



cake & pie Post

11 | 13 | 21

cataract • anterior segment • kudos • enlightenment posterior segment • innovation • enlightenment

CAKE and PIE magazines' Daily Congress News on the Anterior and Posterior Segments

HIGHLIGHTS

- 05 The future of home vision monitoring has arrived!
- 06 Of tumors and lesions in eye care...

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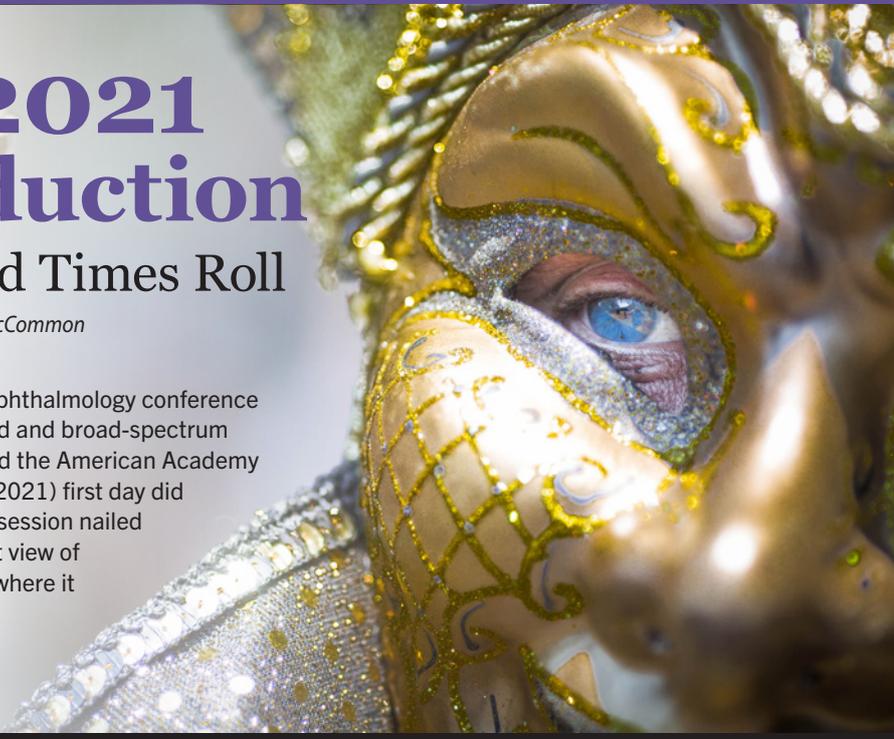
AAO 2021 Introduction

Let the Good Times Roll

by Sam McCommon

It wouldn't be a classic ophthalmology conference without a ceremony-filled and broad-spectrum introductory session. And the American Academy of Ophthalmology's (AAO 2021) first day did not disappoint — the first session nailed the macrovision, zoom-out view of where the field has been, where it is, and where it's going.

Cont. on Page 3 >>



Matt'snifesto

By Matt Young, CEO of Media MICE

I'm tired of hearing about endless innovations that really only benefit the developed world.

I'm tired of hearing about how ultimately, it's the patients that we care about.

Where exactly do we care about?

There are entire countries, and sometimes continents, that never make it into the commercialization lexicon.

At this AAO annual meeting, as our field discusses eye care at the world's most prominent venue, bear in mind that much of that care will never end up where it's needed most.

This must change.

Be part of the conversation for the betterment of global eye care.

Start just one conversation today, and make a difference in the world.

Great change starts with awareness.



Digital Health

The Future of AMD Patient Care is Here by Sam McCommon

The trend towards incorporating digital health in patient care is here to stay — and it can play a vital role in keeping both doctors and patients up to date with many different aspects of a patient's vision.

Crucially, we should note that digital healthcare that includes a home-based monitoring system isn't here to replace in-person vision care with a specialist. Rather, a remote monitoring program plays a supporting role and adds another tool to the toolbox in patient observation.

While the trend towards digital healthcare seemed inevitable, it was greatly accelerated by the pandemic. Now that the medical industry in general is aware of the value of digital healthcare and home monitoring, specialized third-party providers can help clinics seamlessly implement these advances into their practices.

Preventing AMD vision loss with digital healthcare

As Dr. Sid Schechet, from Maryland, USA noted, "During the pandemic, I relied

heavily on the Notal Vision Monitoring Center and the ForeseeHome AMD Monitoring Program for patients being followed with intermediate age-related macular degeneration (AMD). I was able to capture conversions in a number of patients who were still asymptomatic, thereby initiating treatment earlier to improve the long-term vision gains."

Patients also felt a sense of security knowing they were getting continuous monitoring from their doctor, so even if they weren't able to go directly to the clinic they could at least be aware of their status.

But in the post-pandemic world, digital healthcare and at-home vision monitoring aren't going anywhere — and are becoming the rule rather than the exception. Dr. Schechet put it poetically: "Quite literally, remote monitoring extends the doctor's ability to care for patients between office visits; technology can help us practice better medicine."

It's quite simple, really: Advanced home monitoring provides better long-term visual outcomes by tracking vision changes between office visits, when it's

difficult to manage the acute onset of neovascular disease that requires timely treatment, and maintaining patient compliance. For intermediate AMD patients, the Notal Vision Monitoring Center services are a fantastic step into the future of remote patient monitoring.

No barrier to entry for clinics

One of the most significant aspects of the ForeseeHome AMD Monitoring Program is it costs nothing for practices to offer the service to their patients. The Notal Vision Monitoring Center does all the legwork getting the program covered by the patient's insurance, shipping the device, training the patient to use it, and providing continuous patient support and compliance monitoring.

When patients perform their daily test, the ForeseeHome device's artificial intelligence algorithm automatically analyzes and sends the data to the Monitoring Center. Any significant changes in testing, which may indicate a conversion to neovascular AMD, are reviewed by in-house ophthalmologists and an alert is sent to the patient's doctor so they can determine the best course of action.

This constant availability of testing and monitoring plays a vital role in protecting patients from worsening conditions they may not notice on their own. Doctors can also access the secure patient data portal at any time, which provides clinically actionable insights to help guide in-office interactions.

AI assistance, not replacement

Remote, algorithm-based home monitoring is already proving itself to be a laudable tool — and it certainly will not replace any in-person clinic care. We're always in favor of a "why not both?" solution, and the Notal Vision Monitoring Center is the perfect example of that. It's a win-win scenario for both doctor and patient. We love it when that happens.

Kudos to the Notal Vision Monitoring Center for their commitment to improving visual outcomes through digital health — we can't wait to see what they cook up next. In the meantime, they'll be helping intermediate AMD patients take control of their condition. 🐾