

EYE

JULES STEIN EYE INSTITUTE UCLA

EyeSTAR: Bridging Research and Clinical Care

For physicians who are interested in academic careers and professional leadership as clinician-scientists, the Jules Stein Eye Institute's (JSEI) Ophthalmology Residency Training Program offers EyeSTAR, a six-year curriculum combining vision science training with an ophthalmology residency. Working with research mentors throughout UCLA, EyeSTAR trainees commit three years to a vision science research program to obtain a PhD, or for those who already hold a doctorate, two to three years for a postdoctoral fellowship in a basic science discipline.

EyeSTAR began in 1995. **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, assigned chairmanship of the program to **Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD**, who was motivated by a desire to train physician scientists as future leaders in ophthalmology. "Beyond what is learned in the clinical residency, we believe that focused, rigorous, additional research training is increasingly necessary for leadership in the field," explains Dr. Demer. "EyeSTAR graduates are trained to compete not just with clinical scientists but with top basic scientists from all institutions."

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.

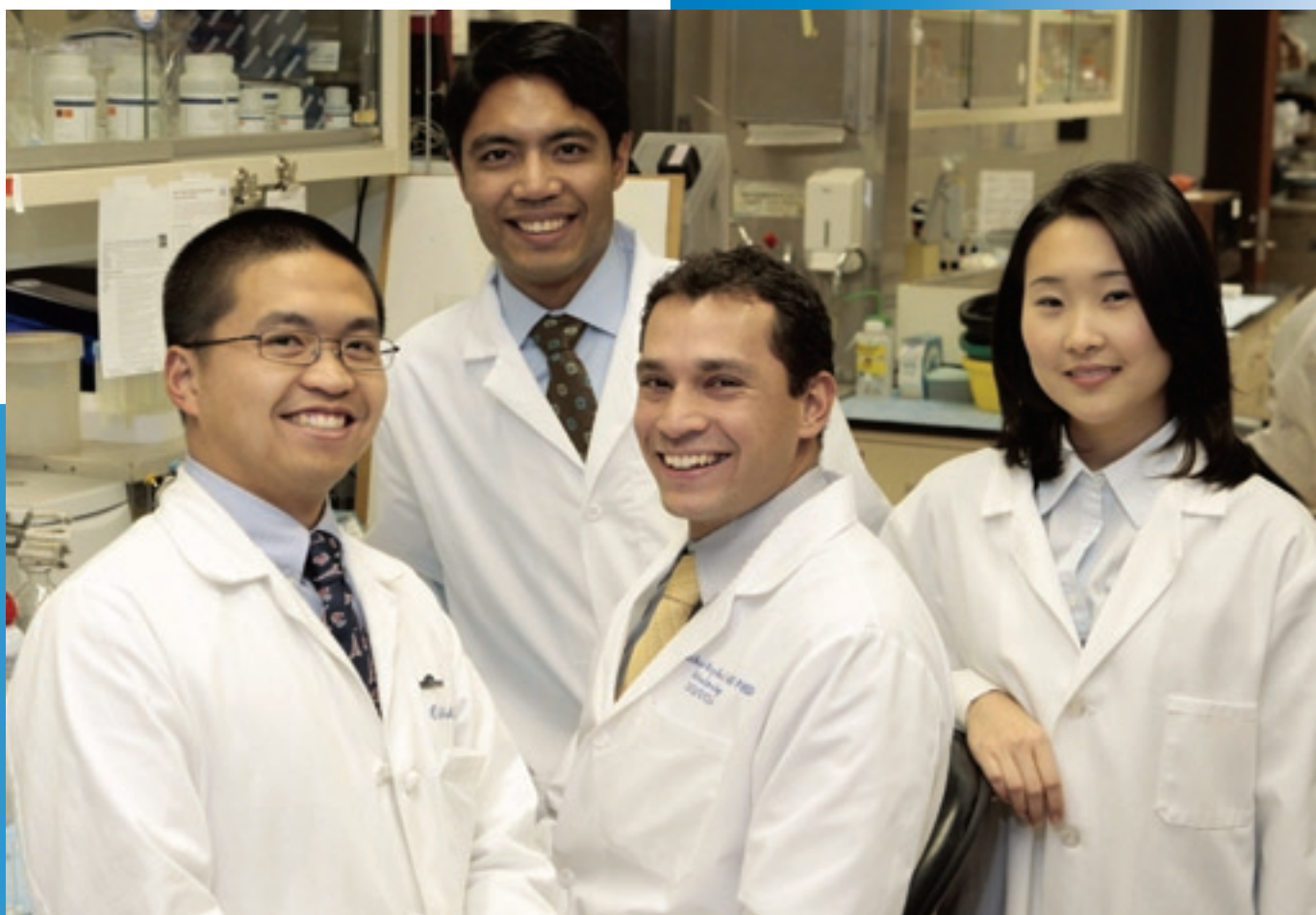
What Sets EyeSTAR Apart

While there are many MD/PhD programs available, these traditional programs have the disadvantage that students choose their residency specialty after completing PhD work. This often means that previous research work has little overlap with their area of medical specialization. Only EyeSTAR combines an ophthalmology residency program with a PhD or postdoctoral fellowship in vision science. EyeSTAR residents take advantage of the opportunity to perform intensive full-time research in the basic science discipline that matches their clinical interest. Research conducted during EyeSTAR can be tightly aligned with future career plans, and serves as a bridge to starting a laboratory and obtaining research funding upon graduation.

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"EyeSTAR graduates are trained to compete not just with clinical scientists but with top basic scientists from all institutions."

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From left, current EyeSTAR residents Drs. Alex Yuan, Shaheen Karim, Nathaniel Roybal and Helen Lee

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Current EyeSTAR Residents

EyeSTAR residents share an appreciation for basic science research and innovation, evaluating current clinical practice, and thinking of ways to improve current methods of diagnosis and treatment.

Helen Lee, MD

A Los Angeles native, Dr. Lee attended UCLA as an undergraduate. She graduated from Loma Linda Medical School and completed her intern year at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Dr. Lee is now in her second year of research toward earning her PhD.

"Because of the wealth of resources, commitment to research and education, renowned faculty, and diversity of experience at JSEI," notes Dr. Lee, "I knew I would get excellent clinical training, but I wanted to be strong in research as well. EyeSTAR has taught me how to think more like a scientist, fostering a sense of curiosity and equipping me with the tools to investigate my questions. EyeSTAR dovetails nicely with the clinical residency, preparing us to enter the world of academic medicine and be leaders in our field."

Dr. Lee is studying the mechanisms by which horizontal cells in the retina release neurotransmitters onto photoreceptors and bipolar cells. Horizontal cells are important to vision because they integrate and regulate input from photoreceptors cells, allowing vision in both bright and dim light. After completing her residency, Dr. Lee would like to combine academic medicine with a clinical practice.

Shaheen Pierre Karim, MD

Born in Ontario, Canada, Dr. Karim received his Bachelor and Master degrees in biophysics as part of an accelerated four-year program at Yale University and is a graduate of Harvard Medical School. Prior to his medical school graduation, Dr. Karim spent a year at JSEI conducting research in the Ocular Motility Laboratory with Dr. Demer. He entered the EyeSTAR program in 2005, after finishing an internship in internal medicine at UCLA-Olive View Hospital. Dr. Karim is currently in his third year of dedicated research,

Says Dr. Karim, "During EyeSTAR, I have taken highly focused graduate-level courses. I have had oral and written PhD qualifying examinations that have required me to refine my scientific writing and presentation skills. Also, I have taken several courses that are dedicated to improving critical reading of the scientific literature."

A recipient of a Fellowship award from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Dr. Karim's area of research interest is in eye movements and how muscles control the rotations of the eyes. Studies of eye alignment may shed light into a common clinical problem known as strabismus. After completing his residency, Dr. Karim would like to pursue fellowship training, leading to a university-based, academic position.

Nathaniel Roybal, MD, PhD

Raised in rural New Mexico, Dr. Roybal attended New Mexico State University, majoring in Animal Science. His work there in a reproductive physiology laboratory persuaded him to pursue both science and medicine. Dr. Roybal was a member of the first graduating class from the MD/PhD program at the University of New Mexico. After completing a preliminary year in internal medicine at the University of California, San Diego, Dr. Roybal was accepted to EyeSTAR in 2007, for postdoctoral research.

"The focused postdoctoral years really provide dedicated time for hands on research. The extended time allows for testing innovative ideas while refining scientific practice," says Dr. Roybal. "Ophthalmology and ophthalmic research are progressing at lightning speed. The specialty will need a set of leaders trained in bridging these two groups with the common interest of vision preservation. EyeSTAR trains physician-scientists to provide leadership in this merger."

Recipient of numerous education awards, honors, and scholarships, Dr. Roybal's research focuses on inherited macular diseases such as Stargardt disease, Leber congenital amaurosis and age-related macular degeneration. Dr. Roybal hopes to merge science and medicine into one career and have a basic science laboratory with a clinical practice focused on retinal diseases.

Alex Yuan, MD, PhD

Dr. Yuan was born in Hong Kong, where his father was a pharmacist and businessman. To escape communism, his family immigrated to New York, where his father worked as a waiter and his mother as a seamstress. Dr. Yuan credits his strong work ethic to his parents' sacrifice. Receiving his MD/PhD at Washington University in St. Louis, Dr. Yuan completed two years of postdoctoral research through EyeSTAR. He is currently in his second year of clinical residency.

"EyeSTAR," explains Dr. Yuan, "is the only formal combination ophthalmic residency/postdoctoral program in the country. It has allowed me to develop a research project and apply for grants independently, invaluable tools for an academician. I now have the momentum to carry my project forward during my residency, an opportunity no other residency program offers."

Dr. Yuan is studying stem cells microvesicles and drug/gene delivery systems. Following his two years of postdoctoral work in the laboratory of JSEI vision scientist Debora B. Farber, PhD, DPhhc, he is now in a supervisory role. Dr. Yuan's future goals include applying for a retina fellowship and obtaining an academic appointment so that he can continue to treat patients and conduct basic science and translational research.

EyeSTAR Graduates

EyeSTAR's success is already being realized by producing graduates who are highly trained academic ophthalmologists, combining clinical responsibilities with productive research.

Leonid E. Lerner, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
The Gavin Herbert Eye Institute
University of California, Irvine (UCI)



Dr. Lerner completed the EyeSTAR program in 2002, with a PhD in molecular biology. At The Gavin Herbert Eye Institute, he specializes in diseases and surgery of the retina and vitreous, and his research interests are focused on investigations into developing new therapeutic

strategies for the management of degenerative and age-related diseases affecting vision.

"EyeSTAR enabled me to obtain my current position of Assistant Professor by providing me with the high-quality clinical and research training necessary to combine both clinical and research responsibilities of an academic ophthalmologist in the highly competitive environment of today's academia," explains Dr. Lerner. He adds, "I am grateful to Drs. Farber, Demer, and Mondino, whose efforts created the EyeSTAR program, and who have been my mentors ever since I joined the program."

Vinit B. Mahajan, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC)



A recent EyeSTAR graduate, Dr. Mahajan completed his vitreo-retinal fellowship at University of Iowa Health Center (UIHC), earning the P. J. Leinfelder "Best Research by a Fellow" award. Now a faculty member of the UIHC Retina Service and Director of the Omics Laboratory,

Dr. Mahajan's primary research interest is in the molecular biology underlying vitreoretinal diseases.

"Major ophthalmic advancements will come from advancements in molecular biology and genetics," says Dr. Mahajan, "and we need surgeon-scientists who are as comfortable in the laboratory as they are in the operating room." Speaking to the benefits of EyeSTAR, Dr. Mahajan affirms, "I have my dream job. Each week I am in the clinic, in the operating room and in my own laboratory. I am thankful to every JSEI faculty member who trained me, and my accomplishments are a direct result of their dedication and excellence."

Stephen Tsang, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology
Edward S. Harkness Eye Institute
Columbia University



Obtaining his PhD in mouse molecular genetics in 1996 from Columbia University, Dr. Tsang conducted his EyeSTAR postdoctoral research as an enzymology fellow in Dr. Farber's laboratory. Now at the Harkness Eye Institute's "Farber Lab-East,"

Dr. Tsang studies the role of the phosphodiesterase enzyme in sensing light and retinal degeneration.

For Dr. Tsang, the relationships gained through EyeSTAR have been essential. "EyeSTAR provides immense opportunities to work with talented and diverse pioneers in applying scientific discoveries to incurable retinal diseases," and the mentoring continues," says Dr. Tsang. "I correspond regularly with Dr. Fain, who has painstakingly proofread my grant submissions. Drs. Demer, Farber, and Glasgow have been invaluable in guiding me through the National Institutes of Health RO1 grant application process, and without Dr. Mondino's kind words, I would not have survived multiple federal grant resubmissions." As exemplified by his 2008 Resident Teaching Award, Dr. Tsang is further advancing the goals of EyeSTAR by instructing future ophthalmologists.



Dr. Joseph Demer, who directs the EyeSTAR Program at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, believes that the program gives a real advantage to ophthalmologists who are interested in academic careers and professional leadership as clinician-scientists.

JSEI Alumnus Engineers Trip for Tuskegee Airmen to Attend the Presidential Inauguration



Three World War II veterans, all Tuskegee Airmen, attended the January 20, 2009, inauguration of President Barack Obama, thanks to the matchmaking skills of Los Angeles-based ophthalmologist and Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) alumnus, **Stanley M. Saulny, MD, FACS**.

The Tuskegee Airmen, named after the Tuskegee Army Airfield in Alabama where they trained, were the country's first black military pilots and ground crew. During a time of racial segregation in the U.S. military forces, some 1,000 black pilots were trained at Tuskegee from 1940 to 1946. President-Obama invited all 330 surviving Airmen to his inauguration in recognition of their historic service in WWII.

When Dr. Stanley Saulny learned about the invitation, he sprang into action. He contacted two patients—one met during his UCLA ophthalmology residency training at the Department of Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System—who were Tuskegee Airmen, as well as a local veterans' organization to identify others from the Los Angeles area interested in attending the inauguration. Three Airmen—Dr. Robert Higginbotham, Reginald Ballard and Robert J. Searcy—would attend, if transportation could be provided.

"I realized that transportation to Washington, D.C., was a critical part of the equation," said Dr. Saulny, who pondered several days about how to get the veterans to the historic event. After discarding various forms of ground transportation because of the physical difficulties they presented for this elderly group, he thought of his colleague, Lynn McMahan, MD, founder of the Southern Eye Center in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, where Saulny works one week each month.

"I knew that Dr. McMahan owned a jet and told him about the trio's situation. He said, 'Great, I'll do it.' There was absolutely no hesitation, none at all," Dr. Saulny says of McMahan's response. Dr. McMahan not only agreed to fly the Airmen to Washington, D.C., but he paid for the men's flights from Los Angeles to Mississippi, and had them stay at his Hattiesburg home until they left for the inauguration on his Citation jet.

Asked why he became involved in the plight of these airmen, Dr. Saulny remarks, "As a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, and later as an officer, I've always viewed the Tuskegee Airmen as American heroes. If you look at their history and all of the struggles they endured...and now to be invited to this inauguration. It's a major milestone, a completion of a dream."

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President Obama invited the surviving Tuskegee Airmen, who fought the Germans in WWII in a segregated Army Air Corps, to the inauguration.

(Photos are from the "Tuskegee Airmen Photographic Collection", Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell AFB AL).

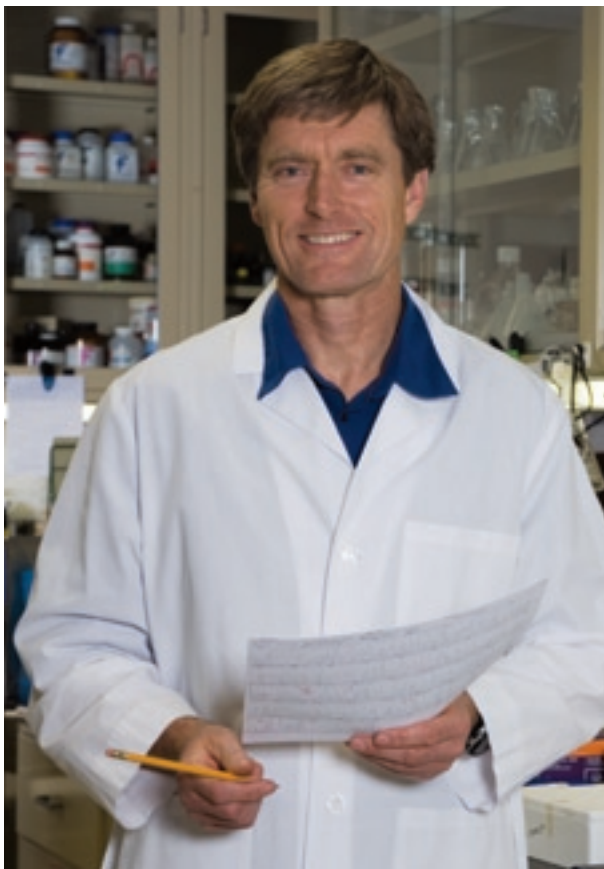


JSEI Alumnus Dr. Stanley Saulny made it possible for three Tuskegee Airmen from Los Angeles to attend the Presidential inauguration.



From left, Dr. Lynn McMahan, owner of the jet that transported the Airmen to Washington, D.C., with his passengers Tuskegee Airmen Reginald Ballard, Dr. Robert Higginbotham and Robert Searcy.

Stanley M. Saulny, MD, FACS, practices oculoplastic surgery and general ophthalmology in a private group practice and at the Department of Veterans Affairs Healthcare System in Los Angeles. He also works one week each month at an eye center in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Dr. Saulny completed his ophthalmology residency at the Jules Stein Eye Institute (1998–2001), followed by an oculoplastic surgery fellowship at the Casey Eye Institute in Portland, Oregon. Prior to becoming a physician, Dr. Saulny served as an engineer and captain in the U.S. Air Force.



Dr. David Williams is the recipient of a grant to develop a gene therapy for the retinal degeneration in Usher syndrome type 1B.

JSEI Scientist Receives Grant to Develop Gene Therapy for Usher Syndrome

David S. Williams, PhD, Professor of Ophthalmology at the Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) received a Wynn-Gund Translational Research Acceleration Program Award from the National Neurovision Research Institute, a support organization of the Foundation Fighting Blindness, Inc. The five-year grant, totaling \$1,325,415, will be used to develop a gene therapy for the retinal degeneration in Usher syndrome type 1B.

Usher syndrome is a human hereditary condition characterized by hearing loss and progressive vision loss. The loss of vision is caused by an eye disease called retinitis pigmentosa (RP). RP causes night-blindness and a loss of peripheral vision (side vision) through the progressive degeneration of the retina. Usher 1 is an especially disabling form of retinal degeneration, since it affects patients who already suffer from deafness. Usher 1B is caused by loss of function of the *MYO7A* (myosin VIIa) gene. In the retina, this gene is expressed in both the photoreceptor cells and the retinal pigment epithelium (RPE). The proposed approach involves the subretinal delivery of *MYO7A* cDNA in a viral vector to treat these two cell types.

The grant will support studies to expand upon previous investigations by carrying out the necessary research, safety tests and regulatory filings for a clinical trial, in collaboration with Samuel G. Jacobson, MD, PhD, at the University of Pennsylvania. The completion of these studies should lead to a Phase I clinical trial for gene replacement therapy of Usher 1B from *MYO7A* mutations.

EYELINES

2009 Robert E. Christensen, MD, Research Award Winners

The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association is pleased to announce that third-year resident **Pradeep Prasad, MD**, and comprehensive ophthalmology fellow **Eric C. Amesbury, MD**, are winners of the 2009 Robert E. Christensen, MD, Research Award from the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association. The annual award, named in honor of the late founding Chief of the Glaucoma Division, provides funding for outstanding research projects by Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) residents or fellows.

The 2009 grant will help underwrite Dr. Prasad's research into retinal venous occlusive disease and specifically allow for the purchase of much needed image analysis software to study this visually debilitating condition. The 2009 grant will also fund Dr. Amesbury's study of long-term outcomes of cataract surgery with multifocal intraocular lens (IOL) implantation.

All current JSEI residents and fellows are eligible to apply for the annual grant. **Robert Alan Goldberg, MD**, UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association Secretary and Treasurer, noted, "the award, being presented for the thirteenth year in a row, is made possible by funding from annual UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association dues, generously paid by JSEI alumni and faculty."



Dr. Pradeep Prasad
"Ultra Wide Angle Fluorescein Angiographic Characteristics in Retinal Venous Occlusive Disease"



Dr. Eric C. Amesbury
"Long-Term Outcomes of Cataract Surgery with Multifocal Intraocular Lens Implantation"

Save the Date

The annual **UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Reception** at AAO

will take place Sunday evening, October 25, 2009, in San Francisco.

If you would like additional information, please contact us at alumni@jsei.ucla.edu. To see photos from our 2008 reception, visit the JSEI website at www.jsei.org.

HONORS

Two faculty members were recently honored by appointments to leadership positions in professional organizations in their respective fields. **Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD**, UCLA Professor of Ophthalmology and Epidemiology, and Director of the Center for Eye Epidemiology at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, has been appointed chair of the National Eye Health Education Program (NEHEP) Planning Committee. The announcement was made on December 15, 2008. The National Eye Institute established NEHEP in 1989 to increase public and professional awareness of science-based eye health information regarding the preservation of sight and prevention of blindness. As chair, Dr. Coleman will lead the 14-member committee of eye health experts who oversee NEHEP's education programs and recommend new priorities.



Dr. Anne Coleman

Barry A. Weissman, OD, PhD, Professor of Ophthalmology and Director of the Contact Lens Service at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, was installed as Trustee of the California Optometric Association's (COA) Board of Trustees during its annual House of Delegates meeting in Sacramento, California, January 30-31, 2009. The California Optometric Association, established in 1899, is dedicated to ensuring the highest quality of health care for the public through the advancement of optometry. A member of COA since 1972, Dr. Weissman has held a number of committee appointments, including chair of the Contact Lens Symposium Committee, member of the Education Committee, and member of the Employed Optometrists Task Force. Dr. Weissman is also a past president of the Los Angeles County Optometric Society.



Dr. Barry Weissman

“I Have My Life Back!”

Tracey Whitney was born to sing. By the time she was 11 years old, she was performing and traveling around the world with her parents and seven siblings. She eventually left the family group to tour with Ray Charles and then to perform solo in Japan. But in 2000, at the age of 41, Tracey’s voice went silent. She had Graves disease, and the discomfort and gradual change in her appearance forced Tracey to leave the stage and suspend her music career.

Graves disease is a disorder of the immune system in which the body’s protective defenses begin attacking the body’s own tissues—in Tracey’s case, the tissue behind the eyes. The inflammation pushes the eye forward in its socket, and the eye muscles tighten and lose their ability to stretch, preventing the eyes from moving normally. The eyes tend to ache and have a sandy or gritty sensation, and patients may experience poor or double vision. “My eyes hurt and began to bulge. I didn’t realize it, because it was so gradual, but they were being pushed out of their sockets. In fact,

it took my five-year-old nephew to say, ‘Wow, Auntie Tracey’s eyes are touching her glasses,’ to make me realize that something really serious was happening,” says Tracey.

Doctors don’t know the root causes of Graves disease. They believe a combination of factors, including heredity, sex, age and stress, may determine the likelihood of developing the disease. It most commonly occurs in women in their 30s and 40s, and runs an average course of one to two years, during which time symptoms worsen, and then gradually improve; however, Tracey’s case was severe. She couldn’t close her eyes for one year and would require several surgeries to regain normal functioning and appearance of her eyes.

Tracey is grateful that she was referred to the Jules Stein Eye Institute’s **Robert Alan Goldberg, MD**, Chief of the Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Division and a leading specialist in treating Graves disease. Under his care, she received several surgeries—many of them refined at Jules Stein—to move the

eyeball back into its socket, reposition displaced muscle and tighten stretched eyelids. Six years passed before Tracey was ready to take her life back. “I stopped singing for the entire six years. My eyes were sticking out and moving in different directions...it was really bad, and people were always staring. You know, presentation is an important part of performing. I want you to be listening to my voice; my eyes can’t be a distraction,” explains Tracey.

Tracey credits Dr. Goldberg and the Jules Stein Eye Institute with giving her life back. About two years ago, she started feeling so much better about herself that she recorded a CD and made a music video that is on YouTube. “I felt good enough about myself not just to be out and about again, but to go back onstage and start performing.” Tracy continues, “I want your Graves patients to know—because my case was probably about as drastic as it gets—that your life can return to normal. If they can look at where I started to where I am, they will see that there is light at the end of the tunnel!”



Tracey Whitney, who received reconstructive surgery for Graves disease at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, wants patients to know that their lives can return to normal.

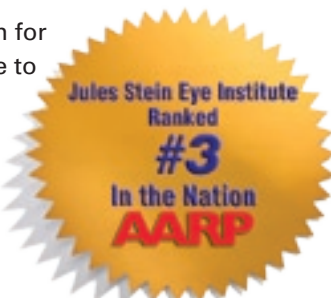
Jules Stein Eye Institute Ranks #3 in the Nation for Complex Eye Care Referrals

UCLA’s Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) has been selected as one of the country’s leading hospitals, and one of the most highly recommended for eye care, in a major survey of physicians across the nation. The results of the survey, conducted by Consumers’ Checkbook, a nonprofit research organization, appear in the May–June issue of AARP The Magazine.

Consumers’ Checkbook surveyed doctors across the U.S. and collected 140,000 ratings of hospitals in these doctors’ local communities. The doctors were also asked whether they would recommend that patients seek care at hospitals in other communities for certain extremely difficult cases involving specific health conditions, and, if so, which hospitals they would recommend.

Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, in addition to making the top list of hospitals overall, was ranked among the most recommended for extremely difficult cases involving neurosurgery, mystery diagnoses and eye care through **UCLA’s Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI)**. JSEI was ranked third in the nation for extremely difficult eye care referrals.

This survey was conducted as part of the research for Consumers’ Checkbook’s new book “Consumers’ Guide to Hospitals,” which uses volumes of government safety statistics and data on death and complication rates, along with survey results, to compare and rank hospitals in the country’s 53 largest metropolitan areas.



Bobbe Frankenberg—A Community Treasure

The Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) was thrilled to receive a \$100,000 gift of appreciated securities from **Ms. Bobbe Frankenberg** to support the research of **Joseph Caprioli, MD**, David May II Professor of Ophthalmology and Chief of the Glaucoma Division.

Born in Bisbee, Arizona, in 1916, Bobbe was the oldest child and only daughter of Clara and Benjamin Frankenberg. Her father was a leading merchant in the community, and, due to the area's wealth of minerals, he built an extraordinary and diverse collection of specimens from local miners. When the Frankenberg family moved to Southern California, the large collection was housed in the family home. After her father's passing in 1964, Bobbe cherished and maintained the minerals until she and her brother Maynard Franklin donated them in 2006 to the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

Bobbe attended Beverly Hills High School, UCLA (BA 1939) and UC Berkeley, studying European History. She served as a docent at the Natural History Museum and did public relations for S. Mark Taper, the visionary developer of Lakewood, California. She enjoyed skiing, fishing and lawn tennis for many years and was active in the Los Angeles community. In addition



Ms. Bobbe Frankenberg

to her philanthropy to JSEI, she recently supported the American Red Cross in response to Southern California's 2008 fires and is a loyal donor to the Braille Institute in Los Angeles and UC Berkeley. She credits her parents who always encouraged her to give back.

Dr. Caprioli remarked, "I am incredibly grateful for Bobbe's generosity. Her contribution will be instrumental in furthering the work of my team in the Glaucoma Division. She is a very humble and kind woman and a true treasure in our community."

In Memoriam, Herbert L. Hutner

Long-time Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) supporter, **Herbert L. Hutner**, passed away on December 7, 2008, just a few weeks away from his 100th birthday.

A native of New York City, Mr. Hutner attended Columbia University for his undergraduate and law degrees. He was admitted to the New York state bar in 1932 and then began his career on Wall Street as a partner with Lester Osterman. Over the next 20 years, Mr. Hutner served as chairman of the board of several leading manufacturing, engineering and insurance firms. He moved to Los Angeles in the 1960s and met and married Juli Reding, a former actress. From 1982 to 1990, Mr. Hutner chaired the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts during the Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush administrations.

In addition to his philanthropy to JSEI and UCLA, Mr. Hutner was a devoted supporter of the Young Musicians Foundation and was a founder of the Music Center of Los Angeles.

He is survived by Juli, his son Jeffrey J. Hutner and daughter Lynn M. Collwell, and stepson Christopher D. Taylor, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Close friend and JSEI Board of Trustees member **Gerald H.**

Oppenheimer noted that, "Herb was an extraordinary man of many talents—a man of the arts, a successful business executive, a song writer, a generous philanthropist. Most of all, he was a gentleman who loved and respected Juli and was always available for his family. He donated his time and treasure to the Jules Stein Eye Institute, due in part to his friendship with Dr. Jules Stein. He will be sorely missed."

JSEI is most grateful for Mr. and Mrs. Hutner's generosity, which spans more than 40 years. The Hutner family has designated JSEI (to support the research of Steven D. Schwartz, MD) and the Young Musicians Foundation for Mr. Hutner's memorial tributes. For more information, please contact the JSEI Development Office at (310) 206-6035.



Juli and Herbert Hutner



Dr. Alan Kreiger, who is an accomplished fly-fisherman, shows his catch.

Faculty Focus

Allan E. Kreiger, MD Professor of Ophthalmology

Alan E. Kreiger, MD, Professor of Ophthalmology, joined the Jules Stein Eye Institute in 1972, shortly after its doors opened. Born, raised and mostly educated in California, he left the state briefly to complete fellowship training under reputed retina surgeon, Taylor Smith, MD, at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. He then went to Germany to complete a postdoctoral fellowship in retinal photocoagulation with Gerd Meyer-Schwickerath in Bonn. Returning to California, he joined the UCLA faculty as Chief of Ophthalmology at the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. He was recruited to the Jules Stein Eye Institute a few years later, and when retina became an official division at the Institute in the early 1980s, it was Dr. Kreiger who became its chief, a position he held until 2002.

We asked Dr. Kreiger about his profession, career at the Jules Stein Eye Institute and his interests.

What attracted you to the field of retinal diseases?

I knew that I wanted to specialize in retinal diseases when I first started using the indirect ophthalmoscope. This allowed me to see the entire retina and its surrounding structures clearly and in great detail. I found the experience to be not only fascinating, but beautiful as well. I also found diseases of the retina to be among the most interesting and challenging facing ophthalmologists. In those days, retinal diseases, including retinal detachments, were significantly blinding and frequently could not be cured. They still present many challenges, but today we have much better treatment options.

What do you most enjoy about your career?

I enjoy all of it. I think the real gratification comes in helping your patients and doing that at a capable level, consistently. I also get to associate with really wonderful people—the residents, the fellows, the faculty and my colleagues in the field. And I love the surgery. Retinal surgery, from when I started until now, has gone through a major revolution. When I began my career, we only operated on the surface of the eye and many retinal conditions were untreatable. Then, in the mid-'70s, new instrumentation and new surgical approaches made it possible to get inside the eye to repair retinal detachments and treat vitreoretinal disease effectively. To be part of that "revolution" was very exciting and incredibly gratifying.

What do you consider to be your most important professional contribution?

Oh, I think that it's training residents and fellows. We have wonderful, smart people entering our training programs every year who are actually interested in what I have to say. I like teaching and I think that training young physicians—the next generation of ophthalmologists and retinal specialists—is where you can contribute the most to alleviating human pain and suffering.

How do you like to spend your time when you're not at the Institute?

Everybody at the Institute knows I'm a fisherman. I've been fly-fishing for most of my life and I continue to love it. I also play golf and grow begonias. In fact, I'm an avid grower of tuberous begonias. Finally, I do yoga, which I credit to prolonging my professional life. Retina surgeons notoriously have back problems because of the peculiar positions we get into to examine patients and do our operations. Practicing yoga for 30 years has kept me flexible.

Is there anything else you want to add?

It's essential to love what you do!

New Ophthalmology Fellows

We are pleased to introduce the following ophthalmologists entering clinical and international fellowships at the Jules Stein Eye Institute in the 2009–2010 academic year.

Clinical Fellows

Shu-Hong Holly Chang, MD
orbital and ophthalmic plastic surgery

Allen Hu, MD
vitreoretinal diseases and surgery

Michael A. Kapamajian, MD
uveitis and inflammatory eye diseases

Timmy A. Kovoov, MD
cornea-external ocular disease and refractive surgery

Olivia L. Lee, MD
cornea-external ocular disease and refractive surgery

Pradeep S. Prasad, MD
vitreoretinal diseases and surgery

Geetha Ganti Vedula, MD
glaucoma

Houman Vosoghi, MD
glaucoma

International Fellows

Abdullah Alfawaz, MD
uveitis research
from Saudi Arabia

Abubakr Affan, MD
pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus research
from Saudi Arabia

Majed Al-Obailan, MD
neuro-ophthalmology research
from Saudi Arabia

Elmira Baghdasaryan, MD
cornea-external ocular disease and refractive surgery research
from Armenia

Gad Heilweil, MD
vitreoretinal diseases and surgery research
from Israel

Imran Jarullazada, MD
orbital and ophthalmic plastic surgery research
from Azerbaijan

Konstantinos Papageorgiou, MD
orbital and ophthalmic plastic surgery research
from Greece

Chutima Supawaveji, MD
glaucoma research
from Thailand

Tzu-Hsun Tsai, MD
pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus research
from Taiwan

Reza Zarei, MD
glaucoma research
from Iran

Joint Symposium on Cataract and Refractive Surgery

Participants from across the nation attended the Jules Stein Eye Institute (JSEI) and American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery Joint Symposium on Cataract and Refractive Surgery, held at the Hyatt Century Plaza Hotel on February 5–8, 2009. Program Chair **Kevin M. Miller, MD**, Kolokotronis Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology at JSEI, designed the course to focus on core clinical matters related to refractive cataract surgery, with the goal of improving the evaluation and management of patients with disorders of the anterior segment of the eye.

The centerpiece of the symposium was presentation of the Jules Stein Honored Lecture, “Clinical Update on Intraoperative Floppy Iris Syndrome Prevention and Management,” given by **David F. Chang, MD**, Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of California, San Francisco. The symposium also offered continuing medical education courses for nurses, technicians and administrators, providing intensive study on matters critical to the role of support staff in the care of the patients undergoing cataract and/or refractive surgery.

UCLA/AUPO Introduction to Clinical Research Course



The UCLA/AUPO Introduction to Clinical Research Course attracted ophthalmology residents, fellows and faculty nationwide.

Jules Stein Eye Institute faculty members **Gary N. Holland, MD**, and **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, organized the course, “Introduction to Clinical Research,” which was held at UCLA on March 13–15, 2009. The course was co-sponsored by the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO), and endorsed by the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO). Attended by ophthalmology residents, clinical fellows and faculty from across the nation, the course

provided a comprehensive overview of research methods, interpretation of statistical tests, regulatory issues and manuscript preparation. It was designed to assist new investigators who are beginning their academic careers, and to help physicians read and interpret scientific literature more critically. The course involved instructors from various UCLA departments, as well as guest speakers from other institutions.

Residency Match

The process of selecting Ophthalmology residents takes place in the fall of each year for residents who will be entering the Ophthalmology program a year and a half later. The four-month process includes the review of over 300 applications, the selection of about 50 applicants to be interviewed, and a final meeting where the applicants are ranked in order of preference. This rank order list is submitted to the nationwide San Francisco Match service where it is compared to the participating medical students’ preferences. When both the student and ophthalmology program rank each other at the same level, a “match” has occurred and a new resident is then contracted to join the program.

In late January of last year, Residency Selection Chairman **Robert Alan Goldberg, MD**, was informed of the results of the ophthalmology residency “match” for 2009. The following applicants, selected over a year ago, will serve as Jules Stein Eye Institute House Officers beginning July 1, 2009:

Robert M. Beardsley, MD
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, TX

Jamison Engle, MD
University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA

Diana Katsman, MD— EyeSTAR
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, CA

Hanna Y. Kim, MD
Stanford University
Stanford, CA

John D. Pitcher, MD
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, TX

Joanne C. Wen, MD
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
Los Angeles, CA

Allen B. Yeroushalmi, MD
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Bronx, NY

Sandy Zhang-Nunes, MD
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD

Comprehensive Ophthalmology Review Course

The Jules Stein Eye Institute and the Doheny Eye Institute teamed up to sponsor the fourth Comprehensive Ophthalmology Review course on February 26–March 1, 2009. Course Directors **David Sarraf, MD**, Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, and **John Irvine, MD**, Professor of Ophthalmology at the Doheny Eye Institute, organized a program concentrating on the epidemiology, clinical presentation, diagnosis and management of ophthalmological disease. The collaborative effort to develop this intensive four-day review, serving ophthalmology-training programs in Southern California, proved to be an overwhelming success.

Thanking Volunteer Clinical Faculty

UCLA Department of Ophthalmology volunteer clinical faculty play an essential role in fulfilling the Jules Stein Eye Institute's mission and sustaining its programs, especially the Residency Training Program. In 2003, the Institute formed the *JSEI & Volunteer Faculty Task Force* to strengthen communications and reinforce collaboration with its community-based faculty, which now number close to 200.

On March 12, 2009, the Task Force hosted a dinner-meeting at the UCLA Faculty Center to thank faculty who supervise ophthalmology residents at the Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System. In addition to showing appreciation for supporting the Institute and its educational programs, the event provided an opportunity for faculty to engage in dialogue about how our programs are functioning and how they may be improved.



Dr. Anthony Arnold, JSEI Residency Program Director, with Dr. Lynn Gordon, Ophthalmology Chief at the Veterans Affairs (VA) Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System



From left, Dr. Robert Goldberg, who serves on the Task Force, with Drs. Sadiqa Stelzner and Alpa Patel



From left, Task Force member Dr. Howard Krauss with VA Healthcare ophthalmology staff and volunteers Drs. Stanly Saulny, Mark Kramer and Michael Groth



The JSEI & Volunteer Faculty Task Force hosted the appreciation dinner for the clinical faculty volunteers. Task Force members (second from left to right): Drs. Bartly Mondino, Howard Krauss, Alan Shabo, Kevin Miller, George Rajacich and Robert Goldberg, with Task Force administrator Gloria Jurisic (left); Task Force members not shown: Drs. Caprioli, Goldstein, Katzin, and Rosenbaum

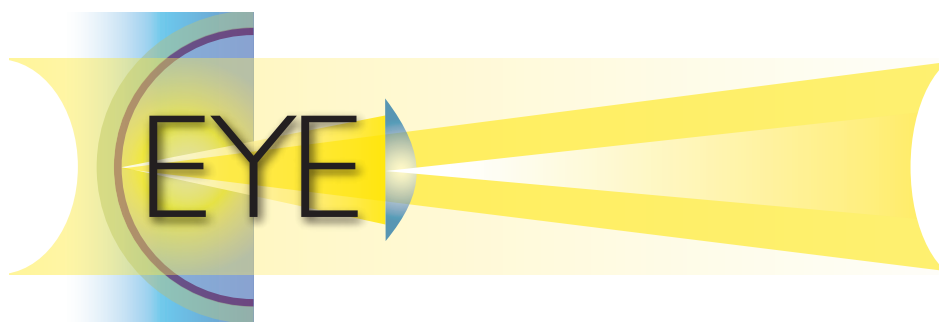
Important JSEI Phone Numbers

Patient Care

JSEI Ophthalmology Referral Service (310) 825-5000
 JSEI Ophthalmology Emergency Service (310) 825-3090
 after hours (310) 825-2111

Fund Raising

JSEI Development Office (310) 206-6035
 JSEI Affiliates (310) 825-4148



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