Members of the Club Jules Gonin

New active members – total 223
Robert W. Acheson, Dublin, Ireland
Leyla A. Atmaca, Ankara, Turkey
Francesco Bandello, Milan, Italy
Thomas Barrie, Glasgow, UK
Bertil E. Damato, Glasgow, UK
Claus Eckardt, Frankfurt/Main, Germany
Alain Gaudric, Paris, France
Tetsuo Hida, Tokyo, Japan
Ikka Immonen, Helsinki, Finland
Eugene de Juan, Durham, USA
Anselm Kampik, Munich, Germany
Francoise Koenig, Saint-Etienne, France
Klaus Lucke, Bremen, Germany
Edoardo Midena, Padova, Italy
Constantin Pournaras, Geneva, Switzerland
Jerry Sebag, Huntington Beach, USA
Sherif M. Sheta, Cairo, Egypt

New honorary members – total 16
Jens Edmund, Copenhagen, Denmark
Wallace S. Foulds, Glasgow, UK

New passive members – total 58
E.W. Geoffrey Davies, Beckenham, UK
George F. Hilton, Oakland, USA
Erik Kutschera, Salzburg, Austria
Bertil Linder, Vaxjo, Sweden
Clive B. Mortimer, Toronto, Canada
Edward Okun, Tesuque, USA
Anwar Shah, St. Louis, USA

Members who have resigned
Matthew D. Davis, Madison, USA
Gunter Mackensen, Freiburg/Breisgau, Germany
Brian Martin, Leeds, UK

Deseased members
Giorgio Bocci, Cuneo, Italy (1994)
Jose Casanovas, Barcelona, Spain, honorary member (1994)
David Cogan, Chevy Chase, USA, honorary member (1994)
Louis Guillaumat, Paris, France, honorary member (1994)
Edward Norton, Miami, USA, honorary member (1994)
Friedrich Rintelen, Basel, Switzerland (1992)

Professor Fritz Körner from Bern has agreed to continue to be an account member in the future. The end of his mandate is the year 2000.

Reminder: Dr. Leonidas Zografos from Lausanne has been the second account member since 1992.

Dates of the 1996 Bern meeting, joint meeting with the Retina Society: 1–6 September 1996, a 5-day meeting
Organizer: Prof. Fritz Körner

The 1998 meeting will be held in Edinburgh, UK
Dates proposed: 30 August–4 September 1998
Organizer: Prof. Wallace S. Foulds

Reminder: Fax no. of the Club Jules Gonin: +21-625 1878
The Hermann Wacker Prize Awarded to Prof. Franz Fankhauser, Switzerland

The Club Jules Gonin committee has decided to award the Hermann Wacker Prize in 1994 to Prof. Franz Fankhauser of Bern.

Prof. Franz Fankhauser was born into a business family in 1924 in the beautiful town of Thun in Switzerland. Following his medical studies in Bern, he received his ophthalmology training at the University Clinic – also in Bern – under Prof. Goldmann. From 1958 to 1960 he was Professor and Chairman at the Department of Ophthalmology, Medical College Ludhiana in East Punjab, India. After further training under Paul Cibis and Bernard Becker at Washington University, he returned to Bern where he worked for another 14 years with Prof. Goldmann. (In St. Louis, along with intensive clinical work for the much admired Paul Cibis, he also managed to complete a mathematics degree.) The extraordinary, scientifically stimulating atmosphere in Goldmann’s clinic greatly influenced the life work of Franz Fankhauser.

Thanks to his extensive scientific activities the basis of physics and physiology was formulated for introduction into modern diagnostic treatment and methods that have decisively changed the face of modern ophthalmology.

After he had developed the much used slit-lamp attachment for the Zeiss xenon photocoagulator, Franz Fankhauser joined up with Lotmar in the 1960s to work on the fundamentals of laser treatment for retinal diseases and glaucomas. He also worked on the application of the high-power laser, i.e., the photo disruptive effect of Q-switched neodym YAG lasers. In his laser work, the morphological aspect was always investigated and checked as well its physics. He is currently working on the development of a usable laser scalpel.

Franz Fankhauser formulated the fundamentals of automatic perimetry, following his work in the areas of physics, biomathematics and information theory. His contribution in this area has been invaluable, and its influence on scientific ophthalmology far reaching.

Franz Fankhauser’s career and achievements are admirable (he also contributed to the physiology of vision and electronic help for visually handicapped people). His work has been published in more than 260 papers and, without exception, always at the highest level of science. We thank him for the knowledge resulting from his uncompromising approach, “in getting to the core of the matter.”

It would be one-sided to talk only of Franz Fankhauser the great scientist, and not to refer to Franz Fankhauser the great physician, who has dedicated himself tirelessly and with understanding to his patient’s problems. Patients whom I have referred to him have later told me that Franz Fankhauser would personally take them to the clinic himself for laser treatment that took place after midnight.

It is comforting to know that such an unassuming and modest personality has received so many national and international honors: e.g., Albrecht von Graefe, Alfred Vogt, Marcel Benoît Prize, the Helmholtz medal and the honorary doctorate from the University of Basel.

K. Heimann

Origins and background of the Jules Gonin Club

According to Article 1 of its By-laws, the Jules Gonin Club is an “association” in the sense of the provisions of Article 60 of the Swiss Civil Code. The aims of this Club are defined in Article 2 and can be summarized in three main points: to establish personal contacts and to promote the interchange of information and views among specialists in the pathology and medical or surgical treatment of the vitreum, choroid and retina; to organize colloquia and conferences on the above matters, to facilitate and reward the activities of investigation and publication in this very specific field of ophthalmology, without pursuing profit-making or speculative purposes.

The Bylaws, which were approved by the General Meeting of the Club held at Amersfoort on 30 April 1963, include regulations on the admission of new members of the Club. At present, the Club has about 270 members in all, whether active, passive or honorary.

The inception of what would later be the Jules Gonin Club dates back to the “Ophthalmological Colloquium on photocoagulation” held in Lausanne on 14–17 September 1959 (Fig. 1, Table 1). This subject was chosen the interest raised by the unusual paper on “The treatment and prevention of