Folberg Named to Blodi Professorship

Dr. Robert Folberg and Dr. Frederick C. Blodi

On June 6, 1991, Dr. Robert Folberg will be named to the Frederick C. Blodi Professorship in Ophthalmology. The ceremony will take place during the opening session of the annual Iowa Eye Association meeting.

The endowment for the Blodi Professorship recently surpassed $1 million through donations from many alumni and friends.

Dr. Blodi, who came to the U.S. from Vienna, Austria, in 1946, has had a long and illustrious career. He is internationally known for his teaching and research in ophthalmology. He served as Head of The University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology from 1967 to 1985. Although "retired," he continues to be active in the department and as an invited lecturer in the U.S. and around the world.

Growth of the endowment is anticipated from additional gifts and investments. The principal will remain in perpetuity as a lasting tribute to Dr. Blodi.

Dr. Folberg, Professor of Ophthalmology and Director of the Ophthalmic Pathology Laboratory, was selected after careful consideration and consultation with distinguished members of the ophthalmic community throughout the country. A member of the faculty since 1984, he is acknowledged to be one of the foremost ophthalmic pathologists and educators in the country. He graduated from Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia, where he then completed a residency in anatomical pathology. He trained in ophthalmology at Wills Eye Hospital and worked with Dr. Lorenz Zimmerman at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

Folberg is the recipient of a Research to Prevent Blindness Senior Scientific Investigator Award. The National Eye Institute supports his research for the development of an experimental model for ocular melanoma.

Dr. Folberg has also developed a unique interactive videodisc program for teaching Pathology of the Eye which will become available during the coming year.
Blodi Promoted

Christopher F. Blodi, MD, will be promoted to Associate Professor of Ophthalmology on July 1, 1991. He was also recently elected to the Macula Society.

Blodi, who trained at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, has been on the faculty of The University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology since 1985, and is Associate Director of the Vitreoretinal Service.

He is co-investigator on 3 multicenter national studies: the Collaborative Ocular Melanoma Study, the Krypton-Argon Regression of Neovascularization Study, and the Diabetes Control and Complications Trial.

$25,000 from Allergan Humphrey. The funds will be used to continue research by Dr. Kardon and Dr. Stan Thompson on automated pupil perimetry. Dr. Kardon, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology (Neuroophthalmology Service), is also conducting research supported by a 3-year Merit Review Award from the Veteran's Administration on "Using the Pupillary Light Reflex to Measure Visual Dysfunction." He has been on the faculty since July 1989.

Resident Joos Receives Grant

Karen Joos, MD, PhD, third-year resident, has been awarded funding in the amount of $19,400 by The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., for a study entitled "Effect of Light on the Autoregulation of Retinal Blood Flow, and the Electroretinogram in Newborn Pigs." Dr. Alan Kimura, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, and Dr. Sylvain Chemtob (Pediatrics) are co-investigators with Dr. Joos on the study. Dr. Joos and her co-investigators are attempting to learn more about the relation of light exposure to the premature retinal vascular system.

Resident Brown Awarded Funding

David M. Brown, MD, second-year resident, has been awarded a 1-year grant for $20,000 by the Iowa Chapter of Knights Templar. The award will be used for a study entitled "Collagen Abnormalities in Stickler's Syndrome." Dr. Brown and his co-investigators are testing for type II collagen genetic abnormalities using the facilities of the Molecular Ophthalmology Laboratory. Co-investigators are T.A. Weingeist, MD, PhD; Edwin M. Stone, MD, PhD; and James W. Hanson, MD (Pediatric Genetics).

Kardon Awarded $25,000

Randy H. Kardon, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, has received a grant of
PHYSICIANS IN TRAINING

3 Residents Began in January

Christine P. Bartos, MD
Training: 3-year internal medicine residency - Strong Memorial Hospital, The University of Rochester, Rochester, NY.
Education: MD - Jefferson Medical College; BS in nursing and psychology - Cedar Crest College, Allentown, PA; Premedical requirements - Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA.
Experience: Emergency room physician, head nurse on a surgical unit.
Personal: Husband, Dr. Steven Bartos, currently training in general surgery at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester; interests include playing piano, crocheting, swimming, bicycling, and ice and roller skating.

Robert J. Mack, MD
Training: One-year transitional internship - University of Hawaii Hospital, Honolulu; 3-month research fellowship - molecular ophthalmology, UI.
Education: MD - Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio; AB - (chemistry and history) Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.
Personal: single, interests include athletics and music.

Brian P. Weismann, MD
Training: 6-month pre-residency fellowship in molecular ophthalmology at UI; Transitional internship - Michigan State University Health Center, Kalamazoo, MI.
Education: MD - The University of Iowa; BS - (zoology) Iowa State.
Personal: Native of West Branch, Iowa, married; interested in gardening, fishing, and music.

Pediatric Eye Gains Fellow

Doctors Graduated in December

Drs. Reed Bouchey, Byron Lam, and Mitch Wolf completed their residency training in December 1990.

Dr. Bouchey returned to Saginaw, Michigan, to begin private practice.

Dr. Lam has begun a fellowship in neuro-ophthalmology at Bascom-Palmer Eye Institute in Miami.

Dr. Wolf will begin a retina fellowship in July 1991, at the Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. He is currently a research and general clinical fellow here at the UI working in glaucoma and retina.

Dr. Jane C. Edmond has returned to Baylor University after completing a one-year fellowship in pediatric ophthalmology.

Ariene V. Drack, MD
Training: Ophthalmology residency and 1-year transitional internship - Georgetown Univ., Washington DC.
Education: MD - Pennsylvania State University, Hershey, PA; BS/BA - (biology and philosophy) The University of Scranton, Scranton, PA.
Jay Harold Krachmer, MD (Professor of Ophthalmology, Director of Cornea and External Disease, and Medical Director of the Iowa Lions Eye Bank) considers teaching and training of residents and fellows his major professional accomplishment. In the 21 years since he began his career in academic ophthalmology, he has directly taught and influenced many physicians now practicing both privately and in academic settings.

Dr. Krachmer grew up in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where his father was in the retail furniture business. When he was in 8th grade, his parents asked him "What is your ambition?" His reply - "I want to go into the furniture business." His parents discouraged him recommending that instead he go into a profession, such as medicine or law. Being a very dutiful son, he chose to go into medicine.

The summer before Dr. Krachmer started medical school, he went to lunch with a friend of the family who happened to be an internist. He advised Krachmer to go into ophthalmology because of the wonderful success rate in helping patients, the medical and surgical challenges, and the pleasant lifestyle. Krachmer says he kept this advice in mind and ultimately followed it with absolutely no regrets.

Dr. Krachmer attended college and medical school at Tulane University in New Orleans. He has been at The University of Iowa since 1970, with a short interruption during 1971 - 1974 to work at the Gallup Indian Medical Center in Gallup, New Mexico, and then as Deputy Chief of Ophthalmology for the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital in New Orleans. He completed a 3-month fellowship in neuro-ophthalmology at the University of Miami with J. Lawton Smith, MD, and a 5-month fellowship studying corneal and scleral contact lenses at Baylor with Louis J. Girard, MD. In addition, he was a Heed Foundation Fellow in cornea and external disease at Wills Eye Hospital with Peter R. Laibson, MD, in 1973-74.

Dr. Krachmer's greatest enjoyment comes from teaching. Through teaching, he feels he can have a greater effect on the care of many more patients than those he can see personally. Of the 28 fellows he has trained, 12 have gone into fulltime academic ophthalmology. Six of the others, who are all in private practice, also teach.

His nationwide reputation of excellence among his peers was demonstrated when the March 1991 issue of the magazine Good Housekeeping recognized Dr. Krachmer as one of the "400 Best Doctors in America." This list included physicians from 16 medical subspecialties and was compiled from a survey of department chairmen and section chiefs at major medical centers nationwide. Doctors polled were asked not to name themselves or anyone at their own institution and not to cite experts who no longer accept new patients. The names listed were those mentioned most frequently.

Goals are of prime importance to Dr. Krachmer in everything he attempts, whether it be in his profession or as a hobby. He always aims to achieve at his highest potential. At present, he is particularly interested in the causes of keratoconus and greatly hopes his contributions will directly influence corneal/external disease practice. In his private life, he continues to add to his achievements in photographic art.

Krachmer's wholehearted enthusiasm and strong drive toward excellence have carried over from medicine into his personal interests. For many years he enjoyed golf, was Iowa State Jr. Champion, and played in national tournaments. However, after his performance at the game began to steadily worsen instead of improving, he lost enjoyment and decided to pursue art and photography. He has had great success with recognition and awards in many amateur shows.

Dr. Krachmer gives great credit and appreciation for his professional and artistic achievements to the complete support of his wife Kathryn. He is extremely proud of his son Edward, a senior at the University of Michigan; his daughter Kara, a sophomore at Wisconsin; and his 3-year-old daughter Jill. And he is "awfully proud to be associated with The University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology."
Fellows Trained

John J. Purcell, MD 75-76
Private Practice, Clinical Affiliation -
St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO
R. Edwin Pitts, MD 76-77
Private Practice, Houston, TX
Craig Young, MD 76-77
Private Practice, Presque Isle, ME
O. Clarion Allredge, Jr., MD 77-78
Private Practice, Clinical Affiliation -
University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT
Robert Fenzl, MD 78-79
Private Practice, Garden Grove, CA
Jack Schnitzer, MD 78-79
Private Practice, Champaign, IL
Mark Mannis, MD 79-80
Faculty, UC Davis, Sacramento, CA
George J. Pardos, MD 79-80
Private Practice, Denver, CO
Paul Dubord, MD 80-81
Private Practice, Clinical Affiliation -
U. of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC
David Meisler, MD 80-81
Faculty, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH
Steven Ching, MD 81-82
Faculty, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY
Steven Dunn, MD 81-82
Private Practice, Southfield, MI
Michael Belin, MD 82-83
Faculty, The Albany Medical College, Albany, NY
Robert S. Feder, MD 82-83
Faculty, Northwestern Univ., Chicago, IL
Corey A. Miller, MD 83-84
Private Practice, Salt Lake City, UT
David D. Verdiere, MD 83-84
Private Practice, Grand Rapids, MI
Mark A. Mandel, MD 84-85
Private Practice, Clinical Affiliation -
Pacific Med. Center, Hayward, CA
Michael Shapiro, MD 84-85
Private Practice, Clinical Affiliation -
Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
Edward J. Holland, MD 85-86
Faculty, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
Rebecca M. Willis, MD 85-86
Private Practice, Marshfield, WI
Robert W. Weisenthal, MD 86-87
Faculty, Syracuse Univ., Syracuse, NY
William E. Whitson, MD 86-87
Private Practice, Indianapolis, IN
George J. Florakis, MD 87-88
Faculty, Columbia Univ., New York, NY
Michael P. Vrabec, MD 87-88
Faculty, Univ. of Vermont, Burlington, VT
Marian S. Macsai, MD 88-89
Faculty, West Virginia Univ., Morgantown, WV
Gary A. Varley, MD 88-89
Faculty, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH
Peter Gloor, MD 89-90
Faculty, Yale University, New Haven, CT
Stephen E. Higgins, MD 89-90
Private Practice, Kalamazoo, MI
Sheridan Lam, MD 90-91
Faculty, Univ. of Illinois, Chicago, IL
Christopher Rapuano, MD 90-91
Faculty, Wills Eye Hospital, Philadelphia, PA

Selected Publications


Below are the names of the many alumni and friends who contributed to the Frederick C. Blodi Professorship. The names of those appearing in bold print contributed $5000 or more. We are very grateful for all your support.

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CONTRIBUTORS

Harry C. Stephenson, Louisville, KY
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Landis & Carol Stewart, Adrian, MI
R. Kent Stiverson, Ridgefield, CT
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David T. Tse, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Mark O. M. Tso, Chicago, IL
R. Lawrence Tychsen, St. Louis, MO
Richard A. Ulrich, Bonaire, GA
UI Ophthalmology Employees, Iowa City, IA
    Fellows in Training 83-84, Iowa City, IA
    Residents in Training 80-84, Iowa City, IA
UI Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surg., Iowa City, IA
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Robert C. Watzke, Lake Oswego, OR
R. Grey Weaver, Jr., Winston-Salem, NC
Fausta Weingeist, Truro, MA
Tom & Cathy Weingeist, Iowa City, IA
Gary S. Weinstein, Pittsburgh, PA
George W. Weinstein, Morgantown, WV
S. Joseph Weinstock, Toronto, ON, Canada
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Special thanks to Darrell Wyrick, Michael New, Mary DuCharme and their staff at The University of Iowa Foundation for all their assistance.
On June 6, at the annual Iowa Eye Association Meeting in Iowa City, Dr. Robert Folberg will be named as the first Frederick C. Blodi Professor. Below are excerpts of the presentation.

The fund-raising campaign for the Frederick C. Blodi Professorship was officially launched a little over 6 years ago. On the occasion of the annual Iowa Eye Meeting, alumni and friends from around the world took part in an unusual reception and gala banquet at Hancher Auditorium. The University of Iowa President James O. Freedman, Dean Eckstein, Mr. John Colloton and the late Dr. Charles Phelps, who then headed the department, were present as well as the Austrian Consul to the U.S. who presented Dr. Blodi with a medal on behalf of his government.

This morning President Hunter Rawlings and Dean John Eckstein have joined us to officially announce the recipient of the Blodi Professorship.

The Blodi Professorship was created to pay tribute to a very unusual man, a friend and colleague, a mentor, and distinguished physician and educator. Dr. Blodi's name is known throughout the world. He is recognized for his wit and charm, but also for his intellect, leadership, and humility. He belongs to an international group of travelers and lecturers - leaders in ophthalmology and eye pathology who have gained more frequent flyer miles than many corporate giants. He has translated countless books, served on numerous editorial boards, been editor-in-chief of the Archives of Ophthalmology and served on the editorial boards of numerous English and foreign ophthalmic journals. He has been president of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, as well as almost every prestigious specialty society, and is the current president of the American Ophthalmological Society, the oldest such society in the world. His wry sense of humor is known to all who have been fortunate enough to work with him. As a junior faculty member, I remember congratulating him on more than one occasion because he had been asked to give one of many famous lectures, the Jackson Lecture and the Jules Francois Lecture, for example, or had been awarded a distinguished international medal. Fred would pull me closer as I grasped his hand and say, "Tom, these are just the badges of senility." At 74, his tennis game is competitive even for someone 25 years his junior, although recently, he confided in me, "I think last night I suffered a stroke in my backhand center."

It would be easy for me to stand before you and recite many more anecdotes about my chairman, Fred Blodi, and the "Blodi Years." I know that those of you who worked with him, particularly Dr. Braley, who knew Fred before 1954, when he came to Iowa, could tell many other stories, but I am not going to allow myself or you the opportunity right now. During the banquet on Friday evening, we will have more time.

This morning is a time to thank you and the hundreds of alumni and friends like you who have demonstrated in a very tangible way the very high regard in which you hold Dr. Blodi and this institution. Your contributions have made the Blodi Professorship a reality. Since only a portion of the interest from the more than $1 million endowment will be used each year, the Blodi Professorship will be a lasting tribute to Dr. Blodi and an invaluable resource for Dr. Robert Folberg as he continues to pursue a career dedicated to understanding fundamental problems in ocular pathology and to teaching ophthalmic pathology.

Dr. Robert Folberg has already established a distinguished career. He holds a joint appointment as Professor of Ophthalmology and Pathology. He is recognized throughout the country as a leading ophthalmic pathologist and educator. He is an active member of the most renowned ophthalmic pathology societies. His research on ocular melanoma has been supported by the National Eye Institute for many years, and in 1989, he received a Senior Research Investigator Award from Research to Prevent Blindness. Dr. Folberg has published more than 70 scientific papers and has been an active participant of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, which in 1988, awarded him its Honor Award. Dr. Folberg also serves as chairman of the Ophthalmic section of the Basic and Clinical Science Course of the Academy.

Robert, congratulations! This certificate which names you the Frederick C. Blodi Professor is given with the expectation we all have that you will continue to strive for excellence in research and education.

Thomas A. Weingeist
A LOOK AT THE PAST

by Frederick C. Blodi

Our department was established in 1925, indirectly the result of the report on medical education written by Abraham Flexner, PhD, for the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Flexner first visited Iowa City in 1909. He found the clinical part of the medical college woefully inadequate and below par. The dean lived in Dubuque and came to Iowa City twice a week, while the professor of surgery, who lived and practiced in Sioux City, had to travel all night for his weekly visit to the university hospital. The hospital was located on Iowa Avenue, had 90 beds and boasted 15 professors. Flexner doubted whether a modern medical center in Iowa City was justified.

Upon a return visit, Flexner was convinced by President Jessup, the Board of Education, and especially, the indefatigable William R. Boyd, Chairman of the Finance Committee, that the state was serious in supporting the college and making clinical experience possible by channeling indigent patients to Iowa City.

The requested reforms were initiated. The EENT professor, Dr. Lee W. Dean, who maintained a large clinic at Mercy Hospital, became dean of the college. All department heads were replaced by full-time faculty members. A grant of $2.5 million from the Rockefeller Foundation was matched by appropriations from the state, and a new hospital with a new medical laboratory building was erected on the west side of the Iowa River. Their completion in 1928 marked a major turning point in the development of the medical school.

In this time of reform and reorganization, Dr. C.S. O’Brien (1889-1977) was appointed the first professor and chairman of a department of ophthalmology at The University of Iowa. He was a graduate of the medical college in Indiana and received his ophthalmologic training in Philadelphia. He served for 6 years in the U.S. Navy and was practicing in Indianapolis when he was recruited for his new job in Iowa. President Walter Jessup had been persuaded by mutual friends to appoint O’Brien and to trust him with the future development of ophthalmology at Iowa.

C.S. O’BRIEN

... departments were feudal fiefdoms where the head had absolute powers and kept all the money from private patients, ...

This trust was deserved and fulfilled. O’Brien first took a year’s leave, traveled and studied in Europe, especially in England, Germany, and Austria. When he returned in 1927, he established a residency program and slowly recruited a staff, both in the basic sciences and in clinical ophthalmology. O’Brien proved to be an excellent clinician, a superb surgeon, and a dedicated teacher. Many of his residents became outstanding department heads at other universities, e.g., Swan in Oregon, Duane at Jefferson, and J. Allen at Tulane. O’Brien attracted a number of prominent outside ophthalmologists to his staff, e.g., Koepp from Germany, and Thygeson from Colorado.

At that time, the departments were feudal fiefdoms where the head had absolute powers and kept all the money from private patients, while the other staff members had to work for a pittance. The situation changed after WWII when the physicians returning from the service requested more rights and asked for a more democratic administration. The Medical Service Plan was introduced and approved by the Board of Regents. Everybody was put on a salary and the income differential between the chairman and staff was markedly reduced.

This new arrangement was found unacceptable by some department heads. Among them was O’Brien who resigned in 1948. Dr. Glenn Walker was appointed acting head.

Keen competition for the chairmanship developed between 2 senior faculty members, P.J. Leinfelder and Jimmy Allen. This intramural competition threatened to tear the department asunder and even polarized the practicing ophthalmologists of Iowa into 2 opposing camps. At this point, the search committee made a wise decision. It selected for the headship a true Iowan with superb credentials, who had worked for a long time in the east and was therefore not
directly involved in this internecine struggle.

The man chosen was Alson E. Braley, who was originally from the western part of the state and had graduated from The University of Iowa. He completed a residency in pathology and then in ophthalmology under O'Brien. Braley then left for Detroit, where he practiced for 2 years with Parker Heath. Subsequently, he followed Thygeson to New York and joined the staff of the Institute of Ophthalmology of the Presbyterian Hospital and rose in academic rank at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University. In 1949, Braley accepted the chairmanship at New York University/Bellevue Medical Center following Daniel Kirby. He remained in that position only one year, accepting the offer from Iowa in 1950.

Under Braley’s leadership, the department entered the second phase of its development. This was characterized by growth and sub-specialization. From one new resident per year, the program grew to 8 new residents annually. This growth was, for a long time, supported by training grants from the NIH. Braley had soon recognized the important role the NINDB would play in the growth of ophthalmology. He found in Dr. Seeger, the extramural program director, a kindred spirit with whom he could collaborate in a most harmonious way.

All the residents were expected to become involved in research, and 6 months of the residency were set aside for investigative work only. Many residents took academic positions, and quite a few became

"... a dean who once told Braley, 'An eye department should consist of one faculty member who can refract the staff,' ...

department heads, e.g., at Vanderbilt, Tufts, Milwaukee, Southwestern, Florida, Minnesota, and Maryland.

At the same time, Braley recruited a faculty of national reputation: Burian from Boston, Blodi from Columbia, Armaly from Beirut (later department head at George Washington), Ferguson from Chicago (later department head at Galveston), Ellis from Omaha (later department head at Colorado), Watzke from Los Angeles, Boeder from the American Optical Company, and a number of his own graduates, e.g., von Noorden, and Spivey.

This growth of the department was occasionally achieved against strong opposition from a dean who once told Braley, "An eye department should consist of one faculty member who can refract the staff," and on parting, "Nobody has given me as much trouble as you." Fortunately, O'Brien and Braley had strong support from the president, especially from Virgil Hancher, who governed the university for 24 years and had not only been a Rhodes scholar, but also a practicing lawyer before returning to academia, and therefore knew what the real world was like.

Braley resigned as department head in 1967 before he reached the mandatory retirement age. Thus ended a most glorious era in the history of our department.
OBITUARIES

Donald Adrian Greif

Nancy Klingler

Logans Give to Research

Mrs. Margaret Logan

Donald Adrian Greif was raised in Independence, Iowa. In 1946, he joined the army. On discharge, he attended The University of Iowa, receiving his BA in 1952, then re-upped in the Army Signal Corps.

He received an MD from The University of Iowa College of Medicine in 1964. He interned in Milwaukee, was a resident in ophthalmology at The University of Iowa from 1966 to 1969, and an instructor in Ophthalmology in 1969-70.

From 1970 to 1991, he practiced ophthalmology in Waterloo, Iowa. Well known for his love of gadgets, he recently invented an ingenious flying-lens refractometer. His daughter Sarah will graduate from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota this spring.

After learning he had an inoperable lung cancer, he made the courageous decision to refuse treatment and "follow the glide path down," as he put it. He made a smooth landing in Waterloo on April 15, 1991. The funeral was April 19, 1991.

He was a real friend of this department, and we will miss him.

Stan Thompson

Nancy Klingler, librarian in the O'Brien Library for the past 17 years, died February 27, 1991, after a long illness.

She is survived by her husband, George, and a son, Keith, who is a sophomore at Grinnell College. A memorial service was held March 1 at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Iowa City.

Whinery Completes Term As President

Robert D. Whinery, MD, of Iowa City, is completing a one-year term as president of the Iowa Medical Society. Dr. Whinery completed his residency in ophthalmology at The University of Iowa in 1962. He has maintained an active interest in organized medicine at the local, state, and national level in spite of a busy, demanding clinical practice.

Margaret and W.A. Logan of Keokuk, Iowa, have made a generous donation for research conducted by Dr. Jose Pulido (ophthalmology) and Dr. Thomas Shires (pharmacology).

The research concerns diabetic retinopathy and the vitreous. Dr. Pulido said, "We have been able to show for the first time that the vitreous jelly of the eye is changed with diabetes. This has subsequently been confirmed by others elsewhere, and presently, we are attempting to find ways of preventing this process."

Dr. Pulido continued, "The Logans' interest in advancing our knowledge of how diseases affect the eye and ways in which we may stop these processes is a tribute to their interest in improving the quality of life for others and serves as a model for all of us. Their friendship and interest in these and other projects in which we are involved can never be overemphasized."
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1991-92
Friday Clinical Conferences & Professional Meetings

September 6  Glaucoma Workshop; WLM Alward, MD, Host
               Annual Iowa Academy of Ophthalmology Meeting

October 13-17  American Academy of Ophthalmology

November 8     Oculoplastics

December 6     Cataracts; Iowa Eye Ophthalmologists

January 10, 1992 TA Weingeist, MD, Host

February 7     Pediatric Ophthalmology

March 6        Contact Lens; Elizabeth Cohen, MD - Wills Eye Hospital

April 3        Cornea; Michael Cobo, MD - Duke University

June 4, 5, & 6 Iowa Eye Association
               Robert C. Watzke Symposium

NEWS OR COMMENTS?
We welcome news of interest to your colleagues and old friends, as well as comments on our newsletter.

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
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News or Comment: __________________

Please return to:
Diane Anderson, Editor
Iowa Eye
Department of Ophthalmology
The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics
Iowa City, Iowa 52242
Telephone: 319/356-0453  FAX 319/356-0363
RESEARCH TO PREVENT BLINDNESS AWARDS $50,000

Research to Prevent Blindness, the world’s leading voluntary organization in support of eye research, has awarded a $50,000 unrestricted grant to the Department of Ophthalmology. Dr. Weingeist said, "These funds have come at a particularly important time in the development of our research program. They will provide us with maximum scientific freedom to explore promising areas of basic and clinical research at a time when federal research funds are dwindling. Previous grants and awards totalling more than $457,000 have been used to establish the Molecular Ophthalmology Laboratory, to purchase state-of-the-art equipment for the Electrodiagnostic and Pupil Laboratories, and to support many pilot projects."