



YES Newsletter—May

Get to know your YES Clinical Committee Member: Rahul Tonk, MD, MBA
Associate Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology, Associate Medical Director, Cornea &
Refractive Surgery Fellowship Co-Director
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Why did you go into ophthalmology?

Back in college, I volunteered with Unite for Sight, working alongside local ophthalmologists in Nicaragua to provide cataract surgery for the needlessly blind. Experiencing the profound joy of restored sight was truly transformative—I was inspired to dedicate my career to making that difference. My commitment to ophthalmology was then cemented in medical school when I discovered its unique blend of medicine, surgery, cutting-edge technology, and great people.

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

If I weren't in medicine, I'd love to be an audio engineer. In high school and college, I enjoyed recording and mixing albums for my amateur rock and jazz bands. The blend of music, technology, and electronics always intrigued me. While I might not have become a famous musician myself, I love the idea of making a career collaborating with talented musicians to bring their art to life.

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

The people! I love reconnecting with old friends and forging new connections with people who are making a difference in ophthalmology. The ASCRS Annual Meeting strikes a perfect balance—it's sizable enough to offer excellent scientific content and top-tier symposia, but intimate enough that you're bound to encounter many familiar faces.

What place is still on your travel wish list?

I've been dreaming of spending a week rafting down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. The mix of adventure—navigating rapids, hiking to panoramic



viewpoints—and the tranquility of camping under the stars amidst the towering cliffs is just awe-inspiring. It's a reminder of how small we are in the grand scheme of things.

What's your go-to movie theater snack?

Popcorn, hands down! It's the ultimate savory treat.

50 Years | 50 States Videos

Follow ASCRS on Social and Hear from Fellow Members

In honor of the 50th anniversary of ASCRS, [members from all 50 states](#) are sending in personal messages about the Society. Be sure to follow ASCRS on the following social media platforms to see these member videos each week between now and April 2025—up to the 50th ASCRS Annual Meeting.

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



Also, if you haven't seen the 50th Anniversary timeline or videos with founding members sharing their memories on the Society's history, check out those materials [here](#).

ASCRS Grand Rounds Accepting Case Submissions from Residents and Fellows

For the first time, [ASCRS Grand Rounds](#) is hosting an open call for case submissions from residents and fellows, but only for a limited time. The deadline to submit is Monday, May 20!

[ASCRS Grand Rounds](#), moderated by Soroosh Behshad, MD, and Nandini Venkateswaran, MD, is a virtual, complimentary CME offering that brings the experience of a live grand rounds to your home or office. Each episode is approved for 1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™.

[Submit your interesting or challenging case](#) to this important educational program.



Your chance to get involved ... submit your interesting or challenging case to ASCRS Grand Rounds.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY 20

Are You in New York City?

Register to Attend This ASCRS Live! YES Event

[ASCRS Live!](#), a new regional dinner series coming to nine U.S. cities in 2024, is [preparing to head to New York City](#) in May. The primary focus at each event will be refractive cataract surgery along with a secondary, rotating topic.

There will be a YES specific dinner on Friday, May 17, with faculty Brenton Finklea, MD, Lela Raju, MD, Aakriti Garg Shukla, MD, and Richard Tipperman, MD. [Register now!](#)

ASCRS Live! dinners are targeted to a smaller audience and open to local ophthalmologist members and nonmembers. Each event will include ample time for open discussion and questions.

Not in NYC? Check out the city lineup and stay tuned for more information about each in-person networking and learning opportunity on the [ASCRS Live! website](#).



Dinner and discussion of the hottest topics in anterior segment surgery

Don't Forget About ASCRS On Demand

[ASCRS On Demand](#), a post-meeting resources that captured more than 200 sessions, is available for YES members who registered for the ASCRS Annual Meeting.

Learn more about ASCRS On Demand and how to access content [here](#). Thank you to all who attended the 2024 ASCRS Annual Meeting. We hope to see you in Los Angeles, for ASCRS 2025 April 25–28!

Take Advantage of These Educational Opportunities with ASCRS

- **[YES Connect webinars](#)**: There's a new YES Connect Webinar available. Hear perspectives on "[Crafting a Fulfilling Work/Life Blend](#)."
- **[Ophthalmology Quicksand Chronicles—Eureka Moments Podcast](#)**: Stay tuned for June. Podcast hosts Nicole Fram, MD, and Elizabeth Yeu, MD, are getting ready for Season 4, which will release its first episode in June. 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 2.0 is now accepting case submissions for the 2024 season. Learn more and get involved with this unique opportunity [here](#).

Helpful Links and Resources:

[ASCRS YES Membership](#)

[ASCRS YES Education](#)

[ASCRS Clinical Education](#)

[ASCRS Online Tools](#)

Official YES Hashtag: #ASCRSYES

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