

Sir,

**Response to Dr Engelbert *et al***

We highly appreciate the comments of Dr Engelbert *et al* on our recently published article.<sup>1</sup> We agree with the observations made by Dr Engelbert *et al* that the measurement of retinal thickness (RT) with optical coherence tomography (OCT) will vary depending on the outer retinal boundary delineated by each instrument. Therefore, appropriate boundaries for thickness determination should be set, if allowed by the instrument.

The outer boundary used by Spectral SLO/OCT can be hypothesized according to the reported data about RT in normal eyes, as measured with different spectral OCT models. Mean RT, as measured with spectral domain SLO/OCT, was  $281 \pm 88 \mu\text{m}$  before exclusion of the artefacts and  $277.1 \pm 66 \mu\text{m}$  after their removal. In a recent report by Han *et al*,<sup>2</sup> Spectralis OCT (Heidelberg Engineering, Heidelberg, Germany) generated a similar RT measurement ( $279 \pm 26 \mu\text{m}$ ). According to previously described thickness measures of specific outer retinal layers, Spectralis OCT likely sets the outer retinal boundary for RT measurement at the junction of Bruch's

membrane and the choriocapillaris; the same outer boundary could be used by Spectral SLO/OCT.

**References**

- 1 Forte R, Cennamo GL, Finelli ML, de Crecchio G. Comparison of time domain Stratus OCT and spectral domain SLO/OCT for assessment of macular thickness and volume. *Eye* 2008; 12 December 2008 [E-pub ahead of print].
- 2 Han IC, Jaffe GJ. Comparison of spectral spectra and time-domain optical coherence tomography for retinal thickness measurements in healthy and diseased. *Am J Ophthalmol* 2009; 4 February 2009 [E-pub ahead of print].

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