



YES Newsletter—June

Get to Know Your YES Clinical Committee Member: Ryan G. Smith, MD

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Why did you go into ophthalmology?

I went into ophthalmology for multiple reasons. Some might say the short story is that my father is an ophthalmologist, but in actuality, I wanted to go into my own field of medicine separate from his path. As I did my rotations in medical school, I found that I enjoyed the fixing aspect of surgery but really thrived in clinic and the connections I made with patients. I could not seem to find a specialty that I resonated with. Then I got to my ophthalmology rotation, which I signed up for as an homage to my father to learn more about his daily life. It turns out he made a lot of good choices. I love that we get to



take care of our patients on a longitudinal basis as well as perform their surgeries and change their lives. I count my days in hugs and thank yous, and I truly love what I do. We are blessed to be a part of our patients' lives, and I love learning from them as I get to know them. I also enjoy innovation, and the relationship ophthalmology has with our industry partners to drive innovation is unmatched across medicine.

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

I actually tried a bunch of different careers before settling on medicine, because I knew it would be such a long road, and I was not sure I was ready to commit. It turns out there is no better career for me that I am aware of. That being said, I have a totally awesome restaurant concept that was always my backup plan and I still may open one day. In the morning, it will be a coffee shop featuring pour-over coffees, smoothies, green juices, and all the healthy fixings. At lunch we will continue this and add salads, bowls, and paninis. And then at night the wild card comes out, and it turns into a Spanish tapas restaurant with a killer wine list and authentic, well-priced tapas.

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

I love reuniting with my friends from all of my career in ophthalmology. ... I love going to talks in the lecture halls and on the floor where I can learn about the latest advances and speak with higher ups at the companies who help drive innovation and improve care for our patients based on our feedback and needs as surgeons.

What place is still on your travel wish list?

Two places on my bucket list are Banff National Park in Alberta, Canada, and I've always wanted to see the northern lights in Scandinavia. We will see if I knock both out this year, but I'm certainly hoping to get to see the northern lights since solar activity is peeking this year.

What's your go-to movie theater snack?

If I had enough free time to watch a movie, you'd probably be more likely to find me out paddle boarding, hiking, or playing tennis. That being said, I'll take the Swedish Fish.

How to Support the Mission of ASCRS This Month

ASCRS empowers anterior segment surgeons to improve the vision, outcomes, and quality of life of their patients through innovative approaches to Education, Advocacy, and Philanthropy.

There are three ways this summer you can engage with and support the mission of your Society.

Education: Attend an ASCRS Live! Event

ASCRS Heads to Houston, D.C., and Minneapolis This Summer

[ASCRS Live!](#), the new educational dinner series making its way to several cities across the U.S., has [opened registration for three dinners](#) taking place over the summer:

- [Houston, Texas](#): June 13, 6:30 p.m.
- [Washington, D.C.](#): July 18, 6:30 p.m.
- [Minneapolis, Minnesota](#): August 15, 6:30 p.m.

These programs are targeted for a smaller audience, and the primary focus at each event will be refractive cataract surgery along with a secondary, rotating topic. In addition to complementary dinner and CME education, there will be ample time for open discussion and networking.

*According to recent surveys, **100% of attendees** who responded said they **learned something new in the program and would recommend attending ASCRS Live! to their colleagues.***

Advocacy: Donate to eyePAC

ASCRS advocacy has been hard at work this year, scoring major victories in terms of halting potentially disastrous changes to MIGS reimbursement. This is just one example of the government relations activities ASCRS undertakes on behalf of its members.

One of the secrets of success for the Society's advocacy efforts is having a strong PAC. eyePAC, the political action committee of ASCRS, supports candidates for the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives who fight for the issues important to you and your patients. The more physician allies there are in Congress, the more those elected officials can put pressure on CMS, on the FDA, and hold hearings on the issues you care about.

[Donate now](#) to strengthen the PAC specifically for anterior segment surgeons.

Philanthropy: Support the Foundation During Cataract Awareness Month

Help Us Spread the Word About Cataract Awareness Month!

The ASCRS Foundation is at the forefront of the fight against cataract-induced blindness through [Operation Sight](#). Operation Sight provides free cataract surgery to those in need, ensuring that everyone has access to life-changing eyecare. Since its inception, Operation Sight has transformed countless lives by restoring vision and hope.

Help us spread the word about the ASCRS Foundation by following us on social media and promoting the Cataract Awareness Month posts.

- [Instagram](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [X](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)

This small effort of increasing awareness can make a significant impact in the effort to reduce the prevalence of preventable blindness.

Take Advantage of These Educational Opportunities with ASCRS

- [YES Connect Webinars](#): The next YES Connect Webinar will be available later this month. Stay tuned!
- [Ophthalmology Quicksand Chronicles—Eureka Moments Podcast](#): Coming this summer: Podcast hosts Nicole Fram, MD, and Elizabeth Yeu, MD, are

getting ready for Season 4! Catch up on the [latest episodes](#), and be sure to like and subscribe to receive alerts for Season 4.

- **[ASCRS Grand Rounds](#)**: ASCRS Grand Rounds will begin releasing new episodes later this year. In the meantime, watch some of the fascinating cases from last season!

Helpful Links and Resources:

[ASCRS YES Membership](#)

[ASCRS YES Education](#)

[ASCRS Clinical Education](#)

[ASCRS Online Tools](#)

Official YES Hashtag: #ASCRSYES

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