

# OPHTHALMIC ANESTHESIA SOCIETY

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## OASIS

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## President's Message

Scott Greenbaum MD  
Forest Hills NY

### A Missive from Our Coach



Now that Spring has sprung, the final adjustments to our OAS lineup have been made.

This has been an exciting off-season with an excellent crop of free agents on the market. We've recruited the services of none other than Dave Guyton, the clean-up batter for the Wilmer Orioles, Rick "the Stick" Bendel, the lead-off hitter for the Mayo Mudhens, and George "the Animal" Hall, who lead the British leagues in slugging percentages last year. In addition, our farm team has provided much talent in the persons of our triple play combination: Markoff, Hirschman and Gayer. From where I'm sitting this is quite a formidable line up.

We should certainly be favored over the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus and Women in Ophthalmology in the Fall Classic.

Now: let me remind everyone that talent doesn't come cheap. Please—if you haven't done so already, send in your annual dues, so that our team can continue our string of successful Octobers (er...September this year).

Our General Manager, Karen "Joe" Morgan thanks you, and I thank you.

Scott "the Cannula" Greenbaum  
Yankee Stadium NY

## Has Eye Anesthesia Gone to the Dogs?

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This past summer, my chocolate Labrador retriever needed some veterinary attention. Joseph Arcuri DVM, a good friend who knows what I do for a living and who happens to be a veterinarian who still makes house calls, came to visit my dog, Sienna. Joe brought with him an article that had just appeared in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association entitled, "Development of a retrobulbar injection technique for ocular surgery and analgesia in dogs."<sup>1</sup> Sienna's ailment turned out to be minor, but the article captured my interest.



The paper reported that, even after satisfactory general anesthesia was obtained, veterinary ophthalmologists often encountered moving eyes and therefore wanted to explore different techniques of keeping the eye still without having to use neuromuscular blockade, to save on cost and mechanical ventilation. The authors were able to compare the spread of local anesthetics in euthanized animals and made recommendations based on this. They concluded that an inferior temporal approach is best.

I forwarded the article to Steve Gayer MD, a fellow dog owner, and suggested that we write a letter to the editor of JAVMA comparing the veterinary findings with our experience in humans. In November 2006 JAVMA published our letter.<sup>2</sup> We pointed out that ocular movement was not an issue with humans breathing spontaneously under deep surgical planes of anesthesia. We agreed that the inferior temporal approach was ideal, but from the safety standpoint, in order to avoid the dog's globe and vasculature, rather than because of anesthetics spread.

I recommend Drs. Accola, Bentley and Smith's article<sup>1</sup> for an interesting read.

Gary D. Cass MD  
Medical Director  
Chief of Anesthesiology  
Tampa Eye and Specialty Surgery Center

1. Accola PJ, Bentley E, Smith LJ, et al. Development of a retrobulbar injection technique for ocular surgery and analgesia in dogs. J Am Vet Assoc 2006;229: 220-225.

2. Cass GD, Gayer S. Comparing anesthetic techniques during ocular surgery in humans and dogs. J Am Vet Assoc 2006;229:1372.

## Employment Opportunities

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**Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, Flying Eye Hospital  
ORBIS International**

Nearly 37 million people worldwide are blind, and 28 million of them do not need to be. As a nonprofit organization, ORBIS International strives to eliminate avoidable blindness and restore sight in the developing world, where 90% of the world's blind live. ORBIS is a founding member of Vision 2020, a global initiative led by the World Health Organization and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, which aims to end avoidable blindness by

the year 2020.

An exciting opportunity exists to join the ORBIS team as Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) on its unique Flying Eye Hospital, a DC-10 wide-body aircraft converted into an innovative teaching facility and ophthalmic surgical center. The ORBIS Flying Eye Hospital and its international medical team have conducted treatment and training programs in more than 70 countries since 1982. Many of the world's leading surgeons donate their time to perform surgery and teach aboard the aircraft, in programs specifically designed to suit the needs of host countries.

ORBIS International is looking for a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist to be responsible for administering anesthesia to patients and teaching anesthesia practices and protocols to other health care professionals who participate in the Flying Eye Hospital programs. For this opportunity, we are seeking an experienced CRNA (minimum 4 years) who is a graduate from an accredited school of nursing and has a current RN license and Nurse Anesthetist certification. The ability to interact with people of diverse cultural backgrounds and to work effectively in a team-driven environment is a must. The candidate must have a willingness and ability to travel internationally up to 75% of the time, and excellent communications skills.

For further information, visit our website at [www.orbis.org](http://www.orbis.org). To apply, forward your resume to [CRNA@ORBIS.org](mailto:CRNA@ORBIS.org).

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## Member Spotlight

**Mountain Eye Associates, PLLC**  
486 Hospital Drive  
Clyde, NC 28721

Practice Administrator: **William T. Bird, Jr.**  
Medical Director: **David D. Markoff, MD FACS**  
Website: [www.MountainEyeAssociates.com](http://www.MountainEyeAssociates.com)

The origins of Mountain Eye Associates date back to July 1977, when John J. Nerney MD started practice in Waynesville, North Carolina. Waynesville, a small town of approximately 10,000, is the county seat of Haywood County, which has a full-time population

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of approximately 55,000 and many more in the summer. In 1977, eye care was provided mainly by optometrists who referred surgery to Asheville NC or Johnson City TN. Today, Mountain Eye Associates has 48,054 active charts and sees approximately 14,000 patients each year.

When the county hospital relocated to the geographical center of the county, Dr. Nerney built a new 4,000 sq ft office near the new hospital and began recruiting ophthalmologists to join him. Subsequent renovations to the building brought it up to 13,000 sq ft with a 2,000 sq ft optical shop. This includes twelve fully functioning exam rooms, screening and special testing rooms, a minor surgery room and a laser vision correction surgery room. An OCT, digital photography and angiography, and YAG and argon lasers are on site. A mobile VISX Eximer laser is utilized. The opening of a satellite office in nearby Canton made an additional 3 exam lanes available. Both offices contain full retail optical shops and the main office has edging capabilities. The transition to electronic medical records was made in 2004. Most of the peripheral diagnostic instruments are directly linked to the EMR.

Mountain Eye Associates presently utilizes three full-time Board-certified ophthalmologists and one optometrist, and has a staff of 28 full and part-time employees to provide services to Haywood and surrounding counties. MEA is a general ophthalmology practice providing routine and surgical eye care and 24/7 emergency care. Surgical volume consists of 700-800 major surgeries per year. Summer brings a large influx of residents who have summer homes visit the area regularly, and MEA participates routinely in their annual eye-care.



Minor surgeries, blepharoplasties, and laser vision correction surgeries are performed on site at the office. Cataract, glaucoma, and more extensive plastic surgical procedures are performed at nearby Haywood Regional Medical Center. Anesthesia staffing includes 3 MDs and 8 CRNAs. Since a change in hospital OR leadership in 2006 means MEA has been able to assemble a dedicated eye team which has greatly increased efficiency. North Carolina has one of the most restrictive CON (Certificate of Need) laws in the nation, making it very difficult to open a single specialty ASC, especially in a small county.

Among the greatest challenges facing MEA are the financial and administrative impact of the many insurance plans and provider panels. Many patients may be confused by the new Medicare Health Plans provided by private insurance companies. Others are now aware that they have changed plans and think that they have only added a supplemental plan.

Other challenges include being in the general practice of ophthalmology in the face of increasing sub-specialization, low reimbursement, and the North Carolina CON requirement regarding ASCs.

OAS has been valuable to Mountain Eye Associates, providing information from a multidisciplinary standpoint. The high quality of Annual Meeting presentations and the professional level of colleagues who attend the meeting are looked forward to every fall.

Dr. Markoff was an invited faculty member of the 2002 Annual Meeting, joined OAS in 2004, and was elected to the OAS Scientific Advisory Board in 2005.

## **You Asked for It - You Got It!**

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### **The Official New OAS Discussion Board**

#### **Yahoo! OAS Discussion Board**

The goal of the Ophthalmic Anesthesia Discussion Board on Yahoo! is the same as that for the OAS:

To share education and information which will enable us to provide the highest level of anesthesia services during ophthalmic surgery.

The discussion board functions as an email list. Messages that come from any member of the list go to all the members of the list. Replies also go to all the members of the list. If you do not want to get all the email, you can read the messages off the website at:

**<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/ophthalmicanesthesia>**

To read messages from the website, you must become a member of the list. Membership requires approval from the list owner (Dr. Marc Feldman). The purpose of this is to prevent the website from being vulnerable to email address mining programs.

Members posting messages do not require approval. Recent discussions include:

- Treatment of hypertension
- Use of hyaluronidase
- Needle choice with Plavix

- Use of preservative-free local anesthetics.

To join, simply go to <http://www.eyeanesthesia.org> and click on Ophthalmic Anesthesia Discussion Group.

Note: if you have difficulty getting email from the group, check your Junk file to see if your spam filters are blocking the messages. Feel free to email me for any questions at:

[Email Dr. Feldman](#)

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## OAS 21st Annual Scientific Meeting

OAS 21st Annual Meeting  
September 28-30, 2007

Program Co-Chairs  
Scott Greenbaum MD  
Gary Cass MD

Activity Director  
Marc Allan Feldman MD MHS

Get all the latest [information on this September's meeting here](#).

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