

THE LIGHT PIPE

Editor-in-chief: Paul Walia, MD

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The Newsletter of

GEORGIA  **RETINA**

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



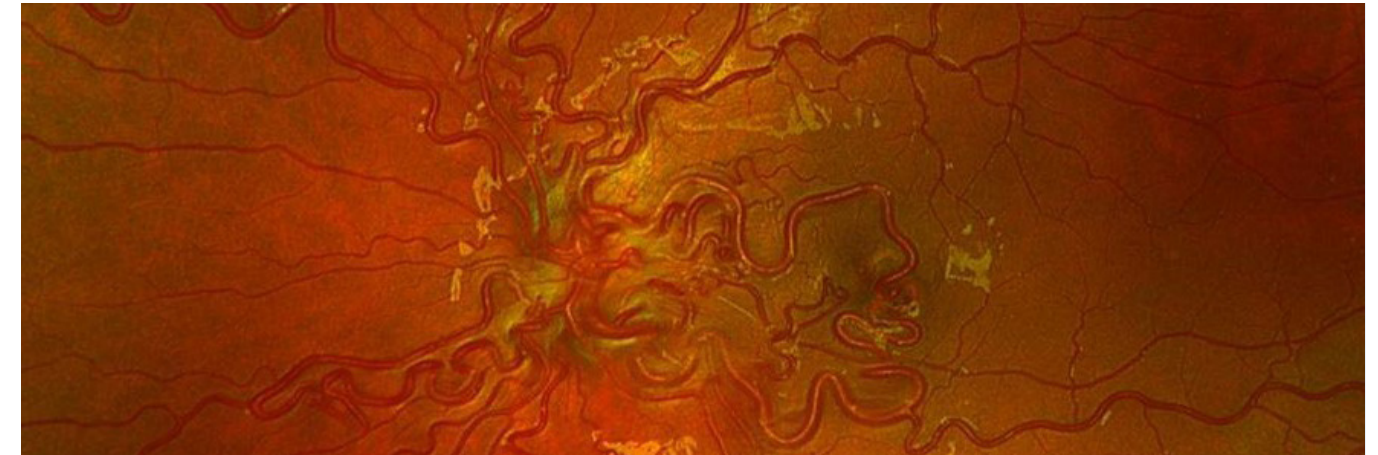
It is time of celebration at Georgia Retina! We are celebrating our growth, with the addition of another office in Chamblee. But more importantly, we are celebrating the longevity and philosophy of our practice that was deeply rooted by Dr. Michael Jacobson, co-founder of Georgia Retina. Dr. Jacobson has left a legacy amongst his colleagues here at Georgia Retina and made profound impact on his countless patients. For this, we celebrate his influence and are excited to hear about his next adventures.

We celebrate your friendship. We celebrate the opportunity to provide retinal care to your patients. WE celebrate having you as colleagues. Most importantly, we celebrate your friendship!

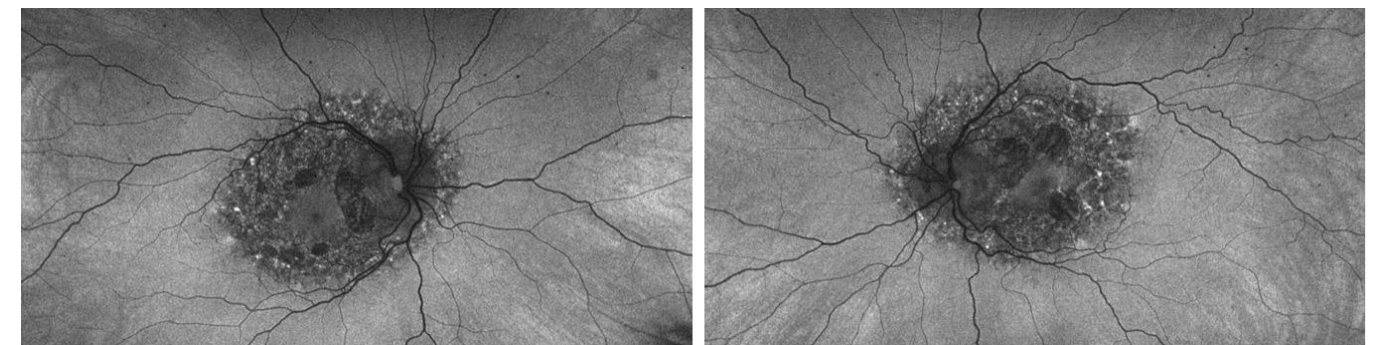


Dr. Paul S. Walia

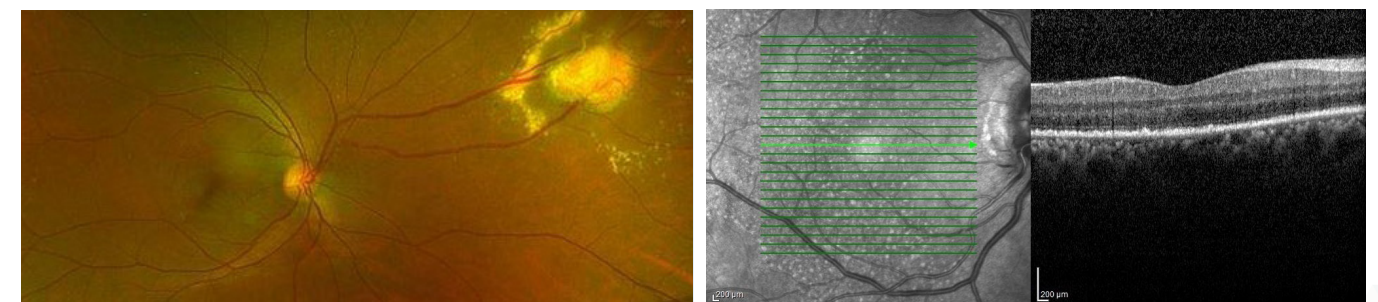
IMAGING CORNER



Fundus photo of an Arteriovenous Malformation



Fundus autofluorescence with bilateral, symmetric decreased autofluorescence in the posterior pole. This patient underwent genetic testing based on clinical symptoms and was diagnosed to have MELAS syndrome. (Mitochondrial Encephalopathy, Lactic Acidosis, and Stroke-like episode)



Fundus photograph of a retinal capillary hemangioma. This patient was diagnosed to have von Hippel Lindau syndrome based on this clinical finding.

OCT image showing punctuate white dots in the outer retina. This patient also reported a rash and myalgias. After laboratory testing, the diagnosis of syphilis was made.

PRACTICE NEWS

Dr. Jacobson to Retire

Dear Doctors and Friends,

I am writing to inform you of my decision to retire from Georgia Retina, effective September 30, 2024. After being a doctor for over 42 years of dedicated service, it is time for me to embark on the next chapter of my life. **As a cofounder of this practice, I have invested my heart and soul into it.** I have always strived to provide superlative care and be a good partner to my fellow doctors. That was my accomplishment and Georgia Retina is my legacy.

It has been an honor and a privilege to be a part of Georgia Retina and to serve my referral physicians, and patients. I am grateful for the opportunities I have been given, the friendships I have made, and the experiences that have enriched my professional life. Being recognized as Person of the Year by Prevent Blindness Georgia was the zenith of my efforts. I am proud of the contributions I have made, and I am certain that the team will continue to thrive in my absence and that they collectively will even bring more positive recognition to Georgia Retina as one of the top retina practices in the nation.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the doctors at Georgia Retina for their support, encouragement, and camaraderie throughout the years. I will cherish the memories we have shared and carry them with me into this next chapter of my life.

For all the doctors in the community that supported me when I first started in Atlanta in 1991, I owe you a great deal of gratitude for all the trust you put in me, even as a new doctor to the community. I could not have built Georgia Retina without your unwavering support. I hope you have been happy with the exceptional care that Georgia Retina has provided your patients. Thank you from my heart.

Georgia Retina and I am committed to ensuring a smooth transition during my remaining time and I will help my patients understand who will be taking over their future care. I have intentionally left very detailed records to facilitate that transition. I have all the faith in my partners who will be taking over my patients at the Tucker office.

I wish you continued success and fulfillment in all your endeavors.

Sincerely,

NEW OFFICE IN CHAMBLEE



We're Growing!

We are thrilled to announce the opening of our newest location! We cannot wait to serve the Chamblee community!

Visit Us:
CHAMBLEE
Opening Fall 2024
1835 Savoy Rd.
Suite 100
Chamblee, GA 30341



www.garetina.com • 888-GARETINA

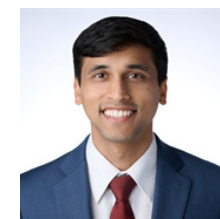
Our Doctors



Sean S. Koh, M.D.



Alexander R. Bottini, M.D.



Aditya Rali, M.D.

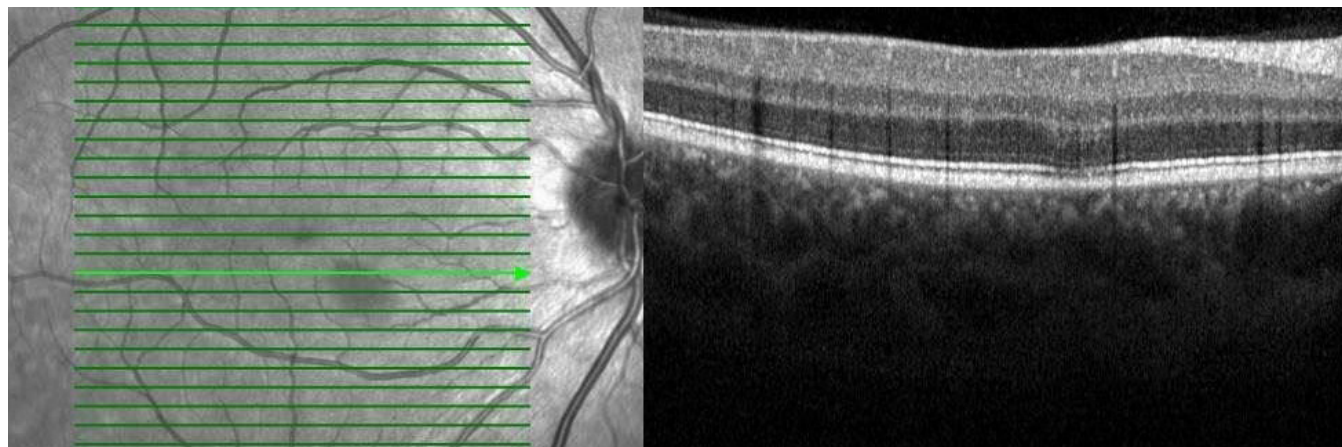
A Wedge Issue: John Miller, MD

A 25 year old healthy male presented by referral for evaluation of a “dark spot in my vision” OD for about 3 weeks. He stated that he initially noticed it while reading at a computer. The spot got progressively darker over the next few days. It did not change much thereafter. He denied any trauma, ongoing illness or systemic symptoms, prior eye surgery, new medications, recreational drug use, or recent lifestyle changes. Digging deeply into his history revealed only that he had a cold about a month ago.

Uncorrected distance vision OU was 20/40 distance and 20/20 near. IOP was in the low teens OU, and pupils were equally reactive with no RAPD OU. Anterior segments were unremarkable, with no signs of inflammation. Ocular media were all clear. Funduscopy exam was also unremarkable OU, with normal disc, macula, and periphery OU. In short, his ocular exam was normal.

At this point in the evaluation, I was primarily thinking of a neurologic origin to his vision loss. Thankfully, he had no acute neurologic symptoms, his discs were free of edema, and his gross fields were intact.

Before chalking his situation up to “not a retina issue; patient to see neurology service,” we obtained the following OCT:



As soon as I opened the above image in order to review it with the patient, he immediately said, “That’s it! That’s what I see, but it’s backwards.” He was referring to the dark, wedge-shaped area on the infrared OCT scout image, inferonasal to the fovea. The cross section

revealed a focal area of hyperreflective alterations in the outer plexiform and outer nuclear layers.

Acute Macular Neuroretinopathy

Acute macular neuroretinopathy is a relatively rare condition. The presenting symptoms are usually paracentral scotoma or loss of central acuity. It may be difficult to detect on exam alone, as the fundus findings can be entirely normal. In other cases, a subtle, usually a reddish intraretinal wedge-shaped macular lesion may be present on exam. The most effective ways to diagnose AMN include infrared fundus photography or spectral domain OCT. The typical imaging findings include a wedge-shaped intraretinal lesion, with the apex of the wedge pointing to the fovea. OCT reveals hyperreflectivity involving the outer plexiform and outer nuclear layers.

AMN most commonly affects young adult females. Other risk factors include oral contraceptive use, viral infection, COVID vaccination, and significant caffeine intake, among others. The pathophysiology is not fully understood, although occlusion of the deep retinal capillary plexus may be the ultimate culprit. There are no specific treatment recommendations, other than adjusting oral contraceptive use or excess caffeine intake, if either are a factor.

Although the scotomas may partially resolve, some may persist indefinitely. Despite this, progressive vision loss is unlikely, and the visual prognosis with AMN is quite good.

**Our offices are Text Friendly!!
We have HIPAA compliant text lines for your offices to schedule patients for a non-urgent appointment to an office of their convenience. Please see below the numbers you can text:**

Office	Phone Number
Braselton	678-528-1101
Cartersville	470-274-2030
Conyers	678-374-7050
Cumming	678-679-4830
Douglasville	678-303-0136
Gainesville	678-317-0326
Gwinnett / Lawrenceville	678-405-0922
Macon	478-238-9733
Marietta	770-218-1888
Northside	404-255-9096
Peachtree City	770-486-5349
Stockbridge	770-907-9400
Tucker	404-299-5209

CLINICAL TRIAL UPDATE

Georgia Retina has a long tradition of commitment to and participation in clinical trials in order to provide our patients access to new, state-of-the-art preventative, or therapeutic treatments. We partner with the National Eye Institute, some of the nation's top pharmaceutical companies, and other clinical practices to explore the causes and cures for many retinal conditions. Georgia Retina has a dedicated Clinical Research division with an experienced staff that assist patients in enrollment and participation of clinical trials. Through our participation, Georgia Retina has helped pave the way for many new therapies to make it to clinical practice and advance treatment strategies for blinding retinal conditions.

We take special care to ensure that our study patients experience the best medical care possible.

This past year we have been active in twenty-six clinical trials for wet age-related macular degeneration, geographic atrophy secondary to dry age-related macular degeneration, retinal vein occlusion, diabetic macular edema, and non-proliferative diabetic retinopathy.

We hope that as you consider where to refer your patients for retinal care, you will keep in mind that Georgia Retina not only provides exception care but can also offer your patients the opportunity to enroll in clinical trials thereby offering them new vision saving treatments. If you have any questions about whether your patient might be eligible to participate in one of our ongoing clinical trials, please call any one of our doctors or contact our Clinical Research Director, Blair Symington (bsymington@garetina.com).

Current Recruiting Clinical Trials:

- Wet AMD: AbbVie/RegenXBio RGX-314-2104 ATMOSPHERE, AbbVie/RegenXBio RGX-314-3101 ASCENT
- Geographic Atrophy: Janssen 81201887MDG2001 PARASOL, Apellis APL2-GA-411 GARLAND
- RVO: all studies pending FDA approval for startup
- DME: all studies pending FDA approval for startup

SPOTLIGHT WITH DR. ROSS KENNAMER-CHAPMAN

Doctor Ross Kennamer-Chapman

Spotlight with a Georgia Retina Doctor: Dr. Ross

In this edition of Spotlight, Dr. Ross Kennamer-Chapman joins us for a brief interview highlighting his experience with Georgia Retina as our newest doctor. Dr. Kennamer-Chapman is originally from Texas. He graduated from the University of Texas Medical School at Houston and then complete his ophthalmology residency at the University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas. After residency, he completed a vitreoretinal fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis.

What do you like most about being a vitreoretinal specialist?

There are many things that drew me to the field of retina. I think the first thing that interested me is the variety of pathology and the way that different systemic diseases can manifest in the eye and, more specifically, the retina. I was also drawn to the way in which it combines both medical and surgical management of disease. Furthermore, the long-term relationships I am able to establish with patients who have chronic diseases is very rewarding.

What do you like most about working at Georgia Retina?

The first thing that drew me to Georgia Retina are the people. It is a very collegial group. With twenty different doctors from different backgrounds, we all have different ways of doing things and I am able to learn a lot from my colleagues and their experiences. Equally as important, the clinical and non-clinical staff are friendly, helpful, and fun to work with.



Dr. Ross Kennamer-Chapman

Thank You for Reading Our Fall 2024 Edition Light Pipe Newsletter!

What developments do you see impacting your field in the near future?

Even within the last year, we have had some pretty monumental developments in the field of retina. Specifically, we now have treatment options for advanced dry macular degeneration with geographic atrophy. This gives new options for a disease state that previously had no treatment options whatsoever. I believe that gene therapy is another area that will make a significant impact in our field in the near future for multiple different disease states.

What are your hobbies outside of work?

I enjoy anything outdoors, like running, hiking, or mountain biking. I have two dogs that my fiancée and I frequently take to different outdoor and hiking areas around the Atlanta area. While I am a big-time homer for any Houston sports team, I am gaining an appreciation for the Braves, Hawks, and Falcons and I enjoy attending almost any live sporting event.



If you have time, please take a moment to answer a few questions about this year's publication. By doing so, you're helping Georgia Retina become an even better practice.

Click here to begin: <https://forms.gle/x8fjHud6SYotLZng6>

Our Physicians

Michael S. Jacobson, M.D. | Scott I. Lampert, M.D. | Jay B. Stallman, M.D. | Mark J. Rivellese, M.D. | Sean S. Koh, M.D. | Atul Sharma, M.D. | Robert A. Stoltz, M.D., Ph. D. | John J. Miller, M.D. | Stephanie L. Vanderveldt, M.D. | Hyung Cho, M.D. | S. Krishna Mukkamala, M.D. | David S. Chin Yee, M.D. | Harpreet "Paul" S. Walia, M.D. | Yogin Patel M.D. | Gregory D. Lee, M.D. | Ella H. Leung, M.D. | Rahul Komati M.D. | Alexander Bottini, M.D. | Daniel Oh, M.D. | Ross Kennamer-Chapman, M.D.

Braselton (Now Open)

1255 Friendship Road, Suite 160, Braselton, GA 30517
Phone: 678-528-1101

Cartersville

100 Market Pl Boulevard, Suite 304, Cartersville, GA 30121
Phone: 470-274-2030

Conyers

1501 Milstead Rd., Suite 180, Conyers, GA 30012
Phone: 678-374-7050

Cumming

990 Sanders Road, Suite 100, Cumming, GA 30041
Phone: 678-679-4830

Douglasville

6095 Professional Pkwy., Suite B-102, Douglasville, GA 30134
Phone: 678-303-0136

Gainesville

1488 Jesse Jewell Pkwy., Suite 200, Gainesville, GA 30501
Phone: 678-317-0326

Gwinnett (Lawrenceville)

575 Professional Drive, Suite 330, Lawrenceville, GA 30046
Phone: 678-405-0922

Macon

6055 Lakeside Commons Drive, Suite 310, Macon, GA 31210
Phone: 478-238-9733

Marietta

833 Campbell Hill Street, Suite 300, Marietta, GA 30060
Phone: 770-218-1888

Northside (Atlanta)

1100 Johnson Ferry Rd NE, Bldg 2, Suite 593, Sandy Springs, GA 30342
Phone: 404-255-9096

Peachtree City

403 Westpark Court, Suite 110, Peachtree City, GA 30269
Phone: 770-486-5349

Stockbridge (Now Open)

350 Country Club Dr., Suite A Stockbridge, GA 30281
Phone: 770-907-9400

Tucker

1462 Montreal Road W, Suite 412, Tucker, GA 30084
Phone: 404-299-5209

Participating Insurance Plans

Aetna U.S. Healthcare
Allwell
Ambetter
Amerigroup Medicaid
Anthem BCBS
Blue Choice
CareSource
Cigna
Cigna Health Spring
Clover

Corvel
Coventry Healthcare
Crescent
First Health
Galaxy
Humana
Kaiser Permanente Dual Choice PPO
Medical Resource Network
Medicare

Medicare Railroad
Memorial Health Services
Multiplan PPO
Northeast Georgia Health Partners
Northside Health Network
NovaNet
Optum
Oscar Health Exchange Plan
PeachState Medicaid

PHCS (MultiPlan)
Pruitt Health Premier
Sonder Medicare
The Empire Plan of NY
TriCare PPO, HMO
United Behavioral Health
United Healthcare Medicare
USA Managed Care Organization
WellCare Medicare HMO

We participate with most insurance plans including national and many regional plans. To check on a specific plan, please call one of the numbers above and our knowledgeable call center staff can advise you.

1-888-GA-RETINA