

Editorial

Dr. Gordon Klintworth was the first president of the International Society of Ophthalmic Pathologists (ISOP; www.isop-new.com) when it was founded in 1988. He was a true world leader in corneal research, primarily in the area of genetically determined corneal disease. Dr. Klintworth died on August 8, 2014 from cancer.

The durability and productivity of Gordon Klintworth's academic medical research career is verified by his having been continuously funded for more than 50 years: from his National Institutes of Health-funded Fellowship in Neuropathology in 1962 until his retirement from Duke University in 2011.

Dr. Klintworth was born on August 4, 1932 in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). He graduated from the University of the Witwatersrand, a public research institution in Johannesburg, South Africa, initially with an interest in neurology that evolved into intense fascination with neuropathology. However, because of civil unrest in South Africa and with the encouragement of his mentor, Neville Proctor, he decided to emigrate with his wife, Felicity, and their oldest daughter, Susan, to Duke University. He had never visited the United States prior to that time and knew very little about Duke University.

He arrived at Duke University at a very propitious time: ophthalmic pathology was emerging as a defined service in the Department of Pathology, Dr. Joseph A.C. Wadsworth was appointed as the first chair of the new Department of Ophthalmology, and with the encouragement of Research to Prevent Blindness, the National Eye Institute (NEI) was established. He was among the first to

apply for and be awarded a grant at the NEI, initially a RO1 grant and subsequently a Career Development Award.

Some of his earliest work was with the neuro-ophthalmologist Lawton Smith in determining the anatomic basis of skew deviation. Throughout his career, he was among the first to use innovative investigative techniques such as transmission electron microscopy, immunohistochemistry, and molecular biology. He was the first to describe the biologic defect in macular corneal dystrophy (mucopolysaccharide abnormality) and lattice corneal dystrophy (amyloid abnormality). He also was at the forefront of identifying a single genetic defect (BIGH3, TGFBI) as the basis for three clinical entities that had been thought to be separate clinical entities.

Dr. Wadsworth encouraged the majority of his early research, although they could not agree on whether the ophthalmic pathology laboratory should be in the Department of Pathology or the Department of Ophthalmology. Ultimately, Dr. Klintworth's position prevailed, which has subsequently influenced a national and international trend for pathology departments to include ophthalmic pathology.

Dr. Klintworth was appointed Director of Research in the Department of Ophthalmology by the subsequent chair, Robert Macheimer. Dr. Klintworth promoted ophthalmic pathology research to medical students and clinician-scientists inclusively. During his time, Dr. Klintworth was awarded an NIH Core Grant by coordinating the research efforts of Duke University, The University of

North Carolina, and North Carolina State University (“Triangle Park”), which continue as a research consortium to this day.

Dr. Klintworth was an active participant of the tremendous expansion of both clinical and research activities at Duke accomplished by the next chair of Ophthalmology, David Epstein. Of his many publications, his two-volume work *Garner and Klintworth: Pathobiology of Ocular Disease* with noted British ophthalmic pathologist Alec Garner was probably among the most influential.

Since the founding of the ISOP in 1988 by Dr. Klintworth, this group has continued to promote teaching and research in eye pathology through the ISOP Committee and its organized courses and symposia at various international conferences.

In honor of Dr. Klintworth’s significant contributions to ocular pathology, the ISOP held the inaugural “Klintworth lecture” in Guadalajara, Mexico in February 2016 as part of the ISOP symposium at the World Ophthalmology Congress. It is planned that this lecture will continue to be given every 2 years by a person of standing in eye pathology.

It was indeed a very easy decision for the ISOP to choose Dr. Ralph C. Eagle Jr., MD to give the inaugural Klintworth lecture in 2016. Dr. Eagle is the current director of the Department of Pathology at the Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia and has a long track record in excellence in teaching and research in eye pathology. His lecture in Guadalajara was an absolute delight, as can be seen from the wonderful images provided in his paper below. Enjoy!

Prof. Sarah E. Coupland
President of the ISOP