

WORDS OF THANKS



It all started with electronic coverage. As I recall, Pfizer was providing financial support to BMC, the company that publishes *GT* and produces much other content inside and outside of eye care, for a short series of emailed pieces on glaucoma. I had been hired a few months earlier to serve as editor-in-chief of *Cataract & Refractive*

Surgery Today or *CRST*. My boss, BMC President David Cox, assigned me to handle the glaucoma coverage. Soon thereafter, he asked me to launch a quarterly publication devoted to the field, and *GT* debuted in January/February 2003. I had spent much of my time at the 2002 annual meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology stalking the small number of glaucoma subspecialists I knew (and some I did not) in an effort to enlist them in the venture, an attempt that met with mixed results.

Today, when so much of publishing is digital—some offerings exclusively so—it is amusing to consider that *GT* began as a quarterly digital publication to test the waters and then, based on its positive reception, began appearing in print in 2004.

GT has evolved in the nearly 15 years since the publication's first issue (bit.ly/edpage1117), and my interest in the field and in the people who study glaucoma and care for those afflicted with the disease has grown. *GT* began with articles on topics like the impact of latanoprost's FDA approval as a first-line treatment, the implications of the Advanced Glaucoma Intervention Study (AGIS) on clinical practice, and the conjunctival approach to implanting a recently released device called the Ex-Press mini glaucoma shunt. I profiled my first thought leader in glaucoma, the late Theodore Krupin, MD, in what would become the long-running and well-received series "5 Questions" (bit.ly/2edpage1117). Our conversation went so well that, at the end, I invited Ted to join *GT*'s editorial advisory board and was gratified when he happily agreed.

At the 2005 annual meeting of the American Glaucoma Society, I felt that the publication had hit a milestone. As I interacted with attendees, I asked how they liked *GT*. Several of them essentially told me that they had not seen the need for another publication in ophthalmology but that they now actually liked it.

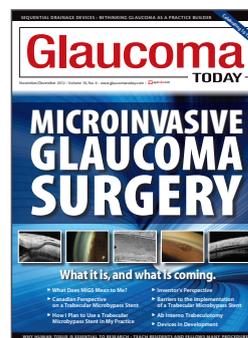
The July/August 2006 edition introduced Richard Lewis, MD, as *GT*'s first chief medical editor. For the January/February 2007 issue, he and I presented a surgical edition—*GT*'s first group of articles focused on a subject (bit.ly/3edpage1117). The reception was so positive that the groupings became a regular feature starting in September/October 2008. In 2011, Steven Vold, MD, assumed the role of

chief medical editor, and in November/December 2012, he unveiled *GT*'s first true cover series. Its focus was on microinvasive glaucoma surgery, and articles included US surgeons discussing how they planned to use a trabecular microby-pass stent in their practices (bit.ly/4edpage1117).



2003

GT's original look



2012

The publication's first true cover series



2017

GT today

I have been working in the field long enough now to have a sense of excitement and satisfaction about the recent surge of interest and R&D in glaucoma, and I am proud that *GT* has served as an educational resource for so many people. It is with mixed feelings, therefore, that I transition from editor-in-chief of the publication to a new editorial role for BMC's vision offerings. Fortunately, I will have opportunities to contribute to *GT* and to work in glaucoma going forward.

I am thankful to the many people who have supported *GT* and me through the years—past and present members of the publication's editorial advisory board, authors, industry, and the BMC team. Creative/Production Director John Follo has been with me on *GT* since the beginning. He and the rest of the Art Department work hard on every layout and design. Carrie Adkins-Ali, who has collaborated with me on the publication since joining BMC in May 2016, will remain as managing editor. Callan Navitsky, whom many know from her continuing work as *MillennialEYE*'s editor-in-chief, will assume that role on *GT* as well.

I would like to thank Steve for his warmth, positive energy, and dedication. I would like to thank both him and Rick for bringing their passion for the field into every issue of *GT* in which they have been involved. Finally, I would like to thank the publication's readers. Without you, *GT* would not be here. ■

Gillian McDermott, MA
Editor-in-Chief