

Preface

Hardly any subarea of ophthalmic pathology is as multifaceted as the retinociliary periphery of the ocular fundus or – in Professor Basil Daicker's words – the 'fundus extremus'. Be it degenerative changes, inflammatory processes, tumors or trauma to this region, the opportunity to evaluate the clinical and morphological picture at the same time has up to now had the most crucial impact on our patients. Ophthalmic pathology provides the basis for a clinical diagnosis and its appropriate therapy, in particular for the ophthalmic surgeon, and thus represents an important tool of quality control.

In his 30 years as an ophthalmic pathologist at the Department of Ophthalmology, University of Basel, Switzerland, Professor Daicker contributed substantially to our actual understanding of ocular disease, especially regarding the area of the fundus extremus. In a large number of ocular specimens, using special investigation techniques, he analyzed the fine anatomical structure and its variations as well as a multitude of frequent and rare pathological findings. He documented his observations in a worldwide unique ophthalmopathological collection and, between 1965 and 1995, assembled and filed more than 10,000 stereoscopic slides of interesting and uncommon diseases.

Here, in memory of Basil Daicker, part of this inimitable collection is for the first time made available to the public. We have for the time being restricted ourselves to the fundus extremus, with Daicker's monograph on the anatomy and pathology of the human retinociliary fundus periphery (published in 1972 by Karger, Basel) serving as a template. Similar to his previous publication, we subdivided the stereoscopic atlas into seven chapters with a short summary at the beginning of each. The extremely high standard and to some extent matchless stereoscopic pictures represent the focus of each chapter. Based on Professor

Daicker's autopsy and histology reports, we adopted his observations and described the various disease patterns accordingly.

It was our wish to make these disease patterns compiled by Daicker available to the ophthalmic pathologist as well as to the clinician. Due to the stereoscopic effect, they appear particularly lifelike and memorable. The pictures can be consulted by the ophthalmologist for diagnostic purposes, while for the layperson, they provide an insight into the beautiful microcosmos of the inner eye.

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