining event for us all. With the news worthy availability of three competing premium technologies to tackle presbyopia (Alcon’s ReSTOR, AMO’s ReZoom, and Eyeonics’ Crystalens), the injustice of denying these options to Medicare patients was averted in the nick of time. That surgeons should receive greater reimbursement to provide these technologies seems clear, as the products do not automatically produce satisfied, spectacle-independent patients by themselves.

Relative to standard cataract surgery, success with refractive IOLs is much more reliant upon an ideal capsulorrhexis and pristine capsular bag, the avoidance of complications, the prevention of surgically induced astigmatism, the reduction of pre-existing astigmatism, and accurate biometry and IOL calculations. Proper patient selection is critical, and physicians must consider patients’ ocular and macular health, astigmatism, contralateral refractive error, lifestyle, and personality traits. Patients’ expectations and potential for disappointment are much higher with all refractive IOLs and increase pre- and postoperative chair time. In light of these higher demands, the lack of additional reimbursement for NTIOLs was undoubtedly a financial disincentive for many surgeons.

Indeed, hardly anyone noticed or complained when the NTIOL provision officially expired last month. Clearly, achieving a pseudo-accommodating emmetropic eye is a premium refractive service that requires more advanced IOL technology, flawless biometry and surgery, and more extensive patient evaluation and counseling.

Eyeonics blazed a trail with the premium IOL channel whereby non-Medicare cataract patients could pay a fair market, out-of-pocket premium for an uncovered refractive benefit. Thanks to the recent CMS ruling, Medicare patients will enjoy the same freedom of choice. It now behooves us ophthalmologists to properly and ethically educate our cataract patients about the difference between medical and refractive services. When asked what we recommend, we must clarify that refractive IOLs are discretionary—they address the inconvenience of eyeglasses but do not reduce complications or improve ocular health. We must take care not to abuse the economic freedom recently granted to our trusting cataract patients. It is their hard-earned and well-deserved right, and the promising future of refractive IOL technology depends on it.

Today, I think we would all agree that the CMS ruling and the new premium refractive IOLs have dramatically and permanently altered the clinical practice of every cataract and refractive surgeon. Ready or not, we are suddenly faced with the new challenge of educating patients about these multiple options, and then managing and meeting their expectations. Navigating these previously uncharted waters has been both interesting and intimidating, and we are still continually searching for better approaches.

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if we could glean the collective wisdom of more than 200 experienced refractive IOL colleagues? This nontraditional textbook seeks to provide such a compendium of practical advice and pearls, reflecting the consensus, controversy, and diversity of our various opinions, approaches, and practices. To provide as much balance as possible between differing preferences and philosophies, the products and the most important and controversial topics are addressed by multiple different authors.

Refractive IOLs have provided surgeons and patients with exciting new opportunities that also entail different risks and the increased potential for dissatisfaction. For this reason, we must all improve our surgical proficiency, our understanding of clinical
optics, our communication skills, our clinical judgment, and our expertise in avoiding and managing complications. In short, we must all remain committed to mastering both the science and the art of refractive IOL surgery.

David F. Chang