Ophthalmology and the aging society (Essentials in Ophthalmology), Editors: Scholl HPN, Massof RW, West S (2013) ISBN: 978-3-642-36323-8, Springer

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Received: 1 July 2014 / Accepted: 2 July 2014 / Published online: 15 July 2014
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Western countries are aging societies. This demographic shift poses new challenges, some unique to the field of ophthalmology. Many of the most common eye diseases are age-related, with a significantly higher incidence in patients above the age of 70–80.

This book, “Ophthalmology and the aging society”, provides a comprehensive overview of age-related issues of common eye diseases. It comprises 15 chapters and is divided into four parts covering (I) epidemiology, (II) risk factors and prophylaxis, (III) treatment, and (IV) quality of life. All major eye diseases are discussed including cataract, age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, dry eye, and diabetic retinopathy. The different topics are reviewed by specialists in the respective fields. As the chapters are written by different authors, there is some variation in composition and style, but

overall, the text is clearly written and features many illustrations and diagrams. Each chapter is concluded by an extensive reference list.

There are some very good chapters with excellent reviews of otherwise hard-to-find data, particularly on the quality of life or epidemiology. Chapters covering genetics face the problem of a fast moving field which would require permanent updating. Only the chapters on therapy do not really cover age-related issues, but rather describe some issues of treatments for neovascular AMD, cataract, and dry eye. They give some general overview but hardly new information for the specialist.

Nevertheless, the book provides an excellent overview for those interested in an update on recent age-related research in ophthalmology.

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