“Like me”
Winking-eye sock monkeys help comfort patients faced with removal of an eye. (Story inside)
The removal of an eye can be scary, especially for a child. University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics doctors and staff recognized an opportunity to change the experience and ease the concerns of young patients and their families.

Team members from the Eye Clinic partnered with the UI Hospitals & Clinics Volunteer Services to create a customized sock monkey doll for children who have an eye removed. The monkey features a winking eye to match the eye that the patient has removed (right or left). Handmade monkeys also have different color remaining eyes and other features that add to the uniqueness of each.

The idea for personalized monkeys came from UI student volunteer Kenten Kingsbury and oculoplastic surgeon Audrey Ko, MD. They realized that sock monkey dolls were being made by a hospital volunteer group known as the Merry Monkey Makers, so the two arranged through Volunteer Services to have monkeys specially designed for Eye Clinic patients facing the loss of an eye.

“The idea of removing an eye is very difficult. It brings up questions about a child’s appearance after surgery and concerns about how the process might affect a child for the rest of their life, both medically and socially. My clinic volunteer, Kenten, came up with the amazing idea after seeing a couple families go through the heartbreaking decision to remove their child’s eye due to retinoblastoma or trauma. We thought customizing the monkeys to match the needs of our unique patients seemed like a simple way to make the whole process of having a prosthetic eye a little less scary,” states Ko.

More information at:
uihc.org/eye-cancer
uihc.org/ocular-prosthetics-service
Gene-based therapy selected as ‘trial of the year’

Eye clinic physicians from University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics are co-recipients of the prestigious David Sackett Trial of the Year Award, presented annually by the Society for Clinical Trials.

The gene replacement trial titled “Efficacy and Safety of Voretigene Neparvovec (AAV2-hrPE65v2) in Patients with RPE65-mediated Inherited Retinal Dystrophy” (NCT00999609) was conducted by Dr. Stephen Russell, MD, and others from UI Hospitals & Clinics, and other organizations.

More about the award and trial at sctweb.org/docs/toty/TOTY2017_Press_Release.pdf

Bringing artificial intelligence to health care

UI-developed technology diagnoses leading cause of blindness

University of Iowa Health Care patients are the first in the nation to have access to a new technology known as IDx-DR that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to diagnose diabetic retinopathy.

IDx-DR is the first such technology authorized for commercialization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The technology was created by IDx, a privately held AI diagnostics company founded by Michael Abràmoff, MD, PhD, a retinal specialist and the Robert C. Watzke Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Iowa. Much of the research used to develop IDx-DR was conducted by Abràmoff at the UI and licensed through the UI Research Foundation.

IDx-DR is used by trained technicians and staff during routine office visits, with results available in minutes. The device’s algorithm makes the diagnosis based on imaging of the patient’s retina without the need for an eye specialist to interpret the results. If a patient is diagnosed with more than mild diabetic retinopathy, they are referred to an eye specialist for follow-up examinations and treatment.

This new system provides a convenient option for people with diabetes to complete their recommended annual diabetic retinopathy exam, which is particularly important for the more than 50 percent of people with diabetes who are at high risk for vision loss and do not see an eye doctor on a yearly basis.

“The FDA’s authorization to market IDx-DR is a historic moment that has the potential to launch a transformation in the way U.S. health care is delivered,” says Keith Carter, MD, UI professor and head of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences.

Providers at the Diabetes and Endocrinology Center at UI Health Care—Iowa River Landing in Coralville, Iowa, began using IDx-DR to screen patients for diabetic retinopathy last June.

IDx-DR uses artificial intelligence to capture and analyze a retinal image for diabetic retinopathy.

ONLINE EXTRA

Dr. Abràmoff and IDx were featured in recent editions of Medicine Iowa and IOWA Magazine, publications for alumni and friends of the University of Iowa. Check out http://medcom.uiowa.edu/medicine/https://magazine.foriowa.org/

View an interview discussing how AI is being used to autonomously diagnose diabetes-related eye disorders at University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics - https://bit.ly/2SWY3Vp
Graduation 2018

Graduating fellows:

Jane Bailey, MD (*96R) University of Iowa Health Care
Elaine Binkley, MD Ocular Oncology Fellowship, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio
Christy Cunningham, MD Northland Eye Specialists, Liberty, Mo.
Sun Young Lee, MD, PhD Dean McGee Eye Institute, Oklahoma City, Okla.
Tara McGehee, MD University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville, Va.
James Pearis, MD California Retina Associates, Chula Vista, Calif.
Ze Zhang, MD Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, La.
Francisca Zuazo Echenique, MD pursuing Ophthalmology Residency

Orthoptic program graduate

Adam Hauglid, CO - Adam joined the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. He also received the Scobie Award for the highest score on the American Association of Certified Orthoptists examination, an award received by University of Iowa trained orthoptists 15 previous times.

Leinfelder award for top research presentations

Elaine Binkley, MD (Center), and Brittni Scruggs, MD, PhD (right), were selected for best fellow and best resident research projects and received the P.J. Leinfelder Award for 2018. They are joined in the photograph with Ian Han, MD, assistant professor of ophthalmology and new Resident and Fellow Research Day program director.

Stacy Thompson Resident Leadership Award

The Stacy Thompson Resident Leadership Award was presented to graduating resident physician Lindsay De Andrade, MD (right). She posed after receiving the award with her grandfather and emeritus faculty member, G. Frank Judisch, MD (*63MD, *18R, former faculty).

Graduating residents pictured left to right:

Tyler Risma, MD – Fuerste Eye Clinic, Dubuque, Iowa
Lorraine Provencer, MD – Glaucome Fellowship, University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center, Ann Arbor
Matthew Miller, MD – Glaucome Fellowship, University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics
Lindsay De Andrade, MD – Pediatric Ophthalmology Fellowship, UCLA Stein Eye, Los Angeles, Calif.
Thomas “TJ” Clark, MD – Oculoplastics Fellowship, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

Class of 2021 first-year residents

Pictured left to right:

Christopher Fortenbach, MD, PhD
BS, University of California, Davis
MD, University of California Davis School of Medicine, Sacramento, Calif.
PhD, University of California Davis School of Medicine, Sacramento, Calif.

Tyler Quist, MD
BS, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah
MD, University of Utah School of Medicine, Salt Lake City, Utah

Caroline Wilson, MD
BA, Emory University, Atlanta, Ga.
MD, University of South Alabama College of Medicine, Mobile, Ala.

Alexis Warren, MD
BS, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.
MD, University of Kansas School of Medicine, Kansas City, Kan.

Lauren Hock, MD
BS, Clemson University, Clemson S.C.
MD, Rush Medical College, Chicago, Ill.

Teaching awards

Medical students and residents selections of “Best Teachers” for 2018 include:

Medical Student Teaching Awards: Lorri Provencher, MD (Resident)
Ze Zhang, MD (Fellow)
Scott Larson, MD (Fellow)

Resident Teaching Awards: Elaine Binkley, MD (Fellow)
Erin Shriver, MD, FACS (Faculty)

New fellows

Alec Amran, MD – Surgical Retina
MD, Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, Ore.
Residency, University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, Galveston, Texas

Nitsan Dudevyan-Stier, MD – Neuro-Ophthalmology
MD, The Hebrew University Hadassah Medical School, Jerusalem, Israel
Residency, Rambam Health Care Campus, Haifa, Israel

James Huffman, MD – Cornea
MD, University of Kentucky College of Medicine, Lexington, Ky.
Residency, University of Kentucky Medical Center, Lexington, Ky.

Laith Kadasi, MD – Medical Retina
MD, Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, Mass.
Residency, Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Providence, R.I.

Benjamin King, MD – Surgical Retina
MD, University of Tennessee College of Medicine, Memphis, Tenn.
Residency, The Hamilton Eye Institute and St. Jude Children’s Hospital, Memphis, Tenn.

Anne Languth, MD (*14MD) – Pediatric Ophthalmology
MD, University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine
Residency, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, Ill.

Matthew Miller, MD (*18R) – Glaucoma
MD, University of Utah School of Medicine, Salt Lake City, Utah
Residency, University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics

Aron Sampson, MD – Ocular Pathology
MD, Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, North Chicago, Ill.

Melanie Truong, DO – Neuro-Ophthalmology
DO, Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, UNTH Health Science Center, Fort Worth, Texas
Residency, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas

Kolder Award

The Kolder Award for Excellence in Ophthalmology was awarded to the Resident Class of 2020 for a quality improvement project involving orbital compartment syndrome and the Department of Emergency Medicine.
A love of teaching

Associate professor Matthew Thurtell, MBBS, MSc, received the Excellence in Clinical Coaching Award from the Office of Graduate Medical Education. He was chosen from all the residency and fellowship programs in the Carver College of Medicine.

According to one of his many award nomination remarks: “Perhaps his greatest gift to trainees is teaching them how to explain findings, treatment options, and prognosis to the patient. He patiently teaches the complex concepts of neuro-ophthalmology and also the fine art of effective and empathic communication.”

Mentoring medical students is another passion of many of our faculty. Audrey Ko, MD, assistant professor of ophthalmology, advised second-year medical student Kelly Yom on a project involving her research was featured in the university patient education and preparation for surgery.

Kelly Yom, medical student on a project involving professor of ophthalmology, advised second-year many of our faculty.

Refraction course

Ophthalmology residents Chris Fortenbach, MD, PhD, Spencer Morton, MD, and Anthony Chung, MD, practice on donated corneal tissue during the Iowa Refractive Course last fall. The course draws on ophthalmology residents from across the UI.

The course showcases researchers, scholars, and creators of Iowa “Dare to Discover” campaign, which highlights the passion of discovery and creativity at the University of Iowa.

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Faculty mentor Audrey Ko, MD (left) and medical student Kelly Yom (pose by Yom’s “Dare to Discover” campaign banner hanging in the University Capitol Centre building on campus. The campaign highlights the passion of discovery and creativity at the University of Iowa.

Academy recognition

Congratulations to the following alumni, faculty, and Iowa ophthalmologists for their recognition by the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO):

LIFE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
- Michael Boland, MD, PhD (’95F)
- William J. Dupps, Jr., MD, PhD (’04R)
- Julie Falardeau, MD (’02F)
- Thomas Johnson, MD (’80MD)

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
- Robert Dinn, MD (’07R)
- James Howard, MD (’95R, ’07R)
- Lisa A. Arbisser, MD (’89R)
- Louise Mawn, MD (’95R)
- Raj Maturi, MD (’99F)
- Jane Edmond, MD (’90F)
- Christopher Rapuano, MD (’91F)

The AAO Leadership Development Program XXI, Class of 2019 includes:

- Jeremiah Brown, Jr., MS, MS (’96F, ’99F), Schertz, Texas
- Elizabeth Gauger, MD (’10MD, ’14R), Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- An Unusual (?) Vitreous Aegrade

- Christopher Rapuano, MD (’91F)

Other Alumni Notes

- Robert Honkanen, MD (’90F), was named chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at Stony Brook University.
- Andrew G. Lee, MD (former faculty), is president of the North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society.
- Jill Melicher-Larson, MD (’09F), is president of the Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology.
- Mariannette Miller-Meeks, MD (’91F, former faculty), was elected to Iowa State Senate (District 4) and appointed to chair the Senate Human Resources Committee.

Congratulations to our alumni and colleagues for their accomplishments and dedication on behalf of the field of ophthalmology. If you receive a special award or distinction, let us know. Email us at iowaeyecare@uiowa.edu.

Remembrances

- John A. Bryant, MD (’83MD, ’90R), led on March 7, 2018, in Sparks, Nev.
- Stewart M. Wolff, MD (’57), passed away on March 24, 2018, in Townsend, Md.
- Clifford M. Hendricks, Jr., MD (’57MD, ’61R), died in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on July 21, 2018.
- Robert Honkanen, MD (’90F), is president of the Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology.

Will you be passing through Iowa? Let us know if you are interested in dropping by the department for a visit, giving a Rounds talk, or meeting with our residents and fellows.

Iowa Eye alumni Angela McCallister, MD (’14F) (left center), and Elizabeth Tegins, MD (’14F) (right center), visited with residents and fellows last fall. The two discussed career paths and transitioning to private practice.

Alumni Corner

Class of 2019 includes:

- Christopher Rapuano, MD (’91F)
- Jane Edmond, MD (’90F)
- Jeremiah Brown, Jr., MS, MS (’96F, ’99F), Schertz, Texas
- Elizabeth Gauger, MD (’10MD, ’14R), Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- An Unusual (?) Vitreous Aegrade

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Iowa Eye alumni Angela McCallister, MD (’14F) (left center), and Elizabeth Tegins, MD (’14F) (right center), visited with residents and fellows last fall. The two discussed career paths and transitioning to private practice.
Iowa resident returns from Africa excited about mission work

Resident ophthalmologist Brittni Scruggs, MD, PhD, traveled to the Tenwek Mission Hospital in Bomet, Kenya, where she provided surgical and medical care alongside local eye specialists. She split her days between the operating room and eye clinic seeing patients and teaching clinic procedures, including lasers and injections.

Scruggs performed cataract surgery/phacoemulsification, helped Kenyan ophthalmologists in manual small incision cataract surgery (MSICS), and assisted a visiting retina surgeon with surgeries. She also helped with the retinopathy of prematurity screening in the hospital’s NICU and had an opportunity to teach various procedures and exam techniques to the Kenyan clinic staff, physicians, and students.

“I really enjoyed teaching procedures and showing different exam techniques to the Kenyan clinical officers, physicians, and students. Skill transfer is such a rewarding part of mission work and will help patients get the care they need long-term,” states Scruggs.

University of Iowa ophthalmology residents are given the opportunity to travel for an international training experience during the third year of residency training. These experiences expose residents to different health care systems around the world and help shape practice and career choices.

Extending eye care abroad

Cataract is the leading cause of reversible vision loss, and glaucoma is the leading cause of permanent vision loss worldwide. Millions of people are impacted and unnecessarily blinded by these conditions each year—much of this taking place in low- and middle-income countries.

University of Iowa doctors are addressing this global health concern through international relationships they have formed across the ophthalmology and optometry fields. Glaucoma specialist Daniel Bettis, MD, is one of several doctors addressing the global need. He has a passion for providing eye care to underserved populations. Since 2013, he has traveled annually to Haiti and other locations to provide eye care and sight-saving surgeries through partnerships he has developed.

Bettis is currently focused on the less developed northern portion of Haiti where he has joined forces with local eye care providers at Vision Plus Clinic in Cap-Haïtien. Each year he travels with a small team of ophthalmologists and health care providers for a one- to two-week period of teaching and surgical care. In addition to conducting surgery, the team focuses on sharing medical and surgical techniques as a way of expanding the local training that is available.

Future directions for the Haiti outreach include building capacity through local providers and the country’s one ophthalmology residency program in Port-au-Prince. Broader plans are to involve ophthalmology fellows and residents on international outreach trips as a way of exposing ophthalmologists in training to the burden of blindness and differing health care systems around the globe.

“Not only does my work abroad ‘feed’ some of my core values and give me a renewed appreciation for my life at home, it also makes me a better doctor. We are forced to work in challenging conditions, constantly asking ourselves how we can do more with less to the benefit of our patients. This can lead to new and innovative ideas that we can use back home.”

DAN BETTIS, MD
Iowa trainees benefit from annual gifts

Thanks to the charitable support from two area organizations, resident ophthalmologists will have an easier time pursuing their training and research goals.

The Bechtel Trusts of Davenport, Iowa, created the H. Culver Boldt, M.D. / Bechtel Education Fund to help cover expenses for resident physicians to attend educational conferences or other successful practices in Iowa for networking and clinic exposure. Funds will also provide financial assistance to residents with research initiatives and projects they wish to pursue.

The Wolfe Foundation of Marshalltown, Iowa, donated to the department’s residency training program by establishing the Wolfe Foundation Resident Equipment Scholarship Fund. Proceeds from the fund will cover startup expenses such as tools, equipment, books, conferences, and other accessories needed to fulfill the residency program director’s wishes.

“Support from grateful individuals, alumni, and generous organizations like the Bechtel Trusts and Wolfe Foundation not only benefits our current residents but helps the University of Iowa attract the best and brightest ophthalmologists in the future. By offsetting expenses such as books and meeting travel that our training program incurs, we are able to expand and enhance the resident experience,” says residency program director Thomas Oetting, MS, MD.

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Philanthropy Impact

New research fund will advance efforts to restore vision

The University of Iowa and UI Institute for Vision Research received a $5 million gift from Alice and John Butler of Dubuque, Iowa, to accelerate progress toward treatments for blinding eye diseases that affect millions of people worldwide. The gift establishes the Alice L. and John E. Butler Vision Research Fund, which will support gene and stem-cell based treatments for degenerative retinal diseases.

The Butlers’ gift will benefit the UI’s clinical stem-cell transplantation program and its goal to restore useful vision to people with advanced stages of retinal degenerations—ranging from common conditions like age-related macular degeneration to rare genetic forms of retinitis pigmentosa. The program seeks to use stem cells derived from the patient’s own tissue, correct gene mutations, and transplant them into the patient’s retina to restore vision. The gift will also support new research, including the effects of retinal degeneration on the ability of patients to drive safely.

“The loss of vision has a significant impact on a person’s life, and many of the conditions that cause vision loss are genetic. Being able to help identify and perfect a solution to prevent this from happening to people is incredibly impactful and meaningful to us,” says Alice Butler.

Brooks Jackson, MD, MBA, UI vice president for medical affairs and dean of the UI Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine, emphasizes the impact the Butlers’ gift will have on vision-related research and treatments at Iowa. “Philanthropic support is in many ways a vote of confidence,” he shares. “This generous gift commitment from the Butler family is a testament to the expertise of our scientists and clinicians who are poised to advance discoveries and treatments for both common vision problems and rare eye diseases.”

“The Butlers’ generous gift will support the state-of-the-art equipment and very talented people needed to move our gene- and stem-cell based treatments forward, which will ultimately allow us to restore vision to patients who have lost it,” says Edwin Stone, MD, PhD, director of the UI Institute for Vision Research and Seaman’s-Hauser Chair in Molecular Ophthalmology.

Learn more about vision research taking place at the UI Institute for Vision Research at iivr.uiowa.edu
Iowa Glaucoma Center accolades
The Glaucoma Research Society selected John Fingert, MD, PhD, for inclusion into membership. The society is a prestigious group of glaucoma researchers who discuss and stimulate competing or innovative research to prevent glaucoma-related disability worldwide. Membership includes 86 active members, 35 emeritus, and 6 honorary members representing 26 countries.

Fingert holds the Hadley-Carver Chair in Glaucoma and directs the Glaucoma Genetics Lab. He joins University of Iowa faculty Lee Alward, MD, Chris Johnson, PhD, and Sohan S. Hayreh, MD, MS, PhD, DSC, FRCS, FRCOphth, (emeritus member) in the Society.

Nathaniel Sears, MD, was selected as the American Glaucoma Society’s Young Clinician Research Scientist for 2018. The selection includes grant funding that Sears will use to develop a new animal model of glaucoma which will facilitate studies of the causes and cures for this potentially blinding disease.

New York Academy of Medicine awarded its prestigious 2018 Lewis Rudin Glaucoma Prize to professor of pediatrics and ophthalmology Val Sheffield, MD, PhD. The prize recognizes the most significant scholarly article on glaucoma published in a peer-reviewed journal in the prior calendar year. Sheffield’s winning study, “CRISPR-Cas9-based treatment of myocilin-associated glaucoma,” was published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS) in 2017.

Visual fields expert receives prestigious award
Professor of ophthalmology Chris Johnson, PhD, received the American Academy of Optometry’s highest honor. The Charles F. Prentice Medal Award was awarded to Johnson at the Academy’s 2018 Annual Meeting in San Antonio. Johnson is recognized as a world leader in the design of psychophysical testing for clinicians. His research has been instrumental in the development of methods to monitor progression of visual field loss and automated visual field testing.

The Prentice award recognizes a distinguished scientist or clinician-scientist for a career-long record of advancement of knowledge in vision science. It is considered to be the most prestigious of the Academy’s awards for achievement in research.

Drack recognized for scientific contributions
The Women in Ophthalmology (WIO) organization recognized Arlene Drack, MD, with its 2018 Scientific Contribution Award. The award recognizes a physician or non-physician scientist who has made a significant scientific contribution in the field of ophthalmology. It was presented to Dr. Drack at the American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting in Chicago.

Drack was selected based on her research involving gene replacement therapy for pediatric blindness that has contributed to the first FDA-approved treatment for a genetic cause of blindness.

Faculty changes
The department has added several faculty to our team. Each is a familiar face having trained at the University of Iowa at one point or another:

Jaclyn Haugsdal, MD (‘13MD, ‘18F), joined our Comprehensive and Cataract Surgery service after a period in private practice. She provides cataract surgery, premium intraocular lens implants, and minimally invasive glaucoma surgery. She also performs refractive and laser vision correction surgery. Academic interests include resident education and ocular surgery simulation.

Two-time graduate Jane Bailey, MD (‘96R, ‘18F), stayed after completing a neuro-ophthalmology fellowship in 2018. She provides neuro-ophthalmic and comprehensive eye care including micro incision cataract surgery using premium lens implants. Bailey sees patients in both the Neuro-ophthalmology and Comprehensive and Cataract Surgery Services.

The Pediatric Ophthalmology Service gained Sara Downes, OD (’04CO), as a pediatric optometrist. Downes completed orthoptic training in our department and is excited to return to Iowa City. She sees patients in the main hospital Eye Clinic and the new Pediatric Specialty Clinic located in the UI Stead Family Children’s Hospital.

Another new addition to our physician ranks is Erin Boese, MD (‘19MD), who joins our Glaucoma Service. Boese completed medical school at the University of Iowa before pursuing residency training at Casey Eye Institute and a glaucoma fellowship at the University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center. Her ties to the University of Iowa go beyond medical school as she is the daughter of Glaucoma colleague and professor of ophthalmology Wallace L.M. Alward, MD.

The Cornea and External Disease Service saw the departure of Kenneth Goin, MD, (right). Goin relocated to Kansas to join his colleague and another former Cornea faculty member John Sutphin, Jr., MD. He was on faculty at the University of Iowa for 15 years and maintains emeritus status with our department.

Other faculty departures include optometrist Brian Kirschling, OD, (right), who now practices at the Iowa City VA Medical Center and comprehensive ophthalmologist Michael Griess, MD (far right), who relocated to Nebraska.

Department considered one of the best
U.S. News & World Report released its 2018-19 rankings for best ophthalmology programs in the United States. The University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences is pleased to remain among the best and listed as No. 7 in this year’s ranking. A complete list of rankings may be found at usnews.com/besthospitals.

In addition, the Doximity Residency Navigator website lists University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics as the 4th best program in the nation and best in the Midwest.

Carter wraps up term as AAO President
Chairman and head of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences Keith Carter, MD, FACS, concluded his term as president of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. He wraps up a year of serving the ophthalmology community while focused on learning, advocacy, and diversity efforts.

“I have been a member and active within the academy for 30 years and during this time I have developed a deep appreciation for the work of academy members. My tenure as president validated the incredible dedication my colleagues here and abroad have for the specialty and our patients,” shares Carter.

Iowa Vision: University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences

Fall 2018 / Winter 2019
Milestones reached!

Iowa KidSight reached a milestone earlier this year. The child vision screening program exceeded 500,000 vision screenings of children!

A joint project of the Lions Clubs of Iowa and the department, Iowa KidSight is dedicated to early detection and treatment of vision impairments in young children. Members of Lions Clubs and other organizations volunteer to provide free vision screenings at schools, daycares, and other locations across the state. Of all the children screened, 29,328 (or 5.9 percent) required referral to an eye doctor for further evaluation and treatment.

Another major milestone involved the Iowa Lions Eye Bank and Lions Clubs of Iowa volunteers who have driven over 1 million miles across the state of Iowa for eye donation. The Iowa Lions Eye Bank is the only eye bank in the state and relies on quick transportation of ocular tissue to its office located in Coralville. In 2009, Lions Club volunteers took over transportation duties from the Iowa State Patrol and began an almost daily transport from the Des Moines area to the eye bank. As of September 2018, the program had logged over 1 million miles of travel, and in the past 19 years over 4,800 corneas have been transported as a result of Lions’ volunteer service.

Thank you to Lions Clubs of Iowa for supporting the mission and efforts of our Iowa KidSight program and Iowa Lions Eye Bank!
Taking it to the streets (and mud)

Cyclists from the University of Iowa Institute for Vision Research (IVR) and supporters of the IVR teamed up to ride in the Register’s Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa, or RAGBRAI, an annual seven-day bicycle ride across the state. The 2018 ride started in Council and traveled 428 miles before finishing in Davenport. The IVR team raised awareness for blinding eye diseases and vision research taking place at the University of Iowa.

The 2018 RAGBRAI route included an overnight stop in Iowa City. While in town, the IVR team stopped by campus to visit the laboratories and pose for a group photo.

After 27 years with the Iowa Eye family, Trish Duffel, MA, retired from the department this past summer. More than a medical librarian, Trish was a wonderful resource and “go-to” person for so many in our department and beyond. Best wishes, Trish!

Annual meeting and alumni reunion

Dozens of alumni returned to help celebrate and recognize the many contributions of H. Stanley Thompson, MD (’68r, former faculty), during the 2018 Iowa Eye Annual Meeting. Thompson served on faculty for 30 years and taught and mentored hundreds of fellows, residents, and medical students.

Guest alumni speakers at the 2018 meeting included David Tse, MD (’82r), and Kathleen Digre, MD (‘84MD, ’89r, ’95f), Reid Longmuir, MD (’02MD, ’06r, ’08f), and Susannah Longmuir, MD (’07r, ’08f).

Several members of the Resident Class of 2008 were on hand to reconnect with each other, faculty, and friends. Additional photos from the meeting and reunion activities may be found at iowaeyealumni.shutterfly.com.


We are preparing an outstanding educational program for comprehensive ophthalmologists and subspecialists alike. Distinguished speakers include:

• Richard Anderson, MD (’71MD, ’75r, former faculty), Center for Facial Appearances, Salt Lake City, Utah (Alson E. Braley Lecture)
• Malvina Eydelman, MD, U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Washington D.C. (Women in Ophthalmology Lecture)
• Richard Parrish, MD, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Miami, Fla (Mansour F. Armaly Lecture)

Complete event and registration information will be posted online at medicine.uiowa.edu/eye

Record turnout and celebration

Thanks to all who joined us at the Iowa Eye Alumni Reunion! Over 200 alumni and friends gathered at the University Club of Chicago for an evening of reconnecting and reminiscing. We also celebrated Dr. Keith Carter’s term as president of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

Images from the reception and previous events are posted online at iowaeyealumni.shutterfly.com.
Join alumni and colleagues for our Iowa Eye Annual Meeting and Alumni Reunion.

This year’s event is scheduled for June 13-15, 2019.

See page 19 for more information.

OPHTHALMOLOGY CLINICAL CONFERENCES

March 8, 2019  Retina – Tim Stout, MD, PhD, MBA, Baylor College of Medicine
April 5, 2019  Cataract / Comprehensive (Wolfe Foundation Lecture) – Steven Safran, MD, PA
Sep. 27, 2019  Oculoplastics – Robert Goldberg, MD, UCLA Health
Nov. 1, 2019  Pediatric Ophthalmology – David Wallace, MD, MPH, Indiana University School of Medicine

OTHER EVENTS

April 26-28, 2019  UI Carver College of Medicine Alumni Reunion Weekend (Classes of ’79, ’69, and all past their 50th reunion), Iowa City
April 28 - May 2, 2019  ARVO Annual Meeting, Vancouver
May 10, 2019  21st Annual Iowa Optometric Conference, Iowa City
May 17, 2019  Resident and Fellow Research Day, Iowa City
May 20, 2019  William E. Scott Pediatric Ophthalmology Lecture, Iowa City
June 13-15, 2019  Iowa Eye Annual Meeting and Alumni Reunion, Iowa City
June 27, 2019  Resident and Fellow Graduation, Hancher Auditorium, Iowa City
Aug. 2, 2019  12th Annual Midwest Eye Research Symposium, Iowa City
Sep. 23, 2019  William E. Scott Pediatric Ophthalmology Lecture, Iowa City
Sep. 26, 2019  Iowa Refractive Course, Iowa City
Oct. 19, 2019  UI Carver College of Medicine Alumni Homecoming Tailgate, Iowa City