

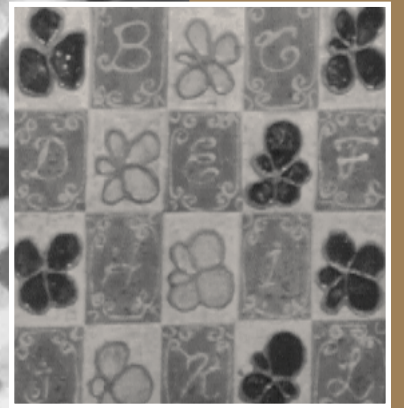
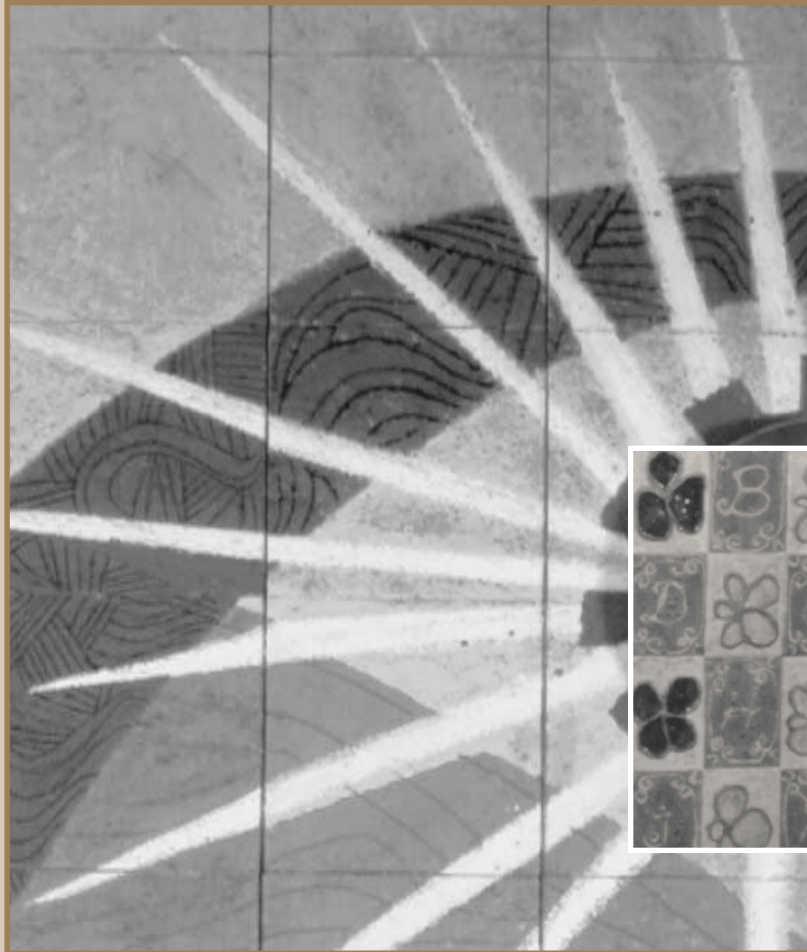
Jules Stein Eye Institute

RESEARCH

KEY TO THE 21ST CENTURY



2001-2002



Highlights of the Year

JULES STEIN EYE INSTITUTE

DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY / UCLA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



Dear Friends,

I am pleased to share these highlights of the 2001–2002 academic year, which serve to strengthen our commitment to preserve sight and prevent blindness. This year we announced plans to build a third facility, the Edie and Lew Wasserman Research Center, and have launched a campaign to garner support for the programs and faculty made possible by this marvelous gift. At the same time we are saddened by the loss of Lew Wasserman who was a powerful benefactor and shared with Jules and Doris Stein a vision of unbounded accomplishment through eye research and treatment.



We are proud to present two vision scientists who have joined the full-time faculty; a new Chief for the Retina Division; and a holder of The Karl Kirchgessner Foundation Endowed Chair. Our first EyeSTAR trainee graduated in June 2002. This unique program, established six years ago, prepares the ophthalmologist of the future, one who is as comfortable at the laboratory bench as in the examination room.

Our faculty were privileged to receive over 25 new research grants, including major funding from the National Eye Institute, The Foundation Fighting Blindness, and Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB), the world's foremost voluntary organization supporting eye research. Jules Stein Eye Institute received more support from RPB this year than any other eye institute in the nation.

We are appreciative of these opportunities afforded to faculty, staff and students and share the belief that we will contribute to a future full of promise.

Sincerely,

Bartly J. Mondino, MD

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

Honors

Each year, as part of their ongoing academic pursuits, faculty members achieve notable recognition derived from their accomplishments and contributions. They give invited lectures around the world; they actively participate in prestigious professional and community organizations; and they serve as editors and writers for a wide range of scientific journals. In some cases special honors are bestowed. This year twelve faculty members and four resident physicians have been recognized for their noteworthy achievements in varied forums.

THE KARL KIRCHGESSNER FOUNDATION ENDOWED CHAIR

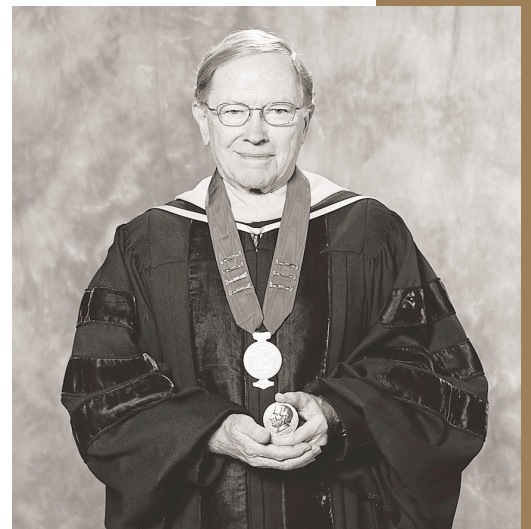
Debora B. Farber, PhD, DPhhc, Professor of Ophthalmology and Associate Director of the Jules Stein Eye Institute, has been selected as the holder of The Karl Kirchgessner Foundation Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology. Dr Farber has earned international distinction with her pioneering research on the molecular mechanisms causing inherited retinal degenerations in animals and humans. Equally noteworthy is the work her laboratory has done on the isolation, characterization, and regulation of novel genes that encode enzymes and proteins important to vision. Mutations in several of these genes were shown by Dr Farber to be responsible for different forms of retinitis pigmentosa and cone dystrophies. The Karl Kirchgessner Foundation was established in 1979 by a colleague of Dr Jules Stein. With a passion for anonymity, this generous benefactor has provided major support to the Institute since its inception. The Karl Kirchgessner Foundation Chair in Vision Science was established in 2001 to promote basic science research initiatives of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology.



Dr Debora Farber

JULES FRANÇOIS GOLDEN MEDAL

In recognition of outstanding achievement, Founding Director of Jules Stein Eye Institute, **Bradley R. Straatsma, MD**, was the recipient of the Jules François Golden Medal from the International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO). Part of the mission of the ICO is promotion of ophthalmic education and awareness of eye care among national and international leaders. This honor was bestowed at the XXIX International Congress of Ophthalmology in Sydney, Australia, in April 2002.



Dr Bradley Straatsma

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

American Academy of Ophthalmology Achievement Awards went to several JSEI faculty. **Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD**, Laraine and David Gerber Professor of Ophthalmology, and volunteer faculty members **Jonathan A. Hoenig, MD**, **Craig H. Kilger, MD**, and **Alfred M. Solish, MD**, were recognized at the 2001 annual meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Achievement Awards program was established in 1953 to recognize individual contributions to the scientific programs of the Academy's annual meeting.

RESEARCH TO PREVENT BLINDNESS AWARDS

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

Joseph Caprioli, MD, Frances and Ray Stark Professor of Ophthalmology and Chief of the Glaucoma Division, was granted a Physician-Scientist Award, designed to foster the development of outstanding clinical scientists. The award is intended to provide greater opportunities for specialized research having direct application to the human condition. Dr Caprioli is one of 13 physician-scientists to receive the award since it was established in 2000. His research focuses on enhancing the endogenous cellular protective mechanisms in retinal cells that are damaged by glaucoma.

Lynn K. Gordon, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, was selected for a James S. Adams Special Scholars Award. These awards were created to assist outstanding young ophthalmic scientists in pursuit of ongoing research of unusual significance. Dr Gordon has developed an independent research program investigating immune mechanisms of inflammatory diseases that induce vision loss. Specifically, she is studying the primary molecular mechanisms of sight-threatening diseases such as uveitis, giant cell arteritis (GCA), and endophthalmitis. These diseases are responsible for significant visual morbidity.

Gabriel H. Travis, MD, Charles Kenneth Feldman Professor of Ophthalmology, was awarded the Jules and Doris Stein Professorship, the organization's premier award for outstanding basic scientists who are conducting clinically relevant research in ophthalmology. Dr Travis' research focus is on the vertebrate retina, specifically the structure and function of the eye's photoreceptor cells, using biochemical and genetic approaches. This is the second time that UCLA has received the award.

The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology was awarded an unrestricted grant under the direction of its chairman, **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, Bradley R. Straatsma Professor of Ophthalmology. Dr Mondino plans to use the grant to support pilot research projects and meet special needs.

Since its founding in 1960 by Dr Jules Stein, Research to Prevent Blindness has channeled hundreds of millions of dollars to medical institutions for research into the causes, treatment, and prevention of blinding eye diseases. This year, the Institute received more support from RPB than any other eye institute in the nation.

Kent W. Small, MD, received an RPB grant provided by Mrs Merrill Parks to be used in his research studies of macular degeneration.



Drs Gabriel Travis (top), Joseph Caprioli and Lynn Gordon received prestigious awards from Research to Prevent Blindness.

RESIDENT AWARDS

Following the exemplary standards set by faculty members, resident physicians and fellows annually receive notable recognition for their clinical and research efforts. This year **Kimberly A. Drenser, MD, PhD**, was honored with an Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Travel Award for young investigators. The prestigious 2002 Heed Fellowship, which is bestowed annually upon graduating ophthalmology residents who demonstrate excellence in both clinical and research activities, went to **Kayur H. Shah, MD**.

The first EyeSTAR trainee, **Leonid E. Lerner, MD, PhD**, graduated after six years of vision science training and completion of an ophthalmology residency. He received his PhD in molecular biology from UCLA Boyer Molecular Biology Institute in May and finished his residency in June of 2002. Upon graduation, Dr Lerner received the UCLA School of Medicine Certificate of Achievement in advanced research. The second EyeSTAR trainee, **Stephen H. Tsang, MD, PhD**, has won a five-year award from Burroughs Wellcome Fund to augment his laboratory research, which is currently funded by grants from Research to Prevent Blindness, the National Eye Institute, and The Foundation Fighting Blindness. Both EyeSTAR trainees are mentored by **Debora B. Farber, PhD, DPhc**, Professor of Ophthalmology and Co-Chief of the Vision Science Division.

Established in 1997, the EyeSTAR Program is geared to physicians committed to academic careers in ophthalmology. The curriculum is a blend of graduate courses, laboratory research and clinical training. The trainee is expected to commit three years to the residency program in ophthalmology and conduct vision science research leading to a doctorate, or completion of a post-doctoral fellowship. The goal of the program is to generate leaders in ophthalmology who are investigators as well as practitioners—physicians who are as comfortable at the laboratory bench as in the examining or operating rooms.

TOP HONORS FOR THE INSTITUTE

Jules Stein Eye Institute is annually acknowledged as a center of excellence in national and international forums. For the 12th consecutive year, *U.S. News & World Report*, in its 2001 survey of “America’s Best Hospitals,” ranked the Institute among the top five ophthalmic centers in the country and number one in the West.



Dr Leonid Lerner is the first graduate of the Institute’s EyeSTAR Program.

*A Gold Medal Award for contributions to the field of refractive surgery was given to **Brian S. Boxer Wachler, MD**, at the Indian Intraocular Implant and Refractive Surgery Meeting in Chennai, India, in August 2001.*



Research

During the academic year, faculty members won five large research grants from the National Eye Institute that will support important, ongoing clinical and basic science. Additionally, five grants from Research to Prevent Blindness, the world's largest voluntary organization supporting eye research, were awarded to faculty, making Jules Stein Eye Institute the most honored recipient for 2001–2002 (see Honors highlights). Another prestigious voluntary organization, The Foundation Fighting Blindness, awarded two grants to vision scientists who are conducting genetic eye research. Nine private foundation awards went to faculty doing research in retinal degeneration, pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus, inflammatory diseases, and medical informatics. Three public agencies, including the Council on Research of the UCLA Academic Senate, awarded grants to faculty conducting basic science research.

John D. McCann, MD, PhD,

Assistant Professor of

Ophthalmology, has been

awarded a grant from the Levin

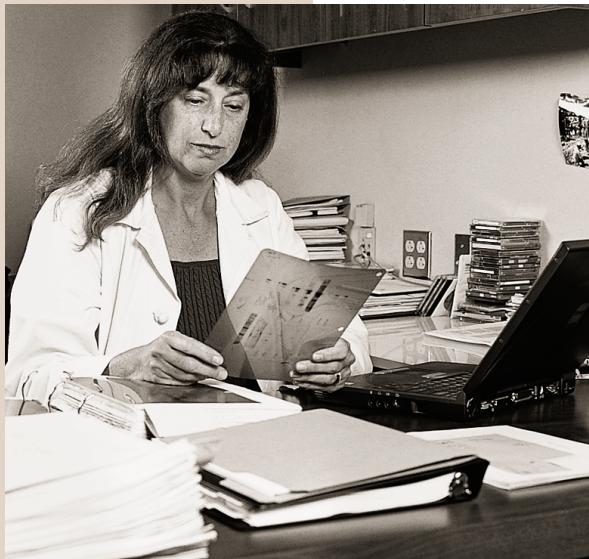
Family Foundation to support

his research, which includes

work on medical informatics.

INFLAMMATORY EYE DISEASES

Lynn K Gordon, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, has won a National Eye Institute grant to support her study of the role of Beta B1 crystallin in uveitis. Other active research projects in her laboratory seek to understand primary molecular mechanisms of inflammatory eye diseases such as uveitis, giant cell arteritis (GCA), and endophthalmitis. These diseases are responsible for significant visual morbidity. The long-term objective of Dr Gordon's work is to define candidate antigens and the immunological responses that drive inflammatory diseases of the eye. The potential clinical application of her research findings is development of new strategies for diagnostic testing of novel therapeutic interventions, and prevention of secondary, potentially blinding complications of uveitis (such as secondary cataract, glaucoma or macular edema). Dr Gordon's work was further supported by a Special Scholars Award from Research to Prevent Blindness and a grant from the Council on Research of the UCLA Academic Senate.



Dr Lynn Gordon is studying the primary molecular mechanisms of inflammatory eye diseases, such as uveitis.

AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION

A major grant from the National Eye Institute was awarded to **Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD**, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, to study the incidence of late age-related macular degeneration (AMD) in older women (over 80 years of age). AMD is the number one cause of irreversible blindness in the country, attacking primarily older Americans, especially Caucasian women. The study will try to determine the rate of disease progression and the association of specific risk factors, such as diabetes. One of the goals is to evaluate the impact on quality of life. Although there have been several, previous studies on the incidence of AMD, none have been able to provide accurate data on the oldest old, a fast-growing population in the United States, because of limited sample sizes in this age group. A multi-center approach this time, encompassing five sites across the country, will provide much more information.

Debora B. Farber, PhD, DPhhc, Karl Kirchgessner Professor of Ophthalmology and Co-Chief of the Vision Science Division, has won a three-year grant renewal from The Foundation Fighting Blindness for a study of genes that regulate susceptibility of the retina to light damage in the mouse. Prior research has led to the theory that while variations in the photoreceptors' response to light do not cause AMD, they may lead to an increased or decreased predisposition or risk of the disease. Dr Farber's laboratory has identified a mouse gene (Rpe65) that is a candidate for regulating the susceptibility to light damage, and investigators are in the process of confirming this effect.

BLEPHAROPHIMOSIS SYNDROME

Kent W. Small, MD, Professor of Ophthalmology, has won renewal of a major National Eye Institute grant, cloning the gene for blepharophimosis syndrome. Dr Small has been studying the origins of this devastating disease in children for 10 years and has recently identified one of the genes causing it. A congenital and often hereditary condition, blepharophimosis shows up in various degrees as a deformation of the eyes, which affects patients' ability to see. It is often associated with other conditions, including fertility, heart defects and mental retardation. Dr Small is pursuing this research using molecular genetics.

STARGARDT'S DISEASE

A form of macular degeneration known as Stargardt's disease is the focus of vision science research being conducted by **Gabriel H. Travis, MD**, Charles Kenneth Feldman Professor of Ophthalmology. A major grant from the National Eye Institute will be complemented with a study sponsored jointly by Ronald McDonald House Charities and The Macular Vision Research Foundation. Support has also come from Biogen, a pharmaceutical company. Stargardt's disease is recessively inherited with an onset of symptoms during childhood. Dr Travis is conducting laboratory research into the mechanisms of a gene called ABCR, which in prior research, has shown to be an affected gene in this disease.

*A grant from the MacDonald Family Foundation was awarded to **Ralph D. Levinson, MD**, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, to support his research into the mechanisms of ocular inflammatory diseases associated with human leukocyte antigens, which are proteins involved in the immune response.*



Dr Small has won renewal of a major National Eye Institute grant for his research into blepharophimosis.

PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY AND STRABISMUS

In a collaborative study with Boston Childrens Hospital, funded by the National Eye Institute, **Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD**, Laraine and David Gerber Professor of Ophthalmology, is studying the genetic and anatomic basis of congenital fibrosis syndromes. Fibrosis syndromes are characterized by paralysis of one or several eye muscles, often with drooping of the upper eyelid. The genetic component of the study involves gene identification in large affected families. The anatomic component uses high resolution orbital magnetic resonance imaging to define the specific nerve and eye muscle abnormalities produced by these genes.

Arthur L. Rosenbaum, MD, Professor of Ophthalmology and Chief of the Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Division, has received a grant from The Stein Oppenheimer Endowment Fund Awards to be used in connection with the development of new surgical approaches to complicated strabismus problems (misalignment of the eyes) arising from trauma or as a result of congenital anomalies. In particular, he is researching new treatments for sixth nerve palsy. This disorder causes the affected eye to turn inward.

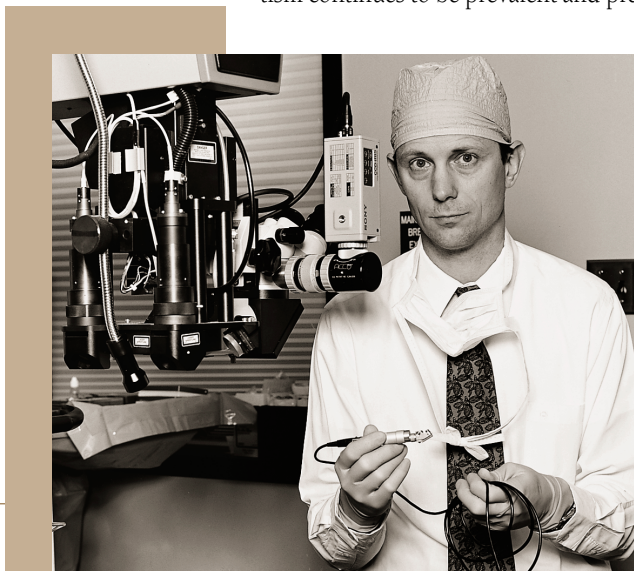
A grant from Knights Templar Eye Foundation, has been awarded to Clinical Instructor **Federico G. Velez, MD**, to support his research into the development of new treatments for extraocular muscle palsy. Methodologies being investigated will aid in the recovery of oculomotor function to prevent severe forms of amblyopia (lazy eye), which may be caused by extraocular muscle dysfunction during development. This technology may also be applied to other forms of strabismus as well as general muscle dysfunction.

*EyeSTAR trainee **Stephen H. Tsang, MD, PhD**, has received a grant from Burroughs Wellcome Fund to continue his research into the molecular basis of visual defects resulting from mutations in the gamma subunit of cGMP phosphodiesterase, an important protein in vision.*

CATARACT SURGERY

Kevin M. Miller, MD, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, has received a grant from Alcon Laboratories to conduct a clinical study of its newly developed SA60TT toric intraocular lens for cataract patients. Restoration of functional vision without need for additional correction is the goal of cataract surgery. However, postoperative astigmatism continues to be prevalent and previously, could only be corrected by eyeglasses,

contact lenses, or refractive surgery. The goal of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of the SA60TT lens, which will be implanted in the eye during cataract surgery. It is hoped that the lens will resolve postoperative refractive problems and avoid the need for additional surgery beyond the cataract procedure.



Dr Kevin Miller is evaluating a new intraocular lens for cataract patients.

VISION SCIENCE

In a grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, **Rehwa Lee, PhD**, Researcher in Ophthalmology and Chief of the Molecular Neurology Laboratory at the Department of Veterans Affairs Healthcare Center, Sepulveda, is studying the role of phosducin in vision. Phosducin is a protein present in very high quantities throughout the photoreceptor cells. It is known that phosducin undergoes light-induced biochemical changes, and it interacts with other important signal transducing proteins essential for vision. Still, the precise function(s) of phosducin remains poorly defined. To investigate the light-regulated changes in phosducin, Dr Lee is developing highly specific antibodies that allow her to target and monitor specific changes in the protein.

Xie-Jie Yang, PhD, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, has initiated a collaborative study with colleagues at the University of California, San Diego, testing the potential use of gene therapy for Usher 1B syndrome. This disorder results in inherited deafness and blindness, and is classified as a type of retinitis pigmentosa caused by mutations in the human Myosin 7a gene. As a first step, Dr Yang's laboratory will create a delivery vector for the normal human gene (Myosin 7a) and will test the rescuing effects in a mouse model. This work is the first therapeutic attempt for Usher syndrome, and is being supported by a grant from The Foundation Fighting Blindness.

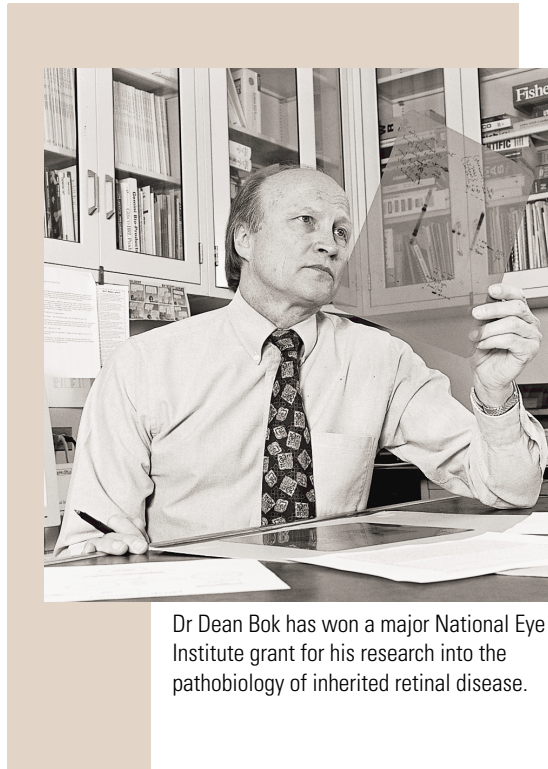
Dean Bok, PhD, Dolly Green Professor of Ophthalmology, was awarded a major National Eye Institute grant for his ongoing research into the pathobiology of inherited retinal disease. Dr Bok is working to determine the molecular mechanism(s) whereby photoreceptor cells die when they express gene mutations. The overall objective is to use gene therapy to treat or cure inherited retinal photoreceptor cell degeneration in animal models of human disease.



Vision scientist Dr Rehwa Lee has been awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

OCULAR ALBINISM

The National Institutes of Health has awarded, a grant to **Debra B. Farber, PhD, DPhhc**, Karl Kirchgessner Professor of Ophthalmology, to further investigate the genetic basis of ocular albinism. The gene that causes the X-linked form of this disease has been identified and characterized in previous research.



Dr Dean Bok has won a major National Eye Institute grant for his research into the pathobiology of inherited retinal disease.

Education

Academic education is multifaceted, ranging from teaching medical students, residents and fellows to leading national conferences. In the course of their educational duties, faculty members mentor, counsel, lecture and demonstrate. They are responsible for hundreds of clinical and scientific publications each year, and entrusted with developing and sharing new approaches to science and medicine that will ultimately result in improved patient care. This year the Institute achieved a number of noteworthy milestones. We are proud to introduce two new full-time faculty members and announce a new Chief of the Retina Division. Graduating residents have distinguished themselves with clinical fellowship appointments around the country. Two unique, academic conferences were conducted, offering new insights for ophthalmologists, internationally.



Dr Gabriel Travis



Dr Steven Nusinowitz

NEW FACULTY

Gabriel H. Travis, MD, joined the faculty as the Charles Kenneth Feldman Professor of Ophthalmology. Dr Travis is an alumnus of UCLA, having obtained much of his education here, including a postdoctoral fellowship at the UCLA Molecular Biology Institute. Previous positions were at Scripps Research Institute in San Diego, California, and University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in the Center for Basic Neuroscience and Department of Psychiatry. His research into the vertebrate retina will complement work being conducted by other vision science faculty at the Institute. He has a specific interest in the structure and function of the eye's photoreceptor cells, using biochemical and genetic approaches.

After seven years at JSEI as a research ophthalmologist and Co-Director of the Visual Physiology Laboratory, **Steven Nusinowitz, PhD**, has joined the full-time faculty as Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology in the Retina Division. His unique background includes doctoral training in experimental psychology and a fellowship in electrophysiology. In conjunction with his clinical work evaluating patients with diseases of the retina and known genetic abnormalities, Dr Nusinowitz conducts basic science research. He is working to identify new candidate genes that may be involved in eye diseases and evaluating the efficacy of a variety of therapeutic interventions using mouse models.

DR STEVEN D. SCHWARTZ, NEW CHIEF OF THE RETINA DIVISION

Associate Professor **Steven D. Schwartz, MD**, Director of the UCLA Diabetic Eye Disease and Retinal Vascular Center, has been named Chief of the Retina Division. Dr Schwartz's primary research focus is on proliferative vascular diseases, such as diabetic eye disease and retinopathy of prematurity (a condition seen in premature infants); and degenerative diseases, such as macular degeneration. One of his clinical goals is to improve access to specialized ophthalmic care through telemedicine. Dr Schwartz completed his residency in ophthalmology at Jules Stein Eye Institute. A fellowship in retinal diseases at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London, England, took him away from UCLA briefly. In 1994 he returned to the Institute as Assistant Professor.



Dr Steven Schwartz

PRESTIGIOUS NAMED LECTURES

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

- ▶ The Martha Leffler Lincoln Memorial Lecture, sponsored by The Wilmer Eye Institute and The Johns Hopkins University, was presented by **Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD**, Laraine and David Gerber Professor of Ophthalmology, in Baltimore, Maryland, on October 12, 2001.
- ▶ **Debora B. Farber, PhD, DPhhc**, Karl Kirchgessner Professor of Ophthalmology, was the Broadhurst Distinguished Lecturer at Schepens Eye Research Institute in Boston, Massachusetts, on June 19, 2002. She also gave the Fourth Distinguished Lecture in Vision at the State University of New York (SUNY) Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, New York, on April 16, 2002.
- ▶ **Gary N. Holland, MD**, David May II Professor of Ophthalmology, gave the Masao Okomoto Lecture at the Annual Meeting of the H. Bruce Ostler Association of Proctor Fellows, held in Pacific Grove, California, on June 15, 2002.
- ▶ At the annual meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, in New Orleans, Louisiana, **Sherwin J. Isenberg, MD**, Grace and Walter Lantz Professor of Pediatric Ophthalmology, gave the Marshall Parks Lecture, on November 13, 2001.
- ▶ By tradition, Jules François Golden Medal recipient **Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD**, presented the Jules François Memorial Lecture, at the Ophthalmology Congress of Belgium, held in Brussels, Belgium, on November 21, 2001.

SPECIAL CONFERENCES

The 2nd Singapore National Eye Centre & Jules Stein Eye Institute Updates in Ophthalmology conference, held in Singapore, in August 2001, offered a unique East-West perspective to the management of commonly encountered eye conditions. The panel of speakers represented the breadth of ophthalmic specialties and included Institute faculty members, led by **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology. The scientific program focused on new approaches to glaucoma, retinal diseases, corneal and refractive surgery, and pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus.

The Institute's Ocular Inflammatory Disease Center sponsored a unique, multidisciplinary workshop in March 2002, focusing on a variety of issues related to uveitis, ocular infections, and other inflammatory eye diseases in children. **Gary N. Holland, MD**, David May II Professor of Ophthalmology and Chief of the Cornea-External Ocular Disease & Uveitis Division, organized the workshop, which brought together an international group of pediatric ophthalmologists, rheumatologists, and immunologists to discuss current controversies related to diagnosis, unique disease features, surgery, and medical therapies.



Dr Sherwin Isenberg gave the Marshall Parks Lecture at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.



Dr Gary Holland led a multidisciplinary workshop that focused on ocular infections and inflammatory eye diseases in children.

JSEI predoctoral research fellow Mark R. Fleissner received a Graduate Student Award for Excellence in Teaching from the UCLA Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, Professor of Ophthalmology and Founding Director of Jules Stein Eye Institute, earned a Juris Doctor Degree (Cum Laude) from University of West Los Angeles School of Law, in Los Angeles, California, on May 18, 2002. Concurrently, he received a CALI Award for Legal Excellence.

HIGH MARKS TO GRADUATING RESIDENTS

Five of the Institute's seven graduating ophthalmology residents have been recruited to clinical fellowships, including prestigious appointments at Doheny Eye Institute, Emory University, and The Cleveland Clinic. Heed Fellow **Kayur H. Shah, MD**, has been invited to stay at Jules Stein Eye Institute in the Uveitis and Inflammatory Disease Fellowship.

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Several volunteer faculty members were acknowledged, by peer review, for their contributions to the teaching programs of the Institute. **Richard Elander MD**, Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, received the Irvine Prize for faculty excellence. Senior Honor Awards for outstanding service over the last 25 years went to volunteer faculty members **Andrew Choy, MD; Donald Goldstein, MD; Kenneth Hoffer, MD; Norman Shorr, MD; and Peter Zeegan, MD**. JSEI third-year residents presented **Uday Devgan, MD**, Clinical Instructor in Ophthalmology, with the 2002 Volunteer Teaching Award.



Third-year residents presented Dr Uday Devgan (center) with the 2002 Volunteer Teaching Award.

Philanthropy

Private philanthropy is the cornerstone of the Institute's recognized position as an international leader in ophthalmology. Generous gifts from individuals, corporations and foundations provide the extra measure of support that enables the Institute to consistently record noteworthy achievements in research, education and patient care. This year, the Institute announced plans to build a third facility, the Edie and Lew Wasserman Eye Research Center. Plans are underway to develop the exciting new programs that will be made possible by the Center. Other important gifts include research grants in the areas of vision science, inflammatory eye diseases, and retina.

THE NEW EDIE AND LEW WASSERMAN EYE RESEARCH CENTER

Construction of the new Edie and Lew Wasserman Eye Research Center was announced at the *Reflections* Gala in September 2001. Hosted by Jules Stein Eye Institute to honor **Edie and Lew Wasserman** and their family, the Gala was attended by guests from the Los Angeles and UCLA communities who wanted to pay tribute to the Wassermans for their service to both the University and the Institute over the last 40 years.

Lew Wasserman's commitment to Jules Stein Eye Institute and vision science dates back several decades to his close relationship with mentor Jules Stein, who hired him in 1936 to help mold Music Corporation of America (MCA)—now Universal Studios—into the most successful entertainment enterprise in the world. Throughout a long and extraordinary career, Lew Wasserman's brilliant business acumen, together with keen insight, earned him the reputation as a media giant. Another part of Jules Stein's legacy to Lew Wasserman was a life-long commitment to blindness prevention. Mr Wasserman became a Trustee of Jules Stein Eye Institute in 1977, a position that he held until his passing this June 2002.

The Edie and Lew Wasserman Eye Research Center will complete UCLA's vision science campus and provide the means for the Institute to sustain a leadership role in ophthalmology into the 21st century. The 100,000-square-foot building will be situated opposite the Doris Stein Eye Research Center on Stein Plaza. Half of the space will be devoted to JSEI activities and the other half to synergistic programs of the Institute and the David Geffen School of Medicine. Currently occupying the future construction site, the Neuropsychiatric Institute and Hospital will move to the UCLA Medical Center Replacement Hospital, set to open in early 2005.

Construction of the Edie and Lew Wasserman Eye Research Center will be funded by the Wasserman Foundation, the Stein Estate, and the Jules and Doris Stein UCLA Support Group. The foresight and generosity of the Institute's founders along with the continuing support of new friends have made this center possible and is a testament to the power of private philanthropy.



Edie and Lew Wasserman at the *Reflections* Gala, September 2001



A rendering of the Jules Stein Institute campus with the new Edie and Lew Wasserman Eye Research Center (on left)



JSEI Director Dr Bartly Mondino is leading the campaign to raise funds for the programs made possible by the new Wasserman Center.

“These charitable gifts come at a time when vision science research is progressing at an extraordinary pace. They will have a significant impact on our ability to create emerging therapies and add to the collective knowledge of scientists and ophthalmologists, worldwide.”

JSEI Director

Bartly J. Mondino, MD

JSEI PARTNERS

While the capital portion of the Edie and Lew Wasserman Eye Research Center has been funded, the programs made possible by the new building will need further philanthropic support. Calling on some of the Institute’s most faithful patrons, **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, Director of Jules Stein Eye Institute, is leading the campaign for this critical project. A group of dedicated supporters have come together as the JSEI Partners to help meet the Institute’s program needs. In coordination with JSEI faculty, the JSEI Partners are developing the means to create or expand four distinct research and treatment centers. Each center will address a specific and pressing need in ophthalmology and vision science, and each will further the faculty’s considerable and admirable body of work.

A Vision Genetics Center will enable the Institute’s scientists to explore gene therapy as a possible treatment for hereditary and degenerative eye diseases. The Vision Proteomics Center will develop the promising new field of proteomics—investigating the form and function of proteins, which make up genes. The Comprehensive Cataract Center will build on advances made at the Institute in the area of cataract treatment and research. The goal of these clinicians and vision scientists is to develop new surgical and non-surgical approaches to treating cataracts, the world’s leading cause of blindness. The Ocular Inflammatory Disease Center will expand existing clinical research and treatment programs and develop new laboratories and educational programs for inflammatory eye diseases, such as uveitis.

BUNDY FOUNDATION GRANT FOR LABORATORY INSTRUMENTATION

Union Bank of California and **Douglas and Marald Nosworthy**, Trustees of the Bruce Ford and Anne Smith Bundy Foundation, acknowledged the hard work and celebrated the efforts of JSEI’s vision science faculty for a fifth consecutive year by selecting the Vision Science Division as a recipient of the 2001 Bruce Ford and Anne Smith Bundy Foundation grant. This funding equipped the Division with an Applied Biosystems Prism 3100 Genetic Analyzer, which will enable scientists studying the basic materials of life to perform accelerated analyses of DNA samples. Diseases of the eye and other organs are now associated with specific errors in the genetic information code. Vision scientists are making significant advances in their efforts to find a means of correcting these errors. The ability to facilitate gene modifications through this kind of laboratory equipment is a remarkably powerful tool for this research.

SKIRBALL FOUNDATION GIFT SUPPORTS THE OCULAR INFLAMMATORY DISEASE CENTER

The Skirball Foundation made a generous gift to support the research activities of the Ocular Inflammatory Disease Center (OIDC), a unique treatment and research program that was established to facilitate patient care, research and educational activities related to infections and immune-related eye diseases. These complicated problems often require input from various ophthalmic subspecialties, as well as from specialists in other medical departments. **Gary N. Holland, MD**, David May II Professor of Ophthalmology, is Director of the OIDC. Dr Holland and colleagues have advanced the knowledge of several inflammatory eye diseases through clinical research. They include the ocular manifestation of AIDS, ocular toxoplasmosis (a common parasitic infection of the eye), blinding disorders that affect children, and genetic predisposition to certain inflammatory eye diseases.

Institute faculty and staff were saddened by the passing of Audrey Skirball-Kenis in June 2002. A longtime supporter of Jules Stein Eye Institute, Mrs Kenis, with her husband Charles, established The Skirball Foundation Fund in 1990 to support research, education and patient care in the Ocular Inflammatory Disease Center.

MACDONALD FAMILY FOUNDATION GRANT FOR RESEARCH

A generous grant from the MacDonald Family Foundation was awarded to **Ralph D. Levinson, MD**, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, to support his research into the mechanisms of ocular inflammatory diseases associated with human leukocyte antigens (HLA). HLA is a protein located on the surface of white blood cells and other cells involved in the body's immune response. In addition to this work, Dr Levinson conducts research in comprehensive ophthalmology, small incision cataract surgery, and ocular involvement in systemic disease. He also has an interest in the development of medical education programs.

LOUIS AND HAROLD PRICE FOUNDATION GIFTS

The last gifts to complete The Harold and Pauline Price Term Endowed Chair and the Retina Research Fund were received this year from the Louis and Harold Price Foundation. Established in 1999, the total gift of \$1 million was a response to the pressing need for support of sophisticated retinal research in the areas of age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and retinopathy of prematurity. The Louis and Harold Price Foundation became a generous supporter of the Institute in 1974 and has remained a steadfast benefactor. Among their contributions is the Harold and Pauline Price Fellowship Award, established in 1986. The faculty extend grateful thanks and recognition for this latest gift and appreciation for this generous philanthropy over the last 25 years.

The Oppenheimer Brothers Foundation was created by the planned dissolution of the Jules and Doris Stein Foundation. In September 2001, the Foundation donated funds to underwrite the Reflections Gala, honoring Edie and Lew Wasserman, and made an initial gift toward the establishment of the Oppenheimer Brothers Chair in Ophthalmology.



Along with family and friends, Jules Stein Eye Institute mourns the passing of Lew Wasserman last June. For over forty years, he and his wife Edie have been generous benefactors, and at the dawn of a new century, they are an inspiration for the promising field of vision research.