

EYE

JULES STEIN EYE INSTITUTE UCLA

Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Division Bolstered by New Recruits, Reorganization



Dr. Stacy Pineles and division chief Dr. Joseph Demer confer in the Ocular Motility Laboratory about the neuroanatomy of the eye socket.

Jules Stein Eye Institute's (JSEI's) Division of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus, already a world leader in research and treatment of both common and complex eye problems, has been bolstered by the addition of two new faculty members and reorganization designed to improve patient service. Leonard Apt Professor of Pediatric Ophthalmology **Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD**, a pioneer in the use of imaging to understand strabismus and double vision, succeeded division chief **Arthur L. Rosenbaum, MD**, following Dr. Rosenbaum's death in June 2010. Dr. Rosenbaum had served as chief since 1980.

A World Leader in Treating Complex Strabismus

The division is world-renowned for its treatment of both children and adults with strabismus: a misalignment of the eyes that can cause disabling double vision in adults and vision loss from amblyopia in children. Patients with complicated strabismus come to JSEI from all over the world to take advantage of the division's expertise, particularly its unparalleled strength in the use of functional magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the eye muscles and nerves as a tool for strabismus diagnosis and treatment.

"Functional MRI has recently evolved to view internal parts of the body, but through 20 years of grant support from the National Eye Institute we have adapted

continued on page 2



REMEMBERING JULES STEIN

A Man of Vision

"I wish my funeral to be a joyous occasion and not one of mourning. I think that I have been fortunate in living beyond four score years with many successful ventures and accomplishments and a very full life so that today should be one of celebration."

Quote from a script written by Jules Stein for his Memorial Service, May 3, 1981

continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Visionaries International: Reducing Global Corneal Blindness



4

PHILANTHROPY

In Memoriam: Jeanne A. Rappaport Bequests—Creating a Legacy

INSTITUTE NEWS

Faculty Honors
In Memoriam: Irvin S. Pilger, MD

5

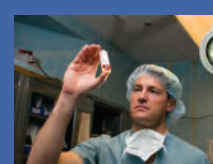
ACADEMIC NEWS

New Ophthalmology Fellows
New Directorship of Ophthalmic Education Program
Residency Match
EYELines
Introduction to Clinical Research Course

6

FACULTY FOCUS

Anthony J. Aldave, MD
Associate Professor of Ophthalmology



7

SPECIAL EVENTS



Ocular Melanoma Discussed at March Medical Forum

8



Dr. Federico Velez has a busy clinical practice at JSEI, specializing in pediatric and adult strabismus, and childhood eye disorders.

MRI to see the structure and function of the eye muscles,” Dr. Demer explains. “By viewing these muscles in action, we can learn a great deal about how and why they are working improperly. This allows us to distinguish among alternative causes of complicated strabismus and decide how best to treat the patient.”

In addition to seeing the most complex strabismus in children and adults, the division is well equipped to provide comprehensive pediatric ophthalmology services. This includes treatment of conditions such as congenital cataract and eyelid abnormalities; birth defects involving the eyes; tearing problems; eye injuries; eye infections; and neurological conditions affecting the eyes. Comprehensive pediatric ophthalmology can include monitoring for ocular effects of systemic diseases or ocular side effects of anti-seizure and other medications. Faculty members in the division also treat other eye movement abnormalities in children and adults.

Faculty Expertise

The new additions strengthening the division’s faculty are **Federico G. Velez, MD**, and **Stacy L. Pineles, MD**. Dr. Velez completed his fellowship training at JSEI and then worked both in the practice of Dr. Rosenbaum and as head of pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center. Although all division faculty members handle every type of pediatric

ophthalmology problem, Dr. Velez’s particular clinical interests have been in complex strabismus and pediatric cataract surgery. He was a co-investigator with Dr. Rosenbaum on National Institutes of Health-funded research on artificial electrical stimulation of paralyzed eye muscles to correct strabismus.

Dr. Pineles, a graduate of JSEI’s residency program, completed a fellowship in pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus at JSEI before going to the University of Pennsylvania for a fellowship in neuro-ophthalmology. As a pediatric neuro-ophthalmologist, she specializes in evaluating neurological problems affecting the eyes. Dr. Pineles is pursuing translational research in pediatric ophthalmology, strabismus, and neuro-ophthalmology, including electrophysiology to measure visual function in the youngest children, as well as the study of binocular summation—the additive effect of seeing with two rather than one eye. Dr. Pineles also consults at the Long Beach Comprehensive Health Center and supervises ophthalmology residents at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

Continuing as a long-term member of the division’s faculty is **Sherwin J. Isenberg, MD**, Laraine and David Gerber Professor of Pediatric Ophthalmology. In addition to his roles as vice-chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at UCLA and chief of ophthalmology at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, Dr. Isenberg is co-director with Dr. Demer of JSEI’s clinical fellowship in pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus, which brings one international and two domestic trainees to the division each year. Dr. Isenberg’s research and clinical interests are in international and neonatal ophthalmology. Among other things, he is an expert in the monitoring of blood gases in babies’ blood through measurements made on the surface of the eye, which holds promise for reducing pediatric blindness.

Dr. Isenberg has also had a longtime collaboration with **Leonard Apt, MD**, founding chief of the Division of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus at JSEI, in pioneering the use of povidone-iodine to prevent blindness in the developing world. Drs. Isenberg and Apt found that the antiseptic was effective in preventing ophthalmia neonatorum, a contagious blinding disease that infects newborns in the birth canal.

The doctors showed that this form of iodine is highly effective in the prevention and treatment of acquired bacterial and chlamydial eye infections in people of all ages. Besides being effective, the approach costs pennies to administer—a particular boon in the developing world. Dr. Apt, the first U.S. physician to be board-certified in both pediatrics and ophthalmology, continues as emeritus professor.

Dr. Demer, a bioengineer whose laboratories have been supported by the National Eye Institute for more than two decades to study the biomechanics and treatment of strabismus, continues to investigate the use of functional imaging to discover what causes the eyes to misalign, while also pursuing basic science research aiming to better understand the causes of strabismus and improve treatments. His other research projects include studying amblyopia and investigating the genetic causes of inherited cases of eye muscle disease.

Reorganization Improves Patient Experience

The Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Division is also changing to ensure a smoother experience for patients. The changes include the addition of pediatric optometrist **Sarah Yi, OD**, who works with the faculty to evaluate patients and manage contact lenses.

Ms. Yolanda McNair now centrally supervises patient care administration. Dr. Demer notes that this administrative reorganization has streamlined clinical support, reducing waiting times for appointments and surgeries and improving communication among staff, patients, and referring physicians.

“We all regret that Dr. Rosenbaum is no longer with us,” concludes Dr. Demer, “but we are building on the collegiality and training he provided for so many years to take the JSEI Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Division to new levels of excellence.”

Patients with complicated strabismus come to JSEI from all over the world to take advantage of the division’s expertise, particularly its unparalleled strength in the use of functional magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the eye muscles and nerves as a tool for strabismus diagnosis and treatment.



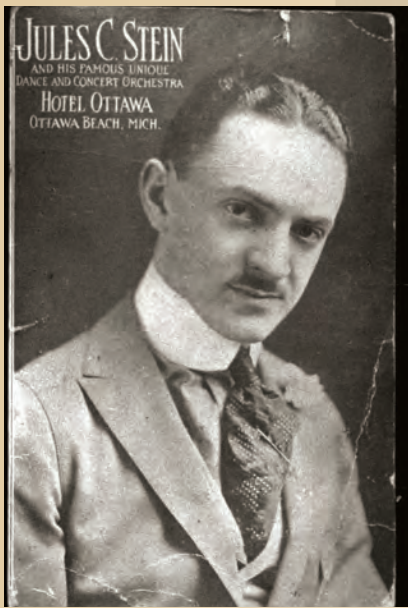
Dr. Sherwin Isenberg’s research and clinical interests are in international and neonatal ophthalmology.

REMEMBERING JULES STEIN

A Man of Vision

The words of Jules Stein quoted throughout this text reflect the intensity of his commitment to the advancement of eye research.

“Unless and until ophthalmological research is given the funds, the facilities, the people and the status it merits, blindness will continue to exact its heavy toll in human suffering and economic waste.”



Jules Stein started his career as a musician and ophthalmologist, but gained international recognition as a businessman in the entertainment industry and as a philanthropist. In 1960, he founded Research to Prevent Blindness, today the world's leading voluntary organization in support of vision research.

APRIL 29, 2011, MARKED THE 30-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF JULES STEIN. His death at age 85 deprived the world of one of its most creative geniuses in the entertainment industry and one of its greatest philanthropists, especially in vision science and blindness prevention.

“Why are they blind? How can we prevent blindness from happening?” When Jules Stein asked these questions in 1960, he embarked on a quest that would lead to a renaissance in eye research and the medical means for preserving and restoring sight.

Born in South Bend, Indiana, Jules Stein received degrees from the University of Chicago and Rush Medical College. In the early 1920s, he left a promising medical practice in ophthalmology and founded a small talent agency in Chicago called the Music Corporation of America (MCA). Under his brilliant leadership, MCA developed into a major force in the world of mass entertainment, earning national and international renown.

At age 65, he had achieved legendary success in the entertainment industry after leaving the practice of ophthalmology a generation before. Now, encouraged by his wife, Doris, he combined his love for ophthalmology and deep dedication to philanthropy with a unique talent for analysis and organization to find

preventions, cures, and better methods of treatment for eye disease.

At the Memorial Service for Jules Stein held on Sunday, May 3, 1981, founding director of the Jules Stein Eye Institute, Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD, described Jules Stein's philanthropic achievements, calling him “an inspiration and an example of what one person—principled, determined, and warmly human—can accomplish.”

In 1960, Jules Stein created a voluntary organization—Research to Prevent Blindness—to begin the mammoth task of regenerating the field of vision science. He founded UCLA's Jules Stein Eye Institute, which is famous throughout the world for its excellence in eye research and its success in treating and preventing eye disease. Because of his efforts to increase public awareness of eye disease and the need for increased public support of eye research, a National Eye Institute was created as part of the National Institutes of Health.

Jules Stein died in 1981, leaving a legacy of hope to the world. His genius and generosity created a living force, and with it, he successfully explored new paths toward a future free from the threat of blindness. The exploration goes on, propelled by his memory and the ever-replenishing resources he created for eye research and the means to preserve and restore sight for future generations.



Standing in front of the Institute named in his honor, Jules Stein (left) with founding director Dr. Bradley Straatsma. In a joyful ceremony at UCLA (above), Doris Stein inaugurated the construction of the Jules Stein Eye Institute.

“Here will come the students of medicine, the minds and the hands that will someday preserve the gift of sight in those brushed by the tragedy of imminent blindness.”



In recognition of his tremendous contributions, Jules Stein received honorary doctoral degrees from several universities, including UCLA (above). Among his additional honors was the Certificate of Distinguished Service from the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (right).



“In the years to come, I believe that I will be remembered more for whatever I have achieved in preventing blindness than for all the success I have attained in the world of business.”

Community Outreach

Visionaries International: Reducing Global Corneal Blindness

Anthony J. Aldave, MD, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at UCLA's Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) and founder of Visionaries International (VI), first went to India during his cornea fellowship in 2002 to conduct research on an inherited disease of the cornea. At the Aravind Eye Institute in Madurai, he was struck by the sheer volume of patients and the number of surgeries performed. While impressed by the surgical skills of the corneal surgeons he met, he realized during this and subsequent trips to India that newer techniques of corneal transplant surgery, enjoying widespread use in the United States, were not being performed.

"The surgeons that I observed in India were very skilled. They simply had not been trained to perform partial thickness and artificial corneal transplant surgery," Dr. Aldave explained. "I thought, well, this is silly. If all I had to do was to travel to India to teach these new techniques of corneal transplantation to the surgeons there, so their patients could benefit from these surgical advances as my patients had, I felt obligated to do so.

Once I became aware of the need, I couldn't ignore it."

Dr. Aldave returned to India in 2008 to teach surgeons in Delhi and Madurai the relatively new technique of artificial corneal transplant surgery. By that time, he had four-year results from performing the surgery at JSEI, and was confident that this technique would be of great benefit in India, especially given the country's shortage of good-quality corneal tissue. The trip initiated a cascade of activities that ultimately

resulted in the creation of VI, a non-profit humanitarian organization dedicated to reducing corneal blindness worldwide.

According to the World Health Organization, 161 million individuals worldwide are visually impaired, which represents 2.6% of the world's population. It is estimated that 37 million individuals worldwide are blind, eight million from corneal disease. Corneal blindness is the world's fourth leading cause of blindness, following cataract, glaucoma, and age-related macular degeneration.

VI strives to reduce global corneal blindness through enabling corneal surgeons around the world to perform traditional and novel forms of corneal transplantation. The organization's main efforts are directed at transferring surgical skills to corneal surgeons located in academic centers and major eye institutes in developing countries.

"Put simply, the model that VI follows is that of *training the trainers*. We realize that if we concentrate on training leading corneal surgeons in their respective countries, they will then train other corneal surgeons in the newer forms of corneal transplant surgery," said Dr. Aldave. In countries where quality corneal tissue is in short supply, VI also facilitates the development and growth of eye banks, and in India works with industry to manufacture affordable artificial corneas.

In 2009, **Sophie X. Deng, MD, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at JSEI, and **Roberto Pineda, MD**, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School—both experienced corneal surgeons with years of experience in international ophthalmology—joined VI. In the last several years, they along with Dr. Aldave have traveled to 13 countries around the globe to transfer surgical skills to corneal specialists, typically returning to each location to ensure that the surgical techniques demonstrated are being practiced and that outcomes meet expectations.

Dr. Aldave is confident that the VI model is working. "I was recently approached by a corneal surgeon from Kolkata (formerly Calcutta) at an international meeting where I was presenting. He had already performed 20 artificial corneal transplant surgeries and was very excited about the results. This doctor had received training from a doctor who I trained in Delhi, and he was now training other doctors in India. It was very satisfying to see that our model is actually working," he said.

Asked about his aspirations for VI, Dr. Aldave commented, "I would like to see VI grow, so that we can better integrate our missions. That would necessitate more doctors and more funding, and collaborations with like-minded organizations. What I'd really like to see, is that eventually we go out of business. If every country had the same access to corneal tissue and surgical techniques and technologies that we enjoy in the United States, there would be no need for VI. That would be my dream!"

For more information about Visionaries International, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, please visit <http://www.visionaries-international.org>

Dr. Anthony Aldave demonstrating partial thickness corneal transplant surgery in Yerevan, Armenia.



Dr. Roberto Pineda and young patients on a trip to Ethiopia in 2009.

Dr. Sophie Deng (second from left) examining a patient at the Shanghai Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital, Fudan University.



"I thought, well, this is silly. If all I had to do was to travel to India to teach these new techniques of corneal transplantation to the surgeons there, so their patients could benefit from these surgical advances as my patients had, I felt obligated to do so. Once I became aware of the need, I couldn't ignore it," said Dr. Aldave.



Mrs. Jeanne Rappaport

In Memoriam

Jeanne A. Rappaport

Mrs. Jeanne A. Rappaport, a long-time supporter of UCLA's Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI), passed away peacefully on December 6, 2010. A native of Philadelphia, she was a Brentwood resident for 50 years and had a successful career in real estate development in California and Texas.

Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD, Founding Director of JSEI, comments, "With broad cultural and philanthropic interests, Jeanne Rappaport was a highly intelligent, charming, and elegant lady." A supporter of many charities, she was a major contributor to the theater, music, humanities, and sports in the community and at UCLA.

"I am grateful for Mrs. Rappaport's generosity and steadfast belief in the mission of the Institute," says JSEI Director **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**. "Her foresight in establishing the Frederic G. Rappaport Endowed Fellowship, in memory of her son, will continue to honor her legacy by training future generations of ophthalmologists who excel in the study of retinal abnormalities and tumors of the eye."

"She was an inspiration to me," reflects **Robert A. Goldberg, MD**, Karen and Frank Dabby Professor of Ophthalmology. "I always enjoyed her sense of humor, her intelligence, her graciousness, and her perseverance in the face of adversity. In those things, she was a role model for me. I miss her."

Mrs. Rappaport is predeceased by her son Frederic and two sisters. She is survived by her immediate family of son **Kenneth M. Rappaport** of La Jolla, a nephew and two nieces, and her brother **Leonard Apt, MD**, Professor Emeritus of Ophthalmology, who notes that, "Jeanne was my best friend and confidante, and her loss is felt every day."

The family has designated the Frederic G. Rappaport Endowed Fellowship Fund for memorial tributes. For more information, please contact the JSEI Development Office at (310) 206-6035.

Bequests

Creating a Legacy

Bequests made through wills and trusts are perhaps the most popular type of charitable gift. They provide the opportunity to create a personal legacy that will benefit UCLA's Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) after personal and family needs have been met.

Bequests are usually stated as a:

- ❖ percentage of an estate;
- ❖ specific dollar amount or specific device (e.g., personal residence);
- ❖ residual of an estate.

Benefits of a charitable bequest are:

- ❖ tax-effective means of supporting vision research and healthcare;
- ❖ use of the asset while you are alive;
- ❖ designation of your gift to a priority that meets your interests;
- ❖ revocable option that can be altered, if financial circumstances change.

What you should know about arranging a bequest

The Development Office is pleased to assist you and your legal counsel by providing sample language to ensure that your gift is used as you intend.

How bequests benefit JSEI

They represent a significant source of funds that support research, education, patient care, and public service programs. Bequests help JSEI maintain its position as the best eye care center in the Western United States.

For more information on how to include JSEI in your estate plans, please contact the JSEI Development Office at (310) 206-6035.

Institute News

Faculty Honors

Joseph Caprioli, MD, David May II Professor of Ophthalmology, presented the Fifth Annual Kass Lecture in the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences at Washington University in St. Louis, on February 9, 2011. The lecture was titled, "The Importance of Rates in Glaucoma."

Barry A. Weissman, OD, PhD, Professor of Ophthalmology, was re-elected for a second term on the California Optometric Association's Board of Trustees during its annual House of Delegates meeting in Visalia, California, February 4-5, 2011.

In Memoriam

Irvin S. Pilger, MD

Irvin S. Pilger, MD, UCLA Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, passed away on February 22, 2011, at the age of 96. Dr. Pilger joined the faculty at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in 1952, where he served as Chief of Ophthalmology for many years, directing both the ophthalmology clinical service and ophthalmology residency-training program. He stepped down from his full-time faculty activities in 1975, but remained in close contact with the teaching programs as an attending physician.

Throughout his years of professional activity, he had an enormously favorable impact on countless patients, faculty colleagues, resident ophthalmologists, and students in the School of Medicine. In 1991, UCLA's Department of Ophthalmology formally recognized Dr. Pilger's extended and extremely distinguished contributions by awarding him two of its highest honors: the Senior Honor Award, in recognition of more than 30 years of teaching resident doctors, and the S. Rodman Irvine Prize, which recognizes excellence among faculty. He is survived by his loving children Judith and John and his brother Max.

New Ophthalmology Fellows

We are pleased to introduce the following ophthalmologists entering clinical and international fellowships at the Jules Stein Eye Institute in the 2011–2012 academic year.

Clinical Fellows

Sara Akbari, MD

cornea-external ocular disease and refractive surgery

Jennifer Huang, MD

glaucoma

R. Duncan Johnson, MD

cornea-external ocular disease and refractive surgery

Michael Kapamajian, MD

glaucoma

Alla Kukuyev, MD

uveitis and inflammatory eye diseases

Joseph Lin, MD

orbital and ophthalmic plastic surgery

Carolyn Pan, MD

vitreoretinal diseases and surgery

Jason Peragallo, MD

pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus

Kirsta Schoeff, DO

pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus

Amelia Sheh, MD

glaucoma

Vinod Voleti, MD

vitreoretinal diseases and surgery

International Fellows

Khadijah Alattas, MD

pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus research from Saudi Arabia

Leticia Alves, MD

visual physiology research from Brazil

Pejvak Azadi, MD

glaucoma research from Iran

Ahmed Daifalla, MD

comprehensive ophthalmology research from Egypt

Joon Mo Kim, MD

glaucoma research from South Korea

Jocelyne Kohn, MD

orbital and ophthalmic plastic surgery research from Chile

FELLOWS

New Directorship of Ophthalmic Education Program for Medical Students

On January 1, 2011, **Gary N. Holland, MD**, Jack H. Skirball Professor of Ocular Inflammatory Diseases, and **JoAnn A. Giaconi, MD**, Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, assumed the co-directorship of the UCLA ophthalmic education program for medical students. Their activities include organizing the lectures and workshops for the first- and second-year medical students, as well as the third-year required ophthalmology week within the surgical clerkship.



Dr. Gary Holland



Dr. JoAnn Giaconi

Residency Match

The process of selecting ophthalmology residents takes place in the fall of each year for residents who will be entering the ophthalmology program a year and a half later. The four-month process includes the review of over 300 applications, the selection of about 50 applicants to be interviewed, and a final meeting where the applicants are ranked in order of preference. This rank order list is submitted to the nationwide SF Match service where it is compared to the participating medical students' preferences. When both the student and ophthalmology program rank each other at the same level, a "match" has occurred and a new resident is then contracted to join the program.

In late January of last year, residency selection chairman **Robert Alan Goldberg, MD**, was informed of the results of the ophthalmology residency "match" for 2011. The following applicants, selected over a year ago, will serve as Jules Stein Eye Institute House Officers beginning July 1, 2011:

Meena S. George, MD

Columbia University
New York, NY

Anthony Joseph, MD

Duke University
Durham, NC

Tina Kao Ku, MD

University of California
at San Francisco
San Francisco, CA

Robert R. Kule, MD

New York University
New York, NY

Christine F. Lin, MD

Northwestern University
Chicago, IL

C. Nathaniel Roybal, MD, PhD (EyeSTAR)

University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM

Anitra D. Thomas, MD

Duke University
Durham, NC

Dawn Yang, MD

University of Florida
Gainesville, FL

EYELINES

Resident Annie Lim, MD, serves on the Residency Selection Committee



Dr. Annie Lim

Lead by **Robert Alan Goldberg, MD**, Karen and Dabby Professor of Ophthalmology, the Residency Selection Committee is tasked with interviewing 60 medical students and choosing eight who have the necessary academic, clinical, and social qualities to successfully complete a three-year residency program at the Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI).

Bringing a unique insight to the selection process is third-year resident **Annie Lim, MD**, the resident representative on the otherwise all-faculty committee. The resident selected to this prestigious post is chosen for qualities of leadership, maturity, and personality.

Offering candidates a personal window into the daily rigors of the program, Dr. Lim can gauge how well an applicant might interact with others and perform in all facets of residency, which includes didactic education in the classroom, patient care, surgical training, and research.

"There are significant challenges in any residency, and we're looking for residents who would thrive within JSEI's program," Dr. Lim explains. "We know these applicants meet JSEI's high academic standards, but we need to also determine if they're adaptable team players, clinically astute, and could function well in high-stress situations."

Says Dr. Lim, "JSEI genuinely cares about their residents and wants them to share the commitment to the Institute's future. Having a resident on the selection committee demonstrates to the applicants that the residents are valued and respected members of the Jules Stein faculty."

Dr. Lim received her medical degree from the University of California, San Francisco. After completing her JSEI residency this summer, she will be attending Duke University for glaucoma fellowship training, after which she aspires to return to Los Angeles and continue her close affiliation with the Jules Stein Eye Institute.

Introduction to Clinical Research Course

Jules Stein Eye Institute faculty members **Gary N. Holland, MD**, and **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, organized the course “Introduction to Clinical Research,” which was held at UCLA, March 4–6, 2011. The course was co-sponsored by the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology, and endorsed by the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology. It was supported by a grant from the National Eye Institute. Attended by ophthalmology residents, clinical fellows, and faculty from across the nation, the course provided a comprehensive overview of research methods, interpretation of statistical tests, regulatory issues, and manuscript preparation. It was designed to assist new investigators who are beginning their academic careers, and to help physicians read and interpret scientific literature more critically. The course involved instructors from various UCLA departments, as well as guest speakers from other institutions.

The Introduction to Clinical Research Course attracted ophthalmology residents, fellows, and faculty nationwide.



Faculty Focus

Anthony J. Aldave, MD

Associate Professor of Ophthalmology

Dr. Anthony Aldave’s “professional plate” is very full. He joined the Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) as a corneal specialist in July 2002, where he now runs a busy clinical practice in the Cornea and Uveitis Division and directs the Cornea Service, Cornea and Refractive Surgery Fellowship Program, and Cornea Genetics Laboratory. Dr. Aldave’s dedication to reducing vision loss from corneal diseases extends well beyond JSEI. He serves on Tissue Bank International’s National Medical & Scientific Advisory Committee, and chairs the organization’s International Advisory Committee. He also heads Visionaries International, a non-profit humanitarian organization dedicated to reducing global corneal blindness that he founded in 2008 (see article on page 4).

We asked Dr. Aldave about his career and his favorite activities when he is not at JSEI.

What attracted you to the field of ophthalmology?

The decision to become a corneal surgeon came sometime during the first or second year of medical school. I knew several ophthalmology residents and had the opportunity to observe them perform different types of ophthalmic surgery. I was already interested in becoming a microsurgeon, and was struck by the necessary level of compulsion required of corneal transplant surgeons when suturing the donor cornea into place. As I am excessively compulsive by nature, I thought that ophthalmology would be a good fit for me.

What do you most enjoy about your career?

Being able to make a difference in patients’ lives by preserving their vision, restoring their vision, or sometimes just assuring them that they’re not going to lose their vision—that’s what I enjoy the most. I also like the challenge of trying to master the diversity of duties in academic medicine: splitting my time between the clinic and the laboratory; training medical students, residents, and fellows; and exchanging ideas with colleagues at national and international meetings. I feel that as we go through life, we change as people and our interests change as clinicians and scientists. I’m confident that I will always be interested in my job because I do so many different things, and will be able to mutate my job description as circumstances and interests dictate.

What is/has been your greatest challenge?

I have a very busy clinical practice, research is going well, I serve on a number of professional committees, and I travel a fair amount. Unfortunately, what usually gets shorted is my family. The greatest challenge for me has always been trying to balance my personal and professional lives.



Dr. Anthony Aldave is a corneal specialist at the Jules Stein Eye Institute.

What do you consider to be your most important professional contribution?

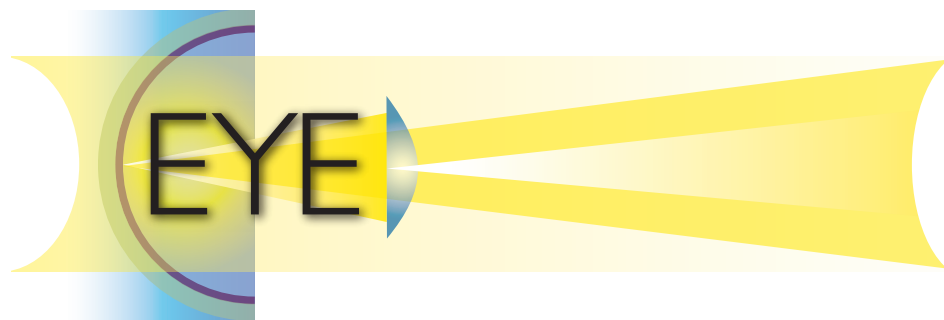
My most important contribution is the care that I deliver to my patients. I don’t think that you can do anything more significant than restoring someone’s sight. As I haven’t made any significant discoveries in the clinical or scientific realms yet, I think that the treatments that I perform each week in the clinic and operating room to preserve and restore vision are the most important contributions that I make.

Is there anything else that you’d like to accomplish?

The Cornea Genetics Laboratory, which I direct, investigates inherited diseases of the cornea, known as corneal dystrophies. The focus of our work has been on identifying the genes that are associated with these conditions and understanding the mechanisms through which gene mutations result in loss of corneal clarity. The goal of every clinician-scientist is to bring a discovery from the laboratory to the lane (clinic). What I hope to accomplish during my career is to develop a gene-based therapy for the corneal dystrophies.

How do you like to spend your time when you’re not at the Institute?

When I’m not here, I’m spending time with my wife, Teresa, and six-year old son, Tyler, traveling, exercising, or DJing. Many of the residents and fellows know of my passion for house music from hearing the music that I play while operating, and several of our former trainees encouraged me to begin DJing. I find this genus of music to be a great stress reliever in the operating room and motivator while exercising, and playing it for others has given me something to do in my free time!



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
UCLA

EYE Newsletter
is a Publication of
Jules Stein Eye Institute

Director
Bartly J. Mondino, MD

Editors
Debora B. Farber, PhD, DPhhc
Gary N. Holland, MD

Managing Editor
Gloria P. Jurisic

Contributing Editors
Teresa Closson
Naz Pahlavi
Debbie Sato

Guest Writer
Tina Marie-Gauthier
Dan Gordon

Contributing Photographers
Reed Hutchinson
Charlie Martin

Design
Robin Weisz/Graphic Design

©2011, by The Regents of the
University of California.
All rights reserved.
(310) 206-6035

www.jsei.org

 **UCLA Jules Stein Eye Institute**

405 Hilgard Avenue
Box 957000, 100 Stein Plaza
Los Angeles, California, 90095-7000
U.S.A.

Forwarding Service Requested

Special Events

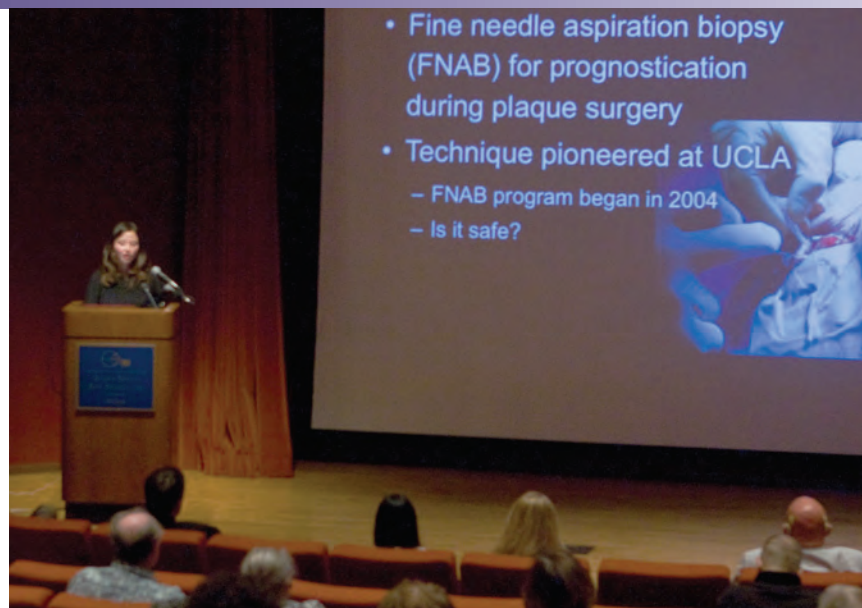
Ocular Melanoma Discussed at March Medical Forum

Ocular melanoma is the most common primary cancer of the eye in adults. **Tara A. McCannel, MD, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Director of the Ophthalmic Oncology Center at UCLA's Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI), and her team have begun to make discoveries in the molecular biology of ocular melanoma, including the identification of genes in patients who have shown a high risk of metastasis.

On March 15, 2011, Dr. McCannel shared these and other findings at a medical forum entitled "Ocular Melanoma—Past, Present, and Future" to friends of JSEI in the RPB Auditorium. Promising new approaches for treatment also were discussed, followed by a question-and-answer session with audience members.

The next medical forum—"Fighting Blindness in Children," featuring Sherwin J. Isenberg, MD, Laraine and David Gerber Professor of Ophthalmology—will be held on September 20, 2011.

If you are interested in receiving information about these and future medical forums, please contact the JSEI Development Office at (310) 206-6035.



Professor of Ophthalmology Emeritus Dr. Robert Hepler (left), Affiliates Board member Mrs. Toshka Abrams, and JSEI alumnus Dr. James McKinzie



Top: Dr. Tara McCannel discusses methods of diagnosis for ocular melanoma.

Center: JSEI supporter Mr. Robert Drabkin with featured speaker, Dr. Tara McCannel



Bottom: JSEI Director Dr. Bartly Mondino with longtime supporter Mrs. Marlis Amzalak Roth

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