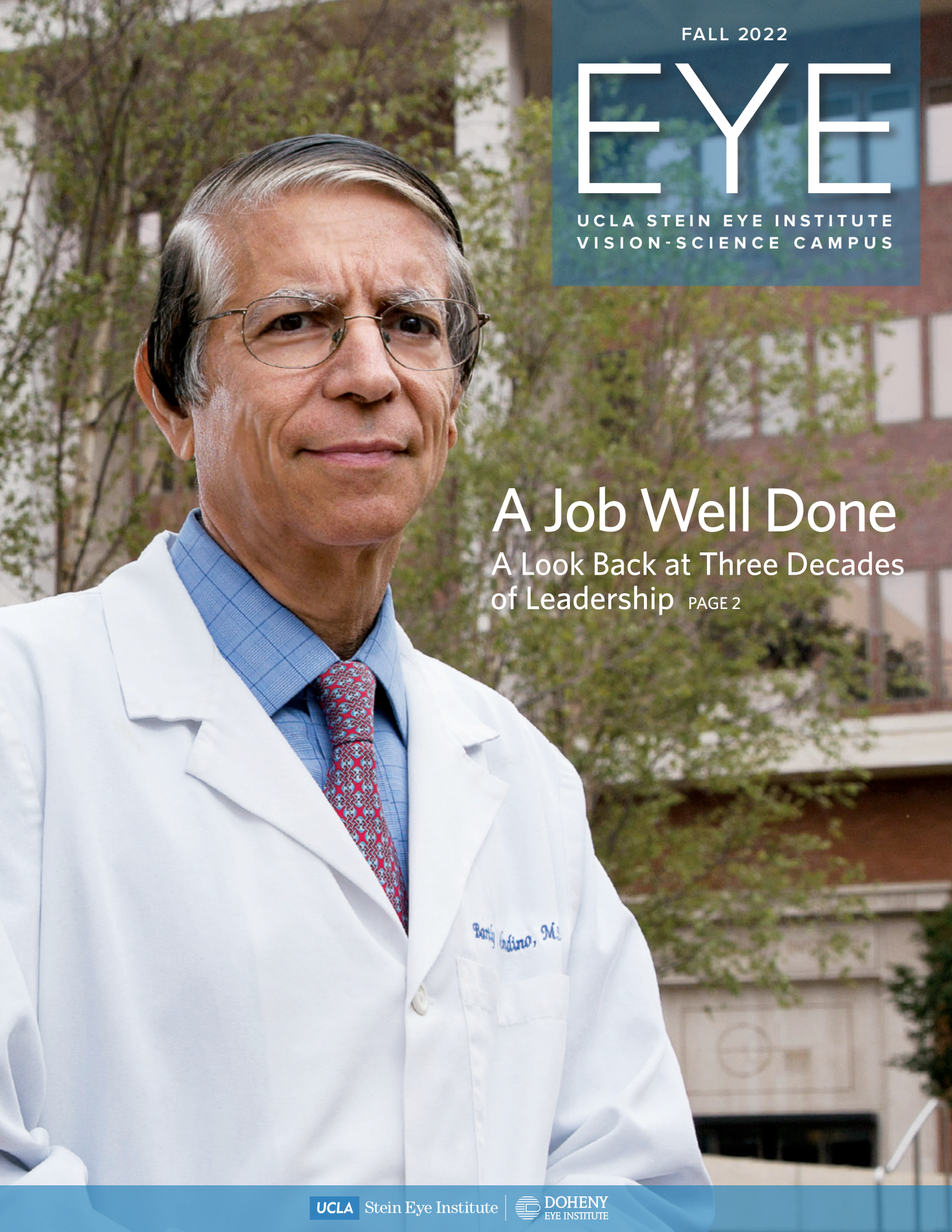

FALL 2022

EYE

UCLA STEIN EYE INSTITUTE
VISION-SCIENCE CAMPUS

A Job Well Done

A Look Back at Three Decades of Leadership

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UCLA Stein Eye Institute | DOHENY EYE INSTITUTE

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is a publication of the
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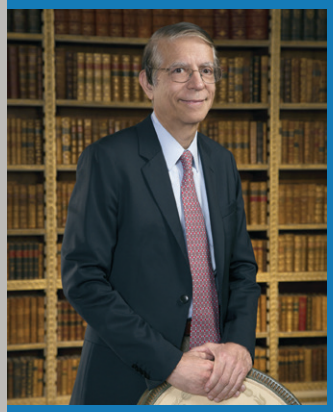
The Stein Eye Institute is a proud affiliate of the Doheny Eye Institute.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



It has been an honor and privilege to serve as chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and director of the Stein Eye Institute for more than 28 years, and I know the Department and Institute will be served well under the leadership and guidance of my successor, **Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD**, who begins her term July 1, 2022.

When I became director and chair in 1994, I was entrusted with an organization that had grown from a Division of Ophthalmology at UCLA to a globally recognized powerhouse in vision-science research, patient care, and education under the visionary leadership of our founding chair and director, **Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD**. Dr. Straatsma is a legend and giant in ophthalmology, and we are all indebted to him for what he has created. I now pass this great responsibility and honor to Dr. Coleman who will build upon this strong foundation and continue to lead us forward.

Together, we have accomplished much over the past decades, including celebrating our 50th anniversary, construction and dedication of the Edie & Lew Wasserman Building, renovation and seismic upgrade of the Jules Stein Building, transformation into a vision-science campus at UCLA, affiliation with the Doheny Eye Institute, establishment of five eye centers throughout the Greater Los Angeles area, completion of a second vision-science campus in Pasadena for the Doheny Eye Institute, and the continuous recruitment of outstanding faculty, trainees, and staff.

I thank Dr. Straatsma whose extraordinary vision established a world-renowned centerpiece for vision care, research, and education. I congratulate my colleague Dr. Coleman—professor, clinician, surgeon, and researcher—who has further served our field as president of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American Ophthalmological Society. Dr. Coleman will lead our Department with a brilliant hand, and I look forward to seeing her exceptional vision and drive shape ophthalmology in the 21st century.

And I thank you, our donors and friends. Without your contributions, none of the above would have been possible. I am grateful for your long-standing commitment to the Stein Eye Institute and our shared mission to preserve sight and end avoidable blindness.

I am so proud of what we have built together.

Thank you,

Bartly J. Mondino, MD

Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology
Director, Stein Eye Institute
Chair, UCLA Department of Ophthalmology
Affiliation Chair, Doheny Eye Institute

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EYE

UCLA STEIN EYE INSTITUTE
VISION-SCIENCE CAMPUS

FEATURES

A Job Well Done

Dr. Bartly Mondino, stepping down from his directorship of the UCLA Stein Eye Institute, reflects on his nearly 30 years of leadership advancing the scope of ophthalmology both here at home and globally.

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Grand Opening of Doheny Eye Institute Vision-Science Campus in Pasadena

The Doheny Eye Institute, a top-ranked nonprofit organization proudly affiliated with the UCLA Stein Eye Institute, celebrates the grand opening of its headquarters in Pasadena on June 23, 2022.

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FOCUS

On the cover: Dr. Bartly Mondino, chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and director of the Stein Eye Institute, stands in front of the Stein Eye Institute vision-science campus at UCLA.

BEST HOSPITALS
U.S.News & WORLD REPORT
OPHTHALMOLOGY
2022-23

UCLA Health is consistently ranked among the best hospitals in the country by U.S. News & World Report, *and UCLA Stein Eye and Doheny Eye Institutes are ranked among the top five in the nation in ophthalmology.*

A Job Well Done

A Look Back at Three Decades of Leadership

***Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, who is stepping down as director of the Stein Eye Institute and chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology on July 1, 2022, reflects on the challenges and opportunities he experienced during his 28-year tenure.*

What were your expectations about leading the Stein Eye Institute when you became the director in 1994?

When I was appointed to direct the Institute, I had already served as a faculty member in the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology for 12 years, and was a participant in the tremendous strides in vision science that had begun in the 1950s, and flourished when the Stein Eye Institute was founded in 1966 under the leadership of **Dr. Bradley Straatsma**.

When I became director in 1994, the Institute had talented people, a superb facility, and many goals for how we could continue to build on a strong foundation. I considered it my primary job to serve as the catalyst to achieve those goals.

One of those goals has been to build relationships with other medical fields at UCLA. How have those ties affected the Institute's initiatives for research and education?

The eye is a unique structure, not only because of its functions involving sight, but also for its interaction with other tissues and organs in the human body: the workings of the central nervous system, infectious disease, autoimmune and inflammatory disorders, cancer, hereditary problems, and degenerative illness. Because of that interactivity, progress in vision science is heavily dependent on connections with other medical disciplines beyond ophthalmology.

With that in mind, I think one of our great successes has been the ongoing development of relationships between vision science and the rest of the research enterprise at UCLA. A great strength—perhaps the greatest strength of UCLA—is the institutional commitment to interdisciplinary research and teaching. It has been exciting to see how ophthalmology has contributed to that commitment during my time as director.

"When I became director in 1994, the Institute had talented people, a superb facility, and many goals for how we could continue to build on a strong foundation. I considered it my primary job to serve as the catalyst to achieve those goals."

BARTLY J. MONDINO, MD

Another of your priorities has been broadening the scope of training for residents in ophthalmology.

Yes, and these changes tell the story of how the mission of education has changed for vision science.

Instilling in our residents an appreciation of the importance of research—especially interdisciplinary research—has been essential as we refine our resident training. Our primary mission has always been, of course, to train the next generation of ophthalmologists for clinical practice. But increasingly, we are building a culture of research for our residents so they fully appreciate the importance of exploration beyond their training as tools to help them think analytically and create new knowledge.

Those changes have included other opportunities for the resident experience as well.

Broadening the career possibilities for our residents has been one of my major priorities. We have created opportunities for education that reinforce the importance of leadership for residents as they move into their careers.

For instance, we created EyeSTAR (Specialty Training and Advanced Research) in 1995 to train physicians who are interested in an academic career and professional leadership as clinician-scientists. EyeSTAR is still the only program of its kind, and it is recognized by national vision-science organizations as a model program to train leaders in ophthalmology who are investigators as well as clinicians.

We developed EyeMBA in 2016, which combines ophthalmic resident training with an MBA degree. As a result, our graduates are not only skilled ophthalmologists, but are also trained with business and leadership skills for academic institutions, foundations, government agencies, and health care institutions.

Last year we introduced a medical genetics track with our EyeSTAR program that provides ophthalmology residency training in tandem with training by the UCLA Intercampus Medical Genetics Training Program leading to Clinical Genetics and Genomics certification by the American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics. This is another national first for us, and the intent is that with this knowledge, clinician-scientists will propel innovations in the diagnosis and detection of disease, as well as new approaches to treatment.

The training in vision care for all medical students at UCLA is also evolving.

A vital element in our connection to UCLA has been—and continues to be—the training in ophthalmology we provide for all the medical students at UCLA.

For example, since August 2021, we have participated in an ambitious new education program created by the David Geffen School of Medicine that is transforming how the university is training the next generation of doctors. These changes are offered through new instruction, enhanced flexibility for the student experience, and expanded study and research in ophthalmic fields.

Some of the Institute's educational programs have international implications as well.

Yes—dealing with the medical conditions that affect the eye is a major global need—especially in low-resource countries. We have expanded the Institute's global presence with the introduction of the International Fellowship and Exchange Program. Fellows from medical schools across the globe come to the Institute to participate in clinical and research activities based on their subspecialty training requirements, and they return to their home country with skills to provide critically needed ophthalmic care.

We also extended the work of the Institute to other countries. In 2013, we created a global outreach project at Aravind Eye Care System in Madurai, India, for residents to learn firsthand about providing vision care in low-resource regions.

More locally, the scope of the Institute has increased in recent years.

Absolutely. I cannot overemphasize the importance of our partnership with the Doheny Eye Institute in the growth of our delivery of patient care and research. Our alliance with Doheny that began in 2013 has created the nation's largest academic affiliation for patient care, vision research, and education; the relationship magnifies the impact of both organizations in everything we do.

Now under the banner of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, we have merged the talents and resources of both Stein and Doheny, and we have built a thriving network for eye care that includes facilities across Southern California. Three decades ago, patients had to travel to Westwood for treatment by Stein Eye Institute doctors; now most residents of greater Los Angeles live less than a half hour from our network of eye care centers that are ranked among the best in the nation.

Our involvement with Doheny has reinforced our connections with other medical enterprises. For instance, through Doheny we are now joined in a formal partnership with **City of Hope** that provides care for some of the most challenging cases involving cancer and the eye.

Importantly, our ability to provide the highest quality of patient care now extends across the Southland with the following dedicated facilities:

- Stein Eye Institute vision-science campus in Westwood
- Doheny Eye Institute vision-science campus in Pasadena
- Stein Eye Centers UCLA in Calabasas and Santa Monica
- Doheny Eye Centers UCLA in Arcadia, Orange County, and Pasadena
- Olive View-UCLA Medical Center in Sylmar, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in Torrance, and the Veterans Affairs Healthcare System centers in Sepulveda and West Los Angeles.

When you tally up the care we provide, the Stein Eye Institute's scope opens a new level of access and treatment for millions of people.

> "Now under the banner of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, we have merged the talents and resources of both Stein and Doheny, and we have built a thriving network for eye care that includes facilities across Southern California"
>
> BARTLY J. MONDINO, MD

Another of your priorities has been support for community-based public health services.

Our involvement in community health services has grown dramatically in recent years—especially as the public health needs in Southern California have grown—with outreach to provide vision care at schools, shelters, health fairs, and organizations that assist homeless and low-income families. For example, the UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic has provided free vision care for more than 300,000 underserved children and adults over the past 40 years. Their access to quality eye care is only possible because of the reach of the UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic.

We manage community outreach programs for veterans, indigent children and families, preschool vision screening, community health fairs, family clinics, and homeless projects. **Dr. Anne Coleman**, who is assuming the directorship of the Institute July 1, 2022, has superbly directed much of this work; I have no doubt the Institute's involvement in the community will continue to flourish under Anne's leadership of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology.

Perhaps the most ambitious project during your tenure as director has been the expansion of the Institute's footprint at UCLA into a vision-science campus.

Yes it is. I am particularly proud of how that expansion occurred, because it involved such enthusiastic cooperation among our faculty, staff, students, and our donors.

In the 1950s, ophthalmology at UCLA was operated by part-time doctors working out of a Quonset hut. Now we have three buildings that create an interconnected community of people and facilities that merge research, training for new ophthalmologists, patient care, and community health programs. Our vision-science campus is primed to respond to the extraordinary changes in research and care we are experiencing in the 21st century.

“The possibilities for understanding the eye, and building better methods of treating preventable blindness, are greater than ever. It has been a privilege for me to lead the Institute’s efforts for almost 30 years, and I’m looking forward to seeing what comes next.”

BARTLY J. MONDINO, MD

That type of expansion requires major commitments from donors.

It certainly does. Progress in every aspect of our work is possible because of the commitment of dedicated donors who support the Institute. Since I became director, we have raised more than $360 million and have more than 41 endowed chairs—precisely the type of support that transforms how research and education in vision science can thrive and grow.

For example, a $10 million gift from our own colleague, **Dr. J. Bronwyn Bateman**, will establish an ocular genetics center that will magnify our study of many complex genetic disorders that affect the eyes, such as understanding the patterns and risks of inheritance, diagnosis, and the development of therapies to treat genetic abnormalities. The UCLA Bronwyn Bateman Center for Ocular Genetics will be one of the first of its kind, building a new level of research on the prevention and treatment of eye disease and preventable blindness—as well as training the next generation of vision specialists.

How has diversity at the Institute evolved in recent decades?

Ensuring diversity at every level of UCLA has always been a major priority for the University and has been especially important for the Institute because of our deep connections to medical care in the community, and dealing with patients from many cultures.

The Institute’s reputation as a premier research and teaching institute is built on recruiting, retaining, and supporting outstanding faculty, residents, and staff from diverse backgrounds. Our five-year plan of programs will increase the Institute’s engagement in equity, diversity, and inclusion by ensuring a welcoming climate and an increasingly diverse corps of residents and faculty; modifying existing mentorship programs to better tailor the needs of residents and junior faculty; and improving the existing process to provide everyone in the Institute with improved opportunities for growth. Those are major steps that are crucial for the future of the Institute.

As you step down from leadership of the Institute, what strikes you most about your time as director?

When I look back over the last three decades, I am amazed by how far we have progressed. Every aspect of our work has been refined and redefined: we are constantly improving our patient care; new methods of exploration are creating extraordinary advances in research to increase understanding of the challenges of the eye. We are building broader outreach programs to bring vision care to the underserved. And we continue to hone our training for future generations of ophthalmologists.

All of this has occurred while our delivery of vision care has grown dramatically: now we receive nearly 200,000 patient visits each year; on a “routine” day we see almost 1,000 patients, and perform more than 80 surgical procedures.

As I look beyond my directorship, I think the issue that stands out more than any other about the study of the eye is the more we learn, the more new questions emerge. The possibilities for understanding the eye, and building better methods of treating preventable blindness, are greater than ever. It has been a privilege for me to lead the Institute’s efforts for almost 30 years, and I’m looking forward to seeing what comes next.

A Time to Celebrate!

Faculty, staff, colleagues, and friends came together on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, to honor **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, for his 28 years of illustrious service as chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and director of the Stein Eye Institute.

In addition to honoring Dr. Mondino for his many achievements, the event also served as a congratulatory welcome to **Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD**, as she assumes the leadership role of chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, director of the Stein Eye Institute, and affiliation director of the Doheny Eye Institute.

Three exemplary leaders of the Stein Eye Institute and UCLA Department of Ophthalmology: Outgoing Chair and Director Dr. Bartly Mondino (1994–22) and Founding Chair and Director Dr. Bradley Straatsma (1964–94) welcome Incoming Chair and Director Dr. Anne L. Coleman.

Dr. Anne Coleman (center) joins Marissa Goldberg, Doheny Eye Institute chief executive officer, and Dr. Alfredo Sadun, vice chair, Doheny Eye Centers UCLA.

(L to r) Drs. Joseph Caprioli, Michael Gorin, Kevin Miller, and Joseph Demer join in the celebration honoring Dr. Mondino for his outstanding leadership.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. MONDINO

by Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD

With creativity and forward planning, **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, led the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, the Stein Eye Institute, and the recently affiliated Doheny Eye Institute through a transformative span of more than a quarter century. Among his many noteworthy accomplishments were pivotal advances in programs for research, education, patient care, and community outreach; spearheading construction of the Edie & Lew Wasserman Building; and vital encouragement for affiliation of the Doheny Eye Institute with UCLA and the Department of Ophthalmology.

Made possible by extraordinary philanthropy, construction of the Edie & Lew Wasserman Building provided ophthalmology subspecialty facilities and the highly advanced ophthalmology surgical center. Designed by the internationally acclaimed architect, Richard Meier, the building forms the north side of the vision-science campus at UCLA.

Strongly encouraged by Dr. Mondino, affiliation of the Doheny Eye Institute with UCLA and the Department of Ophthalmology in 2013 added a world-renowned center of vision-science research, ophthalmology patient care, and specialist training to UCLA. This partnership brings outstanding faculty scientists, opportunities for collaboration, and increased patient-care outreach into the community of greater Los Angeles.

Coinciding with these major programmatic achievements, Dr. Mondino has built a notable academic career. His accomplishments include over 300 scientific publications and more than 20 named lectures at centers worldwide. Among numerous honors and professional positions, he has served locally as president of the Los Angeles Society of Ophthalmology and nationally as president of the University Professors of Ophthalmology.

Combining integrity, commitment, and focus, Dr. Mondino has greatly enhanced the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, the Stein Eye Institute, and the Doheny Eye Institute. Fortunately, his brilliant career extends long into the future.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. MONDINO

by Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD

Bartly J. Mondino, MD, is an inspirational, visionary leader with numerous professional accolades including his impressive role as chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and director of the Stein Eye Institute for more than 28 years, an incredible feat!

We have seen the immense growth of the Stein Eye Institute and the Department of Ophthalmology with the addition of new buildings, the Doheny Eye Institute affiliation, and two eye campuses dedicated to eye and vision health. This could not have happened without Dr. Mondino's vision and actions!

In addition to his professional accolades, I have had the honor to meet weekly with Dr. Mondino and have found him to be an extraordinary individual. He serves as an outstanding role model, treating all staff, students, residents, faculty, and patients with courtesy and respect. He is a warm and welcoming person, always treating everyone in the Department as family. He makes sure that we have a smile on our faces and a ready laugh with his quick wit and sense of humor. He references movies often. One of my favorite quotes that he uses is "help me, help you" from the movie *Jerry Maguire*. Dr. Mondino has helped create one of the best cultures and settings for patient care, academic learning, community outreach, and vision research in the world. It is truly an honor to have been one of his faculty for more than 28 years.

Trashon Fearington, (interim) chief administrative officer and clinical director, organized the event honoring Dr. Mondino and welcoming Dr. Coleman.

(L to r) Drs. Robert Goldberg, Bartly Mondino, Anne Coleman, Anthony Arnold, and Alfredo Sadun revel in the company of friends and colleagues.

Dr. Anthony Arnold, chief of the Neuro-Ophthalmology Division, commends Dr. Mondino for his service.

Dr. Joseph Caprioli, chief of the Glaucoma Division, shares a story about Dr. Mondino.

The event included words of warmth and gift presentations to Dr. Mondino from faculty members. Dr. Gabriel Travis (podium) reflects on how Dr. Mondino has expertly steered the Stein Eye Institute for three decades.

GRAND OPENING

Doheny Eye Institute Vision-Science Campus in Pasadena

The Doheny Eye Institute, a top-ranked nonprofit organization proudly affiliated with the UCLA Stein Eye Institute, celebrated the grand opening of its headquarters in Pasadena on June 23, 2022.

The evening's festivities were set on Doheny's new seven-acre campus at 150 North Orange Grove Boulevard. The 115,895-square-foot facility enhances Doheny's capabilities for fundamental discoveries that fuel ideas for clinical trials, new treatments, and cures. Its laboratories are equipped to accelerate research and discovery in key areas, including artificial intelligence, regenerative medicine, gene-based therapies, and imaging diagnostics. Educational programs, including seminars, conferences, symposia, and lectures that enable remote collaborations to meet current demands and evolving opportunities to advance vision research and teaching, are now housed in a state-of-the-art conference center.

The iconic architect group William L. Pereira & Associates—creators of the original Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) campus and the Transamerica Pyramid in San Francisco—designed the LEED Silver-contemporary property. Originally built in 1981 as home to the Avery Dennison Corporation, the facility is now a 21st century, technologically advanced vision-research center and headquarters. The building houses the Doheny Eye Institute's vision research center, the Doheny Image Reading Center, administrative offices, and it will soon house Doheny Eye Centers UCLA clinical space, with an ambulatory surgery center anticipated soon thereafter. The building is within walking distance to Old Pasadena, award-winning restaurants, the Norton Simon Museum, the Pasadena Museum of History, and shopping in the heart of downtown Pasadena.

Doheny's Chief Executive Officer, **Marissa Goldberg**, says, "In a world where the stakes of our work are ever increasing, we are committed to deliver on our promise to further the conservation, improvement, and restoration of human eyesight. In the U.S. alone, by age 65 one in three people will have some vision-impairing eye condition. Our new home in Pasadena will allow us to bring everyone together under one roof to facilitate interactions between researchers and physicians—promoting the collaborations necessary for translational studies. This bench-to-bedside approach is vital to improve the quality of lives in our immediate community and around the world."

In addition to the new Doheny Eye Institute vision-science campus, Doheny physicians—all of whom are UCLA Department of Ophthalmology faculty—see patients at convenient Doheny Eye Center UCLA neighborhood locations in Arcadia, Orange County, and Pasadena.

About the Doheny Eye Institute

Since its inception more than 75 years ago, the Doheny Eye Institute has become an international resource for vision science. With the foresight of **Stephen J. Ryan, MD**, Doheny president from 1987 until his death in 2013, the Doheny Eye Institute has grown to promote all three elements of its academic mission: basic and clinical research, ophthalmic education, and clinical care.

Much of this growth was in conjunction with USC as Doheny was affiliated with USC for many years and built a number of buildings at the site before it became the sprawling campus it is today. In 2013, Doheny and the UCLA Stein Eye Institute began a new 99 year affiliation—an organizational structure like no other in academic ophthalmology, which seeks to integrate UCLA's Department of Ophthalmology with the Doheny Eye Institute. In 2014, access to patient care was broadened from the westside to the eastside and south to Orange County with Doheny Eye Center UCLA locations opening in Arcadia, Orange County, and Pasadena.

The affiliation was organized and cultivated by **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, Ms. Goldberg, executive director of Doheny at the time, and **Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD**, vice chair of Academic Affairs for the Department of Ophthalmology. Doheny faculty who joined the new enterprise with UCLA have been actively engaged by Dr. Mondino, Dr. Coleman, and **Alfredo A. Sadun, MD, PhD**, vice chair, Doheny Eye Centers UCLA, to help implement the many aspects of the affiliation. **SriniVas R. Sadda, MD**, served as the second president of the Doheny Eye Institute for five years (2016–2021) following the affiliation.

The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology is the only department anywhere with two eye institutes: the Stein Eye Institute in Westwood and the Doheny Eye Institute in Pasadena, or "Eastwood" as it is fondly referred. **Ronald E. Smith, MD**, previous chair of the USC Department of Ophthalmology, called the partnership the "Merger of the Millennium," in recognition of the two top tier eye institutes in the country joining to form a powerhouse of talent and expertise affiliated with one department of ophthalmology.

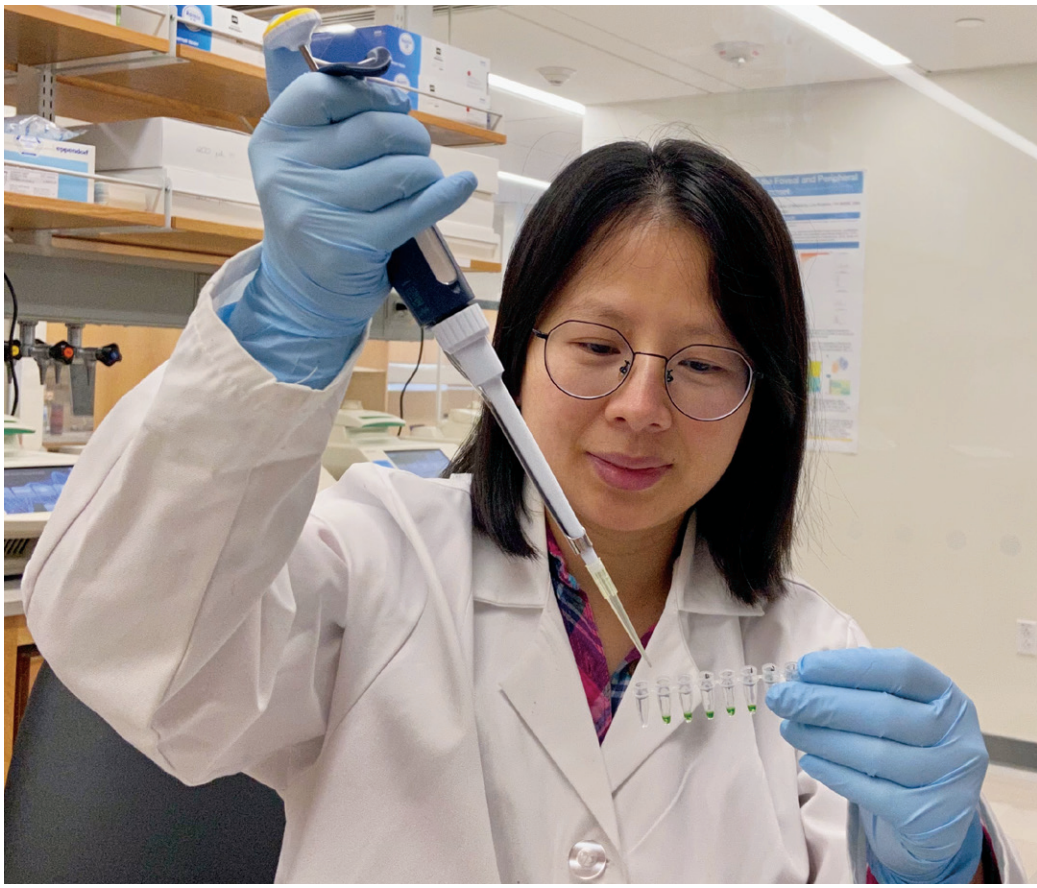
Designed by celebrated architect group William L. Pereira & Associates, the Doheny Eye Institute vision-science campus is both functional and beautiful.

Research on Molecular Underpinnings of Foveal Development and Malformation Could Lead to New Treatments for Blinding Diseases

The tiny depression at the center of the retina known as the fovea accounts for less than 1% of the total retinal area, but its role in human vision is large. Humans see with the greatest acuity at the center of the gaze; when an image is cast through the cornea and lens, it projects onto the retina's center, where the fovea lies. This makes a healthy fovea critical for tasks such as reading, driving, and facial recognition. It also means that any defect in the fovea—as occurs in major blinding diseases such as age-related macular degeneration—can compromise vision.

The key to developing successful treatments for such diseases is to better understand the molecular processes that occur when the fovea goes awry. But that has been difficult to ascertain because of the lack of a suitable model to study the fovea. "Among mammals, only humans and certain primates have a fovea, and limited access to primate models and human ocular tissue hinders the mechanistic study of human foveal development," explains **Yi-Rong Peng, PhD**, assistant professor of ophthalmology at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute. "As a result, the molecular and genetic underpinnings of foveal formation remain largely unknown, and there are few treatments to reverse foveal malformation or dysfunction."

Since joining Stein Eye in January 2020, Dr. Peng has established a vibrant research program that is leveraging the dramatic advances in so-called next-generation sequencing technologies to overcome these hurdles. She leads a multidisciplinary lab featuring team members with backgrounds in neuroscience, molecular biology, genetics, and bioinformatics that is building a next-generation research paradigm combining high-throughput genomic, transcriptomic, and proteomic methodologies with gene editing and stem cell technology to advance the understanding of retinal formation and degeneration.



Yi-Rong Peng, PhD, in her Retinal Function and Dysfunction Laboratory

"Our lab is in a unique position to dissect the cellular and molecular basis for complex neural structures and functions of the retinal circuitry," Dr. Peng says. "Our ultimate goal is to identify new pathogenetic mechanisms for visual defects and provide a therapeutic strategy to prevent vision loss and facilitate vision recovery."

With a prestigious Career Development Award she received in early 2022 from Research to Prevent Blindness—the leading nonprofit organization supporting eye research directed at preventing, treating, and eradicating diseases that threaten vision—Dr. Peng is heading an effort to understand three fundamental questions related to foveal biology: how the fovea is formed, what causes foveal malformation or dysfunction, and whether it is feasible to come up with a fovea model for developmental and pathogenetic studies.

To understand how the fovea is formed, Dr. Peng and her colleagues must decode its complexity. The fovea contains specialized neural circuits to support high-acuity vision and perceive the finest spatial and chromatic details. Unlike the rest of the retina, Dr. Peng says, the fovea is compact and densely packed with specialized cells. "There is a lot that is unknown, largely because most species lack this region and because it's so small, even though it provides more than half of the input from the retina into the brain," explains

Dr. Peng, who also received the esteemed Klingenstein-Simons Fellowship Award in Neuroscience in 2021.

Dr. Peng's lab laid the groundwork for the current project from previous research using high-throughput, single-cell RNA sequencing to comprehensively characterize more than 60 fovea cell types. "Transcriptomic comparisons showed that nearly all cell types in the fovea have approximate counterparts in the peripheral retina," Dr. Peng says. "However, gene expression in matched cell types was strikingly different between the fovea and the peripheral retina."

Building on these insights, Dr. Peng's group is using high-throughput transcriptomic and genomic techniques to characterize the fovea across critical developmental time points. Dr. Peng notes that several studies have examined the molecular signatures of the developing human retina, but a comprehensive cell-type-specific analysis of foveal development is lacking. With human embryonic tissue from UCLA's Department of Pathology, Dr. Peng's team will again use single-cell RNA sequencing to elucidate the full spectrum of cell types and their transcriptomic profiles in the developing fovea to determine when and how foveal cells become differentiated and specialized.

The project's second aim involves mapping the susceptible genes related to foveal defects and lack of a fovea to cell-type and region-specific expression, as well as pinpointing the cellular and genetic linkage to foveal malformation. Revealing the epigenetic regulation involved in foveal development will be especially illuminating, Dr. Peng says, given the differences in gene expression between foveal and peripheral cell types.

Lastly, leveraging the genetic pathways they identify during foveal development, Dr. Peng and her colleagues will manipulate those pathways through gene-editing techniques to facilitate the mechanistic study of foveal formation using human retinal organoids. "The big hurdle for achieving this goal is the lack of a suitable foveal model, given that most experimental models, such as mice, don't have a fovea," Dr. Peng notes. "However, organoids derived from human pluripotent stem cells that mimic the embryonic developmental process of the human retina have recently emerged as a potential model to study foveal development."

Learning the pathways unique to the fovea will allow for the development of the fovea within an artificial human retina in culture, Dr. Peng explains. "We can then, for example, directly compare the normal human fovea's macular cells with the macular cells of patients who have age-related macular degeneration, and determine what molecular or genetic changes could lead to the disease," she says.

Through the research, Dr. Peng aims to build a comprehensive transcriptomic and genomic roadmap of foveal development that will outline the molecular and genetic regulatory pathways underpinning foveal formation. Fulfilling that goal will help to pave the way toward studies of foveal dysfunction in diseases that lead to blindness. "How the fovea develops and what causes foveal defects is one of the most important unsolved questions in vision science," Dr. Peng says. "Through our research, we hope to provide a good foundation to understand these questions, which is a critical step toward developing treatments."

"Our lab is in a unique position to dissect the cellular and molecular basis for complex neural structures and functions of the retinal circuitry. Our ultimate goal is to identify new pathogenetic mechanisms for visual defects and provide a therapeutic strategy to prevent vision loss and facilitate vision recovery."

YI-RONG PENG, PHD

The Power of Legacy Gifts

Philanthropy is a powerful tool in the quest to better understand diseases and develop new therapies that can change lives and possibly lead to cures. As the UCLA Stein Eye Institute looks back on the remarkable career of Bartly J. Mondino, MD, Stein Eye celebrates his influence and the impact of legacy gifts.

For 29 years, Dr. Mondino, director, Stein Eye Institute; chair, UCLA Department of Ophthalmology; affiliation chair, Doheny Eye Institute; and Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology, has successfully guided the UCLA vision-science campus to national and international preeminence. During his tenure, Dr. Mondino has been instrumental in securing an astounding $362 million in philanthropic support, which has helped establish Stein Eye and the Department of Ophthalmology as a national leader. Collectively, UCLA Stein Eye and Doheny Eye Institutes and the Department of Ophthalmology are ranked in the top five nationally by *U.S. News & World Report*.

"Everything we do is pushing us forward toward our mission to preserve and restore vision and prevent blindness," says Dr. Mondino. "These efforts have and will continue to have a positive domino effect for the United States and the world."

Philanthropic partnerships are essential to Stein Eye's ongoing commitment to discover new treatments for eye diseases and train future generations of eye specialists. Under Dr. Mondino's leadership, there have been tremendous strides in advancing this mission. One key component has been the establishment of endowments. Endowments, which can fund a chair, fellowship, scholarship, or research, provide a reliable source of funding that continues to grow with increasing impact. Endowments ensure opportunities to pursue innovative research and provide training and education for future generations of physicians and scientists. Currently, the Department of Ophthalmology has an impressive 41 endowed chairs that enable the department to attract and retain stellar faculty with the resources to follow untested research pathways that can lead to remarkable discoveries.

"Grants are often given once a study has been proven through years of testing," says Dr. Mondino. "If you want to remain at the forefront of scientific and medical breakthroughs, however, you have to utilize private philanthropic dollars. Endowments have allowed our Department to more rapidly translate research from bench to bedside."

Whatever form endowments take, the philanthropic need for them is ongoing. Donors who establish endowments create prestigious legacies through naming rights, whether the gift takes their name or that of a loved one or faculty member. While multiple donors have contributed to the department's endowments, three donors in particular—**J. Bronwyn Bateman, MD, Dorothy (Dolly) Green**, and **Joan and Jerome Snyder**—have each endowed three chairs.

Dr. Bateman, former professor of ophthalmology and pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, first endowed a chair in memory of her late husband: the Rory Smith, MD, and Family Endowed Chair. While she was a young resident at Stein Eye, Dr. Bateman's husband, who was a UCLA resident in orthopedics, was diagnosed with an asbestos-related cancer and died after an 11-month battle with the disease.

"I wanted to honor my my first husband, Rory, who was not able to have a life and career," says Dr. Bateman. "By endowing a chair in his name, I gave him the legacy that he could not create. The key is creating a legacy at a quality institution that has a high level of integrity, and I think there is opportunity for people to do very nice things for their families here at UCLA." Dr. Bateman endowed two other chairs in the Department and her most recent gift to Stein Eye will establish the UCLA Bronwyn Bateman Center for Ocular Genetics.

The late Dolly Green, daughter of Burton Green who was a cofounder of Beverly Hills, shared an interest in horse racing and a friendship with Jules Stein, MD. When Dr. Stein approached Ms. Green for support, she responded in 1980 with the first of many gifts to the Institute. Having contributed funds in Stein Eye's nascent era, Ms. Green's legacy is entrenched in the history of the Institute and her contributions have provided vital resources for vision-science research, teaching, and academic leadership. In addition to establishing three chairs, the first of which is named the Dolly Green Chair of Ophthalmology, she also started the Dolly Green Scholars Award at Stein Eye.

Joan and Jerome Snyder have supported Stein Eye for more than 40 years. Their three endowed chairs have each filled different but important needs. They designated their first chair in 2008 for the director of the ophthalmology residency training program, their second chair focused on diseases of the cornea, and their third chair advances teaching and research in vision science in the Department of Ophthalmology. **Stacy L. Pineles, MD**, Jerome and Joan Snyder Chair in Ophthalmology, has experienced these benefits firsthand. "Holding the Jerome and Joan Snyder Chair in Ophthalmology," says Dr. Pineles, "has allowed me to focus in on the residency program, with less pressure to spend most of my time writing grants and prioritizing one initiative over another. Rather, I am able to focus on what will have the most impact for the residents' education as well as for my own research."

Many patients, in addition to alumni and faculty, who have given to the Institute and have been touched by Dr. Mondino's expertise and thoughtfulness, are choosing to leave a legacy gift in his honor. Gifts of

"Philanthropic partnerships are essential to Stein Eye's ongoing commitment to discover new treatments for eye diseases and train future generations of eye specialists."

BARTLY J. MONDINO, MD

any size can make a difference. "For many people, including grateful patients, giving back is a part of their healing journey, and so we want to allow folks to do that in a way that is meaningful to them," says Dr. Mondino.

Establishing an endowment is a visionary and generous act that honors the present and empowers the future. Thanks to the influence of Dr. Mondino, the endowments and collective philanthropic investments in the UCLA Stein Eye Institute continue to expand the Institute's reputation as a world-renowned destination for innovative and groundbreaking advances in research, clinical care, and education of the next generation of physicians.

To share your own reason for giving back, or to make a donation, please contact:

Leiloni Breidert
Development Operations Coordinator
breidert@mednet.ucla.edu
(310) 206-6035

Medical Students Gain Real-World Experience Providing Community Eye Care

The Early Authentic Clinical Experience (EACE) Program at the David Geffen School of Medicine (DGSOM) engages first-year DGSOM medical students in an immersive, real-life clinical and community experience. From October 2021 through July 2022, the EACE Program participated in a joint effort with the UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic (UMEC). Directed by **Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD**, Fran and Ray Stark Foundation Chair in Ophthalmology, UMEC provides free eye care services to under-resourced and vulnerable populations throughout Los Angeles.

EACE student and participant **Catherine T. Cascavita**, medical student year 1, says of her experience, "Over the past year, I have had the privilege of rotating with UMEC, which has allowed me to see the transformative impact the mobile eye clinic has around LA county, often providing patients with their first-ever eye exam and glasses. I have enjoyed working alongside and learning from UMEC's dedicated staff who have shown and taught me the end-to-end process of community outreach."

The EACE and UMEC collaboration provides students with robust opportunities to participate in community outreach, including vision-screening events for adults, preschool exams at local schools, and large-scale health fairs. The students also receive a firsthand introduction into eye care services provided to medically underserved groups in Los Angeles County, additionally providing experience in assessing social determinants of health as they are related to eye diseases that cause visual impairment and blindness.

Magrabi ICO Cameroon Eye Institute Selected as Best Hospital

The Magrabi ICO Cameroon Eye Institute (MICEI) in Yaounde, Cameroon, was a double award winner for best hospital and best private hospital in Cameroon for 2021.

The UCLA Stein Eye Institute has forged an indelible connection with MICEI. Founding Director and Founding Chair, **Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD**, was instrumental in MICEI's creation, with the intended outcome of enhancing vision and the quality of life for individuals, families, and all of society in Sub-Saharan Africa. The ongoing relationship has been further cemented under Director and Chair, **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, with Stein Eye faculty conducting collaborative research with MICEI vision scientists and training MICEI doctors in advanced surgical techniques.

Inaugurated in 2017, MICEI is the first subspecialty and training eye hospital in the Central Africa region. Its mission is to provide comprehensive eye care at an affordable cost. MICEI also trains ophthalmologists and staff in Cameroon and French-speaking Central West Africa to become the next generation of leaders in eye care and to provide high quality, subspecialty eye health services and outreach programs, which had not previously been available in Central Africa.

Leaders on Leadership

Issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion are central to the fulfillment of the Stein Eye Institute's mission, and the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (EyeJEDI) of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology was announced earlier this year to further support a diverse and inclusive Department, as well as to provide every member of the Department with an equitable opportunity for success and ensure all patients have access to high quality health care.

The first task of the committee was to identify areas that would benefit from improvement. Based on the input from trainees, staff members, and faculty, EyeJEDI plans to focus on six elements to achieve our JEDI mission in the next five years: People, Climate, Structural Elements, Professional Development, Community Engagement, and Clinical Care.

Because well-represented and gender-balanced leadership has far-reaching benefits, there has been a surge of interest in this topic, especially for females and underrepresented minorities. Acquiring effective leadership skills is an integral part of professional development for our trainees and faculty, and it is also an area identified for improvement in the Department. The EyeJEDI Committee proposed supporting and providing leadership training to females and underrepresented minorities, and the Department has committed funding to sponsor underrepresented trainees and faculty attendance at professional and leadership training programs each year, such as seminars, workshops, and symposia.

To take full advantage of the experience and wisdom of the phenomenal leaders in our Department, the second Eye-JEDI Grand Rounds was held in June 2022 and dedicated to leadership. **Dr. Bartly J. Mondino**, leader of the Department from 1994 to June 30, 2022, and **Dr. Anne L. Coleman**, chair as of July 1, 2022, shared their perspectives and firsthand experiences as effective leaders. Dr. Mondino started with the truth of being a department chair: "All power is illusory," he quoted from Founding Chair, **Dr. Bradley R. Straatsma**. "A department chair—who should be fair, transparent, and keeping his or her promises—is judged by the performance of the department."

Dr. Mondino said the three most important traits of successful leaders are intelligence, integrity, and innovation. Providing services and building credentials are the starting point. The ability to persuade followers to pursue the goals set by leaders is by far the most important element of leadership. Dr. Mondino stressed the ability to react, prepare, and take advantage of new opportunities makes an exceptional leader, saying there are times to lead, times to follow, and times to refrain from following.

Dr. Coleman presented the five dimensions of centered leadership: meaning, framing, connecting, engaging, and energizing. Dr. Coleman explained that a leader has to be inspired to take on the role to lead the team in creative and profound ways. "You have to be passionate about being a leader," said Dr. Coleman. "A leader is able to positively frame situations and convert even difficult situations into opportunities. Connect with your team and colleagues, engage people in their missions, and sustain their energy in a long leadership journey."

Dr. Coleman stressed the most important thing about being a leader is to be a member of the team, to listen, to do your best with intention, and to not always want credit. Dr. Coleman has been president of both the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American Ophthalmological Society. "I became involved in both organizations because I wanted to give back, and I wanted to make a difference in the lives of my patients and my colleagues," said Dr. Coleman.

"You have to be passionate about being a leader. A leader is able to positively frame situations and convert even difficult situations into opportunities. Connect with your team and colleagues, engage people in their missions, and sustain their energy in a long leadership journey."

ANNE L. COLEMAN, MD, PHD

Dr. Anne Coleman Announced as Incoming Chair and Director

We are proud to announce the appointment of **Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD**, as chair and executive medical director of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, director of the UCLA Stein Eye Institute, and affiliation chair of the Doheny Eye Institute, effective July 1, 2022. Dr. Coleman assumes these roles as **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, steps down after nearly three decades in that capacity.

Dr. Coleman is the Fran and Ray Stark Foundation Chair in Ophthalmology as well as professor of epidemiology in the UCLA Jonathan and Karin Fielding School of Public Health. She is vice-chair of academic affairs for the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology.

Dr. Coleman received her medical degree from the Medical College of Virginia, completed her residency training at the University of Illinois in Chicago, and finished her fellowship training in glaucoma at the Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. She earned a PhD in epidemiology from UCLA and is a graduate of the Anderson School of Management Executive Program in Management.

Dr. Coleman is an accomplished researcher, focused on the diagnosis, treatment, risk factors, gene-environment interactions, and societal impact of glaucoma, cataracts, myopia, and age-related macular degeneration. Among her many accomplishments, Dr. Coleman pioneered the use of the Ahmed glaucoma valve—the world's leading glaucoma drainage device. She has more than 240 peer-reviewed publications and has received over 20 million dollars in federal/private funding over the course of her career.

Dr. Coleman has a passion for patient care, particularly for those who traditionally are underserved by mainstream medical

systems. As director of the Stein Eye Institute Center for Community Outreach and Policy, Dr. Coleman has overseen outreach efforts to screen and treat over 180,000 underserved residents of Southern California. She has also served as vice chair for Academic Affairs and been involved with the recruitment of over 40 faculty members to the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and the UCLA Stein Eye Institute and Doheny Eye Institute.

Dr. Coleman is also a national leader in ophthalmology, having served as president of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), chair of the National Eye Institute's National Eye Health Educational Program, president of Women in Ophthalmology, and member of the FDA Ophthalmic Devices Panel among other positions. Currently, she is a member of the Scientific Advisory Panel for Research to Prevent Blindness, president of the Council for the American Ophthalmological Society, and is associate editor of the *American Journal of Ophthalmology*.

For her accomplishments, Dr. Coleman has received numerous awards, including the AAO Life Achievement Award and Secretariat Award and being elected to the National Academy of Medicine.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Coleman to her new role.

ARVO 2022 Award Recipients

Faculty and alumni from the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology were honored for their contributions to the profession at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) annual meeting May 1–4, 2022, in Denver, Colorado.

The title of ARVO Fellow is an honor established to recognize current ARVO members for their individual accomplishments, leadership, and contributions to the Association.

ARVO Gold Fellows

Amani Fawzi, MD, International Fellow 1998–2000, Resident 2001–2004

Lynn K. Gordon, MD, PhD, Faculty

Scott Whitcup, MD, Volunteer Faculty

ARVO Silver Fellows

Ava K. Bittner, OD, PhD, Faculty

Bartly J. Mondino, MD, Faculty

ARVO Meeting Recognizes Stein Eye Distinguished Alumnus

Each year, the ARVO meeting honors Stein Eye Resident Alumnus (1980–1983) **Carl B. Camras, MD**. Up to three $12,000 Pfizer Ophthalmics Carl Camras Translational Research Awards are granted annually at ARVO to young investigators working in areas of translational research. The award recognizes early-career researchers who have exhibited excellence in research and their fundamental scientific discoveries, concepts, and novel technologies that have led to, or have the promise of leading to, clinical application.

During his distinguished career as a glaucoma specialist and research scientist, Dr. Camras took a personal interest in developing the next generation of eye and vision researchers.

Supporting Women in Vision Research at ARVO

Women in Eye and Vision Research (WEAVR) is an initiative of the ARVO Foundation to further develop and strengthen women who are pursuing careers in the visual sciences. WEAVR supports and promotes networking, career development, and access to research opportunities for female vision scientists.

The May 3, 2022, WEAVR event included Stein Eye Institute and Doheny Eye Institute faculty members, academic personnel, fellows, and residents who were sponsored by the Department to attend the event.

J. Bronwyn Bateman, MD, Volunteer Faculty

Ava Bittner, OD, PhD, Faculty

Sarah Cheng, MD, Resident (EyeSTAR)

Sophie Deng, MD, PhD, Faculty

Amanda Lu, MD, Resident

Anna Matynia, PhD, Academic Personnel

Eunice Ng, Predoctoral Fellow

Roxana Radu, MD, Faculty

Lynn Shi, MD, Resident

Victoria Tseng, MD, PhD, Faculty

Xian-Jie Yang, PhD, Faculty

Wenlin Zhang, MD, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow

UCLA vision scientists attend the 2022 WEAVR event.
Back row (l to r): Drs. Wenlin Zhang, Lynn Shi, Ava Bittner, Sarah Cheng, Ana Matynia. Front row (l to r): Drs. Sophie Deng, Amanda Lu, Victoria Tseng, Eunice Ng, Roxanna Radu

Faculty Honors

Joseph Caprioli, MD, David May II Chair in Ophthalmology, presented the Shaffer-Hetherington-Hoskins Lecture "Phenotypes of Primary Open Angle Glaucoma" at the 26th Annual Glaucoma Symposium on February 12, 2022, in San Francisco, California.

Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD, Arthur L. Rosenbaum, MD, Chair in Pediatric Ophthalmology, gave the Schepens/Mass Eye and Ear Distinguished Lecture, "Nexus of Strabismus, Myopia, and Glaucoma," on April 14, 2022 (virtual).

Dr. Demer also presented the John D. Baker, MD Lecture in Pediatric Ophthalmology, "Insights From Imaging Into Congenital and Acquired Strabismus," on April 29, 2022, at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan.

JoAnn A. Giaconi, MD, health sciences clinical professor of ophthalmology, was elected to the executive board of the American Glaucoma Society as secretary for a two-year term beginning March 2022.

Lynn K. Gordon, MD, PhD, professor of ophthalmology emeritus, presented the keynote lecture, "Neuro-Ophthalmic Complications of Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor Therapy for Cancer: Lessons Learned Through Case Reports and Big Data," February 28, 2022, at the annual scientific congress of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists in Brisbane, Queensland (virtual).

Gary N. Holland, MD, Jack H. Skirball Chair in Ocular Inflammatory Diseases, received unanimous approval by the Council on Academic Personnel to receive the title of "Distinguished Professor of Ophthalmology," retroactive to July 1, 2021.

Michael S. Ip, MD, Gavin S. Herbert Endowed Chair for Macular Degeneration, presented the J. Donald Gass Lecture, "CRVO: Top Lessons Learned from SCORE2 Study," on March 17, 2022, at the Snowmass Retina and Eye Conference in Snowmass, Colorado.

Stacy L. Pineles, MD, Jerome and Joan Snyder Chair in Ophthalmology, was named chair-elect of the Pediatric Eye Disease Investigator Group, a National Eye Institute-funded research network.

David Sarraf, MD, health sciences clinical professor of ophthalmology, presented the Edward W.D. Norton Lecture, "Non-Neovascular AMD with Fluid: Mechanisms of Fluid Accumulation in Dry AMD," on March 18, 2022, at the Snowmass Retina and Eye Conference in Snowmass, Colorado.

Faculty Honored for Their Distinguished Service

In an evening of celebration on June 1, 2022, **Drs. Bartly J. Mondino** and **Anne L. Coleman** commemorated faculty members who were recently honored with a chair title and faculty colleagues who were retiring after dedicating years of service to the UCLA Stein Eye Institute and Doheny Eye Institute.

CHAIR HOLDERS

Kouros Nouri-Mahdavi, MD, MSc
Ernest G. Herman Chair in Ophthalmology

Stacy L. Pineles, MD
Jerome and Joan Snyder Chair in Ophthalmology

Roxana A. Radu, MD
Vernon O. Underwood Family Chair in Ophthalmology

Alapakkam P. Sampath, PhD
Grace and Walter Lantz Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology

Federico G. Velez, MD
Leonard Apt Endowed Chair in Pediatric Ophthalmology

RETIREES

Debora B. Farber, PhD, DPhhc

Lynn K. Gordon, MD, PhD

Joseph Horwitz, PhD

John A. Irvine, MD

Steven Nusinowitz, PhD

IN MEMORIAM

Maurice B. Landers III, MD

1937–2021

Dr. Maurice Landers, alumnus of the Stein Eye Institute residency program (1964–1967), died July 11, 2021, in Memphis, Tennessee.

A pioneer in the treatment of vitreoretinal diseases and mentor to ophthalmologists worldwide, Dr. Landers was raised in Ventura, California, and received his BA from Princeton University in 1960. He graduated from the University of Michigan Medical School in 1963, attended Oxford University for a one-year externship, and conducted his ophthalmology residency at the Stein Eye Institute. He was in the U.S. Army from 1967 to 1969, achieving the rank of major, and served in the Office of the Surgeon General in Washington, DC, and at the Frankford Arsenal in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he was director of the U.S. Army Medical Research Laboratory conducting early research on lasers.

Dr. Landers joined the faculty of the Duke University Eye Center in Durham, North Carolina, in 1969. He was professor of ophthalmology and chief of the Retina Service at Duke University Eye Center from 1976 to 1984. He later served as professor of ophthalmology and chief of the Retina Services at the University of California, Davis. He was in private practice before serving as professor of ophthalmology at the Kittner Eye Center at UNC-Chapel Hill from 2001 until his retirement in 2019.

He is is survived by his wife, Wendy Marbury, three children, and five grandchildren.

New Faculty Appointment

Dr. Deborah Ferrington Joins Doheny Eye Institute as Chief Scientific Officer

Deborah Ferrington, PhD, celebrated for groundbreaking research on age-related macular degeneration, joined the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology in May 2022 as professor of ophthalmology and chief scientific officer (CSO) of the Doheny Eye Institute. In her role as CSO, Dr. Ferrington's focus is on leading and expanding Doheny's research initiatives.


Deborah Ferrington, PhD

"We are thrilled to have Deb join the Doheny team," says **Marissa Goldberg**, Doheny's chief executive officer. "Her passion for research and basic science along with her extensive leadership experience and collaborative work style will be of enormous value to Doheny as we continue to further our mission."

Dr. Ferrington, who is also the Stephen J. Ryan-Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation Endowed Presidential Chair, has more than 20 years of experience in academic research, most recently as professor and Elaine and Robert Larson Endowed Vision Research Chair in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Neurosciences at the University of Minnesota. She completed her undergraduate degree in biological science and scientific illustration and a master of education program from the University of Pittsburgh, and she went on to receive her PhD in biochemistry from the University of Kansas, where she also completed a postdoctoral fellowship.

Dr. Ferrington serves as a permanent member of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) "Biology and Development of the Eye" study section. She has been the recipient of various NIH grants funded by the National Eye Institute and the National Institute of Aging, and has been funded by Foundation Fighting Blindness and the Bright-Focus Foundation. She has published more than 90 peer-reviewed papers and has co-authored several chapters in seminal scientific books.

"I've been impressed with the entire Doheny Eye Institute team, and its affiliation partner, the UCLA Stein Eye Institute," Dr. Ferrington says. "I am very pleased to be a part of the organization and look forward to collaborating with the Doheny-UCLA vision researchers and clinical faculty to accelerate scientific discovery for groundbreaking, translational medicine."

Dr. Emile Vieta Receives Inaugural Award for Ophthalmic Genetics


Emile Vieta, MD

Each year, the American College of Medical Genetics (ACMG) Foundation for Genetic and Genomic Medicine grants its Next Generation Fellowship Awards to promising early career professionals in a range of medical genetics and genomics specialties. In 2022, the ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting recognized Ophthalmic Genetics for the first time, and **Emile Vieta, MD**, Stein Eye Institute second-year resident and inaugural EyeSTAR genetics trainee, received this honor.

Dr. Vieta graduated *magna cum laude* in chemistry from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez. After graduate studies in physical chemistry, he completed his medical degree with distinction from the San Juan Bautista School of Medicine. His interest in research motivated him to pursue a postdoctoral fellowship at the Pediatric, Developmental, and Genetic Ophthalmology Section at the National Eye Institute. As the first EyeSTAR (Specialty Training and Advanced Research) genetics trainee at the Stein Eye Institute, Dr. Vieta is training in both ophthalmology and medical genetics. After residency, he plans to pursue a pediatric ophthalmology fellowship, with the ultimate goal of returning to Puerto Rico to work as a clinician and a researcher.

The Stein Eye Institute's genetic track was introduced last year, and it offers ophthalmology residency training in tandem with instruction by the UCLA Intercampus Medical Genetics Training Program. The genetic track leads to Clinical Genetics and Genomics certification by the American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics and is the first of its kind in the United States. The program was established under the leadership of **Dr. Joseph L. Demer**, chair of the EyeSTAR committee, through the direction of **Drs. J. Bronwyn Bateman** and **Michael B. Gorin**.

Education

Annual Comprehensive Ophthalmology Review Course

The UCLA Stein Eye Institute and the Doheny Eye Institute presented the Annual Comprehensive Ophthalmology Review Course on February 10–13, 2022, at the Stein Eye Institute vision-science campus in Westwood. The hybrid CME event was also available as a live virtual activity.

The intensive four-day course reviewed the clinical essentials of each subspecialty in ophthalmology, and prepared the attendees for upcoming ophthalmology examinations and required continuing medical education recertification. Instruction concentrated on the epidemiology, clinical presentation, diagnosis, and management of ophthalmologic disease.

Directed by **Drs. John Irvine** and **Mitra Nejad**, the 2022 course included contributions from guest faculty **Drs. Melinda Chang**, **Rustum Karanjia**, **Todd Mondzelewski**, and **Kenneth Wright**. Participating UCLA course faculty were **Drs. Saba Al-Hashimi**, **Bruce Becker**, **Benjamin Bert**, **Simon Fung**, **Kirk Hou**, **Michael Ip**, **Monica Khitri**, **Shawn Lin**, **Kevin Miller**, **Colin McCannel**, **Tara McCannel**, **Pradeep Prasad**, **Daniel Rootman**, **Victoria Tseng**, and **Edmund Tsui**.

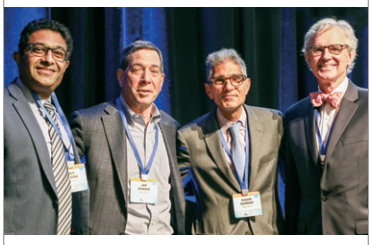
Pacific Retina Club

The Pacific Retina Club, presented by the International Retinal Imaging Society, held its 8th annual conference April 1–2, 2022, at the UCLA Meyer & Renee Luskin Conference Center.

The Pacific Retina Club brings together retina specialists from the Western United States to exchange knowledge and expertise regarding the evaluation and management of common and rare retinal diseases.

A case conference and a comprehensive retina update provided in-depth coverage of a wide array of topics, including artificial intelligence, genetics, imaging, age-related macular degeneration, diabetes, uveitis, tumors, surgery, pediatrics, clinical trials, and the business of ophthalmology. **Dr. Jay S. Duker** presented the keynote Alexander R. Irvine Lecture.

UCLA Department of Ophthalmology faculty members **Drs. David Sarraf** and **SriniVas R. Sadda** were the program directors, along with **Dr. H. Richard McDonald** of West Coast Retina, California Pacific Medical Center.



(L to r): Drs. SriniVas Sadda, Jay Duker, David Sarraf, and H. Richard McDonald at the Pacific Retina Club conference at UCLA.

Dr. Kevin Miller

Advanced Cataract Surgery Course

To help combat avoidable blindness, **Dr. Kevin M. Miller**, chief of the Cataract and Refractive Surgery Division, presented his annual Advanced Cataract Surgery Course April 9, 2022, at the Johnson & Johnson Institute in Irvine, California.

In conjunction with Johnson & Johnson, the Advanced Cataract Surgery Course with instruction by UCLA faculty and volunteer faculty members, presented an Anterior and Pars Plana Vitrectomy Wet Lab and an Affiliated Technologies Dry Lab with instruction in Catalys FLACS; Toric IOL Planning, Insertion, and Alignment; Veritas Phaco Machine Programming; B Scan Ultrasonography; Yamane Technique; iStent Implantation; Suture Repair of Small Iris Defects; and Meibomian Gland Imaging. The labs were followed by a complex case video workshop.

The Basic Cataract Surgery Course is October 15, 2022. For information, contact Dr. Miller at: kmiller@ucla.edu.

International Retinal Imaging Symposium

The International Retinal Imaging Society (IntRIS) presented a virtual symposium on May 6–7, 2022. IntRIS was created to advance knowledge, science, and innovation in the field of retinal imaging. IntRIS integrates basic science, clinical medicine, and industry, with an aim to provide an infrastructure and platform to coordinate collaboration and exchange by those interested in retinal imaging.

With a diverse spectrum of scientific talks presented by world-renowned experts, the two-day meeting highlighted innovations in retinal imaging and featured sessions on artificial intelligence, technological innovations, and patho-anatomical breakthroughs.

Novel imaging systems were discussed, including en face and peripheral OCT, OCT angiography, confocal resonance imaging, quantitative autofluorescence, and fluorescence lifetime imaging, showcasing the integral importance of innovative retinal imaging in the evaluation and management of retinal disease. Course directors were **Drs. K. Bailey Freund**, **SriniVas Sadda**, and **David Sarraf**.

The Basic and Advanced Cataract Training Courses are extremely popular and provide opportunities to learn both tried-and-true and cutting-edge cataract surgery techniques.

Clinical and Research Seminar

The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology held its prestigious clinical and research seminar June 10–11, 2022, at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute.

Designed for ophthalmologists, optometrists, vision scientists, and allied care professionals, the seminar covers current clinical and research aspects of each of the ophthalmic subspecialties. The two-day program includes the full-time faculties of both the Stein Eye Institute and the Doheny Eye Institute, along with nationally prominent invited lecturers. Sessions addressed current best practices in management, advanced surgical techniques, latest diagnostic technology, and translational research. Material was presented in multiple educational formats, including didactic lecture, panel discussion, and case-based interactive presentations. The event was highlighted by the following keynote lectures:

52nd Jules Stein Lecturer

Michael F. Chiang, MD
Director, National Eye Institute
National Institutes of Health

52nd Doheny Memorial Lecturer

J. Timothy Stout, MD, PhD
Director, Cullen Eye Institute
Chair, Department of Ophthalmology
Baylor College of Medicine

19th Bradley R. Straatsma Lecturer

Joan O'Brien, MD
Chair, Department of Ophthalmology
University of Pennsylvania
Director, Scheie Eye Institute

19th Thomas H. Pettit Lecturer

Bonnie An Henderson, MD
Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology
Tufts University School of Medicine
Ophthalmic Consultants of Boston

SAVE THE DATE

PLEASE JOIN THE

UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association

at its annual reception during the 2022 American Academy of Ophthalmology Meeting

Sunday, October 2, 2022
5:30–8 p.m.

Westin, Chicago River North
Riverfront Room
320 North Dearborn
Chicago, IL 60654

RSVP by September 15, 2022
alumni@jsei.ucla.edu or (310) 825-4148

Resident and Fellow Graduation and Award Ceremony

Residents, fellows, and faculty were honored for excellence at the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology graduation on June 3, 2022. The ceremony was held at the UCLA Faculty Club.

(L to r): Graduating residents Drs. Yoon Lee, Ravin Sajnani, Abhinav Golla, Terry Hsieh, Lynn Shi, and Claire Smith celebrate their graduation with Residency Program Director, Dr. Stacy Pineles (center).

RESIDENT RESEARCH AWARD

Sarah Cheng, MD, PhD

CLINICAL FELLOW RESEARCH AWARD

Kelsey Roelofs, MD

RESEARCH FELLOW RESEARCH AWARD

Vahid Mohammadzadeh, MD

FACULTY TEACHING AWARD

Michael Kapamajian, MD

FELLOWSHIP FACULTY TEACHING AWARD

Edmund Tsui, MD

FELLOW TEACHING AWARD

Kelsey Roelofs, MD

RESIDENT TEACHING AWARD

Ravin Sajnani, MD

Destinations of 2022 Graduating Residents

Abhinav Golla, MD, MPH
Glaucoma Fellowship
Durham, North Carolina

Terry Hsieh, MD, PhD
Vitreoretinal Surgery Fellowship
UC Irvine
Irvine, California

Yoon H. Lee, MD
Pediatric Ophthalmology Fellowship
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Justin J. Park, MD
Glaucoma Fellowship
University of Michigan
Kellogg Eye Center
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Andres Parra, MD
Cataract and Refractive Surgeon
Diagnostic Eye Center
Houston, Texas

Ravin Sajnani, MD
Private Practice
Hollywood, Florida

Lynn Shi, MD
Glaucoma Fellowship
UCLA Stein Eye Institute
Los Angeles, California

Claire S. Smith, MD, MFA
Kaiser Permanente
Portland, Oregon

Destinations of 2022 Graduating Fellows

CORNEA

Stephan Chiu, MD
Private Practice
San Diego, California

Jae Kim, MD
Private Practice
Detroit, Michigan

David MacPherson, MD
Private Practice
New Jersey

GLAUCOMA

Jaffer M. Kattan, MD
Private Practice
Chicago, Illinois

Nariman Nassiri, MD, MPH
Private Practice
Southern California

Ernest Puckett, MD
Private Practice
Eugene, Oregon

MEDICAL RETINA

Brian A. Lee, MD
Kaiser Permanente
Sacramento, California

Timothy Peiris, MD
Private Practice
Los Angeles, California

RETINA

Greg Budoff, MD
Private Practice
Hartford, Connecticut

Alexander B. Dillon, MD, MBA
Private Practice
Oakland, California

NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY

Samuel J. Spiegel, MD
Assistant Clinical Professor in Neuro-Ophthalmology
UC Irvine
Irvine, California

OCULOPLASTICS

Kelsey Roelofs, MD
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
UCLA Stein Eye Institute
Los Angeles, California

UVEITIS

Alexander R. Shusko, Jr, MD
Uveitis Specialist
Mayo Clinic
Phoenix, Arizona

Incoming Residents

The UCLA Stein Eye Institute welcomes the 2025 incoming class of residents who began their residency July 1, 2022

Angela Chen, MD
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Erika M. Ellis, MD
UC San Diego

John Y. Lee, MD (EyeSTAR)
University of Miami
Miller School of Medicine

Elise Ma, MD
University of Maryland
School of Medicine

Lukas Mees, MD
John Hopkins University

Yaqoob Qaseem, MD
Northwestern University
Feinberg School of Medicine

Sagar Rambhia, MD
Case Western Reserve University

Emile R. Vieta, MD (EyeSTAR)
San Juan Bautista School of Medicine

Junru Yan, MD
Baylor College of Medicine

Kelly Yom, MD
University of Iowa
Carver College of Medicine

Fellows

Stein Eye Clinical Fellows 2022–2023

Jawad Ahmad, MD
Cornea

Marighread Casey, MD
Neuro-Ophthalmology

Daniel Choi, MD
Cornea

Brian Chou, MD
Neuro-Ophthalmology

Liane Dallalzadeh, MD
Pediatric Ophthalmology

Samuel Hobbs, MD
Retina (2nd Year)

Tiffany Huang, MD
Pediatric Ophthalmology

Sheena Khanna, MD
Retina

Albert Liao, MD
Retina (1st Year)

Xiaofan Mi, MD
Glaucoma

Nathan Pirakitikulr, MD
Oculoplastics (2nd Year)

Connie Sears, MD
Oculoplastics (1st Year)

Jiwei Sheng, MD
Retina (1st Year)

Lynn Shi, MD
Glaucoma

Jordan Sugarman, MD
Retina

Doheny Eye Clinical Fellows 2022–2023

Ali Mahdavi Fard, MD
Cornea

Mamta Kanwar, MD
Glaucoma

International Fellows

Stein Eye International Fellows 2022–2023

Sajad Besharati, MD
Glaucoma, Iran

Stephanie Suzanne Garcia, MD
Pediatric Ophthalmology, Philippines

Taras Gout, MD
Oculoplastics, United Kingdom

Sang-Wook Jin, MD
Glaucoma, South Korea

Daniela Khalilyeh Yarur, MD
Glaucoma, Argentina

Changzoo Kim, MD
Pediatric Ophthalmology, South Korea

Thanachaporn Kittipibul, MD
Cornea, Thailand

Golshan Latifiyaghin, MD
Glaucoma, Iran

David Lozano Giral, MD
Retina, Mexico

Ojo Perpetua Odugbo, MD
Glaucoma, Nigeria

Shani Pillar, MD
Uveitis, Israel

Raul Plasencia Salini, MD
Cornea, Peru

Shilo Voichanski, MD
Medical Retina, Israel

Doheny Eye International Fellows 2022–2023

Maryam Ashrafkhorasani, MD
Retina, Iran

Priya Chandrasekaran, MD
Retina, India

Mehdi Emamverdi, MD
Retina, Iran

Houri Esmaeilkhanian, MD
Retina, Iran

Alireza Farahani, MD
Retina, Iran

Abbas Habibi, MD
Retina, Iran

Ye He, MD
Retina, China

Alireza Mahmoudi, MD
Retina, Iran

Navid Manafi, MD
Retina, Iran

Jasmin Tojjar, MD
Retina, Sweden

Ali Torkashvand, MD
Retina, Iran

Iori Wada, MD
Retina, Japan

Yu Wakatsuki, MD
Retina, Japan

The 2022 graduating class of residents and fellows

UCLA Stein Eye Institute

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uclahealth.org/eye

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Calabasas, CA 91302
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1807 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 203
Santa Monica, CA 90403
(310) 829-0160

Doheny Eye Center UCLA–Arcadia
622 W. Duarte Rd., Suite 101
Arcadia, CA 91007
(626) 254-9010

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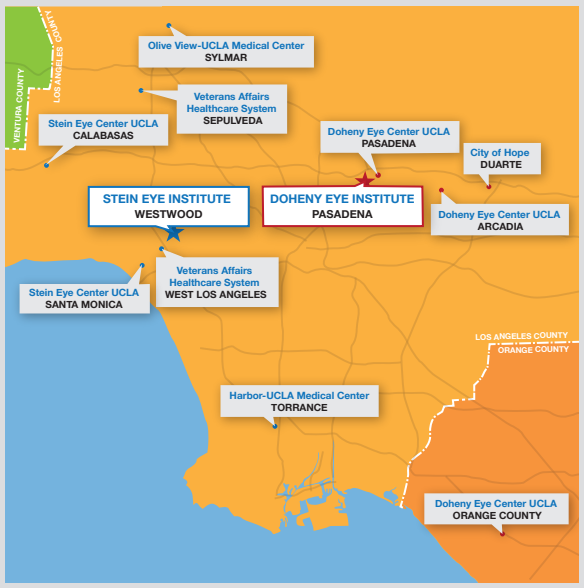
Orange Coast Memorial Medical Center
18111 Brookhurst St., Suite 6400
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
(714) 963-1444

Doheny Eye Center UCLA–Pasadena
Huntington Pavilion
624 S. Fair Oaks Blvd., 2nd Floor
Pasadena, CA 91105
(626) 817-4747



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Los Angeles and Beyond

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UCLA Health is consistently ranked among the best hospitals in the country by U.S. News & World Report, *and UCLA Stein Eye and Doheny Eye Institutes are ranked among the top five in the nation in ophthalmology.*