

Glaucoma Specialist Focused on Research and Patient Care

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—David S. Greenfield, M.D.

Richard K. Parrish II, M.D., associate dean for graduate medical education at the University of Miami School of Medicine and professor of ophthalmology first approached David S. Greenfield, M.D., about joining Bascom Palmer’s Palm Beach facility in 1997 when Greenfield was a faculty member at The New York Eye & Ear Infirmary. The opportunity to become the only glaucoma specialist in the Palm Beach office meant that Greenfield would play an integral role in the development of the new facility and its glaucoma service. In fact, he has. Today, the 11,000 square-foot off-site patient care facility has five full-time faculty members and last year alone treated 27,000 patients. Its thriving glaucoma research program is in the midst of recruiting three additional members including an imaging scientist, a research associate and a glaucoma study coordinator to assist with more than a half-dozen clinical trials currently under way, some which include federal support from the National Institutes of Health.

Greenfield, an associate professor, is a physician-scientist. “I’m a clinician who takes care of patients with glaucoma and sees an essential role for research to advance not only the science, but the patient care in glaucoma,” he says. Greenfield is grateful for the opportunity to explore his own creativity in the Bascom Palmer environment. “Everybody here has their own unique talents and strengths and we are able to capitalize on that,” he adds.

Greenfield first became interested in the field of ophthalmology as a medical school student while completing a research fellowship in retinoblastoma, the most common primary ocular malignancy in childhood. “The experience was so moving,” he says. “It essentially formed the framework for my career path and interest in academic ophthalmology.” During that time, Greenfield published his first two scientific papers and eventually became interested in glaucoma because of the exciting opportunities for clinical care and research. Today he is credited with publishing more than 120 original scientific papers, abstracts and book chapters.

As a fellow on glaucoma service in 1994 at Bascom Palmer, Greenfield became further interested in diseases of

the optic nerve. That interest led to a second fellowship at Bascom Palmer, this one in neuro-ophthalmology. Upon completion of the fellowship, Greenfield joined the faculty at the New York Eye & Ear Infirmary where he spent two years before accepting his current position at Bascom Palmer, where he became “part of one of the greatest and largest glaucoma services in the nation.”

In his practice, Greenfield sees patients with glaucoma who range in age from small children, a minority of his practice, to more senior patients, who are the majority. A large segment of his patients are men and women between the ages of 30 and 60 who are at risk for glaucoma and are referred for advanced diagnostic testing in the facility’s ocular imaging laboratory. Bascom Palmer provides a unique service in the area, offering the most technologically advanced and comprehensive computer imaging analysis available for detecting glaucoma and its progression.

Greenfield says he’s seen a number of changes in his field over the years. Among the most significant have been the realization that glaucoma is not synonymous with increased intraocular pressure and that glaucoma is a neurological disorder whose common final pathway is optic nerve injury. Another key change has been in the area of pharmaceuticals. Where 30 years ago there were two or three medications to treat glaucoma, there are now as many as 30. Finally, technological advances have made a significant difference, particularly in the area of ocular imaging. “These advances have redefined how we think about glaucoma and how we manage glaucoma,” he says.

Time away from ophthalmology is always reserved for his wife Nina, and three children, Jason, Joshua and Brooke. “I spend almost all my free time with my family, but also enjoy tennis, photography, and try to run ten miles every week.” Interestingly, he almost became a professional drummer in college when he nearly secured a recording contract while showcasing for record companies. In his spare time, he is learning to play the piano.

Greenfield says he hopes to continue what he’s doing for the long term, and take on an even greater leadership role in ophthalmology. “My commitment is to our patients, the education of our residents and fellows, and spearheading advances in glaucoma through clinical research.”



Maltz Family Endowment for Glaucoma Research

Bascom Palmer Eye Institute wishes to thank Jupiter residents, Tamar and Milton Maltz, for the creation of the Maltz Family Endowment for Glaucoma Research. This endowed fund of \$500,000 will provide generous funding for the research initiatives of David S. Greenfield, M.D., and his research team.

A giant in the broadcasting industry, Milton Maltz, founded Malrite Communications Group, Inc. and served as its Chairman and CEO until the company was sold in 1998. Under his direction, Malrite became one of the most successful operators of radio and television properties in the country.

Active in numerous philanthropic and civic organizations, Milton and Tamar Maltz support many charities both nationally and



internationally. A long-time resident of Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. Maltz was involved in the founding and development of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. Additionally, next year, the Milton and Tamar Maltz Jewish Heritage Museum will open in Beachwood, Ohio.

In July 2002 Mr. Maltz founded the International Spy Museum in Washington DC. A veteran of the US Navy, Maltz developed an interest in intelligence when he worked for the National Security Agency. This produced his initial fascination with the tradecraft, history, and contemporary role of espionage.

“Generations to come will benefit from Milton and Tamar Maltz’s generosity,” says Carmen A. Puliafito, M.D., M.B.A., Bascom Palmer chairman. “This gift offers Dr. Greenfield an unprecedented opportunity to advance his research in optic disc and retinal nerve fiber imaging, normal-tension glaucoma and complex glaucoma filtration surgery. We are grateful to Milton and Tamar Maltz for this extraordinary contribution.”