

Medical Retina

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Vol. 1

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F. Bandello Milan

B. Corcóstegui Barcelona

Selected contributions from ESASO modules 2009 and 2010

Medical Retina

Volume Editors

Francesco Bandello Milan

Giuseppe Querques Paris

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Contents

VII List of Contributors

VIII Foreword

Guarnaccia, G. (Lugano)

IX Preface

Bandello, F. (Milan); Querques, G. (Paris)

1 Embryology and Anatomy of the Baby's Posterior Segment

Trese, M.T. (Rochester, Mich./Royal Oak, Mich.)

6 Blood-Retinal Barrier and Its Relevance in Retinal Disease

Cunha-Vaz, J. (Coimbra)

11 Imaging the Retina

Cunha-Vaz, J. (Coimbra)

16 Do We Need Fluorescein Angiography? Noninvasive Imaging of the Eye Fundus

Cunha-Vaz, J. (Coimbra)

21 Treatment of Retinopathy of Prematurity

Capone Jr., A. (Auburn Hills, Mich.)

25 Retinal Development and the Pathogenesis of Retinopathy of Prematurity

Capone Jr., A. (Auburn Hills, Mich.)

30 Retinopathy of Prematurity: Cases and Diagnosis

Trese, M.T. (Rochester, Mich./Royal Oak, Mich.)

35 Retinopathy of Prematurity: Laser Treatment and Intravitreal Injections

Trese, M.T. (Rochester, Mich./Royal Oak, Mich.)

39 Vitreoretinal Surgery for Retinopathy of Prematurity

Trese, M.T. (Rochester, Mich./Royal Oak, Mich.)

43 Proliferative Vitreoretinopathy

Mateo, C.; Burés-Jelstrup, A. (Barcelona)

50 Inherited Retinal Pigmentary Degenerations and Inherited Macular Dystrophies

Navarro, R.; Burés-Jelstrup, A. (Barcelona)

58 Pediatric Vitreoretinal Diseases Not Associated with Prematurity

Capone Jr., A. (Auburn Hills, Mich.)

- 64 Other Vitreoretinal Pathologies in Infants**
Trese, M.T. (Rochester, Mich./Royal Oak, Mich.)
- 67 Vascular Anomalies of the Fundus Oculi: Diagnosis and Treatment**
Lanzetta, P.; Veritti, D. (Udine)
- 74 Retinal Artery Occlusion**
Bandello, F.; Battaglia Parodi, M. (Milano)
- 81 Retinal Artery Occlusion and Acute Choroidal Ischemia**
Gaudric, A. (Paris)
- 87 Ocular Ischemic Syndrome**
Bandello, F.; Battaglia Parodi, M. (Milano)
- 90 Diabetic Retinopathy**
Williams, G.A. (Royal Oak, Mich.)
- 99 Diabetic Macular Edema**
Williams, G.A. (Royal Oak, Mich.)
- 105 Proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy: Surgical Treatment and Handling of Intraoperative and Postoperative Complications**
Garcia-Arumi, J.; Boixadera, A.; Martinez-Castillo, V.; Zapata, M.A. (Barcelona)
- 111 Retinal Venous Occlusions: Diagnosis and Choice of Treatments**
Garcia-Arumi, J.; Badal, J.; Zapata, M.; Boixadera, A.; Martinez Castillo, V. (Barcelona)
- 120 Vitrectomy for Macular Hole**
Gaudric, A.; Tadayoni, R. (Paris)
- 125 Pathogenesis of Age-Related Macular Degeneration**
Zarbin, M.A. (Newark, N.J.)
- 134 Treatment of Dry Age-Related Macular Degeneration**
Zarbin, M.A.; Rosenfeld, P.J. (Newark, N.J.)
- 143 Myopic Macula**
Mateo, C.; Burés-Jelstrup, A. (Barcelona)
- 151 Fine-Needle Aspiration Biopsy in Intraocular Tumors**
Pelayes, D.E. (Buenos Aires/Lugano)
- 156 Subject Index**

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Foreword

The European School of Advanced Studies in Ophthalmology (ESASO) was founded in 2008 and since then interest in its work has grown from all sides. It is now a respected institute, known to lecturers, young ophthalmologists, ophthalmology departments and suppliers of ophthalmological equipment around the world. The idea behind ESASO was to give young eye doctors the opportunity to learn new methods and become acquainted with different approaches to ophthalmological problems, acquiring a versatility that cannot be matched by a traditional medical school. Held mostly in Lugano, nestling by its beautiful lake in Switzerland, ESASO's courses aim to widen the medical horizons of all those who enrol. But since its inception, the institute has expanded and now offers courses in other countries and even other continents, so that 5 years after being founded, it can claim to enjoy a worldwide reputation.

Some of the most esteemed experts in the different fields of ophthalmology lecture at ESASO, providing participants with fresh insights and the benefits of their invaluable experience. Over the years, the conviction grew in us that it was important to give this extensive knowledge wider currency, taking it beyond the limits of the lecture halls and labs, and it was decided to turn the lectures into publications. A few meetings made it clear that a book series was the best way to convey the scientific content of the courses to other ophthalmologists.

This first volume, concentrating on 'Medical Retina', will be followed by many others in the new *ESASO Course Series*. All the fields of ophthalmology will be covered in the series, each volume treating a topic in depth so as to provide the reader with the greatest possible amount of knowledge.

It is my hope that many a young ophthalmologist will benefit from the volumes published in the *ESASO Course Series* edited by Francesco Bandello and Borja Corcóstegui. Each volume will be supervised by a different and changing team of volume editors in order to diversify the input and keep abreast of an important ESASO principle: offer the best possible education!

G. Guarnaccia, Director Global ESASO

Preface

The retina is a truly unique tissue, which provides the field of medicine with the opportunity to study the anatomy and pathophysiology of an organ in a noninvasive manner. Basic scientists, guided by clinical research retinal specialists, have developed meaningful imaging modalities that have led to a better understanding of known retinal diseases as well as clinically distinct entities and their management.

The European School for Advanced Studies in Ophthalmology (ESASO) was founded in 2008 to address the specific further education needs of training and practising clinicians, drawing on the skills of colleagues worldwide and the support of various universities. It seeks to facilitate the dissemination of new and effective ophthalmological expertise through a dynamic combination of in-depth exposition of topics and direct face-to-face training.

This book is a collection of seminars by experts in the field of medical and surgical retina that have been presented during ESASO's activities. The authors bring their personal experience and full teaching acumen to each chapter, culminating in a book on current management, new diagnostic techniques and experimental therapies for retinal diseases.

The many chapters are authored by internationally recognized experts in ophthalmology and visual science. As a multiauthored text, there are multiple literary styles. Thus, the editors have worked to provide a level of conformity without

sacrificing the originality of the individual authors. Chapter topics range from molecular biology to state-of-the-art diagnostic techniques and the newest medical and surgical treatment options.

This book provides the ophthalmologist with the most recent data and evidence-based medicine on medical and surgical retina, while also including multiple areas still under debate.

*Francesco Bandello, Milan
Giuseppe Querques, Paris*