

SPRING 2007

Eye to Eye

THE
19t

80 MAIDEN LANE, SUITE 1206

NEW YORK, NY 10038

TEL: 212-285-0080 FAX: 212-651-1888

INFO@GLAUCOMAFUNDATION.ORG

WWW.GLAUCOMAFUNDATION.ORG

New England Chapter Holds First Meeting

On Monday, March 12th, the New England Chapter held its first support group meeting. This was a milestone event for The Glaucoma Foundation. Dr. Laura C. Fine, of Ophthalmic Consultants of Boston, gave an extremely informative, yet easy to understand lecture on "What is Glaucoma?" The meeting was held at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary with the support and assistance of Chapter Advisory Board Members: Laura Fine, M.D., Teresa Chen, M.D., and Douglas Rhee, M.D. Their support and guidance made this meeting possible. The New

England Chapter President, Catherine Duffek, a glaucoma patient, wants to hear from you! If you are in the Greater Boston Area, what topics would you like discussed at chapter meetings? Are you interested in learning about nutrition and exercise and glaucoma? What about how to correctly place drops in your eyes? Please email Catherine at newengland@glaucomafoundation.org or call us at 212.285.0080.

Funding for this newsletter generously provided by Alcon Laboratories, Inc.

A copy of The Glaucoma Foundation's annual financial report may be obtained upon request by writing to The Foundation at 80 Maiden Lane, Suite 1206, New York, NY 10038 or by residents of the states listed below from the appropriate state agency. Florida: A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within the State Registration Number - CH7263. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State. Maryland: Information filed under the Maryland Charitable Organizations Law can be obtained for the cost of postage and copies from the Office of the Maryland Secretary of State, Statehouse, Annapolis, MD 21401 or by calling 410-974-5594. Mississippi: Mississippi Secretary of State's Office, Charities Registration, PO Box 136, Jackson, MS 39205-0136, 601-359-1633. New Jersey: Information filed with the Attorney General concerning this charitable solicitation may be obtained from the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey by calling 201-504-6215. Registration with the Attorney General does not imply endorsement. New York: A copy of the last annual report filed may be obtained upon request in writing to the Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271. North Carolina: A copy of the license to solicit charitable contribution as a charitable organization or sponsor and financial information may be obtained from the Department of Human Resources, Solicitation Licensing Branch, by calling 919-733-4510. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State. Pennsylvania: The official registration and financial information of The Glaucoma Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. Virginia: Official registration and financial information of The Glaucoma Foundation may be obtained from the State Charities Division, Office of the Secretary of State of Washington, Olympia, WA 98504-0422 or by calling 1-800-332-4483. West Virginia: West Virginia: West Virginia Residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial document from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Eye to Eye

THE
GLAUCOMA
FOUNDATION
NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2007

"It's a cliché now that people say they want to make a difference, but I'd like to think that I somehow made a difference."

- Kitty Carlisle Hart

The Glaucoma Foundation was deeply saddened by the death of actress Kitty Carlisle Hart, a longtime friend of The Foundation and devoted advocate of its work. Ms. Hart died at her home in New York City on Tuesday, April 17, at the age of 96.

In 1999, in recognition of Ms. Hart's contributions to the battle against glaucoma, TGF created The Kitty Carlisle Hart Award of Merit for Lifetime Achievement in her honor.

The actress not only responded with courage and distinction to the private challenge of coping with glaucoma, but lent her substantial prestige to The Foundation's public education campaign, urging everyone to get their eyes tested regularly.

Ms. Hart felt strongly about the importance of public education and eye health. Together with Dr. Gregory Harmon, TGF's Chairman, she filmed a public service announcement that aired nationwide. She understood that unless you have been tested, you can't know if you have glaucoma. As she wrote several years ago in



the foreword to Dr. Harmon's book, *What Your Doctor May Not Tell You About Glaucoma*, "I am 93 years old and I have glaucoma. But I

haven't lost my sight. I haven't lost anything.

That's because once you know you have glaucoma, you can take steps to control it. That's what I did."

A grande dame of American stage, television and film, Kitty Carlisle Hart led an extraordinary life with her late husband, the playwright Moss Hart. And some will

remember her years as

the elegant and

charming

panelist on "To Tell the Truth," the TV game show that ran for over 20 years.

Ms. Hart remained active until quite recently and continued to speak out for the arts and other causes, including public awareness about glaucoma. Last December, she was still able to attend The Glaucoma Foundation's "Black & White Ball," where she presented her award and sang to the delight and adulation of all the guests. A superb role model for all, she gave generously of her time, talents and energy and she will be sorely missed.

Kitty Carlisle Hart

1910-2007

Dear Friends,

Providing a service to glaucoma patients of all ages is the primary goal of our newsletter, "Eye to Eye". It is designed to educate and provide updates on the latest developments in the field.

In this issue you will find some very practical information – resources that can help glaucoma patients in need of assistance to access the care they may require.

One of the people who understood especially well the importance of early detection and ongoing care for glaucoma was the actress Kitty Carlisle Hart, our very good friend who passed away on April 17 at the age of 96. A glaucoma patient herself, Kitty was an active advocate of our efforts over many years. We are deeply saddened by this loss.


In the months ahead, we will continue to work diligently, funding research to unlock the mysteries of glaucoma, halt the progression of the disease and prevent unnecessary blindness. We will also continue to make strides in our organizational structure as TGF makes its presence felt through its four local chapters.

These and other initiatives would not be possible without our friends. The Glaucoma Foundation extends a sincere 'thank you' to each of the 9,000-plus individuals who contributed to our work in 2006. We understand that people are motivated to give because they value the cause. We have a broad and loyal base and we want you to know that we value the support of each and every one of you. Working together, we can get closer to achieving our goal of eradicating blindness from glaucoma, and perhaps, one day, eradicating the disease itself.

Sincerely,



Scott R. Christensen/President and CEO



The Glaucoma Foundation 14th Annual
think tank
 September 28-29, 2007
 Grand Hyatt New York
Park Avenue at Grand Central
 For information contact:
 Jessica Exelbert, *Director of Research and Development*
 212-651-2509 or jexelbert@glaucomafoundation.org

Doctor I Have a Question?

DIHAQ



Questions answered by:

Dr. James Tsai

Robert R. Young Professor and Chair
Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science
at Yale University School of Medicine

Are generic eye drops as effective as name brand eye drops?

Generic medications for the treatment of glaucoma offer potential cost savings to patients and insurers. Nevertheless, doctors and patients should be cautious in the use of generics since there is likely to be limited data regarding the therapeutic and safety equivalence of these medications.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires that a generic drug mimic the corresponding branded medication in its concentration of the active ingredient, dosage, and route of administration. However, the FDA allows the preservatives and buffering agents used in the generic drug to vary from the branded medication. These differences may have a great impact on the tolerability and effectiveness of the generic medication.

Proponents of generic medications believe that the potential cost savings outweigh these concerns regarding therapeutic and safety equivalence. It is important to keep in mind that physicians and patients will need to set aside extra time (and visits) to confirm that the generics provide equivalent efficacy and tolerability when compared to the branded name product.

What are combination medications?

In order to control the intraocular pressure (IOP) level, it is not uncommon for a physician to prescribe more than one eye drop. To facilitate the taking of these medications, pharmaceutical companies have begun marketing products that combine both eye drops in one. Currently, the one combination eye drop approved by the FDA is named Cosopt (made by Merck), a combination of timolol maleate (branded name: Timoptic) and dorzolamide (branded name: Trusopt). As an eye drop, Cosopt is taken twice a day, a dosing regimen much simpler than the standard regimen of Timoptic twice a day and Trusopt three times a day. To this effect, a potential distinct advantage of the combination medication is improved compliance/adherence. It is important to remember though that these combination drugs contain the active ingredient of both medications and thus, the side effects are equivalent to those encountered with each medication taken separately. New combination medications are currently being developed and under investigation by the FDA.

a gentle reminder

December 5, 2007

21st Annual Black & White Ball – The Pierre Hotel, New York City

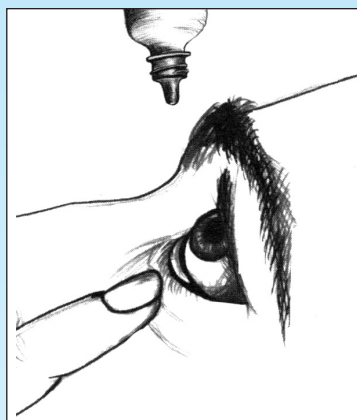
Honoring Christopher Gardner Author of *The Pursuit of Happyness*



A Guide to Placing Eye Drops in Your Eye

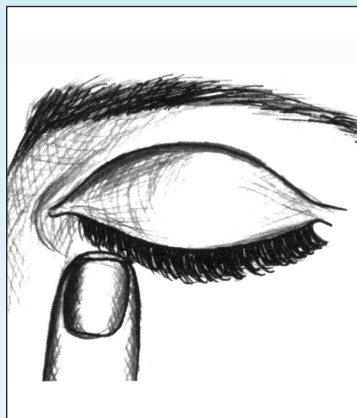
To obtain the optimal effect of the topical medication, proper placement of your eye drops onto your eye is crucial.

After an eye drop is placed on the eyeball, medication drains from the surface of the eye to tiny openings in the corner of your eye near the nose (the puncta). Excessive blinking should be avoided as this will cause more medication to flow from the surface of the eye to the puncta, from which it drains down into your nose and throat. Placing an index finger and applying pressure to



Instructions:

1. Slightly tilt your head back.
2. Gently pull your lower lid down and away from your eye to form a cup.
3. Lightly squeeze the bottle in order to release one drop. (For a soft pliable bottle, tapping the bottom of the bottle may suffice.)
4. Never allow the tip of your eyedropper to touch your eye.
5. Place your index finger beneath your lower eyelid, next to your nose.
6. Gently push the lower eyelid upward to meet your upper eyelid.
7. When the eyelids are closed together, press lightly with your index finger. Hold for several minutes. This will minimize drainage via the puncta, thereby keeping the medication on your eye surface for its proper absorption.



the eyelid portion overlying the punctal region for several minutes will ensure that the eye drop is properly absorbed by the eye and diverted minimally through the puncta, thus limiting absorption by the rest of the body.

Medication Spacing: You may need to take more than one eye drop medication at a time. Medications are most effective when spaced at least 10 minutes apart. In addition, many patients have reported that using a small digital kitchen timer is helpful to remind them of when their next dosage is needed.

Refrigeration: While it is not necessary to refrigerate most eye drop medications, it may be helpful to store your eye drop medications in the refrigerator; the coldness of the drop will alert you when the medicine makes contact with your eye surface.

Useful Information: Reduced Cost Alternatives

Low-Cost Prescription Medications

Many callers to The Glaucoma Foundation want to know if we provide free or low-cost prescription medications for patients who are unable to pay the full cost. While TGF does not provide financial assistance for programs like these, there are numerous sources for help, beginning online.

www.needymeds.com

Lists assistance programs by medication brand name and manufacturer. The site provides eligibility guidelines, the application process and requirements, and links to each drug company's website, from which application forms can be downloaded.

www.rxassist.org

Offers a complete list of state assistance programs with contact information and answers to pertinent 'Frequently Asked Questions' about patient assistance programs nationwide.

Other information sources:

- Your doctor or pharmacist and hospitals in your area may know where to obtain free or discounted medications.
- A list of free clinics across the country can be accessed at www.rxassist.org.
- For the nearest community health center, visit www.ask.hrsa.gov/pc.
- Some social service agencies or religious groups may have emergency funds.

During the observance of
National Glaucoma Awareness Month
each year in January, many organizations,
community centers, hospitals and eye
organizations join together to offer free
glaucoma screenings across the country.

Low-Cost Eye Examinations

Another concern is where to go for free or low-cost eye examinations. Here are some suggestions.

www.eyecareamerica.org

The EyeCare America Glaucoma EyeCare Program offers eye exams at no cost to eligible uninsured at-risk individuals. Call 1-800-391-EYES for referrals to an ophthalmologist. A public service of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, EyeCare America also sponsors the EyeCare America Seniors EyeCare Program.

Medicare 1-800-Medicare

provides an annual dilated exam for beneficiaries over 65 at high risk for glaucoma, including people with diabetes, a family history of glaucoma and African Americans 50 and older.

www.lionsclubs.org 1-630-571-5466

Local Lions Clubs provide varying services, including financial assistance for eye care and free vision screenings.

www.preventblindness.org 1-800-331-2020

Prevent Blindness America provides vision screenings through local chapters. Go online for the affiliation in your area.

www.glaucomacongress.org 1-877-611-4232

The Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation provide screenings for high-risk populations. A calendar of screenings nationwide is on the website or available by phone.

VISION USA www.aoa.org 1-800-766-4466

provides free care to uninsured low-income families. Eligibility varies.

www.knightstemplar.org 1-847-490-3838

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation provides assistance to U.S. citizens in need of surgical treatment and unable to pay within the guidelines of the Foundation. Email: ktefofc@ix.netcom.com.

New Board Members

Debora K. Grobman has over 20 years of combined experience as a prosecutor and white



Debora Grobman and her husband Ted Schlissel at the 2006 Black and White Ball.

collar criminal defense attorney. She is special counsel to the firm of Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel in New York, and in recent years has regularly represented audit committees of the Boards of Directors of public companies in connection with

their responsibilities to conduct internal investigations. She previously spent five years as an Assistant District Attorney in the New York County District Attorney's Office, and two years as a faculty member of New York University School of Law.

Ms. Grobman is a graduate of Brooklyn College, the Bank Street College of Education, and received her J.D. from Fordham University School of Law. A member of the Board of Directors of her Co-op apartment building for the last five years, she resides in Manhattan with her husband. Ms. Grobman is a glaucoma patient, and passionately supports TGF's mission.

Irving Wolbrom, is a businessman and engineer by training and has spent most of his career working in various fields of technology, focusing on engineering and research in chemistry and polymers. After completing his engineering degree at New York University, and graduate studies at Stevens Institute, he began working as an engineer for the Technicolor Corporation. In 1966 he launched what became Interflo Technologies, a company that pioneered the development and manufacture of special porous structural materials used for medical devices and filtration.

More recently, Mr. Wolbrom has furthered his interests and shared his expertise as an investor in five start-up companies. They span several areas, from companies involved with nanotechnology, radio frequency identification and online education systems to online safe deposit boxes and a vision testing device that may have applications for glaucoma. Mr. Wolbrom is the president of his Co-op Board in New York City. Avocationally, he has been a sculptor, working in stone, for the past 25 years.



Irving Wolbrom dances with his wife Elaine at the 2006 Black and White Ball.

Every Dollar Counts

Americans are a generous society. According to a recent survey, about 76 percent of all giving in the U.S. is by individuals, with the remainder by foundations and corporations. With 9,165 gifts received in 2006, The Glaucoma Foundation's experience confirms this statistic. And while more than half of our gifts are \$25 or less, each is vital to our efforts.

Every contribution helps make it possible for TGF to fund novel research studies, support the glaucoma patient community and educate the public about preventive care, diagnosis and treatment. We could not accomplish so much without you, and we are counting on your continued support of our work – to the greatest extent that you can.

Do you work for a company with a matching gift program? Many companies will match their employees' personal contributions to eligible non-profit organizations. Matching gifts are a wonderful way of doubling and in some cases tripling your donation. Just send us your company's matching gift form along with your gift and we'll take it from there. **We thank you!**

New England TGF Chapter Moves Forward

With the Help of Gerri Goodman, MD

"We are a work in progress," says Dr. Gerri L. Goodman, a Boston area ophthalmologist and advisory board member of TGF's New England Chapter, of the Chapter, the newest of TGF's four branches around the country. Dr. Goodman was rather new to the region when she heard from Chapter President, Catherine Duffek, as part of Ms. Duffek's initial outreach to the area's ophthalmic medical community. "My family had recently relocated to this area and I wanted to get involved," she says.

Dr. Goodman is a corneal specialist at Eye Health Services, a multi-specialty ophthalmic practice in Quincy, Massachusetts. One of the first doctors to perform refractive eye surgery in the U.S., she has a broad practice, including glaucoma.

"The advisory board meets monthly. It's a wonderful experience inventing ourselves and determining what we want to do," Dr. Goodman explains. Among the priorities: providing support groups, lectures and other ways to get patients involved in their own health care. "Vision loss from glaucoma is most often preventable and there are new developments all the time. We want to make sure patients are informed and involved in their treatment. It's an exciting process."

Dr. Goodman received her M.D. from Yale University School of Medicine. Following residency at the University of North Carolina, she completed her Fellowship in Corneal Diseases at Wilmer Institute at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. After 18 years in Maryland, she moved to Cohasset, Massachusetts with her husband and nine-year-old son.

Dr. Goodman has been active in the community, lecturing about dry eyes, glaucoma, cataracts and diabetes and the eye. Her upcoming schedule includes talks at the Milton Hospital and an information session on behalf of TGF at the Golden Living Center, an assisted living center in Cohasset. Dr. Goodman has also become active in the New England Ophthalmology Society.

She has also reached out to share her expertise beyond New England. Last fall she volunteered on a medical mission to Guatemala, utilizing her skills to benefit those who would otherwise not receive care, performing surgery on cataracts and glaucoma. "I hope to have the privilege of going back next year," she says. "They are a beautiful people and they're so happy and simply grateful. I'm definitely hooked. I feel it has changed my life for the better."



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Yes, I support The Glaucoma Foundation's work in pursuit of new treatments and cures for glaucoma.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500

☐ \$1000 Other \$ _____

Please make checks payable to:
The Glaucoma Foundation.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

CREDIT CARD GIFT

Gifts may be made with Visa, MasterCard, or American Express.

CREDIT CARD # _____

EXPIRATION _____

SIGNATURE _____

The Glaucoma Foundation has recently published a new brochure on the multiple ways to make a charitable contribution. If you are interested in receiving a copy of this brochure please check the following statement.

☐ Yes, please send me a brochure.

☐ Please do not share my name with other organizations.*

The Glaucoma Foundation
80 Maiden Lane, Suite 1206 • New York, NY 10038

* In order to locate additional supporters, The Foundation occasionally trades mailing lists with other non-profit organizations. Checking this box will ensure that The Glaucoma Foundation never trades your address. [43-2007]