

INSIDE EYECARE TECHNOLOGY NEWS SERVICE April-May 2001, Vol. 2 No. 2



### I. Howard Fine, MD

Howard Fine, MD, is the incoming President of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, to be installed on Saturday, April 28, 2001, and recipient of IET's

Lifetime Achievement Award for Extraordinary Contributions in the Advancement of Ophthalmic Technology

In 1999,Dr. Fine was also named one of the 25 most influential ophthalmologists of the 20th Century by a vote of 16,000 ophthalmologists worldwide, polled by the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery



# IET Proudly Presents the Lifetime Achievement Award to I. Howard Fine, MD for Extraordinary Contributions in the Advancement of Ophthalmic Technology

## by Nick Mathe, editor-in-chief

IET's presents its Lifetime Achievement Award for Extraordinary Contributions in the Advancement of Ophthalmic Technology--given to individuals who have changed the face of ophthalmic technology through innovation and/or advanced techniques in surgery resulting in better patient care. The choice for this year's recipient was not easy. Superior candidates abound. Scores of nominees were discussed. In the final analysis, we are proud to announce this year's recipient is none other than incoming President of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, I.Howard Fine, MD.

When I first met Dr. Fine in the early-nineties, I was truly excited and even nervous to meet such a prestigious surgeon, one of my "heroes" in ophthalmic technology. I expected someone, perhaps aloof, who would have very little time to spend with me for the interview. Instead, I met a very warm, smiling, and exceedingly gracious gentleman with a twinkle in his eye, as if he had an amusing story to tell. As it turned out, Dr. Fine's stories of his innovations and how they worked and his worldliness made for a wonderful interview! Dr. Fine spent quite awhile with me — all the time I needed — and then invited me to call him at home (on a Sunday, yet!) to talk more, again taking the time to explain techniques and to be certain I understood. It was the beginning of a lifelong friendship—founded in admiration and respect.

# Personal: Picture If You Will Dr. Fine on a Harley!

Dr. Fine grew up on the East Coast. He graduated from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1961. He worked as a chemical engineer, conducted cancer research at Brandeis University, and received his medical and ophthalmology training at the Boston University Medical Center. He became certified by

Among Dr. Fine's long list of accomplishments and interests is his love for Harley Davidson motorcycles. Put away the scrubs and don the helmet, we're going for a ride!



Dr. Fine has designed numerous instruments and has served as Core Clinical Investigator in the development of several lasers, IOLs, Phaco machines (and associated instruments), as well as various devices and implants.



From left to right. Dr. Charles Fahman, the inventor of photogramabilities with the fine in Compet.

Dr. Fine and Dr. Kelman (inventor of the phacoemulsification system) in Pompeii, Italy. Source: Dr. Fine's website and newsletter, the Fine View, Spring 2000; web address: http://www.finemd.com/pages/newsletter\_00\_spring.html

the American Board of Ophthalmology in 1972. Specializing in cataract/IOL, refractive and anterior segment surgery, he has been in private practice for 30 years in Eugene, Oregon, serving as cofounder of the Oregon Eye Surgery Center. During his years studying in Boston, Dr. Fine met his talented and beautiful wife, Vicky, then a student at Wellesley College. She now is an integral part of the he Oregon Eye Surgery Center, with a keen eye for detail and organization. Their friendship and love for each other has since become legend! They have three children: Bill, Laura and Edward.

Aside from spending time with his family, Dr. Fine also enjoys travel (thank goodness!) and Harley Davidson motorcycles! Can you imagine it? Dr. Fine adds a dimension of family, love of life and a colorfulness that belies the "aloof" stereotype some may expect from doctors of such high renown. [Point in fact, as one gets to know many of the leaders in our field, Dr. Fine's depth of character, breadth of experience and down-to-earth, gracious personality is more the norm, not the exception!]

### Dr. Fine, the Teacher-Mentor

Early in life, I was told that we all have talent and we have an obligation to share our talents with others and to pass on our wisdom. Dr. Fine embodies this philosophy, living an unselfish life by sharing his time and talent with others, so that ultimately, patients around the world may also benefit from the higher degree of skill among the doctors who learned from Dr. Fine and subsequently treated their patients.

In this spirit, Dr. Fine serves as a Clinical Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at the Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, Oregon; and is a visiting professor at 23 medical schools in the United States and abroad. In his illustrious career, he has already delivered eight named lectureships. He has held local, state, and national leadership positions within organized medicine and ophthalmology, and as previously mentioned, will be installed on Saturday, April 28th, at the annual meeting in San Diego of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery as its next president.

### Editor, Writer and Lecturer Supreme

Dr. Fine serves on the Editorial Board of 10 ophthalmic journals and publications, including this one, *Inside EyeCare Technology Online* (a.k.a.:

IETOnline) and two others I have had the pleasure of editing along with him:

EyeCare Technology and EyeCare Tomorrow. In all,



Dr. Fine has contributed to over 200 publicationsin refereeing medical journals and contributing to the medical press, and has edited five textbooks in cataract and refractive surgical techniques and has "We also had an opportunity to visit Pompeii, which is a nearly completely excavated ruin. This commercial city which represented the height of Roman civilization at around the time of Christ, and which had previously been settled by the Greeks, was quite spectacular. In many ways it was the best ruins that I have ever visited and was much larger and more elaborate than I had anticipated, especially the homes with their formal gardens, baths and various other rooms."

—I. Howard Fine, MD talks about his trip to Pompeii.



Dr. Fine (left) and Dr. Packer perform phacoemulsification procedure at their clinic in Eugene, Oregon.



authored more than thirty chapters in textbooks and surgical atlases on cataract and refractive surgery. He has lectured, nationally and internationally, presenting over 800 courses worldwide. Dr. Fine has also demonstrated live surgical techniques to his peers in over 30 countries.

# From the Choo-Choo Chop and Flip, to the Crack and Flip

Dr. Fine has contributed to the development of techniques that have revolutionized eye surgery, designing instruments and implants and innovating many surgical procedures used in modern eye surgery. He has served as a Core Clinical Investigator for several lasers, including the Coherent System 9900 YAG Ophthalmic Laser and the Sunrise Technology holmium YAG laser for hyperopia.

As Core Clinical Investigator for a literal multitude of phacoemulsification machines (nearly every one made to date and their associated instruments!), Dr. Fine has assisted with the following phacoemulsification systems: the Paradigm YAG laser, the AMO Prestige, the Storz Premier, the Alcon Surgical Legacy, the AMO Diplomax, the Mentor Meridian, the Allergan Sovereign, the STAAR Wave, the STAAR Wave Sonic, the Bausch & Lomb/Storz Millennium, with scroll pump, and the Meditec Phacolase phacoemulsification system.

Dr. Fine has been just as prolific with IOLs as a Core Investigator including: the AMO Array foldable multifocal lens, the C & C accommodative IOL, the Kabi Pharmacia 809A, the 5mm round single piece IOL, the Alcon surface modified AcrySof IOL, the STAAR collamer plate haptic lens, the Chiron heminaptic plate silicone foldable lens, the AMO acrylic foldable small incision lens, the AMO Array foldable multifocal lens, the AMO Phaco-Fit small incision lens, the AMO silicone small incision lens, the Iolab silicone small incision lens, the Alcon hydrogel small incision lens, the AMO Array multifocal lens, the ORC "Memory" small incision lens, the Ioptex soft acrylic small incision lens, and the STAAR toric silicone lens.

Dr. Fine has also developed implants and has innovated many surgical procedures including Cortical Cleaving Hydrodissection, Chip and Flip, Crack and Flip, the Choo-Choo Chop and Flip phacoemulsification techniques, and the Temporal Self-Sealing Clear Corneal Incision.

# Vote by Peers Among 25 Most Influential Ophthalmologists of the 20th Century

Dr. Fine is among the cataract surgeons listed in all editions of The Best Doctors in America, and the



Nick Mathe, the author, is the editor-in-chief of this publication and has served as editor-in-chief for *EyeCare Technology* and *EyeCare Tomorrow*, respectively. He has also served as technology editor for *EyeWorld*, ophthalmic computing columnist for *Ocular Surgery* 

**News** and technology editor for **Review of Optometry**. He was the founder of EyeTech, the meeting and edited and published the **Ophthalmology Software Directory and Buyers' Guide** for six years. He may be reached at:

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**Back to Top** 

first edition of Marguis' Who's Who in Medicine and Healthcare. He received the prestigious Innovator's Award, given annually by the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery and the 1994 Honor Award given by the American Academy of Ophthalmology. In 1996, he received the Maumenee award at the Baylor/Welsh Cataract and Refractive Surgery Congress and was selected by the United Kingdom and Ireland Societies for Cataract and Refractive Surgery to receive the Rayner Medal. The Brazilian Phaco Club honored him in 1998 with their award. In 1999, he was named one of the 25 most influential ophthalmologists of the 20th Century by a vote of 16,000 ophthalmologists worldwide, polled by the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery.

### The Future

The future is bright for ophthalmology and medicine as a whole, considering we have been blessed with such gifted teacher-innovator-surgeons as Dr. I. Howard Fine. He has shown us the way by living an exemplary life of sharing his God-given talents and providing new instruments, techniques and devices to the world, resulting in better patient outcomes, more highly-skilled surgeons and giving us a roadmap on how to live the good life while making a huge difference in the world. We congratulate, you, Dr. Fine, for the legacy you have already left us and wish you continued health and success in the future! —*Nick Mathe* 

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