

Jules Stein Eye Institute

RESEARCH

KEY TO THE 21ST CENTURY

2000-2001



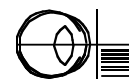


Highlights of the Year



JULES STEIN EYE INSTITUTE

DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY / UCLA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



Dear Friends,

I am pleased to share these highlights of the 2000–2001 academic year, which serve to strengthen the legacy of our commitment to preserving sight and preventing blindness. This year faculty and trustees of the Institute received notable honors from eminent organizations, including Research to Prevent Blindness and the Academy of Arts and Sciences. Renewal of major research grants from the National Eye Institute and The Foundation Fighting Blindness will enable vision scientists to continue their lifelong work unfolding the mysteries of ophthalmic diseases and their treatments. We are proud to announce new faculty positions and new members of the Institute who will collaboratively build upon our achievements in research and patient care. A Vision Genetics Center was inaugurated as the first step toward integrating genetic research and gene therapy for the molecular treatment of eye diseases. This important investment was made possible by loyal partners and new friends of the Institute and lays the groundwork for an exciting new direction in science and medicine.



We appreciate your interest in the Institute and our activities, and we share your belief that the future is full of promise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bartly J. Mondino". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Bartly J. Mondino, M.D.

*Bradley R. Straatsma Professor of Ophthalmology
Director, Jules Stein Eye Institute
Chairman, Department of Ophthalmology,
UCLA School of Medicine*

Honors

Each year, as part of their ongoing academic pursuits, faculty members achieve notable recognition derived from their accomplishments and contributions. They give invited lectures around the world, they actively participate in prestigious professional and community organizations, and they serve as editors and writers for a wide range of scientific journals. In some cases special honors are bestowed. This year eight faculty members and three residents and fellows have been recognized for their noteworthy achievements in varied forums. Additionally, three Trustees of the Jules Stein Eye Institute have been honored for their unique contributions to the city of Los Angeles.

VISION SCIENCE DIVISION HONORS

Basic scientists around the world are laying the foundation for the treatment of human diseases with genetic therapies. The research currently being conducted by vision scientists holds the promise for those people who, up to now, have had little hope for good sight in their lifetimes. At the Jules Stein Eye Institute, two vision scientists have been recognized for their breakthrough contributions to this effort.

Debora B. Farber, Ph.D., D.Ph.h.c., Professor of Ophthalmology, earned two distinguished awards this year for her groundbreaking genetic research into human retinal degenerations. The Retina Research Foundation selected Dr. Farber as the 2000 recipient of the Paul Kayser International Award of Merit in Retina Research. Dr. Farber was also honored with the prestigious UCLA Franklin D. Murphy, M.D., Prize, awarded for innovative and outstanding academic achievement. Dr. Farber's laboratory has been instrumental in identifying the genes responsible for various human retinal degenerations, including some forms of retinitis pigmentosa; and for researching gene therapy techniques that may prevent retinal degenerations in the future.

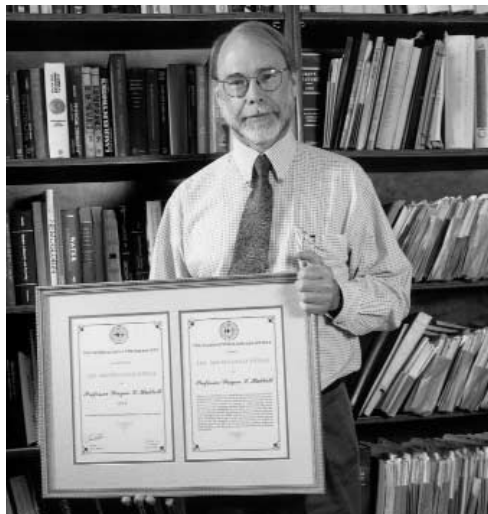
Wayne L. Hubbell, Ph.D., Jules Stein Professor of Ophthalmology, was elected to the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences in April where he joins other distinguished members, including Benjamin Franklin, Albert Schweitzer and Ralph Waldo Emerson. Dr. Hubbell also received the 2000 Gold Medal from the International EPR (Electron Paramagnetic Resonance) Society. These outstanding awards

were in recognition of Dr. Hubbell's seminal contributions to the use of site-directed spin labeling (SDSL), an innovative methodology for the exploration of protein structure and dynamics that is currently used in basic science laboratories worldwide.

Drs. Debora Farber and Wayne Hubbell are Associate Directors of the Jules Stein Eye Institute and Co-Chiefs of the Institute's Vision Science Division.



Dr. Debora Farber



Dr. Wayne Hubbell

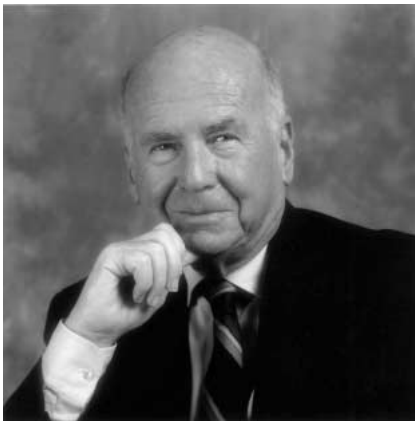
TRUSTEE HONORS

The Jules Stein Eye Institute's Trustees bring a wide range of expertise, insight and vision to the programs of the Institute. They have been instrumental in the planning of facilities, the development of philanthropic support, and the recruitment of the world's best physicians and scientists. This year, three Trustees have been honored in different venues for their contributions to the city of Los Angeles.

At the 18th Annual Upton Sinclair Dinner, **Ms. Katrina vanden Heuvel** was presented with the distinguished Founders Award by the Liberty Hill Foundation for her leadership at *The Nation* magazine, where she serves as editor and provides an eloquent voice for progressive values and politics. The award was one of four honoring diverse and creative individuals who share a vision of social responsibility in building a Los Angeles that reflects social and racial equality and economic justice.

The prestigious Tradition of Caring Award from the Children's Bureau of Southern California was given to philanthropist **Mr. Gerald H. Oppenheimer** on behalf of thousands of vision-impaired children. He has generously supported the Children's Bureau for many years with a personal commitment that has changed lives. His long-standing advocacy for the health sciences and for children has won him widespread praise and many accolades.

The **Honorable Wm. Matthew Byrne, Jr.**, enjoyed a celebration commemorating his lifetime of public service to the Los Angeles community. His distinguished career includes the job of United States Attorney, heading the second largest federal prosecution office in the country; an appointment to the U.S. District Court; and currently, the position of Chief Judge of the Court. Adding to a career highlighted by civil service, Judge Byrne has served on the Boards of numerous civic and cultural organizations.



Mr. Gerald H. Oppenheimer

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The American Academy of Pediatrics bestowed a Lifetime Achievement Award on **Leonard Apt, M.D.**, Professor Emeritus (Active) of Ophthalmology and Founding Chief of the Division of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus. The Academy presents this award annually to a physician whose contributions to pediatric education and research deserve special recognition from the professional community. Dr. Apt's illustrious career is distinguished by leadership, scientific achievement and medical advancement. As the first board-certified physician in both pediatrics and ophthalmology, Dr. Apt helped create the medical subspecialty of pediatric ophthalmology. At UCLA, he established the first full-time division of pediatric ophthalmology at a medical school in the United States, and he is one of the founders of the Jules Stein Eye Institute. As clinician, researcher and author, he has made many original contributions in both pediatrics and ophthalmology, including the introduction of new instruments, products and procedures.

RESEARCH TO PREVENT BLINDNESS (RPB) AWARDS

The Jules Stein Eye Institute is pleased to announce the receipt of prestigious grants from Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB), the world's leading voluntary organization supporting eye research.

Sherwin J. Isenberg, M.D., Grace and Walter Lantz Professor of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Vice-Chairman of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, was selected to receive a Senior Scientific Investigator Award. This notable grant supports nationally recognized senior scientists conducting eye research at medical institutions in the United States. **John R. Heckenlively, M.D.**, Vernon O. Underwood Family Professor of Ophthalmology, was granted a Physician-Scientist Award, which is a new RPB grant designed to foster the development of outstanding clinical scientists. It is intended to provide greater opportunities for specialized research having direct application to the human condition. Dr. Heckenlively is one of seven physician-scientists to receive it.

The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology was awarded an unrestricted research grant under the direction of its chairman, **Bartly J. Mondino, M.D.** He plans to use the monies to help support research efforts of junior faculty members, as well as fund innovative pilot projects.

Since its founding in 1960, Research to Prevent Blindness has channeled more than \$172 million to medical institutions for research into the causes, treatment and prevention of blinding eye diseases.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENCY

After serving the Los Angeles County Medical Association through a series of delegate and trustee seats, Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology **Kenneth J. Hoffer, M.D.**, assumed the presidency for the 2000–2001 term. Known for his ability to set goals and resolutely pursue them, Dr. Hoffer has successfully streamlined the governance of the Association so it can respond more quickly and effectively to members' needs. Dr. Hoffer's considerable skills are derived from a career of medical and administrative accomplishments. He has advanced his specialty of refractive surgery by devising new techniques and products, including a patented invention and a widely known formula for lens power calculations, and by his leadership in founding the American Intra-Ocular Implant Society, known now as the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery. He has achieved all this while building a highly successful ophthalmology practice in Santa Monica, California, and serving the Jules Stein Eye Institute as a voluntary faculty member.



Drs. Sherwin Isenberg (top) and John Heckenlively are both clinicians and scientists, working in pediatric ophthalmology and vision genetics, respectively.

*Professor of Ophthalmology **Barry A. Weissman, O.D., Ph.D.**, received the 2000 University of Houston, College of Optometry Award for Distinguished Research on the Cornea and Contact Lens. The award was bestowed at the College's 17th Annual Symposium, in Houston, Texas, on December 3, 2000.*

TOP HONORS FOR THE INSTITUTE

The Jules Stein Eye Institute itself is annually acknowledged as a center of excellence in national and international forums. For the 11th consecutive year, *U.S. News & World Report*, in its 2000 survey of "America's Best Hospitals," ranked the Institute among the top five ophthalmic centers in the country and number one in the West. Additionally, *Ophthalmology Times*, a magazine by physicians for physicians, in its "Fifth Annual Best Hospitals Survey," rated the Institute as the best in the West for research, patient care, and residency training, and the third best overall program in the nation.

RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS WITH HIGH HONORS

Following the exemplary standards set by faculty members, resident physicians and fellows annually receive recognition for their clinical and research efforts. This year **Kimberly A. Dreenser, M.D., Ph.D.**, was honored with the 2001 Dr. Henry and Lillian Nesburn Award for her vision science paper, which was written in her first year of ophthalmology residency. The manuscript has been published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*. Beginning specialized study in cornea and external-ocular diseases, **Tommy S. Korn, M.D.**, brings with him the prestigious 2001 Heed Fellowship, which is given to graduating ophthalmology residents who demonstrate excellence in both clinical and research activities. EyeSTAR trainee **Stephen H. Tsang, M.D., Ph.D.**, won a Fight-for-Sight Grant-in-Aid Award from Prevent Blindness America. This support, along with two previous grants, will be directed to Dr. Tsang's genetic laboratory research into retinal degeneration.



From top are
Drs. Kimberly Dreenser,
Tommy Korn and Stephen Tsang

Research

During the academic year, faculty members won renewal of five, large research grants from the National Eye Institute (NEI) that will support important, ongoing clinical and basic science research at the Institute. Additionally, a center grant for vision science from The Foundation Fighting Blindness was renewed. New funding from the U.S. Department of Defense and from Fight-for-Sight, a private agency, will provide monies for established vision science projects. A new NEI grant was awarded for clinical investigations into glaucoma, and clinical trials for age-related macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy were initiated as a result of new partnerships with pharmaceutical companies.

NEW GLAUCOMA RESEARCH

A major NEI grant was awarded to **Joseph Caprioli, M.D.**, Frances and Ray Stark Professor of Ophthalmology and Chief of the Glaucoma Division, to conduct long-range research into the assessment of optic nerve damage leading to glaucoma. Dr. Caprioli asserts that assessment of the eye's optic nerve and nerve fiber layer is important to the early detection and timely treatment of glaucoma. In this research, he will attempt to develop new structural measures that are sensitive and specific for early and progressive glaucomatous optic nerve damage and determine their diagnostic precision. Techniques to be evaluated include highly specialized photography and laser imaging.

COLLABORATIVE OCULAR MELANOMA STUDY

The Jules Stein Eye Institute will continue its participation in the Collaborative Ocular Melanoma Study (COMS), the most comprehensive set of clinical trials in the world for investigation into the treatment and outcome of this rare disease. Renewal of the NEI grant, which is under the direction of **Robert E. Engstrom, Jr., M.D.**, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, and **Bradley R. Straatsma, M.D.**, Founding Director of the Jules Stein Eye Institute, will enable the Institute to continue evaluating the effectiveness of treatment options, as well as treatment effects and quality of life for patients with melanoma of the eye.

Ben J. Glasgow, M.D., Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, has won renewal of an NEI grant to continue his investigation into the role of proteins in the molecular mechanisms of tear film formation.



Bradley Straatsma is Co-Investigator for the Jules Stein Eye Institute in a national study of ocular melanoma.

EyeSTAR trainee **Stephen Tsang, M.D., Ph.D.**, won renewal of a grant-in-aid from Fight-for-Sight to support his postdoctoral research into cyclic GMP phosphodiesterase, an essential component in retinal function and survival.

A NEW PARADIGM FOR STRABISMUS SURGERY

Misalignment of the eyes, called strabismus, is prevalent in the United States, particularly among children, and is usually treated surgically with modest success. Ongoing laboratory and clinical research into the biomechanical analysis of strabismus surgery, under the direction of **Joseph L. Demer, M.D., Ph.D.**, Laraine and David Gerber Professor of Ophthalmology and Professor of Neurology, has won major support from the NEI in the form of a five-year grant renewal, bringing total federal funding to 15 years. The overall aim of this long-term, multidisciplinary project is to develop a realistic and quantitative understanding of the extraocular muscles and associated connective tissues responsible for the movement and alignment of the eyes. Research to date is very promising, suggesting a new paradigm for the diagnosis and treatment of strabismus in the near future.

MOUSE MODELS OF RETINAL DEGENERATION

The mouse has proven to be a unique and invaluable resource in advancing vision genetics research because the mouse genome is almost identical to the human. Additionally, eye diseases in mice often mimic the same diseases in humans. **John R. Heckenlively, M.D.**, Vernon O. Underwood Family Professor of Ophthalmology, has won renewal of an NEI grant to continue his work developing mouse models that can be used in investigations of many forms of retinal degeneration, including retinitis pigmentosa. His contributions to vision science in this regard assist researchers across the country in their work to identify human genes that may cause disease.

NEUROPROTECTION FOR ISCHEMIC OPTIC NEUROPATHY

New drug intervention holds promise for a devastating eye disease called ischemic optic neuropathy, which causes sudden loss of vision as a result of circulatory problems within the optic nerve. **Anthony C. Arnold, M.D.**, Professor of Ophthalmology and Chief of the Neuro-Ophthalmology Division, has initiated clinical trials in partnership with Allergan Pharmaceutical Company that will evaluate the efficacy of brimonidine, a drug customarily used in glaucoma treatment. It is hoped that brimonidine will be effective in preventing cell death and blindness for patients in the early stages of ischemic optic neuropathy.



Dr. Anthony Arnold conducts research and treatment for ischemic optic neuropathy, a disease of the optic nerve.

THE FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS CENTER GRANT

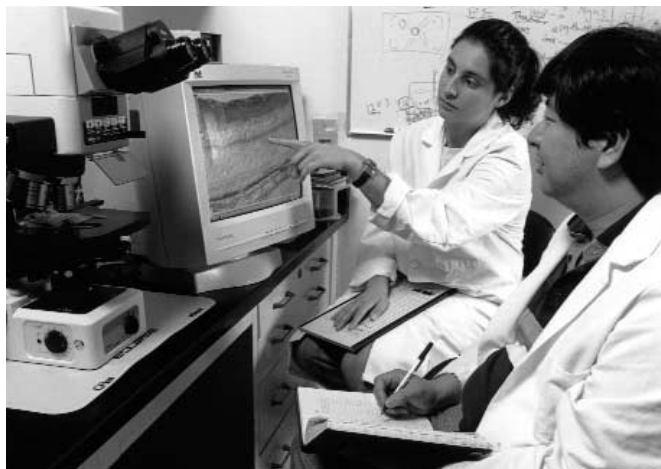
Six faculty members studying retinal degenerations are part of a multi-pronged, privately funded center grant from The Foundation Fighting Blindness, which has won a five-year renewal. Their research collectively contributes to varying aspects of vision genetics. **Dean Bok, Ph.D.**, Dolly Green Professor of Ophthalmology and Coordinator of the grant, is conducting several projects to identify mutations that cause cell death in specific types of retinal degeneration. **Debora B. Farber, Ph.D., D.Ph.h.c.**, Professor of Ophthalmology, and **Michael Danciger, Ph.D.**, Researcher in Ophthalmology, are working together on projects to identify the genes that cause various eye disorders, including the many forms of retinitis pigmentosa. Relative to multiple investigations, **John R. Heckenlively, M.D.**, is obtaining blood samples from patients with inherited retinal degenerations as part of the Institute's effort to create a DNA bank. **Steven Nusinowitz, Ph.D.**, Associate Researcher in Ophthalmology, is conducting electrophysiological studies of retinal function in mice. And **Kent W. Small, M.D.**, Professor of Ophthalmology, is mapping the *CORD5* genomic region that may play a role in specific degenerative eye diseases.

VISION SCIENCE TRAINING GRANT

A special, integrated research program at the Institute has been renewed. The Vision Science Training Grant, under the direction of **Debora B. Farber, Ph.D., D.Ph.h.c.**, Professor of Ophthalmology and Co-Chief of the Vision Science Division, is funded by the NEI. The program supports the training of predoctoral and postdoctoral fellows, providing them with coordinated and organized exposure to a wide range of basic science techniques and current knowledge in the vision sciences and ophthalmology. Fellows work in the Institute's laboratories, under the tutelage of vision science faculty. In addition to learning about the fundamentals of vision research, they pursue individual interests with clearly designed experiments, present their research at formal and informal seminars, and participate in the publication of scientific papers. Upon completion of their fellowships, trainees usually pursue careers in academia or industry.



Dr. Dean Bok is Coordinator of a center grant from The Foundation Fighting Blindness that supports basic science investigations into the many forms of retinal degeneration.



Doctoral students Ms. Zoe Verney and Mr. Kun Do Rhee, working in Dr. Xian-Jie Yang's laboratory, are funded by the Vision Science Training Grant. They are reviewing a picture of the retina imaged from a pathology slide lying under the microscope.

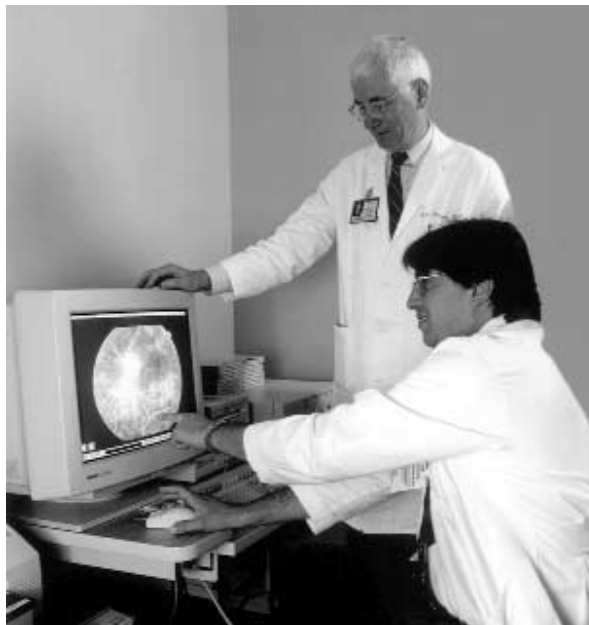
Wayne L. Hubbell, Ph.D., Jules Stein Professor of Ophthalmology, has been awarded a grant from the U.S. Defense Department for his ongoing research into site-directed spin labeling (SDSL), a technique pioneered by Dr. Hubbell's laboratory. SDSL is an important tool in the investigation of the structure and dynamics of proteins, a critical process in understanding disease processes.

NEW TREATMENTS FOR “WET” AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION

In partnership with leading pharmaceutical companies, **Steven D. Schwartz, M.D.**, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, initiated new clinical trials for the “wet” or exudative form of age-related macular degeneration (AMD). The goal of both studies is to inhibit the growth of abnormal blood vessels (neovascularization) in the macula. In patients with “wet” AMD, new blood vessels grow indiscriminately and often break, clouding or even obliterating vision. In one study, Dr. Schwartz is evaluating the efficacy of the drug anecortave acetate, manufactured by Alcon Laboratories, Inc., in inhibiting neovascularization. In the second study, he is evaluating the efficacy of a drug that inhibits a vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), which naturally occurs in the body and contributes to the development of abnormal blood vessels. The anti-VEGF drug is manufactured by EyeTech Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Dr. Schwartz continues to participate in the Submacular Surgery Trials (SST), a set of National Eye Institute-sponsored multicenter clinical trials to determine whether surgery is better than careful observation in selected patients with “wet” AMD.

A NEW DRUG FOR THE TREATMENT OF DIABETIC RETINOPATHY

Abnormal blood vessel growth is a major component of diabetic retinopathy, an eye disease that causes vision loss in many millions of diabetics and is the leading cause of disability among working-age Americans. **Kent W. Small, M.D.**, Professor of Ophthalmology, and colleagues at JSEI are conducting a clinical trial in collaboration with Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation that is geared toward patients in more advanced stages of the disease. He is evaluating the drug Sandostatin LAR[®] in a national collaborative study. The drug is intended to inhibit blood vessel growth in the retina of the eye through hormonal action. Candidates for the study are patients who have progressed beyond the early stages of diabetic retinopathy but have not yet reached the point where standard treatments, such as laser therapy, are usually recommended. The study offers a unique opportunity to treat a segment of the patient population where previously, ophthalmologists could only monitor the disease.



Dr. Steven Schwartz (seated) is conducting clinical trials for the “wet” form of age-related macular degeneration. He is shown here viewing a photograph of the back of the eye with Dr. Allan Kreiger, Chief of the Retina Division.

Education

Academic education is multifaceted, ranging from teaching medical students, residents and fellows to leading national conferences. In the course of their educational duties, faculty members mentor, counsel, lecture and demonstrate. They are responsible for hundreds of clinical and scientific publications each year, and entrusted with developing and sharing new approaches to science and medicine that will ultimately result in improved patient care. This year the Institute has achieved a number of noteworthy milestones, including the appointment of new faculty and new members of the Jules Stein Eye Institute. This year's graduating residents have distinguished themselves by winning clinical fellowships around the country, and the first JSEI international fellowship was launched. Two annual, academic conferences were combined, further integrating the clinical and scientific education programs of the Institute.

INTRODUCING NEW FACULTY

In addition to her duties as Chief of the Section of Ophthalmology at the Department of Veterans Affairs Healthcare Center in West Los Angeles, which she assumed in 1999, faculty member **Lynn K. Gordon, M.D., Ph.D.**, became an Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology in the Comprehensive Ophthalmology Division, effective July 1, 2000. Dr. Gordon has had a professional commitment to the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and the Jules Stein Eye Institute since 1985, first as an ophthalmology resident, then as a clinical fellow in neuro-ophthalmology, and for the last decade as a faculty member serving the clinical, teaching and research missions of the Institute in a variety of ways.

Simon K. Law, M.D., Pharm.D., assumed a new role as Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology in the Glaucoma Division, effective July 1, 2000, with full academic responsibilities in patient care, teaching and research. His appointment includes a position as Chief of the Section of Ophthalmology Surgical Services with the Department of Veterans Affairs Healthcare Center in West Los Angeles. Dr. Law has worked with the teaching program in the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology as a Clinical Instructor since 1998, while practicing as a community ophthalmologist. Previously, he completed a glaucoma fellowship at the Institute in 1997–98 following his ophthalmology residency at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

A COMBINED VISION SCIENCE AND CLINICAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Research and Alumni Day is a long-standing tradition at the Institute, showcasing clinical and vision science research conducted by residents and fellows. The best research findings are acknowledged on Graduation Day. Faculty excellence in teaching is also honored through awards presentations. The Annual Post-ARVO (Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology) Conference is a more recent tradition that highlights basic science research presented at the international ARVO meeting. This prestigious event is attended by vision scientists, worldwide. By combining these two important academic meetings, the Institute has provided a more collaborative forum for emerging clinical and basic science researchers as they struggle to uncover ways to overcome devastating eye diseases.



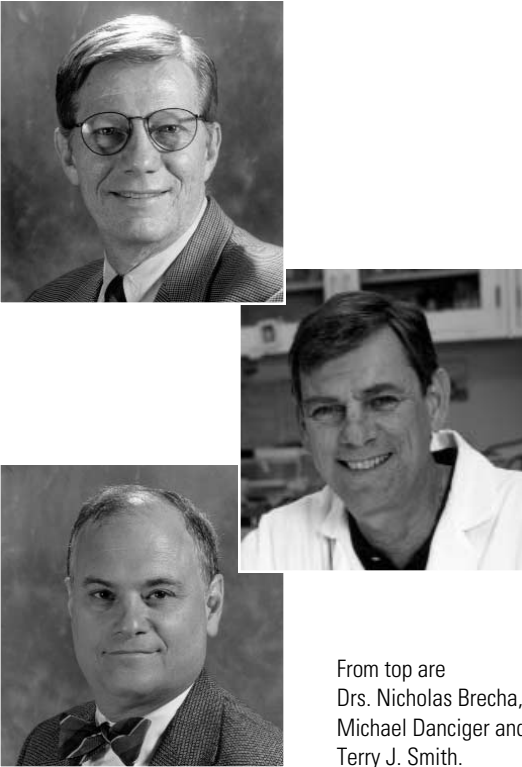
Dr. Lynn Gordon



Dr. Simon Law

NEW MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTE

The Jules Stein Eye Institute welcomed three new members this year, all distinguished professors in the UCLA School of Medicine, offering varied skills and backgrounds, who will collaborate with ophthalmologists and vision scientists at the Institute. **Nicholas C. Brecha, Ph.D.**, Professor of Neurobiology and Medicine, and Vice Chair of the Department of Neurobiology, has dedicated his research career to the mammalian retina with an emphasis on its cellular and neurochemical organization. His work contributes to an understanding of the pathophysiology of retinal dysfunction. Dr. Brecha has spent two decades and most of his academic career at UCLA. His educational background includes doctoral and postdoctoral training in neurobiology from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Stony Brook and at the Medical Research Council in Cambridge, England. **Michael Danciger, Ph.D.**, Researcher in Ophthalmology, and Chairman of the Department of Biology at Loyola-Marymount University, Los Angeles, has a longstanding working relationship with the Vision Science Division, having been a visiting scholar and researcher since 1987. He was appointed to a faculty position in 1995. Dr. Danciger's vision science research focuses on genetic factors in inherited retinal degenerations. His educational background includes a doctoral degree in microbiology from the University of Oregon. **Terry J. Smith, M.D.**, Professor of Medicine and Chief of the Division of Molecular Medicine at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, collaborates with faculty in the Orbital and Ophthalmic Surgery Division. His research focuses on the molecular pathogenesis of thyroid-associated ophthalmopathy (TAO), which is a component of Graves' disease. Dr. Smith has a background in biochemistry and molecular biology, as well as training and extensive clinical experience in endocrinology and ophthalmology.



From top are
Drs. Nicholas Brecha,
Michael Danciger and
Terry J. Smith.

PRESTIGIOUS, NAMED LECTURES

This year, four faculty members were invited to give prestigious, named lectures in their fields of expertise.

- ▶ As Visiting Professor at the Wills Eye Institute in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, **Joseph Caprioli, M.D.**, Frances and Ray Stark Professor of Ophthalmology, gave the Edmund B. Spaeth Oration.
- ▶ **Debora B. Farber, Ph.D., D.Ph.h.c.**, Professor of Ophthalmology, gave the Twelfth Annual H.W. Magoun Lecture at the UCLA Brain Research Institute.
- ▶ The Futterman Lecture was presented by **Joseph Horwitz, Ph.D.**, Professor of Ophthalmology, at the University of Washington, in Seattle, Washington.
- ▶ **Sherwin J. Isenberg, M.D.**, Grace and Walter Lanz Professor of Pediatric Ophthalmology, gave the Kambara Lecture as part of the Kambara Distinguished Visiting Professorship, at the University of Tennessee, in Memphis, Tennessee.

*The 2001 S. Rodman Irvine Prize for faculty excellence went to Professor Emeritus of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine **Robert Y. Foos, M.D.***

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

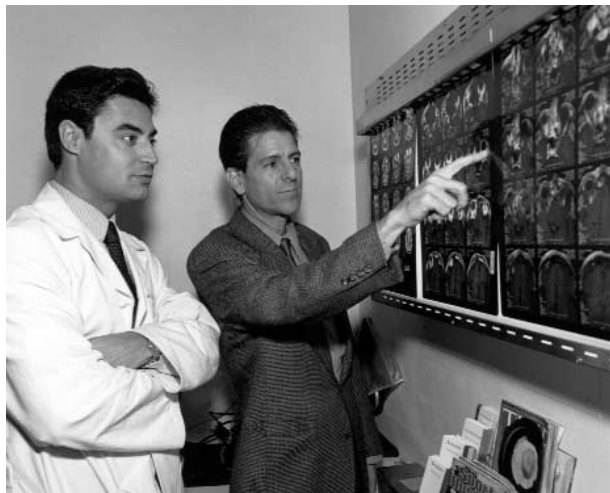
Several volunteer faculty members were acknowledged, by peer review, for excellence in teaching. **Yaron S. Rabinowitz, M.D.**, Associate Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, received a UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association award for best presentation on Research and Alumni Day. **Richard K. Apt, M.D.**, and **Harvey A. Brown, M.D.**, both Clinical Professors of Ophthalmology; and **Benjamin C. Kwan, M.D.**, and **Jeremy E. Levenson, M.D.**, Assistant Clinical Professors of Ophthalmology, each received a Senior Honor Award for outstanding service in the Department's teaching programs over the last 25 years.

HIGH MARKS TO GRADUATING RESIDENTS

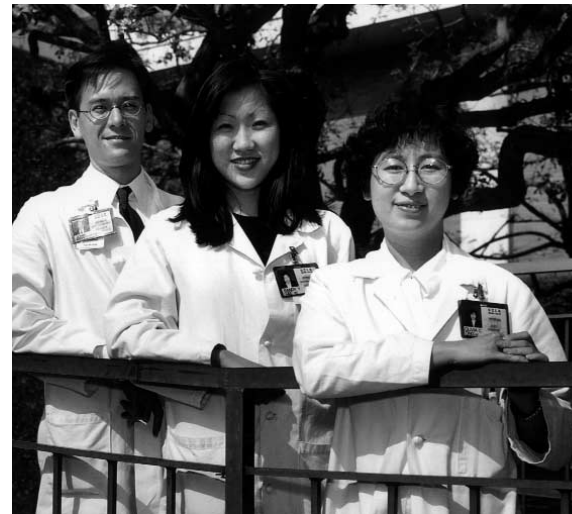
Six of the Institute's seven graduating ophthalmology residents have been recruited to clinical fellowships, including prestigious appointments at The Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Casey Eye Institute, Wilmer Eye Institute, and the University of California at San Francisco and San Diego. **Sandy Y. Lee, M.D.**, has been invited to stay at the Jules Stein Eye Institute in the Retina and Vitreous Fellowship.

THE ANN C. ROSENFELD INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

The Ann C. Rosenfield Fellowship Fund supports the Division of Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery's International Fellowship Program which invites promising academic ophthalmologists from around the world to the Institute to receive specialized training in clinical techniques that have been developed at the Institute and to participate in ophthalmic research. Graduates of the program return to their home countries, bringing new skills and establishing their own academic units and training programs. **Miguel Gonzalez-Candial, M.D.**, was the first Ann C. Rosenfield fellow, in the 2000–2001 year. An Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at the Germans Trias I Pujol University Hospital in Barcelona, Spain, Dr. Gonzalez-Candial worked under the tutelage of **Robert Alan Goldberg, M.D.**, Chief of the Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Division.



International fellow Dr. Miguel Gonzalez-Candial (left) and Dr. Robert Alan Goldberg collaborate during an ophthalmic reconstructive surgery consultation.



From left to right are Drs. John Mandeville, Sandy Lee, and Olivia Ong who are among the graduating residents winning clinical fellowships in ophthalmic plastic surgery, retina, and glaucoma, respectively.

Philanthropy

Private philanthropy is the cornerstone of the Institute's recognized position as an international leader in ophthalmology. Generous gifts from individuals, corporations and foundations provide the extra measure of support that enables the Institute to consistently record noteworthy achievements in research, education and patient care. This year, private philanthropy has made possible the establishment of a Vision Genetics Center, as well as funded other promising projects. Milestones in vision preservation have been achieved through community outreach, on a national level and at the Institute. Included is the 10th anniversary of the JSEI Affiliates, a broad-based volunteer network, established by associates of Dr. Jules and Mrs. Doris Stein, in their honor.

THE VISION GENETICS CENTER

Inauguration of a Vision Genetics Center at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, in Fall 2000, was the first step toward integrating genetic research and gene therapy for the molecular treatment of eye diseases. The center is an investment in the future, as well as a new direction for the Institute. In the short-term, it will provide a springboard for competitive grant applications and for collaborative relationships with industry. As with most innovation, the initial achievements of molecular medicine will be measured by private philanthropy. The loyal participation of established philanthropic partners and the contributions of new friends will be critical to the success of this visionary venture. Long-time supporters of the Institute **Mr. David and Mrs. Laraine Gerber**, announced their commitment to this medicine of the future by establishing the Laraine and David Gerber Genetic Eye Research Center as a major component of the Vision Genetics Center. The Gerbers hope that their gift will inspire others to participate in this scientific and financial challenge.



Mr. David and Mrs. Laraine Gerber have helped to make the Jules Stein Eye Institute Vision Genetics Center a reality.

In order to uphold the standard of excellence that the Jules Stein Eye Institute has established over the last three decades, new charitable investments will be needed for the development and application of vision genetics.

— Bartly J. Mondino, M.D.,
Director

MACDONALD FAMILY FOUNDATION GRANT FOR RESEARCH

A generous grant from the MacDonald Family Foundation was awarded to **Ralph D. Levinson, M.D.**, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, to support his research into Vogt-Koyanagi-Harada (VKH) syndrome, a rare ocular inflammatory disease commonly seen in Japan and among Asians, African Americans, and American Indians in the United States. VKH can result in profound vision loss, as well as neurological abnormalities involving the ears, loss of skin pigmentation, and premature graying of the hair.

THE JSEI AFFILIATES: MAKING OUTREACH AN INTEGRAL PARTNER IN PATIENT CARE

The Jules and Doris Stein UCLA Support Group created the JSEI Affiliates in 1990 to augment patient care and education at the Institute through outreach programs. The goal, “to provide the best possible vision for every person,” has motivated these dedicated and highly organized volunteers to successfully sponsor a plethora of activities. As the Affiliates celebrate their 10th anniversary of service, they continue to uphold the tradition of giving set by their benefactors.

The programs of the JSEI Affiliates are diverse and far-reaching, focusing on children, education, services for low-vision patients, and research support. Included is vision screening for preschool children and a unique classroom demonstration about the eye for elementary school children. The Affiliates sponsor a speakers’ bureau that offers free lectures to schools, community organizations and senior centers. Through the Institute’s Vision Rehabilitation Center, the Affiliates sponsor a lending library for special assistive devices that may be purchased through the Center. In addition to service-oriented programs, specific, short-term research needs within the Institute are supported through private donations.

Leading the Affiliates in a decade of firsts, are three outstanding volunteers. **Mrs. Ruth Straatsma** inaugurated the Chairmanship in 1990 with purpose and grace, passing the gavel in 1996 to **Mrs. Cherie Hubbell**, who nurtured and furthered the Affiliates’ highly successful programs until 2000. Assuming the Chairmanship last year, **Mrs. Marti Oppenheimer** represents a new and promising future for the Affiliates as they enter the 21st century.



Past and present Chairs of the JSEI Affiliates are (from left to right) Mrs. Cherie Hubbell, Mrs. Marti Oppenheimer and Mrs. Ruth Straatsma

HEALTHY PEOPLE 2010, A NATIONAL BLUEPRINT

The latest edition of *Healthy People 2010*, a national disease prevention initiative of the National Institutes of Health, includes 10 essential vision objectives for the first time, thereby prioritizing vision loss with other major health threats. The purpose of the report is to identify opportunities for public service agencies and health care providers to improve the health of all Americans. The report notes that visual impairment is associated with loss of personal independence, decreased quality of life, and difficulty maintaining employment. The top two vision objectives: increasing the number of regular eye examinations for all Americans and the number of vision screenings for children under six years old, follows the major tenet of ophthalmology, that prevention is the most effective way of maintaining good vision. The Jules Stein Eye Institute’s comprehensive program of patient care, research, education and community service incorporates all of the vision objectives of *Healthy People 2010* in its overall mission to preserve sight.



Healthy People 2010 includes essential vision objectives for the first time.

BUNDY FOUNDATION GRANT FOR LABORATORY INSTRUMENTATION

Douglas and Marald Nosworthy, Trustees of the Bruce Ford and Anne Smith Bundy Foundation, acknowledged the hard work and celebrated the efforts of Jules Stein Eye Institute basic science faculty by selecting the Jules Stein Eye Institute as a recipient of the 2000 Bruce Ford and Anne Smith Bundy Foundation grant. Funding from the grant will provide the Institute's Vision Science Division with much needed laboratory instrumentation, including a SPEX Fluorolog Spectrofluorometer, which has become the tool of choice for studying protein interaction in cells.

THE EYESITE TRAVELING EXHIBIT

Low vision is the theme of a new program developed by the National Eye Institute (NEI). Designed as a traveling exhibit, The EYESITE visits shopping centers across the country as a way to increase public awareness of low vision and vision rehabilitation services. Through the efforts of community groups, including the Jules Stein Eye Institute, The EYESITE visited various locations around the Los Angeles area, beginning in April 2001. The inspiration for the program came from surveys sponsored by the NEI and The Lighthouse, Inc., indicating that although one out of every six adults in the United States over 45 is vision impaired, most are not aware of the many services available to them. In addition to information about resources, The EYESITE exhibit features interactive kiosks that demonstrate how simple adjustments in daily life can optimize vision, and displays low-vision technology, from large print books to video magnifiers, that can increase capacity for patients with visual disabilities.



Dr. Melissa Chun, Director of the Institute's Vision Rehabilitation Center, was a featured speaker at The Eye Site during its tour of Los Angeles.

The decision to make a charitable investment is an expression of trust. Regardless of the size of the gift, the return on investment is a promise to aggressively pursue vision science goals that will lead to preventing blindness and preserving sight for a lifetime of good vision.