In memory of Elie Dahan, MD

Dr Elie Dahan passed away on Monday, May 5th, 2013 after a short and aggressive malignant disease, at the age of 62.

Dr Dahan graduated the Technion Medical School in Haifa, Israel (1977) and specialized in Ophthalmology both in Israel and in South Africa between 1978-1983. During his 27 years in South Africa he was a Senior Consultant/Lecturer at the University of Witwatersrand and served as the Head of the St John Eye Hospital in Johannesburg for 16 years. His main interests included pediatric ophthalmology, anterior segment surgery and surgical glaucoma.

During the early 80’s Dr Dahan was one of the pioneers in pediatric cataract surgery to implant intraocular lenses in infants and children. In the early 90’s he adopted and significantly improved the technique and instrumentation of Non-Penetrating Glaucoma Surgery (NPGS). He was the first to report the OCCI (Opposite Clear Corneal Incision) technique to reduce astigmatism during cataract surgery. He designed several IOLs and surgical instruments such as the T Flux, a non-absorbable glaucoma implant for NPGS. In the early 2000’s he modified the surgical technique to utilize the Ex-PRESS glaucoma mini-shunt and turned a failed technique to one of the leading glaucoma procedures worldwide. He performed the first human case of CO₂ Laser Assisted Sclerectomy Surgery (CLASS) and instructed many in this innovative technology.

In 2008 Dr Dahan returned from South Africa to Israel. He joined the Ein-Tal Eye Center in Tel-Aviv and served also as the Head of Glaucoma Service at the Hadassah University Hospital in Jerusalem. He rapidly gained reputation as a gifted and skillful surgeon with a deep passion to teach and support. He served as consultant for surgical glaucoma and complicated anterior segment surgery in several University Hospitals in Israel and overseas.

Elie ended his life the same way he lived them – calm, confident and under full control. When his health rapidly deteriorated and following diagnostic tests he realized that his disease is inoperable and incurable and refused any therapy that would extend his suffer. He died at home surrounded by his loved ones.

The world of ophthalmology lost an outstanding clinician and a gifted surgeon. We all lost a very dear friend.

Ehud I. Assia
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