

EYE

JULES STEIN EYE INSTITUTE UCLA

New Approaches to Corneal Transplantation Bring Benefits to Patients

Corneal transplantation (also known as keratoplasty), which replaces a patient's damaged cornea with donor corneal tissue, is the most common and most successful type of human transplant surgery. The cornea—the clear surface on the front of the eye—can become diseased, affecting vision and requiring transplantation as a result of a variety of conditions, including protrusion of the center of the cornea (keratoconus), scarring or inflammation from infections or injuries, and dysfunction of the cornea's inner layer, resulting in corneal swelling (Fuchs dystrophy). At UCLA's Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI), three recent advances in corneal transplantation are enhancing the procedure for certain patients by improving safety and producing more rapid visual recovery along with equal or, in some cases, better results.

Descemet Stripping Endothelial Keratoplasty

Descemet stripping endothelial keratoplasty (DSEK) allows for more rapid visual recovery, fewer complications, and a more predictable refractive result (the strength of glasses or contact lenses needed for clear vision) following surgery than traditional full-thickness corneal transplantation, says **Anthony J. Aldave, MD**, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and Director of the Cornea Service at JSEI, who has performed the new procedure on approximately 100 patients over the last three years.

A full-thickness transplant uses a round, bladed "cookie-cutter" called a trephine to make an incision all the way through the patient's cornea in order to restore clarity by replacing the central cornea with that from a donor eye. "This is effective for corneal scars and for corneal swelling due to dysfunction of the cornea's inner layer," explains Dr. Aldave. "However, the disadvantage with this technique is that it involves replacement of all of the layers of the cornea, even if only the inner-most layer is diseased. The full-thickness corneal incision results in delayed vision recovery and unavoidable irregularity in the shape of the cornea, which limits vision."

For the 40 percent of his corneal transplant candidates who have developed corneal swelling with loss of clarity and dysfunction from only the cornea's inner-most layer, DSEK is a better procedure than traditional full-thickness corneal transplantation, Dr. Aldave says. The procedure involves peeling off the diseased inner layer and replacing it with the inner-most layer from a donor cornea, along with a thin amount of the donor's corneal tissue to facilitate handling. The new inner layer is placed inside the eye and positioned using an air bubble so that the surface of the cornea is not touched. The incision is then closed with two sutures and most of the air bubble is removed 10 minutes after being placed.

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Patient Profile

Preserving Vision through Corneal Transplantation

Neil Bar-Or recently had corneal transplantation at the Jules Stein Eye Institute to address worsening keratoconus—a degenerative corneal disease characterized by general thinning and a cone-shaped protrusion of the central cornea. Diagnosed with the condition when he was 15 years old, he had been able to manage his vision with special contact lenses. But when the cornea in his right eye began to deteriorate rapidly and he could no longer tolerate contact lenses, Neil turned to the Jules Stein Eye Institute for further assistance.

Neil explains, "I had managed my condition quite well with hard contact lenses until the past couple of years. Then my right cornea dramatically worsened, and I had to get new prescriptions and new lenses every few months until it became difficult to fit a lens on my eye that was safe for

Dr. Anthony Aldave (right) with his patient Neil Bar-Or, who recently underwent corneal transplantation using the femtosecond laser

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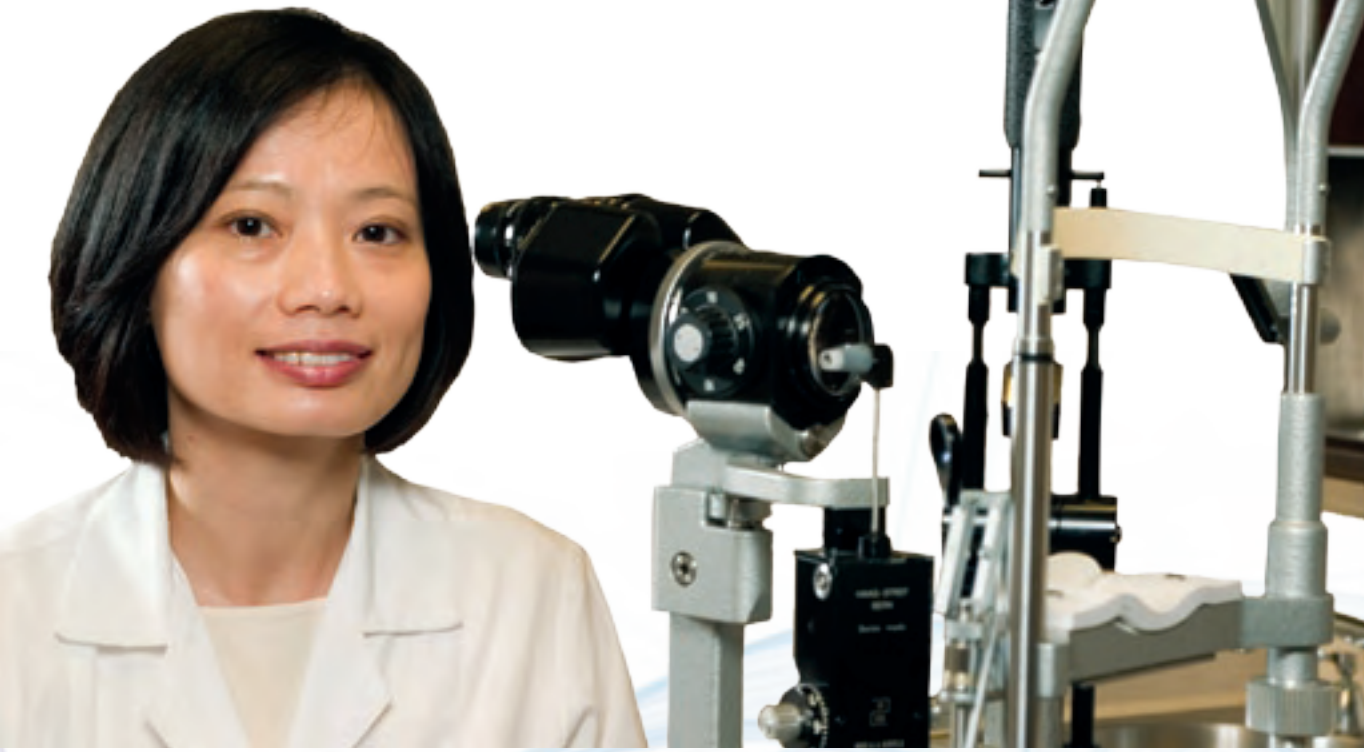
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Dr. Sophie Deng is one of only a small number of ophthalmologists that perform deep anterior lamellar keratoplasty with baring of Descemet membrane (DALK)—a new approach to corneal transplantation that preserves the patient’s normal tissue.

In addition to a faster visual recovery, Dr. Aldave notes, many of the complications associated with full-thickness transplantation—including suture-related complications such as infections and induced irregular astigmatism—are eliminated. Preliminary research also indicates that the rejection rate is lower.

Deep Anterior Lamellar Keratoplasty

A newly developed complement to the DSEK is the deep anterior lamellar keratoplasty with baring of Descemet membrane (DALK), a selective transplant procedure for patients with a corneal scar or the corneal disease keratoconus, but who have normal endothelial cells (the inner layer). Rather than the traditional method of replacing the entire cornea, the DALK replaces only the portion of the cornea that is diseased. The endothelium and the Descemet membrane (the membrane that lies between the endothelium and the corneal stroma) remain intact. In DALK, air is injected into the cornea to create a “big bubble,” thereby separating or “baring” the paper-thin Descemet membrane as the entire stroma is being removed.

“DALK enables us to preserve the patient’s normal tissue, which has the potential to result in faster healing and less rejection,” says **Sophie X. Deng, MD, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, who began performing the procedure early last year.

DALK appears to improve on penetrating keratoplasty (the traditional treatment for such patients) in several key ways. “Because the surgeon doesn’t need to enter into the anterior chamber of the eye, there is no risk of damaging the intraocular tissues, such as the lens and the iris, and there is less chance of intraocular infection,” Dr. Deng notes. “In addition, because we don’t replace the healthy endothelium, there will not be rejection and failure of the endothelial cells that are critical to keeping the cornea clear. Overall, it is a very big improvement.” Another major advantage, Dr. Deng says, is that the requirements of the donor tissue are much less stringent than with the penetrating keratoplasty.

The downside to the DALK is that it can be highly challenging; thus, few ophthalmologists perform it. JSEI’s acquisition of a special high-speed laser, the femtosecond laser that Dr. Deng began to use to perform penetrating keratoplasty this fall, may also make DALK easier, Dr. Deng explains. Rather than manually removing the thin layer of stromal tissue at the beginning of the procedure, Dr. Deng will be able to use the new femtosecond laser, greatly reducing the operating time.

Penetrating Keratoplasty with a Femtosecond Laser

The same laser technology is being used for the third and newest approach to corneal transplantation at UCLA, penetrating keratoplasty with a femtosecond laser. The new laser—widely employed over the last decade for making flaps in LASIK surgery—uses tiny, ultra-fast energy pulses to make incisions in the cornea for partial or full-thickness transplants, allowing the surgeon to create precisely shaped incisions so that the transplanted tissue fits into the cornea like interlocking pieces of a puzzle.

“Traditional corneal transplantation involves using a circular blade to make a full-thickness cut through the cornea, removing that disc of tissue, and replacing it with a disc of similar size prepared from donor tissue,” says **D. Rex Hamilton, MD**, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Director of the UCLA Laser Refractive Center. “With this new technology we can create customized, contoured cuts with the laser on both the donor and the recipient tissue such that the two fit together in an interlocking fashion. This has the potential for faster visual rehabilitation, less astigmatism and stronger wound healing.”

The procedure is most appropriate for patients who have had no previous transplants or incisional surgeries and do not have dense corneal scars, says Dr. Hamilton, who began performing the procedure this fall. It is ideal for patients with a clear cornea that simply has an abnormal shape that affects their vision, such as patients with keratoconus. “For most primary surgeries, this femtosecond laser approach will likely become the standard of care in the future,” Dr. Hamilton says.

“There are a wide variety of patients who can benefit from surgery with the femtosecond laser,” says Dr. Aldave, who began performing femtosecond laser-assisted penetrating keratoplasty early last year. “As with the DSEK, this gives us the potential to dramatically decrease postoperative astigmatism because of the precision of the laser, as well as provide a stronger wound that is more resistant to traumatic opening. It’s too early to say whether this will revolutionize corneal transplant surgery, but the early results that have been reported are quite promising.”

Patient Profile

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the cornea and also provided useful vision. It got to the point that if I could tolerate a lens on my eye, I couldn’t see well, or if I put a lens on my eye and I could see, I couldn’t tolerate it.”

Neil was first seen at the Jules Stein Eye Institute by **Barry A. Weissman, OD, PhD**, Director of the Contact Lens Service. When Dr. Weissman determined that fitting lenses on Neil’s right eye was no longer an option, he referred him to **Anthony J. Aldave, MD**, one of the Institute’s corneal transplantation specialists. Dr. Aldave identified Neil as a candidate for a new approach to corneal transplantation that uses a femtosecond laser, instead of a circular blade, to make incisions in the cornea and the transplanted tissue. Because the laser allows the surgeon to make identical cuts in the donor corneal tissue and the host tissue, they fit together like pieces of a puzzle, potentially resulting in faster recovery of vision, stronger healing and less astigmatism.

“What Dr. Aldave explained, and the research that I did confirmed, is that with this approach the healing is a lot quicker and a lot stronger. And hopefully it will lead to less astigmatism, which is common in corneal transplantation,” says Neil. “The jury is still out because I only had the surgery two months ago. My vision is already better than it was without the contact lenses before the surgery. When Dr. Aldave removes the stitches, my vision should improve even more!”



Dr. Rex Hamilton believes that, in the future, the corneal transplantation femtosecond laser approach will become the standard of care for primary surgery patients.

Honoring our Planned Giving Donors



Richard and Ardis Armstrong left their estate to the Jules Stein Eye Institute.

Unknown to the Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI), Mrs. Mary E. Plummer included JSEI as a beneficiary of her Trust in 1993. When she passed away in June 2007 at the age of 91, she left a most generous gift to support JSEI's mission to preserve sight and prevent blindness.

Mrs. Plummer and her husband, who predeceased her, lived a quiet life in the house they designed and built high in the Verdugo Hills with commanding views. Mrs.

Plummer was very active in charitable causes and community projects during her lifetime, and with no living relatives, she decided to leave her estate to several non-profit organizations. Many years ago, she developed a special affection for JSEI, when it was instrumental in saving the eyesight of a close friend. This important and meaningful contribution from the Mary E. Plummer Family Trust will support various initiatives at JSEI that have an immediate funding need.

A similar significant bequest was received in 2007

from the Estate of Mr. J. Richard Armstrong and Mrs. Ardis Armstrong. Before their passings in 2006 at the ages of 96 and 94, respectively, the Armstrongs decided to leave their sizable estate, including their residence and personal property, to JSEI. Both natives of Southern California, Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong enjoyed a 73-year-long marriage. Mr. Armstrong's interests included boating, world travel, ham radio and photography. He served on the *USS Rotanin* during World War II and

was admired for his good nature and integrity. Mrs. Armstrong was the driving force in naming JSEI as the beneficiary of the couple's estate; their gift has established a permanent endowment to support degenerative eye diseases, such as age-related macular degeneration.

Bequests from donors, such as Mrs. Plummer and the Armstrongs, provide an opportunity to create an enduring personal legacy that will benefit JSEI for many years to come. Bartly J. Mondino, MD, JSEI's Director, remarked, "We are extremely grateful for this generosity. I realize many donors do not desire to have any recognition for their remarkable philanthropy, but, personally, I do wish I had an opportunity to thank these special and thoughtful individuals, as their gifts will greatly benefit our programs today and far into the future."

Although some donors designate a specific purpose for their planned giving arrangements, many prefer them as unrestricted in order to be utilized to support areas of highest priority, once the bequest is realized. This flexibility is ideal, as JSEI's funding needs change and evolve over time with new scientific advances and the development of new treatment options. JSEI has been most fortunate to receive generous restricted and unrestricted bequests that provide valuable resources to continue its achievements in widely respected vision research, prestigious educational programs, and comprehensive patient care and outreach activities. We are most grateful for such gifts that are created in this meaningful way.

Creating Your Legacy

A bequest to JSEI is a wonderful way to meet your estate planning goals while minimizing taxes and conserving more of your estate for loved ones. And, you will have the satisfaction of knowing you are helping patients and families. We have a gift plan to fit your needs and philanthropic goals. Estate and planned gifts come in many varieties:

- ✿ Bequest through a will
- ✿ Gift through a living trust or other non-charitable trust
- ✿ Charitable remainder trust
- ✿ Charitable lead trust
- ✿ Pooled income fund gift
- ✿ Charitable gift annuity
- ✿ Remainder interest in a personal residence or other real property
- ✿ Gift of life insurance
- ✿ Beneficiary designation in retirement plans

To explore the opportunities and rewards of giving to the Jules Stein Eye Institute, please contact the Development Office at (310) 206-9701 or visit our website at www.jsei.org. We work with each donor to create a distinctive gift that blends financial and personal objectives with priorities for JSEI. The result is a gift that is personally satisfying and is mutually beneficial to the donor and the Jules Stein Eye Institute.

Anthony C. Arnold, MD, and Joan and Jerome Snyder Honored



From left, Dr. Bartly Mondino, Jerome and Joan Snyder, and Dr. Anthony Arnold and his wife Dr. Laura Bonelli, celebrate the establishment of the Snyder Chair.

On October 2, 2008, Jules Stein Eye Institute Director, Bartly J. Mondino, MD, presented the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA recognition chairs to donors Joan and Jerome Snyder in appreciation for their generous pledge to establish the Jerome and Joan Snyder Chair in Ophthalmology. This endowment, established in 2007, supports the activities of a distinguished faculty member who directs the UCLA Ophthalmology Residency Program.

The occasion also provided a wonderful opportunity to congratulate Anthony C. Arnold, MD, on his appointment to this prestigious chair. Dr. Mondino remarked, "The acquisition of an endowed chair for our Residency Program Director has long been one of my priorities, and I am incredibly grateful for Joan and Jerry's outstanding investment. Tony is a devoted teacher, mentor and clinician who will bring great honor to this important position."

Charitable IRA Rollover Extension

Good news! The popular IRA Charitable Rollover created under the Pension Protection Act of 2006 has been extended. Individuals who are 70½ years of age and older may make tax-free distributions from their traditional or Roth IRAs to charity. Donors may instruct their IRA plan administrators to directly distribute to a public charity up to \$100,000 in each of the years 2008 and 2009, regardless of income. While donors cannot claim a charitable deduction for IRA gifts, they will not pay income tax on the amount, and the distribution will count toward their minimum required distribution.

For more information on ways to take advantage of this opportunity and support Jules Stein Eye Institute programs, please call the UCLA Office of Gift Planning at (800) 737-UCLA or the JSEI Development Office at (310) 206-9701.

New Faculty



Colin A. McCannel, MD

It is a great pleasure to announce that **Colin A. McCannel, MD**, has been appointed Associate Professor of Ophthalmology in the Retinal Disorders and Ophthalmic Genetics Division at UCLA's Jules Stein Eye Institute, effective October 15, 2008.

Dr. McCannel received his medical training from the Mayo Medical School in Rochester, Minnesota. He completed his ophthalmology residency training, and two-year vitreoretinal surgery fellowship at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. His fellowship was followed by more than 10 years of service as a Consultant and staff vitreoretinal surgeon in the Department of Ophthalmology at the Mayo Clinic. Prior to his recruitment to UCLA, he held the academic title of Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at the Mayo Medical School.

Dr. McCannel comes to the Jules Stein Eye Institute with outstanding qualifications. He has written more than 40 peer-reviewed articles, served as President of the Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology, and is the recipient of several honors, most recently the "Innovation in Education" award from the Mayo School of Continuing Medical Education.

During his time at the Mayo Clinic, he developed an international reputation as a leader in the field of vitreoretinal surgery and paramount surgeon. His clinical focus is the management of vitreoretinal surgical problems, particularly complex retinal detachments, complications of diabetic retinopathy, macular holes, epimacular membranes (puckers), and age-related macular degeneration.

At the Jules Stein Eye Institute, Dr. McCannel will be leading an initiative to implement surgical simulation technology to improve the surgical training of ophthalmology residents and vitreoretinal surgery fellows. As part of this teaching commitment, he will be Chief of Retina at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. His other research interests include surgical techniques, epidemiologic studies and outcomes research. He will use his talents and experience to further improve patient care.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. McCannel back to the Jules Stein Eye Institute. His clinical and research activities will greatly contribute to our understanding and improvement of the medical and surgical treatment of vitreoretinal diseases.

2008 Stein/Opppenheimer Awards

On October 16, the 18th annual reception for the Stein/Opppenheimer Endowment Fund was held at the Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) to highlight the research findings of the 2008 award recipients. **Mr. Gerald (Jerry) H. Opppenheimer**, JSEI Board Trustee, established this program in 1990 to further medical research, education and patient care at the UCLA Center for the Health Sciences. This funding enables scientists, clinicians and others to generate preliminary data to use in subsequent applications to federal and private funding sources. Since the program's inception, an investment of approximately \$4.1 million has generated more than \$82 million in new research grants to UCLA, a 20-fold return.

In 2002, Gail and Jerry Opppenheimer launched the Center for Prevention of Eye Disease Program as a part of the Stein/Opppenheimer Awards, which provides seed grants to researchers working to prevent ophthalmic diseases. Areas of study include genetic and environmental factors that may cause eye disease and pharmacological and natural agents to treat eye problems before they happen. JSEI Director **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, remarked, "Thanks to the Gerald Opppenheimer family, vision science researchers and clinicians are given a unique opportunity to engage in pioneering and very promising investigations that may ultimately lead to steps we can take to avoid vision loss and maintain healthy eyes."

The 2008 grant award recipients in the Center for Prevention of Eye Disease Program include:

Novrouz Akhmedov, PhD

Assistant Researcher in Ophthalmology
Debora B. Farber, PhD, DPhhc
 Karl Kirchgessner Professor of Ophthalmology
Novel Locus for Retinitis Pigmentosa Associated with the Recently Identified 7R Protein

Anthony J. Aldave, MD

Associate Professor of Ophthalmology
RNA Interference Targeting of the TGFBI Gene Transcript in Human Corneal Epithelial Cells as a Method to Inhibit Pathologic TGFBI Protein Deposition in the Corneal Dystrophies

James W. Bisley, PhD

Assistant Professor of Neurobiology
 Member, Jules Stein Eye Institute
The Influence of Posterior Parietal Cortex on Visual Processing

Peter J. Bradley, PhD

Assistant Professor of Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics
Characterization of an Avirulent Mutant of Toxoplasma Gondii, the Causative Agent of Ocular Toxoplasmosis

Lucy Q. Shen, MD

Clinical Instructor in Ophthalmology
Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD
 Frances and Ray Stark Professor of Ophthalmology
 Professor of Epidemiology
 Director of the UCLA Center for Eye Epidemiology and the UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic
Dietary Vitamin Intake and Open Angle Glaucoma: A Case-Control Study

Alexander M. van der Bliek, PhD

Associate Professor of Biological Chemistry
Screen for Small Molecules that Slow Dominant Optic Atrophy

Novrouz Akhmedov (right) explains his research on retinitis pigmentosa at the Stein/Opppenheimer Endowment Fund reception.



From left, **Dr. Leonard Rome**, Senior Associate Dean of Research, **David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA**, **Gail and Gerald Opppenheimer**, and **Dean Gerald Levey**

JSEI Among Top Ophthalmology Programs

The Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) is among the top ophthalmology programs in the United States in the 2008 survey of Best Programs by *Ophthalmology Times*. Published on October 15, 2008, survey results were tabulated from a poll of U.S. ophthalmology chairpersons and residency directors.

JSEI ranked fifth in the Best Overall Program category for outstanding work in teaching and developing residents into the nation's up-and-coming ophthalmologists, educating the public about eye care, and embracing and promoting the philosophy of continued research among professional staff. The Institute also garnered high marks for other categories surveyed, ranking among the top 10 nationally for both Best Clinical (Patient Care) Programs and Best Research Programs.



Dr. Dean Bok (right) relaxing at the Lake Michigan sand dunes with a former college classmate.

Dean Bok, PhD

**Dolly Green Professor of Ophthalmology
Professor of Neurobiology
Director, Retinal Cell Biology Laboratory**

Dean Bok, PhD, who recently completed his 40th year at the Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI), refers to himself as the “elder scientist” on the active basic science faculty. His career at UCLA started more than 44 years ago when he responded to an ad for graduate school stipends in the Department of Anatomy. He applied, joined a laboratory that was studying the eye, and so impressed **Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD**, JSEI Founding Director and member of his PhD dissertation committee, that he was offered a position at the Institute. Today Dr. Bok is a recognized scientist in the field of inherited retinal diseases, and it is a discovery that he made early in his career that provided critical information for understanding how these diseases work and might be addressed therapeutically.

We asked Dr. Bok about his work as a vision scientist and what he likes to do when he’s not in his laboratory or teaching.

What do you most enjoy about your work?

After all of these years, I still enjoy working in the laboratory “at the bench.” I don’t get to do that very much anymore. It’s great to see results, but digging in and doing the work is my greatest joy. I also love to teach. I currently teach two courses. One is an undergraduate course with about 250 students. The other is a course that I designed in 1989 for the graduate curriculum.

What is your most important contribution to the field?

I guess I’m most proud of the discovery that I made with my professor, **Richard Young**, when I was just starting my career. We determined that the light-sensing cells in the retina, called photoreceptors, manage to survive in a very toxic environment by every day manufacturing and then throwing away about one-tenth of the light-sensitive antennae that we use for vision. The discovery that photoreceptors are in a very dynamic state, constantly renewing their light-sensitive components, was very exciting. We published that fundamental observation in 1969, but it still has application today. In fact, the process that we described proved to be a key to understanding the underlying cause of an early onset form of macular degeneration called Stargardt disease, one of the inherited retinal diseases that I’m currently studying. So it’s satisfying to make a very fundamental discovery and see that discovery translated into information that can be useful in understanding how diseases work and how they might be treated or prevented.

What would you still like to achieve professionally?

Well I’d like to come up with one new concept that others can build on. I don’t know if that will happen at this stage in my career, but it would be great.

What do you like to do when you’re not at work?

I was born and raised on a farm, so I like to spend time outdoors and do physical work. Aside from staying at home and gardening in my backyard, I enjoy desert camping in the winter—when it’s clean, beautiful and there are no bugs—and going to our place in Mammoth with my family in the summer. My wife and I also enjoy traveling abroad. Each year we take one major trip together to a foreign country, which we usually coordinate with one of the conferences or meetings that I attend.

EYELINES

More than 150 Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) faculty members, staff, and resident and fellow alumni from around the world gathered at the Ritz Carlton in Atlanta, Georgia, on Sunday, November 9, 2008, for the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association’s annual reception. The reception provides an opportunity for alumni attending the annual American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting to renew acquaintances and reconnect with classmates. Graduates from close to 30 different JSEI graduating classes were represented at this year’s event.



JSEI faculty member **Dr. Lynn Gordon** (second from left) greets (left to right) **Dr. P.J. Kappel**, uveitis fellow and resident alumnus from the class of 2007, **Dr. Roberta Costa**, neuro-ophthalmology international fellow, and **Dr. Raquel Goldhardt**, international fellow alumna.

Drs. Tina Rutar (left) and **Adrienne Ruth**, pediatric division fellow alumni



Emeritus faculty member **Dr. Allan Kreiger** (left) welcomes retina fellow alumnus **Dr. Maurice Syrquin**.



JSEI faculty member **Dr. Robert Goldberg** celebrates the evening with **Dr. Tanvi Shah**, a JSEI third-year resident.



Dr. Tania Tai (left), JSEI third-year resident, and **Dr. Stacy Pineles**, pediatric fellow and resident alumna from the class of 2008



From left, **Drs. Jared Younger** and **My Hanh Nguyen**, cornea fellow alumni, are greeted by JSEI faculty member **Dr. Richard Casey**.

Special Thanks to JSEI Alumni and UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association Members!

The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association extends a special thank you to its 2008–2009 dues paying members. Annual dues provide the Association with the resources to support the annual Research Grant Awards, the JSEI Clinical and Research Seminar, the Video Library Project, the Alumni Directory, the Reception at the Annual AAO Meeting and other important alumni events.

We greatly appreciate your continued support of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association and the Jules Stein Eye Institute. If you have not yet submitted your dues and would like to do so, registration forms can be found online at www.jsei.org or requested by contacting us at alumni@jsei.ucla.edu. Thank you!

Additional photos from the Alumni Reception can be found online at www.jsei.org.

Community Outreach

JSEI Affiliates Hosts Holiday Volunteer Recognition Luncheon



Preschool Vision Screening volunteer and Affiliates Board Member Robyn Travis (left) and Volunteer Coordinator Judy Smith

Cherie Hubbell, Chair of the JSEI Affiliates, hosted the organization's Ninth Annual Holiday Luncheon on Monday, December 8, 2008, at the Hotel Bel-Air honoring the JSEI Affiliates Advisory Board members, program volunteers and special guests.

"The strength of the JSEI Affiliates programs depends on our dedicated volunteers whom we recognize at this special annual recognition event," Hubbell remarked. "The Affiliates accomplished new levels this year in each of our community outreach programs—results that would not have been possible without the commitment of our advisory board and dedication of our volunteers."

The Affiliates offers the Vision In-School program and Preschool Vision Screenings free of charge to elementary schools and preschools in the community. It also supports several patient programs including the Make Surgery Bearable and Shared Vision programs, providing Dr. Teddy MD teddy bears to JSEI pediatric surgery patients and donated refurbished eyeglasses to adults and children who could not otherwise afford them.

If you would like more information about joining or volunteering with the Jules Stein Eye Institute Affiliates, please contact the Jules and Doris Stein UCLA Support Group at (310) 825-4148.



Preschool Vision Screening volunteers (left to right) Drs. Louis Rosenberg, Leonard Apt and Jule Lamm



Outreach Manager Teresa Closson (left) and program volunteer Sandra Fiala

"The Affiliates accomplished new levels this year in each of our community outreach programs—results that would not have been possible without the commitment of our advisory board and dedication of our volunteers."



From left, Judy Smith, program volunteer Erica Farber, Development Director Nancy Graydon and John Laione



From left, JSEI Affiliates President Cherie Hubbell and long term volunteers Sandra Allan and Ruth Straatsma

Special Thanks to Dr. Teddy Holiday Donors!

The JSEI Affiliates thanks its many special donors who contributed to the annual Make Surgery Bearable Holiday Sponsorship Campaign. The campaign raised funds to sponsor over 150 Dr. Teddy MD teddy bears for pediatric surgery patients at the Jules Stein Eye Institute. Dr. Teddy sponsorships can be submitted year round in honor or memory of a loved one, or to celebrate anniversaries or birthdays. Contact the JSEI Affiliates at (310) 825-4148 or www.jseiassociates.com for further information.

Walking to Prevent Blindness



JSEI Faculty Members Dr. Robert Goldberg (second from left) and Dr. JoAnn Giaconi (center) are joined by, from left, Drs. Jan Takasugi, Sadiqa Stelzner, and Alpa Patel, and in front Hannah Stelzner.

Several hundred walkers descended upon UCLA's Dickson Court on Sunday, October 26, 2008, for the Foundation Fighting Blindness' (FFB) Second Annual VisionWalk. The event, supported by both the Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) and volunteers from the JSEI Affiliates, raised more than \$80,000 for retinal eye disease research.

Walkers participating on the JSEI team donned matching "Volunteers with Vision" t-shirts and strolled the 5-kilometer loop through UCLA's beautiful north campus along with approximately 450 other participants. JSEI staff member and program volunteer **Teresa Closson** joined the JSEI walkers with her daughter Lauren and yellow Labrador Roxy. "This is the second year we have participated. VisionWalk is a very inspirational event and a wonderful way to spend a Sunday morning."

The Foundation Fighting Blindness is a non-profit organization committed to funding research to prevent, treat and cure retinal degenerative eye diseases. The Jules Stein Eye Institute, a lead sponsor of VisionWalk, participates in research on a number of inherited retinal diseases and has received FFB funding for continued study of vision loss treatment and prevention.

Vision Science Conference

On October 24–26, 2008, over 80 basic scientists and clinical researchers gathered for the Fourteenth Annual Vision Science Conference at the UCLA Conference Center in Lake Arrowhead, California. The event was sponsored by the National Eye Institute Vision Science Training Grant and the Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI). The attendees enjoyed scientific discussions and social events near the beautiful backdrop of Lake Arrowhead.

Highlighting the weekend was a presentation by keynote speaker **Nathan L. Mata, PhD**, Senior Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer from SIRION Therapeutics. Dr. Mata spoke about drug development in the area of macular degeneration. The group also discussed animal ethics led by speakers **Andy Perkins**, Assistant Director of the Animal Research Committee, and **Joanna Zahorsky-Reeves**, Clinical Veterinarian

of the Department of Laboratory Animal Medicine, at UCLA. There were an additional 29 presentations highlighting the research from 17 JSEI laboratories. These speakers spurred discussion and created an opportunity for new collaborations amongst Institute researchers. **Ned Van Eps, PhD**, and **Quan Yuan, PhD**, received the best poster and presentation award respectively.

This year's conference planning committee included Committee Chair **Nathaniel Roybal, MD, PhD**, as well as **Anna Matynia, PhD**, **Bryan Chen**, **Carlos Lopez**, **Jiamei Yu, PhD**, **Khumar Gangalum, PhD**, **Lawrence Yoo**, **Louise Hughes, PhD**, **Mike Woodruff, PhD**, and **Vanda Lopes, PhD**; the Vision Science Grant Coordinators **Nora Momoli** and **Linda Kemp**; Committee Advisor **Bill Dominguez**; and Committee Faculty Advisor **Suraj Bhat, PhD**.



Over 80 basic scientists and clinical researchers attended the Fourteenth Annual Vision Science Conference in Lake Arrowhead, California.

JSEI Fellow Receives Fogarty International Fellowship



Fogarty International Clinical Research Fellowship recipient **Dr. Oluwatoyin Fafowora (center)** with mentors **Drs. Michael Gorin and Anne Coleman**.

Oluwatoyin Fafowora, MD, MPH, Post-doctoral Fellow at the Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI), received a Fogarty International Clinical Research Fellowship to study the genetics of juvenile open angle glaucoma in Ibadan, Nigeria. The announcement was made by the Fogarty International Scholars Support Center, National Institutes of Health, on July 25, 2008. Under the mentorship of JSEI Ophthalmology Professors **Michael B. Gorin, MD, PhD**, and **Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD**, and in collaboration with her foreign counterpart **Adeyinka Ashaye, MD**, Dr. Fafowara will build a 2,000-person cohort from Nigerian families with a history of juvenile open angle glaucoma (JOAG). The cohort will provide the basis for a series of studies to evaluate the pattern of inheritance, family risk, and variable expression and penetrance of JOAG.

Faculty Honors

Anthony J. Aldave, MD, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, and **David Sarraf, MD**, Associate Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, received Secretariat Awards from the American Academy of Ophthalmology in July 2008. The Secretariat Award recognizes ophthalmologists for special contributions to the Academy and ophthalmology. The Academy also honored Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology **Michael S. Berlin, MD**, and Associate Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology **Donald S. Fong, MD**, by presenting them with Senior Achievement Awards

David May II Professor of Ophthalmology **Joseph Caprioli, MD**, was a Distinguished Keynote Speaker at the Annual Meeting, "Glaucoma: Reality and Perspectives," sponsored by the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, State Institute of Eye Diseases, in Moscow, on September 25–26, 2008.

Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD, Leonard Apt Professor of Ophthalmology, presented the Gunter K. von Noorden Lecture at the Cullen Eye Institute, Baylor College of Medicine, in Houston, Texas, on October 16, 2008. The Lecture focused on new methods for treatment of strabismus by surgery on the orbital connective tissues, including the pulleys.

On September 13, 2008, Laraine and David Gerber Professor of Pediatric Ophthalmology **Sherwin J. Isenberg, MD**, was honored by being named President-Elect of the Costenbader Pediatric Ophthalmology Society. Costenbader is the oldest Pediatric Ophthalmology Society in the world and the second largest Pediatric Ophthalmology society in North America.

At the World Ophthalmology Congress in Hong Kong, China, on June 28–July 2, 2008, **Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD**, Founding Director and Professor Emeritus of Ophthalmology, was elected an Honorary Life Trustee of the International Council of Ophthalmology. Dr. Straatsma has served the Council in several capacities and has been a Board Member since 1993. Dr. Straatsma is also President of the International Council of Ophthalmology Foundation, the support organization for International Council of Ophthalmology programs of education and public service worldwide.

H O N O R S

Special Events

The Latest Advances in Ocular and Facial Plastic Surgery

On Tuesday, November 18, 2008, **Robert Alan Goldberg, MD**, Karen and Frank Dabby Professor of Ophthalmology and Chief of the Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Division, hosted a medical forum at the Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI). Entitled "Finding the Fountain of Youth," the forum focused on new horizons in vision research and surgical innovations in the area of ocular and facial plastic surgery.

If you are interested in receiving information about this event or upcoming medical forums, please contact the JSEI Development Office at (310) 206-6035.



From left, Arline and Ronald Goldberg with their son Robert, and Irving and Esther Zabin



Dr. Robert Goldberg (left) with Dr. Leonard Apt, Professor of Ophthalmology Emeritus and Founding Chief of the Division of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus



Director Emeritus, Dr. Bradley R. Straatsma, and Mrs. Gail Oppenheimer chat following the presentation.



From left, loyal supporter Richard Nelson Matthews with Paul Tasker, Peter Catham, Sharon Douglas Tanji, Deputy Director, Medical Sciences Development, and featured speaker, Dr. Robert Goldberg



JSEI supporter Donald Clause with Ronnie Kassorla

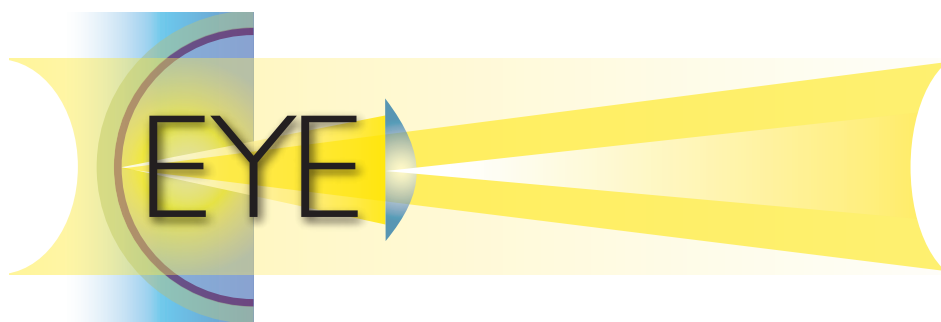
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 JSEI Ophthalmology Emergency Service (310) 825-3090
 after hours (310) 825-2111

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