George Wise and Subretinal Neovascularization

To the Editor:

In a recent publication, McLeod and Lutty introduced a novel technique that will serve as a model for the study of choroidal pathophysiology, including neovascularization. Although not their prime topic of discussion, they mention that few have studied choroidal neovascularization, citing a single article in which the authors speculated that choroidal nonperfusion may be a stimulus for subretinal neovascularization.

George Wise, whose clinical career and basic investigations focused on retinal neovascularization and who pointed Paul Henkind, then a medical student, in a similar direction, proposed a new theory. He suggested that if, in addition to retinal venous or capillary obstruction, the outer retinal layers were subjected to additional oxygen deprivation by blocking their choroidal component, the outer retina would become even more hypoxic than the inner retina and vasoproliferation would proceed into the avascular outer retina and along the outer retinal surface, as in Coats' disease. He asked me, as a preresident fellow, to help him develop an experimental model that mirrored Coats' disease and proved his hypothesis. The resultant publication reported the production of subretinal neofibrovascularization. Dr. Wise, a mentor to many of us at New York University at that time, deserves ongoing recognition for his seminal pioneering efforts. I trust Drs. McLeod and Lutty will excuse this historical recounting, triggered by only a minor oversight in their fine publication.

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References