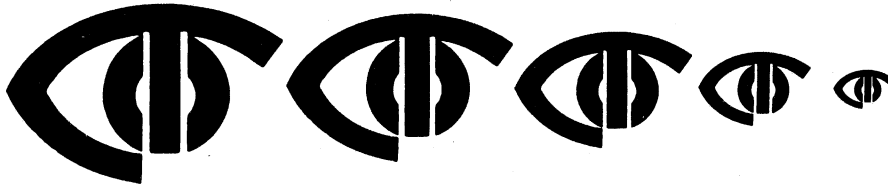




Celebrating 75 Years of Service

Department of Ophthalmology
and Visual Sciences
Pomerantz Family Pavilion
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics
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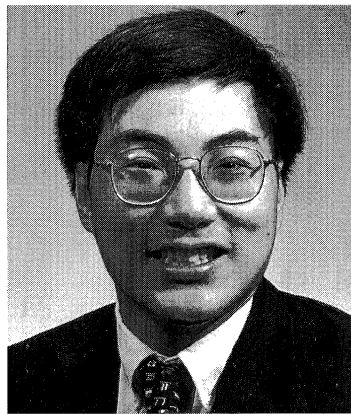


June 2000, Series 2, No. 35

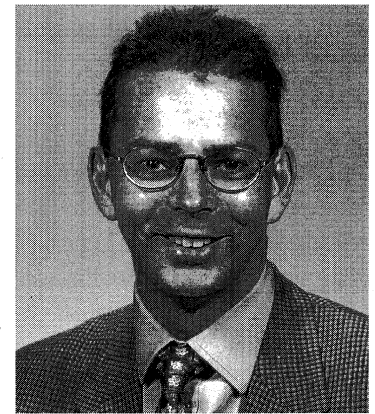
Three New Faculty Appointed



Hilary Beaver, MD



Andrew Lee, MD



Andrew Lotery, MB, BCh, MD

Dr. Andrew Lee, neuro-ophthalmologist, and **Dr. Hilary Beaver**, comprehensive ophthalmologist, were appointed to the ophthalmology faculty on February 1, 2000, as associate professor and assistant clinical professor, respectively. Prior to coming to Iowa, both held appointments at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas; Dr. Lee was associate professor of ophthalmology, neurology, and neurosurgery, and Dr. Beaver was a clinical assistant professor of ophthalmology. Dr. Beaver was also in a busy private practice.

Both Dr. Lee and Dr. Beaver received their medical degrees from the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, and completed ophthalmology residencies at Baylor. Dr. Lee served a neuro-

ophthalmology fellowship at Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, Maryland.

Drs. Lee and Beaver were married in 1993. Both express great enthusiasm for Iowa. They were told by everyone they talked to who had lived and worked at The University of Iowa they would be crazy not to come! Dr. Lee says the diversity, energy, and invigorating atmosphere here are unique, and the UI Eye Department is premier in the country, especially in neuro-ophthalmology. He is excited at the prospect of continuing the tradition of excellence begun in 1938 by Dr. P.J. Leinfelder and continued here now with Drs. Stan Thompson, Randy Kardon, and Michael Wall. He also commented that the egalitarian atmosphere at Iowa

Continued on page 2

Andrew Lotery, MB, BCh, MD (medical retina and molecular ophthalmology) was appointed assistant professor of ophthalmology, effective May 5, 2000. Dr. Lotery has been a fellow associate in Retina and Molecular Ophthal-

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Faculty Depart

Folberg Appointed Head at Chicago

Boone Moves to Rockford

Dr. Diane Boone left the department on April 8, 2000, to join a multispecialty group practice with Rockford Memorial Hospital in Rockford, Illinois. She will be working with three other comprehensive ophthalmologists. Her husband, Dr. Kendall Boone, will be part of the same practice, working with two other vascular surgeons. They are pleased to be close to family who live in the Rockford area.

Dr. Boone joined the department in July 1993 as a resident. After graduating from her residency, she was appointed in comprehensive ophthalmology as an associate in 1996, and as assistant professor in July 1998. Dr. Boone developed a very strong following among the faculty, staff, and her patients. She proved to be an excellent diagnostician and surgeon and perfect role model. Her skills, dedication, and support of everyone she came in contact with will be missed.

In mid-January, Dr. Robert Folberg departed to take up the chairmanship of the Department of Pathology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Sherry Chen, ocular pathology fellow, also moved to Chicago to continue her fellowship under Dr. Folberg's tutelage.

Dr. Folberg was first appointed assistant professor of ophthalmology at The University of Iowa in 1984. He was promoted to associate professor of ophthalmology and pathology in 1987, and named Frederick C. Blodi Professor of Ophthalmology and Professor of Pathology in 1991.

A faculty committee is involved in recruitment of an ophthalmic pathologist, vision scientist, and clinician. Meanwhile, the Blodi Ocular Pathology Laboratory is running smoothly after having made some adjustments. Dr. Gary Baumbach, professor of pathology, who holds board certification in

both ophthalmology and pathology and trained under Dr. Fred Blodi, and Dr. Pat Kirby, clinical assistant professor of pathology, who has interest and experience in eye pathology, are providing coverage. Long-time technician Christy Ballard is continuing to do the technical work. Lynn Gardner, who now works in Dr. Mary Hendrix' lab in Anatomy, is assisting as a back-up for Ballard. Planned renovation of the lab is proceeding.

Residents continue to rotate through the lab, and Dr. Folberg will be giving telemedicine presentations from Chicago to us as well as to West Virginia University in order to maintain Residency Review Committee accreditation.

Dr. Folberg's expertise in ophthalmic pathology, research, and teaching will be missed. He established an international reputation for his work on ocular melanoma and had a highly sought after fellowship training program.

Lee and Beaver

(Continued from page 1)

among faculty and staff and the collegiality are rarely found elsewhere. He is looking forward to continuing his first love – taking care of patients, as well as teaching and collaborating on research.

Dr. Beaver views her new appointment as an exciting opportunity in a great university and department. She is especially looking forward to protected time for teaching, a rare commodity when working in a competitive private practice. She is particularly

interested in teaching medical students and physicians in primary care more about general ophthalmology and systemic diseases, e.g. diabetes, and their ophthalmic complications. She is also pleased at the prospect of protected time to contribute to journal articles and to be involved in teaching nurses and ancillary staff as well as other physicians and students.

Lotery

(Continued from page 1)

mology at UIHC since July 1, 1998. He trained in ophthalmology

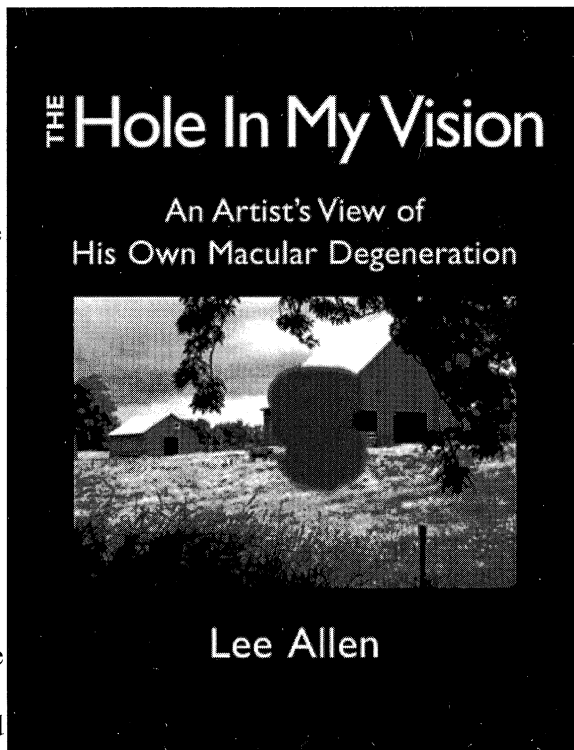
at Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, Northern Ireland. A native of Ireland, he completed his medical studies at Queen's University Belfast. He is a fellow of the Royal College of Ophthalmology of the United Kingdom. Dr. Lotery has a number of publications in ophthalmology and of genetics.

Dr. Lotery's wife, Dr. Helen Lotery, is board certified in family practice. However, she has done some dermatology training and hopes to do a full dermatology residency at UIHC.

Allen's Book Describes ARMD Experience

The University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences proudly announces the publication of *The Hole in My Vision: An Artist's View of his own Macular Degeneration* by Lee Allen. Also included are contributions by Drs. James Folk and H. Stanley Thompson. Dr. Thomas Weingeist wrote the preface.

At the age of 78, artist Lee Allen, staff member in our department from 1937 until 1976, whose retina was beginning to suffer from age-related macular degeneration, realized that he could see these entopic phenomena in his vision. For a decade he studied these defects and carefully drew pictures of the holes in his vision, showing the way they changed with time and with laser surgery.



Dr. Stan Thompson said, "We are all indebted to Lee Allen. At an age when most people are just coasting, he still wanted to know

why his eyes were misbehaving and he fought back, in his own way, by trying to understand what his macular disease was doing to him, and in the process he created an astonishing series of drawings."

The University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences and the Center for Macular Degeneration commissioned Penfield Press to publish this title. The book is set in type most visually impaired people will be able to read. It contains drawings by artist Lee Allen of what he saw in his own macular degeneration. Information about macular degeneration, and explanations and comments by Dr. Jim Folk and colleagues are also included.

Profits from the book will be used to support research at The University of Iowa Center for Macular Degeneration.

To Order

Use Order Form on page 11 of this newsletter

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send order with credit card # and expiration date to

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215 Brown St.

Iowa City, IA 52245

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OR

Orders may also be placed online:

http://www.penfield-press.com/shopsite_sc/store/html/hole_in_my_vision.html.

A limited hardcover edition will be presented to donors of \$1,000 or more to the University of Iowa Center for Macular Degeneration.

"Together, we have a vision for the future."

House Staff News

Pediatric Fellow Appointed



Annick V. Fournier, MD, began a one-year fellowship in Pediatric Ophthalmology on January 3. Dr. Fournier completed her ophthalmology residency training at the University of Sherbrooke, Canada, in June 1999. She then took a six-month fellowship in pediatric ophthalmology at the University of Montreal, Canada, before coming to Iowa. She obtained her MD degree from the University of Montreal and a BS in biochemistry from the University of Ottawa.

Dr. Fournier's fiancé, Dr. Richard Dionne, has a one-year staff physician appointment in the UIHC Emergency Treatment Center. Both are natives of Canada. They hope to join RAGBRAI this summer and really see Iowa!

Physicians Graduate

Four residents and two fellows completed their training on December 31.

Dr. Richard Allen is remaining with us until July 1, to continue research in molecular ophthalmology and clinical training as a fellow in comprehensive ophthalmology. He will then join the full-time faculty in Comprehensive Ophthalmology at the Cullen Eye Institute at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Susan Mosier Brown has begun private practice under her professional name, Dr. Susan Mosier, in Manhattan, Kansas. Following her departure a grateful patient, Mr. Henry Lee, donated \$30,000 to honor Dr. Brown for her care. The funds will be used to support ophthalmic education. (See story on page 9.)

Dr. Andrea Lusk joined a private practice in comprehensive ophthalmology in Florence, South Carolina.

Dr. Chris Hess moved back to his home state of Utah where he is practicing ophthalmology in the city of Layton.

Dr. Kristie Shappell, although officially graduated from her fellowship in Pediatric Ophthalmology, continued to see patients in Pediatric Ophthalmology through January and February. She also continued to pursue research in the Molecular Ophthalmology Laboratory until May 1. In May, she joined the Gunderson Clinic in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, where she will practice pediatric ophthalmology seeing patients in Wisconsin and in Decorah, Iowa.

Oh Honored

Dr. Kean Oh, retina fellow, received the 1999 Ronald G. Michels Fellowship Foundation Award. Oh was selected along with three others for this honor, presented during the American Academy of Ophthalmology Meeting last fall in Orlando, Florida. The Michels Award is the most prestigious award given to postgraduate vitreoretinal fellows. Each winner receives an individual cash stipend and is expected to attend the next annual meeting and present a brief review of his/her research efforts conducted during the year following receipt of the award. Dr. Jeremiah Brown (residency graduate - 1996, vitreoretinal fellowship graduate - 1998) won the award in 1998. Dr. David Brown (residency graduate - 1993, vitreoretinal fellowship graduate - 1995) was a winner in 1993.

The Michels Foundation was established in 1991, after the death of Dr. Michels, an internationally acclaimed surgeon, investigator, leader, and educator.

Faculty Involved in Research

Hayreh Receives Research Award

Dr. Sohan Hayreh was granted a \$60,000 Senior Investigator Award from Research to Prevent Blindness. He is using the funding to pursue natural history studies on data collected over the past 25 years on patients with retinal arterial occlusion, retinal venous occlusion, anterior ischemic optic neuropathy, and carotid artery disease. He is also continuing studies of associated systemic diseases, glaucoma and ocular hypertension, giant cell arteritis, posterior vitreous detachment, morphometric studies, retinal tolerance time to acute ischemia, and the pathogenesis of glaucomatous optic neuropathy. In addition, he plans to compile and analyze a huge data base covering several ophthalmic diseases.

During the last half of January and throughout February, Dr. Hayreh was on an extended lecture tour to India. He was invited as a visiting professor by six major ophthalmic institutes in southern and central India, and also lectured in Bombay, Madurai, Madras, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Amritsar. At Hyderabad, Dr. Hayreh gave the Syamala Bhaskaran Oration and presented a paper at the annual Indian Eye Research Group meeting. He was guest of honor at the annual conference of the Indian Vitreoretinal Society. Dr. Hayreh described his tour as being "the equivalent of going in Europe from London to Madrid to Rome to Vienna to Berlin to Stockholm." Even though he was in only one country, India's "language, culture,

history, food and all else is so very diverse" as to equate to the differences among these many European cities. "My only mode of communication was English except at one place in the North, and their food and culture are also alien to me."

Numerous Clinical Trials Ongoing

Several of our physicians are involved in multi-center trials focusing on ocular problems.

Dr. John Sutphin is a co-investigator of the Cornea Donor Study (CDS) which has partial support from the NEI. He will recruit patients from those scheduled through The University of Iowa Cornea Service only. The study seeks to determine if donor age affects outcome in corneal transplants done for patients with corneal edema and to see if blood type matching affects transplant outcome. Out of concern that the donor pool will shrink with the widespread adaptation of refractive surgery and the aging of the population, the trial is intended to expand the donor pool by including older donors not currently regarded as acceptable by all surgeons. Although, there is no data to suggest that older donors have higher failure or rejection rates, the bias of surgeons has limited their use. Each subject will be followed for five years. The study is coordinated by Deb O'Meara and Connie Mullinix in the clinic and Garret Locke in the Eye Bank.

Drs. John Sutphin, Michael Wagoner and John Halgren are also involved in a planned study of gatifloxacin for bacterial conjunc-

tivitis. When the study is approved, they will recruit 10 patients age one and older with acute bacterial conjunctivitis. The trial will be a randomized, multicenter comparison between the new fluoroquinolone gatifloxacin 0.3% and the approved ofloxacin 0.3% for safety and efficacy in reducing the clinical signs of acute bacterial conjunctivitis (injection and discharge). Lisa Milder is clinic coordinator.

Dr. James Folk is principal investigator for the clinical center at Iowa for the Complications of Age-Related Macular Degeneration Prevention Trial (CAPT). The trial is a nation-wide randomized controlled study of whether laser treatment in eyes with early AMD prevents vision loss. Other Iowa co-investigators include Drs. Culver Boldt, Karen Gehrs, and Steve Russell. Dr. Folk is very pleased with recruitment for the trial and wishes to thank referring physicians for their tremendous support.

Dr. Folk is also principal investigator at Iowa of the NIH-sponsored Submacular Surgery Trial. The purpose of the study is to determine whether surgery to remove choroidal neovascularization under the macula due to histoplasmosis or idiopathic diseases improves vision over observation alone.

Dr. Culver Boldt has taken over as principal investigator for the Photograph Reading Center of the Collaborative Ocular Melanoma Study (COMS). Dr. Weingeist resigned as PI last August due to time constraints, but remains as a consultant for the center. He is also

Continued on page 6

Faculty Donate Services

Drs. Steve Russell (vitreoretinal), Keith Carter (oculoplastics), and John Sutphin (cornea/external diseases) have traveled long distances this past year to give their expertise and time to people in great need elsewhere in the world.

In October, Russell traveled to Changsha, China, and Dr. Carter to Cebu City, Philippines, for Project ORBIS. ORBIS is an international charity dedicated to fighting curable blindness around the world. Recognizing that 148 million people throughout the world are blind or at great risk of becoming blind, and that two-thirds of them could be cured with the proper medical

treatment, ORBIS sends doctors and nurses around the world to restore sight. More importantly, ORBIS trains local doctors and nurses in medical skills needed to ensure this vital work continues.

For more information, see the ORBIS website:

<http://www.resolink.com/orbis/>

In March, Dr. Sutphin traveled to Haiti with a group of seven other adults and eight youths (including his son Grant) for the Haitian American Friendship Foundation (HAFF). While there, Dr. Sutphin provided medical care and taught nurses how to refract and dispense glasses. He also delivered eight boxes of glasses provided by Pat

Mason, Director of the Iowa Lions Eye Bank, and the UI Lions Club. He did not perform surgery on this trip, but did take a survey and may do surgery on future trips. The mission was led by Cheryl Johnson, MD, family care physician in North Liberty, with her brother, Randy Hausler, youth pastor at Iowa City's St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. The group performed building and maintenance as well as teaching and medical care.

HAFF is a private, nonprofit, religious group headquartered in Florida.

Dr. Lee Alward is headed for Chengdu, China, with ORBIS, June 2-14, 2000.

Research Trials

(Continued from page 5)

continuing as PI for the COMS Clinical Center at Iowa. COMS is no longer recruiting patients, but continues patient follow-up at approximately 40 centers throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Dr. Boldt is studying patient photographs received at the PRC and grading them for radiation retinopathy. The purpose of COMS is to evaluate and compare therapeutic interventions, i.e. enucleation

vs. I-125 brachytherapy, for patients with choroidal melanoma. The study, funded by NEI, began more than 10 years ago and is expected to continue through 2003.

ALUMNI

Obituary

David J. Evans, MD, who completed his residency in 1959 and was in practice in Bakersfield, California, died in December 1999.

The Iowa Eye is published 1-3 times yearly by the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences for friends and alumni of the department.

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e-diane-anderson@uiowa.edu

Full color electronic edition at <http://webeye.ophth.uiowa.edu>

FACULTY ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

Dr. Wallace L.M. Alward has recently published a new textbook entitled *Requisites in Ophthalmology: Glaucoma*. The publisher is C.V. Mosby, copyright 2000. More information and a link for purchase information is available from our website at <http://webeye.ophth.uiowa.edu/dept/Middle/NEWS.htm>.

Dr. Alward spoke on the Genetics of Glaucoma and Glaucoma Treatment in Pediatrics at the Glaucoma Symposium in Barcelona, Spain, February 11-12, 2000. He also presented "Glaucoma Genetics" for the Bausch & Lomb Visiting Professor Series in Rochester, NY, April 14, 2000.

Drs. James C. Folk, Kean T. Oh, and Randy H. Kardon presented "Prospective Visual Function Testing in Patients with Choroiditis" at the Macula Society annual meeting, Rio Grande, Puerto Rico, Feb. 23-26, 2000. The same physicians, along with former fellow Dr. Raj K. Maturi and research assistant Paula Moore, will make a similar presentation at the VI International Symposium on Ocular Inflammation, Istanbul, Turkey, June 18-23, 2000 (as part of a panel session on White Dot Syndromes).

Dr. Randy Kardon has begun a 5-year renewal of a VA grant of \$760,000 for his project "Using the Pupillary Light Reflex to Measure Visual Dysfunction." He is also a co-investigator with Dr. Tom Cornsweet of Visual Pathways, Inc., Prescott, Arizona, on a \$360,000 grant funded by the National Medical Technology Testbed from the NIH. The grant will be used to develop objective

screening tests for eye movements and pupil responses to detect abnormalities using a computerized infrared eye monitoring instrument developed by Dr. Cornsweet.

Dr. Kardon participated in a symposium, "Aberrant Regeneration of the Pupil" and a scientific session, "The pupillary light reflex reveals greater glaucomatous damage and brighter stimulus," at the NANOS meeting March 26-30, 2000.

Dr. Kardon was recently appointed chairman of the Scientific Grant Committee (Grant-in-Aid) for Fight For Sight Inc.

Dr. Andrew Lee was an invited speaker at the Scott and White Neuro-ophthalmology conference in February 2000. His lecture was entitled "A practice pathway for the evaluation of giant cell arteritis." He was a guest lecturer in March at the Oregon Ophthalmologic Society meeting in Portland, Oregon. April 6-8, Dr. Lee was visiting professor at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida, and invited speaker on nystagmus at the First Coast Neurologic Society and Northeast Florida Optometry Society meetings.

Dr. John Sutphin was a participant in the "Symposium on Anti-infectives" at the CLAO meeting, Las Vegas, January 26, 2000.

Dr. Michael Wall was the keynote speaker at the Great Plains Perimetry Symposium, April 8, 2000, Omaha, Nebraska. He presented "Advances in Automated Perimetry" and "Pitfalls in Interpretation of Automated Perimetry."

Dr. Thomas A. Weingeist was guest faculty at the 33rd Annual

Ophthalmology Spring Meeting "Principles and Practice in the New Millennium" at the University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston on March 25, 2000. His presentation was entitled "Clinical Update on Diabetic Retinopathy."

Russell Promoted



Dr. Stephen R. Russell was promoted to associate professor with tenure, effective July 1, 2000. Dr. Russell joined the faculty as associate professor on the Vitreoretinal Service in September 1996. Previously, he was associate professor of ophthalmology at St. Louis University, where he was first appointed in 1988. He trained in ophthalmology at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, and completed a fellowship in vitreoretinal diseases and surgery at The University of Iowa. He is a graduate of UCLA College of Medicine. For the past several years he has served as associate director of the Vitreoretinal Service under Dr. Weingeist and has now assumed the role of director.

Department Celebrates 75th Anniversary



The National Eye Institute traveling exhibit, "Vision: A Celebration of Eye Research," opened in the Old Capitol Town Center in downtown Iowa City, April 2, 2000. The exhibit was co-sponsored by the Iowa City Area Science Center and the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences. The exhibit first opened in 1993 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the NEI. It has traveled to 25 major cities throughout the United States. It was brought to Iowa City, certainly the smallest community to have the exhibit, as one of several events

celebrating the department's 75th anniversary. The exhibit also includes nine separate panels portraying expertise in ophthalmic care and research within the department. This portion of the exhibit will be temporarily displayed in the Pomerantz Family Pavilion after the NEI exhibit closes. The exhibit is free and open to the public through June 25th.

Mayor Ernie Lehman designated April as Eye Awareness Month and presented Dr. Tom Weingeist with a certificate on behalf of the City Council.

Coming To Your Senses

Early in February 2000, Ann Fyler began working in the department as project coordinator of "Coming To Your Senses." This is a new joint program of the Departments of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology in partnership with the Iowa Lions Clubs. Del Brown, Lions Club director of the project, Drs. William Scott and Thomas Weingeist of the Department of Ophthalmology, and Drs. Richard Tyler and Bruce Gantz of the Department of Otolaryngology are working with Fyler to begin the program.

"Coming To Your Senses" will provide screening for early detection and treatment of vision and

hearing impairments in children between six months and four years of age through education, testing and research. Lions volunteers will be trained by staff of both Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology in the use of the screening equipment. Children in whom problems are detected will be referred appropriately for treatment to community or university practitioners. Fyler will travel around the state of Iowa promoting and organizing the program and recruiting volunteers.

Fyler previously worked for 17 years in the Department of Otolaryngology making facial prosthetics. Over those years, she developed an international reputa-

tion and was featured on the web page of the Smithsonian Institution concerning exhibits on advances in her area of expertise. Her work was also featured three times in the UIHC publication, *Pacemaker*. Earlier, she worked in Chicago with an issues-based organization dealing with outreach, fundraising and program development. She has two BS degrees, one in humanities and fine arts from the University of Illinois, and one in medical arts from the University of Illinois Medical Center.

The "Coming To Your Senses" program is being supported in part by the Iowa Lions and International Lions Foundation who contributed \$125,000 to initiate the project.

Department Gratefully Acknowledges Gifts

Beisners Recognized

University of Iowa graduates Dr. Donald H. Beisner and Judith A. Beisner contributed \$1.5 million to the UI for the purchase of new equipment for the Department of Ophthalmology, to support medical student scholarships, and renovation of UI College of Medicine instructional facilities.

For our department, the Beisners' gift will specifically establish an equipment fund for the purchase of instructional and scientific equipment. The Beisners live in Springfield, Missouri, where Dr. Beisner practiced ophthalmology at the Missouri Eye Institute until his recent retirement. He completed his residency training here in 1970, after graduating from the UI College of Medicine in 1964, and serving an internship at Los Angeles County General Hospital. Judith Beisner graduated from the UI in 1964 with a BA in education. She has served in leadership positions in numerous community and philanthropic organizations.

Dr. Beisner, who received a scholarship to medical school, stated, "My medical education at Iowa was just excellent and opened many doors, such as receiving residency acceptances from six out of six quality programs and examining for the American Board of Ophthalmology for 15 years. Judy and I believe that our support of UI medical students, faculty, equipment and facilities is an investment in the future of medical education and excellence in health care."

Gurau Educational Fund Established

Following the death of Dr. Henry H. Gurau, his daughter Peggy presented a bequest from her father of \$50,000. The Henry H. Gurau Education Endowment will be used to support the education program of the department. Dr. Gurau, who practiced for many years in Des Moines, attended Clinical Conferences and other educational programs throughout his career.

Lees Establish Faculty Support Fund

A gift of \$30,000 from Mr. Henry Lee and Dr. Jan Lee will be used to establish the Dr. Susan Mosier Brown Faculty Support Fund in the Department of Ophthalmology. While traveling through Iowa, Dr. Lee suffered a corneal abrasion and decided to drive to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. After receiving care in the Emergency Treatment Center, the couple transferred to the Eye Clinic for further treatment. They were so impressed with the quality of care and professionalism of the staff that they wanted to provide support. "We felt the care we received from Dr. Brown and the staff of the Eye Clinic went far beyond the call of duty and we wanted to repay this in some way," said Mr. Lee.

The gift will establish an endowment that will generate earnings to support faculty needs in the Department of Ophthalmology. Mr. and Dr. Lee also provided a gift in support of the UIHC Emergency Trauma Center in appreciation for the kindness and support they received upon their arrival.



*Dr. Donald H. Beisner and
Judith A. Beisner*

Snyders Create Endowment

The William and Phyllis Snyder Endowment for Research in Inherited Eye Diseases was established by a gift from the Snyders. Earnings from this permanent endowment will be used to support research and education and ongoing studies related to inherited eye diseases, e.g., retinitis pigmentosa, glaucoma, corneal dystrophies, and macular degeneration. William Snyder, MD, completed his ophthalmology residency at The University of Iowa in 1961, and was a faculty member for two years before entering private practice as a retina specialist in Dallas, Texas.

Update

Our 75th anniversary is cause for reflection and reason for pride, a time to take stock and a time to look ahead. Historical highlights of the department since 1925 are available on our website: <http://webeye.ophth.uiowa.edu/dept/LEGACY/LEGACY.HTM>.

During the past decade, remarkable changes have occurred. In February 1996, the department moved to the Pomerantz Family Pavilion. Due to continuing success, we are already running out of space and have begun renovations providing additional room for the Contact Lens Clinic, the Lions Eye Bank, and administrative service functions. New faculty are being recruited for Comprehensive Ophthalmology, Contact Lens, and the VA Medical Center, and other research and clinical faculty positions are likely to be created. Our expanding research needs will be met by increasing space in the Oakdale Research Facility, completion of phase one construction of the Medical Education and Biomedical Research Facility, and renovation of the Blodi Eye Pathology Laboratory.

Three permanent endowments exceeding \$6 million have been established through the support of alumni, friends, and the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust. The Frederick C. Blodi Endowment supports the Blodi Eye Pathology Laboratory. The Robert C. Watzke Vitreoretinal Research Fund continues to grow and will support basic and clinical research studies dealing with diseases of the retina. The Roy J. Carver Molecular Ophthalmology Fund provides support for the study of genetic

diseases including macular degeneration, retinitis pigmentosa, glaucoma, corneal dystrophies and a variety of potentially blinding hereditary ocular diseases. Smaller, but significant, endowments help support programs within the department that contribute to the success of teaching, research, and other academic pursuits.

* The **Charles D. Phelps Memorial Award** recognizes faculty, medical students, residents, and fellows for contributions to the department (list of recipients for this and other named recognition awards and lectures available at website: <http://webeye.ophth.uiowa.edu/dept/LEGACY/awards/awards.htm>).

* The **P.J. Leinfelder Award**, given annually to residents and fellows for the best research presentations.

* The **Alson E. Braley Lecture** and the **Wolfe Foundation Lecture**, presented annually.

* The **Hansjoerg E. Kolder Award for Excellence in Ophthalmology**, presented each year to a deserving medical student.

* The **Hansjoerg E. Kolder Electrodiagnostic Laboratory Fund** supports electrodiagnostic studies.

* The **110 Chairs in Ophthalmology Fund** and the **Braley Enrichment Fund** enhance ophthalmic education for medical students and house staff.

* The **Henry Gurau Education Endowment**, established in 2000, will support continuing medical education. (See story, page 9)

In addition, research endow-

ments have been created for all subspecialty areas within the department. Most noteworthy are the Cecil S. and Lillian O'Brien Macular Degeneration Fund, the William and Phyllis Snyder Endowment for Research of Heritable Eye Diseases, and The University of Iowa Center for Macular Degeneration.

The establishment of the Center for Macular Degeneration resulted in a major expansion of research personnel and space primarily through the efforts of Ed Stone, director of the Molecular Ophthalmology Laboratories, and Greg Hageman, director of Morphology and Cell Biology in the Oakdale Research Facility. The Center is expected to receive more than 20 million dollars from the National Institutes of Health, Foundation Fighting Blindness, Research to Prevent Blindness, and other philanthropic groups and individuals over the next five years. We also hope to establish permanent endowments to support each of the main units in the center.

These are exciting times. We, like other academic ophthalmology programs and medical centers in general, face government audits and reduced reimbursement from Medicare, managed care and insurance. The extra income to help support research has nearly vanished. Even when we can squeeze additional funds from our budget by increasing efficiency or reducing expenses, we are often given less support and are chastised by newspapers and politicians for having made a "profit." Even non-profit organizations such as ours cannot operate without reserves for

emergencies.

Academic health care systems throughout the nation are in a precarious position. When we initiate new clinical programs, we are accused of engaging in unfair competition, in spite of the fact that state support is limited to care of indigent patients. How many Iowans know that UIHC received only \$30 million last year for hospital expenses amounting to \$50 million? Or that the state receives two-thirds of these funds back from the federal government? Or that these costs do not include physician fees which are not reimbursed at all? Departments do receive limited funding for teaching and some recovery of federal grant support

through the College of Medicine. By and large, faculty support themselves and many support staff through grants and patient care revenue.

In spite of these challenges, we continue to maintain outstanding faculty. Each is highly recognized within his/her field of expertise and dedicated to providing excellent patient care and teaching, and performing new and innovative basic and clinical research. Fortunately, few faculty have been enticed to leave, although many have been offered excellent opportunities and lucrative financial packages. My aim is to provide the best environment to enhance their careers.

Our resident and fellowship training programs continue to attract the very best, and all our trainees continue to find excellent post-graduate positions. Change is difficult for most of us. Medicine is different than 10 or 20 years ago, but that does not mean it is not as good. Fortunately, in Iowa, we have exceptional faculty and staff, one of the very best facilities, and very strong support from the leadership of the University of the Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and the College of Medicine that make up the University of Iowa Health Care enterprise.

T.A. Weingeist

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November 3, 2000	Cornea/Refractive	Peter S. Hersh, MD, Teaneck, New Jersey
December 1, 2000	Pediatric/Strabismus	Edward G. Buckley, MD, Durham, North Carolina
February 2, 2001	Neuro-ophthalmology	Grant T. Liu, MD, (Neurology), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
March 2, 2001	Cataract	Alan S. Crandall, MD, Salt Lake City, Utah
April 6, 2001	Glaucoma	Douglas R. Anderson, MD, Miami, Florida

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