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GIFT FOR MACULAR DISEASE CENTER

The Lillian and C.S. O'Brien Eye Research Fund has been established at The University of Iowa, with a \$500,000 gift presented to the department by Mrs. O'Brien in November 1990. The O'Briens also established a life-beneficiary trust at the UI Foundation in 1976, that will add more than \$1 million to the endowment of the O'Brien Eye Research Fund in the future.

The fund will be used to establish and support, in part, a center for the study of macular diseases at the College of Medicine and The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. The center will be headed by Drs. James Folk and Edwin Stone. Dr. Folk is professor and director of the Vitreoretinal Service. Dr. Stone is assistant professor and director of the Molecular Ophthalmology Laboratory.

The primary aims of the Center for Macular Diseases will be to unravel the causes of age-related macular degeneration and develop improved methods of treating it.

Dr. Cecil Starling O'Brien (born 1889, died 1977) was the first chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology beginning in 1925. He received his medical education from Indiana University, and served in the U.S. Navy. He trained in

ophthalmology at Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia, and studied in Prague and Vienna under a Rockefeller Foundation grant.

Dr. O'Brien was called upon to establish the Department of Ophthalmology (formerly a part of the eye, ear, nose, and throat department) in 1925. During his tenure at the University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology as professor and head, the department became known throughout the world for its teaching and research. During these years (1925-48), he also received numerous honors.

The C.S. O'Brien Library within the department was established in 1973, in dedication to his immense contributions in making The University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology the premier clinical, teaching, and research center it is today.



C. S. O'BRIEN

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PHELPS AWARD

Dr. Jose Pulido, assistant professor (Vitreoretinal Service), has been awarded the 1990 Charles D. Phelps Research Award. A committee of senior faculty members from the department chose Dr. Pulido to receive the 1990 award because of his active research dealing with the biochemical changes of the vitreous in diabetes and his vital role as a teacher and clinician in the department.

Dr. Phelps was professor and head of the Department of Ophthalmology from April 1,

1984, to September 13, 1985, and served as director of the Glaucoma Service from 1972 until the time of his death in 1985. The Charles D. Phelps Research Award was established by the Department of Ophthalmology Friends and Alumni as a tribute to Dr. Phelps for his outstanding contributions and his interest in education, patient care, and research.

Dr. Lee Alward, assistant professor and director of the Glaucoma Service, was the first recipient of the Phelps Award in 1989.

DEPARTMENT

The Eye in Systemic Disease, edited by Daniel Gold and Thomas A. Weingeist and published in February 1990, by Lippincott, has received laudatory reviews in several journals including the *American Journal of Ophthalmology* and *The New England Journal of Medicine*. By April, it was in its second printing. The editors are very pleased by its initial success and indebted to the 320 authors who contributed 230 chapters with over 700 pages to this volume. Every effort was made to make the book affordable. Dr. Weingeist is contributing the royalties to the Research and Development Fund of the department and hopes that many more copies will be sold in the coming years.

Randy Verdick, media coordinator, received the Don Wong Award for Best Paper from the Ophthalmic Photographer's Society at their annual late October meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. The paper, "Infrared Videography of the Eyes," co-authored by Verdick with Dr. Stan Thompson, was actually a videotape presentation. Infrared videography is used to document pupillary responses in the dark, transilluminate the anterior segment, observe nystagmus, and conduct other ocular motility studies. Since infrared videography of the eyes can be done in total darkness, new observations of clinical value can be made. This was the first time the award has been given.

ALUMNI & FRIENDS

Lee Allen, who worked for nearly 40 years in the UI Department of Ophthalmology in photography and collaborated with various doctors in developing better ways of viewing the eye and in the design and development of prosthetic eyes and surgical instruments, was recently featured in the cover story of *The Journal of Ophthalmic Photography* (Vol. 12, November 1990: "Lee Allen: The Man, the Legend"). The article profiles his life and his achievements in ophthalmic photography and medical illustration, in the design of ophthalmic instruments and prostheses, and in the fine arts. Inquiries/orders for the journal should be sent to: Marlene Fishman, 1011 Cromwell Ave., Westchester, Illinois, 60154.

David M. Bulgarelli, former ophthalmologist in the department, was presented the Lee Allen Award at the 1989 meeting of the American Society of Ocularists in New Orleans. The award recognizes the highest achievement of excellence

in contributions to the state of the art in ophthalmology. Bulgarelli was also recognized by the American Academy of Ophthalmology at their annual meeting with the Honor Award for his significant contributions. He was the only non-physician to receive this honor.

LTC Robert G. Smith, MD, former fellow in glaucoma, recently received the Meritorious Service Medal for his management of eye trauma in Panama. He is currently practicing ophthalmology at William Beaumont Army Medical Center, El Paso, Texas.

Robert D. Whinery, MD, clinical instructor and former resident (1962), has been elected president of the Iowa Medical Society. He has been an AMA alternate and delegate for 18 years, and is a member of the Long Range Planning Committee of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

- January 11, 1991 **Manus C. Kraff, MD, Clinical Professor**
Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois
Cataract and Refractive Surgery
- February 1 **Neil R. Miller, MD, Professor**
Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore
Neuro-ophthalmology - Molecular Genetics &
Compressive Optic Neuropathy
- March 1 **Joseph H. Calhoun, MD, Professor**
Wills Eye Hospital, Philadelphia
Director, Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus
- April 5 **Wolfe Lecture**
J. Donald M. Gass, MD, Professor
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Miami
Retina
- April 29 - May 4 **ARVO**
- June 6, 7, and 8 **Iowa Eye Association**
Iowa Memorial Union

Braley Lecture: **Ronald E. Smith, MD, Professor**
Doheny Eye Institute, USC, Los Angeles
Cornea, Uveitis

Guest Speakers: **Stephen A. Obstbaum, MD, Associate Clinical Professor**
Lenox Hill Hospital, New York
Cataract, Anterior Segment Surgery

Carmen A. Puliafito, MD, Associate Professor
Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Harvard, Boston
Anterior and Posterior Segment Lasers

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CALL FOR PAPERS

Members of the Iowa Eye Association are invited to submit abstracts for free papers on any subject to be presented at the next annual meeting of the Iowa Association in June 1991. Interested parties should send a proposed title and brief abstract to:

Chris Blodi, MD
Dept. of Ophthalmology
University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa 52242

Deadline for receipt of abstracts is February 1, 1991.



On November 14th, I had the pleasure of visiting Lillian O'Brien in her home in Tucson, Arizona. As we sat on her patio with 2 other friends, the purple mountains which loomed in the distance slowly faded from view and the first stars became visible in the evening sky.

At 87, Mrs. O'Brien is agile and has a keen mind and sense of humor. She reminisced about Iowa City in the late 1930s and '40s. She shared experiences about La Jolla, California, and Tucson, where she and her late husband, Dr. C.S. O'Brien, retired after he served as chairman of the department from 1925 to 1948. By 11:30 pm, the younger guests of the dinner party were fading, but Mrs. O'Brien showed no signs of tiring. There were stories of Braley, Otis Lee, Leinfelder, Lee Allen, the Douvas rotoextractor, President Hancher, and resident chores at the

O'Briens' home just past the Butler Bridge on North Dubuque Street. It was a festive occasion to mark the presentation of a wonderful gift. Just a few days before, the department received over \$500,000 from Lillian and C.S. O'Brien.

I am pleased to announce that this gift will be used to establish a Center for Macular Disease. Drs. James Folk, Professor and Director of the Vitreoretinal Service, and Edwin M. Stone, Assistant Professor and Director of the Molecular Ophthalmology Laboratory, will serve as co-directors of this project. The primary objective of the Center will be to study the pathogenesis and treatment of age-related macular degeneration.

Thomas A. Weingeist

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