



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

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Weingeist to Step Down



Thomas Weingeist, Ph.D., M.D., has announced he will be stepping down as Head of the University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences once a new Head is appointed and in place. "After devoting nearly 20 years as Department Head, it is time to have a smooth transition to new leadership," says Weingeist. "The department is doing well on all levels, the faculty is among the best in the world, and we have wonderfully dedicated employees and outstanding facilities within the UIHC and the Carver College of Medicine."

Weingeist received his Ph.D. from Columbia University and his M.D. from The University of Iowa College of Medicine. After completing his ophthalmology residency and fellowship in

vitreoretinal diseases and surgery at The University of Iowa, Weingeist joined the faculty in 1975 as assistant professor.

Prior to becoming Department Head in 1986, he was Chief of Ophthalmology at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in

Iowa City and Director of the Vitreoretinal Service at UIHC. During his tenure as Head, the department grew from 15 full-time faculty members to over 30 clinicians and scientists. During this time, the department also moved to its present location in the Pomerantz Family Pavilion and established the University of Iowa Center for Macular Degeneration.

The Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences is regarded as one of the leading ophthalmology training programs for residents and postgraduate fellows in the country, as well as a preeminent clinical and research institution. For more than 14 consecutive years, the department has been ranked among the top six ophthalmology departments in the United States by *U.S. News and World Reports*, and more than 75

percent of its clinical faculty are cited among the "Best Doctors in America."

Dr. Weingeist is the author of more than 100 peer-reviewed scientific manuscripts, the editor of three books including *Practical Applications of Laser Surgery in the Eye* and two books dealing with *The Eye and Systemic Disease*. He has served on editorial boards of clinical journals and was the founding medical editor of *EyeNet Magazine*, a publication of the American Academy of

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Appointments and Promotions

Michael D. Abràmoff, M.D., Ph.D., has been appointed Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology effective in July 2004. Dr. Abràmoff specializes in Ophthalmic Imaging Research. For the past year he has been working as a visiting fellow with Dr. Randy Kardon and Dr. Young Kwon on optical functional imaging of the retina. Dr. Abràmoff received his Medical degree from the University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, from which he also received his Master of Science in Biomedical Computer Science. He also has a Ph.D. in imaging from the University of Utrecht, Utrecht, Netherlands. His research interests include the functional imaging of the retina, diabetic retinopathy, telediagnosis of retinal disease, computer aided diagnosis of retinal disease, and the effectiveness of computer retinal imaging on the diagnosis and treatment of diabetic retinopathy.



Michael D. Abràmoff, MD, PhD



Randy H. Kardon, MD, PhD

Randy H. Kardon, M.D., Ph.D., was promoted to Professor effective July 1, 2004. Dr. Kardon graduated from the University of Iowa College of Medicine in 1982 with an M.D. and a Ph.D. in Pharmacology. He completed his residency at the

University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in 1987 and did a two year Neuro-ophthalmology Fellowship under Dr. H. Stanley Thompson also at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in 1988 and 89. He became an Assistant Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology in July 1989 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1994. He is currently Director of the Neuro-ophthalmology Service. Dr. Kardon has been a staff ophthalmologist, Surgery Division at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Iowa City since 1989. He was a Research Associate, Career Development Award, Veterans Administration Medical Center in Iowa City from 1990-1999. Dr. Kardon has published over 100 articles in the scientific literature.

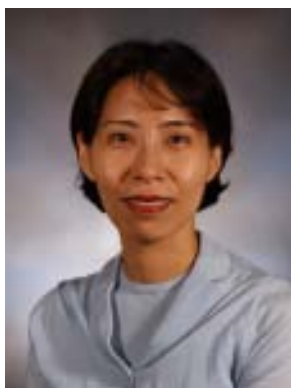


Andrew G. Lee, MD

Andrew G. Lee, M.D., was promoted to Professor on July 1, 2004. Dr. Lee received his undergraduate degree and M.D. degrees from the University of Virginia. He completed his ophthalmology residency and was chief resident at Baylor College of

Medicine in Houston, Texas in 1993. Dr. Lee completed a fellowship in neuro-ophthalmology at the Wilmer Eye Institute and was a post-doctoral Fight for Sight fellow at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, from 1993-1994. He was formerly an Associate Professor at Baylor College of Medicine and Adjunct Associate Professor at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston from 1994-2000. He has published over 200 scientific articles and has authored two textbooks in ophthalmology. He is on the editorial board of five journals including the *American Journal of Ophthalmology*. He received the American Academy of Ophthalmology Achievement Award and the AAO Secretariat Award.

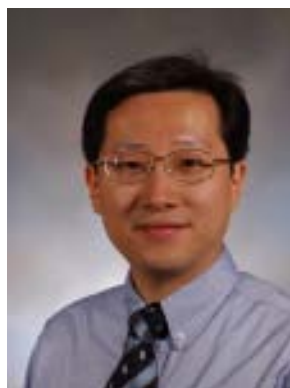
Visiting Fellows



Hye Young Kim, MD

Dr. Hye Young Kim and Dr. Chan Yun Kim from South Korea will be in the Department as Visiting Fellows for the next two years.

Hye Young Kim, M.D., will be working with Drs. Keith Carter and Jeffrey Nerad in the Oculoplastics Service. She received her M.D. and her M.M.Sc., from Yonsei University, Wonju College of Medicine. She did her internship and residency at Wonju



Chan Yun Kim, MD, PhD

Christian Hospital, Yonsei University, and a Fellowship in Oculoplastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Severance Hospital, Yonsei University. She is presently a faculty member in the division of Oculoplastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Department of Ophthalmology, National Health Insurance Corporation, Ilsan Hospital, Ilsan, South Korea.

Chan Yun Kim, M.D., Ph.D., will be working with Drs. W. Lee M. Alward, Young H. Kwon, and Emily C. Greenlee in the Glaucoma Service. He is an Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at Severance Hospital, Yonsei University College of Medicine in Seoul, South Korea. He earned his M.D. degree at Yonsei University College of Medicine, where he was later a resident. His Master of Medical Sciences and Doctor of Medical Science are from the Yonsei University Graduate School. He was a Glaucoma Fellow at the Department of Ophthalmology, Severance Hospital, Yonsei University.

Weingeist **Continued from page 1**

Ophthalmology (AAO). He has been invited to speak at many academic institutions and given named lectures. He is past president of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO). In addition, he also served as president of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology and was formerly the Secretary for Clinical Education for the AAO.

Dr. Weingeist plans to continue his clinical practice, teach, and pursue his special interest—the study of malignant melanoma of the eye, the most common eye cancer in adults. He says he is “looking forward to having time to hone my research skills, and to taking a sabbatical to study the molecular and cell biology of malignant melanoma of the choroid.”

Adjunct Faculty Appointments and Promotions

Dr. Christopher F. Blodi was appointed to Clinical Adjunct Assistant Professor on July 1, 2003. Dr. Blodi has been with the Iowa Retina Consultants in Des Moines, Iowa, since 1992. Dr. Blodi was on the faculty of the University of Iowa in Iowa City from 1985 to 1992. He was a resident in ophthalmology at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Miami, Florida, from 1980 to 1983 and was a Fellow in Vitreoretinal Diseases and Surgery at the University of Iowa from 1983 to 1984. Dr. Blodi received his M.D. from Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri, in 1979.

Dr. Constance Grignon was promoted to Clinical Adjunct Associate Professor effective July 1, 2004. Dr. Grignon has been Chief of Ophthalmology at the Des Moines VA Medical Center since 1987. Dr. Grignon received her M.D.C.M. from McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, in 1973. She also was an intern and resident in ophthalmology at McGill.

House Staff News

The 2004 Graduates of the University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science Program were honored on June 28th in the Braley Auditorium.

Resident Graduates

B.J. Dupps, M.D., Ph.D., is the inaugural fellow at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation/Cole Eye Institute Cornea and Refractive Surgery fellowship beginning July 1. It is a new 2-year academic fellowship consisting of 16 months of clinical rotations with 7 cornea and refractive surgery staff members and 8 months of full-time research. B.J., Gretchen, Alex (5), Christian (3) and baby #3 will be living in Bay Village, Ohio.

John Fingert, M.D., Ph.D., will remain at the University of Iowa to pursue a research fellowship in Heritable Eye Disease and Glaucoma under the mentorship of Drs. Ed Stone, Lee Alward and Young Kwon. A focus of his studies will be the molecular genetics of pigmentary glaucoma.

Erin Holloman, M.D., has moved back to her home town, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to do a private practice-based Oculoplastics

Fellowship with Sterling S. Baker, M.D., with the opportunity of joining him in practice following completion of the fellowship.

Jennifer Lee, M.D., has not yet finalized her plans but will ultimately participate in a private practice on the west coast.

Judy Liu, M.D., will remain at the University of Iowa for a 2-year Vitreoretinal Fellowship.

Fellowship Graduates

Glen Bianchi, M.D., Pediatric Ophthalmology Fellow, has joined Westwood Ophthalmology Associates, a small group private practice with three general ophthalmologists located in Westwood, New Jersey. He will be on the voluntary faculty, teaching residents at Mount Sinai in New York City.

Esther Bowie, M.D., Vitreoretinal Fellow, has returned to Jamaica. On September 1, 2004, Dr. Bowie joined the faculty at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Kingston, where she did her medical school training.

Michael Hunt, M.D., Pediatric Ophthalmology Fellow, has joined Pediatric Eye Specialists in Ft. Worth, Texas, to practice full-time pediatric ophthalmology and adult strabismus with two other doctors. He and his family live in Keller, a suburb of Fort Worth.

Sonalee Kulkarni, M.D., Neuro-Ophthalmology Fellow, has not yet finalized her professional plans but will be moving in the immediate future to Avon, Indiana.

Paul Row, M.D., Cornea and External Disease Fellow, has returned to California to practice general ophthalmology with an emphasis on cornea and refractive surgery. He is located in Concord, California.

In August, **Alice Song, M.D., Oculoplastics Fellow**, began a private practice in oculoplastic surgery at Long Island Eye Surgical Care, in Brentwood, New York.

Edward Sung, M.D., Glaucoma Fellow, is an associate with the Wheaton Eye Clinic, Wheaton, Illinois. He specializes in glaucoma and cataract surgery in a multi-specialty group practice. His appointment began August 1, 2004.

Matthew Wood, M.D., Vitreoretinal Fellow, is practicing vitreoretinal surgery at Eye Surgical Associates in Lincoln, Nebraska. He has joined several other Iowa alumni: Dr. Larry Wood (1971), his father, who did his residency at Iowa; as well as Drs. Greg Sutton (1981) and Thomas Graul (2000), who did glaucoma fellowships here; and Dr. Vince Sutton (1981), a former Iowa pediatric ophthalmology fellow. Interestingly, Dr. Wood's grandfather, Maynard Wood, M.D., also worked at Eye Surgical Associates and did his residency at Iowa.

Sara Downes graduated on July 30, 2004, from the **Orthoptics Program**. She has taken a position in the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Minnesota.

House Staff News (continued)

New Residents Begin Training July 1, 2004



Robert B. Dinn, M.D., received a Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology from Indiana University. He earned his M.D. from Indiana University School of Medicine and spent his transitional program at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis associated with the Indiana University School of Medicine.



Jordan M. Graff, M.D., has a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology from Brigham Young University. He received his M.D. from the University of California, Irvine. He spent the past year in the University of Iowa Department of Internal Medicine where he was nominated as resident of the year for his teaching.



Susannah V. Quisling, M.D., received a Bachelor of Science degree in Classical Languages from Vanderbilt University. She earned her M.D. from Vanderbilt University Medical School. Dr. Quisling spent the past year in the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Iowa.



Christopher C. Robinson, M.D., earned both his Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences and his M.D. degree from Stanford University. He completed a medical internship at St. Mary's Medical Center in San Francisco, California.



Avinash P. Tantri, M.D., received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, and his Medical Degree from Ohio State University College of Medicine.

New Fellows

Cornea/External Disease

Stacy Ann Sjoberg, M.D., Ph.D., received a Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology from the University of Minnesota. Her M.D., as well as her Ph.D. in Molecular Genetics, is from the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Sjoberg did her Ophthalmology Residency at Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland.



Stacy A. Sjoberg, MD, PhD

Glaucoma

Michael K. Maley, M.D., has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Engineering and Applied Sciences from Harvard University. He received his M.D. from the University of Vermont, College of Medicine. Dr. Maley did his Ophthalmology Residency at the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary and his Transitional Residency at the University of Hawaii.



Michael K. Maley, MD

Glaucoma Research

John H. Fingert, M.D., Ph.D., received a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor degree in Engineering from Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire. He earned both his M.D. and his Ph.D. in Genetics from the University of Iowa where he also did his Ophthalmology Residency.



John H. Fingert, MD, PhD

Neuro-Ophthalmology

Shannon C. Lynch, M.D., earned her Bachelor of Science in Cognitive Neuroscience from the University of California, Davis, and her Medical Degree from the University of Southern California, Keck School of Medicine. She did her internship at The University of California, San Francisco, Fresno Branch, and her Ophthalmology Residency at Drexel University, Philadelphia.



Shannon C. Lynch, MD

Ocular Pathology

Allan J. Bogdan, M.D., has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. He attended medical school at the American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine for his basic science studies. He spent his third year of medical school in Waterford, Ireland and his last year of medical school partly at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami and the remainder at Griffen Hospital in Derby, Connecticut.



Allan J. Bogdan, MD

Oculoplastic & Orbital Surgery

Richard C. Allen, M.D., Ph.D., received his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Duke University and his Medical Degree from Baylor College of Medicine. He earned his Ph.D. in Human and Molecular Genetics from Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Allen did his internship at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque. He came to the University of Iowa for both his Ophthalmology Residency, and a



Richard C. Allen, MD, PhD

fellowship in Molecular Ophthalmology. He has been Assistant Professor, Department of Ophthalmology at Baylor and Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque.

Pediatric Ophthalmology

Rahul Bhola, M.D., received his medical training at University College of Medical Sciences, Dehli, India. He did his Internship at Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital and University, College of Medical Sciences, Dehli, India. He received clinical training in strabismus from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Dehli, India, and was a Visiting Assistant Professor at the Department of Pediatric Ophthalmology at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, UCLA.



Rahul Bhola, MD

Vitreoretinal

Judy C. Liu, M.D., received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Science from Harvard College and a Master of Arts degree in History of Science from Harvard University. Her Medical Degree is from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. She completed her Ophthalmology Residency at the University of Iowa.



Judy C. Liu, MD

Chet B. Patel, M.D., earned a Bachelor of Science and a Medical Degree in Biological and Medical Sciences from the University of Florida. Dr. Patel did his Ophthalmology Residency and a Transitional Internship at Baylor College of Medicine.



Chet B. Patel, MD

FACULTY NEWS

Wallace L.M. Alward, M.D., was awarded a Lew Wasserman Award from Research to Prevent Blindness in June 2004. This award recognizes him for his outstanding clinical and research contributions in glaucoma. Along with the highly deserved recognition that comes with the Wasserman Award, Dr. Alward will receive \$55,000 in unrestricted funds for his research in glaucoma.

Dr. Alward was also recognized in 2003 with a Veterans Administration Ten Year Service Award. Dr. Alward has been busy on the lecture circuit this year. He delivered the 5th Annual Clinician - Scientist Lecture of the American Glaucoma Society in Sarasota, Florida, on March 6, 2004, and the 14th Schoenberg Lecture at the University of Illinois at Chicago on May 12, 2004. He delivered invited lectures internationally at the All India Glaucoma Society Meeting in Tirunelveli, India, September 21-22, 2003; the Chilean Congress of Ophthalmology in Vildivia, Chile, December 4-6, 2003; the European Glaucoma Specialist Meeting in Rome, Italy, January 16, 2004; and Ophthalmology Update - From Front to Back, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, March 25-27, 2004. Dr. Alward was also invited to lecture at the Wills Eye Hospital 40th Anniversary of the Glaucoma Service, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 3-5, 2003, and the American Academy of Ophthalmology/Ophthalmic Pathology Society, Anaheim, California, November 18, 2003.

Retina Research Fellow, **Ali Hakan Durukan, M.D.**, has been investigating the use of a hyperspectral fundus imager, a new fundus camera, to evaluate the spectral reflectance of the retina in normal and selected pathologic situations when disease-specific spectral abnormalities exist. Dr. Durukan returned to Turkey in late August.

Karen M. Gehrs, M.D., will be awarded a 2004 American Academy of Ophthalmology Achievement Award at the AAO Annual Meeting in New Orleans, October 23-26, 2004. The award is given to recipients for contributions made to the Academy, its scientific and educational programs, and to ophthalmology.

Kenneth M. Goins, M.D., is participating, with study coordinator, Lisa Milder, in the "Rebamipide for dry eye study." Rebamipide is a mucin cell stimulator that may enhance the precorneal tear film in dry eye patients. The study is sponsored by Otsuka Maryland Research Institute.

Randy H. Kardon, M.D., Ph.D., was awarded a 3-year \$407,000 grant from the VA entitled, "Predicting Rehabilitation of Visual Loss in Compressive Optic Neuropathy," beginning July 1, 2004. This grant is in addition to Dr. Kardon's 5-year Veterans Administration Merit Review grant and is the first grant awarded to the Iowa City VA from the Rehabilitation Grant Division of the Veterans Administration. In this study, Dr. Kardon and others will use optical coherence tomography (OCT) and

scanning laser polarimetry (GDx) to investigate how the pre-treatment retinal nerve fiber layer thickness will predict how much visual loss is reversible and hence give prognostic information on the expected outcome of decompression or radiation as treatments. In addition, Kardon and colleagues will record the pattern evoked electroretinogram (PERG) and visual evoked potential (VEP) to evaluate the effect of optic nerve compression on the retinal ganglion cell signal origination and the conduction to visual cortex.

Interzeag/Haag Streit also funded a \$49,000 proposal that Dr. Kardon submitted on using the new kinetic perimeter and static perimetry to correlate with OCT of the nerve fiber layer in glaucoma and optic neuropathies. This is a two-year project that he will do with Dr. Aki Kawasaki in Lausanne, Switzerland. See the accompanying story on page 10, about OCT at Iowa and the story on page 2, regarding Dr. Kardon's promotion to full professor.

Ronald V. Keech, M.D., William E. Scott Chair for Education in Pediatric Ophthalmology, was a recipient of the 2004 American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Senior Honor Award. The award was presented at the AAPOS annual meeting in Washington, D.C., in March 2004.

"Molecular mechanisms of steroid-induced glaucoma," a grant proposal submitted by **Young H. Kwon, M.D., Ph.D.**, and **Markus**

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Faculty News, continued

Kuehn, Ph.D., was funded by the American Health Assistance Foundation. The total award is about \$70,000 over two years and started on April 1, 2004. "The aim of the study is to determine the differences that exist between the eyes of people who develop steroid-induced ocular hypertension and those who do not," explains Dr. Kuehn. "It is known that steroids influence which genes are turned on and off in the trabecular meshwork. The underlying hypothesis of these studies is that those patients who do develop elevated intraocular pressure express a different set of genes in the trabecular meshwork when exposed to steroids than those who do not. In order to identify these genes, pairs of human donor eyes will be preserved in a perfusion organ culture system which allows identification of steroid responsive donors and subsequent gene expression analyses. The identification of genes whose expression is linked to the development of steroid-induced glaucoma could be significant for the clinical management of patients at risk for steroid-induced glaucoma through the identification of genetic markers as risk factors of steroid-induced OHT. In addition, these data might be valuable in the development of drugs that specifically affect those biochemical pathways which are aberrantly activated or deactivated by steroids in responders."

Young H. Kwon, M.D., Ph.D., was listed in *Guide to America's Top Ophthalmologists*, Consumers' Research Council of America and *Who's Who in Medicine and Healthcare*, Marquis Who's Who,

New Providence, New Jersey. Dr. Kwon was also listed in *2000 Outstanding Intellectuals of the 21st Century*, International Biographical Center, Cambridge, England, where he was also nominated for "International Scientist of the Year" and "International Health Professional of the Year."

In February, Carver Medical Research Initiative Grant Pilot Project announced that it has funded **Dr. Robert F. Mullins'** project, "Endothelial Cell Fenestrae-Associated Molecules: Preliminary Studies." Dr. Mullins explains that "endothelial cells of the choriocapillaris contain porous fenestrae that regulate their permeability (photograph below). The aims of this grant are to understand better the cellular machinery involved in the synthesis of these pores, as well as to begin to identify the molecules that comprise fenestrae." This is a 2-year, \$26,000 grant.



Research to Prevent Blindness awarded a three-year Career Development Award to **Todd E. Scheetz, Ph.D.** The RPB Research Career Development Award was established in 1990 to attract young physicians and basic scientists to eye research. Dr. Scheetz is a Computational

Scientist for the Coordinated Laboratory for Computational Genomics (CLCG) and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences. Information about the CLCG is available on the web at <http://genome.uiowa.edu/clcg.html>.

John E. Sutphin, M.D., has been participating on the American Board of Ophthalmology (ABO) knowledge base panel for Cornea and External Disease. Dr. Sutphin has also recently been made the Clinical Sciences Section Editor for *The Ocular Surface*.

Dr. Sutphin and Dr. Kenneth Goins are participating in the "Restasis for Atopic Keratoconjunctivitis Study" sponsored by Allergan. The purpose of this research study is to investigate the efficacy and safety of cyclosporine eye drops in the treatment of atopic keratoconjunctivitis. Drs. Sutphin and Goins are also participating in a study of deep lamellar endothelial keratoplasty (DLEK), a new surgical technique in the management of endothelial dystrophy of the cornea. The purpose of this study is to determine whether a split thickness corneal transplant would be a more effective way to replace endothelium cells. DLEK uses a lamellar transplant to replace only the diseased tissue and leaves the rest of the cornea intact.

Emeritus Professor of Ophthalmology, **H. Stanley Thompson, M.D.**, received the North American Neuro-ophthalmology Society

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Faculty News, continued

(NANOS) Distinguished Service Award at the NANOS meeting in March 2004.

The 27th Annual Francis Heed Adler Lectureship at the University of Pennsylvania's Scheie Eye Institute honored **Thomas A. Weingeist, Ph.D., M.D.**, on April 3, 2004, in recognition for his outstanding contributions to ophthalmology and vision sciences. His lecture was "Choroidal Melanoma 2004: Differential diagnosis and cancer research." The Francis Heed Adler Lectureship, given annually at the Scheie Eye Institute, recognizes an internationally renowned ophthalmologist who has made substantial contributions to ophthalmology and vision sciences. Dr. Francis Heed Adler served as Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Pennsylvania from 1937-1960.

Iowa Eye Association Annual Meeting

The Iowa Eye Association Annual Meeting was held June 18-19, 2004. Topics of the educational program included key considerations for the evaluation of glaucoma, management of patients with AMD and surgical treatment of cataract. It also covered important considerations regarding clinical research.

Robert N. Weinreb, M.D., Professor of Ophthalmology, University of California San Diego, Shiley Eye Center and Director, Hamilton Glaucoma Center, delivered the inaugural Mansour F. Armaly Lecture.

The Mansour F. Armaly Lecture was established this year as a tribute to Dr. Armaly who was a distinguished member of the University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology faculty from 1958-1970. Dr. Armaly was instrumental in defining the natural history of glaucoma, in developing tech-

niques of early detection and monitoring function loss in the eye, and in demonstrating the genetic character of glaucoma.

James G. Diamond, M.D., Professor and Director, Vitreoretinal Service, Tulane University School of Medicine, delivered the 23rd Alson E. Braley Lecture, and John M. Graether, M.D., Wolfe Clinic, Marshalltown, Iowa, delivered the 33rd Wolfe Foundation Lecture.

The winners of the 2004 P.J. Leinfelder Award were announced as well. Dr. Sudeep Pramanik presented the Leinfelder Resident Talk. Dr. Esther Bowie presented the Leinfelder Clinical Fellow Talk, and Dr. Michael Abramoff presented the Leinfelder Research Fellow Talk.

The Iowa Eye Banquet on Friday featured music by Hunter Fuerste and His American Vintage Orchestra.

Best Doctors

Twelve members of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences faculty were selected for inclusion in 2003 *Best Doctors in America*, a leading resource for linking consumers with expert medical care. Those named were: Wallace L. M. Alward, M.D., H. Culver Boldt, M.D., Keith D. Carter, M.D., Randy H. Kardon, M.D., Ph.D., Ronald V. Keech, M.D., Andrew G. Lee, M.D., Jeffrey A. Nerad, M.D., Stephen R. Russell, M.D., Edwin M. Stone, M.D., Ph.D., John E. Sutphin, Jr., M.D., Thomas A. Weingeist, Ph.D., M.D., and Michael Wall, M.D.

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Progress with Optical Coherence Tomography

Article prepared by
Randy H. Kardon, MD, PhD

After gaining considerable experience with optical coherence tomography (OCT2) since July 2000, The University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences has integrated the

newer OCT3 (Stratus) into clinical practice in many areas of diagnosis and management of retinal and optic nerve disorders.

OCT is being used to diagnose and monitor optic nerve disorders by determining the degree of retinal ganglion cell-axonal loss

resulting in thinning of the retinal nerve fiber layer. Thinning is monitored most frequently in glaucoma, since there are a number of patients with early glaucoma who have normal visual field, but pathologic thinning of the retinal

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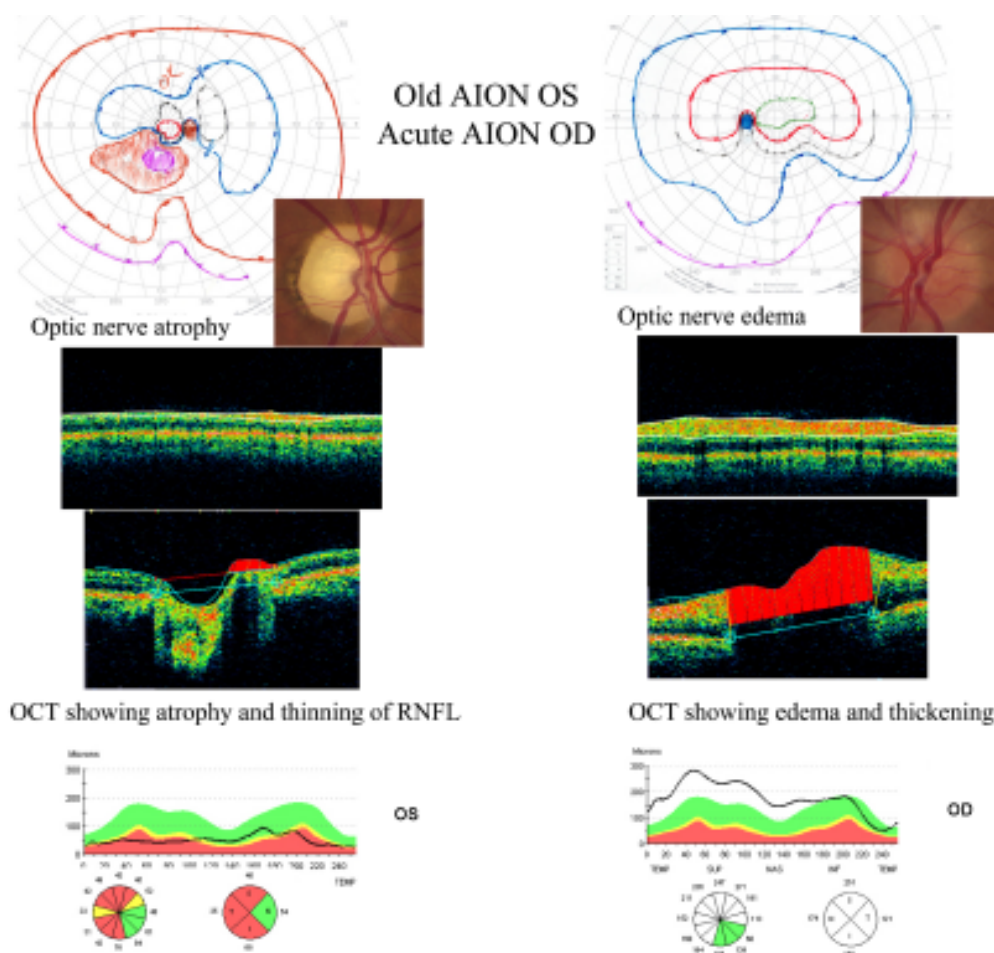


Figure 1. This figure shows a composite of visual fields (Goldmann), optic nerve photos, and optical coherence tomography (OCT) of the optic nerve head (sagittal sections from nerve head scan) and retinal nerve fiber layer thickness (circular RNFL scan) in a patient with old anterior ischemic optic neuropathy (AION) OS and acute AION OD.

Note that in the left eye there is a pale nerve, inferior altitudinal visual field loss that is greater than the superior loss, and acquired cupping of the nerve head on OCT and thinning of the retinal nerve fiber layer both in the inferior and superior bundles (worse in the superior bundle, corresponding to the inferior field loss). The red pie-shaped segments of the retinal nerve fiber layer represent significant thinning at the 1% probability level compared to age-matched normals (yellow is the 5% significance level). In the right eye with acute AION, there is optic disc edema and abnormal thickening of the retinal nerve fiber layer, which will eventually thin and appear similar to the left eye over time.

OCT (continued)

nerve fiber layer, compared to age-matched normals. In addition, OCT of the retinal nerve fiber layer may be useful in monitoring for any signs of progressive damage and establishing the need for further treatment. The UIHC Ophthalmology Department has also been studying the reproducibility of the measurement on the same day and longitudinally on five different test visits. Some of these patients are enrolled as part of a funded 5-year Veterans Administration Merit Review study by Dr. Michael Wall to study what constitutes the best method for detecting progression of optic nerve damage, especially in glaucoma. These patients are extensively tested for function using different types of perimetry and structure (using OCT and disc photographs) over 4 years. An incredible amount of information will be forthcoming which will help clinicians to determine what constitutes worsening and whether objective measures indicate treatment changes are warranted.

In compressive optic neuropathy, I have received a 3-year VA grant to determine the use of retinal nerve fiber layer analysis in predicting recovery of vision (reversible loss of optic nerve function). So far my co-workers and I have found that patients with normal or near normal nerve fiber layer thickness and profound visual loss have a good chance of recovery after surgery or radiation treatment compared to eyes that have thinning or permanent

structural loss. Our group is also combining visual field testing as well as electrophysiologic testing - pattern electroretinogram (PERG) and visual evoked potentials (VEP), which are recorded simultaneously as a sensitive measure of the function of the optic nerve proximal and distal to the compression. We are also applying this approach to other optic neuropathies to understand the sequence of events in visual loss and which component may still be reversible.

OCT is also being used to follow the course of thickening of the retinal nerve fiber layer due to edema from various causes. Drs. Michael Wall, Andrew Lee, and I are finding that quantification of optic disc edema with OCT may be more accurate and more sensitive than fundus examination of the optic nerve or photos and we are incorporating this into the response to treatment of pseudotumor cerebri and other causes of raised intracranial pressure.

We have also been surprised by a few cases of chronic optic disc edema that revealed vitreous traction on the optic nerve head as the cause of disc edema that was not apparent on fundus examination.

The relationship between structure and function is revealing many aspects of optic nerve damage that were not appreciated before this technology was available. We anticipate further applications in clinical practice as more

information becomes available and further improvements in the technology occur.

The University of Iowa Retina Clinic also uses OCT3 extensively to determine subclinical retinal fluid collections in the macula. In some cases, there may not be active leakage on angiography, so OCT is helpful in showing pathologic fluid collection and change over time (worsening or improvement) due to cystoid macular edema, diabetic macular edema, subretinal neovascular membranes, pigmented epithelial detachments, and central serous retinopathy. Sometimes it is very difficult to differentiate fluid from retinal holes, and OCT can be very informative in such cases. One of the most valuable applications is determining the presence or absence of vitreous traction in diagnosing visual loss and planning treatment. Another important application has been the determination of the presence of epiretinal membranes influencing vision.

Although OCT is not a substitute for a detailed biomicroscopic retinal exam, it should be considered a valuable adjunct for qualitative and quantitative assessment of the retina, optic nerve, and vitreous.

Iowa Beachheads in the War on AMD

In 1997, a group of scientists and physicians at the University of Iowa met and discussed the serious problems facing individuals affected with macular degeneration. In their discussions, they came to view macular degeneration as a problem that required a focused multidisciplinary effort.

These investigators approached the administrative officials of the College of Medicine and the University and with their help worked out a plan for a Center for Macular Degeneration that would allow world class physicians and scientists from a number of disciplines to be assembled at the University of Iowa for the purpose of working toward a cure for this devastating disease. In late 1997, the Iowa Board of Regents approved the creation of the Center and work was begun. Contributions in the past year alone have made some strides toward the Center's goals.

H. Culver Boldt, M.D., is involved with a Genentech sponsored, Phase III, multicenter study of the efficacy and safety of rhuFabV2 (Ranibizumab) in subjects with minimally classic or occult subfoveal neovascular age-related macular degeneration.

Stephen R. Russell, M.D., received a \$280,000 grant for the Anecortave Acetate Risk Reduction Trial (AART). In this study, investigators will be studying the outcome of treating the second eye of patients affected in the first eye with wet age-related macular degeneration. Dr. Russell says, "The AART is an exciting trial for eligible individuals with macular degeneration that have had vision loss in one eye." The goal of the study is to reduce the chance of vision loss in a patient's "good

eye." There are over 100 centers in the United States, Europe, Australia, and South America participating in the study. The target enrollment is 2,500 patients worldwide that will be followed for four years, receiving Anecortave Acetate every six months. Dr. Russell presented information for The Anecortave Acetate Risk Reduction Study Group at the 2004 Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) meeting.

Dr. Russell, along with research fellow **Dr. Michael Grassi**, has been involved with the "Compassionate Use of Anecortave Acetate for AMD complicated by Choroidal Neovascularization (CNV)." The purpose of the study is to treat a number of patients that would not normally qualify for the original anecortave acetate study due to the inclusion criteria for that study. Patients who are not eligible for the original anecortave acetate study have no other treatment options and will likely experience poor visual outcome as a result of their age-related macular degeneration. The researchers hope that the administration of a sub-tenon's injection of 10 or 30 mg of anecortave acetate will induce regression of CNV in these patients.

Dr. Russell is also conducting an evaluation of the safety, duration, and efficacy of anecortave acetate suspension versus placebo following a single sub-tenon's injection for the inhibition of neovascularization. This study is sponsored by Alcon Laboratories.

James C. Folk, M.D., has been involved with the Submacular Surgical Trial, Complications of AMD Trial, and AG-013958 VEGF Inhibitor Trial. The Submacular

Surgical Trial tested whether surgical removal of choroidal neovascularization in macular degeneration and histoplasmosis preserves vision. The trial is completed and results will be published in the fall of this year. The Complications of AMD Prevention Trial continues to investigate whether light laser to eyes with drusen preserves vision and is now in its fourth of five years of follow-up. UIHC is a leading recruiter in this study. The Department will be a center for a trial sponsored by Pfizer that will test whether the sub-tenons administration of a new VEGF inhibitor (AG-013958) will preserve or improve vision in patients with neovascular AMD.

Karen M. Gehrs, M.D., is studying the reduction in the occurrence of center-threatening diabetic macular edema in a study sponsored by Eli Lilly and Co. She is also participating in a study through the Department of Epidemiology and sponsored by Wyeth-Ayerst called the Women's Health Initiative Sight Exam (WHI-SE) study.

Mark E. Wilkinson, O.D., is co-principal investigator on a contract from the U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in which the National Advanced Driving Simulator (NADS) at the University of Iowa will be used to validate a vision test for use in simulated driving performance tests. Ginger Watson, Ph.D., co-principal investigator and research scientist at the NADS and Simulation Center, says, "This study is important as a first step in setting standards to link visual testing and driving performance. It could help with understanding vision and

Continued on page 13

War on AMD, continued

driving performance as well as in developing more effective devices.”

Standard tests of vision routinely used in clinical practice and the evaluation of ophthalmic devices provide only a comparison to what is considered “normal.” They do not measure functional performance and, in particular, driving performance.

Such an evaluation tool would provide an alternative with which to evaluate a new ophthalmic device while providing the FDA with valuable information regarding the impact of such products on public health and safety. This has become more of an issue as rapid advancements in ophthalmic device technology lead to ever-increasing expectations for better visual outcomes.

The NADS will be used to determine the correlation between the drop in contrast sensitivity and the drop in driving safety measures. Contrast sensitivity in subjects will be artificially reduced using neutral density filter goggles.

The NADS is the largest and most sophisticated research-oriented driving simulator in the world. It was built to conduct research that will ultimately lead to reductions in the number of traffic-related deaths, injuries, and incidents of property loss on the nation’s highways. The NADS, located at the University of Iowa’s Oakdale Research Park, is a national shared-use facility owned by the NHTSA of the Department of Transportation and operated by the University of Iowa. More information about NADS is available on the web at <http://www.nads-sc.uiowa.edu/>.

Visit the CMD website at
<http://www.c4md.org>

Genetic Finding Has Implications for Preventing Blindness

In the July 22, 2004, issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, **Edwin M. Stone, M.D., Ph.D.**, and colleagues reported that a gene called fibulin 5 is associated with 1.7 percent of age-related macular degeneration (AMD) cases. The finding could help researchers develop preventive treatments for people affected by this particular form of AMD — at least 100,000 in the United States alone. The discovery may also point the way to preventing vision loss in millions of people affected by the many other forms of AMD.

In the current study, the team searched for variations in five other fibulin genes in people with AMD and people without the disease. The team found an altered fibulin 5 gene in seven of the 402 (1.7 percent) people with macular degeneration but not in any of the 429 controls.

“While 1.7 percent may seem insignificant, the 100,000 to 150,000 people it represents in the United States actually is a larger group of people than all those with Hodgkins disease or sickle cell anemia,” Stone said.

Age-related macular degeneration is really a large group of diseases, perhaps as many as 50. Thus, it is likely that researchers will eventually find numerous genetic clues involved in the various forms of this common disease. “There remain many different genes and also many environmental influences to find and study,” says Stone.

“Once we understand the mechanisms sufficiently, we think that it will be possible to intervene perhaps when someone is 40 years old and arrest or slow the disease before it causes damage. We are fortunate that genetics play a major role in AMD because if it had purely environmental causes, we’d probably never figure it out,” he added.

Because of the variety of causes, no single drug or treatment is likely to work for all people with macular degeneration. However, the fibulin 5 gene finding is one of the genetic clues that clinicians eventually could use to determine the form of macular degeneration for which a patient is at risk and then choose the best prevention.

“The retina is such a delicate, fragile organ that you can’t take a little piece of it from a living patient to find out what’s wrong,” Stone explained. “For decades, ophthalmologists have been able to look inside the eye and see the drusen but they have not been able to determine biochemically what is wrong with the eye unless patients donate their eyes for research after their death. Molecular genetics is a very powerful way for us to understand disease when tissue samples are scarce,” Stone added.

In addition to Stone, major contributors to the paper included Terry A. Braun, Ph.D., assistant professor of ophthalmology and biomedical engineering; Thomas L. Casavant, Ph.D., UI professor of electrical and computer engineering and biomedical engineering; Stephen R. Russell, M.D., associate professor of ophthalmology and service director of Vitreoretinal Disease and Surgery; and Val C. Sheffield, M.D., Ph.D., UI professor of pediatrics and also a Howard Hughes Medical Investigator.

Reference

Stone EM, Braun TA, Russell SR, Kuehn MH, Lotery A, Moore PA, Eastman CG, Casavant TL, Sheffield VC. Missense Variations in the Fibulin 5 Gene and Age-Related Macular Degeneration. *New England Journal of Medicine*. 2004;351:346-353.

Eye Bank Undergoes Changes

Long-Time Eye Bank Executive Director Retires

Pat Mason began her retirement July 1, 2004, after serving for 22 years as the Executive Director of the Iowa Lions Eye Bank. She began working for the University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology in 1969 as secretary to Dr. Mansour Armaly and served in various grant accounting and secretarial positions until 1978, when she was promoted to Office Coordinator II in the Department of Ophthalmology as the assistant to Mr. Mel Chiles, who was then the Director of Administration. In 1982, she became the Executive Director of the Iowa Lions Eye Bank (ILEB).

She is only the second Executive Director of the Eye Bank. During the time that she was in this position, the Iowa Lions Eye Bank has received over 19,000 donations of eyes and provided over 9,000 corneas for transplantation. Prior to Mason assuming the Director responsibilities, the eye bank averaged 141 transplants per year; this figure is now over 800.

During her tenure in eye banking, Mason served on several national committees of the Eye Bank Association of America. She was also instrumental in chartering the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics Lions Club and served the club in many capacities. She has been active in International Lions Clubs and has helped secure two International Lions grants in



Dr. Mansour Armaly and Pat Mason at Iowa Eye Association Annual Meeting 2004

support of research in the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Iowa.

Most recently, Pat Mason has moved the eye bank to its larger location on Mormon Trek Blvd., in Iowa City, increasing the space by about 3,000 sq. ft. She opened the ancillary office in Ames, Iowa, for central Iowa eye banking.

She participated in two years of discussion, which culminated in the contractual agreement with the Iowa Donor Network – establishing the foundation for continued cooperation between the ILEB and the IDN.

Mason has been recognized by receiving the University of Iowa Board of Regents Staff Excellence Award in 1998 and by the Lions Clubs International Foundation with the Melvin Jones Fellowship in 1993. The Melvin Jones Fellowship is the highest honor conferred by the Lions Club International Foundation. She has also received the Irving B. Weber Award for 1997 Outstanding UIHC Lion, the Lions International President's

Appreciation Award for 1997-1998, and the Lions International President's Leadership Award in 2002.

The Department of Ophthalmology, The University of Iowa, and patients both in the United States and around the world are fortunate to have benefited from Pat's leadership in the eye bank.

Having gotten up and left the house to put in a great day of work every day for the last 35 years, Pat has earned a great retirement. Ron, her husband of 43 years, is not retiring, so Pat may occasionally be found at Gallery One, the art gallery and framing business in Iowa City that Ron owns and operates. She says she may provide a little supervision there, but in the interest of family harmony will not work there regularly. She hopes now to have time to develop more hobbies. So far, she has discovered that she enjoys traveling, camping, and reading. Pat and Ron recently bought a travel trailer and hope to be able to spend more time traveling. Her favorite destination so far is visiting her family, especially 7-year-old granddaughter Andrea. We wish Pat the very best in this next phase of her life.

-adapted from the program of **The University of Iowa 2004 - Retirement Reception.**

Eye Bank Appoints New Executive Director

Cynthia (Cindy) Reed, R.N., has been appointed the new Executive Director of the Iowa Lions Eye Bank, effective August 1, 2004.

As Executive Director, Ms. Reed will be responsible for providing management, leadership, and direction for all functions of the eye bank. This includes personnel, public relations, finances, and education. She also will serve as departmental liaison for state and national organ donor organization interactions and as a board member for Vision Share, a non-profit consortium of 14 eye banks dedicated to providing mutually beneficial support services to its members. The Executive Director provides support for new research initiatives pertaining to corneal transplanta-

tion such as the Age-Related Macular Degeneration research program which was initiated in 1997, and the Cornea Donor Study initiated in 1999.

Ms. Reed received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1978 and a Master of Arts degree in Education in 1981, both from the University of Iowa.

She brings to the job 21 years of experience as consultant, director, executive director, and chief operating officer for behavioral health organizations.

She has received honors including The Association of Healing Healthcare Projects "Annual Recognition Award" for work with the Iowa Health System and the Mental Health Advocates "Outstanding Mental Health Professional" Award. She was

selected for inclusion in "Who's Who in American Nursing" and in "Who's Who of Emerging Leaders in America." Three programs she worked with have received the Mental Health Advocates Award for "Outstanding New Program."



Cindy Reed, RN

Coming To Your Senses Honored



Coming To Your Senses (CTYS), a joint vision-screening project of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences and the Lions Clubs of Iowa, received an "Above and Beyond" award from Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack. On March 29, 2004, Lori Short and Diane Eglseder received a certificate of appreciation from Governor Vilsack and Lt. Governor Sally Pederson in a ceremony at the Iowa State Historical Building in Des Moines honoring the recipients.

The "Above and Beyond" Recognition Program was created to recognize those who have demon-

strated outstanding service in advancing the well-being of Iowa children in the area of health care. CTYS provides free vision screenings for infants and young children throughout the state of Iowa.

Kim Davis, R.N., Lori Hoch, R.N., and Janice Nielsen of the West Central Development Corporation Head Start from Moorehead, Iowa, nominated Short and Eglseder to receive the award on behalf of *Coming To Your Senses*. "Coming To Your Senses does an excellent job of catching problems that would otherwise have gone unnoticed," said Davis.

"An incredible force of Iowa Lions Club Volunteers makes this program possible. More than 1,400

have been trained to conduct vision screenings in their local Iowa communities. This particular award stems from the good work of a very dedicated group of Lions Club Volunteers in Villisca, Iowa," said Short, coordinator of the *Coming To Your Senses* program.

Since the CTYS program began in May 2000, 31,000 children in Iowa have received screenings. More than 1,500 of these children were referred to local eye care professionals. An estimated 9,000 children in Iowa under age four have poor vision in at least one eye.

Visit the CTYS website at <http://webeye.opthth.uiowa.edu/ctys/>

Alumni

Pinar Kirkali Aydin, M.D., (Neuro-ophthalmology fellow, 1989-1990) over the last 10 years has founded the Eye Department of Baskent University School of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey, and worked as a head of department until recently. Internationally, she has been a member of the International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) Advisory Committee and Assessment Committee since the beginning of 2003. She is also a board member of the European Association for Vision and Eye Research (EVER) as a regional representative and also Program Officer for the Neuro-ophthalmology Section. She is also on the International Board of Editors for the *Journal of Neuro-ophthalmology* and has recently been appointed as one of the Managing Editors for the journal, *Neuro-ophthalmology*.

Puwat Charukamnoetkanok, M.D., (resident, grad. 2002) started working on September 1 as Assistant Professor at the University of Pittsburgh. He will do research, teaching, and patient care, specializing in cornea, refractive surgery, and uveitis.

Marian S. Macsai-Kaplan, M.D., (Cornea fellow, 1989), is now Chief of Ophthalmology at Evanston Northwestern Healthcare. Dr. Macsai-Kaplan will be the guest speaker at the March 4, 2005, Iowa Ophthalmology Clinical Conference.

Malcolm L. Mazow, M.D., (resident, grad. 1965), was selected as the Ashbel Smith Distinguished Alumnus for the year 2003, and was honored on Friday, May 23, 2003, by The University of Texas Medical Branch School of Medicine Alumni Association during a President's V.I.P. Luncheon. The Ashbel Smith Distinguished Alumnus is selected by his/her peers on the basis of contributions to the medical profession,

support for the high standards of excellence within the profession, and the prestige reflected upon his/her alma mater, The University of Texas Medical Branch.

Swaminathan (Meena) Meenakshi, M.D., (Pediatric Ophthalmology fellow, 2001) has been teaching at Sankara Nethralaya, "The Temple of the Eye," an Academic Eye Center in India. She has been working closely with postgraduates and fellows and has recently been appointed as Training Coordinator for the Pediatric Ophthalmology Fellowships. The Pediatric Ophthalmology fellowships were started in the hospital with the help of Orbis International.

Brian W. Arthur, M.D., F.R.C.S.C., (Pediatric Ophthalmology fellow, 1986) has been appointed as Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology specializing in Pediatric Ophthalmology at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. Dr. Arthur is returning to his medical school alma mater after 11 years of practice in Pennsylvania. He has also been appointed as Program Director for the Residency Program in Ophthalmology at Queen's University.

Retirement

Lance Olson, M.D., Ph.D., (resident, 1972 to 1975) retired in Spokane, Washington.

Iowa Eye Reception

Monday, October 25
6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Salon 3
Ritz-Carlton New Orleans Hotel
921 Canal St.

Please plan to join us during the
American Academy of
Ophthalmology Annual Meeting

Deaths

Dr. R. Bruce Bedell (resident 1966-70) died April 12, 2002.

Dr. Frank Brown (resident 1944-1947) died December 23, 2003.

Dr. Arthur Kahler (resident, 1931-1934) died March, 2001. Dr. Kahler was 100 years old.

Dr. Otis Lee (resident, 1943; faculty, 1945-1950) died on March 24, 2002.

Dr. Rudolph Nadbath (resident, 1949) died February 2, 2002.

Send Us Your News

Information about alumni and Iowa Eye Association Members will be published as space allows.

Send your news to:

Trish Duffel
Dept. of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences
The University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics
200 Hawkins Dr.
Iowa City, IA 52242-1091

Fax: 319-356-0357

e-mail: trish-duffel@uiowa.edu

Iowa Eye Association Ties and Scarves Available

The Iowa Eye Association is happy to offer members a stylish way to show their affiliation.

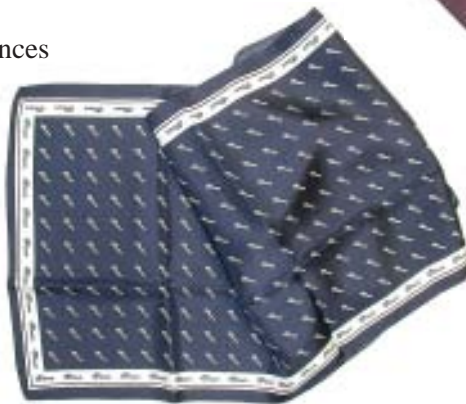
Men's embroidered silk ties are available in grey on burgundy, white on navy, and burgundy on navy.
Dimensions: 56" long x 4" wide at widest part.

Ladies' silk-screened silk scarves are available in white on dark navy.
Dimensions: 12" x 54".

Ties and scarves are 100% silk and are \$25.00 each.
Please contact Pat Zahs for more information.

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EyeRounds.org Makes its Debut

Iowa Ophthalmology resident, Andrew Doan, M.D., Ph.D., has created the EyeRounds web site to aid in educating students, residents, and physicians.

This web site contains an index of ophthalmology cases and photographs for teaching purposes. The cases are presented during Grand Rounds at The University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences and in the ophthalmology forum on www.studentdoctor.net, a non-profit, educational web site for students and physicians.

EyeRounds.Org is supported in part by an unrestricted educational grant from Allergan.

Residents and other physicians in the department frequently add case presentations to the site, so it is

worth a repeat visit to <http://www.eyerounds.org> if you have not been there recently.



Update



There is a difference between “stepping down” and retiring. *I am not retiring.* If you check the dictionary, you’ll see that “retired,” means “having stopped working, typically after working many years.” Well, there’s some truth to be found there, isn’t there? Most days it feels as though I *have* worked many years. However, I see many more years to come.

As many of you know, I have devoted some time to the study of choroidal melanomas. Ophthalmologists and vision scientists understand the eye’s crucial role as a model of human disease and discovery. The eye and visual system have served as models in physiology, pharmacology, neuroscience, immunology, molecular biology, and pathology, among others. Thus, I am thrilled that after a new

Head of the Department comes aboard, I will join Mary Hendrix, Ph.D., who was formerly at Iowa, and her research team. Dr. Hendrix is now President and Scientific Director of Children’s Memorial Hospital Research Center. I believe the findings from her lab have far ranging implications regarding cancer.

During this research period, I will commute on my new, private Lear jet between Iowa City and Chicago. My work at the CMH at Northwestern should energize and educate me, as well as enhance my research skills for the study of uveal melanoma.

The plan is to then to return full-time to the Department, where I will

continue with my research, see patients in the Vitreoretinal Service, and teach. During 2003, I had the luxury of seeing more referral patients and I feel re-invigorated: Solving complex clinical problems and teaching at all levels remains a thrill. This is why I love ophthalmology. I am confident that my planned “sabbatical” is merely the next step in a career that has been extremely gratifying.

In the meantime, I will continue to help maintain the best ophthalmology program possible. We will continue to recruit research-scientists and clinicians, and look to expand our clinical and research facilities. Like many medical institutions, we face financial demands and the tension of maintaining the resources crucial to excellence. Fortunately, our superb faculty is

extremely supportive and loyal. Even though many have been offered positions elsewhere with more money, endowed positions, and attractive recruitment packages, they refuse to leave Iowa. They are loyal to the Department. I will always see it as my job, and the future Head’s, to provide the best environment and resources. We will work hard to always be among the greatest ophthalmology programs in the world. You know our motto: “Together we have a vision for the future.”

And by the way, I *don’t* have a Lear jet. That was a joke. This isn’t: My door’s open. Come talk with me if you have any questions or concerns.

Tom Weingeist



I would like to ask a favor of you. Please consider supporting Research to Prevent Blindness by becoming an Associate Member or making an outright gift. RPB has been a tremendous asset to the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences which, to date, has received more than \$2.5 million in support.

RPB is the largest philanthropic organization supporting research in academic departments of ophthalmology. Without their support the Center for Macular Degeneration, the Oakdale Research Facility, and the Blodi Ocular Pathology Laboratory would not exist. They provided the seeds and nurtured the saplings that built these structures and helped support the faculty in these institutions. Your support can make a difference. For more information see their web site at www.rpbusa.org.

CALENDAR 2004-2005

Clinical Conferences

DATE	TOPIC	GUEST SPEAKER
October 15, 2004	Pediatric Ophthalmology	Gunter K. von Noorden, MD
December 3, 2004	Glaucoma	James D. Brandt, MD
February 4, 2005	Retina	Michael L. Klein, MD
March 4, 2005	Cornea	Marian S. Macsai-Kaplan, MD
April 1, 2005	Cataract	Nick Mamalis, MD
June 10-11, 2005	Iowa Eye Association Annual Meeting Celebrating 50 Years of the Iowa Lions Eye Bank	

Iowa Eye Reception

Monday, October 25

6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Salon 3

Ritz-Carlton New Orleans Hotel
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Please plan to join us during the
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Iowa Eye Association, inc.

Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences
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