

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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I. Howard Fine, MD was delighted to learn that he will be giving the inaugural lecture in honor of the late Charles D. Kelman, MD, at the next meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) in October. According to the AAO, the Charles D. Kelman Lecture will be given by “renowned surgeons who improve cataract surgery through education or innovation” – a fitting tribute considering Dr. Kelman’s body of work.

Dr. Kelman, who was known as the “father of phacoemulsification,” passed away in June of 2004. He was a pioneer of cataract surgery and was the first to realize that a cataract could be removed using ultrasonic energy to emulsify the cataract and extract the material through a small incision. Dr. Kelman’s phacoemulsification procedure revolutionized cataract surgery. In addition to restoring sight, Dr. Kelman’s ideas and achievements have also helped to save lives. Neurosurgeons have adapted his phacoemulsification procedure to remove tumors from the surrounding, delicate brain tissue and spinal cords of children. Dr. Kelman received many awards for his achievements throughout his career. For the revolutionary vision of phacoemulsification, Dr. Kelman was awarded the Nation Medal of Technology by President George H. W. Bush in 1992.

Dr. Kelman was one of Dr. Fine’s personal heroes so Dr. Fine is particularly honored and thrilled to be chosen as the inaugural Charles D. Kelman Lecturer. Shortly after Dr. Kelman’s passing, Dr. Fine offered his thoughts on Dr. Kelman’s legacy:

“I think the important thing for everyone to remember when thinking about all of his many accomplishments and achievements is the fact that Charlie was also the role model for an entire generation of ophthalmologists who wished to, as he had done, combine clinical research and teaching with patient care.”

Named one of the 25 most influential ophthalmologists of the Twentieth Century by a vote of 16,000 ophthalmologists worldwide, Dr. Fine has served as a Core Clinical Investigator for nearly every phacoemulsification system and intraocular lens developed in recent years and has developed techniques and instruments that have further revolutionized eye surgery.