

# EYE

JULES STEIN EYE INSTITUTE UCLA

## Future Ophthalmologists Choose UCLA's Residency Training Program

Each July, a group of dedicated physicians commences UCLA's accredited ophthalmology residency training program, rated one of the top in the nation. After completing medical school and a 12-month internship, the new doctors spend another three years at the Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) and affiliated medical centers, working in ophthalmology clinics and operating rooms to hone and perfect their skills before becoming independent physicians or entering fellowship programs for further specialization.

"UCLA's ophthalmology residency program is ranked among the best in the country, so it continues to attract the most talented doctors," says **Robert Alan Goldberg, MD**, Chair of the Ophthalmology Residency Selection Committee. "Most of the applicants are at the top of their medical school class and very accomplished academically, so there's stiff competition. We get over 300 applicants for just seven spots each year," he notes.

**Anthony C. Arnold, MD**, Director of the UCLA Ophthalmology Residency Program lists "motivated, professional, intelligent and team player," among the qualities the Institute looks for in prospective residents. "We have just three years to turn them into top-notch ophthalmologists, so we need bright and dedicated physicians who are up for the challenge," he says.

### Residents Speak

#### Stacy L. Pineles, MD

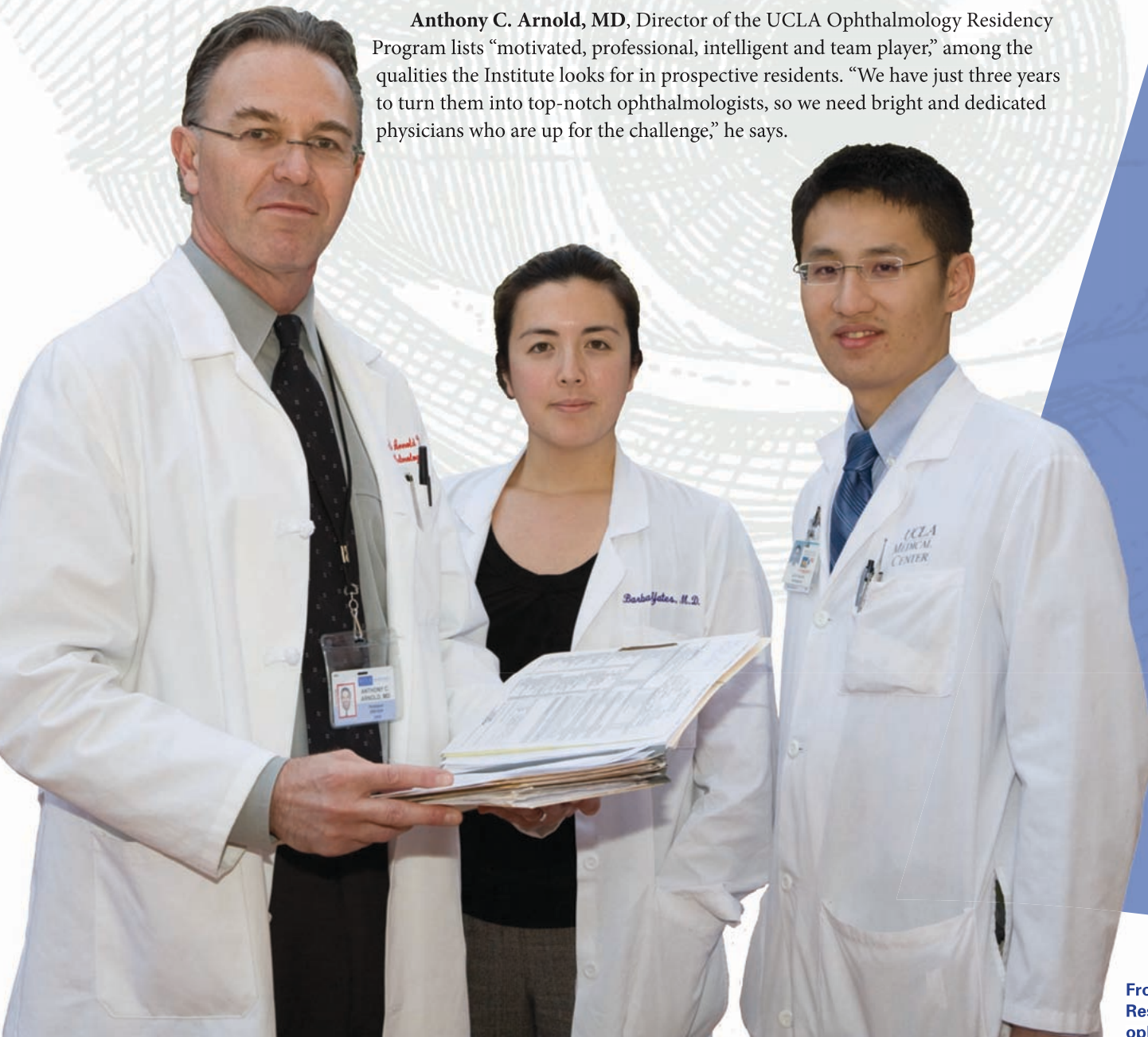
Dr. Stacy Pineles is in her third and final year of UCLA's Ophthalmology Residency Training Program. She is currently applying for a fellowship in pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus, and hopes to find a job in an academic institution.

"I loved the UCLA ophthalmology residency program from the first time I visited the Institute. I was impressed by the large group of diverse faculty and excited at the prospect of participating in a great number and variety of surgeries throughout my residency. I also thought that the facilities were unmatched across the country.

What I most value about the program is the combination of working one-on-one with world renowned faculty and the ability to function as the primary caregiver at outside hospitals, both in the clinic and in the operating room. Our clinical and surgical teaching is also supported by an excellent didactic program.

I am lucky to have worked extensively with some of the experts in my chosen field (of pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus), and to have found many role models who helped me shape my future career goals. Knowing that I have built a solid fund of knowledge and received top-notch training in all of the disciplines within ophthalmology, gives me the confidence to advance to the next level!"

**"UCLA's ophthalmology residency program is ranked among the best in the country, so it continues to attract the most talented doctors."**



From left, Director of the UCLA Ophthalmology Residency Program Dr. Anthony Arnold with second year ophthalmology residents Drs. Barbara Yates and Allen Hu

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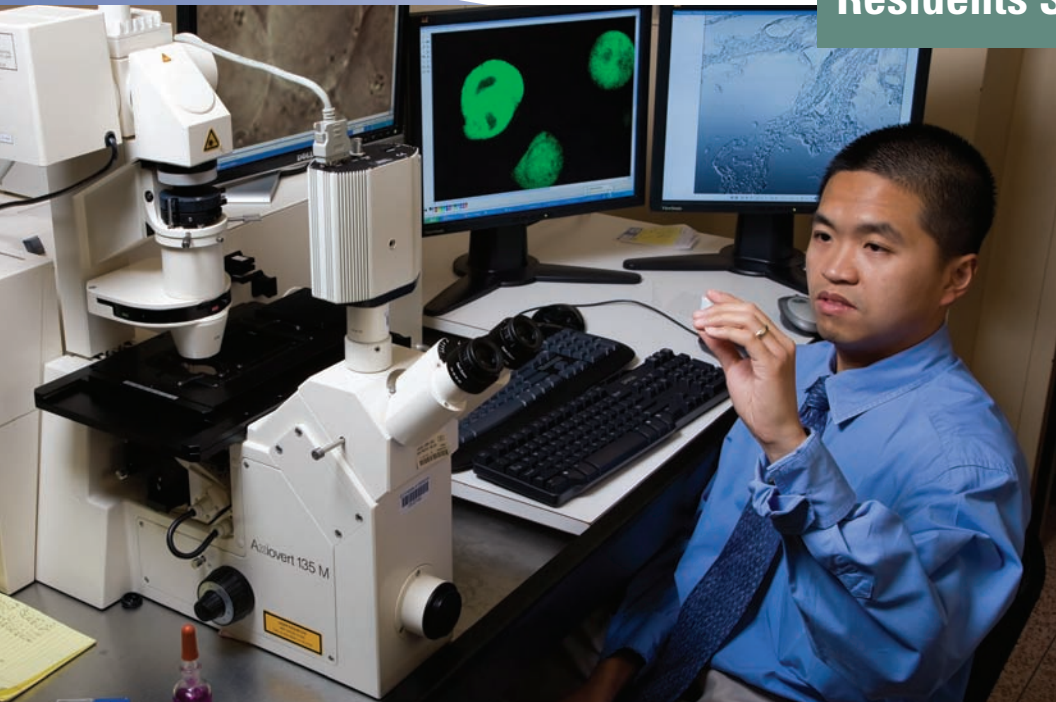


#### SPECIAL EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

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EyeSTAR trainee Dr. Alex Yuan

**Alex Yuan, MD, PhD**

Dr. Alex Yuan is an EyeSTAR resident. He entered the program in July 2005 with a MD and a PhD in Neuroscience. After completing his residency, he plans to apply for a retina fellowship followed by the start of an academic career.

“EyeSTAR is the only formal combined postdoctoral and residency program in the country. The whole concept of EyeSTAR is to prepare individuals for academic careers in ophthalmology. Since I’m attracted to both clinical practice of ophthalmology and vision science research, it’s a good fit for me.

I really appreciate the opportunity to work and learn from leaders in basic science and clinical ophthalmology. My first two years were devoted to postdoctoral training in a retina laboratory, where my mentor, Dr. Debora Farber, gave me the opportunity to develop a research project and apply for grants independently—invaluable tools for an academician. In July, I started the first year of ophthalmology residency to be trained in the medical and surgical management of eye disease.

Sight is our most valued sense and, by becoming an ophthalmologist, I hope to be able to reverse or slow the progression of vision threatening disorders. However, there are still many ocular disorders without effective treatments where research may offer new prospects for cures. This is what compels me to pursue a career in academic ophthalmology; EyeSTAR is the perfect vehicle to help me realize this goal.”

**“We have just three years to turn them into top-notch ophthalmologists, so we need bright and dedicated physicians who are up for the challenge.”**

Residency Training Program continued from page 1

**Clinical Rotations and More**

The word “resident” derives from the historical fact that this stage in a physician’s training was so all-encompassing that trainees had to reside at the educational institution. Although this is no longer necessary, residents participate in an intensive curriculum that involves general ophthalmology as well as subspecialties, and includes clinical rotations at five major medical centers, didactic education in the classroom, surgery training and research experience. The ultimate goal of the program is certification by the American Board of Ophthalmology.

With seven new residents commencing the three-year program each year, a total of 21 physicians participate in the program, designed to provide graduated experience leading to independent responsibility in the medical and surgical management of ocular disease. During the first year, residents are given a firm clinical foundation with emphasis on general ophthalmology and begin their surgery training. In the second year, they start in-depth training in all of the ophthalmic subspecialties, and in their third and final year, they assume greater responsibilities for medical and surgical patient care, and participate in the supervision and teaching of medical students and first- and second-year residents. Didactic education in the classroom and participation in research are integral components of the program.

**EyeSTAR**

For physicians who are interested in academic careers and professional leadership as clinician-scientists, the residency program offers EyeSTAR (Specialty Training and Advanced Research)—a six-year curriculum combining vision science training with an ophthalmology residency. EyeSTAR trainees complete the three-year residency program leading to certification in ophthalmology and commit three years to vision science research to obtain a PhD or two to three years for post-doctoral fellowship in the event that the resident already has a doctorate.

**Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD**, Director of the EyeSTAR Program, believes that the program gives a real advantage to ophthalmologists who want to work in academic centers. “Young academicians starting in today’s competitive environment need rigorous scientific training to succeed. EyeSTAR generates leaders in ophthalmology who are investigators as well as clinicians. Our graduates are as comfortable at the laboratory bench as in the examining or operating rooms,” he says.

**Rewards of Residency**

Dr. Arnold affirms that completion of the UCLA ophthalmology residency training program is held in high regard. Graduating residents generally receive multiple offers for professional positions, and those who pursue further specialization in ophthalmology are frequently accepted into the most elite and prestigious fellowship training programs. Many graduates of the program go on to assume key leadership positions in ophthalmology, both here and abroad.

For Dr. Arnold, who is himself a graduate of UCLA’s residency and fellowship training programs, the most rewarding part of working with residents is “seeing their professional, medical and surgical skills develop as they go through the program. There’s a huge transformation over the three years,” he comments. “There’s also a sense of payback—I went through the UCLA ophthalmology training program as a resident and now I’m directing the program to mentor these young doctors.”

**JSEI RECEIVES HIGH RANKINGS**

**Jules Stein Among Top Ophthalmology Programs**

Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) is among the top ophthalmology programs in the United States in the 2007 survey of Best Programs by *Ophthalmology Times*. Published on October 15, 2007, the rankings were determined by polling 214 chairpersons and residency directors from ophthalmology departments across the nation.

JSEI ranked fourth in the Best Overall Program category for outstanding work in teaching and developing residents into the nation’s up-and-coming ophthalmologists, educating the public about eye care, and embracing and promoting the philosophy of continued research among professional staff. The Institute also received high national rankings for Best Clinical Programs, Research Programs and Residency Programs.



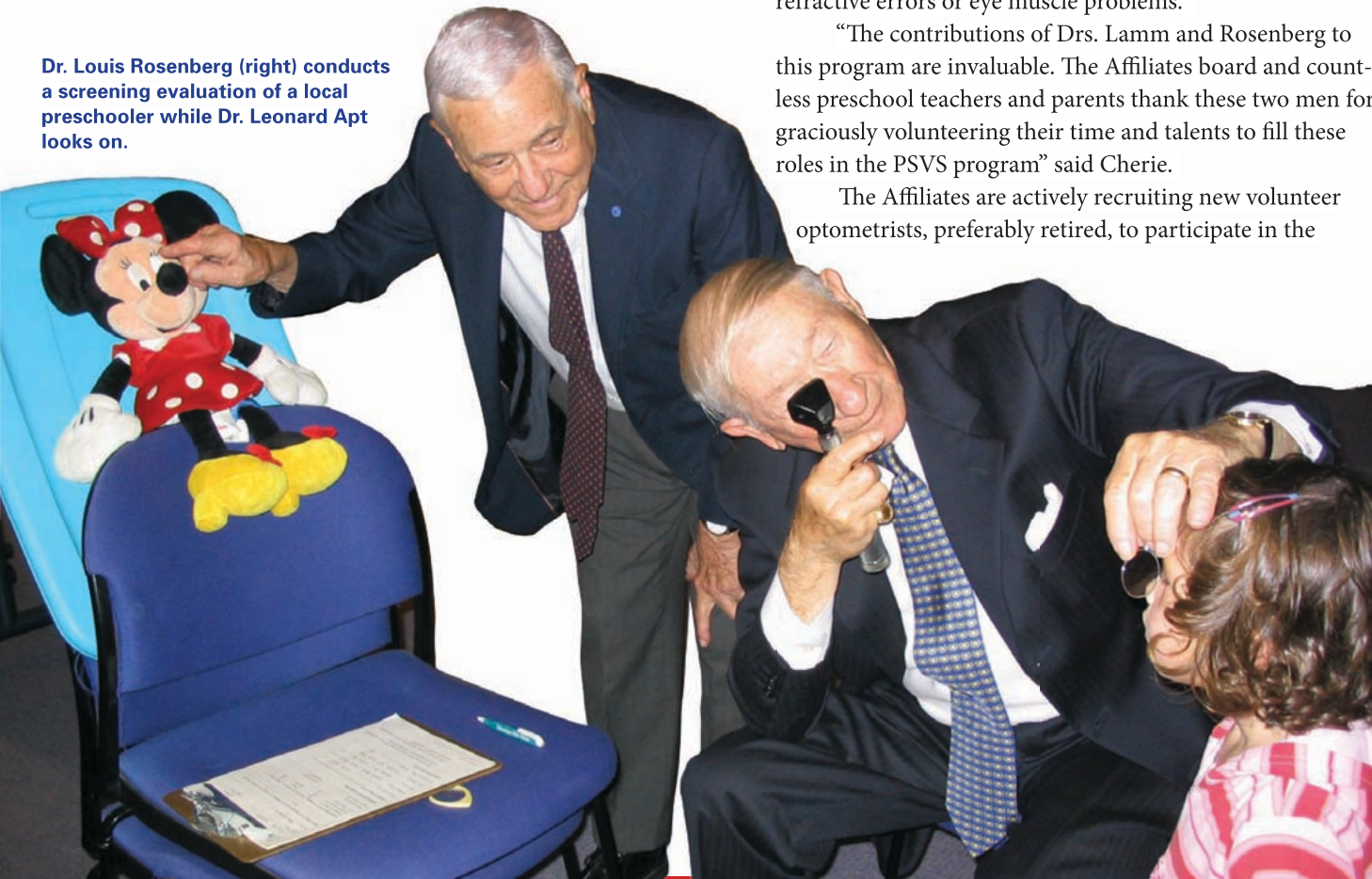
Third-year ophthalmology resident Dr. Stacy Pineles

# Community Outreach

## Doctors that **Power** the Program!

Under the supervision of medical advisor **Leonard Apt, MD**, the JSEI Affiliates Preschool Vision Screening (PSVS) program greatly depends on retired optometrists and volunteers **Jule Lamm, OD**, and **Louis Rosenberg, OD**, to keep the program going. The program, which was modified in 2005 to include a certified optometrist at every school screening, has made a significant impact in the Los Angeles area. Over 450 children were screened free-of-charge at 15 different sessions during the 2006–2007 school year alone.

**Dr. Louis Rosenberg (right) conducts a screening evaluation of a local preschooler while Dr. Leonard Apt looks on.**



“Having an optometrist at each screening to check for the presence of strabismus and abnormal refractive errors has allowed the Affiliates to offer a more comprehensive vision screening to many children who could otherwise not afford an eye exam,” noted **Cherie Hubbell**, Affiliates Chair.

Vision problems affect one in 20 preschoolers; however, most children are unaware that they are not seeing properly. The Affiliates provides vision screenings to various community locations to identify young children who have refractive errors or eye muscle problems.

“The contributions of Drs. Lamm and Rosenberg to this program are invaluable. The Affiliates board and countless preschool teachers and parents thank these two men for graciously volunteering their time and talents to fill these roles in the PSVS program” said Cherie.

The Affiliates are actively recruiting new volunteer optometrists, preferably retired, to participate in the



**PVSP optometrists conduct screening evaluations of local preschoolers: Dr. Jule Lamm and program volunteer.**

PSVS program. If you are interested in becoming a screening volunteer or scheduling a screening for a local preschool, contact us at (310) 825-4148 or [affiliates@jsei.ucla.edu](mailto:affiliates@jsei.ucla.edu).

### Special thanks to Dr. Teddy Holiday Donors!

The JSEI Affiliates thank its many special donors who contributed to its annual Make Surgery Bearable Holiday Sponsorship Campaign. The campaign raised funds to sponsor over 150 Dr. Teddy MD teddy bears for pediatric surgery patients at the Jules Stein Eye Institute. Dr. Teddy sponsorships can be submitted year round in honor or memory of a loved one, or to celebrate anniversaries or birthdays. Contact the JSEI Affiliates at (310) 825-4148 or [www.jsei-affiliates.com](http://www.jsei-affiliates.com) for further information.

## JSEI Affiliates Hosts *Holiday Volunteer Recognition Luncheon*

**Cherie Hubbell**, Chair of the JSEI Affiliates, hosted the Affiliates' eighth annual holiday luncheon on Monday, December 10, 2007, at the Hotel Bel-Air honoring its founding members, board members, program volunteers and special guests.

“The strength of the JSEI Affiliates programs depends on our dedicated volunteers whom we recognize at this special annual event,” Ms. Hubbell remarked. “The Affiliates accomplished new levels this year in each of our community outreach programs, results that would not have been possible without the commitment of our advisory board and dedication of our volunteers”.

To educate children about one of their most precious assets—their eyes—the Affiliates offer the Vision In-School program and Preschool Vision Screenings free of charge to elementary schools and preschools in the community. The organization also supports several successful patient programs including Make Surgery Bearable and Shared Vision, providing thousands of Dr. Teddy MD teddy bears to pediatric surgery patients at JSEI and over 15,000 pairs of donated and refurbished eyeglasses to adults and children who could not otherwise afford them.

If you would like more information about joining or volunteering with the JSEI Affiliates, please contact the Jules and Doris Stein UCLA Support Group at (310) 825-4148.



**The 2007 Holiday Luncheon paid a special tribute to the 1990 Founding Board Members of the JSEI Affiliates (second from left to right) Marilyn Hepler, Ruth Straatsma, Linda Valliant, Gerald Oppenheimer, Tracey Tatkin and Jill Stuart. Gail Oppenheimer, far left, an Affiliates Lifetime Member, is also pictured. Founding members not pictured include Dr. Leonard Apt, Jennifer Diener, Arlene Horowitz (deceased) and Sandra Rosenbaum.**



**From left, Board President Cherie Hubbell celebrates the day with fellow board members and program volunteers Marcia Lloyd and Audrey Bok.**



**Retired Optometrists and Preschool Vision Screening volunteers Drs. Jule Lamm (left) and Louis Rosenberg, accept a gift honoring their commitment to the preschool screening program.**

## A TRADITION OF GIVING

### The Karl Kirchgessner Foundation

Over the years, The Karl Kirchgessner Foundation, established in 1979, has generously supported critical research and outreach activities of the Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI). This tradition of giving dates back to 1963, when a long-time business associate and friend of **Dr. Jules Stein's**, known to us as **Mr. K.**, began making anonymous donations to JSEI. Mr. K., who remains anonymous to this day, was inspired by Dr. Stein's philanthropy and dedication to vision science. He began seeking treatment at JSEI under the care of **Dr. Robert Christensen**, the Founding Chief of the Glaucoma Division, and, as this relationship grew, Mr. K. asked Dr. Christensen for assistance in building a program that would bring eye care to underserved communities.

After years of planning, development and assembly, UCLA launched its Mobile Eye Clinic (MEC) on May 2, 1975. The MEC was supported by a fund Mr. K. established known as the Uncle Claude Fund.

In 1976, Mr. K. asked his attorney and friend **Martin H. Webster** to join him and **Arthur Park**, a former business associate from Music Corporation of America, as founding members and directors of the Uncle Claude Fund Committee—a group that would oversee and manage the expenditures of the Uncle Claude Fund. In 1979, Mr. K. and Mr. Webster began the process of creating a new charitable entity known as The Karl Kirchgessner Foundation to provide vision care principally to disadvantaged persons such as the young, the elderly and the handicapped. The Foundation was named in honor of Mr. K.'s Uncle Karl, as well as his great-uncle, whose last name, Kirchgessner, roughly translates as “churchgoer” in German.

The Foundation, funded in 1980 upon the death of Mr. K., continues in its mission to support providers of vision care for disadvantaged individuals, as well as underwrite the operations of the MEC. Since its inception, the Foundation has made grants of almost \$16 million, with more than \$4 million going to UCLA.

In 1984, at the urging of Mr. Webster, it established the Kirchgessner Foundation Ophthalmology Endowment Fund to support pioneering vision research. The Kirchgessner Foundation also endowed a chair at JSEI in 2001 to further basic science investigations. The current Kirchgessner Professor of Ophthalmology, **Debora B. Farber, PhD, DPhc**, is making great strides on the isolation and characterization of genes involved in inherited retinal degenerations. In 1998, Mr. Webster oversaw the establishment of the Foundation's Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), currently chaired by JSEI vision scientist **Dean Bok, PhD**, and including **Gabriel**

“The Karl Kirchgessner Foundation has been a pillar of support for our research and outreach endeavors. Countless investigations have been initiated and thousands of patients have visited the Mobile Eye Clinic, thanks to the Foundation's dedicated and generous philanthropy over so many years.”

**H. Travis, MD, and Jeannie Chen, PhD.** The mission of SAB is to identify promising but underfunded researchers as candidates for Foundation support.

**Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, JSEI's Director, stated, “The Karl Kirchgessner Foundation has been a pillar of support for our research and outreach endeavors. Countless investigations have been initiated and thousands of patients have visited the Mobile Eye Clinic, thanks to the Foundation's dedicated and generous philanthropy over so many years.”

Mr. Webster has served continuously as the Foundation's President since 1980, and continues to provide leadership and guidance to the Board of Directors. Born and raised in New York City, Mr. Webster received his BS in Engineering from the California Institute of Technology and his law degree from Harvard University. After serving in the United States Air Force during World War II, he began his illustrious career as a founding partner of the firm Webster, Jeppson and Jones, concentrating on tax, estate planning and business law. In addition to his involvement with the Foundation, Mr. Webster served on numerous committees at UCLA and in the Los Angeles community, including chairing the UCLA Medical Staff Affairs Committee and serving two terms as President of the Medical Center Board. He also served as President of both the Los Angeles County and Beverly Hills Bar Associations.

In 2002, Mr. Webster retired from the law firm of Greenberg Glusker, where he was considered by his colleagues as “a teacher and role model for many lawyers who followed him into the profession.” Currently, Mr. Webster lives in Del Mar, California, with his wife **Valerie**.

**Karl Kramer**, Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, and Director of The Karl Kirchgessner Foundation, has served on the Board of Directors with Mr. Webster since 1982. Mr. Kramer and his wife **Diana**, also a Board member, believe that “Martin's inspiration and leadership have been instrumental to the success of the Foundation, both in terms of its growth and dedication to its mission.”

The Jules Stein Eye Institute has been extremely fortunate to have the steadfast support and involvement of The Karl Kirchgessner Foundation, as well as the dedicated leadership of Martin Webster, for nearly three decades. Both Dr. Stein and Mr. K. would be pleased with this long-standing partnership to foster vision science and patient care services.

## Daljit S. and Elaine Sarkaria Stargardt Macular Dystrophy Research Fund



From left, JSEI scientists Drs. Dean Bok, Steven Nusinowitz and Michael Gorin are investigating therapies for Stargardt disease.

**Drs. Daljit S. and Elaine Sarkaria** made a generous \$1,025,000 pledge to further research in Stargardt macular dystrophy, the most common form of inherited juvenile macular degeneration. Affecting one in 10,000 children, this disease typically begins with six-to-12-year-old youngsters experiencing dark adaptation problems and central vision loss and leads to legal blindness. Daljit and Elaine's daughter **Gita Sarkaria-Englert, DDS**, and son-in-law **Jon Englert, DDS**, encouraged the family's support of a planned five-year study that promises to yield significant new information that will ultimately benefit future generations of Stargardt disease patients.

Several clinicians and basic scientists at the Jules Stein Eye Institute are engaged in innovative studies to understand the biological basis of vision loss in patients with Stargardt disease. Generous support from the Sarkarias will allow investigators to expand the translational component of their study and test therapies to halt or slow the progressive vision loss. **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, Director of the Jules Stein Eye Institute, stated that “Our faculty are at the forefront of Stargardt disease research. The magnificent investment from the Sarkaria family will facilitate the advancement of this important work from the laboratory bench to a clinical trial and bring us closer to developing and applying new therapies for patients.” Since this devastating disease is primarily inherited as an autosomal recessive disorder, in which both parents are carriers of the Stargardt gene, gene replacement strategies will be a primary focus of the investigations.

Daljit Sarkaria, a retired pathologist, completed his residency training at UCLA after receiving his medical degree in 1957 from New York State University at Buffalo and doctoral degree from Cornell University in 1949. Elaine Sarkaria received her doctorate in education from UCLA in 1973. They are generous donors to the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and most recently established the Daljit S. and Elaine Sarkaria Clinical Research and Biomarkers Center at UCLA.



Below a painting of Doris Stein are founding board members of The Karl Kirchgessner Foundation (left to right) Rev. Patrick Cahalan, S.J., Karl Kramer, Lewis Whitney, Martin Webster and Louise Mills.

## Jerome and Joan Snyder Chair in Ophthalmology

**Jerome and Joan Snyder**, dedicated supporters of the Jules Stein Eye Institute and UCLA for more than 20 years, have made a generous \$1-million pledge to establish the Jerome and Joan Snyder Chair in Ophthalmology. This endowment will support the activities of a distinguished faculty member who directs the Ophthalmology Residency Program, ensuring that UCLA's accredited program continues to offer rigorous and comprehensive instruction for individuals of the highest caliber. These talented and skilled residents from the best medical schools across the country make significant contributions to vision science while at UCLA and grow into leadership positions in ophthalmology once they graduate.

Jerome Snyder is the founder and senior partner of the J.H. Snyder Company, one of the largest privately held real estate development firms in Los Angeles. Since 1949, his company has had nearly three-million feet of retail and entertainment developments, more than two-million square feet of premier-class office space, and more than 41,000 homes and residential units to its credit. As of January 2005, the firm had approximately \$1.5 billion worth of projects in planning and construction including mix-use retail, residential and multi-family properties throughout Southern California. In addition to his steadfast involvement in the Jules Stein Eye Institute, Mr. Snyder has generously supported UCLA's Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning. Joan Parker Snyder and her family have been long-time friends of the Institute, as well.

This endowment will enable the Residency Program Director to continue to advance the curriculum in order to train highly competent and ethical physicians, who then become first-class comprehensive ophthalmologists, subspecialists and scientists. This important resource will allow the Institute to continue its leadership in residency education. **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, Director of the Jules Stein Eye Institute, declared, "We are so thrilled with Joan and Jerry's commitment to our residency training program. This exceptional source of funding is guaranteed to yield great future rewards for UCLA in particular and vision science in general."



Joan and Jerome Snyder with their two Akitas



Over 60 basic scientists and clinical researchers attended the Thirteenth Annual Vision Science Conference in Lake Arrowhead, California.

## Vision Science c o n f e r e n c e

On September 7–9, 2007, over 60 basic scientists and clinical researchers gathered for the Thirteenth Annual Vision Science Conference at the UCLA Conference Center in Lake Arrowhead, California. The event was sponsored by the National Eye Institute Vision Science Training Grant and the Jules Stein Eye Institute.

Highlighting the weekend was a presentation by keynote speaker **Mark Humayan, MD, PhD**, Professor in the Department of Neuroscience, Keck Medical School at the University of Southern California, who discussed his work on the development of the prosthetic retina, a device that has been demonstrated to enable formerly blind patients to utilize the sense of sight. Ethics speaker **Stanley Korenman, MD**, Associate Dean of Ethics at the Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, presented an overview of ethical questions relevant to scientific research, and discussed the processes by which decisions are made when dilemmas are encountered. He followed his presentation by inviting attendees to resolve several hypothetical ethical dilemmas via open discussion. These presentations, along with a variety of talks and poster sessions, engaged participants in stimulating conversation throughout the weekend.

This year's conference planning committee included committee chair **Rob K. Fanter** and co-chair **John Ramirez**, as well as **Alejandra Young**, **Veena P. Theendakara**, **Shaheen Karim, MD**, **Michael Woodruff, PhD**, **Chenyang Guo**, **Gergana Kodjebacheva**, **Joanna Kaylor, PhD**, and **Chris Cooke**, Vision Science Grant Coordinator. **Nicholas C. Brecha, PhD**, served as the committee's faculty advisor.

## Aesthetic Eyelid and Orbitofacial Surgery Course

The Aesthetic Eyelid and Orbitofacial Surgery course was held at the Jules Stein Eye Institute on July 6–7, 2007, under the auspices of the Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Division. The course combines live surgical demonstrations, cadaver dissection and didactic lectures. It draws ophthalmologists from around the world to learn about the latest advances in aesthetic and reconstructive surgery of the eyelids and face, many of which have been pioneered at the Institute. The annual Robert Axelrod Memorial Lecture was given by **Jeffrey Green, MD**, of New York. A special featured lecture was presented by **Val Lambros, MD**, of Newport Beach.

Dr. Henry Baylis performs a dissection as course participants observe.



## Robert H. Ahmanson

The Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) staff, faculty and trustees were greatly saddened with the passing of **Robert H. Ahmanson** on September 1, 2007, at the age of 80. Mr. Ahmanson became a member of the Board of Trustees of the Institute in 1992 and served loyally and faithfully in this capacity for 15 years. Through The Ahmanson Foundation, he and his family supported JSEI since 1969, most notably creating the UCLA Center for Eye Epidemiology and the Ahmanson Chair in Ophthalmology. **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, JSEI Director, stated, "Bob was an incredible friend to the Institute and, on a personal level, the advice and support he provided to me over the years were invaluable and greatly appreciated. He will be sadly missed."

Born in Omaha, Nebraska, Mr. Ahmanson came to Los Angeles in 1944. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from UCLA in 1949 and met Kathleen, his wife of 52 years. He went to work for his uncle, financier Howard F. Ahmanson, at H. F. Ahmanson & Co., and Home Savings and Loan Association. Central to his work at the company was oversight of construction of the branch offices in Southern California; the many edifices which still stand today are a testament to his care and dedication. Since 1974, he served as Trustee and President of The Ahmanson Foundation.

In addition to his involvement with JSEI, Mr. Ahmanson also served as trustee of numerous organizations including the Brain Mapping Medical Research Organization, Research to Prevent Blindness, Los Angeles County Museum of Art and Marlborough School. His numerous awards include honorary doctorates from Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Pepperdine University, Art Center College of Design and Creighton University. In 1986, he received the UCLA Gold Medal in recognition of his leadership in the finance industry, devotion to philanthropy and outstanding support of the University. He was an avid sailor and had a great fondness for organ music and classic cars. His interest in radio led to membership in the Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters.

Mr. Ahmanson is survived by **Mrs. Ahmanson**, sons **William** and **Robert**, daughter **Karen Hoffman** and seven grandchildren.

**Steven D. Schwartz, MD**, Chief of JSEI's Retina Division and the Ahmanson Professor of Ophthalmology, is a long-time family friend of the Ahmansons. He spoke at the memorial celebration on September 14, 2007, presided over by Cardinal Roger Mahony at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels: "Bob led a life of exemplary conduct and virtue, a truly attendant and generous spirit who not only shared his personal support with individuals, but who helped build every sector of our amazing city. I will miss Bob not only because he was an inspirational local visionary and philanthropic leader, but because he was a dear friend."



**Robert Ahmanson (left) and Dr. Steven Schwartz**

## Stein/Oppenheimer Awards

In 1990, JSEI Board of Trustee **Mr. Gerald (Jerry) H. Oppenheimer** established the Stein/Oppenheimer Endowment Fund to further medical research, education and patient care at the UCLA Center for Health Sciences. These seed grants enable scientists, clinicians and others to generate preliminary data for use in subsequent applications to federal and private funding organizations. Through support of specific projects, these awards enhance UCLA's commitment to comprehensive excellence in the biomedical field. Since the program's inception, an investment of approximately \$3.85 million has generated more than \$77 million in new research grants to UCLA, a 20-fold return.

The 17th annual reception held at the Jules Stein Eye Institute on October 30, 2007, allowed UCLA's Stein/Oppenheimer Award recipients to highlight their findings with a poster display and speak with guests on the scientific process of their research. The program now includes additional seed grant programs for Complementary, Alternative and Integrative Medicine; Prevention of Eye Disease; and Clinical Translational Medicine.

By providing seed money for innovative projects that are in the initial stages of development and have no alternative funding sources, Gail and Jerry Oppenheimer have enabled nearly 220 young scientists to engage in pioneering and promising investigations.



**(Left to right) Dr. James Bisley describes his study on visual attention to Dr. Leonard Rome, Senior Associate Dean, Research, Mrs. Gloria McClintock, Ambassador Glen A. Holden, and Jerry and Gail Oppenheimer.**

### The 2007 grant award recipients in the Center for Prevention of Eye Disease program include:

Anthony J. Aldave, MD  
Associate Professor of Ophthalmology

Vivek S. Yellore, PhD  
Staff Research Associate  
Department of Ophthalmology

*Identification of the Genetic Basis of Keratoconus Using a Candidate Gene Approach Incorporating Gene Expression and Linkage Analysis Data*

Dario Ringach, PhD  
Associate Professor of Neurobiology  
Member, Jules Stein Eye Institute

*Tracking Eye Movements by Imaging the Corneal Vasculature*

Tara A. Young, MD, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology  
Director, Ophthalmic Oncology Center

*Genetic Aberrations in Choroidal Melanoma: A Strategy to Prevent Metastasis*

Alex Yuan, MD, PhD  
EyeSTAR Resident

Debora B. Farber, PhD, DPhhc  
Karl Kirchgessner Professor of Ophthalmology

*Preventing Blindness Using Embryonic Stem Cell Microvesicles*

Guido A. Zampighi, PhD  
Professor of Neurobiology  
Member, Jules Stein Eye Institute

*Conical Electron Tomography as a Tool to Understand Lens Transparency and Cataract Formation*

## New Faculty

# David S. Williams, PhD

It is a great pleasure to announce that **David S. Williams, PhD**, has been appointed Professor of Ophthalmology in the Basic Science Division at UCLA's Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI), effective November 1, 2007. He also has an adjunct appointment as Professor of Neurobiology in UCLA's Department of Neurobiology. He was awarded the prestigious Jules and Doris Stein RPB Professorship in 2007.

Dr. Williams received his doctorate in neurobiology from Australian National University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in retinal cell biology from University of California, Santa Barbara. Dr. Williams gained further vision science laboratory experience at JSEI as an Assistant Research Scientist before joining the faculty at Indiana University. He was an Adjunct Professor in the Departments of Pharmacology and Neurosciences at University of California, San Diego, prior to his recruitment to UCLA.

Dr. Williams has had more than 90 refereed papers accepted for publication and is the Principal Investigator of four current extramural grants. His investigations center on cell biological studies of the retina in relation to retinal function and inherited retinal disease. His current studies focus on the role of molecular motors for the function and viability of photoreceptor and retinal pigment epithelium cells—primarily their role in protein and organelle transport within these cells. The identification of roles of different motors has advanced the molecular understanding of cellular events, such as disk membrane renewal and associated retinal disease.

He is also interested in the translation of basic science of the retina to clinical research. His investigations of myosin VIIa (an unconventional actin-based motor protein) have enabled the establishment of assays that are being used in preclinical studies on gene therapy for Usher syndrome, an inherited eye disorder that involves both congenital sensorineural deafness and retinitis pigmentosa. In addition, work with mutant mice (especially kinesin mutants) has led to the development of useful models for retinal degeneration, including age-related macular degeneration. Investigations involving these mice will test the effects of certain classes of small molecules on disease progression.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Williams to JSEI's Vision Science Division. His research will greatly broaden our knowledge of inherited retinal disorders and increase our understanding of how to treat these persistent eye diseases.



## Faculty Honors and Awards

Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology and Director of UCLA's Residency Training Program **Anthony C. Arnold, MD**, co-chaired the Curso de Directores de Residencias Oftalmologicas (Residency Program Directors Course) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on July 16–17, 2007. Sponsored by the International Council of Ophthalmology, the two-day intensive course was designed to advance ophthalmology residency education worldwide. Dr. Arnold also presented the primary guest lecture in neuro-ophthalmology at the Argentine Congress of Ophthalmology in Buenos Aires, on July 18–20, 2007.

**Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD**, Leonard Apt Professor of Ophthalmology, was visiting professor and Angeline Parks Lecturer at Children's National Medical Center, Washington, D.C., on September 7, 2007. The named lecture was entitled, "Orbital Connective Tissues in Binocular Alignment and Strabismus."

Professor of Ophthalmology **Robert Alan Goldberg, MD**, was elected to the American Academy of Ophthalmology Ophthalmic News and Education Editorial Board, in July 2007. He was also a featured invited speaker at the Turkish Society of Ophthalmology, on October 31, 2007, in Antalya, Turkey.

Associate Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology **David Sarraf, MD**, received the Achievement Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology in recognition of his long tenure as a contributing member of the Ophthalmology Liaisons Committee. The Committee publishes and edits educational resources aimed at other fields of medicine requiring ophthalmology education.

## EYELINES

The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association hosted its annual reception at the American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, on Sunday, November 11, 2007, at the W Hotel. Over 150 JSEI faculty members, staff, and resident and fellow alumni from around the world gathered to renew acquaintances and reconnect with old friends.



From left, Dr. and Mrs. Henry Baylis, and Dr. Tanuj Nakra



From left, Dr. Robert Goldberg, UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association Secretary/Treasurer, and Dr. Bartly Mondino, JSEI Director, greet Dr. Roy Wilson, former JSEI faculty member and current Chancellor of the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center.



JSEI faculty members and alumni Drs. Lynn Gordon (left) and Joann Giaconi



From left, Glaucoma faculty members Drs. Joseph Caprioli and Anne Coleman with alumna Dr. Bronwyn Bateman.



Clinical faculty members Drs. Howard Krauss and Kathryn Gardner; Dr. Gardner is the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Alumni Association President.

# Special Events

## Los Angeles VISIONWALK

On Sunday, November 4, 2007, hundreds of walkers gathered at UCLA to support Foundation Fighting Blindness (FFB) in its inaugural Los Angeles VISIONWALK. Family, friends, doctors, researchers and those stricken with retinal degenerative diseases assembled together to walk for a cure. Among the walkers were **Dean Bok, PhD**, JSEI vision scientist and VisionWalk's honorary chair, and more than 40 t-shirt clad members of the JSEI Affiliates Team. The Foundation's 5K signature walk-a-thon was a great success, raising close to \$130,000 to support the work of researchers worldwide to find preventions, treatments and cures for retinal degenerative disease. It also helped FFB get its hopeful message, "A Cure is In Sight," out to the community—a goal that we at JSEI share in everyday.

FFB is the largest non-governmental organization in the world dedicated to funding retinal degenerative research.



Team JSEI leads the way to walk for a cure.



From left, JSEI staff members Marcia Lloyd, Gloria Jurisic and Teresa Closson with friend Melissa Volpicelli



From left, JSEI laboratory technician Jane Coffman with her daughter Kristin, and JSEI Affiliates volunteer and former staff member Toshka Abrams



Dr. Wayne Hubbell (left), JSEI Affiliates team leader, with Dr. Dean Bok, FFB VisionWalk Honorary Chair

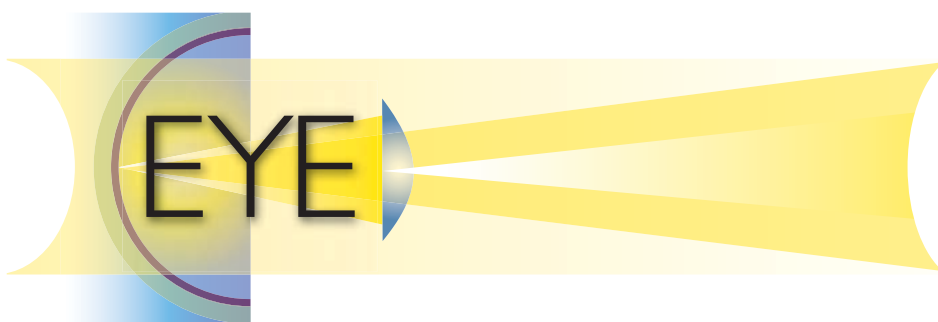
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#### Patient Care

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 after hours (310) 825-2111

#### Fund Raising

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



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