The greater Los Angeles region is reaping immediate benefits from the historic alliance of the UCLA Stein Eye Institute and the Doheny Eye Institute: Two Doheny Eye Center UCLA locations—one in Arcadia and the other in Orange County—are now open and seeing patients, and a third Doheny Eye Center UCLA is set to open this summer in Pasadena.

The three Doheny Eye Center UCLA locations join the prestigious Stein Eye Institute in Westwood, the Stein Eye Center–Santa Monica, and the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology-affiliated teaching satellite hospitals: Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare Center at West Los Angeles and Sepulveda, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, and Olive View-UCLA Medical Center.

“From the westside to the eastside and south to Orange County, patients throughout Los Angeles and neighboring regions now have access to the finest ophthalmologic care available,” says Chairman of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and Director of the Stein Eye Institute, Bartly J. Mondino, MD.

A Shared Tradition of Excellence

Both Doheny and Stein Eye have a long tradition of excellence and are consistently ranked in the top 10 of the U.S. News & World Report Best Hospital Rankings for ophthalmology.

“Through our affiliation, we are blending respective strengths that have gained each Institute an international reputation,” affirms Dr. Mondino.

By Doheny choosing UCLA as its new academic partner, it also brings to the fore the added resources of what makes the Stein Eye Institute the “Best in the West.”

“The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology is a perfect academic partner for us,” notes Marissa Goldberg, Doheny chief operating officer, chief financial officer, and board member. “We share a similar mission, and we each gain complementary clinical, research, and educational strengths. And significantly, together we have the opportunity to better serve patients throughout the southland.”

For patients and referring physicians, the board-certified Doheny ophthalmologists they know and trust remain accessible. Many Doheny Eye Institute researchers and clinicians are joining the faculty roster of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, uniting with Stein Eye Institute researchers and clinicians under a single, integrated UCLA Department of Ophthalmology.

With the opening of the Doheny Eye Center UCLA locations, patients can continue to see their Doheny ophthalmologist—in the same familiar neighborhood—but now with the backing of the UCLA Health System, one of the premier providers of modern medicine to the Los Angeles area and the nation.

And for referring physicians, the opening of the three Doheny Eye Center UCLA locations means that Doheny ophthalmologists remain a resource in the community, providing comprehensive and subspecialty eye care at a nearby locale. Like the Stein Eye Institute and its satellite centers, Doheny Eye Center UCLA will provide the finest in clinical care, diagnostic equipment, and treatment.

continued on page 3
Letter from the Chair

At 5 a.m. on March 17, 2014, my cell phone emitted the annoying “Droid” sound indicating a text message. At that moment I knew without even reading the text that ophthalmology lost a great leader and academician.

Ronald E. Smith, MD, our friend and colleague, was an accomplished clinician-scientist whose achievements are legion. His research and clinical expertise centered in external eye disease, cornea, and uveitis. He was a recipient of National Eye Institute grant support, served on Study Section, and authored more than 300 scientific publications. He was past president of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and served for more than 10 years on the Academy Board of Trustees. He was past chair and board member of the American Board of Ophthalmology and was a member of honorary societies, including the American Ophthalmological Society, Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis, and the Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars. He received numerous awards including the Light Award from the Braille Institute of America, the Gold Medal of the International Uveitis Study Group, the Castrojiego Medal of the Cornea Society, and the Lifetime Achievement Award of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. He served as Chairman of the USC Keck School of Medicine Department of Ophthalmology from 1995 to 2013. He resigned from the USC faculty in November 2013 and became medical director of the Doheny Eye Institute (DEI) preparatory to joining the UCLA faculty as vice chairman at the Doheny Eye Center-UCLA.

In addition to his academic achievements, Ron was noted for his personal qualities. His demeanor was always friendly, engaging, gregarious, humble, and humorous. He was a joy to be around and provided welcome relief in difficult situations. I never knew him to be mean-spirited, and he elicited the best in everyone.

I first met Ron in 1981. When I was being recruited to the Stein Eye Institute, I was told that I must speak with Ron Smith at Doheny-USC. I met Ron and Suzette for the first time in a small restaurant in Hollywood. From that day forward, Ron befriended me. Our friendship was cemented by our tour of duty together on Study Section.

You could always count on Ron for support. When I needed a letter for promotion or whatever, he was always there with the first and strongest letter on my behalf. He was extremely generous and supportive in this way. He saw the best in all of us.

Ron and I communicated and met regularly before and during our two decades as chairs of our “rival” departments. I put rival in quotes because nothing could be further from the truth in terms of ophthalmology. Our organizations worked together, supported mutual projects, and collaborated in research and education. Our hostile encounters, and there were many, were confined exclusively to the football field or basketball court where UCLA and USC enjoyed a fierce rivalry. One of the highlights of my year was our annual UCLA-USC basketball game played at Pauley Pavilion to which he would bring Drs. John Irvine, Alfredo Sadun, or his son, Matt, who graduated from UCLA Medical School.

We worked even closer together as the affiliation between UCLA and Doheny began to be envisioned and evolve. In one of our many discussions, I confided to Ron that I was having trouble sleeping and asked him if he was having the same. He immediately retorted in his inimitable style that he was having no trouble sleeping because he knew I was awake worrying for the two of us. One of his last communications to me and others shortly before his passing was “take care of it.” Many, many times he expressed to me his future plans: ensure the successful transition of DEI to UCLA and then become a full-time grandfather for his cherished grandchildren.

Oddly enough, the same morning and shortly after Ron’s passing, a 4.4 earthquake hit Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

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

Dr. Bartly J. Mondino
Recognized for Leadership in Academic Ophthalmology

As Chairman of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and Director of the Stein Eye Institute, Bartly J. Mondino, MD, is responsible for leading the academic pursuits of the Institute’s faculty and trainees, while maintaining the highest standards in research, teaching, and patient care.

Dr. Mondino also holds active leadership roles outside of the Institute, setting a critical agenda for the advancement of ophthalmology and the prevention of blindness. In recognition of this work, the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO) recently lauded Dr. Mondino for ten years of service as AUPO executive vice president.

At their Meeting January 30–February 1, 2014, in Miami, Florida, AUPO President Steven E. Feldson, MD, MBA, asked attendees to thank Dr. Mondino for all he had done on behalf of the AUPO, noting, “This is Bart’s last year as executive vice president, and all of us at AUPO owe him a special debt of gratitude for his leadership, devotion, grace, and good humor. He has taken our organization to a new level of performance and relevance.

Founded in 1965, the AUPO mission is to serve, strengthen, and represent departments of ophthalmology; to provide support, information, and leadership opportunities to department chairs, program directors, research directors, medical student educators, administrators, and other faculty members; to promote excellence in ophthalmic education; to foster vision research; and to promote ethical practice and excellence in eye care in order to ensure the best possible vision for the public. AUPO includes Departments of Ophthalmology in the United States and Canada.

“In this fast-changing and challenging health care environment, remaining both resilient and forward moving in academic ophthalmology is a daily challenge,” explains Dr. Mondino. “In my work with outside organizations, I am privileged to be directly involved in creating policies that will serve and benefit the future of ophthalmology.”

In addition to his administrative responsibilities, Dr. Mondino treats patients and has research interests in the field of inflammatory and infectious eye diseases. He has published extensively on autoimmune diseases of the external eye and contact-lens-related corneal ulcers.
Doheny Eye Center UCLA Pasadena

Doheny physicians will continue to offer innovative therapies for vision-threatening conditions in Pasadena—but now at a brand new location. Currently under construction, the Doheny Eye Center UCLA–Pasadena will open in Summer 2014, and will serve as the Doheny Eye primary hub.

Located on the second floor of the Huntington Pavilion, the Doheny Eye Center UCLA–Pasadena will provide expanded vision care services and four clinics devoted to retina and cornea; comprehensive ophthalmology and ocular plastics; neuro-ophthalmology; and glaucoma. Each subspecialty clinic will have dedicated state-of-the-art diagnostic centers and laser suites, as well as in-office procedure rooms. Procedures that are more complex will be performed at the Huntington Pavilion Surgical Suites, located on the building’s third floor.

Huntington Pavilion is also home to a wide variety of medical practitioners, which has a two-fold benefit: providing physicians with ease of referral for patients who require specialized eye care and the added convenience to patients, who can see their doctors and have any necessary services, all in one location.

Doheny Eye Center UCLA–Pasadena

Eyesight is precious. The first Doheny Eye Center UCLA opened in Arcadia on April 1. The new Arcadia Center is comprised of many of the same trusted ophthalmologists that patients have depended on for years, only now with a UCLA affiliation.

Fully equipped and functioning, Doheny Eye Center UCLA–Arcadia is housed in a beautifully renovated office that includes 12 exam rooms, dedicated diagnostic equipment, and attractive patient areas. The Center provides comprehensive ophthalmology, and nearly all subspecialties, including glaucoma, retina, and cornea.

The Center serves patients in the broader Arcadia region and San Gabriel area and expands the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology’s reach in Los Angeles County. The Arcadia Center is easily accessible from two freeways and provides on-site, free parking.

Doheny Eye Center UCLA

Orange County

Newly renovated, the Doheny Eye Center UCLA–Orange County opened on May 15 in the Orange Coast Memorial Medical Center. Doheny Eye Center UCLA–Orange County remains the home to many of the same, known staff and experienced, board-certified Doheny doctors as in the past but now under the banner of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology.

Similar to the Doheny Eye Center UCLA–Arcadia, the Orange County Center offers comprehensive ophthalmology, as well as glaucoma, retina, and cornea subspecialty services. There are 12 exam rooms, dedicated diagnostic equipment, and inviting patient areas.

Doheny Eye Center UCLA–Orange County

Westwood

The Stein Eye Institute’s vision science campus consists of the Jules Stein Building, Doris Stein Building, and the Edie & Lew Wasserman Building (set to open in late 2014)—is located on the UCLA campus and constitutes a comprehensive site dedicated to the preservation of vision and prevention of blindness.

The Institute’s program of care for patients encompasses the full range of eye diseases. Nationally and internationally renowned faculty, along with highly skilled clinical fellows and physician residents, provide integrated consultation and treatment, including new diagnostic and therapeutic procedures that have been made available through recent scientific advances. Care is delivered in distinctive subspecialty treatment centers, service areas, and clinical laboratories, as well as in specially equipped ophthalmic surgery suites and a dedicated inpatient unit.

Stein Eye Institute UCLA

Santa Monica

Under the direction of Colin A. McCannel, MD, professor of clinical ophthalmology, the Stein Eye Center—Santa Monica, offers the world-renowned comprehensive and subspecialty eye care of the Stein Eye Institute at a convenient location in Santa Monica. The Stein Eye Center features well-equipped exam rooms, an optical shop, convenient on-site parking for easy access, and testing facilities offering a wide range of examinations, including visual field, corneal mapping (corneal topography), intraocular lens measurement, fluorescein angiography, spectral domain optical coherence tomography, and other diagnostic imaging techniques.

Stein Eye Center–Santa Monica

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

Harbor-UCLA Medical Center

Torrance

The Chief of the Division of Ophthalmology at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center is Pradeep S. Prasad, MD, health sciences assistant clinical professor of ophthalmology. Serving all subspecialties, including pediatrics, Harbor is the only Level 1 Trauma Center of the UCLA affiliated hospitals and counts 25,000 clinic visits per year. A county facility, Harbor primarily treats low-income residents from throughout South Los Angeles who have little or no access to health care. As such, the patients seen at Harbor often have advanced eye disease.

Harbor-UCLA Medical Center

1000 W Carson St.
Torrance, CA 90002
Phone: (310) 222-2345

Veterans Affairs Healthcare Center

West Los Angeles

JoAnn A. Giaconi, MD, chief of the Ophthalmology Section and health sciences assistant clinical professor of ophthalmology, oversees all eye-related activities at the Veterans Affairs (VA) Greater Los Angeles Healthcare Center at West Los Angeles and Sepulveda. The VA serves our nation’s veterans and provides full service, clinical, diagnostic, and surgical care. Historically, the VA has served primarily adult males, but the demographics of the VA are now reflecting the increased service of women in the military. The VA includes an optical shop and provides excellent low vision and blind rehabilitation services for our veterans.

VA West Los Angeles Healthcare Center

11301 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90073
Phone: (310) 478-3711

Olive View–UCLA Medical Center

Sylmar

Olive View–UCLA Medical Center is a large county facility located in the northern portion of the San Fernando Valley and serves all residents of Los Angeles County, primarily from the valley and high desert areas. Uday Dergan, MD, associate clinical professor of ophthalmology, is the chief of ophthalmology. Olive View has a robust ophthalmology service that encompasses all ophthalmic subspecialties. Olive View has approximately 22,000 patient visits per year, and like Harbor–UCLA Medical Center, sees the most vulnerable members of our community who are often overlooked and have limited resources.

Olive View–UCLA Medical Center

14445 Olive View Dr.
Sylmar, CA 91342
Phone: (818) 364-1555

How we inwardly affirm, we are blending respective strengths that have gained each Institute an international reputation.”
Researchers Investigating Methods to Improve Retinal Reattachment Surgery

When a retinal detachment threatens to steal sight, critical, sight-saving surgery is required to restore vision. The most frequently used procedure to reattach the retina is a vitrectomy, which is performed in about 80% of cases. The recovery process following vitrectomy surgery, however, can be an uncomfortable and arduous process for the patient. But that may soon change.

Jean-Pierre Hubschman, MD, assistant professor of ophthalmology, and the research vision scientists in his laboratory, are conducting studies on a biopolymer “retinal patch” to provide surgeons with an alternative to the gases and silicone oils that are currently used in retinal detachment surgery. The long-term goal of the research is to alleviate the postoperative risk and discomfort associated with the use of these common tamponades.

A healthy retina is critical for clear vision, and its normal function depends on its proper attachment to the back of the eye. When the retina peels away from its underlying support tissue, surgical intervention is needed to reattach the retina. In vitrectomy surgery, the ophthalmologist removes the vitreous gel in the middle of the eye and replaces the fluid with a gas or silicone oil bubble. The gas or silicone oil serve as a tamponade, sealing the retinal tears, as well as repositioning and securing the retina in place—crucial procedures in retinal reattachment surgery. As the only major tamponade agents available today, gas and silicone oil are essential tools in the surgeon’s arsenal.

Mitigating the appeal of gases and silicone oils, however, is the onerous recovery process their use requires. “Patients must maintain specific head positioning for several days after surgery, are unable to travel by air for several weeks, and might not regain useful vision for up to two months,” explains Dr. Hubschman. “In addition, the use of silicone oil can lead to cataract formations, increased intraocular pressure, and proliferative vitreoretinopathy, which can then lead to reoccurring retinal detachments that require more surgical interventions.”

To combat these negative consequences, Dr. Hubschman and his team are assessing the safety, toxicity, and efficacy of a novel synthetic adhesive biopolymer “retinal patch” as a viable tamponade agent replacement. “It is extremely challenging for our patients to manage the severe limitations forced on them following the vitrectomy procedure,” says Dr. Hubschman. “If the retinal patch proves to be safe and effective, its use could eliminate the complications associated with gases and silicone oils.”

The investigators have recently completed phase 1 trials on mice, in which they assessed the safety and toxicity of the synthetic biopolymer. The study involved 44 mice, separated into three groups. All mice received injections in their right eye, which allowed the left eye to serve as a comparative control. Experimental group A received injections of the biopolymer into the subretinal space; experimental group B received injections in the intravitreal cavity; and control group C received basic saline solution injections in the subretinal space.

To assess any changes in the retinal structure and function, the mice underwent spectral domain optical coherence tomography, electroretinogram, and color fundus photography at various stages throughout the study. These diagnostic tests, as well as pathology slides, revealed the absence of functional and anatomical toxicity in the mice retinas—demonstrating that the biopolymer was safe and nontoxic in mice eyes.

“Now that the biopolymer was shown to be safe in the phase 1 trials, the next step will be phase II trials on rabbits, where we will assess the effectiveness of the biopolymer as a tamponading agent in sealing retinal tears and securing the retina,” says Dr. Hubschman. “Our efforts are focused on improving retinal reattachment surgery as we know it today.”

Philanthropic contributions support the Stein Eye Institute’s vital research and educational programs. To make a donation, contact the Stein Eye Development Office at (310) 206-6035 or email giving@sei.ucla.edu.

Community Outreach

Dr. Anthony Aldave performs Descemet stripping endothelial keratoplasty (DSEK) surgery while Dr. Ryan St. Clair, cornea fellow at the Stein Eye Institute, assists during DSEK skills transfer course at St. Luke’s Hospital, Global City, Manila, Philippines.

Stein Eye Physician Teaches Advanced Surgical Procedure in Manila

Anthony J. Aldave, MD, associate professor of ophthalmology, conducted a two-day Descemet stripping endothelial keratoplasty (DSEK) skills transfer course in Manila, Philippines, January 16-18, 2014. DSEK is an advancement in corneal transplantation that allows patients to have better vision more quickly after surgery and with fewer potential complications.
The UCLA Stein Eye Institute’s three new “pop-up clinics” are designed to go where the UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic cannot: small preschools in densely populated areas with limited parking and narrow driveways.

Two boxes the size of laundry baskets hold all the portable equipment needed for an ophthalmologist and an ophthalmic assistant to provide children with dilated eye examinations, prescriptions for eyeglasses, and referrals for further care. The vision teams travel by car with the equipment and set up the pop-up clinics in spare rooms of qualified preschools.

“In some areas of Los Angeles, we cannot navigate or park our 40-foot-long bus,” says Faye Oelrich, program manager of the UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic, a community outreach program of the Stein Eye Institute. “We tried to get parents to bring their children to one centralized location for eye examinations, but that required them to travel from their neighborhoods and possibly miss work, which can be a huge barrier to receiving care. The beauty of the pop-up clinics is that we can jump in a car and go to the children.”

The Stein Eye Institute received a $4.1 million grant in 2012 from First Five LA to provide free vision screenings to 90,000 preschoolers in underserved areas of Los Angeles County by 2017. About 17 percent of the children screened need further evaluation, and approximately 9 percent need eyeglasses. Children who need eyeglasses choose from a selection of frames. The eyeglasses are then delivered to the school within a month.

“We now know that kindergarten is too late to screen children for vision problems,” says Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD, Fran and Ray Stark Professor of Ophthalmology and director of the UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic. “If children need glasses, they need them at three years of age to prevent them from getting a lazy eye or an eye that never sees that well. While pediatricians can identify some children who need glasses, our screening notices subtle differences that could have long-term effects on a child’s vision.”
Philanthropy

Payden Family Honor Brother With Philanthropic Gift

A generous gift made through the William R. Payden Fund has established the William R. Payden Fund for Glaucoma Research at UCLA's Stein Eye Institute. This meaningful gift will support the research of Joseph Caprioli, MD, David May II Professor of Ophthalmology and chief of the Glaucoma Division. "We are very excited by the potential of the fund," says Bartly J. Mondino, MD, director of the Stein Eye Institute and chairman of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology. "The Payden family's loyal commitment allows the Institute to pursue critical advances in education and research for the Glaucoma Division."

The fund represents a continuation of an important Payden family legacy supporting the vision sciences. Ms. Joan Ann Payden, CPA, knew that her beloved brother, Mr. William R. Payden, had wished to create this fund during his lifetime so that Dr. Caprioli and his team could continue dedicating their efforts to finding new advances for the early detection and treatment of glaucoma and in providing the highest quality care available for patients afflicted with this disease. The creation of this fund in his memory allows Mr. Payden's wishes to come to fruition. "Independent, unrestricted support is essential for developing new clinical protocols with which to treat glaucoma. Bill Payden was an astute and keen student of glaucoma research, and I believe he would enthusiastically approve of the work that will be conducted with the help of these funds," says Dr. Caprioli.

Mr. Payden, who passed away in 2013, lived a life full of intellectual curiosity and supported his various passions in music, film, sports, aviation, and philanthropy. He attended the University of Notre Dame and graduated from the University of Colorado where he majored in journalism. Mr. Payden was a reporter and feature writer for the Mamaroneck, New York, Daily News as well as a public relations associate for a variety of industries in Southern California. Later in life, Mr. Payden found his vocation in education and was a journalism professor until he retired from college instruction. He may be most memorialized for his dedication to his students and unquestioned credibility.

May Family Continues Legacy Through Fellowship

UCLA has benefited for decades from the generous philanthropic involvement of the May family; and the family has made another generous commitment through the Wilbur May Foundation to honor the late Mr. Wilbur D. May, third son of Mr. David May, founder of the May Department Stores Company. This most recent gift will establish the Wilbur D. May Fellowship in the Department of Ophthalmology and the Stein Eye Institute at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. "The May family has long been a pillar of support to Stein Eye and we are honored to have such patronage and friendship," says Bartly J. Mondino, MD, director of the Stein Eye Institute and chairman of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology. "Their generous investment will have a significant impact on the training of fellows and the advancement of ophthalmology."

The Wilbur May Foundation and its leaders have an enduring history of dedicated involvement with the Stein Eye Institute's vision science programs. Mr. Wilbur May was the beloved uncle of Mr. David May II, past president of the Wilbur May Foundation and one of six original members of the Stein Eye Institute Board of Trustees. The Board is responsible for the leadership and preservation of the Institute, and Mr. David May II remained a member of the Board of Trustees until his death in 1992. The May Family has demonstrated their commitment to Stein Eye training and education programs for decades through the creation of scholarships benefiting residents, fellows, and faculty. The David May II Endowed Chair was established in 1998 to perpetuate in memoriam Mr. May's association with the Stein Eye Institute; and the David May II Fellowship Fund was established in 1992 to support advanced study and research in ophthalmology and vision sciences.

Today, Mr. David May II's widow, Mrs. Dee May, and their children Mrs. Amanda May-Stefan, Ms. Alyssa May, Mrs. Dalandyn May, Ms. Tommey May, Mrs. Anita May Rosenstein, Mrs. Kathy May Fritz, and grandson Mr. Brian Rosenstein, remain invested in philanthropy. The Wilbur May Foundation is led by the foundation's President, Mrs. Anita May Rosenstein and Vice Presidents, Ms. Dixie May, Mrs. Dee May, Mrs. Kathy May Fritz, Mrs. Amanda May Stefan, Ms. Alyssa May, Ms. Tommey May, and Mr. Brian Rosenstein. After consulting with Dr. Mondino and M. Gail Summers, director of Development, last fall, and motivated by Stein Eye's tradition of excellence in clinical care, vision science, and education of future ophthalmologists, the May family decided to renew their support and honor Mr. Wilbur May's legacy through a Fellowship gift.

Stein Eye offers a variety of giving options to those who may also wish to contribute to this tradition of excellence, and we would like to share some of these giving opportunities and rewards with you. For more information on the various ways to donate, we invite you to contact M. Gail Summers, Director of Development at (310) 206-6035 or summers@sei.ucla.edu.

Educating Future Leaders In Ophthalmology

The Stein Eye Institute’s vision scientists are extending the boundaries of current knowledge and working to achieve a lifetime of good vision for everyone, due in large part to a strong tradition of philanthropic support from private sources. Embarking on a partnership with one of the world’s preeminent eye research centers greatly expands our understanding of eye disease and exposes alternative treatment options, with the ultimate goal of preventing blindness.

A gift of an endowment demonstrates a long-term commitment to Stein Eye, since the fund is maintained in perpetuity: a portion of the annual investment income is used to support the fellow’s clinical and scientific initiatives, and the remaining investment yield is returned to principal; thus, over the years, the fund can grow and provide continuous support. Postdoctoral Fellowship Endowments, whether established during a lifetime or through a planned gift, are a wonderful way to have direct impact on Stein Eye, helping to fund postgraduate scholars’ research and living expenses, which enables Stein Eye to attract promising ophthalmologists and retain top faculty.

The Stein Eye Institute is grateful for the generous and vital support that Postdoctoral Fellowship Endowments provide. With the recent gift from the May family to create the Wilbur D. May Fellowship, Stein Eye has a founder of the May Department Stores Company to support the teaching and research activities for the next generation of leading ophthalmologists. To learn more about making an investment with a positive impact on the future of vision care, please direct your confidential inquiries to M. Gail Summers, Director of Development at (310) 206-6035 or summers@sei.ucla.edu.

"Embarking on a partnership with one of the world’s preeminent eye research centers greatly expands our understanding of eye disease and exposes alternative treatment options, with the ultimate goal of preventing blindness."
**Incoming Ophthalmology Residents**

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.

In late January of last year, Residency Selection Chairman Robert Alan Goldberg, MD, was informed of the results of the ophthalmology residency “match” for 2014. The following applicants, selected over a year ago, will serve as Stein Eye Institute House Officers beginning July 1, 2014:

- **Joseph Christensen**, MD  
  Duke University
- **Melinda Fry**, MD  
  Baylor University
- **Janet Lee**, MD  
  University of California, San Diego
- **Tamara Lee**, MD  
  Case Western Reserve University
- **Theodore “Tripper” Sauer**, MD  
  Duke University
- **Davis Stark**, MD  
  EyeSTAR
- **Barry A. Weissman**, MD  
  University of Florida
- **Irena Tsui**, OD  
  Maryland
- **Ryan Woo**, MD  
  Mount Sinai
- **Chengjie Zheng**, MD  
  Mount Sinai

**Incoming Ophthalmology Fellows**

We are pleased to introduce the following ophthalmologists entering clinical and international fellowships at the Stein Eye Institute in the 2014–2015 academic year:

- **Michael Fikhman**, MD  
  Duke University
- **Erin Leaoner**, MD  
  EyeSTAR
- **Elizabeth Richter**, MD  
  EyeSTAR
- **Grace Richter**, MD  
  EyeSTAR
- **Neil Vyas**, MD  
  EyeSTAR
- **Peng Lei**, MD  
  Glaucoma
- **Anjali Tannan**, MD  
  Cornea
- **Aqeeli Tannan**, MD  
  Cornea
- **Grace Richter**, MD  
  EyeSTAR
- **Elizabeht Richter**, MD  
  EyeSTAR
- **Mark H. Sawamura**, OD  
  Medical Retina/Genetics
- **Davis Stark**, MD  
  EyeSTAR
- **Barry A. Weissman**, MD  
  University of Florida
- **Irena Tsui**, OD  
  Maryland
- **Ryan Woo**, MD  
  Mount Sinai
- **Chengjie Zheng**, MD  
  Mount Sinai

**Master’s Orbital Surgery Symposium**

The Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Division hosted a Master’s Symposium on Orbital Surgery February 7–8, 2014. The first day of the course was a laboratory session of cadaver dissection, including faculty prossections and hands-on training under faculty guidance. The second day included didactic lectures and case presentations.

The division faculty and guest lecturers, including Raymond S. Douglas, MD, Jeremiah P. Tao, MD, and Jonathan W. Kim, MD, joined course directors Jack Rootman, MD, and Robert Alan Goldberg, MD. Catherine J. Hwang, MD, and Mehrav (Ray) Taban, MD, chaired the laboratory section.

The course brought more than 60 participants from across the world, including Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Greece, Iran, Lebanon, Mexico, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. Many of the attendees were experienced and well-known orbit surgeons, which resulted in a high level of interchange of knowledge and collegiality. The success of the course draws from the innovative talent of the Stein Eye Institute’s internationally known faculty, combined with premier facilities for both the laboratory and didactic components of the symposium.

**Optometric Symposium on Advances in Eye Care**

Optometrists from across California traveled to the Stein Eye Institute on January 26, 2014, to attend the 16th Annual Stein Eye Institute and Marshall B. Ketchum University joint Optometric Symposium on Advances in Eye Care. Course Chairman Melissa W. Chun, OD, associate clinical professor of ophthalmology, organized the program that included lectures presented by:

- **Michael B. Gorin**, MD, PhD  
  Case Western Reserve University
- **Tamara Lee–EyeSTAR**, MD  
  University of California, San Diego
- **Joseph Christensen**, MD  
  Duke University
- **Chengjie Zheng**, MD  
  Mount Sinai
- **Catherine J. Hwang**, MD  
  Mount Sinai
- **Mehrav (Ray) Taban**, MD  
  Mount Sinai

**Comprehensive Ophthalmology Review Course**

The Stein Eye Institute and the Doheny Eye Institute teamed up to sponsor the ninth Comprehensive Ophthalmology Review course on February 20–23, 2014. The collaborative effort to develop this intensive four-day review serving ophthalmology training programs in Southern California proved to be an overwhelming success.

The course co-directors, Sherwin Isenberg, MD, Laraine and David Gerber Professor of Pediatric Ophthalmology at Stein Eye and John A. Irvine, MD, professor of clinical ophthalmology at Doheny Eye, organized a program concentrating on the epidemiology, clinical presentation, diagnosis, and management of ophthalmological disease.

**Pediatric Division Hosts Meeting to Commemorate Dr. Leonard Apt**

The Stein Eye Institute Pediatric Division organized and hosted a full-day meeting on April 1, 2014, commemorating the late Leonard Apt, MD, a founding member of the Institute and the first physician to become board certified in both pediatrics and ophthalmology.

More than 40 invited speakers presented timely or controversial material in a rapid-paced format. This is the third time the Pediatric Division has hosted this event, which was held a day prior to the start of the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Annual Meeting in Rancho Mirage, California.
Save the Date!

Walk to Prevent Blindness

Join Team Stein Eye Saturday, November 1, 2014, at Woodley Park in Van Nuys, for the Foundation Fighting Blindness’ 8th annual VisionWalk. The event, supported by the Stein Eye Institute and volunteers from the JSEI Affiliates, raises funds for retinal eye disease research.

“Last year’s team represented an impressive cross section of the Stein Eye Institute,” noted JSEI Affiliates Board Member and Community Relations Manager, Teresa Closson. “Stein Eye staff, residents, Affiliates volunteers, board members, our children, and our dogs joined together to raise money for vision research.” The Foundation Fighting Blindness is a nonprofit organization committed to funding research to prevent, treat, and cure retinal degenerative eye diseases. As a sponsor of VisionWalk, the Stein Eye Institute has participated in research on a number of inherited retinal diseases and received grants for continued study of vision loss treatment and prevention.

Celebrating Mom in May

The JSEI Affiliates celebrated both Healthy Vision Month and mothers on May 5th by hosting their annual Make Surgery Bearable Ice Cream Social. Over 100 individuals visited tables on the Stein Eye Terrace to sponsor a Dr. Teddy MD in honor of their mother, grandmother, or special someone, and received a free ice cream in exchange. Many donors, although unable to attend the event, responded by mail and made this our most profitable campaign yet.

Dr. Teddy stands 10 inches tall and wears green surgical scrubs to help familiarize children with how their doctors will look at the time of their surgery. A tag on the bear is inscribed with the donor’s name, letting the family know someone special is thinking of them. To sponsor a bear or learn more about the Affiliates Make Surgery Bearable program, go to: www.jseiaffiliates.com or call (310) 825-4148. Stay connected to the JSEI Affiliates at: www.facebook.com/JSEI.Alumni.

Staff Spotlight

Bobbi E. Ballenberg, COMT
Clinical Manager, Glaucoma Division

The Stein Eye Institute is dedicated to providing the highest quality eye care to preserve and restore vision, and the Institute’s international reputation for excellence is due in no small measure to the often-unseen contributions of a skilled and dedicated workforce.

Bobbi Ballenberg began working at the Institute in 1985 and exemplifies the staff’s commitment to blindness prevention. In addition to being the clinical manager of the Glaucoma Division, Bobbi was the program director of the Stein Eye Institute’s Ophthalmic Assistant Training Program for almost 20 years and is currently president of the Association of Technical Personnel in Ophthalmology (ATPO) and a commissioner for the Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO).

How did your interest in ophthalmology develop?

I was attending pharmacy school at Ohio State University, and it was during my summer break that I found out about an Ophthalmic Assistant Training Program offered at Mt. Sinai Hospital in Cleveland. The program sounded really interesting—especially as I am extremely near-sighted and had amblyopia as a child. I became a certified ophthalmic assistant in 1981, passed my certified ophthalmic technician exam in 1982, and became a certified ophthalmic medical technologist (COMT) in 1992.

What positions have you held at the Institute?

My first position was as chief technician for University Ophthalmology Associates in 1985. I assisted Stein Eye ophthalmologists in patient care, including preliminary exams and minor surgical procedures. Since then, I have been involved with both patient care and clinical research in the Comprehensive and Glaucoma Divisions, and for many years, I was the program director of the Institute’s Ophthalmic Assistant Training Program, which is an eight-month course that prepares students for certification as an ophthalmic assistant.

What is your role as clinical manager of the Glaucoma Division?

My primary responsibility is to ensure the highest quality of care during the patient’s visit in the Glaucoma Division. I supervise a wonderful team of back-office staff, including our ophthalmic technicians, visual field technicians, ophthalmic photographers, surgery schedulers, and study coordinators. It definitely “takes a village” to provide full-time support for our five faculty glaucoma specialists, their clinical fellows, and the residents who rotate through our subspecialty practice where we see up to 100 patients a day! Constant communication between the front and back office staff throughout the day is essential in order to keep things moving as efficiently as possible, while providing excellent customer service to the patients.

What does it mean to you to be a Stein Eye Institute staff member?

I truly am honored to have been a part of the Stein Eye family for over 28 years. I left twice to pursue positions in the private sector, but I keep coming back to the stimulation of an academic setting. At the Institute, we are providing the most advanced patient care and clinical research currently available.

Does the Institute support development of professional skills?

Yes, I am encouraged to attend annual continuing educational programs to further my ophthalmic training and education and to maintain my COMT credentials. I am also a consultant to Southern California Kaiser Permanente and provide annual training for their technicians, as well as lecture locally and nationally for technicians through programs sponsored by ATPO and JCAHPO.

How do you support leadership roles in outside organizations serve ophthalmology?

ATPO and JCAHPO enhance the quality of ophthalmic patient care through education and certification of allied health personnel. Well-trained and certified technical staff can obtain pertinent patient information, such as accurate ocular histories and measurements. Trained personnel can assist in minor procedures, instill ophthalmic medica tions, assist with pre- and postoperative instructions, and provide patient education as delegated by the physician. Educational opportunities for allied health personnel in ophthalmology ensure that members of my profession continue to meet the growing and changing needs of the ophthalmologists to the ultimate benefit of the patient.

Are you married? Any children?

My supportive husband Jeff and I recently celebrated our 20th anniversary with a romantic week snorkeling in Curaçao. Our wonderful children, Jordan and Dayna, volunteer with the JSEI Affiliates, collecting and measuring used eyeglasses to donate to the underserved and putting labels on the Make Surgery Bearable teddy bears.
Institute News

HONORS AND AWARDS

Dr. Bradley R. Straatsma Honored for Advancing Ophthalmology

At the April 2, 2014, Opening Ceremony of the World Ophthalmology Congress in Tokyo, Japan, the Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis (AIS) presented Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD, with the Bernardo Streiff Gold Medal. The medal is awarded every four years to an ophthalmologist who has contributed most, through history, ethics, and education, to the advancement of ophthalmology.

Dr. Straatsma has served as president of many major ophthalmological organizations, including the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), the Pan American Association of Ophthalmology, the AIS, and the Foundation of the International Council of Ophthalmology (IC0). His commitment to ophthalmic education worldwide is seen through many of the major activities undertaken by the organizations he has led. His training of ophthalmology residents and fellows, his editorship of the American Journal of Ophthalmology, his critical support leading to the creation of an international curriculum, his publications on ophthalmic education, and the establishment of the Straatsma Award to increase the quality of residency program leadership in the United States are but a few examples of the major impact Dr. Straatsma has had on ophthalmic education.

Dr. Straatsma has received world-wide acclaim for his tireless work on behalf of ophthalmology. Recognition includes the Howe Medal of the American Ophthalmological Society, the Jules François Gold Medal from the ICO, an Honorary Doctor of Sciences degree from Columbia University, and the Laureate Award from the AAO.

In recognition of his influential and distinguished contributions to the practice of electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR)/electron spin resonance (ESR) spectroscopy and its welfare over a long period, Wayne L. Hubbell, PhD, Jules Stein Professor of Ophthalmology, was selected as a 2014 Fellow of the International EPR (ESR) Society.

Director of the Stein Eye Institute, Bartly J. Mondino, MD, will present the Doheny Lecture “Corneal Ulcers” on June 20, 2014, at the Doheny Eye Institute.

Steven D. Schwartz, MD, Ahmanson Professor of Ophthalmology, was a featured specialist on The Charlie Rose Show series on the brain that aired April 22, 2014. In the public television episode devoted to blindness, Dr. Schwartz discussed current investigations in the use of stem cells for visual restoration. To watch the episode, go to: www.imdb.com/video/hulu/vi105567129/.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Dr. Bradley R. Straatsma

Alumni News

UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association

EYELines

Faculty Alumnus Selected as President of Wayne State University

M. Roy Wilson, MD, MS, a faculty alumnus of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, was formally inaugurated on April 4, 2014, as president of Wayne State University.

Stein Eye Alumnus Receives Visionary Award

At a benefit in New York on April 8, 2014, the Foundation Fighting Blindness honored Stein Eye Institute alumnus Stephen Tsang, MD, PhD, with the prestigious Visionary Award. Dr. Tsang’s contributions to retinitis pigmentosa research are recognized internationally, and his advances in gene therapy have led to clinical trials. His work aims to better understand retinal conditions and correlate disease genetics with the nature and magnitude of vision loss.

Dr. Tsang is a researcher and ophthalmologist at New York-Presbyterian/ Columbia University Medical Center.

Join Stein Eye Institute Alumni and Colleagues at the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association Annual Reception

Held during the American Academy of Ophthalmology’s annual meeting, the reception will be Sunday, October 19, 2014, from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Westin Chicago River North Hotel.

For additional information email alumni@jsei.ucla.edu or telephone (310) 825-4148.
The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association

The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association was established in 1974 to encourage professional interaction among its members, to support the academic programs of the Department of Ophthalmology and the Stein Eye Institute, and to promote the advancement of ophthalmic science.

The Association includes all members of the faculty of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, current and former residents and fellows of the Department of Ophthalmology programs, as well as honorary members.

UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association dues support:

- Annual research grant awards for Stein Eye residents and fellows
- The Stein Eye Institute's annual Clinical and Research Seminar
- The Alumni Reception at the American Academy of Ophthalmology's annual meeting
- Important alumni networking events

Association membership has grown exponentially over the years, boasting a current membership of more than 630 alumni dating back to the opening of the Institute in 1966. Located in 26 different countries throughout the world, Stein Eye Institute residents and fellows have had a global impact in the field of ophthalmology. Most of the international fellows who train at the Stein Eye Institute return to their country of origin to practice and teach others. Stein Eye alumni have become leaders in the field and directors of Departments where they practice and teach future generations of ophthalmologists.

Robert Alan Goldberg, MD, FACS
Karen and Frank Dabby Professor of Ophthalmology
Chief of the Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Division
Director of the UCLA Orbital Disease Center
Co-Director of the UCLA Aesthetic Center

A native Californian, Dr. Robert Alan Goldberg grew up in the San Fernando Valley. He attended UCLA for one year, continuing at Stanford University where he earned a Bachelor of Art degree with Distinction in Psychology. He returned to UCLA to obtain his medical degree, and he then completed his ophthalmology residency, a fellowship in Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, and a second fellowship in orbital oncology, at the Stein Eye Institute, UCLA.

Dr. Goldberg serves on the editorial board of multiple medical journals, occupies leadership roles in multiple professional associations, lectures internationally, and has published nearly 200 research articles. In recognition of his contributions to the field, Dr. Goldberg has received numerous awards and honors.

How did you end up on the faculty at the Stein Eye Institute?

During my fellowship, Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD, the founding director of the Stein Eye Institute, talked to me about a possible full-time position. As part of the recruitment process, I met with the chief of the orbital and ophthalmic plastic surgery clinic, Dr. Norman Shorr. Dr. Shorr was a key figure in the development of the orbital and ophthalmic plastic surgery clinic at the Institute. He was a highly respected surgeon and a key mentor to many of the residents and fellows.

I was thrilled to match at the Stein Eye Institute due to its top-notch clinical training and research opportunities. The Institute is dedicated to advancing the care of patients with eye diseases, and it offers a unique opportunity to work with world-class researchers and clinicians.

What attracted you to the field of ophthalmology?

I enjoyed studying the physiology of the visual system while at Stanford. When I went to medical school at UCLA, I considered ophthalmology because of the opportunities to study optics and vision. I loved that—especially the reconstructive surgery—every case was different and that flexibility, imagination, and artistry are highly rewarded.

Why did you decide to specialize in orbital and ophthalmic plastic surgery?

I was thrilled to match at the Stein Eye Institute due to its top-notch clinical training and exposure to some of the best research minds in the country. Under the guidance of Dr. Shorr, I was able to develop innovative, creative work, and I was charmed by the enthusiasm of the faculty and the patients.

My fellowship with Dr. Shorr was pivotal. I learned about the practical and conceptual aspects of orbital and ophthalmic plastic surgery. Dr. Shorr continues to be an important mentor to me today.

How did you end up on the faculty at the Stein Eye Institute?

During my fellowship, Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD, the founding director of the Stein Eye Institute, talked to me about a possible full-time position. As part of the recruitment process, I embarked on a second year of rotating fellowship in orbital oncology. That year was monumentally important in my training. I got the opportunity to meet international luminaries of the field, as well as their fellows and associates. I saw how the specialty was practiced in different centers, and I saw amazing cases and surgeries, many of which I remember to this day.

What do you consider your most important professional accomplishment?

I am especially proud of the development of the Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Division at the Institute. We are recognized as a leading center for education, research, and patient care. Our courses and publications—and our army of trained fellows around the world—have changed the way the discipline is practiced.

What do you enjoy most about your career?

I feel lucky every day for the privilege of working in this field. We have the most interesting, complex patients who are referred from experts worldwide. Often problems are so difficult that we literally have to invent new surgeries to try to help the patients. In the operating room we have a ‘dream team’ of phenomenal nurses, residents, fellows—and sometimes physicians from other specialties—who are at the top of their disciplines. You can feel the electricity in the air.

Tell me about your family.

I met my wife, Jan Takasugi, MD, chief of surgery at Kaiser West Los Angeles, the first day of medical school—we were cadaver dissection partners. We have two children: Kevin, an Internet entrepreneur in San Francisco, and Gina who just graduated from Hamilton College in New York with a degree in molecular biology.

Our family is very musical. Jan and I starred in Deep Fascia, our medical school family band. None of us are quite ready to quit our day jobs, but we’re not bad, maybe just below the level of the von Trapp family. On the weekends, you might find me in my electronics shop at home, making a new gadget or fixing an old one, or on the trails in the Santa Monica Mountains jogging with the dogs.

Build a Legacy that Moves Vision Science Forward

The Stein Eye Institute is dedicated to advancing innovative and groundbreaking research, delivering cutting-edge patient care, and providing the education necessary to diagnose and treat eye disease. Through your support you too can have an impact on the preservation of sight and the prevention of blindness.

A simple, flexible way to build your legacy and express what matters to you is to include the Stein Eye Institute in your estate plans. Such bequests can be of any size and made with a variety of assets.

If you have included the Stein Eye Institute in your estate plans (or intend to), please let us know.

The Stein Eye Institute would like to make sure your wishes are understood and that your bequest will be used as you intend.

› We can provide you with sample bequest language, if desired.
› We would like to acknowledge your gift and have an opportunity to thank you.
› We handle all gift and bequest communications with the utmost confidentiality.

If you would like to learn more about building a legacy at the Stein Eye Institute, please visit UCLA’s Planned Giving website at: www.legacy.ucla.edu, or contact us at:

Stein Eye Institute, UCLA
100 Stein Plaza, Room 1-124
Los Angeles, CA 90025
Telephone: (310) 206-9701
Email: giving@sei.ucla.edu