

# THE GREATEST SUBSPECIALTY ON EARTH



Step right up and prepare to be amazed by some of the latest wonders of the retina world. It will be a sight for eyes of all shapes and sizes. The health care field is in a state of constant evolution, and the practice of ophthalmology is right there at the forefront of innovation. Between coverage of the latest research in telemedicine, genetics, pharmaceuticals, and even robotics, *Retina Today* is putting on quite a show this issue. These new approaches in retina could change many things, including the ways we practice and the ways we affect our patients' lives.

The emerging trends and innovations detailed right here in *Retina Today* are definite headliners. Imagine a future in which high-quality eye care is available to everyone, no matter how remote or poor. In "Telemedicine in Ophthalmology," on page 55, authors Carl H. Park, MD; Ehsan Rahimy, MD; Abtin Shahlaee, MD; and Jay L. Federman, MD, discuss the use of telemedicine in screening for diabetic retinopathy and retinopathy of prematurity and the potential such technology holds.

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On page 59, *Retina Today* Consulting Editor Tim Donald makes the jump from telemedicine to advanced robotics in "Robot Assists With Injections for RVO." He describes a landmark procedure to treat retinal vein occlusions pioneered by Peter Stalmans, MD, PhD, of the University Hospitals Leuven and the University of Leuven (KU Leuven) in Belgium. Making a leap from technology to biologic drugs, S.K. Steven Houston III, MD, takes a look at the coming of biosimilar anti-VEGF agents. Dr. Houston offers insights into the influence these pharmaceutical options may have in the field in "Biosimiliars: Not Your Average Generic" (page 64).

Finally, Byron L. Lam, MD, takes aim at gene therapies for the retina in "Update on Gene Therapy for the Treatment of Hereditary Retinal Diseases" (page 66). In this article, Dr. Lam provides a review of gene therapies being investigated for the treatment of a range of hereditary retinal diseases. The ability to improve vision or slow



disease progression in patients who have had limited or no therapeutic options may soon be realized with some of these therapies—truly an amazing feat!

Developments in retina offer great potential as new trends and innovations make their way to the main stage. It will be interesting to see how they fare in the long run and how they affect patient care. It is an exciting time to be involved in the greatest subspecialty on Earth. ■

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