Winter 2015 Volume 33 Number 1

EYE

Stein Eye Institute UCLA

Edie & Lew Wasserman Building

New Gateway to UCLA

"The Edie & Lew Wasserman Building allows us to expand our existing facilities and faculty and enables us to create revolutionary new programs that will dramatically change the way we treat patients with eye diseases."

And then there were three. A dream was culminated on October 28, 2014, when campus officials dedicated the Edie & Lew Wasserman Building, the new landmark research and patient-care facility dedicated to ophthalmology and synergistic programs between the Stein Eye Institute and Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center. The building was named to honor the late philanthropists Edie and Lew Wasserman.

"We're here to celebrate the completion of a magificent new building," said UCLA Chancellor **Gene Block** at the ceremonial ribbon cutting. "Forged of steel, glass, and concrete, the Edie & Lew Wasserman Building reflects a generous couple's 50-year commitment to vision sciences at UCLA, and will further enable physicians and scientists to advance critical research and treatment aimed at restoring and preserving eyesight. With the opening of this third facility, the Stein Eye Institute's physical transformation to a vision-science campus is now almost complete."

The Stein Eye Institute is named for its venerable founding father Jules Stein, and this newest addition to Stein Plaza will house a state-of-the-art, outpatient surgical center that will replace the current operating rooms in the Jules Stein Building. The preoperative, operative, and postoperative areas will comprise approximately 1-1/2 floors. The building will also expand the Institute's Oculoplastics and Orbital Division on the first floor, and the Cataract and Refractive Surgery Division on the second floor. Exams, testing, and surgery—including laser surgery in two different centers—will all be in the same facility, providing patients with the convenience of "one-stop-shopping."

At the podium, **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, director of the Stein Eye Institute and chairman of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, remarked, "The added space this magnificent building offers will have an enormous impact on Stein Eye, enhancing the Institute's continued evolution into the leading eye care, vision research, and educational center of the 21st century. The Edie & Lew Wasserman Building allows us to expand our existing facilities and faculty and enables us to create revolutionary new programs that will dramatically change the way we treat patients with eye diseases."

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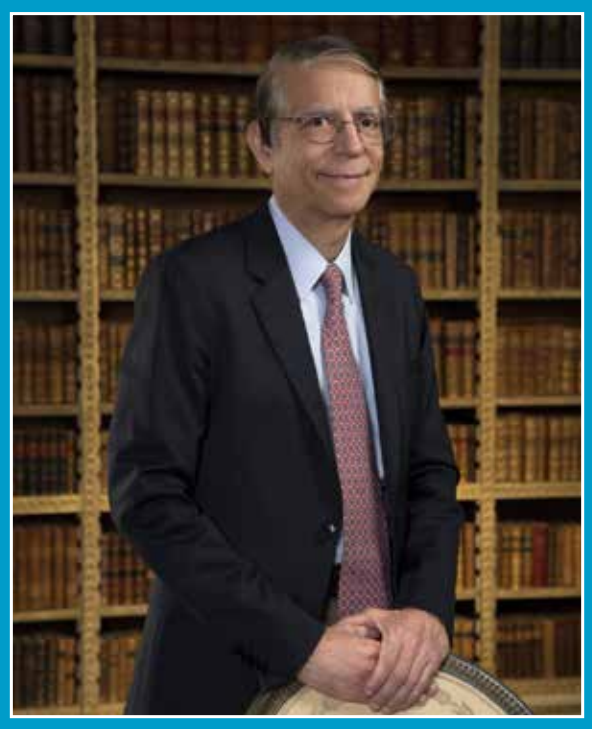


Letter from the Chair

The year 2014 was truly eventful. It began with the signing of a historic affiliation agreement between UCLA's Stein Eye Institute and the Doheny Eye Institute—bringing together trusted and distinguished colleagues and creating a single, integrated UCLA Department of Ophthalmology. In addition to providing a tremendous opportunity for collaboration, research, and discovery, patients began reaping immediate benefits from the alliance, with the opening of Doheny Eye Center UCLA locations in Arcadia, Orange County, and Pasadena.

As 2014 drew to a close, a dedication ceremony marked the opening of the Edie & Lew Wasserman Building, a new landmark research and patient-care facility at UCLA. Now a trio of buildings dedicated to preventing blindness and restoring eyesight have transformed the Stein Eye Institute into a vision-science campus.

In 2015, we look forward to a broad renovation of the Jules Stein Building, modernizing the infrastructure and reconfiguring the interior space to further our knowledge of specific vision processes and eye diseases.

Our founder Jules Stein said, "Movements to advance science and medicine need the time, the effort, and the ability of those men and women who have learned to move the immovable mountain." In this issue of EYE, we demonstrate the worldwide impact of the Stein Eye Institute as shown by the community-outreach efforts of faculty members like **Anthony J. Aldave, MD**, and the impactful discoveries of Stein Eye alumnus and EyeSTAR graduate **Vinit B. Mahajan, MD, PhD**. It is both humbling and inspiring to work with colleagues like these whose life work is to eradicate blindness.

This new year brings the opportunity for more discoveries, further growth, and greater hope for individuals who suffer from blinding eye diseases. Thank you for your commitment to the Stein Eye Institute and for your shared dedication to the preservation of sight.

Sincerely,

Bartly J. Mondino, MD
Director, Stein Eye Institute
Chairman, UCLA Department of Ophthalmology

Casey Wasserman, his wife Laura Wasserman, and their children join UCLA Chancellor Gene Block (right) at the Edie & Lew Wasserman Building ribbon-cutting ceremony.

As it will no longer be housing the Institute's surgical facilities, laboratory space in the Jules Stein Building is being increased to further support cutting-edge research, such as gene and stem cell therapy for treating eye disease.

Signing of the historic affiliation agreement with the Doheny Eye Institute, along with the completion and opening of the Edie & Lew Wasserman Building, established 2014 as a truly banner year for Stein Eye. Echoing the sentiments voiced by other UCLA leadership, Dr. Mondino expressed gratitude for the hard work and dedication of everyone involved, and he thanked Casey Wasserman for spearheading the planning and construction of the new building, as well as being the driving force in seeing the project through to fruition.

"The new Edie & Lew Wasserman Building is an architectural masterpiece and a fitting legacy to the Wasserman family," said Dr. Mondino. "All of us at UCLA and the Stein Eye Institute are deeply grateful for the Wassermans' extraordinary vision and devoted friendship, and Casey Wasserman's commitment to construct a facility in his grandparents' name."

Casey was a UCLA senior when he attended his first architectural meeting about the Edie & Lew Wasserman Building with his grandfather in 1996. Eighteen years later, he found himself participating in the ceremonial ribbon cutting with his wife and children. "My grandparents were focused on making a measurable difference in the world. This building, along with its programs and promise, will carry their vision far into the future."

A Work of Art

Calling the Edie & Lew Wasserman Building "the new gateway to UCLA," **Dr. A. Eugene Washington**, vice chancellor of UCLA Health Sciences and dean of the David Geffen School of Medicine, described the structure—which has received three architectural awards—as a work of art, a beautiful symbol of UCLA's collaborative spirit and global impact.

Designed by Richard Meier and Partners Architects, the $115.6 million project is a LEED gold-certified "green," six-story building encompassing 100,000 square feet. It is a stunning example of modern architecture dominated by clean lines, white terracotta and pale oak. The facility features floor-to-ceiling windows that flood the spacious rooms with natural light and reveal dramatic views of the campus.

Although contemporary in design, the building features a whimsical touch: inspired by the signature eyewear worn by Edie and Lew Wasserman, a sculpture of two oversized pairs of spectacles commands the spotlight in the building's main lobby and pays homage to the couple's infinite vision and long-standing commitment to preventing blindness and restoring eyesight.

In developing the new facility dedicated to preserving and restoring sight, Dr. Bartly Mondino (right) found a crucial ally in Casey Wasserman (left), who spearheaded efforts to construct the building honoring his grandparents, Edie and Lew Wasserman.

"We're here to celebrate the completion of a magificent new building."

UCLA Chancellor Gene Block

"The new Edie & Lew Wasserman Building is an architectural masterpiece and a fitting legacy to the Wasserman family. All of us at UCLA and the Stein Eye Institute are deeply grateful for the Wassermans' extraordinary vision and devoted friendship, and Casey Wasserman's commitment to construct a facility in his grandparents' name."

Bartly J. Mondino
Director, Stein Eye Institute

UCLA Chancellor Gene Block (top photo) and Director of the Stein Eye Institute and Chairman of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Dr. Bartly Mondino (bottom photo) at the podium.

Lew Wasserman and Jules Stein

A Shared Friendship and Vision

Edie and Lew Wasserman were born in Cleveland, Ohio, where Lew began his show business career as a theater usher. They married in 1936 and two years later moved to Los Angeles. Mr. Wasserman was hired as an agent by ophthalmologist Jules Stein, the founder of Music Corporation of America (MCA), and Lew became one of the true icons of Hollywood, rising to head MCA and Universal Studios.

Colleagues and friends, Doris and Jules Stein and Edie and Lew Wasserman, revolutionized educational, cultural, and health care institutions across Los Angeles, and the Stein Eye Institute's vision-science campus is a testament to their shared purpose. The Jules Stein Eye Institute opened its doors in 1966, and in 1989, Stein Plaza expanded with the creation of the Doris Stein Eye Research Center, named after Jules Stein's wife.

Edie and Lew Wasserman were married for nearly 66 years when Mr. Wasserman passed away in 2002. And on October 14, 2010, with her grandson Casey by her side, Edie Wasserman symbolically broke ground on the building bearing her name. Edie died in 2011 at the age of 95, following the latest chapter in the legacy of her family's support for the Institute.

Now a trio of buildings stand together in perpetuity—reflecting their namesakes' decades-long friendship and shared dedication to one vision: restoring and preserving eyesight.

Edie and Lew Wasserman

Institute News

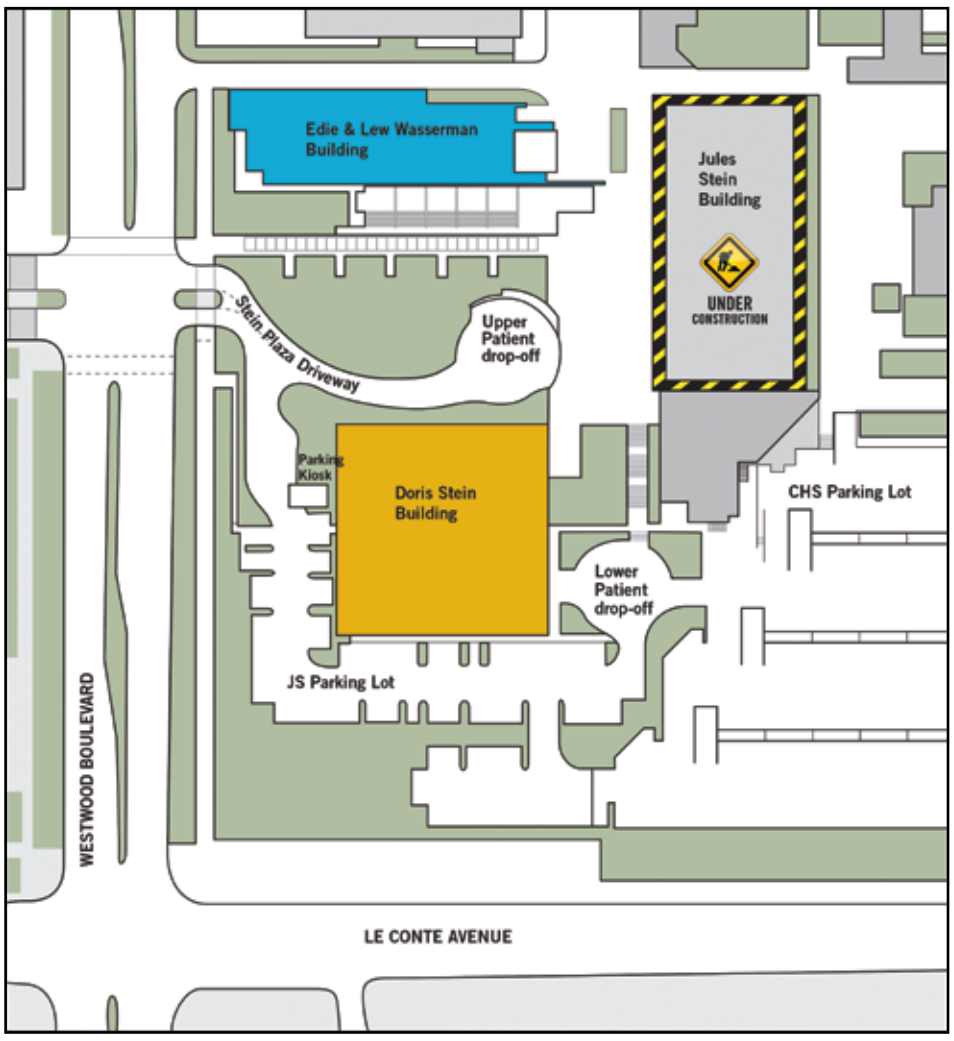
Jules Stein Building Renovation Underway

PARDON OUR DUST! Construction is underway for a major renovation of the Jules Stein Building. With the opening of the Edie & Lew Wasserman Building, the final phase in the physical transformation of the Stein Eye Institute's vision-science campus has begun.

Built in 1966, the interior space of the Jules Stein Building is being reconfigured to meet twenty-first century needs. In addition to new examination rooms, vision-science laboratories, and office space, the flagship building's internal plumbing, cooling, heating, and electrical systems are being modernized, and the facility is being upgraded seismically and made ADA compliant to meet accessibility guidelines.

With the temporary closure of the Jules Stein Building, all patient services have been moved to the Doris Stein Building and the Edie & Lew Wasserman Building. University Ophthalmology Associates and the Institute's Urgent Care Clinic have been relocated to the second floor of the Doris Stein Building. The renovation is expected to be completed in early 2017.

For detailed information about the renovation, see the Winter 2014 issue of EYE at: www.jsei.org/About/PDF/EYEWinter2014.pdf.



Patient-care services will be conducted in the Doris Stein Building and the Edie & Lew Wasserman Building during the temporary closure of the Jules Stein Building.

2014 AAO Award Recipients

Stein Eye Institute faculty members were honored at the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois, for their contributions to the Academy, its scientific and educational programs, and to ophthalmology. Congratulations to the following 2014 AAO honorees:

2014 Secretariat Award
Joseph N. Caprioli, MD, David May II Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology

2014 Achievement Award
Catherine J. Hwang, MD, MPH, Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology
Kouros Nouri-Mahdavi, MD, MSc, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology

2014 Senior Achievement Award
Anthony J. Aldave, MD, Walter Li Chair in Cornea and Uveitis
Lynn K. Gordon, MD, PhD, Vernon O. Underwood Family Chair in Ophthalmology

Life Achievement Honor Award
Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD, Fran and Ray Stark Foundation Chair in Ophthalmology

Honors and Awards

Anthony C. Arnold, MD, Jerome and Joan Snyder Chair in Ophthalmology, has been announced as the recipient of a 2015 Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award. The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) award honors program directors that find innovative ways to teach residents and to provide quality health care while remaining connected to the initial impulse to care for others in this environment.

Symposium Honors Dr. Dean Bok

The UCLA Department of Neurobiology held a symposium to honor Stein Eye Institute Emeritus Faculty Member **Dean Bok, PhD**, Distinguished Professor, Departments of Neurobiology and Ophthalmology.

The October 8, 2014, vision-science symposium, "The Neurobiology of Vision," and the reception that followed, commemorated Dr. Bok's 46 years of service as a faculty member of the Department of Neurobiology. Symposium speakers included Dr. Bok and Stein Eye Institute faculty members **David S. Williams, PhD**, and **Alapakkam P. Sampath, PhD**, as well as other UCLA faculty members, who presented talks on their latest research, which encompassed both the retina and the brain.

Dr. Dean Bok (left) and Neurobiology Department Chair, Dr. Thomas Otis

"I was deeply honored and grateful to participate in this event, which was the first symposium in the Neurobiology Department's history to feature my chosen field of research," said Dr. Bok, who noted that it is also gratifying to participate with a group of young, dynamic vision scientists who work at the cutting edge of their discipline.

Dr. Bok added, "I was also very grateful for the attendance of **Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD**, founding chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology and founding director of the Stein Eye Institute, and **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, our current chairman and director. These gentlemen have played a very important role in my career."

Edie & Lew Wasserman Building Celebrated for Excellence in Design

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) presented Richard Meier & Partners Architects LLP an Honor Award for Architecture for their design of the Edie & Lew Wasserman Building.

This 2014 honor is the Edie & Lew Wasserman Building's third award for excellence in architecture and design: the building was named Best Medical Project at the Los Angeles Business Journal's 2013 Commercial Real Estate Awards, and a Community Impact Award was bestowed in 2011 at the Los Angeles Business Council's Los Angeles Architectural Awards. In addition, the Edie & Lew Wasserman Building has been awarded LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environment Design) Gold certification in recognition of the structure's environmental and health performance.

Clinical Focus

New Partial Corneal Transplantation Procedure Improves Results for Patients with Corneal Edema

As the clear, outermost layer of the eye, the cornea brings light into the retina and plays a central role in focusing sight. When it becomes swollen—a condition known as corneal edema—it is unable to remain clear of fluid. The result is all too familiar to those who have experienced it: blurred vision and sensitivity to light, particularly after sleeping. In many cases, the swelling is caused by damage to the cornea's inner lining (endothelium) and can be corrected only through a partial corneal transplant, which removes the diseased layer of the cornea and inserts health donor tissue in its place.

Now such patients can benefit from a surgical approach that is leading to superior visual results and lower risk of immune rejection, along with significantly faster visual recovery. The treatment, Descemet membrane endothelial keratoplasty (DMEK), is available only at highly specialized centers, including the UCLA Stein Eye Institute.

DMEK is replacing Descemet stripping endothelial keratoplasty (DSEK) as the preferred partial corneal transplantation procedure for almost all Stein Eye Institute patients whose corneal edema is caused by endothelial dysfunction or failure, according to **Sophie X. Deng, MD, PhD**, a Stein Eye Institute corneal surgeon and associate professor who is experienced in the procedure. These include patients with Fuchs endothelial dystrophy and pseudophakic bullous keratopathy. Many patients with glaucoma and cataract are also candidates for DMEK.

"The success rate for DMEK has increased dramatically with the improvement of the surgical technique since the first report on DMEK in 2006," says Dr. Deng. "The recovery time is relatively short, and a majority of patients can see 20/20 within three months if they don't have other eye disease that impacts vision."

Because DMEK is more technically challenging than DSEK, Dr. Deng is among a small number of the world's corneal surgeons who are proficient in the surgery. "It has a very steep learning curve," she says. "Because the procedure uses extremely thin donor tissue," she explains, "it is very challenging to unfold the tissue inside the eye and put it in the right place without damaging the graft."

Dr. Sophie Deng

One of the reasons many corneal surgeons have not performed DMEK is the challenge of stripping the donor tissue. But a growing number of eye banks in the United States have begun preparing pre-stripped DMEK donor tissues, which has the potential to make DMEK more accessible to cornea surgeons. In a study published in the December 2014 issue of the *American Journal of Ophthalmology*, Dr. Deng and colleagues showed that use of eye bank-prepared tissues for DMEK resulted in outcomes comparable to those reported for DMEK tissues prepared by experienced surgeons.

In the study, based on outcomes of 40 DMEK procedures performed by Dr. Deng in 2013 and 2014, within one month after the operation 23% of patients had 20/20 or better vision, 46% had at least 20/25, and 67% had 20/40 or better. Within three months after the surgery, 92% of patients had 20/40 or better, and 63% had at least 20/25 visual acuity. "These results are significantly superior to those of DSEK, which achieves 20/25 or better in less than 20% of patients three months after surgery," says Dr. Deng.

Patient who underwent DMEK surgery one week previously. The patient's vision returned to 20/20, and the cornea was clear. Many patients require a longer recovery time.

The Descemet membrane graft is paper thin and only visible at the edge of the graft.

Alumni News
UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association

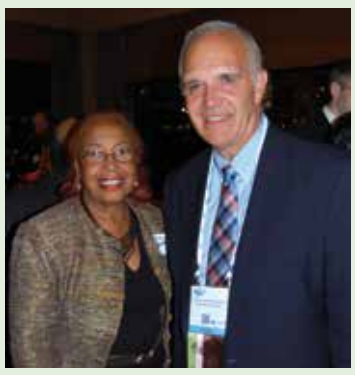
EYELines

UCLA Stein Eye Institute and Doheny Eye Institute Hold Joint Alumni Reception in Chicago

The annual UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Alumni Reception was held in conjunction with the Doheny Eye Institute on October 19, 2014, at the American Academy of Ophthalmology annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois.

Faculty members, residents, and fellow alumni from throughout the world attended the festive event, renewing acquaintances and reconnecting with classmates. An enjoyable evening was had by all.

The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association thanks its members for supporting this annual reception and other important alumni efforts with payment of their annual dues. For membership information, contact alumni@jsei.ucla.edu.



Enjoying the evening event are Dr. Patricia Bath and Dr. John Irvine, medical director of the Doheny Eye Centers UCLA.

Stein Eye Institute faculty member Dr. Anne Coleman (left) greets Dr. Troy Elander (right) and his wife Diane.

Medical Director of the Doheny Eye Centers UCLA Dr. John Irvine (left), Chairman of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Dr. Bartly Mondino (center), and pending Vice Chairman of the Doheny Eye Centers UCLA Dr. Alfredo Sadun.

Dr. Bartly Mondino (far left) joins Drs. Sandy Zhang-Nunes (center left), Robert Alan Goldberg (center right), and Robert Engstrom (far right).

Drs. James Tan (left) and Vikas Chopra (right) visit with Dr. Bartly Mondino at the joint reception in Chicago.

Drs. Uday Devgan, David Richie, and Lucy Shen reconnect at the alumni reception.

Stein Eye Alumnus Identifies Critical Gene as Cause of Blinding Eye Disease

Four decades ago, when he was 21, Jerry Jackson's eyes started hemorrhaging. Despite efforts to stop the bleeding, he gradually lost his sight and became blind. Jerry was not the first or last of his relatives to go through this experience. He can count multiple generations in his Iowa family who were blind, are blind, or who are going blind—from his great-grandmother on his mother's side to his two daughters.

Jackson has a rare genetic eye disease called autosomal dominant neovascular inflammatory vitreoretinopathy (ADNIV). Patients with ADNIV are normally sighted until their second decade when chronic autoimmune uveitis (damage to the eye's middle layer) begins and cataracts develop. Over the next five decades, angiogenesis, photoreceptor degeneration, retinal neovascularization, intraocular fibrosis, and retinal detachment occur, ending in loss of vision. But thanks to the skilled efforts of Stein Eye Institute alumnus and EyeSTAR training program graduate, **Vinit B. Mahajan, MD, PhD**, Jackson and his family have new hope.

Dr. Mahajan and his research team recently identified that mutations in a gene known as *CAPN5* are the cause of ADNIV. His team's published results are the first time the *CAPN5* gene was implicated in eye disease, and it is the first gene to directly cause nonsyndromic uveitis and a new gene to cause retinitis pigmentosa (retinal damage leading to loss of night and peripheral sight).

Following completion of his residency and EyeSTAR (Specialty Training and Advanced Research) fellowship at the Stein Eye Institute, Dr. Mahajan was serving a retinal surgical fellowship at the University of Iowa when he first came into contact with the Jacksons. "They are the quintessential, salt-of-the-earth Iowa family," describes Dr. Mahajan, now assistant professor at the University's Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences. "The Jacksons' case was unusual because they came in as a family experiencing vision loss from a combination of common eye diseases that are almost never seen all at once."

"Seven generations of the Jackson family had gone blind from inherited uveitis and vitreoretinopathy; half of the family was affected by a genetic disease of unknown cause," continues Dr. Mahajan. "I took care of them in clinic, and I took care of them in the operating room. Clearly, to optimize the families' treatment and save their sight, we had to take it into the lab." Thankfully, because of Dr. Mahajan's EyeSTAR training, he had the unique ability to do just that.

The EyeSTAR program, which began in 1995, combines an ophthalmology residency program with a PhD or postdoctoral fellowship in vision science research. **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, director of the Stein Eye Institute, assigned chairmanship of the program to **Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD**, Leonard Apt Endowed Chair in Pediatric Ophthalmology, who was motivated by a desire to train physician-scientists as future leaders in ophthalmology. "Beyond what is learned in the clinical residency, we believe that focused, rigorous, additional research training is increasingly necessary for leadership in the field," explains Dr. Demer.

Describing his research focus specific to the Jacksons, Dr. Mahajan says, "The only silver lining to the Jackson family tragedy was that their gene is a Rosetta Stone: if we could figure out the gene causing disease in this single family, it could have important implications for other patients suffering from uveitis, retinal detachment, and retinal degeneration."

Successful discovery of the *CAPN5* gene gave Dr. Mahajan and his team a key molecular target to understand and treat inflammatory eye diseases. And with that goal, Dr. Mahajan is working in close partnership with fellow EyeSTAR graduate **Stephen H. Tsang, MD, PhD**, an internationally recognized clinician and geneticist specializing in the treatment of retinal disorders at Columbia University's Harkness Eye Institute, who obtained his PhD in mouse molecular genetics. The two physician-researchers carried out their postdoctoral training in the Retinal Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, and Genetics of Retinal Degeneration Laboratory of Stein Eye faculty member **Debora B. Farber, PhD, DPhhc**, Karl Kirchgessner Foundation Chair in Vision Science, and they are currently collaborating to identify mouse models of eye disease. "We are using novel modes of therapy—including gene therapy—to treat the mouse model and find specific therapeutic interventions that will translate to patients," explains Dr. Mahajan.

Dr. Mahajan thinks about his training at the Stein Eye Institute and EyeSTAR every day. "EYEStar has made a huge difference in allowing me to integrate laboratory science, clinical care, and surgical care for difficult-to-treat patients," says Dr. Mahajan, noting that the best hope for many patients is at an academic center where lab work conducted by physician-scientists can have immediate and longlasting effects on rescuing vision in patients. "No place teaches this better than the Stein Eye Institute. The EyeSTAR program is totally unique in ophthalmology training. I had amazing mentors, such as Drs. Demer, Farber, and Mondino, as well as **Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD**, the Fran and Ray Stark Foundation Chair in Ophthalmology."

Dr. Vinit Mahajan

A new reason for hope: Stein Eye Institute alumnus and EyeSTAR graduate Dr. Vinit Mahajan isolated the gene responsible for causing generations of blindness in an Iowa family.

Noting that major ophthalmic advancements will come from advancements in molecular biology and genetics, Dr. Mahajan stresses the need for physician-scientists who are as comfortable in the laboratory as they are in the operating room. "Because of EyeSTAR," Dr. Mahajan affirms, "each week I am in the clinic, in the operating room, and in my own laboratory. I am thankful to all the Stein Eye faculty members who trained me; my accomplishments are a direct result of their dedication and excellence."

For the Jackson family, the invaluable work of trained physician-scientists like Dr. Mahajan has special urgency—protecting their grandchildren and future generations from experiencing a similar and heartbreaking loss of sight.

UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Volunteer Faculty Serving the Los Angeles Community

At the Los Angeles County Medical Association's (LACMA) annual L.A. Healthcare Awards on November 13, 2014, UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Assistant Clinical Professor **Troy R. Elander, MD**, provided an overview of the foundation's contributions to community health. Dr. Elander, a LACMA member, serves as chairman of the board of the Patient Care Foundation of Los Angeles. Dr. Elander is the son of **Carl Richard Elander, MD**, clinical professor of ophthalmology in the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, who passed away on May 21, 2014.

Dr. Troy Elander

Education

20th Annual Vision Science Conference

The annual Stein Eye Institute Vision Science Conference celebrated its twentieth year October 10–12, 2014, at the UCLA Lake Arrowhead Conference Center. Sponsored by a National Institutes of Health training grant, the retreat showcases research by graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty. This year, 71 basic scientists, clinical researchers, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, and invited guests participated in scientific discussions, learning activities, and enjoyable social events.

The Conference keynote address, "Origin Story: How (and When) the Animal Got its Eye" was given by **Todd Oakley, PhD**, professor and vice chairman of the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

The retreat culminated with a presentation by Founding Director of the Stein Eye Institute and Founding Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology, **Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD**, who reflected on the 20th Anniversary of the Stein Eye Institute Vision Science Retreat and its future directions.

SAVE THE DATES

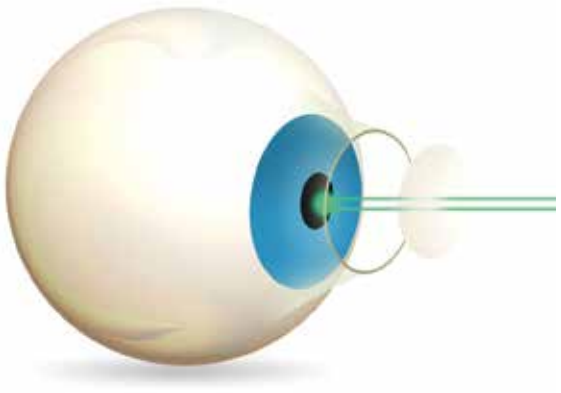
June 12, 2015

The Stein Eye Institute will be holding its annual Clinical and Research Seminar in the Institute's RPB Auditorium. **Stuart L. Fine, MD**, will present the Jules Stein Lecture; **David M. Gamm, MD, PhD**, will give the Bradley R. Straatsma Lecture; and the Thomas H. Pettit Lecture will be given by **Robert K. Maloney, MD**. For information contact the Office of Continuing Medical Education at: (310) 794-2620.

July 31–August 1, 2015

The Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Division will be conducting its annual Aesthetic Periorbital and Facial Rejuvenation Course at the Stein Eye Institute. For further details, contact Daniel Chambers at: (310) 794-3052.

Attendees at the Stein Eye Institute 2014 Vision Science Conference



Medical Residents in Southern California Benefit from Comprehensive Cataract Surgery Training Program

Students from Southern California's six ophthalmology residency programs—UCLA, USC, UCI, UCSD, Loma Linda University, and the Naval Medical Center—attended a Basic Cataract Surgery Course at Abbott Medical Optics in Santa Ana, California, on September 27, 2014. The basic training course—a module of the Institute's Comprehensive Cataract Surgery Program—is offered each fall, followed by an advanced training course in the spring.

Director of the Comprehensive Cataract Surgery Training Program, **Kevin M. Miller, MD**, Kolokotrones Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology and chief of the Stein Eye Institute's Comprehensive Ophthalmology Division, notes that high attendance at each course speaks to the program's success and its popularity. "Anywhere from 45 to 60 residents turn out for each of our courses," he says, "and there are usually 20 to 30 faculty members in attendance."

For information about the Advanced Cataract Surgery Training Course at Bausch & Lomb in Aliso Viejo, California, on May 9, 2015, contact Dr. Miller's office at: (310) 206-9951 or email: kmiller@ucla.edu.

Staff Spotlight

Treasured Colleague Retiring

For many, **Nellie Silva** is the welcoming face of the Stein Eye Institute. As the first person visitors often meet, Nellie's quick smile and effervescent personality immediately help patients to feel at ease.

Now after 45 years of service to the University of California—with 35 of those years devoted to the Institute—Stein Eye will be saying goodbye to a treasured friend and colleague when Nellie retires on June 30.

"I started working at the University of California at San Diego in 1970, and I transferred to UCLA in 1977 where I worked in the main registration area. In 1980, **Thomas H. Pettit, MD**, a founding member of the Stein Eye Institute, needed someone to check-in and register patients, and I was chosen. I loved it, and I have been here ever since!"

Recognizing that little touches can often make a big difference, beautiful arrangements of flowers—often freshly picked from Nellie's own garden, adorn the reception counter in the Doris Stein Building. "I want the office to look welcoming," says Nellie. "When patients come here, they are often scared and unsure where they need to go. I love communicating with people, and I think my chattiness helps our guests feel more comfortable."

Nellie has no plans to slow down when she retires, saying, "My son Erin is 34 and has Down Syndrome. He lives with me and works at the library and church, where I plan to start volunteering. Erin loves when we go to movies together, and I'm going to garden and do yoga. I also enjoy salsa dancing and baking cakes—my strawberry cake is famous around here. I'm not going to sit around and watch television, I can tell you that much!"

The Institute has been her family and home, Nellie says, adding, "I am very grateful that I have worked here." Stein Eye Institute Director, **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, affirms, "Nellie has been a valued member of the Stein Eye team, and she will be greatly missed. We thank Nellie for her service, and we wish her well in her retirement."

Nellie Silva

Community Outreach

Training the Trainers in the Developing World

For the past 12 years, **Anthony Aldave, MD**, professor of ophthalmology and chief of the Cornea and Uveitis Division at the Stein Eye Institute has trained medical students, residents, and fellows to help restore sight to their patients in the United States. However, based on his experiences during multiple visits to the developing world and grounded in the belief that everyone has a right to sight, Dr. Aldave established the non-profit organization Visionaries International (VI), which is dedicated to eliminating corneal blindness internationally.

VI consists of internationally recognized corneal specialists who donate their time and expertise, working with many of the most prominent cornea specialists practicing in the developing world. Supported entirely through personal and corporate donations and sponsorships, VI does not have any paid staff members, and all training surgeons pay their own travel expenses. Therefore, 100% of all donations directly support corneal transplant skills-transfer training programs, including providing surgeons throughout the developing world with the necessary equipment, instruments, and corneal tissue to perform the surgeries.

Since its establishment in 2008 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, members of VI have conducted over 30 training programs in 15 countries. While 90% of the corneal blind live in the developing world, a lack of transplantable corneal tissue and an inadequate number of trained corneal transplant surgeons are two of the main barriers to treating corneal blindness. To maximize the impact of their efforts, Dr. Aldave and colleagues, including UCLA Department of Ophthalmology faculty **Sophie X. Deng, MD, PhD**, and **Olivia L. Lee, MD**, have employed a model of surgical skills-transfer courses that focus on "training the trainers." The local surgeons who work with VI surgeons to organize and conduct surgical skills-transfer courses are typically well-known corneal surgeons working in large academic centers. Once these surgeons are trained in the latest forms of corneal transplant surgery, such as the Boston keratoprosthesis (artificial corneal transplant), deep anterior lamellar keratoplasty (DALK), and Descemet stripping endothelial keratoplasty (DSEK), they then train other surgeons to perform these procedures. This model has proven to be successful in many cities and countries, from Mumbai to Moscow to Manila, with surgeons trained by VI surgeons then teaching the surgical techniques they have learned to their trainees and other local surgeons.

In September 2014, members of the VI team, along with former Stein Eye fellow and current faculty member **Rosalind Vo, MD**, traveled to the Vietnam National Institute of Ophthalmology (VNIO) in Hanoi, Vietnam, to conduct a DALK skills-transfer training program. During this trip, they visited VNIO's eye bank—the only domestic source of corneal tissue for this country of 90 million people. According to a survey conducted by VNIO, approximately 380,000 Vietnamese are currently blind with an additional 15,000 new diagnoses made every year. The reasons for the significant burden of blindness in Vietnam, and throughout the developing world include limited access to care, limited health care resources, and lack of trained medical professionals. It is estimated that only 10 ophthalmologists are available for every one million Vietnamese patients. This, coupled with the lack of donor corneas available for transplantation, accounts for the fact that only approximately 150 corneal transplants are performed per year in Vietnam, as compared to approximately 50,000 corneal transplants performed annually in the United States.

Drs. Anthony Aldave and Rosalind Vo examine a child with corneal opacification at the Vietnam National Institute of Ophthalmology in Hanoi, Vietnam.

> Grounded in the belief that everyone has a right to sight, Dr. Aldave and other Stein Eye Institute faculty members, donate their time and expertise in efforts to eliminate corneal blindness internationally.

To address the lack of donor corneas, and the resultant inexperience of Vietnamese corneal transplant surgeons, VI has partnered with VNIO to develop a program to increase donor cornea recoveries and expand the surgical skills of the Institute's corneal specialists. The most efficient system of obtaining corneas for transplantation is a hospital-based recovery program, which is the source of the majority of corneas used for transplantation in the United States and India. Thus, trained grief counselors, who approach families of the deceased regarding organ and tissue donation, are the first and perhaps the most important part of the corneal donation process. After identifying the lack of trained grief counselors to approach families regarding donation as a primary factor in the limited number of corneas recovered by VNIO, VI was awarded a grant from the Dreiseszun Family Foundation to support the training of two VNIO eye bank technicians in a two-week grief counselor training course at Aravind Eye Hospital in Madurai, India. As there are no trained grief counselors in Vietnam, the training the VNIO technicians obtained in India represents the first step to building a successful hospital-based tissue recovery program in Hanoi.

If you would like to learn more about Visionaries International, visit: www.visionaries-international.org or email: admin@visionaries-international.org.

Dr. Anthony Aldave instructs corneal specialists at the Vietnam National Institute of Ophthalmology in Hanoi, Vietnam, on the performance of deep anterior lamellar keratoplasty during a skills-transfer course in September 2014.

Endowed Chair Pays Tribute to Both Donor and Holder

Stein Eye Institute is grateful for the generous and steadfast support it receives for research, patient care, education, and outreach activities. This commitment is elevated when represented through a gift of an endowment. Such gifts allow the University to hold the fund in perpetuity. By investing the fund principal for growth over time, the earnings are used to underwrite significant programs. An endowment, whether established during a lifetime or through a planned gift, provides a constant financial source and helps secure a program's future and continued success. Endowments may be named and serve as a lasting tribute to the donor. An endowed chair is one of the most important gifts to higher education.

In ancient times, chairs were rare and highly coveted pieces of furniture reserved for the exclusive use of royalty or religious leaders. The chair itself symbolized that its owner was an individual of high rank and prominence. Today, endowed chairs are reserved for those who have reached the pinnacle of academic achievement. They honor and recognize the distinction of superior faculty, while providing invaluable financial support, for use in research, teaching, and/or service activities. An endowed chair, which is the highest honor UCLA accords to scholarship, pays tribute to both the holder who has earned the distinction and the donor who has embraced the vision. It can memorialize or honor beloved family members, recognize the achievements of admired colleagues, and declare one's personal commitment to the excellence of, in this instance, UCLA's Stein Eye Institute.

The establishment of a permanent endowed chair is a special incentive to attract a scholar of distinction to Stein Eye or to retain gifted faculty whose teaching and research best exemplify UCLA's mission. Each is now established with a $2-million minimum gift, with the income supporting the scholar's research and teaching, as well as freedom to explore opportunities. The continuity of funding provided by a permanent-appointment chair, including an administrative chair, gives the incumbent financial flexibility in planning long-term research, more independence from outside agencies, and freedom to explore promising new areas. The activities supported by a chair will attract other distinguished faculty members, as well as the best and brightest fellows and students.

A term chair supports the teaching and research activities of a faculty member by underwriting graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, staff and services, and special projects. A term chair is limited to a set time frame and currently is established with a $1-million minimum gift.

The endowed-chair tradition started under the tenure of Founding Director of the Stein Eye Institute and Founding Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology, **Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD**. The Stein Eye Institute continued to be the beneficiary of additional endowed chairs when **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, assumed the leadership role as Stein Eye Director and Department Chairman in 1994. Dr. Mondino was involved in establishing 15 endowed chairs and converting five term chairs to permanent-appointment chairs.

"Over the years, Stein Eye has flourished from the generosity of many friends, grateful patients, and supporters. We are most indebted and humbled by their tremendous commitment to and belief in Stein Eye and the work we do," says Dr. Mondino.

With the recent gift from Stein Eye alumnus Walton W. Li, MD, Stein Eye has a total of 24 endowed chairs, which are listed below:

2013	Walton Li, MD, Chair in Cornea and Uveitis
2012	Joan and Jerome Snyder Chair in Cornea Diseases
2012	Mary Oakley Foundation Chair in Neurodegenerative Diseases
2008	Jerome and Joan Snyder Chair in Ophthalmology
2008	Jack H. Skirball Chair in Ophthalmology
2008	Ernest G. Herman Chair in Ophthalmology
2007	Arthur L. Rosenbaum, MD, Chair in Pediatric Ophthalmology (previously the Brindell and Milton Gottlieb Chair in Pediatric Ophthalmology)
2007	Karen and Frank Dabby Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology
2006	Ahmanson Chair in Ophthalmology
2004	Kolokotrones Chair in Ophthalmology
2003	Leonard Apt Endowed Chair in Pediatric Ophthalmology
2002	Oppenheimer Brothers Chair
2001	Karl Kirchgessner Foundation Chair in Vision Science
2000	Harold and Pauline Price Chair in Ophthalmology (converted to permanent chair in 2006)
1998	David May II Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology (converted to permanent chair in 2005)
1998	Laraine and David Gerber Chair in Ophthalmology (converted to permanent chair in 2006)
1995	Vernon O. Underwood Family Chair in Ophthalmology
1994	Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology
1992	The Fran and Ray Stark Foundation Chair in Ophthalmology (converted to permanent chair in 2007)
1991	Grace and Walter Lantz Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology (converted to permanent chair in 2010)
1982	Jules Stein Chair in Ophthalmology
1982	Charles Kenneth Feldman Chair in Ophthalmology
1980	Dolly Green Chair of Ophthalmology
1977	Edith and Lew Wasserman Professor of Ophthalmology

To learn more about making an investment with a positive impact on the future of ophthalmology, please direct your confidential inquiries to M. Gail Summers, Director of Development, at (310) 206-6035 or summers@jsei.ucla.edu.

The bronze sculpture commemorates the establishment of a named endowed chair and is given to both the donor and the newly appointed chair holder.

Doctors that Power the Program!

The JSEI Affiliates Preschool Vision Screening (PSVS) program has a significant impact in the Los Angeles area, and its success greatly depends on the steadfast support of volunteer optometrists and ophthalmologists. Screening over 958 children at 38 different preschools during the 2014 academic year alone, this valuable community outreach program—under the supervision of Affiliates Medical Advisor and Associate Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, **Melissa W. Chun, OD**—was modified in 2005 to include a certified optometrist or ophthalmologist at every preschool screening.

"Having an optometrist at each screening to check for the presence of strabismus and to determine the presence of abnormal refractive errors has allowed the Affiliates (the Institute's volunteer arm) to offer a more comprehensive vision screening to many children who could otherwise not afford an eye exam," notes Affiliates President **Marcia Lloyd**. The distance and near vision screening tests are administered by a trained layperson volunteer. If the child does not pass these screening tests, the volunteer optometrist or ophthalmologist will re-administer the exam.

Vision problems affect 1 in 20 preschoolers, yet most children do not realize they are not seeing properly. The Affiliates provides vision screenings to various Head Start and low income preschools as well as to several local preschools to identify young children who have refractive errors or eye muscle problems.

"The contributions of our volunteer optometrists are invaluable," says Marcia. "The Affiliates board and countless preschool teachers and parents thank **Drs. Jule Lamm, Stanley Pearl, Howard Pflug, Lou Rosenberg**, and **Barry Weissman** for graciously volunteering their time and serving the Los Angeles community."

To learn more about the JSEI Affiliates or to become a volunteer, go to: www.jseiaffiliates.com or call (310) 825-4148.

Dr. Howard Pflug evaluates the vision of a local preschooler.

Dr. Jule Lamm examines a young patient.

The contributions of volunteer optometrists are invaluable, offering comprehensive vision screening to many children who could otherwise not have access to an eye exam.

Dr. Louis Rosenberg conducts a vision screening test.

Vision problems affect 1 in 20 preschoolers, yet most children do not realize they are not seeing properly.

Special Events

Edie & Lew Wasserman Building Dedication Reception

Following the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Edie & Lew Wasserman Building, guests enjoyed a reception and self-guided tour of the state-of-the-art facility.

Left top: Natural light brightens the lobby of the Edie & Lew Wasserman Building.

Left bottom: Dr. Kevin Miller (right) welcomes a guest to the Cataract and Refractive Surgery Division area located on the building's second floor.

Below: Casey Wasserman (right) greets UCLA Distinguished Professor Emeritus and Acting Chancellor Emeritus Norman Abrams.

Build a Legacy and Ensure Advances in Vision Science

The Stein Eye Institute is dedicated to advancing innovative and groundbreaking research, delivering cutting-edge patient care, key community engagement, and providing the education necessary to diagnose and treat eye disease.

Charitable gifts made through your estate are a wonderful way to provide lasting support for Stein Eye.

If you are interested in learning more about ways to include the Stein Eye Institute in your will or living trust, or if you have already included Stein Eye in your estate plans, please let us know so we can ensure your wishes are clearly understood.

We would love to hear from you!

And best of all, you know that you are helping to ensure that the Stein Eye Institute can uphold its mission to preserve sight and restore vision for generations to come.

For more information on estate gifts, bequests, charitable gift annuities, and other philanthropic strategies, please visit UCLA's Planned Giving website at: www.legacy.ucla.edu, or contact Stein Eye's Development team at:

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