

# Barkan Society

OF THE CPMC OPHTHALMOLOGY RESIDENCY

## Summer 2025

Dear Faculty, Residents, Colleagues and Friends,

We're excited to bring you another issue of the Barkan Society newsletter—one that celebrates our members' inspiring journeys, honors the legacies of colleagues we've lost, and shares opportunities to connect, collaborate, and support one another.

In this edition, you'll meet **Resident Dr. Rebecca Lin**, whose own experience as a patient sparked her path to ophthalmology, and **Faculty member Dr. George Tanaka**, whose commitment to innovation and global care continues to make an impact at home and abroad. We also remember with deep respect and gratitude Dr. Wayne Fung and Dr. Roger Husted, whose contributions to our field and community will be long remembered.

Looking ahead—**Barkan Day 2026 marks our 40th anniversary!** We hope you'll join us for this milestone celebration of learning, camaraderie, and Barkan spirit.

You'll also find a call for member stories, a new **Job Board** to help our network share opportunities, and other ways to stay engaged with the Barkan Society community.

Warmly,



**Dr. Bernd Kutzscher**  
Barkan Society Co-President



**Dr. Robert Sorenson**  
Barkan Society Co-President

## Remembering Our Colleagues

We are saddened to share the passing of two esteemed members of the Barkan Society: Wayne Fung, MD, and Roger Husted, MD.

Tribute emails for Dr. Fung and Dr. Husted were shared with the Barkan community last week. If you did not receive them, you may view the messages [here](#):

- [Wayne Fung, MD Tribute](#)
- [Roger Husted, MD Tribute](#)

We extend our deepest condolences to the families, colleagues, and friends of Dr. Fung and Dr. Husted. Their contributions to the field and to the Barkan community will be long remembered.

## Resident Spotlight: Dr. Rebecca Lin – From Patient to Physician



Dr. Rebecca Lin's journey to ophthalmology began early—through her own eyes. As a child, she started wearing orthokeratology lenses for myopia, a treatment she continued for over 18 years, well into college and medical school. That long-term experience not only gave her a deep appreciation for vision care but also helped her build a lasting relationship with her optometrist. “Those years really sparked my curiosity about ocular health and pathology,” she says. “It was my first personal window into the field.”

That spark grew stronger in medical school at WashU, where she was drawn to the hands-on nature of ophthalmology—the intricate physical exams, elegant surgeries, and meaningful, long-term relationships with patients. Her first cataract surgery, observed under the guidance of Dr. Linda Tsai left a lasting impression. “I was hooked,” she recalls. Additional mentorship from renowned faculty like Dr. Todd Margolis and Dr. Andrew Lee solidified her path.



Originally from the East Coast, Rebecca chose to rotate at CPMC to be near her partner and brother in the Bay Area. She quickly connected with the program’s mission, people, and patient population. “I’m passionate about using my language skills—Mandarin and Spanish—to care for diverse communities, and I’ve loved doing that at both Lions Eye Clinic and Highland Hospital,” she shares.

“The pathology is fascinating, and the camaraderie here is incredible.”



Rebecca is particularly interested in Cornea at this stage, though she remains open to discovering new passions as she explores all areas of ophthalmology. With over ten years of tutoring experience, she’s enthusiastic about integrating teaching into her future career and looks forward to engaging in global health opportunities throughout her residency.

Asked about her favorite aspect of patient care, Rebecca shares with enthusiasm:

“I love working side by side with patients—educating and empowering them to take charge of their eye health and making care decisions together.”

She credits her smooth transition into residency to the incredible support from her co-residents, faculty, and staff.

“I’ve felt heard and supported from day one. I’m proud to be part of the CPMC family.”

And a fun fact? Rebecca was captain of her high school fencing team—and one of her former teammates just competed in the 2024 Paris Olympics!



Dr. George Tanaka didn't always envision a career in medicine. In fact, he entered college with aspirations of becoming an engineer, majoring in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. But a summer internship at IBM during his junior year became a pivotal moment.

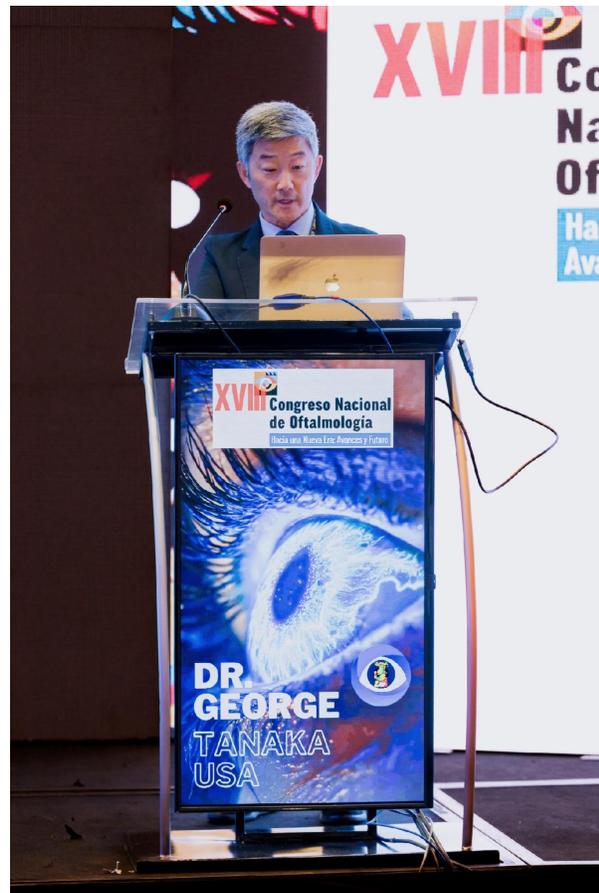
“That was when I realized I wanted to go into medicine,” Dr. Tanaka recalls. “I'd always had this curiosity about it—my father was a doctor—but it wasn't until then that I decided to make the leap.”

Initially drawn to radiology, he conducted research in Nuclear Magnetic Resonance, but an opportunity to work at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary ultimately introduced him to ophthalmology. “I got to see what ophthalmologists did, observe surgery, and work on exciting research. I think the ability to combine medicine, surgery, procedures, and make a meaningful impact in people's lives really drew me in.”

Dr. Tanaka is now a glaucoma specialist who was heavily influenced by his mentors at CPMC, including Dr. Robert Stamper and Dr. Mark Lieberman. He was captivated by the complexity of glaucoma and its demands.

“Glaucoma requires you to look at every part of the eye, synthesize different types of data, and also consider the whole person—it's a chronic disease that affects quality of life, so you really build long-term relationships with patients.”

While the field was once considered stagnant, he notes the last decade has brought major innovation, particularly in interventional glaucoma. Dr. Tanaka is part of the Interventional Glaucoma Consortium and serves on advisory boards for several companies, including one developing a virtual reality headset for visual field testing—technology that may soon replace traditional perimetry. He frequently sees patients navigating misinformation or fear, and one case stands out vividly.





“Just yesterday, I saw someone who was told in Taiwan that she had glaucoma. She came to me terrified, and it turned out she didn’t have it—just high eye pressure. I was able to stop her meds, reassure her, and she told me I made her day.”

His commitment to access and equity is also reflected in his global work. For over a decade, Dr. Tanaka has volunteered in western Guatemala with Hospital de la Familia, where he trains local ophthalmologists in glaucoma surgeries.

“We focus on transferring skills, not just providing care and leaving. Last year, I trained the glaucoma specialist there on several new procedures with the help of donated devices.”

He also helped establish a resident rotation at the hospital and recently brought down a donated virtual reality headset to allow the team to conduct visual field testing on-site—something that previously required patients to travel hours. “It’s probably the most rewarding thing I do each year.”

Closer to home, Dr. Tanaka has shifted his own practice model in response to broader challenges in healthcare. “Reimbursements are shrinking, overhead is rising, and the only solution has been to see more patients—until it’s not sustainable.”

In response, he’s transitioned to a concierge model, which allows for longer visits and more personalized care.



“Not everyone can afford it, but for those who can, it’s allowed me to practice in a way that feels ethical and sustainable. And it’s something I think more physicians are starting to consider.”

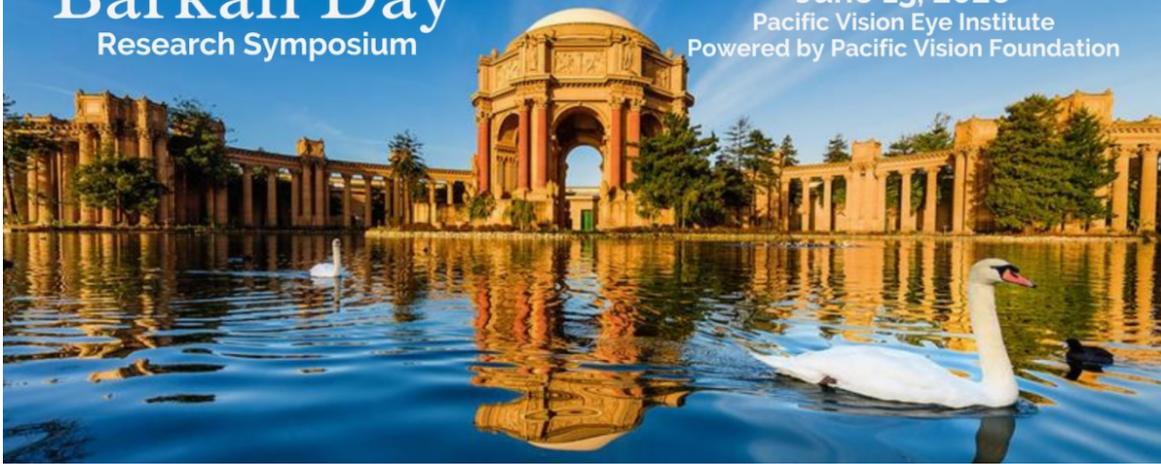
And when he’s not in clinic, teaching, or in Guatemala, he’s planning his next adventure. “I want to ride my bike across the country—call it Ride for a Cure—and raise funds for glaucoma research along the way. Stop in cities, connect with other ophthalmologists, bring awareness to the disease.” He smiles. “I’ve got the electric bike already. Just need the time.”

Dr. Tanaka’s blend of innovation, dedication, and compassion continues to inspire those around him and advance the field of glaucoma care.

**Save the Date: Barkan Day Turns 40!**

40th Annual  
**Barkan Day**  
Research Symposium

June 13, 2026  
Pacific Vision Eye Institute  
Powered by Pacific Vision Foundation



Mark your calendars for **June 13, 2026**—our next **Barkan Day** is going to be one for the history books! We're celebrating **40 years of connection, collaboration, and cutting-edge ophthalmology** with a day packed full of inspiring talks, hands-on learning, and the chance to reconnect with friends and colleagues from across the decades. Whether you're a long-time member or new to the Barkan family, this milestone year is the perfect time to join the celebration. **Let's make our 40th the biggest and best Barkan Day yet**—see you there!

## Got a Story to Share?



Are you working on a **project, publication, or accomplishment** you think fellow Barkan Society members would enjoy hearing about? Do you have an **interesting backstory**, a **unique path into ophthalmology**, or a **memorable friendship** forged through Barkan? We'd love to feature you in an upcoming newsletter!

Send [bbrosig@pacificvisionfoundation.org](mailto:bbrosig@pacificvisionfoundation.org) your ideas, photos, or anecdotes—we can't wait to share them with the community.

## New Job Board

As part of our ongoing effort to support our ophthalmology community, we're launching a **Job Board section** in our **bimonthly newsletter** to highlight open positions in the field. If you or your organization have any ophthalmology job opportunities—whether for residents, fellows, or practicing physicians—we'd love to include them.

**Residents, if you have started searching for an ideal practice position, please stop by the PVF office adjacent to the conference room. Speak with Blanca, who will get you started to create a job posting that will be widely distributed.**

Please feel free to send any postings or relevant details to [bbrosig@pacificvisionfoundation.org](mailto:bbrosig@pacificvisionfoundation.org), and we'll make sure they're featured in the upcoming issue.

Thank you for helping us keep our community connected and informed!

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P.S.: Please stay connected with the Pacific Vision Foundation and our mission by joining our online communities below.



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