

EYE

UCLA STEIN EYE INSTITUTE
VISION-SCIENCE CAMPUS

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is a publication of the
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DIRECTOR

Bartly J. Mondino, MD

MANAGING EDITOR

Tina-Marie Gauthier
c/o Stein Eye Institute
100 Stein Plaza, UCLA
Los Angeles, California 90095-7000
Tina@EyeCiteEditing.com

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Anthony C. Arnold, MD
Kevin M. Miller, MD
Alapakam P. Sampath, PhD
Alfredo A. Sadun, MD, PhD
M. Gail Summers

CONTRIBUTING STAFF

Sarah Johnson
Kara Mondino

WRITERS

Dan Gordon
Harlan Lebo

DESIGN

Robin Weisz Design

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Where will I become the best ophthalmologist I can possibly be?
This is a fundamental question medical school graduates must consider when applying to a residency program.

The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology has been training future leaders in ophthalmology for over 50 years, exposing residents to the full breadth of clinical, surgical, and research training taught by world-renowned leaders in their fields.

In this issue of *EYE Magazine*, we highlight our UCLA-affiliated medical centers and the exceptional training opportunities they provide to residents. Through clinical rotations at a diversity of training sites, young physicians are exposed to a full range of ophthalmology issues—from complex eye disease to emergency trauma—and they gain vast amounts of hands-on clinical and surgical experience. Each day exposes the residents to something new that sharpens their clinical acumen.

After three years of comprehensive training, UCLA residents graduate with advanced tools, refined skills, and enlightened ideas about the benefits of collaborative medicine. They are experienced clinicians and surgeons who are fully prepared to launch their career forward.

Upon their graduation, our residents join an alumni class who—along with their faculty mentors—are making tremendous strides in furthering our profession. In this issue, we also recognize these leaders and their achievements in advancing eye health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bartly J. Mondino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bartly J. Mondino, MD

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

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On the cover: The Doris Stein Building and the Jules Stein Building are reflected in the exterior glass of the Edie & Lew Wasserman Building. The three structures comprise the UCLA Stein Eye Institute vision-science campus.

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UCLA-AFFILIATED HOSPITALS

Offer Residents Unique Training Opportunities

A KEY ELEMENT OF THE UCLA DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY'S ACCLAIMED PROGRAM IN RESIDENT EDUCATION IS CLINICAL ROTATIONS AT HOSPITALS ACROSS LOS ANGELES—AN EXPERIENCE UNLIKE ANY OTHER FOR COMPREHENSIVE OPHTHALMOLOGY TRAINING.



When **Benjamin Campbell, MD**, a medical student graduating from Baylor College of Medicine in 2015, was exploring the nation's schools to find the best choice for his residency in ophthalmology, UCLA popped to the top of his list because of the training provided by pre-eminent ophthalmologists, extensive patient contact, and advanced surgical opportunities.

But for Dr. Campbell, now a third-year resident, the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology offered a standout opportunity unlike any other residency program.

As a key element of UCLA's three-year program to train doctors to become comprehensive ophthalmologists, every resident participates in clinical rotations at the Stein Eye Institute vision-science campus in Westwood, the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, and UCLA-affiliated teaching hospitals: Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in Torrance, Olive View-UCLA Medical Center in Sylmar, and the Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System hospitals in West Los Angeles and North Hills.

Each teaching hospital in the rotation serves diverse communities of Southern California and provides patient care for vastly different populations with a broad range of ocular issues.

"We believe our residency delivers the widest range of experiences of any program in the country," says **Stacy L. Pineles, MD**, Jerome and Joan Snyder Chair in Ophthalmology and residency program director for the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology.

"The opportunities for training, patient contact, and community service offered by rotations at UCLA-affiliated hospitals are unique among residency programs, and are important for medical students who are training to become practicing ophthalmologists ready to treat any ocular issue or patient situation that comes in the door."

Comprehensive resident training: critical in Southern California

Instruction at such a diverse range of hospitals adds a specialized facet for UCLA residents, who represent some of America's premier young ophthalmologists-in-training.

"Our residents are the best of the best," says **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and director of the Stein Eye Institute. "Every year, 400 graduating medical students apply for our program; we interview 60, and we take only eight. So at any given time in our three-year program, we are training 24 doctors in a broad range of environments that the teaching hospitals provide."

“We believe our residency offers the widest range of experiences of any program in the country. The opportunities for training, patient contact, and community service offered by rotations at UCLA-affiliated hospitals are unique among residency programs.”

STACY L. PINELES, MD
Director, Residency Program
UCLA Department of Ophthalmology

And the specialized nature of the program is vital in Southern California, with fewer programs for training than in other major metropolitan areas.

“In the New York City area, for example, there are more than ten ophthalmology residency programs—in Los Angeles, there are two,” says **Pradeep S. Prasad, MD, MBA**, chief of the Division of Ophthalmology at Harbor-UCLA. “Our residents are direct beneficiaries of the opportunity to provide vital eye care services to the vast population of patients in our region.”

UCLA ophthalmology residents see the advantages of working with the teaching hospitals from the perspective of how those opportunities broaden the scope of their hands-on experience—and their individual responsibilities.

“Working at the teaching hospitals is an ideal training ground—the best of every world,” says **Victoria Tseng, MD, PhD**, a third-year resident.

“When I applied for training in ophthalmology,” says Dr. Tseng, “what really stood out about UCLA’s program was the diversity of training, the number of patients in my care, and the independence I would receive as I progressed.”

“At the teaching hospitals, we are working with low-income patients who not only have medical challenges, but who often have had only limited access to medical care—especially for their eyes,” says Dr. Tseng. “We see the spectrum of eye disease—often with opportunities

for tremendous improvement. I routinely have patients who are near-blind one day and after treatment have 20/20 vision—that is a tremendously rewarding outcome for a resident in training.”

Equally important in training new ophthalmologists at the teaching hospitals is the emphasis on self-reliance.

“Some residency programs feature hand-holding approaches—the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology mandate is independence,” says **Wayne Gui, MD**, who completed his residency in the Department and is now a vitreoretinal surgery fellow at UCLA. “Learning how to be a self-sufficient ophthalmologist is especially important at the teaching hospitals, where we are expected to make individual decisions and recommendations when we consult with the attending physicians.”

Venues with specialized challenges

Each of the affiliated hospitals presents its own set of challenges for residents and their training. At Olive View, for example, the low-income patient load is especially heavy, with more than 25,000 patient visits each year.

“This is a ‘learn by doing’ environment,” says **Uday Devgan, MD, FACS, FRCS**, chief of ophthalmology at Olive View.

“Here we get to train our residents in care for a population that is truly in need,” says Dr. Devgan, “treating diseases as they hone their skills along the way.”





“To be certified for independent surgery in some specialties requires completing a total of 20 of the procedures. Our residents routinely do that many procedures in one day.”

UDAY DEVGAN, MD, FACS, FRCS
Chief of Ophthalmology
Olive View-UCLA Medical Center

Third-Year Resident Dr. Benjamin Campbell performs cataract surgery at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center in Sylmar.

BROADENING KNOWLEDGE AND ADVANCING LEADERSHIP

For residents interested in academic or administrative careers, the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology offers two unique leadership programs.

EyeSTAR

The Specialty Training and Advanced Research program (EyeSTAR) combines basic-science research with clinical practice. Following residency, the trainee conducts two to three years of investigation as a postdoctoral fellow or three years of vision-science research to earn a PhD.

“There are plenty of outstanding clinical training programs in the world, but Stein Eye is one of the handful of institutions where seasoned clinicians and pioneers of ophthalmic research both work under the same roof. No other program can provide the same level of mentoring as the EyeSTAR program to become a successful clinician-scientist,” says EyeSTAR graduate **Stephen H. Tsang, MD, PhD**, acclaimed clinical geneticist at Columbia University and one of a handful of clinicians who can direct the full spectrum of bench-to-bedside research.

EyeSTAR is recognized by the National Eye Institute as a model training program.

EyeMBA

Future leaders of ophthalmology will need financial, management, and measurement skills, which are at the core of an MBA degree curriculum.

EyeMBA is a joint program with the UCLA Anderson School of Management that combines ophthalmology residency training with a master’s degree in business administration. Abilities gained through EyeMBA are broadly applicable to leadership in academia, translational research, health system management, health care delivery, and biomedical industry liaison.

Following completion of their ophthalmology residency, trainees are enrolled in the UCLA Anderson School Fully Employed MBA program, which offers a flexible schedule and fulfills all requirements for obtaining an MBA degree.



“The flag hanging in the operating room lounge is a reminder of the great patients we serve at the VA and the sacrifices they have made for our country,” says Third-Year Resident Dr. Benjamin Campbell (center), shown with UCLA colleagues Mr. Brian Zukotynski (medical student), Dr. Madeline Yung (ophthalmology resident), Dr. Wade Stoddard (ophthalmology resident), and Ms. Minh Thu Nguyen (medical student).

WHAT IS RESIDENT TRAINING?

Resident training at UCLA is a three-year program that transforms medical doctors into comprehensive ophthalmologists.

“Besides the tremendous talents of our residents, the strength of our residency comes from the breadth and depth of our training,” says Dr. Stacy Pineles, residency program director for the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology.

What do residents learn during their three years? More than 50 years of refinement have created a system of training built on a philosophy of step-by-step increases in the residents’ responsibility: initial exposure to ophthalmology under total supervision in the first year; in the second year, residents increase their knowledge of ophthalmic practice and become more independent; and in the third year, residents assume full responsibility for treating patients in preparation for receiving national accreditation as ophthalmologists.

The residents’ work includes studies in the general field of vision science and the range of ophthalmic subspecialties, and clinical rotations at a variety of hospitals (see main article)—all in addition to ongoing classroom instruction, surgical training, and involvement in original research projects.

“Our work is on-the-job training,” says Dr. Benjamin Campbell, a third-year resident. “We always treat patients under the supervision of attending physicians, but it is our job to staff the clinic, present the cases to faculty or senior residents, and determine the course of treatment.”

As at the other teaching hospitals, the surgical schedule at Olive View is particularly brisk, with Dr. Devgan and attending physicians guiding residents in 5–10 surgeries and 40–50 related procedures each day.

As a result of the heavy patient load and eye problems that are endemic in low-income populations that result from diabetes and high blood pressure—such as retina issues—UCLA residents receive far more opportunities for performing surgery than their counterparts in other resident training programs.

“To be certified for independent surgery in some specialties requires completing a total of 20 of the procedures,” says Dr. Devgan. “Our residents routinely do that many procedures in one day.”

Center point for trauma care

In Torrance, UCLA residents training at Harbor-UCLA experience many of the same patient populations and challenges as their colleagues at Olive View. Harbor-UCLA, however, includes the added dimension of being a Level I trauma center and receives a high volume of emergency cases—many of which involve traumatic injury to the eye.

“We see many trauma patients who have both vision-threatening and life-threatening injuries,” says Dr. Prasad. “The high volume of ocular trauma that we see presents crucial opportunities for resident training.”

“UCLA residents perform all of our surgical procedures with the guidance of faculty members,” Dr. Prasad says. “The depth of experience the residents acquire trains them to manage cases from beginning to end. When they have completed their time here, our residents have received such a rich exposure to the field that they can handle virtually any type of ophthalmic problem.”

Support for those who have served

UCLA residents working at the Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals in West Los Angeles and North Hills see a different spectrum of patients: military veterans, primarily men—although with a growing number of women—often older, with age-related eye diseases and conditions, such as macular degeneration, cataract, and diabetic eye disease. UCLA residents also treat the vision concerns of veterans who are experiencing homelessness.

“For our residents, serving a rotation at the VA gives them an opportunity to work with patients who often have medical conditions much different from those at the



EYE CARE IN INDIA: AN INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENT TRAINING

Since 2013, third-year residents with the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology have had the opportunity to participate in a groundbreaking eye care program at the Aravind Eye Care System in Madurai, India, which has become a model for restoring sight and offering vision care in low-resource regions worldwide.

During the four-week elective, UCLA ophthalmology residents work at the Aravind Eye Care Center and learn firsthand how the organization’s innovative structure provides high-quality eye care in a country where millions of patients have no ability to pay.

Residents, who live in the Aravind facilities, gain exposure to regional eye diseases and are trained in specialized cataract surgery techniques—all under the supervision of local experts. Through this experience, residents broaden their skills and gain firsthand knowledge in providing sight-saving procedures to patients who would otherwise be needlessly blind.

“Serving a rotation at the VA gives our residents an opportunity to work with patients who often have medical conditions much different from those at the county hospitals.”

JOANN A. GIACONI, MD
Chief of the Ophthalmology Section
Greater Los Angeles VA Healthcare System

county hospitals,” says **JoAnn A. Giaconi, MD**, chief of the ophthalmology section at the Greater Los Angeles VA Healthcare System.

“Our residents also see some of the same conditions that are common at Olive View and Harbor,” says Dr. Giaconi, “such as the effects of diabetes and high blood pressure—but with the added perspective of better control that results from managed treatment the VA has been providing.”

A team approach

For Dr. Campbell, the training he received at UCLA’s affiliated hospitals has provided the additional depth in his resident experience that he was seeking three years ago—along with an appreciation for the high level of cooperation and support that comes in a pressurized teaching hospital environment.


“At the teaching hospitals, the residents work with a team approach,” says Dr. Campbell. “We all see the same patients, and the more experienced residents provide guidance for the newer ones. Everyone works as a team and stays until the last patient is seen. We support and learn from each other as we care for our patients. We are all in this together.”

“When they have completed their time here, our residents have received such a rich exposure to the field that they can handle virtually any type of ophthalmic problem.”

PRADEEP S. PRASAD, MD, MBA
Chief of the Division of Ophthalmology
Harbor-UCLA Medical Center



Under the direction of Vitreoretinal Surgery Fellow Dr. Wayne Gui (left), Third-Year Resident Dr. Victoria Tseng performs a pars plana vitrectomy to repair a retinal detachment.



NASA
Collaboration
Aims to
Counteract
Potential
Vision
Complication
in Long
Spaceflights

BECAUSE OF THEIR PROLONGED EXPOSURE TO A WEIGHTLESS ENVIRONMENT, A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF ASTRONAUTS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION HAVE EXPERIENCED VISUAL COMPLICATIONS.

“On Earth, where there is gravity, fluid is always pulled to our feet. In the weightless environment of space, it’s been estimated that there is a two-liter shift of fluid to the head. Given that this headward shift is the leading hypothesis for the cause of the problems we see in the eyes of astronauts after long-duration flights, our focus in developing a countermeasure is to manipulate this fluid shift.”

ALEX HUANG, MD, PHD
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
UCLA Department of Ophthalmology



Dr. Huang (standing) oversees testing of a research subject in the supine position, one of four study conditions used to simulate the headward fluid shift that occurs in microgravity situations.

A UCLA Department of Ophthalmology faculty member is collaborating with NASA—the National Aeronautics and Space Administration—to develop a countermeasure to a vision-related problem that is currently hindering the effort to send astronauts on a mission to Mars, or on other extended journeys into space.

Because of their prolonged exposure to a weightless environment, a significant proportion of astronauts with the International Space Station have experienced visual complications. Many of these effects—including bleeding, folds in the back of the eye, and changes in the glasses prescription—are short-term and can be resolved when the astronauts return to Earth. But the most concerning change involves disc edema, or swelling in the nerves of the eye, a cornerstone of a condition referred to as spaceflight-associated neuro-ocular syndrome (SANS).

“A change in eyeglass prescription or a tiny bleed in the retina can be recovered, but a swollen disc can potentially lead to permanent damage,” explains **Alex Huang, MD, PhD**, a Doheny Eye Institute clinician and scientist. “This is one of the main reasons we don’t have long-haul spaceflight right now. We need to learn how to address this problem, either through a treatment or a countermeasure that prevents it.”

Dr. Huang is a glaucoma specialist whose research has focused on fluid flow in the eye. In collaboration with an industry partner, Heidelberg Engineering, he developed a device modification, called a FLEX, which situates necessary imaging equipment for real-time ocular fluid flow assessment in patients with and without glaucoma, in a variety of positions. That attracted the interest of NASA, which asked Dr. Huang to take the lead in developing and studying a countermeasure for SANS, which is believed to be caused by the redistribution of fluid to the head.

“If fluid is redistributing to the astronaut’s head in space, the best way to model that on Earth is to lay people with their feet up and head down—the so-called head-down tilt—but standard imaging equipment is designed for people sitting upright,” Dr. Huang says. “When the scientists at NASA realized that we not only have this equipment but are vision scientists at the Doheny Image Reading Center—a center known for its strong imaging—they were very interested in collaborating.”

Although several SANS causes have been hypothesized, the headward fluid shift that occurs in the weightlessness environment is currently seen as the most likely culprit for the ocular-related changes during long-duration spaceflight. “On Earth, where there is gravity, fluid is always pulled to our feet,” Dr. Huang explains. “In the weightless environment of space, it’s been estimated that there is a two-liter shift of fluid to the head. Given that this headward shift is the leading hypothesis for the cause of the problems we see in the eyes of astronauts after long-duration flights, our focus in developing a countermeasure is to manipulate this fluid shift.”

The potentially mitigating countermeasure Dr. Huang's team has studied involves the use of venoconstrictive thigh cuffs (VTCs). The Russian space agency developed a type of VTC called a braslet to keep fluid in the limbs, with some demonstrated success. But the braslet is limiting physically in that it requires tying the legs together tightly to compress the fluid and prevent it from shifting; moreover, it was not known how VTCs, including braslets, would affect headward fluid shift as it relates to ocular physiology.

Dr. Huang and his colleagues have investigated the ocular implications of using single-leg mobility-enabling thigh cuffs as a SANS countermeasure. "The idea is to pump up the cuff on the leg at a level that maintains the flow of blood but slows the movement of the fluid from the feet to the head to prevent the redistribution," Dr. Huang says.

At the Doheny Eye Center UCLA-Pasadena, Dr. Huang's team tested 40 healthy research subjects without known ocular disease for 10 minutes each under four conditions: sitting posture, supine posture (lying on one's back), head-down tilt posture—meant to simulate the headward fluid shift that occurs in microgravity conditions—and head-down tilt posture with the thigh cuffs. In the study, intraocular pressure (IOP) increased significantly when subjects went from the sitting to the supine position, and further increased when they went from supine to head-down tilt position. Wearing the thigh cuffs during the head-down tilt posture resulted in a significantly lower IOP compared to not wearing the cuffs in that position, though it was higher than when in the seated position. Using the FLEX, the researchers found that subfoveal choroidal thickness—also known to elevate during the head-down tilt position—was significantly reduced when the research subjects were wearing the thigh cuffs.

"It's important to note that we weren't recreating SANS on Earth—no one was going to get a swollen nerve from lying on their back with their feet upright for 10-20 minutes," Dr. Huang says. "But it is



encouraging that in this acute model, where eye pressure and choroid thickness were indicators of fluid shift, the countermeasure seemed to reverse those changes." The next step, Dr. Huang says, is to test the thigh cuffs over a much longer period of time, and ultimately to study them in space.

As part of a seven-year grant from NASA, Dr. Huang and his colleagues are investigating SANS countermeasures at the same time they are conducting studies to ensure that the hypothesis for the SANS cause is correct. Although headward fluid shift is the leading hypothesis, other causes have been proposed, such as radiation from the sun and elevated carbon dioxide levels. "Typically, research first aims to understand what's happening, and then to develop a treatment or countermeasure," Dr. Huang says. "But in this case, there is such an urgency to address this issue that we are doing both at the same time. Whether our goal is going to Mars, which would be about an 18-month commitment, or pursuing a lunar station, we have to solve this problem. For any future manned missions beyond low Earth orbit, we need countermeasures to reverse or prevent SANS."

The Doheny Eye Institute signed a historic partnership with UCLA in 2013—joining forces with the Stein Eye Institute and creating the nation's largest academic affiliation. Forming the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, the combined strengths of the two Institutes are expanding the care of patients and broadening efforts in vision science and technology.

President and Chief Scientific Officer of the Doheny Eye Institute Dr. Srinivas Sadda (standing at the lectern) at a joint technological exchange with NASA scientists regarding implementation and analyses methods for ocular blood flow imaging technology deployed to the International Space Station.



Dr. Alex Huang (center, pink tie) and Dr. Srinivas Sadda (center, dark blue suit) are shown with Dr. Brandon Macias (immediate left of Dr. Huang)—one of the lead NASA scientists on the collaborative project—and his team.

Gaining Greater Understanding of Neurological Disorders and Vision

Ophthalmologists at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute are looking for links between neurodegenerative disorders and eye function. **Anthony C. Arnold, MD**, chief of the Neuro-Ophthalmology Division at Stein Eye, was celebrated as the inaugural recipient of the **Mary Oakley Foundation Chair in Neurodegenerative Diseases** on October 17, 2018. **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, director of the Institute and chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, said of the generous gift, “Jules Oakley memorialized his wife by establishing the Mary Oakley Foundation, and I am honored by the commitment the Mary Oakley Foundation and the UCLA Stein Eye Institute share in advancing vision-science research. Investments such as the one from the Mary Oakley Foundation stand as a vital partnership to ensure the continued excellence of Stein Eye.”

William C. Stivelman, MD, chief executive officer and medical director of the Mary Oakley Foundation, facilitated the Chair’s endowment. The Chair will support academic research activities of a distinguished faculty member in the area of neurodegeneration. Neurodegenerative diseases represent a large group of neurological disorders, with Alzheimer’s Disease being one of the most common. The most consistent risk factor for developing a neurodegenerative disease is increasing age, and with an expanding population of people over the age of 65, research in this field is critical.

To the lay public and non-caregivers, Alzheimer’s Disease is a disease of ‘forgetfulness,’ yet, it affects more than memory. Dr. Stivelman noted, “Alzheimer’s Disease has a multifactorial impact upon the nervous system, including the organs of special sense, which are indeed an integral part of the nervous system. This includes vision, hearing, taste, and smell. Each plays a significant role in nervous system function, and research of the organs of special



Dr. William Stivelman, chief executive officer and medical director of the Mary Oakley Foundation (left) and Dr. Bartly Mondino (center) join Dr. Anthony Arnold, the recipient of the Mary Oakley Chair, at a reception at the Stein Eye Institute on October 17, 2018.

sense will provide contributory information as to causality of Alzheimer’s Disease and related senior dementias.” He continued, “As Alzheimer’s Disease impacts how information is gathered, processed, and interpreted by the brain, especially in the later stages of the disease, many who are afflicted often appear seriously vision and hearing impaired.”

Dr. Arnold explained that patients with Alzheimer’s Disease present differently than the traditional geriatric patient he treats in clinic. “The patients often have vague visual complaints that are difficult to evaluate due to cognitive issues. Recognition of these aspects allows earlier and more effective management of their visual problems.”

Affected patients often present with defects in visual field, optic nerve function, and cognitive recognition of visual input. Dr. Arnold and his team evaluate these aspects in both their patient assessments

and investigations. His research seeks greater understanding of optic nerve disorders, which may be a significant component of visual loss in Alzheimer’s Disease. Overall research goals are development of new techniques for imaging the optic nerve and its blood supply, improved understanding and classification of ischemic and inflammatory optic nerve diseases, and development and evaluation of new therapeutic modalities.

Dr. Arnold’s keen interest in understanding the diseases of the optic nerve led him to be the UCLA Clinic principal investigator in a National Eye Institute-sponsored clinical study of optic nerve sheath decompression surgery for nonarteritic anterior ischemic optic neuropathy, and he was on the study’s Visual Field Data Analysis Committee. Additionally, he is a primary advisor for an international multicenter study of medication-related risk factors for nonarteritic anterior ischemic optic neuropathy.

In conjunction with his research, Dr. Arnold has authored more than 100 publications. He is co-editor of the book, "Neuro-Ophthalmology: The Practical Guide," and he is editor of the American Academy of Ophthalmology resident manual, "Basic Principles of Ophthalmic Surgery."

In addition to his roles as chief of the Neuro-Ophthalmology Division and director of the UCLA Optic Neuropathy Center, Dr. Arnold has held several key leadership positions since joining the UCLA full-time faculty in 1986, including residency program director of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology from 1994-2017.

Scientific breakthroughs are often birthed from the concept: "Do something that no one else has done." This philosophy compelled Jules Oakley to create the Mary Oakley Foundation in memory of his

late wife, and it is a guiding principle for the Foundation today. In addition to providing educational and medical research grants, it remains the only known charitable foundation of its type to provide residential dementia care, respite care, and daycare, specifically serving indigent residents suffering dementia in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties.

Funding from chairs such as the Mary Oakley Chair helps provide invaluable financial support for distinguished faculty, enabling them to pursue innovative investigations. During the reception, Dr. Mondino said, "UCLA's vision-scientists are extending the boundaries of current knowledge in large measure to a strong tradition of philanthropy from private sources. We are grateful to the Mary Oakley Foundation and their partnership to ensure this continued excellence."



Mary Oakley Foundation Chair in Neurodegenerative Diseases presented to Dr. Anthony Arnold.

YOUR VISION OF TOMORROW CAN BEGIN TODAY!



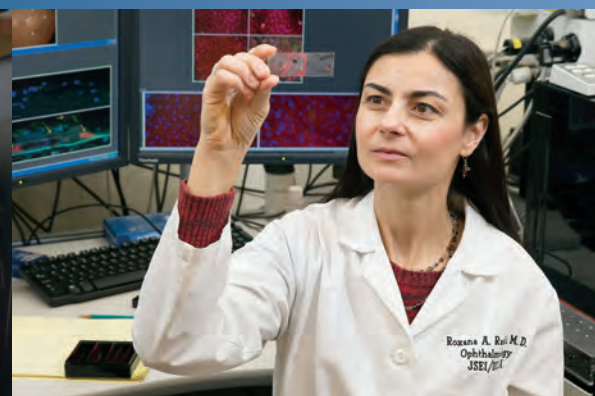
By supporting the UCLA Stein Eye Institute, you ensure it continues to lead innovation and advancement in vision-science research, exemplary patient care, education, and community outreach.

You can help continue the tradition of discovery and eye care excellence by designating the Stein Eye Institute as a beneficiary of your will or trust. Please contact the Development Office for more information about the many flexible ways you can include a philanthropic gift in your estate plans.

310-206-6035
GIVING@JSEI.UCLA.EDU
LEGACY.UCLA.EDU

UCLA Stein Eye Institute

Let the discoveries and achievements of the UCLA Stein Eye Institute be part of your legacy.



Community Outreach

New UCLA Mobile EYE Clinic Expands Outreach to Underserved Communities

The UCLA Stein Eye Institute's (SEI) Center for Community Outreach and Policy announced in January 2018 that a second UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic bus has been acquired.

This new mobile unit plays an integral role in the Department's mission to provide free eye care to underserved communities across Los Angeles County. The 40-foot-long bus runs on environmentally friendly natural gas and contains one pre-examination room, two examination rooms, a computer-networking infrastructure, and a security camera system. These new features will help facilitate patient flow, allow for an increase in the number of patient screenings, and create a safe and comfortable atmosphere.

"With the addition of a reliable vehicle, we'll be able to avoid cancellations caused by bus breakdown and better serve our patients," says **Rene Galvan**, staff ophthalmic technician and driver. "The new setup inside the bus also allows for an easier flow while seeing patients. Hopefully, with the new look of the bus, we'll gain the attention of donors to support the SEI's Center for Community Outreach and Policy in their endeavors to provide free eye care for underserved communities."

The Center continually strives to improve its services to adapt to the ever growing and changing needs of the Los Angeles community. The newest UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic bus is one of the many ways the Center is upgrading to provide the best possible service—all at no cost—to patients without access to the care they need.

To support the UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic, as well as other initiatives and programs of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, go to: www.uclahealth.org/eye/philanthropy.



The UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic has provided free ophthalmic care to over 300,000 underserved individuals since its founding in 1975.

The 40-foot-long bus runs on environmentally friendly natural gas and contains one pre-examination room, two examination rooms, a computer-networking infrastructure, and a security camera system.

Living Legend in Ophthalmology: Dr. Bradley Straatsma

In recognition of his six decades of excellence leading efforts to preserve and restore sight, **Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD**, founding chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and founding director of the Stein Eye Institute, has received two recent career accolades.

Dr. Straatsma was the recipient of the 2018 Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award from Marquis Who's Who, Berkeley Heights, New Jersey.

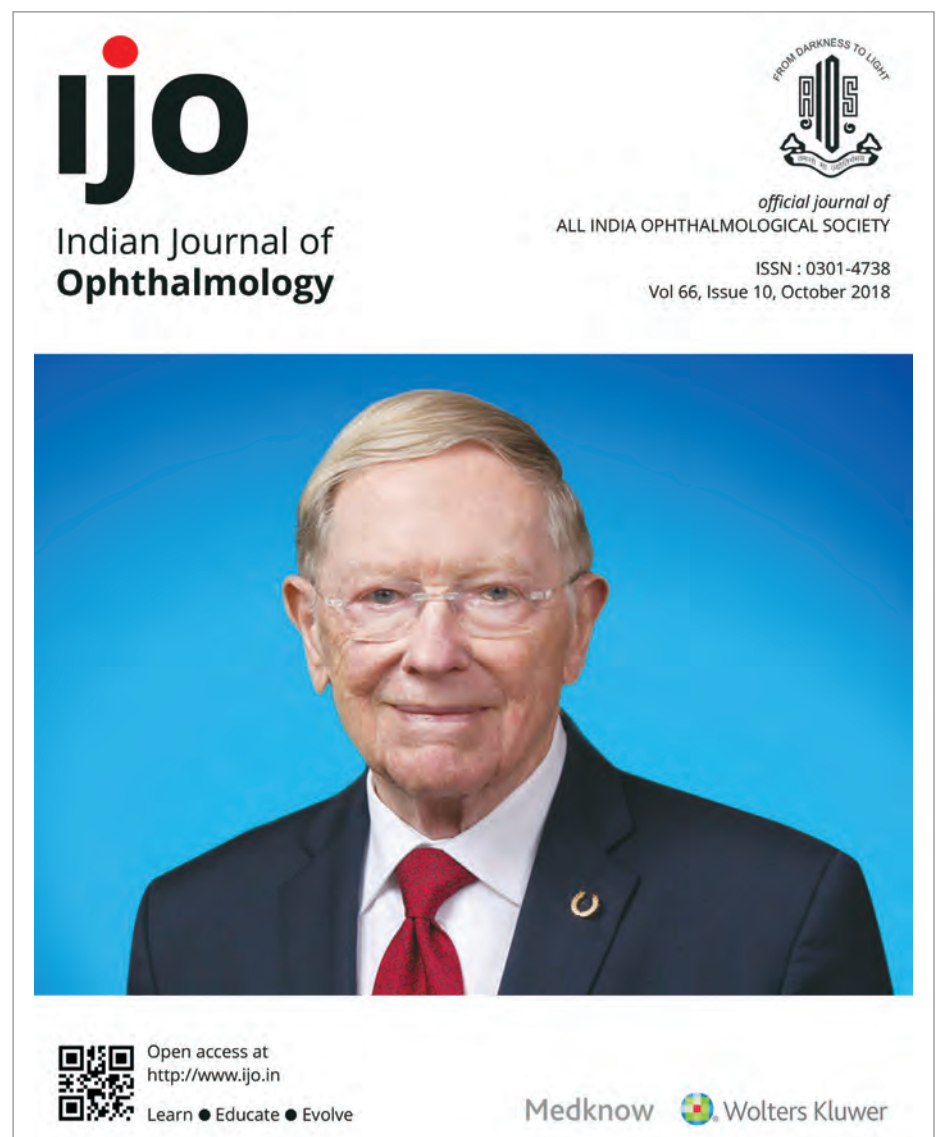
In addition, Dr. Straatsma was featured as a "Living Legend in Ophthalmology" in the October 2018 issue of the *Indian Journal of Ophthalmology* (IJO). The cover article discusses Dr. Straatsma's academic achievements and contributions to the field and closes by saying:

Dr. Straatsma's leadership and creative capacity have improved and stimulated every organization he has touched. His leadership has been characterized by reorganization and improvement just as his career has been distinguished by prompt elevation to top leadership positions in each entity. After periods in elected office or towards the end of an appointed leadership position, he has both sought and facilitated his successor and assured careful yet prompt transition to succeeding leadership with thoughtful dignity.

The breadth and depth of Dr. Straatsma's impact on American and world ophthalmology clearly place him as one of the most qualified to be part of the Living Legends Series of the Indian Journal of Ophthalmology. We hope that the young and potential leaders of Indian ophthalmology would keenly study Prof. Straatsma's life and times and try to emulate his gentle, dignified, and very effective leadership style, where work speaks for itself.

The same issue includes Dr. Straatsma's guest editorial, "Precision Medicine and Clinical Ophthalmology," and republication of a featured article, "Mortality After Deferral of Treatment or No Treatment for Choroidal Melanoma," by Dr. Straatsma

and co-authors for the Collaborative Ocular Melanoma Study Group, which was reprinted from the *American Journal of Ophthalmology*. Go to www.ijo.in and click on the Archive tab to access the October 2018 issue of the IJO.



Dr. Bradley Straatsma is featured on the cover of the October 2018 issue of the *Indian Journal of Ophthalmology*.

Setting the Agenda for Vision

Positioned to have broad impact on the profession of ophthalmology and patient advocacy, **Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD**, and **Lynn K. Gordon, MD, PhD**, have been announced as leading officers for the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO)—Dr. Coleman as president-elect of the AAO and Dr. Gordon as chair of the AAO Council.

“I am proud the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology is represented by the leadership advanced by Drs. Coleman and Gordon,” says its Chair **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, who notes that having both influential positions held by faculty from one Department is a distinction of the highest order.

Dr. Anne Coleman AAO President-Elect

“It is a wonderful opportunity to serve our patients, society, and profession by promoting our mission of preserving sight, especially in the auspicious year 2020,” says Dr. Coleman, The Fran and Ray Stark Foundation Chair in Ophthalmology, of being nominated president-elect of the AAO in 2019 and president the following year.

As one of three ophthalmologists on a 15-person committee for the National Academy of Medicine, Dr. Coleman addressed the current state and burden of vision loss and eye disease and helped draft recommendations to improve eye health. “I saw how vital it is for us to be involved in the population’s vision health crisis as leaders, educators, patient advocates, researchers, and physicians,” says Dr. Coleman.

Dr. Coleman was the first AAO Director of the H. Dunbar Hoskins, Jr., MD, Center for Quality Eye Care, co-chair of the David E.I. Pyott Glaucoma Education Center, and she presented the 72nd Jackson Memorial Lecture. In addition to her work with the AAO, Dr. Coleman has held leadership roles with the American Ophthalmological Society and the American Glaucoma Society, among others, and was past president of Women in Ophthalmology.

Dr. Coleman is vice chair of academic affairs for the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, and she is the director of the Stein Eye Institute Centers for Community Outreach and Policy, Eye Epidemiology, and the UCLA Eye Clinic.



Dr. Anne Coleman, AAO President-Elect



Dr. Lynn Gordon, Chair of the AAO Council

Dr. Lynn Gordon Chair of the AAO Council

“I am passionate about the future of our profession and care deeply about ophthalmology, education, comprehensive patient-centered care, and surgery by surgeons,” says Dr. Gordon, Vernon O. Underwood Family Chair in Ophthalmology. “The Academy and the Council are in the best position to protect our patients and ensure that their care represents the greatest in skill, utmost compassion, and visionary innovations.”

As chair of the AAO Council, Dr. Gordon encourages, facilitates, and coordinates communications and strategies among the Academy, state societies, and ophthalmic organizations.

In addition to almost 20 years of service with the AAO, Dr. Gordon’s leadership positions include past president of the California Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, past president of the Los Angeles Eye Society, past president of Women in Ophthalmology, and past board member for the North American Neuro-ophthalmology Society. She is also the past chair of the Group on Women in Medicine and Science for the American Association of Medical Colleges.

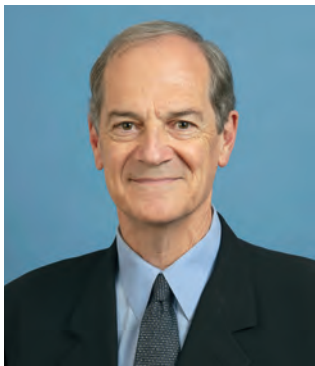
In addition to her faculty role with the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, Dr. Gordon is the senior associate dean for academic diversity and chair of the College of Applied Anatomy under the banner of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

Institute News

New Faculty Appointments

The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology is pleased to welcome three researchers who will be advancing our knowledge of vision science and technology at the Doheny Eye Institute.

Steven A. Barnes, PhD Professor of Ophthalmology



Dr. Barnes is a research investigator with expertise in the neurobiology of the retina, ion channel biophysics and physiology, synaptic mechanisms, calcium signaling, macular degeneration, glaucoma, and retinal dysfunctions in traumatic brain injury. He studies the fundamental mechanisms mediating signaling within and between retinal neurons.

He received his PhD in Neurobiology from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1985, and he completed his post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Washington before moving on to the University of Calgary as assistant professor in 1989. Dr. Barnes became Professor of the Departments of Physiology & Biophysics and Ophthalmology & Visual Science at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, Canada, in 1998. He continued his tenure there while simultaneously serving as a visiting researcher and then as a researcher for the Department of Neurobiology at UCLA.

Dr. Barnes is participating in the Stephen J. Ryan Initiative for Macular Research at the Doheny Eye Institute—a program that brings together experts in basic science, engineering, medical research, and the clinical arena to develop a better understanding of age-related atrophic macular degeneration. He recently was granted a Glaucoma Research Foundation Shaffer Award to initiate studies of novel aspects of ganglion cell dysfunction during bioenergetic stress.

Ram Kannan, PhD Adjunct Professor of Ophthalmology



Dr. Kannan is a senior scientist at the Doheny Eye Institute whose current research focus is on the prevention of the progression of subretinal fibrosis involved in anti-VEGF (vascular endothelial growth factor) therapy for choroidal neovascularization.

He also serves as a research facilitator for the Stephen J. Ryan Initiative for Macular Research (RIMR), a program where leaders from different backgrounds share diverse perspectives in interdisciplinary discussions and research collaborations to improve age-related macular degeneration diagnostics and expand the prospect of new treatments.

Dr. Kannan received his PhD in organic chemistry from Osmania University in Hyderabad, India, in 1970. He began working at UCLA in 1974, where he conducted research in, among others, the Tumor-Lipid Research Laboratory and the Liver Research Laboratory, and served the Department of Medicine, the Department of Cardiology, and the UCLA School of Medicine for the Veterans Affairs West Los Angeles Medical Center (formerly the VA Wadsworth Medical Center). Dr. Kannan began working with the University of Southern California (USC) School of Medicine in 1990, and his relationship with the Doheny Eye Institute began in 2002 (before Doheny's affiliation with UCLA) as professor in the Division of Ophthalmology, Keck School of Medicine of USC.

Yuhua Zhang, PhD Associate Professor of Ophthalmology



Dr. Zhang is an optical engineer and retinal imaging specialist, whose research encompasses state-of-the-art tools to study blinding eye disorders, including next-generation 3-D imaging technology for viewing the retina in patients with age-related macular degeneration at the cellular level.

Dr. Zhang received his PhD in precision metrology and instruments engineering from Tianjin University, China, in 1997. He came to the United States in 2003 and conducted research on adaptive optics retinal imaging at the University of California, Berkeley. He became a faculty member of the University of Alabama Department of Ophthalmology in 2008, where he established an early version of an instrument planned for the Doheny Eye Institute's Laboratory for Advanced Retinal Imaging.

His technology integrates adaptive optics, scanning laser ophthalmoscopy, and optical coherence tomography to study the vision-producing cells and tiniest blood vessels of the eye. Understanding their interplay will help answer questions about causes of vision loss, improve prognoses for patients, and lead to directed treatments to slow or prevent vision loss.

Dr. Zhang is the recipient of an R&D 100 Award for his innovative work in developing this micro-electromechanical-based adaptive optics scanning laser ophthalmoscope. The award honors pioneers of revolutionary new ideas in science and technology.

Institute News

Faculty Honors

Anthony C. Arnold, MD, Mary Oakley Foundation Chair in Neurodegenerative Diseases, was chair of the 2018 Sally Letson Symposium in Neuro-Ophthalmology in Ottawa, Canada, and presented the symposium's keynote address, the A. Gardner Watson Lecture, on September 14, 2018.

Nicholas C. Brecha, PhD, Distinguished Professor of Neurobiology, Ophthalmology, and Medicine, received the Boycott Prize in recognition of career achievement in retinal neurobiology at the Federation of American Societies of Experimental Biology (FASEB) meeting on Retinal Neurobiology and Visual Processing June 28, 2018, in Olean, New York.

Stacy L. Pineles, MD, Jerome and Joan Snyder Chair in Ophthalmology, received the University of California OptumLabs Research Credit Award from the UC Regents in June 2018.

In addition, it was announced in November 2018 that Dr. Pineles is the recipient of the American Academy of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (AAPOS) Young Investigator Award. The honor will be presented to Dr. Pineles at the March 2019 AAPOS meeting in San Diego, California.

David Sarraf, MD, health sciences clinical professor of ophthalmology, presented the Keynote Lecture at the 6th International OCT Angiography and Advances in OCT Congress on December 14, 2018, in Rome, Italy.

David S. Williams, PhD, professor of ophthalmology and neurobiology, received the Foundation Fighting Blindness Visionary Award on November 17, 2018, in Los Angeles, California.

2018 AAO Meeting

Faculty from the Stein Eye Institute and the Doheny Eye Institute—the two prestigious entities that form the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology—were honored for their contributions to the profession at the October 27–30, 2018, American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois.

LIFE ACHIEVEMENT HONOR AWARD

Gary N. Holland, MD

SENIOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Peter A. Quiros, MD

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Olivia L. Lee, MD
Federico G. Valez, MD

SECRETARIAT AWARD

Anthony J. Aldave, MD
Joseph Caprioli, MD
Gary N. Holland, MD
Ralph D. Levinson, MD
Steven Nusinowitz, PhD

Education

24th Vision-Science Conference

The annual Vision-Science Conference, jointly sponsored by the UCLA Stein Eye Institute and the National Eye Institute Vision Science Training Grant, celebrated its twenty-fourth year October 12–14, 2018, at the UCLA Lake Arrowhead Conference Center.

Eighty participants—made up of basic scientists, clinical researchers, pre- and post-doctoral fellows, and invited guests—participated in discussions and educational activities.

Marie Burns, PhD, professor of ophthalmology and vision science, professor of cell biology and human anatomy at the Center for Neuroscience, University of California, Davis, presented the keynote address, "Neuroinflammation During Photoreceptor Degeneration."

Awards were also presented for best oral presentations and best posters:

HONOREES: BEST ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Ala Morshedian, PhD
Adrian Au, PhD
Anna Matynia, PhD

HONOREES: BEST POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Alejandra Young, PhD
Rikard Frederiksen, PhD
Nermin Kady, PhD



Attendees at the 2018 Vision-Science Conference in Lake Arrowhead.

Aesthetic Eyelid and Facial Rejuvenation Course

Practicing ophthalmologists and surgical specialists from across the world attended the two-day Aesthetic Eyelid and Facial Rejuvenation Course at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute July 20–21, 2018.

A dissection workshop on the first day provided participants with hands-on experience performing eyelid and facial procedures that utilized the most advanced techniques. Emphasis was on delivering high quality, individualized care—hallmarks of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology’s Aesthetic Center.

The full-day symposium that followed the next day covered a wide range of aesthetic surgery topics and included live demonstrations. The didactic portion of the course was highlighted by the Robert Axelrod, MD, Memorial Lecture, which was presented by **George C. Charonis, MD, PhD**, director, Department of Orbital Surgery, Athens Vision Eye Institute, Athens, Greece.

Robert Alan Goldberg, MD, chief of the Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Division, was the program chair. Course directors were **Drs. Daniel Rootman, Norman Shorr, and Jonathan Hoenig**.



Participants in the course included (left to right): Drs. Keiko Kato, Mami Kawamura, Kasturi Bhattacharjee, Stephania Diniz, Shoaib Ugradar, Robert Goldberg, and Steven Leibowitz, as well as Ms. Danica Fiaschetti and Dr. Bunyada Puttherangsiwong.



“Class Photo” from the 2018 Aesthetic Eyelid and Facial Rejuvenation Course.



From left to right: Drs. Raymond Douglas, Daniel Rootman, Robert Goldberg, George Charonis, Norman Shorr, and Steven Leibowitz.

Southland Physicians Receive Training in Cataract Surgery

It is projected that 50 million individuals in the United States will have vision-impairing cataracts by 2050.

To help meet the current and upcoming demand for surgery to treat cataracts, **Kevin M. Miller, MD**, Kolokotronis Chair in Ophthalmology and chief of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Cataract and Refractive Surgery Division, annually presents basic and advanced training courses for ophthalmology residents and fellows in Southern California.

The most recent Basic Cataract Surgery Course for Residents and Fellows was held in Irvine, California, on November 17, 2018. The course, sponsored by Alcon Laboratories, is a module of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology’s Comprehensive Cataract Surgery Program. The Advanced course, sponsored by Johnson & Johnson Vision, is June 1, 2019.

“Residency programs recognize the value of our basic and advanced cataract surgery courses, and attendance at each is extremely high,” says Dr. Miller. For information about these courses, contact Dr. Miller’s office at: (310) 206-9951 or email: kmiller@ucla.edu.



A course in the fundamentals of cataract surgery is offered each fall, and advanced cataract surgery training is taught each spring.

Alumni Bulletin

Dr. David Aizuss President of the California Medical Association

David H. Aizuss, MD, UCLA Department of Ophthalmology resident and fellow alumnus (1981–1985) and assistant clinical professor of ophthalmology, was installed as the 151st president of the California Medical Association (CMA) during the organization’s annual House of Delegates (HOD) meeting on October 13, 2018, in Sacramento, California.



Dr. Aizuss is the first ophthalmologist-only president of the CMA in more than 50 years.

He has been a CMA and Los Angeles County Medical Association (LACMA) member for 37 years. He has been a member of the CMA Board of Trustees since 2010—serving as vice-chair and chair of the board before being named president-elect at the 2017 HOD. Dr. Aizuss has also represented the physicians of California as a delegate to the American Medical Association (AMA), and he is currently serving on the AMA Council on Legislation. Dr. Aizuss is a former president of LACMA and the California Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons. He is a partner at Ophthalmology Associates of the Valley.

“Dr. Aizuss’ installation as president of the CMA is a major accomplishment and a distinction of the highest order,” says **Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD**, founding chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology. “His strong interest in organized medicine was expressed during his residency, and he maintained this interest thereafter.”

The CMA represents more than 44,000 physicians in the state of California and is dedicated to serving its member physicians through a comprehensive program of legislative, legal, regulatory, economic, and social advocacy.

AAO Alumni Honors

Alumni from the Stein Eye Institute and the Doheny Eye Institute were honored for their contributions to the profession at the October 27–30, 2018, American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois.

LIFE ACHIEVEMENT HONOR

Tamara R. Fountain, MD

SENIOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Craig H. Klinger, MD

Lawrence S. Morse, MD, PhD

Kenneth David Steinsapir, MD

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Eric H. Souied, MD, PhD

SECRETARIAT AWARD

Roy S. Chuck, MD, PhD

Don O. Kikkawa, MD

Stephen D. McLeod, MD

Stein and Doheny Alumni Reception

Alumni from the Stein and Doheny Eye Institutes gathered at the Westin Chicago River North in Chicago, Illinois, on October 28, 2018, for a fun evening reconnecting with friends, colleagues, and mentors.

The joint reception—held annually during the American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting—was hosted by the UCLA Stein Eye Institute Alumni Association and the Doheny Eye Institute Professional Alumni Association.

Find more photos from the event at: www.facebook.com/JSEIAlumni.



Dr. Bartly J. Mondino (center), chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and director of the Stein Eye Institute, with Ms. Marissa Goldberg, executive director and chief financial officer of the Doheny Eye Institute, and Dr. SriniVas Sada, president and chief scientific officer of the Doheny Eye Institute.



(L to R): Drs. Julian Perry, Tina Rutar, and Catherine Hwang join Dr. Bradley Straatsma, founding chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and founding director of the Stein Eye Institute.



Enjoying the reception are (L to R) Drs. Simon Law, Frank La Rosa, Mark Kramar, Annette Giangiacomo, Joseph Caprioli, and Lucy Shen.



Wearing an eye-catching outfit, Dr. Jesse Berry (left) joins colleagues Drs. Tara McCannel and Sandy Zhang Nunes.



Dr. Anne Coleman (left) catches up with Drs. Bronwyn Bateman and Peter Quiros.



Drs. Federico Badalà, JoAnn Giaconi, Alessandro Rabiolo, and Joseph Caprioli reconnect at the alumni event.



(L to R): Drs. Robert Goldberg, Bartly Mondino, Sophie Deng, and Tara McCannel welcome alumnus resident Dr. Shawn Lin (center).



Dr. Bartly Mondino (center) visits with Department faculty members Dr. Sophie Deng (left) and Dr. Anne Coleman (right).

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Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

100 Stein Plaza, UCLA
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Emergency Service: (310) 825-3090
After-Hours Emergency Service:
(310) 825-2111
uclahealth.org/eye

Stein Eye Center-Santa Monica

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

Doheny Eye Center UCLA-Orange County

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



Alumni Relations

Facebook: www.facebook.com/JSEIAlumni
Email: alumni@jsei.ucla.edu

Philanthropy

Stein Eye Development Office
100 Stein Plaza, UCLA, Room 1-124
Los Angeles, CA 90095-7000
Telephone: (310) 206-6035
giving@jsei.ucla.edu

Volunteer Opportunities

Stein Eye Affiliates
Telephone: (310) 825-4148
Website: www.jseiaffiliates.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/JSEIAffiliates
affiliates@jsei.ucla.edu

Read past issues of EYE newsletter at:

www.uclahealth.org/Eye/news

Send comments or questions to:

Tina-Marie Gauthier
Managing Editor
Tina@EyeCiteEditing.com



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.