The American Glaucoma Society Foundation’s mission is to support glaucoma research and education, and to promote excellence in the care of patients with glaucoma.
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Louis B. Cantor, MD, is the Jay C. and Lucile L. Kahn Professor and former Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology, Eugene and Marilyn Glick Eye Institute at the Indiana University School of Medicine. He completed his undergraduate and graduate medical education at Indiana University and was an ophthalmology resident at Indiana University, graduating in 1984. In 1985, he completed his glaucoma fellowship at Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia under the direction of George L. Spaeth, MD. Dr. Cantor joined the Indiana University Department of Ophthalmology as Director of the Glaucoma Service in 1985. From 1986 to 1989, Dr. Cantor also served as Chief of Ophthalmology at Wishard Memorial Hospital (presently known as Eskenazi Health, Indianapolis, Indiana). From 1996-2006, he served as Director of the Ophthalmology Residency Program for the department, a role which he re-assumed in 2018. In 1999, he attained the rank of Professor of Ophthalmology. Dr. Cantor served as Chair from 2008 through 2017. Dr. Cantor is a frequent invited lecturer and has presented several named lectureships. He is the recipient of multiple grants and has published over 120 abstracts and 90 peer reviewed publications.

Dr. Cantor served as a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology Board of Trustees and on the Executive Committee, as well as Senior Secretary for Education from 2013 through 2018, in addition to multiple previous appointments. Dr. Cantor is a member of the American Medical Association, the Indiana State Medical Association, the Association for Research and Vision in Ophthalmology, the American Glaucoma Society, the American Ophthalmological Society, and other professional organizations. He is an Associate Examiner for the American Board of Ophthalmology and has served as a scientific advisor and reviewer for many ophthalmology publications, including the journals, Ophthalmology, American Journal of Ophthalmology, Archives of Ophthalmology, Journal of Glaucoma and others.
Christina Ackermann

Executive Vice President, General Counsel
President, Ophthalmic Pharmaceuticals

As General Counsel, Christina Ackermann is responsible for worldwide Legal Affairs, Compliance, Global Security and Enterprise Risk Management, and also serves as President of Global Ophthalmic Pharmaceuticals.

Prior to Bausch + Lomb, she was the Executive Vice President, General Counsel of Bausch Health from 2016 to 2022. She was also named Head of Commercial Operations for Bausch Health in 2020.

Ms. Ackermann is member of the board of directors of Graybug Vision, Inc. since September 2020, and chairs the Nominating and Corporate Governance committee, and additionally is a member of the Compensation Committee.

Previously, Ms. Ackermann was part of the Novartis group of companies for 14 years, serving ultimately as Senior Vice President, General Counsel at Alcon, where she was responsible for the legal, intellectual property and compliance functions. Prior to that, she was Global Head, Legal, and General Counsel at Sandoz, the generics division of Novartis from 2007 to 2012. She joined Novartis Pharma in 2002 as Head, Legal Technical Operations and Ophthalmics, and assumed the role of Head, Legal General Medicine, in 2005.

Earlier in her career, Ms. Ackermann served in Associate General Counsel roles with Bristol Myers Squibb and DuPont Pharmaceuticals and in private practice, where she focused on Securities and Mergers & Acquisitions.

For her undergraduate studies, Christina attended York University, Toronto, Canada, focusing initially on Fine Arts and later moving into Mathematics and Political Science. She also attended Queen’s University, Kingston, Canada, where she obtained her LL.B., and King's College at the University of London, UK, where she received a Post Graduate Diploma in E.C. Competition Law.
Joe Bankovich currently serves as President of Nova Eye, Inc., the USA division of Nova Eye Medical Limited, a publicly listed company on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX:EYE) focused on the development and commercialization of glaucoma treatment technologies that span all stages of the disease spectrum.

Prior to joining Nova Eye, Inc., Bankovich held senior commercial and market development positions with Allergan and Abbott Medical Optics (now Johnson & Johnson). He has over 30 years of direct ophthalmic management experience and for the past five years has directed a number of clinical, commercial and technology programs in the minimally invasive glaucoma surgery (MIGS) market. The management and treatment of glaucoma is currently in a period of renaissance, with innovative treatment approaches such as MIGS enabling surgeons to intervene earlier in the treatment of their glaucoma patients via a surgical approach.

Bankovich holds a Bachelor of Arts in Administration Management and a Master of Science in Management. Prior to embarking on his ophthalmic career, he served in the United States Army for 14 years.
Tara Capalbo

Tara Capalbo is an accomplished biopharmaceutical leader with 20 years of commercial experience across pharmaceuticals, medical device, buy and bill, at large global Fortune 500 organizations and at smaller privately held companies. She has an illustrious track record launching new products and new campaigns that accelerate growth, extend life cycles, and build markets. Currently she leads the Interventional Glaucoma business at Allergan. During her tenure at Allergan, she has led the successful launch of 6 products/new indications across glaucoma, overactive bladder, spasticity, migraine and cerebral palsy, emphasizing best in class training, DTC efforts and patient access and support. She is committed to the relentless pursuit of improved patient outcomes, has served on the Urology Care Foundation board, and has partnered closely with patient advocacy and education groups including the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation, the National Headache Foundation and the American Migraine Foundation. Tara was recently awarded the HBA Luminary award for her dedication to being a role model to others, exemplifying leadership, exhibiting dedication to the healthcare and life-sciences industries, and being a true example of top talent. She has an undergraduate degree in Human Biology from Stanford University and a MBA from UCLA Anderson School of Management.
Rafael Chan

Rafael Chan is the Vice President & General Manager, Global Implantables at Alcon. In this role, Rafael is responsible for leading Alcon’s intraocular device portfolio, which includes Alcon’s market leading intraocular lens (IOL) portfolio and growing surgical glaucoma business.

Since 2000, Rafael has held multiple commercial leadership positions within the ophthalmic medical device and pharmaceutical industry, and across multiple therapeutic categories and geographies. Most recently, Rafael held the position of Vice President, Surgical Suite, Global Surgical Franchise, overseeing Alcon’s portfolio of integrated cataract refractive diagnostics, visualization systems and femtosecond laser platforms.

Rafael received his BS in Chemistry from Vanderbilt University and MBA from the Owen Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt University.
Andrew I. Chang

Andrew I. Chang is President of Carl Zeiss Meditec USA, Inc., Head of Global Sales Ophthalmic Devices, Board Member for MicroOptx, ASCRS Foundation, Ophthalmology Foundation, Cataract Technologies Inc. and founding member of Vanguard Ophthalmology Society.

Andy’s breadth of experience across the ophthalmic industry in diagnostic and surgical devices, as well as pharmaceuticals has made him an exceptional leader in the industry. His understanding of the needs of the clinician and how technology can improve their work has successfully transitioned some of the ophthalmic industry’s most influential companies to the next level in market leadership. Through partnership with doctors from early-stage development to integrating and implementing cutting-edge technologies into daily clinical practice Andy has made significant contributions to the expansion of offerings for ophthalmic and optometric customers worldwide.

Prior to joining ZEISS, Andy was General Manager and Senior Vice President for Bausch + Lomb Surgical where he led the sales, marketing, operations and business development for the US. Previously at Optomedica Corporation / Abbott Medical Optics, Inc., Andy led the marketing and launch of new laser systems and new indications globally. At ISTA Pharmaceutical / Bausch + Lomb, Andy held various marketing, sales and product development roles and led the market introductions of ophthalmic pharmaceuticals.
Bilal Khan

Bilal Khan is the Chief Executive Officer of New World Medical, an ophthalmic device firm based in Rancho Cucamonga, California. He also serves on the Board of Directors of multiple for-profit and nonprofit organizations. Prior to joining New World Medical, he worked as an Actuary in Chicago, Los Angeles, and London, becoming a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries in 2008.

Mr. Khan holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Actuarial Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a Master of Business Administration in Management from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated with honors.
James V. Mazzo

James V. (Jim) Mazzo is Executive Chairman of Neurotech, a retinal implant company, and an Advisor for Zeiss, Bain Consulting and Avellino.

Mazzo is one of the ophthalmic industry’s best known and most respected business leaders with more than 40 years of proven experience. His global reputation for building and running world-class organizations is based on twenty-two years of leading Allergan’s North American and European eye care organizations; seven years as Chairman, President and CEO of Advanced Medical Optics (AMO); four years as EVP of Abbott’s global ophthalmology business; three years as Executive Chair and CEO of AcuFocus; four years as Global President of Ophthalmic Devices for Carl Zeiss Meditec; and one year as President, CEO and Member of the Board for Avellino.

Additionally, he is the Founder and Past Chairman of OCTANe, a member of the International Intraocular Implant Club (IIIC) and Executive Committee Board Member with the Medical Device Manufacturers Association (MDMA).

Mazzo is on the ASCRS Governing Board, the AAO Foundation Advisory Board, the AGS Foundation Advisory Board, Board Chair of the Gavin Herbert Eye Institute, a Consultant of Anivive Lifesciences, is an advisor with Crystalex and CVC Private Equity, sits on the boards with Centricity Vision, LensGen, Tear Lab, Iantrek, and Preceyes, serves on NASA’s Mission to Mars Committee, is an Officer in the Order of St. John, and is also a Board Member of the Anaheim Ducks Foundation.

His accomplishments and contributions to the healthcare industry and business and educational communities include serving as Board Chairman for AdvaMed; serving on the University of California at Irvine foundation; the Vice Chair Trustee, Chapman University; and years of dedicated experience with the medical device industry including cardiology, dermatology, orthopedics as well as ophthalmology. Jim has also been recognized as a Top 100 Innovator in Ophthalmology multiple times and in 2021 received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.
Cody McKenzie

Cody McKenzie is the Vice President, Franchise Head of Glaucoma at Glaukos Corporation, an ophthalmic medical device and pharmaceutical organization focused on pioneering new therapies for corneal health, glaucoma, and retinal diseases. At Glaukos, he is responsible for the strategic oversight and expansion of the global glaucoma franchise. Since 2017, he has led the global commercial launches of numerous interventional glaucoma innovations, most notably the iStent inject and iStent infinite trabecular micro-bypass systems.

Cody brings over 15 years of experience in the ophthalmic industry with a strong focus on the customer. Prior to Glaukos, he held various marketing leadership roles at Allergan and Bausch + Lomb. He has extensive experience in commercial strategy and execution, product launch, new product development, and product management spanning across glaucoma and cataract disease states. He received his B.S. in Marketing from the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University.
Thomas A. Mitro

Thomas A. Mitro served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Aerie Pharmaceuticals from August 2013 through February 2022, during which time the company received approval for two novel glaucoma products in the U.S. and Europe, initiated development in Japan, and launched both products in the U.S., while building a pipeline in additional therapeutic areas in ophthalmology and an ophthalmic manufacturing facility in Ireland. From November 2012 to August 2013, Mr. Mitro served as Vice President, Sales and Marketing at Omeros Corporation. Prior to this, Mr. Mitro was Vice President, Sales and Marketing at ISTA Pharmaceuticals from July 2002 to July 2012, where he was instrumental in building ISTA’s commercial operations and launching several eye-care products. Previously, Mr. Mitro held various positions at Allergan, Inc., including Vice President, Skin Care; Vice President, Business Development; and Vice President, e-Business. Mr. Mitro received his B.S. from Miami University.
Ravi Nallakrishnan

Ravi Nallakrishnan is the President & Founder of ASICO, an ophthalmic instruments company that has pioneered innovation in surgical instrumentation for over 35 years. He turned ASICO into a brand that is synonymous with innovation and quality, frequently working with top surgeons & KOLs from around the world to develop new instrument designs for the latest techniques with an emphasis on surgical efficiency and superior patient outcomes. He is the owner of over 30 patents associated with instrument designs and other ophthalmic innovations.

Ravi is also the President & Founder of P.S. Therapy, a pharmaceutical company committed to harnessing the powerful effects of a proprietary non-micellar platform to develop and enhance transformative formulations in the treatment of ophthalmic diseases and other therapeutic areas.

Outside of ophthalmology, Ravi is the managing director of the Asia Engineering Company, a well-established construction company based in Chennai, India. Ravi is a highly experienced executive in diverse fields with a demonstrated ability to lead diverse teams of professionals to new levels of success in a variety of highly competitive industries, cutting-edge markets, and fast-paced environments. He carefully analyzes an organization’s critical business requirements, identifies deficiencies and opportunities, and develops innovative and cost-effective solutions.
Brian L. Schwam, MD

Dr. Schwam currently serves as Senior Medical Director, R&D External Innovation and Medical Science Strategy for Johnson and Johnson Surgical Vision. In this role, he leads Medical Affairs efforts for Cataract and Refractive surgical equipment, supporting both R&D and product life-cycle management. In addition, Dr. Schwam is responsible for the development and execution of global post-market evidence generation strategies and he partners with the External Innovation and Business Development teams in evaluation of new technologies. Most recently, Dr. Schwam served as Chief Medical Officer for Johnson and Johnson Vision Care, Inc., during which he had responsibility for the Global Clinical and Medical Affairs organizations. In 2007, Dr. Schwam joined Vision Care as Director, Medical Affairs and Ocular Sciences where he focused on both combination product development in R&D and Medical Affairs within Vistakon Pharmaceuticals. He subsequently led the Clinical Affairs organization including Clinical Operations, the Vistakon Research Clinic, and Data Management and Biostatistics.

Prior to joining Johnson and Johnson, Dr. Schwam practiced ophthalmology for 12 years in the specialty of cornea/external disease, cataract, and refractive surgery both in private practice and at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, FL where he was Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology. While in practice, Dr. Schwam was a frequent lecturer on corneal disease and cataract/refractive surgery to eye-care providers and other medical professionals. Dr. Schwam graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the Pennsylvania State University with a B.S. in Microbiology and received his Medical Degree from the Jefferson Medical College (now Sidney Kimmel Medical College) of Thomas Jefferson University. He completed his Ophthalmology Residency at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation (Cole Eye Institute) and his Fellowship in Cornea and External Diseases at the New England Eye Center, Tufts University School of Medicine and Ophthalmic Consultants of Boston. Dr. Schwam is the author of multiple book chapters and articles in peer reviewed journals. He is a member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Vision Is Priceless Council (VIP) and is an active participant in the Volunteer HealthCare Provider Program at several locations in Northeast Florida. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.
Gary Sternberg, MD, MBA

Dr. Sternberg has over 20 years of experience in biopharma drug development. This experience has ranged from leading emerging biotechnology companies to heading clinical development and medical affairs and guiding corporate strategy in business development and new technology evaluation. He is a trained ophthalmologist and fellowship trained in cornea and external diseases. Prior to joining Aerie Pharmaceuticals in 2022 as Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Sternberg was Chief Executive Officer of Stargazer Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a company developing a drug to treat Stargardt disease. Before that, he was Chief Executive Officer of a glaucoma start-up called Tisbury Pharmaceuticals. Prior to Tisbury, Dr. Sternberg served as the Chief Business Officer at Eleven Biotherapeutics, Inc. Before that, Dr. Sternberg spent four years at Genentech, Inc. where he was Group Medical Director and headed Medical Affairs for the compound Lucentis (ranibizumab) in the U.S. He has also consulted for multiple biopharma companies in clinical and senior executive roles, including Chief Medical Officer, Chief Executive Officer, and as clinical consultant in a number of ophthalmic and non-ophthalmic indications.