

EYE

JULES STEIN EYE INSTITUTE UCLA

Research to Prevent Blindness and JSEI: A New Chapter in a Long and Fruitful Partnership



Research to Prevent Blindness Chairman David F. Weeks (far right) and President Diane S. Swift present Jules Stein Eye Institute Director Bartly Mondino, MD, with a gift of \$500,000 for the Edie and Lew Wasserman Building Fund.

For more than 50 years, **Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB)** and **UCLA's Department of Ophthalmology** have had a fruitful partnership as they pursue a shared goal: the commitment to research that leads to the prevention, treatment, or eradication of diseases that threaten vision.

Yet another important chapter in that partnership is being written now, as RPB, the leading voluntary (private) organization supporting eye research, has made a \$500,000 gift to the **Edie and Lew Wasserman Building Fund** campaign. This most recent grant will establish a state-of-the-art vision proteomics center within the Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI), and will enable clinical facilities to be relocated from JSEI to the Wasserman Building, which is currently under construction.

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Jules Stein Eye Institute Best Ophthalmology Center in the West



The Jules Stein Eye Institute has maintained its position as one of the top five American eye care centers—and the best in the Western United States for the 22nd consecutive year—according to *U.S. News & World Report's* 2011–2012 Best Hospitals rankings. Additionally, Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center is the only hospital in Los Angeles and the Southern California region that appears on the magazine's "Honor Roll," a place reserved for medical centers with high levels of expertise in multiple specialties.

Edie Wasserman, 1915–2011: Part of Influential Hollywood Couple Whose Philanthropy Fueled JSEI's Growth

She was called "the first lady of Hollywood," having played a key part in her husband Lew Wasserman's ascendance to chief executive at Music Corporation of American (MCA)—now Universal Studios, Inc. With her husband, she was also a leading philanthropist, whose charity included a half-century of generous support for the Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI). **Edie Wasserman** died August 18 at the age of 95, even as the latest chapter in the legacy of her family's support for JSEI, the state-of-the-art Edie and Lew Wasserman Building, was under construction.

"Edie Wasserman's support of the Jules Stein Eye Institute is immeasurable," says JSEI Director **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**.

"From the establishment of the Wasserman Chair to the current construction of the building which will bear her name, her influence will be felt for generations to come."

Born Edith Beckerman on November 4, 1915, in Cleveland, Edie met **Lew Wasserman** in the heart of the Depression. Not long after their marriage in 1936, Mr. Wasserman was hired as an agent by ophthalmologist Jules Stein, founder of MCA. Lew Wasserman rose to the head of MCA and Universal Studios, which became the world's most successful entertainment enterprise. He and Edie were married nearly 66 years at the time of his death in 2002.



Edie at the Wasserman Building Groundbreaking Ceremony, October 2010

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RPB

A History of Support

Since it was founded in 1960, Research to Prevent Blindness has contributed \$286 million in eye research grant support, and no institution has benefited as much as the Jules Stein Eye Institute:

Total Grants: 131

Departmental: 50

Construction: 3

Individual: 78

Types of Grants

Unrestricted eye research grants: 50

RPB Special Grant/Construction Campaigns: 3

Career Development Awards: 3

Disney Award for Amblyopia Research: 1

Foreign Fellowships: 2

International Research Scholar Awards: 13

Jules & Doris Stein RPB Professorships: 4

Lew R. Wasserman Merit Awards: 4

Manpower Awards: 17

Medical Student Eye Research Fellowships: 2

Physician-Scientist Awards: 5

RPB Special Grants: 4

Senior Scientific Investigator Awards: 12

Special Scholar Awards: 11

Research to Prevent Blindness and JSEI: A New Chapter in a Long and Fruitful Partnership

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“This gift will enable us to construct a proteomics laboratory for the 21st century in the Jules Stein Eye Institute building,” says JSEI Director **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, Chairman of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology. “RPB’s long-standing and sustained support of the Jules Stein Eye Institute continues to be invaluable.”

The partnership between JSEI and RPB is fitting, since it was **Dr. Jules Stein** himself who founded RPB in 1960, when little was known about the eye and its disorders. “It is time we stopped being content to pat ourselves on the back for all the good things we do for people after they are blind, and start moving vigorously into research that will wipe out blinding diseases at their source,” Dr. Stein said at the time. He banded together with other distinguished scientific and business leaders and philanthropists—including **Lew R. Wasserman**, after whom the current building is being named. Before the decade was over, RPB’s founders would convince the U.S. Congress to create the National Eye Institute as part of the National Institutes of Health.

Today, RPB funds scientific activities at 55 U.S. medical schools. Since it was founded, RPB has contributed more than \$286 million in eye research grant support, putting its imprint on virtually every vision science advance in the last half-century. RPB programs have jump-started critical new investigations, accelerated the pace of eye research, and resulted in substantial gains in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of eye diseases.

No institution has benefited more than JSEI, which has now received more than \$8 million in grant support from RPB—in addition to the more than \$6 million that RPB helped to raise in a capital gifts campaign to construct the Jules Stein Eye Institute, which was dedicated in 1966.

The latest gift will fund one of the fastest-growing research areas in vision science. Proteomics, the study of the proteins encoded by genes and the functions they perform throughout the body, is a rapidly growing area of eye research with the potential to lead to major advances, according to Dr. Mondino.

David F. Weeks, RPB’s chairman, notes that both the Jules Stein Eye Institute and Research to Prevent Blindness are products of Dr. Stein’s passionate commitment to reducing the burden of blindness through vision research. “When Lew Wasserman succeeded Dr. Stein as RPB’s chairman,” says Weeks, “he applied the same guiding principles to the goal of eliminating all blinding diseases. The new research facility is a notable testament to the philanthropic generosity of Edie and Lew Wasserman.”

“This gift will enable us to construct a proteomics laboratory for the 21st century in the Jules Stein Eye Institute building,” says JSEI Director Bartly J. Mondino, MD, Chairman of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology. “RPB’s long-standing and sustained support of the Jules Stein Eye Institute continues to be invaluable.”

Edie Wasserman, 1915–2011: Part of Influential Hollywood Couple Whose Philanthropy Fueled JSEI’s Growth

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Edie and Lew Wasserman in 1991

The close relationship with Jules Stein contributed to the Wassermans’ long devotion to blindness prevention and vision research. Lew Wasserman became an esteemed trustee of JSEI and succeeded his mentor as chairman of Research to Prevent Blindness, an organization created by Dr. Stein that has contributed more than \$286 million in eye research grant support since its founding in 1960.

The Edie and Lew Wasserman Building, now under construction, was named to honor the Wassermans’ lifelong commitment to blindness prevention. The six-story, 100,000-square-foot facility, which includes three dedicated floors for the Edie and Lew Wasserman Eye Research Center, will provide patients with holistic treatment and services as well as offering the entire medical community a world-class medical and research center.

Even at age 95, Edie Wasserman was on hand for the ceremonial groundbreaking, putting shovel to dirt at the latest demonstration of her family’s commitment to eradicating blindness through support for JSEI.

In addition to supporting JSEI, Edie and Lew Wasserman were major benefactors and fundraisers for numerous other Los Angeles institutions, including the Motion Picture and Television Fund, which cares for aging actors and others in the industry; the Music Center; CalArts; and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. They also funded scholarship programs at UCLA and other campuses, mindful that they had been unable to afford college during the Depression.

“Edie represented the best in our nation through her philanthropic support of the Jules Stein Eye Institute, the Motion Picture and Television Fund, and scholarships for students at UCLA,” says JSEI Founding Director **Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD**.

“She was an incredible woman, sort of once in a lifetime,” said grandson **Casey Wasserman**, in a statement to the *Los Angeles Times*. “She had very strong convictions and was dogged in her pursuit of those. And they usually involved helping others.” Casey Wasserman runs the Wasserman Foundation, established by his grandparents in 1952, as well as the sports and entertainment agency Wasserman Media Group.

“Edie was certainly loved by all her many friends and those she touched with her generous spirit,” adds **Gerald Oppenheimer**, who served on JSEI’s Board of Trustees with Lew Wasserman. “She was a unique and extraordinary woman who accomplished great things during her long life—the world is a better place because of her.”

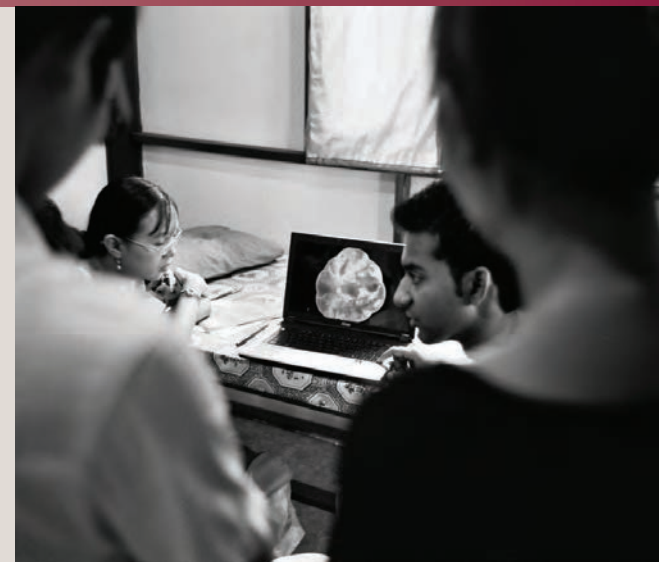
“She was an incredible woman, sort of once in a lifetime... She had very strong convictions and was dogged in her pursuit of those. And they usually involved helping others,” said Casey Wasserman, in a statement to the Los Angeles Times.

Jules Stein Eye Institute Fellow Assists Doctors Without Borders in Myanmar



(Photos courtesy of David Heiden, MD)

This patient, now healthier due to anti-retroviral medications, is nevertheless blind due to retinal detachments that occurred because his CMV retinitis was not treated early enough.



Dr. Kalyani, right, lectures the Burmese clinicians.

Despite grand debates on world order, the act of humanitarianism comes down to one thing: individual human beings reaching out to those others who find themselves in the most difficult circumstances. And they reach out one bandage at a time, one suture at a time, one vaccination at a time.

—EXCERPT FROM THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE SPEECH DELIVERED BY DR. JAMES ORBINSKI, PRESIDENT OF THE MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES (MSF) INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL, IN OSLO, NORWAY, DECEMBER 10, 1999.

In late February 2011, Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) uveitis fellow **Partho Kalyani, MD**, spent two weeks at a clinic in rural Myanmar (Burma), assisting in the training of eight Burmese AIDS clinicians. The main focus of the training was the diagnosis and treatment of patients with cytomegalovirus (CMV) retinitis, a potentially blinding eye infection common in patients with AIDS. The trip was sponsored by the Holland branch of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)/Doctors Without Borders, and was arranged by **David Heiden, MD**, a uveitis specialist in the Department of Ophthalmology at California Pacific Medical Center, San Francisco. Dr. Heiden was the only other American ophthalmologist assisting on the trip. Dr. Kalyani was sponsored by his advisor at JSEI, **Gary Holland, MD**, Jack H. Skirball Professor of Ocular Inflammatory Diseases and Chief of JSEI's Cornea and Uveitis Division.

Dr. Kalyani first became aware of the MSF trips to Myanmar when Dr. Heiden spoke about his work there at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology's 2010 Annual Meeting. Dr. Heiden later attended an international meeting on AIDS-related CMV retinitis at JSEI in September 2010, and plans for Dr. Kalyani to assist on this trip were solidified.

In Myanmar, mornings began with a lecture and teaching session, and afternoons were spent examining

patients at a clinic located on the outskirts of Myanmar's capital city, Yangon (formerly Rangoon). The American doctors were assisted in the training by **Ni Ni Tun, MD**, a Burmese AIDS clinician who oversees the clinic. The eight Burmese AIDS clinicians being trained, some of whom were recent medical school graduates, were taught

how to examine the retina, how to distinguish diseased versus normal retinas, and how to administer intravitreal ganciclovir injections to patients with active infection. Training was incremental, with the Burmese clinicians first observing the American doctors, then eventually examining and injecting patients on their own by the last day of their training.

CMV retinitis is a retinal infection that affects people with impaired immune systems, such as AIDS patients. If left untreated, in a relatively short amount of time it can lead to the death of retinal cells, retinal detachment and eventually, blindness. With

the advent of anti-retroviral medica-

tions in the United States, severe cases of CMV retinitis are now less common in American AIDS patients. In Myanmar, however, lack of access to healthcare and the stigma associated with treating AIDS patients means that for most affected patients, this treatable infection often costs them their vision.

This is a difficult reality for the patients seen at the clinic, some of whom had already gone blind. A

particularly cruel irony is that, had many of them been screened and treated earlier, their eyesight might have been saved. Dr. Kalyani commented on this, saying, "If you can treat CMV retinitis early, it will become inactive, and as long as the patient's condition is successfully maintained on anti-retroviral medications it will never come back. Prompt and regular ocular examination during this critical period of time, when the sickest patients have not started or responded to medication, can save their vision from permanent damage." It is this need for early screening and the lack of adequate healthcare in countries like Myanmar which makes work like this so vital.

Despite the struggles the Burmese patients face, Dr. Kalyani was impressed with their resilience and the loyalty of their friends and family, some of whom brought their loved ones great distances to be seen by the doctors. Of one patient, he says, "One of his friends, who was a Buddhist monk, and one of his family members, literally carried him in on their shoulders. He was very weak and dehydrated, but he came a long distance because he knew he was going blind. When he got here, his condition was so poor that we asked him whether he was sure he wanted to be examined, but he insisted. We examined his eyes, found he had active CMV and injected both of his eyes immediately. Despite how sick they were, the patients were so appreciative and uncomplaining. This patient was here for six hours, and his companions stood by his side the whole time." Dr. Kalyani hopes to continue this type of humanitarian work in the future, and is grateful to Dr. Heiden, JSEI, and his fellowship supervisor, Dr. Holland, for the experience.



The Burmese clinicians examining patients.



Patients waiting to be seen at the clinic.



This patient was brought to the clinic by his friend, a Burmese monk, who looks on as the patient is examined by a clinician.

Legally Blind Patients Receive Stem Cell Transplants

Testing the power of regenerative medicine to treat eye diseases, on July 12 surgeons at the Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) successfully transplanted highly specialized cells derived from human embryonic stem cells into the eyes of two patients.

Both patients, one with Stargardt's macular dystrophy and the other with dry age-related macular degeneration, underwent outpatient transplantation surgeries and recovered uneventfully, according to the lead surgeon, **Steven D. Schwartz, MD**, Ahmanson Professor of Ophthalmology and Chief of the Retina Division at JSEI. Dr. Schwartz is the principal investigator on two clinical trials, one for each eye disease; each trial will include 12 patients, who are legally blind, and will determine the safety of stem cell therapy as well as the patients' ability to tolerate the treatment.



The surgeon holds a syringe with cells that were prepared in the lab of the biotechnology company that developed the therapy, Advanced Cell Technology.

"Early indications are that the patients tolerated the surgical procedures well," said Dr. Schwartz in a statement. Advanced Cell Technology, Inc. (ACT), a leader in the field of regenerative medicine, has been working for the last decade on developing a stem cell therapy to treat eye diseases.

Human embryonic stem cells can differentiate into any cell type. The stem cell-derived retinal pigment epithelial (RPE) cells that were transplanted during surgery were differentiated in ACT labs. Each patient received a relatively low dose of the transplanted RPE cells (50,000) into the subretinal space of the treated eye.

The dosing of the first patients in these trials, which are being closely watched by scientists and stem cell therapy advocates around the world, was hailed by company officials as an important milestone in the therapeutic use of stem cells and may pave the way for a new therapeutic approach to treating eye diseases.

Currently, both eye diseases are untreatable. The dry form of macular degeneration, the most common form of the disease, is the leading cause of blindness in the developed world, especially among people over the age of 55. As many as 30 million people in the United States and Europe suffer from this disease. But the number of people affected is expected to double over the next 20 years as the population ages. Stargardt's causes progressive vision loss, usually starting when patients are between 10 to 20 years of age.

In both conditions, the layer of RPE cells located beneath the retina deteriorates and atrophies. These cells support, protect and provide nutrition for light-sensitive photoreceptors in the eye. Over time, the death of the RPE cells and eventual loss of the photoreceptors can lead to blindness as central vision is gradually destroyed. Doctors are hoping the transplanted RPE cells will implant and begin functioning.



Dr. Steven Schwartz peers into a microscope during surgery to transplant highly specialized cells derived from human embryonic stem cells into the eyes of the first patients enrolled in two clinical trials that are testing the promise of stem cell therapy.

"Today—13 years after the discovery of human embryonic stem cells—the great promise of these cells is finally being put to the test," said **Robert Lanza, MD**, chief scientific officer of ACT, who attended both procedures at JSEI. "The initiation of these two clinical trials marks an important turning point for the field. ...It's time to start moving these exciting new stem cell therapies out of the laboratory and into the clinic."

This is an edited version of an article that first appeared in UCLA Today.



Managing Editor of EYE Newsletter Retires After 20 Years

Gloria Jurisic served as the Jules Stein Eye Institute's marketing and contracting director, overseeing the Institute's promotional, communications, and contracting programs since 1981. She held staff leadership positions at UCLA, serving on the boards of Staff Assembly (SA) and the Administrative Management Group, and chairing SA's scholarship and awards program for six consecutive years. Ms. Jurisic will continue to participate in JSEI's outreach and patient care services as a member of the JSEI Affiliates Board of Directors.

Message from Gloria Jurisic

Dear Friends,

As I step down from the positions of marketing and contracting director of the Jules Stein Eye Institute and managing editor of EYE newsletter, I am filled with mixed emotions. Retirement is an amazing opportunity and it is hard to ignore the magical anticipation of new beginnings. It is also a time to reflect on my 20 years of professional and personal growth at JSEI—the knowledge gained, friendships forged, and successes we have enjoyed. I will miss being part of JSEI and the EYE newsletter team.

I'd like to thank all those who have served on the editorial board with me, the writers and photographers who have contributed to EYE, and Robin Weisz, who visualized our idea for the newsletter and has remained its designer ever since.

It has been a distinct pleasure to communicate JSEI's vital work to our readers for close to two decades. I extend warm congratulations to my colleague and EYE's new managing editor, Ms. Sara Nguyen. I look forward to following JSEI's continuing accomplishments in future issues of EYE.

Sincerely yours,

Consensus Conference on JIA-associated Uveitis

On April 8-9, 2011, 25 experts from the fields of pediatric rheumatology, pediatric ophthalmology, and uveitis met in a consensus conference at the Jules Stein Eye Institute to formulate recommendations regarding the evaluation and treatment of uveitis in children with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA). The meeting also included several patients and their parents, who were able to provide their own perspectives on treatment issues. The meeting was organized by **Gary N. Holland, MD**, Jack H. Skirball Professor of Ocular Inflammatory Diseases, who is an authority on JIA-associated uveitis, and was supported by a generous grant from the Arthritis Foundation—Southern California Chapter.

Uveitis, which refers to inflammation inside the eye, is a well-recognized and potentially devastating complication of JIA. Many aspects of JIA-associated uveitis remain poorly understood, and experts in the field have noted that approaches to treatment of children with JIA-associated uveitis vary markedly in the community, based on a clinician's training and level of experience. The goal of the meeting was to draw upon the experience and expertise of specialists who see large numbers of patients, and disseminate their recommendations for a more uniform approach to treatment through various professional societies, including the Children's Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance (CARRA), the Pediatric Eye Disease Investigators Group (PEDIG), the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (AAPOS), and the American Uveitis Society (AUS).

In preparation for the meeting, detailed questionnaires dealing with treatment practices were developed and circulated to members of the CARRA network, PEDIG, AAPOS, and AUS. Responses, which were received prior to the conference from 318 specialists, helped to identify areas of controversy regarding treatment for discussion at the conference. Conference participants are currently working on a "white paper" that will describe the group's recommendations and data from the questionnaires.

JSEI Honors May and Stark Families at Chair Reception

On June 21, UCLA's Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) held a reception in the Adam Room to honor the families of **David May II** and **Frances and Ray Stark** for their outstanding philanthropic contributions. It also served to congratulate **Joseph Caprioli, MD**, the David May II Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology, and **Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD**, the Frances and Ray Stark Foundation Chair in Ophthalmology, on their permanent-chair appointments.

JSEI Director **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, noted of the event, "An endowed chair is the highest honor the University accords to scholarship, paying tribute to the donor who has embraced the mission and to the chair holder who has earned that distinction. We are indebted to the May and Stark families for their generosity in establishing these endowed chairs, which support the teaching and research activities of deserving faculty members."

The family of David May II, a founding member of JSEI's Board of Trustees, created the David May II Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology in 1998 as a term chair in his honor. It was then converted to a permanent chair with an additional pledge from the Wilbur May Foundation.

The Frances and Ray Stark Foundation Chair in Ophthalmology was established by The Fran and Ray Stark Foundation in 1992 as a term chair and designated by long-time JSEI supporter Mr. Ray Stark to be used with a preference for glaucoma research. With an additional pledge from the Stark Foundation, the Chair was made permanent.

Dr. Mondino presented David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA chair sculptures, created by The Franklin Mint, to the donors and chair holders. Several JSEI faculty members were in attendance to offer their congratulations. Additionally, new faculty members Kouros Nouri-Mahdavi, MD, MSc, Stacy L. Pineles, MD, and Federico Velez, MD, were introduced.



Tommee May, Dr. Caprioli, Ms. Dee May, Dr. Bartly Mondino, and Mr. Arnold Rosenstein commemorate the permanent conversion of the David May II Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology with recognition chair sculptures.



(From right to left) JSEI Founding Director Dr. Bradley Straatsma and members of the May family: Ms. Dee May, her daughter Tommee May, and son-in-law Arnold Rosenstein



Dr. Coleman and Wendy Stark, daughter of late benefactors Frances and Ray Stark, pose with Dr. Bartly Mondino and their recognition chair sculptures.

UCLA Longevity Center Honors Dr. Bradley Straatsma

On June 4, **Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD**, Founding Director and Professor of Ophthalmology Emeritus at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, received the Distinguished Scholar in Science & Medicine Award at the UCLA Longevity Center's 2011 ICON Awards gala. Others honored that evening were Academy Award-winning actress Jane Fonda, recipient of the 2011 ICON Award, and Jim Collins, UCLA philanthropist and former CEO of Sizzler International, who was presented with the Art Linkletter Lifetime Achievement Award. JSEI Director Bartly Mondino, MD, presented Dr. Straatsma with the award. **Gail and Gerald Oppenheimer** graciously sponsored a table at the event, and attended along with various JSEI faculty members.



JSEI Director Dr. Bartly Mondino congratulates Founding Director Dr. Bradley Straatsma, 2011 recipient of the UCLA Longevity Center's Distinguished Scholar in Science & Medicine Award.

Edie and Lew Wasserman Building wins Architectural Award

The **Edie and Lew Wasserman** Building, currently under construction in Stein Plaza, won a Community Impact Award at the Los Angeles Business Council's Los Angeles Architectural Awards ceremony on June 30. This prestigious award recognized the project's breadth of investment, the anticipated advancements resulting from its completion, and its architectural excellence and significance. The Wasserman facility, which will house the Edie and Lew Wasserman Eye Research Center, is scheduled to be completed in March 2014. It was designed by Richard Meier & Partners Architects, the same architectural firm that created the Getty Center.

Dr. Troy Elander Installed as 140th President of Los Angeles County Medical Association

Troy Elander, MD, Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, was installed as the Los Angeles County Medical Association's 140th president at a reception and dinner on June 30. Institute faculty and fellows were on hand to congratulate Dr. Elander. As a member of the volunteer clinical faculty, Dr. Elander's efforts in training future generations of ophthalmologists serves an important function in upholding the educational goals of the Institute.



From left, Diane Elander and Drs. Ralph Levinson, Troy Elander and Anne Coleman at the reception honoring Dr. Elander's installation as president of the Los Angeles County Medical Association

Honors and Awards

Anthony J. Aldave, MD, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, presented the Ralph and Sophie Heintz Lecture at the Association of Proctor Fellows Annual Meeting in Marshall, California, on June 11, 2011. The lecture was titled, "International Use of the Boston Keratoprosthesis." Dr. Aldave also presented the Jorge Rodriguez Memorial Lecture, titled, "Global Blindness and the Role of the Boston Keratoprosthesis," at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona, on June 17, 2011.

Joseph Caprioli, MD, David May II Professor of Ophthalmology, was the 8th Mansour F. Armaly lecturer, presenting, "The Importance of Rates in Glaucoma" at the Annual Midwest Glaucoma Society Meeting in Iowa City, Iowa, on June 17, 2011.

Allan E. Kreiger, MD, Professor of Ophthalmology, received the Alex Irvine Award at the Western Retina Study Club meeting, March 18-19, 2011, in Los Angeles, California.

David Sarraf, MD, Associate Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, was elected to the Macula Society and formally welcomed as a new member at its annual meeting in Boca Raton, Florida, on March 11, 2011. The Macula Society comprises a prestigious and exclusive membership of retinal specialists from all over the world and is a forum for new research in retinal and macular diseases.

Barry A. Weissman, OD, PhD, Professor of Ophthalmology, was named Alumnus of the Year at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Optometry graduation on May 21, 2011.

Academic News

Clinical and Research Seminar

Jules Stein Eye Institute's Clinical and Research Seminar was held on June 10, 2011 at the UCLA Faculty Center and was 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.

R. Lawrence Tychsen, MD, Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Pediatrics, Anatomy and Neurobiology at Washington University School of Medicine, gave the 42nd Jules Stein Lecture, "Causing and Curing Infantile Esotropia: The Old and New Testament." **Matthew M. LaVail, PhD**, Professor of Anatomy and Ophthalmology at the Beckman Vision Center, University of California San Francisco School of Medicine, gave the 9th Bradley R. Straatsma Lecture, "Experimental Therapy for Retinal Degenerative Diseases." **Harry S. Geggel, MD**, the Head of Section Ophthalmology and Director of Cornea and Refractive Surgery at Virginia Mason Medical Center, gave the 9th Thomas H. Pettit Lecture, "Intraocular Lens Power Adjustment After Myopic Excimer Refractive Surgery: Review and Current Recommendations."



Clinical and Research Seminar Lecturers; from left, Drs. R. Lawrence Tychsen, Matthew LaVail, and Harry Geggel

A number of volunteer and clinical faculty received awards of distinction. The S. Rodman Irvine Prize, which recognizes excellence among Department of Ophthalmology faculty, was posthumously awarded to **Arthur Rosenbaum, MD**, former Chief of the Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Division. **Gene Pawlowski, MD**, received the Faculty Teaching Award for his contributions to residency education.



Sandra Rosenbaum, wife of the late Dr. Arthur Rosenbaum, accepts the S. Rodman Irvine Prize on his behalf from JSEI Director Dr. Bartly Mondino.

Destinations of Graduating Residents and Fellows

The Jules Stein Eye Institute held its graduation ceremony on Friday, May 13, 2011 at the UCLA Faculty Center. The graduates and their destinations are as follows:

Residents

Darin R. Goldman, MD
Vitreo-Retinal Surgery Fellowship
Tufts/Ophthalmic Consultants of Boston
Boston, Massachusetts

Jennifer S. Huang, MD
Glaucoma Fellowship
Jules Stein Eye Institute
University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California

R. Duncan Johnson, MD
Cornea Fellowship
Jules Stein Eye Institute
University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California

Annie K. Lim, MD
Glaucoma Fellowship
Duke Eye Center
Duke University Health System
Durham, North Carolina

Vicky C. Pai, MD
Private Practice
Foothill Eye Medical Group
Glendora, California

Louis M. Savar, MD
Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California

Amelia C. Sheh, MD
Glaucoma Fellowship
Jules Stein Eye Institute
University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California

Ophthalmology and International Fellows

COMPREHENSIVE OPHTHALMOLOGY

Hamad Elzarrug, MD
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
Garyonis University
Benghazi, Libya

Lev Grunstein, MD
Staff Ophthalmologist
Hawaii Permanente Medical Group
Maui, Hawaii

CORNEAL AND EXTERNAL OCULAR DISEASE AND REFRACTIVE SURGERY

Kristina Kurbanyan, MD
Staff Ophthalmologist
Southern California Kaiser Permanente
Lancaster, California

J. Arturo Ramirez-Miranda, MD
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
Instituto de Oftalmologia Conde de Valenciana
Mexico City, Mexico

Matthew J. Swanic, MD
Private Practice
Eye Associates
Las Vegas, Nevada

Siamak Zarei-Ghanavati, MD
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
Mashhad University of Medical Sciences
Khatam-al-Anbia Eye Hospital
Mashhad, Iran

UVEITIS AND INFLAMMATORY EYE DISEASE

Tiago Faria e Arantes, MD
Attending Physician
Hospital de Olhos de Pernambuco
Recife, Brazil

Partho S. Kalyani, MD
Vitreo-Retinal Surgery Fellowship
W.K. Kellogg Eye Center
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan

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GLAUCOMA

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Minneapolis, Minnesota

Vicki K. Chan, MD
Associate Physician
Diplomate
Jules Stein Eye Institute
University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California

Hamid Hosseini, MD
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
Shiraz University of Medical Sciences
Shiraz, Iran

Gina Y. Lee, MD
Private Practice
Huntington Beach, California

Sasan Moghimi, MD
Associate Professor of Ophthalmology
Farabi Eye Hospital
Tehran University of Medical Sciences
Tehran, Iran

Naveed Nilforushan, MD
Associate Professor of Ophthalmology
Rassoul Akram Hospital
Tehran University of Medical Sciences
Tehran, Iran

Jay A. Riddle, MD
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
Bethesda, Maryland

ORBITAL AND OPHTHALMIC PLASTIC SURGERY

Shu-Hong Chang, MD
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

Konstantinos Papageorgiou, MD
Undetermined at time of publication

PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY AND STRABISMUS

Luke W. Deitz, MD
Private Practice
Los Angeles, California

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Kaiser Permanente
San Diego, California

Geoffrey B. Wabulembo, MD
Senior Consultant
Ophthalmologist
Mulago National Referral Hospital
Kampala, Uganda

RETINA

Allen Y.H. Hu, MD
Private Practice
Retina Consultants of Seattle
Seattle, Washington

Pradeep S. Prasad, MD
Private Practice
Arcadia, California

Valentina Franco Cardenas, MD
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
Hospital Angeles Lomas
Mexico City, Mexico

VISION SCIENCE FELLOWS

Chinatsu Toshi, PhD
Allergan, Inc.
Irvine, California

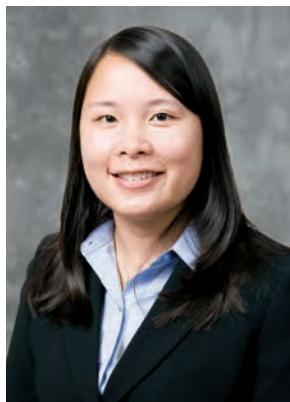
Lawrence Yoo, PhD
Chief Technology Officer
Intel Optics, Inc.
Boston, Massachusetts



Gene Pawlowski, MD, recipient of the Faculty Teaching Award, is congratulated by graduating residents.

Resident Receives Nesburn Award

It is with great pride that the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology announces **Joanne Wen, MD**, was selected to receive a 2011 Dr. Henry and Lilian Nesburn Award for research done during her residency. The award was announced during the annual Los Angeles Society of Ophthalmology officer and member installation and awards brunch that took place on Saturday, June 4, 2011.



Dr. Joanne Wen

Aesthetic Eyelid Course

The Orbital and Oculoplastic Surgery Division held its “Aesthetic Eyelid and Facial Rejuvenation” course on July 15–16, 2011 at the Jules Stein Eye Institute. 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 that informed participants of the latest advances in the field of aesthetic and reconstructive surgery for the eyelids and face.

Cynthia Boxrud, MD, Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, gave this year’s Robert Axelrod, MD, Memorial Lecture, “The Science and Applications of Adipocyte Derived Stem Cells.” Dr. Boxrud is an alumnus of the ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery fellowship at the Jules Stein Eye Institute.



Dame Elizabeth Taylor

JSEI Donors Support Modernization of Website

Wendy and Theo Kolokotronis and **Randi and David Fett**, longtime friends of UCLA’s Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI), have pledged generous gifts to support an update of the JSEI website. The contributions will strengthen the goals to modernize the site and expand user functionalities for both online visitors and JSEI staff and faculty. Proposed changes include an overhaul of multiple databases, improved site navigation, decentralized page editing, enhanced video streaming, integration of social media, text enlargement for the visually impaired, non-English versions of the website, a JSEI-wide calendar, an interactive portal for JSEI alumni, and a robust Intranet for staff and faculty use. Also under consideration is the development of smart-phone applications that communicate with the website.

The Kolokotronis family has been a loyal supporter of JSEI since 1994. In 2004, they established a chair to benefit a cataract surgeon and scientist. Chair holder **Kevin M. Miller, MD**, Kolokotronis Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology and Chief of the Comprehensive Ophthalmology Division, oversees the website development team. “Wendy and Theo Kolokotronis have supported my work for years and have been generous to the Institute in many ways,” says Dr. Miller, who has been the faculty director of the website since its first design more than 15 years ago.

Dr. David Fett is a JSEI alumnus and clinical faculty member. His wife Randi graduated from UCLA in 1984 with a degree in chemistry. Dr. Fett has a long history with UCLA, since his grandfather graduated from the University in 1932. Most recently, the Fetts established a fellowship in the Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Division under the auspices of **Robert A. Goldberg, MD**, Karen and Frank Dabby Professor of Ophthalmology and Chief of the Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Division.

According to Dr. Miller, the groundwork for the website is currently being laid, and the first order of business will be to rebuild the database—a fundamental element for all aspects of the project. “I am grateful for the dedication of Wendy and Theo Kolokotronis and Randi and David Fett to advancing our online capabilities,” says JSEI Director **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**. “A state-of-the-art website will reflect JSEI’s position as one of the world’s preeminent eye research centers.”

JSEI Remembers Dame Elizabeth Taylor

The UCLA community mourned the loss of legendary film star **Dame Elizabeth Taylor**, who passed away in March 2011. Miss Taylor was a pioneering voice for HIV/AIDS awareness. In 1994, she began supporting the HIV-related eye investigations of **Gary N. Holland, MD**, Jack H. Skirball Professor of Ocular Inflammatory Diseases and Chief of the Cornea and Uveitis Division at UCLA’s Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI). Dr. Holland and his colleagues were the first to describe the ocular manifestations of AIDS, and he has continued to be involved in related research. Miss Taylor recognized that many people with AIDS suffer from eye complications during their illness. Diseases such as cytomegalovirus (CMV) retinitis, an infection of the retina, can result in permanent vision loss in patients whose immune systems are compromised.

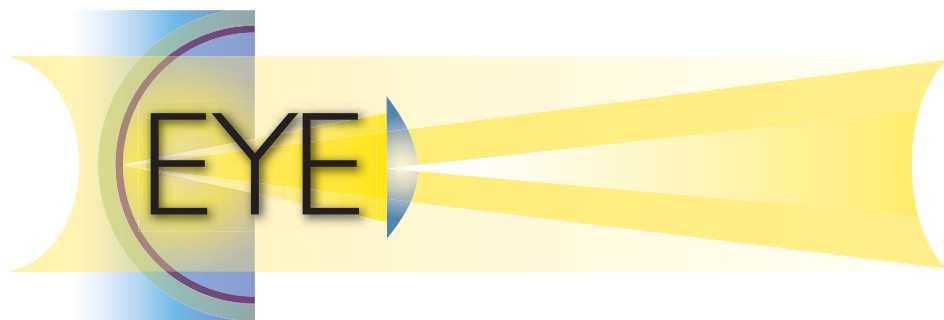
In 2006, Miss Taylor made a major gift through The Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation to benefit the Herb Ritts, Jr. Memorial Vision Fund, providing necessary moneys for AIDS-related vision care, research, and education at UCLA. Miss Taylor and Mr. Ritts had been close friends.

The Herb Ritts, Jr. Memorial Vision Fund was established by his family and friends in memory of the beloved and celebrated American photographer. In the late 1990s, he had collaborated with Dr. Holland to raise awareness of AIDS-related eye disease. At the time of the gift, Miss Taylor said, “It is my hope that my donation will inspire others to give to this important cause, which honors our dear friend Herb Ritts and continues his long-standing support of HIV/AIDS research.”

More recently, Miss Taylor helped to support a conference at UCLA, attended by HIV specialists and ophthalmologists from around the world, who met to formulate strategies for treating the growing problem of AIDS-related CMV retinitis in resource-poor areas, such as Southeast Asia and Africa.

Dr. Holland remembers Miss Taylor as a passionate advocate of these endeavors. “It was a privilege to know and collaborate with Dame Elizabeth for many years. I appreciated her interest in our work and the confidence that she had in our research and clinical activities. Elizabeth’s support has truly helped to advance the understanding of AIDS-related blindness—both here and in the developing world. Her enthusiasm was inspiring, and she will be missed greatly.”

To make a donation to the Herb Ritts, Jr. Memorial Vision Fund, please contact JSEI’s Development Office at (310) 206-6035.



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Special Events

Celebrating the Class of 2011

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 2011 graduation ceremony on Friday, May 13, 2011.



The 2011
graduating
fellows



Dr. Laura Bonelli, center, with Drs. Bradley Straatsma and Sylvia Yoo



Graduating residents, Drs. Darin Goldman (far left) and Vicky Pai (second from right) present Fellow Teaching Awards to graduating Retina fellows and former JSEI residents, Drs. Allen Hu (second from left) and Pradeep Prasad.



Dr. Bartly Mondino with 2011 Pepose-Saltzman, Young Investigator ARVO Travel Award recipient, Dr. Amy Sheh.



Drs. Bartly Mondino and Anthony Arnold recognize Dr. Darin Goldman at the graduation ceremony for his work on a quality improvement project.



Dr. Bartly Mondino congratulates Excellence in Research Award recipient Joanne Wen, MD. Dr. Wen was also awarded a 2011 Nesburn Award at the Los Angeles Society of Ophthalmology awards brunch on June 4.

Important JSEI Phone Numbers

Patient Care

JSEI Ophthalmology Referral Service (310) 825-5000
JSEI Ophthalmology Emergency Service (310) 825-3090
after hours (310) 825-2111

Fund Raising

JSEI Development Office (310) 206-6035
JSEI Affiliates (310) 825-4148