Leading LASIK and Refractive Surgeons in Trusted LASIK Surgeons Directory Receive Top Honors at Annual AAO and ISRS/AAO Meeting in Atlanta

At the recent American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) annual meeting in Atlanta, many top honors were awarded to members of the Trusted LASIK Surgeons Directory for their extensive contributions to refractive surgery procedures, including LASIK eye surgery. Dr. Roger Steinert received the Barraquer Award, Dr. Douglas Koch was the Guest of Honor of the AAO meeting, Dr. Jack Holladay was honored with a Founder's Award, and Dr. Ronald Kreuger received with the Lans Distinguished Award. In addition, LASIK surgeons James Salz, Stephen Brint, Marguerite McDonald, and Richard Duffery received awards recognizing their achievements in refractive surgery research.

Atlanta, GA (PRWEB) November 14, 2008 -- Trusted LASIK Surgeons is pleased to announce many of the leaders in advancing LASIK and refractive eye surgery listed in its Trusted LASIK Surgeons Directory were among those receiving some of the top awards at the recent annual meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) and the International Society of Refractive Surgeons (ISRS/AAO) in Atlanta, Georgia. This annual meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology is always the largest gathering of ophthalmologists from all over the world. This year's meeting is being held in conjunction with the European Society of Ophthalmologists. More than 13,000 ophthalmologists, technicians and industry representatives are expected to attend.

LASIK pioneer Roger Steinert, M.D., acting Chairman of Clinical Ophthalmology at the Department of Ophthalmology at University of California at Irvine received the Barraquer Award, the highest annual honor awarded by the AAO/ISRS. Dr. James J. Salz, a previous Barraquer Award winner, provided background on the history of the award: "Dr. Jose Barraquer from Bogota, Columbia, is regarded as the 'father' of modern refractive surgery as he was the first to conceive the idea of reshaping the cornea to reduce or eliminate the need for glasses. He calculated the precise formulas required to reshape the cornea in the 1950's, well before calculators and computers. His concepts and techniques were termed, Keratomileusis (Greek for 'corneal carving'). LASIK stands for 'laser in situ keratomileusis.'"

In his Barraquer Lecture, entitled "Corneal Surgery is Refractive Surgery", Dr. Steinert discussed corneal transplantation and optics. Dr. Steinert summarized his presentation to Trusted LASIK Surgeons as follows: "For several decades, corneal transplantation has had a high success rate from the standpoint of restoring an anatomically clear cornea. The optical performance of the cornea has often been less successful, with many patients wearing distorting strong glasses or rigid hard contact lenses in order to have useful vision. The lessons learned from refractive surgery in the past decade and the new laser technologies that have developed are changing that outcome. New types of corneal surgery to reduce the creation of optical distortions, new technology to perform the surgery better, and the use of sophisticated refractive surgery to fix optical distortions that do occur have elevated corneal surgery into the realm of refractive surgery."

http://www.trustedlasiksurgeons.com/houston_lasik_surgeons.htm Houston refractive eye surgeon Douglas Koch of Baylor Vision, received a special award as the Guest of Honor with one page of the AAO program devoted to a summary of his impressive accomplishments. The first paragraph states: "Dr. Douglas D. Koch is
honored by the AAO for his contributions to ophthalmology as a mentor, investigator, and clinician. His colleagues hold him in the highest esteem for his professional leadership and his personal traits of humanism, humility and integrity." Dr. Koch presented a lecture on "Why I still use curvature" on the Corneal Subspecialty Day, which discussed current technologies used for imaging the cornea. Dr. Koch's highlighted the importance of those approaches that more accurately and graphically provide information regarding the front curvature of the cornea. According to Dr. Koch, "accurate corneal measurements are extremely important for a wide range of uses, including safely selecting candidates for LASIK, determining which procedure is best for them, and monitoring their progress following surgery. It is also essential for selecting the power of the lens implant for patients undergoing refractive lens exchange or cataract surgery."

Houston LASIK surgeon and visionary Jack Holladay, M.D., of the Holladay LASIK Institute was honored by the IRSS/AAO with a Founder's Award in recognition of his many contributions to the growth of the society and to the field of refractive surgery during his illustrious career. Dr. Holladay participated in 5 courses related to lens calculations for cataract surgery and complications of cataract surgery and LASIK and lectured on the topic of Wavefront guided versus Wavefront optimized LASIK at the ISRS/AAO refractive surgery symposium.

Dr. Ronald Krueger, a vision correction expert and Professor of Ophthalmology at the Cole Eye Institute of the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio was awarded the Lans Distinguished Award by the ISRS/AAO. The Lans Award honors Dr. Lans, a Dutch ophthalmologist, who was the first to perform research into incisional techniques to correct astigmatism and myopia. The Lans award is given yearly by the ISRS/AAO to a young ophthalmologist who has made significant contributions to the field of refractive surgery.

Dr. Kreuger presented his lecture on "Photochemical Corneal Augmentation for Experimental Lamellar Grafting during the ISRS/AAO Subspecialty Meeting. This new technique may simplify and improve the results of lamellar grafts which involve only the front portion of the cornea. Dr. Kreuger was involved in in several committees, including the Executive Committee of the ISRS/AAO, the Program Committee of the ISRS/AAO, and the Practicing Ophthalmologists Curriculum (POC) Panel on Refractive Management/Intervention.

In addition to these top awards given to the above refractive experts, other eye surgeons listed in the Trusted LASIK Surgeons Directory received awards. The AAO honored highly regarded Los Angeles LASIK specialist Dr. James J. Salz of Laser Vision Medical Associates with a Lifetime Achievement Award. The American Academy of Ophthalmology honors members for contributions based on a point system where a point is given for a lecture, scientific poster or being a course instructor. A maximum of 3 points can be awarded in any one year. A lifetime achievement honor requires 60 points, a senior achievement award 30 points, and an achievement award, 10 points. Dr. Salz also lectured about the OMIC (Ophthalmic Mutual Insurance Company) refractive surgery medical legal claims experience at the ISRS/AAO refractive surgery meeting. He was also the instructor at two "Breakfast with the Experts" sessions, one on phakic lens implants and one on medical legal claims. At the Correction of Presbyopia Symposium, he presented the "con" side of a debate on refractive lensectomy for the correction of presbyopia.

New Orleans LASIK eye surgery expert Stephen Brint, M.D. of Brint Custom Vision received a Senior Achievement Award from the AAO. He also hosted a live LASIK surgery broadcast from New Orleans to his fellow surgeons in Atlanta. During the broadcast, this highly skilled LASIK surgeon performed 2 hyperopic (farsighted) cases with the Wavelight Allegretto. In Dr. Brint's opinion, this laser gives the best results with hyperopia (farsightedness), and has the ability to ablate over the visual axis as opposed to the pupillary center.
and has Neurotrak which helps minimize intraoperative cyclotorsion.

Dr. Margueritte McDonald of Ophthalmic Consultants of Long Island OCLI and current President of the ISRS also received both an AAO Life Achievement Honor Award and the AAO's Secretariat's Award. Dr. McDonald lectured on the topic of Dry Eye and LASIK at the ISRS/AAO meeting and about pharmacologic management of laser refractive surgery at the symposium commemorating the 25 year history of the excimer laser. Dr. McDonald was recognized at the symposium for her pioneering work in the development of the excimer laser for laser vision correction. She was the first surgeon in the world to perform laser vision correction surgery on a patient. She also lectured on complications of laser refractive surgery at the main AAO meeting and participated in several instructional courses.

One of Alabama's finest expert LASIK surgeons, Dr. Richard Duffey of Mobile AL, a recipient of an Honor Award from the AOO this year, presented the results of his twelfth annual U.S. Trends in Refractive Surgery Survey amongst AAO/ISRS members. Dr. Duffey, whose practices at Premier Eye Medical Group, found that "perhaps the most eye-opening finding of this year's survey of over 1350 U.S. refractive surgeons was the new Laser Vision Correction Family Index measuring the percentage of family members of U.S. refractive surgeons who have had modern laser vision correction surgery performed on their own eyes." Since FDA approval, his survey found that 35% of refractive surgeons, 30% of their spouses, 21% of their children, and 40% of their siblings have had laser vision correction performed on their eyes since FDA approval of excimer laser surgery. Trusted LASIK Surgeons asked Dr. Duffey why there exists such a high penetration of refractive surgery in family members of refractive surgeons. In Dr. Duffey's expert opinion, "refractive surgeons have historically had the inside track on laser technology and know better than anyone the clinical benefits of laser vision correction. With modern custom wavefront LASIK and its high safety profile, in combination with the knowledge of who and where the best refractive surgeons practice, it is only natural that family members of laser vision correction surgeons have taken a fuller advantage of this technology over the past decade." Like Dr. Duffey, nearly all refractive eye surgeons listed in the Trusted LASIK Surgeons directory have performed LASIK or another refractive eye surgery procedure on other eye doctors and their family members. He concluded that "this survey should put to rest speculation by the media that members of the medical profession have avoided laser vision correction on their own eyes. Nothing could be further from the truth regarding modern customized laser eye surgery in the United States.

Dr. Salz, CEO of Trusted LASIK Surgeons, commented about an important aspect of Dr. Duffey's annual survey: "It is often assumed by the general public that refractive surgeons avoid the surgery on their own eyes and the eyes of family members. Dr. Duffey's survey shows that 30 to 40% of refractive surgeons have either had the surgery themselves or performed it on a family member. In my case, I had astigmatic keratotomy on my left eye 10 years ago and performed LASIK on my daughter Elisabeth for farsighted astigmatism over 6 years ago."

The refractive eye surgeons listed and profiled in the Trusted LASIK Surgeons Directory are among the most highly qualified LASIK and refractive surgeons and includes many of the true pioneers in vision correction surgery, not just LASIK but other procedures such as lens implants, phakic implants, and conductive keratoplasty.

For more on why consumers should consider the refractive eye surgeons listed in the Trusted LASIK Surgeons directory for their vision correction needs, please visit:

**Why choose a Surgeon from the Trusted LASIK Surgeon's Directory**
The screening process and standards used by Trusted LASIK Surgeons are located at How Are LASIK Surgeons Qualified at Trusted LASIK Surgeons?

To find a highly accomplished LASIK and refractive specialist in your local area who has been qualified and listed in the Trusted LASIK Surgeons directory, please visit Trusted LASIK Surgeons Directory

SOURCE: Trusted LASIK Surgeons

About Trusted LASIK Surgeons, Inc.
Trusted LASIK Surgeons, Inc. (Trusted LASIK Surgeons) is a premier LASIK, laser eye surgery, and refractive eye surgery directory service whose primary mission is to assist consumers in finding the best and most qualified LASIK and vision correction surgeons in their local area in the United States. To accomplish this, Trusted LASIK Surgeons uses a unique screening process where each prospective LASIK eye surgeon must meet the minimum required qualifications set by Trusted LASIK Surgeons. These qualifications for these doctors are based on experience (not just in LASIK but complete refractive care), research (including FDA approval studies for manufacturers and academic appointments at major universities), publications and lectures (to their peers, not to the public via infomercials) and patient care standards (treating other eye professionals and managing complications from patients first operated on by someone else). All refractive eye surgeons listed at Trusted LASIK Surgeons have qualified, been accepted, and have subscribed to our services. For more information on why we believe consumers interested in LASIK should consider an eye surgeon listed in the Trusted LASIK Surgeon's directory, please visit our website at www.TrustedLASIKSurgeons.com

Trusted LASIK Surgeons
(800) 483-8028
news at TrustedLASIKSurgeons.com

About the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO)
The American Academy of Ophthalmology is the largest national membership association of Eye M.D.s. Eye M.D.s are ophthalmologists, medical and osteopathic doctors who provide comprehensive eye care, including medical, surgical and optical care. More than 90 percent of practicing U.S. Eye M.D.s are Academy members, and the Academy has more than 7,000 international members. The mission of the American Academy of Ophthalmology is to advance the lifelong learning and professional interests of ophthalmologists (Eye M.D.s) to ensure that the public can obtain the best possible eye care. The American Academy of Ophthalmology is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for every individual they treat by helping each to see his or her best and by protecting their patients’ vision and eye health throughout life. Academy members are committed to responding compassionately to their patients’ individual needs and to advancing the highest standards of comprehensive eye care. To enable its members to meet these goals, the Academy provides a wide variety of programs, products and services to Eye M.D.s and the patients they serve.

# # #

If you have any questions regarding information in these press releases please contact the company listed in the press release. Our complete disclaimer appears here - PRWeb ebooks - Another online visibility tool from PRWeb
Contact Information
Dr. James J Salz
Trusted LASIK Surgeons, Inc
http://www.TrustedLASIKSurgeons.com
+1 (800) 483-8028

Lance McCloud
LanceThink Media
http://www.LanceThinkMedia.com
+1-800-846-6208

Online Web 2.0 Version
You can read the online version of this press release here.