With a new operating room and advanced medical technology at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, the Stein Eye Institute is expanding both medical care for low-income high-risk patients and training of the next generation of ophthalmic specialists.

When a 66-year-old resident of Wilmington recently needed treatment at Harbor-UCLA for retinal deterioration caused by diabetes, the outlook for scheduling his advanced care was brighter than it would have been only a year ago.

Until recently, the strained medical facilities and high demand for services at Harbor-UCLA might have delayed this patient’s non-emergency procedure for weeks. But with the opening last year of new surgical space at Harbor-UCLA, the ability of Stein Eye Institute doctors, fellows, and residents to treat underserved, high-risk eye patients is being transformed.

“We have a superb team of eye specialists and residents here,” says Pradeep S. Prasad, MD, health sciences assistant clinical professor at the Stein Eye Institute and chief of the Division of Ophthalmology at Harbor-UCLA. “However, we lacked the facilities to meet the demand.”

Enhanced Facilities, Major Benefits
That situation changed in April 2014, when Harbor-UCLA—the cornerstone of comprehensive health care for more than 700,000 patients annually from South Los Angeles—completed long-planned building and upgrades. Among the highlights of the construction was the addition of an operating room dedicated full-time to ophthalmology, as well as access to an additional operating room.

The result: more than double the capacity for surgery by the Stein Eye team and the end to long waits for scheduled procedures.

“Previously we had only 2.5 days per week of access to operating rooms—now we have six days each week,” explains Dr. Prasad. “This increased access has produced a huge positive effect on our ability to treat patients; for example, we once had 200 patients on the wait list for cataract surgery. Now that wait list is zero.”

Harbor-UCLA Medical Center
Expanding the Capacity of Quality Eye Care for the Underserved

continued on page 2
Letter from the Chair

One of the key pillars of the Stein Eye Institute is education—and we take great pride in providing the finest multidisciplinary, integrative education to the next generation of ophthalmologists. In this issue of EYE newsletter, we celebrate the 2015 graduating class of UCLA Department of Ophthalmology residents and fellows, and we welcome a new incoming class to Stein Eye. An exciting aspect of our training program of young ophthalmologists, is our international fellows, who bring the expertise they learn at the Institute back to their home countries, with the ideal purpose of improving eye care worldwide.

The comprehensive ophthalmic and vision-science education our residents and fellows receive serves to benefit the most vulnerable members of our community—those with limited resources who are often overlooked. In this issue, we demonstrate how the Stein Eye Institute is both expanding medical care for low-income, high-risk patients and invigorating the training of our surgical residents. Pradeep S. Prasad, MD, chief of the Division of Ophthalmology at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, has done a tremendous job in his role. Pradeep has doubled the capacity for surgery at Harbor-UCLA, effectively ending the traditional long waits for scheduled procedures and transforming the ability of Stein Eye Institute doctors, fellows, and residents to treat our underserved, high-risk eye patients.

UCLA Stein Eye Institute is committed to the goal that everyone should see and that no one should experience the loss of sight. It is this purpose that drives us each day, and it is this purpose that we instill in the training of our residents and fellows. Thank you to our generous donors and friends for sharing this commitment.

Sincerely,

Bartly J. Mondino, MD
Director, Stein Eye Institute
Chairman, UCLA Department of Ophthalmology

Stein Eye Institute and Public Health Affiliates: a Dynamic Partnership

The Department’s progress since opening the operating room underscores the evolving benefits of the collaboration of the Stein Eye Institute and Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

“The Stein Eye Institute and our public health affiliates are creating tremendous improvements in eye care, and our relationship with Harbor-UCLA is a model example of this work,” says Bartly J. Mondino, MD, chairman of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and director of the Stein Eye Institute.

“We have a team in place at Harbor-UCLA comparable in quality to any premier teaching hospital,” Dr. Mondino reports, “and now our doctors have the best facilities and equipment to do the job. Our patients are reaping the benefits.”

Critical Care for the Underserved

The enhanced facilities provide a formidable boost to the UCLA Stein Eye Institute’s ability to treat the more than 20,000 eye patients seen each year at Harbor-UCLA. Ophthalmologists at Harbor-UCLA provide comprehensive and subspecialty care, which includes corneal and retinal disease; pediatric issues; ocular trauma, and medical conditions particularly common in low-income populations, such as glaucoma and complications from diabetes.

“We have more than doubled our surgeries—now 1,200 procedures a year,” Dr. Prasad says. “This is in addition to the examinations and other procedures we conduct, such as more than 1,400 intravitreal injections (primarily for diabetic retinopathy) and 800 laser procedures annually.”

The operating room supports vital care for a patient base that is chronically underserved. “Our patients often have nowhere else to turn for their medical treatment,” explains Dr. Prasad. “While we provide full service eye care, many of our patients frequently come to us when their symptoms are seriously advanced—they look for medical treatment only as a last resort when they can no longer function in daily life—so the need for immediate treatment is great.”

Unique for ophthalmology surgery at a Los Angeles county hospital is a high-definition video system that records every surgery for onsite review—videos that are invaluable as tools for resident training. Procedures also can be webcast live; doctors in remote locations can watch procedures at Harbor-UCLA and participate in discussion as surgeries proceed.

Harbor-UCLA Medical Center
continued from page 1
Advanced Technology and Worldwide Recognition

The operating room includes advanced equipment for surgery, such as three separate devices used for cataract procedures—Alcon Centurion, AMO Whitestar Signature, and the Dutch Ophthalmic EV A—each used by Stein Eye medical residents to gain expertise with multiple systems. Also in the arsenal of physicians’ tools is a Zeiss Lumera, one of the medical world’s foremost surgical microscopes.

And unique for ophthalmology surgery at a Los Angeles county hospital is a high-definition video system that records every surgery for onsite review—videos that are invaluable as tools for resident training or visuals for meetings with other institutions. Procedures also can be webcast live; doctors in remote locations can watch procedures at Harbor-UCLA and participate in discussion as surgeries proceed.

The combination of premier facilities and renowned physicians was acknowledged by the American Society of Retina Specialists (ASRS) when Stein Eye Institute Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology Colin A. McCannel, MD, working in the operating room, led one of only four medical teams worldwide chosen to conduct surgical training procedures for live webcast at ASRS conferences in 2014 and 2015.

Resident Training—an Energized Environment

The new operating room and its advanced features have become an invigorated setting for training surgical residents in the UCLA Ophthalmology Residency Program. While at Harbor-UCLA, the Stein Eye Institute’s rotation of five residents are trained by full-time faculty (Dr. Prasad and Dr. Richard Hoft; four part-time faculty (Dr. Monica Khitri, Dr. Michael Kapamajian, Dr. McCannel, and Dr. Rachel Feit-Leichman) in specialties that include pediatric eye care, retina, cataract, glaucoma, and uveitis; and more than a dozen volunteer clinical faculty who participate in resident teaching and supervising surgical procedures.

“We have developed a premier training site for the next generation of eye surgeons,” reports Dr. Prasad. “Harbor-UCLA is a teaching hospital, and our residents’ educational experience is enriched by the complexity of medical issues at this site.”

“Stein Eye 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 surgical procedure.”

Increased Momentum, Expanding Relationships

With the opening of the new facilities, the Stein Eye team is expanding its reach for the underserved beyond Harbor-UCLA’s primary service area in South Los Angeles.

“Eye doctors in private practice are learning that a constant backlog is no longer an issue for us; we welcome referrals,” Dr. Prasad explains. “We are also working with colleagues at other county hospitals to see if we can redistribute some of the patient load for the benefit of all our patients.”

And Dr. Prasad is also connecting with the corporate world to refine improved methods for eye care. “Industry has definitely noticed our progress in increasing patient procedures and care for our patients,” says Dr. Prasad. “We are building our relationships with ophthalmic technology companies to evaluate the latest developments in surgical equipment for complex procedures that can make a huge difference in further improving the care we provide.”

Increased access to operating rooms has had a significant effect for patients at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center: whereas before, 200 patients were on the wait list for cataract surgery, that wait list is now zero.

“Increased access to operating rooms has had a significant effect for patients at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center: whereas before, 200 patients were on the wait list for cataract surgery, that wait list is now zero.”

“The new operating room at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and its advanced features offer an invigorated setting for the surgical training of UCLA Department of Ophthalmology residents.”

Bartly J. Mondino, MD
Director, Stein Eye Institute
Chairman, UCLA Department of Ophthalmology
Institute News

Dr. Gary Holland Briefs U.S. Congress on Uveitis

Gary N. Holland, MD, Jack H. Skirball Chair in Ocular Inflammatory Diseases, and director of the Stein Eye Institute’s Ocular Inflammatory Disease Center, was a featured speaker at the first-ever Congressional Briefing on Uveitis, held June 3, 2015, in Washington, DC.

The briefing, Inflammatory Eye Disease: Focus on Uveitis, was to educate Congress on the importance of inflammatory eye diseases and current initiatives to make new treatments available for uveitis. Uveitis is not a specific disease, but rather a category of diseases with many causes and clinical presentations, the common denominator being intraocular inflammation. Uveitis is thought to cause 10% of blindness in the United States.

Dr. Holland prefaced his talk by citing a then-recent front page report in the New York Times that uveitis had alerted doctors to the persistence of Ebola virus in the eye of Ian Crozier, MD, an American who had been treated for, and thought to have been cured of, the disease. Dr. Holland discussed the fact that inflammatory eye disease can affect any part of the eye, including the sclera (eye wall), the cornea (clear front of the eye), and the optic nerve—all of which can lead to severe, sight-threatening complications.

Current uveitis treatments are often expensive, inconvenient, and incompletely effective. Many have intolerable side-effects for some patients. These problems emphasize the need for new treatments, yet development of better drugs will require an improved understanding of the disease processes associated with uveitis.

The briefing was organized by the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research, which raises awareness about a variety of eye-related problems that can be addressed through understanding of the disease processes associated with uveitis.

Jules Stein Renovation

Construction continues on the Jules Stein Building. Built in 1966, the five-story, 93,000 square foot building is being seismically strengthened and renovated. The project will replace aged building systems and provide accessibility upgrades.

Two floors are being renovated as modern wet labs for vision-science research. New windows in the west façade are being introduced to bring natural light into the renovated labs, and a three-story atrium lobby is being constructed to visually connect the B-Level lobby entrance with the ophthalmology check-in lobby and clinic on the first floor.

With the temporary closure of the Jules Stein Building, all patient services have relocated to the Doris Stein Building and the Edie & Lew Wasserman Building. University Ophthalmology Associates and the Institute’s Urgent Care Clinic have been relocated to the second floor of the Doris Stein Building. The renovation is expected to be complete in 2017.

New UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Faculty

John D. Bartlett, MD, health sciences assistant clinical professor of ophthalmology, was recruited to full-time faculty on November 1, 2014. Dr. Bartlett has an ongoing clinical interest in cataract surgery, particularly refractive cataract surgery, and he is involved with teaching these surgical techniques to Stein Eye residents.

Dr. Bartlett is also one of UCLA’s physician informaticists, participating in the ongoing implementation and optimization of electronic health records (EHRs). Dr. Bartlett is interested in using EHRs to reach the “Triple Aim” of improved patient care and satisfaction, improved population health, and decreased cost of health care.

Jie J. Zheng, PhD, was appointed professor-in-residence of ophthalmology on January 5, 2015. Dr. Zheng’s research is at the interface of biochemistry, computational biology, systems pharmacology, and drug discovery with an emphasis on therapeutic development in ophthalmology.

Aiming to establish new translational research within the vision research community at UCLA, the goal of Dr. Zheng’s research is to develop novel therapies for retinal degenerative diseases, glaucoma, and corneal disorders.

Dr. Navid Amini Honored by UCLA Chancellor

UCLA Stein Eye Institute postdoctoral scholar Navid Amini, PhD, was an Honorable Mention recipient of the UCLA Chancellor’s Award for Postdoctoral Research at a ceremony on April 22, 2015, at the California NanoSystems Institute. Of the approximate 1,133 registered UCLA postdoctoral scholars, just 26 were nominated for the Chancellor’s Award for Postdoctoral Research.
Faculty Honors

Anthony J. Alldave, MD, Wilton Li Chair in Cornea and Uveitis, delivered the Dr. Diego Cuevas Cancino Lecture at the 52nd Annualization Course in Ophthalmology, organized by the Asociacion para Evitar la Ceguera en Mexico, on February 19, 2015, in Mexico City, Mexico.

Dr. Alldave also presented the Erin K. Jacobson Memorial Lecture at the Loma Linda University Medical Center Department of Ophthalmology Resident Research Symposium on May 22, 2015, in Loma Linda, California.

Anthony C. Arnold, MD, Jerome and Joan Snyder Chair in Ophthalmology, was awarded the 2015 Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award at the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Annual Educational Conference on February 27, 2015, in San Diego, California.

Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD, Leonard Apt Endowed Chair in Pediatric Ophthalmology, presented the William Gillys Lectureship at the Australia and New Zealand Strabismus Society, March 6–7, 2015, in Brisbane, Australia.

Dr. Demer also gave the keynote address at the Congress of the European Society of Ophthalmology, June 6–9, 2015, in Vienna, Austria.

Robert Alan Goldberg, MD, Karen and Frank Dabby Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology, delivered the Plana Lecture at the XIX International Course on Plastic and Aesthetic Surgery on June 16, 2015, in Barcelona, Spain.

Gary N. Holland, MD, Jack H. Skibb Chair in Ocular Inflammatory Diseases, was the recipient of the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching at the Class of 2017 Second Year Banquet, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, on April 23, 2015, in Westwood, California.

As the Golden Apple Award recipient, Dr. Holland also received special honors at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA Hippocratic Oath Ceremony, June 5, 2015, in Westwood, California.

Kevin M. Miller, MD, Kolokotrones Chair in Ophthalmology, presented the Om Prakash Oration at the Delhi Ophthalmological Society meeting on April 12, 2015, in New Delhi, India.

Barbly I. Mondino, MD, Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology, was honored for ten years of service as Executive Vice President of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology at their January 2015 annual meeting in Tucson, Arizona.

Natik Piri, PhD, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, was recipient of the 2015 Spitzer Grant Research Program award for support of groundbreaking medical research at UCLA.

Peter A. Quiros, MD, Health Sciences Associate Clinical Professor, received the International Council of Ophthalmology Mark Tso Golden Apple Award for excellence in medical education and teaching at the August 2015 Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology Congress in Bogotá, Colombia.

David Sarraf, MD, Health Sciences Associate Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, was awarded membership in the American Ophthalmological Society in May 2015 for his thesis, “Retinal pigment epithelial tears in the era of intravitreal pharmacotherapy: risk factors, pathogenesis, prognosis and treatment (an American Ophthalmological Society thesis).”

When the Stein and Doheny Eye Institutes joined forces in February 2015, a world-renowned researcher, ophthalmologist, and teacher assumed a key leadership role in the evolution of the Doheny Eye Center UCLA: Alfredo A. Sadun, MD, PhD, vice chairman of the Doheny Eye Center UCLA, is working with Bartly J. Mondino, MD, chairman of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and director of the Stein Eye Institute, to integrate the Doheny functions into the Department of Ophthalmology at UCLA.

Dr. Sadun has published more than 300 peer-reviewed articles, 70 book chapters, and co-authored or edited four books. He has received funding from the National Institutes of Health for more than 25 years, holds five patents, and maintains a clinical practice in neuro-ophthalmology. In addition, Dr. Sadun is the recipient of ophthalmology’s highest honors in research (Plauen Vision Award, education (Straatsma Award for Excellence in Resident Education), neuro-ophthalmology (William F. Hoyt Award), and academics (Head Foundation).

How is the affiliation between Doheny and Stein affecting the operations of both organizations?

We have two of the great institutions—two programs that have a storied history and are regarded among the top ten in the world. We have always been collegial to each other even though it’s more typical for two great institutes that are near each other to compete.

Now we are under one flag and one Department. Our affiliation brings together so much talent and so many resources that wonderful things are going to happen—not only locally, but across the nation and internationally as well.

This kind of union is unprecedented, but that’s good; where there is no precedent, there is great opportunity. Together, we have a complementary set of resources that is just unbelievable, this includes physical plants and endowments, and a range of expertise for patient care, research, and resident training. As one example, our combined neuro-ophthalmology service is the largest neuro-ophthalmology division in the world; that’s pretty impressive.

What strength does each institute bring to the affiliation?

Previously at Doheny, there was an emphasis on extremely high-quality tertiary and quaternary patient care. The culture at Stein was to provide excellent comprehensive services at all levels.

The combined resources are already creating benefits for our patients, as well as for nurturing our research programs and creating larger clinical trials. We hope our combined efforts and influence will also have a significant effect on federal policy on ophthalmology, and also on progress in Third World care.

One of your primary missions is to train the next generation of ophthalmologists.

The amount of good we can do when we see patients is considerable, of course; we give immediate comfort to our patients.

And the amount of good we provide when we do research is even greater because we can change the entire field around the world. But the amount of good I can do when I teach residents is the best of all because the residents will see many more patients than I ever could directly, in that way taking forward my research, my teachings, and my standards.

What do you consider your most important professional achievements?

Two efforts, for which I was very fortunate, come to mind. One occurred in 1993 when there was a mysterious and huge epidemic of blindness in Cuba; 50,000 Cubans had gone blind, all in a matter of a few months. The Cubans asked for help from the World Health Organization, which asked me to investigate. I led a team, and fortunately we found the answer in a week and were able to stop it. It was not a virus—it had to do with chemical reactions that were poisoning the optic nerve.

We diagnosed 50,000 patients at once, and more importantly, we were able to stop the epidemic because at that rate the entire island would have gone blind pretty quickly. It also got me started on some of my work on mitochondria.

My second fortunate achievement involves fundamental work on mitochondrial optic neuropathy. In the old days, they had about 20 different types of diseases that they didn’t realize were just different versions of the same disease. Whether it was toxicity to a certain chemical, or a nutritional problem, or a genetic problem, they all started from different directions, but they did the same damage. Now we’ve organized them under one rubric, mitochondrial optic neuropathy, and I feel very proud that there’s a paradigm shift as to how we look at these diseases, and now we understand them much better.

You were Successful with it.

Yes, sometimes we get lucky.
Annual Clinical and Research Seminar

Glaucoma Division Hosts Educational Summit for Ophthalmologists from the Asia-Pacific Region

On Wednesday, March 11, 2015, Joseph Caprioli, MD, David May II Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology and chief of the Stein Eye Institute Glaucoma Division, hosted the third annual Asia Pacific Glaucoma Summit at the Hotel Palomar in Los Angeles, California.

The educational summit, conducted with the support of the Allergan Corporation, brought together glaucoma specialists from the Stein Eye Institute and Asia-Pacific region to share research and patient experiences, with the ultimate goal of benefiting glaucoma care worldwide.

Stein Eye faculty, including Dr. Caprioli, Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD, JoAnn A. Giacconi, MD, Simon K. Law, MD, PharmD, Kouros Nouri-Mahdavi, MD, MSc, and Natik I. Piri, PhD, engaged attendees in didactic discussion that covered a wide variety of topics, including Effect of Trabeculectomy on Visual Field Rates; Oxidative Stress and Glaucoma; Macular Optical Coherence Tomography in Glaucoma; Laser Cyclophotocoagulation of the Ciliary Processes; and Who Are the Undiagnosed? In turn, the visiting ophthalmologists offered case presentations for consideration by the group.

The attendees, who represented South Korea, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Hong Kong, India, Australia, and New Zealand, also participated in a one-day, on-site program at the Stein Eye Institute, where they toured the vision-science complex and met with Glaucoma Division faculty.

Aesthetic Eyelid and Facial Rejuvenation Course

The annual Aesthetic Eyelid and Facial Rejuvenation Course, under the direction of Program Chair Catherine J. Hwang, MD, was hosted at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute on July 31–August 1, 2015. The conference drew over 100 attendees from Central America, Europe, India, Taiwan, Korea, and North America. This popular course sold out months in advance and featured both lectures and laboratory demonstrations of state-of-the-art techniques in aesthetic surgery, focusing on minimally invasive techniques that have been pioneered by the Institute’s Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Division.

International fellowship graduate Yoon Duck Kim, MD, from Korea, delivered the Axelrod Memorial Lecture, and Stein Eye fellow alumni and community-based faculty participated as instructors. Steven Leibowitz, MD, moderated a new breakout audio-visual satellite session. The course showcases UCLA faculty, improves patient safety by teaching safe, conservative techniques, and serves as a platform to bring together the Stein Eye Institute’s family of alumni, staff, and faculty.
Resident and Fellow Graduation and Award Ceremony

The Stein Eye Institute/Doheny Eye Institute resident and fellow graduation and award ceremony was Friday, June 12, 2015, at the UCLA Faculty Center. Overseeing the ceremony and providing farewell commentary were Residency Program Director Anthony C. Arnold, MD, and Assistant Director Stacy L. Pineles, MD. The evening included a roast of the graduating residents by junior residents, and awards underwritten by the UCLA Stein Eye Institute Alumni Association were presented for excellence in research.

- The Resident Research Award was given to Melinda Chang, MD, for her paper, *Quality of Life in Adults with Strabismus*.
- The Clinical Fellow Research Award was presented to Anjali Tannan, MD, for her paper, *A Comparison of ACIOL Retention with IOL Exchange in Patients Undergoing Descemet’s Stripping Endothelial Keratoplasty (DSEK)*.
- The International Fellow Research Award was presented to Soh-Youn Suh, MD, for her paper, *Size and Contractility of the Oblique Extraocular Muscle Size in Brown Syndrome*.
- The Postdoctoral Fellow Research Award was given to Navid Amini, PhD, for his paper, *Influence of the Disc-Fovea Angle on Limits of RNFL Variability and Glaucoma Discrimination*.
- The Predoctoral Fellow Research Award was presented to Helen Elaine Voong, for her paper, *Somatostatin Neuropeptide Inputs Modulate Non-image Forming Vision Circuitry Composed of Dopamine Amacrine Cells and Melanopsin Ganglion Cells*.
- The QI Project Recognition award was presented by Dr. Anthony Arnold to Melinda Y. Chang, MD, for her project, *Harbor-UCLA Cataract Surgery Complication Rates over Time: A Quality Improvement Project*.
- Bartly J. Mondino, MD, Stein Eye Institute director, presented the ARVO Young Investigator Travel Award to Aaron Nagiel, MD, PhD, for his abstract, *Morphological Analysis of Type 1, Type 2, and Type 3 Neovascularization in Exudative Age-Related Macular Degeneration Using OCT Angiography*.

Graduating resident James Sanchez (holding diploma) is shown with (left to right): Drs. Bartly Mondino, Anthony Arnold, and Stacy Pineles.

UCLA Stein Eye Institute graduating retina fellows (left to right) Drs. Tatsuhiko Sato, Gavin Tan, and Sujit Itty.

Lydia Anaya, newly retired head nurse of Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, was honored at the graduation for her years of service to the Department of Ophthalmology.

Stein Eye Institute faculty member Dr. Irena Tsui (center) stands with graduating residents (left) Dr. Melinda Chang and (right) Dr. Wenjing Liu.

The 2015 class of graduating fellows.
Incoming Ophthalmology Fellows

We are pleased to introduce the following ophthalmologists entering clinical and international fellowships at the Stein Eye Institute in the 2015-2016 academic year:

Salwa Abdel-Aziz, MD, MPH
Glaucoma
Negin Aparge, MD, MBA
Medical Retina
Meghan Berkemstok, MD
Uveitis
Melinda Chang, MD
Pediatric Ophthalmology
Daniel Choi, MD
Glaucoma
Tina Damarijan, MD
Pediatric Ophthalmology
Michael Kifas, MD
Glaucoma
Robert Lalone, MD
Retina
Erik Lessner, MD
Oculoplastics-2nd Year
Wenjing Liu, MD
Oculoplastics
Aaron Nagiel, MD, Ph.D.
Retina
Elizabeth Richter, MD
Retina-2nd Year
Andrew Salem, MD
Cornea
Anushree Sharma, MD
Cornea
Sohrab Tofigh, MD
Medical Retina

Raiza Alizadeh, MD
Glaucoma
Sanupat Apinyawisuk, MD
Neuro-Ophthalmology
Carolina Aravena, MD
Cornea
Mayank Bansal, MD
Retina
Tahir Bokzurk, MD
Cornea
Pichaya Chuephanchan, MD
Cornea
Andrea Govetto, MD
Retina
Pradana Hirunpratavong, MD
Glaucoma
Tomoyuki Kashima, MD
Oculoplastics
Hiba Khrisaiti, MD
Pediatric Ophthalmology
Yunnea Long, MD
Vision Science
Helena Pakter, MD
Glaucoma
Nopasak Phasukkijwattana, MD
Retina
Eva Platner, MD
Retina
Ghada Rajab, MD
Pediatric Ophthalmology
Pablo Romero, MD
Glaucoma
Chantaka Supiyaphun, MD
Cornea
Gavin Tan, MD
Retina
Fatma Yulek, MD
Pediatric Ophthalmology
Doheny Clinical Fellowships 2015–2016
Hans Dieter Hertzog, MD
Neuro-Ophthalmology
Lilli Minasyan, MD
Glaucoma
Laura Vickers, MD
Cornea

Cornea Fellowship
Faridah Banis, MD
Los Angeles, California

Surgery Fellowships
Somponorn Chantra, MD
Rajivith Hospital
Bangkok, Thailand
Andres Codriansky, MD
Anterior Segment
Faculty Member
Ophthalmology, Pontifcia Universidad Carlos de Chile
Santiago, Chile
Jae Woong Koh, MD
Chonbuk University
Gwangju, South Korea

Medical Retina Fellowship
Elizabeth Richter, MD
Retina

Ocular Genetics Fellowship
Aaron Nagiel, MD, PhD
Retina Fellowship
UCLA Stein Eye Institute
Los Angeles, California

International Retinal Imaging Symposium
The UCLA Stein Eye Institute hosted the third International Retinal Imaging Symposium (IRIS) on February 28, 2015. The 2015 IRIS meeting was an international success, bringing together leading physicians-scientists from throughout the world, who delivered lectures on the novel basic science and clinical innovations of retinal imaging. The IRIS symposium highlighted the critical importance in the understanding, evaluation, and management of retinal disorders.

Comprehensive Ophthalmology Review Course
The Stein Eye Institute and the Doheny Eye Institute teamed up to sponsor the 10th Comprehensive Ophthalmology Review course February 19–22, 2015. The collaborative effort to develop this intensive four-day review serving ophthalmology training programs in Southern California proved to be overwhelming popular.

Postdoctoral Fellowships
Sohrab Tofigh, MD
Pediatric Ophthalmology Fellow
UCLA Stein Eye Institute
Los Angeles, California

Anh Pham, MD-EyeSTAR
USC Keck School of Medicine
Ging Wang, MD
Columbia University

The four-month process includes the review of over 400 applications, the selection of approximately 50 applicants to be interviewed, and a final meeting where the applicants are ranked in order of preference. This rank-order list is submitted to the nationwide San Francisco Match Service where it is compared to the participating medical students’ preferences. When both the student and ophthalmology program rank each other at the same level, a “match” has occurred and a new resident is then contracted to join the program.

In January of last year, residency selection chairman, Robert Alan Goldberg, MD, was informed of the results of the ophthalmology residency “match” for 2015. The following applicants, selected over a year ago, began serving as Stein Eye Institute House MD, was informed of the results of the ophthalmology residency “match” for 2015. The

Residency Match
The process of selecting ophthalmology residents takes place in the fall of each year for residents who will be entering the ophthalmology program a year-and-a-half later. The four-month process includes the review of over 400 applications, the selection of approximately 50 applicants to be interviewed, and a final meeting where the applicants are ranked in order of preference. This rank-order list is submitted to the nationwide San Francisco Match Service where it is compared to the participating medical students’ preferences. When both the student and ophthalmology program rank each other at the same level, a “match” has occurred and a new resident is then contracted to join the program.

The Stein Eye Institute and the Doheny Eye Institute teamed up to sponsor the 10th Comprehensive Ophthalmology Review course February 19–22, 2015. The collaborative effort to develop this intensive four-day review serving ophthalmology training programs in Southern California proved to be overwhelming popular.

The course co-directors, Sherwin Isenberg, MD, Laxaire and David Gerber Chair in Ophthalmology at the Stein Eye Institute, and John A. Irvine, MD, medical director of the Doheny Eye Center UCLA, organized a program concentrating on the epidemiology, clinical presentation, diagnosis, and management of ophthalmologic disease.
New Cataract and Refractive Surgery Division Offers Patients Enhanced Eye Care Options

The addition of the Edie & Lew Wasserman Building adds vital space to the Stein Eye Institute, creating the opportunity for Stein Eye to expand existing programs and services to better treat patients with eye diseases.

As one example, the newly combined Cataract and Refractive Surgery Division provides expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the anterior segment, especially cataract and refractive errors. Faculty members perform state-of-the-art refractive cataract surgery with multifocal, toric, and accommodating lens implants. They offer astigmatism management and femtosecond laser assisted cataract surgery. In addition, Stein Eye ophthalmologists provide the full range of refractive surgical procedures, including laser-assisted in situ keratomileusis (LASIK), photorefractive keratectomy (PRK), astigmatism correction, and corneal inlays, both as initial procedures and as enhancements to previous refractive or cataract surgery.

The Cataract and Refractive Surgery Division is supported by the diagnostic capabilities of the Anterior Segment Diagnostic Laboratory, a full-service diagnostic facility with the most advanced equipment. The laboratory is accessible to departmental faculty and trainees as well as community ophthalmologists. Imaging modalities include corneal topography and tomography, Scheimpflug imaging, endothelial cell analysis, anterior segment optical coherence tomography (OCT), optic nerve and macula OCT, partial coherence interferometry, lens power calculation, A and B scan ultrasound, color fundus and optic disc photography, slit lamp photography, ultrasound biomicroscopy, tear layer analysis, and wavefront analysis.

2015 Robert E. Christensen, MD, Research Award Winners

The Robert E. Christensen, MD, Research Awards were presented to third-year resident Julia Nemiroff, MD, and clinical fellow in retina Michael A. Klufas, MD.

The 2015 grant award will help underwrite Dr. Nemiroff’s research topic, Vessel Density of the Superficial and Deep Retinal Plexus in Normal Subjects. Dr. Klufas’s award will provide funding for his project, Development of a Novel Scleral Buckling Instrument: an Illuminated Scleral Depressor with the Ability for Direct Visualization of External Subretinal Fluid Drainage.

Current Stein Eye Institute residents and fellows are eligible to apply for the competitive grant, which supports academic work. Named in honor of Dr. Christensen, the late founding chief of the Glaucoma Division, Stacy L. Pineles, MD, UCLA Stein Eye Institute Alumni Association secretary and treasurer, noted that, “The award, being presented for the eighteenth year in a row, is made possible by funding from the annual UCLA Stein Eye Institute Alumni Association dues, generously paid by Stein Eye alumni and faculty.”

The California Medical Association (CMA) has elected David H. Aizuss, MD, as the new chair of the Board of Trustees. Dr. Aizuss has served as vice chair of the CMA board since 2011, and he was a former president of the Los Angeles County Medical Association (LACMA) and the California Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons. This is the first time in twenty years that a LACMA member has been elected CMA chair.

Dr. Aizuss completed his residency in ophthalmology at UCLA Stein Eye Institute. In addition to his private practice, Dr. Aizuss is a UCLA Department of Ophthalmology volunteer faculty member.

IN MEMORIAM
Charles Rupert Barnes, MD
November 19, 1921–September 14, 2014

A respected member of the Stein Eye Institute volunteer faculty for more than 50 years, Charles Rupert Barnes, MD, died peacefully at his home on September 14, 2014, at the age of 92.

Dr. Barnes graduated from Pomona College in 1948 with a degree in biochemistry, and he received his medical degree in 1953 from McGill University in Montreal, Canada. Dr. Barnes began his medical practice in St. Louis, Missouri, and later moved to Ventura, California, where he gained a reputation as a world-class ophthalmologist, professor at UCLA, teacher, leader, and philanthropist. Dr. Barnes donated his time helping the mentally ill, indigent, and less fortunate people throughout the world to see more clearly. Dr. Barnes leaves a legacy of eight children, 10 grandchildren, and one great grandchild.
Karl F. Kramer: Supporting Patient Outreach and Groundbreaking Vision Research

Devoted friend of the Stein Eye Institute and founding member of the Karl Kirchgessner Foundation Board, Karl F. Kramer, passed away peacefully on August 29, 2015, with his family at his side.

The Karl Kirchgessner Foundation, established in 1979, has generously supported critical research and outreach activities of UCLA’s Stein Eye Institute. This tradition of giving dates back to 1963, when a long-time business associate and friend of Dr. Jules Stein’s, known only by “Mr. K,” began making anonymous donations to support the Stein Eye Institute. Mr. K maintained this anonymous status throughout his life and was inspired by Dr. Stein’s philanthropy and dedication to vision science.

Mr. K began seeking treatment at Stein Eye under the care of Robert E. Christensen, MD, the late founding chief of the Glaucoma Division. As their relationship grew, Mr. K asked Dr. Christensen’s assistance in building a program that would bring care to underserved communities. After years of planning, development, and assembly, UCLA’s Mobile Eye Clinic (MEC) was launched on May 2, 1975. Mr. K also created the Uncle Claude Fund, an endowment that was invested and monitored by Mr. K’s son, Karl F. Kramer, and the Foundation. The Uncle Claude Fund paid for MEC operational expenses, initial purchase of a minibus, and MEC medical equipment.

In 1979, along with Martin Webster (Mr. K’s attorney and friend) and Mr. Kramer, Mr. K began the process of establishing a new charitable entity to provide care to disadvantaged persons, including the elderly, and the working poor. Having a strong financial background, Mr. Kramer worked with Mr. Webster to establish The Karl Kirchgessner Foundation. Because of Mr. K’s desire for anonymity and his wish to honor someone other than himself, the Foundation was named after a great-uncle, whose German last name, Kirchgessner, roughly translates as “churchgoer.” Mr. Kramer was elected the Foundation’s first treasurer, and the Foundation’s assets were less than $5,000.

As treasurer and director of the Foundation for the next 30-plus years, Mr. Kramer worked tirelessly to ensure that the assets consistently grew and resulted in a steady increase of its annual giving. From inception through its fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, the Foundation made approximately $18 million in grants, with MEC receiving $3.7 million in operating support.

In 2005, Mr. Webster and Mr. Kramer transferred the Uncle Claude endowment for the benefit of MEC to UCLA. Even after annual grants to support MEC and facilitate the purchase of a new bus, the endowment had grown to approximately $4.5 million. Over the life of The Karl Kirchgessner Foundation, UCLA and the Stein Eye Institute have received more than $8.2 million from these two intertwined entities.

In 1998, the Foundation launched a program to underwrite the vision research of promising young scientists affiliated with universities throughout the United States. As a testament to the efforts of SAB and the Foundation, approximately 80% of the Institute’s research is supported by SAB and the Karl Kirchgessner Foundation. An endowed Chair in Vision Science, the Karl Kirchgessner Professorship, is held by Dr. Debora B. Farber, the Karl Kirchgessner Foundation Chair in Vision Science.

Dr. Farber, the current chair of the Foundation’s Scientific Advisory Board, received her PhD in 1999 and completed her ophthalmic genetics fellowship at the Doheny Eye Institute. Dr. Farber is an expert in the genetics of eye diseases and has made significant contributions to the understanding of inherited retinal degenerations.

Dr. Farber’s research efforts have been recognized with numerous awards, including a PubMed Grant for Excellence in Ophthalmic Research, the American Academy of Ophthalmology’s Research to Prevent Blindness Achievement Award, and the Stein Eyster Award from the International Society for Ocular Genetics and Development.

Dr. Farber’s research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, and the Foundation’s Scientific Advisory Board. She is currently working on a project that aims to identify new genes associated with inherited retinal diseases, which could lead to the development of new treatments for these diseases.

In 2014, Dr. Farber was named the first recipient of the Karl Kirchgessner Foundation Chair in Vision Science. The Foundation’s Scientific Advisory Board is comprised of leading vision researchers who help to identify promising young scientists for support.

The Karl Kirchgessner Foundation is committed to funding critical research and outreach activities at the Stein Eye Institute. The Foundation’s focus is on supporting research that has the potential to improve the lives of thousands of individuals.

A Lifetime of Selfless Giving

For nearly all of her 101 years, Anne M. Bodenheimer has been donating her talents, time, and energy, as well as monetary gifts, wherever they would do the most good for humanity. Anne was raised in the German-Jewish tradition that teaches love and knowledge for the arts and sciences, and she was introduced to the spirit of giving by her maternal grandmother, who always helped others in time of need.

Anne’s interest in supporting vision-science research began when her son presented with an eye problem in childhood. “In my estimation,” says Anne, “problems that can be improved by good care and good science should be supported.” Because of a colleague’s high praise, Anne came to UCLA’s Stein Eye Institute for expert care. For several years, she has supported the research of two faculty members, Kevin Miller, MD, chief of the Cataract and Refractive Surgery Division, and Michael Gorin, MD, PhD, chief of the Division of Retinal Disorders and Ophthalmic Genetics, and she also has made a bequest to the Institute for the support of the Institute’s Faculty Women’s Club and the Affiliates of UCLA. Anne has been a long-time member with the German Conversation section of UCLA’s Faculty Women’s Club and the Affiliates of UCLA, supporting scholarships for graduate students.

Anne’s professional relationship with UCLA began in 1961, when she was hired as a research assistant in the office of the director of International and Foreign Studies. Among other positions at UCLA, Anne worked as coordinator of the Fulbright Program, and her long-standing friendship with then UCLA Chancellor Franklin D. Murphy began when Chancellor Murphy wished to speak to a French professor at a Fulbright dinner, and Anne provided the needed translation. Anne remained involved with UCLA following her retirement, including long-time membership with the German Conversation section of UCLA’s Faculty Women’s Club and the Affiliates of UCLA, supporting scholarships for graduate students.

Countless certificates and plaques testify to Anne’s volunteerism and noble contributions to her community. For almost a century, Anne has devoted her life to demonstrating the traits reflected on her most recent accolade, a Heritage Award: loyalty, grace, devotion, modesty, warmth, and generosity. A lifetime of selfless giving, which has touched countless others.
Outgoing JSEI Affiliates President Honored for Her Volunteer Service

At an annual JSEI Affiliates luncheon, JSEI Affiliates Founding Member and outgoing President, Cherie Hubbell, was recognized by Stein Eye Institute Director, Bartly J. Mondino, MD, for her leadership and commitment to vision-science education.

Cherie has served on the JSEI Affiliates Advisory Board since its inception in 1990 and has been its president since 1995. She initiated and fostered the Vision IN-School program and has been a tireless volunteer in the many community-outreach initiatives of the JSEI Affiliates.

At the event, Dr. Mondino welcomed Marcia Lloyd, a long-standing JSEI Affiliates board member and volunteer, to her new role as incoming JSEI Affiliates president. Marcia, a UCLA undergraduate and graduate student, has been working at UCLA since 1963 and has been at the Stein Eye Institute since 1970 working in the Retinal Cell Biology Laboratory.

Outgoing JSEI Affiliates President Honored for Her Volunteer Service

Build a Legacy and Ensure Advances in Vision Science

The Stein Eye Institute is dedicated to advancing innovative and groundbreaking research, delivering cutting-edge patient care, key community engagement, and providing the education necessary to diagnose and treat eye disease.

Charitable gifts made through your estate are a wonderful way to provide lasting support for Stein Eye.

If you are interested in learning more about ways to include the Stein Eye Institute in your will or living trust, or if you have already included Stein Eye in your estate plans, please let us know so we can ensure your wishes are clearly understood.

We would love to hear from you!

And best of all, you know that you are helping to ensure that the Stein Eye Institute can uphold its mission to preserve sight and restore vision for generations to come.

For more information on estate gifts, bequests, charitable gift annuities, and other philanthropic strategies, please visit UCLA’s Planned Giving website at: www.legacy.ucla.edu, or contact Stein Eye’s Development team at:

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All inquiries are confidential and without obligation.