

STEVE CHARLES

is the founder of the
Charles Retina Institute
in Memphis, Tenn.

MD



Dr. Charles was
photographed at
the fourth annual
meeting of the
Vit-Buckle
Society, stylized
as VBS|004,
in Miami Beach,
Fla., in March
2016.

A GIANT OF RETINA SURGERY

We point to certain people in our field that gave us the tools of our trade. Steve Charles, MD, stands the highest on that list. Over the years, Steve has developed and *taught* us the basic food groups of surgical retina: vitrectomy fluidics and cutters, endophotocoagulation, internal fluid drainage, membrane delamination, retinotomy...and that's just the tip of the iceberg.

A successful retina surgeon may look back at a 35-year career and say that he or she made a difference in the lives of perhaps 10,000 patients. Steve, by contrast, can say that he has made a difference in the lives of literally *millions* of patients. How? By educating other retina surgeons on the tools and techniques critical to our trade; those retina surgeons then educated their mentees and fellows, who all went on to manage thousands of cases.

It's impossible to perform a vitrectomy without pointing to something that Steve Charles gave us. A combination of a brilliant engineering mind, loads of experience, and plenty of common sense makes him a surgical all-star. His tireless energy as a teacher makes Steve truly one of the giants of retina surgery.

—Kirk H. Packo, MD

