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### Closing the doctor-patient gap in support of ophthalmological research

This discussion addresses the patient-doctor relationship with respect to ophthalmological conditions. It follows Dr. Hekimian's experiences since the time he was diagnosed with a degenerative retinal disease. As a researcher and a patient, Dr. Hekimian addresses five examples of how physicians might better engage their patients in their own eye health regimens. The discussion advances the notion that each patient can be considered a capable, intelligent, contributing partner with the physician in the quest to preserve their vision while also serving as an additional "data point" leading to further knowledge of eye-health issues. The discussion carries through to the present, where Dr. Hekimian is advancing a computerized alternative to the paper Amsler grid, one tool that empowers patients to monitor their retina health with regularity and consistency and to communicate detailed results to their physicians.

#### Biography

Christopher Hekimian holds a Doctor of Science degree in Systems Engineering and a Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering. He holds two patents in the medical field. He was diagnosed with late-onset Stargardt's Disease in 2010 and developed the Quantitative Retina Test Grid in 2011-2012.

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