

Spring 2023

# EYE

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



Research | Patient Care | Education | Outreach



Stein Eye Institute



DOHENY  
EYE INSTITUTE

# EYE MAGAZINE

is a publication from the UCLA  
Department of Ophthalmology.

The Stein Eye Institute  
and Doheny Eye Institute  
are proud affiliates.

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## Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends,

It is a privilege to assume the role of director of the UCLA Stein Eye Institute, chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, and affiliation chair of the Doheny Eye Institute. I follow in the footsteps of our visionary founder, **Dr. Bradley R. Straatsma**, and his outstanding successor, **Dr. Bartly J. Mondino**.

Dr. Mondino's leadership over the past 28 years has been characterized by thoughtfulness, innovation, and dedication. We are incredibly fortunate he will remain on faculty, working closely with me to ensure ongoing excellence at UCLA, as well as continuing to help with our philanthropic efforts and the building of a new UCLA clinical space at the Doheny Eye Institute in Pasadena.

Since our historic affiliation in 2013, the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology is the only Department with two eye institutes: the Stein Eye Institute and the Doheny Eye Institute. Together the Stein and Doheny Eye Institutes are furthering ophthalmology to improve patient care, research, education, and outreach. Our Department is one of the best centers for eye care in the world, and our motto is "The Best Can Always Get Better!"

In this issue of *EYE Magazine* we celebrate our faculty for their major contributions to the field, we welcome new members who are expanding the boundaries of current research, and we applaud Stein and Doheny vision scientists who have received R01 and other major competitive grants that support innovative investigations seeking to protect vision and end blindness.

Leadership in the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology has long recognized the need for expanding the diversity of our trainees and faculty. We are taking action to recruit underrepresented minority medical students to ophthalmology by providing early exposure to the field, mentorship, and resources to participate in activities that prepare them to become competitive residency applicants. In addition, we are addressing disparities in vision health and eye care, providing a framework for reducing these disparities to improve vision health, and striving toward health equity in ophthalmology.

Thank you for your continuing support and for being our trusted partner. I look forward to advancing our shared mission and goals.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne L. Coleman". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD**

Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology  
Chair, UCLA Department of Ophthalmology  
Director, Stein Eye Institute  
Affiliation Chair, Doheny Eye Institute

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*On the cover:* We welcome Dr. Anne Coleman as the new chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, the new director of the Stein Eye Institute, and the new affiliation chair of the Doheny Eye Institute.

SPRING 2023 VOLUME 41 NUMBER 1

# EYE

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OPHTHALMOLOGY

STEIN EYE INSTITUTE  
AND  
DOHENY EYE INSTITUTE

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*UCLA Health is consistently ranked among the best hospitals in the country by U.S. News & World Report, and UCLA Stein Eye and Doheny Eye Institutes are ranked among the top five in the nation in ophthalmology.*





# Charting a Bold Direction for Vision Science

In July 2022, **Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD**, assumed leadership of the Stein Eye Institute and the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, with a broad agenda to address the growing challenges for patient care, education, vision-science research, and community outreach.

**W**hen Dr. Coleman was named chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, director of the Stein Eye Institute, and affiliation chair of the Doheny Eye Institute, she brought to her new role more than 32 years of experience in vision research, community outreach, patient care, and leadership of ophthalmology on an international level.

Dr. Coleman is the Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology, was the Fran and Ray Stark Foundation Chair in Ophthalmology from 2004 to 2022, and has been a UCLA Department of Ophthalmology faculty member since 1990. Dr. Coleman's clinical focus is on glaucoma, anterior segment disease, and cataract surgery.

Along with being a professor of ophthalmology, Dr. Coleman is a professor of epidemiology in the UCLA Jonathan and Karin Fielding School of Public Health, and her research encompasses both fields. She investigates the etiology, diagnosis, treatment, and societal impact of glaucoma, cataracts, and pediatric eye diseases, while also addressing health policy, community-based interventions, health disparities, Big Data, and behavioral factors associated with health.

As director of the Stein Eye Institute Centers for Community Outreach and Policy, Eye Epidemiology, and the UCLA Eye Clinic (UMEC), Dr. Coleman is dedicated to improving community health programs among underserved and vulnerable populations.



Dr. Coleman has led national organizations, including serving as president of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, president of Women in Ophthalmology, president of the Council for the American Ophthalmological Society, chair of the National Eye Health Educational Program, and associate editor of the *American Journal of Ophthalmology*. She has written more than 240 peer-reviewed articles, and has been awarded more than \$20 million in research funding.

**You have a broad range of interests in medicine and public health. What drew you to vision science and patient care as a primary focus of your work?**

My career in vision science evolved in medical school from an interest in general surgery, which slowly became refined as an interest in fine, detailed microscopic surgery such as required in ophthalmology. The possibility of restoring vision and preventing vision loss became a true motivator to become an ophthalmologist, since I had seen the devastation of vision loss in my family and its impact on life choices.

**The connections between eye care, public health, and underserved populations have always been a part of your work.**

Yes. I became involved in public health while I was conducting my glaucoma fellowship at the Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University. I had the opportunity to work with **Alfred Sommer, MD, MHS**, professor of ophthalmology, who became dean of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and I attended monthly seminars on issues in public health, which addressed many of the key matters affecting vision care and vulnerable populations.

My colleagues there were developing programs on national and international research on vision health at the same time, so I was building the foundation of my career in an environment where the linkages between advances in vision science and the needs of public health were intertwined.

My interest in public health, however, was inspired early. I was raised in Richmond, Virginia. When I was little, we traveled to rural Virginia where my father grew up, and I can remember seeing children my age who did not have teeth; they had lost some or all of their teeth because of poor nutrition or because there was no fluoride in the water. It was shocking.

So even at age 10, I was quite affected by how much of a difference a two-hour drive and limited resources could make in terms of a health issue as basic as tooth loss. My memories of those visits were the spark of my interest in public health and access to health care, which carries over to my work today.

**You have extensive experience working with schools and departments across the UCLA campus. What do you see as the Institute's primary role in connecting to the broader university medical enterprise?**

Connections between disciplines are extremely important for our continuing to build programs in vision care and public service. One of the great benefits for the Institute's work is our strong relationship with the School of Medicine, the School of Public Health, and departments within the College of Letters and Science. These organizations are literally a few feet from each other—not at some distant site—and that close proximity creates the possibility and opportunity for spontaneous and planned interactions and collaborations among faculty and students that are vitally important for the development of new ideas and research progress.



**“The possibility of restoring vision and preventing vision loss became a true motivator to become an ophthalmologist, since I had seen the devastation of vision loss in my family and its impact on life choices.”**



“Another priority is helping our faculty increase access to science and medicine for students who are underrepresented in medicine (URiM) and science....to help increase the opportunities for all students to learn about and to participate in vision research.”

#### From your new perspective as director, what do you consider the Institute's priorities for vision-science research?

The Institute has a long record of achievement in research, but we need to increase the impact and awareness of that work. My goal is to create an environment where faculty and trainees obtain more grants, more funding, and more encouragement to share their findings and knowledge.

I want to ensure the environment in the Institute attracts and retains scientists who are innovative and “pushing the envelope.” One approach that is particularly successful is hiring distinguished faculty in joint appointments with other campus units. This allows us to leverage more resources to help boost productivity and creativity. For instance, **Alex Huk, PhD**, a neuroscientist, is a new Department of Ophthalmology faculty member who is a joint recruit with the UCLA Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Science. My goal is to continue to make those types of joint appointments.

Through the use of grants and summer programs, another priority is helping our faculty increase access to science and medicine for students who are underrepresented in medicine (URiM) and science. The goal is to help increase the opportunities for all students to learn about and to participate in vision research and to eliminate all financial or social barriers that may hinder a student's participation or engagement.

#### How do you see patient care evolving?

This past fiscal year we had 180,000 unique patient visits. I want to increase this number and to increase access to eye health for all, including the medically underserved. For the past several years, we have been opening new Stein Eye Centers and Doheny Eye Centers UCLA across Southern California, which has broadened our patient-care capabilities. We are identifying key regions where increasing our presence can do the most good. Currently, we are building a clinical space at the Doheny Eye Institute vision-science campus in Pasadena, and that Doheny Eye Center UCLA patient-care facility will open in 2024. This will help expand our patient-care footprint on the east side of Los Angeles.



## What are your immediate priorities for ophthalmic education?

Our program for training new residents is quite strong—one of the best in the world—and one of the key steps for building on that excellence is adding to our training facilities.

We have created an eye simulation laboratory where medical students, residents, and fellows can learn how to perform surgeries on an eye through a simulated experience. This improves the quality of their surgery because they have practiced surgery prior to actually doing it on patients. In the simulation laboratory, the trainees will also be able to refine their skills evaluating an eye by using our specialized equipment such as the indirect ophthalmoscope.

## Given your own interests in community care, how will the Institute's outreach programs evolve under your leadership as director?

One of the Institute's pillar programs is to enhance vision care in the community, and that objective will certainly continue because it is dear to my heart. Our community outreach program allows us to take our outstanding patient care to the communities that need it. Since 2015, we have treated more than 100,000 children and adults who are medically underserved despite our mobile unit being grounded for 1.5 years secondary to COVID-19. We have more than 50 community partners who help us and hope to increase that number since there is so much need in Los Angeles County among the vulnerable populations, such as the housing insecure. We hope to have two mobile units in the future. Unfortunately, the oldest bus is no longer functional. Our plan is to outfit a new mobile van that will allow us to expand our program's outreach.

## Is vision care changing for the underserved patient population?

Yes. The need for vision care in medically vulnerable communities in Los Angeles is greater than ever. The high cost of living in Southern California has significant consequences for vision care; if a family can barely afford to live here, then paying for vision care becomes a lower priority.

Part of the problem stems from a growing population facing housing insecurity, and the challenges they face because of vision issues.

When people experiencing homelessness are asked about their greatest needs, at the top of the list is improved vision and glasses. Without eyeglasses, you can't drive, you can't fill out a form to get a job. You can imagine if you have housing insecurity, you don't have the money to go and get an eye examination, much less the insurance. And then eyeglasses can be so expensive. It's a snowball effect for these individuals.

In the past seven years, the UMEC has seen more than 100,000 at-risk children and adults, and many need eyeglasses, which we provide for free. Enhanced vision is a huge step toward moving beyond housing insecurity. And for children, better vision has a major effect on improved grades and academic progress.

We are working to increase our commitment to providing the best care and treatment for the most vulnerable residents in Southern California.

**“In the past seven years, the UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic has seen more than 100,000 at-risk children and adults, and many need eyeglasses, which we provide for free. Enhanced vision is a huge step toward moving beyond housing insecurity. And for children, better vision has a major effect on improved grades and academic progress.”**





### How do you envision the role of the Institute's partnership with the Doheny Eye Institute evolving under your leadership?

We are going to be working more closely together and building awareness of the joint role in vision research that the two organizations—the Stein Eye Institute and the Doheny Eye Institute—provide. Many people have no idea the Doheny Eye Institute began an affiliation with UCLA and the Department of Ophthalmology in 2013. Faculty at both the Stein and Doheny Eye Institutes are under the umbrella of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology. The Stein Eye Institute has both basic-research and clinical faculty. The Doheny Eye Institute has basic-research faculty only. Doheny's clinical work is conducted through the Doheny Eye Centers-UCLA.

Together, the Stein and Doheny partnership has produced a formidable presence in vision care and research—an association among the top-ranked in ophthalmology. So when funding agencies, faculty recruits, or potential donors consider the best organizations for vision research and care, they think of the Stein Eye and Doheny Eye Institutes. We are the “Best in the West” and among the top five eye centers in the country in several national surveys.

### Where do you think the Institute and the Department of Ophthalmology will be in five years?

In five years, we will be continuing to follow our mantra that the best can get better. We are constantly looking for ways to improve and to push ourselves to be the best. We will not be resting on our laurels because we will be working hard to fulfill our mission of outstanding patient care, research, and education all with national and international community outreach.

“Together, the Stein and Doheny partnership has produced a formidable presence in vision care and research—an association among the top-ranked in ophthalmology. So when funding agencies, faculty recruits, or potential donors consider the best organizations for vision research and care, they think of the Stein Eye and Doheny Eye Institutes. We are the ‘Best in the West’ and among the top five eye centers in the country in several national surveys.”



## New Faculty Team Creates Opportunities for Leadership and Decision-Making in Ophthalmology

A faculty leadership team was recently installed to expand governance and oversight of the Stein Eye Institute.

“The leadership team is intended to create broader involvement by the faculty in the management of the Institute, bringing faculty into the decision-making arena and in planning the future for UCLA vision-science research and care,” says **Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD**, chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, director of the Stein Eye Institute, and affiliation chair, Doheny Eye Institute.

The members of the leadership team are:

**Anthony J. Aldave, MD**, Vice Chair of Academics

**Anthony C. Arnold, MD**, Vice Chair of Education

**Joseph Caprioli, MD**, Vice Chair of Quality

**Sophie X. Deng, MD, PhD**, Vice Chair of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

**JoAnn A. Giaconi, MD**, Vice Chair of Affiliated Hospitals

**Gary N. Holland, MD**, Vice Chair of Patient-Based Research

**Alfredo Sadun, MD, PhD**, Vice Chair of Doheny Eye Centers UCLA

**Alapakkam P. Sampath, PhD**, Associate Director of Research

A selection committee nominated highly respected candidates they felt would be particularly effective in overseeing each defined role. Faculty colleagues then voted on who should lead.



# New Faculty Study the Relationship Between the Retina and the Brain

**T**he recruitment of two new UCLA Department of Ophthalmology faculty members whose research transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries represents a vital new direction for the Stein Eye Institute, according to **Alapakkam “Sam” Sampath, PhD**, chief of the Department’s Vision Science Division.

Dr. Sampath notes that the work of **Greg Field, PhD**, Joan and Jerome Snyder Chair in Vision Research and associate professor of ophthalmology, who studies the output cells of the retina that form the fibers of the optic nerve, and **Alex Huk, PhD**, professor of ophthalmology, who assesses the early processes of vision in the area at the back of the brain known as the occipital lobe, has far-reaching implications. “Our focus at the Institute has largely been on eye biology and diseases of the retina,” says Dr. Sampath, an internationally renowned visual neuroscientist whose own work has important applications in the areas of cellular and circuit-level visual processing. “Dr. Field and Dr. Huk expand that focus by evaluating retinal function as it moves into the brain.”

Dr. Field, who joins the Stein Eye faculty from Duke University, leads a research team probing how the retina converts light into electrical signals sent from the eye down the optic nerve and into the brain. “There is an encoding process that occurs when light energy is converted into a set of electrical impulses in order to construct what we see and guide our behavior as we navigate the environment,” he explains. “My lab studies the initial process of how that information is packaged into these signals that are sent to the brain by retinal ganglion cells.”

The work has significant clinical implications for retinal disease. “As

photoreceptors or other elements of the retina begin to die, the quality of the retinal output changes,” Dr. Sampath notes. “Dr. Field is able to evaluate that in a way that could be highly relevant to debilitating eye conditions, including retinal degenerations and glaucoma, as well as for neuro-ophthalmology.”

To perform these evaluations, Dr. Field’s group uses a high-resolution technology known as large-scale multi-electrode arrays. Employed by only a few labs in the world, the technology allows Dr. Field and his colleagues to measure the activity of hundreds or thousands of ganglion cells simultaneously within a small patch of retina. The measurements enable Dr. Field’s team to predict, for a particular visual stimulus, what signals the cells will send to the brain, which could ultimately inform efforts to develop a retinal prosthetic. The research is also helping to reveal how the signaling process is degraded in retinal degenerative diseases—potentially leading to earlier diagnosis and treatment, as well as fueling research into new therapies that could restore healthy signaling to the eye.

Dr. Huk’s lab has introduced techniques for quantitatively testing visual acuity in ways that are both simple and significantly less time-consuming than previous methods.

Dr. Field took part in the development of the technology as a postdoctoral fellow at San Diego’s Salk Institute in the mid- to late 2000s, and went on to lead research that contributed to an understanding of what differentiates the human visual system from the more primitive systems of mice and other animals. More recently, his lab has focused on retinal degenerative diseases, particularly retinitis pigmentosa. Dr. Field’s group has found evidence suggesting that gene therapy treatments for these diseases, which thus far have not produced hoped-for results, could prove more fruitful if performed at earlier time points in the degenerative process.

Dr. Huk’s lab has introduced techniques for quantitatively testing visual acuity in ways that are both simple and significantly less time-consuming than previous methods. Working with human subjects, Dr. Huk and his colleagues have developed a simple test in which the subject follows a moving object on a screen.

“The standard way of testing visual performance—in which, every few seconds, subjects are asked which image they see better, or which they can see at all—is rigorous but inefficient, which makes it difficult to translate to clinical populations,” Dr. Huk explains. “We have developed this quick but quantitatively rigorous method—a simple game that says if you see something, point at it, and as it moves around, keep updating where you’re pointing.”

In addition to serving as a tool for quickly assessing large groups of people, Dr. Huk’s methodology could assist clinicians by providing a simple, efficient, and inexpensive way of detecting early signs of impairment. “An optometrist measures visual acuity—in other words, to use the metaphor of a digital camera,



how good are the lens and the sensor?” Dr. Huk explains. “But there’s a lot of complicated activity beyond the sensor dealing with white levels, balance, and contrast, which takes place mostly in the brain. And much of visual impairment plays out downstream of the eye, which is what we need to assess.”

Dr. Huk, who holds a primary appointment in UCLA’s Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, joins Stein Eye from The University of Texas at Austin, where he served as director of the Center for Perceptual Systems. “I am grateful for the way this position was created for me across multiple departments,” he says. “Traditionally, science has been siloed, with different people focusing on different parts of a problem. But there is a fundamental connection between the retina and the brain, so it’s exciting to address these topics in a multidisciplinary way.”

Dr. Field also comes to Stein Eye with a background outside the field of ophthalmology. His training is in physics; he and his research colleagues work closely with high-energy particle physicists to build the devices they use to make their measurements, as well as with experts in machine learning and computational neuroscience who help to make sense of the large datasets Dr. Field’s team acquires from the retina. “Our research is at the interface between neuroscience and vision science,” Dr. Field says. “UCLA and the Stein Eye Institute provide a tremendous opportunity to translate what we’re learning from rodent models about therapies to restore vision into clinical applications.”

“Our focus at the Institute has largely been on eye biology and diseases of the retina. Dr. Field and Dr. Huk expand that focus by evaluating retinal function as it moves into the brain.”

ALAPAKKAM SAMPATH, PHD  
CHIEF, VISION SCIENCE DIVISION



## Actions to Address Disparities in Eye Care

The American Academy of Ophthalmology Task Force on Disparities in Eye Care published “Disparities in Vision Health and Eye Care: Where Do We Go from Here?” in *Ophthalmology* on October 1, 2022. The white paper discusses health and health care disparities in ophthalmology in the United States.

**Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD**, chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and director of the Stein Eye Institute, is senior author of the white paper, and **Victoria L. Tseng, MD, PhD**, assistant professor of ophthalmology, is a contributing author.

The white paper examines existing racial and ethnic, socioeconomic, and other demographic differences in the diagnosis and management of several ocular conditions, along with the underlying influence of social determinants of health on these potential disparities. An extensive literature review was performed to assess potential disparities in the diagnosis and management of visual impairment, cataract, glaucoma, amblyopia, refractive error, age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, ocular trauma, uveitis, and keratoconus. In addition to identifying existing disparities, the white paper provides a framework for the future of eye care to reduce disparities and strive toward health equity in ophthalmology.

Important factors to consider that are highlighted in the framework include:

- ▶ Improving access to eye care
- ▶ Increasing workforce diversity within ophthalmology
- ▶ Bettering eye care education for patients
- ▶ Creating a continuous improvement system through data
- ▶ Addressing gaps in health disparities research data in ophthalmology
- ▶ Expanding vision and collaborations within ophthalmology.

The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and the Stein Eye Institute (SEI) Center for Community Outreach and Policy are actively involved in several initiatives to address action items outlined in the white paper framework. For over 40 years, the UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic (UMEC), a major component of the SEI Center for Community Outreach and Policy, has provided vision screenings and free eyeglasses to adults and children in Los Angeles County and has worked towards increasing access to basic eye care needs for our most under-resourced communities. Established by an anonymous donor in 1975, UMEC has provided services to over 320,000 medically underserved children and adults who may also be facing housing insecurity.

Research recently performed through the SEI Center for Community Outreach and Policy has focused on racial and ethnic disparities in chronic eye diseases within the California Medicare population and leveraged data to identify areas for improvement in the eye care of elderly individuals in California.

UCLA Department of Ophthalmology faculty have served as panelists and mentors for the American Academy of Ophthalmology Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring (MOM) program and engaged UCLA medical student participation in the MOM program to create a pipeline of future ophthalmology leaders. Through rotations at safety-net hospitals in Los Angeles, UCLA ophthalmology residents, faculty, and fellows are well versed in providing care for underserved patients and have created several quality improvement initiatives to enhance patient education and care for these individuals.

With a rapidly aging population with increased eye care demands, the white paper also highlights critical areas to consider for providing equitable eye care for our population in the future. The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology is committed to this goal of diversity, equity, and inclusion in our mission to provide outstanding teaching, research, patient care, and community outreach. Read the white paper at: [https://www.aaojournal.org/article/S0161-6420\(22\)00490-0/fulltext](https://www.aaojournal.org/article/S0161-6420(22)00490-0/fulltext).

The Stein Eye Institute’s Center for Community Outreach and Policy is addressing racial and ethnic disparities in chronic eye diseases within the California Medicare population and leveraging data to identify areas for improvement in the eye care of elderly individuals in California.



## Viva Los Dodgers!

The UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic (UMEC) attended the Viva Los Dodgers event at Dodger Stadium on July 24, 2022, and provided general eye health screenings to 33 patients.

The screenings, held in Centerfield Plaza, included a visual acuity check, eye pressure check, autorefractometer, and slit-lamp exam by one of our volunteer ophthalmologists. Patients were provided with eye health brochures, sunglasses, and reading glasses, if needed. UMEC staff identified several individuals with eye diseases, such as cataracts and glaucoma, and advised those patients on needed next steps to continue their vision care and protect their sight.

The UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic care team is made up of ophthalmologists, optometrists, technicians, residents, and volunteers. Established in 1975, the UMEC delivers high quality, free, privately funded ophthalmic care to underserved populations across Southern California.





# Our Visionary Founder: Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD

**Dr. Bradley Straatsma** was at the start of his career and already demonstrating extraordinary talent and promise, conducting two concurrent fellowships, one in pathology at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and another in ophthalmology at the Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute at Johns Hopkins University when he happened to meet **Dr. S. Rodman Irvine**, acting chief of the then Division of Ophthalmology at the UCLA School of Medicine, at an academic conference in Boston.

## Early days

Shortly thereafter, Dr. Straatsma received an invitation to visit UCLA from **Dr. William P. Longmire Jr.**, founding chief of surgery at the UCLA School of Medicine.

"I met people with extraordinary abilities and accomplishments," says Dr. Straatsma. "I was invited to join the faculty and become associate professor and chief of the Division of Ophthalmology within the Department of Surgery at UCLA. That was 1959. So I was in at the beginning."

## Visualizing the future

"Early on, I was told a businessman had made a gift to the medical school. His name was **Dr. Jules Stein**," says Dr. Straatsma. An ophthalmologist by training, Dr. Stein was a gifted, multifaceted man who, after a few successful years in ophthalmology, turned his passion and talent for music and business acumen into an amazing career, eventually founding the Music Corporation of America (MCA). "I contacted him," Dr. Straatsma continues, "and asked if we could meet and talk about the program at UCLA, and he said no. He wanted to do something nationally."

"I had an idea, a concept, of creating a major eye program on the West Coast, here, on the UCLA campus," Dr. Straatsma explains. When he finally did meet Dr. Stein, Dr. Straatsma outlined his vision of an eye institute of national standing, and this caught Dr. Stein's attention.

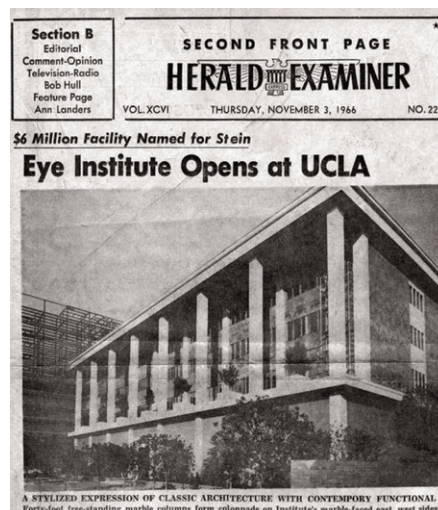
## The art of persuasion

"I arranged for a rendering to be made of an eye institute, as I imagined it, right where it is actually now located on the UCLA campus," says Dr. Straatsma. "I had the drawing delivered to Dr. Stein as further encouragement of his interest."

"I sensed his receptiveness," Dr. Straatsma continues, "and I wrote a plan detailing what our institute could be and the scope of what it could do. That was enough to truly engage his interest. Dr. Stein agreed to sponsor the program, and with that, our work on the Jules Stein Eye Institute began."



Drs. Jules Stein and Bradley Straatsma survey the newly opened Jules Stein Eye Institute, which has grown to become a vision-science campus at UCLA.



The Jules Stein Eye Institute became a reality in 1966. With the foundation set by Dr. Straatsma as the Institute's founding director, the decades since have been rich in accomplishments in vision-science research, multidisciplinary education, quality patient care, and community outreach.

### A brilliant career

The Jules Stein Eye Institute became a reality in 1966. With the foundation set by Dr. Straatsma as the Institute's founding director, the decades since have been rich in accomplishments in vision-science research, multidisciplinary education, quality patient care, and community outreach.

In recognition of Dr. Straatsma's seminal work and dedication to developing the Institute into the premier global vision center it is today, the trustees of the Stein Eye Institute established the Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology when he stepped down as chair in 1994.

### Focus on philanthropy

"Over the years, I made modest gifts to support the chair," Dr. Straatsma says, "but then came a time for careful planning of what comes next. I employed the gift option Dr. Stein used when he established his legacy gift: a charitable remainder trust, which provides funds for something you believe is important while also providing support for family members."

Dr. Straatsma split his gift into charitable remainder trusts to benefit each of his three children. Eventually, the money will go to the endowed chair that bears his name. "I purposefully directed these gifts to the chair," Dr. Straatsma explains, "because when I held that position, I found one of the most important things was having the flexibility to react to a new idea, to say, 'Yes, let's do this,' instead of, 'I wish we could,' so the Department chair can move forward with initiatives that can change the field and help science evolve rapidly."



Our three exemplary leaders who have each served as chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and director of the Stein Eye Institute: Dr. Bartly Mondino (1994–2022), Dr. Anne Coleman (2022–present), and Dr. Bradley Straatsma (1964–1994).

## Dr. Anne Coleman Appointed Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology

**Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD**, was named the Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology, effective July 1, 2022, the date she became chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and director of the Stein Eye Institute.

The Straatsma Chair was announced in 1992 by the Board of Directors of the Jules and Doris Stein Foundation to recognize **Dr. Bradley Straatsma** for his then 34 years of exemplary service to the UCLA School of Medicine as founding chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and founding director of the Stein Eye Institute.

In 1994, **Sidney H. Golub, PhD**, then dean of the UCLA School of Medicine, endorsed establishment of the Straatsma Chair "to be held by the current and future Directors of the Jules Stein Eye Institute and Chairmen of the Department of Ophthalmology." **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, was the first recipient of the Straatsma Chair upon his appointment as chair and director in 1994. Dr. Mondino completed his outstanding tenure on June 30, 2022.



## Stein and Doheny Shine at 2022 AAO Annual Meeting

The Stein and Doheny Eye Institutes contributed more than 100 lectures, presentations, and exhibits at the November 2022 American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois.

In addition to their educational contributions, faculty from Stein and Doheny were honored for their service to ophthalmology:

- ▶ **Gary N. Holland, MD**, received the AAO Distinguished Service Award for his ongoing notable service to ophthalmology and the Academy. Dr. Holland and his colleagues, Drs. James Chodosh, Thomas Steinemann, Sonal Tuli, and Steven Yeh, were the Academy's COVID-19 Task Force, providing physicians and patients with guidance and resources to navigate through the most challenging days of the pandemic.
- ▶ **Vikas Chopra, MD**, and **John A. Irvine, MD**, received the AAO Senior Achievement Award for their long-time contributions to the scientific and educational programs of the Academy, and to the field of ophthalmology.
- ▶ **Simon Fung, MD, MA**, and **Edmund Tsui, MD**, each received the AAO Achievement Award for their contributions to the Academy, its scientific and educational programs, and to the field of ophthalmology.
- ▶ **Kevin M. Miller, MD**, **Peter A. Quiros, MD**, and **Edmund Tsui, MD**, received the Secretariat Award for their exceptional service to the Academy.

## Stein and Doheny Vision Scientists Receive Major Grant Funding

Creating new knowledge is foundational to our quest to protect vision and end blindness, and large grants help to propel that journey. Researchers from the Stein and Doheny Eye Institutes are proud recipients of the National Institutes of Health's Research federal project grants, known as R01 grants, and other major competitive grants supporting innovative research.

- ▶ **Deborah Ferrington, PhD**, chief scientific officer at the Doheny Eye Institute, received an R01 four-year grant supporting her study, Mitochondrial Defects in the Retinal Pigment Epithelium and the CFH Risk Allele for Age-Related Macular Degeneration.
- ▶ **SriniVas R. Sadda, MD**, professor of ophthalmology, was awarded an R01 five-year grant for his study, Epidemiology of Biomarkers of AMD Progression, which includes three subawards to Case Western Research University, University of Pennsylvania, and University of Miami.
- ▶ **Xian-Jie Yang, PhD**, professor of ophthalmology, received a \$1.3 million California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) Quest Award to support her work developing a gene therapy for dominant optic atrophy, an inherited optic nerve disease caused by mutations in the OPA1 gene.
- ▶ **Yuhua Zhang, PhD**, associate professor of ophthalmology, received a four-year, R01 grant to support his study, In Vivo Characterizations of Retinal Hemodynamics.





## Research to Prevent Blindness Awardees

Congratulations to members of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology who received Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB) Awards to support their vision research.

**Kaustabh Ghosh, PhD**, associate professor of ophthalmology, received the RPB/International Retinal Research Foundation Catalyst Award for Innovative Research Approaches for Age-Related Macular Degeneration.

**Victoria L. Tseng, MD, PhD**, assistant professor of ophthalmology, received the RPB Career Development Award.

**Megan Paul**, a medical student working at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute, received the RPB Medical Student Eye Research Fellowship.

The **UCLA Department of Ophthalmology** received an Unrestricted Grant from RPB, which supports flexibility in developing and expanding eye research programs.

Research to Prevent Blindness was founded in 1960 by Dr. Jules Stein to fund, coordinate, and promote vision research in the United States. Since its inception, RPB has remained the leading nonprofit organization supporting eye research directed at the prevention, treatment, or eradication of all diseases that threaten vision.

## UCLA Excellence in Postdoctoral Mentoring Award Winners

Mentoring graduate students and postdoctoral scholars is not part of the curriculum in graduate schools. It is a role that is passed on from one generation of faculty to the next.

Congratulations to **Sophie X. Deng, MD, PhD**, Joan and Jerome Snyder Chair in Corneal Diseases, **Roxana Radu, MD**, Vernon O. Underwood Family Chair in Ophthalmology, and **David S. Williams, PhD**, Karl Kirchgeßner Foundation Chair in Vision Science, on receiving a 2022 Postdoctoral Scholars Mentor Award. The Mentor Awards, which were presented at an awards ceremony on November 9, 2022, honor UCLA faculty members who provide outstanding mentorship while helping postdoctoral scholars develop successful careers.

### FACULTY HONORS

**Anthony J. Aldave, MD**, Walton Li Chair in Cornea and Uveitis, received the R. Townley Paton Award and presented the Paton Lecture, The Science of Sight: Addressing Corneal Blindness in the Developing World, September 30, 2022, at the Cornea and Eye Banking Forum, in Chicago, Illinois. The Paton award is the Eye Bank Association of America's highest honor for corneal physicians.

Dr. Aldave also received the Asia Cornea Foundation (ACF) Medal and gave the ACF Medal Lecture at the Asia Cornea Society biannual meeting on November 24, 2022, in Bangkok, Thailand.

The ACF Medal is the Asia Cornea Society's highest award. It recognizes a world-renowned corneal specialist whose contributions to the field have made a truly global impact.

**Anthony C. Arnold, MD**, Mary Oakley Foundation Chair in Neurodegenerative Diseases, presented the keynote lecture, Nonarteritic Anterior Ischemic Optic Neuropathy 2022: A Limited Discussion, at the 11th Asian Neuro-Ophthalmology Society Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, on November 23, 2022.

**Laura Bonelli, MD**, health sciences assistant clinical professor of ophthalmology, received the Olive and Anga Lundgren Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology. Dr. Bonelli is chief of the ophthalmology inpatient consultation service at UCLA Medical Center Santa Monica and Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, and attending faculty in the neuro-ophthalmology clinic.

**Lynn K. Gordon, MD, PhD**, professor of ophthalmology emeritus, and her colleague **Eve J. Higginbotham, MD**, were selected by the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO) Board of Trustees to make recommendations on how the AUPO may best achieve equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) goals. Dr. Gordon was the first senior associate dean of EDI at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine.

**Stacy L. Pineles, MD**, Jerome and Joan Snyder Chair in ophthalmology, was named the chair-elect of the Pediatric Eye Disease Investigator Group (PEDIG). Dr. Pineles will serve as chair from 2024 to 2029. Sponsored by the National Eye Institute, the PEDIG network carries out large national research studies in pediatric ophthalmology.

**Peter A. Quiros, MD**, health sciences clinical professor of ophthalmology, was voted president-elect of the North-American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society in July 2022. Dr. Quiros will be president-elect for two years and president of the society from 2024 to 2026.

**Roxana A. Radu, MD**, assistant professor of ophthalmology, received the Vernon O. Underwood Family Chair in Ophthalmology. Dr. Radu is the director of the Retina Biochemistry and Clinical Disease Modeling Laboratory at the Stein Eye Institute. She is a molecular and cell biologist with expertise in the area of retinal degeneration.

**Kelsey A. Roelofs, MD**, assistant professor of ophthalmology, was selected as the inaugural Dr. Allen and Charlotte Ginsburg Fellow in Precision Genomic Medicine from the UCLA Institute for Precision Health.

**Alfredo A. Sadun, MD, PhD**, Flora L. Thornton Endowed Chair in Vision Research, presented the neuro-ophthalmology keynote lecture, Mitochondrial Optic Neuropathies, at the European Vision and Eye Research (EVER) Meeting in Valencia, Spain, on October 14, 2022.

**Victoria L. Tseng, MD, PhD**, assistant professor of ophthalmology, received the Research to Prevent Blindness and American Academy of Ophthalmology Award for IRIS Registry Research. Dr. Tseng's research will focus on neovascular glaucoma and racial/ethnic disparities in the incidence, treatment patterns, and visual outcomes in patients with neovascular glaucoma.

**Edmund Tsui, MD**, assistant professor of ophthalmology, received the Faculty Career Development Award. His research will focus on imaging biomarkers of intraocular inflammation in children.

**Irena Tsui, MD**, associate professor of ophthalmology, was accepted to the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR) Emerging Vision Scientist Program. The early-stage investigators exhibit results of their cutting-edge research and then advocate for research funding with Congressional delegations.

**Federico G. Velez, MD**, Leonard Apt Endowed Chair in Pediatric Ophthalmology, was the Keynote Speaker in November 2022 at the University of São Paulo, Brazil; Argentinian Society of Pediatric Ophthalmology 50th anniversary, in Mendoza, Argentina; Argentinian Council of Strabismus, in Mendoza, Argentina; and LV Prasad Eye Institute 25th anniversary, in Hyderabad, India.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Mark V. Oppenheimer, JD, MBA, LLM**  
1949–2022

Mark Oppenheimer, son of Gerald Oppenheimer and grandson of Doris and Jules Stein, died July 11, 2022, in his adopted home of Thailand. Following in the philanthropic footsteps of his family, Mark was an active supporter of Foundation for the Education of Rural Children, which provides scholarships for students from low-income families in Northern Thailand. He is survived by his two siblings, Bill Oppenheimer and Jodi Socolof; his four children, John, Brooke, Paul, and Ploy Oppenheimer; his three grandchildren; and his partner Nongnuch Waenthap.

## Our Female Pioneers

Three of the first female UCLA ophthalmology residents were welcomed back to the Stein Eye Institute on November 30, 2022.

**Dr. Anne L. Coleman** (center right), director of the Stein Eye Institute and chair of UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, along with past Institute directors and Department chairs, **Dr. Bradley R. Straatsma** (1964–1994; right) and **Dr. Bartly J. Mondino** (1994–2022; left), warmly received **Dr. Marjorie Mosier** (Resident '74, Fellow '76; Stein Eye Institute; black jacket); **Dr. Marge Smith Lanard** (Resident '70; Harbor General Hospital; gray jacket); and **Dr. Connie Calogieris** (Resident '70; Veterans Affairs Hospital, Long Beach; blue jacket).

**Dr. J. Bronwyn Bateman** (Resident '78, Fellow '79) president of the UCLA Ophthalmology Alumni Association and benefactor of the UCLA Bronwyn Bateman Center for Ocular Genetics, noted, "It was a historic moment to welcome these ophthalmology pioneers back to UCLA, have an opportunity to reconnect, tour the Institute's vision-science campus, and introduce them to our current generation of female ophthalmologists."

**Dr. Angela Chen** (Resident '25) was "humbled to share the afternoon with these impressive women who paved the way for our generation to follow our dream of a career in ophthalmology."

The very first woman UCLA ophthalmology resident was **Dr. Arlien E. Holzhauer** (Resident '65; Harbor General Hospital), who died in 1969 at age 40. Dr. Holzhauer graduated before the Institute opened its doors in 1966, and she served as the vanguard for all the women who have followed.

Much progress has been made at the Stein Eye Institute in equity, diversity, and inclusion. Today, approximately half of our entering resident class is female.





## IN TRIBUTE

## Michael T. Trese, MD 1946–2022

**Michael T. Trese, MD**, died October 21, 2022, after a hard-fought battle with pancreatic cancer. The Stein Eye Institute resident alumnus (1977–80) and 2010 Bradley R. Straatsma Lecturer is recognized as “the father of modern pediatric retinal surgery.” His groundbreaking work led to a profound change in the management of retinal detachments in children, saving the sight of thousands worldwide who suffered from retinal detachments due to retinopathy of prematurity (ROP).

Recognized as a “Living Legend in Ophthalmology” in the August 2021 *Indian Journal of Ophthalmology*, Dr. Trese is described as among the most impactful retinologists of our time—a beloved innovator and translational scientist who has helped train leading pediatric surgeons worldwide.

“Mike was a phenomenal physician, surgeon, and clinical scientist. His contributions to pediatric surgery and retinal diseases transformed our field. His insights and tireless work brought sight to countless children,” says **Allan E. Krieger, MD**, professor of ophthalmology emeritus and Retina Division chief during Dr. Trese’s residency.

Born in Toledo, Ohio, Dr. Trese attended the University of Michigan and was a lineman for the Michigan Wolverines football team. He obtained a doctorate in optometry from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry and his medical degree from Georgetown University in Washington D.C. He completed his ophthalmology residency at the Stein Eye Institute, and conducted his vitreoretinal surgical fellowship at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. He served as director of vitreoretinal surgery at the University of Kansas before returning to Michigan in 1982. He joined Associated Retinal Consultants and William Beaumont Hospital where he served as chief of adult and pediatric vitreoretinal surgery for nearly 40 years. He was clinical professor of biomedical sciences at Oakland University’s Eye Research Institute, and clinical associate professor at Wayne State University School of Medicine.

Dr. Trese gained an international reputation for his ability to care for infants and children with complex vitreoretinal disease. Along with helping to develop medications for vitreoretinal surgery, Dr. Trese revolutionized pediatric vitreoretinal surgery with his concept of lens-sparing vitrectomy for the treatment of complex pediatric retinal detachment due to advanced ROP. He is credited with techniques used to treat familial exudative vitreoretinopathy, juvenile X-linked retinoschisis, and Coats disease. His innovative techniques are taught internationally and have had a profound global impact on patients and their families. His research explored concepts related to regenerative medicine involving cellular signaling pathways in the retina that hold promise for the preservation and restoration of sight.



Among his leadership positions, Dr. Trese was past president of The Retina Society and The Club Jules Gonin. He has given countless invited lectures, written textbooks and book chapters, and published over 300 peer-reviewed articles. He founded the Pediatric Retinal Research Foundation and was a founding editor of *Pediatric Retina*. His seminal contributions earned Dr. Trese the highest accolades, including the J. Donald M. Gass Award and the American Academy of Ophthalmology’s premier honor, the Laureate Award. Dr. Trese maintained his greatest professional accomplishment was the opportunity to work with and train his fellows. He is survived by his wife, Caron, four of his sons, and nine grandchildren.

**“Mike was a phenomenal physician, surgeon, and clinical scientist. His contributions to pediatric surgery and retinal diseases transformed our field. His insights and tireless work brought sight to countless children.”**

**ALLAN E. KRIEGER, MD**  
CHIEF, RETINA DIVISION, 1981–2002

## New Faculty Appointments

### Judy L. Chen, MD

Assistant Professor of  
Ophthalmology



Dr. Chen specializes in the evaluation and treatment of uveitis and glaucoma. She received her MD from UCLA, and completed her ophthalmology residency at the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary in Chicago, where she was elected chief resident and received the Guy H. Chan Resident Award in recognition of her teaching abilities and character. She pursued clinical fellowships in uveitis and inflammatory eye diseases at UCLA and a glaucoma fellowship at UC Davis.

Dr. Chen has authored over a dozen peer-reviewed publications and will develop clinical and research programs focused on glaucoma as a complication of uveitis, with an emphasis on long-term outcomes of uveitic glaucoma among children with chronic anterior uveitis related to juvenile idiopathic arthritis.

Dr. Chen sees patients with uveitis at the Stein Eye Institute in Westwood and the Doheny Eye Center UCLA-Pasadena, and patients with glaucoma at the Doheny Eye Centers UCLA in Arcadia and Pasadena.

### Greg D. Field, PhD

Joan and Jerome Snyder  
Chair in Vision Research  
Associate Professor of  
Ophthalmology



Dr. Field's research uncovers how the retina transforms light into electrical signals that are sent to the rest of the brain. His laboratory examines how the retina works both in healthy states and with diseases such as glaucoma and retinitis pigmentosa.

Dr. Field majored in physics at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington, before receiving his PhD in physiology and biophysics from the University of Washington. He conducted his postdoctoral research at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, California. He started his first laboratory at the University of Southern California in 2012, before moving to Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, in 2015.

Dr. Field's laboratory at the Stein Eye Institute is developing new technologies for understanding how the retina works, and how diseases of the retina can be treated and prevented.

### Alex Huk, PhD

Professor of Ophthalmology  
Professor, Department of  
Psychiatry and Biobehavioral  
Science



Dr. Huk was the Raymond Dickson Centennial Professor and director of the Center for Perceptual Systems at the University of Texas at Austin before coming to UCLA in 2022. He received his PhD from Stanford University and conducted behavioral and cortical studies of the human visual system there with Drs. David J. Heeger and Brian A. Wandell. His postdoctoral research was at the University of Washington in Seattle. Dr. Huk received the Young Investigator Award from the Vision Sciences Society in 2011, and he is a permanent member of a National Eye Institute-focused study section.

In his laboratory at the Stein Eye Institute, Dr. Huk focuses on studying vision and visually guided cognition in increasingly naturalistic conditions.

### Kelsey A. Roelofs, MD

Assistant Professor of  
Ophthalmology



Dr. Roelofs is an oculofacial plastic surgeon specializing in orbital, lacrimal, and eyelid conditions, including facial aesthetic surgery. She received her MD and completed her ophthalmology residency at the University of Alberta, Canada, followed by an ocular oncology fellowship at Moorfields Eye Hospital, London, and a two-year ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery fellowship at the Stein Eye Institute.

She has published over 50 peer-reviewed papers and 19 textbook chapters. Recent honors include the 2021 Bartley R. Frueh Research Award, the 2022 Fellow Teaching Award, and the 2022 Excellence in Research Award. As the 2022 Dr. Allen and Charlotte Ginsburg Fellow in Precision Genomic Medicine, she will investigate the gene expression profile of periorbital basal cell carcinoma.

Dr. Roelofs sees patients at the Stein Eye Institute in Westwood and the Stein Eye Center—Santa Monica.



## Aesthetic Eyelid and Facial Rejuvenation Course

The Aesthetic Eyelid and Facial Rejuvenation course, chaired by **Robert A. Goldberg, MD**, was held at the Stein Eye Institute on October 28–29, 2022. The course showcases the work of UCLA faculty, and presents safe, innovative, and minimally invasive techniques in a Masters setting. With attendees from nearly every continent, the sold-out laboratory dissection day concentrated on anatomic and surgical pearls of core aesthetic procedures, and included a live audiovisual feed of course faculty performing high-definition dissections. The second day featured lectures and discussions highlighting conceptual approaches, nuances of facial rejuvenation, and new surgical and non-surgical techniques for facial rejuvenation. **Kenneth Steinsapir, MD**, presented the Robert Axelrod, MD, Memorial Lecture, and the illustrious career of **Norman Shorr, MD**, was celebrated at the faculty dinner. The inaugural Norman Shorr Lecture will be delivered at the 2023 course.

For information about the July 14–15, 2023, Aesthetic Eyelid Course, contact Kelsey A. Roelofs, MD, at [KRoelofs@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto:KRoelofs@mednet.ucla.edu).



UCLA faculty and fellows with Dr Norman Shorr (sitting).

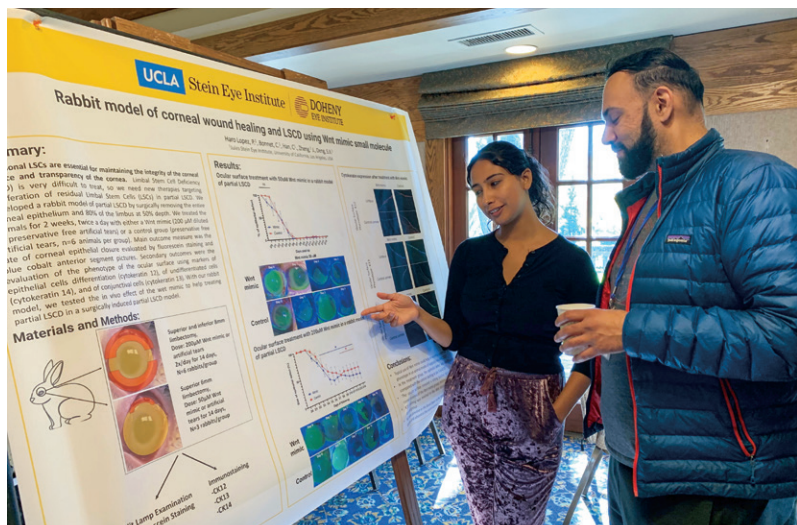


Faculty and fellows are all smiles following a successful laboratory dissection day.



## 26th Vision Science Conference

After a two-year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic, the 26th UCLA Stein and Doheny Vision Science Retreat was held at Lake Arrowhead, California, October 21–23, 2022. Approximately 60 lab members from the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology's Stein and Doheny Eye Institutes participated in the conference, which included talks about ongoing research and keynote addresses from **Anne K. Churchland, PhD**, professor of neurobiology at UCLA, whose lab focuses on perceptual decision-making and multisensory integration, and **Alex Huk, MD**, a neuroscientist and new UCLA faculty member in the Department of Ophthalmology and the Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Science, whose research centers on visual neuroscience, perception, memory, decision-making, and eye movements.



Vision-science trainees at the Conference present poster presentations of their work.



## 2022 Stein and Doheny Alumni Reception

The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association held its annual Stein Eye Institute and Doheny Eye Institute alumni reception on October 2, 2022, during the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) meeting in Chicago, Illinois.

**Dr. Anne Coleman**, chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, spoke at the reception and announced the new vice chairs of the Department, recognized the achievements and contributions of our faculty at the AAO, and introduced UCLA Ophthalmology Alumni Association President **Dr. Bronwyn Bateman** and Doheny Eye Institute Professional Alumni Association President **Dr. John Irvine**.

Find a gallery of photos from the event at: <https://www.uclahealth.org/departments/eye/about-us/ucla-ophthalmology-alumni-association/aao-annual-meeting-chicago-2022-photo-gallery>.



L to R: Dr. Scott Whitcup, Dr. Bartly Mondino, and Dr. Michael Ip.



L to R: Dr. Bronwyn Bateman, Dr. Troy Elander, Dr. John Irvine, Dr. Anne Coleman, Marissa Goldberg, Dr. Lynn Gordon, and Dr. Bartly Mondino.



L to R: Dr. Logan Wolfel, Dr. Michel Sun, Dr. Kouros Nouri-Mahdavi, Dr. Ben Margines.



L to R: Dr. Ken Kitayama, Sara Emami, Ye "Samuel" Lee, Dr. Anne Coleman, Megan Paul, Yasmine Abbey, Karla Murillo, Melissa Yao, Christian Gonzalez.



L to R: Dr. Ramesh Kekunnaya, Dr. Kevin Miller, Dr. Bronwyn Bateman, Dr. Stacy Pineles, Noemi Rosello, Dr. Federico Velez, Dr. Vahid Mohammadzadeh.

### Alumni Honored at 2022 AAO Meeting

At the November 2022 American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Annual Meeting, alumni from the Stein and Doheny Eye Institutes were celebrated for their contributions to our field.

**Dr. Michele C. Lim** received the Senior Achievement Award; **Drs. Leo A. Kim, Mario A. Meallet, and Anjali Tannan** were given the Achievement Award; and **Drs. Courtney E. Francis, Rahul N. Khurana, Michael A. Klufas, Gregg T. Kokame, Alpa S. Patel, Rajesh C. Rao, and Stuart Seiff**, received the Secretariat Award.

### Dr. David Hollander, Chief Medical Officer

**David A. Hollander, MD, MBA**, Stein Eye Institute cornea fellow (2004–05), was appointed chief medical officer of Revance Therapeutics, Inc., a commercial-stage biotechnology company focused on innovative aesthetic and therapeutic offerings. Dr. Hollander will lead clinical development, data science, medical affairs, scientific innovation, pharmacovigilance, and regulatory affairs.



## Introducing Underrepresented Students in Medicine to Ophthalmology

Building on core values of **J**ustice, **E**quity, **D**iversity, and **I**nclusion, one of the top priorities of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology's EyeJEDI program is creation of a pipeline to introduce undergraduate and medical school students to ophthalmology and vision science.

"Expanding the diversity of our trainees and faculty, and increasing those who are underrepresented in medicine (URiM) and ophthalmology is one of the Department's key priorities," says **Sophie X. Deng, MD**, vice chair of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

In developing an effective pipeline program for recruiting URiM medical students to ophthalmology, Dr. Deng invited three outstanding UCLA URiM medical students to join pipeline-planning meetings in July 2022. **Karla Murillo**, **Ethan Osias**, and **Dominic Williams** are interested in pursuing ophthalmology, and they shared their first-hand experiences and provided insightful suggestions to further this effort. Key factors identified for recruiting URiM medical students to ophthalmology were early exposure to ophthalmology, mentorship, and providing URiM students with financial support and resources to participate in activities that prepare them to become competitive residency applicants, such as participating in vision research or attending educational events.

The Department is also supporting UCLA URiM students who have been accepted to the Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring (MOM) program established by the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) in partnership with the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology. The MOM program aims to increase diversity in ophthalmology by helping URiM students become competitive ophthalmology residency applicants. Students receive one-on-one mentorship, valuable guidance in medical career planning, networking opportunities, and access to a variety of educational resources. **Lynn K. Gordon, MD, PhD**—professor of ophthalmology emeritus and the first senior associate dean of equity, diversity, and inclusion in the David Geffen School of Medicine—has served on the MOM Executive Committee since the program's founding in 2016. **JoAnn A. Giacon, MD**, who serves as co-director of medical student education at the David Geffen School of Medicine, is the UCLA champion of the MOM program and is a faculty liaison for the students. To ensure students are able to attend the AAO annual meeting, the Department has provided lodging support to UCLA MOM students **Karla Murillo** and **José Armando Guerrero** in 2021, and to **Amani Carson**, **Tamia Williams**, and **Ricardo Oregon Guzman** in 2022. The students were also welcomed to the Department's reception at the AAO meeting, where they met with UCLA ophthalmology

faculty and trainees. The Department will continue this support for future UCLA MOM students.

The Underrepresented in Ophthalmology Visiting Student Scholarship is a major effort to promote diversity by attracting the most promising underrepresented students across the nation to UCLA's ophthalmology residency program. Newly established, the scholarship provides two visiting students with a stipend of \$3,500 each to complete their ophthalmology elective at either the Stein Eye Institute or the Doheny Eye Centers UCLA. **Anne L. Coleman, MD**, chair of the Department, responded with her full support when she was presented with the scholarship proposal. An award selection committee was formed to ensure an equitable selection process, and scholarship applications opened in January 2023.

Since the EyeJEDI committee's initial formation in 2020, many new initiatives have been set in place to achieve the committee's mission of creating a diverse constituency and inclusive climate in the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology. The URiM pipeline program in ophthalmology is among the initiatives being implemented this year, with its impact expected to be felt as early as the next one to two years.



In summer 2022, Oakwood University undergraduate students **Celine Shields** (center left) and **Rashida Wilkinson** (center right) conducted research studies in the Stein Eye Institute laboratories of **Dr. Sophie X. Deng** (left) and **Dr. Jie J. Zheng** (right).

The students, who had no prior laboratory experience, presented their scientific work at weekly lab meetings, and participated in research seminars, conferences, and journal clubs. At the program's conclusion, they presented their research at the Neuroscience URiM Undergraduate Poster Session where Rashida won the second-place poster award, and Celine's poster was among the most visited presentations. Stemming from this experience, both women now express a strong interest in pursuing a career in medicine.

# **UCLA** Stein Eye Institute

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Los Angeles, California, 90095-7000  
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Los Angeles, CA 90095  
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Emergency Service: (310) 825-3090  
After-Hours Emergency Service:  
(310) 825-2111  
[uclahealth.org/eye](http://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

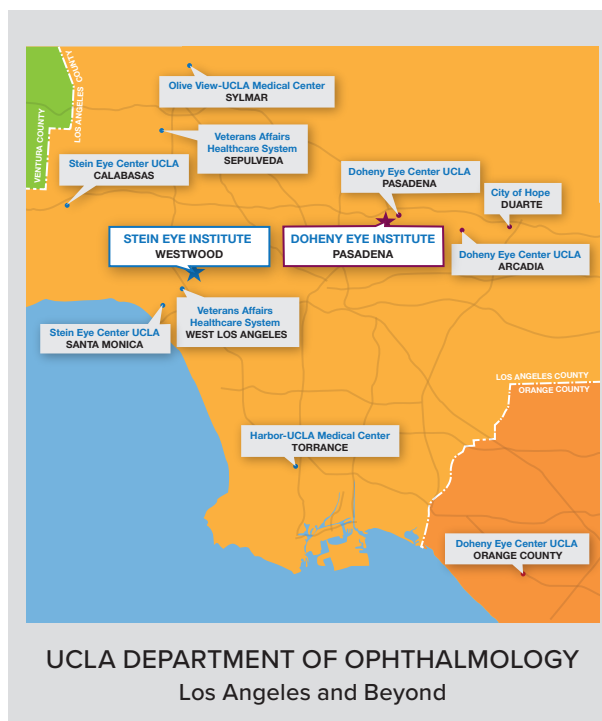
622 W. Duarte Rd., Suite 101  
Arcadia, CA 91007  
(626) 254-9010

## 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



## Alumni Relations

Email: [alumni@jsei.ucla.edu](mailto: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](mailto:giving@jsei.ucla.edu)

## Volunteer Opportunities

Center for Community Outreach & Policy  
[www.uclahealth.org/departments/ophthalmology/mobile-eye](http://www.uclahealth.org/departments/ophthalmology/mobile-eye)  
Telephone: (310) 825-2195  
Email: [community@jsei.ucla.edu](mailto:community@jsei.ucla.edu)  
[facebook.com/uclamobileeyeclinic](https://facebook.com/uclamobileeyeclinic)  
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## Send comments or questions to:

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*UCLA Health is consistently ranked among the best hospitals in the country by U.S. News & World Report, and UCLA Stein Eye and Doheny Eye Institutes are ranked among the top five in the nation in ophthalmology.*