

27th Annual Advanced Vitreoretinal Techniques & Technology Symposium and Fellows' Course



avtt

ACCREDITATION AND CREDIT DESIGNATION

In support of improving patient care, this activity has been planned and implemented by Cine-Med and Medical Conference Planners, Inc. Cine-Med is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

PHYSICIANS

Cine-Med designates this live activity for a maximum of **7.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)**[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

OTHER HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

All other healthcare professionals will receive a Certificate of Participation. For information on the applicability and acceptance of Certificates of Participation for activities designated for **AMA PRA Category 1 Credits**[™], consult your professional licensing board.



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INTERPROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION

August 28-29, 2026

Hyatt Centric Chicago Magnificent Mile | Chicago, IL



2026

Organizer



William F. Mieler, MD

Cless Family Professor and
Vice-Chairman Director
Vitreoretinal Fellowship Training
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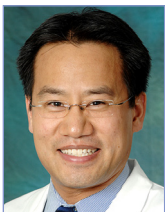
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Friday

AUGUST 28 (non-CME)*

6:45 AM – 6:35 PM

Registration
Grand Ballroom Foyer, 2nd Floor

6:45 AM – 6:35 PM

Exhibits
St. Clair Ballroom, 3rd Floor



6:45 – 7:25 AM

Breakfast
St. Clair Ballroom, 3rd Floor

7:25 – 7:30 AM

Welcome and Introduction
William F. Mieler, MD

7:30 – 9:40 AM

The Business of Ophthalmology

Moderator: William F. Mieler, MD

7:30 – 7:40 AM

Ophthalmology Manpower:
Demographics and Practice Patterns
William F. Mieler, MD

7:40 – 8:00 AM

Panel Discussion: Transitioning from
Fellowship to your First Job and
Tips for the Young Attending

Moderator: William F. Mieler, MD

Panelists: Justine Cheng, MD
John B. Miller, MD
Alexis K. Warren, MD
Nicolas A. Yannuzzi, MD
Ivy Zhu, MD

8:00 – 8:10 AM

Incorporating Research into your
Clinical Practice: Clinical Trials and
Collaborating with Industry

Jennifer I. Lim, MD

8:10 – 8:20 AM

AAO Leadership Development Program:
Global Alliances and Global Ophthalmology

R.V. Paul Chan, MD, MSc, MBA

8:20 – 8:30 AM

Telemedicine in Medicine: How Do We Do It?
Carol L. Shields, MD

8:30 – 8:40 AM

Panel Discussion: Ethics Round Table
and Dealing with Challenging Patients

Moderators: Justine Cheng, MD &
William F. Mieler, MD

Panelists: Pooja V. Bhat, MD
R.V. Paul Chan, MD, MSc, MBA
Amani Fawzi, MD
Jennifer J. Kang-Mieler, PhD
Jennifer I. Lim, MD
Ann-Marie Lobo-Chan, MD, MS
John B. Miller, MD
David Sarraf, MD
Carol L. Shields, MD
Alexis K. Warren, MD
George A. Williams, MD
Nicolas A. Yannuzzi, MD
Ivy Zhu, MD

8:40 – 9:00 AM

Panel Discussion: Choosing the Type of
Practice: Pros and Cons of Academics, Private
Practice, Hybrid Practices, Private Equity

Moderator: George A. Williams, MD

Panelists: Pooja V. Bhat, MD
R.V. Paul Chan, MD, MSc, MBA
Justine Cheng, MD
Amani Fawzi, MD
Jennifer J. Kang-Mieler, PhD
Jennifer I. Lim, MD
Ann-Marie Lobo-Chan, MD, MS
William F. Mieler, MD
John B. Miller, MD
David Sarraf, MD
Carol L. Shields, MD
Alexis K. Warren, MD
Nicolas A. Yannuzzi, MD
Ivy Zhu, MD

9:00 – 9:10 AM

Types of Audits, Risk Management and
Malpractice for the Retinal Surgeon

George A. Williams, MD

9:10 – 9:20 AM

The Value of Advocacy

Jennifer I. Lim, MD

9:20 – 9:30 AM

The Potential Impact of Current Federal
Government Regulations on the Future of
Retina and Ophthalmology in General

George A. Williams, MD

9:30 – 9:40 AM

Work-Life Balance, Burnout, and
the Value of Mentorship

William F. Mieler, MD

9:40 – 10:00 AM



Break

St. Clair Ballroom, 3rd Floor

10:00 – 11:30 AM

Imaging Update

Moderator: John B. Miller, MD

10:00 – 10:10 AM

OCT Angiography: Practical Pearls and Pitfalls
Amani Fawzi, MD

10:10 – 10:20 AM

The Use of Ultrawide Field Peripheral
OCT in Vitreoretinal Disorders

David Sarraf, MD

10:20 – 10:30 AM

The Role of Artificial Intelligence in the
Monitoring of Macular Diseases

R.V. Paul Chan, MD, MSc, MBA

10:30 – 10:40 AM

En Face OCT: Insights into AMD and Beyond
David Sarraf, MD

10:40 – 10:50 AM

The Value and Potential Benefit of Home
Monitoring Imaging Devices in AMD

Jennifer I. Lim, MD

10:50 – 11:00 AM

Has OCTA replaced the Use of Fluorescein
Angiography in the Assessment of AMD?

Amani Fawzi, MD

11:00 – 11:10 AM

Specialized Imaging in AMD
Masquerade Syndromes

Justine Cheng, MD

11:10 – 11:20 AM

OCT Techniques for Enhanced
Visualization of Eye Tumors

Carol L. Shields, MD

11:20 – 11:30 AM

Meta Artificial Intelligence
Glasses: A Game Changer

Carol L. Shields, MD

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Industry Presentations

- 11:30 Alcon
- 11:34 Astellas
- 11:38 Neurotech Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
- 11:42 Retina Consultants of America
- 11:46 AbbVie
- 11:48 Bausch + Lomb
- 11:50 EyeCare Partners
- 11:52 EyePoint, Inc.
- 11:54 Norlase
- 11:56 Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
- 11:58 ZEISS



12:00 – 1:00 PM

Lunch
St. Clair Ballroom, 3rd Floor

Following an Introductory Lecture on Preparing for Vitrectomy Surgery, the attendees will be divided into two groups.

1:00 – 4:30 PM

Preparation for Vitrectomy Surgery
Vitrectomy Instrumentation,
Discussion of Challenging OCT, Medical, and Surgical Cases

1:00 – 1:15 PM

Introduction to Wet Lab
Justine Cheng, MD

Transition to Group Assignments

Group 1

1:15 – 2:45 PM

Wet Lab – Instrument Demonstration

Faculty:

Justine Cheng, MD
Felix Y. Chau, MD
Jennifer I. Lim, MD
John B. Miller, MD
Alexis K. Warren, MD
Nicolas A. Yannuzzi, MD
George A. Williams, MD
Ivy Zhu, MD

Group 2

1:15 – 2:45 PM

Retinal Imaging and Discussion of OCT, Medical, and Surgical Cases

Co-Moderators:

William F. Mieler, MD & David Sarraf, MD

Panelists:

Pooja V. Bhat, MD
Amani A. Fawzi, MD
Carol L. Shields, MD

2:45 – 3:00 PM

Break

St. Clair Ballroom, 3rd Floor

3:00 – 4:30 PM

Retinal Imaging and Discussion of OCT, Medical, and Surgical Cases

Co-Moderators:

William F. Mieler, MD & David Sarraf, MD

Panelists:

Pooja V. Bhat, MD
Amani A. Fawzi, MD
Carol L. Shields, MD

3:00 – 4:30 PM

Wet Lab – Instrument Demonstration

Faculty:

Justine Cheng, MD
Felix Y. Chau, MD
Jennifer I. Lim, MD
John B. Miller, MD
Alexis K. Warren, MD
Nicolas A. Yannuzzi, MD
George A. Williams, MD
Ivy Zhu, MD

Transition to General Session

4:30 – 5:30 PM

AMD and Macular Disease Update

Moderator: Nicolas A. Yannuzzi, MD

4:30 – 4:40 PM

Emerging Therapies in the
Treatment of Exudative AMD

Jennifer I. Lim, MD

4:40 – 4:50 PM

Drug Delivery to the Posterior
Segment in the Setting of AMD

Jennifer J. Kang-Mieler, PhD

4:50 – 5:00 PM

Emerging Therapies in the
Treatment of Dry AMD

Jennifer I. Lim, MD

5:00 – 5:10 PM

Assessment and Treatment of White Dot
Syndromes Impacting the Macula

Amani Fawzi, MD

5:10 – 5:20 PM

Evidence-Based Management of
Central Serous Choroidopathy

Ivy Zhu, MD

5:20 – 5:30 PM

Systemic Medications Impacting
Macular Function

David Sarraf, MD

5:30 – 6:15 PM

AMD Debates

Moderator: George A. Williams, MD

5:30 – 5:45 PM

Debate #1: Photobiomodulation is Beneficial
in the Management of Intermediate Dry AMD

5:30 PM

Yes

Alexis K. Warren, MD

5:35 PM

No

Justine Cheng, MD

5:40 PM

Discussion: Analysis of Debate

5:45 – 6:00 PM

Debate #2: The Future Management of Dry AMD will Continue to be with Complement Inhibitors

5:45 PM

Yes

Nicolas A. Yannuzzi, MD

5:50 PM

No

Amani Fawzi, MD

5:55 PM

Discussion: Analysis of Debate

6:00 – 6:15 PM

Debate #3: The Endpoint of Treatment of Exudative AMD Should be a Completely Dry Macula

6:00 PM

Yes

John B. Miller, MD

6:05 PM

No

Jennifer I. Lim, MD

6:10 PM

Discussion: Analysis of Debate

6:15 – 6:29 PM**Industry Presentations**

6:15 Genentech, Inc.

6:25 ANI Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

6:27 Castle Biosciences

6:29 – 6:35 PM

Closing Remarks

William F. Mieler, MD

7:00 PM

Meet in Hotel Lobby to walk to the dock

**7:15 PM – 10:00 PM**

Dinner aboard Chicago's Fair Lady This Chicago River and Lake Michigan boat cruise is for all meeting registrants and excludes guests. *Boat disembarks from the dock at 7:30 PM.*

Saturday

AUGUST 29

6:45 AM – 6:15 PM

Registration

Grand Ballroom Foyer, 2nd Floor

6:45 AM – 3:30 PM

Exhibits

St. Clair Ballroom, 3rd Floor

**6:45 AM – 7:25 AM**

Breakfast

St. Clair Ballroom, 3rd Floor

7:25 AM – 7:30 AM

Welcome and Introduction

William F. Mieler, MD

7:30 – 9:10 AM

Diabetic Retinopathy and Retinal Vascular Disease

Moderator: Alexis K. Warren, MD

7:30 – 7:40 AM

The Value of the IRIS Registry for Treatment Guidelines in the Setting of Retinal Diseases

George A. Williams, MD

7:40 – 7:50 AM

Update of Treatment for Diabetic Macular Edema

Alexis K. Warren, MD

7:50 – 8:00 AM

Retinal Vein Occlusion: Pearls Learned from Imaging

David Sarraf, MD

8:00 – 8:10 AM

DRCR Update

John B. Miller, MD

8:10 – 8:20 AM

Retinal Blood Flow and Biomarkers for Diabetic Macular Edema

Jennifer J. Kang-Mieler, PhD

8:20 – 8:30 AM

New Improved Treatment of Select Retinal Diseases

Jennifer I. Lim, MD

8:30 – 8:40 AM

Retinal Vascular Abnormalities and Systemic Disease

William F. Mieler, MD

8:40 – 8:50 AM

Update in the Treatment of Macular Telangiectasis

Ivy Zhu, MD

8:50 – 9:00 AM

Approach to Non-Infectious Uveitis—Diagnosis and Management

Pooja V. Bhat, MD

9:00 – 9:10 AM

Sickle Cell Retinopathy Update

Jennifer I. Lim, MD

9:10 – 9:40 AM

Diabetic Retinopathy and Retinal Vascular Disease Debates

Moderator: David Sarraf, MD

9:10 – 9:25 AM

Debate #4: Anti-VEGF Therapy is the Gold Standard in the Management of Proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy

9:10 AM

Yes

Alexis K. Warren, MD

9:15 AM

No

Amani Fawzi, MD

9:20 AM

Discussion: Analysis of Debate

9:25 – 9:40 AM

Debate #5: Multi-Target Therapies are Superior to Anti-VEGF Monotherapies in the Treatment of Diabetic Macular Edema

9:25 AM

Yes

Felix Y. Chau, MD

9:30 AM

No

Robert A. Hyde, MD, PhD

9:35 AM

Discussion: Analysis of Debate

9:40 – 10:00 AM

Break

St. Clair Ballroom, 3rd Floor

10:00 – 11:30 AM

Ocular Oncology, Pediatric Retina, Uveitis, and Retinal Degenerations

Moderator: Michael J. Heiferman, MD

10:00 – 10:10 AM

Retinoblastoma Update 2026

Carol L. Shields, MD

10:10 – 10:20 AM

Update of the Assessment and Treatment of Uveal Melanoma, Including the Value of Prognostic Testing

Michael J. Heiferman, MD

10:20 – 10:30 AM

Differential Diagnosis of Pigmented Posterior Segment Lesions

William F. Mieler, MD

10:30 – 10:40 AM

Vascular Tumors of the Retina and Choroid and Associated Syndromes

Carol L. Shields, MD

10:40 – 10:50 AM

Pediatric Retinal Conditions Not to Miss

Felix Y. Chau, MD

10:50 – 11:00 AM

Uveitis Masquerade Syndromes

Justine Cheng, MD

11:00 – 11:10 AM

Update of the Treatment of Infectious Uveitis

Ann-Marie Lobo-Chan, MD, MS

11:10 – 11:20 AM

Novel Treatments for Retinal Degenerations

Robert A. Hyde, MD, PhD

11:20 – 11:30 AM

The Value of Electrophysiology in the Management of Inherited Retinal Diseases

Robert A. Hyde, MD, PhD

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Debates in Ocular Oncology, Pediatric Retina, Uveitis, and Retinal Degenerations

Moderator: William F. Mieler, MD

11:30 – 11:45 AM

Debate #6: Treatment of Uveal Melanoma is More Effective with Brachytherapy in Comparison to Proton Therapy

11:30 AM

Yes

Carol L. Shields, MD

11:35 AM

No

Michael J. Heiferman, MD

11:40 AM

Discussion: Analysis of Debate

11:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Debate #7: Gene Therapy in the Near Future will be the Preferred Treatment for AMD and Retinal Diseases

11:45 AM

Yes

Robert A. Hyde, MD, PhD

11:50 AM

No

Felix Y. Chau, MD

11:55 AM

Discussion: Analysis of Debate

**12:00 – 1:00 PM**

Lunch

St. Clair Ballroom, 3rd Floor

1:00 – 3:00 PM

Retinal Surgery Update

Moderator: Alexis K. Warren, MD

1:00 – 1:10 PM

Optimizing 3D Heads-Up Display Vitrectomy Surgery

John B. Miller, MD

1:10 – 1:20 PM

Simplifying Diabetic Vitrectomy for Traction Retinal Detachment

Nicolas A. Yannuzzi, MD

1:20 – 1:30 PM

Update on the Management of Pediatric Retinal Detachments

Felix Y. Chau, MD

1:30 – 1:40 PM

Tips and Tricks for Rescuing Dislocated IOLs

Ivy Zhu, MD

1:40 – 1:50 PM

Additional Tips for Scleral Fixation of Dislocated IOLs

George A. Williams, MD

1:50 – 2:00 PM

Management of Phakic Primary Retinal Detachment–Scleral Buckle or Primary Pars Plana Vitrectomy?

Robert A. Hyde, MD, PhD

2:00 – 2:10 PM

Tips for Successfully Removing Intraocular Foreign Bodies

John B. Miller, MD

2:10 – 2:20 PM

Combination Surgery Involving KPro and/or Temporary Keratoprosthesis Surgery

Nicolas A. Yannuzzi, MD

2:20 – 2:30 PM

Treatment Options for Recurrent Large Macular Holes

Jennifer I. Lim, MD

2:30 – 2:40 PM

What's New in the Management of Giant Retinal Tears?

Alexis K. Warren, MD

2:40 – 2:50 PM

The Current Role of Endoscopic Vitrectomy Surgery: Tips and Techniques

Felix Y. Chau, MD

2:50 – 3:00 PM

Controversies in the Management of Open-Globe Injuries involving the Posterior Segment

William F. Mieler, MD

3:00 – 3:30 PM

Break

St. Clair Ballroom, 3rd Floor

3:30 – 5:00 PM

Surgical Debates

Moderator: William F. Mieler, MD

3:30 – 3:45 PM

Debate #8: Methotrexate Injections are Needed to Improve Surgical Outcomes in the Setting of Retinal Detachment with Proliferative Vitreoretinopathy

3:30 PM

Yes

Nicolas A. Yannuzzi, MD

3:35 PM

No

Ivy Zhu, MD

3:40 PM

Discussion: Analysis of Debate

3:45 – 4:00 PM

Debate #9: The Use of Heads-Up Digital Imaging in Vitrectomy Surgery has led to Significant Visual and Anatomic Improvement in Surgical Outcomes

3:45 PM

Yes

John B. Miller, MD

3:50 PM

No

William F. Mieler, MD

3:55 PM

Discussion: Analysis of Debate

4:00 – 4:15 PM

Debate #10: In the Setting of a Large Recurrent Macula Hole in High Myopia, the Inverted Flap Technique is the Best Surgical Approach for Successful Closure and Restoration of Vision

4:00 PM

Yes

Robert A. Hyde MD, PhD

4:05 PM

No

Felix Y. Chau, MD

4:10 PM

Discussion: Analysis of Debate

4:15 – 4:30 PM

Debate #11: Premium IOLs can be Safely and Effectively Utilized in Patients with Pre-Existing Macular Disease

4:15 PM

Yes

Justine Cheng, MD

4:20 PM

No

William F. Mieler, MD

4:25 PM

Discussion: Analysis of Debate

4:30 – 4:45 PM

Debate #12: The Use of a Preoperative Intravitreal Anti-VEGF Injection 3 to 5 days prior to Surgery for a Diabetic Traction Retinal Detachment helps to Limit Intraoperative Complications and Improves Anatomic and Visual Outcomes

4:30 PM

Yes

George A. Williams, MD

4:35 PM

No

Michael J. Heiferman, MD

4:40 PM

Discussion: Analysis of Debate

4:45 – 5:00 PM

Debate #13: Pars Plana Vitrectomy is Safe and Effective in the Management of Myodesopsia (Symptomatic Vitreous Floaters)

4:45 PM

Yes

R.V. Paul Chan, MD, MSc, MBA

4:50 PM

No

William F. Mieler, MD

4:55 PM

Discussion: Analysis of Debate

5:00 – 5:05 PM

Closing Remarks

William F. Mieler, MD



5:05 – 6:15 PM

Reception

7:00 – 8:30 PM

YoungMD Connect Networking Mixer

Streeterville Social at the Loews Hotel

(Open to trainees only)

[^]Not part of the educational activity.



AVTT would like to thank the following industry partners:

PLATINUM

Genentech, Inc.

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Retina Consultants of America

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