

EYE

UCLA STEIN EYE INSTITUTE
VISION-SCIENCE CAMPUS

EYE MAGAZINE

is a publication of the
UCLA Stein Eye Institute

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

No matter the day, our mission remains strong: to preserve sight and end avoidable blindness. This year, however, has been jarred by uncertainty related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). During the height of the pandemic, our outpatient visits and surgical procedures were down to 25% of normal, and we were only seeing urgent or emergent cases. In the current ramp up, we are now at over 80% of pre-COVID levels for outpatient care and exceeding pre-COVID surgical cases, perhaps due to backlog.

All of us at Stein Eye want you to know we care about you and your well-being. We are monitoring the situation closely, and we are working with UCLA Health leadership to determine the best course of action for our patients and community at large.

During these long months, we have risen to the new challenges we face. We have held educational classes online and participated in a virtual graduation in celebration of our outgoing residents and fellows. In the earliest days of the pandemic, Dr. Joseph Demer and colleagues fabricated plexiglass shields to protect patients and staff from transmission of the highly contagious virus. And Dr. Gary Holland, a renowned infectious disease specialist, was tasked by the American Academy of Ophthalmology to help create guidelines for ophthalmologists on preventing COVID-19 transmission during eye examinations and surgery.

The teamwork and selflessness I have witnessed from our doctors and staff to serve those in need are remarkable and illustrate yet again that we at Stein Eye are indeed a Family. You are part of that Family, and I wish you good health and comfort at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Bartly J. Mondino". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Bartly J. Mondino, MD

Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology
Director, Stein Eye Institute
Chair, UCLA Department of Ophthalmology
Affiliation Chair, Doheny Eye Institute

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UCLA International Fellowship Program

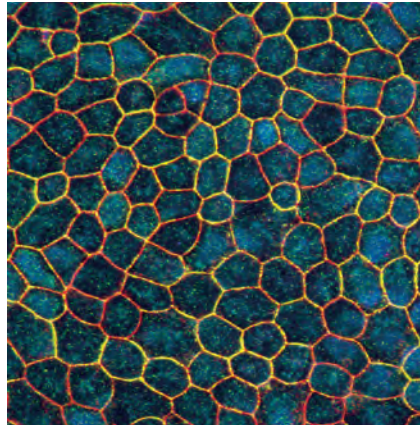
UCLA's global education program provides subspecialty training to ophthalmologists from throughout the world to further preserve and restore vision.

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Stem Cell Research Brings Promise of New Insights

Researchers explore regenerative medicine—the ability to program a patient's own cells—to develop effective new therapies.

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UCLA INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Impacting Eye Care on a Global Scale

The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology's renowned International Fellowship Program has trained more than 250 ophthalmologists from countries worldwide—doctors who not only become more accomplished clinicians and researchers, but also trailblazers for improving vision care around the globe.





SAUDI ARABIA maintains a national health care system that is ranked among the world's top programs for medical care. However, little more than a decade ago, the Saudi health care enterprise was not without gaps in specialized vision treatment and research; only one doctor in the country—who was about to retire—was working full-time in neuro-ophthalmology, a subspecialty focusing on how the brain works with the eye and processes visual information.

Majed Al-Obailan, MD, already a board-certified ophthalmologist in Saudi Arabia, sought a program that offered advanced training in treating neuro-ophthalmic issues, as well as preparation for training others who could expand knowledge and expertise in the field.

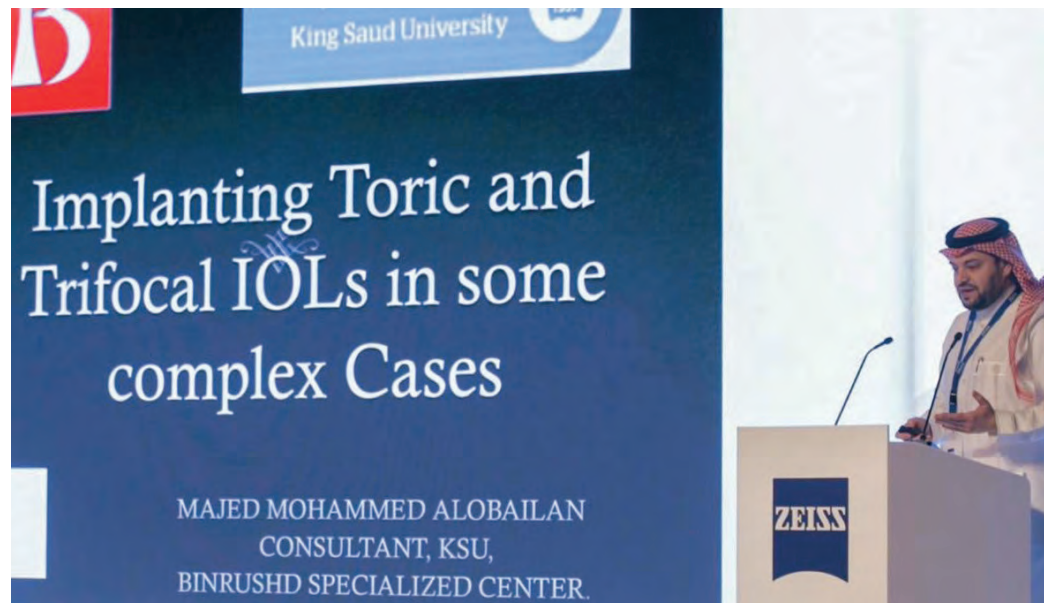
In 2009, Dr. Al-Obailan joined the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology's International Fellowship Program. In his one-year fellowship at the Stein Eye Institute, Dr. Al-Obailan studied neuro-ophthalmic issues under the mentorship of **Anthony C. Arnold, MD**, Mary Oakley Foundation Chair in Neurodegenerative Diseases, and participated in the Program's broad range of research and clinical training.

Returning to Saudi Arabia, Dr. Al-Obailan established a neuro-ophthalmic practice and built a tertiary care system to treat and prevent blindness and train young doctors—work that represents the highest volume of vision care at any institution in the Middle East. Now medical director at King Abdulaziz University Hospital and consultant and chief of the Neuro-Ophthalmology Unit at King Saud University, Dr. Al-Obailan has also led the development of new outpatient facilities and establishing new international accreditation for the hospital.

"I never would have accomplished these achievements," says Dr. Al-Obailan, "without the training I received at the Stein Eye Institute."



Dr. Al-Obailan (left) introduces his father Mohammed and his brother Fahad to his Stein Eye international fellowship mentor, Dr. Anthony Arnold (center, right).



Following his fellowship at Stein Eye, Dr. Al-Obailan established a neuro-ophthalmic practice in Saudi Arabia and built a tertiary care system to treat and prevent blindness, as well as to train young doctors—work that represents the highest volume of vision care at any institution in the Middle East.

Training leaders who build broad-reaching programs


The International Fellowship Program is offered to ophthalmologists worldwide and features a one-year immersion in training under the mentorship of faculty from the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology. The training for each fellow is unique—customized to meet the interests of the individual participant in subspecialties that include cataract; corneal-external ocular disease, uveitis, and refractive surgery; glaucoma; medical retina; neuro-ophthalmology; ophthalmic pathology; orbital and ophthalmic plastic surgery; pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus; and vitreoretinal diseases.

Since the Institute began training an annual cadre of international fellows in the early 1990s, the Program has certified more than 250 fellows from countries worldwide.

The Program is distinctly positioned to train international fellows because of the unique strengths of the UCLA medical enterprise. The broad range of services in premier UCLA-affiliated teaching hospitals and diverse patient populations across Southern California, depth of research programs, access to large-scale clinical trials, and connections to other medical and scientific programs on the UCLA campus provide an opportunity for enhanced study that is singular in ophthalmic training.

“I chose the Program for the superb faculty, the facilities of the Stein Eye Institute, and the reputation of the Program,” says **Francisco J. Rodriguez, MD**, a 1990 international fellow mentored by **Hilel Lewis, MD**, a past full-time faculty member in the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology.

Upon his return to his home country, Dr. Rodriguez, chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at the Universidad del Rosario School of Medicine in Bogota, led the expansion of training programs for new ophthalmologists and retina fellowship programs—not only in Colombia, but in Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela. “The knowledge I acquired, the experience of working at a first-level Institute, and the professional relationships that came from my involvement have helped me to progress in my own career, and also to guide many colleagues in Latin America,” says Dr. Rodriguez. “Participating in the International Fellowship Program is one of the best decisions I have ever made.”



“I chose the Program for the superb faculty, the facilities of the Institute, and the reputation of the Program. The knowledge I acquired, the experience of working at a first-level Institute, and the professional relationships that came from my involvement have helped me to progress in my own career, and also to guide many colleagues in Latin America. Participating in the Fellowship Program is one of the best decisions I have ever made.”

FRANCISCO J. RODRIGUEZ, MD

Transforming vision science

The Program exists to teach doctors as researchers and clinicians, and also to serve as a catalyst for training innovators who can transform vision science and education on a global scale.

“We work to inspire a sense of responsibility for leadership and innovation that our international fellows can use to train the next generation of ophthalmologists around the world,” says **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and director of the Stein Eye Institute. “We achieve our greatest success when our fellows become the innovators in their own countries.”

When choosing fellowship candidates, says **Anthony J. Aldave, MD**, Walton Li Chair in Cornea and Uveitis, “we look primarily for individuals who are most likely to use the knowledge from their fellowship training to make a significant impact in their city or country after returning home following their fellowship training.”

Or, as **Robert Alan Goldberg, MD**, Bert O. Levy Endowed Chair in Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery, puts it, “what we look for is passion and leadership potential.”

“We work to inspire a sense of responsibility for leadership and innovation that our international fellows can use to train the next generation of ophthalmologists around the world. We achieve our greatest success when our fellows become the innovators in their own countries.”

BARTLY J. MONDINO, MD



“Not only are the international fellows learning from us, but we are also learning from them, gaining insight into other cultures and countries in terms of how we can all treat patients with eye diseases, learn ophthalmology, and conduct research. Their presence at UCLA adds to the vibrant, diverse, and inspiring environment that we have here.”

ANNE L. COLEMAN, MD, PHD

International expertise: a two-way exchange

The Program promotes interaction in research and education with ophthalmology institutions throughout the world, encouraging a two-way opportunity for learning, with the international fellows and Department doctors sharing their expertise and methods for dealing with the unique challenges for vision care and research.

“The knowledge and perspective of our international fellows improves the experience and performance of our faculty, fellows, and residents here in Southern California,” says **Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD**, The Fran and Ray Stark Foundation Chair in Ophthalmology.

“Not only are the international fellows learning from us,” says Dr. Coleman, “but we are also learning from them, gaining insight into other cultures and countries in terms of how we can all treat patients with eye diseases, learn ophthalmology, and conduct research. Their presence at UCLA adds to the vibrant, diverse, and inspiring environment that we have here.”

Impacting research and care for generations of doctors to come

Perhaps the most important results produced by the International Fellowship Program are the ophthalmologists worldwide that the Program never sees.

The Program’s primary mission is to train and build the expertise of the 10 to 20 international fellows who participate each year. And key to that mission is inspiring a sense of commitment among the fellows to pass along their expertise to new generations of ophthalmologists in their own countries and beyond.

“Our international fellows elevate the practice of our specialty in their country,” says Dr. Goldberg. “By teaching and practicing at the highest level, they innovate in their fields and become role models in their medical communities.”

The influence of the international fellows touches medical care, research, and training throughout the world, as evidenced by the clinics, academic departments, training programs, research teams, and eye care organizations established and nurtured by the Program alumni.

David (Ted) Garway-Heath, MD, for example, specializes in research and treatment of glaucoma at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London. Dr. Garway-Heath served a 1999–2000 fellowship mentored by **Joseph Caprioli, MD**, David May II Chair in Ophthalmology. Since returning to Moorfields, Dr. Garway-Heath has thus far supervised 23 doctoral students and three postdoctoral research fellows; mentored 20 research fellows from seven countries in Asia, Europe, and Latin America; and trained 50 postdoctoral-level emerging clinical scientists.

For his guidance of young colleagues, Dr. Garway-Heath was voted “top mentor worldwide” by the magazine *The Ophthalmologist*.

“The main reason I chose the International Fellowship Program was the opportunity to be mentored by an internationally renowned clinical researcher,” says Dr. Garway-Heath. “The leadership skills I acquired in my fellowship with Dr. Caprioli could be said to be ‘learning by osmosis from a master.’”



Dr. David Garway-Heath



Dr. Fotis Topouzis (center, dark shirt)—shown with his residents, fellows, and laboratory associates—greatly expanded training and research at Aristotle University. He created the first clinical fellowship program in glaucoma in Greece and led an initiative to develop fellowship programs for all medical disciplines, a first for the country.

For **Fotis Topouzis, MD**, who served in a 1997–98 international fellowship with Dr. Coleman, his work as chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in Greece has significantly expanded medical education with development of new fellowship training programs in ophthalmology and other medical subspecialties.

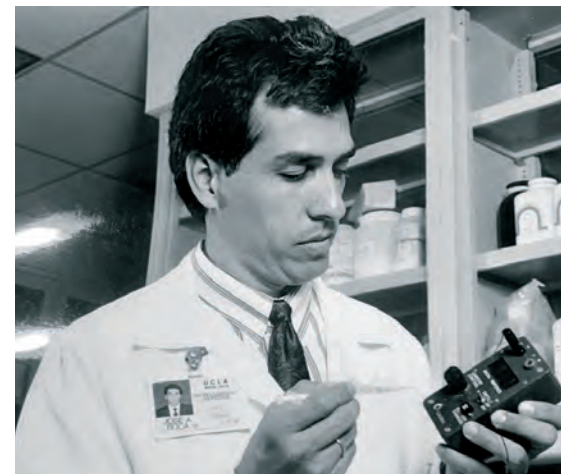
“I chose the Fellowship Program at the Stein Eye Institute because of its international reputation,” says Dr. Topouzis, “and also because of my customized fellowship plan that combined exposure to the clinical and research aspects of glaucoma with study of epidemiology and public health issues.”

“The time I spent at Stein Eye was very dense for clinical training and knowledge,” says Dr. Topouzis, “and also for learning organizational and administrative skills, and understanding an overall different model of academic work that inspired me to transfer a new paradigm to my home country.”

As a result, Dr. Topouzis greatly expanded training and research at Aristotle University. He created the first clinical fellowship program in glaucoma in Greece and led an initiative to develop fellowship programs for all medical disciplines, a first for the country.

José A. Roca, MD, returned from his 1994–95 fellowship with **Allan E. Kreiger, MD**, and **Marc O. Yoshizumi, MD**, professors of ophthalmology emeritus, to work at the Instituto Nacional de Oftalmología in Lima, Peru, where he trained seven to 10 residents each year. Dr. Roca continues to instruct retina fellows in his private practice, multispecialty group of 17 ophthalmologists. He is also involved in the creation of Fundación Paracas, a non-government organization that works for the prevention of blindness in schools and senior care centers, as well as performing surgery in remote locations with no other access to vision care.

“The most important lesson I learned from the International Fellowship Program was the importance of role models and mentoring the next generations,” says Dr. Roca. “I learned from many in the Program to share knowledge and serve future ophthalmologists.”



During his international fellowship, Dr. José Roca received advanced training in research and participated in vision-science studies tailored to his interests.

“I chose the Fellowship Program at the Stein Eye Institute because of its international reputation, and also because of my customized fellowship plan that combined exposure to the clinical and research aspects of glaucoma with study of epidemiology and public health issues.”

FOTIS TOPOUZIS, MD

Advancing the fight against blindness

The importance of the Department’s International Fellowship Program was underscored in October 2019, when the World Health Organization (WHO) released a new report on vision and preventable blindness.

“At present more than 2.2 billion people around the world have a vision impairment, of whom at least 1 billion have a vision impairment that could have been prevented or is yet to be addressed,” stated the WHO’s *World Report on Vision*. “The world faces considerable challenges in terms of eye care, including a shortage of trained eye care service providers.”

High among WHO’s global vision issues is cataract, which is responsible for more than half of world blindness (about 20 million people). Although cataracts can be surgically removed, in many countries limited medical care or lack of specialized surgery prevents access to treatment; as a result, cataract remains the leading cause of blindness worldwide, even though in most cases it is curable.

Developing advances in treating these issues is a research and clinical priority for **Jessica Wu, MD**, an ophthalmologist in Taiwan and 2003–04 participant in the International Fellowship Program under the mentorship of **Arthur L. Rosenbaum, MD**, then chief of the Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Division, and **Joseph L. Demer, MD**, the Division’s current chief. Dr. Wu studies advanced surgical methods—such as the femto-second laser—to improve the accuracy and recovery rate for many types of eye surgery, in particular cataract surgery.

“I joined the International Fellowship Program because Stein Eye provided the best opportunity for me to learn from the leading experts in my field,” says Dr. Wu. “The opportunity to participate in clinical practice in the United States while using advanced technology has increased my ability as an ophthalmologist, and also as collaborator who can work with doctors from many countries to refine our methods for treating preventable blindness.”

For **Ramesh Kekunnaya, MD**, a 2009–10 international fellow under the mentorship of Drs. Rosenbaum and Demer, the issues of blindness among children became a focus of his fellowship work.

“My fellowship instructors and their teams had a significant impact on my clinical and surgical skills,” says Dr. Kekunnaya, “and helped me to broaden my clinical and basic research. Training at the Division of Ophthalmology at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center enabled me to experience the issues associated with outreach programs in medical care.”

Dr. Kekunnaya is now director of the Child Sight Institute at the L V Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad, India, which provides comprehensive care for thousands of children annually (50% at free of cost), and offers a comprehensive education program, including a long-term fellowship for new doctors, as well as ongoing training for eye care professionals.

“The International Fellowship Program has contributed significantly to shaping the careers of doctors in many countries,” says Dr. Kekunnaya, “and the Program has tirelessly contributed directly to the benefits of patients all over the world.”

“I highly recommend the International Fellowship Program to every young ophthalmologist. I spent a year learning from one of the best anterior segment surgeons in the world,” says Dr. C. Manuel Nicoli (center right, dark shirt), a 2013–14 international fellow under the mentorship of Dr. Kevin Miller, chief of the Cataract and Refractive Surgery Division.

Dr. Nicoli is shown with his team at the Instituto Oftalmológico de Alta Complejidad in Buenos Aires, Argentina.





Cataract is a devastating issue in India, where the disease is responsible for 80% of the country's 8 million sightless—almost one-third of the world's blind—a tragic loss of vision that is preventable. A critical priority is treating the 270,000 children in India who are blind from cataract and other vision issues—more than any other country.



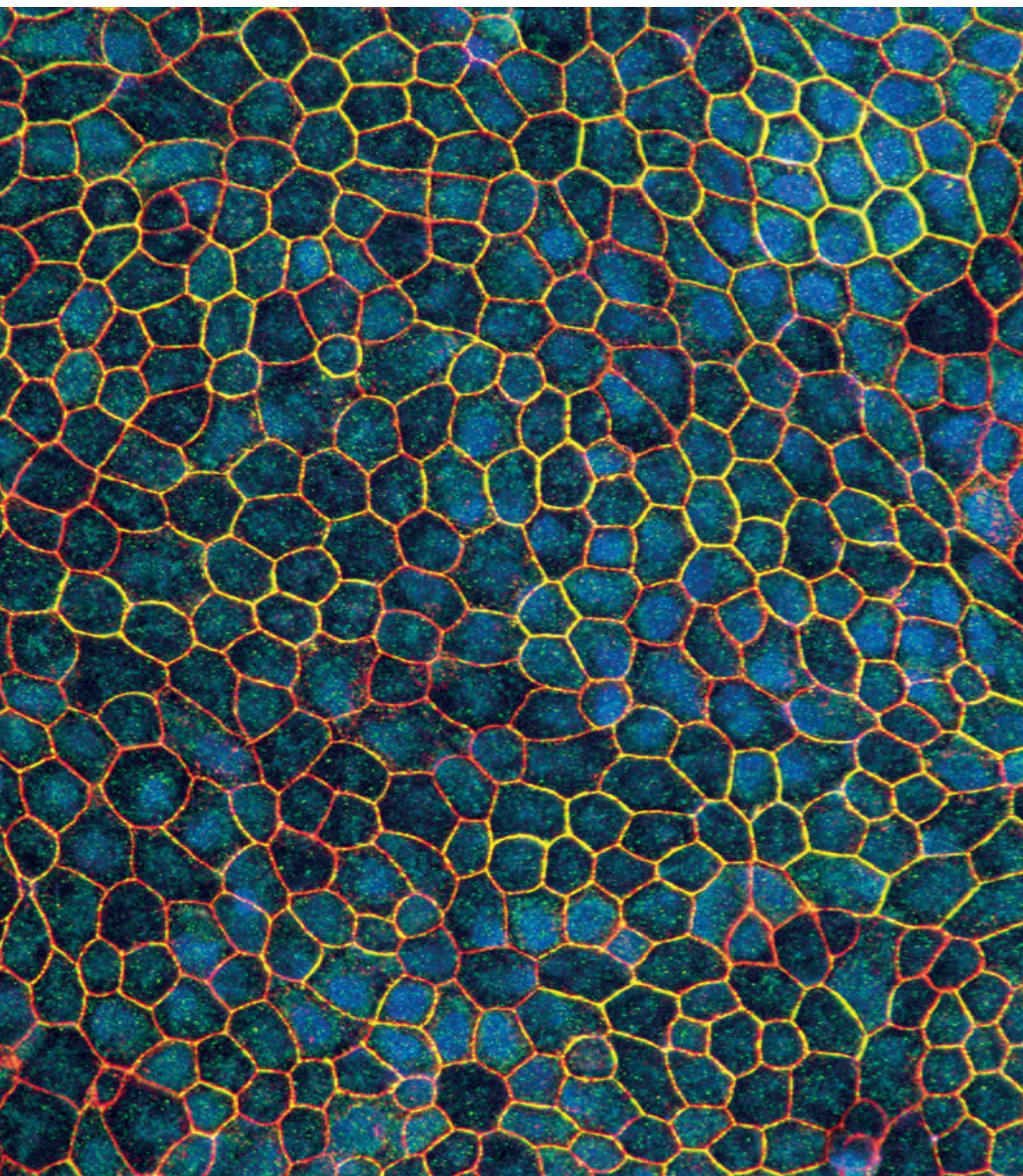
“The International Fellowship Program has contributed significantly to shaping the careers of doctors in many countries, and the Program has tirelessly contributed directly to the benefits of patients all over the world.”

RAMESH KEKUNNAYA, MD



Dr. Ramesh Kekunnaya, shown instructing clinic fellows, is director of the Child Sight Institute at the L V Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad, India, which provides comprehensive care for thousands of children annually.

Stein Researchers Explore New Frontier of Stem Cell Research for Vision Therapy



Retinal pigment epithelium cell culture derived from human stem cells.
Photo: Roni Hazim, PhD, postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of David Williams, PhD.

Stem cell therapy, also known as regenerative medicine, is one of the most exciting areas of research in the field of vision science. The ability to program patients' own cells—including induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs), which can develop into many types of retinal cells—brings the promise of revealing new insights into retinal disease processes and the development of effective new therapies for otherwise incurable conditions. At the UCLA Stein Eye Institute, the following faculty members are among those who are leading the way in advancing this new frontier.

Xian-Jie Yang, PhD, Ernest G. Herman Chair in Ophthalmology and a developmental biologist and professor, has focused on how retinal progenitor cells commit to various neuronal cell fates, along with the cellular process for preventing neuronal cell death under disease conditions such as glaucoma. Using advanced stem cell technology, Dr. Yang's research group successfully derived 3D human retinal organoids. These organoids resemble embryonic human retinas and are able to give rise to various retinal neurons.

Now, Dr. Yang's lab is focusing on the production of human retinal ganglion cells—the projection neurons that send long axons through the optic nerve to connect the eye to the brain's visual centers. These cell types are rare in the retina and highly prone to damage; their irreversible loss underlies blinding diseases such as glaucoma and other neuropathies.

"For the first time, in a culture dish we can obtain human retinal ganglion cells—something that would have been unimaginable a decade ago," Dr. Yang explains.



“Regenerative medicine is the future,” Dr. Deng says. “We are still at the beginning of our understanding of the behavior of stem cells in disease, but we have made significant advances over the last decade. Through collaborative research, the field is moving toward being able to tailor therapies to individual patients using their own cells.”

SOPHIE X. DENG, MD, PHD

“This provides an excellent opportunity to produce much-needed human retinal cell types to study disease mechanisms, and to replenish cells lost due to ocular pathology.”

Dr. Yang and her colleagues are using stem cell-derived 3D retinal organoids and molecular approaches to improve retinal ganglion cell production. In collaboration with **Alfredo A. Sadun, MD, PhD**, Flora L. Thornton Endowed Chair in Vision Research and an expert in optic neuropathy at the Doheny Eye Institute, they are investigating the disease mechanism involved in dominant optic atrophy using a cutting-edge gene editing technology called CRISPR, along with patient-specific iPSCs.

“Establishing this type of ‘disease-in-a dish’ model based on advanced stem cell technology will also provide opportunities to develop CRISPR-based personalized molecular therapy and novel drug discovery for retinal diseases,” Dr. Yang notes. “There is no question that stem cell technology opens up exciting new possibilities to investigate disease mechanisms and then begin to engineer individually targeted molecular therapy as well as more broadly applicable treatments.”

David S. Williams, PhD, Karl Kirchgessner Foundation Chair in Vision Science and professor of ophthalmology and neurobiology, is involved in two major collaborations, one involving the use of stem cell transplantation therapy, and the other using stem cell research to better understand the disease process.

Macular degeneration—the leading cause of permanent vision loss in people older than 60—is characterized by atrophy of the retinal pigment epithelial (RPE) cells. Dr. Williams and his laboratory colleagues have demonstrated that iPSCs can become RPE cells with key cell biological functions that mimic those in vivo. Dr. Williams is working with **Steven D. Schwartz, MD**, The Ahmanson Chair in Ophthalmology and chief of the Retina Division, as well as with collaborators at the UCLA Broad Stem Cell Research Center, on translational research

targeting the transplantation of iPSC-RPE cells to treat macular degeneration. The research involves taking iPSCs generated from the skin biopsies of macular degeneration patients and turning them into RPE cells. Their current work, funded by the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, is documenting whether the RPE cells can be safely and effectively transplanted into the retinas of macular degeneration patients as a strategy for recovering vision.

In separate work, Dr. Williams and his colleagues are using the same strategy—generating patient-specific RPE cells from iPSCs—to study the pathogenesis and explore treatments for Usher syndrome type 1B, choroideremia, and macular degeneration. Working with researchers at UC San Francisco, they are studying the biological defects in these disease processes and whether they can correlate those defects with observations being made in the clinic as a way of understanding the underlying causes.

“Stem cell transplantation has the potential to provide benefits in a disease such as macular degeneration,” Dr. Williams explains. “In Usher 1B and choroideremia, which are caused by single-gene defects, RPE cells derived from iPSCs can help us understand the disease process. This may be the most exciting aspect of stem cell research—the opportunity it provides to investigate the underlying causes of these diseases so that we can potentially design targeted therapies.”

Through a translational research approach that takes findings from the lab to the clinic and vice versa, **Sophie X. Deng, MD, PhD**, Joan and Jerome Snyder Chair in Cornea Diseases and co-director of the Center for Regenerative Medicine in Ophthalmology, has focused on improving the diagnosis of patients with limbal stem cell deficiency, as well as advancing the treatment of these patients through stem cell therapy. Limbal stem cell deficiency is a disease characterized by a loss of epithelial stem cells in the limbus, leading to an

inability of the corneal epithelium to heal itself, which can result in vision loss.

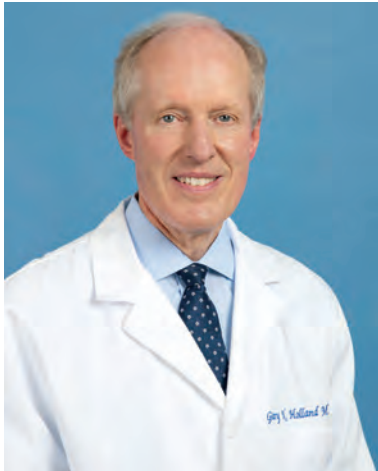
Dr. Deng’s limbal stem cell work has two components. The first is to develop new imaging and molecular tests to accurately diagnose and stage the disease. Her team has discovered a powerful biomarker to detect limbal stem cell deficiency, and has used in vivo imaging in the clinic to examine the cornea at a single-cell level in order to measure changes that occur with the disease in live patients. These imaging tests are now recommended as a component of the diagnosis and staging of the diseases.

The second component is laboratory focused. Dr. Deng’s team is developing a new method to efficiently and safely grow patients’ remaining stem cells in a petri dish. “The idea is to be able to take a patient’s stem cells through a biopsy, then grow them in culture and re-implant them in that patient,” Dr. Deng explains. “This type of autologous transplantation, as opposed to an allogeneic transplant in which the tissue comes from a different donor, decreases the risk to the patient and failure of the graft.” Dr. Deng’s group has launched a Phase I clinical trial (clinicaltrials.gov NCT#03957954) on this new approach.

“Regenerative medicine is the future,” Dr. Deng says. “We are still at the beginning of our understanding of the behavior of stem cells in disease, but we have made significant advances over the last decade. Through collaborative research, the field is moving toward being able to tailor therapies to individual patients using their own cells.”

PROTECTING PATIENTS AND STAFF FROM COVID-19

Dr. Gary Holland Provides Important Coronavirus Updates for Ophthalmologists



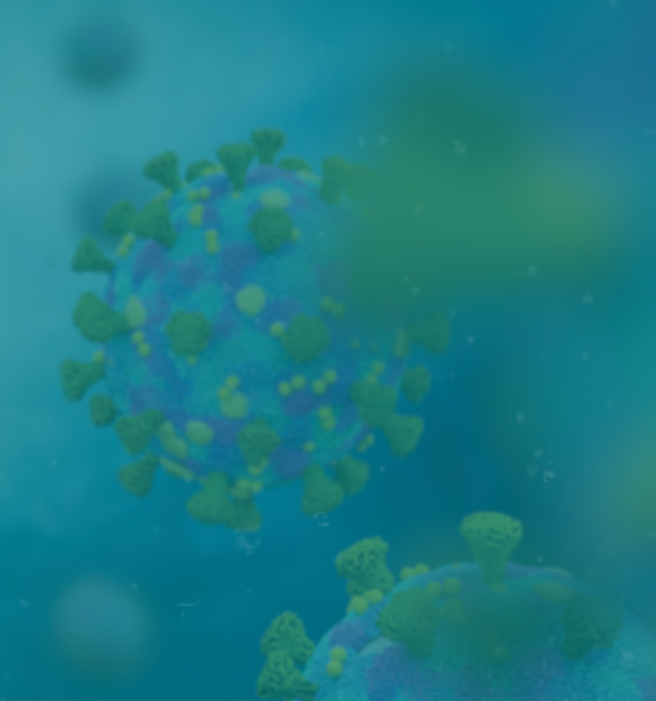
Dr. Gary N. Holland

Gary N. Holland, MD, Jack H. Skirball Chair in Ocular Inflammatory Diseases, was asked by American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) leadership on March 9, 2020, to help formulate guidelines for prevention of COVID-19 virus transmission during eye examinations and ophthalmic procedures in the midst of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic and to provide AAO members with updated information relevant to the pandemic through its website.

Since that time, Dr. Holland—an infectious disease specialist who is director of the Ocular Inflammatory Disease Center and director of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Clinical Research Center—has worked with two other ocular infectious disease specialists, **James Chodosh, MD, MPH**, of Harvard University, and **Steven Yeh, MD**, of Emory University, to update the AAO website on COVID-19 to reflect changing statistics about the pandemic and to conform to Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and other guidelines, as they evolve. In addition, the team is answering questions from AAO members seeking evidence-based clinical guidance on topics including ‘how can I protect my staff and patients,’ ‘what personal protective equipment do I need,’ ‘how do I disinfect my office,’ and ‘do antivirals work.’

“This trio of incredibly talented ophthalmologist clinician-scientists are the ultimate professional volunteers who, despite heavy clinical, teaching, and research responsibilities, gave up countless hours each week and weekend to ensure that the material on the Academy coronavirus web pages was updated at least daily and reflected careful science,” says **David W. Parke II, MD**, chief executive officer of the AAO.

As of July 31, 2020, the authored pages at www.aao.org/headline/alert-important-coronavirus-context had been viewed over 1.5 million times.



Each COVID shield has a base slot through which requested materials can be safely slid. They are secured to each counter top using special blue and yellow “Bruin” duct tape and can be moved as needed dependent upon patient volume.



Shown Dr. Tara McCannel (left) and Dr. Niranjan Manoharan. To help reduce the spread of COVID-19, Stein Eye physicians wear protective goggles and gloves during procedures. Hands are washed before patient interactions, and all rooms/equipment are cleaned and disinfected before every examination.

It was March 19, the day Californians were directed to stay at home due to the rapid spread of COVID-19, and essential workers were put on the front line.

For **Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD**, Arthur L. Rosenbaum, MD, Chair in Pediatric Ophthalmology, that directive became his inspiration. “I was feeling like I needed to do something more to make us safer—to protect our staff and patients from exposure to COVID-19.” He wasted no time. On March 19, Dr. Demer fabricated a plexiglass “COVID shield” in his garage and installed it in a patient care area the very same day.

Dr. Demer was encouraged when **Drs. Michael B. Gorin, Soheab Ugradar, and Robert Alan Goldberg** pitched in to accelerate the effort. By March 25, with procurement help from David Helman at the Marina del Rey Home Depot, the group had manufactured and distributed 19 shields throughout the Stein Eye Institute. “We worked days and evenings, including weekends,” says Dr. Demer. “Teamwork can accomplish a lot, and Dr. Gorin is a master of production line efficiency and pretty handy in a shop.”

COVID safety shields are now seen far and wide, but the Institute’s fabricated shields were in position before they were seen in retail or big-box stores. The shields, some up to 8 feet long, qualify as “engineering controls,” and are used in preference to personal protective equipment (PPE) in biosafety and industrial safety programs, explains Dr. Demer. Unlike PPE, the screens do not wear out and can be disinfected with soap and water since they are impermeable to liquids and gas.

“The screens have been good for staff morale,” says Dr. Demer, “because they know that things are being done to make them safer.”

Giving the Gift of Sight in Honduras

“Life expectancy for the blind in most developing countries is usually less than half of someone with sight. These difficulties are compounded by the fact that a blind person is unable to contribute to his or her family income, which can create an overwhelming strain on the family and community.”

RANDAL AVOLIO
President and Chief Executive Officer
SEE International

“One of the reasons I became a physician was to reduce human suffering,” says **Gavin G. Bahadur, MD**, health sciences assistant clinical professor of ophthalmology.

Acting on that intent, Dr. Bahadur participated in a philanthropic surgical trip to Honduras from January 1-9, 2020. While there, he performed approximately 50 cataract and pterygium surgeries. The mission was conducted with the support of Key Humanitarian Initiative for Southern Honduras and Surgical Eye Expeditions (SEE) International, which was founded in 1974 by Stein Eye resident **Harry S. Brown, MD**.

“Most of the world’s health problems occur in impoverished countries,” explains Dr. Bahadur. “By volunteering for the Honduras trip, in only one week, I was able to restore sight to almost 50 people who were functionally blind from some of the most advanced cataracts I have ever seen.”

Dr. Bahadur and his two colleagues, **Dr. Ralph Crew** and **Dr. Jose Somoza**, performed approximately 160 surgeries in total on the expedition—mostly dense cataracts using the manual small incision cataract surgery technique, and about 25 pterygium excisions. “We were working in Hospital San Lorenzo in the town of San Lorenzo, Valle, Honduras, which has a population of about 45,000. There is normally no operating room at that hospital, so we set up operating tables in the cafeteria,” says Dr. Bahadur. “All the procedures were done with donated supplies, and there was no charge to the patients. I carried the operating microscope with me on my flights in two suitcases.”

Blindness is an underlying cause of poverty and hunger in low-resource countries. “Life expectancy for the blind in most developing countries is usually less than half of someone

with sight. These difficulties are compounded by the fact that a blind person is unable to contribute to his or her family income, which can create an overwhelming strain on the family and community,” says **Randal Avolio**, president and chief executive officer of SEE International, which had conducted 94,592 free vision screenings and 38,167 sight-restoring surgeries as of 2018.

Before having cataract surgery, many of Dr. Bahadur’s Honduran patients could not work on their farms due to their limited vision, and they relied on family members to perform daily tasks. And many of the patients, adds Dr. Bahadur, would not have been treated at all, were it not for the mission trip. “This effort gave me the opportunity to use a skill I learned to restore vision and make a meaningful difference in people’s lives who would not have access to medical care otherwise.”



Dr. Bahadur uses an emergency generator to power the operating microscope lights. “Power was out for about three hours during our surgeries,” says Dr. Bahadur. “We lost air conditioning (the temperature was in the 90s) and overhead lights.”

Philanthropy

New Chair Appointments

Congratulations to UCLA Department of Ophthalmology faculty on being honored with prestigious chair appointments.

Suraj P. Bhat, PhD, professor of ophthalmology, has been appointed Oppenheimer Brothers Chair. The chair, established in 2002, supports the research and education activities of an outstanding scientist to advance basic research in vision at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute.

Sophie X. Deng, MD, PhD, professor of ophthalmology, has been selected as the Joan and Jerome Snyder Chair in Cornea Diseases. The chair was established in 2013 by Mr. and Mrs. Snyder and supports the activities of a distinguished faculty member in the area of corneal diseases and research.

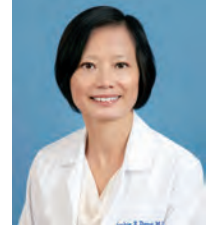
Daniel B. Rootman, MD, assistant professor of ophthalmology, has been chosen as the Karen and Frank Dabby Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology. The chair, established in 2007, supports the activities of a distinguished faculty member in the area of orbital disease.

David S. Williams, PhD, professor of ophthalmology and neurobiology, has been appointed Karl Kirchgessner Foundation Chair in Vision Science. This chair was established in 2001 to support pioneering vision research at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute.

For information on how you can help us recruit, retain, and support the careers of exceptional faculty, please contact the Stein Eye Development Office at 310-206-6035, or email giving@jsei.ucla.edu.



Dr. Suraj P. Bhat



Dr. Sophie X. Deng



Dr. Daniel B. Rootman



Dr. David S. Williams

2020 IS THE YEAR OF THE EYE

The Stein Eye Institute's award-winning physicians and scientists transform vision science into a powerful platform of discovery through such programs as:

Center for Community Outreach & Policy

Builds upon the Institute's long tradition of community service and leadership at the interface of ophthalmology and public health.

Vision Science Research

Laboratories span a wide range of topics aimed at elucidating fundamental mechanisms of eye function and dysfunction.

Glaucoma Center for Excellence in Care & Research

Pursues novel approaches to preserve vision in a fight against glaucoma—the world's leading cause of irreversible blindness.

Vision Genetics Center

Dedicated to understanding the causality of vision loss due to genetic factors and developing related therapies to preserve sight.

We invite you to consider making a gift online to support one of these programs or to support your Stein Eye ophthalmologist at: uclahealth.org/giving/steineye2020.

To learn more about the donation opportunities, call the Stein Eye Development Office at 310-206-6035.

Philanthropy

IN MEMORIAM

Jerome H. Snyder 1930-2020

Jerome H. Snyder, a longtime supporter of the Stein Eye Institute, died on May 8, 2020, at his Los Angeles home following a brief battle with cancer.

As founder and senior partner of the J.H. Snyder Company, Mr. Snyder built tens of thousands of homes and large commercial projects. Described as a “legendary developer” by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*, Mr. Snyder advanced new standards in green building.

“Jerry and his wife Joan have supported the UCLA Stein Eye Institute for approximately 40 years and have endowed three term chairs that uniquely serve education, clinical care, and research. Through their enduring partnership, the Snyders have ensured a legacy of continued excellence,” says **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and director of the Stein Eye Institute.

The Jerome and Joan Snyder Chair in Ophthalmology, established in 2008, supports the director of the ophthalmology residency program, which offers rigorous and comprehensive instruction for individuals of the highest caliber. The Joan and Jerome Snyder Chair in Cornea Diseases,

established in 2013, supports a faculty member in the area of corneal diseases and research. Their most recent gift, the Joan and Jerome Snyder Chair in Vision Science, established in 2018, supports the teaching and research activities of a scientist and faculty member in the Vision-Science Division.

Mr. Snyder is survived by his wife, Joan, and his children, Wendy, William, and Lon Snyder.

“Jerry was a true friend and supporter of Stein Eye, and he will be greatly missed,” says Dr. Mondino. “His steadfast support is emphasized in his obituary in the *Los Angeles Times*, which concludes, ‘To honor Jerry Snyder’s memory, contributions may be sent to the UCLA Stein Eye Institute.’”

The CARES Act and Giving in 2020

In March 2020, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), which includes several charitable tax provisions to encourage giving. Here is a summary of these tax law changes and some ideas to consider with your tax and philanthropic planning:

CARES ACT

If you do not itemize but make a gift to charity, you will be allowed to take a special tax deduction, up to \$300, to reduce your tax liability.

In 2020 only, donors who itemize when filing their tax returns can benefit from an increase in the deduction limit up to 100% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) for cash gifts (previously the deduction was capped at 60% of AGI). Therefore if you make a gift, you will be able to deduct more this year.

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

If you have a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) and wish to support UCLA Stein Eye Institute this year, you can make a gift from your DAF without affecting your personal financial security.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

If you are concerned about your financial security given the ups and downs of the stock market, consider funding a charitable gift annuity in support of Stein Eye Institute. You can exchange your

low-performing stock, CDs or cash for guaranteed, fixed, lifetime payments. If you make a gift of an appreciated asset, you will reduce capital gains tax. You may also benefit from a tax deduction this year, and a portion of your payments could be tax-free.

IRA GIFTS

The CARES Act waives the required minimum distribution (RMD) in 2020 for qualified retirement accounts. However, many donors age 70½ and older are opting to

make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from their IRA.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact:
Leiloni Bredert
Development Office
UCLA Stein Eye Institute
310-206-6035
giving@jsei.ucla.edu

Celebrating the Work of Dr. Dean Bok

Colleagues, friends, and family honored **Dean Bok, PhD**, the Dolly Green Chair of Ophthalmology, professor of ophthalmology emeritus, and distinguished research professor of neurobiology, at a retirement reception on March 11, 2020, at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute vision-science campus.

Speaking to the gathered attendees, **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and director of the Stein Eye Institute, said, “Dr. Bok is revered in vision science. He has been an extremely productive scientist and teacher, stalwart Departmental citizen, and formidable resource for mentoring in the Vision Science Division at UCLA. His scientific standing is matched by his personal characteristics of integrity, fairness, and loyalty.”

The primary focus of Dr. Bok’s research has been the study of the interaction of photoreceptor cells with the retinal pigment epithelium in health and disease. His renowned scientific work has advanced our knowledge of the eye and has contributed to the prevention of blindness.

After thanking Dr. Mondino for his leadership of the Institute, Dr. Bok reflected on his 51 years as a member of Stein Eye and noted other Department colleagues who greatly influenced his career. “My mentor in the Department of Anatomy (now Neurobiology) was **Dr. Richard Young**, whose seminal work on retinal photoreceptor cell biology had an impact that reverberates within the field of vision science to this day. Notable also was the presence of founding members of the Institute on my doctoral committee, **Drs. Michael Hall, Thomas Pettit, and Bradley Straatsma**. From that time forward, Dr. Straatsma, founding chair of the Department and founding director of the Institute, has been one of my strongest supporters.” Dr. Bok also recognized three members of his technical staff—**Marcia Lloyd, Jane Hu, and Alberto Ruiz**—who he said, “made my experience in the laboratory gratifying and productive.”



Dr. Bartly Mondino (left) is shown with Dr. Dean Bok, whose renowned work has advanced our knowledge of the eye and has contributed to the prevention of blindness.

In addition to his research, Dr. Bok has served on scientific advisory boards of prestigious companies, foundations, and medical institutions. He is on the Board of Directors of the Macular Vision Research Foundation, and he has received substantial funding from the National Eye Institute (NEI) and numerous foundations for the entire tenure of his career and was instrumental in the NEI program planning for “Vision Research—A National Plan: 1998–2003.” Dr. Bok has authored approximately 150 publications and 25 book chapters.

His decades of awards and honors include the Paul Kayser International Award in Retina Research from the Retina Research Foundation, the Llura Liggett Gund Lifetime Achievement Award from Foundation Fighting Blindness, and the Helen Keller Prize for Vision Research from the Helen Keller Foundation.

One of Dr. Bok’s greatest contributions to scientific discovery has been his mentorship of young investigators. Dr. Bok’s ability to inspire future researchers has been recognized with teaching awards throughout his career, including Professor of the Year,

Professor Most Deserving of Commendation, Best Lecturer, Best Academic Course, and Distinguished Teaching Awards from the UCLA School of Dentistry and the UCLA Alumni Association.

Capturing the emotion felt by all who were gathered, Dr. Mondino summed up the impact of Dr. Bok’s retirement: “It is the end of an era here at Stein Eye.”

One of Dr. Bok’s greatest contributions to scientific discovery has been his mentorship of young investigators. Dr. Bok’s ability to inspire future researchers has been recognized with teaching awards throughout his career.

Institute News

Awards and Honors

Anthony J. Aldave, MD, Walton Li Chair in Cornea and Uveitis, presented the 32nd Annual Bajandas Guest Lecture (virtual connection) in San Antonio, Texas, on April 25, 2020.

Anthony C. Arnold, MD, Mary Oakley Foundation Chair in Neurodegenerative Diseases, was the chair/convener (virtual connection) for the Neuro-Ophthalmology Program of the World Ophthalmology Congress held June 26–29, 2020.

Ava K. Bittner, OD, PhD, Smotrich Family Optometric Clinician-Scientist Chair, received funding in February 2020 for an R21 award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH)/National Eye Institute (NEI) for her work, “Development of a Behavioral Intervention with Socially Assistive Robots to Enhance Magnification Device Use for Reading.”

Dr. Bittner also served as the co-chair for the NIH/NEI strategic plan panel, 2020 Vision for the Future: Individual Quality of Life, in April 2020.

Joseph Caprioli, MD, David May II Chair in Ophthalmology, gave the Frontiers in Vision Science Lecture, “Compartmental Retinal Ganglion Cell Damage and Recovery in Glaucoma,” at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, Florida, on January 23, 2020.

Brian A. Francis, MD, MS, Rupert and Gertrude I. Stieger Vision Research Chair, delivered the Surgery Day Lecture, “How to Evolve with Glaucoma,” at the American Glaucoma Society annual meeting in Washington, DC, on February 27, 2020.

JoAnn A. Giaconi, MD, health sciences clinical professor of ophthalmology, was the recipient of the AUPO/AAO Excellence in Medical Student Education Award at the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology annual meeting in Rancho Mirage, California, on January 30, 2020.

Jean-Pierre Hubschman, MD, associate professor of ophthalmology, and his colleagues were announced as winners of the UCLA Innovation Fund for their Intraocular Robotic Interventional Surgical System (IRISS) for Cataract in February 2020. Kairos Ventures also awarded the team a \$100,000 gift to support the IRISS research, in recognition that the technology has the potential to improve the quality of people’s lives. The team also received two R01 grants from the National Institutes of Health to support this research.

Dr. Joseph Caprioli (center with bag) with members of the Bascom Palmer Glaucoma Group and Department of Ophthalmology.



Dr. JoAnn Giaconi (right), shown with AUPO President Dr. Paul Sternberg, Jr., is recognized for her teaching excellence.

Gabriel H. Travis, MD, Charles Kenneth Feldman Chair in Ophthalmology, presented the Annual Futterman Memorial Lecture, “Light Driven Regeneration of Cone Visual Pigments,” at the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle, Washington, on January 16, 2020.

Edmund Tsui, MD, assistant professor of ophthalmology, received a \$70,000 Career Starter Grant from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation on April 7, 2020, to study quantitative imaging biomarkers in pediatric anterior uveitis.

Eliot R. Dow, MD, PhD, a third-year resident at the Stein Eye Institute, was awarded a prestigious one-year fellowship in the Ophthalmic Innovation Program at the Byers Eye Institute at Stanford University, which he will begin July 1, 2021.

The program accepts only one fellow each year to participate in an immersive, project-based fellowship in the conceptualization and implementation of technology to improve eye care.

Alumni Bulletin

IN MEMORIAM

Jerrold C. Bocci, MD, FACS 1937–2020

Jerrold C. Bocci, MD, FACS, died from complications of glioblastoma on January 9, 2020.

Dr. Bocci attended medical school at the University of California, San Francisco, and completed his ophthalmology residency at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute (1963–1966). He practiced ophthalmology in San Francisco and Daly City for fifty years. He was a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, board certified, a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, and served as president of CMRI. He was on the staff of St. Mary’s Medical Center and Seton Medical Center, where he served as chief of the Division of Ophthalmology for ten years.

Dr. Bocci is survived by his wife, Barbara; sons, Chris and Tony; daughter, Pam; and two granddaughters, Sofia and Mirabella.



Eliot R. Dow, MD, PhD



Education

Samuel Masket, MD, has been announced as the new chair of the American Academy of Ophthalmology's Senior Ophthalmologist Committee. Dr. Masket, a member of the UCLA Volunteer Clinical Faculty, comes into this role with a distinguished record of service to the Academy.

He has been a member of the Board of Trustees (1998–2001), the Bylaws and Rules Committee (2003–2007), the EyeNet® Editorial Advisory Board (1998–2008), and the Membership Advisory Committee (1998–2001). He has served as chair of the Preferred Practice Pattern panel for Cataract and Anterior Segment and as Academy councilor representing the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS). Dr. Masket was also ASCRS president in 2006–2007.

COURSES

Annual Comprehensive Ophthalmology Review Course

The UCLA Stein Eye Institute and the Doheny Eye Institute presented the Annual Comprehensive Ophthalmology Review Course on February 20–23, 2020, at the Stein Eye Institute vision-science campus in Westwood.

The intensive four-day course reviewed the clinical essentials of each subspecialty in ophthalmology, and prepared the attendees for upcoming ophthalmology examinations and required continuing medical education recertification. Instruction concentrated on the epidemiology, clinical presentation, diagnosis, and management of ophthalmologic disease.

Directed by **Drs. John Irvine** and **Mitra Nejad**, the 2020 course included contributions from guest faculty **Drs. Melinda Chang, Rustum Karanjia, Todd Mondzelewski, and Kenneth Wright**. Participating UCLA course faculty were **Drs. Saba Al-Hashimi, Bruce Becker, Jesse Berry, Benjamin Bert, Simon Fung, Alex Huang, Michael Ip, Monica Khitri, Olivia Lee, Shawn Lin, Kevin Miller, Pradeep Prasad, Daniel Rootman, Srinivas Sadda, and David Sarraf**.



Dr. Daniel Rootman instructs attendees at the Orbital Surgery Master's Symposium and Dissection Workshop.

Orbital Surgery Master's Symposium and Dissection Workshop

Surgical specialists and practicing ophthalmologists from four continents participated in the UCLA Orbital Surgery Master's Symposium and Dissection Workshop on March 3–4, 2020, at the Stein Eye Institute vision-science campus in Westwood.

The event focuses on practical techniques and conceptual pearls that participants can immediately apply to their own practice. Educational lectures included presentation of the Jack Rootman Lecture-ship in Orbital Disease by **Dr. Gerald Harris**, chief of the Orbital and Oculoplastic Surgery Eye Institute at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

The biennial program was taught by a multidisciplinary faculty of renowned leaders in the field, and was chaired by **Dr. Robert Alan Goldberg**, Bert O. Levy Endowed Chair in Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery and chief of the Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Division, and **Dr. Daniel Rootman**, Karen and Frank Dabby Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology.



The Orbital Surgery Master's Symposium and Dissection Workshop team.

Education

Educating Ophthalmologists About Cataract Surgery

Uday Devgan, MD, FACS, FRCS, chief of ophthalmology at Olive-View UCLA Medical Center, has created the website CataractCoach.com to teach eye surgeons worldwide about the various techniques of cataract surgery. Organized by category and easily searchable, the online resource is intended to enhance the skillset of both young ophthalmologists and leaders in the field.

“New content is critical for educating ophthalmologists about cataract surgery, and there is so much to learn since our field is constantly evolving,” says Dr. Devgan. “Streaming a brief video every day makes for a tremendous amount of learning over the course of just a few months.”

CataractCoach.com was launched in May 2018 and a new video is posted each day, with approximately 850 videos now available to watch. To date, the website has 11,000 worldwide subscribers (primarily ophthalmologists) and 2.3 million total views.

Dr. Devgan is a cataract and refractive surgery specialist who has taught ophthalmic surgery in more than 50 countries and has mentored more than 180 residents over the course of thousands of ocular surgeries. Passionate about teaching the next generation of ophthalmologists, Dr. Devgan has been honored an unprecedented four times with the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Faculty Teaching Award.

Resident and Fellow Graduation and Award Ceremony

Residents, fellows, and faculty were honored for excellence at the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology graduation on June 17, 2020. Due to COVID-19, the ceremony—typically hosted at the UCLA Meyer and Renee Luskin Conference Center—was held virtually to ensure the safety of all attendees.

Resident Research Award

Tamara Lenis

Clinical Fellow Research Award

Victoria Tseng, MD, PhD

Research Fellow Research Award

Vahid Mohammadzadeh, MD

Postdoctoral Fellow Research Award

Wenlin Zhang, MD, PhD

Predoctoral Fellow Research Award

Adrian Au, MD

Faculty Teaching Award

Hamid Hosseini

Fellowship Faculty Teaching Award

Jean-Pierre Hubschman, MD

Fellow Teaching Award

Niranjan Manoharan, MD

Resident Teaching Award

William “Wade” Stoddard

Resident Award for Medical Student Teaching

Nick Iafe, MD

Resident Weekly Quiz Award

Lynn Shi, MD

Destinations of 2020 Graduating Residents

Judd Cahoon, MD, PhD

Comprehensive Ophthalmology Private Practice
Newport Beach, California

Tamara Lee Lenis, MD, PhD

Vitreoretinal Fellowship
New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center
New York, New York

Cameron Pole, MD

Vitreoretinal Fellowship
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, CA

David Stark, MD, PhD (EyeSTAR)

Private Practice
Visalia, California

William Stoddard, MD

Glaucoma Fellowship
University of Utah,
Moran Eye Center
Salt Lake City, Utah

Sandip Suresh, MD

Uveitis Fellowship
Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, Oregon

Qing Wang, MD, PhD (EyeSTAR)

Glaucoma Fellowship
The Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute
Baltimore, Maryland

Madeline Yung, MD

Cornea Fellowship
University of California, Davis
Davis, California

Destinations of 2020 Graduating Fellows

Stein Cornea and External Ocular Diseases & Refractive Surgery Fellows

Duangratn Niruthisard, MD
Banphaeo Hospital
Thailand

Kishan Gupta, MD
Kaiser Permanente Medical Center
Downey, California

Andrew Lee, MD
Private Practice
Los Angeles, California

Rutuja Unhale, MD
Private Practice
India

Doheny Cornea and External Ocular Diseases & Refractive Surgery Fellow

Arpine Barsegian, MD
Glaucoma Fellowship
UCLA Stein Eye Institute
Los Angeles, California

Stein Glaucoma Fellows

Andrew Chen, MD
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

Agustina de Gainza, MD
Private Practice
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Yifan Song, MD
Attending Physician
Peking University
Third Hospital
Beijing, China

Victoria Tseng, MD, PhD (EyeSTAR)

Assistant Professor
UCLA Department of Ophthalmology
Los Angeles, California

Doheny Glaucoma Fellow

Peter Dentone, MD
Kaiser Permanente Medical Center
Santa Rosa, California

Education

Stein/Doheny Neuro-Ophthalmology Fellows

Alvaro Mejia-Vergara, MD
Private Practice/Instructor
Universidad Sanitas
Bogotá, Colombia

Nicolas Seleme, MD
Division Head, Hospital Clínico de la Universidad de Chile
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
Chief, Residency Program Training Program Director,
Chilean Society of Ophthalmology
Santiago, Chile

Stein Orbital & Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Fellow

Alexandra Manta, MD
Eyelid and Orbital Oncology Fellowship
Brisbane, Australia

Stein/Doheny Orbital & Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Fellow

Justin Karlin, MD
Assistant Professor
UCLA Department of Ophthalmology
Los Angeles, California

Stein Pediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus Fellows

Sung-Hyuk Moon, MD, PhD
Associate Professor
Busan Paik Hospital
Pusan, South Korea

Federica Solanes, MD
Assistant Instructor
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile
Santiago, Chile

Mohammad Aleassa, MD
Ophthalmologist Officer
Royal Jordanian Armed Forces
Jordan

Stein Vitreoretinal Disease Fellows

Wei Gui, MD
VMR Institute
Huntington Beach, California

Niranjan Manoharan, MD
Assistant Professor
University of Colorado
Denver, Colorado

Stein Retinal Disorders & Ophthalmic Genetics Fellow

Jeeyun Ahn, MD, PhD
Associate Professor
Seoul National University Hospital
Seoul, South Korea

Stein/Doheny Retinal Disorders & Ophthalmic Genetics Fellows

Alexander Juhn, MD
Kaiser Permanente Medical Center
Santa Rosa, California

Tieu Vy Nguyen, MD
Retina Consultants of Houston
Houston, Texas

Incoming Residents

The UCLA Stein Eye Institute welcomes the 2023 incoming class of residents, who began their residency July 1, 2020.

Adrian Au, MD, PhD
Case Western Reserve University

Giovanni Campagna, MD
Baylor University

Teresa Chen, MD
Washington University, St Louis

Cory Hoferlin, MD (EyeMBA)
Emory University

Amanda Lu, MD
Yale University

Michael Mathison, MD
Washington University, St Louis

Alex Onishi, MD
Northwestern University

Michel Sun, MD, PhD
Washington University, St Louis

Ken Kitayama, MD (EyeSTAR)
UCLA

Elise Ma, MD, PhD (EyeSTAR)
University of Maryland

Incoming Fellows

The UCLA Stein Eye and Doheny Eye Institutes welcome our clinical and international fellows for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Clinical Fellows 2020-2021

Arpine Barsegian, MD
Glaucoma

Greg Budoff, MD
Retina

Judy Chen, MD
Uveitis

Liza Cohen, MD
Oculoplastics (2nd Year)

Alexander Dillon, MD, MBA
Retina

Jeffrey Eng, MD
Medical Retina/
Ophthalmic Genetics

Kirk Hou, MD, PhD
Retina (2nd Year)

Daniel Kornberg, MD
Cornea

Harshad Patel, MD
Pediatric Ophthalmology

Kelsey Roelofs, MD
Oculoplastics

Mohamed Sharaby, MD
Glaucoma

Adam Weiner, MD
Retina (2nd Year)

Alice Wong, DO
Medical Retina/
Ophthalmic Genetics

International Fellows 2020-2021

Fellowship study for our incoming 2020-2021 international fellows may be disrupted due to COVID-19.

Ava Barzelay, MD
Retina, Israel

Stefania Diniz, MD
Oculoplastics, Brazil

Amir Faramarzi, MD
Cornea, Iran

Meira Fogel Levin, MD
Medical Retina, Israel

Aluisio Gameiro Filho, MD
Medical Retina, Brazil

Massood Mohammadi, MD
Glaucoma, Iran

Sarah Nowroozzadeh, MD
Cornea, Iran

Teakkwan Rhee, MD
Glaucoma, Japan

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Emergency Service: (310) 825-3090
After-Hours Emergency Service:
(310) 825-2111
uclahealth.org/eye

Stein Eye Center-Calabasas

26585 W. Agoura Rd., Suite 330
Calabasas, CA 91302
(310) 825-5000

Stein Eye Center-Santa Monica

1807 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 203
Santa Monica, CA 90403
(310) 829-0160

Doheny Eye Center UCLA-Arcadia

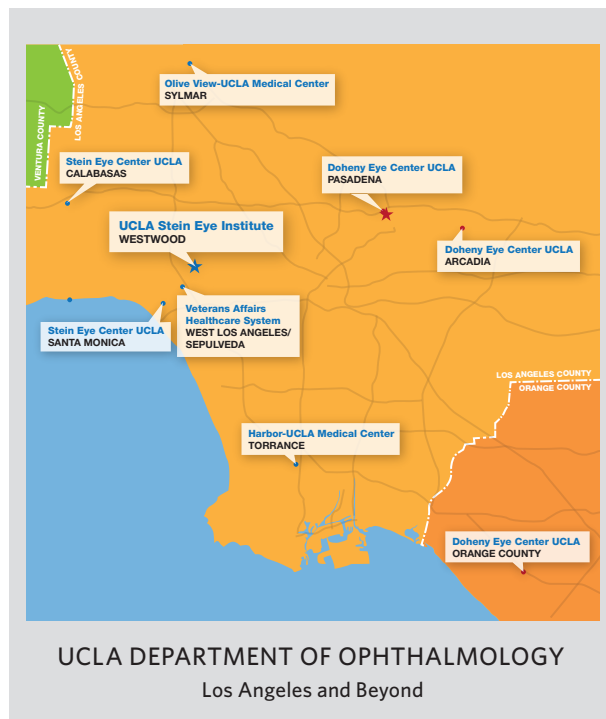
622 W. Duarte Rd., Suite 101
Arcadia, CA 91007
(626) 254-9010

Doheny Eye Center UCLA-Orange County

Orange Coast Memorial Medical Center
18111 Brookhurst St., Suite 6400
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
(714) 963-1444

Doheny Eye Center UCLA-Pasadena

Huntington Pavilion
624 S. Fair Oaks Blvd., 2nd Floor
Pasadena, CA 91105
(626) 817-4747



Alumni Relations

Email: alumni@jsei.ucla.edu

Philanthropy

Stein Eye Development Office
100 Stein Plaza, UCLA, Room 1-124
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Email: giving@jsei.ucla.edu

Volunteer Opportunities

Center for Community Outreach & Policy
www.uclahealth.org/UMEC
Telephone: (310) 825-2195
Email: community@jsei.ucla.edu
facebook.com/uclamobileyeclinic
instagram.com/uclamobileyeclinic
twitter.com/uclaMEC

Read past issues of EYE Magazine at:

www.uclahealth.org/Eye/news

Send comments or questions to:

Tina-Marie Gauthier
Managing Editor
Email: Tina@EyeCiteEditing.com



UCLA Health is consistently ranked among the best hospitals in the country by U.S. News & World Report, and UCLA Stein Eye and Doheny Eye Institutes are ranked among the top five in the nation in ophthalmology.