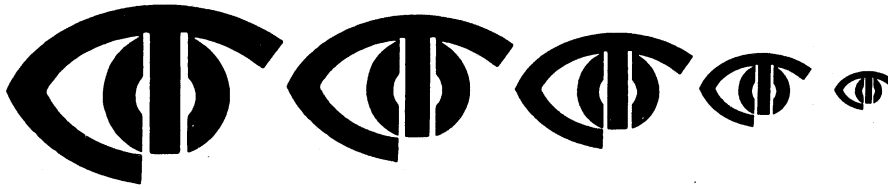
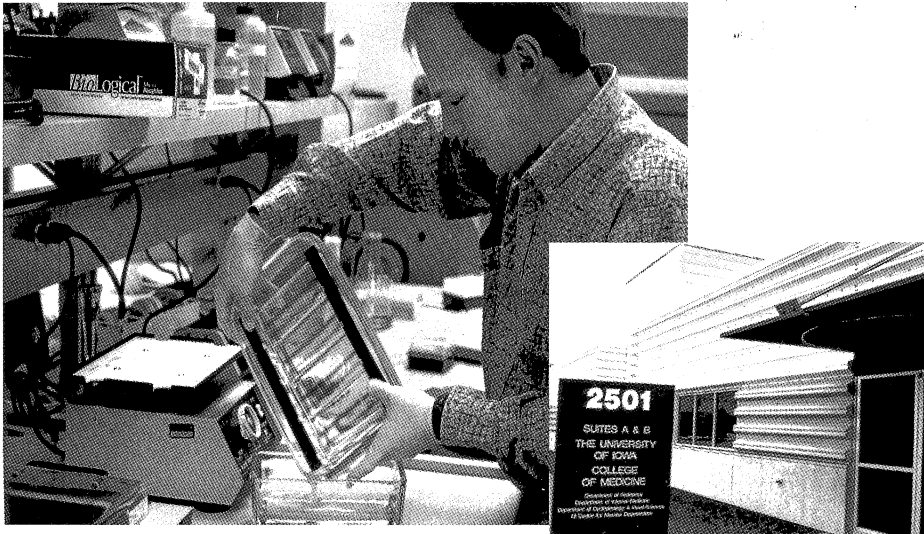


Iowa



LABORATORY UP AND RUNNING



Timur Yarovinsky trained in Moscow and recently joined the laboratory as a post-doctoral research fellow.

Dr. Greg Hageman, with the help of his many research associates and assistants and graduate students, now has a very active research program established in his new laboratory on the Oakdale Campus. Dr. Hageman describes three major ongoing research efforts: age-related macular degeneration (AMD) which is his top priority; identifying proteins in the interphotoreceptor matrix responsible for retinal adhesion; and the development of a drug that cleaves the interface between the vitreous and retina for treatment of retinal detachments.

The Morphology and Cell Biology Laboratory of the UI Center for Macular Degeneration is divided into four areas: genetics, molecular biology, protein biochemistry and morphology. Working with Dr. Hageman in this highly specialized arena are wife and husband team Cathy Bowes Rickman, PhD, and Dennis Rickman, PhD, both of whom are associates in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences; full-time research assistants Markus Kuehn, Rob Mullins, Krista Wheeler, April Orris, and Bobbie Schneider; post-doctoral fellow Timur Yarovinsky, PhD, MD, from

Department of Ophthalmology
and Visual Sciences
Pomerantz Family Pavilion
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics
<http://webeye.ophth.uiowa.edu>

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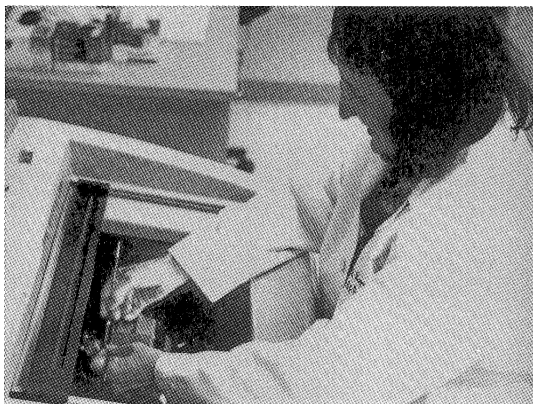
The Morphology and Cell Biology Laboratory of the UI Center for Macular Degeneration is located on the Oakdale Campus.

the Russian State Medical University in Moscow; post-doctoral scholar Mimi Gross-Jendroska, MD, from Berlin, Germany who is also working with Dr. Ed Stone in the Carver Molecular Ophthalmology Laboratory; graduate student Paul Ogg, and student research assistants Cory Speth, Corey Goare, Lisa Thayer, and Todd Velnosky. Also working in the laboratory are two undergraduate students from the Honors Program, Michael Darkoh-Ampem and Lanre Idewu.

The primary focus of Hageman's research efforts is in

Continued on page 2

Laboratory Continued from page 1



Bobbie Schneider, an accomplished morphologist, has been working with Dr. Hageman for nearly eight years.

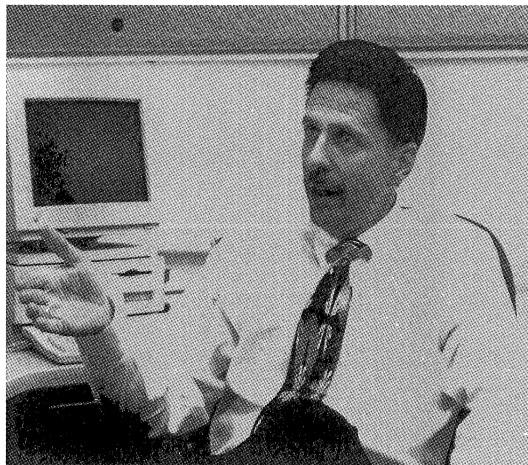
the area of macular degeneration. Having known several individuals with AMD and seeing the huge impact it had on their lives, Dr. Hageman has longed to work on finding a cure and/or prevention for this devastating disease. He began by starting his own company, seeking funding from private and public sources, and assembling his talented research team.

“Dr. Hageman is optimistic . . . they will be able to identify genes and processes involved in the etiology of AMD.”

A major problem for research in AMD is the lack of an animal model. It is therefore necessary to use human eye tissue which must be harvested from donors within four hours of death. Initially, Dr. Hageman approached an organ procurement organization in St. Louis and established a repository of 1500 pairs of eyes in one year, 6% of which had documented AMD. Because of the tremendous potential for developing a

multi-disciplinary AMD research program, Dr. Hageman and his research team came to Iowa.

Hageman now has funding from the National Institutes of Health, as well as private funding from industry. His goal is to build a large endowment for AMD research.



Greg Hageman relates that the biggest challenge has been finding eye donors.

Dr. Hageman is optimistic that with the opportunity to examine the eyes of individuals with a family history of AMD, they will be able to identify genes and processes involved in the etiology of the disease. Thus far, smoking is the only risk factor linked to AMD. He is confident that as soon as they locate one gene tied to the disease, they will be able to move forward to discover other factors linked to the disease.

Currently, the researchers are looking at drusen because no AMD patient has been found to be without drusen. In particular, they are looking at the immunohistochemistry of drusen in donor eyes and have discovered a protein, vitronectin, which appears in drusen as well as in atherosclerotic and Alzheimer plaques, and may indicate a correlation among these disease processes.

They have also identified 10 other proteins.

Because of this possible link to coronary and vascular disease, Drs. Stephen Russell, Karen Gehrs, and Diane Boone are looking at drugs used in cardiology to see if they might also be useful in the treatment of AMD.

Dr. Hageman relates that the biggest challenge has been developing an eye donor program; however,

Iowa is an ideal location because of its large elderly population and extended families. Dr. Hageman is



Catherine Bowes Rickman is performing research with a focus on the fovea complementary to Hageman's on macular degeneration.

Continued on page 4

“Together, we have a vision for the future.”

ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS

Lee Allen Receives Award

Lee Allen received a Special Recognition Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology in October in honor of his life-long contributions to ophthalmology.

they leave in certain lighting conditions. The intriguing thing is that there is absolutely no one in the world better equipped to record these observations than Lee Allen. All through his astonishingly fruitful career he was drawing what he

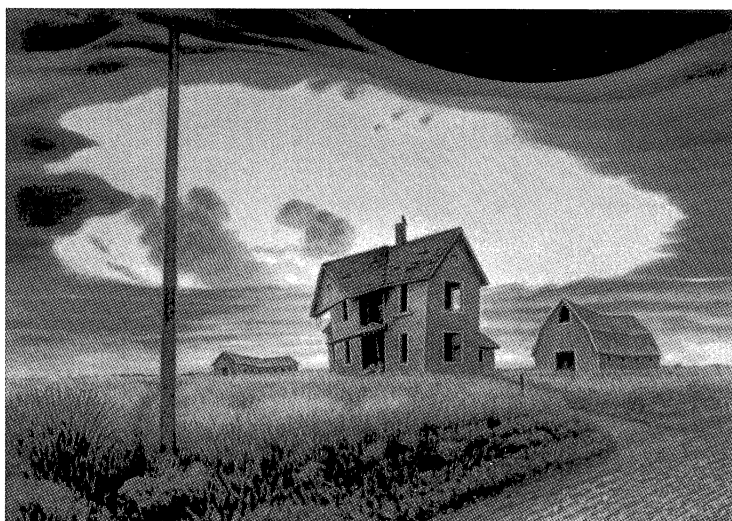
Accreditation Program is recognized by the federal program as being equal to or more stringent than the government's own inspection program.

Brown Receives Michels Award

Dr. Jeremiah Brown, fellow in vitreoretinal diseases and surgery, received the Ron Michels Award at the October American Academy of Ophthalmology Meeting. The Michels Award is the most prestigious award given to postgraduate vitreoretinal fellows. The Ronald G. Michels Fellowship Foundation was established in 1991, immediately following the untimely death of Dr. Michels, an internationally acclaimed surgeon, investigator, leader, and educator. The award is given annually by the foundation to one or more outstanding first- or second-year vitreoretinal fellows currently training in the United States. 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.

Fellows Present At AUPO Forum

Jeremiah Brown, MD, fellow in vitreoretinal diseases and surgery, and John Fingert, MD, graduate research assistant in the Carver Molecular Ophthalmology Laboratory, made research presentations at the annual Resident and Fellow Research



Recent Painting (original in color) by Lee Allen

Mr. Allen worked in the UI Department of Ophthalmology from 1937 until 1976. He collaborated with various doctors developing better ways of viewing the eye, such as stereoscopic drawings and fundus photography, and designing and developing prosthetic eyes and surgical instruments. After his retirement from the department he continued to work at his own company, Iowa Eye Prosthetics. In addition to his work in ophthalmology, Mr. Allen is also a talented and prolific artist who once studied with Grant Wood.

Dr. Stan Thompson relates the following: "Lee is now 88 and he has had some trouble with age-related macular degeneration for about a decade. In the last few years, Lee has been drawing his scotomas and the after-images

and trying to use his drawings as a way of communicating an understanding of the eye and how it works."

An article by Mr. Allen relating his experiences with AMD and including his drawings will be published in the near future.

Blodi Laboratory Recognized

The F.C. Blodi Eye Pathology Laboratory, directed by Dr. Robert Folberg, has been reaccredited for two years by the Commission on Laboratory Accreditation of the College of American Pathologists (CAP), based on a recent on-site inspection. In a news release from CAP, the Blodi Lab was recognized and congratulated on its national recognition and for the "excellence of the services being provided." The CAP Laboratory

Continued on page 9

LABORATORY

Continued from page 2



Dennis Rickman is working on growth factors and receptors responsible for the development of particular cell types in the retina.

working with Pat Mason and Sara Baker of the Iowa Lions Eye Bank (see article, page 6), with Marilyn Long and Barbara Elias of the Iowa Lions Eye Bank Laboratory, and with the UIHC to build awareness and increase donations at the UIHC and around the state. He cited one memorable donation from the family of a father in Wisconsin.

“Hageman, Mason, Baker and Requard . . . have succeeded in quadrupling the number of donors . . .”

After the donor’s death, his family established a memorial fund in his small home town and collected \$73 which they proudly sent with an emotional letter to The University of Iowa Center for Macular Degeneration. Hageman, Mason, Baker and Jeff Requard, who has given over 50 talks about donation around the state, have succeeded

in quadrupling the number of donors from UIHC in just a few short months.

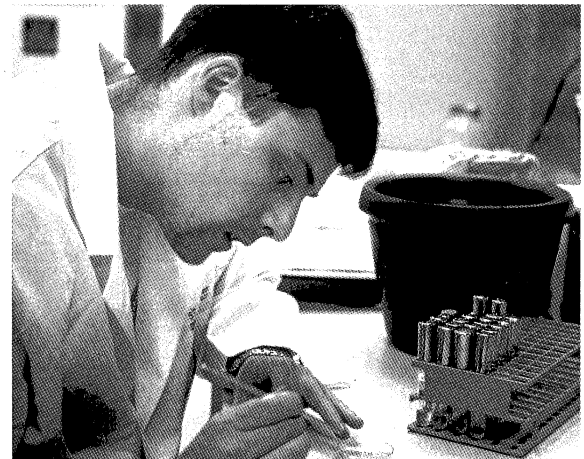
The value of collaboration between Dr. Hageman’s lab and Dr. Stone’s Molecular Ophthalmology Laboratory is beautifully demonstrated by a recent breakthrough. Dr.

Catherine Bowes Rickman is performing research with a focus on the fovea complementary to Hageman’s on macular degeneration. Dr. Bowes Rickman, using monkey eye tissue, isolated a gene that is fovea specific. With the valuable assistance of research assistant Kim Vandenburg Nichols, they mapped the gene and found that it maps right on top of a known locus for Stargaardt’s disease, a form of hereditary macular degeneration.

Dr. Dennis Rickman is working on growth factors and receptors responsible for the development of particular cell types in the retina. Results of his research can be applied to diseases of aging. If he can learn to manipulate various factors and receptors, it may then be possible to regulate abnormal growth during a disease process, and turn on growth factors to prevent cell death. He is also investigating sensory innervation of

the cornea to see if it is possible to reestablish growth of sensory nerve fibers after corneal injury in an animal model that over-expresses the growth factor.

Drs. Hagemann, Bowes Rickman, Rickman, and Stone in the laboratory, working with Drs. Russell, Gehrs, and Boone, and other faculty in clinics, hope to be able to conquer or at least control the development of many currently untreatable or incurable eye diseases. Their primary target at the moment is macular degeneration, but their dedication and collaboration will likely lead to progress in many areas in the future.



Cory Speth is an undergraduate student who joined the laboratory because of his interest in biology and pursuit of an advanced degree in this field.

ALUMNI NOTES

OBITUARIES

ARSHAM AUTHORS THIRD EDITION

Dr. Gary Arsham (General Ophthalmology Fellow, 1970-71) has co-authored with Ernest Lowe the third edition of *Diabetes: A Guide to Living Well*. The book was published by Chronimed in Minneapolis. This new edition includes information about diabetes, both type 1 and 2. Readers will also benefit from information on all the new medications as well as the American Diabetes Association's latest diagnostic standards.

Edgar Auerbach

News of the 1995 death of Edgar Auerbach, MD, professor of ophthalmology and Friedenwald Professor of Ophthalmic Research at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, reached our department this past summer. Dr. Auerbach studied as a research fellow in physiology and electrophysiology of vision at The University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology in 1954-55 under the tutelage of Professor Hermann Burian. A native of Berlin, Germany, he began his study of medicine at the University of Prague, but was forced to emigrate to Palestine at the end of 1938. He then began working as a research assistant at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Hadassah University Hospital. He was finally able to complete his MD degree at St. Joseph University of Beirut, Lebanon and then an ophthalmology residency at Hadassah University Hospital. He studied at Harvard as well as the UI in the 1950s. Dr. Auerbach returned to Hadassah University Hospital in 1957 and opened the first physiology and electrophysiology laboratory in Israel. After a career in research resulting in nearly 100 published articles, Dr. Auerbach retired in 1982. He continued to write and publish until his death.

*Information for this brief obituary was obtained from an article in *Documenta Ophthalmologica* 91:287, 1996, kindly forwarded to us by Dr. Auerbach's widow, Rena R. Auerbach.

Melvin Chiles Sr.

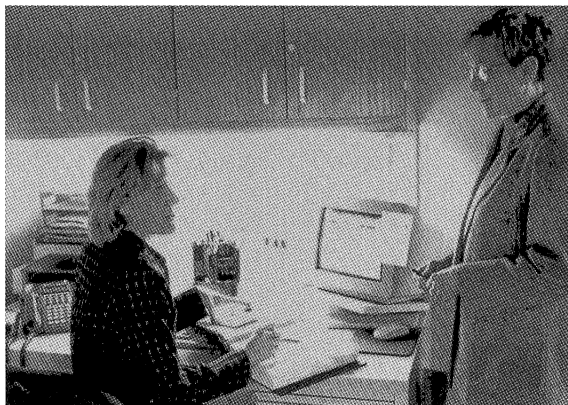
Mel Chiles, administrator for the Department of Ophthalmology from 1966 to 1985, died in Iowa City on October 15, 1997. Mr. Chiles was born in 1918 in Kansas and attended Emporia State Teachers College, Emporia, Kansas. He moved to Iowa City in 1952. Prior to taking his position in ophthalmology, he owned Western Auto and started the American Family Insurance Agency in Iowa City. At the time of his retirement in 1985, Dr. Hansjoerg Kolder wrote, "Mr. Chiles was a genuinely kind, cooperative and effective administrator who could, with equal ease, draft a budget, hire an employee, encourage punctuality, and . . . have an open ear and closed mouth for anyone who had a need, be it professional or personal. . . . Mr. Chiles made an outstanding contribution to the smooth operation of the administration of the Department of Ophthalmology."

Survivors include his wife, Joyce, and two sons and their wives, Dee and Sue Chiles of Iowa City and John and Pattie Chiles of Coralville.

CORRECTION

In the last issue (August 1997) of the *Iowa Eye*, Michael Murphy was inadvertently omitted from the list of neuro-ophthalmology fellows trained by Dr. Stan Thompson.

EYE BANK EXPANDS ACTIVITIES



Sara Baker discusses strategy for increasing eye donations with Pat Mason, Eye Bank director.

by Pat Mason

The Iowa Lions Eye Bank had a successful year in 1997, thanks to a dedicated staff and the support of many health care professionals, Lions and Lioness Club members, and volunteers. The truly remarkable gift of eye donation allowed 260 Iowans to have their sight restored through corneal transplantation last year. A total of 1087 eyes were donated in Iowa in 1997. Three hundred sixty-three of them were utilized for corneal transplantation throughout Iowa and the nation, and 704 were utilized in research and teaching. Receiving this volume of eye tissue is extremely valuable and is, in part, responsible for the many successes of The University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences. Awareness about eye donation for corneal transplantation is extremely high, both in Iowa and the nation.

The eye bank is now focusing on another critical issue related to eye disorders and is enhancing its eye donor program by emphasizing the need for research tissue. This effort is related to the establishment of a major project in the department to study the causes and potential cures for age-related macular degeneration, or AMD.

The University of Iowa Center for Macular Degeneration, the first center of its kind to be organized in the United States, was formally launched in September 1997. It will rely on a partnership with the eye bank to provide the center with donor eye tissue for research. A major goal of the collective research efforts is to find the cause of AMD and develop drug therapy to inhibit the disease process, and to eventually prevent it from occurring. The availability of donor eye tissue from the Iowa Lions Eye Bank is essential to this work. This new effort by the eye bank will not diminish its long-standing focus on obtaining donor eye tissue for "gift of sight" corneal transplants.

The Iowa Lions Eye Bank enjoys an excellent working relationship with the approximately 425 Lions and Lioness Clubs with over 13,000 members in Iowa. These clubs play a vital role with the Iowa Lions Eye Bank and its various projects. Not only do Lions and Lioness Clubs provide monetary support, but they also play key roles in the commitment to heightening awareness in their local communities of the various eye bank projects and the need for eye

donation for corneal transplantation and research.

"The eye bank . . . is enhancing its eye donor program by emphasizing the need for research tissue."

A change in the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act in 1995 allowed persons other than physicians and funeral directors to become trained and certified in the eye removal process. Since that time, over 550 health care professionals have been added to the list of people who volunteer their time and commit their service so that many more people may receive the "gift of sight." The Iowa Lions Eye Bank extends sincere appreciation to all funeral directors and health care professionals who actively participate in the Sight-Saver program.

The Iowa Lions Eye Bank works closely with several other organ and tissue donation affiliated agencies. These include, but are not limited to, the Iowa Statewide Organ Procurement Organization (ISOPO), LifeNet of Iowa, American Red Cross, and Iowa LifeGift. By maintaining a cooperative working relationship, we can heighten awareness regarding the need for donation as well as increase donations. Collectively we work to provide opportunities for donor family members and to show our appreciation for the gifts they provide others through donation for transplantation and research.

For more information see our web page: webeye.ophth.uiowa.edu/dept/eyebank/eyebank1.htm

BETOR AND WEBSTER WELCOMED



Catherine Betor

Dr. Catherine Betor and Dr. Andrew Webster began working with us in January and February, respectively.

Dr. Betor is a fellow in Pediatric Ophthalmology. She completed her residency in ophthalmology in July 1997, at New York Medical College, Valhalla, New York. Previously, she completed an internship at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where she also earned her MD degree. For the six months prior to coming to Iowa, Dr. Betor was an attending general ophthalmologist at Lincoln Hospital in The Bronx, New York. Dr. Betor's interests and activities outside her profession include training and showing champion Arabian horses, singing in choir, hiking, and gardening.



Andrew Webster

Dr. Webster joined the Molecular Ophthalmology Laboratory in February for six months as a visiting associate. He is a citizen of the United Kingdom and received his medical training at Green College, Oxford, and Oxford Clinical Medical School. He completed ophthalmology training at Southampton Hospital and a medical retina fellowship at Moorfields Eye Hospital, London. Dr. Webster is married to Dr. Rahila Zakir and they have recently become parents of a son, born January 16, 1998.

FOUR GRADUATE

Four physicians completed residency and fellowship training on December 31, 1997:

Harold Cohen completed his residency and has joined the Marshfield Clinic in Marshfield, Wisconsin.

Ann Neff also completed her residency and is now doing a six-month fellowship in neuro-ophthalmology at Bascom-Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, Florida. She will begin training as a fellow in oculoplastics at Bascom-Palmer in July 1998.

Jennifer Simpson, the third graduating resident, has begun a fellowship in pediatric ophthalmology at the Kellogg Eye Center, University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Gail Ganser graduated from a one-year pediatric ophthalmology fellowship in December and is now in private practice at the Piedmont Eye Center, Lynchburg, Virginia.

The Iowa Eye is published 2-3 times yearly by the Department of Ophthalmology for friends and alumni of the department.

Editor-in-Chief: Thomas A. Weingeist, PhD, MD

Managing Editor: E. Diane Anderson

Photos in this issue by Ed Heffron

Please direct comments and inquiries to managing editor:

319/356-0453 FAX 319/356-0363

e-diane.anderson@uiowa.edu

OUTREACH CLINIC ESTABLISHED

Over the last few months, the department has established the Dubuque Outreach Clinic. The purpose of the clinic is to support our long-standing clinical relationships with alumni and friends in the Dubuque area. This clinic, which serves retina and low-vision patients, is open every Monday for retina, and every second and fourth Friday for low vision. The clinic is located in the medical building adjacent to Finley Hospital in Dubuque. The facility is used by other UIHC departments on other days.

The Retina Clinic is staffed each week by Dr. Culver Boldt or Dr. Steve Russell along with assistant Carole Slaymaker and photographers, Ed Heffron or Randy Verdick. The clinic offers B-scan ultrasonography and digital and conventional angiography. Records are maintained in both Iowa City and Dubuque to ensure continuity of care. The staff hope, eventually, to be able to teleconference clinically and therefore improve both their clinical and teaching mission. The team approach enables a sharing of ideas which improves clinic service.

The **Low Vision Clinic**, directed by Mark Wilkinson, OD, who is assisted by low vision educator Julie Yoerger from his Quad Cities office, sees an average of six to eight patients per day. They complement the services of the retina clinic and are a unique and welcome service to low vision patients whose biggest problem is

often transportation. Low vision problems include blurred vision, central field loss, contrast loss and glare problems, multiple field loss, distortion, and tunnel vision. Dr. Wilkinson and Ms. Yoerger offer complete assessment of low-vision problems and evaluation of vision goals. With the aid of such low vision devices as microscopic spectacles, filters, optical scanners, and education about the availability of large print magazines and



Dr. Culver Boldt finishes up patient notes for the day with the help of nurse Carol Slaymaker, by the light of a Coleman lantern in the back of the car on the way back to Iowa City.

newspapers, talking books, audio tapes and reading stands, life can be greatly improved for patients with low vision problems. These problems may result from various conditions including macular degeneration, diabetes, corneal disease, cataracts, glaucoma, and stroke.

The telephone number, 319-589-0592, is accessible every day, as it automatically rolls over (without long-distance charge) to

the scheduling center in ophthalmology at UIHC when no one is available to answer in Dubuque.

H. Culver Boldt, MD, is associate professor of ophthalmology and head of the echography service. He completed his ophthalmology residency at Iowa and fellowships in echography at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, in vascular diseases at Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute, and in vitreoretinal diseases and surgery at The Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

Stephen R. Russell, MD, associate professor, completed his ophthalmology residency at Bascom Palmer followed by a fellowship in vitreoretinal diseases and surgery at Iowa.

Mark Wilkinson, OD, is assistant professor of clinical ophthalmology. He also works two days per week at Genesis Hospital in Davenport, Iowa and in the Comprehensive Clinic - Low Vision at UIHC. He received his OD degree from Illinois College of Optometry and did post-graduate study in low vision at the New York Lighthouse for the Blind.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Continued from page 3

Forum of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO) on February 6, 1998, in Phoenix, Arizona. Dr. Brown's talk was entitled "Clinical Characterization and Linkage Analysis of a Four Generation Family with Cone-Rod Dystrophy." Dr. Fingert presented "Identification of a Gene that Causes POAG."

Folk Authors Book

Dr. James Folk, professor of ophthalmology, is co-author with Dr. Jose Pulido of a monograph, "Laser Photocoagulation of the Retina and Choroid," published by the American Academy of Ophthalmology. Dr. Pulido, a former faculty member at Iowa, is now professor of ophthalmology at The Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

Johnson to be Promoted

Dr. Tim Johnson will be promoted to associate professor of clinical ophthalmology effective July 1, 1998. Dr. Johnson is director of Comprehensive Ophthalmology and has a special interest and expertise in cataract surgery.

Kwon Receives Funding

Dr. Young Kwon has received notice of a \$30,000 Otsuka Research Fellowship in Glaucoma from The American Glaucoma Society, funded by Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc. He will present the results of his research project, "Assessment of alterations in gene expression in the trabecular meshwork and ciliary body of donors with glaucoma," at an annual meeting of the American Glaucoma Society. Co-investigators

are Drs. Lee Alward, Greg Hageman, and Ed Stone.

Oetting Receives Funding

Dr. Tom Oetting has received funding from The University of Iowa's nTITLE (New Technologies Into The Learning Environment) program to develop an interactive teaching tool for cataract surgery. He hopes to learn more about the technology and use video clips and content in an interactive way. The nTITLE program is a collaboration among the Center for Teaching, Information Technology Services, and University Libraries that seeks to provide faculty with resources and intensive training for enhancing their teaching with state-of-the-art tools.

Stone Receives Award

Dr. Edwin Stone was presented the Ralph and Hinda Rosenthal Award by the Macula Society on February 20, 1998. The prestigious award is an annual award in visual sciences mediated through the Macula Society and funded by the Ralph and Hinda Rosenthal Foundation. It is given "to that individual or group of individuals under 45 years of age whose work gives high promise of a notable advance in the clinical treatment of disorders of the eye."

Past recipients include Bert M. Glaser, MD - 1991; Mark S. Blumenkranz, MD - 1992; Thaddeus P. Dryja, MD - 1993; Carmen A. Puliafito, MD - 1994; Matthew A. Thomas, MD - 1995; Peter A. Campochiaro, MD - 1996; and Neil M. Bressler, MD.

Stone Elected

Dr. Ed Stone is one of three people from The University of

Iowa to be elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI) this year. He is the first ophthalmologist ever to be elected to the ASCI.

The American Society for Clinical Investigation was founded in 1908; this non-profit institution has a long and rich history of excellence in the biomedical sciences. Its goals include the "advancement of medical science, the cultivation of clinical research by the methods of the natural sciences, and the correlation of science with the art of medical practice, the encouragement of scientific investigation by the medical practitioner and the diffusion of scientific spirit among its members." To accomplish these goals, the ASCI considers the nominations of several hundred physician-scientists from the United States and abroad each year and elects up to 80 new members each year for their research accomplishments. ASCI members must be less than 45 years of age at the time of their election, therefore the society reflects accomplishments at a relatively early time in the scientific careers of its members. One of the major functions of the ASCI is to publish the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, a peer-reviewed medical research journal with a very high impact rating among medical journals.

Weingeist Re-elected

Dr. Thomas Weingeist was re-elected to the board of trustees of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and named medical editor of the AAO's *EyeNet* magazine. He is also senior secretary for clinical education for the academy.

UPDATE

by Thomas A. Weingeist

There has been an unusual lapse in publication of the *Iowa Eye* newsletter. This is not due to a lack of happenings. Among the most exciting has been the establishment of **The University of Iowa Center for Macular Degeneration** and the formation of the Oakdale Research Facility — more than 4,000 square feet of laboratory and office space, directed by Greg Hageman, PhD. The Morphology and Cell Biology Laboratory is one of the key elements of the Center for Macular Degeneration. Elsewhere in this issue you can read about the laboratory and its relationships with the Iowa Lions Eye Bank, the Carver Molecular Ophthalmology Laboratory and the Gene Therapy group from Internal Medicine.

The center includes the following clinical and basic science units and directors:

Executive Director:

Thomas A. Weingeist, PhD, MD

Scientific Director:

Edwin M. Stone, MD, PhD

Clinical Services:

Stephen R. Russell, MD

Medical and Surgical Therapy:

H. Culver Boldt, MD

Education and Public Awareness:

Karen M. Gehrs, MD

Low Vision Rehabilitation &

Counseling: Mark E. Wilkinson, OD

Carver Molecular Ophthalmology

Laboratory: Edwin M. Stone, MD,

PhD; Val Sheffield, MD, PhD,

(Pediatrics)

Morphology and Cell Biology:

Gregory S. Hageman, PhD

Gene Therapy:

Beverly Davidson, PhD

None of this would have been possible without the support of alumni and friends who have

contributed generously toward our research program and the competitive support our faculty received from the National Eye Institute and private philanthropic organizations such as Research to Prevent Blindness.

The Blodi Ophthalmic Pathology Professorship endowment is over \$2 million and nearly every pledge has been kept. Dr. Robert Folberg is the Frederick C. Blodi Professor of Ophthalmology and Pathology and uses the funds to support the laboratory. The Robert C. Watzke Vitreoretinal Research Fund has further to go to reach its goal, but is nearing \$1 million.

I know of no other group of alumni or friends of a department that has been more supportive. You will be pleased to know that I expect to announce a number of other endowments in the coming year.

RPB

Our department is among the top programs in the nation benefiting from Research to Prevent Blindness support. Since its inception we have received nearly \$1.5 million in unrestricted research funds. You can help us and other academic ophthalmology programs by becoming a member of RPB with an annual gift of \$100 (see form, pg. 12). If you are not already a member I hope you will consider joining the largest private philanthropic organization supporting eye and vision research.

Residency

A number of years ago we applied to the Residency Review Committee for permission to reduce the number of our residents from six to five per year, and we increased training from three to four years after internship. Although one group of residents

began the new program in July 1997, and others were accepted for 1998 and '99, we have decided it would be in their best interests as well as ours to return to a three-year format. We will continue to take five residents per year each July. An application has been submitted to the RRC to make the appropriate adjustments and for all our residents to be trained within three years. Educationally, this will mean that we may not be able to include some of the curriculum we planned in the four-year program (more extensive experience in low vision, experience in private practice, skills in coding and billing as well as other management issues).

Fortunately, our residents continue to be among the most sought after for clinical practices and premier fellowship programs. I believe this is a reflection of our most important asset, our faculty and staff. Many of our faculty are listed among the *Best Doctors in America* and are dedicated mentors who provide superb supervision and skill transfer while serving as role models for the best and most ethical care of patients. This is more difficult than it used to be. Physicians at Teaching Hospitals (PATH) are faced with new HCFA regulations that often make teaching onerous. Unfortunately, these regulations have no bearing on outcomes or patient care and are being applied and enforced in draconian fashion in academic medical centers. HMOs can be expected to be even more difficult to work with. The ultimate losers are patients and the ethical physicians who continue to try to provide the best and most appropriate care for their patients.

IOWA EYE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 5-6, 1998*

UIHC Pomerantz Family Pavilion, Braley Auditorium

*Note new 2-day format

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

FRIDAY

AM Pediatric Ophthalmology

- *Braley Lecture* - Adjustable Sutures
Monte A. Del Monte, MD, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- Third Nerve Palsy
- Accommodative Esotropia
- Panel - Strabismus Cases

PM Office Management - Allergan Services Consulting Group

- Trends in Reimbursement
- Financial Benchmarking in Your Office
- Strategies for Success

SATURDAY

AM Pediatric Ophthalmology

- Patching Therapy
- *Wolfe Lecture* - Congenital Cataracts
Albert Biglan, MD, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh
- Infantile Cataracts
- Panel - Pediatric Glaucoma, Oculoplastics and Retina Cases

Social Calendar

Friday Evening - Open House: Tom & Cathy Weingeist

Saturday Afternoon - Golf and Tennis

Saturday Evening - Banquet & Entertainment

If you have not yet received a program with a registration form or if you need another copy, please contact Pat Zahs (319-356-2867) or patricia-zahs@uiowa.edu.

**You are cordially invited to join Research to Prevent Blindness as an
Ophthalmological Associate Member.**

Since 1960, Research to Prevent Blindness has channeled more than \$144 million into eye research to develop preventives, cures, and effective treatments for diseases that damage and destroy sight. Over the years, RPB has brought to national attention the nature of eye diseases and the vastly increased capacity of ophthalmologists to manage them. RPB makes available the essential financial resources, scientific personnel, equipment, and laboratory space that have thrust ophthalmology into the forefront of modern medical science. RPB is a unique, respected partner of ophthalmology. It merits your support.

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