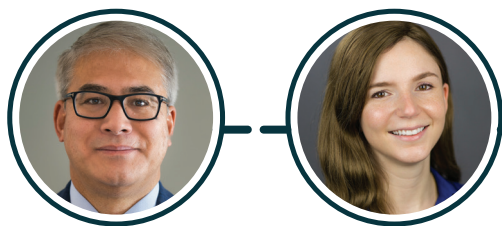


# AMD PIPELINE UPDATES: A DIFFERENT WAY OF THINKING ABOUT THE COMPLEMENT CASCADE

A new layout of the complement cascade highlights the major changes to this year's two-sided poster.

BY PETER K. KAISER, MD, AND MARIELLE MAHAN, MD



**T**he retina community should be proud that it continues to educate itself rather than rest on the educations we received in our training. Yes, it comes naturally to us—we're a scientifically curious group by nature, and there is no shortage of vitreoretinal mysteries waiting to be unlocked—but it also requires time and effort. With this year's iteration of the annual age-related macular degeneration (AMD) pipeline poster, we hope to make that education a bit easier.

It became clear that a deepened understanding of the complement cascade will be foundational for our practice if a therapy for geographic atrophy is approved by regulatory bodies, so we thought it was best to create a more specific schematic for readers this year (Figure).



Figure. Drs. Kaiser (left) and Marielle Mahan (right) meet with *Retina Today* at the famous Café du Monde in New Orleans to sketch the pipeline poster.

The limitations of a 2-dimensional illustration of the complement cascade should be noted; we addressed them the best we could. For example, the alternative pathway reactions occur on the surface of a cell, not in the extracellular space around it. Still, we think this year's depiction of the complement cascade will provide an excellent reference point for readers who need a refresher on a biologic cascade many of us haven't considered at length since our medical training.

The next generation of ophthalmologists will be instrumental to continuing the tradition of continued education. To that end, Marielle Mahan, MD, joined the team responsible for creating the poster this year. As an ophthalmology resident with a talent for artistic depictions, Dr. Mahan led the charge in redesigning the complement cascade schematic. Her future in ophthalmology is bright, and we're happy to have her included on the team this year. ■

**Remember that the drugs listed in this poster are not exhaustive. If there is a drug that you think we should include in next year's poster, email us at [cdeming@bmctoday.com](mailto:cdeming@bmctoday.com).**

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