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## March 2024 Barkan Society Newsletter

Dear Barkan Society Alumni, Residents, and Faculty,

As we embrace the spirit of renewal that comes with spring, we're thrilled to announce that the **38th Annual Barkan Research Symposium** is fast approaching on June 15th. Once again, we'll convene at the Pacific Vision Eye Institute for what promises to be another exceptional event. Last year's symposium brought together nearly 100 of our esteemed Barkan Society members and industry partners, and we anticipate another incredible gathering in 2024.

We're also excited to share some recent news: **Dr. Spencer Harris**, Class of '24, has graduated this month and will soon begin a cornea fellowship at Duke University. Congratulations, Spencer, on this well-deserved achievement!

Our commitment to showcasing the achievements of our community continues with our bi-monthly biography series. This month, we're proud to feature **Dr. Ruth D. Williams**, an esteemed alumna of the Barkan class of 1990.

Lastly, please mark your calendars for the upcoming **AAO Reception** in Chicago on October 18th, coinciding with the AAO conference from October 18th to 21st. Here's to a wonderful year ahead filled with continued connection and success.



With warmest regards,

Bob & Bernd

Barkan Society  
Co-Presidents

**Barkan Society**  
OF THE CPMC OPHTHALMOLOGY RESIDENCY



## Nominate a Barkan Alumni!

In each issue, we spotlight a member who inspires us, leads with innovation, or makes a difference in our field. But we know we're only scratching the surface of the amazing stories out there, and that's where you come in! Do you know someone whose story deserves to be told? Is there an unsung hero in our midst, a groundbreaking innovator, or a dedicated change-maker making waves?

This year, we'd also like to highlight members at the 38th Annual Barkan Day Research Symposium, to serve as speakers, and share their story.

We're calling on you, our readers, to tell us who you'd like to see featured in our next spotlight or at Barkan Day. You can nominate yourself or a fellow member.

### **It's simple to nominate someone:**

1. Reply to this email with the name of the person you'd like to see featured and a brief description of what makes them stand out.
2. Tell us why their story is compelling, and how they've made an impact.
3. Include any links or contacts that could help us learn more about them.

Every suggestion will be considered, and while we can't promise to feature every nominated individual, we're excited to learn about the people who matter most to you. Together, let's highlight the stories that inspire, inform, and connect us.

Thank you for being an active part of our community. We can't wait to hear from you!

## Spotlight: Dr. Ruth D. Williams



Dr. Ruth D. Williams, an esteemed alumna of the Barkan Society, served as a CPMC resident from 1987 to 1990, graduating from the program in 1990. Among her cohorts were remarkable peers such as Dr. Kaylene Wong, Dr. Gayle Shimokaji, Dr. Donna Lee, Dr. Nogs Nguyen, and Dr. Deanna Wilson, forming a strong class of female residents who served as sources of inspiration and empowerment.

Entering the residency during a time when female representation was limited, Dr. Williams found camaraderie and mentorship among her peers, fostering lifelong friendships and mentorship roles. This diverse group of women provided invaluable support, particularly during the height of the AIDS/HIV epidemic in San Francisco, where dedication to quality care was paramount.

Throughout her residency, Dr. Williams found guidance from esteemed ophthalmologists who served as faculty members, including Dr. Bruce Spivey, Dr. Bob Stamper, and Dr. Susan Day, the latter of whom would later become a mentor and close friend.

Today, Dr. Williams is an ophthalmologist at Wheaton Eye Clinic and specializes in the diagnosis and management of glaucoma. She is also the Chief Medical Editor of the American Academy of Ophthalmology EyeNet Magazine. She has three young adult children and enjoys spending time with them participating in a number of outdoor activities including hiking and skiing, often in the beautiful backdrop of Wyoming. Reflecting on her journey, Dr. Williams acknowledges the profound impact of the CPMC residency program and the supportive community of the Barkan

Society, which played pivotal roles in shaping her successful career in ophthalmology.

## Register Today! Barkan Day 2024



Get ready for an eye-opening adventure! The 38th Annual Barkan Day will take place on June 15th, 2024 at the Pacific Vision Eye Institute.

**Register Today!**

**Save The Date! AAO 2024 Chicago**  
**AAO Visionary Reception: Friday, October 18th**

# Save the Date

Join us in Chicago  
Oct. 18-21, 2024

AAO  
2024  
ELEVATE

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## Help Us Build the Barkan Society Community!

Help  
build the  
Barkan  
Society

Refer a Colleague

A reminder that all individuals with current and past affiliation with the CPMC Department of Ophthalmology are eligible to be members of the Society, not only current residents and former resident graduates. We particularly welcome faculty, former fellows and other contributors to the educational mission of the Barkan Society and the Department of Ophthalmology.

Know someone who might like to become a part of the Barkan Society? Please **let us know** and we will reach out and see if they would like to connect. Thank you for helping to build our community!

## Join us on Facebook, too!

Scan this QR code or click to join the **Barkan Society Facebook Group** and stay up-to-date on all things Barkan, collaborate with fellow alums, share ideas, employment and business opportunities, and more. Join today!



Stay connected with the Pacific Vision Foundation and our mission by joining our online communities below.



Pacific Vision Foundation | Pacific Vision Eye Institute, 711 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 260, San Francisco, CA 94102

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