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Winter 2025 Barkan Society Newsletter

Dear Barkan Society Colleagues,

As we step into 2025, we reflect on the strength of our community and the incredible work being done to **advance ophthalmology and expand access to life-changing eye care.**

In this issue, we highlight **Dr. Shane Griffin**, whose dedication to serving underserved populations has shaped his journey in ophthalmology. His compassionate patient care is a testament to the impact we can make in restoring sight and transforming lives.

As we celebrate the future, we also take a moment to recognize the dedicated leaders who have guided us. We **extend our deepest gratitude to Robert Tomasello, MD**, for his outstanding leadership and service as Board Chair. His commitment to advancing ophthalmology and supporting our mission has left a lasting impact. As we say goodbye, we are excited to **welcome Anne Fung, MD, as our new Board Chair**, whose vision and expertise will help shape the next chapter of the Barkan Society. Additionally, we are delighted to **welcome back Susan Day, MD** to the board—bringing her passion for education and patient care back into the fold. We look forward to their leadership and the continued growth of our community.

At the same time, we **continue to invest in the future**—welcoming our **incoming ophthalmology residents** this June. Their enthusiasm and dedication reinforce the importance of mentorship and training, which remain at the heart of our mission.

Looking ahead, we're excited to announce that **Pacific Vision Foundation is preparing to launch a new initiative**—one that will allow members like you to **play a direct role in restoring sight and shaping the future of vision care**. Keep an eye on your inbox for an exclusive invitation to be part of this transformative opportunity!

And, of course, we invite you to **Save the Date** for this year's **Barkan Day on June 14, 2025**—a time-honored tradition celebrating excellence in ophthalmology. Stay tuned for details on speakers, sessions, and networking opportunities.

Thank you for being part of this incredible network. **We look forward to an exciting year ahead!**

With warmest regards,

Bob Sorenson, 1984
Co-President, Barkan Society



Bernd Kutzscher, 1985
Co-President, Barkan Society



Spotlight on Dr. Shane Griffin: A Visionary in Ophthalmology



Dr. Shane Griffin's path to ophthalmology has been driven by a deep-seated passion for transformative patient care. Recognizing the universal value of sight, he was drawn to the field's unique ability to enact meaningful change in people's lives. His dedication to ophthalmology extends beyond professional duty; it is a deeply rooted passion for improving lives through vision restoration.

His journey to the California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC) residency program was shaped by his experiences at Oregon Health & Science University, where he cultivated a strong interest in serving underserved populations. Before attending medical school, he gained valuable research experience under Dr. Asma Saud at the University of California, San Francisco. When he learned about CPMC's dedication to high-quality eye care at Highland Hospital and the Lions Eye Clinic, he knew it was the right place to further his training.

Among his most impactful patient encounters was that of an elderly Spanish-speaking woman from Marin County. Born in Guatemala, she had never received eye care and suffered from severe pterygia, advanced cataracts, and a retinal vein occlusion. The extent of her visual impairment had rendered her dependent on family members, even preventing her from visiting her ailing brother in Guatemala. With meticulous planning and surgical intervention, Dr. Griffin helped restore her sight, ultimately enabling her to travel home for the first time in years. Witnessing the profound impact of vision restoration reaffirmed his dedication to the field.

As a developing surgeon, Dr. Griffin has confronted the challenge of striving for perfect outcomes, particularly when treating patients with complex pathology. He has learned that honesty is paramount—by transparently communicating the limitations of a patient's condition and his own capabilities, he fosters trust and shared decision-making. This partnership between physician and patient is foundational to delivering compassionate and effective care.

Dr. Griffin credits several mentors for shaping his growth. Drs. Hernandez and Reiter, both former CPMC residents, have exemplified unwavering dedication to patient care and the advancement of ophthalmology. Additionally, Dr. Gaurav Shah has been instrumental in his development, modeling excellence not only as a surgeon and diagnostician but also as a leader in the field.

Throughout his residency, he has embraced the importance of maintaining an open mind in diagnostics. Under the guidance of mentors like Dr. Agarwal, he has learned that patients can present unexpected complexities. A thorough examination, close monitoring, and intellectual humility are critical components of accurate diagnosis and effective treatment.

Outside of ophthalmology, Dr. Griffin possesses a lesser-known talent—he is an experienced forager, skilled in identifying chanterelle, hedgehog, porcini, and morel mushrooms.

For future ophthalmology residents, he offers a piece of heartfelt advice: cherish your time at CPMC. The program's community and mentorship are unparalleled, and those who fully immerse themselves in the experience will emerge as highly skilled and compassionate physicians.

As he prepares to embark on the next stage of his journey as a vitreoretinal surgery fellow, Dr. Griffin reflects on how CPMC has shaped him into a capable surgeon, diligent clinician, and inquisitive investigator. His future in ophthalmology is bright, and his unwavering commitment to patient care will continue to make a profound impact on the field.

Leading Forward: Board Transitions & Appreciation



Welcome to Our New Board Chair!

We are pleased to welcome Anne E. Fung MD as the new Chair of the Board of Directors for the Pacific Vision Foundation (PVF). Dr. Fung is a practicing medical retina specialist with over 20 years of experience in the field, currently serving as the Chief Medical Officer at Perceive Biotherapeutics. She has held key leadership roles in ophthalmology, including her work at Genentech, where she was instrumental in the development and FDA approval of the Port Delivery System SUSVIMO, the first surgical-device-drug product in Roche's history.

Dr. Fung's expertise includes age-related macular degeneration (AMD), retinal imaging, and gene therapy, and she has been recognized for her contributions to clinical research and innovation. As Chair, she brings a strong background in clinical care, healthcare systems and industry leadership, and we look forward to her guidance as we continue to advance PVF's mission over the next 50 years.

Dr. Susan Day is Back!

We're excited to **welcome Susan Day, MD**, back to the board! A Louisiana native with a zoology degree and a minor in music, Dr. Day didn't always plan on medicine—until a female pediatrician mentor changed her path. Now, she's a firm believer that good vision should never be taken for granted and that ophthalmology has no shortcuts—only high standards and lifelong learning. As she returns to the Pacific Vision Foundation community, **she sums it up simply: "It is good to be back!"**



Become a VISIONARY! Save Sight EVERY MONTH!



We're getting ready to launch something truly special—an exclusive opportunity to change lives and restore sight every single month.

Through this new initiative, you'll have the chance to make a meaningful, ongoing impact for people in need of critical eye care. But this isn't just any program—it's something we've never offered before.

✨ Watch your inbox in the coming days for your exclusive invitation. We can't wait to share it with you!

Match Day! Welcome New Residents!

We're thrilled to welcome our incoming ophthalmology residents, who will be joining us in June! Congratulations to:



Dr. Melissa Yao
UCLA David Geffen School
of Medicine



Dr. Tanner Frediani
USC Keck School of
Medicine



Dr. Rasika Sudharshan
USC Keck School of
Medicine

Coming Soon: Doximity 2025



California Pacific Medical Center's Department of Ophthalmology has been recognized as the top residency program for training three or fewer residents per year. Now, we need your support to maintain this distinction!

The U.S. News & World Report "Best Hospitals" survey will open soon on Doximity. If you're board-certified and registered, watch your inbox for an email with your voting link—or log in to Doximity.com when voting begins.

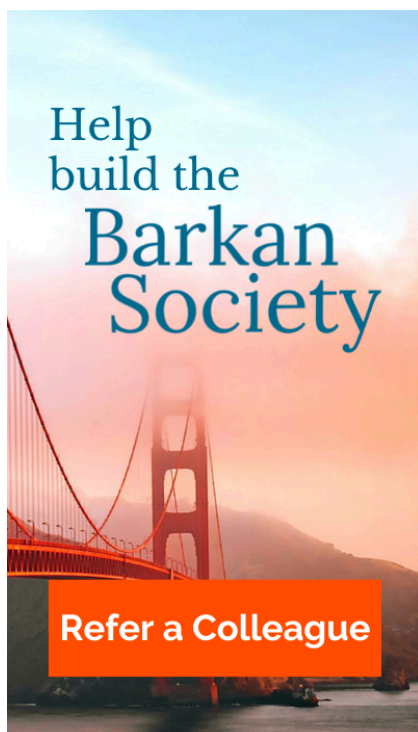
✓ Take a moment now to check your Doximity account and ensure your board certification and contact details are up to date.

Your vote makes a difference—let's continue to showcase CPMC's excellence in Ophthalmology! Stay tuned for more details.

Save the Date - Barkan 2025



Help Us Build the Barkan Society Community!



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 US

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