Alan E. Kimura, M.D.

Alan E. Kimura, MD, will be appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology at The University of Iowa on April 1, 1989. In addition, he will direct, with Dr. Hansjoerg Kolder, the Ophthalmic Electro physiology Service and will be a co-investigator with Dr. James Folk of the Macular Photocoagulation Study.

Dr. Kimura, a native of Waukegan, Illinois, received his BS degree from the University of Michigan in 1978 and his MD degree from Chicago Medical School in June 1982. He then completed a one-year flexible internship at the Good Samaritan Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona in June 1983. Dr. Kimura completed his ophthalmology residency training at The University of Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary in Chicago in June 1986. From July 1986 through December 1986, he was a clinical assistant professor at that institution. Dr. Kimura completed a one and a half-year vitreoretinal fellowship at The University of Iowa in December 1988. He is co-author of an article, "Intravitreal Toxicity of Cotrimoxazole," recently published in Ophthalmic Surgery, and of a paper, "Electroretinography in Central Retinal Vein Occlusion," presented at ARVO in May 1988.

From January through March 1989, he is learning techniques in electrodagnostic studies as a fellow associate under the tutelage of Dr. Gerald Fishman at The University of Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary.
New Residents and Fellows

New residents beginning January 1989 are as follows:

Dr. William Lee Haynes was born in North Wilkesboro, North Carolina. He received a BS in zoology and a BA in chemistry from Duke University in 1982. Dr. Haynes completed his MD at Duke in 1987, and went on to an internship in medicine, also at Duke. For the 6 months prior to coming to Iowa, he worked as a research fellow in the Department of Ophthalmology at Duke.

Dr. Karen M. Joos was born and raised in Dubuque, Iowa. She received a BS in general science (1981) and an MD (1987) from The University of Iowa. After completing her MD, Dr. Joos did a transitional residency at St. Joseph Hospital in Houston, Texas. Concurrent with her medical school studies at the UI, she worked toward a graduate degree in anatomy and, having completed her studies during the last 6 months, received a PhD in December 1988.

Dr. Jon A. Yokubaitis was born in Houston, Texas and spent his childhood in Texas. He received his BA in chemistry from Texas A & M University in 1983 and his MD from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston in 1987. Dr. Yokubaitis completed a one-year internship at Brackenridge Hospital in Austin and was in private practice for the 6 months before coming to Iowa.

Dr. James B. Ruben has joined Pediatric Ophthalmology for a one-year fellowship. Dr. Ruben comes from Sacramento, California, where he recently completed his residency in ophthalmology at the University of California, Davis. He received his MD from Washington University in St. Louis in 1984.

Training Completed

Drs. Joseph Allen, Steven Bennett, and Culver Boldt completed their residencies and Dr. Alan Kimura finished his fellowship at the end of December 1988.

Dr. Allen has moved to Rockford, Illinois to join the Rockford Clinic, a multi-specialty group, as one of 3 ophthalmologists.

Dr. Bennett is remaining at The University of Iowa as a fellow associate doing research and working in the Vitrectomy Clinic. In June 1989, he will begin a one-year fellowship in vitreoretinal disease at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

Dr. Boldt is working in echography for 6 months at the Bascom-Palmer Eye Institute with Sandy Frazier Byrne, a former student and technician of Dr. Ossoinig. In July, he will begin a year at the Wilmer Eye Institute working with Dr. Stuart Fine in retinal vascular disease.

Dr. Kimura will be appointed to the faculty of the Department. (See story, page 1.)

Dr. Louis Adams will complete his one-year fellowship in pediatric ophthalmology in March 1989. He will return to practice pediatric ophthalmology at the Scott and White Clinic in Temple, Texas, where he has practiced ophthalmology since 1975. He will continue to be an Associate Professor of Surgery at Texas A & M as he was before his fellowship.

Dr. Yasmyne Ronquillo completed her fellowship February 25. She is returning to the University of the Philippines to be Head of Ocular Pathology in the Department of Ophthalmology at Philippine General Hospital.
Faculty and Staff

Robert Folberg, M.D.

Dr. Robert Folberg, Associate Professor, has been selected to receive a Research to Prevent Blindness Senior Scientific Investigators Award. The $40,000 award will be used to support two of Dr. Folberg's research projects: an experimental model for ocular melanoma (presently being supported by research funds from the National Eye Institute) and an interactive video disc program to teach ophthalmic pathology to medical students, residents, and physicians (supported in part by funds from the Department of Ophthalmology, IBM, and the College of Medicine of The University of Iowa). Dr. Folberg hopes to demonstrate the utility of the ophthalmic pathology interactive video disc program during the 1989 American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting in New Orleans.

RPB presents these prestigious one-time awards to assist the on-going work of established investigators who have set the pace for progress in eye research and continue to provide scientific leadership. Ten such awards were given in 1987.

Dr. Jose Pulido has been awarded a grant to support the study "Glycosylation of Collagen in Vitreoretinal and Scleral Tissues of the Eye." The award was made by The University of Iowa College of Medicine Research Committee from funds granted by the Public Health Service to the College of Medicine.

Dr. Frederick C. Blodi has been appointed to the American Academy of Ophthalmology Foundation. The appointment is for a 4-year term beginning in January, 1989. Dr. Blodi's responsibilities will include coordinating several projects such as the Museum, the Oral History Program, and preparations for the Academy Centennial to be celebrated in Chicago in 1995.

Paul R. Montague

The award for "Outstanding Contributions to Ophthalmic Photography" was recently presented to Paul R. Montague, CRA, FOPS, at the national meeting in Las Vegas. The award is the highest praise for an individual's accomplishments by the Ophthalmic Photographers Society. Paul Montague's many significant contributions include the design of programs for computer-aided vision tests in ophthalmology, the development of a unique apparatus for compositing ocular motility slides, formulation of a photographic protocol for the collaborative ocular melanoma study, and the development of a comprehensive computer filing and retrieval system of diagnostic information contained in photographic records. He served for 4 years as president, the longest tenure in Society history. Prior to that, he served as treasurer and designed a computerized method of bookkeeping for the Society. His efforts on behalf of the Society have influenced a growing sense of professionalism.

Thanks to Allergan

The Department wishes to express special thanks to James E. Robinson, Vice President, Eye Care Group Sales, Allergan, for the generous contribution of Allergan to the Resident Textbook Fund.
Research to Prevent Blindness

The Department of Ophthalmology has received a $40,000 grant from Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB) to support advanced research into the causes, treatment, and prevention of blinding diseases. The unrestricted grant provides Dr. Thomas A. Weingeist with maximum scientific freedom to explore and develop new concepts in saving sight.

RPB awards annual grants to 57 medical schools throughout the nation and is the world’s leading voluntary organization in support of eye research. Over the years, it has made grants and awards to The University of Iowa College of Medicine totaling over $350,000.

Dr. Weingeist said, "The department is grateful to RPB for its continuing support and the confidence it has in our basic and clinical research program. Without the financial support of RPB and other private benefactors, it would not be possible to continue our research program in inherited and age-related eye diseases which affect so many young and elderly Iowans."

In conveying the grant, RPB Chairman Lew R. Wasserman said, "Eye diseases inflict misery and disability upon a huge segment of our population and cost this nation $16 billion annually. With judicious investment by government and private philanthropy in eye research, we can reduce the tragedy of visual impairment and lessen the financial burden it imposes upon the American people."

Telethon Funds Purchase Toys

Dr. Ronald Keech recently received funds from the Children’s Miracle Network Telethon for the play structure pictured above. The structure is now set up in the Pediatric Ophthalmology Clinic waiting room where it is being put to happy use by the many children who visit the Clinic.

The yearly telethon raises funds to support and promote research which will benefit children treated at The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

Publications

Selected references from our faculty and staff:


AIDS - Related CMV Retinitis Study Begins

The University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology in cooperation with the FDA, the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID), and Syntex Research Inc. (the developer of ganciclovir), will serve as the CMV Photograph Reading Center for two controlled clinical trials to determine the efficacy of intravenous ganciclovir for the treatment of AIDS-related CMV retinitis.

Cytomegalovirus (CMV) has emerged as an important cause of morbidity and mortality in immunodeficient patients including transplant recipients and patients with acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). AIDS-related CMV retinitis is an important sight-threatening opportunistic infection. Estimates of the prevalence of CMV retinitis in patients with AIDS range from 6% to 46% in various series.

CMV infection results in full-thickness necrosis of the retina. Without treatment, AIDS-related CMV retinitis is relentlessly progressive and leads to blindness. CMV retinitis is characterized by discrete foci of retinal whitening with indistinct borders (picture above). Clinically, two distinct types are seen in patients with AIDS. The "fulminant" form is characterized by dense retinal whitening, retinal hemorrhages, and vascular sheathing. The "granular" form is usually not associated with hemorrhage or vasculitis. At the time of diagnosis in patients with AIDS, CMV retinopathy may involve the posterior pole and/or periphery. The precise distribution of lesions in the retina is unknown. Sight-threatening lesions involving the macula are common.

The efficacy of drug therapy for CMV retinitis is uncertain because of the relatively small number of patients studied to date and the lack of prospectively randomized controlled studies. Based upon uncontrolled compassionate use studies, the most promising drug available appears to be ganciclovir, an analog of guanine.

In the first study, two groups of patients with newly diagnosed AIDS-related CMV retinitis that is not immediately sight-threatening (peripheral CMV retinitis) will be eligible for treatment. One group of patients will begin immediate ("early") treatment. The other group will not receive intravenous ganciclovir immediately ("usual treatment"), but will be allowed to continue zidovudine (AZT). At the first sign of progression of CMV retinitis, all patients in the second group will be offered ganciclovir. The time from enrollment to photographic documentation of progression of CMV retinitis will be the primary measure of efficacy in both treatment groups.

In the second study, two induction doses of intravenous ganciclovir treatment will be tested for immediately sight-threatening retinitis (macular involvement). The primary efficacy measure will be the time from enrollment to progression of CMV retinitis as measured by fundus photographs.

The Department of Ophthalmology CMV Photograph Reading Center personnel will be responsible for certifying ophthalmic photographers, processing and duplicating film sent by overnight mail to Iowa from centers around the United States, confirming the diagnosis, and grading the photographs throughout the duration of the project. Principal investigators are Thomas A. Weingeist, MD, and Paul R. Montague; the coordinator for the CMV Photograph Reading Center is Diane Anderson; photograph graders are Luan Streb and Carolyn Vogel; technicians are JoAnne Montgomery and Mark Kleinfelter.
Dr. Apple Appointed at S. Carolina

Dr. David J. Apple, MD, resident in ophthalmology at the UI 1976-79, has been appointed Professor and Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. He has assumed the Vallotton Professorial Chair of Biomedical Engineering and is Director of the Storm Eye Institute and the Center for Intraocular Lens Research.

Previously, Dr. Apple was Professor of Ophthalmology and Pathology at the University of Utah School of Medicine in Salt Lake City, where he founded and developed the Center for Intraocular Lens Research. He received the prestigious De Jong Award for Outstanding Research in Cataract Surgery in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1988, as well as the Binkhorst Award and Lecture at the American Academy of Ophthalmology in September 1988.

Dr. P.J. Leinfelder Remembered

Dr. Placidus Joseph Leinfelder, faculty member of the UI Department of Ophthalmology from 1936 to his retirement in 1970, died at his home in Iowa City, Wednesday, November 9, at the age of 83. Dr. Leinfelder was assistant professor from 1936 to 1942, associate professor from 1942 to 1946, and full professor from 1946 until his retirement. He served as assistant head of the department and assistant chief of the eye clinic during his entire tenure.

During his long career, Dr. Leinfelder was a consultant for the Prevention of Blindness in 1951 at the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School; senior consultant in ophthalmology for the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission in Hiroshima, Japan, in 1961; associate examiner for the American Board of Ophthalmology; a member of the advisory board of the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission and the National Academy of Science; and a member of the board of directors for the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness. His many years of research, primarily in neuroophthalmology, resulted in more than 75 publications.

Professor Leinfelder was described by John W. Eckstein, Dean of the College of Medicine, as a "tower of strength during a time, nearly 50 years ago, when the college was undergoing the great changes that put it on the road to its present capability and eminence." In honor of his commitment to teaching, the Department of Ophthalmology established the P.J. Leinfelder Award to be given each year to the resident presenting the most outstanding seminar in the department.

Dr. Piepergerdes Dies

Larry G. Piepergerdes, MD, Kansas City, Missouri, died November 4, in Des Moines, Iowa, of a heart attack. He was 51.

Dr. Piepergerdes was a member of the Ophthalmic Mutual Insurance Company and chairman of the company's underwriting committee. He was a diplomate of the American Board of Ophthalmology, a Missouri delegate of the American Medical Association, and a past president of the Missouri Medical Society.

Dr. Piepergerdes received his bachelor's degree from Iowa State University and his medical degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He completed his residency at The University of Iowa in 1970 and became an assistant professor of ophthalmology at the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1971-72. In 1972, he went into private practice in Kansas City and Lee's Summit, Missouri. He served on the staffs of the Independence Regional Health Center, the Medical Center of Independence, and the Lee's Summit Community Hospital and Research Medical Center.

Survivors include his wife Margaret M. Piepergerdes, a son, two daughters, and a brother. Contributions can be made in Dr. Piepergerdes' name to the scholarship program of the school of medicine or the school of veterinary medicine at the University of Missouri-Columbia.
COMING EVENTS

March 1  Clinical Conference - Richard F. Brubaker, M.D., Mayo Clinic  
Host: W.L. M. Alward, M.D.  
Sponsor: Pharmacia Ophthalmics Inc.

April 5  Clinical Conference - C.P. Wilkinson, M.D., Dean A. McGee Eye Institute  
Host: James C. Folk, M.D.  
Sponsor: CooperVision

May  No Clinical Conference

June 8-10  Iowa Eye Association Annual Meeting  
Braley Lecturer: Melvin L. Rubin, M.D., Professor and Head, Dept. of Ophthalmology  
University of Florida

Speakers:  David Schanzlin, M.D., Professor and Head, Dept. of Ophthalmology  
Bethesda Eye Institute  
St. Louis University

Douglas Jabs, M.D., Associate Professor  
Witmer Ophthalmological Institute  
The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Program Coordinator: C.F. Blodi, M.D.  
Sponsors: Benson Optical & Hansen Opticians

COMMENTARY

The Alaskan front that passed through the mid-continent in early February brought subfreezing temperatures and snow to Iowa and a reminder that we still have a few more weeks of winter ahead of us. The climatic variations we are experiencing in Iowa are nothing compared with the chilling changes facing medicine throughout the United States. Physician reimbursement for medical care and support for basic and clinical research are threatened with major reductions. The changes go far beyond losses in personal income. The quality of health care and the vitality of research in medicine are threatened by the Hsiao Report, the Resource-Based Relative Value Scale (RBRVS), a new Severity Index (which will become effective in Iowa in July), reductions in the National Institutes of Health budget, intrusions by organized health care programs and third party payers, and greater involvement in medical care by non-medical "health care" providers.

I think it is time for each of us to get involved. The overall budget for the National Eye Institute is substantially lower than in recent years. In an effort to reduce the federal deficit and the tremendous expenditures for health care, the government and the health care insurance industry will make whatever cuts in cost they can get away with. The quality of medical care and research that we have become accustomed to is being threatened as never before. I have been asked to provide testimony before the U.S. Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees later this year on behalf of the Citizens' Committee for Budget Recommendations for the National Eye Institute. I urge you to make your views known to local and federal legislators.

Thomas A. Weingeist
In spite of the big chill, a number of exciting things have occurred in the Department since the fall issue of the Iowa Eye News reached you. On a personal level, Stan Thompson was selected to join the American Board of Ophthalmology, and Robert Folberg received the distinguished Senior Scientific Investigator Award from Research to Prevent Blindness. Alan Kimura will be returning in April to join the faculty as the fifth member of the Vitreoretinal Service and will share responsibilities for running the Electrodiagnostic Unit with Joerg Kolder. Dr. Arthur Jampolsky from the Smith-Kettlewell Institute in San Francisco delivered the 18th Annual Wolfe Foundation Lecture during our February Clinical Conference.

The Department will serve as the CMV Photograph Reading Center for two multicentered clinical trials dealing with AIDS-related cytomegalovirus retinitis. The role of the Department in this project (which is being performed in collaboration with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, the FDA, and Syntex Research, Inc., the developer of ganciclovir) is unique. The CMV Photograph Reading Center will receive undeveloped film from AIDS treatment centers around the country and will process, duplicate and grade the pictures to determine the efficacy of ganciclovir in non-vision-threatening peripheral CMV retinitis and in vision-threatening disease involving the macula. A second goal of our research team, headed by Paul Montague, will be to develop a computer-assisted grading system analogous to that used for aerial reconnaissance to evaluate photographic montages of the ocular fundus.

Renovation of the C.S. O'Brien Educational Resource Facility is scheduled to begin in March. The Library, which was completed in 1973 at a cost of over $175,000, was financed with funds from alumni and friends, the Seeing Eye Inc., the Department of Ophthalmology, and non-tax funds from The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

The restoration of the 6,100 square foot facility will include replacement of furnishings, drapes, ceiling tiles, and carpeting, and the addition of space for computer terminals for word processing and data base retrieval literature searches. A direct computer line to The University of Iowa library system will enable users to access the entire university catalog system.

Although the magnitude of the renovation project is smaller than the initial construction project, your support for construction and maintenance of the Library would be very much appreciated.

Tax exempt donations can be made through The University of Iowa Foundation. An attractive ex libris with your name and inscription will be used to recognize contributions earmarked for books or subscriptions. The names of persons making donations of $1000 or more will be recognized on a plaque.

Thomas A. Weingeist

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