MISSING THE FOREST FOR THE SPONGES

In 1964, a US Navy research vessel photographed an antenna-like structure observed off the coast of South America at an underwater depth of almost 13,000 ft. Only 2 years had passed since the 13-day standoff between the United States and the Soviet Union over nuclear weapons deployments by both sides, a confrontation known in the West as The Cuban Missile Crisis. For this reason, the structure was initially viewed as suspicious. However, what was thought to be a Russian listening device turned out to be a carnivorous sponge, colloquially named the *ping-pong tree sponge*. Fortunately, no serious action was taken based on the grainy, black-and-white, deep-sea photo.

Similarly, in glaucoma care, imaging and diagnostics do not always provide the level of clarity we providers would like. The quality and specificity of the information that we can gain from these tools has improved over the years, but advances are still needed.

This issue of *GT* highlights cutting-edge developments in glaucoma diagnostics, including advances in imaging, genetic assessment, and AI, that have the potential to optimize the interventional approach. To achieve reproducible interventional outcomes, technology that allows reliable identification of the disease and mechanism is necessary. Without improved diagnostic tools, clinical decision-making will be an endless game of hemming and hawing—ping-ponging ideas back and forth without a definitive, 2-point lead for the win. By embracing diagnostic advances, we may find a clearer conclusion is within reach. ■

ARSHAM SHEYBANI, MD
CHIEF MEDICAL EDITOR