

## One of the Most Influential Physicians, Charles Kelman, MD, Dead at 74



Cataract surgery pioneer, Charles Kelman, MD, died June 1 of lung cancer.

Best known for inventing phacoemulsification and making cataract surgery an outpatient procedure, Dr. Kelman was instrumental in the evolution of cataract surgery. Aside from improving the lives of millions of patients and indirectly

prompting advancements in all of the surgical specialties, Dr. Kelman was also responsible for the reduction of surgery incisions from large to small; replacing hospital stays with outpatient surgeries; introducing the practice of allowing

patients to resume full physical activity immediately after surgery; popularizing the use of the microscope; developing and teaching nonuniversity courses for which he charged a fee; and welcoming publicity for the medical profession.

In 1992, Dr. Kelman was honored by President George H.W. Bush with the National Medal of Technology, and he was inducted to the National Inventors Hall of Fame in Akron, Ohio, last month May.

For more on Dr. Kelman and his life-long achievements, please see the March 2004 issue of *Cataract & Refractive Surgery Today*, or visit: [www.crstoday.com/03\\_archive/0304/00011.html](http://www.crstoday.com/03_archive/0304/00011.html).

## New FDA Rule on Donor Eligibility for Human Tissues and Cells

The FDA published a final rule instituting donor eligibility criteria for donors of human cells, tissues, and cellular and tissue-based products to assist in preventing the transmission of communicable disease when these cellular-type products are transplanted.

The new rule pertains to donors of traditional tissues such as musculoskeletal, skin, and eye tissues that have been required to be screened and tested for HIV, the Hepatitis B virus, and the Hepatitis C virus since 1993. Under the new rule, reproductive tissue, hematopoietic stem cells derived from cord blood and peripheral blood sources, cellular therapies, and other innovative products are also regulated.

The new rule also extends the scope of protection against additional communicable diseases that can be transmitted through transplanted tissues and cells. The new rule includes a requirement to screen for human transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, including Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, and to screen and test for syphilis. Screening and testing requirements for other disease agents are also included in the new rule.

Moreover, this new regulation provides a structure for

identifying emerging diseases that may pose risks to recipients of transplanted human cells, tissues, and cellular and tissue-based products, and it allows flexibility to quickly address new disease threats as they appear.

## Escalon Division Introduces Two New Products

Escalon Medical Corp. (Wayne, PA) announced that its Sonomed division has introduced a new ultrasound biomicroscope, the UBM/35S, and a new B-scan, the E-Z Scan.

With the UBM/35S, an accurate image of the front of the eye, including a cross-section of the cornea, is obtainable. According to a company executive, this device will be particularly useful with glaucoma patients as well as in refractive surgery. The UBM/35S also has the potential for use with the insertion of implantable contact lenses. It is a high-frequency ultrasound device that features a miniature lightweight probe, has an interchangeable 35- or 50-MHz transducer, and offers high levels of sensitivity, accuracy, precision, and reproducibility.

The E-Z Scan is an ophthalmic ultrasound device that is used to take an image of the back of the eye, even when the view is impaired due to cataracts. It is an enhanced combination A-scan/B-scan ophthalmic ultrasound device used to image and diagnose retinal and

other conditions at the back of the eye. The E-Z Scan replaces Sonomed's B5500 series and offers a color- or gray-scale B-scan image.

## Study: Epinastine HCl 0.05% May Offer Relief of Allergy Symptoms

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Data from a recent study show that epinastine HCl 0.05% (Allergan Inc., Irvine, CA) has rapid efficacy and provides control of ocular allergy symptoms such as itching and redness for 12 hours.

The single-center, randomized study used the conjunctival allergen challenge model and examined 30 women, aged 18 to 75 years, who had a history of allergic conjunctivitis. In the onset efficacy evaluation, instilling epinastine 5 minutes prior to an allergen challenge provided significant relief of itching and redness when compared with the vehicle. In the duration of efficacy assessment, epinastine relieved itching for at least 12 hours after treatment. Advanced medical imaging technology that highlights changes in facial topography showed that epinastine visibly prevented swelling.

The multi-action of epinastine blocks the release of histamine as well as stabilizes mast cells, thereby preventing inflammation. Data suggest that epinastine's mechanism of action features a greater affinity for H<sub>2</sub> receptors than other antihistamine/mast-cell stabilizers, and, because H<sub>2</sub> receptors are more commonly found on blood vessels than H<sub>1</sub> receptors, epinastine could potentially be more effective in the relief of swelling than other dual-action agents.

## Forty-Seven New Cosponsors Support VETS Act

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Forty-seven new cosponsors have signed on to support H.R. 3473, the Veterans Eye Treatment Safety (VETS) Act, during the second legislative session. The new additions bring the total number of cosponsors to 71. According to a press release issued by the AAO, more than one-third of House Veterans Affairs Committee members have signed on to become cosponsors of the bill.

The VETS Act would prevent nonsurgeons from performing ocular surgery on the nation's veterans in Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare facilities. It was introduced in response to an outcry from the medical community over Oklahoma-licensed optometrists' transfer-

ring their privileges to perform surgery to Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals in other states where it is strictly prohibited.

## New ComfortMAX Fluorescein-Benoxinate Formulation

CLARCO Pharma, LLC (Rosenberg, Texas), introduced a new ComfortMAX formulation for fluorescein-benoxinate. Under a licensing agreement, the ComfortMAX formula is available exclusively from EyeSupply USA (Tampa, FL) in its EyeFlur brand, and CYNACON/OCuSOFT in its Flurox brand.



ComfortMAX contains no harsh preservatives such as BAK, chlorbutanol, or thimerosal, but it utilizes methyl paraben for maximum comfort.

## Carl Zeiss Meditec Submits IDE for MEL 80

Carl Zeiss Meditec Inc. (Dublin, CA) announced the submission of an IDE with the FDA for LASIK refractive surgery using the MEL 80 excimer laser system in the correction of myopia and hyperopia, with and without astigmatism. The MEL 80's state-of-the-art, high-speed scanning-spot excimer laser technology is commercially available in all major markets worldwide, with the exception of Japan and the US. ■

### *Correction:*

CRSToday regrets an error in the May 2004 article "Fluoroquinolones: Clinical Implications" by Randall J. Olson, MD. Data referring to Vigamox (Alcon Laboratories Inc., Fort Worth, TX) and Zymar (Allergan Inc., Irvine, CA) as part of the Matsumoto et al study are incorrect. The commercially available ophthalmic products (Vigamox and Zymar) were not in the Matsumoto study, but Avelox IV (moxifloxacin; Bayer Corporation, West Haven, CT) was, in addition to a preclinical formulation of gatifloxacin without BAK.