

Academy Notebook

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

This Year's Laureate: Matthew D. Davis, MD

The Board of Trustees of the Academy is proud to announce Matthew D. Davis, MD, as the recipient of the Laureate Recognition Award for 2016.

Chaired the Diabetic Retinopathy Study. Dr. Davis is known for his groundbreaking work in diabetic retinopathy clinical trials, beginning with his position as the national chair for the Diabetic Retinopathy Study (DRS). DRS began in 1971 and was the first major clinical trial funded by the National Eye Institute (NEI). In 1976, Dr. Davis and his collaborators published a seminal paper based on DRS findings, showing the



LAUREATE OF THE
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substantial effect that scatter laser photocoagulation had in treating diabetic retinopathy. Dr. Davis also chaired the follow-up trial, the Diabetic Retinopathy Vitrectomy Study, which demonstrated that vision was significantly better for some patients with very severe diabetic retinopathy if they had early vitrectomy surgery, as opposed to deferring surgery. These trials created standard of care treatments that are still used, and are models of clinical research.

Founded Wisconsin's Fundus

Photography Reading Center (FPRC).

Another of Dr. Davis' achievements was the 1970 establishment of the University of Wisconsin FPRC, the first centralized, independent reading center for randomized clinical trials of retinal diseases. The staff at FPRC work with clinical researchers from around the world to analyze photographs of the retina and assess changes over time. Dr. Davis and his collaborators developed photographic standards and systems for analyzing the characteristics of the lens and retina, and designed quality-control systems to increase accuracy and assess reproducibility. The FPRC continues to participate in clinical research, and it provides image analysis for trials sponsored by the NEI as well as pharmaceutical companies.

Classified diabetic retinopathy and

AMD. Dr. Davis and his collaborators developed the modified Airlie House classification of diabetic retinopathy and, later, the Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study severity scale, as well as the Age-related Eye Disease Study scales for Age-related Macular Degeneration. These scales have been widely used in the study and management of these disorders.

A lifetime of service. Dr. Davis has served on the Medical Advisory Board of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation (1973-1976), the Visual Sciences Study Section of the National Institutes of Health (1975-1978), the Vision Research Review Committee of the National Eye Institute (1979-1981, 1989-1994), and the National Diabetes Advisory Board



ACADEMY LAUREATE: MATTHEW D. DAVIS, MD.

The Laureate Recognition Award honors physicians who have made the most significant contributions to ophthalmology leading to the prevention of blindness and restoration of sight worldwide.

at the National Institute of Arthritis, Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (1981-1984). He has received a number of medals and awards in ophthalmology, including the Mildred Weisenfeld Award from the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology in 1989, the Arnall Patz Medal from the Macula Society in 1992, and the Howe Medal from the American Ophthalmological Society in 2006. He has also authored or coauthored more than 200 peer-reviewed articles.

Honored in Chicago. In recognition of Dr. Davis' contributions, the Academy will honor him as the 2016 Laureate during the Opening Session of AAO 2016.

At AAO 2016, read an interview with Dr. Davis in *Academy News*.



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