EyeSTAR: Bridging Research and Clinical Care

For physicians who are interested in academic careers and professional leadership as clinician-scientists, the Jules Stein Eye Institute’s (JSEI) Ophthalmology Residency Training Program offers EyeSTAR, a six-year curriculum combining vision science training with an ophthalmology residency. Working with research mentors throughout UCLA, EyeSTAR trainees commit three years to a vision science research program to obtain a PhD, or for those who already hold a doctorate, two to three years for a postdoctoral fellowship in a basic science discipline.

EyeSTAR began in 1995. Bartly J. Mondino, MD, assigned chairmanship of the program to Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD, who was motivated by a desire to train physician scientists as future leaders in ophthalmology. “Beyond what is learned in the clinical residency, we believe that focused, rigorous, additional research training is increasingly necessary for leadership in the field,” explains Dr. Demer. “EyeSTAR graduates are trained to compete not just with clinical scientists but with top basic scientists from all institutions.”

EyeSTAR is recognized by the National Eye Institute and the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology as a model training program for clinician-scientists in ophthalmology.

What Sets EyeSTAR Apart

While there are many MD/PhD programs available, these traditional programs have the disadvantage that students choose their residency specialty after completing PhD work. This often means that previous research work has little overlap with their area of medical specialization. Only EyeSTAR combines an ophthalmology residency program with a PhD or postdoctoral fellowship in vision science. EyeSTAR residents take advantage of the opportunity to perform intensive full-time research in the basic science discipline that matches their clinical interest. Research conducted during EyeSTAR can be tightly aligned with future career plans, and serves as a bridge to starting a laboratory and obtaining research funding upon graduation.

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Only EyeSTAR combines an ophthalmology residency program with a PhD or postdoctoral fellowship in vision science.
EYESTAR: Bridging Research and Clinical Care  continued from page 1

Current EYESTAR Residents

EyeSTAR residents share an appreciation for basic science research and innovation, evaluating current clinical practice, and thinking of ways to improve current methods of diagnosis and treatment.

Helen Lee, MD
A Los Angeles native, Dr. Lee attended UCLA as an undergraduate. She graduated from Loma Linda Medical School and completed her intern year at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Dr. Lee is now in her second year of research toward earning her PhD. “Because of the wealth of resources, commitment to research and education, renowned faculty, and diversity of experience at JSEI,” notes Dr. Lee, “I knew I would get excellent clinical training, but I wanted to be strong in research as well. EyeSTAR has taught me how to think more like a scientist, fostering a sense of curiosity and equipping me with the tools to investigate my questions. EyeSTAR dovetails nicely with the clinical residency, preparing us to enter the world of academic medicine and be leaders in our field.”

Dr. Lee is studying the mechanisms by which horizontal cells in the retina release neurotransmitters onto photoreceptors and bipolar cells. Horizontal cells are important to vision because they integrate and regulate input from photoreceptors cells, allowing vision in both bright and dim light. After completing her residency, Dr. Lee would like to combine academic medicine with a clinical practice.

Shaheen Pierre Karim, MD
Born in Ontario, Canada, Dr. Karim received his Bachelor and Master degrees in biophysics as part of an accelerated four-year program at Yale University and is a graduate of Harvard Medical School. Prior to his medical school graduation, Dr. Karim spent a year at JSEI conducting research in the Ocular Motility Laboratory with Dr. Demer. He entered the EYESTAR program in 2005, after finishing an internship in internal medicine at UCLA-Olive View Hospital. Dr. Karim is currently in his third year of dedicated research.

Says Dr. Karim, “During EYESTAR, I have taken highly focused graduate-level courses. I have had oral and written PhD qualifying examinations that have required me to refine my scientific writing and presentation skills. Also, I have taken several courses that are dedicated to improving critical reading of the scientific literature.”

A recipient of a Fellowship award from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Dr. Karim’s area of research interest is in eye movements and how muscles control the rotations of the eyes. Studies of eye alignment may shed light into a common clinical problem known as strabismus. Studies of eye alignment may shed light into a common clinical problem known as strabismus. Dr. Karim is currently focusing on horizontal eye movements and the role of the horizontal cells in the retina as they are in the operating room.”

After completing his residency, Dr. Karim would like to pursue fellowship training, leading to a university-based, academic position.

Nathaniel Roybal, MD, PhD
Raised in rural New Mexico, Dr. Roybal attended New Mexico State University, majoring in Animal Science. His work there in a reproductive physiology laboratory persuaded him to pursue both science and medicine. Dr. Roybal was a member of the first graduating class from the MD/PhD program at the University of New Mexico. After completing a preliminary year in internal medicine at the University of California, San Diego, Dr. Roybal was accepted to EYESTAR in 2007, for postdoctoral research.

“The focused postdoctoral years really provide dedicated time for hands on research. The extended time allows for testing innovative ideas while refining scientific practice,” says Dr. Roybal. “Ophthalmology and ophthalmic research are progressing at lightning speed. The specialty will need a set of leaders trained in bridging these two groups with the common interest of vision preservation. EYESTAR trains physician-scientists to provide leadership in this merger.”

Recipient of numerous education awards, honors, and scholarships, Dr. Roybal’s research focuses on inherited malarial diseases such as Stargardt disease, Leber congenital amaurosis and age-related macular degeneration. Dr. Roybal hopes to merge science and medicine into one career and have a basic science laboratory with a clinical practice focused on retinal diseases.

Alex Yuan, MD, PhD
Dr. Yuan was born in Hong Kong, where his father was a pharmacist and businessman. To escape communism, his family immigrated to New York, where his mother worked as a tailor and his mother as a seamstress. Dr. Yuan credits his strong work ethic to his parents’ sacrifice. Receiving his MD/PhD at Washington University St. Louis, Dr. Yuan completed two years of postdoctoral research through EYESTAR. He is currently in his second year of clinical residency.

“EYESTAR,” explains Dr. Yuan, “is the only formal combination ophthalmic residency/postdoctoral program in the country. It has allowed me to develop a research project and apply for grants independently, invaluable tools for an academian. I now have the knowledge and skills to carry my project forward during my residency, an opportunity no other residency program offers.”

Dr. Yuan is studying stem cells microvesicles and retina/gene delivery systems. Following his two years of postdoctoral work in the laboratory of JSEI vision scientist Debora B. Farber, PhD, DPhil, he is now in a supervisory role. Dr. Yuan’s future goals include applying what he learned during his fellowship and obtaining an academic appointment so that he can continue to treat patients and conduct basic science and translational research.

Leonid E. Lerner, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
The Gavin Herbert Eye Institute
University of California, Irvine (UCI)

Dr. Lerner completed the EYESTAR program in 2002, with a PhD in molecular biology. At the Gavin Herbert Eye Institute, he specializes in diseases and surgery of the retina and vitreous, and his research interests are focused on investigations into developing new therapeutic strategies for the management of degenerative and age-related diseases affecting vision.

“EyeSTAR enabled me to obtain my current position of Assistant Professor by providing me with the high-quality clinical and research training necessary to combine both clinical and research responsibilities of an academic ophthalmologist in the highly competitive environment of today’s academia,” explains Dr. Lerner. He adds, “I am grateful to Drs. Farber, Demer, and Mondino, whose efforts created the EYESTAR program, and who have been my mentors ever since I joined the program.”

Vinith B. Mahajan, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC)

A recent EYESTAR graduate, Dr. Mahajan completed his vitreoretinal fellowship at University of Iowa Health Center (UIHC), earning the P. J. Leinfelder “Best Research by a Fellow” award. Now a faculty member of the UIHC Retina Service and Director of the Omics Laboratory, Dr. Mahajan’s primary research interest is in the molecular biology underlying vitreoretinal diseases.

“Major ophthalmic advancements will come from advancements in molecular biology and genetics,” says Dr. Mahajan, “and we need scientists-who-are-as-comfortable-in-the-laboratory-as-they-are-in-the-operating-room.” Speaking to the benefits of EYESTAR, Dr. Mahajan affirms, “I have my dream job. Each week I am in the clinic, in the operating room and in my own laboratory. I am thankful to every JSEI faculty member who trained me, and my accomplishments are a direct result of their dedication and excellence.”

Stephen Tsang, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology
Edward S. Harkness Eye Institute
Columbia University

Obtaining his PhD in mouse molecular genetics in 1996 from Columbia University, Dr. Tsang conducted his EYESTAR postdoctoral research as an ophthalmology fellow in Dr. Farber’s laboratory. Now at the Harkness Eye Institute’s “Farber Lab-East,” Dr. Tsang studies the role of the phosphodiesterase enzyme in sensing light and retinal degeneration.

For Dr. Tsang, the relationships gained through EYESTAR have been essential. “EYESTAR provides immense opportunities to work with talented and diverse pioneers in applying scientific discoveries to incurable retinal diseases,” and the mentoring continues,” says Dr. Tsang. “I correspond regularly with Dr. Fain, who has painstakingly proofread my grant submissions. Drs. Demer, Farber, and Glasgow have been invaluable in guiding me through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant application process, and without Dr. Mondino’s kind words, I would not have survived multiple federal grant submissions.” As exemplified by his 2008 Resident Teaching Award, Dr. Tsang is further advancing the goals of EYESTAR by instructing future ophthalmology residents.
Three World War II veterans, all Tuskegee Airmen, attended the January 20, 2009, inauguration of President Barack Obama, thanks to the matchmaking skills of Los Angeles-based ophthalmologist and Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) alumnus, Stanley M. Saulny, MD, FACS.

The Tuskegee Airmen, named after the Tuskegee Army Airfield in Alabama where they trained, were the country’s first black military pilots and ground crew. During a time of racial segregation in the U.S. military forces, some 1,000 black pilots were trained at Tuskegee from 1940 to 1946. President-Obama invited all 330 surviving Airmen to his inauguration in recognition of their historic service in WWII.

When Dr. Stanley Saulny learned about the invitation, he sprung into action. He contacted two patients—one met during his UCLA ophthalmology residency training at the Department of Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System—who were Tuskegee Airmen, as well as a local veterans’ organization to identify others from the Los Angeles area interested in attending the inauguration. Three Airmen—Dr. Robert Higginbotham, Reginald Ballard and Robert J. Searcy—would attend, if transportation could be provided.

“I realized that transportation to Washington, D.C., was a critical part of the equation,” said Dr. Saulny, who pondered several days about how to get the veterans to the historic event. After discarding various forms of ground transportation because of the physical difficulties they presented for this elderly group, he thought of his colleague, Lynn McMahan, MD, founder of the Southern Eye Center in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, where Saulny works one week each month.

“I knew that Dr. McMahan owned a jet and told him about the trio’s situation. He said, ‘Great, I’ll do it.’ There was absolutely no hesitation, none at all,” Dr. Saulny says of McMahan’s response. Dr. McMahan not only agreed to fly the Airmen to Washington, D.C., but he paid for the men’s flights from Los Angeles to Mississippi, and had them stay at his Hattiesburg home until they left for the inauguration on his Citation jet.

Asked why he became involved in the plight of these airmen, Dr. Saulny remarks, “As a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, and later as an officer, I’ve always viewed the Tuskegee Airmen as American heroes. If you look at their history and all of the struggles they endured… and now to be invited to this inauguration. It’s a major milestone, a completion of a dream.”

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President Obama invited the surviving Tuskegee Airmen, who fought the Germans in WWII in a segregated Army Air Corps, to the inauguration.

(Photos are from the “Tuskegee Airmen Photographic Collection”, Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell AFB AL).

JSEI Alumnus Dr. Stanley Saulny made it possible for three Tuskegee Airmen from Los Angeles to attend the Presidential inauguration.

Stanley M. Saulny, MD, FACS, practices oculoplastic surgery and general ophthalmology in a private group practice and at the Department of Veterans Affairs Healthcare System in Los Angeles. He also works one week each month at an eye center in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Dr. Saulny completed his ophthalmology residency at the Jules Stein Eye Institute (1998–2001), followed by an oculoplastic surgery fellowship at the Casey Eye Institute in Portland, Oregon. Prior to becoming a physician, Dr. Saulny served as an engineer and captain in the U.S. Air Force.
JSEI Scientist Receives Grant to Develop Gene Therapy for Usher Syndrome

David S. Williams, PhD, Professor of Ophthalmology at the Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) received a Wynns-Gruid Translational Research Acceleration Program Award from the National Neurovision Research Institute, a support organization of the Foundation Fighting Blindness, Inc. The five-year grant, totaling $1,325,415, will be used to develop a gene therapy for the retinal degeneration in Usher syndrome type 1B. Usher syndrome is a human hereditary condition characterized by hearing loss and progressive vision loss. The loss of vision is caused by an eye disease called retinitis pigmentosa (RP). RP causes night blindness and a loss of peripheral vision (side vision) through the progressive degeneration of the retina. Usher 1 is an especially disabling form of retinal degeneration, since it affects patients who already suffer from deafness. Usher 1B is caused by loss of function of the MYO7A (myosin VIIa) gene. In the retina, this gene is expressed in both the photoreceptor cells and the retinal pigment epithelium (RPE). The proposed approach involves the subretinal delivery of MYO7A cDNA in a viral vector to treat these two cell types.

The grant will support studies to expand upon previous investigations by carrying out the necessary research, safety tests and regulatory filings for a clinical trial, in collaboration with Samuel G. Jacobson, MD, PhD, at the University of Pennsylvania. The completion of these studies should lead to a Phase I clinical trial for gene replacement therapy of Usher 1B from MYO7A mutations.
Tracey Whitney was born to sing. By the time she was 11 years old, she was performing and traveling around the world with her parents and seven siblings. She eventually left the family group to tour with Ray Charles and then to perform solo in Japan. But in 2000, at the age of 41, Tracey’s voice went silent. She had Graves disease, and the discomfort and gradual change in her appearance forced Tracey to leave the stage and suspend her music career.

Graves disease is a disorder of the immune system in which the body’s protective defenses begin attacking the body’s own tissues—in Tracey’s case, the tissue behind the eyes. The inflammation pushes the eye forward in its socket, and the eye muscles tighten and lose their ability to stretch, preventing the eyes from moving normally. The eyes tend to ache and have a sandy or gritty sensation, and patients may experience poor or double vision. “My eyes hurt and began to bulge. I didn’t realize it, because it was so gradual, but they were being pushed out of their sockets. In fact, it took my five-year-old nephew to say, ‘Wow, Auntie Tracey’s eyes are touching her glasses,’ to make me realize that something really serious was happening,” says Tracey.

Doctors don’t know the root causes of Graves disease. They believe a combination of factors, including heredity, sex, age and stress, may determine the likelihood of developing the disease. It most commonly occurs in women in their 30s and 40s, and runs an average course of one to two years, during which time symptoms worsen, and then gradually improve; however, Tracey’s case was severe. She couldn’t close her eyes for one year and would require several surgeries to regain normal functioning and appearance of her eyes.

Tracey is grateful that she was referred to the Jules Stein Eye Institute’s Robert Alan Goldberg, MD, Chief of the Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Division and a leading specialist in treating Graves disease. Under his care, she received several surgeries—many of them refined at Jules Stein—to move the eyeball back into its socket, reposition displaced muscle and tighten stretched eyelids. Six years passed before Tracey was ready to take her life back. “I stopped singing for the entire six years. My eyes were sticking out and moving in different directions...it was really bad, and people were always staring. You know, presentation is an important part of performing. I want you to be listening to my voice; my eyes can’t be a distraction,” explains Tracey.

Tracey credits Dr. Goldberg and the Jules Stein Eye Institute with giving her life back. About two years ago, she started feeling so much better about herself that she recorded a CD and made a music video that is on YouTube. “I felt good enough about myself not just to be out and about again, but to go back on stage and start performing.” Tracy continues, “I want your Graves patients to know—because my case was probably about as drastic as it gets—that your life can return to normal. If they can look at where I started to where I am, they will see that there is light at the end of the tunnel!”

UCLA’s Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) has been selected as one of the country’s leading hospitals, and one of the most highly recommended for eye care, in a major survey of physicians across the nation. The results of the survey, conducted by Consumers’ Checkbook, a nonprofit research organization, appear in the May–June issue of AARP The Magazine.

Consumers’ Checkbook surveyed doctors across the U.S. and collected 140,000 ratings of hospitals in these doctors’ local communities. The doctors were also asked whether they would recommend that patients seek care at hospitals in other communities for certain extremely difficult cases involving specific health conditions, and, if so, which hospitals they would recommend.

Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, in addition to making the top list of hospitals overall, was ranked among the most recommended for extremely difficult cases involving neurosurgery, mystery diagnoses and eye care through UCLA’s Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI). JSEI was ranked third in the nation for extremely difficult eye care referrals.

This survey was conducted as part of the research for Consumers’ Checkbook’s new book “Consumers’ Guide to Hospitals,” which uses volumes of government safety statistics and data on death and complication rates, along with survey results, to compare and rank hospitals in the country’s 53 largest metropolitan areas.
Bobbe Frankenberg—A Community Treasure

The Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) was thrilled to receive a $100,000 gift of appreciated securities from Ms. Bobbe Frankenberg to support the research of Joseph Caprioli, MD, David May II Professor of Ophthalmology and Chief of the Glaucoma Division.

Bobbe attended Beverly Hills High School, UCLA (BA 1939) and UC Berkeley, studying European History. She served as a docent at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. Bobbe attended Beverly Hills High School, UCLA (BA 1939) and UC Berkeley, studying European History. She served as a docent at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

In Memoriam, Herbert L. Hutner

Long-time Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) supporter, Herbert L. Hutner, passed away on December 7, 2008, just a few weeks away from his 100th birthday.

What attracted you to the field of retinal diseases?

I knew that I wanted to specialize in retinal diseases when I first started using the indirect ophthalmoscope. This allowed me to see the entire retina and its surrounding structures clearly and in great detail. I found the experience to be not only fascinating, but beautiful as well. I also found diseases of the retina to be among the most interesting and challenging facing ophthalmologists. In those days, retinal diseases, including retinal detachments, were significantly blinding and frequently could not be cured. They still present many challenges, but today we have much better treatment options.

What do you most enjoy about your career?

I enjoy all of it. I think the real gratification comes in helping your patients and doing that at a capable level, consistently. I also get to associate with really wonderful people—the residents, the fellows, the faculty and my colleagues in the field. And I love the surgery. Retinal surgery, from when I started until now, has gone through a major revolution. When I began my career, we only operated on the inside the eye to repair retinal detachments and treat vitreoretinal disease effectively. To be part of that "revolution" was very exciting and incredibly gratifying.

What do you consider to be your most important professional contribution?

Oh, I think that it’s training residents and fellows. We have wonderful, smart people entering our training programs every year who are actually interested in what I have to say. I like teaching and I think that training young physicians—the next generation of ophthalmologists and retinal specialists—is where you can contribute the most to alleviating human pain and suffering.

How do you like to spend your time when you’re not at the Institute?

Everybody at the Institute knows I’m a fisherman. I’ve been fly-fishing for most of my life and I continue to love it. I also play golf and grow begonias. In fact, I’m an avid grower of tuberous begonias. Finally, I do yoga, which I credit to prolonging my life and I continue to love it. I also play golf and grow begonias. In fact, I’m an avid grower of tuberous begonias. Finally, I do yoga, which I credit to prolonging my life and I continue to love it.

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In addition to his philanthropy to JSEI and UCLA, Mr. Hutner was a devoted supporter of the Young Musicians Foundation and was a founder of the Music Center of Los Angeles. He is survived by Juli, his son Jeffrey J. Hutner and daughter Lynn M. Collwell, and stepson Christopher D. Taylor, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Close friend and JSEI Board of Trustees member Gerald H. Oppenheimer noted that, "Herb was an extraordinary man of many talents—a man of the arts, a successful business executive, a song writer, a generous philanthropist. Most of all, he was a gentleman who loved and respected Juli and was always available for his family. He donated his time and treasure to the Jules Stein Eye Institute, due in part to his friendship with Dr. Jules Stein. He will be sorely missed."

JSEI is most grateful for Mr. and Mrs. Hutner’s generosity, which spans more than 40 years. The Hutner family has designated JSEI (to support the research of Steven D. Schwartz, MD) and the Young Musicians Foundation for Mr. Hutner’s memorial tribute. For more information, please contact the JSEI Development Office at (310) 206-6035.
New Ophthalmology Fellows

We are pleased to introduce the following ophthalmologists entering clinical and international fellowships at the Jules Stein Eye Institute in the 2009–2010 academic year.

**Clinical Fellows**
- Shu-Hong Holly Chang, MD
  - orbital and ophthalmic plastic surgery
- Allen Hu, MD
  - vitreoretinal diseases and surgery
- Michael A. Kaplanskii, MD
  - uveitis and inflammatory eye diseases
- Tommy A. Koveor, MD
  - cornea-external ocular disease and refractive surgery
- Olivia S. Lee, MD
  - vitreoretinal diseases and surgery
- Pradeep S. Prasad, MD
  - cornea-external ocular disease and refractive surgery
- Geetha Ganti Vedula, MD
  - glaucoma
- Houman Vosogoil, MD
  - glaucoma

**International Fellows**
- Abdullah Alfawaz, MD
  - uveitis research from Saudi Arabia
- Abdulkarim Alathan, MD
  - pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus research from Saudi Arabia
- Majed Al-Obaidi, MD
  - neuro-ophthalmology research from Saudi Arabia
- Elmine Bagdasaryan, MD
  - cornea-external ocular disease and refractive surgery research from Armenia
- Gad Helwani, MD
  - vitreoretinal diseases and surgery research from Israel
- Imran Jarraluzada, MD
  - orbital and ophthalmic plastic surgery research from Azerbaijan
- Konstantina Papageorgiou, MD
  - orbital and ophthalmic plastic surgery research from Greece
- Chutima Supawasevi, MD
  - glaucoma research from Thailand
- Tsu-Hsun Tsai, MD
  - pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus research from Taiwan
- Reza Zarei, MD
  - glaucoma research from Iran

Joint Symposium on Cataract and Refractive Surgery

Participants from across the nation attended the Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) and American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery Joint Symposium on Cataract and Refractive Surgery, held at the Hyatt Century Plaza Hotel on February 5–8, 2009. Program Chair Kevin M. Miller, MD, Kolokotrones Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology at JSEI, organized the course, “Introduction to Clinical Research,” which was held at UCLA on March 13–15, 2009. The course was co-sponsored by the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO), and endorsed by the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO). Attended by ophthalmology residents, clinical fellows and faculty from across the nation, the course provided a comprehensive overview of research methods, interpretation of statistical tests, regulatory issues and manuscript preparation. It was designed to assist new investigators who are beginning their academic careers, and to help physicians read and interpret scientific literature more critically. The course involved instructors from various UCLA departments, as well as guest speakers from other institutions.

Residency Match

The process of selecting Ophthalmology residents takes place in the fall of each year for residents who will be entering the Ophthalmology program a year and a half later. The four-month process includes the review of over 300 applications, the selection of about 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 2009. The following applicants, selected over a year ago, will serve as Jules Stein Eye Institute House Officers beginning July 1, 2009:
- Robert M. Beardley, MD
  - Baylor College of Medicine
  - Houston, TX
- Jamison Engle, MD
  - University of Iowa
  - Iowa City, IA
- Diana Katsman, MD—EyeSTAR
  - University of California, Irvine
  - Irvine, CA
- Hannah Y. Kim, MD
  - Stanford University
  - Stanford, CA
- John D. Pitcher, MD
  - Baylor College of Medicine
  - Houston, TX
- Joanne C. Wen, MD
  - David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
  - Los Angeles, CA
- Allen B. Yeroushalmi, MD
  - Albert Einstein College of Medicine
  - Bronx, NY
- Reza Zarei, MD
  - glaucoma research from Iran

Comprehensive Ophthalmology Review Course

The Jules Stein Eye Institute and the Doheny Eye Institute teamed up to sponsor the fourth Comprehensive Ophthalmology Review course on February 26–March 1, 2009. Course Directors David Sarraf, MD, Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, and John Irvine, MD, Professor of Ophthalmology at the Doheny Eye Institute, organized a program concentrating on the epidemiology, clinical presentation, diagnosis and management of ophthalmologic disease. The collaborative effort to develop this intensive four-day review, serving ophthalmology training programs in Southern California, proved to be an overwhelming success.
Special Events

Thanking Volunteer Clinical Faculty

UCLA Department of Ophthalmology volunteer clinical faculty play an essential role in fulfilling the Jules Stein Eye Institute’s mission and sustaining its programs, especially the Residency Training Program. In 2003, the Institute formed the JSEI & Volunteer Faculty Task Force to strengthen communications and reinforce collaboration with its community-based faculty, which now number close to 200.

On March 12, 2009, the Task Force hosted a dinner-meeting at the UCLA Faculty Center to thank faculty who supervise ophthalmology residents at the Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System. In addition to showing appreciation for supporting the Institute and its educational programs, the event provided an opportunity for faculty to engage in dialogue about how our programs are functioning and how they may be improved.

Important JSEI Phone Numbers

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The JSEI & Volunteer Faculty Task Force hosted the appreciation dinner for the clinical faculty volunteers. Task Force members (second from left to right): Drs. Bartly Mondino, Howard Krauss, Alan Shab, Kevin Miller, George Rajacich and Robert Goldberg, with Task Force administrator Gloria Jurisic (left); Task Force members not shown: Drs. Caprioli, Goldstein, Katzin, and Rosenbaum.

Dr. Anthony Arnold, JSEI Residency Program Director, with Dr. Lyon Gordon, Ophthalmology Chief at the Veterans Affairs (VA) Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System

From left, Dr. Robert Goldberg, who serves on the Task Force, with Drs. Sadiqa Stelzner and Alpa Patel

From left, Task Force member Dr. Howard Krauss with VA Health-care ophthalmology staff and volunteers Drs. Stanly Sausdy, Mark Kramer and Michael Groth

From left, Task Force member Dr. Howard Krauss with VA Healthcare ophthalmology staff and volunteers Drs. Stanly Saulny, Mark Kramer and Michael Groth