

# EYE

JULES STEIN EYE INSTITUTE UCLA

## Jules Stein Eye Center Debuts in Santa Monica

On April 26, 2012, the Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) celebrated the opening of the new Jules Stein Eye Center in Santa Monica. The Center provides nearly all the evaluation, diagnosis, testing, and treatment services available at the Jules Stein Eye Institute in Westwood while providing greater convenience to patients in Santa Monica and the surrounding communities.

### Premier Service with Neighborhood Convenience

The Jules Stein Eye Center in Santa Monica administers routine vision care services as well as specialty care. It is staffed by UCLA experts in retinal and corneal disorders, glaucoma, neuro-ophthalmology, and laser refractive surgery, and provides the same level of outstanding care that has made the Jules Stein Eye Institute in Westwood one of the top eye care centers in the world.

Housed in 2,800 square feet of contemporary space with plans for expansion, the Center includes well-equipped testing facilities and examination rooms, as well as the convenience of an optical shop and plenty of on-site parking for easy access to the facility.

"The Jules Stein Eye Center provides Santa Monica residents with the premier services of the Jules Stein Eye Institute," said **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, director of the Jules Stein Eye Institute. "I am excited that we are able to bring the Institute's history of excellence and renowned high-level care to Santa Monica and the surrounding neighborhoods."

### Outstanding Ophthalmic Care in State-of-the-Art Facilities

Many of the UCLA subspecialists who see patients at the Westwood Jules Stein Eye Institute will also be providing patient care at the new Santa Monica location. Like JSEI, the Jules Stein Eye Center offers a wide range of ocular examinations, including visual field testing, corneal mapping (corneal topography), intraocular lens measurement, and retinal imaging that includes fluorescein angiography and other diagnostic testing. "Because of the excellent services and resources available at the Jules Stein Eye Center, JSEI subspecialists are able to take care of 90 to 95 percent of our

patients' eye care needs right in our Santa Monica location. Patients would only need to be referred to our main facility in Westwood for surgeries or if they require a specialized laboratory test we can't offer here," explained **Colin A. McCannel, MD**, medical director for the Jules Stein Eye Center.

Physicians at the Jules Stein Eye Center include Dr. McCannel who specializes in surgery and diseases of the retina, macula, and vitreous; **Gavin G. Bahadur, MD**, specializing in comprehensive ophthalmology; **Laura Bonelli, MD**, a neuro-ophthalmology and comprehensive ophthalmology specialist; **D. Rex Hamilton, MD**, a cataract and refractive surgery specialist; **Catherine Hwang, MD**, an orbital and ophthalmic plastic surgery specialist; **Batool Jafri, MD**, a cornea and comprehensive ophthalmology specialist; and **Kouros Nouri-Mahdavi, MD, MSc**, a glaucoma specialist. **Jenny J. Chon, OD**, is the Jules Stein Eye Center staff optometrist.

The April event marking the opening of the Jules Stein Eye Center included JSEI faculty, staff, **continued on page 2**

The Center provides nearly all the evaluation, diagnosis, testing, and treatment services available at the Jules Stein Eye Institute in Westwood while providing greater convenience to patients.



The Jules Stein Eye Center offers a convenient alternative to patients.



Jules Stein Eye Center ophthalmologists Drs. Batool Jafri (left) and Laura Bonelli (right) look forward to providing specialized ophthalmic services to the Santa Monica community and beyond.



Christina Donatelli of Foundation Fighting Blindness joins (from left to right) Drs. Bartly Mondino, Leonard Apt, and Bradley Straatsma to celebrate the opening of the Jules Stein Eye Center Santa Monica.

"I am excited that we are able to bring the Institute's history of excellence and renowned high-level care to Santa Monica and the surrounding neighborhoods," said Dr. Mondino.

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(Left to right) Tony, Marti, Gail, and Gerald Oppenheimer attend the opening of the Jules Stein Eye Center.



Dr. Colin McCannel (right), the medical director of the Jules Stein Eye Center, joins Barty Mondino in the Center's optical shop.

donors, and local eye-care professionals from the surrounding neighborhoods. Dr. Mondino remarked to the gathered guests, "As the director of the Jules Stein Eye Institute, it gives me great pride to have augmented our facilities so that we can bring JSEI-level eye care to the Santa Monica community and provide greater convenience for our valued patients."

The Jules Stein Eye Center is located at 1807 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 203, Santa Monica, California 90403. To contact the Center, call (310) 829-0160; fax: (310) 829-0170; or email the Center at: [jsec\\_sm@jsei.ucla.edu](mailto:jsec_sm@jsei.ucla.edu).

## JSEI Patient Shares His Experience of Growing Up With Uveitis

As a 20-year-old college student, **Nicholas Bianchine** is doing his best to keep up with his studies while taking advantage of the opportunities college has to offer. As he transitions from teenager to young adult, however, he has an added responsibility—managing an eye condition, uveitis, which has affected him since childhood.

Uveitis is inflammation of the uvea, the collection of vascular structures that form the middle, pigmented layer of the eye. It has many causes, ranging from infections to systemic inflammatory disorders like juvenile rheumatoid arthritis. Nicholas' uveitis is chronic and idiopathic, meaning that it recurs and the cause is unknown. In cases like Nicholas', the patient's own immune system mistakenly attacks the eye.

Nicholas was seven when he was first diagnosed with uveitis. Thinking her son might have pink eye, his mother made an appointment for Nicholas to be seen by an ophthalmologist. His condition turned out to be more serious, and eventually, Nicholas was referred to **Gary N. Holland, MD**, Jack H. Skirball Professor of Ocular Inflammatory Diseases and chief of the Jules Stein Eye Institute's (JSEI's) Cornea and Uveitis Division. Nicholas has now been a patient of Dr. Holland's for 13 years.

Uveitis can lead to complications such as glaucoma, cataracts, and retinal detachment. Over the years, Nicholas has suffered from some of these complications. A particularly difficult period occurred during his freshman year of high school when he began developing glaucoma and had to have surgery. Complications following the surgery led the pressure in his eye to build, causing severe pain. "My eye started hurting really badly. By the time I got to the Institute, I was almost in shock. I was lying in the car and felt like my eye was going to explode." Nicholas spent about five hours at JSEI that day. To relieve the pressure, doctors used a needle to drain the excess fluid out of his eye.

To share his experience of having uveitis, Nicholas attended JSEI's Consensus Conference on Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA)-Associated Uveitis. His hope is that providing input at events of this sort helps doctors better understand a patient's perspective—and the lengths he and other patients would go to find better methods of treatment. "I realize I'm fortunate to be able to see a specialist like Dr. Holland and



Dr. Gary Holland examines Nicholas Bianchine at JSEI.

that people all over the country aren't as fortunate. I want to inform others about uveitis and let them know it is a serious condition that needs to be treated," explained Nicholas.

Thirteen years after his initial diagnosis, Nicholas speaks about his condition as someone both hopeful and resigned. "I've been dealing with it for so long that it's part of my life." While his uveitis is currently manageable, Nicholas knows he must be vigilant and makes the necessary adjustments in life to make sure his condition is monitored. He purposely stayed near home for college so he could continue seeing specialists like Dr. Holland. He is excited about an upcoming trip to study abroad in Germany, but he must plan ahead to make sure medical care is nearby and any medications he needs are either accessible or brought from home. "It's a little troubling to think that I might always have to get checked out every month, that I will always be going to the rheumatologist, taking medicine, possibly getting shots every day. Hopefully by the time I get older, they'll come up with an alternative."



Nicholas hopes that sharing his perspective as a patient helps doctors come up with better ways of treating his condition.



Nicholas has been Dr. Holland's patient for 13 years.

## JSEI Volunteers Deliver Health Care of Last Resort at Free Clinic

Photos: Don Liebig

The woman, one of hundreds of uninsured or underinsured patients at the Los Angeles Sports Arena who received free eye-care services from the Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI), was sobbing.

“She knew for years she had needed cataract surgery, but she couldn’t afford it, and we had just told her we would be providing the surgery for no cost,” recalled **Faye Oelrich**, program manager for the UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic. The Mobile Eye Clinic is a JSEI program in which a 40-foot-long coach staffed by ophthalmologists, technicians, and volunteers travels four days a week to underserved areas in Los Angeles—schools, health clinics, community centers, homeless shelters—providing high-quality eye care. “The woman didn’t speak English very well, but she managed to tell us, ‘I’m crying because I’m so happy.’”

The surgery was one of 10 donated by JSEI to needy patients at the four-day CareNow/LA Free Clinic. As the largest free health care clinic in the country, CareNow is a nonprofit organization providing essential medical services to those most in need. More than 3,700 people lined up several days in advance for wristbands that enabled them to obtain no-cost services from volunteer health care providers representing UCLA and other institutions from throughout the Los Angeles community.

More than a dozen JSEI ophthalmologists, working alongside ophthalmic residents, volunteered for shifts. Out of the approximately 2,000 attendees who sought eye services, the Mobile Eye Clinic staff provided ophthalmic screening to roughly 500 patients at risk for diseases such as cataracts, diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, and glaucoma. Also on hand was an optometrist to assist those who needed only eyeglass-related services. Approximately 150 of those patients were referred for further evaluation and/or treatment.



Some of the approximately 2,000 attendees who sought eye services during the four-day long CareNow/LA Free Clinic.

“We saw many people whose vision has been blurry for years,” Ms. Oelrich said. “Some people were using a friend’s old eyeglasses, others had eyeglasses that were taped together, and still others were doing without eyeglasses at all.” For many of the patients, having gone so long without services placed them at risk for serious complications, including blindness. “Most likely we saved some people’s sight,” affirmed Ms. Oelrich.

One young man had been wearing his mother’s old eyeglasses in order to see. When they broke, his sister convinced him to seek services at the CareNow/LA Free Clinic. Because he was also complaining of floaters—small specks moving in his field of vision—he was seen by ophthalmologists at the UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic. After dilating the young man’s eyes, the physicians found a choroidal melanoma, an intraocular tumor that offers the best prognosis if detected and treated early.

“There is a tremendous unmet need,” stated Ms. Oelrich. “Even among people who have health insurance, many lack coverage for vision services and forgo taking care of their eyes until they have a serious problem.”

Such was the case for a young woman who explained she had a crossed eye since childhood but had been unable to afford to have it corrected. “You could tell that it affected her self-esteem,” said Ms. Oelrich. “She could hardly look you in the eye because she was so self-conscious about it.” When the woman was told she could



Staffed by JSEI ophthalmologists, technicians, and volunteers, the UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic brings ophthalmic care to underserved areas of Los Angeles.



Dr. Kouros Nouri-Mahdavi carefully checks a patient’s vision and eye health.

have the problem corrected at JSEI with free surgery, she, like the woman who had suffered for years with cataracts, broke into tears.

The Mobile Eye Clinic staff are used to seeing the appreciation of grateful patients as they travel the region addressing the unmet need for eye-care services, but the CareNow/LA Free Clinic was especially rewarding. “Usually we’re out quietly working our way from one stop to another in the community,” said Ms. Oelrich. “It was wonderful to be part of something larger than ourselves.”

## Walking to Prevent Blindness

Several hundred walkers gathered once again at UCLA’s Dickson Court for the fifth annual VisionWalk, the signature fundraiser of the Foundation Fighting Blindness (FFB). The event, supported by both the Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) and volunteers from the JSEI Affiliates, raised more than \$110,000 for retinal eye disease research.

Along with approximately 300 VisionWalk participants, the JSEI team donned matching “Volunteers with Vision” visors and strolled the five-kilometer loop through UCLA’s beautiful north campus. JSEI Affiliates Board member and VisionWalk team leader Patricia Crosby-Tawfik noted, “Supporting vision-science research is an important cause. The FFB’s VisionWalk is an inspirational event and a fun way to become involved.”

The FFB is a nonprofit organization committed to funding research to prevent, treat, and cure retinal degenerative eye diseases. As a lead sponsor of VisionWalk, JSEI has participated in research on a number of inherited retinal diseases and received grants for the continued study of vision-loss treatment and prevention.



The 2011 FFB VisionWalk, held on campus at UCLA’s Dickson Court, raised over \$110,000 for retinal eye disease research.

A few of the “Team JSEI” members who walked to raise money for vision research.



# Philanthropy

## JSEI Brings a Pediatric-Friendly Experience to the Surgical Area

A visit to the doctor can be frightening for anyone but most especially for a child. The Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI), in cooperation with committed partners, has taken steps to ease the process for pediatric patients undergoing ophthalmic surgery by introducing a new children's play area and bringing on trained specialists to guide families through the operative procedure.

On Wednesday, May 16, JSEI Director **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, introduced the Jules Stein Play Room, a dedicated children's space located on the surgical floor of the Institute, and noted, "Today we celebrate the expansion of a pediatric-friendly experience from our clinics to our surgical suites."

Bright and lively, the Play Room is filled with books, toys, puzzles, educational flash cards, and blocks to entertain youngsters during consultation and prior to surgery. Through the generosity of Wyndham Worldwide and the Starlight Children's Foundation, the Jules Stein Play Room also includes a Fun Center™ mobile entertainment unit that offers a gaming system, DVD player, and television.

JSEI is also incorporating the Chase Child Life Program for pediatric patients and their families. The program includes a vital new patient service, Child Life Specialists, who are trained to help children and their parents' better cope with the surgical experience.

"Child Life Specialists lead tours of the surgical area and accompany patients into surgery. They support the family by answering questions and providing educational information and resources so that parents and children alike can know what to expect. It's especially reassuring for our 'little' patients to have the familiar face of their Child Life Specialist with them as they go into surgery, and it reduces the parents' anxiety to know their child is feeling more secure at that vulnerable time," explained **Amy Tottie, RN, BSN**, director of the JSEI Operating Room.

The Chase Child Life Program, a no-cost offering, will be available once a week with the goal of expanding the service into a daily program.



Through the generous support of caring partners, JSEI's pediatric patients will enjoy a more comforting surgical experience. Left to right: **Alison Sadock**, corporate accounts manager, Starlight Children's Foundation; **Amy Bullock**, director, Chase Child Life Program, Mattel Children's Hospital, UCLA; **Dr. Bartly Mondino**, director, JSEI; **Marti Winer**, vice president of event services, Wyndham Worldwide; **Mary Falvey**, executive vice president, chief human resources officer, Wyndham Worldwide; **Shannon O'Kelley**, chief operating officer, UCLA Hospital System; **Christine Archuleta**, child life specialist, UCLA Operating Room Services; **Paul Falcone**, chief human resources officer, Starlight Children's Foundation; **Jacqueline Hart-Ibrahim**, global chief executive officer, Starlight Children's Foundation.



A young visitor enjoys the new Jules Stein Play Room located on the surgical floor of the Institute.

## Sherwin J. Isenberg, MD, Discusses Pediatric Blindness at Medical Forum

Out of the 1.4 million children who are blind throughout the world, at least 40% of the cases are preventable. Two of the main causes of pediatric vision loss—corneal scarring and retinopathy of prematurity—are avoidable with proper treatment.

**Sherwin J. Isenberg, MD**, Laraine and David Gerber Professor of Ophthalmology, discussed these and other issues affecting childhood eye health in a medical forum entitled, "Fighting Blindness in Children." About 50 members of the Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) community, including donors, friends, and faculty attended the afternoon event held in the Research to Prevent Blindness Auditorium.

Dr. Isenberg spoke about the development of an effective, inexpensive, and available eyedrop that can prevent and treat many of the infections that cause corneal scarring. He and his team are establishing protocols in Ethiopia to deliver this medicine to children with trachoma, the number-one cause of infectious blindness.

Philanthropic contributions and research measures that guarantee the gift of sight to infants and children worldwide are essential to these endeavors. If you are interested in receiving information about future events, or would like a DVD copy of this medical forum, please contact the JSEI Development Office at (310) 825-3381.



**Dr. Leonard Apt**, professor emeritus of ophthalmology and founding chief of the Division of Pediatric Ophthalmology (left) with **Dr. Isenberg**.

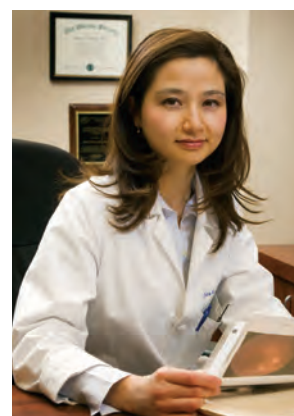


**JSEI Director Dr. Bartly Mondino** greets long-time supporter **Samuel Goetz, OD**.



**Dr. Isenberg** (center) with his wife **Rina** and son **Ethan**, a filmmaker.

## JSEI Ophthalmic Oncology Center Receives Gift



**Tara McCannel, MD, PhD**

The Gerald Oppenheimer Family Foundation made a generous donation to benefit ophthalmic oncology research at UCLA's Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI). The gift was directed to **Tara McCannel, MD, PhD**, assistant professor of ophthalmology at JSEI and director of the Ophthalmic Oncology Center.

"It is with great pleasure that the Gerald Oppenheimer Family Foundation supports the Jules Stein Eye Institute and its researchers. These types of investigations will have a long-lasting impact on vision preservation for patients with intraocular cancer, changing many lives for the better," announced long-time benefactors Gail and Jerry Oppenheimer.

Ocular melanoma (specifically choroidal or uveal melanoma) is the most common adult cancer originating in the eye, and it can be life threatening. Although local therapies for the eye have been established, treatments are limited if this cancer spreads.

JSEI Founding Director **Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD**, who established the JSEI Ophthalmic Oncology Center in 1985, helped direct the gift. "With support from the Gerald Oppenheimer Family Foundation, Dr. McCannel's cytogenetic research on uveal melanoma is building the basis for improved treatment of this intraocular cancer." Cytogenetic research involves the study of chromosomal abnormalities and how they influence malignancy in oncologic disorders.

The Oppenheims support numerous JSEI programs through the Gerald Oppenheimer Family Foundation and the Jules and Doris Stein UCLA Support Group. They established the Center for the Prevention of Eye Disease Endowment Fund as a part of the Stein/Oppenheimer Awards, providing seed grants to researchers investigating ophthalmic disease prevention. Mr. Oppenheimer is a member of the JSEI Board of Trustees.

## 17th Annual Vision Science Conference

The annual Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) retreat was held October 28–30, 2011, at the UCLA Lake Arrowhead Conference Center. Co-Sponsored with funds from The Vision Science Training Grant from the National Institutes of Health/National Eye Institute and JSEI, the retreat attracted more than 80 basic scientists, clinical researchers, and invited guests who participated in scientific discussions, learning activities, and unforgettable social events.

Guest speakers at the 2011 conference presented a variety of fascinating topics. **Brian Bushway** and **Steve Broxterman** from World Access for the Blind shared their perspective and insight of navigating and capitalizing a fruitful life through personal experience from “seeing beyond sight.” **Valentyna Abramenko, PhD**, from the Big Bear Solar Observatory presented an exciting talk about what we know about our closest star.

Scientific Keynote Speaker, **Andrew Huberman, PhD**, from the Department of Neurosciences and Neurobiology at the University of California at San Diego, gave an informative lecture entitled, “Genetic Approaches: Understanding How the Visual System Wires up, Works, and Can be Repaired.” **Laurie Shaker-Irwin, PhD, MS**, stimulated discussion with her topic, “Responsible Conduct of Research—Ethics and Oversight.”

The guest and JSEI speakers, as well as approximately 22 oral and poster presentations, sparked an animated discussion and generated the opportunity for potential research collaborations.



Faculty, fellows, and graduate students at the 17th Annual Vision Science Conference at UCLA's Lake Arrowhead Conference Center

**Conference Planning Committee:** Faculty Advisor, Steven Nusinowitz, PhD; Chair, Allison Sargoy; Committee Members, Helen Vuong, Jeremy Cook, PhD, Miyeon Kim, PhD, Julian Esteve-Rudd, PhD; Committee Advisor, Bill Dominguez; and Conference Coordinator, John Caputo

## 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 approximately 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 San Francisco Match Program for Ophthalmology 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 contacted 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 2012. The following applicants, selected over a year ago, began serving as Jules Stein Eye Institute House Officers beginning July 1, 2012.

**Jamie Alexander, MD**  
Baylor College of Medicine  
Houston, TX

**Diana Katsman, MD, PhD**  
**EyeSTAR**  
University of California,  
Irvine  
Irvine, CA

**Robert Lalane, MD**  
Duke University  
Durham, NC

**Wenjing Liu, MD**  
Duke University  
Durham, NC

**Aaron Nagiel, MD, PhD**  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, NY

**Lina Rodriguez, MD**  
Northwestern University  
Evanston, IL

**Philip James Sanchez, MD**  
Washington University  
in St. Louis  
St. Louis, MO

**Melinda Wu, MD**  
Washington University  
in St. Louis  
St. Louis, MO

## New and Returning Ophthalmology Fellows

We are pleased to introduce the following ophthalmologists entering clinical and international fellowships at the Jules Stein Eye Institute in the 2012–2013 academic year.

### Clinical Fellows

**David Cupp, MD**  
Retina

**Susan Gelman, MD**  
Medical Retina/Genetics

**Jasun Jun, MD**  
Cornea

**Joseph Lin, MD**  
Oculoplastics

**Ajay Manchandia, MD**  
Pediatrics

**Carolyn Pan, MD**  
Retina

**Matthew Pihlblad, MD**  
Pediatrics

**Daniel Rootman, MD**  
Oculoplastics

**Joseph Schmitz, MD**  
Glaucoma

**Brian Song, MD**  
Glaucoma

**Ksenia Stafeeva, MD**  
Cornea

**Elaine Thung, MD**  
Glaucoma

**Joshua Udoetuk, MD**  
Retina

**Vinod Voleti, MD**  
Retina

### International Fellows

**Leticia Alves, MD**  
Visual Physiology research  
from Brazil

**Pejvak Azadi, MD**  
Glaucoma research  
from Iran

**Parham Azarbod, MD**  
Glaucoma research  
from the United Kingdom

**Pejman Bakhtiary, MD**  
Cornea research  
from Iran

**Gorkem Bilgin, MD**  
Neuro-Ophthalmology research  
from Turkey

**Nila Cirineo, MD**  
Glaucoma research  
from Peru

**Karen Fernandez, MD**  
Cornea research  
from the Philippines

**Alice Goh, MD**  
Oculoplastic research  
from Malaysia

**Karen Hender, MD**  
Pediatric research  
from Israel

**Joon Mo Kim, MD**  
Glaucoma research  
from South Korea

**Jun Mo Lee, MD**  
Glaucoma research  
from South Korea

**Shiva Mehravaran, MD**  
Glaucoma research  
from Iran

**Todd Mondzelewski, MD**  
Ophthalmic Pathology  
research  
from the United States

**Nariman Nassiri, MD**  
Glaucoma research  
from Iran

**Sarah Nowroozizadeh, MD**  
Glaucoma research  
from Iran

**Ronen Rabinovich, MD**  
Pediatric research  
from Israel

**Mary Allen Sy, MD**  
Cornea research  
from Philippines

**Hongxing Wang, MD**  
Cataract research  
from P.R. China

**Li Zhang, MD**  
Pediatric research  
from P.R. China

Residents

Fellows



### Anthony C. Arnold, MD

**Jerome and Joan Snyder Professor of Ophthalmology  
Chief, Neuro-Ophthalmology Division**

Anthony Arnold, MD, knows firsthand how a young doctor's experiences can affect the course of their career. As a medical student at UCLA, interactions with his advisor piqued his interest in neuro-ophthalmology and led Dr. Arnold to complete his residency and fellowship training in the subspecialty at the Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI). Now more than 30 years later, Dr. Arnold is chief of JSEI's Neuro-Ophthalmology Division, serves as JSEI's residency program director, and he runs a busy clinic and research program. Dr. Arnold also works on a national and international level determining health care policy and improving residency education.

*Dr. Arnold was asked about his career and activities outside of work.*

#### What attracted you to the field of ophthalmology?

Dr. Robert Hepler (founding chief of JSEI's Neuro-Ophthalmology Division) was my JSEI medical school advisor, and he was very influential. I spent my first and second years of medical school in his office, and that's where my interest in neuro-ophthalmology began.

#### What do you most enjoy about your career?

I enjoy that I'm able to do a lot of things. A good section of my time is spent dealing with residency education teaching programs on a national and international level, as well residency education at JSEI. I've worked with the International Council of Ophthalmology to improve ophthalmology health care worldwide through the education of residents and other ophthalmology professionals. I'm on the Residency Review Committee for Ophthalmology of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, and I am a director of the American Board of Ophthalmology and the Board's leader for the Milestones Project, which defines structured milestones for residents' development. As chair of the North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society, I help set national policy. At JSEI, I have a busy clinical consultation practice and research program. This broad involvement in the field has been a source of great satisfaction for me.

#### What is/has been your greatest challenge?

There are so many exciting and worthwhile projects, but you can't do everything you want to do. Deciding what's truly worth doing and not getting distracted with too many projects can be a challenge.

Dr. Anthony Arnold (center) serves as JSEI's residency program director. He is pictured here with Dr. Barty Mondino (fourth from right) at the 2011 graduation of JSEI residents (from left) Drs. Annie Lim, Vicky Pai, Amy Sheh, Jennifer Huang, R. Duncan Johnson, Darin Goldman, and Louis Savar.

#### What do you think is your most important professional contribution?

I would consider my involvement in residency education my most important professional contribution. Developing our residency program at JSEI, working to set national standards, striving to help with residency education both nationally and internationally—that's probably the biggest impact I've had.

#### Is there anything else you'd like to accomplish?

My research is on ischemic optic nerve disease, which is a stroke of the optic nerve. I have a huge patient database, which we are using to look at what causes ischemic optic nerve disease. I'd like to figure out a treatment for the disease, as there currently isn't any.

#### What about a personal life?

I have none (*laughs*)! Actually my wife (Dr. Laura Bonelli) works here at JSEI, and we met at a neuro-ophthalmology meeting in Argentina in 2002. I've been involved in athletics all my life, and I especially enjoy biking and golfing. Traveling is my other big passion. I always mix a bit of work with sightseeing, and I take multiple international trips a year. I've trained a number of international fellows in neuro-ophthalmology, so I visit them when I go to different countries. I came from a military family; we were always traveling when I was a kid, and I never wanted to stop.

#### Do you go back to Argentina very often, and have you picked up some Spanish?

My wife and I go back to Argentina at least once or twice a year. My limited knowledge of Spanish doesn't help much down there! Unless you're going to speak the language all the time, it's tough. I make Dr. Bonelli speak English—just to help her, not me, of course!

#### But you have your built in translator if you need it, right?

Yes, Dr. Bonelli helps us out at the clinic when needed. We have a very sophisticated translator (*smiles*).

## EYELINES



**Robert Beardsley, MD**

### 2011 Robert E. Christensen, MD, Research Award Winner Announced

**Robert Beardsley, MD**, is the winner of the 2011 Robert E. Christensen, MD, Research Award of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association. The annual award, in recognition of outstanding research conducted by a Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) resident or fellow, is named in honor of Dr. Christensen, the late founding chief of the Glaucoma Division.

The 2011 grant will help underwrite Dr. Beardsley's research into the impact of breast cancer medications on both visual acuity and the effect on the structure of the inner retina in these patients.

Dr. Beardsley noted, "Tamoxifen, paclitaxel, and docetaxel are medications used in the treatment of various types of cancer that have an association with changes in the macula detectable as microcysts on high-definition ocular coherence tomography. Previously, the changes have been recorded only in scattered case reports, and thus the impact on visual acuity is not well known. This study seeks to elucidate further the incidence of the microcystic changes in association with these medications, the impact of the cysts on visual acuity, and the effect on the structure of the inner retina in patients receiving these medications for breast cancer."

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

# Institute News

## 2011 AAO Awards

Jules Stein Eye Institute faculty members were honored by the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) for their outstanding contributions to the Academy, its scientific and educational programs, and to ophthalmology. The awards were announced at the AAO's 2011 Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida.

*Life Achievement Award:*

**Joseph Caprioli, MD**

*Senior Achievement Award:*

**Bartly J. Mondino, MD**

*Achievement Award:*

**Simon K. Law, MD, PharmD**

*Secretariat Awards:*

**Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, Bradley R. Straatsma Professor of Ophthalmology, received a nomination by the secretaries for State Affairs and Federal Affairs and the senior secretary for Advocacy.

**Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD**, Fran and Ray Stark Professor of Ophthalmology, received a nomination by the secretary for Communications and an additional nomination by the secretary for Member services.

## Honors and Awards

**Lynn K. Gordon, MD, PhD**, Professor of Ophthalmology, was named as the Vernon O. Underwood Family Chair in Ophthalmology, effective March 1, 2012.

**David Sarraf, MD**, Associate Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, was invited to become a member of the Gass Club at the 2011 American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting. The invitation-only association is comprised of a small group (less than 30) of elite retinologists who meet annually to discuss interesting retinal cases.

**Xian-Jie Yang, PhD**, Professor of Ophthalmology, was named as the Ernest G. Herman Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology, effective March 1, 2012.

## JSEI Softball Team Wins Championship

Three Blind Mice, the intramural softball team composed entirely of Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) faculty and staff, won the Bruckner-Jones UCLA Medical Center Softball League Championship. With their coworkers cheering them on, Three Blind Mice came back from a 0-7 record in the first half of the season to win five straight matches. The team was undefeated in the playoffs and eventually faced off against the highest-ranked team in the league, the Pathogens, composed of staff from UCLA's Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

"We couldn't have asked for a better season," enthused Three Blind Mice Team Captain **Valentino Manlutac** from JSEI's Personnel Office. "After reorganizing and finding the right spots for everyone, we gelled as a team and were able to maintain our winning streak all the way to the end. Most importantly, we had a great time together."

The co-ed, slow-pitch softball league was started in the early 1970s by the former head of UCLA housekeeping, T.W.

Jones, who is now deceased. "The point of the softball league was to create an opportunity for people to get to know individuals in other departments and have more interaction with one another," said now-retired **David Bruckner, MD**, former chief of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, who has served as the league's "commissioner" since 1976. Today the softball league has 16 teams divided into major and minor divisions. During the April-to-August season, the teams compete every Friday night at Rancho Park in Cheviot Hills.

**The players of JSEI's intramural softball team, Three Blind Mice, celebrate their league championship win.**



## Special Thanks to Dr. Teddy Donors!



The JSEI Affiliates would like to thank the many special donors who contributed to the 2011 Make Surgery Bearable Sponsorship Campaign. With your support, more than 250 Dr. Teddy bears were provided for future pediatric surgery patients at JSEI. The Affiliates primarily raises funds for the Make Surgery Bearable program twice a year, once in December through the holiday campaign and again in May through its Mother's Day campaign. Dr. Teddy sponsorships, however, 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.jseiassociates.com](http://www.jseiassociates.com) for further information.

## Volunteer Opportunities Available!

The JSEI Affiliates has several volunteer opportunities available this fall for both its vision education and patient services programs. If you are a returning or new volunteer interested in helping, please contact **Judy Smith** or **Teresa Closson** at (310) 206-7128, [affiliates@jsei.ucla.edu](mailto:affiliates@jsei.ucla.edu), or visit our website at [www.jseiassociates.com](http://www.jseiassociates.com).

### Preschool Vision Screening

- Screening Volunteers  
*No experience necessary, on-site training available.*
- Volunteer Retired Optometrists  
*Needed for fall 2012 and spring 2013 screenings.*

### Vision IN-School

- Presentation or Dissection Volunteers  
*Must enjoy interacting with 4th-6th-grade students. Anyone with a science or teaching background is encouraged to apply.*

### Shared Vision

- Eyeglass Collection Drive Coordinators  
*Great opportunity for middle and high school students who need community-service hours.*

### Make Surgery Bearable Volunteers

- Teddy Bear Taggers  
*Flexibility of this position makes it ideal for volunteers who need to juggle school or work schedules.*

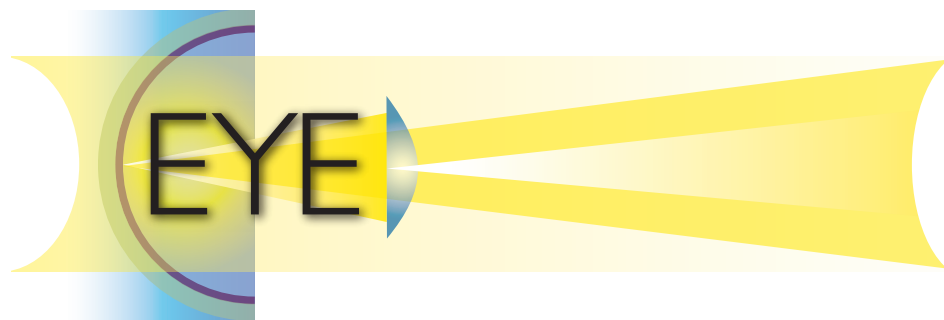
### MagniVision

- Vision Rehabilitation Center  
*Wonderful opportunity for volunteers interested in working with low-vision patients on a weekly basis.*

## Special Thanks to JSEI Alumni and UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association Members

The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association would like to extend a sincere thank you to its 2011-2012 dues-paying members. Yearly dues provide the resources to support the annual Research Grant Awards, Jules Stein Eye Institute Clinical and Research Seminar, Video Library Project, Alumni Directory, yearly reception at the American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting, and other important alumni events.

We greatly appreciate such ongoing support of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association and the Jules Stein Eye Institute. If you would like to become an association member, registration forms can be found online at [www.jsei.org](http://www.jsei.org) or requested by contacting us at [alumni@jsei.ucla.edu](mailto:alumni@jsei.ucla.edu). Thank you!



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## Special Events

### JSEI Alumni Reconnect at UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association's Annual Reception

**D**uring the 2011 American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Annual Meeting, more than 150 Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) faculty members, staff, and resident and fellow alumni from around the world gathered at the Peabody Hotel in Orlando, Florida for the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association's annual reception. Hosted by the Association, the gathering provides an opportunity for alumni attending the AAO Annual Meeting to renew acquaintances and reconnect with classmates. Alumni from 35 different JSEI graduating classes were represented at the event.



JSEI faculty and friends (from left to right) Dr. Bradley R. Straatsma, Dr. Michael Berlin, Beverly Barnes, Dr. George Rajacich, Ruth Straatsma, Dr. Allan Krieger, and Dr. Sherwin Isenberg.



UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association Treasurer and Secretary Dr. Robert Alan Goldberg (right) welcomes Dr. Seongmu Lee (left) and Dr. Alex Yuan (center) to the reunion.



JSEI Director Dr. Bartly Mondino (left) welcomes alumni Vincent Matteucci (center) and Steven Berger (right).



(From left) Drs. Steve Khwarg, Abdish Bhavsar, Allan Kreiger, Christine Gonzalez, and James Gealy enjoy seeing one another at the annual reception.



Dr. Robert Alan Goldberg (second from right) reconnects with fellow alumni (from left to right) Drs. Mike Groth, Rona Silkiss, and Alan Lessner.

### Important JSEI Phone Numbers

**Patient Care**

JSEI Ophthalmology Referral Service  
JSEI Ophthalmology Emergency Service  
after hours

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

**Fundraising**

JSEI Development Office  
JSEI Affiliates

(310) 206-6035  
(310) 825-4148