

## John (“Jack”) Hetherington (1930-2020)



How does one pay tribute to Jack Hetherington? A real challenge as I think about this giant: friend, mentor, clinician, investigator, sailor, lover of life and more, who is no longer with us.

I met Jack while I was a glaucoma research fellow at the University of Washington in St Louis with Bernard Becker. Jack visited regularly as he and Alan Kolker were hard at work revising the Becker-Shaffer textbook. His visits allowed me to see the essence of this quiet, gentle, and brilliant person.

Later, observing Jack at AAO, ARVO and other meetings, I was struck by his ability to see the important clinical challenges of glaucoma management and to appreciate his talent as a teacher, mentor and friend, much in the mold of Robert Shaffer.

Jack was a constant contributor to debates on the role of optic nerve blood supply on glaucoma pathophysiology, the value of peripheral nasal visual field testing, the automated perimetry, and several other fundamental questions on the etiology and management of glaucoma as they raged on year-to-year, meeting to meeting!

My first GRS meeting (the society was then known as the Organising Committee of the Glaucoma Society of the International Congress of Ophthalmology) was at Quail Lodge in Carmel California in 1982. Jack extended a warm and welcoming hand to this nervous and a bit overwhelmed young clinician. He was Secretary at that time, and had actually organised the meeting, and subsequent ones in many parts of the world. His model for meetings allowed members to combine research meetings of the world's best minds in the field in interesting and exciting venues (Bali for example). Later as

Secretary of the organisation, I benefitted from Jack's insight and advice as I embarked on organising a number of meetings over a decade respecting his model to combine science and interesting venues.

Jack was a gracious person, so much at ease whether he was in the clinic with a difficult case, in the OR, chairing scientific meetings or at the tiller of his sailboat. He exemplified a unique combination of talent, skills and personal integrity

We are saddened by this loss.

Raymond P. LeBlanc, MD, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

John "Jack" Hetherington, Jr., MD, passed away on December 31, 2020. Jack served on the Glaucoma Research Society Executive Committee from 1982 to 1994; as Secretary from 1982 to 1990 and then as President from 1990 to 1994. His research contributions span many aspects of glaucoma, perhaps most notably in infantile/juvenile glaucoma diagnosis and management; iridocorneal endothelial syndrome pathogenesis and treatment; and incisional and laser surgical techniques and their outcomes. With Alan Kolker, whom we also lost in 2020, he was co-author of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> editions of the popular glaucoma text, *Becker-Shaffer's Diagnosis and Therapy of the Glaucomas*.

Jack was born in East Orange, New Jersey. After serving in the United States Navy, he earned his medical degree from Jefferson Medical School (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania). Jack completed his ophthalmology residency and glaucoma fellowship at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). His glaucoma fellowship was under iconic glaucoma pioneer, Robert Shaffer, whose private practice he joined in 1966. He served on the UCSF clinical faculty for several decades, his contributions there ultimately being honored with an appointment as Clinical Professor Emeritus.

He was a founding member and the founding treasurer of the American Glaucoma Society, from which he received its President's Award. He was a cofounder of the International Perimetric Society and a fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (from which he received its Honor Award). With Robert Shaffer and Dunbar Hoskins, Jack founded the Glaucoma Research Foundation (GRF) in 1978, subsequently serving on its board from 1978 to 2016. Given its research and patient education missions, establishing the GRF will undoubtedly be a substantial part of his enduring legacy.

Jack was an avid traveler and cyclist, as well as a sailing and rowing enthusiast. Jack attended the GRF's Glaucoma 360 meeting in January and celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in October. He had been doing reasonably well despite a long struggle with cancer.

During his last month, which was spent in hospice care, he was comfortable enough to enjoy this time with his family.

He is survived by his daughter, Darren and his son, John Hetherington X,\* as well as several grandchildren, including grandson, John Hetherington XI\*.

Thank you for your contributions, Jack -- they and our memories of you will live on!

Donations in Jack's honor can be made to a memorial research fund set up in his name to support the GRF Shaffer Research grant program (<https://getinvolved.glaucoma.org/donate>).

Dale K. Heuer, MD, Sierra Madre, California, USA

\*Jack was apparently a "Junior" several times over, specifically he was John Hetherington IX!