



## George L. Spaeth, MD

George L. Spaeth went to Germantown Friends School in Philadelphia, and then majored in The History of Ideas at Yale College (Phi Beta Kappa), following which he received a medical degree from Harvard Medical School (Alpha Omega Alpha). After an internship at the University of Michigan, graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania and an ophthalmology residency at Wills Eye Hospital, he served for two years in the Public Health Service ( Lt. Commander) as a clinical fellow at the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness in Bethesda. He was Director of the William and Anna Goldberg Glaucoma Service and Research Laboratories at the Wills Eye Hospital/ Jefferson Medical College from 1968 to 2007, where he is now the Louis J. Esposito Research Professor.

He has published over 400 articles in peer-reviewed journals, many hundred commentaries in various formats, over 100 book chapters, around 200 editorials, and 20 books, several of which have been translated into other languages, including Chinese. His surgical text, now in its fourth edition, is used in many countries around the world. He serves on the editorial boards of six journals, and was for many years Editor-in-Chief

of Ophthalmic Surgery. Fellows he has trained work in 34 countries on six continents, and include the current or past presidents of the American Glaucoma Society, the European Glaucoma Society, the Chinese Glaucoma Society, the Pan-Arab-African Glaucoma Society, the Brazilian Glaucoma Society, the Chilean Glaucoma Society, and Christian Medical College in Lahore, India; one was Vice President of Medical Affairs in a Japanese Medical School. His fellows are Chairs of Departments of Ophthalmology in the United States and internationally and Directors of many Glaucoma Services around the world. He has enjoyed a close relationship with the physicians and with the cultures of the Asia-Pacific Region, participating frequently in its Medical Congresses, and traveling with his wife, Ann Ward Spaeth, to visit those he has mentored. Dr. Spaeth himself was founding member and the first President of the American Glaucoma Society. He served as the Chair of the Ethics Committee of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. Awards he received include the Goldmann Gold Medal from the International Glaucoma Group, The Weisenfeld Award from the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, The Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology, The Optime de Glaucomatologia Merenti-For Outstanding Service in the field of Glaucoma from the Polish Ophthalmology Society, The Community Service Award from Chestnut Hill College, and was named to the All-American Soccer Team, Honorable Mention.

As a resident at Wills Eye Hospital, he discovered the disease homocystinuria and published the early work on the condition, including the use of pyridoxine as successful treatment. Since then his research has centered primarily on glaucoma, especially related to quantitative measures of the clinical characteristics, such as the anterior chamber angle, the optic disc and disability caused by glaucoma.

Recently, he, his son, Eric, and a former fellow, J. Richman, have developed a test of contrast sensitivity, SPARCS, they hope will prove useful in effectively detecting visual loss in most people around the world.

Dr. Spaeth enjoys lecturing; he has presented 30 named lectureships, which give him the opportunity to present his views on the importance of individualizing patient care and helping people celebrate their lives, which he demonstrates in his busy practice and in his own life.

Dr. Spaeth's other interests include many years as President of Philadelphia Physicians for Social Responsibility (for which he received the Newberg Peace Award), and the arts. He is an emeritus member of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Ballet and the Philadelphia Bach Festival; his poetry has been published, his compositions recorded and performed internationally, and he hopes to publish a book on flower arranging; he plays piano, he enjoys photography, and plays the organ on Squirrel Island, where he has summered since 1932. His flower and vegetable garden won first prize in the City Garden's contest of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society in 2004.

He has three children and three grandchildren; his wife, to whom he was happily married for 54 years, died in 2012.