



YES Newsletter—August

Get to Know Your YES Clinical Committee Member: Ashraf Ahmad, MD

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Why did you go into ophthalmology?

I chose to specialize in ophthalmology because it offers the ideal balance between clinical practice and surgical procedures. This field allows me to engage in both the diagnostic aspects of patient care and the hands-on, technical challenges of surgery. Moreover, ophthalmology is incredibly gratifying as it enables me to make an immediate and tangible impact on patients' lives. Restoring or improving someone's vision is a profoundly rewarding experience, and the ability to see such positive outcomes directly influences my passion for this specialty.



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

During college, organic chemistry just clicked for me, and I found it both fascinating and intellectually stimulating so I would explore a career in organic chemistry. Additionally, I have a passion for technology and innovation, which makes the field of software engineering intriguing. Having said that, it is really difficult to picture myself doing anything other than ophthalmology.

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

At the ASCRS Annual Meeting, I look forward to reconnecting with my mentors and colleagues. These gatherings are not only about professional development but also about fostering relationships and networking with peers who share the same passion for ophthalmology. I also enjoy instructing wet labs. Sharing knowledge and techniques with fellow professionals is incredibly fulfilling, and I enjoy contributing to the education and growth of others in the field.

What place is still on your travel wish list?

My wife and I have a huge bucket list that we hope to be able to get through. We would

love to visit the Maldives, Malaysia, and Switzerland at some point. We love a blend of culture and beauty. We are huge foodies as well, so any place that offers a unique cuisine would certainly interest us.

What's your go-to movie theater snack?

My go-to movie theater snack is cookie dough bites. Although I must admit that I prefer binge-watching different series on Netflix in the comfort of my home. It's a great way to relax and unwind after a busy day.

Transitioning Fellows and PGY4 – Don't Lose Your Membership

ASCRS Can Transform Your Career

The next few months are a time of transition for young eye surgeons, with PGY4 residents moving into fellowships or practice and surgeons in their first 5 years of practice becoming eligible for full-fledged ASCRS membership.

Maintaining your involvement and membership with **ASCRS can be transformative** for your career. Since its founding in 1974, ASCRS has been at the forefront of anterior segment surgery and remains the largest U.S. society focused on the specific needs and interests of cataract, refractive, cornea, and glaucoma surgeons.

Expand your network, connect with leaders in the field, and establish your career in ophthalmology on the solid foundation that ASCRS offers with year-round educational opportunities, advocacy efforts, and philanthropic endeavors.

Act now to maintain your membership by updating your training status, if needed, from resident to fellow or from resident/fellow to practicing physician.

- Fellows, complete [this form](#).
- Physicians entering your first year of practice, complete [this form](#).

[Maintain your ASCRS membership today!](#)

2025 ASCRS Annual Meeting Call for Submissions

Looking for an opportunity to present your research or technique in the field of ophthalmology?

ASCRS is [accepting submissions](#) for the [2025 ASCRS Annual Meeting](#), taking place April 25–28 in Los Angeles, California!

Submission deadline: August 26, 2024

Visit the [Call for Submissions webpage](#) for more information about the submission process. Review the [2025 Annual Meeting Submission Guide \(PDF\)](#) for submission requirements for instructional courses, papers, posters, and films.

Looking for a different opportunity? [ASCRS Grand Rounds](#) has reopened its call for video case submissions. Learn more [here](#).

Apply for the 2025 Young Eye Surgeons International Service Grant

The ASCRS Foundation will be accepting grant applications for the [2025 Young Eye Surgeons International Service Grant](#)—now through September 8.

The [Young Eye Surgeons International Service Grant](#) was created to inspire young eye surgeons to become involved with global eyecare on a long-term basis. The grant affords the opportunity to participate in healthcare systems, including teaching institutions and community programs, in developing countries.

Working with the ASCRS Foundation and its international partners, recipients will develop a customized international volunteer plan that provides the opportunity for a young eye surgeon to learn first-hand the intricacies behind global eyecare efforts.

To learn more about this grant and to apply, [click here](#).

Attend an ASCRS Live! Event

[ASCRS Live!](#), the new educational dinner series making its way to several cities across the U.S., has open registrations in the following states.

- [Cleveland, Ohio](#): September 12, 6:30 p.m.
- [Atlanta, Georgia](#): October 3, 6:30 p.m.

[Learn more](#) about these CME and networking events.

[ASCRS Live! Online Modules](#) are free. Find and watch all three CME programs now!

Take Advantage of These Educational Opportunities with ASCRS

- [YES Connect Webinars](#): The next YES Connect Webinar on the topic of “Academic Private Practice: A Model to Achieve All of Your Academic Pursuits and More” will be available by the end of the month.
- [Ophthalmology Quicksand Chronicles—Eureka Moments! Podcast](#): Hosts Nicole Fram, MD, and Elizabeth Yeu, MD, welcomed guest Sumit “Sam” Garg, MD, in the latest episode of their popular ASCRS podcast. [Watch the episode](#).
- [ASCRS Grand Rounds](#): ASCRS Grand Rounds will return with a new episode by the end of this month. Also, please consider submitting an interesting or challenging case video. Grand Rounds is accepting submissions until **September 16**. Learn more and submit your case video(s) [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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