

## Ophthalmologist scales Mt. Everest

### An inspiring life to take pride as an Ophthalmologist



Dr. Geoffrey Tabin of USA climbed the East face of Everest on 2nd October 1988 and inflated the ego of the Ophthalmologist community in the world. Dr. Tabin, born on 3rd July 1956 not only has scaled the top of the world, he ranks 8th in the list of mountaineers to have conquered 7 summits in climbing the highest points of all the seven continents.

#### Let's get it from "The Horse's" mouth:

"One passion leads to another....my interest in international medicine grew out of my passion for climbing. I was a dedicated rock and ice climber in college during the 1970s, with a focus on big-wall rock.

I was asked to join a team, funded by National Geographic, climbing the unexplored East Face off Mt. Everest. I dropped out of medical school, against the advice and went to Tibet. I had a great trip despite not making the top. I spent the rest of the year climbing and exploring and then reapplied to medical school. I graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1985 and started a residency in Orthopedic Surgery. During my third year, I was invited to join a team funded to get the first American woman to the top of Everest. Everyone I knew, including most of my climbing friends, said, "You can't quit your residency!" Everyone thought I'd be ruining my career, if not my life. But I quit and went to Nepal where I became the token boy who reached the summit along with the first two American women. I then worked as a general doctor in Nepal and saw so much preventable or treatable blindness that I was inspired to seek a residency in ophthalmology. I had found my passion in medicine."

Dr. Geoffrey Tabin's 7 summit details:	
Continent, Peak & Height	Summit date
Africa, Kilimanjaro, 19,340 feet	17-02-1990
Russia & Europe, Elbrus, 18,510 feet	22-06-1990
South America, Aconcagua, 22,841 feet	07-01-1990
North America, Mc.Kinley (Denali), 20,320 feet	04-06-1989
Antarctica, Vinson Massif, 16,050 feet	14-12-1989
Asia, Mt. Everest, 29,029 feet	02-10-1988
Australia New Guinea, Mt. Carstensz, 16,024 feet	03-08-1980
Australia, Mt Kosciuszko, 7,310 feet	00-12-1988

Dr. Geoffrey Tabin is a cornea specialist and director of the International Ophthalmology Division at the Moran Eye Center. In addition to his work in Utah providing corneal, cataract and refractive care, Dr. Tabin is working to develop eye care delivery in developing countries as Co-Director of the Himalayan Cataract Project. Dr. Tabin has been selected to receive the American Academy of Ophthalmology's Outstanding Humanitarian Service Award in 2008 for his Himalayan Cataract Project. Dr. Tabin made climbing his hobby. One of his dreams was to complete the Seven Summits, the highest point on each continent.



**D**r. Tabin returned to America as an ophthalmology resident at Brown University with a focus on becoming involved in international ophthalmology. After his residency, he continued onto a fellowship in corneal diseases and surgery with Professor Hugh Taylor, one of Fred Hollow's protégées. His major reason for choosing the fellowship in Australia was Professor Taylor's reputation in international ophthalmology and the opportunity to work with the Fred Hollow's Foundation in Nepal. During his fellowship year, he spent one month working with Dr. Ruit at cataract camps in the mountains. After his fellowship, Dr. Tabin returned to Nepal to help run the Golchha Eye hospital in southern Nepal and teach cataract surgery. Drs. Ruit and Tabin then developed a teaching program for extracapsular cataract surgery with lens implantation and formed the Himalayan Cataract Project.