



**MORE  
THAN  
MEETS  
THE EYE**

BY KARI RUEL

**C**an an annual eye exam reveal a bigger health picture? Dr. Craig Sultan, owner of The Eyeworks believes so. His inquisitive nature has helped saves lives during his more than 30 years in the optometry field.

“There is a lot that can be seen in the eye,” said Dr. Sultan. “I have a machine called Retinal Digital Photography that can take pictures of the back portion of the eye. We often can spot diabetes, multiple sclerosis and macular degeneration.”

Dr. Sultan cited one patient that had breast cancer. He noticed a large lesion in the back of her eye.

“That told me she had a risk of her breast cancer metastasizing,” he said. “Now she will be watched more carefully.”

A routine eye exam also saved the life of a 31-year old patient. Something caught Dr. Sultan’s attention that his male patient might have a brain tumor. The patient was stunned because he never even had a headache according to Dr. Sultan. He went to a medical doctor and a MRI confirmed he did indeed have a tumor. After a 10-hour surgery, a 3-centimeter tumor was removed.

Dr. Sultan’s exam procedure is considered outside the box. Each exam is tailored to the individual. He is in no rush and takes

the time to ask a lot of questions without the patient feeling like they are being grilled.

Patient, Sandra Rogers, agreed. “I’ve watched how Dr. Sultan has integrated himself into the community so I wanted to give him a try,” said Rogers. “It was the most thorough eye exam for a person who doesn’t even have eye issues.”

“If the doctor doesn’t ask the right questions, you won’t get the correct answers,” said Dr. Sultan. “Knowing a person’s back ground, work habits and lifestyle can disclose so much about a person. Even how a person reads an eye chart can give me clues to what might be going on.”

He has become a master at picking up dialects and verbally draws pictures for his patients enabling him to ‘inform while he performs.’ He uses metaphors, which mirrors his patients’ occupation. For an example, he will use driving and alignment terms when talking to an auto mechanic. When he examines a teacher, he will talk about seeing the kids in the back of the classroom or ask how well they can focus on notes.

The Eyeworks facility is filled with the latest technology and high tech electronic equipment that can detect subtle changes in the eye for early treatment. An extensive computer animation program also helps illustrate different conditions to his patients.

Dr. Sultan, who originally wanted to be a veterinarian, graduated from the State University of New York College of Optometry. He opened The Eye Works Optometry in downtown Napa to fill the need of a full-service vision care facility that offers: alternatives in vision correction, superior customer service, convenient hours including open on Saturdays, and thousands of choices of unique fashion and designer eyewear. Dr. Sultan belongs to the California Optometric Laser Associates (COLA) and has been co-managing LASIK for 11 years after he had the procedure himself.

“It’s amazing something smaller than a ping pong ball can have so many things that can go wrong,” said Dr. Sultan. **NVL**

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