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Closing the doctor- patient gap in support of ophthalmological research

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Abstract

This discussion addresses the patient-doctor relationship with respect to ophthalmological conditions. It follows Hekimian's experiences since the time he was diagnosed with a degenerative retinal disease. As a researcher and a patient, Dr. Hekimian addresses five examples of how physicians might better engage their patients in their own eye health regimens. The discussion advances the notion that each patient can be considered a capable, intelligent, contributing partner with the physician in the quest to preserve their vision while also serving as an additional "data point" leading to further knowledge of eye-health issues. The discussion carries through to the present, where Dr. Hekimian is advancing a computerized alternative to the paper Amsler grid, one tool that empowers patients to monitor their retina health with regularity and consistency and to communicate detailed results to their physicians.

Biography

Christopher Hekimian holds a Doctor of Science degree in Systems Engineering and a Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering. He holds two patents in the medical field. He was diagnosed with late-onset Stargardt's Disease in 2010 and developed the Quantitative Retina Test Grid in 2011-2012.