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To the Editor

We noted with interest the recent article by Bonnet and colleagues (Bonnet, C., Querques, G., Zerbib, J., Oubraham, H., Garavito, R.B., Puche, N., and Souied, E.H. (2014).

Hyperreflective pyramidal structures on optical coherence tomography in geographic atrophy areas. *Retina*, 2014, online) ¹. These authors compared their findings with the crown-like elevation with debris first described in SD-OCT by Fleckenstein et al in 2008². Bonnet et al gave this finding the name of ghost drusen, because of its visibility in the atrophic area, and because the structures appeared dome-shaped.

We independently and concurrently published similar OCT findings in eyes not only with geographic atrophy, but also in those with choroidal neovascularization³. Surface renderings of these structures revealed extensive folding or corrugations, some of which appeared dome-like. Moreover, we correlated them with histological findings in 62 late AMD eyes. We reach a conclusion that differs from Bonnet et al, finding that this reflectivity is best explained by basal laminar deposit (BLamD) that persists in the atrophic area after RPE cell death. We suggest how this material can assume a corrugated shape following collapse of drusen or neovascularization. BLamD is a thickened and sometimes-elaborate basal lamina secreted by the RPE. Abundance of BLamD is associated with AMD progression, and its persistence was noted by the Sarks⁴. Persistent BLamD divides subretinal from subRPE fibrovascular scars⁵.

Use of correct anatomical names promotes mechanistic thinking about disease processes. Ghost drusen is a name that could cause confusion, because true sub-RPE drusen are rich with lipids rather than basement membrane proteins and are largely absent from the areas where BLamD persists. Ghosts are apparitions of once living things. We thus suggest that outer retinal corrugations (an OCT sign) and persistent BLamD (its histologic correlate) are preferable terms over ghost drusen, as catchy as this name is.

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