

# EYE

JULES STEIN EYE INSTITUTE UCLA

## Foundation Fighting Blindness An Enduring Partnership



For nearly 40 years, Foundation Fighting Blindness (FFB) has recognized the importance of preventing, treating, and providing cures for a spectrum of sight-impairing diseases that includes retinitis pigmentosa (RP), macular degeneration, and Usher syndrome; these disorders affect more than 10-million Americans of every age and race.

Driving research to prevent these devastating conditions, FFB has funded thousands of research studies worldwide, raising more than \$350 million since its inception in 1971. FFB also has been instrumental in increasing public awareness about these diseases and providing local community support.

The Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) has been a grateful recipient of FFB's extraordinary philanthropy, having been given more than \$10 million in research funding since 1977. FFB-funded scientists at JSEI have been awarded highest honors for their vital research and are on the threshold of developing therapeutic interventions for inherited retinal diseases.

### Gene Therapy Research for Usher Syndrome

David S. Williams, PhD, Professor of Ophthalmology and Research to Prevent Blindness Jules and Doris Stein Professor, received a Wynn-Gund Translational Research Acceleration Program Award from the National Neurovision Research Institute, a support-organization of FFB.

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Jules Stein Eye Institute Director Dr. Bartly Mondino (left) and Founding Director Dr. Bradley Straatsma were honored with Visionary Awards from Foundation Fighting Blindness.

## JSEI Directors Receive FFB Visionary Awards

The Foundation Fighting Blindness (FFB) hosted its Second Annual Los Angeles Dining in the Dark Visionary Awards Dinner on May 18, 2010, at The Beverly Hills Hotel. **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, Chairman of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and Director of the Jules Stein Eye Institute, and **Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD**, Founding Director and Professor of Ophthalmology Emeritus at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, were each honored with the Visionary Award in recognition of their commitment to the advancement of science and technology in treating and preventing retinal degenerative diseases.

The Jules Stein Eye Institute is making significant advances in vision research, and FFB's singular dedication and generosity has played a critical role. "The Foundation has provided more than \$10 million to our outstanding vision scientists for research in the area of hereditary and degenerative retinal diseases over the course of about 25 years," explains Dr. Mondino.

A champion of scientific investigation, FFB has a considerable impact on blindness prevention. Notes Dr. Straatsma, "The Foundation Fighting Blindness has provided multiyear support for research at the Institute and is a partner in scientific studies to prevent and treat retinitis pigmentosa, Usher syndrome, and macular degeneration."

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Photocomposite by John Lichtwardt

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Jules Stein Eye Institute

www.jsei.org

Usher syndrome is an inherited condition that results in hearing loss and a progressive loss of vision from RP. The hearing loss is thought to be congenital, and ranges from moderate to profound, and may or may not be progressive. Usher 1B is especially devastating, since vision loss occurs in young patients who already suffer from profound deafness.

Dr. Williams explains, “Usher 1B is caused by loss of function of the MYO7A (myosin VIIa) gene. In the retina, this gene is expressed in both the photoreceptor cells and the retinal pigment epithelium. The proposed approach involves the subretinal delivery of MYO7A cDNA in a viral vector to treat these two cell types.”

The completion of the studies supported by this grant is expected to lead to a Phase I clinical trial for replacement therapy of Usher 1B from MYO7A mutations.

### Gaining a Greater Understanding of Stargardt Disease

FFB-funded research to understand the characterization of Stargardt and Stargardt-like macular dystrophies is being led by principal investigator, **Michael B. Gorin, MD, PhD**, Harold and Pauline Price Professor of Ophthalmology, and co-investigators **Debra B. Farber, PhD, DPhc**, Karl Kirchgessner Foundation Professor of Ophthalmology, and **Steven Nusinowitz, PhD**, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology. Their research addresses four clinical objectives in diagnosing and treating this form of juvenile macular degeneration and other macular dystrophies.

### Foundation Fighting Blindness Awards Top Honor

**Dean Bok, PhD**, Dolly Green Professor of Ophthalmology, received the Llura Liggett Gund Award, the top honor presented by FFB.

Only four researchers in FFB’s 39-year history have received this award, which recognizes visionaries in the retinal research community whose achievements have significantly advanced knowledge of retinal degenerative diseases.

Dr. Bok is a world-renowned expert in defining how vitamin A metabolism is essential to vision. His research helped establish the gene defect in the vitamin A metabolic cycle, directing researchers toward recent successful gene therapy clinical trials for Leber congenital amaurosis, a severe, early onset form of RP. His research also has led to industry projects focused on treatments for age-related macular degeneration, Stargardt disease, and other inherited retinal degenerations.

Gordon Gund, Chairman and Co-Founder of FFB, commented, “For more than four decades, Dr. Bok’s superlative research contributions to understanding the causes of these diseases, his mentorship of and collaboration with others, and his dedicated commitment to the development and oversight of FFB’s strategic research plan highly qualify him for this singular recognition.”

### VisionWalk

JSEI’s close collaboration with FFB reaches beyond the laboratory and into the community, where JSEI is a lead sponsor of VisionWalk, the FFB’s 5K walk-a-thon, which raises moneys in support of the its mission.

Beginning with the 2007 inaugural Los Angeles VisionWalk, hundreds of supporters have gathered annually to walk for a cure. JSEI vision scientist and past honorary chair, Dean Bok, PhD, and members of the JSEI Affiliates Team helped FFB get out its hopeful message to the community, “A Cure is in Sight.”

Dr Dean Bok, 2007 Los Angeles VisionWalk Honorary Chair, speaks to FFB supporters who have gathered to walk for a cure.



Dr. David Williams received a Wynn-Gund Translational Research Acceleration Program Award from the National Neurovision Research Institute, a support-organization of FFB, to develop a gene therapy for the retinal degeneration in Usher syndrome type 1B.

### JSEI Directors Receive FFB Visionary Awards

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From left, JSEI faculty members Drs. Bartly Mondino, Dean Bok, Gary Holland, and Bradley Straatsma, and FFB Chief Development Officer Jim Minow at the “Dining in the Dark” event

Research is the cornerstone of the Jules Stein Eye Institute’s academic mission, and Dr. Mondino and Dr. Straatsma have devoted their life’s work to furthering knowledge of specific vision processes and degenerative eye diseases, aspiring to eradicate global blindness.

Leading the academic pursuits of the Institute’s faculty and trainees for the past 16 years, Dr. Mondino also treats patients and conducts research in the area of inflammatory and infectious eye diseases. He has published extensively on autoimmune diseases of the external eye and contact-lens-related corneal ulcers. He serves as Executive Vice President of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology and as a Medical Advisory Board Member of the Board of Directors for the Braille Institute.

Dr. Straatsma commenced his faculty appointment at UCLA in 1959. He was appointed Professor in 1962, Director of the Jules Stein Eye Institute in 1964, and Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology in 1968, where he remained until 1994. In 2002, Dr. Straatsma graduated from the University of West Los Angeles School of Law (JD, Cum Laude). Currently, he is a Member of the International Council of Ophthalmology and President of the International Council of Ophthalmology Foundation.

The evening included a meal served in complete darkness by sight-impaired or blind wait staff and a live auction, which raised more than \$161,000 for research.

## JSEI Volunteers Provide Free Eye Care at RAM Clinic



Approximately 7,000 patients attended the 2010 Remote Area Medical Clinic in Los Angeles.



The Jules Stein Eye Institute sent the UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic along with 53 volunteers to provide eye care services at the event.



Dr. Jennifer Huang examines a patient on the Mobile Eye Clinic. An estimated 1,500 patients were seen in the ophthalmology area.

The UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic (MEC) drove into an empty L.A. Sports Arena at 6:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 25, 2010, to take part in the Remote Area Medical (RAM) free clinic. From April 27–May 3, the floor of the Sports Arena—a venue that has seen everything from political speeches to Olympic boxing to Bruce Springsteen concerts—would be transformed into a vast field hospital, filled with a small army of volunteer medical professionals and thousands of prospective patients waiting for the chance to receive everyday healthcare services that many Americans take for granted.

RAM is a publicly supported, all-volunteer, charitable organization whose original mission was to deliver basic medical aid to people in the world's inaccessible regions. Recently, RAM has begun working in urban areas as well. Last year, the organization held its first Los Angeles-based clinic at the Forum in Inglewood. The unmet demand for healthcare prompted RAM to return to Los Angeles this year for an unprecedented second health clinic.

“This is the second time that RAM has organized a free health clinic in Los Angeles and the second time that the Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) has participated,” said **Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD**, MEC Director and a principal coordinator of the JSEI effort. “The crowds at the Sports Arena are a testament to the healthcare crisis in Los Angeles,” she commented.

Anticipating an even greater demand for eye care services this year, Dr. Coleman, along with JSEI Director **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, recruited 40 ophthalmologists and 13 ophthalmic technicians to volunteer at the clinic. They also sent the MEC, a 39-foot-long bus specially outfitted with eye examination equipment.

“Reaching out to the underserved in the community is part of our mission. The response to our call for action from faculty and staff highlights the tremendous dedication to community service from the JSEI family,” said Dr. Mondino.

The weeklong RAM clinic served close to 7,000 patients; approximately 1,000 people were admitted daily. For many, it was their only chance to see primary-care doctors, dentists, ophthalmologists, and other specialists. UCLA staff from the schools of medicine, nursing and dentistry as well as from JSEI, among others, showed up in force.

The MEC, parked at one end of the arena floor, anchored the ophthalmology area. A row of slit lamps was set up on the floor of the arena nearby, shielded from the bright lights by curtains. Everyone over 40 years of age, as well as younger people at risk for eye disease, received a slit lamp exam. Dilated eye exams were done as needed in the MEC. By the end of the week, an estimated 1,500 patients were seen in the ophthalmology area.

The RAM clinic was an extraordinary example of Los Angeles coming together, as a community, to provide basic healthcare to the medically underserved. More than 60 organizations and community groups, large and small, contributed all of the medical resources and volunteers to help make this clinic a tremendous success.

Commenting on the experience, Dr. Coleman said, “RAM 2010 Los Angeles was an extraordinary display of volunteerism coupled with deeply grateful patients. While a weeklong clinic is not a cure-all for our community's healthcare problems, we were thrilled to contribute to providing needed eye services to these thousands of uninsured and under-insured patients.”

“Reaching out to the underserved in the community is part of our mission. The response to our call for action from faculty and staff highlights the tremendous dedication to community service from the JSEI family,” said Dr. Mondino.

## JSEI Patient Calls Novel Surgery “Life-Changing”

**Charles Haverstick** could never have imagined that a flag football game 27 years ago would affect his life so dramatically. An eye injury sustained when he was trying to intercept a ball left him without a functioning iris and years of extreme sensitivity to light.

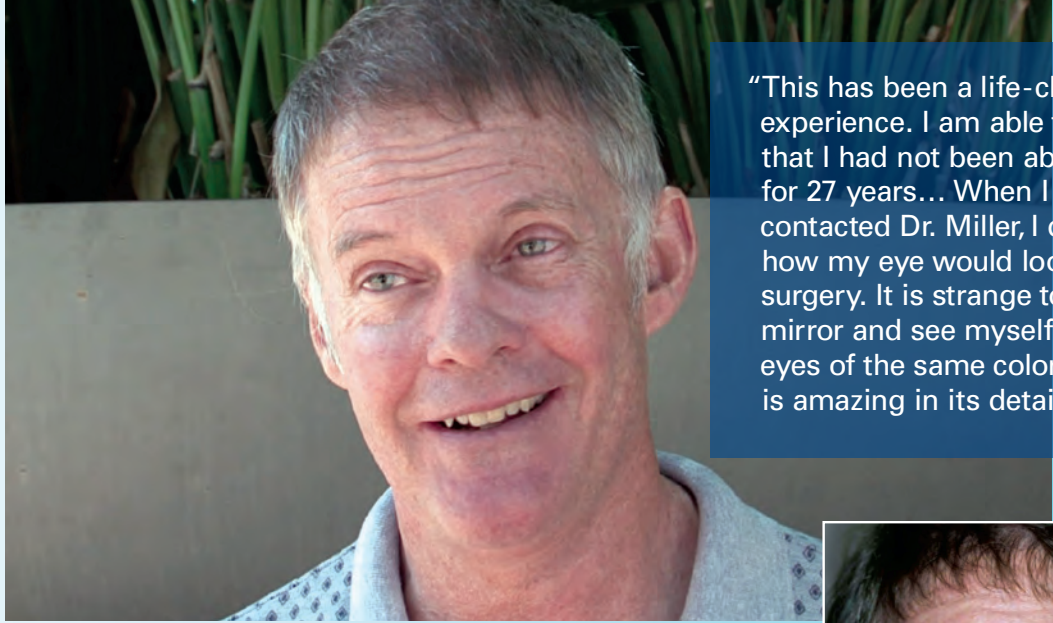
“I was running downfield looking up and back to intercept a ball when an opposing player running the other way swung his hand to deflect the ball. The edge of his hand hit me directly on the eye like a karate chop. The force of the blow broke some bones behind the eye and tore the muscle of the iris,” he explains.

The iris—the colored part of the eye—is a ring of muscle fibers that automatically contracts and expands, opening and closing the pupil, in response to the brightness of surrounding light. The eye injury left Mr. Haverstick’s right eye with a nonfunctional iris. It was completely dilated open, leaving his pupil unprotected from glare and sunlight. It also gave him a somewhat unusual appearance. He had one blue eye and one that had turned completely black from the injury.

“I got used to people doing double-takes when they saw my eyes. But I couldn’t get over the effect of light flooding into my eye all of the time. It was painful, and I suffered from constant headaches and migraines,” he said.

Mr. Haverstick, who works with computers and coaches a swim team, tried to limit his exposure to bright computer screens and wore sunglasses even on cloudy days. When a veterinarian told him about **Kevin M. Miller, MD**, an ophthalmologist at the Jules Stein Eye Institute who was performing iris replacement surgery, he called and set up an appointment almost immediately.

Dr. Miller is only the second surgeon in the United States to implant a custom artificial iris. Previously, iris implants were flat in color, almost mask-like. While the custom implant won’t open and close like a natural iris, it limits the light that comes into the eye and addresses the cosmetic aspect of the eye color. It represents a major leap forward in the cosmetic treatment of patients with missing iris tissue.



Charles Haverstick, the grateful recipient of a custom artificial iris

“This has been a life-changing experience. I am able to do things that I had not been able to do for 27 years... When I originally contacted Dr. Miller, I did not care how my eye would look after the surgery. It is strange to look in the mirror and see myself with two eyes of the same color. The implant is amazing in its detail.”

Asked how the artificial implant has changed his life, Mr. Haverstick replies, “This has been a life-changing experience. I am able to do things that I had not been able to do for 27 years. I can go for a run at sunrise without racing back before the sun actually comes up. I can swim outdoors without having a headache later. I can go to a swim meet and take my sunglasses off to look at my swimmers when I talk to them. When I originally contacted Dr. Miller, I did not care how my eye would look after the surgery. It is strange to look in the mirror and see myself with two eyes of the same color. The implant is amazing in its detail.”

*The implant of the custom artificial iris created by HumanOptics AG was performed under a “compassionate use” exemption from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Dr. Miller plans to begin clinical trials with the custom artificial iris device and hopes to get FDA approval within five-to-six years.*



Pre-surgery photo

## EYELINES

### UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association Announces New Officers

The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association recently announced new officers for the 2010–2012 term. **Michael J. Groth, MD** (Resident Class of 1988), Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, has assumed the role of President, and **Stanley M. Saulny, MD** (Resident Class of 2001), will serve as the new Vice President. **Robert Alan Goldberg, MD**, Professor of Ophthalmology, will continue to serve as Treasurer and Secretary for the next two years.

**Robert E. Engstrom, MD**, Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, is the outgoing president, having served as Vice President from 2006–2008 and President from 2008–2010. Dr. Engstrom was acknowledged for his dedication and contributions to the Association at the Jules Stein Eye Institute’s graduation ceremonies in May 2010.

Dr. Groth is a board-certified ophthalmologist specializing in ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery. He completed his residency and fellowship training at the Jules Stein Eye Institute after graduating from medical school at the University of Miami. In 1989, Dr. Groth established his private practice in Beverly Hills, which is limited to ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery. He continues to teach and supervise residents and fellows as Associate Clinical Professor at the Jules Stein Eye Institute in addition to acting as a Clinical Instructor at the West Los Angeles VA Healthcare Center. Dr. Groth also contributes to various medical journals with publications relating to his special interest in blepharoplasty

(eyelid surgery). Dr. Groth is involved in the Iraq Star Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides reconstructive surgery for wounded Iraq war veterans.

**Dr. Michael Groth,**  
UCLA Department of  
Ophthalmology Association’s  
2010–2012 President



### 2010 Robert E. Christensen, MD, Research Award Winners Announced

The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association is pleased to announce that the Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery fellow **Holly Chang, MD**, is the winner of the 2010 Robert E. Christensen, MD, Research Award of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association. Current third-year resident **Amelia Chen Sheh, MD**, also received research funding. The annual award, in recognition of an outstanding research proposal presented by a Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) resident or fellow, is named in honor of Robert Christensen, MD, the late founding Chief of the Glaucoma Division.

The 2010 grant will help underwrite Dr. Chang’s research of orbital and ocular inflammation and specifically allow for the purchase of much-needed equipment and supplies to study this visually debilitating disease. The 2010 grant also will fund Dr. Sheh’s study of intra-operative floppy iris syndrome.

All current JSEI residents and fellows are eligible to apply for the annual grant. **Robert Alan Goldberg, MD**, UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association Secretary and Treasurer, noted, “The award, being presented for the fourteenth year in a row, is made possible by funding from annual UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association dues, generously paid by JSEI alumni and faculty.”



**Dr. Holly Chang,**  
“Elucidating the role of  
IgG4 in orbital and ocular  
inflammation”



**Dr. Amelia Chen Sheh,**  
“Role of alpha-1a adrenergic  
receptor antagonists  
on surgical outcomes  
and complication rates  
in resident-performed  
phacoemulsification  
surgery”

## Supporting Ophthalmic Fellowship Training

Looking across their urban garden filled with berries, vegetables, and fruit trees of every variety, **David R. Fett, MD**, and his wife **Randi** know firsthand that what you plant now, you will harvest later. This tenet is carried forward with their generous financial gift to the Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) to provide fellowship training support for the next 10 years at least, under the auspices of **Robert Alan Goldberg, MD**, Chief of the Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Division, Director of the Orbital Disease Center, and Director of the Aesthetic Center.

The cost of fellowship training is increasingly expensive, and with the recent budget cuts, state-assisted schools like UCLA are especially vulnerable. Following discussions with **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, Chairman of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and Director of JSEI, the Fetts established their gift out of awareness that academic medicine needs money. "UCLA has been severely impacted by the downturn in the economy, and it's harder to train doctors due to lack of funds. Money has to come from somewhere," says Dr. Fett. "It's imperative to give now."

Citing the quality of the residency training he received while at JSEI, Dr. Fett wants to provide a similar educational opportunity to others. He explains, "Randi and I want to do this so someone else can go to the best eye institute and the best ophthalmology training program in the country, if not the world."

An ophthalmic plastic surgeon with a thriving 25-year private practice in Los Angeles, the Fett Eyelid Center, Dr. Fett decided to pursue his specialty while still a resident at JSEI. **Henry I. Baylis, MD**, the Founding Chief of Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery, proffered him the sage advice given in *The Graduate*, "Plastics." Dr. Fett remains intimately affiliated with JSEI's comprehensive training program, teaching residents and fellows and giving courses for more than 25 years. In this role, he aspires to espouse the traits he experienced as a resident under the guidance of **Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD**, JSEI's Founding Director. "He was both a supportive and inspirational advisor," describes Dr. Fett.

The Fetts have a long-standing personal relationship with JSEI and UCLA. They met when David was



Photo: Chuck Gardner

**Dr. David and Randi Fett**

the on-call resident at JSEI and Randi, a UCLA sophomore, arrived with an eye infection and David provided her care. Three of their four children were later born at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital. More significantly, however, they count UCLA doctors as responsible for saving the life of their son when he was two days old and their daughter when she was 15 months old and of curing Randi of Hodgkin's lymphoma.

The Fetts dismiss the notion that these circumstances are specific to their family. "All of us are faced with challenges," says Randi, providing accounts of friends and acquaintances also helped by JSEI and UCLA. "We are all beneficiaries. It's our hospital, our community's hospital. It's our doctors, our community's doctors. This is our medical center, and it impacts all of our lives."

The Fetts believe it is a duty to contribute and make a difference, and they hope to inspire others to start the tradition of giving and then continue that tradition. "It is important for people to give back—and to give so it hurts a little," says Dr. Fett.

Randi and David Fett's generous gift and foresight help to provide the resources necessary to train the best and brightest fellows and allow JSEI to continue the tradition of excellence that has earned it worldwide recognition.

### In Memoriam

#### Edward Dominik, Jazz, Jade, and JSEI Donor

On his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 15, 2010, **Edward Dominik** passed away. Affiliated with UCLA since his arrival in California and later neighbor to Dr. and Mrs. Jules Stein, Mr. Dominik was a patient and loyal supporter of the Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI). He generously decided to include JSEI in his estate plans, benefiting the exceptional work of **Kevin M. Miller, MD**, Kolokotronis Professor of Ophthalmology.

Settling in California after World War II, Mr. Dominik started a wholesale jewelry business and played jazz piano to support his education at UCLA and the Gemological Institute. His creative collection of "portable sculptures"—1,000-year-old carved jade accessories—led to the opening of the Edward Dominik Gallery in Beverly Hills and to exhibitions at the Los Angeles Natural History Museum. Sharing his interests and passion for adventure for 35 years before her death was his wife Amelia.



**Edward Dominik (left) with Dr. Kevin Miller**

## UCLA's Jules Stein Eye Institute Rated One of the Top Eye Centers in the U.S.

### Ranked "Best in the West" for 21st consecutive year in annual survey

The Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) ranks as one of the top five American ophthalmology centers—and the best in the Western United States for the 21st consecutive year—according to a *U.S. News & World Report* survey that reviewed reputation rankings from board-certified specialists from across the country. Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center is also the only hospital in Los Angeles and the Southern California region that appears on the magazine's "Honor Roll."

The 21st annual guide to America's Best Hospitals was published in a special August 2010 print edition of the magazine. To be ranked once again among the nation's best is a wonderful tribute to JSEI's entire healthcare team.

"I want to extend a special 'thank you' to our physicians, researchers, and staff for their unwavering dedication to providing outstanding care to our patients," said **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, JSEI director and chief of ophthalmology. "We congratulate you for once again helping us earn this national recognition."



## In Memoriam

### Arthur L. Rosenbaum, MD

**Arthur L. Rosenbaum, MD**, Chief of the Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Division and the Brindell and Milton Gottlieb Chair in Pediatric Ophthalmology at UCLA's Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI), died on June 22 at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center after a long illness due to complications from cancer. He was 69 years old.

Dr. Rosenbaum was born on August 20, 1940, in St. Louis, Missouri. He was the eldest son of Evelyn and Dr. Harry Rosenbaum, a well-respected ophthalmologist. After earning his undergraduate degree at the University of Michigan and his medical degree at Washington University in St. Louis, he did his residency in ophthalmology at JSEI. He then completed a fellowship in pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus at the Smith-Kettlewell Institute of Visual Sciences, followed by a second fellowship in retinoblastoma and pediatric ophthalmology at the National Children's Medical Center.

A member of the UCLA faculty since 1973, Dr. Rosenbaum served as pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus division chief since 1980 and as a member of the JSEI executive committee and as vice chairman of ophthalmology in the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA since 1990. He was appointed to the Brindell and Milton Gottlieb Chair in Pediatric Ophthalmology in 2008. At the request of the Gottliebs, their chair will be renamed the Arthur L. Rosenbaum, MD, Chair in Pediatric Ophthalmology.

Dr. Rosenbaum was an internationally respected surgeon, researcher, and teacher. His clinical practice specialized in childhood disorders of the eye and adult strabismus. During his tenure, he corrected strabismus in more than 10,000 children. He was one of the first investigators to explore the use of botulinum toxin injections to correct eye-muscle misalignment in strabismus, and he and his peers later used botulinum toxin injections to paralyze eye nerves in facial spastic disorders.

Among his numerous awards were the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the Marshall M. Parks Medal from the Children's Eye Foundation. He published more than 200 articles and co-authored a major textbook on strabismus. He was a member of the editorial boards of several journals, including the American Medical Association's *Archives of Ophthalmology*. He was vice president of the International Strabismological Association and president of the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology, where he served on the board or as an officer for nine years.

Dr. Rosenbaum met his wife, Sandra, when he performed strabismus surgery on her three-year-old son. Besides Sandra, his wife of 25 years, he is survived by son Steven Burick and a sister, Jane Sitrin.

"Arthur Rosenbaum was known for his personal qualities of loyalty, honesty, and integrity as much as he was recognized for his academic accomplishments and intellectual achievements," said **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, Director of the Jules Stein Eye Institute and chair of ophthalmology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. "Art served as my vice chairman of clinical affairs for 16 years and gave thousands of children the gift of clear vision. He will be deeply missed by his friends, colleagues, and patients."



Dr. Arthur Rosenbaum

## New Faculty

It is a great pleasure to announce the appointment of two full-time faculty members to the Jules Stein Eye Institute's Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Division.

**Stacy L. Pineles, MD**, has been appointed Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, effective August 1, 2010. Dr. Pineles received her medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania. She completed a residency in ophthalmology at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, followed by a fellowship in pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus. She then completed a fellowship in neuro-ophthalmology at the Scheie Eye Institute of the University of Pennsylvania and The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. The recipient of numerous awards in recognition of outstanding performance throughout her medical and ophthalmology training, she received the prestigious Heed Fellowship in 2008.



Dr. Stacy Pineles

As a full-time faculty member in pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus, Dr. Pineles will participate in the division's patient care, teaching, and research activities. Given her dual training in pediatric ophthalmology and neuro-ophthalmology, Dr. Pineles has a special clinical interest in pediatric neuro-ophthalmic diseases, as well as adult patients with neurologic causes of strabismus. Her research interests include evaluating the surgical outcomes of strabismus surgery in children and adults and studying pediatric optic nerve diseases.

**Federico G. Velez, MD**, has been appointed Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, effective July 1, 2010. Dr. Velez received his medical degree and



Dr. Federico Velez

completed a residency in ophthalmology in Colombia, South America. He came to the Jules Stein Eye Institute for fellowship training in pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus. After completing a three-year fellowship in 2001, he joined the clinical staff at the Institute and at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center. During the past nine years, Dr. Velez has provided pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus services in University Ophthalmology Associates and in the clinical practice of Arthur L. Rosenbaum, MD, who was Chief of the Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Division. In collaboration with Dr. Rosenbaum, he published multiple papers and book chapters and developed new surgical techniques to treat complicated forms of strabismus.

Dr. Velez's clinical practice focuses on childhood eye disorders and pediatric and adult strabismus. His primary research interest is new approaches to strabismus. He is studying the mechanisms of its congenital and acquired forms and is involved in the development of new surgical approaches for the treatment of complicated forms of ocular motor deficiencies.

Please join us in welcoming Drs. Pineles and Velez to the full-time faculty. They may be reached at (310) 267-EYES or 267-3937.

## CRE Outreach Honors Pediatric Ophthalmologist

**Sherwin J. Isenberg, MD**, Laraine and David Gerber Professor of Ophthalmology, was honored by CRE Outreach at its "Castle in the Dark" fundraising gala in Los Angeles on June 19, 2010. CRE Outreach is a non-profit organization founded in 2006 to provide at-risk youth and the visually impaired with the opportunity to write and perform in their own original theatrical works. The group honored Dr. Isenberg for his relentless efforts for more than 20 years to combat childhood blindness in developing countries.

Dr. Isenberg serves as Vice-Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology and directs the Ophthalmology Service at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, while maintaining an active clinical practice at the Jules Stein Eye Institute. He is a prominent pediatric ophthalmologist whose studies have contributed significantly to reducing the incidence of adult blindness from postoperative infection and childhood blindness from infectious diseases in underserved areas.



Dr. Sherwin Isenberg

## In Memoriam

**Sherwin H. Sloan, MD**, a long-term member of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, passed away on May 31, 2010, from pneumonia at Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center. He was 72.

Dr. Sloan completed his residency in ophthalmology at the Jules Stein Eye Institute in 1970 and joined the UCLA clinical faculty shortly thereafter. He directed the JSEI residency program at Sepulveda Veterans Medical Center, where he was Chief of the Ophthalmology Section for more than two decades. He maintained a private practice in Encino and Ventura and served in a number of professional leadership positions. A devoted follower of Wagner's four-opera cycle known as "The Ring," he co-founded the Wagner Society of Southern California and the *Opera Quarterly*, an academic journal that is still published. He retired from ophthalmology practice in 1998 to pursue his passion for opera. He is survived by his partner Robert Torres; two children, Kathy and Jeffrey; a brother, Dr. Allen Sloan; and a sister, Elyse Papke.

## Residents Receive Nesburn Award

It is with great pride that the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology announces the 2010 Dr. Henry and Lilian Nesburn Award recipients. **Roger Duncan Johnson, Jr., MD**, and **Alex Yuan, MD, PhD**, were selected to receive the award for research done during their residency. The award was announced during the annual Los Angeles Society of Ophthalmology officer and member installation and award brunch that took place on Saturday, June 5, 2010.



**Dr. Roger Duncan Johnson, Jr.**



**Dr. Alex Yuan**

## Oculoplastics Programs Here and Abroad

### Aesthetic Eyelid Course

The Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Division held its "Aesthetic Eyelid and Facial Rejuvenation" course on July 23–24, 2010, at the Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI). The event attracted ophthalmologists, dermatologists, and cosmetic surgeons from around the world. The two-day event combined surgical demonstrations, a cadaver dissection, and didactic lectures to present the latest advances in the field. **Alan M. Lessner, MD**, Director of the Oculoplastic and Orbital Service at the University of Florida, gave this year's Robert Axelrod, MD Memorial Lecture, "Surgical and Technological Advances in Aesthetic Oculoplastic Surgery." Dr. Lessner is an alumnus of the JSEI Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Fellowship.

### Oculoplastics Today

Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) was a proud cosponsor of "Oculoplastics Today," the first international meeting of the Israeli Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. The meeting, held in Tel Aviv, Israel, from April 8–9, 2010, was hosted by **Guy Ben Simon, MD**, and **Nachum Rosen, MD**, graduates of JSEI's fellowship program in Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery. The world-class medical conference, attended by more than 250 national and international physicians, provided an opportunity to highlight the excellence, prestige, and reach of JSEI's Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery International Fellowship.



From left, Drs. Imran Jarullazada, Kelvin Chong, Robert Goldberg, and Norman Shorr at the Jules Stein Eye Institute alumni dinner for international fellows in Tel Aviv.

## Clinical and Research Seminar

About 150 participants attended this year's Clinical and Research Seminar on May 14, 2010, held at the Jules Stein Eye Institute and sponsored by the Department of Ophthalmology Association. The seminar provided an opportunity for discussion of emerging vision research and a celebration of teaching and faculty volunteerism.

**Joe G. Hollyfield, PhD**, Chairman of Ophthalmic Research and the Llura and Gordon Gund Professor of Ophthalmology Research at the Cole Eye Institute, gave the 41<sup>st</sup> Jules Stein Lecture titled, "The Molecular Link between Oxidative Damage and Inflammation in Age-Related Macular Degeneration." **Michael T. Trese, MD**, Chief of Pediatric and Adult Vitreoretinal Surgery at the William Beaumont Hospital, gave the 8<sup>th</sup> Bradley R. Straatsma Lecture titled, "Retinopathy of Prematurity 2010." **R. Michael Duffin, MD**, Adjunct Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Utah Hospitals and Clinics, gave the 8<sup>th</sup> Thomas H. Pettit Lecture titled, "The Ocular Surface."

A number of volunteer and faculty received awards of distinction. **Jeremy E. Levenson, MD**, received the S. Rodman Irvine Prize, which recognizes excellence among Department of Ophthalmology faculty. Senior Honor Awards were given to **Howard R. Krauss, MD**; **Leon G. Partamian, MD**; and **George M. Rajacich, MD**, for volunteer service to the teaching programs of UCLA and affiliated hospitals. **David A. Hollander, MD**, received the Faculty Teaching Award for his contribution to residency education.



From left, JSEI Founding Director Dr. Bradley Straatsma and JSEI Director Dr. Bartly Mondino with Clinical and Research Seminar Lecturers Drs. Michael Trese, Michael Duffin, and Joe Hollyfield



Dr. Jeremy Levenson (center), recipient of the S. Rodman Irvine Prize, is shown with Drs. George Rajacich (left) and Howard Krauss (right), recipients of the Senior Honor Award. Dr. Leon Partamian (not shown) also received the Senior Honor Award.

## Destinations of Graduating Residents and Fellows

The Jules Stein Eye Institute held its graduation ceremony on Friday, May 14, 2010, at the UCLA Faculty Center. (See graduation photos on page 8.) The graduates and their destinations are as follows:

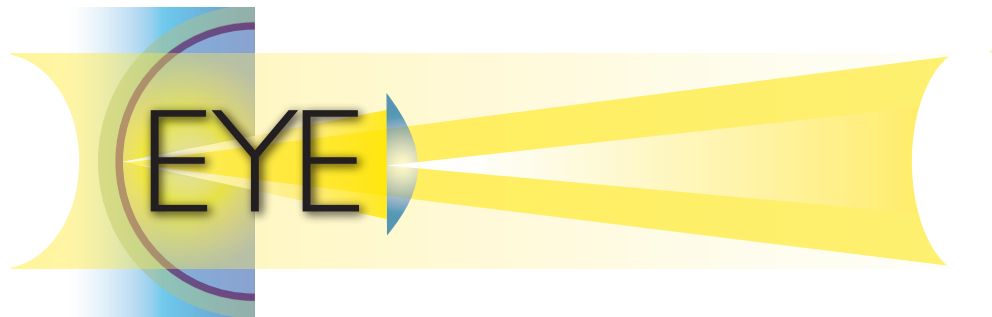
### Residents

- Vicki K. Chan, MD**  
Glaucoma Fellowship  
Jules Stein Eye Institute  
University of California,  
Los Angeles  
Los Angeles, California
- Heather S. Chang, MD**  
Private Practice  
Los Angeles, California
- Gina Y. Lee, MD**  
Glaucoma Fellowship  
Jules Stein Eye Institute  
University of California,  
Los Angeles  
Los Angeles, California
- Seongmu Lee, MD**  
Oculoplastics Fellowship  
Baylor College of  
Medicine  
Houston, Texas
- Monica Ralli Khitri, MD**  
Pediatric Ophthalmology  
and Strabismus  
Fellowship  
The Children's Hospital of  
Philadelphia  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Le Yu, MD**  
General Ophthalmology  
Kaiser Permanente  
Bakersfield, California
- Alex Yuan, MD, PhD**  
Retina Fellowship  
Cleveland Clinic,  
Cole Eye Institute  
Cleveland, Ohio

### Ophthalmology and International Fellows

- Comprehensive Ophthalmology*  
**Rachel Feit Leichman, MD**  
Private Practice  
Oregon
- Corneal and External Ocular Disease and Refractive Surgery*  
**Timmy A. Kovoov, MD**  
Private Practice  
Houston, Texas
- Olivia L. Lee, MD**  
Uveitis Fellowship  
New York Eye &  
Ear Infirmary  
New York, New York
- Elmira Baghdasaryan, MD**  
Ophthalmologist  
Yerevan State Medical  
University  
Yerevan, Armenia
- Kunjai Sejpal, MD**  
Junior Ophthalmologist  
L.V. Prasad Eye Institute  
Hyderabad, India
- Uveitis and Inflammatory Eye Disease*  
**Michael A. Kapamajian, MD**  
Assistant Chief of Service  
Los Angeles County and  
USC Medical Center  
Los Angeles, California
- Abdullah Al-Fawaz, MD**  
Assistant Professor  
King Abdulaziz  
University Hospital  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia  
*Contact Lens*  
**Sharon Y. Lee, OD**  
Contact Lens Specialist  
Spectrum Eye Physicians  
Los Gatos, California  
*Glaucoma*  
**Houman Vosoghi, MD**  
Private Practice  
Derin Eye Center  
Westlake Village,  
California
- Geetha G. Vedula, MD**  
Staff Physician  
Jules Stein Eye Institute  
University of California,  
Los Angeles  
Los Angeles, California
- Chutima Supawavej, MD**  
Ophthalmologist  
Rajaviti Hospital  
Bangkok, Thailand
- Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery*  
**Catherine J. Hwang, MD**  
Associate Diplomate  
Orbital and Ophthalmic  
Plastic Surgery  
Jules Stein Eye Institute  
University of California,  
Los Angeles  
Los Angeles, California

- Kam-Lung Kelvin Chong, MD**  
Clinical Assistant  
Professor  
Department of  
Ophthalmology and  
Visual Science  
The Chinese University  
of Hong Kong  
Hong Kong, China  
*Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus*  
**Abubaker M. Affan, MD**  
Ophthalmology Lecturer  
Alfateh University  
Tripoli, Lybia
- Ramesha Kekunnaya, MD**  
Pediatric Ophthalmology  
Faculty  
L.V. Prasad Eye Institute  
Hyderabad, India
- Tzu-Hsun Tsai, MD**  
Attending Physician  
National Taiwan University  
Hospital  
Tapai, Taiwan
- Retina*  
**Atul Jain, MD**  
Private Practice  
San Diego Retina  
Associates  
San Diego, California
- Irena Tsui, MD**  
Assistant Professor of  
Ophthalmology  
Albert Einstein  
Medical Center  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



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# Special Events

## Celebrating the Class of 2010

On Friday, May 14, 2010, Jules Stein Eye Institute graduating residents and fellows and their families were joined by faculty and staff at the UCLA Faculty Center for the Class of 2010 graduation ceremony.



Graduating fellow Dr. Geetha Ganti Vedula and her husband (left side) mingle with second-year resident Dr. Annie Lim and graduating research fellow Dr. Chutima Supawavej.



Jules Stein Eye Institute  
Resident and Fellow Graduation  
and  
Award Ceremony

Friday, May 14, 2010

Residency Program Director Dr. Anthony Arnold (center) celebrates with graduating residents (left to right) Drs. Gina Lee, Vicki Chan, Seongmu Lee, Monica Ralli, Le Yu and Heather Chang. (Graduating resident Dr. Alex Yuan is not shown.)



From left, graduating residents Drs. Vicki Chan and Gina Lee share digital photos with Soo Lee, wife of second-year resident Dr. Seongmu Lee.



Resident research award recipient Dr. Vicki Pai (right) with faculty advisor Dr. Ben Glasgow (center) and Dr. Pai's husband Gabriel



Graduating international fellow Dr. Abubaker Afan (left) and faculty advisor Dr. Joseph Demer pose for a photograph.

### Important JSEI Phone Numbers

**Patient Care**

JSEI Ophthalmology Referral Service  
JSEI Ophthalmology Emergency Service  
after hours

(310) 825-5000  
(310) 825-3090  
(310) 825-2111

**Fund Raising**

JSEI Development Office  
JSEI Affiliates

(310) 206-6035  
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