

# EYE

J U L E S S T E I N E Y E I N S T I T U T E

## Research to Prevent Blindness A Grand Legacy

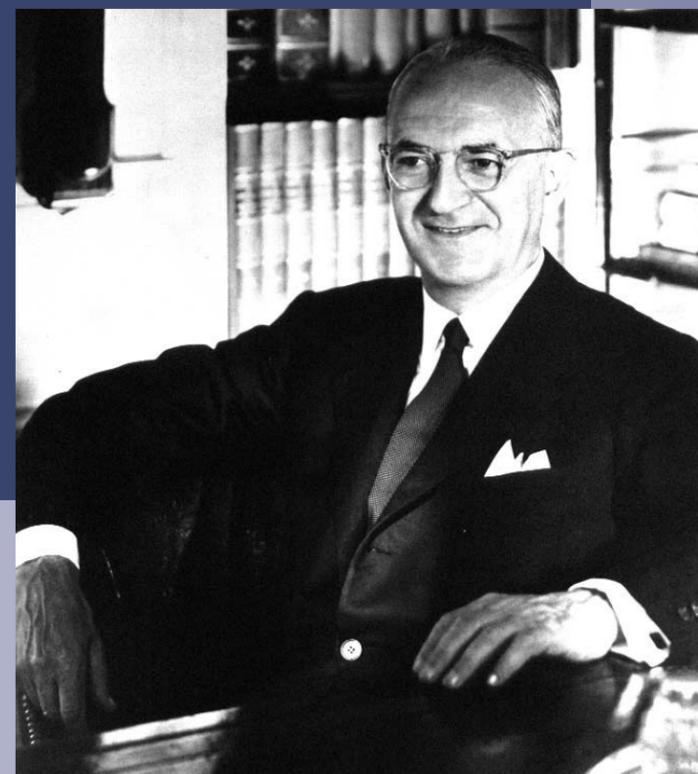
It is estimated that since 1960 our knowledge of vision science has doubled every 10 years, and the trend continues. This renaissance in eye research has been supported in an extraordinary way by the activities of a groundbreaking, voluntary organization called Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc. (RPB).

In the not-so-distant past, laser technology was regarded as a military secret. Retinal detachment always caused blindness, cataract surgery was extremely dangerous, and there were no viable treatments for glaucoma. Gene therapy, now a part of our medical lexicon, was science fiction. It is estimated that since 1960 our knowledge of vision science has doubled every 10 years, and the trend continues. This renaissance in eye research has been supported in an extraordinary way by the activities of a groundbreaking, voluntary organization called Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc. (RPB).

During its 43 years of existence, RPB has channeled more than \$200 million into eye research and over \$50 million into construction of modern eye research centers at academic institutions throughout the United States. Its programs have stimulated important new scientific investigations, accelerated the pace of eye research, and produced unprecedented progress in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of eye disease. Since its inception, RPB has been identified with virtually every scientific advance in eye research.

The Jules Stein Eye Institute has been a grateful recipient of this extraordinary philanthropy, accruing more support from RPB than any other eye institute in the nation. Established in 1960 by ophthalmologist, businessman, and philanthropist **Dr. Jules Stein**, RPB was a response to the abysmal voids in the knowledge of the eye and its disorders. He argued, "It is time we stopped being content to pat ourselves on the back for all the good things we do for people after they are blind, and start moving vigorously into research that will wipe out blinding diseases at their source." Dr. Stein was joined by other distinguished scientific and business leaders and philanthropists, including **Lew R. Wasserman**. Seven years later, utilizing the power of this prestigious organization, the founders of RPB convinced the United States Congress to create the National Eye Institute as a separate research arm of the National Institutes of Health.

**Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, Director of the Jules Stein Eye Institute and Chairman of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, describes RPB as "an incredible, unparalleled resource." JSEI investigators have used these awards for pilot projects to explore new theories, for special or unexpected research needs, and for fast-moving scientific breakthroughs. "The flexibility of these awards is a tremendous benefit to researchers who are often pressured into using funds or giving them up when the grant period ends. An RPB grant is an investment in the individual scientist and in scientific achievement over time."



RPB was established in 1960 by ophthalmologist, businessman, and philanthropist Dr. Jules Stein.



## Individual Awards

*Each year RPB acknowledges the work of outstanding scientists through individual awards that are designed to meet the needs of investigators at various stages of their careers, recognizing that young investigators, those in mid-career, and senior investigators make different contributions. Over the last decade, investigators at Jules Stein Eye Institute have received 12 of these awards.*

**Sherwin J. Isenberg, MD**, Grace and Walter Lantz Professor of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Professor of Pediatrics, is the Institute's most recent recipient of the RPB Senior Scientific Investigator Award (2001), established to support experienced investigators. Dr. Isenberg is conducting studies of povidone-iodine to prevent bacterial corneal infections in children in developing countries. Three of the Institute's vision scientists have received this award twice in their careers: **Dean Bok, PhD**, Dolly Green Professor of Ophthalmology and Professor of Neurobiology; **Debora B. Farber, PhD, DPhhc**, Karl Kirchgessner Professor of Ophthalmology and Co-Chief of the Vision Science Division; and **Joseph Horwitz, PhD**, Professor of Ophthalmology.

**Joseph Caprioli, MD**, Frances and Ray Stark Professor of Ophthalmology, represents the mid-career investigator. He is the Institute's most recent recipient of the RPB Lew R. Wasserman Merit Award (1999), which he used to further his research into optic nerve damage and protection as it relates to glaucoma.

**Xian-Jie Yang, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, is in the group of young investigators who have received the RPB Career Development Award, established to assist outstanding scientists launch their careers. Dr. Yang received the award in 1996 to pursue research into congenital abnormalities that cause vision disorders.

*RPB has established a number of individual awards to recognize special scholarship by scientists who are engaged in research of unusual significance, as well scientists with diverse backgrounds who have applied their valuable and unique skills to research of exceptional merit.*

**John R. Heckenlively, MD**, Vernon O. Underwood Family Professor of Ophthalmology, is one of the first recipients of the RPB Physician-Scientist Award (2001), established for investigators who have brought to the laboratory a practical understanding of patients' needs. In his study of hereditary eye disorders, Dr. Heckenlively uses DNA samples to characterize patients' ocular diseases and help uncover new genetic forms of retinal degenerations. He is a previous recipient of the RPB Senior Scientific Investigator Award. **Lynn K. Gordon, MD, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, was selected for an RPB James S. Adams Special Scholars Award in 2002. This award was created to assist outstanding, young scientists with ongoing research. She will use the funds to support her independent research program investigating immune diseases that induce vision loss, specifically uveitis, giant cell arteritis (GCA), and endophthalmitis. **Gabriel H. Travis, MD**, Charles Kenneth Feldman Professor of Ophthalmology, a new full-time faculty member at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, was a recipient of a Jules and Doris Stein RPB Professorship in 2002. This award was established to recruit outstanding basic scientists to conduct clinically relevant research. Dr. Travis uses biochemical and genetic approaches to research the structure and function of the eye's photoreceptor cells.

## Departmental Awards

Departmental grants have been awarded to the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, under the direction and discretion of its chairman, Dr. Mondino, every year since 1994. These unrestricted awards give



**Dr. Bartly Mondino has received an unrestricted departmental award each year since 1994.**

him the ability to supplement individual researchers and their projects to meet the short- and long-term goals of the department. Says Dr. Mondino, "Sometimes investigators simply need a bridge from one grant to another; at other times an investigator will make a fascinating discovery and we

feel there is merit to pursuing it right away." RPB departmental grants have also facilitated the construction of eye research and teaching facilities throughout the country. They helped construct the original Jules Stein Eye Institute building in 1966, and the RPB Auditorium as an adjunct to the Doris Stein Eye Research Center building, in 1989.

To date, RPB has awarded grants totaling \$5,745,750 to the Jules Stein Eye Institute and the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology. These funds have contributed to the dream of RPB and its awardees of a future where all blinding eye diseases can be prevented or successfully treated.

## 2003 RPB Award Recipient



**Dr. Gary Holland is this year's recipient of an RPB Physician-Scientist Award, established in 2001 for investigators who are committed to bringing eye research into clinical practice. Dr. Holland will use the award to support his research on ocular toxoplasmosis, a common parasitic infection of the retina that can lead to vision loss. Dr. Holland has been working with researchers at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and at the Federal University of São Paulo to study the disease in southern Brazil where the rate of infection is particularly high. Studies are aimed at identifying risk factors for eye involvement and sources of infection. Investigators have learned, for example, that infection is probably acquired from contaminated water more frequently than previously believed—undercooked meat was thought to be the major source of infection. Findings from this research will have implications for prevention and treatment worldwide.**

**Dr. Holland is a previous recipient of the RPB Lew R. Wasserman Merit Award.**

## EYE

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## 2003 VISION SCIENCE RESEARCH FELLOWS

Predoctoral and postdoctoral research fellows in the vision sciences who are currently receiving training at the Jules Stein Eye Institute are as follows:

### Predoctoral Fellows

**Mark R. Fleissner**  
with Dr. Wayne L. Hubbell

**Zhefeng Guo**  
with Dr. Wayne L. Hubbell

**Evan Hseih**  
with Drs. Joseph Horwitz  
and Xian-Jie Yang

**Kim B. Phan**  
with Dr. Bernard K.-K. Fung

**Kun Do Rhee**  
with Dr. Xian-Jie Yang

**Merhnoosh Saghizadeh**  
with Dr. Debora B. Farber

**Robin L. Seitzman**  
with Dr. Anne L. Coleman

**Mark Verado**  
with Dr. Debora B. Farber

**Zoe Verney**  
with Dr. Xian-Jie Yang

### Postdoctoral Fellows

**Takao Hashimoto, PhD**  
with Dr. Xian-Jie Yang

**Ming Hao Jin, PhD**  
with Dr. Gabriel H. Travis

**Catherine H. Kaschula, PhD**  
with Dr. Gabriel H. Travis

**Eiko Kitamura, PhD**  
with Dr. Debora B. Farber

**Myong B. Koag, PhD**  
with Dr. Gabriel H. Travis

**Ana Karin Kusnetzow, PhD**  
with Dr. Wayne L. Hubbell

**Vinit B. Mahajan, MD, PhD**  
with Dr. Debora B. Farber

**Roxana A. Radu, MD**  
with Dr. Gabriel H. Travis

**John D. Stamm, PhD**  
with Dr. Wayne L. Hubbell

**Stephen H. Tsang, MD, PhD**  
with Dr. Debora B. Farber

**Ned C. Van Eps, PhD**  
with Dr. Wayne L. Hubbell

**VivekNeil S. Yellore, PhD**  
with Dr. Anthony J. Aldave

## 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 Ophthalmology Match Program 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 2003. The following applicants, selected over a year ago, will serve as Jules Stein Eye Institute House Officers beginning July 1, 2003:

**Christine C. Annunziata, MD**  
Pennsylvania State University  
Hershey, Pennsylvania

**Candice S. Chen, MD**  
Columbia University  
New York, New York

**Leonardo M. Dacanay, MD**  
University of California,  
Los Angeles  
Los Angeles, California

**Shahriar Farzad, MD**  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**Dorothy P. Khong, MD**  
University of California,  
Los Angeles  
Los Angeles, California

**Magdalena K. Kula, MD**  
University of California, San Francisco  
San Francisco, California

**Shan M. Pradhan, MD**  
University of Southern California  
Los Angeles, California

**Samir Shah, MD**  
University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA INTERCAMPUS OPHTHALMOLOGY SYMPOSIUM ON GLAUCOMA

Yosemite National Park was the setting for the Second Biannual Glaucoma Summit Meeting, on February 6–9, 2003. The symposium was attended by clinicians and scientists from various disciplines and campuses throughout the University of California system, as well as the Oregon Health Sciences University, Stanford University, the University of Southern California, and the University of Washington. **Joseph Caprioli, MD**, Chief of the Glaucoma Division at the Jules Stein Eye Institute and Course Chairman, planned and organized the meeting to promote an interdisciplinary approach to the management of glaucoma.

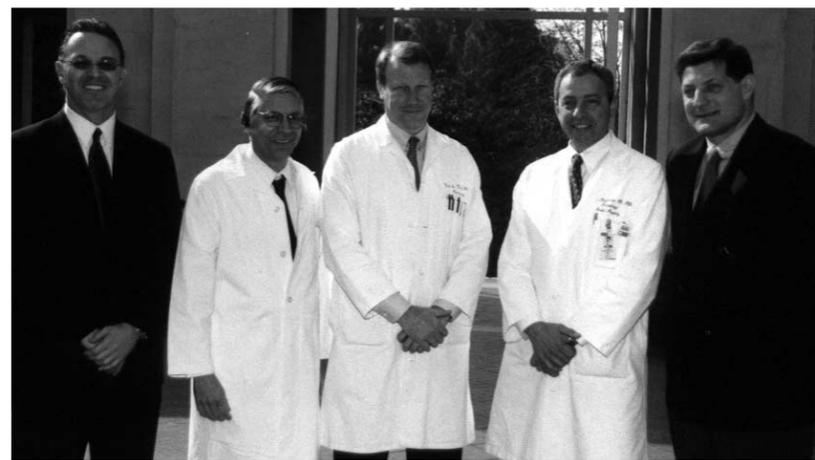
The four-day meeting presented an opportunity to combine and share knowledge about this sight-threatening disease for the benefit of practicing ophthalmologists and researchers. Corporate support was provided by Allergan, Inc.



The Ahwahnee Hotel, Yosemite National Park

## UCLA NEUROSCIENCES CLINICAL CONFERENCE

UCLA faculty, residents and other trainees from the disciplines of neurology, neurosurgery, and ophthalmology met on March 12, 2003, in the RPB Auditorium, for the UCLA Neurosciences Clinical Conference. **Anthony C. Arnold, MD**, Chief of the Neuro-Ophthalmology Division, organized the conference to foster an interdisciplinary approach to neuro-ophthalmic disorders. **Mark J. Kupersmith, MD**, Professor of Ophthalmology at New York University and a neuro-ophthalmologist in private practice, presented the keynote lecture on vascular lesions of the cavernous sinus. A member from each participating discipline presented a case related to the lecture topic, followed by open discussion. As a result of the success of this interdepartmental conference, a third is planned for Spring 2005.



Faculty for the neuroscience conference included (from left) conference coordinator Dr. Anthony Arnold; JSEI Director Dr. Bartly Mondino; Neurosurgery Division Chief Dr. Neil Martin; Department of Neurology Chairman Dr. John Mazziota; and keynote speaker Dr. Mark Kupersmith.

## NEW OPHTHALMOLOGY FELLOWS

We are pleased to introduce the following ophthalmologists entering clinical and international fellowships at the Jules Stein Eye Institute in the 2003–2004 academic year.

### Clinical Fellows

**Michelle T. Britt, MD**  
pediatric ophthalmology  
and strabismus

**William J. Foster, MD**  
vitreoretinal diseases and surgery

**JoAnn A. Giaconi, MD**  
glaucoma

**Satvinder K. Gujral, MD**  
glaucoma

**Marvin I. Gordon, MD**  
comprehensive ophthalmology

**Danny Y. Lin, MD**  
cornea-external ocular disease and  
refractive surgery

**Robert M. Schwarcz, MD**  
orbital and ophthalmic plastic surgery

**David G. Telander, MD**  
vitreoretinal diseases and surgery

**Bruce E. Wietharn, MD**  
cornea-external ocular disease and  
refractive surgery

### International Fellows

**Rahul Bhola, MD**  
pediatric ophthalmology and  
strabismus research  
from India

**Yun-Hsiang Chang, MD**  
vitreoretinal disease research  
from Taiwan

**Behrooz Koochaki, MD**  
glaucoma research  
from Iran

**Alexandre Principe, MD**  
cornea-external ocular disease and  
refractive surgery research  
from Brazil

**Andres Rodriguez, MD**  
comprehensive ophthalmology  
research  
from Ecuador

**Guy Ben Simon, MD**  
orbital and ophthalmic plastic  
surgery research  
from Israel

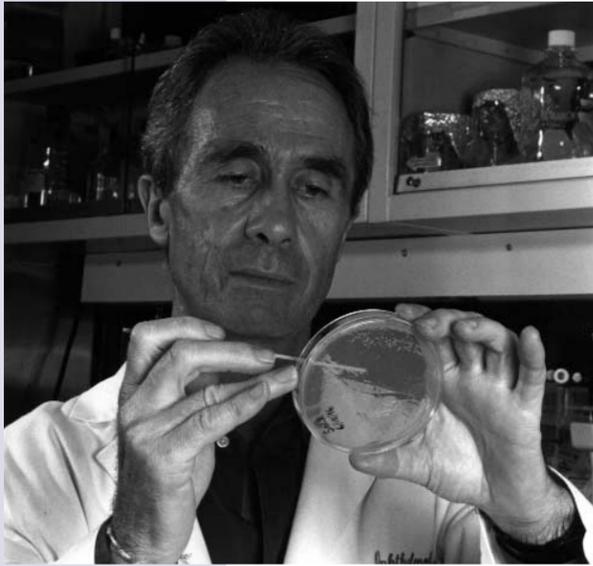
**Jean Vaudaux, MD**  
uveitis and inflammatory eye diseases  
research  
from Switzerland

**Jessica Wu, MD**  
pediatric ophthalmology and  
strabismus research  
from Taiwan

# VISION SCIENCE

## DR. MICHAEL O. HALL, THE INSTITUTE'S FIRST BASIC SCIENTIST

When **Michael O. Hall, PhD**, Professor of Ophthalmology, arrived at UCLA in 1963, the Jules Stein Eye Institute didn't exist. As the first basic science faculty member in the Department of Ophthalmology, he was recruited by Founding Director **Bradley R. Straatsma MD, JD**, with two specific missions—design the laboratory complex for the new JSEI building and recruit more basic science faculty. By the time he had accomplished these tasks, Dr. Hall had identified what would be his lifelong research interest. He recalls, "I received a grant from the NEI (National Eye Institute) to conduct research into a fascinating visual phenomenon, and the promise of scientific discovery, along with funding from the NEI, has sustained me for 40 years." Today Dr. Hall is the longest serving, active faculty member of the Jules Stein Eye Institute.



Dr. Michael Hall

Dr. Hall's research involves what he regards as the most critical process in vision—the ability of the retina to capture light. This task is performed by the photoreceptor cells, which are comprised of rods and cones. By the early 1960s, investigators had discovered that the light captured by the photoreceptors actually damages the rods and cones over time. A better understanding of this phenomenon unfolded with a pivotal discovery by **Richard W. Young, PhD**, a professor of anatomy at UCLA and a member of the Jules Stein Eye Institute. His work set the research stage for the next 40 years. Dr. Young discovered that in order to combat light's destructive energy, the photoreceptors constantly grow, shedding their damaged tips daily; the rods every morning and the cones every night. This cellular debris is phagocytized or eaten by a contiguous layer of cells called the retinal pigment epithelium (RPE). Dr. Hall and others subsequently showed that the RPE/photoreceptor interaction malfunctions as a result of genetic mutation, causing retinal degeneration and blindness. In addition to his research contributions, Dr. Hall has developed a methodology that facilitates the study of this crucial visual process in the laboratory.

In 2000, a breakthrough reinvigorated research in this field. Scientists at the University of California, San Francisco, identified a mutated gene (MER) in the RPE/photoreceptor interaction. Almost immediately thereafter, other researchers identified the same gene in patients with retinitis pigmentosa, a leading retinal degenerative disease. Dr. Hall suspects there are many genes that control the RPE/photoreceptor interaction, any one of which could mutate, causing retinitis pigmentosa, as well as other kinds of retinal degenerations. He has recently identified a molecule (GAS 6) that links the RPE with the rods and cones. It is possible, he says, that researchers will be able to find a mutation of this gene in families with retinitis pigmentosa.

Dr. Hall has just been approved for a new grant from the NEI to continue his research.

"I received a grant from the NEI (National Eye Institute) to conduct research into a fascinating visual phenomenon, and the promise of scientific discovery, along with funding from the NEI, has sustained me for 40 years."

Dr. Hall's research involves what he regards as the most critical process in vision—the ability of the retina to capture light.



## EYE LINES

UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association

### DR. RAYMOND S. DOUGLAS RECEIVES ALUMNI RESEARCH AWARD

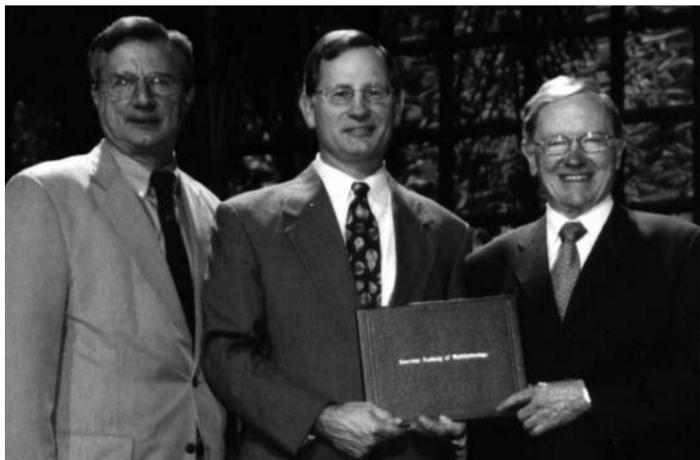
We are pleased to announce **Raymond S. Douglas, MD, PhD**, as the recipient of the 2003 Department of Ophthalmology Alumni Association Research Award, given annually to an outstanding resident or fellow. Dr. Douglas' project is titled "The role of proinflammatory cytokines in the pathogenesis of thyroid-associated orbitopathy (TAO)." Insights from this kind of research can better our understanding of the immunobiology of TAO and may yield important information for development of future therapies for the disease. Dr. Douglas is a clinical fellow in the Division of Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery.



Dr. Raymond Douglas

## DR. BRADLEY R. STRAATSMAN HONORED AT THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

At the 2002 annual meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) in Orlando, Florida, former JSEI Director **Bradley R. Straatsma, MD**, was honored with the Distinguished Service Award on behalf of the American Journal of Ophthalmology (AJO). From 1994 to 2002, Dr. Straatsma served as Editor-in-Chief of the journal.



Dr. Bradley Straatsma (far right) with AAO President Dr. Thomas Weingeist (far left) and current Editor-in-Chief of the AJO Dr. Thomas Liesegang

## NATIONAL EYE INSTITUTE GRANT FOR USHER 1B SYNDROME

**Xian-Jie Yang, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology in the Vision Science Division, and co-investigator **David S. Williams, PhD**, Professor of Pharmacology and Neurosciences at the University of California, San Diego, have jointly received a three-year grant from the National Eye Institute to conduct gene therapy research for Usher 1B syndrome. This hereditary form of retinitis pigmentosa (RP) causes deafness at birth and retinal degeneration in the second decade of life. The goal of this research is to test the potential of a gene delivery and expression vehicle called lentivirus to rescue abnormal retinal cells in a mouse model (Myosin VIIa null mouse). Mutations of the human gene MYO7a, the same gene mutated in the mouse model, have been found in patients with Usher 1B syndrome. The work of Dr. Yang and other researchers in this area may eventually lead to a successful gene therapy for this potentially blinding eye disease.

## DR. STEPHEN S. SEIFF RETIRES

**Stephen S. Seiff, MD**, exemplifies the enormous contributions of volunteer faculty at the Jules Stein Eye Institute. He joined the new Division of Ophthalmology at UCLA in 1956, eventually achieving the rank of full (clinical) professor. For 30 years, until 1987, he attended clinics at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, teaching and providing patient care. He received the Department of Ophthalmology Association Senior Honor Award in 1994. Dr. Seiff graduated from Beverly Hills High School, later returning to establish an ophthalmology private practice in that community. He was an undergraduate student at the University of California at Los Angeles and Berkeley, and received his medical degree and residency training from the University of California at San Francisco. The many residents who benefited from his expertise remember him as a knowledgeable, enthusiastic and generous teacher. We wish Dr. Seiff our best for a well-earned retirement.

## DR. DEAN BOK HOLDS A PRESTIGIOUS PROFESSORSHIP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

**Dean Bok, PhD**, Dolly Green Professor of Ophthalmology and Professor of Neurobiology, has been chosen to hold the 2003 Helen C. Levitt Visiting Professorship at the University of Iowa during his sabbatical from UCLA. Dr. Bok will collaborate with colleagues in basic science research involving cell and molecular biology of the retina. He is studying the interactions between retinal photoreceptors and the retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) and how those processes are affected by inherited mutations that cause retinitis pigmentosa and age-related macular degeneration. During his professorship, he will also participate in the education of medical students, residents and fellows.



Dr. Dean Bok will spend his sabbatical at the University of Iowa.

## SPECIAL GUEST LECTURER DR. CONSTANCE L. CEPKO

The RPB Auditorium at the Jules Stein Eye Institute was filled to capacity on February 19, 2003, with members from the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA coming to hear **Constance L. Cepko, PhD**, Professor of Genetics at Harvard Medical School, deliver a lecture titled "Genomic Approaches to Retinal Development and Disease."

Dr. Cepko, a distinguished investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, accepted the invitation to travel to UCLA from **Xian-Jie Yang, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology in the JSEI Vision Science Division, whom she mentored.

The Jules Stein Eye Institute hosted a reception for Dr. Cepko in the Atrium of the Doris Stein Eye Research Center following her lecture.



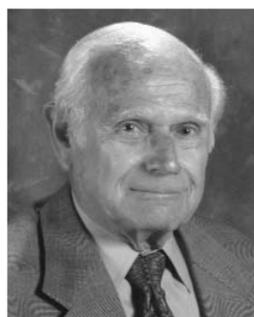
Vision scientist Dr. Xian-Jie Yang (left) with mentor Dr. Constance Cepko (center) and co-Chief of the Vision Science Division Dr. Debora Farber

## NAMED LECTURES

**Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology and Director of the Jules Stein Eye Institute, gave three named lectures in the winter and spring. On January 13, 2003, he participated in the 1st Martin and Doris Lynn Lecture Series at the Shiley Eye Center of the University of California at San Diego. He gave the Thorpe Lectureship on March 21 for the Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society; and was the Raymond C. Cook, MD. Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Harvey and Bernice Jones Eye Institute, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, in Little Rock, Arkansas.

## FACULTY ALUMNUS DR. M. ROY WILSON

After five years as Dean of Creighton University Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska, **M. Roy Wilson, MD**, a faculty alumnus of both the Jules Stein Eye Institute and Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, has accepted a new position as President of the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center in Lubbock, Texas.



Dr. Stephen Seiff

## OPPENHEIMER BROTHERS CHAIR ESTABLISHED

The newly endowed Oppenheimer Brothers Chair will provide support for the research and educational activities of an exceptional basic scientist who will foster advances in vision science and promote achievements in the field of ophthalmology. This generous gift was made by the Oppenheimer Brothers Foundation, which is itself relatively new, established in 1998 by the four sons of the Brigadier General H.L. Oppenheimer, son of Doris Stein. "In endowing the Chair, we were influenced by the fact that such a large part of the population will have to deal with eye diseases over their lifetimes," explained H. Tony Oppenheimer, president of the foundation. He and his brothers, Reed, Eric and Hal, make up the executive board. Their wives share the responsibility as members of the foundation's advisory board and their 11 children comprise a junior board. The foundation is truly a family affair.

The planned dissolution of the Jules and Doris Stein Foundation in 1997 created four family foundations, including the Oppenheimer brothers'. They all follow a tradition of giving to the Institute and the community that was instilled by their patriarch, Dr. Jules Stein. Other philanthropic interests of the Oppenheimer Brothers Foundation include the arts, the environment, medical education, and sports. The Oppenheimer Brothers Chair is the first major contribution to the vision sciences by this successor foundation.

The timely gift reflects a strong tradition of private philanthropy that has nurtured the Institute to its current level of international prominence. Everyone at the Jules Stein Eye Institute is grateful to count the Oppenheimer Brothers Foundation among its most dedicated and generous supporters.



H. Tony Oppenheimer (right) is shown with brother Reed. They along with brothers Eric and Hal (not shown) make up the foundation's executive board.



The tradition of giving that established the Oppenheimer Brothers Foundation is shared by wives and children. The Oppenheims (pictured from left to right) Megan, Luke, Gabrielle, Tony, Reed, Marti, Eric Jr., Jami, Sophie, and Brian

## LEONARD APT FELLOWSHIP

Leonard Apt, MD, Professor Emeritus of Ophthalmology and Founding Chief of the Division of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus, has established the Leonard Apt Endowed Fellowship. Dr. Apt is one of the founders of the field of pediatric ophthalmology, being the first physician to become board certified in both disciplines. While serving as a Special Fellow at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), he designed and completed the first organized fellowship in pediatric ophthalmology and later established, at UCLA, the first full-time division of pediatric ophthalmology at a medical school in the



Dr. Leonard Apt

United States. In acknowledging Dr. Apt's important gift, Gerald S. Levey, MD, Provost and Dean of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA said, "Each Apt fellow will carry on the legacy that he initiated and generated to bring healthy vision to countless children, as well as adults."

Dr. Apt's long and distinguished career has included many pioneering contributions to medicine. He wrote one of the early texts devoted to the field of pediatric ophthalmology. His "Apt Test," which differentiates fetal from adult hemoglobin in newborns is known worldwide. He also developed several surgical devices, including a loupe consisting of special binocular telescopes embedded in eyeglasses. His strong commitment to children and his passion for ensuring their health has garnered many awards and honors. Most recently, the Academy of Pediatrics established the Leonard Apt Lectureship, held in conjunction with the Academy's annual meeting.

Currently, he and colleague Sherwin J. Isenberg, MD, Grace and Walter Lantz Professor of Pediatric Ophthalmology, are conducting studies in underdeveloped countries of a promising new and inexpensive antiseptic eye drop. The drug has been shown to dramatically decrease the incidence of eye infections and blindness in children.

The Leonard Apt Endowed Fellowship will be available in perpetuity and awarded to exceptional clinical fellows in pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus at the Jules Stein Eye Institute.

If you would like to make a contribution to the Institute, you may do so by means of the remittance envelope included in this issue of EYE. For additional information, please call or write to the following:

Development Office  
Jules Stein Eye Institute  
100 Stein Plaza, UCLA  
Box 957000  
Los Angeles, California  
90095-7000  
(310) 206-6035

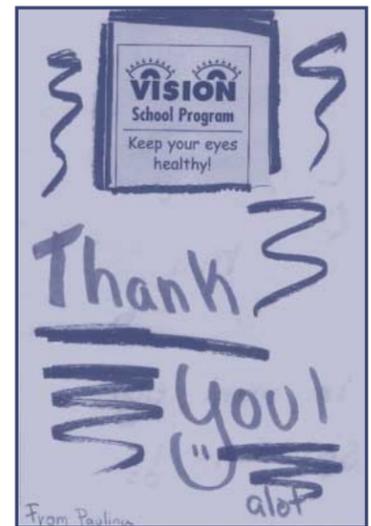
## Appreciating our Volunteers

In 1990, the Jules and Doris Stein UCLA Support Group created the JSEI Affiliates, a network of volunteers supporting patient services and vision education through community outreach programs. Over the past year, the Affiliates have focused on their children's programs and have donated their time and expertise with resounding success. They report great satisfaction from helping kids and they all have fun in the process!

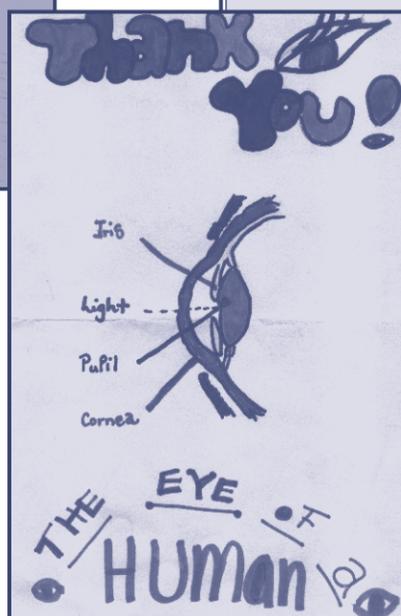
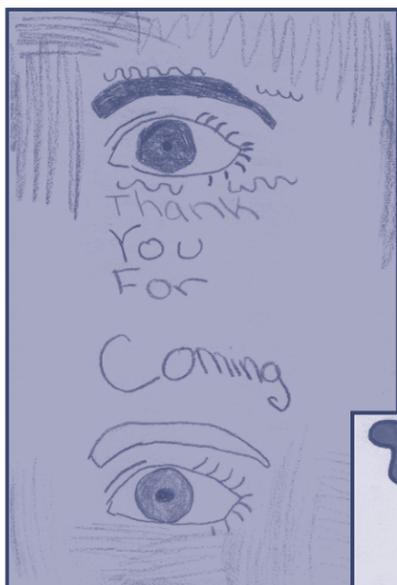
Some of the Affiliates are employed at the Institute or elsewhere and many contribute time to other organizations in addition to JSEI. They describe volunteering at the Institute as fun and rewarding. Over the past year, these volunteers have provided vision screenings for children at preschools and summer camps to identify potential eye problems. They have also visited local elementary schools and taught children about how their eyes work and how they can protect their precious gift of sight.

We welcome new volunteers to the JSEI Affiliates. Opportunities are not limited to working with children. Additionally, the Affiliates sponsor fundraising events, attend health fairs and educational symposia, collaborate on programs with other eye-related organizations, and prepare vision education materials for community programs.

For further information on JSEI Affiliates' volunteer opportunities, or to inquire about bringing these programs to children in your community, please contact Patti Thayer at (310) 206-7128.



Volunteers smile for the camera as they await the next group of children for vision screening at summer camp. Eleven volunteers completed vision screenings for almost 200 children on a Sunday afternoon. From left are Jennifer Sanguinet, Adam Lau, Faye Oelrich, and Dennis Thayer.



Our warmest thanks are extended to the following individuals who have brightened the lives of local children this year by being positive role models who care and inspire. Their commitment allows the JSEI Affiliates to continue their long tradition of giving to the community.

Sandra Allen  
 Julio Alvarez  
 Kimberly Eremic  
 Rene Galvan  
 Cherie Hubbell  
 Dr. Ana Karin Kuznetzow  
 Adam Lau  
 Marcia Lloyd  
 Dr. Benjamin Lusk  
 Larry Miller  
 Faye Oelrich  
 Dr. Roxana Radu  
 Jackie Sanguinet  
 Jennifer Sanguinet  
 Ruth Straatsma  
 Dennis Thayer  
 Richard Valdez  
 Garen Vartanian  
 Dr. Irene Voo  
 Jeff Zhang

# Special Events & Activities

## VISIONARIES BREAKFAST LECTURE

The first JSEI Visionaries breakfast lecture was held on January 27, featuring **Kevin M. Miller, MD**, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, who discussed common eye diseases and their treatments. Dr. Miller engaged the audience both in his lecture and in an ample question-and-answer period. Guests commented that they were impressed by the high caliber of treatment and research offered at the Institute. The JSEI Visionaries is a new support group for research and patient care initiatives of the Jules Stein Eye Institute. This lecture was the first in a biannual series promoting the group, and is open to current members and others interested in membership. To learn more about joining the JSEI Visionaries, please contact the Development Office at (310) 206-6035.



Dr. Kevin Miller responds to questions from the audience after his presentation.



From left to right are long-time supporters and friends of the Institute Gail Oppenheimer, Wallace Peterson, Robert Drabkin, and Gerald Oppenheimer.



Dr. Kevin Miller discusses common eye diseases and treatments at the first Visionaries biannual lecture.



Gail Oppenheimer (left) and JSEI Affiliates advisory board member Jennifer Diener



Jules Stein Eye Institute Director Dr. Bartly Mondino (left) and Dr. Kevin Miller (right) with Institute supporter Theo Kolokotronis

## IMPORTANT JSEI PHONE NUMBERS

### PATIENT CARE

JSEI Ophthalmology Referral Service	(310) 825-5000
JSEI Ophthalmology Emergency Service	(310) 825-3090
after hours	(310) 825-2111
JSEI Specialty Areas:	
Aesthetic Eye and Facial Surgery	(310) 794-9341
Contact Lens Service	(310) 206-6351
Cornea-External Ocular Disease and Uveitis	(310) 206-7202
Glaucoma	(310) 794-9442
Neuro-Ophthalmology	(310) 825-4344
Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus	(310) 825-5000
Refractive Surgery (LASIK, LTK)	(310) 825-2737
Retina	(310) 825-5000

### FUND RAISING AND SPECIAL EVENTS

JSEI Development Office	(310) 206-6035
JSEI Affiliates	(310) 825-4148

EYE

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