

EYE

UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Stein Eye Institute and Doheny Eye Institute UCLA Health



Research | Patient Care | Education | Outreach



EYE magazine

is a publication from the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology.

Stein Eye Institute and Doheny Eye Institute are proud affiliates.

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UCLA DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY Expanding Access to Vision Care Across Southern California



FEATURE



Monumental Affiliation Marks Its 10th Anniversary

As the affiliation between UCLA Stein Eye Institute and Doheny Eye Institute begins its second decade, the leaders of both organizations describe how the partnership is creating broad opportunities for research in vision science and increased access to patient care across Southern California.

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Research teams at Stein Eye and Doheny Eye Institutes are using new technology and uncovering evidence with the potential to transform the current diagnosis and treatment paradigms for patients with age-related macular degeneration and inherited retinal diseases.



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Monumental Affiliation Marks Its 10th Anniversary

As the affiliation between UCLA Stein Eye Institute and Doheny Eye Institute begins its second decade, the leaders of both organizations describe how the partnership is creating broad opportunities for research in vision science and increased access to patient care across Southern California. December 2023 marks a milestone in health care—the 10th anniversary of a partnership unlike any other in vision research and patient care: the affiliation of UCLA Stein Eye Institute and Doheny Eye Institute, which U.S. News & World Report "Best Hospitals" survey ranks as among the top five in the nation for ophthalmology.





Dr. Bartly Mondino, past chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, worked with Doheny Eye Institute leaders, Drs. Stephen Ryan (left) and Ronald Smith, to develop the affiliation before their untimely passing. Dr. Ryan died in April 2013, and Dr. Smith died in March 2014.

Creating a new enterprise for health care

Called "a beautiful fit" when the partnership was first announced, the affiliation between Stein Eye and Doheny Eye Institutes links two esteemed vision organizations, each with a rich heritage in Los Angeles.

"The results over these past 10 years have been extraordinary," says **Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD**, director of Stein Eye Institute, chair of UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, and affiliation chair of Doheny Eye Institute. "**Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, our former director and former chair, had the vision to see how the affiliation with Doheny Eye Institute could strengthen both organizations and better serve a broader community. We have similar missions and complementary strengths, with both institutes earning international recognition for the quality of their patient care, education, and research."

Mr. Charles T. Foscue, chair of the Doheny Eye Institute Board of Directors and member of the UCLA Stein Eye Institute Board of Trustees, points to Dr. Mondino as the catalyst for the Stein Eye and Doheny Eye Institute partnership, saying, "A vision of UCLA's Dr. Mondino, the affiliation has achieved the original goal of unity, synergy, and excellence; delivering significant excellence in ophthalmology while also providing for strategic growth toward our geographic, clinical, and research goals that extend well into the future. Dr. Mondino's vision is within our grasp."



Ms. Marissa Goldberg (left), chief executive officer of the Doheny Eye Institute, and Dr. Deborah Ferrington, chief scientific officer of the Doheny Eye Institute.



Dr. Anne Coleman, chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, director of the Stein Eye Institute, and affiliation chair of the Doheny Eye Institute.



"We have two great institutions—programs that have a storied history and are regarded among the top ten in the world. We are now under one flag and one Department, and there's something wonderfully glorious about that."

ALFREDO A. SADUN, MD, PHD

Alfredo A. Sadun, MD, PhD, vice chair for Doheny Eye Centers UCLA, concurs, saying, "Bart knew this was the right thing to do."

Under the leadership of **Ms. Marissa Goldberg**, chief executive officer of Doheny Eye Institute, and with the assistance of trusted advisors and consultants, and approval from the Doheny Board of Directors, Doheny selected UCLA Stein Eye Institute as its affiliation partner in July 2013. Through the dedicated efforts of Dr. Mondino, Ms. Goldberg, and their teams, the affiliation agreement was signed in December 2013.

An extraordinary partnership for vision science and care

The affiliation of Stein Eye and Doheny Eye Institutes is a unique alliance of organizations that share similar values and standards for education, patient care, and research, while preserving the distinct identity of each.

"This affiliation means the two top eye institutes are working together within a single integrated Department of Ophthalmology for vision care and research," says **Dr. Mondino**. "As far as I am aware, there is no other organization in the world like it."

Mr. Casey Wasserman, member of the Stein Eye Institute's Board of Trustees, agrees, saying, "Stein Eye's alliance with Doheny Eye Institute makes us the nation's, if not the world's, largest academic affiliation. Through this partnership, we are having a tremendous and positive clinical impact and our efforts are expanding vision science and technology both nationally and internationally."

Nearly the entire team of clinicians and researchers from Doheny Eye Institute, formerly associated with the University of Southern California, transitioned to UCLA Department of Ophthalmology faculty.

"Outstanding scholars join Doheny Eye Institute, an independent, non-profit research organization, knowing that in coming here they also have access to UCLA's premier core facilities and collaborators across UCLA departments, which results in impactful, interdisciplinary research," says Ms. Goldberg. "Together, Stein Eye and Doheny Eye Institutes have a complementary set of resources that is just incredible." The affiliation is also building new opportunities for progress in research and a broader range of expertise and collaboration for patient care.

"Doheny Eye Institute's partnership with UCLA and Stein Eye Institute brings together so much talent and so many resources that wonderful things can happen—not only locally, but across the nation and internationally as well," says Dr. Sadun.

Deborah Ferrington, PhD, chief scientific officer for Doheny Eye Institute, notes that while each institute individually was a leader in vision research and education, that significance is greater now.

"Together, we are making an even larger contribution to our community and to the advancement of visual science," says Dr. Ferrington. "Our partnership with Stein Eye Institute magnifies the impact of both organizations in everything we do."

Patient care: increasing access to eye health services

Following the signing of the affiliation agreement in December 2013, Stein Eye and Doheny Eye Institutes immediately broadened patient access to vision care with the opening of Doheny Eye Center UCLA locations in Arcadia, Pasadena, and Orange County.

"From the affiliation," says Ms. Goldberg, "UCLA was able to establish ophthalmology centers in new areas, bringing the University's clinical and research expertise to areas in Southern California where the Doheny name was already recognized and well-respected. The high-quality patient care UCLA provides is a net benefit to all our patients who have trusted the Doheny name for decades."

Along with Doheny Eye Centers UCLA, patient care is provided at Stein Eye Institute in Westwood, Stein Eye Centers in Calabasas and Santa Monica, and UCLA Department of Ophthalmologyaffiliated teaching hospitals: Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare Systems in West Los Angeles and Sepulveda, Harbor–UCLA Medical Center in Torrance, and Olive View–UCLA Medical Center in Sylmar. The Department also has a formal relationship with City of Hope in Duarte providing care and consultation for cases involving cancer and the eye. And a Doheny Eye Center UCLA office will open in 2024 at the Doheny Eye Institute vision-science campus in Pasadena.

"Together Stein Eye Centers and Doheny Eye Centers UCLA spread a sizeable net across the region," says Dr. Coleman. "Today, a greater number of patients can receive premier UCLA Department of Ophthalmology eyehealth services across Southern California, creating a new level of results in vision care across every subspecialty."

"This affiliation means the two top eye institutes are working together within a single integrated Department of Ophthalmology for vision care and research. As far as I am aware, there is no other organization in the world like it."

BARTLY J. MONDINO, MD



The affiliation of Stein Eye Institute and Doheny Eye Institute in December 2013 immediately increased access to patient care with the opening of Doheny Eye Center UCLA locations in Arcadia, Pasadena, and Orange County.

Stein and Doheny: local heritage, global impact

Stein Eye Institute and Doheny Eye Institutes were each created thanks to dynamic philanthropists with strong ties to Southern California: **Dr. Jules Stein**, an entertainment visionary and former ophthalmologist who devoted his later career to developing programs to prevent blindness; and **Mrs. Carrie Estelle Doheny**, the widow of pioneering Los Angeles oil magnate Edward L. Doheny, who experienced her own catastrophic loss of vision from glaucoma.

Previously affiliated with the University of Southern California, Doheny Eye Institute sought a new partnership in early 2013, and proposals were considered from universities and organizations across the country.

"Six top universities approached Doheny and wanted to affiliate, but UCLA was easily the best opportunity for us," says **Ms. Marissa Goldberg**, chief executive officer of Doheny Eye Institute. "We share a similar mission, a history of collaboration, and complementary strengths in our clinical practices, our research, and our education programs."

The affiliation was completed with a 99-year agreement, and today, the two internationally recognized eye institutes, Doheny Eye Institute and Stein Eye Institute, underpinned by one UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, are ranked fifth among the top ophthalmology programs by *U.S. News & World Report*, a distinction that recognizes the strength, reputation, and standing of our two top-tier institutions, working together since 2013 to advance vision research, education, and patient care.



Research: new avenues for progress

The affiliation of Stein Eye and Doheny Eye Institutes is producing equally positive effects on research, which facilitates increased academic interaction and opportunities for collaboration between vision-scientists and clinicians.

"Stein Eye Institute has broad involvement in clinical trials, which has merged well with many of the key fields where Doheny Eye Centers UCLA faculty conduct their research," says Dr. Coleman. "Together we are developing new devices, new drugs, and new ideas for treatment—producing benefits across the spectrum of vision science."

Reflecting on the advantages the affiliation brings for research collaboration, Dr. Ferrington adds, "Bringing in new faculty, new blood, and new exciting ideas, stir up new approaches among our Doheny Eye Institute scientists and Stein Eye Institute scientists. The strengths of our research at Doheny Eye Institute are blending with long-standing work across the spectrum of vision science at Stein Eye Institute. Having that combined expertise is creating extraordinary prospects for discovery and innovation."

A bright future for the second decade of a stellar partnership

As the affiliation between Stein Eye Institute and Doheny Eye Institute enters its second decade, the opportunities for advancing vision research and increasing access to patient care are greater than ever.

"The relationship between the two institutes is growing closer and closer," says Dr. Mondino. "The top two vision organizations have now been together for 10 years, with combined resources and faculty, creating synergy that makes us stronger as a team than as two separate organizations."

Building on that concept, Dr. Ferrington adds, "Everyone across the globe knows the reputation of Stein Eye Institute and Doheny Eye Institute is stellar. And through our affiliation, we are combining our strengths and harnessing our combined efforts—all of which leads me to say the future is very exciting."

Reflecting on what the next decade will bring, Dr. Coleman says, "the Department of Ophthalmology will open new access to patient care on an even broader level. In such a huge population center as Los Angeles County with major needs for vision care, together Stein Eye Institute and Doheny Eye Centers UCLA have so much to offer."

Ms. Goldberg affirms that "With our related missions, Stein Eye Institute and Doheny Eye Institute each gain complementary clinical, research, and educational strengths. And as we grow and flourish together over our second decade, we can better serve patients throughout Southern California along with making tremendous strides in vision research."

Concludes Dr. Sadun, "We have two great institutions—programs that have a storied history and are regarded among the top ten in the world. We are now under one flag and one Department, and there's something wonderfully glorious about that."

"Stein Eye Institute has broad involvement in clinical trials, which has merged well with many of the key fields where Doheny Eye Centers UCLA faculty conduct their research. Together we are developing new devices, new drugs, and new ideas for treatment—producing benefits across the spectrum of vision science."

ANNE L. COLEMAN, MD, PHD



Doheny Eye Institute Celebrates 75th Anniversary

Doheny Eye Institute's rich heritage of vision research and patient care began with a woman of great heart and great hope: **Mrs. Carrie Estelle Doheny**. After experiencing a sudden catastrophic vision loss from glaucoma, she founded the Doheny Eye Foundation in 1947 with the ambitious mission: "To further the conservation, improvement and restoration of human eyesight."

Mrs. Doheny called upon her trusted ophthalmologist, **Dr. A. Ray Irvine, Sr.**, and his two sons, **Drs. S. Rodman Irvine** and **A. Ray Irvine, Jr.**, to establish Los Angeles' first eye pathology laboratory on the ground floor of St. Vincent's Hospital. Eager to advance Mrs. Doheny's goal to create a major vision research institute, the Irvines strongly advocated for a close association with an academic medical school, and Doheny's trustees voted to affiliate with USC in 1961.

Over the next decades, the finest vision scientists, clinicians, faculty, and residents—along with the outstanding leadership of Doheny President **Stephen Ryan**, **MD**, and Medical Director **Ronald Smith**, **MD**—steadily elevated Doheny to the forefront of ophthalmological training, research, and patient care.

In December 2013, Doheny Eye Institute and UCLA's Stein Eye Institute signed a 99-year Affiliation Agreement, and Doheny-affiliated physicians and researchers became UCLA Department of Ophthalmology faculty members.

In conjunction with their 75th anniversary, Doheny Eye Institute, a non-profit research organization, opened a new headquarters in Pasadena on June 23, 2022. The vision-science campus features 25,000 square feet of dedicated research space, the Doheny Image Reading Center and Analysis Laboratory, as well as a conference center to enhance academic excellence. A state-of-the-art Doheny Eye Center UCLA, located on the Pasadena campus, will begin offering patients a full spectrum of eye health care in 2024.

Adaptive Optics Technology Developed in Doheny Eye Institute Lab Shows Cone Photoreceptor Loss Over Time in Intermediate AMD

multidisciplinary team of scientists and clinicians at Doheny Eye and Stein Eye Institutes, using advanced imaging technology developed in the laboratory of a Doheny Eye Institute team member, has reported the first evidence of cone photoreceptor loss over time in otherwise clinically unremarkable retinal regions of patients with age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

The finding, published in the April 2023 American Journal of Ophthalmology, was made possible by a high-resolution adaptive optics scanning laser ophthalmoscope (AOSLO)—technology developed by **Yuhua Zhang, PhD**, UCLA associate professor of ophthalmology and the Doheny Eye Institute researcher who led the study. The loss of cone photoreceptors in a retinal area without clinically identifiable lesions may explain why patients with intermediate AMD experience a decline in light sensitivity.

The severe visual impairment and blindness that occurs in the late stages of AMD is the result of macular neovascularization and atrophy of the light-sensitive cells (photoreceptors) and their support system. "Since the loss of photoreceptors is the critical component in the vision loss from AMD, the most efficacious treatments are likely to be those administered to rescue or protect them," Dr. Zhang notes.

Histopathologic and functional studies have indicated that this photoreceptor degeneration and loss occurs before the development of abnormalities in the photoreceptors' support system as AMD progresses to the later stage. It is also known that the degeneration of rod photoreceptors in AMD precedes that of cone photoreceptor degeneration. "Since cones are responsible for our fine visual acuity and color vision, their protection may provide an effective strategy for preserving vision," Dr. Zhang says. "Cones located in the clinically unaffected regions of the macula-areas exhibiting normal pigmentation and no evidence of outer retinal disruptionscould be targets for therapies aimed at preserving and rescuing visual function."

While accurate assessment of cone photoreceptor survival in AMD patients is critical to such efforts, little has been known about the natural history of cone loss with AMD progression, nor has there been an ability to characterize cone photoreceptor status in clinically unremarkable regions, Dr. Zhang notes. That is now possible with adaptive optics ophthalmoscopy. In particular, AOSLO, developed in Dr. Zhang's lab, allows for the study of cone morphology in healthy and diseased eyes.

"AOSLO enables in vivo assessment of photoreceptor structure at the cellular

"Since cones are responsible for our fine visual acuity and color vision, their protection may provide an effective strategy for preserving vision."

YUHUA ZHANG, PHD

level, thereby providing insight into the mechanism underlying the visual function loss in AMD," Dr. Zhang says. "While rods are at the resolution limit of current AO ophthalmoscopy, high-resolution imaging of cones is possible."

In their American Journal of Ophthalmology study, Dr. Zhang and his colleagues used high-resolution AOSLO and multimodal imaging to evaluate cone photoreceptor density in the macular regions of patients with intermediate AMD showing no AMD-associated lesions, and compared them with unaffected age-matched controls. AOSLO was used to directly image the cone photoreceptors of patients with AMD over a period of approximately threeand-a-half years.

The study found that cone density decreased at 98 percent of the examined locations over time in the eyes with AMD, leading the researchers to conclude that AOSLO, when combined with optical coherence tomography (OCT), can quantify cone density changes in AMD eyes over several years of follow-up.

The researchers used AOSLO to measure cone density over a mean period of 39.6 months in patients with intermediate AMD who fell into two prognostically important phenotypes: those with subretinal drusenoid deposits (SDD) and those with drusen. Drusen are lipid-rich deposits between the retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) basal lamina and the inner surface of the Bruch membrane; they are prevalent in the fovea, where cone photoreceptors have a high density, and are a widely recognized clinical biomarker or risk factor for AMD progression. SDD, on the other hand, accumulate between the photoreceptors and the RPE internal to the blood-retina barrier. They tend to be localized in the perifovea, where rod photoreceptors have a high density. The



study found that cone density decreased over time in the clinically unremarkable retinal regions of patients with both AMD phenotypes compared with age-matched controls—though the decline was more rapid in eyes with SDD than in those with drusen and without SDD.

Overall, Dr. Zhang says, "This study demonstrates the potential to transform the current diagnosis and treatment paradigm from the macroscale to the cellular level for combating retinal diseases that damage photoreceptors."

In addition to Dr. Zhang, the study included Xialoin Wang and Drs. Srini-Vas R. Sadda and Michael S. Ip from the Doheny Eye Institute, and Dr. David Sarraf from the Stein Eye Institute. "This study demonstrates the value and synergy of the Doheny and Stein partnership," Dr. Zhang says. "By bringing together experts from multiple disciplines, we were able to identify critical details of this complex disease." "This study demonstrates the potential to transform the current diagnosis and treatment paradigm from the macroscale to the cellular level for combating retinal diseases that damage photoreceptors."

YUHUA ZHANG, PHD





"Dormant" Cone Photoreceptors Continue to Function in Degenerating Retina, Indicating Potential Treatment Target

multidisciplinary team of UCLA Stein Eye Institute researchers has found that what have long been thought to be dormant cone photoreceptors in the degenerating retina actually continue to function, producing responses to light and driving retinal activity for vision. The group's findings, published in the journal *Current Biology*, suggest that therapeutic interventions to protect these cells, or enhance their sensitivity, have the potential to preserve nearly normal daytime vision.

The vast majority of inherited retinal degenerative diseases are triggered by mutations leading to the death of rod photoreceptors—the cells that encode dim-light vision. The cone photoreceptors—those that are active in daylight are typically kept alive for some time, undergoing morphological changes in response to the rod degenerations in which they retract the outer segments required for producing light responses, as well as the pedicle that communicates with the downstream cells in the retina.

It was believed that this process rendered the cone photoreceptors dormant. "The presumption with dormancy is that the cones are just sitting there, not doing anything, in retinal degenerative diseases," says **Alapakkam P. Sampath, PhD**, Grace and Walter Lantz Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute and the study's senior author. Previous research suggested that these dormant cells were not functional, and attempts to record from them revealed no light-driven activity, Dr. Sampath explains.

But in an examination of the membrane properties of cones in mice following the degeneration of rods, Dr. Sampath and his colleagues—including labs led by Drs. Greg D. Field, Gordon L. Fain, and David S. Williams—found

"Protecting these cells is step number one from the perspective of maintaining vision."

ALAPAKKAM P. SAMPATH, PHD

otherwise. For the study, they used the patch clamp recording method, a laboratory technique for measuring currents in living cells while controlling the cells' membrane potential, or membrane voltage. These single-cell recordings can establish key features of the cell's activity-including the presence of specific membrane currents, whether the cell has light responses, and whether they might connect to downstream neurons in the retina. In addition, the investigators used multi-electrode array recordings that establish the activity of all retinal ganglion cells, and that can show the ganglion cell's ability to respond to visual stimuli that vary in spatial location over time.

These recordings revealed not only that the remaining cones in a retina where the rods had mostly degenerated were still functional, but that, based on downstream signals recorded from the retina, visual processing was not as compromised as might be expected. "This study shows, for the first time, that these cones have residual light responses, generated by somewhat normal mechanisms," Dr. Sampath says. "However, the response is much less sensitive than normal because the specialized part of the cone that senses light and increases the efficiency of light capture in phototransduction is missing."

Importantly, though, these light responses appear to be driving responses in the middle of the retina cells, likely protecting vision to some extent. "We were surprised to find that the drop-off in sensitivity for the ganglion cells that project to the brain was much less," Dr. Sampath says. "It seems that adaptational mechanisms in the inner retina might be trying to minimize the sensitivity difference to preserve robust signaling in the ganglion cells. This is consistent with what we know about the brain: Homeostatic mechanisms that respond to injury and disease typically cover up the deficiency."

The findings on the retinal ganglion cells, contributed by the laboratory led by Dr. Field, have significant clinical implications, Dr. Sampath says. "The fact that the spatial and temporal properties of the retinal ganglion cell responses are largely unaffected suggests that if you can increase the light sensitivity a little bit, you may be able to restore almost normal daytime vision, at least as far as cones go," he explains.

The previous research that was unable to record light responses from cone photoreceptors after the death of rods did find, encouragingly, that placing lightgated ion channels in the residual cones drove visual responses, Dr. Sampath notes. Currently, optogenetics clinical trials are underway in Europe that place light-gated ion channels into the retinas where the rods and cones have died in an effort to restore vision.



Dr. Sampath says the important findings resulting from his group's collaboration illustrate a great strength of the UCLA Stein Eye Institute. "Sweeping studies like this can be done entirely in-house because of the expertise we have built in retinal cell and circuit-level biology," he explains.

The next step for the Stein Eye researchers is to establish the extent to which the neuroprotection or enhancement of the dormant cones will allow the rescue of vision in various forms of blindness. "Protecting these cells is step number one from the perspective of maintaining vision," Dr. Sampath says. "Step two, it appears from our research, is to look to increase the light sensitivity of these residual cones."

Membrane capacitance and morphology of degenerating cones

(A) Membrane capacitance was measured for WT cones (gray, n = 22) and rd10 cones (blue, n = 42) and plotted as a function of animal age. Dash lines represent fits with linear regression: WT slope = 0.05, 95% CI = [-0.06, 0.17] for data from 6 to 12 weeks, rd10 slope = 0.14, 95% CI = [0.03, 0.26] for data from 3.5 to 9.5 weeks. (B–D) Images of cones filled with Alexa-750 from a WT mouse (B), and rd10 mice ages 4 weeks old (C), and 9 weeks old (D). Note large outer segment (asterisk) and cone pedicle (arrow) of the WT cone and processes of 9-week rd10 cone (arrowheads). Scale bars, 20 μ m.

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Dr. Joseph Caprioli Receives Major Gift Supporting Glaucoma Research

A major bequest of over \$9.6M was given to **Joseph Caprioli, MD**, from his longtime patient, **Ms. Kay Pick**, who passed away in 2022.

Ms. Pick made the bequest to fund glaucoma research at Dr. Caprioli's direction. Dr. Caprioli, professor of ophthalmology emeritus and glaucoma chief emeritus, has graciously designated \$2.5M of the gift to permanently endow the Kay K. Pick Endowed Chair in Glaucoma Research. The endowed chair will support the teaching and research activities of the chief of the Glaucoma Division, **Kouros Nouri-Mahdavi**, **MD**, **MSc**, and future chiefs of the Division. The remainder of the bequest, over \$7.1M, will be designated as the Kay Pick Fund for Research and Teaching in Glaucoma.

"Ms. Pick was a glaucoma patient of mine for over 20 years," says Dr. Caprioli, who stepped down as chief of the Glaucoma Division on June 29, 2023. "Glaucoma is a painless and often asymptomatic disease, which if left untreated, can result in blindness. I firmly believe the compassionate and long-term comprehensive care she received from our team established a trusting relationship, which is critical to glaucoma care. Ms. Pick recognized the importance of a symbiotic doctor/patient relationship in the care of glaucoma, and she understood the importance of glaucoma research. I am forever grateful for her generous bequest toward our mutual goals of enhancing the individualized care of glaucoma patients."

The Kay K. Pick Endowed Chair in Glaucoma Research and the Kay Pick Fund for Research and Teaching in Glaucoma will support and promote translational research in glaucoma, which is vital to advancing the care of glaucoma patients worldwide, and to reduce the personal and societal burdens of this blinding disease.



Molly Ann Woods Leads Doheny Eye Institute's Development and Communications

The Doheny Eye Institute (DEI) welcomes **Molly Ann Woods, CFRE**, as chief development and communications officer. With the opening of the Doheny Eye Institute's vision-science campus in Pasadena and the hiring of **Dr. Deborah Ferrington** as DEI's chief scientific officer, Molly Ann's arrival places her at a unique, strategic moment to lead all fundraising and communication initiatives in support of DEI's expanded vision and goals.

"My mother had glaucoma and my father suffered from age-related macular degeneration, so Doheny's mission and the work we do here hits close to home," says Molly Ann, who has nearly three decades of successful fundraising experience in institutions of higher education and non-profit organizations. During the last four years, Molly Ann served as chief development and communications officer, growing the first private fundraising program for Mental Health America of Los Angeles. She has sustained a record of successes in major gifts, corporate and foundation relations, capital campaigns, and executive board development. Many Los Angeles institutions have benefitted from Molly Ann's talents and energies, including the engineering schools of UCLA, Loyola Marymount University, Cal State Los Angeles, and creative programs at Art Center College of Design.



You can reach Molly Ann by emailing MWoods@doheny.org or calling (323) 342-7111.

UCLA Faculty and EyeSTAR Residents Shine at AUPO

UCLA Department of Ophthalmology faculty, **Drs. Anne Coleman**, **Deborah Ferrington**, Lynn Gordon, Mitra Nejad, and Stacy Pineles, were key presenters at the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO) annual meeting January 25–28, 2023, in San Diego, CA. The event promotes excellence in ophthalmic education, research, and ethical practice.

EyeSTAR residents **Ken Kitayama, MD, PhD**, and **Elise Ma, MD, PhD**, were honored as AUPO Resident and Fellow Research Forum Awardees and presented their research at the meeting. Dr. Kitayama analyzes ocular health disparities and the downstream effects of structural inequities on vision outcomes. Dr. Ma's research interests include glial cells in the retina and optic nerve and utilizing molecular transcriptomics to identify dynamic neuronal-glial interactions within the visual system.

EyeSTAR, which stands for Eye Specialty Training and Advanced Research, is a six-year MD/PhD curriculum in the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology chaired by **Dr. Joseph L. Demer** that combines a residency in ophthalmology with training in an academic field of science. EyeSTAR is recognized by the National Eye Institute and AUPO as a model training program.



(L to r) UCLA Department of Ophthalmology faculty members Drs. Sophie Deng, Stacy Pineles, Mitra Nejad, Anne Coleman, Lynn Gordon, JoAnn Giaconi, and Victoria Tseng at the AUPO meeting in San Diego.

Stein and Doheny Take Center Stage at ARVO Annual Meeting

UCLA Department of Ophthalmology faculty **Drs. Sophie Deng, Deborah Ferrington, Yi-Rong Peng**, and **Yuhua Zhang** held well-attended symposiums, and Department faculty presented 83 posters and 20 papers at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) annual meeting April 23–27, 2023, in New Orleans, LA. The Stein Eye Institute and Doheny Eye Institute, who are proudly affiliated, shared a combined booth at the ARVO meeting.

The ARVO meeting is one of the largest gatherings for vision scientists, students, and those in affiliated fields to share the latest research findings and collaborate on innovative solutions. Doheny Eye Institute investigators **Iori Wada, Sathishkumar Chandrakumar, Sohaib Fasih-Ahmad**, and **Yu Wakatsuk** were selected as Doheny Pre-ARVO Day Winners, and the Doheny Alumni Association provided a \$500 travel award to acknowledge their outstanding efforts in research.

UCLA faculty members **Drs. Joseph Demer, Sophie Deng**, and **SriniVas Sadda** serve on the ARVO Board of Trustees, and Dr. Sadda is the 2024–2025 ARVO president-elect.



Attendees from the Stein Eye and Doheny Eye Institutes stand in front of the first-ever Stein and Doheny ARVO booth.

FACULTY HONORS

Joseph Caprioli, MD, was honored with the S. Rodman Irvine Prize for his professional excellence at the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Annual Seminar on June 2, 2023.

Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD,

director of the Stein Eye Institute and chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, received the President's Award at the American Glaucoma Society (AGS) annual meeting on March 3, 2023, in recognition of "significant contributions to the glaucoma community through scientific achievements, service to the Society, and/or service to the profession as a whole."

Marissa Goldberg, chief executive officer of the Doheny Eye Institute, was named Nonprofit Executive of the Year by the Los Angeles Business Journal at the 2023 Nonprofit & Corporate Citizenship Awards ceremony on April 19, 2023, in Los Angeles, CA. Ms. Goldberg was honored for "making an indelible mark in vision care, and in affiliation with UCLA's Stein Eye Institute, helping lead Doheny's mission to further the conservation, improvement, and restoration of human eyesight."

Michael B. Gorin, MD, PhD, Harold and Pauline Price

Chair in Ophthalmology, presented the Franceschetti Lecture at the International Society for Genetic Eye Diseases and Retinoblastoma meeting in Sao Paulo, Brazil , July 8, 2023. Stacy L. Pineles, MD, Jerome and Joan Snyder Professor of Ophthalmology, received the Burton Kushner, MD, Medal and presented the Burton Kushner Lecture, "Functional and systemic effects of strabismus and serous pediatric eye disease" on February 4, 2023 (remote).

SriniVas R. Sadda, MD, professor of ophthalmology, was announced as president-elect of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology for 2024–2025.

Alfredo A. Sadun, MD, PhD,

Flora L. Thornton Endowed Chair in Vision Research, presented the keynote address, "The anatomical forces underlying the pathology of LHON" on June 16, 2023, at the EUROMIT meeting in Bologna, Italy.

Edmund Tsui, MD, assistant professor of ophthalmology, received a two-year National Eye Institute R21 grant titled, "Objective quantification of vitreous inflammation using optical coherence tomography." SriniVas Sadda, MD, will be contributing to the grant as a co-investigator.

Federico G. Velez, MD,

Leonard Apt Endowed Chair in Pediatric Ophthalmology, was the Arthur Jampolsky Day Keynote Lecturer at the California Pacific Medical Center–Pacific Vision Foundation on March 6, 2023, in San Francisco, CA.

Dr. Velez was also the Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Keynote Speaker at the Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology on March 10–11, 2023, in Portland, OR. David S. Williams, PhD, Karl Kirchgessner Foundation Chair in Vision Science, was presented with the 2022 Balazs Prize for eye research by the International Society for Eye Research (ISER) at the ISER biennial conference in Queensland, Australia, in February 2023.

Dr. Kouros Nouri-Mahdavi New Glaucoma Division Chief

Kouros Nouri-Mahdavi, MD,

MSc, has been selected as the new chief of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology's Glaucoma Division effective July 1, 2023. Dr. Nouri-Mahdavi, the inaugural Kay K. Pick Endowed Chair in Glaucoma Research, was chosen for his excellent qualifications and intimate knowledge and leadership experience within the Glaucoma Division and Department of Ophthalmology.



After joining the Department as a visiting assistant professor in 2002, Dr. Nouri-Mahdavi built an active clinical practice managing glaucoma patients and complex cataract surgeries. He is director of the Glaucoma Advanced Imaging and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory whose mission is to optimize detection of early glaucoma and identify early signs of disease deterioration so that timely treatment can be implemented. His research, currently funded by a National Institutes of Health R01 award, seeks to optimize detection of glaucoma progression in eyes with advanced glaucoma.

Dr. Nouri-Mahdavi is a passionate teacher, mentoring fellows and lecturing at national and international educational meetings. He has also served as vice-chair of the Program Committee for the American Glaucoma Society.

Dr. Nouri-Mahdavi describes following in the footsteps of **Dr. Joseph Caprioli**, who retired as chief of the Glaucoma Division in June 2023, as a tremendous responsibility he will not be taking lightly. "I feel honored to have earned the trust of our leadership and to be surrounded by some of the best colleagues and co-workers I could have wished for. Serving as chief of the Glaucoma Division is a tremendous responsibility that I take very seriously. I look forward to further advancing Stein and Doheny's tradition of excellence."

Trashon Fearington Named Chief Administrative Officer

Trashon L. Fearington was announced as the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology's new chief administrative officer (CAO) in March 2023 in recognition of her excellent qualifications and history of leadership and success.



Experienced in staff and physician human resources and benefits management, clinical practice improve-

ment, and finance, coupled with training and development experience from a corporate multi-site hospital system, Trashon was hired by **Dr. Bartly J. Mondino**, former chair, and **Jonathan Smith**, former CAO, in 2009 to serve as director of staff and academic personnel.

Since joining the Department, Trashon has administered the academic and staff personnel and payroll functions for the Department. Following the affiliation agreement with the Doheny Eye Institute in December 2013, Trashon negotiated faculty contracts, spearheaded staff hires, and planned and implemented patient care practices to ensure functions met the daily needs of each service area.

Trashon was elevated to interim associate administrator in February 2020. In addition to her daily duties, she assisted the CAO and clinical director with administrative, financial, and operational activities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Trashon was a key member of the Department's COVID-19 Task Force, which was instrumental in disseminating guidelines, developments, and protocols related to mitigating the spread of the virus.

Trashon become interim CAO and clinical director in 2021 and has become an invaluable asset who is respected for her wisdom, people skills, and intimate knowledge of the clinical planning and strategic priorities and objectives of the David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA Health, and the Department. We look forward to watching the Department continue to flourish under Trashon's proven leadership.

Dr. Allan Kreiger Retires After an Illustrious Career

Shortly after the UCLA Stein Eye Institute opened its doors in 1966, Allan E. Kreiger, MD, professor of ophthalmology emeritus, began making his mark.

"As founding chief of the Retina Division in the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and the Stein Eye Institute (1976–2001), Dr. Kreiger led an outstanding retinal disease and surgery research, training, and patient care program," says **Bradley R. Straatsma**, **MD**, JD, founding chair of the Department and founding director of the Institute. "He substantially advanced the academic activity of our Department."

After receiving his MD from the UCLA School of Medicine in 1963 and conducting both his internship (1964) and residency in ophthalmology (1967) at UCLA, Dr. Kreiger joined the Department in 1967 as a clinical instructor in surgery. He became assistant professor in 1969 and associate professor in 1971. He rose to the position of professor of ophthalmology in 1977 and became professor of ophthalmology emeritus in 2006. Dr. Kreiger was associate chief of ophthalmology at Harbor–UCLA Medical Center from 1967 to 1968, and its chief from 1969 to 1972.

An expert at diagnosing and treating complex forms of retinal diseases, Dr. Kreiger contributed instrumentation and techniques to the profession and published studies that added to the world's literature. When asked about his most important profes-



sional contribution, Dr. Kreiger said it was educating residents and fellows, "Training the next generation of ophthalmologists and retinal specialists is where you can contribute the most to alleviating human pain and suffering."

Dr. Kreiger has been a tremendous clinician, researcher, and educator, as well as a beloved colleague and friend. We thank him for his contributions to our field.

Annual Comprehensive Ophthalmology Review Course

The UCLA Stein Eye Institute and Doheny Eye Institute presented the Annual Comprehensive Ophthalmology Review Course, February 9–12, 2023, at the Stein Eye Institute in Westwood.

The four-day intensive virtual and in-person program is aimed at ophthalmologists and trainees and reviews the clinical essentials of each subspecialty in ophthalmology. The course helps participants prepare for OKAPS, ABO, and maintenance recertification examinations. Clinically oriented, UCLA Course Faculty and Guest Faculty concentrated on the epidemiology, clinical presentation, diagnosis, and management of ophthalmologic disease, as well as covering important clinical principles of ophthalmology and updating any changes to traditional clinical protocols. Course directors were Drs. John Irvine and Mitra Nejad.

Doheny Annual CME Conference

The 52nd Doheny Eye Institute Annual CME Conference, previously known as Doheny Days, was held March 25, 2023, at the Doheny Eye Institute in Pasadena. The Continuing Medical Education (CME) Conference highlighted a diverse spectrum of clinical and research presentations by Doheny alumni, as well as Doheny-UCLA and UCLA Stein Eye Institute faculty. Conference highlights included the Irvine Memorial Lecture given by **Dr. Russell Van Gelder** from the University of Washington School of Medicine, and discussions in retina, glaucoma, and cornea, as well as sessions in pediatric ophthalmology and neuro-ophthalmology. **Dr. Mark Borchert** from Children's Hospital Los Angeles was welcomed as the Doheny Distinguished Alumnus.

Ryan Initiative for Macular Research

The 13th Conference of Doheny Eye Institute's Ryan Initiative for Macular Research (RIMR) was held at the Beckman Center of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine in Irvine, March 28–30, 2023.

Over 100 researchers and clinicians from academia and industry met in breakout groups to discuss the big questions in atrophic agerelated macular degeneration (AMD) research. Topics included mechanisms of AMD initiation and shared mechanisms of age-related diseases, immunology, "Omics" (epigenetics, metabolomics, proteomics, genomics), novel therapeutic approaches, regenerative strategies, biomarkers, endpoints, trial design, "big data," and artificial intelligence. Each year participants are invited based on their specific expertise, relative to the topics of the meeting. The next RIMR Conference will be April 2-4, 2024. The program was chaired by Dr. SriniVas Sadda.

Alcon Vision Advanced Cataract Surgery Course

Many faculty, fellows, and residents of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology attended the Alcon Vision Advanced Cataract Surgery Course on Saturday April 1, 2023, at the Marriott Irvine Spectrum Hotel.

Directed by **Dr. Kevin Miller**, the course was comprised of 13 different labs where attendees worked with Alcon representatives and instructors to practice the use of various surgical instruments. Residents and fellows practiced B-scan ultrasonography, Scheimpflug imaging, and the NGENUITY® 3D video surgical microscope to effectively map the eye. Attendees compared the Hydrus® Microstent MIGS device to other MIGS devices, successfully implanted an anterior chamber intraocular lens, and learned surgical parameters for using a LenSx® laser over conventional cataract surgery.





Attendees at the Alcon Vision Advanced Cataract Surgery Course explored new instrumentation and practiced a variety of surgical techniques.

UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Annual Seminar

The Department of Ophthalmology held its Annual Seminar on Friday, June 2, 2023, at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute's RPB Auditorium. The educational event covers current clinical and research aspects of selected ophthalmic subspecialties and includes sessions from full-time faculty of both the Department of Ophthalmology/Stein Eye Institute and the Doheny Eye Institute, along with nationally prominent invited lecturers. The Seminar was highlighted by the following keynote lectures:

53rd Doheny Memorial Lecturer

Joseph Caprioli, MD David May II Professor of Ophthalmology UCLA Stein Eye Institute

53rd Jules Stein Lecturer

Janey L. Wiggs, MD, PhD Paul Austin Chandler Professor of Ophthalmology Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary

20th Bradley R. Straatsma Lecturer

Mary E. Hartnett, MD Michael F. Marmor MD Professor of Retinal Science and Disease Stanford University Department of Ophthalmology

20th Thomas H. Pettit Lecturer

Mark J. Mannis, MD Fosse Endowed Chair in Vision Science Research Professor and Chair UC Davis Department of Ophthalmology

Thank you to the Annual Seminar Planning Committee for an excellent program: Drs. Anthony Arnold, Benjamin Bert, Sophie Deng, Simon Fung, JoAnn Giaconi, and Stacy Pineles.



(L to r) Drs. Bradley Straatsma, Bartly Mondino, Mark Mannis, Anne Coleman, Joseph Caprioli, Janey Wiggs and Mary Hartnett at the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology's Annual Seminar.

International Retinal Imaging Symposium

The International Retinal Imaging Society (IntRIS) held its Symposium on March 31–April 1, 2023, at the UCLA Meyer & Renee Luskin Conference Center.

IntRIS was created to advance knowledge, science, and innovation in the field of retinal imaging. IntRIS integrates basic science, clinical medicine, and industry, with an aim to provide an infrastructure and platform to coordinate collaboration and exchange by those interested in retinal imaging.

The event included nearly 160 attendees, and a diverse spectrum of scientific talks presented by renowned experts from across the world highlighted innovations in retinal imaging and featured sessions on artificial intelligence, technological innovations, and patho-anatomical breakthroughs.

Novel imaging systems were discussed, including en face and peripheral OCT, OCT angiography, confocal resonance imaging, quantitative autofluorescence, and fluorescence lifetime imaging, showcasing the integral importance of innovative retinal imaging in the evaluation and management of retinal disease. The course directors were **Drs. David Sarraf, Amani Fawzi, K. Bailey Freund**, and **SriniVas Sadda**. For information about the Spring 2024 IntRIS Symposium, visit www.intris.org or contact Monica Kim at mkim@ intris.org.



IntRIS course organizers Drs. Amani Fawzi, David Sarraf, K. Bailey Freund, and SriniVas Sadda.

UCLA Aesthetic Eyelid and Facial Rejuvenation Course

The popular two-day UCLA Aesthetic Eyelid and Facial Rejuvenation Course was held July 14–15, 2023, at the UCLA Luskin Conference Center. The course brings together experts from around the world in a masters setting with cadaver dissection, didactic lectures, one-on-one faculty interaction, and networking on an international level.

Dr. Tanuj Nakra, a double board-certified facial and ophthalmic plastic surgeon at the Dell Medical School at University of Texas-Austin, presented the Shorr Lecture. The course was directed by **Drs. Robert Alan Goldberg, Daniel Rootman**, and **Jonathan A. Hoenig**.

Resident and Fellow Graduation and Award Ceremony

Residents, fellows, and faculty were honored for excellence at the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology graduation ceremony on June 3, 2023, at UCLA's Switzer Plaza.

EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AWARDS

Resident Research Award Michel Sun, MD, PhD

Clinical Fellow Research Award Liane Dallalzadeh, MD

Research Fellow Research Award Massood Mohammadi, MD

Post-Doctoral Fellow Research Award Roni Hazim, PhD

Pre-Doctoral Fellow Research Award Eunice Ng

TEACHING AWARDS

Faculty Teaching Award Ekjyot S. Gill, MD

Fellowship Faculty Teaching Award Monica Khitri, MD

Resident Teaching Award Adrian Au, MD, PhD

Fellow Teaching Award Samuel Hobbs, MD

Destinations of 2023 Graduating Residents

Adrian Au, MD, PhD (EyeSTAR) Vitreoretinal Surgery Fellowship UCLA Stein Eye Institute Los Angeles, CA

Gio Campagna, MD

Glaucoma Fellowship Washington University School of Medicine St. Louis, MO Teresa Chen, MD Oculoplastics Fellowship UC Irvine Irvine, CA

Cory Hoeferlin, MD (EyeMBA) Private Practice Sonoma County, CA

Amanda Lu, MD Comprehensive Division UCLA Stein Eye Institute Los Angeles, CA

Michael Mathison, MD Private Practice San Diego, CA

Alex Onishi, MD Private Practice Daly City, CA

Destinations of 2023 Graduating Fellows

Jawad Ahmad, MD Cornea Fellow Private Practice San Luis Obispo, CA

Mairghread Casey, MD Neuro-Ophthalmology Fellow Pediatric Ophthalmology Fellowship Nationwide Children's Hospital

Columbus, OH

Daniel Choi, MD Cornea Fellow Private Practice

Brian Chou, MD Neuro-Ophthalmology Fellow Faculty University of Washington Seattle, WA



The 2023 resident graduating class received the full gamut of ophthalmic and vision-science education, and cared for a large patient population with an array of eye issues.

Liane Dallalzadeh, MD Pediatric Ophthalmology Fellow Oculoplastics Fellowship University of Texas Southwestern Dallas, TX

Samuel Hobbs, MD Retina Fellow US Air Force San Diego, CA

Tiffany Huang, MD Pediatric Ophthalmology Fellow Faculty Emory University Atlanta, GA

Nicholas lafe, MD Retina Fellow The Retina Institute St. Louis, MO

Shenna Khanna, MD Medical Retina Fellow Private Practice

Ali Mahdavi Fard, MD

Cornea Fellow Academic Faculty Loma Linda University Loma Linda, CA

Xiaofan Mi, MD Glaucoma Fellow Faculty Kresge Eye Institute Detroit, MI

Nathan Pirakitikulr, MD, PhD

Oculoplastics Fellow Private Practice San Diego, CA

Lynn Shi, MD

Glaucoma Fellow Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology Cornell University Ithaca, NY

Jordan Sugarman, MD Medical Retina Fellow Private Practice Los Angeles, CA

Incoming Residents

The UCLA Stein Eye Institute welcomes the 2027 incoming class of residents who began their residency on July 1, 2023.

Sara Emami, MD, MSc David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

David Hsu, MD University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine

Ken Kitayama, PhD (EyeSTAR) David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Matthew Miller, MD Baylor College of Medicine

EDUCATION

Erin NaPier, MD University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine

Ethan Osias, MD David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Jason Strawbridge, MD David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Jessica Tran, MD Mount Sinai Ichan School of Medicine

Maria Villalba, MD, MS University of Miami

Incoming Fellows

Stein Eye Clinical Fellows

Adrian Au, MD, PhD (EyeSTAR) Retina (1st year)

Carla Berkowitz Coseo, MD Cornea

Alexander Engelmann, MD Neuro-Ophthalmology

Mona Fayad, MD Pediatric Ophthalmology

Juan Fernandez, MD Neuro-Ophthalmology

Blake Fortes, MD Retina (1st year)

Jack Lemon, MD Medical Retina

Albert Liao, MD Retina (2nd year)

Katherine Lucarreli, MD Oculoplastics (1st year)

Connie Sears, MD Oculoplastics (2nd year)

Jiwei Sheng, MD Retina (2nd year)

Jared Widder, MD Glaucoma

Doheny Eye Clinical Fellows

Adil Ahmed, DO Cornea

Stephanie Midtling, MD Glaucoma

Stein Eye International Fellows

Wei-Yu Lai, MD Pediatric Ophthalmology Taiwan

Mostafa Mafi, MD Medical Retina, Iran

Arash Omidtabrizi, MD Medical Retina, Iran

Promporn Patarajierapun, MD Cornea, Thailand

Maria Paul Quintero, MD Oculoplastics, Colombia Doheny Eye International Fellows

Rouzbeh Abbasgholizadeh, MD Retina, Turkey

Mai Alhelay, MD *Retina*, Egypt

Jiwon Baek, MD, PhD *Retina*, Korea

Ye He, MD *Retina*, China

Eun Kyung Lee, MD Retina, Korea

Nutsa Pargalava, MD Neuro-Ophthalmology, Georgia



Our 2023 graduating class of fellows conducted vision-science research and gained outpatient, inpatient, and surgical experience in an ophthalmic subspecialty. In addition to receiving training from faculty, fellows advance their knowledge by instructing medical students and residents.

SAVE THE DATE

Please join us for a reception and dancing hosted by the

UCLA OPHTHALMOLOGY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

and the

DOHENY EYE INSTITUTE PROFESSIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

at the

American Academy of Ophthalmology 2023 Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 5, 2023 Reception: 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Music by DJ AJA (aka Dr. Anthony Aldave): 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

St. Regis San Francisco

Conservatory Room 125 Third Street, San Francisco, California 94103

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RSVP by October 25, 2023 alumni@jsei.ucla.edu or (310) 825-4148

When alumni give back, they are demonstrating their appreciation for the education and development that UCLA and the Stein Eye Institute provided. Alumni donations ensure that future generations of ophthalmic students receive the finest training possible.



ALUMNI NEWS

International Research Fellow in oculoplastics, **Taras Gout**, **MD**, has taken an active role in improving our alumni relations. Working with the team from BrightCrowd.com, Dr. Gout is developing a program to help us better engage and stay in touch with our alumni family.

Alessandro Rabiolo, MD,

Stein Eye International Fellow 2017–2018, was awarded the ARVO Foundation Early Career Clinician-Scientist Research Award at the March 2023 Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) annual meeting, which supports clinician-scientists who have made significant strides in their careers. Dr. Rabiolo was an international research fellow with the Glaucoma Division. He is currently assistant professor of ophthalmology at Università del Piemonte Orientale Amedeo Avogadro, Novara, Italy.

Gerald "Jerry" Sanders, MD,

a residency alumnus (1966) has died. Dr. Sanders was a highly regarded comprehensive ophthalmologist in the San Fernando Valley when his career was cut short by the residual effects of a severe car accident. He became a photographer whose beautiful work was appreciated by friends and the regional photographic community.

Seeking Promising Candidates for Residency

n the Fall of 2020, the Department of Ophthalmology Residency Selection Committee began incorporating aspects of holistic review in the residency selection process. Holistic review offers a more inclusive and comprehensive selection approach compared to traditional admission processes. It evaluates candidates based on mission-aligned criteria that considers their unique experiences and attributes alongside traditional academic metrics.

Dr. Sophie Deng, chair of the Department's Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EyeJEDI) Committee, and Dr. Mitra Nejad, member of both the EyeJEDI and Residency Selection Committees, spearheaded this initiative, with strong support from Dr. Robert Alan Goldberg, chair of the Residency Selection Committee.

To begin, all Residency Selection Committee members received training from Dr. Lynn Gordon, emeritus professor of ophthalmology and emeritus senior associate dean for EDI, on recognizing and mitigating implicit bias in the application process. Under Dr. Goldberg's guidance, the Committee developed a rubric for reviewing applications that emphasized key values of the Department's residency program, such as leadership experience, creativity, productivity, and diversity. The initial application review was also expanded to include candidates from previously overlooked medical schools. Additional faculty members were recruited to conduct more thorough evaluations, shifting away from relying solely on applicants' grade point averages or board scores. To mitigate bias, the Committee implemented a standardized questioning approach during interviews. Following each selection cycle, the Committee analyzed the scoring and ranking system and used the findings to refine and enhance the review process for the subsequent year. Debbie Sato, residency program coordinator, contributed to the planning and orchestration of these changes.

This year, an exceptional and diverse group of medical students who demonstrate the highest potential to make meaningful contributions to our Department's mission were matched to our program. The Committee remains committed to further refining the holistic review process to attract the most promising candidates as part of the EyeJEDI Ophthalmology Pipeline Program.

Welcoming New MOM Students

he Department of Ophthalmology congratulates three firstyear UCLA medical students, **Hailey Gonzales**, **Stacy Piva**, and **Antonia Santos** on their acceptance to the Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring Program (MOM), which is an initiative of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) and the

Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology.

Hailey, a native of Los Angeles, obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Biology from the University of California, Santa Cruz. She hopes that as an ophthalmologist she can expand access to low-income communities of color as well as conducting research investigating links between chronic eye disease and eye health disparities.

Stacy, also a native of Los Angeles, graduated from Occidental College with a major in Sociology. As someone who has witnessed the difficulties faced by many to receive quality health care due to limited knowledge and a language barrier, including in her own family, Stacy aspires to serve others as a physician.

Antonia, a native of Chicago, received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and a Master of Science in Biology from Roosevelt University. First exposed to the field of ophthalmology when she worked as an ophthalmic technician, Antonia's interest in the field stems from her desire to improve people's lives through their vision.

As part of the EyeJEDI initiatives, the Department is sponsoring the attendance of these three MOM students at the November 2023 AAO annual meeting in San Francisco in partner with the AAO. The EyeJEDI Committee co-organizes several events throughout the year with the Ophthalmology Interest Group aiming to increase exposure and diversity in ophthalmology.



Hailey Gonzales



Stacy Piva



Antonia Santos



405 Hilgard Avenue Box 957000, 100 Stein Plaza Los Angeles, California, 90095-7000 U.S.A.

Forwarding Service Requested

Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

100 Stein Plaza, UCLA Los Angeles, CA 90095 Referral Service: (310) 794-9770 Emergency Service: (310) 825-3090 After-Hours Emergency Service: (310) 825-2111 uclahealth.org/eye

Stein Eye Center–Calabasas

26585 W. Agoura Rd., Suite 330 Calabasas, CA 91302 (310) 825-5000

Stein Eye Center–Santa Monica

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

Doheny Eye Center UCLA–Arcadia

622 W. Duarte Rd., Suite 101 Arcadia, CA 91007 (626) 254-9010

Doheny Eye Center UCLA-**Orange County**

Orange Coast Memorial Medical Center 18111 Brookhurst St., Suite 6400 Fountain Valley, CA 92708 (714) 963-1444

Doheny Eye Center UCLA-Pasadena

Huntington Pavilion 624 S. Fair Oaks Blvd., 2nd Floor Pasadena, CA 91105 (626) 817-4747



UCLA DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY Los Angeles and Beyond

Alumni Relations

Email: alumni@jsei.ucla.edu

Philanthropy

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

Volunteer Opportunities

Center for Community Outreach & Policy www.uclahealth.org/departments/ ophthalmology/mobile-eye Telephone: (310) 825-2195 Email: community@jsei.ucla.edu facebook.com/uclamobileyeclinic instagram.com/uclamobileyeclinic twitter.com/uclaMEC

Read past issues of EYE Magazine at: www.uclahealth.org/Eye/news

Send comments or questions to:

Tina-Marie Gauthier Managing Editor Email: Tina@EyeCiteEditing.com







For 34 consecutive years, UCLA Health has been recognized on the U.S. News & World Report national honor roll of best hospitals UCLA Stein Eye and Doheny Eye Institutes are ranked #1 in California and top five in the nation for ophthalmology.