



R. Doyle Stulting, MD, PhD Installed as President of American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery

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Contact: John Ciccone
703 975 7740

R. Doyle Stulting, MD, PhD, was installed as 2010-2011 President of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS) during the opening general session of the society's annual Symposium and Congress, in Boston.

Dr. Stulting is the Director of Corneal Disease & Research at the Woolfson Eye Clinic, a multicenter ophthalmic practice headquartered in Atlanta, GA, and with offices in North and South Carolina and Tennessee.

During his presidential address, Dr. Stulting noted his 22 years of experience in dealing with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as a member and chair of the agency's Ophthalmic Devices Panel and as a consultant to manufacturing companies seeking to gain FDA approval of their devices. He said that even though the FDA representatives he has worked with have shown competence and true concern over ensuring the safety and efficacy of medical devices approved for use in the U.S., FDA directives and policies have over the years made the approval process so long, arduous and expensive, that the U.S. has fallen far behind in the advanced medical world.

"When I began my work as an ophthalmologist, the U.S. was the leader; it was where technology was developed. People came to the U.S. to learn what was going on. Today, I must travel overseas, mainly to Europe and South American, to acquaint myself with new technologies," Dr. Stulting said.

To remedy this, Dr. Stulting said that the FDA should be encouraged to adopt an institutional incentive to approve safe and effective devices and drugs. "We must be able to strike a balance so that we look at the value of a device compared to the risk of complications," he said.

About Dr. Stulting

Before his 2009 move to Woolfson, Stulting was professor of Ophthalmology and director of the Cornea Service at Emory Eye Center and was appointed the John H. and Helen S. Hughes Professor in Ophthalmology. Dr. Stulting is considered a leading authority in the areas of corneal and external disease. A physician-scientist, Stulting

received his MD and PhD degrees from Duke University and completed residency training in Internal Medicine at Washington University in 1978. His residency training in Ophthalmology was completed at the University of Miami in 1981 (Bascom Palmer Eye Institute), and he subsequently completed a fellowship in Cornea and External Disease at Emory in 1982. He joined the Emory faculty as assistant professor of Ophthalmology in 1982 and was promoted to associate professor in 1985, granted tenure in 1986, and further promoted to professor of Ophthalmology in 1994.

Building on his basic science training in microbiology and immunology, Dr. Stulting's career began with NIH-supported basic science research in herpetic keratitis and histocompatibility antigen expression. He became co-director of the NIH-supported multi-center trial to evaluate the effect of histocompatibility testing on corneal transplantation. He was a member, and ultimately chair, of the FDA Ophthalmic Devices Panel during a 10-year period, which facilitated his transition to an academic interest in ophthalmic devices and refractive surgery.

About ASCRS:

The mission of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery is to advance the art and science of ophthalmic surgery and the knowledge and skills of ophthalmic surgeons. It does so by providing clinical and practice management education and by working with patients, government, and the medical community to promote the delivery of quality eye care. The society has an international membership of 10,000 ophthalmic surgeons. www.ascrs.org

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