Earl Choromokos: Another Milestone Marker of the OPS

On May 31, 1998, the full-time academic career of Earl A. Choromokos, COPRA, FOPS came to an end. Over his years at the University of Cincinnati, Earl touched countless lives—the residents and medical students he taught, the patients he cared for, the physicians and staff with whom he worked. Dr. Taylor Asbury, the Interim Chairman of the Ophthalmology Department, felt his career should be noted and honored. At the Resident Graduation, Dr. Asbury reviewed Earl’s career and presented him with a plaque that read:

Presented to
Professor Earl A. Choromokos
in appreciation of his two decades of outstanding contributions in photography, teaching, and research for fellowship for loyal support and invaluable advice for illustrative lessons in life and always maintaining the true vision.
From a grateful Department of Ophthalmology University of Cincinnati College of Medicine
June 1, 1998

Dr. Asbury told the incredible story of Earl’s nearly 35 years in ophthalmic photography. While studying engineering at the University of Miami, an unfortunate accident broke Earl’s back and turned his career in a completely new direction. After training as a Medical Photographer, he became a research and clinical photographer at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami. It was there that Earl and Johnny Justice formed the nucleus which became the Ophthalmic Photographers’ Society. It was also at Bascom Palmer that Earl worked with Dr. Noble David to develop the Indocyanine Green angiogram in the late 1960s. In 1969, Earl moved to Northwestern University in Chicago to work as a Research Assistant for Dr. David Shoeh. When Dr. Joel Sacks became Chair of Ophthalmology at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, he recruited Earl to join the full-time faculty. Earl’s career flourished at UC—he authored nearly 50 papers, made over 125 presentations at meetings, and he served as President of the OPS. During his term as Chairman of the OPS Board of Certification, Earl worked with Terry Toner to develop and attain JCAHPO accreditation for the testing procedures for the two levels, Certified Retinal Angiographer (CRA) and Certified Ophthalmic Photographer and Retinal Angiographer (COPRA).

In 1983, Earl was promoted to Associate Professor of Ophthalmology. An ophthalmology resident, Dr. Lance Ferguson, wanted the University to officially recognize Earl’s special talents and nominated him to receive the University of Cincinnati Award of Excellence. The University President, Dr. Henry Winkler presented the Award at the University’s Graduation Exercises in June 1984. On the award Dr. Winkler wrote, “Your reputation as an authority in the field of ophthalmology has been gained through the exercise of your lively curiosity and native intelligence. Respect for your competency as a professor is widespread; you are known as a rigorous and demanding instructor, generous with your time and expertise, proficient in your ability to present an informative amalgamation of theory and practice. A shrewd and compassionate judge of human character, you have distinguished yourself in identifying talented newcomers to the field and encouraging their further development.”

Earl continued on in the undaunted, tenacious way we have all come to know. In 1996, Earl endured the University’s toughest gauntlet, he successfully stood for Tenure. That was also the year Earl became a kidney recipient. In 1990, Earl became a full Professor. In a career full of firsts, he retires with yet another first. As a result of Dr. Asbury’s nomination, Earl Choromokos became Emeritus Professor of Ophthalmology, on June 1, 1998—the first Emeritus faculty in the Department’s 170 year history!

Extrapolated Speech of Dr. Taylor Asbury
Interim Director of the Department of Ophthalmology
University of Cincinnati
June 1998
Board of Directors

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(Will fill Past President’s Position)

Thank you to all the steadfast candidates who chose to run for office in this year’s election for Board of Directors and Board of Education. The following candidates were selected by the OPS membership to fill the indicated positions. Congratulations to all those newly elected and re-elected, and once again, a heartfelt thanks to all those who ran for office.

Sincerely,
Peter Buch, CRA
Nominating Committee Chairman

Board of Education

Janice Clifton
Rosario Bate, CRA
Robert Curtin II, CRA
Lon Dowell, CRA
Marcella Hickey, CRA

“I have no fear of photography as long it cannot be used in heaven and in hell.”

Edvard Munch (1863-1944), Norwegian artist.
All the same, in 1902, Munch bought a Kodak, & experimented with photography.

Images from ICOP ‘98: The Scottish Highlands

The sights were spectacular, the coursework enriching, and the friendships and fun times empowering...we look forward to a full report in the next issue. Here’s a few photos, by Joe Warnicki, to whet your appetite.

Eileen Donan Castle in Northwest Scotland

Among the people enjoying this Scottish cafe outside The George Hotel were (left to right) Ethan Priel, Paula Morris, Maria Warnicki, Marshall Tyler, Ditte Hess, Colin Clements, Paul Montague, Alison and Ken Farrow, and Joe Warnicki.
New Members
August 20, - September 17, 1998
Dirk-Uwe G. Bartsch, PhD, La Jolla, CA
Jill M. Dryden, Salt Lake City, UT
Franklin Ellis, Bronx, NY
Donna M. Galloway, Philadelphia, PA
Linda G. Gartner, COT, St. John, IN
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Trina A. R. Mottl, COA, Seattle, WA
Jeffrey M. Napoli, Durham, NC
Rebecca Reyes, BA, Chicago, IL
Ellen F. Rosenlund, MD, Dusseldorf, Germany
Rhonda S. Russell, COA, Perry, FL
Tammy E. Thiel-Anderson, Wasilla, AK
Marcia L. Travis, COT, Naperville, IL

Correction: Ted Jacob, listed in the last Newsletter, is currently a RBP candidate.

The Journal of Ophthalmic Photography is accepting original articles, columns, and letters containing original research, practical suggestions, or professional opinions. Your peers are interested in learning about your work and opinions. Send your contributions to:

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Ophthalmic Photographer for four physician practice in Charlotte, North Carolina. Join us in one of the fastest growing metropolitan regions in the southeast. Our company offers 20 years in the practice of medical and surgical ophthalmology with locations throughout North and South Carolina. Excellent pay and benefits. Contact: Mindy Marker / Carolina Eye Associates, 2200 East 7th Street, Charlotte, NC 28204 (704) 332-1700.


CRA with nine years of experience in both research / educational and private practice searching for a position in the Mid-Atlantic area (MD, VA, and DC area). I have performed slit-lamp, external photography, fundus, film and digital angiography, and ICG. I am an individual who adapts well to new situations, works well under pressure in a high volume environment, dependable and reliable. I even have reference letters to back these statements! Please contact me at 410-644-1137.

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NOTICE: The New England Chapter of the OPS, in conjunction with the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center Dept. of Ophthalmology, will be hosting the second annual CE & Ski meeting in Southern New Hampshire in March 1999.

The first annual meeting offered an outstanding educational program that was almost, but not quite outdone by the great skiing and beautiful scenery. A good time was had by all. As some of you may recall, this conference generated some very interesting conversation on Optimal.

Be sure not to miss out on what promises to be one of the most exciting and “interesting” meetings of the year. Watch your mail for more details. For more information contact: Darrin Landry, President, NEOPS, (207) 773-3937 dlandry@int-usa.net

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Next Newsletter Submission Deadline: December 1, 1998