

JULES STEIN EYE INSTITUTE
ANNUAL REPORT
2023–2024



Jules Stein Eye Institute

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to share with you the 2023–24 Jules Stein Eye Institute Annual Report, which details the activities of our clinicians and vision-scientists this fiscal year as we pursued our singular mission: to preserve sight and restore vision.

The work we do today at the Institute and in the broader field of ophthalmology worldwide is made possible by the giants upon whose shoulders we stand. And this year, we have lost one of those giants, Dr. Allan Kreiger, the founding chief of the Retina Division of the Jules Stein Eye Institute. Dr. Kreiger was beloved by patients, colleagues, and all those he trained. He had a tremendous impact on our field and on those of us who had the privilege to know him.

This academic year, many noteworthy events were celebrated in the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, including:

- ▶ Dr. Srinivas Sadda assuming the presidency of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) for the 2024–25 fiscal year. Dr. Sophie Deng was announced as ARVO President-Elect, and Dr. Joseph Demer was named ARVO Vice President-Elect. ARVO is the largest international organization dedicated to advancing vision research.
- ▶ Faculty, fellows, and residents attending the American Academy of Ophthalmology Mid-Year Forum in Washington, D.C., where they met with members of Congress to advocate for the eye health of patients.
- ▶ Five new clinical faculty members bringing their subspecialty expertise to our team.
- ▶ The Department being awarded \$50,000 in recognition of an exemplary job in advancing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, specifically in our planning and execution of initiatives focused on people.
- ▶ Department vision scientists receiving 52 R01 and other major competitive vision-science research grants totaling \$14,291,990 in support of innovative investigations.
- ▶ The Jules Stein Eye Institute receiving 52 clinical research awards totaling \$7,751,711.

Thank you for your interest in learning about our activities and accomplishments this academic year. As we celebrate these achievements in ophthalmology, we reaffirm our shared commitment to ending avoidable blindness. This dedication of our ophthalmic community to advancing both research and education is a testament to our collective goal of improving vision health worldwide. Together—through innovation, collaboration, and a relentless pursuit of knowledge—we strive to make a future where everyone can have the gift of sight.

Sincerely,

Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD

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

THE LOSS OF A Towering Figure in Ophthalmology

Dr. Allan E. Kreiger
1935–2024

Allan E. Kreiger, MD, professor of ophthalmology emeritus and founding chief of the Retina Division in the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and the Jules Stein Eye Institute (1976–2001) lost his battle with cancer on June 30, 2024.

“Dr. Kreiger was beloved by his patients, trainees, and colleagues for his exceptional skill, unwavering dedication, and compassionate care,” says **Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD**, chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, director of the Jules Stein Eye Institute, and affiliation chair of the Doheny Eye Institute. “His impact extended far beyond his professional achievements; he was a mentor and friend to many, always willing to share his knowledge and lend a helping hand. His dedication to his profession and the compassionate care he provided will have a lasting impact on generations to come.”

Born in San Pedro, California, in 1935, Dr. Kreiger received his MD from the UCLA School of Medicine in 1963 and conducted both his internship (1964) and residency in ophthalmology (1967) at UCLA. Dr. Kreiger joined the Department in 1967 as a clinical instructor in surgery. He became assistant professor in 1969 and associate professor in 1971. He rose to the position of professor of ophthalmology in 1977 and became professor of ophthalmology emeritus in 2006. Dr. Kreiger was associate chief of ophthalmology at Harbor–UCLA Medical Center from 1967 to 1968, and its chief from 1969 to 1972.



“As founding chief of the Retina Division in the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and the Jules Stein Eye Institute (1976–2001), Dr. Kreiger led an outstanding retinal disease and surgery research, training, and patient care program by leading vitreoretinal education programs, conducting substantial research, and steadily advancing patient care activities,” says **Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD**, founding chair of the Department and founding director of the Institute. “He substantially advanced the academic activity of our Department.”

“Dr. Kreiger personified the highest standards in patient care, education, and mentorship,” says **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, former Department chair and Institute director. “He was beloved by faculty, trainees, and patients alike. He was an expert at diagnosing and treating complex forms of retinal diseases and contributed instrumentation and techniques to the profession and published studies that added to the world’s literature.”

When asked his most important professional contribution, Dr. Kreiger said it was educating residents and fellows saying, “Training the next generation of ophthalmologists and retinal specialists is where you can contribute the most to alleviating human pain and suffering.”

Study Reveals How Abnormalities of Quantum Mechanics Trigger Process Leading to Inherited Blinding Disease

A research team led by a UCLA Department of Ophthalmology faculty member at the Doheny Eye Institute has shown how a genetic mutation disrupts proteins responsible for the functioning of mitochondria—the powerhouse of cells—setting off a chain reaction that leads to sudden and irreversible blindness in individuals with Leber hereditary optic neuropathy (LHON).

The study, published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*, was led by **Alfredo A. Sadun, MD, PhD**, Flora L. Thornton Endowed Chair in Vision Research, and UCLA Physiologist **Steven A. Barnes, PhD**, professor of ophthalmology and neurobiology. It is believed to be the first to show the role of abnormalities of quantum mechanics in a human disease. Dr. Sadun, a neuro-ophthalmologist who is among the world's leading experts in LHON, and Dr. Barnes collaborated with physical chemists at UCLA and Dr. Sadun's brother, a professor of mathematics at the University of Texas at Austin.

LHON has several features that make it unusual. "It's a genetic degeneration, but unlike Alzheimer's, in which you lose brain cells slowly over decades, this occurs over a period of a week or two and affects people at a young age," Dr. Sadun explains. "It's tragic for these young adults who suddenly become blind for the rest of their lives." Dr. Sadun adds that LHON is known to be maternally inherited, and affects men at a much higher rate than women. While the disease always affects both eyes, vision loss typically starts in one eye before quickly moving to the other. Possible triggers include smoking and binge alcohol consumption. Dr. Sadun was so struck by the dramatic nature of LHON early in his career that he has devoted much of his research and clinical time to the disease, and now takes patient referrals from all over the world.

It had been known that the genetic mutation associated with LHON wreaks havoc with the mitochondrial function

in key retina cells, but exactly how this impairment occurred was unclear. Most physicians and scientists had assumed that the cause was an insufficient production of adenosine triphosphate (ATP). But a decade ago, Dr. Sadun and his colleagues, in a study also published in *PNAS*, showed that ATP levels were normal in mice with the LHON mutation. Instead, they found abnormally high levels of reactive oxygen species (ROS), which is also known to be a major cause of aging. "Once we knew ROS was the culprit, the next question was, what causes the ROS," Dr. Sadun says.

In the most recent study, Dr. Sadun's team discovered that the LHON mutation causes a conformational change in a protein such that the naturally produced antioxidant Coenzyme Q10 (CoQ10) is perturbed, enhancing a process called

quantum electron tunneling. The team also found that in the new configuration, CoQ10 becomes "stuck," and because of the quantum mechanics, the electrons move backwards through the mitochondrial proteins, thereby promoting the production of ROS.

Dr. Sadun notes that as with any basic-science discovery, the clinical implications of his team's findings are uncertain. "We can just hope this will lead to a breakthrough treatment for LHON at some point," he says. Regardless, the paper has drawn substantial interest from scientists in other fields, several of whom have contacted Dr. Sadun to consult on the findings. A commentary published in *PNAS* hailed the discovery as fundamental for researchers who focus on aging, given aging's association with mitochondrial function.



Dr. Alfredo Sadun (right) approached his youngest brother, Dr. Lorenzo Sadun (left), a world-class mathematician, to assist with calculating how much tunneling would occur if the key molecules were separated by 12–14 angstroms. Lorenzo estimated it would take 100 hours to make this determination, and he didn't have the time.

About a year later, Alfredo got a call from his brother. "He said he had some bad news—he was in a ski accident that required major surgery on his shoulder," Dr. Sadun recalls. "But he told me he also had good news: While he was recuperating, he would have time to do the math for me."

Lorenzo confirmed Dr. Sadun's assumption that it was likely quantum electron tunneling that was responsible for the increased ROS production, and with that knowledge, Dr. Barnes approached colleagues at UCLA, and they embarked on the study.

Department Takes Leadership Role Advancing Vision Research Worldwide

SriniVas R. Sadda, MD, was welcomed as president of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) for the 2024–25 fiscal year. ARVO is the largest international organization dedicated to advancing vision research. **Sophie X. Deng, MD, PhD**, was announced as the ARVO President-Elect and **Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD**, was named ARVO Vice President-Elect.



Jules Stein Eye Institute and Doheny Eye Institute took center stage at ARVO with an impressive 140 presentations. Other events at the meeting included a Doheny–UCLA forum on unrecognized determinants of retinopathy moderated by **Kaustabh Ghosh, PhD**. In addition, approximately 200 guests attended a combined Jules Stein Eye Institute and Doheny Eye Institute Alumni Reception.



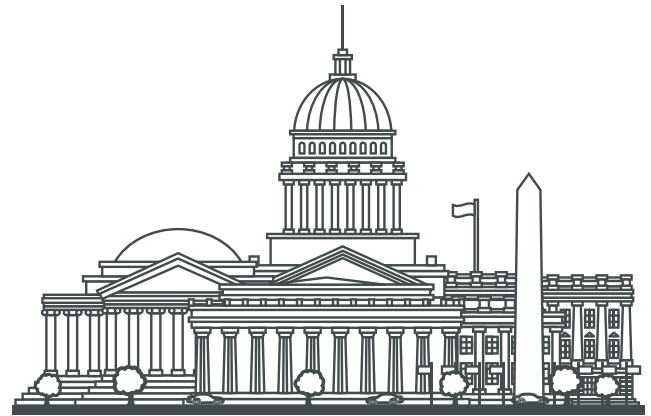
Kendal Thomas New Clinic Director



As the new clinic director of the UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Kendal oversees clinical operations, ensures compliance with regulatory requirements, maintains high standards of patient satisfaction, safety, and quality, and supervises staff in accordance with UCLA health policies and procedures.

Kendal has an extensive background in health care management, public health, and

leading ambulatory healthcare facilities. He earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Morehouse College and a Master of Public Health degree from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Health Policy and Systems Management.



Advocating for Patients in Washington D.C.

Faculty, fellows, and residents of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology attended the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Mid-Year Forum in Washington, D.C. on April 17–20, 2024, where they met with members of Congress and their staff to advocate for patients and learn about health policy changes.

Attending were UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Residents **Leila Chew, MD**, **Kendall Goodyear, MD**, **Elise Ma, MD, PhD**, **Sagar Rambhia, MD**, and **Junru Yan, MD**, who were accepted into the AAO Ambassador Program; Fellows **Jiwei Sheng, MD**, and **Alexander Engelmann, MD**, who attended as Advocacy Ambassadors; and Faculty Members **Simon Fung, MD**, **JoAnn Giacony, MD**, **Peter Quiros, MD**, and **Victoria Tseng, MD, PhD**, who participated in their national society leadership roles.

Susan Lee DeRemer to Lead Development Efforts

Susan Lee DeRemer, CFRE, joined the Jules Stein Eye Institute as director of Development. Susan was previously director of leadership gifts at the PKD Foundation. She was vice president of the Discovery Eye Foundation and served as director of development, director of major gifts, and events coordinator (Western Region and Los Angeles) for the Foundation Fighting Blindness.



Susan received her BA at UCLA and her certificate in Fundraising and Institutional Development. “It’s wonderful to be back at UCLA,” says Susan. “I am excited to be supporting the unparalleled excellence of the Jules Stein Eye Institute and its vital mission to preserve and restore vision.”

You can reach Susan by emailing giving@jsei.ucla.edu, calling the Development Office at (310) 825-3381, or by texting/calling (424) 325-9076.



L to r: Charles “Tom” Foscue, chair of the Doheny Eye Institute Board of Directors; Marissa Goldberg, chief executive officer, Doheny Eye Institute; Dr. Anne Coleman, chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, director of the Jules Stein Eye Institute, and affiliation chair of the Doheny Eye Institute; and Ronald Olson, board member, Doheny Eye Institute.

Opening 2025: Doheny Eye Center UCLA–Pasadena

A state-of-the-art Doheny Eye Center UCLA clinical center is being built on the vision-science campus of the Doheny Eye Institute in Pasadena. The Doheny Eye Center UCLA, located at 150 N. Orange Grove Blvd., will be staffed by UCLA Department of Ophthalmology physicians providing the highest quality of vision care through the detection, diagnosis, and treatment of all ocular diseases.

New Faculty Appointments

Reza Alizadeh, MD
Health Sciences
Assistant Clinical Professor

Aya Barzelay-Wollman, MD, PhD
Health Sciences Clinical Instructor

Clémence Bonnet, MD, PhD
Health Sciences
Assistant Clinical Professor

David Lozano Giral, MD
Health Sciences Clinical Instructor

Amanda Lu, MD
Health Sciences
Assistant Clinical Professor

Dr. Gabriel Travis Wins Prestigious Award for Contributions to Vision Science

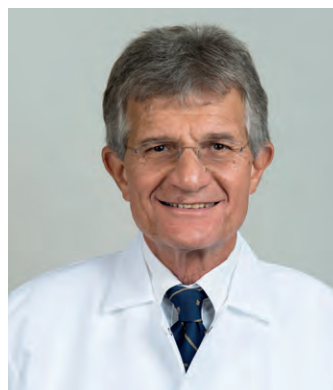
As a UCLA Department of Ophthalmology vision scientist, Gabriel H. Travis, MD, investigates basic questions that, in many cases, have unknown relevance to specific human diseases. Among the most fundamental: How are we able to see in daylight? His group has discovered several processes that are substantially stimulated by visible light and has continued to study how natural light exposure affects the dynamics of visual retinoids.

But in elucidating the biochemical pathways involved in visual cycles, Dr. Travis' group has identified proteins that are highly relevant to certain inherited visual disorders. This includes Leber congenital amaurosis, a disease that is responsible for 20 percent of childhood blindness; and Stargardt macular degeneration, which causes loss of central vision and sensitivity to light. “Once you start learning about specific proteins

that are involved in visual processes, you may discover that the genes for those proteins, when mutated, can lead to a

blinding disease or some other visual problem,” says Dr. Travis, Charles Kenneth Feldman Chair in Ophthalmology at the Jules Stein Eye Institute.

Dr. Travis' contributions to vision science earned him the 2024 Endre A. Balazs Prize from the International Society for Eye Research—given “to honor a distinguished



scientist whose outstanding contributions provide significant progress in the field of experimental eye research.” The Balazs Prize is one of only four awards bestowed every two years by the organization at its biennial meeting. Dr. Travis will accept the award and deliver a plenary lecture at the 2024 meeting in Buenos Aires, October 20–24. “To be recognized by such an important society for the work we’ve done over the years is a great honor,” he says.

Awards and Honors

AAO 2023 Award Recipients

Individuals from the Jules Stein Eye Institute and Doheny Eye Institute contributed more than 100 lectures, presentations, and exhibits at the November 2023 American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California.

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

Life Achievement Award Recipient

Brian A. Francis, MD, MS (faculty)

Senior Achievement Award Recipients

Uday Devgan, MD (SEI alumnus)

Amani Fawzi, MD (SEI alumna)

David Rex Hamilton, MD
(past SEI faculty and SEI alumnus)

Tsontcho Ianchulev, MD (DEI alumnus)

Achievement Award Recipients

Jean-Pierre Hubschman, MD
(faculty and SEI alumnus)

Victoria L. Tseng, MD, PhD (faculty)

Irena Tsui, MD (faculty)

N. Grace Lee, MD (DEI alumna)

Ghazala A. Datoo O'Keefe, MD
(DEI alumna)

Sandy X. Zhang-Nunes, MD
(SEI alumna)

Secretariat Award Recipients

Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD (faculty)

Colin A. McCannel, MD (faculty)

Stacy L. Pineles, MD (faculty)

Jesse L. Berry, MD (DEI alumna)

Paul P. Lee, MD, JD (past DEI faculty)

Allen Chiang, MD (SEI alumnus)

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 Jules Stein Eye Institute and the Doheny Eye Institute are proud recipients of National Institutes of Health (NIH) Research Project Grants, known as R01 grants, and other major competitive grants supporting innovative research. Congratulations to these grant recipients:

Anthony J. Aldave, MD, Bartly J. Mondino, MD, Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology, received a 30-month California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) award in the amount of \$4,338,166 for his research project: AAV Gene Therapy for Treating Biallelic SLC4A11 Mutations Associated Congenital Hereditary Endothelial Dystrophy.

Steven A. Barnes, PhD, professor of ophthalmology and neurobiology, received a five-year R01 federal grant for his research on retinal ganglion cell signaling regulated by intrinsic reactive oxygen species.

Ava Bittner, OD, PhD, Smotrich Family Optometric Clinician-Scientist Chair, received a five-year R01 Grant, which will help support her investigation of beacon sensors and telerehabilitation to assess and improve the use of devices for low vision.

Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD, Arthur L. Rosenbaum, MD, Chair in Pediatric Ophthalmology, received a five-year R01 grant renewal for his research on biomechanical analysis in strabismus surgery.

Sophie X. Deng, MD, PhD, Walton Li Chair in Cornea and Uveitis, received a four-year California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) award in the amount of \$5,779,276 for her research project: Extracellular Vesicle Based Therapy for Corneal Scars.

Yi-Rong Peng, PhD, assistant professor of ophthalmology and neurobiology, received a five-year R01 grant in support of her research project: Transcriptional Control of Neuronal Position and Connection in the Retina.

Srinivas R. Sadda, MD, Professor of Ophthalmology, received a four-year R01 grant funding his research project: In Vivo Imaging of the Human Retina at the Molecular Level.

Dr. Sadda also received the 2023 Retina Research Foundation Merit Award in recognition of outstanding research in retinal visual science. The Award provides a \$50K grant for research.

Alapakkam P. Sampath, PhD, Grace and Walter Lantz Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology, received a four-year R01 grant as co-principal investigator for his research project: Molecular Basis of Photoreceptor Wiring.

Irena Tsui, MD, associate professor of ophthalmology, received a five-year R01 grant for her research project: Neonatal Optical Coherence Tomography Angiography to Assess the Effects of Postnatal Exposures on Retinal Development and Predict Neurodevelopmental Outcomes.



Faculty Honors

Anthony J. Aldave, MD, professor of ophthalmology, was appointed the Bartly J. Mondino, MD, Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology, effective July 1, 2023. The administrative chair was established in 2022 and supports Dr. Aldave's role as Vice Chair of Academic Affairs in the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology.

Anthony C. Arnold, MD, Mary Oakley Foundation Chair in Neurodegenerative Diseases, presented the keynote lecture, "Imaging the Microvasculature of the Optic Nerve Head with Ischemic and Nonischemic Edema," at the Neuro-Ophthalmology Society of Australia Annual Meeting in Adelaide, Australia, on September 22, 2023.

Ava K. Bittner, OD, PhD, Smotrich Family Optometric Clinician-Scientist Chair, was honored as a Gold Fellow at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology annual meeting in Seattle, Washington, May 5–9, 2024, for her individual accomplishments, leadership, and contributions to the Association.

Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD, chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, director of the Jules Stein Eye Institute, and affiliation chair of the Doheny Eye Institute, received the California Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons Distinguished Service Award for her contributions to accessing eye care and educating the public about eye health. The award was presented December 20, 2023, at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute.

Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD, Arthur L. Rosenbaum, MD, Chair in Pediatric Ophthalmology, presented the keynote lecture of the Arthur Jampolsky Fellows Society, "Treating Strabismus Caused by Pathology of the Orbital Pulley System," May 20, 2024, at the Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute, in San Francisco, California.

Dr. Demer was also the keynote speaker at the Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center Strabismus and Optometry Forum on May 25, 2024, where he presented, "Masquerading Superior Oblique Palsy" (virtual).

Dr. Demer also gave the keynote lecture of the 80th annual meeting of the Japanese Association for Strabismus and Amblyopia on June 15, 2024, in Hamamatsu, Japan.

Sophie X. Deng, MD, PhD, Walton Li Chair in Cornea and Uveitis, was honored as a Silver Fellow at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology annual meeting in Seattle, Washington, May 5–9, 2024, for her individual accomplishments, leadership, and contributions to the Association.

Dr. Deng presented the 2023–2024 Kimura MD Lecture on May 30, 2024, at UC San Francisco.

Deborah A. Ferrington, PhD, Stephen J. Ryan-Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation Endowed Presidential Chair, presented the inaugural M. Cristina Kenney, MD, PhD, Memorial Lecture, "Mitochondria: The Retina's Achilles' Heel in Age-related Macular Degeneration," on June 1, 2024, at the University of California, Irvine, Gavin Herbert Eye Institute.

JoAnn A. Giaconi, MD, health sciences clinical professor of ophthalmology, and Gary N. Holland, MD, distinguished professor of ophthalmology, were named Faculty Advisors to Medical Students. As Faculty Advisors, Drs. Giaconi and Holland are responsible for mentoring and providing career guidance to David Geffen School of Medicine medical students as they navigate the UCLA Stein Eye Institute.

Dr. Giaconi was also named the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Secretary for Communications, where she will be involved in the development and management of Academy

activities and services. Dr. Giaconi was also named chief medical editor of the AAO's Academy Express, a clinical newsletter emailed to over 75,500 ophthalmologists worldwide.

Gary N. Holland, MD, Jack H. Skirball Chair in Ocular Inflammatory Diseases, was awarded the S. Rodman Irvine Prize at the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Annual Seminar on June 7, 2024. The Irvine Prize recognizes excellence in a Department of Ophthalmology faculty member whose relationships with patients and students are exemplary; whose professional actions illustrate the finest traditions of the medical profession and the vision-science community, and whose teaching demonstrates a dedication to transmission of knowledge to future generations.

The September 2023 issue of the journal *Applied Magnetic Resonance* was devoted to the achievements of **Wayne L. Hubbell, PhD**, distinguished professor of ophthalmology. Titled, "Wayne Hubbell—on the Occasion of His 80th Birthday," the journal recognized the many contributions of Dr. Hubbell to electron spin/paramagnetic resonance (ESR/EPR) spectroscopy, which was pioneered in the Hubbell laboratory at the Stein Eye Institute.

Monica R. Khitri, MD, assistant clinical professor of ophthalmology, received the UCLA Exceptional Physician Award on May 8, 2024. UCLA Health System recognizes up to three exceptional physicians at the Annual Honors and Awards Celebration. Award recipients are chosen for their demonstration of UCLA values: Compassion, Respect, Excellence, Discovery, Integrity, and Teamwork.

Shawn R. Lin, MD, health sciences assistant clinical professor of ophthalmology, was the recipient of the UCLA Stein Eye Institute's 1st Annual Golden Eye Award. The Award recognizes tremendous surgical capabilities, as well as the ability to collaborate exceptionally with the operating room (OR) team. The award voting committee is comprised of OR nurses, scrub techs, and staff.

Dr. Kevin Miller, chief of the Cataract and Refractive Surgery Division, penned the guest editorial in the April 2024 special refractive cataract surgery edition of *Ophthalmology Management* and **Drs. John D. Bartlett, Shawn Lin, and Mitra Nejad** contributed articles to the special issue.

Dr. Miller also served as an expert source for the article, "Cataract Surgery: What It Is and How Much It Costs," in the June 21, 2024, edition of *U.S. News & World Report*.

Stacy L. Pineles, MD, professor of ophthalmology, presented the Claud Worth Lecture on October 5, 2023, at the British and Irish Paediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Association meeting in London, England.

Dr. Pineles also presented the Gunter von Noorden Lecture, "Functional and Systemic Effects of Strabismus and Serious Pediatric Eye Disease," on January 20, 2024, at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas.

Peter A. Quiros, MD, clinical professor of ophthalmology, presented the Melvin L. Rubin, MD, Award Lecture, "Optic Neuritis: New Diagnostic and Treatment Strategies," on Saturday, June 22, 2024, at the Florida Society of Ophthalmology Masters in Ophthalmology Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida. The award is given in recognition of lifetime achievement in ophthalmic education.

Dr. Quiros was also named president-elect of the North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society for the 2024–2026 term.

SriniVas R. Sadda, MD, professor of ophthalmology, presented the Charles L. Schepens Lecture, on October 12, 2023, at the Retina Society's 56th Annual Scientific Meeting in New York.

Victoria L. Tseng, MD, PhD, assistant professor of ophthalmology, was appointed the Jerome and Joan Snyder Chair in Ophthalmology. The chair supports the distinguished faculty member who directs the ophthalmology residency program, ensuring that UCLA's accredited program continues to offer rigorous and comprehensive instruction for individuals of the highest caliber.

Edmund Tsui, MD, MS, assistant professor of ophthalmology, gave the keynote lecture, "OCT Biomarkers of Intraocular Inflammation" at the Carolyn Smith Uveitis Symposium on March 22, 2024, at the Vanderbilt Eye Institute in Nashville, Tennessee.

Federico G. Velez, MD, Leonard Apt Endowed Chair in Pediatric Ophthalmology, was the keynote speaker at the Mexican Society of Ophthalmology meeting in Acapulco, Mexico, on June 8, 2024.

Jie J. Zheng, PhD, professor of ophthalmology, was presented with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award from the UCLA Molecular Biology Institute on September 14, 2023, in recognition of his outstanding commitment to leadership, outreach, and service.



Dr. JoAnn Giaconi joins S. Rodman Irvine Prize honoree Dr. Gary Holland, who received his prestigious award during the Department's Annual Seminar on June 7, 2024.

Education

UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Annual Seminar

The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology held its prestigious clinical and research seminar June 7, 2024, at the UCLA Jules Stein Eye Institute. The event was highlighted by the following keynote lectures:

54th Doheny Memorial Lecturer

Joseph F. Rizzo III, MD

Simmons Lessell Professor of Ophthalmology
Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary

54th Jules Stein Lecturer

Russell N. Van Gelder, MD, PhD

Boyd K. Bucey Memorial Chair
University of Washington
Department of Ophthalmology

21st Bradley R. Straatsma Lecturer

Tamara R. Fountain, MD

Professor of Ophthalmology
Rush Medical College
Department of Ophthalmology

21st Thomas H. Pettit Lecturer

Kenneth J. Hoffer, MD

Former Clinical Professor
UCLA Department of Ophthalmology

At the Seminar, Excellence in Research Awards were presented to Resident **Ken Kitayama, MD, PhD**, Clinical Fellow **Adrian Au, MD, PhD**, International Research Fellow **Wei-Yu Lai, MD**, and Postdoctoral Fellow **Lin Zhang, PhD**.



Educational Courses

The **5th Annual Doheny-UCLA International Glaucoma Symposium** was held September 30, 2023, at the Doheny Eye Institute. **Dr. Vikas Chopra** was the course director.

The annual **Cataract Surgery Essentials Course**, in conjunction with Johnson & Johnson Vision, was held on October 7, 2023, at the Johnson & Johnson Institute in Irvine, California. The course was directed by **Dr. Kevin Miller**.

The **2nd Annual Doheny-UCLA International Retina Symposium** was held at the Doheny Eye Institute on January 27, 2024. The Symposium was co-directed by **Drs. Michael Ip** and **Kirk Hou**.

The **27th Annual Department of Ophthalmology Vision Science Conference** was held October 20, 2023, at the Jules Stein Eye Institute's RPB Auditorium. The event was organized by **Dr. Alapakkam Sampath**.

Dr. Anthony Aldave conducted a skill transfer workshop in Bangkok, Thailand, on December 4–5, 2023, that highlighted the use of the Boston keratoprosthesis. Assisting Dr. Aldave as instructors were UCLA Department of Ophthalmology faculty, **Drs. Simon Law**, **Daniel Rootman**, **Kirk Hou**, and **Pradeep Prasad**.

The **10th Annual Pacific Retina Club and International Retinal Imaging Society (InTRIS)** hosted a combined meeting May 30–June 1, 2024, at the UCLA Meyer & Renee Luskin Conference Center. Course organizers were **Drs. David Sarraf**, **Amani Fawzi**, **K. Bailey Freund**, **H. Richard McDonald**, and **SriniVas Sadda**.

L to r: Drs. Anthony Arnold, Tamara Fountain, Bradley Straatsma, Anne Coleman, and Robert Goldberg.

The **Zeiss Vision Advanced Cataract Surgery Course** was held February 3, 2024, at the Westin South Coast Plaza in Costa Mesa, California. The course was directed by **Dr. Kevin Miller**.

The Jules Stein Eye Institute and Doheny Eye Institute presented the **Annual Comprehensive Ophthalmology Review Course**, February 8–11, 2024, at the Jules Stein Eye Institute in Westwood. Course directors were **Drs. John Irvine** and **Mitra Nejad**.

The **53rd Doheny Eye Institute Annual Continuing Medical Education Conference** was held March 24, 2024, at the Doheny Eye Institute in Pasadena. The course was directed by **Drs. Peter Quiros**, **Judy Chen**, and **Hugo Hsu**.

The **14th Annual Ryan Initiative for Macular Research (RIMR)** was held in Irvine, California, April 4–6, 2024. The Doheny Eye Institute program was chaired by **Dr. SriniVas Sadda**.

2024 Graduation Award Ceremony

Residents, fellows, and faculty were honored for excellence at the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology graduation ceremony on June 15, 2024, at UCLA's Luskin Conference Center.

TEACHING AWARDS

Faculty Teaching Award

Jay Sridhar, MD

Fellowship Faculty Teaching Award

Laura Bonelli, MD

Medical Student Teaching Award

John Cheng, MD

Resident Teaching Award

Angela Oh, MD

Fellow Teaching Award

Adrian Au, MD, PhD

Community Outreach

Providing Patients with Concierge-Level Service

The UCLA Stein Eye Institute launched an Ambassador Concierge volunteer program, the latest initiative sponsored by the Jules and Doris Stein UCLA Support Group. The program aims to pair excellent vision care with top-notch patient services. Committed volunteers provide patients with kindness and generosity, focusing on creating a warm and friendly atmosphere. Volunteer services include serving as patient escorts, making suggestions for local dining, and offering directions to other UCLA Health facilities.

Volunteering has many benefits. Volunteers connect with the community and make it a better place. Helping with even the smallest tasks at the Stein Eye Institute can make a real difference in people's lives.

For information about the Ambassador Concierge volunteer program, or to join as a volunteer, please contact Shirley Egbert at egbert@jsei.ucla.edu or by calling (310) 206-7128.



Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion

Department Awarded \$50,000 for Exemplary Job Prioritizing Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology was honored with a \$50,000 prize from the David Geffen School of Medicine (DGSOM) in furtherance of 2024 Eye-JEDI initiatives—the highest amount of JEDI funding given to any of the 24 DGSOM departments. The financial award was on top of the Department being recognized by DGSOM for its 2023 achievements in advancing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI), specifically in its planning and execution of initiatives focused on people.

Each department's efforts to advance JEDI principles as they relate to People, Structural Elements, Professional Development/Education, Community Engagement, Equitable Patient Care, and Climate are evaluated and compared annually by DGSOM. Evaluation is conducted by a 12-member team using a National Institutes of Health-style structure organized by the JEDI Dean's Office. **Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD**, chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, director of the Jules Stein Eye Institute, and affiliation chair of the Doheny Eye Institute, presented the Department's JEDI efforts at the 1st DGSOM Chairs' Symposium in April 2023, and the Department of Ophthalmology received among the highest scores. The evaluation team was particularly impressed with the Department's faculty/resident recruitment strategy, the use of data to evaluate the current state and efficacy of efforts, and its strong work in structural initiatives. Speaking to the advancements achieved under **Sophie X. Deng, MD, PhD**, EyeJEDI vice chair, one reviewer said, "I am very impressed by this chair and the impressive amount of work she has done in nine months!"

"The EyeJEDI Committee believes that people are the change agent of the other JEDI elements," says Dr. Deng. "As such, our JEDI endeavors are people-centered initiatives. Recognizing the imperative of fostering a sustainable and diverse work-force in ophthalmology, our Department initiated development of a structured Underrepresented in Medicine (URiM) pipeline program. This initiative includes creating an Undergraduate Summer Vision Research Program and Visiting Medical Student Scholarship and sponsoring UCLA medical students in the Minority Mentoring Program of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. We've also implemented a holistic residency review process and actively engaged in URiM recruitment events. Under Dr. Coleman's leadership, the Department has increased the representation in departmental leadership, and expanded research on gender and race/ethnicity disparities in eye care and ophthalmology training."

Alumni News

2023 Stein and Doheny Alumni Reception

The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association held its annual Stein Eye Institute and Doheny Eye Institute reception on November 5, 2023, during the American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting in San Francisco, California.



Drs. Vinit Mahajan, John Irvine, Jasmine Hayes-Adams, and Rahul Khurana.



Adding to the festivities of this year's reception was Dr. Anthony J. Aldave, also known as DJ AJA, who kept the music pumping!



Drs. Vinit Mahajan, JoAnn Giaconi, Anne Coleman, Vahid Mohammadzadeh, and Scott So.



Drs. Troy Elander, Bronwyn Bateman, and Diane Elander.



Above: Drs. Bartly Mondino, H. Matthew Wheatley, James Palmer, and Howard Krauss.

Left: Drs. Federico Velez, Stacy Pineles, Cathy Hwang, Vicky Pai, and Jennifer Huang.

Alumni Bulletin

Alumni Honors

President Biden Honors Doheny Alumnus

David Huang, MD, PhD, who received ophthalmology residency training at the Doheny Eye Institute/ University of Southern California (1994–97) and began his career there, was recognized with the National Medal of Technology and Innovation for “literally changing the world for the better” at a White House ceremony on October 24, 2023. President Joseph Biden presented Dr. Huang and his two co-inventors, James G. Fujimoto, PhD, and Eric A. Swanson, MS, the United States’ highest honor for technological achievement for their inventing optical coherence tomography (OCT). The award was last bestowed in 2015.

The month prior, the trio received the 2023 Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award for their transformative imaging technology. Dubbed “America’s Nobel,” the Lasker Award is considered the United States’ most distinguished prize in biomedical research. Dr. Huang was also inducted into the National Academy of Engineering.

Dr. Lawrence Chong Celebrated as Doheny Distinguished Alumnus

The Doheny Eye Institute honored **Lawrence Chong, MD**, as a Distinguished Alumnus at the March 23, 2024, Alumni Dinner at the Hunt Club in South Pasadena. During his tenure at Doheny from 1986 to 2009, Dr. Chong played an instrumental role in nurturing the next generation of ophthalmologists through his invaluable contributions to the clinical fellowship program, training over 30 fellows in vitreoretinal surgery as well as his international outreach in education.



President Joseph Biden presented Dr. David Huang (left) and his colleagues the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, the United States’ highest honor for technical achievement.

Photo: Ryan K. Morris and the National Science and Technology Medals Foundation.

In Memoriam

Constance M. Calageris, MD

Jules Stein Eye Institute resident (1970)

Craig H. Kliger

Jules Stein Eye Institute clinical fellow (1995)

George Bernard Primbs, MD, FACS

UCLA Division of Ophthalmology resident (1962)

Pedro Quevedo, MD

International fellow (1997)

The Best in the West



For 35 consecutive years, UCLA Health has been recognized on the *U.S. News & World Report* national honor roll of best hospitals.

UCLA Stein Eye and Doheny Eye Institutes are ranked #1 in Los Angeles and California and among the top 5 in the nation for Ophthalmology.

Philanthropy



With Deep Appreciation

In reflecting on the past year at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, we are grateful for our dedicated philanthropic partners who have contributed to advance eye research, enhance patient care, train future eye specialists, and increase our community engagement. Your support has been instrumental in our mission to prevent blindness and preserve vision. We sincerely thank you for your invaluable support and collaboration.

Donations July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024

Major Gifts \$25,000 and Above:

American Society of Gene and Cell Therapy
Brain Research Foundation
Bruce Ford and Anne Smith Bundy Foundation
California Health Care Foundation
Carol and Timothy W. Hannemann
Esther A. and Joseph Klingenstein Fund
Fox Family Foundation
Glenn and Ruthanne Weaver
Hongbin Peng
Kuen Lau Research Foundation
Laura Glaser and Leonard Loventhal
Lizbeth Douglas Trust
Maralea and Joseph Binz
Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc.
Richard B. Shapiro
The Arthur & Patricia Price Foundation
The Douglas Foundation
The Gross Family Trust
The Simms/Mann Family Foundation
Theo and Wendy Kolokotronis
Wilbur May Foundation

Individuals Recognized with a Tribute Gift

IN HONOR OF:

Allan E. Kreiger, MD
Bartly J. Mondino, MD
Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD
Cassie Forbes
Cindy Beatty
Colin A. McCannel, MD
Jill Ettinger
Joan Kramer
Joellyn M. Hardin
John D. Bartlett, MD
Joseph Caprioli, MD
Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD
Kevin M. Miller, MD
Pradeep S. Prasad, MD, MBA
Romy Reed-Juhas
Simon K. Law, MD, PharmD
Tara A. McCannel, MD, PhD

IN MEMORY OF:

Alfred Herbert Cook
Diane Lowitz
Gary R. Gust, PhD
Howard D. Felsher
Jean Stein
Jerrold C. Bocci, MD
Michael Klion
Reginald Clarke Sprague
Roger P. Gray and Katherine L. Gray
Roland Cesarini
Theodore Doke

Stein Eye Institute Endowed Chairs Supporting Department of Ophthalmology Faculty

Receiving an endowed chair is the highest accolade for faculty—a tradition dating back to Sir Isaac Newton. It demonstrates UCLA's utmost respect for their thought leadership and entails financial support to the chair holder. Endowed chairs provide extra incentive to recruit and retain top faculty and are vital to the Department of Ophthalmology's continued preeminence.

Arthur L. Rosenbaum, MD, Chair in Pediatric Ophthalmology

Established in 2007 by Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb as an administrative chair for the Division of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus in honor of the late Dr. Arthur L. Rosenbaum. The chair was originally named the Brindell and Milton Gottlieb Chair in Pediatric Ophthalmology.

Arthur L. Rosenbaum, MD
2008–June 2010

Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD
2015–Present

Bartly J. Mondino, MD, Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology

Established in 2022 as an administrative chair to support the position of Vice Chair of Academic Affairs in the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and UCLA Stein Eye Institute.

Anthony J. Aldave MD
2023–Present

Bert O. Levy Endowed Chair in Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery

Established in 2019 as a permanent-appointment chair by Mr. Bert Levy to support the teaching and research activities of an outstanding, academic orbital and ophthalmic plastic surgeon.

Robert Alan Goldberg, MD
2019–Present

Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology

Established in 1994 to honor founding director of the Stein Eye Institute, Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD.

Bartly J. Mondino, MD
2000–2022

Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD
2022–Present

Charles Kenneth Feldman Chair in Ophthalmology

Established in 1982 by various donors in memory of Charles Kenneth Feldman, an entertainment industry executive.

Robert D. Yee, MD
Professor 1984–1987

Hilel Lewis, MD
Scholar 1989–1993

Gabriel H. Travis, MD
2001–Present

David May II Chair in Ophthalmology

Established in 1998 as a term-appointment chair by the family of Mr. David May II, a founding member of the Institute's Board of Trustees, to perpetuate, in memoriam, Mr. May's association with the Stein Eye Institute; after an additional pledge from the Wilbur May Foundation, it was converted to a permanent-appointment chair in 2009.

Gary N. Holland, MD
1999–2004

Joseph Caprioli, MD
2004–Present

Dolly Green Chair of Ophthalmology

Established in 1980 by Ms. Dorothy (Dolly) Green.

Dean Bok, PhD
1984–2013

Dolly Green Chair in Clinical Research

Established in 2021 to support an endowed chair in clinical research.

Dolly Green Chair in Vision Science

Established in 2021 to support an endowed chair in vision science.

Ernest G. Herman Chair in Ophthalmology

Established in 2008 by Mr. Ernest G. Herman to support a vision scientist or a clinician-investigator.

Xian-Jie Yang, PhD
2012–2021

Kouros Nouri-Mahdavi, MD, MSc
2021–2023

Grace and Walter Lantz Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology

Established in 1991 as a term-appointment chair by Mr. and Mrs. Lantz and, with an additional pledge, it was converted to a permanent-appointment chair in 2010.

J. Bronwyn Bateman, MD
Grace and Walter Lantz Scholar
1993–1995

Sherwin J. Isenberg, MD
Grace and Walter Lantz Scholar
1993–1995
Professor 1996–2004

Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD
Professor 2004–2005

Alapakkam P. Sampath, PhD
2021–Present

Harold and Pauline Price Chair in Ophthalmology

Established in 2000 by the Louis and Harold Price Foundation and, with an additional pledge, it was converted to a permanent-appointment chair in 2006.

Michael B. Gorin, MD, PhD
2006–Present

Hilel Lewis Family Chair in Ophthalmology

Established at UCLA in 2020 in collaboration with Dr. Hilel Lewis via Columbia University to support an outstanding clinician-investigator in retina.

Jack H. Skirball Chair in Ocular Inflammatory Diseases

Initiated in 2008 by The Skirball Foundation in honor of Mr. Jack H. Skirball's long-standing friendship with Dr. Jules Stein and Mr. Lew Wasserman.

Gary N. Holland, MD
2009–Present

Jerome and Joan Snyder Chair in Ophthalmology

Established in 2008 by Mr. and Mrs. Snyder to support the activities of a distinguished faculty member who directs the ophthalmology residency program, ensuring that UCLA's accredited program continues to offer rigorous and comprehensive instruction for individuals of the highest caliber.

Anthony C. Arnold, MD
2008–2017

Stacy L. Pineles, MD
2017–2023

Victoria L. Tseng, MD, PhD
2023–Present

Joan and Jerome Snyder Chair in Cornea Diseases

Established in 2013 by Mr. and Mrs. Snyder to support the activities of a distinguished faculty member in the area of corneal diseases and research.

Sophie X. Deng, MD, PhD
2019–2023

Joan and Jerome Snyder Chair in Vision Science

Established in 2018 by Mr. and Mrs. Snyder, this term chair will support the teaching and research activities of an excellent scientist and faculty member in the Vision-Science Division.

Greg D. Field, PhD
2023–Present

Jules Stein Chair in Ophthalmology

Established in 1982 as a memorial tribute to Dr. Jules Stein by his many friends, with the leadership of Mr. Samuel Goldwyn, Jr.

Wayne L. Hubbell, PhD
1983–Present

Karen and Frank Dabby Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology

Established in 2007 by Dr. and Mrs. Dabby as a term chair to support the activities of a distinguished faculty member in the area of orbital disease.

Robert Alan Goldberg, MD
2008–2018

Daniel B. Rootman, MD, MS
2019–Present

Karl Kirchgessner Foundation Chair in Vision Science

Established in 2001 as a term-appointment chair by a colleague of Dr. Jules Stein to promote basic-science research initiatives.

Debora B. Farber, PhD, DPhhc
2001–2018

David S. Williams, PhD
2019–Present

Kay K. Pick Endowed Chair in Glaucoma Research

Established in 2023 as a permanent-appointment chair for a faculty member with an expertise in glaucoma research.

Kouros Nouri-Mahdavi, MD, MSc
(pending)
2023–Present

Kolokotrones Chair in Ophthalmology

Established in 2004 by Wendy and Theo Kolokotrones to support the teaching and research of a cataract surgeon and scientist.

Kevin M. Miller, MD
2005–Present

Laraine and David Gerber Chair in Ophthalmology

Established in 1998 as a term-appointment chair by Mr. and Mrs. Gerber and, with an additional pledge, converted to a permanent-appointment chair in 2009.

Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD
2000–2004

Sherwin J. Isenberg, MD
2004–2019

Leonard Apt Endowed Chair in Pediatric Ophthalmology

Established in 2004 by Professor Emeritus of Ophthalmology and Founding Director of the Division of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus, Dr. Leonard Apt, with a gift from the trust of Frederic G. Rappaport, Dr. Apt's nephew.

Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD
2005–2015

Federico G. Velez, MD
2021–Present

Mary Oakley Foundation Chair in Neurodegenerative Diseases

Established in 2013 by The Mary Oakley Foundation to support neurodegenerative diseases.

Anthony C. Arnold, MD
2017–Present

Olive Bateman and Anga Lundgren Endowed Chair

Established in 2020 by faculty alumna Dr. J. Bronwyn Bateman in the memory of her mother, Olive Anga Lundgren, MD, and grandmother, Anga Lundgren. This administrative chair supports the Director of Consultations overseeing inpatient and emergency care.

Laura Bonelli, MD
2022–Present

Oppenheimer Brothers Chair

Established in 2002 as a term chair by the Oppenheimer Brothers Foundation.

Joseph Horwitz, PhD
2003–2017

Suraj P. Bhat, PhD
2019–Present

Rory Smith, MD, Endowed Chair

Established in 2019 by faculty alumna Dr. J. Bronwyn Bateman in honor of her late husband, Dr. Roderick "Rory" Smith, this administrative chair will be held by the director of the UCLA J. Bronwyn Bateman Center for Ocular Genetics.

James and Catherine Shuler Endowed Chair in Comprehensive Ophthalmology

Established in 2020 by Dr. and Mrs. James D. Shuler as an administrative chair for the Comprehensive Ophthalmology Division Chief to further research, education, and clinical care programs.

Smotrich Family Optometric Clinician-Scientist Chair

Established in 2016 to support an optometric clinician-scientist at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute and will fund the appointee's education and research programs.

Ava K. Bittner, OD, PhD
2019–Present

[The Ahmanson Chair in Ophthalmology](#)

Established in 2006 by The Ahmanson Foundation as an administrative chair for the Retina Division Chief to further research, education, and clinical care programs.

Steven D. Schwartz, MD
2007–2024

[The Fran and Ray Stark Foundation Chair in Ophthalmology](#)

Established in 1992 as a term-appointment chair by the Fran and Ray Stark Foundation, and with an additional commitment, it was converted to a permanent-appointment chair in 2009.

Joseph Caprioli, MD
1997–2004

Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD
2004–2022

[The Wasserman Professor of Ophthalmology](#)

Established in 1977 by Edie and Lew Wasserman to honor Dr. Jules Stein.

Manfred Spitznas, MD
1979–1981

Bartly J. Mondino, MD
Scholar 1984–1988
Professor 1988–2000

Ben J. Glasgow, MD
2003–Present

[Vernon O. Underwood Family Chair in Ophthalmology](#)

Established in 1995 as a term-appointment chair by Mrs. Adrienne Underwood Pingree in memory of her late husband, Mr. Vernon O. Underwood.

John R. Heckenlively, MD
1997–2004

Gary N. Holland, MD
2004–2009

Lynn K. Gordon, MD, PhD
2012–2020

Roxana A. Radu, MD
2021–Present

[Walton Li Chair in Cornea and Uveitis](#)

Established in 2013 by Walton W. Li, MD, as an administrative chair for the Cornea and Uveitis Division to further research and teaching activities.

Anthony J. Aldave, MD
2014–2023

Sophie X. Deng, MD, PhD
2023–Present

[Doheny Eye Institute Endowed Chairs Supporting Department of Ophthalmology Faculty](#)

[A. Ray Irvine, Jr., MD, Endowed Chair in Clinical Ophthalmology](#)

John A. Irvine, MD
2014–2024

SriniVas R. Sadda, MD
2024–Present

[Flora L. Thornton Endowed Chair in Vision Research](#)

Alfredo A. Sadun, MD, PhD
2014–Present

[Gavin S. Herbert Endowed Chair for Macular Degeneration](#)

Michael S. Ip, MD
2019–Present

[Mary D. Allen Chair in Vision Research](#)

Deming Sun, MD
2015–Present

[The Charles Stewart Warren and Hildegard Warren Endowed Research Chair](#)

Vikas Chopra, MD
2017–Present

[The Rupert and Gertrude I. Steiger Vision Research Endowed Chair](#)

Brian A. Francis, MD, MS
2015–Present

[The Stephen J. Ryan — Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation Endowed Presidential Chair](#)

SriniVas R. Sadda, MD
2015–2020

Deborah A. Ferrington, PhD
2022–Present

[Stein Eye Institute Fellowship Funds and Endowments](#)

[Abe Meyer Memorial Fellowship Fund](#)

Established in 1969 by various donors to support clinical fellows at the Institute.

Jiwei Sheng, MD
2023–2024

Connie M. Sears, MD
2023–2024

[Adelaide Stein Miller Research Fellowship](#)

Established in 1977 by Mr. Charles Miller as a tribute to his wife, Adelaide Stein Miller, Dr. Jules Stein's sister.

[Aramont Fellowship Fund](#)

Established in 2020 by the Aramont Charitable Foundation to enable a domestic fellow in the Division of Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery to pursue advanced training under the mentorship of Dr. Robert Alan Goldberg.

[Audrey and Jack Skirball Ocular Inflammatory Disease Fellowship](#)

Established in 2011 by The Skirball Foundation to support the training of fellows specializing in ocular inflammatory disease.

Carla Berkowitz, MD
2023–2024

[Bert Levy Research Fellowship Fund](#)

Established in 1995 by Mr. Bert Levy to enhance the educational opportunities of vision-science scholars and advance research in neuro-ophthalmology.

[Cooperman Fellowship Fund](#)

Established in 1988 by the Coopermans to support eye research and education, with emphasis on clinical ophthalmology.

Blake H. Fortes, MD
2023–2024

David and Randi Fett Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Fellowship

Established in 2013 by Dr. David R. Fett and Ms. Randi Levine to support fellows in the Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Division.

Katherine M. Lucarelli, MD
2023–2024

David May II Fellowship Fund

Established in 1992 by the family of Mr. David May II to support advanced study and research in ophthalmology and vision science.

Jack D. Lemon, MD, MBA
2023–2024

Dr. Jack Rubin Memorial Fellowship

Established in 1987 by the family of Dr. Jack Rubin to support postdoctoral fellows.

Elsa and Louis Kelton Fellowship

Endowed by the Keltons in 1982 to support postdoctoral research and training.

Alexander R. Engelmann, MD
2023–2024

Frances Howard Goldwyn Fellowship

Established in 1977 by Mr. Samuel Goldwyn, Jr., with gifts from Mrs. Goldwyn's estate and Dr. and Mrs. Jules Stein.

Albert Liao, MD, MS
2023–2024

Katherine M. Lucarelli, MD
2023–2024

Frederic G. Rappaport Endowed Fellowship in Retina/Oncology

Established in 2004 by Mrs. Jeanne A. Rappaport as a memorial to her son Frederic.

Adrian C. Au, MD, PhD
2023–2024

Jerome Comet Klein, MD, Fellowship and Lecture Fund

Established in 2007 by the Irving & Estelle Levy Foundation to provide fellowship and lecture support in the areas of orbital and ophthalmic plastic surgery.

John and Theiline McCone Fellowship

Established in 1989 by the McCones to support and enhance education programs and fellowship training in macular disease.

Adrian C. Au, MD, PhD
2023–2024

Blake H. Fortes, MD
2023–2024

Jules Stein Research Fellowship

Established in 1982 by various donors to honor the memory of Charles Kenneth Feldman.

Jiwei Sheng, MD
2023–2024

Klara Spinks Fleming Fellowship Fund

Established in 1985 by Klara Spinks Fleming to support cataract research.

Leonard Apt Endowed Fellowship in Pediatric Ophthalmology

Established in 2002 by founding chief of the Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Division, Leonard Apt, MD, to support outstanding clinical fellows in the field of pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus.

Leonard Apt, MD, Pediatric Fellowship Fund

Established in 2015 by the trust of Leonard Apt, MD, founding chief of the Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Division, to support pediatric ophthalmology fellowships.

Mona Fayad, MD
2023–2024

Rosalind W. Alcott Fellowship

Established in 1978 by the Rosalind W. Alcott Charitable Remainder Trust for the training of outstanding postdoctoral fellows.

Sanford and Erna Schulhofer Fellowship Fund

Established in 1986 by Mr. Sanford Schulhofer to support postdoctoral research and training in vision science.

The Harold and Pauline Price Fellowship

Established in 1987 by the Louis and Harold Price Foundation to support research and education in ophthalmology and vision care.

Albert Liao, MD, MS
2023–2024

Thelma and William Brand Director's Fund

Established in 2004 with a trust from Mr. William F. Brand to benefit worthy students at the Stein Eye Institute.

The Mae and Lee Sherman Fellowship Fund

Established in 1981 by the Sherman family to support postdoctoral fellows.

Wilbur D. May Fellowship

Established in 2013 by the May family as a tribute to Mr. Wilbur D. May, the beloved uncle of Mr. David May II.

Carla Berkowitz, MD
2023–2024

Endowments for Research, Education, and Patient Care

Albert Sarnoff Endowed Cataract Fund

Amalia Simon Roth and Victor and
Edith Roth Endowment

Anne H. West Estate Fund

Anthony Eannelli Endowment for
Retina Research

Arna Saphier Macular Degeneration
Fund

Arthur Spitzer Fund

Audrey Hayden-Gradle Trust

Barbara P. Taylor Fund

Bateman Endowment

Bradley R. Straatsma Research Fund

Chesley Jack Mills Trust

Daniel B. Whipple Fund

Dr. William F. Stein and
Ester Elizabeth Stein Memorial Fund

Edward and Hannah Carter Fund

Elsa and Louis Kelton Scholarship

Elsie B. Ballantyne Regents Fund

Elsie B. Ballantyne UCLA Foundation
Fund

Emilia B. Gillespie Jules Stein
Eye Institute Fund

Emily G. Plumb Estate and Trust
Endowment for Children with Uveitis

Esther Shandler Research Fund

Gerald Oppenheimer Family
Foundation Center for the Prevention
of Eye Disease Endowment Fund

Harry J. Heitzer Fund

Henry I. Baylis, MD, Endowed Fund in
Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery

Herb Ritts, Jr., Memorial Vision Fund

Herman King Fund

Hintze Glaucoma Research Fund

J. Richard Armstrong and
Ardis Armstrong Fund

Jerome T. Pearlman, MD, Fund

John and Theiline McCone
Macular Disease Research Fund

JSEI Maintenance Fund

Katherine L. Gardner Research Fund

Kay K. Pick Glaucoma Research Fund

Levin Family Contact Lens
Endowment Fund

Maggi Kelly Vision Fund

Marie and Jerry Hornstein Family
Endowed Macular Degeneration
Research Fund

Michael Huffington Ophthalmology
Scholarship Fund

Nancy Chen Endowed Research Fund

Pat and Joe Yzurdiaga
Endowed Cataract Fund

Patricia and Joseph Yzurdiaga
Endowed Vision Science
Research Fund

Patricia Pearl Morrison Research Fund

Paul J. Vicari Endowed Cataract
Research Fund

Raymond and Ruth Stotter
Vision Science Research Fund

Richard B. Shapiro Vision Fund

Sara Kolb Memorial Fund

Stella F. Joseph Fund

The Annenberg Foundation Fund

The Card Family Research Fund

The Karl Kirchgessner Foundation
Ophthalmology Endowment Fund

The Leonard Apt, MD, Pediatric
EyeSTAR Residency Training Fund

The Leonard Apt, MD, Pediatric
Ophthalmology Fund

The Skirball Foundation Fund

Thelma and William Brand
Director's Fund for the
Jules Stein Eye Institute

UCLA Center for Eye Epidemiology

Uncle Claude Fund

Virginia Burns Oppenheimer
Endowment Fund

William, Richard, & Roger Meyer Fund



Eye Health Programs



Patient Care Services

Committed to advancing eye health, UCLA Department of Ophthalmology board-certified faculty provide services ranging from routine eye examinations to complex sight-saving procedures.

Designated as a tertiary referral center, doctors and hospitals throughout the United States, as well as Mexico, direct patients with the most challenging ophthalmic issues to the UCLA Stein Eye Institute.

The Jules Stein Eye Institute and its affiliation partner, the Doheny Eye Institute, are ranked among the top in the nation for ophthalmology. Patients and referring physicians alike trust UCLA Department of Ophthalmology faculty to provide the highest level of care across every subspecialty. Premier services are available at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute vision-science campus in Westwood, as well as at the Stein Eye Institute locations in Calabasas and Santa Monica and Doheny Eye Center UCLA locations in Arcadia, Orange County, and Pasadena.



UCLA Department of Ophthalmology

Los Angeles and Beyond

Learn more about our
LOCATIONS, PROVIDERS, and
SERVICES at:

[www.uclahealth.org/eye/
our-locations](http://www.uclahealth.org/eye/our-locations).

UCLA Stein Eye Institute

The **UCLA Stein Eye Institute** vision-science campus in Westwood is home to clinics and laboratories, as well as the Institute's Outpatient Surgical Center.

Direct consultation and treatment, including emerging therapies, is available through the **Ophthalmology Faculty Consultation Service**. Faculty members have extensive and advanced training in ophthalmic subspecialties and are a valuable resource for referring physicians and patients with complex eye problems. In addition, wide-ranging and subspecialty eye care in all medical and surgical areas of ophthalmology is offered through the **Comprehensive Ophthalmology Division**, which is staffed by UCLA Department of Ophthalmology faculty, members of the UCLA Medical Group, and subspecialty ophthalmology fellows.

The Institute's **Outpatient Surgical Center**, housed in the award-winning Edie & Lew Wasserman Building, is equipped with advanced tools for precision surgery and sets the standard for excellence in patient care and medical progress. Ophthalmic surgery of every kind—from cataract extraction and laser vision-correction surgeries to removal of ocular tumors—is performed. Faculty members and skilled medical specialists, including subspecialty fellows, medical residents, anesthesiologists, nurses, and technicians, ensure that each patient receives the highest quality preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative care possible.

The **Ophthalmology Inpatient Consultation Service**, operating 24 hours a day through the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and UCLA Medical Center Santa Monica, provides ophthalmic consultation and treatment to pediatric and adult patients who are admitted to the medical centers for inpatient care. The consultation team consists of physician-residents at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute, with subspecialty coverage provided by UCLA Department of Ophthalmology faculty.

100 Stein Plaza, UCLA
Los Angeles, CA 90095
Referral Service: (310) 825-5000
Emergency Service: (310) 825-3090
After-Hours Emergency Service:
(310) 825-2111

UCLA Stein Eye Institute Locations in Calabasas and Santa Monica

The Stein Eye Institute—Calabasas and Stein Eye Institute—Santa Monica provide excellence in clinical care combined with neighborhood convenience. At each location, UCLA Department of Ophthalmology faculty provide subspecialty care, surgical services, and diagnostic testing.

Stein Eye Institute—Calabasas

The Stein Eye Institute—Calabasas provides patients in the San Fernando Valley and nearby communities with subspecialty care, including cataract and LASIK surgery, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, macular degeneration, and functional and cosmetic oculoplastics. Visual field testing, corneal mapping (corneal topography), intraocular lens measurement, fluorescein angiography, spectral domain optical coherence tomography, and additional diagnostic retinal imaging techniques are available.

The Stein Eye Institute—Calabasas has free on-site parking and is located in the UCLA Health Building immediately adjacent to the 101 Freeway, between the Las Virgenes Road and Lost Hills Road exits.

26585 W. Agoura Rd., Suite 270
Calabasas, CA 91302
Telephone: (818) 431-4414
Fax: 818-878-0018

Stein Eye Institute—Santa Monica

The Stein Eye Institute—Santa Monica offers the comprehensive and subspecialty eye care of the UCLA Stein Eye Institute in Westwood at an easily accessible Westside locale. UCLA faculty provide evaluation and treatment for a range of subspecialties, including eyelid and other oculoplastic surgery, pediatric eye care, and neuro-ophthalmology. A wide range of ocular assessment is available, including visual field testing, corneal mapping (corneal topography), intraocular lens measurement, fluorescein angiography, spectral domain optical coherence tomography, and other diagnostic retinal imaging techniques.

In addition to on-site parking, the Stein Eye Institute—Santa Monica has an in-house optical shop with a comprehensive selection of eyeglasses and contact lenses.

1807 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 203
Santa Monica, CA 90403
Telephone: (310) 829-0160
Fax: (310) 829-0170

Doheny Eye Centers UCLA

The Doheny Eye Centers UCLA support neighborhoods northeast of downtown Los Angeles and south to Orange County. UCLA Department of Ophthalmology faculty provide the finest clinical care, surgical services, diagnostic testing, and treatment available.

Doheny Eye Center UCLA—Arcadia

The Doheny Eye Center UCLA—Arcadia expands the Department's reach by caring for patients in the San Gabriel Valley. The renovated office includes 12 exam rooms, dedicated diagnostic equipment, and attractive patient areas. The Center provides comprehensive ophthalmology, and a broad range of subspecialty services, including complex cataracts and secondary intraocular lenses, cornea and external diseases, glaucoma, neuro-ophthalmic disorders, pediatric eye disease, as well as vitreoretinal diseases and disorders.

Situated just south of the 210 freeway and north of the 10 freeway, the Doheny Eye Center—Arcadia is easily accessible from the two freeways and provides free, on-site parking.

622 W. Duarte Rd., Suite 101
Arcadia, CA 91007
Telephone: (626) 254-9010
Fax: (626) 254-9019

Doheny Eye Center UCLA— Orange County

The Doheny Eye Center UCLA—Orange County broadens the scope of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology south to Orange County. The Center is located in the Orange Coast Memorial Medical Center, and it offers comprehensive ophthalmology and extensive subspecialty services, including complex cataracts and secondary intraocular lenses, cornea and external diseases, glaucoma, neuro-ophthalmic disorders, pediatric eye disease, as well as vitreoretinal diseases and disorders.

Centrally located and accessible to all of Orange County, the Doheny Eye Center UCLA—Orange County includes 12 exam rooms and dedicated diagnostic equipment.

Orange Coast Memorial
Medical Center
18111 Brookhurst St., Suite 6400
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
Telephone: (714) 963-1444
Fax: (714) 963-1234



The light-filled waiting room of the Stein Eye Institute—Calabasas



UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Summary of Patient Care Statistics

	2022–23	2023–24
FACULTY CONSULTATION SERVICE		
Patient visits	177,851	178,782
INPATIENT CONSULTATION SERVICE		
Patient evaluations	1,224	1,432
CLINICAL LABORATORIES		
Procedures	116,972	118,565
SURGERY SERVICES		
Number of procedures (includes lasers)	25,751	26,849
Intravitreal Injections	16,172	16,837
UCLA MOBILE EYE CLINIC		
Number of patients	4,379	5,716
Ocular abnormalities	18%	15%
Number of trips	305	366

Doheny Eye Center UCLA– Pasadena

The Doheny Eye Center UCLA–Pasadena is the primary hub of the Doheny Eye Centers UCLA. Located on the second floor of the Huntington Pavilion, the Center provides expanded vision care services and clinics devoted to comprehensive ophthalmology, cornea and external diseases, glaucoma, neuro-ophthalmology, oculoplastics, ophthalmic oncology, pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus, as well as retinal and macular diseases. Each subspecialty clinic has dedicated, state-of-the-art diagnostic and laser suites, as well as in-office procedure rooms.

The Doheny Eye Center UCLA–Pasadena includes over 30 exam, procedure, and laser rooms, with a large array of diagnostic equipment. The Center is centrally located in the heart of Pasadena and is accessible to all of Pasadena’s surrounding communities.

Huntington Pavilion
625 S. Fair Oaks Blvd.
Suites 280, 285, 240, 227
Pasadena, CA 91105
Telephone: (626) 817-4747
Fax: (626) 817-4748

UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Affiliated Teaching Hospitals and Affiliated Partners

Affiliated Teaching Hospitals

Taught by world-class faculty and experts in their field, residents in the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology gain hands-on clinical and surgical experience caring for patients in UCLA-affiliated teaching hospitals. Together with attending physicians, UCLA residents provide vital eye care services to large and diverse patient populations.

Harbor-UCLA Medical Center

1000 W. Carson St.
Torrance, CA 90502

Olive View-UCLA Medical Center

14445 Olive View Dr.
Sylmar, CA 91342

Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System Sepulveda

16111 Plummer St.
Sepulveda, CA 91343

Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System West Los Angeles

11301 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90073

Affiliated Partners

The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology has established formal partnerships that advance patient care, the education of ophthalmologists, and research discovery.

Doheny Eye Institute

The Doheny Eye Institute began its historic affiliation with the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology in 2014. With that action, UCLA became the only university with two eye institutes: the UCLA Stein Eye Institute and the Doheny Eye Institute. The Doheny Eye Institute, a top-ranked nonprofit organization, opened its 115,895-square-foot headquarters in Pasadena in 2022. The vision-science campus enhances Doheny's capabilities for fundamental discoveries that fuel ideas for clinical trials, new treatments, and cures. Its laboratories are equipped to accelerate research and discovery in key areas, including artificial intelligence, regenerative medicine, gene-based therapies, and imaging diagnostics. Educational programs housed in a state-of-the-art conference center enable remote collaborations to meet current demands and evolving opportunities to advance vision research and teaching.

Doheny Eye Institute

150 N. Orange Grove Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91103

*Doheny Eye Institute's
headquarters in Pasadena*



Centers and Laboratories

Research and Treatment Centers

The Research and Treatment Centers provide subspecialty care from faculty physicians who are actively involved in related research, enabling emerging and experimental treatment options to be developed for a gamut of eye disorders. In addition to comprehensive treatment, the centers provide both patients and physicians with expert diagnostic and consultation services for diseases that are difficult to identify and treat. Ophthalmology faculty work closely with other specialists, both within the UCLA Stein Eye Institute and in other UCLA clinical departments, to create a multidisciplinary team customized for each patient's unique medical needs.

- ▶ Aesthetic Center
- ▶ Center for Community Outreach and Policy
 - UCLA Center for Eye Epidemiology
 - UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic
- ▶ Center to Prevent Childhood Blindness
- ▶ Center for Regenerative Medicine in Ophthalmology
- ▶ Clinical Research Center
- ▶ Contact Lens Center
- ▶ Diabetic Eye Disease and Retinal Vascular Center
- ▶ Eye Trauma and Emergency Center
- ▶ Gerald Oppenheimer Family Foundation Center for the Prevention of Eye Disease
- ▶ Glaucoma Center for Excellence in Care and Research
- ▶ Macular Disease Center
- ▶ Ocular Inflammatory Disease Center
- ▶ Ophthalmic Oncology Center
- ▶ Optic Neuropathy Center
- ▶ Orbital Disease Center
- ▶ UCLA Laser Refractive Center
- ▶ Vision Genetics Center
- ▶ Vision Proteomics Center
- ▶ Vision Rehabilitation Center

Diagnostic Services

Ophthalmology diagnostic services provide testing that offers precise measurements, photographs, and quantitative studies of the eye and the visual system. Diagnostic testing increases the accuracy of diagnosis and further augments the effectiveness of disease management. Our diagnostic services are available to eye care physicians in the community.

- ▶ Anterior Segment Diagnostic Laboratory
- ▶ Corneal Diagnostics
- ▶ Glaucoma Imaging Laboratory
- ▶ Medical Photography/Ultrasound
- ▶ Ocular Motility Clinical and Basic Science Laboratory
- ▶ Visual Field Laboratory
- ▶ Visual Physiology Diagnostic Laboratory

Research Laboratories

The Jules Stein Eye Institute has specially equipped laboratories to support vision-science investigations. Laboratory-based research, also referred to as basic vision-science research, forms the foundation for the clinical research, education, and patient care that are the visible hallmarks of the Jules Stein Eye Institute. Organized around the interests of the research faculty, these distinct laboratories offer unique opportunities for students, physicians, and fellows to become involved in nationally and internationally renowned scientific study.

- ▶ Cornea Genetics Laboratory
- ▶ Corneal Biology Laboratory
- ▶ Developmental Neurobiology Laboratory
- ▶ Glaucoma Imaging and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory
- ▶ Molecular Biology of Retinal Ganglion Cells Laboratory
- ▶ Molecular Mechanisms of Tear Film Foundation Laboratory
- ▶ Ocular Motility Laboratory
- ▶ Ocular Neurobiology and Genomics Laboratory
- ▶ Photoreceptor Biochemistry Laboratory

- ▶ Receptor Signaling and Chemical Targeting Laboratory
- ▶ Retinal Biochemistry and Clinical Disease Modeling Laboratory
- ▶ Retinal Cell Biology Laboratory
- ▶ Retinal Circuits and Visual Processing Laboratory
- ▶ Retinal Function and Dysfunction Laboratory
- ▶ Retinal Neurophysiology Laboratory
- ▶ Retinal Pathophysiology Laboratory
- ▶ Therapeutic Development in Ophthalmology Laboratory
- ▶ Vision Molecular Biology Laboratory

Find out more about our
RESEARCH LABORATORIES at:
[www.uclahealth.org/eye/
research-laboratories](http://www.uclahealth.org/eye/research-laboratories).



Training Programs

The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology provides comprehensive training in ophthalmology and vision science to medical students and residents, as well as to clinical and research fellows. Training programs encompass the gamut of ophthalmic and vision-science education, incorporating a full range of subjects in the study of the eye. Residents and clinical fellows serve a large patient population with diverse vision problems that offer innumerable training opportunities. In addition, a wide range of research laboratories ensures a broad choice of vision-science projects for all trainees. Predoctoral and postdoctoral research fellows benefit from the wealth of new and unfolding research generated by UCLA Department of Ophthalmology vision scientists.

Medical Students

The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology extends instruction to UCLA medical students in their second, third, and fourth years of instruction through the **UCLA Medical Student Program**. With lectures, small group discussions, and clinical experience, all students have numerous training sessions from which to gain knowledge about the eye and eye diseases, and they are taught eye examination skills that should be known by all physicians, regardless of their specialties. Students who are interested in ophthalmology as a career have additional learning opportunities in elective courses.

Medical Student Research Program in Ophthalmology

The UCLA Medical Student Research Program provides select medical students with a year-long opportunity to participate in laboratory or clinical research in the field of ophthalmology. The goal of the program is to encourage medical students to pursue careers in academic ophthalmology.

Residents

The **UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Residency Program** is ranked one of the top in the country and covers the full breadth of ophthalmology training from general ophthalmology to ophthalmic subspecialties. The accredited three-year residency program trains 24 residents with eight new residents beginning the program each July.

Training incorporates the resources of the UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, Olive View-UCLA Medical Center, and the Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System at West Los Angeles and Sepulveda. Through their clinical rotations, every resident has exposure to each medical center and gains clinical experience with a broad range of ophthalmic problems and patient populations. Certification by the American Board of Ophthalmology is a natural objective of the program.

EyeMBA: Innovation in Medical Education

Recognizing that future leaders in ophthalmology will need the financial, management, and measurement skills that are at the core of an MBA curriculum, the UCLA Stein Eye Institute created a national first for medical education with EyeMBA—a master's of business administration degree that is earned in tandem with an ophthalmology residency.

The only joint program of its kind, the Institute developed EyeMBA with the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and the UCLA Anderson School of Management. Residents in the EyeMBA program gain skills that are broadly applicable to ophthalmologic leadership in academia, translational research, health system management, health care delivery, and the biomedical industry.

EyeSTAR: Combining Basic Science Research with Clinical Practice

For physicians interested in academic careers and professional leadership as clinician-scientists, the UCLA Stein Eye Institute offers the **Ophthalmology Specialty Training and Advanced Research Program**, referred to as EyeSTAR, which offers vision-science training combined with an ophthalmology residency. Appointees complete a residency program leading to certification in ophthalmology, as well as laboratory research experience leading to a doctorate, or postdoctoral training in the event that the trainee already has a doctorate. EyeSTAR trainees work under the guidance of a faculty advisory panel representing the clinical and research interests of each trainee.

In 2021, the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology introduced a new EyeSTAR track combining ophthalmology residency training with **medical genetics certification**. This opportunity provides ophthalmology residency training in tandem with training by the UCLA Intercampus Medical Genetics Training Program and leads to Clinical Genetics and Genomics Certification by the American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics.

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

Fellows

The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology offers well-qualified persons the opportunity to receive fellowship training in vision-science research or specific areas of clinical ophthalmology.

Vision Science Fellowship Training

Vision science fellowship training is laboratory based and offers both predoctoral and postdoctoral opportunities to trainees in specific areas of vision science that encompass a wide range of topics. Trainees work under the supervision of UCLA Department of Ophthalmology faculty members who are engaged in basic-science research and have active laboratories. The predoctoral or postdoctoral trainee and his/her faculty mentor develop the scope and nature of the training program.

An integrated program is also offered under the auspices of a **National Eye Institute Vision Science Training Grant** for predoctoral and postdoctoral fellows. The grant provides trainees with coordinated and organized exposure to a wide range of techniques, giving each fellow the broadest possible background in ophthalmology and the basic sciences.

Clinical Fellowship Training

Following successful completion of the residency program, clinical fellowship training combines outpatient, inpatient, and surgical experience in an ophthalmic subspecialty. The fellow assumes increasing responsibility for patient care under the supervision of faculty members responsible for the program. In addition to receiving training from faculty, the fellow instructs medical students and residents. Research is an important aspect of specialty training and a major prerequisite for assimilating future developments in ophthalmology. Fellows are expected to undertake independent investigation or to participate in ongoing research projects in a field related to their specialty.

The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology offers clinical fellowships in the following subspecialty areas:

- ▶ Cornea and External Ocular Diseases and Refractive Surgery
- ▶ Cornea and External Ocular Diseases
- ▶ Glaucoma
- ▶ Medical Retina
- ▶ Neuro-Ophthalmology
- ▶ Ophthalmic Pathology
- ▶ Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery
- ▶ Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus
- ▶ Uveitis and Inflammatory Eye Disease
- ▶ Vitreoretinal Diseases and Surgery

International Fellowship Training

To promote and encourage research and education interaction with ophthalmology institutions throughout the world, the Jules Stein Eye Institute offers an International Ophthalmology Fellowship and Exchange Program consisting of one-year to two-year fellowships under the supervision of specific Institute faculty. Candidates for these fellowships are nominated by prestigious institutions outside the United States and often hold academic positions within their own countries. Fellows participate in the clinical and research activities of ophthalmic subspecialties according to their training needs.

Find detailed information about our **TRAINING PROGRAMS** at:
<https://www.uclahealth.org/eye/training-programs>.

Faculty and Colleagues



UCLA Department of Ophthalmology

Academic Divisions at UCLA Stein Eye Institute (SEI) and Doheny Eye Centers UCLA (DEC)

CATARACT AND REFRACTIVE SURGERY

John D. Bartlett, MD
Shawn Lin, MD
Kenneth L. Lu, MD
Kevin M. Miller, MD, Chief SEI
Mitra Nejad, MD

Optometrists

Tony Chan, OD
Lorraine Cheng, OD
Carolyn Duong, OD
Amanda Havens, OD
Linda Hwang, OD
Roxana Khorrami, OD
Melody Kordnaji, OD
Mark Landig, OD

COMPREHENSIVE OPHTHALMOLOGY

Gavin G. Bahadur, MD
John D. Bartlett, MD, Chief SEI
Rachel Feit-Leichman, MD
Amanda Lu, MD
Tania Onclinx, MD
Susan S. Ransome, MD
Meryl L. Shapiro-Tuchin, MD
Ronald J. Smith, MD

CORNEA AND UVEITIS

Anthony J. Aldave, MD, Co-Chief SEI
Saba Al-Hashimi, MD
Benjamin B. Bert, MD
Clémence Bonnet, MD, PhD
Sophie X. Deng, MD, PhD, Co-Chief SEI
Simon Fung, MD
Gary N. Holland, MD
Hugo Y. Hsu, MD, Chief DEC
John A. Irvine, MD
Batool Jafri, MD
Bartly J. Mondino, MD
Edmund Tsui, MD, MS
Victoria H. Yom, MD

Optometrist

Vivian Shibayama, OD

GLAUCOMA

Reza Alizadeh, MD
Joseph Caprioli, MD
Vikas Chopra, MD
Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD,
Department Chair
Brian A. Francis, MD, Chief DEC
JoAnn A. Giacony, MD
Simon K. Law, MD, PharmD
Kouros Nouri-Mahdavi, MD, Chief SEI
Victoria L. Tseng, MD, PhD

Optometrist

Soluemeh Abadi, OD

NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY

Anthony C. Arnold, MD, Chief SEI
Laura Bonelli, MD
Jane W. Chan, MD
Lynn K. Gordon, MD, PhD
Stacy L. Pineles, MD
Peter A. Quiros, MD, Chief DEC
Alfredo A. Sadun, MD, PhD

OPHTHALMIC ONCOLOGY

Tara A. McCannel, MD, PhD

OPHTHALMIC PATHOLOGY

Ben J. Glasgow, MD, Chief SEI

ORBITAL AND OPHTHALMIC PLASTIC SURGERY

Cynthia A. Boxrud, MD
Robert Alan Goldberg, MD, Chief SEI
Justin Karlin, MD, MS
Kelsey A. Roelofs, MD
Daniel B. Rootman, MD, MS

PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY AND STRABISMUS

Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD, Chief SEI
Simon Fung, MD
Monica R. Khitri, MD
Stacy L. Pineles, MD
Soh Youn Suh, MD
Laura Syniuta, MD
Federico G. Velez, MD

Optometrist

Laura Robbins, OD

RETINA

Aya Barzelay-Wollman, MD, PhD
Gad Heilweil, MD
Hamid Hosseini, MD
Jean-Pierre Hubschman, MD
Michael S. Ip, MD, Chief DEC
Allan E. Kreiger, MD
David Lozano Giral, MD
Colin A. McCannel, MD
Tara A. McCannel, MD, PhD
Moritz Pettenkofer, MD
Pradeep S. Prasad, MD, MBA
Steven D. Schwartz, MD, Chief SEI
Irena Tsui, MD

Optometrists

Ava K. Bittner, OD, PhD
Melissa W. Chun, OD
Jennie Kageyama, OD

RETINAL DISEASES AND OPHTHALMIC GENETICS

Michael B. Gorin, MD, PhD, Chief SEI
Phillip Le, MD, PhD
Colin A. McCannel, MD
Steven Nusinowitz, PhD
Srinivas R. Sadda, MD
David Sarraf, MD

VISION SCIENCE

Steven A. Barnes, PhD
Suraj P. Bhat, PhD
Nicholas C. Brecha, PhD
Gordon L. Fain, PhD
Deborah Ferrington, PhD,
Chief Scientific Officer, DEI
Greg D. Field, PhD
Kaustabh Ghosh, PhD
Ben J. Glasgow, MD
Wayne L. Hubbell, PhD
Alexander Huk, PhD
Ram Kannan, PhD
Steven Nusinowitz, PhD
Yi-Rong Peng, PhD
Natik Piri, PhD
Roxana A. Radu, MD
Alapakkam P. Sampath, PhD,
Associate Director, SEI
Deming Sun, MD
Hui Sun, PhD
Gabriel H. Travis, MD
David S. Williams, PhD
Xian-Jie Yang, PhD
Yuhua Zhang, PhD
Jie Zheng, PhD

Find out more about our
ACADEMIC DIVISIONS and
FACULTY at:

[www.uclahealth.org/eye/
academic-divisions](http://www.uclahealth.org/eye/academic-divisions).



Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD

Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology

Chair and Executive Medical Director, UCLA Department of Ophthalmology

Director, Jules Stein Eye Institute

Affiliation Chair, Doheny Eye Institute

Professor of Epidemiology, UCLA Jonathan and Karin Fielding School of Public Health

Dr. Coleman was appointed director of the Jules Stein Eye Institute, chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, and affiliation chair of the Doheny Eye Institute in 2022, having served as a national leader in ophthalmology, including as president of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), chair of the National Eye Institute's National Eye Health Educational Program, president of Women in Ophthalmology, president of the Council for the American Ophthalmological Society, and as associate editor of the *American Journal of Ophthalmology*. In recognition of her contributions to the field, Dr. Coleman has received numerous honors, including the AAO Life Achievement Award and Secretariat Award and being elected to the National Academy of Medicine.

Dr. Coleman has a passion for patient care, particularly for those traditionally underserved by mainstream medical systems. As director of the Stein Eye Institute Center for Community Outreach and Policy and the UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic, Dr. Coleman has overseen outreach efforts to screen and treat over 180,000 medically underserved children and adults of Southern California.

An accomplished researcher, Dr. Coleman focuses on the diagnosis, treatment, risk factors, gene-environment interactions, and the societal impact of glaucoma, cataracts, myopia, and age-related macular degeneration. In the surgical arena, Dr. Coleman pioneered the use of the Ahmed glaucoma valve—the world's leading glaucoma drainage device—and published the first peer-reviewed article describing its safety and efficacy. She has more than 266 peer-reviewed publications and has currently received over 20 million dollars in federal/private funding.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Anthony J. Aldave, MD

Bartly J. Mondino, MD, Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology

Professor of Ophthalmology

Vice Chair of Academics

Co-Chief of the Cornea and Uveitis Division

Discovering the Genetic Basis of the Corneal Dystrophies

Dr. Aldave's clinical specialties are cornea and external disease. His laboratory research focuses on the molecular genetics of the corneal dystrophies, a group of inherited disorders that affect corneal clarity and constitute one of the primary indications for corneal transplantation.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Saba Al-Hashimi, MD

Health Sciences Associate Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology

Cornea, External Disease, and Refractive Surgery Specialist

Dr. Al-Hashimi is a clinician with a research interest in keratoconus and corneal crosslinking. His research focus involves halting the progression of corneal disease by using light and chemicals to strengthen the cornea. He also participates in training fellows and residents at Harbor–UCLA Medical Center.

LOCATIONS:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood
Stein Eye Institute–Calabasas

Reza Alizadeh, MD

Health Sciences Assistant Clinical Professor

Glaucoma and Refractive Cataract Surgery

Dr. Alizadeh specializes in the medical and surgical treatment of glaucoma and refractive cataract surgery.

Dr. Alizadeh was a board-certified ophthalmologist in his home country of Iran before completing a two-year glaucoma research fellowship at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute. He then completed his ophthalmology residency at the University of Arizona, where he served as chief resident and went on medical missions to rural Mexico. He completed his fellowship at the Havener Eye Institute at Ohio State University, receiving advanced training in glaucoma surgery, including laser and minimally invasive glaucoma surgery.

Dr. Alizadeh is an avid supporter of scientific advancements in improving outcomes, and he is excited to share his expertise with his patients. He has authored dozens of peer-reviewed articles and has presented his work at scientific meetings. He is an active member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American Glaucoma Society.

LOCATIONS:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood
Stein Eye Institute–Calabasas
Stein Eye Institute–Santa Monica

Anthony C. Arnold, MD

Mary Oakley Foundation Chair in Neurodegenerative Diseases

Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology

Vice Chair of Education

Chief of the Neuro-Ophthalmology Division, UCLA Stein Eye Institute

Director of the UCLA Optic Neuropathy Center

Ischemic and Inflammatory Diseases of the Optic Nerve

Dr. Arnold's clinical expertise is in neuro-ophthalmology, with a special emphasis on ischemic and inflammatory optic neuropathies and manifestations of tumors, stroke, and inflammation of the central nervous system. His research has focused on advanced imaging techniques to identify optic nerve circulatory diseases and to investigate their causes.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Gavin G. Bahadur, MD

Health Sciences Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology

Associate Medical Director, Stein Eye Institute–Santa Monica

Cataract Surgery Outcomes and Glaucoma Detection

Dr. Bahadur's clinical specialties are comprehensive ophthalmology including cataract, pterygium, and glaucoma. His research activities include machine-learning algorithms for cataract surgery outcomes and glaucoma detection. He also performs manual small incision cataract surgery (MSICS) with Surgical Eye Expeditions International.

LOCATION:

Stein Eye Institute–Santa Monica

Steven A. Barnes, PhD

Professor of Ophthalmology
and Neurobiology

Ion Channel Function in Retinal Neurons

Dr. Barnes' research is focused on the biophysical impact of healthy and bio-energetically stressed conditions on the cellular ion channels that mediate signaling within and between retinal neurons. The activity of ion channel proteins in retinal neurons governs how the retinal network processes and optimizes image processing, as well as transmitting these signals to the brain. Dr. Barnes seeks to define ion channel targets that could aid interventions via early detection and slow or prevent vision loss in diseases such as glaucoma and macular degeneration. Investigations concern the limits that the bioenergetic environment imposes on photoreceptor and ganglion cell sensitivity and signaling, as well as how early stages of bioenergetic dysfunction are manifested and, in some cases mitigated, by self-regulated ion channel modulation.

LOCATION:

Doheny Eye Institute, Pasadena

John D. Bartlett, MD

Health Sciences Associate Clinical
Professor of Ophthalmology
Chief of the Comprehensive
Ophthalmology Division

Cataract and Refractive Surgery, Clinical Informatics

Dr. Bartlett's clinical interest is cataract and refractive cataract surgery, with the goal to improve the focus of the eyes, reduce dependence on glasses, and restore vision potential. He teaches Stein Eye residents, training the next generation of eye surgeons to deal with challenging cases.

Dr. Bartlett is a UCLA physician informaticist and is involved in the implementation and optimization of electronic health records (EHRs) to promote effective organization, analysis, management, and use of clinical information. He is interested in using EHRs to enhance patient care, improve population health, and decrease health care costs.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Aya Barzelay-Wollman, MD, PhD

Health Sciences Clinical Instructor

Retinal and Vitreoretinal Diseases and Surgery

Dr. Barzelay-Wollman specializes in the treatment of retinal and vitreoretinal diseases. Her research focuses on developing stem cell-based therapies for retinal degeneration and blindness, as well as advanced robotic-assisted retinal surgery. She is a key investigator in multiple funded projects from the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, National Institutes of Health, and the National Eye Institute.

She completed her internship at Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center, followed by her residency in the Institute's Department of Ophthalmology. She specialized in surgical retina during her fellowship at Sheba Medical Center in Israel and completed an international fellowship in the Retina Division at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute.

Dr. Barzelay has received numerous awards, including the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research Scholarship and the Elrov Scholarship for Excellent Physicians. She serves on PhD committees, is a review editor for prominent journals, and is a member of professional ophthalmologic societies.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Benjamin B. Bert, MD

Health Sciences Associate Clinical
Professor of Ophthalmology

Cornea-External Ocular Disease and Refractive Surgery

Dr. Bert provides comprehensive ophthalmic care and is a subspecialist in cornea/external disease. His areas of expertise include: dry eye/blepharitis, conjunctivitis, uveitis, acute corneal injury, and genetic corneal disorders, as well as cataract surgery with advanced intraocular lenses and refractive surgery.

LOCATIONS:

Doheny Eye Center UCLA offices in
Orange County and Pasadena

Suraj P. Bhat, PhD

Oppenheimer Brothers Chair
Professor of Ophthalmology

Member of the Molecular Biology Institute

Molecular Biology of Vision

Dr. Suraj Bhat's research impacts two important areas of vision: the ocular lens in the anterior eye and the retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) in the posterior eye. His laboratory, the Vision Molecular Biology Laboratory (VMBL), investigates gene activity that generates transparency within the ocular lens and gene activity that maintains the physiological health of the RPE, which in turn sustains the neural activity in the retina that makes vision possible. VMBL is investigating single cells in an effort to delineate very early events (at the genetic and molecular level) that culminate in cataractogenesis in the ocular lens and age-related macular degeneration in the RPE.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Ava K. Bittner, OD, PhD

Smotrich Family Optometric
Clinician-Scientist Chair

Director of the Vision Rehabilitation Center

Chief of Optometric Services

Associate Professor of Ophthalmology

Low Vision Rehabilitation

Dr. Bittner's specialty is low vision rehabilitation. Her research activities include clinical trials to assess the use of novel approaches and technologies to improve access to low-vision rehabilitation care and reading ability with visual assistive aids. Specifically, she is evaluating tele-rehabilitation, Bluetooth low energy beacon sensors, socially assistive robots, and visual assistive mobile apps for low vision.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Laura Bonelli, MD

Olive Bateman and Anga Lundgren
Endowed Chair

Health Sciences Assistant Clinical
Professor of Ophthalmology

Neuro-Ophthalmology

Dr. Bonelli completed her residency in ophthalmology, as well as fellowships in neuro-ophthalmology and oculoplastics, at the Hospital de Clínicas, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Joining the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology in 2008, Dr. Bonelli specializes in comprehensive ophthalmology and neuro-ophthalmology.

A committed educator, Dr. Bonelli teaches medical student courses at the David Geffen School of Medicine, regularly lectures at educational conferences, and instructs residents and neuro-ophthalmology fellows in the Department. She is the director of inpatient consultation services for the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, where she oversaw a broad reorganization to improve services and to provide more efficient patient care. In recognition of her work with ophthalmology residents on the consultation services, Dr. Bonelli received the Stein Eye Institute Faculty Teaching Award in 2014.

LOCATIONS:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood
Stein Eye Institute—Santa Monica

Clémence Bonnet, MD, PhD

Health Sciences Assistant Clinical
Professor

Cornea, External Disease, and Refractive Surgery

Dr. Bonnet joins the faculty of the Cornea Division as assistant clinical professor where she specializes in the clinical and surgical treatment of corneal diseases and conducts research on limbal stem cell deficiency, ocular surface diseases, and corneal imaging.

Dr. Bonnet obtained her MD at Paris Descartes University in 2015. She obtained her master's degree in surgical sciences from Université Paris Creteil in 2018. She graduated with a research international fellowship degree in cornea diseases and surgery at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute in 2019. She obtained her PhD in cell biology from Paris Cité Université and UCLA in 2022 summa cum laude, publishing several papers advancing the understanding of limbal stem cell biology in major peer-reviewed journals.

LOCATIONS:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood
UCLA Santa Monica Medical Center

Nicholas C. Brecha, PhD

Distinguished Professor of Neurobiology,
Ophthalmology, and Medicine

Member of the Brain Research Institute

Member of CURE: Center for
Digestive Diseases

Member of the California NanoSystems
Institute

Functional and Structural Organization of the Mammalian Retina

Dr. Brecha is a visual system neuroscientist whose expertise includes retinal neurochemistry, transmitters, synaptic and cellular structure, and neuronal circuitry regulating visual function.

His current research studies are furthering the understanding of 1) fundamental synaptic inhibitory processes mediating early vision in the outer retina and 2) neuronal cell structure and function mediating visual processing in the inner retina.

His studies are a prerequisite for understanding normal retinal function, and the impact on the development of therapeutic approaches and diagnostic tools essential for the treatment, prevention, and restoration of vision loss due to retinal injury and disease.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Judy L. Chen, MD

Health Sciences Assistant Clinical
Professor

Uveitis and Glaucoma

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. She pursued clinical fellowships in uveitis and inflammatory eye diseases at UCLA and a glaucoma fellowship at UC Davis. Dr. Chen is developing 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.

LOCATIONS:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood
Doheny Eye Center UCLA offices in
Arcadia and Pasadena

Vikas Chopra, MD

The Charles Stewart Warren and
Hildegard Warren
Endowed Research Chair
Health Sciences Clinical Professor
of Ophthalmology
Medical Director,
Doheny Eye Center UCLA–Pasadena

Glaucoma

Dr. Chopra has more than 20 years of expertise in glaucoma clinical care, ophthalmic research, and medical education. He delivers evidence-based care utilizing the latest technologies including SLT, LPI, trabeculectomy, aqueous tube shunts, and the newest minimally invasive glaucoma surgeries (MIGS).

Dr. Chopra's research activities include advanced optic nerve and retinal nerve fiber layer imaging for early glaucoma detection, as well as development and validation of novel parameters for use in anterior segment optical coherence tomography devices as principal investigator at the Doheny Image Reading Center. To date, Dr. Chopra has authored more than 90 peer-reviewed publications in leading journals.

Dr. Chopra holds leadership positions at the American Board of Ophthalmology, American Glaucoma Society, and the American Academy of Ophthalmology. Furthermore, Dr. Chopra teaches surgical courses at the American Academy of Ophthalmology for residents, fellows, and practicing physicians, as well as at the annual Harvard Surgical Course for ophthalmology residents.

LOCATIONS:

Doheny Eye Center UCLA offices in
Arcadia and Pasadena

Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD

Arthur L. Rosenbaum, MD, Chair in
Pediatric Ophthalmology
Professor of Ophthalmology
Professor of Neurology
Chief of the Pediatric Ophthalmology and
Strabismus Division
Director, Fellowship in Pediatric
Ophthalmology and Strabismus
Director, Ocular Motility Laboratories
Chair, EyeSTAR Residency PhD/
PostDoc Program in Ophthalmology and
Visual Science

Motility and Vision

Dr. Demer's clinical specialties include pediatric ophthalmology, adult strabismus, and other ocular motility disorders. He is a biomedical engineer whose research includes anatomy and imaging of the eye muscles, and the biomechanics of eye movements and optic nerve disorders. Dr. Demer employs modern scientific and engineering techniques to understand the basis and consequences of disorders of ocular motility in order to save ocular function and promote normal binocular vision. He has developed basic science and clinical imaging methods that have clarified fundamental mechanisms of eye movements and their clinical implications for diagnosis and surgery.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Sophie X. Deng, MD, PhD

Walton Li Chair in Cornea and Uveitis
Co-Chief of the Cornea and Uveitis
Division
Professor of Ophthalmology
Vice Chair of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and
Inclusion (EyeJEDI)
Member of the UCLA Jonsson
Comprehensive Cancer Center
Member of the UCLA Broad Stem Cell
Research Center
Co-Director of Center of Regenerative
Medicine in Ophthalmology

Stem Cell-Based Therapies for Corneal Diseases

Dr. Deng specializes in corneal and external ocular diseases, and cataracts. Her surgical areas include endothelial keratoplasty (DSEK and DMEK), deep anterior lamellar keratoplasty (DALK), penetrating keratoplasty, limbal stem cell transplantation, artificial cornea, and cataract.

Dr. Deng is the director of the Cornea Biology Laboratory at Stein Eye. Her research focuses on corneal epithelial stem cell regulation, deficiency, and regeneration. She aims to improve the current treatment for patients with limbal stem cell deficiency and corneal scars by using stem cell-based therapy to restore vision. Dr. Deng also conducts clinical studies to develop new diagnostic tests using live imaging techniques.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Deborah A. Ferrington, PhD

The Stephen J. Ryan-Arnold and
Mabel Beckman Foundation Endowed
Presidential Chair
Professor of Ophthalmology
Chief Scientific Officer,
Doheny Eye Institute

Examining a “Personalized Medicine” Approach for Treating AMD

Dr. Ferrington’s research is focused on investigating the molecular changes that occur with age-related macular degeneration (AMD), the leading cause of blindness among the elderly in the developed world. Using human donor tissue graded for the presence and severity of AMD, Dr. Ferrington’s laboratory discovered that AMD has a negative impact on the energy-producing mitochondria in the retinal pigment epithelium (RPE). Notably, damaged mitochondria are present at an early stage of AMD, which provides an opportunity for early intervention. Her work is now focused on identifying and testing drugs that promote mitochondrial function using cultured primary human RPE cells and RPE differentiated from induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSC) obtained from AMD patients. The goal is to use patient-specific iPSC-RPE to develop a “personalized medicine” approach for treating AMD.

LOCATION:

Doheny Eye Institute, Pasadena

Greg D. Field, PhD

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

Investigating the Retina

Dr. Field’s laboratory is developing new technologies for understanding how the retina works, and how diseases of the retina can be treated and prevented. His laboratory research uncovers how the retina transforms light into electrical signals that are sent to the rest of the brain, and 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.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Brian A. Francis, MD, MS

The Rupert and Gertrude I. Stieger
Vision Research Chair
Health Sciences Clinical Professor
of Ophthalmology
Chief of Service, Glaucoma,
Doheny Eye Centers UCLA
Medical Director, Doheny Eye Center
UCLA–Orange County

Glaucoma

Dr. Francis’ clinical specialties are glaucoma and complex cataract. His research activities include innovative glaucoma surgeries, minimally invasive glaucoma surgery, novel visual field techniques, glaucoma diagnostic and functional imaging, anterior segment imaging (ultrasound biomicroscopy and Fourier domain optical coherence tomography), and glaucoma laser surgery.

LOCATIONS:

Doheny Eye Center UCLA offices
in Arcadia, Orange County,
and Pasadena

Simon Fung, MD, MA, FRCOphth

Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
Cornea and Anterior Segment
Specialist/Pediatric Ophthalmology

Dr. Fung specializes in cornea, anterior segment diseases, with a particular focus on those occurring among children and adolescents. His areas of surgical expertise include corneal transplantations in adults and in children using modern strategies, such as lamellar keratoplasty techniques, as well as pediatric anterior eye conditions including cataracts and glaucoma. His research focuses on the evaluation and treatment of complex ocular surface conditions, notably neurotrophic keratopathy and phlyctenular keratoconjunctivitis. He has staffed the UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic since 2018.

LOCATIONS:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood
Stein Eye Institute–Calabasas

Reza Ghaffari, MD

Health Sciences Clinical Instructor
Cornea and External Ocular Disease

Dr. Ghaffari obtained his medical degree at Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences. He completed his residency training in ophthalmology at Farabi Eye Hospital, Tehran University of Medical Sciences. Dr. Ghaffari then completed a fellowship in cornea and anterior segment at Farabi Eye Hospital and an international fellowship in cornea-external ocular disease, cataract and refractive surgery research at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute. His clinical focus is cornea and external ocular disease, including corneal transplantation (full thickness and lamellar), artificial cornea, keratoconus, and management of ocular surface disease. Dr. Ghaffari has contributed to more than a dozen peer-reviewed publications in fields such as corneal imaging, outcomes of Boston keratoprosthesis implantation, and complications of cosmetic iris implants. Dr. Ghaffari’s research interests include outcomes of keratoprosthesis implantation and corneal transplantation.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Kaustabh Ghosh, PhD

Associate Professor of Ophthalmology

**Vascular Inflammation,
Mechanobiology, Bioengineering,
and Nanomedicine**

Dr. Ghosh is an interdisciplinary researcher with expertise in vascular inflammation, mechanobiology, bioengineering, and nanomedicine.

He obtained his undergraduate degree in chemical engineering from the National Institute of Technology, India; his PhD in biomedical engineering from Stony Brook University, New York; and conducted his postdoctoral fellowship in the Vascular Biology Program at Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Ghosh was associate professor of bioengineering at the University of California, Riverside (UCR), and participating faculty in the UCR Division of Biomedical Sciences, Stem Cell Center, and the Program in Cell, Molecular and Developmental Biology. The Ghosh Research Group at UCR focused on leveraging the principles of mechanobiology to examine and treat inflammation-mediated vascular degeneration associated with diabetic retinopathy and age-related macular degeneration.

Dr. Ghosh has active R01 grants from the National Eye Institute and was recently honored as Featured Scientist by the BrightFocus Foundation.

LOCATION:

Doheny Eye Institute, Pasadena

JoAnn A. Giacon, MD

Health Sciences Clinical Professor
of Ophthalmology

Vice Chair of Affiliated Hospitals

Chief of the Ophthalmology Section
at the Greater Los Angeles
VA Healthcare System

Co-Director of Medical Student Education
at the David Geffen School of Medicine,
UCLA

Adult and Pediatric Glaucoma

Dr. Giacon's areas of clinical specialty are adult and pediatric glaucoma and cataract surgery. Her research interests are in the outcomes of glaucoma surgery. She also has a strong interest in medical education.

LOCATIONS:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood
Veterans Administration Eye Clinic,
West Los Angeles campus

Ben J. Glasgow, MD

The Wasserman Professor
of Ophthalmology

Professor of Pathology and
Laboratory Medicine

Chief of the Ophthalmic Pathology Division

Ophthalmic Pathology

Dr. Glasgow specializes in ophthalmic pathology, and his research focus is the role of human lacrimal gland proteins in the protection and maintenance of the eye. His laboratory is investigating the structure-function relationship of tear lipocalin. By studying the molecular mechanisms of tear proteins, Dr. Glasgow is seeking to learn the normal functions of tear lipocalin and its role in maintaining the health of the ocular surface and in the prevention of dry eye diseases. Ideally this research will lead to new treatments for dry eye and have broad application to numerous other members of this protein family that transport small, insoluble molecules through the body.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Robert Alan Goldberg, MD

Bert O. Levy Endowed Chair in
Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery

Professor of Ophthalmology

Chief of the Orbital and Ophthalmic
Plastic Surgery Division

Director of the UCLA Orbital Disease
Center

Co-Director of the UCLA Aesthetic Center

Diseases and Therapy of the Eyelid and Orbit

Dr. Goldberg is an internationally recognized surgeon, researcher, and teacher. He has developed surgical procedures that are now globally taught and practiced, including less invasive treatments for eye and orbit cancers, new surgeries for thyroid eye disease, and innovative surgical techniques for tearing problems. His research into orbital and eyelid anatomy is resulting in improved techniques and approaches to deep orbital disease. He has had leadership and executive positions in the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery, and the American College of Surgeons.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Michael B. Gorin, MD, PhD

Harold and Pauline Price Chair
in Ophthalmology
Professor of Ophthalmology
Professor of Human Genetics
Chief of the Division of Retinal Disorders
and Ophthalmic Genetics

Hereditary Eye Disorders and Molecular Genetics of Age-Related Maculopathy

Dr. Gorin's clinical expertise is in medical retina and ophthalmic genetic disorders. He has both a basic and translation research program that address the genetics of inherited retinal dystrophies and age-related macular degeneration, the biological basis of pain caused by light exposure, the study of von Hippel Lindau disease, etiology of central serous chorioretinopathy, drug and autoimmune-related retinopathies, genetics-based therapies for disease, and late-life morbidities associated with retinopathy of prematurity.

Dr. Gorin was among the first UCLA physicians to be boarded in Clinical Informatics, and he is exploring the use and analysis of clinical datasets to better understand disease and clinical outcomes.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Gad Heilweil, MD

Health Sciences Associate Clinical
Professor of Ophthalmology

Degenerative Retinal Disease

Dr. Heilweil's research activities include stem-cell therapy for degenerative retinal disease; retinal and uveal drug toxicity; and pharmacokinetics of intravitreal drugs.

LOCATIONS:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood
Stein Eye Institute—Calabasas
Doheny Eye Center UCLA offices
in Arcadia, Orange County,
and Pasadena

Gary N. Holland, MD

Jack H. Skirball Chair in
Ocular Inflammatory Diseases
Distinguished Professor of Ophthalmology
Vice Chair of Patient-Based Research
Director of the Ocular Inflammatory
Disease Center, UCLA Stein Eye Institute
Director of the UCLA Department of
Ophthalmology Clinical Research Center

Uveitis and Cornea-External Ocular Diseases

Dr. Holland specializes in uveitis and other inflammatory diseases of the eye. His research activities focus on the evaluation and management of infectious and inflammatory diseases, including ocular toxoplasmosis, cytomegalovirus retinitis and other HIV-related eye disorders, and various non-infectious forms of uveitis, such as chronic anterior uveitis in children and the autoimmune disease birdshot chorioretinitis. Among current studies are those investigating risk factors, disease mechanisms, and response to treatment. Many of these studies are conducted in multicenter clinical trials. In addition to his clinical and research work, Dr. Holland is associate editor of the *American Journal of Ophthalmology*.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Hamid Hosseini, MD

Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology

Retinal and Macular Conditions

Dr. Hosseini specializes in retinal and macular conditions, such as macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and retinal detachment.

Dr. Hosseini completed two fellowships at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute, the first in glaucoma and the second in retina. He participates in all activities of the Retina Division, including research, education, and clinical care.

LOCATIONS:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood
Harbor—UCLA Medical Center

Kirk Hou, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology

Vitreoretinal Diseases

Dr. Hou specializes in the evaluation and treatment of vitreoretinal diseases, including diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, and complex retinal detachment. He obtained his medical degree from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri, during which time he also completed a PhD in computational and molecular biophysics. He conducted both his ophthalmology residency and fellowship in vitreoretinal surgery at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute. He is an interdisciplinary researcher with expertise in nanomedicine and drug delivery. He holds patents for his work developing nanoparticles for the delivery of therapeutic nucleic acids. Dr. Hou also teaches residents at Olive View—UCLA Medical Center.

LOCATIONS:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood
Doheny Eye Center UCLA—Pasadena

Hugo Y. Hsu, MD

Health Sciences Clinical Professor
of Ophthalmology

Chief of Service, Cornea,
Doheny Eye Centers UCLA

Cornea and External Diseases

Dr. Hsu specializes in corneal infection and inflammation, corneal transplantation, anterior segment reconstruction, and cataract surgery. His research interests include corneal and ocular infections and ophthalmic antibiotics.

LOCATIONS:

Doheny Eye Center UCLA offices
in Arcadia, Orange County,
and Pasadena

Wayne L. Hubbell, PhD

Jules Stein Chair in Ophthalmology
Distinguished Professor of Ophthalmology
Distinguished Professor of
Chemistry and Biochemistry

Molecular Basis of Phototransduction in the Vertebrate Retina

Dr. Hubbell's research is focused on understanding the relationship between molecular structure, plasticity, and conformational changes that control protein function in the visual system. Of particular interest are proteins that behave as "molecular switches." The overall goal is to determine the structure of these proteins in their native environment, monitor the changes in structure that accompany the transition to an active state, and to understand the role of protein flexibility in function.

To investigate these and other proteins, Dr. Hubbell's laboratory has developed the technique of site-directed spin labeling, a novel and powerful approach to the exploration of protein structure and dynamics.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Jean-Pierre Hubschman, MD

Professor of Ophthalmology and
Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering
Chief of Retina at Olive View—UCLA
Medical Center
Director of the Advanced Robotic
Eye Surgery Laboratory
Member of the Center for Advanced
Surgical and Interventional Technology
Member of the California NanoSystems
Institute

Advanced Vitreoretinal Surgical Interventions and Robotics

Dr. Hubschman's clinical research focuses on the development and evaluation of new vitreoretinal surgical techniques and robotics for ophthalmic surgery. Automated surgery utilizing robotics promises to increase surgical precision and accuracy, as well as improve access to medical care. Dr. Hubschman's publications include research papers on the development of a new retinal patch for the treatment of retinal detachment, on the feasibility of robotic surgery in ophthalmology, and results of various clinical trials. Currently, he is also investigating the use of the terahertz laser for the evaluation of ocular tissue hydration.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Alexander Huk, PhD

Professor of Ophthalmology
Professor, Department of Psychiatry and
Biobehavioral Science

Vision and Visually Guided Cognition

Dr. Huk focuses on studying vision and visually guided cognition in increasingly naturalistic conditions. He 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.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Michael S. Ip, MD

Gavin S. Herbert Endowed Chair for
Macular Degeneration
Professor of Ophthalmology
Chief of Service, Retina,
Doheny Eye Centers UCLA
Medical Director,
Doheny Image Reading Center

Vitreoretinal Disease

Dr. Ip is the chief of the Vitreoretinal Surgery Service at the Doheny Eye Centers UCLA. His practice concentrates on the surgical management of complex retinal detachment, complications of diabetic retinopathy, macular holes, epiretinal membranes, and other vitreoretinal diseases amenable to surgical intervention.

Dr. Ip's research focuses on the design and conduct of clinical trials investigating treatments for diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, and retinal venous occlusive disease. As medical director for the Doheny Image Reading Center, endpoint analysis for clinical trials is an additional area of research focus. In addition, Dr. Ip has served as the national director for numerous NIH-funded ophthalmic clinical trials.

LOCATIONS:

Doheny Eye Institute, Pasadena
Doheny Eye Center UCLA—Arcadia

Ram Kannan, PhD

Adjunct Professor of Ophthalmology
Eye Physiology and Pathology

Dr. Kannan's research focuses on eye physiology and pathology. He currently investigates age-related macular degeneration (AMD), a leading cause of blindness in high-resource countries. His ongoing research centers on the role of mitochondrial dysfunction in retinal pigment epithelium and therapeutic modalities for AMD using novel thermosensitive nanoparticles.

LOCATION:

Doheny Eye Institute, Pasadena

Justin Karlin, MD, MS

Health Sciences Assistant Clinical
Professor of Ophthalmology

Orbital, Lacrimal, and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery

Dr. Karlin's passion is attentive and personalized patient care. He specializes in orbital, lacrimal, and oculofacial plastic surgery. In 2020, he graduated from the rigorous ASOPRS fellowship at the UCLA Stein Eye and Doheny Eye Institutes.

In his research, Dr. Karlin is an innovator. He has developed artificial intelligence diagnostic tools, cartilage grafts for use in eyelid reconstruction, and novel approaches to the production of autologous plasma eye drops.

Notably, Dr. Karlin has an unwavering commitment to teaching. As a resident, he was awarded the University of Virginia "All University" Teaching Award. And he was honored with the UCLA Stein Eye Institute Fellow Teaching Award in 2019. He continues to participate actively in mentoring and teaching activities for undergraduates, medical students, residents, and fellows.

LOCATIONS:

Stein Eye Institute—Calabasas
Doheny Eye Center UCLA offices in
Arcadia and Orange County

Monica R. Khitri, MD

Health Sciences Assistant Clinical
Professor of Ophthalmology

Pediatric Ophthalmic Diseases and Strabismus

Dr. Khitri specializes in the evaluation and treatment of pediatric ophthalmic diseases, including pediatric cataracts, nasolacrimal duct obstructions, amblyopia, and retinopathy of prematurity. She also treats and operates on strabismus in both children and adults.

She received her medical degree from the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and completed her residency in ophthalmology at the Stein Eye Institute, followed by a fellowship in pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Dr. Khitri is also a medical educator, researcher, and winner of over two dozen academic and professional awards, including the 2018 Faculty Teaching Award for the Stein Eye Institute ophthalmology residency program. She teaches residents and fellows at Harbor—UCLA Medical Center, where she is chief of the Pediatric Ophthalmology Service.

LOCATIONS:

Doheny Eye Center UCLA offices
in Arcadia, Orange County,
and Pasadena

Simon K. Law, MD, PharmD

Health Sciences Clinical Professor
of Ophthalmology

Optic Disc Evaluation

Dr. Law's clinical specialties are glaucoma and cataract. His research activities include evaluation of the optic nerve in different racial groups and ocular pathologies, different patterns of glaucomatous visual function decline, outcomes of different glaucoma surgical procedures and medications in eye pressure control and vision restoration, and alternative therapy in glaucoma care.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Shawn R. Lin, MD

Health Sciences Assistant Clinical
Professor of Ophthalmology

Medical Director, Stein Eye Institute—
Calabasas

Associate Residency Director,
Department of Ophthalmology

Cataract and Refractive Surgery

Specializing in cataract and refractive surgery, Dr. Lin obtained his MD and MBA from Stanford University. He conducted his ophthalmology residency at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute, and he completed a Heed Cornea and Refractive Surgery Fellowship at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary at Harvard University.

Dr. Lin's research is focused on combining human and artificial intelligence to deliver exceptional surgical results. He has authored more than a dozen peer-reviewed publications in leading ophthalmology journals, has written chapters on ophthalmology and cornea for textbooks, and has delivered keynote presentations at international scientific meetings.

Dr. Lin founded EyeGuru, an online educational platform visited more than 1,000,000 times a year by ophthalmologists from 125 countries. In this role, Dr. Lin helps to advance knowledge in the field and train the next generation of ophthalmologists.

LOCATIONS:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood
Stein Eye Institute—Calabasas

David Lozano Giral, MD

Health Sciences Clinical Instructor
Director, Ocular Trauma Service

Retina and Vitreous Diseases

Dr. Lozano Giral specializes in the clinical and surgical treatment of retina and vitreous diseases, and also serves as ocular trauma faculty.

He received his medical degree in 2014 and a master's degree in medical science in 2016, both at Universidad Anahuac in Mexico City. He joined the Genetics Research Department at the Instituto de Oftalmología Conde de Valenciana in Mexico City, publishing peer-reviewed papers on genetic polymorphisms and mutations related to ophthalmologic pathologies. He conducted his residency at the Instituto de Oftalmología Conde de Valenciana in 2020 and was an international retinal fellow at the Stein Eye Institute in 2023. He has been involved in development of new platforms for surgical robotics, and his work has been published in journals and in chapters of national and international medical books.

LOCATIONS:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood
Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center

Amanda Lu, MD

Health Sciences Assistant Clinical
Professor

Comprehensive Ophthalmology

Dr. Lu sees patients in the Comprehensive Ophthalmology Division where she provides primary ophthalmic and surgical care. Dr. Lu, who was born and raised in Dallas, Texas, graduated from Harvard University with a BA in organismic and evolutionary biology and with a minor in global health. She was awarded the prestigious Trustman Fellowship to study ethnobotany in Peru, following her passion for environmental interactions and health.

Dr. Lu earned her MD at Yale School of Medicine and her MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology. She completed her medical internship at Manchester Memorial Hospital, and she received her ophthalmology residency training at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute. Dr. Lu's academic interests include studying perioperative cataract outcomes and factors driving health-care costs, and her research has been featured in national presentations and peer-reviewed publications.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Kenneth L. Lu, MD

Health Sciences Associate Clinical
Professor of Ophthalmology

Medical Director,
Doheny Eye Center UCLA–Arcadia

Cataract and Refractive Surgery

Dr. Lu specializes in cataract and refractive surgery, and his research activities are focused in the same areas.

LOCATION:

Doheny Eye Center UCLA–Arcadia

Colin A. McCannel, MD

Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology
Medical Director, Stein Eye Institute—
Santa Monica

Assistant Chief, Retinal Disorders and
Ophthalmic Genetics Division

Vitreoretinal Surgery

Dr. McCannel has a longstanding interest in the management of vitreoretinal conditions, particularly complex retinal detachments, complications of diabetic retinopathy, macular holes and epimacular membranes, and age-related macular degeneration. His clinical research efforts are directed at the improvement of vitreoretinal surgical techniques and outcomes, including the prevention of endophthalmitis following intravitreal injections.

Dr. McCannel devotes time to educational research as well. Currently, he is investigating the utility of virtual reality surgery simulation in teaching ophthalmic surgery. He has several ongoing protocols that assess ophthalmic surgical simulation in surgical teaching.

LOCATIONS:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood
Stein Eye Institute—Santa Monica

Tara A. McCannel, MD, PhD

Health Sciences Clinical Professor
of Ophthalmology

Director of the Ophthalmic Oncology
Center

Metastatic Ocular Melanoma and Diseases of the Retina and Vitreous

Dr. McCannel is an ophthalmic oncologist, as well as a vitreoretinal surgeon. Dr. McCannel's Ophthalmic Oncology Laboratory is studying molecular markers in ocular melanoma to provide prognostic information to patients and advance understanding of metastatic disease. Discovery of candidate genes from tissue of patients undergoing surgical treatment for ocular melanoma is being explored. This information will be important to establish a better understanding of the biology of metastatic ocular melanoma and help develop better treatments for this cancer. New modalities are being investigated to predict, detect, and ultimately treat choroidal melanoma metastasis.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Kevin M. Miller, MD

Kolokotronis Chair in Ophthalmology
Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology
Chief of the Cataract and
Refractive Surgery Division
Director of the Anterior Segment
Diagnostic Laboratory

Cataract and Refractive Surgery

Dr. Miller is chief of the Cataract and Refractive Surgery Division and director of the Anterior Segment Diagnostic Laboratory. His research interests include devices and implants used in cataract and refractive surgery, outcomes of surgical procedures, astigmatism management, and artificial iris implantation.

He specializes in refractive cataract surgery, intraoperative refractive guidance, LASIK, PRK, SMILE, artificial iris implantation, and complex anterior segment surgery.

Dr. Miller serves in leadership roles at the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Bartly J. Mondino, MD

Distinguished Professor of Ophthalmology
Former Director, Jules Stein Eye Institute
Former Chair, UCLA Department
of Ophthalmology
Former Affiliation Chair,
Doheny Eye Institute
President, Jules and Doris Stein
UCLA Support Group
Member, UCLA Brain Research Institute

Cornea and Infectious Eye Diseases

Dr. Mondino served as director of the Jules Stein Eye Institute and chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology from 1994 to 2022, the culmination of a career in research and clinical care in cornea and infectious eye diseases.

As director and chair, Dr. Mondino expanded the Stein Eye Institute's pillar programs; increased faculty support through the creation of endowed chairs; forged a historic affiliation with the Doheny Eye Institute; and broadened access to eye care with the opening of Stein Eye Institute locations in Calabasas and Santa Monica and Doheny Eye Center UCLA locations in Arcadia, Orange County, and Pasadena.

Through development and completion of the Edie & Lew Wasserman Building in 2014, redesign of Stein Plaza in 2015, as well as seismic upgrade and renovation of the Jules Stein Building in 2017, Dr. Mondino transformed the Stein Eye Institute into a vision-science campus at UCLA, creating a focal point for patient care, vision research, education, and community outreach at home and abroad.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Mitra Nejad, MD

Health Sciences Assistant Clinical
Professor of Ophthalmology
Associate Residency Director,
Department of Ophthalmology

Cataract and Refractive Surgery

Dr. Nejad is an assistant clinical professor in the Cataract and Refractive Division. She graduated summa cum laude from UCLA and earned her MD from the David Geffen School of Medicine (DGSOM) at UCLA. Dr. Nejad conducted her internship at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and her ophthalmology residency at Stein Eye, where she remained on staff. She recently completed the DGSOM Medical Education Fellowship and serves as a residency assistant program director and co-director of Medical Student Education. Dr. Nejad has contributed to the cataract surgery curriculum and microsurgery wet lab curriculum, and she attends resident cataract surgery at both Stein Eye and Harbor-UCLA. She is a certified proctor in laser refractive surgery and supervises Stein Eye residents' refractive surgery cases. She also serves on the residency program evaluation and selection committees.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Kouros Nouri-Mahdavi, MD, MSc

Kay K. Pick Endowed Chair in
Glaucoma Research (pending)
Chief of the Glaucoma Division
Glaucoma Imaging and
Artificial Intelligence Laboratory

Structural and Functional Measurements for Detection of Glaucoma and its Progression, Surgical Outcomes, and Artificial Intelligence in Glaucoma Diagnostics

Dr. Nouri-Mahdavi's areas of clinical focus are management of adult glaucoma and advanced and complex cataract surgery. His research activities currently focus on optimizing the role of structural and functional measurements for detection of glaucoma progression with an emphasis on advanced disease and macular optical coherence tomography imaging. More recently, his research laboratory has been exploring the use of artificial intelligence in glaucoma diagnostics.

LOCATIONS:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood
Stein Eye Institute—Calabasas

Yi-Rong Peng, PhD

Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
and Neurobiology

Pathogenesis of Retinal Diseases

Dr. Peng is a neuroscientist whose research focuses on large-scale transcriptomic profiling of retinal cells in healthy and pathological conditions to understand human vision and provide insights for the study of ocular diseases.

Dr. Peng received her PhD in neurobiology from the Institute of Neuroscience, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shanghai, China. Her doctoral research examined the role of functional interactions between inhibitory and excitatory synapses that maintain the stability of neural networks. Dr. Peng then joined the laboratory of Dr. Joshua Sanes at Harvard University as a postdoctoral fellow, where she leveraged high throughput single-cell transcriptomic methods to uncover key transcriptional factors that control the specification of retinal cell types.

At Stein Eye, Dr. Peng is continuing her development of state-of-the-art transcriptomic and genomic tools to reveal the molecular underpinnings of the formation of retinal circuits and the pathogenesis of retinal diseases.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Moritz S. Pettenkofer, MD

Health Sciences Clinical Instructor

Macular Diseases

Dr. Pettenkofer obtained his medical degree at the University of Göttingen in Germany and completed his residency training in ophthalmology at the Technical University of Munich in Germany. He then completed an international fellowship in vitreoretinal diseases at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute.

Dr. Pettenkofer joined the faculty in 2022 and specializes in macular diseases with a particular focus on age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and retinal vein occlusions. He has contributed to more than a dozen peer-reviewed publications in the field of retina, and his research focuses on imaging, evaluation, and treatment of macular diseases, notably dry macular degeneration. His in-office procedures include retinal laser and intravitreal injections.

LOCATIONS:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood
Stein Eye Institute, Calabasas

Stacy L. Pineles, MD

Professor of Ophthalmology

Pediatric Neuro-Ophthalmology, Amblyopia, and Neurologic Causes of Strabismus

Dr. Pineles' research interests include evaluating the surgical outcomes of strabismus surgery and studying pediatric optic nerve diseases. With her dual training in pediatric ophthalmology and neuro-ophthalmology, she has a special interest in pediatric neuro-ophthalmic diseases, as well as adult patients with amblyopia and neurologic causes of strabismus.

Dr. Pineles is the chair elect of a national research network, the Pediatric Eye Disease Investigator Group (PEDIG) sponsored by the National Institutes of Health.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Natik Piri, PhD

Professor of Ophthalmology

**Retinal Ganglion Cell Biology,
Glaucomatous Neurodegeneration,
and Neuroprotection**

Dr. Piri's primary research is defining the mechanisms leading to retinal ganglion cell (RGC) degeneration in glaucomatous neuropathy; developing strategies for preserving RGCs against neurodegeneration; and identifying and characterizing the genes critical for RGC function and integrity. Characterization of RGC-expressed genes is fundamental to a better understanding of normal RGC physiology and pathophysiology.

Dr. Piri also focuses on understanding the degeneration of RGCs and their axons, which is a hallmark of glaucoma. He is also studying the involvement of oxidative stress and proteins of the thioredoxin system, particularly in RGC degeneration in the glaucoma model, and the neuroprotective effects of these proteins against glaucomatous RGC death.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Pradeep S. Prasad, MD, MBA

Health Sciences Associate Clinical
Professor of Ophthalmology

Assistant Chief of Clinical Affairs,
Retina Division

**Vitreoretinal Surgery and
Disease Management**

Dr. Prasad specializes in the medical and surgical management of diseases of the retina and vitreous. His research is focused on teleretinal screening for diabetic retinopathy, applications of wide-field fundus photography for retinal vascular disease, and health care delivery for low-income populations.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Peter A. Quiros, MD

Health Sciences Clinical Professor
of Ophthalmology

Chief of Service, Neuro-Ophthalmology,
Doheny Eye Centers UCLA

Neuro-Ophthalmology

A neuro-ophthalmologist, Dr. Quiros specializes in optic nerve disease, including optic neuritis and ischemic optic neuropathy; double vision and adult strabismus; idiopathic intracranial hypertension; thyroid eye disease; orbital inflammatory syndromes; and stroke. Research includes idiopathic intracranial hypertension, headache, ocular myasthenia gravis, and ischemic optic neuropathy. He was the principal investigator for the idiopathic intracranial hypertension treatment trial. He is currently president-elect of the North-American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society and a member of the Neuro-Ophthalmology Researchers and Disease Investigators Consortium (NORDIC).

Dr. Quiros obtained his MD from the Yale University School of Medicine. He completed his residency training at LAC/USC Medical Center and his fellowship training at the Doheny Eye Institute.

LOCATIONS:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood
Doheny Eye Center UCLA–Pasadena

Roxana A. Radu, MD

Vernon O. Underwood Family Chair
in Ophthalmology

Associate Professor of Ophthalmology

**Retina Biochemistry and Clinical
Disease Modeling Laboratory**

Dr. Radu's scientific interest is to understand the mechanism of photoreceptor cell degeneration by integrating genetic, biochemical, cellular, and molecular approaches. Dr. Radu's research focuses on the formation and pathogenic role of bisretinoids in retinopathies such as recessive Stargardt disease and age-dependent macular degeneration. Her group has developed both mouse and human disease cell-based models to identify fundamental biological processes at the intersection between the complement system, retinoid-lipid metabolism, mitochondria, and endolysosomal pathways in normal and immune-compromised retinal pigment epithelium cells. Her studies are supported by the NIH grants, sponsor-initiated research programs, and philanthropic funds. Dr. Radu is also actively involved in training and teaching undergraduates, pre-/post-graduate fellows, and medical students.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Kelsey A. Roelofs, MD

Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
and Neurosurgery

Oculofacial Plastic Surgery

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 55 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 is investigating the gene expression profile of periocular basal cell carcinoma.

LOCATIONS:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood
Stein Eye Institute—Calabasas
Stein Eye Institute—Santa Monica

Daniel B. Rootman, MD, MS

Karen and Frank Dabby Endowed Chair
in Ophthalmology

Associate Professor of Ophthalmology

Orbit and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery

Dr. Rootman is an orbit and ophthalmic plastic surgery specialist with expertise in Graves disease, orbital surgery, orbital tumors, ptosis, lacrimal disorders, blepharoplasty, blepharospasm, Botox®, cosmetic dermal fillers, endoscopic eyebrow lift, eyelid surgery, eyelid tumors, and trauma. His research is developing and refining patient-centered outcome measures for surgical care; randomized clinical trials in surgery, including ptosis, Graves orbitopathy and lacrimal disease; health economics of eyelid and facial surgery; sociodemographics of facial trauma; physiology and pathobiology of ptosis; new approaches to surgery; and measurement and assessment in medical education.

LOCATIONS:

Stein Eye Institute, Westwood
Doheny Eye Center UCLA offices in
Orange County and Pasadena

SriniVas R. Sadda, MD

Professor of Ophthalmology

Retinal and Macular Diseases

Dr. Sadda received his MD from Johns Hopkins University, where he also completed his ophthalmology residency and neuro-ophthalmology and medical retina fellowships. His clinical interests are macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy, and his research includes automated retinal image analysis and advanced retinal imaging technologies. He has more than 650 peer-reviewed publications and 20 book chapters, and he has given over 450 presentations worldwide. He also serves as an editorial board member of *Ophthalmic Surgery, Lasers & Imaging, Retina, Ophthalmology Retina, Ophthalmology*, and is editor-in-chief of *Graefes*. He is also the editor-in-chief of the 7th edition of the *Ryan's Retina* textbook.

LOCATIONS:

Doheny Eye Center UCLA offices in
Arcadia and Pasadena

Alfredo A. Sadun, MD, PhD

Flora L. Thornton Endowed Chair
in Vision Research

Professor of Ophthalmology

Vice Chair of Doheny Eye Centers UCLA

Neuro-Ophthalmology

Dr. Sadun conducted his ophthalmology residency and fellowship in neuro-ophthalmology at Massachusetts Eye and Ear, Harvard Medical School. His clinical interests are diseases of the optic nerve, and more particularly, Leber hereditary optic neuropathy, toxic and nutritional optic neuropathies, and anterior and posterior ischemic optic neuropathies. He conducts research in these areas, as well as the assessment of the retina and optic nerve in Alzheimer disease and other neuro-degenerations. Dr. Sadun has authored approximately 400 peer-reviewed publications and 75 book chapters. His research activities focus on human visual neuro-anatomy; retinal ganglion cell degeneration and regeneration; and axon populations in the human optic nerve in development, aging, and disease. He has six clinical trials involving treatment of optic nerve diseases, and most particularly, mitochondrial impairments as a cause of optic nerve disease.

LOCATION:

Doheny Eye Center UCLA—Pasadena

Alapakkam P. Sampath, PhD

Grace and Walter Lantz Endowed Chair
in Ophthalmology

Professor of Ophthalmology
and Neurobiology

Associate Director of Research
Chief, Vision Science Division

Molecular Mechanisms Underlying Early Visual Processing

The Sampath laboratory is interested in understanding the molecular mechanisms underlying early visual processing. In particular, the focus of laboratory researchers has been on elucidating mechanisms that set the sensitivity of night vision. Night blindness, or nyctalopia, is a condition that results from abnormal signaling by the rod photoreceptors, or the retinal circuits that process rod-driven signals. Using physiological and genetic methods, the laboratory studies signal transmission in these retinal rod pathways to identify how these processes are optimized to allow our exquisite visual sensitivity.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

David Sarraf, MD

Health Sciences Clinical Professor
of Ophthalmology

Age-Related Macular Degeneration and Retinal Imaging

Dr. David Sarraf is clinical professor of ophthalmology at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute and member of the Retinal Disorders and Ophthalmic Genetics Division. He has published close to 300 peer-reviewed research papers, case reports, and reviews and has authored 22 book chapters. He is co-author for the second edition of the *Retina Atlas* and will be section editor for the 7th edition of *Ryan Retina*. Dr. Sarraf is a world leader in the field of advanced retinal imaging and has delivered over 300 invited lectures at various meetings worldwide, including close to a dozen endowed and keynote lectures.

Dr. Sarraf is associate editor for the *British Journal of Ophthalmology* and *Ophthalmology Science*, and he is section editor of the Ocular Imaging Section for the *Canadian Journal of Ophthalmology*. He is also associate editor for the journal *Retinal Cases and Brief Reports* and editorial board member of the journals *Retina* and *OSLI Retina*.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Steven D. Schwartz, MD

The Ahmanson Chair in Ophthalmology
Professor of Ophthalmology

Chief of the Retina Division

Director of the UCLA Diabetic

Eye Disease and Retinal Vascular Center

Director of the Macula Center

Retinal Diseases and Stem Cell Research

Dr. Schwartz's primary areas of research include early diagnosis and treatment of diseases such as retinopathy of prematurity, diabetic eye disease, and macular degeneration. Dr. Schwartz's research includes evaluation of methods to measure optic nerve damage, and the role of structural and functional measurements for detection of glaucoma and its progression. Dr. Schwartz also leads clinical trials testing the use of stem cells to address vision loss from Stargardt macular dystrophy and dry age-related macular degeneration.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Soh Youn Suh, MD

Health Sciences Clinical Assistant
Professor of Ophthalmology

Chief, Pediatric Ophthalmology and

Strabismus Division, Olive View—UCLA
Medical Center

Pediatric Ophthalmology and Adult Strabismus

Dr. Suh's clinical specialties are pediatric ophthalmology and adult strabismus. Her research interests include evaluating strain on the optic nerve head and globe displacement during horizontal ductions in patients and normal controls using magnetic resonance imaging and optical coherence tomography. Dr. Suh is a course director for medical students and chief of the Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Division at Olive View—UCLA Medical Center.

LOCATIONS:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Olive View—UCLA Medical Center

Deming Sun, MD

Mary D. Allen Chair in Vision Research
Professor of Ophthalmology

Ocular Immunology

Dr. Sun's laboratory studies pathogenesis of immunology and inflammation-related ocular diseases. Current research focuses on investigating pathogenic mechanism of inflammation and the regulatory role of a specific T cell subset— $\gamma\delta$ T cells—on IL-17+ autoreactive T cells, a newly identified pathogenic T cell.

LOCATION:

Doheny Eye Institute, Pasadena

Hui Sun, PhD

Professor of Physiology and
Ophthalmology
Member of Jonsson Comprehensive
Cancer Center

Molecular Mechanism of Vitamin A Transport for Vision; Identification of New Therapeutic Targets for Blinding Diseases

Dr. Sun's laboratory aims to identify new therapeutic targets to treat still incurable human diseases, to study their molecular mechanisms, and to develop novel therapies based on the mechanisms. Through many years of research efforts, his laboratory has identified the cell-surface receptors for the most potent endogenous inhibitor of angiogenesis, developed novel techniques to screen for drugs that target these receptors, and developed the first small molecule drug candidates that specifically suppress pathogenic angiogenesis in diverse vision diseases and in cancer. These molecules have achieved therapeutic effects that no existing drugs can achieve and are being prepared for clinical trials.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Gabriel H. Travis, MD

Charles Kenneth Feldman Chair
in Ophthalmology
Professor of Ophthalmology

Biochemistry of Vertebrate Photoreceptors and Mechanisms of Retinal Degeneration

Dr. Travis' laboratory uses biochemical and genetic approaches to study the visual cycle and its role in retinal and macular degenerations. Vision in vertebrates is mediated by two types of light-sensitive cells: rods and cones. These cells contain light-detecting molecules called opsin pigments. Detection of a single light particle bleaches the opsin pigment. Restoring light sensitivity to a bleached opsin involves an enzymatic pathway called the visual cycle. Mutations in the genes for many proteins of the visual cycle cause inherited blinding diseases.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Victoria L. Tseng, MD, PhD

Jerome and Joan Snyder Chair
in Ophthalmology
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
Residency Director, Department
of Ophthalmology

Glaucoma and Cataract

Dr. Tseng specializes in the treatment of glaucoma and cataracts in the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology. Committed to the education of future ophthalmologists, she teaches ophthalmology residents at Olive View—UCLA Medical Center and is the director of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Residency Program.

Dr. Tseng's research focuses on the intersection of epidemiology, disparities, and population health within ophthalmology. She is a recipient of multiple research grants and honors including the Research to Prevent Blindness Career Development Award, the Research to Prevent Blindness and American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Award for IRIS Registry Research, and the American Glaucoma Society Mentoring for the Advancement of Physician Scientists Research Grant.

Dr. Tseng is involved with national ophthalmology organizations and is a regional representative for AAO State Affairs.

LOCATION:

Doheny Eye Center UCLA, Pasadena

Edmund Tsui, MD, MS

Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology

Uveitis and Ocular Inflammatory Diseases

Dr. Tsui specializes in the management of uveitis and ocular inflammatory diseases. He completed his medical training at Dartmouth Medical School followed by an ophthalmology residency at the New York University School of Medicine. He completed his fellowship in uveitis and ocular inflammatory disease at the Francis I. Proctor Foundation at the University of California, San Francisco.

Dr. Tsui's National Institutes of Health-funded research focuses on the evaluation of imaging biomarkers to measure and quantify intraocular inflammation with optical coherence tomography and laser flare photometry. Dr. Tsui is also the site principal investigator for clinical trials investigating novel therapeutics for uveitis. He serves on the Executive Committee of the American Uveitis Society and is the chair of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology Professional Development and Education Committee. He is also the senior social media editor for the journals *Ophthalmology*, *Ophthalmology Retina*, and *Ophthalmology Glaucoma*.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Irena Tsui, MD

Associate Professor of Ophthalmology
Assistant Chief of Research,
Retina Division

Clinical Vitreoretinal Research

Dr. Tsui's clinical activities include adult and pediatric vitreoretinal diseases. Her research interests focus on retinopathy of prematurity and Zika virus eye abnormalities. Dr. Tsui teaches ophthalmology trainees and serves veterans at the Greater Los Angeles VA Healthcare System.

LOCATIONS:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood
Doheny Eye Center UCLA—Arcadia

Federico G. Velez, MD

Leonard Apt Endowed Chair in
Pediatric Ophthalmology
Health Sciences Clinical Professor
of Ophthalmology

Strabismus and Childhood Eye Disorders

Dr. Velez is a pediatric ophthalmology specialist who studies the mechanisms of congenital and acquired forms of strabismus. In addition, Dr. Velez conducts research on artificial muscle stimulation and management of orbital fibrosis, amblyopia therapy, and medical management of thyroid eye disease.

He has participated in development of guidelines for preoperative assessment and surgical approaches to patients with convergent (esotropia), divergent (exotropia), and vertical forms of strabismus, and he has advanced techniques to treat pediatric patients with eyelid abnormalities and cataracts.

LOCATIONS:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood
Stein Eye Institute—Calabasas
Doheny Eye Center UCLA—
Orange County

David S. Williams, PhD

Karl Kirchgessner Foundation Chair in
Vision Science

Professor of Ophthalmology
and Neurobiology

Cell Biology of the Retina and Inherited Retinal Disease

Dr. Williams' laboratory focuses on the cell biology of photoreceptor and retinal pigment epithelium cells. His group is especially interested in proteins that function in transport and compartmentalization within these cells. These proteins include those that underlie Usher syndrome and macular degeneration. Translational areas of his research involve gene therapy experiments aimed at preventing the blindness that ensues from Usher syndrome type 1B and studies on stem cell-derived RPE cells, which may be transplanted into retinas afflicted by macular degeneration.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Xian-Jie Yang, PhD

Professor of Ophthalmology

Member of the Molecular Biology Institute

Member of the Brain Research Institute

Member of the UCLA Broad Stem Cell
Research Center

Director of the Gene and Cell Delivery
Core for Vision Research

Development and Repair of the Retina

Dr. Yang obtained her PhD at Cornell University and received postdoctoral training at Harvard University and Harvard Medical School before joining UCLA Stein Eye Institute as a faculty member. Dr. Yang's research is focused on molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying retina development and repair. Her research includes using genetically engineered retinal degeneration models and recombinant virus-mediated gene delivery to study neuroprotection mechanisms. In addition, her research team has established stem cell based retinal organoid models to derive human retinal neurons, simulate retinal diseases, and develop gene editing and replacement therapies.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

Victoria H. Yom, MD

Health Sciences Assistant Clinical
Professor of Ophthalmology

Cornea and External Diseases

Dr. Yom specializes in corneal and external diseases. Her expertise includes surgical and medical management of complex ocular inflammatory conditions and anterior uveitis. Procedures performed include corneal transplant surgery and cataract surgery.

Dr. Yom received her MD and Master of Science in Clinical Investigation from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, where she also completed her residency. She obtained a fellowship in cornea and external diseases at the Doheny Eye Centers UCLA and has been a member of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology since 2017. Dr. Yom enjoys introducing medical students to the field of ophthalmology during their preclinical clerkships, and she regularly lectures at educational conferences and is an active member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

LOCATIONS:

Doheny Eye Center UCLA offices
in Arcadia and Pasadena

Yuhua Zhang, PhD

Associate Professor of Ophthalmology

Retinal Imaging

Dr. Zhang is an optical engineer and retinal imaging specialist, whose research encompasses state-of-the-art tools to study blinding eye disorders, including next-generation 3-D imaging technology for viewing the retina in patients with age-related macular degeneration at the cellular level.

His technology integrates adaptive optics, scanning laser ophthalmoscopy, and optical coherence tomography to study the vision-producing cells and tiniest blood vessels of the eye. Understanding their interplay will help answer questions about causes of vision loss, improve prognoses for patients, and lead to directed treatments to slow or prevent vision loss.

LOCATION:

Doheny Eye Institute, Pasadena

Jie J. Zheng, PhD

Professor of Ophthalmology
Member of the Molecular Biology Institute
Member of the Jonsson Comprehensive
Cancer Center
Member of the Brain Research Institute
Member of the California NanoSystems
Institute

Therapeutic Development in Ophthalmology

Dr. Zheng's research is at the interface of biochemistry, computational biology, systems pharmacology, and drug discovery with an emphasis on therapeutic development in ophthalmology.

His laboratory is currently developing proteins and small molecules that can modulate signal transduction pathways, such as Wnt, Hedgehog, BMP, and Hippo pathways, in an effort to better understand the biological functions of these signaling pathways and to explore the therapeutic potential of these compounds and proteins. Aiming to establish new translational research within the scientific community at UCLA, Dr. Zheng's goal is to develop novel therapies for retinal degenerative diseases, glaucoma, and corneal disorders.

LOCATION:

UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Westwood

ACADEMIC PERSONNEL

UCLA Faculty Based at Affiliate Hospitals

Jayanth Sridhar, MD

Associate Clinical Professor
of Ophthalmology

Chief of Ophthalmology,
Olive View—UCLA Medical Center

Medical and Surgical Treatment of Vitreoretinal Disease

A member of the Retina Division specializing in the medical and surgical treatment of vitreoretinal diseases, Dr. Sridhar is chief of ophthalmology at Olive View—UCLA Medical Center, where he supervises and teaches residents and surgical fellows. Dr. Sridhar completed his residency at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, University of Miami, and fellowship at Wills Eye Hospital, where he was named "Fellow of the Year." He served on the faculty at Bascom Palmer for seven years, earning "Faculty of the Year" honors before transitioning to the UCLA Stein Eye Institute. He has over 240 peer-reviewed publications and has earned several international commendations, including the American Academy of Ophthalmology Secretariat Award, the American Society of Retina Specialists Presidential Award, and induction into the prestigious Retina and Macular Societies.

UCLA Stein Eye Institute Members Based at Other Sites

James W. Bisley, PhD

Ethel Scheibel Chair in Neuroscience
Professor of Neurobiology and Psychology
Member of the Brain Research Institute

Cognitive Processing of Visual Information

Dr. Bisley's research revolves around understanding the neural mechanisms underlying the cognitive processing of visual information. These cognitive processes include visual perception, visual memory, visual attention, and the visual guidance of eye movements. Recent work has focused on how the responses of neurons in the posterior parietal cortex and prefrontal cortex are involved in the allocation of visual attention and how they guide eye movements in goal-directed visual search.

Patrick T. Dowling, MD, MPH

Chair, UCLA Department of
Family Medicine
The Kaiser Endowed Professor of
Community Medicine

Health Care Policy and Access for Underserved Populations

For 20 years, Dr. Dowling has received funding to link medical education to underserved neighborhoods. For a decade, several departments from UCLA have volunteered in the yearly event known as "Care Harbor," providing 3,500 individuals with free medical, dental, and eye care. The UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic, led by Dr. Anne Coleman, provides free eyeglasses made onsite to low income families and the homeless in LA County.

Antoni Ribas, MD, PhD

Professor of Medicine, Surgery, and
Molecular and Medical Pharmacology

Malignant Melanoma

Dr. Ribas is a physician-scientist conducting laboratory and clinical translational research in how melanoma responds to or resists cancer immunotherapies, and developing gene engineered adoptive cell transfer therapies. He has been instrumental in the clinical development of several agents approved by the FDA, including the first anti-PD-1 pembrolizumab (Keytruda), the anti-CTLA-4 tremelimumab (Imjudo), and two combinations of BRAF and MEK inhibitors, vemurafenib (Zelboraf) and cobimetinib (Cotellic), and dabrafenib (Tafinlar) and trametinib (Mekinist).

Dario L. Ringach, PhD

Professor of Neurobiology
and Psychology,
Biomedical Engineering Program

Visual Perception and Neurophysiology

Dr. Ringach's research focuses on the relationship between eye movements and visual perception, as well as how motor planning and execution, such as reaching, grasping, navigating, and adjusting body posture, is influenced by visual information and impaired vision. In collaboration with a team of neurosurgeons at UCLA, Dr. Ringach's laboratory is also recording the brain activity of patients with epilepsy who are undergoing clinical evaluation for surgical treatment, shedding new light into the processes involved in object recognition and perception.

Professional Research Series

Christian Altenbach, PhD

Research Ophthalmologist (Recall)

Structure and Function of Rhodopsin

The membrane protein rhodopsin is a critical first step in visual transduction, converting light energy into a chemical form in the photoreceptor cell of the eye. To understand this process on a detailed molecular level, Dr. Altenbach is using site-directed spin labeling and electron paramagnetic resonance spectroscopy to study the structure of rhodopsin in the absence of light, as well as the changes in structure caused by light.

Michael Bridges, PhD

Assistant Project Scientist

Paramagnetic Resonance Methodologies

Dr. Bridges' research in the laboratory of Dr. Wayne Hubbell is centered on the development and application of new pulsed electron paramagnetic resonance methodologies. Protein conformational dynamics and structural relaxation are his central focus with the goal of characterizing the timescales and motional amplitudes of functional activation.

Barry L. Burgess, BS

Research Specialist (Recall)

Degenerative Retinal Disease Research

Mr. Burgess provides research support for the Photoreceptor/RPE Cell Biology Laboratory of Dr. David Williams. Research interests include production of differentiated RPE cells from human stem cell precursors and developing in vitro models of oxidative stress involved in degenerative retinal disease progression.

Doug Chung, PhD

Assistant Project Scientist

Corneal Endothelial Biology and Disease

Dr. Chung's research focus includes investigating the biology of the corneal endothelium, determining the utility of ex vivo expansion of human corneal endothelial cells for transplantation, and elucidating the mechanisms involved in the pathogenesis of inherited corneal endothelial dystrophies in an effort to develop novel therapeutic approaches.

Antonio Escudero Paniagua, PhD

Assistant Project Scientist

Photoreceptor and RPE Cell Biology

Dr. Paniagua's research is primarily focused in studying the molecular mechanisms of the photoreceptor outer segment (POS) renewal. This key organelle for vision is formed as evaginations of the photoreceptor ciliary membrane and recycled in the daily ingestion of POS phagosomes by the retinal pigment epithelium. Both processes represent intricate mechanisms affected in many types of retinal degeneration.

Rikard Frederiksen, PhD

Assistant Research Ophthalmologist

Adaptation

Dr. Frederiksen's main research interest is adaptation, specifically how the rods and cones in the retina adapt to different light intensities.

Sheyla Gonzalez Garrido, PhD

Associate Project Scientist

Limbal Stem Cells

Dr. Garrido's research aims to improve the ex vivo expansion of limbal epithelial stem cells (LSCs) by modulating Notch signaling in individuals suffering from limbal stem cell deficiency. The identification of niche factors could help to improve the in vitro production of LSCs for transplantation.

Somaye Jafari, PhD

Assistant Project Scientist

Yuekan Jiao, PhD

Research Specialist

Microscopy Specialist

Dr. Jiao's work includes running and supporting the electron microscope and helping with image processing on the images from all the imaging platforms in the microscopy core. He also conducts eye research in collaboration with research labs at the Institute.

Joanna J. Kaylor, PhD

Associate Project Scientist

Visual Chromophore Regeneration in the Retina of the Eye

Dr. Kaylor's research focuses on identification of biochemical pathways essential for visual chromophore production in the retina. She previously discovered an enzymatic complex that generates visual chromophore precursor, which sustains vision in bright light. She also revealed the presence of a non-enzymatic process that occurs in photoreceptor membranes that aids in chromophore regeneration. Dr. Kaylor is currently studying an enzyme she identified that is responsible for a unique visual chromophore processing activity present in cone photoreceptors.

Jacky M. K. Kwong, PhD

Research Ophthalmologist

Degeneration of Retinal Ganglion Cells and Neuronal Recuses

Dr. Kwong identifies novel neuroprotective and regenerative therapies for glaucoma that preserve and restore the nerve cells. He utilizes animal models related to optic nerve injury and proteomic analysis to understand the progression of retinal ganglion cell degeneration, and pharmacologic techniques and functional assessments to evaluate therapies.

Anna Matynia, PhD

Research Ophthalmologist

Mechanisms Underlying Photoallodynia and Inherited Retinal Diseases

Dr. Matynia's research investigates the mechanisms underlying photoallodynia, a condition in which normal levels of light produce or enhance ocular or headache pain. Using behavioral, molecular, genetic, and cellular approaches, the laboratory focuses on corneal, retinal, and central mechanisms from dry eye injury, achromatopsia, and migraine, respectively. Dr. Matynia is also investigating mechanisms of hemangioblastoma formation associated with von Hippel-Lindau disease, and genetics of inherited retinal disease, using patient-derived induced pluripotent stem cells for molecular genetics determination.

Ala Morshedian, PhD

Assistant Project Scientist

Chi Zhang, PhD

Assistant Project Scientist

Study of Steroid Treatments for Glaucoma

Dr. Zhang's research focuses on the study of steroid treatments, including the use of dexamethasone (Dex), which mediates the increase of intraocular pressure (IOP) and the risk of ocular hypertension leading to steroid-induced glaucoma. Dex treatment can lead to irregular trabecular meshwork (TM) structure and potentially reduce outward flow of intraocular fluid through altering Wnt signaling. In addition, Dr. Zhang uses novel Wnt small molecule regulators to investigate whether these modulators would affect Dex-mediated phenotype on primary human TM cells.

Wenlin Zhang, MD, PhD

Assistant Researcher

Genetics, Therapeutics, and Sex Differences in Corneal Endothelial Dystrophy

Dr. Zhang elucidates the genetic basis of genetically unresolved corneal dystrophies, identifies pharmaceutical therapeutics for corneal endothelial dystrophies in animal models, and investigates sex differences in phenotypes and the response to therapeutics in the setting of corneal endothelial dystrophy. Dr. Zhang is also leading a large translational team developing adeno-associated virus gene therapy for children with congenital hereditary endothelial dystrophy as part of bespoke gene therapy consortium.

Professional Clinical Series

Cynthia A. Boxrud, MD

Associate Physician Diplomate

Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery

Dr. Boxrud is a board-certified surgeon who specializes in oculofacial and reconstructive surgery, as well as orbital and ophthalmic oncology. She sees patients at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute—Santa Monica.

Jane W. Chan, MD

Associate Physician Diplomate
Doheny Eye Centers UCLA

Neuro-Ophthalmology

Dr. Chan has a research focus on retinal imaging biomarkers for detecting pre-Alzheimer disease before cognitive changes, and she mentors clinical research fellows. At Doheny Eye Center UCLA locations in Orange County and Pasadena, Dr. Chan specializes in diagnosing and managing patients with optic neuropathies, such as optic neuritis and ischemic optic neuropathies.

Melissa W. Chun, OD, FAAO

Director of the UCLA
Vision Rehabilitation Center

Vision Rehabilitation

Dr. Chun is a low-vision specialist providing patient care and resident teaching during their subspecialty clinical rotation. She is involved in clinical trials to assess and improve visual function by utilizing telerehabilitation to train individuals with low vision to effectively use magnification devices for reading and to assess the effect of mobile applications in improving independence and self-sufficiency for older adults with a wide range of visual impairment.

Juliet Chung, MD

Associate Physician Diplomate

After ten years in private practice, Dr. Chung is returning to UCLA, her alma mater. She studied at UCLA for her undergraduate studies and also for her glaucoma fellowship. She is currently at the Santa Monica location of the UCLA Stein Eye Institute.

Rachel Feit-Leichman, MD

Associate Physician Diplomate

Cataract Surgery

Dr. Feit-Leichman divides her time between supervising residents and providing patient care at the Stein Eye Institute's Urgent Care Clinic, and teaching cataract surgery and overseeing residents at the ophthalmology clinic of the Harbor—UCLA Medical Center. Dr. Feit-Leichman is also active in striving to improve patient access to eye care in the greater Los Angeles County Healthcare System.

Batool Jafri, MD

Associate Physician Diplomate

**Cornea/External Disease/
Refractive Surgery**

Dr. Jafri's practice interests are cataract surgery, LASIK, keratoconus, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, dry eye, and allergic conjunctivitis. She offers subspecialized surgical care including LASIK, refractive cataract surgery, pterygium excision, ocular surface disease management, treatment of ocular surface malignancies, implantable contact lens, corneal transplantation, and corneal collagen crosslinking for keratoconus. She offers personalized, world-class care to all of her patients. Dr. Jafri sees patients at the Stein Eye Center in Santa Monica.

Phillip Le, MD, PhD

Associate Physician Diplomate

Retinal and Macular Diseases

Dr. Le is a comprehensive ophthalmologist who specializes in retinal and macular diseases. He sees patients at the Doheny Eye Center UCLA—Pasadena.

Nariman Nassiri, MD

Associate Physician Diplomate

Diagnosis and Treatment of Glaucoma

Dr. Nassiri's research focuses on two areas: The first is drug delivery systems in ocular diseases, which includes developing biodegradable implants, adhesive patches, and microneedles, with the aim of enhancing treatment efficacy. The second is to gain better understanding of the pathogenesis of glaucoma.

Christine V. Nguyen, MD

Associate Physician Diplomate
Doheny Eye Centers UCLA

Tania Onclinx, MD

Associate Physician Diplomate

Urgent Care and Clinical Supervision

Dr. Onclinx attends at the Urgent Care Walk-In service at the Stein Eye Institute, and she teaches resident physicians and medical students at the Stein Eye Institute during their subspecialty clinical rotation. She also provides clinical supervision to resident physicians at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica.

Susan S. Ransome, MD

Associate Physician Diplomate

HIV and Diabetic Retinopathy

Dr. Ransome is participating in a clinical research study involving HIV-infected patients who have diabetes to see whether there is increased risk of development or progression of diabetic retinopathy when subjects are treated for abdominal lipodystrophy with Egrifta (tesamorelin).

Meryl L. Shapiro-Tuchin, MD

Associate Physician Diplomate
Co-Director of the Ophthalmology
Inpatient Consultation Service

Comprehensive Ophthalmology

Dr. Shapiro-Tuchin provides clinical supervision to resident physicians. She functions as co-director of the Ophthalmology Inpatient Consultation Service, assisting resident physicians in their evaluation of inpatients admitted to the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and the UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica.

Ronald J. Smith, MD

Associate Clinical Professor
of Ophthalmology

Objective Assessment of Surgical Technique and Training

Dr. Smith's research interest is the objective assessment of surgical technique and development of evidence-based surgical training for residents to improve patient care. In addition to teaching residents at the Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System and in the UCLA Microsurgery Laboratory, Dr. Smith provides cornea and comprehensive eye care to patients at the Stein Eye Institute—Santa Monica.

Laura A. Syniuta, MD

Associate Physician Diplomate

Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus

Dr. Syniuta completed her fellowship training in pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus at the Stein Eye Institute in 1999. With children's eye and learning disorders being her passion, she sees patients at the Stein Eye Institute—Santa Monica and has staffed the UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic since 2011.

EMERITUS FACULTY UCLA STEIN EYE INSTITUTE

Dean Bok, PhD

Dolly Green Chair of Ophthalmology
Professor of Ophthalmology Emeritus
Distinguished Research Professor
of Neurobiology
Member of the Brain Research Institute

Joseph Caprioli, MD

David May II Chair in Ophthalmology
Distinguished Professor of Ophthalmology
Emeritus (Active Recall)
Vice Chair of Quality
Past Chief of the Glaucoma Division

Richard Casey, MD

Health Sciences Clinical Professor
Emeritus

Gordon L. Fain, PhD

Distinguished Professor of the
Departments of Integrative Biology/
Physiology Emeritus
Professor of Ophthalmology Emeritus
(Active Recall)

Debora B. Farber, PhD, DPhhc

Distinguished Professor of Ophthalmology
Emeritus
Doctor *honoris causa*
Member of the Brain Research Institute
Member of the Molecular Biology Institute

Lynn K. Gordon, MD, PhD

Professor of Ophthalmology Emeritus
(Active Recall)
Emeritus Senior Associate Dean for Equity
and Diversity Inclusion

Michael O. Hall, PhD

Professor of Ophthalmology Emeritus
Founding Member of the Stein Eye
Institute

Robert S. Hepler, MD

Professor of Ophthalmology Emeritus
Founding Chief, Neuro-Ophthalmology
Division

Joseph Horwitz, PhD

Distinguished Professor of Ophthalmology
Emeritus

John A. Irvine, MD

Retired Health Sciences Clinical Professor
(Active Recall)

Sherwin D. Isenberg, MD

Professor of Ophthalmology and Pediatrics
Emeritus

Allan E. Kreiger, MD

Professor of Ophthalmology Emeritus
(Active Recall)
Founding Chief, Retina Division

Ralph D. Levinson, MD

Health Sciences Clinical Professor of
Ophthalmology Emeritus

Steven Nusinowitz, PhD

Professor of Ophthalmology Emeritus
(Active Recall)
Co-Director of the Visual Physiology
Laboratory

Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD

Professor of Ophthalmology Emeritus
Founding Chair, Department
of Ophthalmology
Founding Director, Stein Eye Institute

Barry A. Weissman, OD, PhD

Professor of Ophthalmology Emeritus

Marc O. Yoshizumi, MD

Professor of Ophthalmology Emeritus

RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS

Residents

THIRD-YEAR RESIDENTS 2021–2024

Sarah Cheng, MD, PhD
Kendall Goodyear, MD
Robert Gunzenhauser, MD
Sasha Hubschman, MD
Maltish Lorenzo, MD
Benjamin Margines, MD
Angela Oh, MD
Michel Sun, MD, PhD (EyeSTAR)
Iris Zhuang, MD

SECOND-YEAR RESIDENTS 2022–2025

Angela Chen, MD
Erika Ellis, MD, PhD
Elise Ma, MD
Lukas Mees, MD
Yaqoob Qaseem, MD
Sagar Rambhia, MD (EyeMBA)
Junru Yan, MD
Kelly Yom, MD

FIRST-YEAR RESIDENTS 2023–2026

John Cheng, MD
Leila Chew, MD
Bradley Gundlach, MD
Ken Kitayama, MD, PhD (EyeSTAR)
Alan Kong, MD
David Peprah, MD
Weilin Song, MD
Sydney Wendt, MD

EyeSTAR Trainees

Sarah Cheng, MD, PhD
Erika Ellis, MD, PhD
Ken Kitayama, MD, PhD
Elise Ma, MD
Michel Sun, MD, PhD

EyeMBA Trainee

Sagar H. Rambhia, MD

EyeSTAR Genetics Trainee

Emile Vieta, MD (EyeSTAR Genetics)

Fellows

Cornea/External Ocular Diseases and Refractive Surgery

Adil Ahmed, DO
(Doheny Eye Centers UCLA)
Carla Berkowitz, MD

Glaucoma

Stephanie Midtling, MD
(Doheny Eye Centers UCLA)
Jared Widder, DO

Medical Retina and Ophthalmic Genetics

Jack Lemon, MD

Neuro-Ophthalmology

Alexander Engelmann, MD
Juan Fernandez, MD

Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery

Katherine Lucarelli, MD
Connie Sears, MD

Pathology (Eye)

None

Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus

Mona Fayad, MD

Uveitis and Inflammatory Eye Disease

None

Vitreoretinal Diseases and Surgery

Adrian Au, MD, PhD
Blake Fortes, MD
Albert Liao, MD
Jiwei Sheng, MD

International Fellows

Cornea Research

Liangbo Chen, MD
China

Faycal Moujane, MD
Belgium

Promptorn Patarajierapun, MD
Thailand

Comprehensive Ophthalmology/ Cataract

None

Glaucoma

Kwanghyun Lee, MD
South Korea

Abbas Habibi, MD
Iran

Sajad Besharati, MD
Iran

Medical Retina and Ophthalmic Genetics

Ahmad Santina, MD
Lebanon

Mostafa Mafi, MD
Iran

Neuro-Ophthalmology

Nutsa Pargalava, MD
Georgia

Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery

Maria Paula Quintero Mutis, MD
Colombia

Pediatric Ophthalmology

Wei-Yu Lai, MD
Taiwan

Uveitis

Shani Pillar, MD
Israel

Visual Physiology

None

Vitreoretinal Diseases and Surgery

Rouzbeh Abbasgholizadeh, MD
Turkey

Maryam Ashrafkhorasani, MD
Iran

Mehdi Emamverdi, MD
Iran

Alireza Mahmoudi, MD
Iran

Predoctoral Research Fellows

Bitu Behziz

Martina Cavallini

Mengzhen Chen

Tierney Daw

Niloufar Ghazavi

Peipei Melody Huang

Katie Pohl

Luis Sanchez

Nathan Siu

Alejandro Torres

Postdoctoral Research Fellows

Mahesh Agarwal, PhD

Sathish Baggam, PhD

Paul Bonezzi, PhD

Priyanka Boro, PhD

Sathiskumar Chandrakumar, PhD

Mengzhen Chen, PhD

Arpita Dave, PhD

Alejandro Gallego-Ortega, PhD

Mihir Ghosh, PhD

Rajesh Goit, PhD

Roni Hazim, PhD

Nan Hultgren, PhD

Ashutosh Kumar, PhD

Menglin Li, PhD

Pratistha Singh, PhD

Erica Su, PhD

Chao Sui, PhD

Simona Torriano, PhD

Rutuja Unhale, MD

Jhuwala Venkatakrishnan, PhD

Junqiang Wang, PhD

Xiaoyu Wang, PhD



Research and Funding



Research and Funding

Vision-Science Research Active Funding

ADMINISTERED BY THE
STEIN EYE INSTITUTE

Faculty

Anthony J. Aldave, MD

AAV Gene Therapy for Treating
Biallelic SLC4A11 Mutations
Associated Congenital Hereditary
Endothelial Dystrophy
California Institute for Regenerative
Medicine (CIRM)
Duration: 8/1/23–1/31/26
\$4,338,166

Ava K. Bittner, OD, PhD

CARE Study: Community Access
Through Remote Eyesight
Administration for Community Living
Sub-award from
New England College of Optometry
Duration: 1/27/22–4/30/26
Total: \$17,633

Scanning and Detection at Intersections
Schepens Eye Research Institute, The
(AFF. w/ Harvard Univ.)
Duration: 9/1/22–8/31/25
\$19,233

Beacon Sensors and Telerehabilitation
to Assess and Improve Use of Devices
for Visual Functioning (BeST-AID)
National Eye Institute
Duration: 9/30/23–6/30/28
Total: \$2,058,000

Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD

Impact of Routine Eye Care Coverage
on Access to Eye Care and
Fall-Related Outcomes Among
Low-Income Medicare Enrollees
UCI/NIH-NEI
Duration: 2/1/23–5/31/26
\$65,096

Impact of Routine Eye Care Coverage
on Access to Eye Care and
Fall-Related Outcomes Among
Low-Income Medicare Enrollees
San Diego State University
Research Foundation
Duration: 6/1/22–9/30/26
\$22,842

RPB Unrestricted Grant
Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc.
1/1/12–12/31/24
\$115,000

Megan Paul

(Dr. Anne Coleman, mentor)
Access to Eyecare Providers and
Prevalence of Glaucoma on the
State and National Levels
Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc.
Duration: 1/1/23–12/31/23
\$30,000

Karla Murillo

(Dr. Anne Coleman, mentor)
Examining Mobile Health and
Telehealth Applications to Extend
Access to Ophthalmic Care to
Underserved Rural Communities
Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc.
Duration: 7/1/23–6/1/25
\$30,000

Protecting Vision Through Occupational
Eye Clinics for Day Laborers
California Healthcare Foundation
Duration: 8/1/23–10/15/25
\$50,000

UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic Program
(UMEC)
Fox Family Foundation
Duration: 10/1/22–10/1/25
\$100,000

Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD

Biomechanical Analysis in
Strabismus Surgery
National Eye Institute
Duration: 6/1/24–5/31/29
\$668,209

Sophie X. Deng, MD, PhD

Development of Stem Cell-Based
Therapies for Limbal Stem Cell
Deficiency
National Eye Institute
Duration: 2/1/19–1/31/24
\$390,000

Safety and Feasibility of Cultivated
Autologous Limbal Stem Cells for
Limbal Stem Cell Deficiency
California Institute for Regenerative
Medicine (CIRM)
Duration: 12/1/19–11/20/23
\$1,449,999

Gordon L. Fain, PhD

Physiology of Photoreceptors
National Eye Institute
Duration: 1/1/22–12/31/26
\$351,000

Greg D. Field, PhD

Visual Signaling from Retina to
Superior Colliculus
NIH-NEI National Eye Institute
Duration: 5/1/23–4/30/29
\$524,104

Molecular and Cellular Requirements for
Crb1 Gene Function in the Onset and
Therapeutic Rescue of an
Inherited Retinal Degeneration
National Eye Institute
Sub-award from Duke University
Duration: 2/1/24–11/30/28
\$71,544

High-Resolution Measurement of
Natural Stimuli and Ethologically
Relevant Behavior as Platform for
Understanding the Nervous System
National Institutes of Drug Abuse
Sub-award from Duke University
Duration: 2/25/24–1/31/26
\$32,441

Kouros Nouri-Mahdavi, MD

Detection of Disease Progression in
Advanced Glaucoma
National Eye Institute
Duration: 3/1/20–2/28/25
\$387,500

Yi-Rong Peng, PhD

Deciphering the Molecular
Underpinnings of Foveal Formation
Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc.
Career Development Award
Duration: 1/1/22–12/31/26
\$100,000

Transcriptional Control of Neuronal
Position and Connection in the Retina
National Eye Institute
Duration: 6/1/24–5/31/29
\$393,646

Decoding the Formation of
Degeneration of Neural Circuits via
Cell-Type-Specific Surface Proteomics
Brain Research Foundation
Duration: 6/1/24–5/31/26
\$80,000

Stacy L. Pineles, MD

Pediatric Eye Disease
Investigator Group (PEDIG)
JAEB Center for Health Research
Duration: 1/1/19–12/31/28
\$231,200

Roxana A. Radu, MD

Pre-clinical Proof of Concept Study of
ABCA4 Gene Therapy in Albino
ABCA4-/-Mouse Model of
Stargardt Disease
Eudora Therapeutics, Inc.
Duration: 1/1/23–6/19/24
\$389,423

Alapakkam P. Sampath, PhD

Vision Science Training Program
National Eye Institute
Duration: 9/1/22–8/31/27
\$172,794

Instrumentation Grant for
Stein Eye Investigators
Bruce Ford and Anne Smith Bundy
Foundation
Duration: 8/16/23–8/15/24
\$100,000

Molecular Basis of Photoreceptor Wiring
National Eye Institute
Sub-award from University of Florida
Duration: 5/1/24–4/30/28
\$128,233

David Sarraf, MD

In Vivo Ultrastructure of
Chorioretinal Disease
National Eye Institute
Sub-award from Doheny Eye Institute
Duration: 9/30/21–8/31/24
\$21,146

In Vivo Characterization of
Retinal Hemodynamics
National Eye Institute
Sub-award from Doheny Eye Institute
Duration: 9/30/22–7/31/23
\$73,975

Gabriel H. Travis, MD

Mechanisms for Light-Driven
Chromophore Synthesis by
Müller Cells to Regenerate Cone Opsin
and Maintain Cone Sensitivity
National Eye Institute
Duration: 1/1/20–12/31/24
\$430,727

Victoria L. Tseng, MD, PhD

Neovascular Glaucoma: Individual and
Neighborhood-Level Associations with
Incidence and Outcomes in the
California Medicare Population
Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc.
1/1/23–12/31/27
\$150,000

Neovascular Glaucoma: Racial/Ethnic
Disparities in Incidence, Treatment
Patterns, and Visual Outcomes
American Academy of
Ophthalmology, Inc.
Duration: 10/10/22–10/9/24
\$10,000

Edmund Tsui, MD, MS

Objective Measures of
Intraocular Inflammation in
Pediatric Anterior Uveitis
NIH-National Eye Institute
Duration: 9/1/21–7/31/26
\$246,583

Objective Quantification of
Vitreous Inflammation Using
Optical Coherence Tomography
NIH-National Eye Institute
Duration: 2/1/23–1/31/24
\$249,988

Irena Tsui, MD

Neonatal Optical Coherence
Tomography Angiography to Assess
the Effects of Postnatal Exposures
on Retinal Development and Predict
Neurodevelopmental Outcomes
National Eye Institute
Duration: 7/1/23–6/30/27
\$406,750

David S. Williams, PhD

Vision Research Core at UCLA
National Eye Institute
Duration: 9/1/20–6/30/25
\$779,998

Cellular Mechanisms of
Photoreceptor Disk Morphogenesis
NIH-NEI National Eye Institute
Duration: 5/1/22–3/31/26
\$458,936

Roni Hazim, PhD

(Dr. David Williams, mentor)
In-Depth Molecular Studies of
Dynein Transport in the RPE
Duration: 6/1/23–5/31/25
\$208,798

Nan Hultgren, PhD

(Dr. David Williams, mentor)

Understanding How Mitochondrial
Interaction with Other Organelles in the
Retinal Pigment Epithelium (RPE)
Affect Its Function in the Outer Retina
National Eye Institute
Duration: 1/1/24–12/31/25
\$229,650

Xian-Jie Yang, PhD

Metabolism and Neuronal Viability of
the Retina
NIH-NEI National Eye Institute
Duration: 9/30/22–7/31/26
\$390,000

Developing Recombinant AAV-Based
Gene Therapy for Dominant Optic
Atrophy Caused by OPA1 Mutations
California Institute for Regenerative
Medicine (CIRM)
Duration: 9/1/22–8/31/24
\$1,345,691

Yuhua Zhang, PhD

In Vivo Characterization of
Metabolic Function of Photoreceptors
and Retinal Pigment Epithelium Cells in
Age-Related Macular Degeneration
Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc.
Duration: 1/1/22–12/31/24
\$150,000

Professional Research Series**Doug Chung, PhD**

Characterizing the Transcriptomic
Profiles of Cultured Ex Vivo
Corneal Endothelial Cells Treated with
Mitochondria-Targeted
Antioxidants During Cell Expansion
Eye Bank Association of America
Duration: 7/1/23–6/30/24
\$7,500

Vision-Science Research Active Funding

ADMINISTERED BY THE DOHENY EYE INSTITUTE

Faculty

Steven Barnes, PhD

Visual Processing by GABA-pH
Hybrid Feedback at the
Photoreceptor Synapse
The Plum Foundation
Duration: 7/22/20–12/31/24
\$110,000

Retinal Ganglion Cell Signaling
Regulated by Intrinsic Oxygen Species
National Eye Institute
Duration: 8/1/23–3/31/28
\$250,000

Deborah Ferrington, PhD

Role of Immunoproteasome in
Airway Viral Infection
National Jewish Health
Sub-award on NIAID Grant AI50082
Duration: 5/1/22–4/30/25
\$83,999

Deciphering Mechanisms Associated
With High-Risk AMD Genotypes for
ARMS/HTRA1 and Complement
Factor H
National Eye Institute
Duration: 9/30/22–8/31/25
\$288,360

Mitochondrial Defects in the
Retinal Pigment Epithelium and the
CFH Risk Allele for Age-Related
Macular Degeneration
National Eye Institute
Duration: 9/30/22–6/30/26
\$500,306

Ram Kannan, PhD

Novel Mechanism of Subretinal Fibrosis
in Age-Related Macular Degeneration
National Eye Institute
Duration: 5/1/20–4/30/25
\$309,041 (No-Cost Extension)

Therapeutic Strategies for
Mitochondrial-Based Optic Diseases
via Upregulation of OPA1 Expression
and Mitochondrial Function in
RPE Using Antisense Oligonucleotides,
Part 2
Stoke Therapeutics, Inc.
Duration: 12/8/23–7/31/25
\$147,912

Srinivas R. Sadda, MD

Functionally Validated Structural
Endpoints for Early AMD
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Sub-award on NEI Grant EY029595
Duration: 5/1/19–2/29/25
\$158,464 (No-Cost Extension)

Discovery and Validation of AMD
Biomarkers for Progression
Using Deep Learning
National Eye Institute
Duration: 8/1/19–7/31/23
\$125,000 (No-Cost Extension)

Artificial Intelligence for Assessment of
Stargardt Macular Atrophy
National Eye Institute
Duration: 1/1/20–12/31/23
\$121,250 (No-Cost Extension)

Epidemiology of Biomarkers of
AMD Progression
National Eye Institute
Duration: 9/30/21–8/31/27
\$478,852

iSafe/VCCM
NASA/KBR Wyle
Sub-award on NASA Prime
Duration: 10/1/19–9/30/26
\$40,720

NASA and SANSA
NASA
Sub-award from University of
California, San Diego
Duration: 8/22/22–8/21/25
\$26,987

Objective Quantification of
Vitreous Inflammation Using
Optical Coherence Tomography
National Eye Institute
Sub-award on UCLA Prime
Duration: 2/1/23–1/31/25
\$61,245

In vivo Imaging of the Human Retina at
the Molecular Level
National Eye Institute
Duration: 3/1/24–2/29/28
\$403,150

Alfredo Sadun, MD, PhD

National Institute on Aging
Sub-award on Cedars-Sinai Prime
Duration: 9/30/23–6/30/28
\$15,000

Deming Sun, MD

Role of IL-17+ Autoreactive T Cells in
Experimental Autoimmune Uveitis (EAU)
National Eye Institute
Duration: 1/1/20–12/31/24
\$270,547 (No-Cost extension)

Yuhua Zhang, PhD

In Vivo Ultrastructure of
Chorioretinal Disease
National Eye Institute
Duration: 1/1/15–8/31/24
\$258,566

In Vivo Characterizations of
Retinal Hemodynamics
National Eye Institute
Duration: 9/30/22–7/31/26
\$270,721

Clinical Research Active Funding

ADMINISTERED BY UCLA

Anthony J. Aldave, MD

A Phase IIa, Randomized, Double-Masked, Placebo-Controlled, Parallel-Group, Multicenter Study Assessing the Efficacy and Safety of STN1010904 Ophthalmic Suspension 0.03% and 0.1% Compared with Vehicle in Subjects with Fuchs Endothelial Corneal Dystrophy (FECD) PHANTOM Study
Duration: 2/3/23–2/2/27
\$144,089

A Phase 2, Multicenter, Randomized, Controlled, Double-Masked, Clinical Trial to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of OC-01 (Varenicline) Nasal Spray in Subjects with Neurotrophic Keratopathy (the Olympia Study) (Protocol# OPP-102) Oyster Point Pharma, Inc.
Duration: 8/11/21–8/10/25
\$53,936

A Phase 2, Randomized, Prospective, Double-Masked, Vehicle-Controlled Study to Assess the Efficacy and Safety of Nexagon® (NEXAGON) Applied Topically in Subjects with Corneal Persistent Epithelial Defects (PED) Resulting from Severe Ocular Chemical and Orthothermal Injuries (Protocol# NEX-PED-005) OcuNexus Therapeutics, Inc.
Duration: 3/8/22–3/7/26
\$45,775

A Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of KPI-012 Ophthalmic Solution in Participants with Persistent Corneal Epithelial Defect (PCED) (Protocol # KPI-012-C-001) Combango, Inc.
Duration: 3/26/24–3/25/28
\$121,887

Diabetes Endothelial Keratoplasty Study (DEKS): Impact of Diabetes on Corneal Transplant Success and Endothelial Cell Loss
JAEB Center for Health Research
Duration: 1/27/22–4/30/26
\$15,000

Benjamin B. Bert, MD

Treatment of Ocular Discomfort in Glaucoma Patients Using Multiple Topical Medications
Novartis Pharmaceuticals
Duration: 3/31/20–9/1/24
\$2,197

Sophie X. Deng, MD, PhD

A Multi-Center, Randomized, Double-Masked, Vehicle-Controlled, Parallel-Group, Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of CSB-001 Ophthalmic Solution 0.1% in Stage 2 and 3 Neurotrophic Keratitis Subjects
Claris Biotherapeutics, Inc.
Duration: 9/9/21–9/8/25
\$95,196

Brian A. Francis, MD, MS

A Prospective, Multicenter Clinical Study to Evaluate the Safety and Effectiveness of Ab Externo Implantation of Glaucoma Gel Stent
AbbVie Inc.
Duration: 5/9/23–12/31/25
\$181,974

Simon Fung, MD

Structural and Functional Changes of Corneal Innervation After Treatment with Cenegermin
Dompé S.p.A. (20-000833)
Duration: 3/12/20–1/1/25
\$287,946

Discovery of Tear Film Biomarkers in Pediatric Blepharokeratoconjunctivitis
Duration: 7/1/22–6/30/24
\$70,000

Michael B. Gorin, MD, PhD

Vieta-Ferrer, Emile: Ascertaining Ethnic/Racial Disparities in Inherited Retinal Dystrophies Testing, and the Socio-Economic Factors that May Contribute to These (18-0974)
American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics
Duration: 7/1/22–6/30/24
\$75,000

ALK-001 (16-0116)
Alkeus Pharmaceuticals
Duration: 5/23/16–12/20/23
\$57,395

ARIS (18-0974)
Greater Baltimore Medical Center;
Funded by National Eye Institute
Duration: 5/1/19–6/1/24
\$80,000

SOLSTICE (20-000696)
NightstaRX
Duration: 11/17/20–11/16/25
\$377,557

Gary N. Holland, MD

ZEDS Long-term Suppressive Valacyclovir Treatment for Herpes Zoster Ophthalmicus
New York University
Duration: 4/3/17–7/31/24
\$467,081

ADalimumab Versus Conventional Immunosuppression for Uveitis (ADVISE) Trial
National Eye Institute
Sub-award from
Johns Hopkins University
Duration: 9/30/18–8/31/24
\$30,000

Hugo Y. Hsu, MD

ST266-PED-202
Noveome Biotherapeutics, Inc.
Duration: 3/4/22–3/3/26
\$153,304

Alex A. Huang, MD, PhD

DE-126
Santen, Inc.
Duration: 2/17/21–2/16/25
\$133,245

Michael Ip, MD

ADV-022-11 (22-1082)
Adverum Biotechnologies
Duration: 10/26/22–10/25/26
\$210,189

ALXN2040-GA-201 (21-1957)
Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Duration: 11/21/22–11/20/26
\$297,870

APL2-304 (21-0534)
Apellis Pharmaceuticals
Duration: 5/9/19–5/8/23
\$364,425

GR40398 (19-1687)
Genentech, Inc.
Duration: 3/5/19–3/5/23
\$593,348

GR40550
Genentech Foundation
Duration: 1/17/20–11/30/24
\$1,427,007

ISEE2008
IVERIC Bio, Inc.
Duration: 7/1/20–7/1/24
\$232,530

ISEE2009 (23-5018)
IVERIC Bio, Inc.
Duration: 6/9/23–6/8/27
\$104,643

OTT166-201 (22-1019)
OcuTerra Therapeutics, Inc.
Duration: 12/20/22–12/19/26
\$221,534

OTX-TKI-2023-AMD-301 (24-5013)
Ocular Therapeutix, Inc.
Duration: 7/10/24–7/9/28
\$388,321

OPT1039 Clinical Evaluation of the
P200xe Indy
Optos PLC
Duration: 4/17/20–4/16/24
\$238,060

RGX-314-2104 (21-1374)
REGENXBIO Inc.
Duration: 12/2/21–12/1/25
\$395,430

KS301P103 (21-0073)
Kodiak Sciences, Inc.
Duration: 9/22/21–9/21/25
\$162,638

KS301P105
Kodiak Sciences, Inc.
Duration: 9/23/21–9/23/25
\$80,068

APL2-GA-305 (21-0534)
Apellis Pharmaceuticals
Duration: 11/4/21–11/3/25
\$364,425

Colin A. McCannel, MD
GR40549
Genentech, Inc.
Duration: 11/26/18–4/10/25
\$571,210

Tara A. McCannel, MD, PhD
AU-011-202
Aura Biosciences, Inc.
Duration: 4/16/21–4/15/25
\$268,788

Kevin M. Miller, MD
STEELE
Johnson & Johnson
Duration: 9/10/21–9/10/24
\$190,030

Daniel B. Rootman, MD, MS
VGN-TED-301 (22-0271)
Sling Therapeutics
Duration: 12/16/22–12/15/26
\$150,932

VGN-TED-302 (24-5105)
Sling Therapeutics
Duration: 3/27/24–5/6/28
\$199,594

SriniVas R. Sadda, MD
ARIS
Greater Baltimore Medical Center
Funded by National Eye Institute
Duration: 7/1/19–6/1/24
\$80,000

Alfredo A. Sadun, MD, PhD
GS-LHON-CLIN-05
GenSight Biologics
Duration: 8/23/18–7/28/25
\$0

GR42558
Genentech, Inc.
Duration: 8/12/21–8/11/24
\$4,232

Edmund Tsui, MD, MS
Kowa FM-700
Kowa Research Institute, Inc.
Duration: 2/1/20–4/25/25
\$0

21103
Acelyrin, Inc.
Duration: 9/27/22–9/26/26
\$251,971

The LEOPARD Study: Efficacy and
Safety of Dexamethasone
Ophthalmic Suspension Eye Drops in
Uveitic and Post-Surgical
Macular Edema
Global Ophthalmic Research Center
Duration: 5/20/23–5/19/25
\$472,634

GR44277
Genentech, Inc.
Duration: 2/22/23–2/22/27
\$435,299

PVT-2201-201
Priovant Therapeutics, Inc.
Duration: 2/14/23–2/13/27
\$92,378

Imaging Biomarkers in Juvenile
Idopathic Arthritis-Associated Uveitis
Pfizer Health Solutions Inc.
Duration: 6/16/21–6/30/24
\$150,000

Comparison of Biometry Measurements
Using Cylite HP-OCT and
Argos SS-OCT in Dense Cataracts
Cylite
Duration: 1/18/21–1/17/26
\$25,573



Clinical Research Studies

Clinical Trials

RECRUITING IN FISCAL YEAR 2024

Acelyrin Non-infectious Intermediate Uveitis, Posterior Uveitis or Panuveitis Phase 2 Study of Izokibep

A Phase 2 Dose-finding Study to Evaluate the Efficacy, Safety, and Immunogenicity of Izokibep in Subjects with Non-infectious Intermediate Uveitis, Posterior Uveitis or Panuveitis. Investigators: Edmund Tsui, MD, MS, Gary N. Holland, MD, Judy L. Chen, MD

Comparing Three Delivery Methods of Mitomycin C for Trabeculectomy Surgery

In this pilot explorative study, investigators are going to estimate and compare the outcomes of three different delivery methods of MMC for trabeculectomy: a subconjunctival injection at the site of future trabeculectomy two to four weeks before the surgery, a subconjunctival injection intraoperatively, and topical sponge applied intraoperatively (typical use) in patients with primary open angle glaucoma who did not have any prior filtering surgeries. Investigators: Joseph Caprioli, MD, Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD, JoAnn A. Giacon, MD, Simon K. Law, MD, PharmD, and Kourou Nouri-Mahdavi, MD

Corneal Nerves After Cenegermin

This study is to determine the structural and functional effects of cenegermin on the cornea, using noninvasive technologies, including the Ocular Surface Disease Index, corneal sensitivity testing, tear film testing, imaging and confocal microscopy. Investigators: Simon Fung, MD, Anthony J. Aldave, MD, Saba Al-Hashimi, MD, and Sophie X. Deng, MD, PhD

Corticosteroids for Uveitic Macular Edema (ADVISE)

This research study compares three treatments for macular edema in patients who have uveitis. Macular edema is swelling of the retina at the back of the eye, and it can cause vision loss. The standard treatment is to inject corticosteroid drugs next to the eye or directly into the eye. Investigators: Edmund Tsui, MD, MS, Gary N. Holland, MD, and Colin A. McCannel, MD

Determining the Safety and Efficacy of Renexus in Macular Telangiectasia Type 2

This study is assessing the safety of the NT-501 implant in patients with macular telangiectasia type 2. The implant, a small capsule of cells that is placed inside the eye, allows a controlled, sustained release of CNTF directly to the retina. Investigators: Jean-Pierre Hubschman, MD, Steven D. Schwartz, MD, and Hamid Hosseini, MD

Evaluation of a New Drug for Alkeus Stargardt Disease (16-0116)

The study purpose is to find out whether a new drug for Stargardt disease is safe and effective. There are currently no proven treatments for Stargardt disease, a disease that leads to blindness in almost all cases. Investigators: Michael B. Gorin, MD, PhD, and Steven Nusinowitz, PhD

K-321-301

A double-masked, randomized, placebo-controlled, parallel-group, 12-week administration with two-week gradual dose taper phase and 38-week follow-up phase, phase 3 study to investigate the safety and efficacy of ripasudil (K-321) eye drops after descemetorhexis in subjects with Fuchs endothelial corneal dystrophy. Investigators: Sophie X. Deng, MD, PhD, and Anthony J. Aldave, MD

Macular Edema Ranibizumab Versus Intravitreal Anti-inflammatory Therapy (MERIT) Trial

The MERIT Trial was designed to determine which intravitreal therapy offers the best balance of effectiveness and tolerability in treating persistent uveitic macular edema in eyes with controlled uveitis but persistent macular edema, specifically by comparing the relative efficacy and safety of intravitreal ranibizumab (Lucentis®) and intravitreal methotrexate to intravitreal dexamethasone implant (Ozurdex®). Investigators: Gary N. Holland, MD, Colin A. McCannel, MD, and Pradeep S. Prasad, MD

NGM621

A phase 2 multicenter, randomized, double-masked, sham-controlled study of the safety and efficacy of intravitreal injections of NGM621 in subjects with geographic atrophy (GA) secondary to age-related macular degeneration (AMD). Investigators: Steven D. Schwartz, MD, Jean-Pierre Hubschman, MD, Pradeep S. Prasad, MD, MBA, Hamid Hosseini, MD, and Irena Tsui, MD

OTX-TKI-2023-AMD-301 (24-5013)

A phase 3, multicenter, double-masked, randomized, parallel-group study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of intravitreal OTX-TKI (axitinib implant) in subjects with neovascular age-related macular degeneration/OTX-TKI-2023-AMD-301. Investigators: Michael S. Ip, MD, and Gad Heilweil, MD

Priovant NEPTUNE Study

A phase 2 randomized, double-masked, dose-ranging study to investigate the safety and efficacy of oral Brepocitinib in adults with active non-infectious intermediate-, posterior-, and pan-uveitis. Investigators: Edmund Tsui, MD, MS, and Judy L. Chen, MD

Pulsar

Randomized, double-masked, active-controlled, phase 3 study of efficacy and safety of high dose aflibercept in patients with neovascular age-related macular degeneration. Investigators: Jean-Pierre Hubschman, MD, Steven D. Schwartz, MD, Pradeep S. Prasad, MD, MBA, Hamid Hosseini, MD, and Irena Tsui, MD

RGX-314-2104 (21-1374)

A randomized, partially masked, controlled, phase 2b/3 clinical study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of RGX-314 gene therapy in participants with wet AMD (ATMOSPHERE). Investigators: Michael S. Ip, MD, Irena Tsui, MD, and Gad Heilweil, MD

Safety and Feasibility of Cultivated Autologous Limbal Stem Cells (LSCs) for Limbal Stem Cell Deficiency

Cell therapy using cultivated autologous LSCs has been developed as a potentially better alternative to various direct transplantation methods of limbal tissues; it greatly lowers the risk of damage to the donor eye by decreasing the amount of tissues that need to be harvested from the donor. Investigators: Sophie X. Deng, MD, Anthony J. Aldave, MD, and Vivian Shibayama, OD

Steele

The purpose of this clinical study is to evaluate the rotational stability of the TECNIS Toric II IOL. Investigators: Kevin M. Miller, MD, John D. Bartlett, MD, Shawn R. Lin, MD, and Mitra Nejad, MD

VGN-TED-301 (22-0271)

A Phase 2b, randomized, double-mask, placebo-controlled, study to evaluate the safety, pharmacokinetics, and efficacy of linsitinib in subjects with active, moderate to severe thyroid eye disease (TED). Investigator: Daniel B. Rootman, MD, MS

VGN-TED-302 (24-5105)

A multicenter, extension study to evaluate the efficacy, safety, pharmacokinetics, and pharmacodynamics of two doses of linsitinib in subjects with active, moderate to severe thyroid eye disease (TED). Investigator: Daniel B. Rootman, MD, MS

XEN45 Abbvie study (22-5039)

A prospective, multicenter clinical study to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of ab externo implantation of glaucoma gel stent. Investigators: Brian A. Francis, MD, MS, and Victoria L. Tseng, MD, PhD

Xiidra Study

This is a prospective study evaluating the benefit of Xiidra in treating patients currently using one or more topical glaucoma antihypertensives and who self-describe symptoms of ocular surface irritation. Investigators: Benjamin B. Bert, MD, and Brian A. Francis, MD, MS

Clinical Trials

NOT RECRUITING IN FISCAL YEAR 2024

ABP 938

A randomized, double-masked, phase 3 study of ABP 938 efficacy and safety compared to aflibercept (Eylea®) in subjects with neovascular age-related macular degeneration. Investigators: David Sarraf, MD, Michael B. Gorin, MD, PhD, and Colin A. McCannel, MD

APL2-GA-305 (21-0534)

A phase 3, open-label, multicenter, extension study to evaluate the long-term safety and efficacy of pegcetacoplan in subjects with geographic atrophy secondary to age-related macular degeneration. Investigator: Michael S. Ip, MD

DE-126 Ophthalmic Solution

A phase 2b, randomized, double-masked, active-controlled, parallel-group, multicenter study assessing the efficacy and safety of DE-126 ophthalmic solution 0.002% compared with timolol maleate ophthalmic solution 0.5% in subjects with primary open angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension. Investigator: Alex A. Huang, MD, PhD

Efficacy, Safety, and Pharmacokinetics of the Port Delivery System with Ranibizumab in Patients with Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration (ARCHWAY)

The primary objective of this phase 3 study is to evaluate the non-inferiority and equivalence in efficacy of ranibizumab delivered via the PDS Q24W with the 100mg/mL formulation compared with that of 10mg/mL Q4W intravitreal ranibizumab injections. Investigators: Colin A. McCannel, MD, Pradeep S. Prasad, MD, MBA, and David Sarraf, MD

Evaluating the Efficacy of a Single Intravitreal Injection for Patients with Leber Hereditary Optic Neuropathy

This clinical trial is to assess the effectiveness of a gene therapy in improving the visual outcome in patients with Leber Hereditary Optic Neuropathy (LHON) due to a mitochondrial mutation. Investigator: Alfredo A. Sadun, MD, PhD

Evaluating the Use of an Implant for Patients with Macular Degeneration (PAGODA)

This clinical trial determines the efficacy, safety, and pharmacokinetics of ranibizumab delivered through the implant using three ranibizumab-formulation arms compared with the control arm in patients with subfoveal neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration. The study also evaluates the safety of the ranibizumab port delivery system combination product. Investigators: Colin A. McCannel, MD, Tara A. McCannel, MD, PhD, Pradeep S. Prasad, MD, MBA, Michael B. Gorin, MD, PhD, David Sarraf, MD, Michael S. Ip, MD, Phillip Le, MD, PhD, Gad Heilweil, MD, and Srinivas R. Sadda, MD

Evaluation of Corneal Cross-Linking Keratoprosthesis Carrier Tissue

This clinical trial evaluates the safety and efficacy of corneal collagen cross-linking the keratoprosthesis carrier tissue in subjects who are candidates for high-risk keratoprosthesis implantation because of a history of corneal melts, sterile corneal ulcers, or autoimmune diseases (eg, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, ocular cicatricial pemphigoid). Investigators: Anthony J. Aldave, MD, and Sophie X. Deng, MD, PhD

Gallego

The purpose of this study is to compare the safety and efficacy of FHTR2163 versus a simulated injection on patients with geographic atrophy secondary to age-related macular degeneration. Investigators: David Sarraf, MD, Michael B. Gorin, MD, PhD, Colin A. McCannel, MD, and Pradeep S. Prasad, MD, MBA

Guard Trial

A multicenter, randomized, controlled, prospective, adaptive phase 3 clinical trial of repeated intravitreal injections of ADX-2191 versus standard-of-care for the prevention of proliferative vitreoretinopathy. Investigators: Colin A. McCannel, MD, Jean-Pierre Hubschman, MD, Pradeep S. Prasad, MD, MBA, and Irena Tsui, MD

IAI-OCTA Study

This study is utilizing a new, FDA approved, non-standard of care technology (optical coherence tomography-angiography by Optovue) to image and evaluate the treatment outcomes of using standard of care intravitreal aflibercept injections for their approved use in patients diagnosed with neovascular age-related macular degeneration who are naive to previous Anti-VEGF therapies. Investigator: David Sarraf, MD

ISEE2008

The objectives of this study are to evaluate the safety and efficacy of Zimura intravitreal administration in patients with geographic atrophy secondary to dry age-related macular degeneration. Investigators: Michael Ip, MD, Steven D. Schwartz, MD, Gad Heilweil, MD, and Philip Le, MD, PhD

ISEE2008 (Gather2)

An open-label extension (OLE) phase 3 trial to assess the safety of intravitreal administration of avacincaptad pegol (complement C5 inhibitor) in patients with geographic atrophy who previously completed phase 3 Study ISEE2008 (GATHER2). Investigators: Michael S. Ip, MD, Gad Heilweil, MD, and Philip Le, MD, PhD

K-321-201

A double-masked, randomized, placebo-controlled, parallel-group, 12-week, phase 2 study to investigate the safety and efficacy of ripasudil (K-321) eye drops after descemetorhexis in patients with Fuchs endothelial corneal dystrophy. Investigators: Sophie X. Deng, MD, PhD, and Anthony J. Aldave, MD

Multicenter, Open-Label Extension Study to Evaluate the Long-Term Safety and Tolerability of the Port Delivery System with Ranibizumab in Patients with Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration (PORTAL)

Continuous delivery of ranibizumab from the implant, with a prolonged fixed period between refills, is a novel approach that may result in less-frequent need for retreatment than monthly dosing and patient monitoring. Investigators: Colin A. McCannel, MD, Pradeep S. Prasad, MD, MBA, and David Sarraf, MD

NT-501 Ciliary Neurotrophic Factor Implant for Macular Telangiectasia

The primary objective of this extension study is to investigate long-term safety and efficacy of the NT-501 implant in participants previously enrolled in NTMT protocols. Investigators: Jean-Pierre Hubschman, MD, Steven D. Schwartz, MD, and Hamid Hosseini, MD

Pavilion

A phase 3, multicenter, randomized study of efficacy, safety, and pharmacokinetics of the port delivery system with ranibizumab in patients with diabetic retinopathy. Investigators: Steven D. Schwartz, MD, Colin A. McCannel, MD, Jean-Pierre Hubschman, MD, Pradeep S. Prasad, MD, MBA, Hamid Hosseini, MD, and Irena Tsui, MD

Phantom Trial FECD

A phase IIa, randomized, double-masked, placebo-controlled, parallel-group, multicenter study assessing the efficacy and safety of STN1010904 ophthalmic suspension 0.03% and 0.1% compared with vehicle in subjects with Fuchs endothelial corneal dystrophy (FECD). Investigators: Anthony J. Aldave, MD, Saba Al-Hashimi, MD, Sophie X. Deng, MD, PhD, Simon Fung, MD, MA, and Reza Ghaffari, MD

Protocol to Follow-up with Patients on Emergency Administration of EPI-743 with Leber Hereditary Optic Neuropathy

EPI-743, a form of vitamin E that has been changed to a new compound in the laboratory, is an experimental drug that may improve mitochondrial function. Mitochondrial disease manifestations appeared to improve when the EPI-743 was given to cells from a patient with Leber hereditary optic neuropathy that were grown in the laboratory. Investigator: Alfredo A. Sadun, MD, PhD

Research with Retinal Cells Derived from Stem Cells for Stargardt Macular Dystrophy

This study evaluates the long-term safety and tolerability of MA09-hRPE cellular therapy in subjects with advanced Stargardt macular dystrophy from one to five years following the surgical procedure to implant the MA09-hRPE cells. Investigators: Steven D. Schwartz, MD, Hamid Hosseini, MD, Jean-Pierre Hubschman, MD, Pradeep S. Prasad, MD, MBA, and Irena Tsui, MD

Retinal Gene Therapy for Choroideremia

The objective of this phase 3 clinical trial is to evaluate the efficacy and safety of a single subretinal injection of AAV2-REP1 in subjects with choroideremia. Investigator: Michael B. Gorin, MD, PhD

RVT-1401 for the Treatment of Patients with Active, Moderate-to-Severe Graves Ophthalmopathy

The purpose of this phase 2b, multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study is to assess the efficacy and safety/tolerability of three dose regimens of RVT-1401 in the treatment of patients with active, moderate-to-severe Graves ophthalmopathy. In addition, the study is designed to characterize RVT-1401 exposure to reduction in anti-TSHR IgG. Investigators: Daniel B. Rootman, MD, MS, and Robert Alan Goldberg, MD

Zoster Eye Disease Study (ZEDS)

The purpose of this study is to find out whether one year of a low dose of valacyclovir reduces complications of shingles affecting the eye. The study will involve two groups of participants who have eye problems due to shingles. One group will receive daily valacyclovir medication and the other group will receive a placebo. Investigators: Gary N. Holland, MD, Anthony J. Aldave, MD, Sophie X. Deng, MD, PhD, and John A. Irvine, MD

Clinical Studies

AMD Ryan Initiative Study— Longitudinal Study of Early AMD and Reticular Pseudodrusen

The primary objectives of the study are to enroll participants with early AMD to assess rate of change in drusen volume and progression rates to large drusen, and associate these morphologic changes with psychophysical changes, including visual acuity and dark adaptation. Investigators: Michael B. Gorin, MD, PhD, and Srinivas R. Sadda, MD

Analysis of the Corneal and Limbal Epithelial Changes in Limbal Stem Cell Deficiency Using In Vivo Confocal Microscopy

Investigators are working to establish a system for diagnosing limbal stem cell deficiency at a cellular level by correlating the information from impression cytology tests, confocal microscopy pictures, and medical records. Investigators: Anthony J. Aldave, MD, and Sophie X. Deng, MD, PhD

Anterior Chamber Flare Measurements

The evaluation and detection of inflammation is critical in management of uveitis. Flare, which is one of the commonly assessed ocular inflammation parameters, is the appearance of light reflected from solutes in the anterior chamber. This study seeks to compare two platforms of laser flare photometry and to evaluate the reproducibility of these measurements. Investigators: Edmund Tsui, MD, MS, and Gary N. Holland, MD

Anterior Imaging of Ocular Muscles

Presbyopia is poorly understood and may be due to the lens in the eye becoming harder or the muscles that help focus vision for reading becoming weaker with age. The aim of this study is to utilize OCT imaging technology to better understand and develop therapies to combat presbyopia. Investigator: Alex A. Huang, MD, PhD

Arm-Mounted Heidelberg OCT-A for Noninvasive Vascular Zone Imaging in Infants with Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP)

This study evaluates OCT-A imaging data on preterm infants who are screened and/or treated for ROP, especially evaluating the potentially beneficial effects of anti-VEGF treatment on foveal development and visual outcomes. Investigators: Alex A. Huang, MD, PhD, and Irena Tsui, MD

Beacon Sensors and Telerehabilitation

The primary goal of this project is to refine the methods and procedures for implementing innovative technologies for low vision rehabilitation, in order to develop future protocols for randomized controlled trials. Investigators: Ava K. Bittner, OD, PhD, Melissa Chun, OD, and Jennie Kageyama, OD

Biomechanical Analysis in Strabismus Surgery

This study aims to develop new diagnostic tests and computer models that will lead to improvements in strabismus surgery. Tests of binocular alignment and eye movements, as well as magnetic resonance imaging of the extraocular muscles, are being performed in the Institute's Clinical and Basic Science Ocular Motility Laboratory before and after strabismus surgery. To date, this research has fundamentally contributed to the knowledge of the functional anatomy of the extraocular muscles and connective tissues, and allowed discovery of causes of common strabismus and development of new types of surgeries. Investigator: Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD

Characteristics of the Brow-Eyelid Margin Relationship

The study purpose is to determine if changing the effect of gravity has an effect on eyelid position. Investigators: Robert Alan Goldberg, MD, and Daniel B. Rootman, MD, MS

Choroideremia Health Outcomes

The purpose of this observational study is to gather information on patient and caregiver experience with choroideremia. Investigator: Michael Gorin, MD, PhD

Clinical Measurements of the Optic Nerve in Glaucoma

The goal of this study is to develop novel structural measures of the optic nerve and nerve fiber layer, which are sensitive and specific for early and progressive glaucomatous optic nerve damage. Investigators: Joseph Caprioli, MD, Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD, and Simon K. Law, MD, PharmD

Comparison of MHz OCT to Standard OCT imaging

This study will test a new MHz OCT system developed by engineering collaborators and compare the performance of this new OCT system to a standard clinical OCT device. The newly designed OCT system will be five to 10 times faster, leading to a marked improvement in resolution and significant reduction of artifacts. Investigator: Kouros Nouri-Mahdavi, MD

COVaRiPAD

This proposal seeks to understand the vigor of immune responses in patients taking immunosuppressive medications to treat autoimmune diseases, along with characterizing and quantifying any adverse events related to the administration of the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine. Investigator: Edmund Tsui, MD, MS

COVID Vaccine-Associated Ocular Inflammation Registry

The study is interested in collecting data from three groups of patients with vitreoretinal disease and/or uveitis: 1) Those with new inflammation after COVID-19 vaccinations; 2) Those with pre-existing inactive uveitis and that present with inflammation after COVID-19 vaccinations; and 3) Those with inactive uveitis who did not flare after COVID-19 vaccination. Investigator: Edmund Tsui, MD, MS

Development of a Behavioral Intervention with Socially Assistive Robots to Enhance Magnification Device Use for Reading

The primary goals of this research are to perform the initial development and preliminary evaluation of a prototype socially assistive robot specifically for low vision rehabilitation involving reading with magnifiers, in order to develop future protocols for larger scale clinical trials. Investigators: Ava K. Bittner, OD, PhD, Melissa Chun, OD, and Jennie Kageyama, OD

Discovery of Tear Film Biomarkers in Pediatric Blepharokeratoconjunctivitis

This study will recruit healthy children and children with pediatric BKC and analyze their tear film for surrogate markers of inflammation. Investigators: Simon Fung, MD, MA, Joseph Demer, MD, PhD, Stacy L. Pineles, MD, Vivian Shibayama, MD, and Federico Velez, MD

Effect of External Eyelid Weighting on Lid Position in Normal and Ptosis Patients

This investigation compares the ability of normal and ptotic patients to maintain eyelid position by adapting to acute and dramatic changes in protracting forces by using eyelid weights. This project will help elucidate the physiology of the eyelid position maintenance system and provide insight into its ability to respond to changes in disease. Investigator: Daniel B. Rootman, MD, MS

Effect of Glaucoma Drainage Devices on the Cornea in Comparison to Filtering Surgery with Antimetabolites in Cases of Glaucoma

This study aims to evaluate the endothelial cell number in patients undergoing glaucoma drainage device implantation as part of their regular eye care in comparison to the endothelial cell number in patients having filtering surgery with antimetabolites or medical treatment. Investigators: JoAnn A. Giacon, MD, Joseph Caprioli, MD, Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD, Simon K. Law, MD, PharmD, and Kouros Nouri-Mahdavi, MD

Effect of Yoga on Glaucoma

The purpose of this study is to examine the practice of yoga and its ability to improve a patient's vision by relieving stress and reducing eye pressure. Investigator: Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD

Evaluating a Microshunt for the Treatment of Glaucoma

This study is to assess the safety and efficacy of a microshunt when used to lower intraocular pressure (IOP) in subjects with primary open angle glaucoma whose IOP is not controlled when using maximum-tolerated glaucoma medications. Investigators: Joseph Caprioli, MD, Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD, JoAnn A. Giacon, MD, Simon K. Law, MD, PharmD, and Brian A. Francis, MD, MS

Extended-Use Program of Elamipretide Topical Ophthalmic Solution for Patients with Leber Hereditary Optic Neuropathy (LHON)

This extended-use program is to provide elamipretide to patients with LHON previously enrolled in the SPILH-201 clinical trial who are still benefiting from treatment per the discretion of the treating physician. Investigators: Alfredo A. Sadun, MD, and Rustum Karanjia, MD

Eye DMI

Epidemiological study to evaluate the prevalence and progression of diabetic macular ischemia in patients with diabetic retinopathy treated with pan-retinal photocoagulation. Investigator: David Sarraf, MD

Eye Health Imaging Study

The purpose of this study is to expand the normative database for the Heidelberg Spectralis OCT by collecting ophthalmic data from healthy eyes of people of Hispanic/Latino, Asian, and African American descent. Investigators: Kouros Nouri-Mahdavi, MD, and Joseph Caprioli, MD

Field Test of Glaucoma Outcomes Survey (GOS)

The American Glaucoma Society is interested to learn how quality of life improves for patients after minimally invasive glaucoma surgery combined with cataract surgery. They have designed a questionnaire and are conducting research to find out how reliable the questionnaire is as a tool for measuring patient quality of life after surgery. Investigator: Brian A. Francis, MD

Genetic and Anatomic Studies of Eye Movement Disorders

This study is conducting magnetic resonance imaging of the extraocular muscles. This procedure clarifies the phenotypes and mechanisms of congenital cranial dysinnervation syndromes whose hereditary properties have been characterized using modern molecular genetics. Patients with these syndromes have severe forms of strabismus. Investigator: Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD

Glaucoma Imaging Study

This study is evaluating different imaging techniques and their use in improving open-angle glaucoma detection. Investigators: Kouros Nouri-Mahdavi, MD, and Joseph Caprioli, MD

Hyaluronic Acid Gels for Upper Lid Retraction in Active State

Thyroid Eye Disease

This study is to determine if hyaluronic acid gel (HAG) can be used to correct upper eyelid retraction, improve dry eye related symptoms, aesthetic appearance, and quality of life in active-stage thyroid eye disease (TED). The study also aims to determine the long-term outcome of TED and how long the effects of HAG can last. Investigator: Daniel B. Rootman, MD, MS

Identifying Novel Genes for Fuchs Corneal Endothelial Dystrophy

Investigators are working to identify the gene(s) responsible for Fuchs corneal endothelial dystrophy, an inherited disorder that may result in irreversible corneal swelling and loss of vision. Investigators: Anthony J. Aldave, MD, Gary N. Holland, MD, and Bartly J. Mondino, MD

Imaging of Intraocular Inflammation

The aim of this proposed research is to longitudinally monitor intraocular inflammation in patients with uveitis. Investigators: Edmund Tsui, MD, MS, Simon Fung, MD, and Gary N. Holland, MD

In-Vivo Ultrastructure of Chorioretinal Diseases

The study will utilize a novel adaptive optics (AO) imaging instrument that integrates scanning laser ophthalmoscopy and optical coherence tomography (AO-SLO-OCT), allowing for in-vivo ultrastructure assessment of RPD and individual photoreceptors in both en face and cross-sectional planes. The study will use the AO imaging to monitor the progression of the RPD and their impact on overlying photoreceptors. Investigators: David Sarraf, MD, and Yuhua Zhang, PhD

Long-term Follow-up of ND4 LHON Subjects Treated with GS010 Ocular Gene Therapy in the RESCUE or REVERSE

To assess the long-term safety of intravitreal GS010 administration up to five years post treatment in subjects who were treated in the RESCUE or REVERSE studies. Investigators: Alfredo A. Sadun, MD, and Rustum Karanjia, MD

Low Vision Patients' Preferences for Illumination During Near Reading

This prospective longitudinal study aims to evaluate low vision patients' reading performance and level of difficulty when using additional preferred lighting for near reading as provided by a commercially available desk lamp or a bulb placed in a generic gooseneck desk lamp specified according to the patient's preferred settings with a lighting assessment tool. Investigators: Ava K. Bittner, OD, PhD, Melissa Chun, OD, and Jennie Kageyama, OD

Molecular and Cytogenetic Studies of Ocular Melanoma

This research is to study ocular melanoma tumor tissue and to identify key molecular and genetic features that could help predict those patients who may be at high risk for metastasis. Investigators: Lynn K. Gordon, MD, PhD, Tara A. McCannel, MD, PhD, and Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD

Natural History Study of Leber Hereditary Optic Neuropathy

Leber hereditary optic neuropathy (LHON) is one of the diseases where the mitochondria of the retina cells are not functioning correctly, which can lead to loss of vision. This study is to obtain electroretinography (ERG) data and optical coherence tomography (OCT) data from patients who carry the Leber hereditary optic neuropathy gene. Investigator: Alfredo A. Sadun, MD, PhD

Natural History Study of Macular Telangiectasia

The primary study objective is to develop a registry of participants with MacTel Type 2 (as confirmed by the Reading Center) who may agree to be contacted for inclusion in future clinical trials. Investigators: Jean-Pierre Hubschman, MD, Hamid Hosseini, MD, Allan E. Kreiger, MD, Tara A. McCannel, MD, PhD, Pradeep S. Prasad, MD, MBA, Irena Tsui, MD, and Steven D. Schwartz, MD

Natural History of the Progression of Choroideremia

This study characterizes the visual function and retinal structural changes associated with X-linked choroideremia with the intention of determining the best means of measuring disease progression and the rate of natural progression for this condition. Investigators: Michael B. Gorin, MD, PhD, and Steven Nusinowitz, PhD

Natural History of the Progression of X-Linked Retinitis Pigmentosa

This study is to characterize the visual function and retinal structural changes associated with X-linked retinitis pigmentosa to determine the best means of measuring disease progression and the rate of natural progression for this condition. Investigator: Michael B. Gorin, MD, PhD

Neuroendocrine Tumor Metastases in the Eye and Orbit

The purpose of this study is to understand the diversity in presentation of carcinoid tumors of the orbit, as well as to identify, stage, and grade related factors that may affect prognosis and thus treatment decisions. Also considered will be if there are features of carcinoid tumor presentations in the orbit that can predict outcome and thus guide therapeutic decision-making. Investigator: Daniel B. Rootman, MD, MS

Nonexudative Age-Related Macular Degeneration Imaged with Swept Source OCT

OCT imaging with SS-OCTA will be utilized to study the natural history of disease. Investigator: Srinivas R. Sadda, MD

Noninvasive Methods for Early Detection of Alzheimer Disease

The purpose of this study is to obtain electroretinography data and optical coherence tomography data from patients with Alzheimer disease, with the aim of permitting earlier intervention and improved disease monitoring. Investigator: Alfredo A. Sadun, MD, PhD

Observational Study of Conjunctivitis in the Setting of Dupixent Treatment

The primary objective of the study is to characterize the clinical phenotype(s) of DUPIXENT®-associated conjunctivitis events. Investigator: Benjamin B. Bert, MD

Observational Study of Patients Diagnosed with Idiopathic Bilateral Cataracts

The purpose of this study is to understand better how many people who have been diagnosed with early-onset idiopathic bilateral cataracts may have a rare but treatable disease called cerebrotendinous xanthomatosis (CTX). Often one of the first signs of CTX is cataract from an unknown cause at an early age. Investigators: Federico G. Velez, MD, Stacy L. Pineles, MD, and Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD

OCT-A and Visual Acuity in Human Immunodeficiency Virus Associated Neuroretinal Disorder

This study aims to characterize the microvascular abnormalities in patients with HIV via OCT-A and investigate the relationships between capillary density, nerve fiber layer thickness, and other measures of visual function (visual acuity, contrast sensitivity, color vision, visual fields). In addition, to compare the OCT-A data in HIV-positive patients versus controls to evaluate the hypothesis that HIV-positive patients have significant differences in microvascular flow compared to normal eyes. Investigators: Gary N. Holland, MD, and David Sarraf, MD

Ocular Biometric Measurements in Angle-Closure Glaucoma

The purpose of this study is to determine the potential contributing factors in angle-closure patients of different ethnicities and to determine predictive factors for this type of glaucoma. Investigators: Joseph Caprioli, MD, Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD, Simon K. Law, MD, PharmD, and Kouros Nouri-Mahdavi, MD

Ocular Hypertension Treatment Study

Since topical hypotensive medications are safe and effective in delaying or preventing primary open angle glaucoma, this study is examining whether other forms of treatment can be deferred with little or no penalty. Investigator: Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD

Ocular Imaging Study

This study is about improving existing anterior and posterior segment imaging using optical coherence tomography (OCT) instruments and/or other imaging devices. Investigators would like to know if different imaging devices can improve the quality of images and visualization of imaged tissues. Investigators: Srinivas R. Sadda, MD, Anthony C. Arnold, MD, Vikas Chopra, MD, Brian A. Francis, MD, MS, Gad Heilweil, MD, Hugo Y. Hsu, MD, Alex S. Huang, MD, PhD, Michael S. Ip, MD, John A. Irvine, MD, Phillip Le, MD, Alfredo A. Sadun, MD, PhD, David Sarraf, MD, James C. Tan, MD, PhD, and Irena Tsui, MD

Ocular Protrusion in Sitting and Supine Positions

The aim of this study is to compare the degree of ocular protrusion in normal individuals and patients with thyroid eye disease between sitting and lying (supine) positions. Investigators: Robert Alan Goldberg, MD, and Daniel B. Rootman, MD, MS

Ocular Surface Microbiome Study

This study aims to investigate and understand the normal ecosystem of microbes that live on the eye's surface and how their ecological system changes and responds to routine eye care and treatments. Investigators: Hugo Hsu, MD, Vikas Chopra, MD, and Gad Heilweil, MD

Oculoplastic Registry

Many orbital and ophthalmic plastic surgical diseases are not well studied in the medical literature. The purpose of this study is to contribute to a large database of electronic measurements from medical records that allow us to study diseases in a way that was difficult or impossible before. Investigators: Robert Alan Goldberg, MD, and Daniel B. Rootman, MD, MS

Optic Nerve Appearance in Age-Related Macular Degeneration

In order to evaluate the relationship between macular degeneration and optic nerve change, digital imaging technology and photography are being used to assess the structural appearance of the optic nerve in patients with age-related macular degeneration. Investigator: Simon K. Law, MD, PhD

Optical Coherence Tomography Angiography Images of Pregnant Women

This study aims to identify changes that occur in the retina as a result of gestational associated diseases (eg, gestational diabetes, high blood pressure, increased myopia) and unknown changes that may affect the eyes during gestation and in the two to three months following birth. Investigator: Irena Tsui, MD

Optical Coherence Tomography Angiography of Foveal Avascular Zone in Premature Children

This prospective study evaluates blood vessel development in children and adults who are born early and compares them with children and adults who were not born early, by getting optical coherence tomography (OCT), OCT-angiography, color pictures, refraction, and axial length on subjects with retinopathy of prematurity and without retinopathy of prematurity. Investigators: Irena Tsui, MD, Stacy L. Pineles, MD, and Federico G. Velez, MD

Optic Nerve in Amblyopia

Amblyopia is a major cause of childhood visual loss. This study uses high resolution, surface-coil magnetic resonance imaging to study optic nerve size in amblyopia. It tests the theory that the optic nerve is smaller than normal in amblyopia and that optic nerve size may be a limiting factor in restoration of vision by amblyopia treatment. Investigator: Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD

Pediatric Cataract Surgery Outcomes Registry

The study aim is to collect core clinical data on children and teens undergoing surgery for cataracts in order to conduct analyses and generate hypotheses. Clinical outcomes data will be collected from affected subjects after cataract surgery has been performed. Investigators: Stacy L. Pineles, MD, and Federico G. Velez, MD

Pediatric Cornea and Anterior Segment Diseases Registry

Pediatric cornea and anterior segment diseases are rarely encountered by ophthalmologists. As such, details on the causes, features, and optimal treatment for these conditions are inadequately described. The information on this registry would allow us to study these diseases. Investigator: Simon Fung, MD

Pediatric Optic Neuritis Prospective Outcomes Study (PON1)

Optic neuritis is an acute inflammatory disease of the optic nerve. The purpose of this study is to collect information about children who have optic neuritis and what happens to their eyesight. Investigator: Stacy L. Pineles, MD

PET/CT Imaging for Early Detection of Ocular Melanoma

This research involves the use of combined positron emission tomography (PET)/computed tomography (CT) scans in subjects with ocular melanoma to ideally develop better ways of monitoring for tumor spread and allow for early treatment if metastasis is found. Investigators: Tara A. McCannel, MD, PhD, and Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD

Predicting Eye Disease in Childhood Arthritis-Uveitis Study (PEDIA-U)

The purpose of this study is to further the understanding of juvenile idiopathic arthritis and uveitis (JIA-U). Investigators: Gary N. Holland, MD, and Edmund Tsui, MD, MS

Pro-Inflammatory Cytokines, Dry Eye, and Thyroid Eye Disease

This study is to determine whether there are specific inflammatory proteins in tears of patients with active-stage thyroid eye disease (TED). If these inflammatory proteins exist, the study aims to determine whether they can be used to predict dry eye symptomatology and TED activity. Investigators: Robert Alan Goldberg, MD, and Daniel B. Rootman, MD, MS

Prospective Study Examining Pentosan Retinal Toxicity

Patients will be evaluated for the dose and treatment duration of Pentosan. The goal is to determine the risk and toxic profile of Pentosan, as well as the incidence of interstitial cystitis, in an effort to establish clinical guidelines for retinal toxicity screening. Investigator: David Sarraf, MD

Ptosis Surgery Outcomes Scale

This investigation is to define and validate a universal measure for ptosis outcomes that can be used in defining both value and efficacy in ptosis surgery. Investigator: Daniel B. Rootman, MD, MS

Research to Evaluate Latest Improvements with Electronic Visual Enhancement Devices (RELIEVED)

This prospective study aims to evaluate patient preferences for wearable electronic visual aids for low vision rehabilitation and changes in visual functioning with these devices. Investigators: Ava K. Bittner, OD, PhD, Melissa Chun, OD, and Jennie Kageyama, OD

Research with Retinal Cells Derived from Stem Cells for Dry Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD)

This study evaluates the long-term safety and tolerability of MA09-hRPE cellular therapy in subjects with advanced dry AMD from one to five years following the surgical procedure to implant the MA09-hRPE cells. Investigators: Steven D. Schwartz, MD, Hamid Hosseini, MD, Jean-Pierre Hubschman, MD, Pradeep S. Prasad, MD, MBA, and Irena Tsui, MD

Role of Pattern Electroretinogram (PERG) in Glaucoma

This study is researching the electrophysiological test, pattern electroretinogram (PERG) to determine the role of PERG in estimating the risk of future glaucoma progression and the reversibility of glaucomatous damage after treatment. The latter could help clinicians better determine to what extent eye pressure needs to be lowered to prevent disease progression. Investigators: Joseph Caprioli, MD, Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD, JoAnn A. Giaconi, MD, Simon K. Law, MD, PharmD, and Kouros Nouri-Mahdavi, MD

Studies on Tissue in Autoimmune Diseases

This study aims to determine the cause of eye problems in Graves disease and other autoimmune diseases. Examination is being done of material removed from orbits during surgical therapy for Graves disease or other problems requiring surgery on the tissue surrounding the eyes, of thyroid tissue removed during the course of surgical therapy, or of blood drawn for laboratory tests. Investigator: Robert Alan Goldberg, MD

Study of Macular Disease Using Spectral Domain Optical Coherence Tomography Angiography (SD-OCTA)

The RTVue XR 100 Avanti with SSADA will be used to screen patients with macular disease as detected with clinical examination or ancillary testing, such as with standard OCT, color fundus photography, fluorescein angiography, or fundus autofluorescence. Investigators: Michael B. Gorin, MD, PhD, Colin A. McCannel, MD, David Sarraf, MD, and Steven D. Schwartz, MD

Study of Ocular Disease Using Hyper Parallel Optical Coherence Tomography

A novel imaging technology termed hyper parallel OCT (HP-OCT) will be used to evaluate patients with cataracts, corneal disease, macular disease, optic nerve disease, and iris changes that may occur from associated ocular diseases and procedures, as well as uveitic diseases as detected with clinical examination or ancillary testing, such as with standard OCT. Investigators: Edmund Tsui, MD, MS, and Saba Al-Hashimi, MD

Study of Ocular Disease Using Hyper Parallel Optical Coherence Tomography (HP-OCT)

This study will investigate the utility of a novel instrument, HP-OCT. This instrument provides high-speed 3D volumetric imaging and has the potential to perform numerous simultaneous measurements all in a single instrument. Investigators: Edmund Tsui, MD, MS, Saba Al-Hashimi, MD, and Simon Fung, MD

Tear Collections for Patients with Limbal Stem Cell Deficiency

The purpose of this study is to find markers specific to limbal stem cell deficiency not present in normal or dry eye diseased eyes. These markers could become additional diagnostic markers to confirm the disease and possibly targets for drug development. Investigator: Sophie X. Deng, MD, PhD

Temporal Fossa in Different Ethnicities

The aim of this study is to investigate differences in anatomy of temporal fossa between different ethnicities using three-dimensional CT scan images. Better knowledge of these differences is important for cosmetic procedures to achieve better results and fewer complications. Investigators: Robert Alan Goldberg, MD, and Catherine J. Hwang, MD

Understanding the Genetics of Inherited Eye Disorders

This study searches for the gene(s) responsible for inherited disorders that are either specific to the eye or are part of the medical condition. The study provides for the clinical characterization of affected individuals and at-risk family members, in conjunction with molecular genetic testing, to identify the causative genes and mutations. Investigators: Anthony J. Aldave, MD, and Michael B. Gorin, MD, PhD

Vision-Related Quality of Life and Ocular Dominance

This study is designed to evaluate how quality of life is impacted by glaucoma in relation to eye dominance. It aims to determine whether quality of life is affected more by glaucoma if it primarily affects the dominant eye. Investigators: Joseph Caprioli, MD, Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD, JoAnn A. Giaconi, MD, and Simon K. Law, MD, PharmD



2023–2024 Publications of the Full-Time Faculty

Robust peer review subjects an investigator's scholarly work to the scrutiny of experts in the field, which is vital to ensuring scientific excellence. Following are some of the peer-reviewed articles, scientific books, and book chapters published this academic year by our full-time faculty.

JULY 2023

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About the Institute



About the Institute



The bronze bust of Dr. Jules Stein was created by renowned Cubist sculptor Jacques Lipchitz.

Established in 1966, the Jules Stein Eye Institute vision-science campus is the fulfillment of a dream—an ambitious plan developed by **Jules Stein, MD**, to prevent blindness by transforming the quality of vision research, education, patient care, and community outreach.

The Institute exists because of Dr. Stein, one of the most influential executives in entertainment who returned to his roots as a medical doctor to become a national advocate for vision science; and **Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD**, founding director of the Jules Stein Eye Institute and founding chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, who created a bold plan for building the scope of ophthalmology in the UCLA School of Medicine. Together Drs. Stein and Straatsma ensured the Institute would take a central role in transforming vision science as a powerful platform for discovery and patient care to eradicate one of the great scourges of human existence: blindness.

Under the leadership of **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, director and chair from 1994 to June 30, 2022, the Institute's core pillars were developed and a broad agenda of program-building and expansion was implemented. Dr. Mondino also forged a historic partnership—a first of its kind—with the Doheny Eye Institute in 2013, creating the nation's preeminent organization for ophthalmic care and vision research under the banner of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology.

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

And today, the original dream for ophthalmology at UCLA has evolved into the Institute's bold transformation to a vision-science campus—an interconnected community of facilities and people that merge research, training for new ophthalmologists, premier patient care, community outreach programs, and ongoing education for doctors worldwide.

Patients across the Southland have access to the finest vision care at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute in Westwood; Stein Eye Institute locations in Calabasas and Santa Monica; Doheny Eye Centers UCLA in Arcadia, Orange County, and Pasadena; and UCLA-affiliated hospitals in Sylmar, Torrance, and West Los Angeles/Sepulveda.

Since its opening on November 3, 1966, the Institute's original mandate remains paramount: the relentless drive for excellence and the constant search for new possibilities in the treatment of the eye. The Institute's decades of accomplishments may have even exceeded the original soaring expectations of Dr. Stein who at the dedication ceremony defined his own prophecy for the Institute and the medical field he loved:

"The men and women who will occupy this building and use its resources will share in future achievements that will outstrip any that have been seen; for science today is moving ahead with fantastic speed, and we must be sure that eye research moves with it. The history of this Institute begins with this dedication. I am confident that it will be a proud history."

“If I am remembered for anything, it will not be for anything I did in show business, but for what I did to prevent blindness.”

DR. JULES STEIN



Doris and Jules Stein

The legacy of Dr. and Mrs. Jules Stein arises from their role in the 20th century as visionaries. Through brilliance and beneficence, they created a multitude of programs aimed specifically at one goal: preserving and restoring eyesight. They approached this task dauntlessly, integrating the worlds of business, medicine, and philanthropy in such a way as to enhance each and leave in trust the promise of limitless accomplishment in the advancement of eye research and treatment. The Jules Stein Eye Institute was established as a result of their philanthropy.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees was established in 1977 and ensures the Jules Stein Eye Institute's orderly growth and development. The Board meets regularly during the year, with each trustee providing their unique counsel. Collectively, their invaluable contributions have included fiscal planning for the Institute, adoption of measures to facilitate recruitment of the world's finest vision scientists, allocation of funds for the purchase of vision research equipment, and recommendations for expansion programs.

Norman Abrams, Esq.

Distinguished Professor of Law Emeritus
Acting Chancellor Emeritus
UCLA
2015–present

Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD

Chair, UCLA Department of Ophthalmology
Director, Jules Stein Eye Institute
Affiliation Chair, Doheny Eye Institute
2022–present

Charles T. Foscue

President and Chief Executive Officer
HAI Financial, Inc.
2020–present

Ronald L. Olson, Esq.

Partner
Munger, Tolles & Olson
1995–present

Katrina vanden Heuvel

Publisher and Editor
The Nation
1984–present

Casey Wasserman

President and Chief Executive Officer
The Wasserman Foundation
1998–present

Bart H. Williams, Esq.

Partner
Proskauer Rose LLP
2021–Present

Marissa Goldberg

OBSERVER
Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer
Doheny Eye Institute
2015–present



Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the Jules Stein Eye Institute and UCLA Department of Ophthalmology meets regularly during the year, with each member providing their unique expertise. The Committee ensures the orderly growth and development of the Institute and Department. It is involved in fiscal planning, expansion, recruitment, program development, and resolution of interdivisional issues.

Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD

Chair, UCLA Department of Ophthalmology
Director, Jules Stein Eye Institute
Affiliation Chair, Doheny Eye Institute

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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

Mission Statement



The Jules Stein Eye Institute is a vision-science campus dedicated to the preservation and restoration of vision through its global programs in innovative research, quality patient care, and multidisciplinary, integrative education, all with community outreach.

How You Can Make a Difference

Imagine a world where you cannot see the sunrise, where the faces of loved ones are blurred, or the simple joy of reading is a struggle. For many, it is a daily reality. But with your support, we can continue to change lives through the groundbreaking work at the Jules Stein Eye Institute.

Our team of dedicated vision scientists has made incredible strides. We've pushed the boundaries of what's possible, bringing hope to those affected by vision loss, and we are training the next generation of leaders in ophthalmology to continue our vision. And your generosity is the cornerstone of these transformative achievements.

To continue this groundbreaking research, world-class patient care, and the education of tomorrow's leaders in ophthalmology, here are ways you can donate to the Jules Stein Eye Institute:

Checks/Credit Cards: Traditional and straightforward, cash donations are always welcome and put to immediate use.

Appreciated Securities: Donating stocks or bonds can be tax-smart, potentially offering you more significant tax benefits than a cash gift.

Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs): Recommending a grant from your DAF to the Jules Stein Eye Institute is an efficient and tax-effective way to support blindness prevention.

Retirement Assets: If you are 70½ years old or older, consider donating from your IRA directly to the Jules Stein Eye Institute. This distribution can also count towards your required minimum distribution (RMD) and is excluded from a donor's taxable income.

Charitable Gift Annuity: Donate cash, securities, or other assets in trust to the Jules Stein Eye Institute, and in return, receive lifetime payments to you and up to one additional person. This may qualify for a partial tax deduction, and the Institute ultimately receives the trust.

Wills and Bequests: Leave a lasting legacy by including the Jules Stein Eye Institute in your will or estate plans.

There are several options to help guide your donation:

General Donation: Unrestricted donations provide flexibility to meet immediate needs.

Tribute: Contributions made in memory, honor, or celebration of a loved one or a doctor who had an impact on your life.

Pledge: Gifts made in installments over a set period, allowing you to defer the bulk of your donation. Typically, pledges include an initial installment and provide consistent, reliable funding, often enabling donors to contribute more than initially anticipated.

Endowment: Donations are invested as a permanent fund, using the annual investment income to support clinical, educational, and scientific initiatives. Any remaining investment yield is returned to the principal. Thus, over the years, an endowment provides steady, reliable funding.

Please consider making a generous donation to the Jules Stein Eye Institute today and join us in our commitment to preserve and restore vision.

Together, we can ensure no one misses life's most beautiful moments.

For information about making a gift or incorporating the Jules Stein Eye Institute into your estate and retirement planning, please contact:

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See UCLA and the UCLA Foundation's Disclosure Statements for Prospective Donors at: <http://www.uclafoundation.org/disclosures>

Consult your tax advisor to determine the best way to support the Institute's vital work.

