

Glaucoma 360 Sheds Light on Remote Patient Management

Be part of the conversation on February 11, 2022.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has compelled eye care professionals everywhere to connect with patients in new ways, forever changing ophthalmology and revealing the future of health care. Be part of the conversation on February 11, 2022, when the Glaucoma 360 New Horizons Forum—a not-to-be-missed networking event uniting all the experts required for innovation—explores what’s next in telehealth.

In early 2020, when the need for social distance threatened routine eye care, ophthalmologists with vulnerable glaucoma patients didn’t rest on old approaches. They got creative, transforming telemedicine from science-fiction possibility into a viable care solution.

With online consultations and portable pressure-detection devices now part of the mix for glaucoma care, where does remote patient management go from here? That’s just one topic up for discussion at the next New Horizons Forum—this year, a hybrid online/in-person event welcoming participants from around the world. Now in its 11th year, this unique day of networking will engage every important player in tomorrow’s telehealth advances—clinicians, scientists, patients, funders, entrepreneurs, and regulators—with the goal of real-time collaboration that yields real-world solutions.

Now director of Teleophthalmology, Artificial Intelligence, and Innovations at NYU Langone Health in New York City, Lama Al-Aswad, MD, MPH, has spent much of her career pushing

“THIS YEAR’S NEW HORIZONS FORUM WILL GIVE CLINICIANS THE RARE CHANCE TO SEE WHAT’S COMING DOWN THE PIPELINE IN TELEHEALTH, BRINGING HOPE TO GLAUCOMA PATIENTS.”

— LAMA AL-ASWAD, MD, MPH, CO-MODERATOR OF A PANEL ON REMOTE PATIENT MANAGEMENT



Figure. Dr. Al-Aswad presenting at the Glaucoma 360 New Horizons Forum in 2019.

glaucoma care forward, with a focus on telemedicine. With Oluwatosin U. Smith, MD, of Glaucoma Associates of Texas who has a passion making glaucoma care globally accessible, Dr. Al-Aswad will be co-moderating a panel discussion sharing insider perspectives on remote patient monitoring possibilities (Figure). Panelists will include Malvina Eydelman, MD, Director of the Office of Health Technology, Ophthalmic, Anesthesia, Respiratory, ENT, and Dental Devices at the US FDA.

“The emergence of virtual glaucoma care during COVID-19 was like crossing the Rubicon,” says Dr. Al-Aswad. “We are shifting from the office to the patient, and there’s no going back.” The question, Dr. Al-Aswad says, is what’s coming next and what’s holding innovation back? The need for next-generation devices, lags with electronic medical records, slow uptake by physicians, in part over concern about reimbursements, and more will be explored by panelists from care, science, industry, and policy sectors.

Collaboration coming out of New Horizons has potential impact beyond the realm of eye care as innovators increasingly recognize the eye as a platform for remote physiologic monitoring. Most importantly, Dr. Al-Aswad says, New Horizons will send clinicians who participate home with hope they can share with patients. “I got involved with telehealth because a glaucoma patient once told me, ‘Doc, I feel powerless,’” she recalls. “Remote monitoring is one way we can empower people to protect precious vision while we move closer to a cure for glaucoma.” ■

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