FALL 2021 VOLUME 39 NUMBER 2

EYE

UCLA STEIN EYE INSTITUTE
VISION-SCIENCE CAMPUS

UCLA Stein Eye Institute | DOHENY EYE INSTITUTE

EYE MAGAZINE
is a publication of the
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The Stein Eye Institute is a proud affiliate of the Doheny Eye Institute.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

In this issue of *EYE Magazine*, we congratulate the Class of 2021—graduating residents, clinical and research fellows—whom we have had the privilege to educate. Our training of physicians—from their earliest days in medical school to continuing professional education programs for veteran ophthalmologists in clinical practice—is critical to the Stein Eye Institute's mission to preserve and restore vision. And we are confident this year's graduates, like our graduates before them, will advance these goals.

The Institute was created under Dr. Jules Stein's driving belief that everyone should see. As such, Stein Eye's community extends across the United States and throughout the world, and our faculty are making tangible differences in the lives of others. In addition to their clinical, research, and educational activities—Dr. Anthony Aldave, for example, is driven to improve the success of corneal transplantation in Vietnam; Dr. Robert Goldberg delivered life-changing eye surgery to a young girl from Guatemala; and Dr. Sherwin Isenberg is committed to stopping infant blindness in Africa. Their actions underscore that our pledge to end avoidable blindness goes well beyond our shores.

Education is foundational to our mission, and a key component of Stein Eye is to serve the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. Dr. Gary Holland and Dr. JoAnn Giaconi, co-directors of UCLA's medical student education program, along with Dr. Peter Quiros and other Department of Ophthalmology faculty members, have redesigned the medical student curriculum to incorporate new content, novel teaching approaches, and enhanced flexibility, with the ultimate goal to have the most innovative curriculum at any medical school. Furthering Stein Eye's objective, every UCLA medical student is taught the fundamentals about the eye and eye disease in recognition that many eye problems are first identified by a non-ophthalmologist.

On behalf of everyone at the Stein Eye Institute and the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, thank you for supporting our conviction that everyone should see.

Sincerely,

Bartly J. Mondino, MD

Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology
Director, Stein Eye Institute
Chair, UCLA Department of Ophthalmology
Affiliation Chair, Doheny Eye Institute

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The formal partnership between the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and City of Hope supports the care of patients experiencing serious eye-health issues due to cancer treatment and the cancer itself.

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Photo Credit: City of Hope

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UCLA Health is consistently ranked among the best hospitals in the country by U.S. News & World Report, *and UCLA Stein Eye and Doheny Eye Institutes are ranked among the top five in the nation in ophthalmology.*

A New Curriculum for a New Era

A redesigned education program for medical students at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA provides novel opportunities for training the next generation of doctors about the eye and vision-related disease.

For Stein Eye, the changing curriculum means new approaches for training every medical student at DGSOM—especially those who are not entering the field of ophthalmology. This emphasis on educating all UCLA medical students about the eye and eye disease has been a major responsibility for Stein Eye since the day the Institute was founded in 1966.

When the incoming medical students in the Class of 2025 arrived at UCLA last August, they enrolled in an ambitious new education program created by the David Geffen School of Medicine (DGSOM) that is transforming how the university is training the next generation of doctors.

Integral to that new curriculum are changes for the educational offerings of the Stein Eye Institute and the Department of Ophthalmology that ensure all UCLA medical students—regardless of their planned specialties—receive training about the eye and eye diseases, through new instruction, enhanced flexibility for the student experience, and expanded study and research in ophthalmic fields.

Training the fundamentals of the eye and eye disease

The redesigned medical curriculum at UCLA has evolved out of changes in science, medicine, and society that are affecting the entire field of healthcare: the new curriculum restructures the four years of medical training into newly-designed courses, earlier clinical experiences, and a "Discovery Year" that provides protected time for an individualized creative and scholarly experience in an area of interest unique to each student.

For Stein Eye, the changing curriculum means new approaches for training every medical student at DGSOM—especially those who are not entering the field of ophthalmology. This emphasis on educating all UCLA medical students about the eye and eye disease has been a major responsibility for Stein Eye since the day the Institute was founded in 1966.

"UCLA is committed to increasing the number of primary care physicians, and the Department of Ophthalmology supports that mission by training every medical student

about the fundamentals of the eye and eye disease," says **Gary N. Holland, MD**, Jack H. Skirball Chair in Ocular Inflammatory Diseases and co-director of medical student education for the Department of Ophthalmology, with **JoAnn A. Giaconi, MD**, health sciences clinical professor of ophthalmology.

"Many medical schools don't teach ophthalmology at all," says Dr. Holland. "We believe our approach is crucial, because many eye problems are first identified by a non-ophthalmologist at a medical check-up or in the emergency room, where as much as 20 percent of problems are eye-related. Primary care providers and emergency medicine physicians need to be able to recognize the relevance of a patient's visual and ocular complaints and triage the patient appropriately."

Expanded potential

For the Stein Eye Institute, the redesigned curriculum offers three evolving opportunities for UCLA medical students.

The first and primary goal continues to be empowering all practitioners with the skills they need to evaluate patients with eye issues in their medical practice.

All UCLA medical students are taught to do a simple—yet revealing—four-minute examination that helps them identify "red flags" that require immediate attention from a vision specialist. "A lot can be learned about the condition of the eye without complicated instruments and with the knowledge that we try to instill in all medical students," says Dr. Holland. "Using just a penlight, they can assess a patient's eye problem during a routine examination and determine if the problem is minor, or if the patient must be referred to an ophthalmologist immediately. The benefit of having this instruction early in the curriculum is that medical students can begin using this skill set during other points in their training—general medicine, pediatrics, or emergency medicine clerkships, for example—as soon as they start."

Second, Stein Eye is integrating ophthalmology throughout the coursework, so students gain an appreciation for the interaction between the eye and other parts of the body.

"The eye is affected by a range of other medical conditions," says **Peter A. Quiros, MD**, health sciences associate clinical professor of ophthalmology, and one of many Department of Ophthalmology faculty members who have been active in medical student instruction. "Doctors need to be constantly alert that a range of medical issues affecting all parts of the body can have complications related to the eye. We want to train our doctors to understand that it is crucial in healthcare to understand specific issues have broader consequences—especially those that affect the eye. So for example, a doctor managing a patient's thyroid disease needs to be alert to the impact of thyroid issues and local therapy for the eye, and understand the signs or symptoms that would prompt an urgent referral."

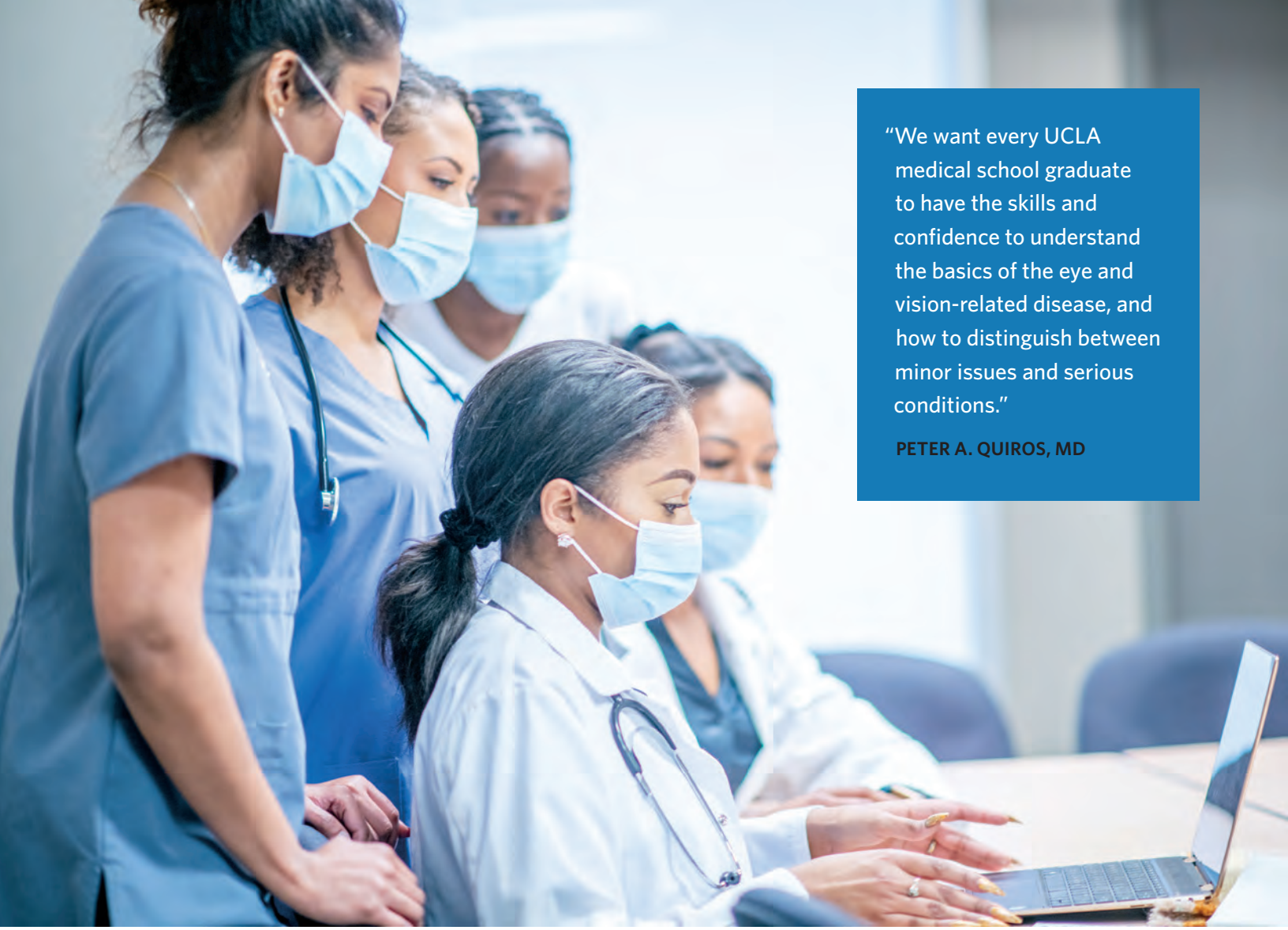
Dr. Quiros also has an expanded role in the new DGSOM curriculum as co-director of "Foundations of Practice," a course conducted throughout the students' first year that deals with clinical issues in all subspecialties, not just ophthalmology. "With our new program," says Dr. Quiros, "we can build a more thorough understanding of the connections between ophthalmology and other areas of medicine."

As a third goal, the Stein Eye teaching philosophy trains medical students to have the basic skills needed to identify and manage eye issues that do not necessarily require referral to an ophthalmologist, such as blepharitis (eyelid inflammation), dry eyes, or allergic conjunctivitis.

"By training UCLA medical students with a fundamental understanding of the differences between serious eye diseases and minor medical issues," says Dr. Holland, "we support them in providing treatment for conditions that don't require more comprehensive ophthalmic care."

"Many medical schools don't teach ophthalmology at all. We believe our approach is crucial, because many eye problems are first identified by a non-ophthalmologist at a medical check-up or in the emergency room, where as much as 20 percent of problems are eye-related."

GARY N. HOLLAND, MD



> "We want every UCLA medical school graduate to have the skills and confidence to understand the basics of the eye and vision-related disease, and how to distinguish between minor issues and serious conditions."
>
> **PETER A. QUIROS, MD**

In addition, interested medical students can gain added clinical experience in ophthalmology by spending time with faculty members in their Consultation Suites or by working on the UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic, which travels throughout Los Angeles providing eye health screenings to underserved and undertreated individuals.

Opportunities for research and ophthalmic study

DGSOM Discovery is a required component of the new curriculum that provides third-year medical students with a year-long period of protected time for a deep and substantive creative and scholarly experience in an area of their interest.

"Having this focused time on discovery is a wonderful opportunity for us to encourage more people to consider ophthalmology as a career direction," says **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and director of the Stein Eye Institute. "With nearly an entire year devoted to elective study in medical specialties, the redesigned curriculum offers students innovative options for advanced learning, among them research in ophthalmic fields, or using digital simulations at the Stein Eye Institute to 'perform' surgery on cataracts or the retina in the virtual realm."

To support the new curriculum, **Mitra Nejad, MD**, associate physician diplomate and clinical instructor of ophthalmology, is creating a series of short elective courses for students considering a career in ophthalmology—such as ophthalmology for primary care providers, for pediatricians, or for neurologists—that in a few weeks of study will support students in honing specific skills needed for those specialties. In addition, Stein Eye offers a research fellowship award specifically for medical students.

"The new medical curriculum has allowed us to rethink how we educate all medical students," says Dr. Quiros. "But our broad goals are the same—we want every UCLA medical school graduate to have the skills and confidence to understand the basics of the eye and vision-related disease, and how to distinguish between minor issues and serious conditions."

The redesigned curriculum supports the primary goals of medical education at UCLA: to train a new generation of doctors with the proficiency and self-assurance to constantly ask questions, push for answers, and strive for excellence in patient care and research. Says Dr. Holland, "Four years from now, when the first class graduates after studying under the new curriculum, we want our students to be able to say that UCLA has the most innovative curriculum of any medical school, and the Stein Eye Institute's role in creating that curriculum will contribute to that goal."

REDESIGNED MEDICAL CURRICULUM AT UCLA

NEW CONTENT, ENLIGHTENED APPROACHES, EXPANDED FLEXIBILITY

The new curriculum for the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA was created to ensure that medical students are prepared to provide healthcare in a changing world, and to increase their understanding of the evolving issues in the humanistic, ethical, legal, and cultural aspects of medicine.

The redesign was launched to incorporate new content, new teaching approaches, and enhanced flexibility for the student experience.

AMONG THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW CURRICULUM ARE:

- Early coursework that explores the foundations of science, social issues in healthcare, ethics, clinical skills, and understanding the basis of disease through active learning of the medical sciences;
- Immersive, real-life clinical experiences in the first year;
- Clerkships in medical specialties that include seven core clinical rotations: surgery, medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, neurology, psychiatry, and family medicine;
- A "Discovery Year" that allows students to focus on a specific type of study while working with a faculty mentor, such as research, innovation, or a dual degree;
- Clinical experiences that complement a student's specific interests;
- Compelling electives in many medical subspecialties;
- A capstone course to prepare students for clinical practice as interns.
- The curriculum also involves modules on public health issues, equality, diversity, and inclusion that are integral to medical studies and the healthcare field.

For more on the new UCLA medical curriculum, visit: https://medschool.ucla.edu/our-curriculum.

VISION EDUCATION AND TRAINING AT THE STEIN EYE INSTITUTE

The UCLA Stein Eye Institute trains doctors as a career-long experience—from the earliest days in medical school to the continuing education programs for veteran ophthalmologists in medical practice.

Education about the eye is a four-part mission at the Institute: teaching the basics of the eye and eye disease to all UCLA medical students; educating residents in training to be ophthalmologists; fellowship training in ophthalmic subspecialties; and fine-tuning the skills of practicing physicians with career-long training.

"Education in every subject changes constantly, and even more so in medicine," says **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and director of the Stein Eye Institute. "The training, procedures, and tools we use continually evolve, as research produces new developments in vision science."

For more about training offered by the Stein Eye Institute and the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, go to: http://www.uclahealth.org/eye/training-education.

A UNIQUE COLLABORATION WITH City of Hope

The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and City of Hope have joined in a formal partnership that provides care for some of the most challenging cases involving cancer and the eye.

"City of Hope specializes in treating cancer patients; cancer can impact the eye, and the cancer treatment itself can also affect vision."

JOHN A. IRVINE, MD

When physicians at City of Hope, one of the nation's leading centers for the study and treatment of cancer, needed guidance about the effects of leukemia and lymphoma on the optic nerves of two patients, they turned to colleagues at the Doheny Eye Centers UCLA for consultation.

"When leukemia or lymphoma gets to the optic nerve, a patient will go blind in only a few days if no appropriate treatment is given," says **Alfredo A. Sadun, MD, PhD**, Flora L. Thornton Endowed Chair in Vision Research and vice chair of the Doheny Eye Centers UCLA. "Both cases were urgent and complicated. One was an infiltration of the nerve by the cancer, the other suffered a side effect from the complicated therapy for leukemia."

According to Dr. Sadun, most doctors go their whole careers without dealing with such rare cases, which is why the collaboration between City of Hope and the deep background and training of the clinicians in the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology is so important. "Our primary goal in working with City of Hope," affirms Dr. Sadun, "is to provide the best ophthalmic care for its patients."

Critical in the development of the relationship with City of Hope were **Alex A. Huang, MD, PhD**, associate professor of ophthalmology, and **John A. Irvine, MD**, health sciences clinical professor of ophthalmology and medical director of the Doheny Eye Centers UCLA. Through their focused leadership, a connection began with occasional consultation calls that flourished into a three-year association and formal partnership for patient care and research.

The collaboration grew out of a need for a more focused approach in the care of patients with some of the most challenging cases involving cancer and eye health. For several decades, Dr. Sadun explains, City of Hope had called on outside ophthalmologists to assist on vision-related cancer issues. But the shifting reliance from year to year, he notes, was suboptimal for City of Hope due to the many serious complications they deal with on a regular basis.

"City of Hope specializes in treating cancer patients; cancer can impact the eye, and the cancer treatment itself can also affect vision," says Dr. Irvine, who is serving as the medical director overseeing the combined effort. "Our collaboration with City of Hope occurred because of the complex nature of the eye care issues experienced by many of its patients, and the need for both specialized care and a more coordinated approach to dealing with these questions."

Graft vs. host disease (GVHD), for example, may occur after a patient with cancer undergoes a bone marrow transplant. The donated bone marrow or stem cells view the recipient's body as foreign, and in addition to attacking the cancer, the donated bone marrow or stem cells attack the body. GVHD can be especially damaging to the front of the eye and lead to an array of ocular issues.

"A graft vs. host complication of the eye requires treatment by an ophthalmologist with deep training in this rare condition," says Dr. Irvine. "Our work with City of Hope includes an in-house Graft vs. Host Clinic that addresses these issues among patients who are most vulnerable to GVHD's effects."

"The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology is City of Hope's crucial link to ophthalmic care and consultation. This is a developing relationship that is providing significant benefits for patients at City of Hope by bringing in our faculty to participate in some of the most complex challenges in cancer care," says **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, director of the Stein Eye Institute and chair of the Department.

"The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology wants more partners in the medical community," continues Dr. Mondino. "City of Hope needed a world-class partner that saw the organization as more than just a source of patients. We were the perfect match. Our mutual intent is to ultimately have a Division of Ophthalmology at City of Hope."

The agreement calls for the Department to provide subspecialty treatment, education, and vision-science support. "Doheny and Stein are working with City of Hope to handle the vexing problems of cancer and eye health, and also to applying these opportunities to developing natural collaborations for research," says Dr. Sadun. "The opportunities are already creating benefits for patient care as well as our work in the laboratory."

Two Doheny Eye Centers UCLA ophthalmologists—Dr. Irvine and **Phillip Le, MD, PhD**, associate physician diplomate—are on call 24/7 for City of Hope patients, and the entire Department is available for backup or consultation in all of the ophthalmic subspecialties.

City of Hope also recognized the need for coordinated education in other areas of their work affecting the eye, including diabetes control for ophthalmic issues such as diabetic retinopathy. Dr. Le has established a diabetic retinopathy screening protocol whereby City of Hope patients with diabetes have routine retina photos that are reviewed for two purposes: to diagnose diabetic disease in the retina and to teach City of Hope's endocrinology fellows the types of changes that diabetes can produce in the retina.

With offices in Pasadena and Arcadia, the Doheny Eye Centers UCLA are in easy proximity to City of Hope's primary location in Duarte. Doheny doctors meet with patients at City of Hope's main campus, consult by phone and online with physicians at the organization's other facilities, and serve as a bridge to UCLA ophthalmologists. Patients who require a higher level of ophthalmic care are seen at the Stein Eye Institute vision-science campus in Westwood or at one of the Doheny Eye Centers UCLA locations.

"The relationship between the Doheny Eye Centers UCLA and City of Hope is a vital element of our work in the community," says Dr. Irvine. "This relationship gives the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology an opportunity to build a new partnership that expands the UCLA footprint in Southern California, and allows us to work together to build the next innovation in cancer and ophthalmic care."

"The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology is City of Hope's crucial link to ophthalmic care and consultation. This is a developing relationship that is providing significant benefits for patients at City of Hope by bringing in our faculty to participate in some of the most complex challenges in cancer care."

BARTLY J. MONDINO, MD

"Our primary goal in working with City of Hope is to provide the best ophthalmic care for its patients."

ALFREDO A. SADUN, MD, PHD

From Cloudy to Clear: Stem Cell Therapy for Limbal Stem Cell Deficiency

Sophie X. Deng, MD, PhD

Sophie X. Deng MD, PhD, Joan and Jerome Snyder Chair in Cornea Diseases, performed a successful cultivated autologous limbal stem cell (cLSC) transplant at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute in October 2020. This revolutionary advancement was the first of its type, and it moves science and medicine closer to the goal of individualized therapies using the patient's own stem cells. Dr. Deng and her team are collecting preliminary information on the safety, efficacy, and feasibility of cLSC transplantation in this phase 1 cLSC clinical trial.

Background

The limbus is the margin between the cornea, the front surface of the eye, and the conjunctiva, the white of the eye. Limbal stem cell deficiency (LSCD) causes clouding of the corneal epithelium by replacing normal transparent epithelial cells with conjunctival cells—a process known as conjunctivalization. Other signs of LSCD include epithelial defects, inflammation, scarring, and new blood vessel formation (neovascularization). LSCD is not a disease unto itself but has many underlying causes. It may be hereditary, or it may be acquired, occurring as the result of an injury, surgery, or an autoimmune condition. Regardless of the underlying cause, LSCD symptoms include vision loss and eye pain. The ultimate treatment goal is to clear the cloudy cornea and relieve discomfort.

Diagnosis and classification

To ensure that outcomes of a study can be validated and compared to other therapies, LSCD needs to be appropriately staged using a standardized grading system. The usual measures of ocular function, such as visual acuity alone, are insufficient indicators of the success of cLSC transplantation and might lead to misdiagnosis of the disease. Dr. Deng's team developed a non-invasive imaging method to detect and grade the stem cell function in patients' eyes.

The International Limbal Stem Cell Deficiency Working Group, co-organized by Dr. Deng, published a ground-breaking global consensus in 2019 on the classification, diagnosis, and staging of LSCD. In addition to a traditional slit-lamp exam with fluorescein dye to grade corneal staining, the global consensus recommended impression cytology, in vivo laser scanning confocal microscopy, and anterior segment optical coherence tomography to detect conjunctival epithelial cells on the cornea, and stage corneal and limbal abnormalities. Dr. Deng's collaborator, **Jianyu Rao, MD**, professor and vice chair of the UCLA Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, helped to develop a new LSCD diagnostic test based on Dr. Deng's finding that cytokeratin 13 is a specific marker of the conjunctival epithelium. The advancements made by Dr Deng's team have already changed the current practice in diagnosing and staging LSCD.

Cultivated autologous limbal stem cell transplantation

Traditional corneal transplants are unsuccessful at treating LSCD because the corneal graft will fail without a healthy corneal surface. When using animal cells in the cultivation process there is the risk of cross-contamination. The ideal scenario is an autologous transplant, meaning the donor is also the transplant recipient, eliminating the immune rejection of the tissue. A 2 mm x 2 mm biopsy of healthy limbal tissue is taken from the donor eye, the one with enough healthy stem cells. These cells are grown on amniotic membrane tissue in a petri dish.

The cultivation method Dr. Deng uses is novel because the entire process is

xenobiotic-free and without additional helper cells, meaning that the cultivated cells are only from the patient without any animal products. The development of this new method was led by **Sheyla Gonzalez Garrido, PhD**, associate project scientist, after comparing more than 70 different ways of growing stem cells. The method also preserves the native stem cell niche or habitat, which enhances the efficiency of growing the limbal stem cells. The time between harvesting the cells and transplanting them back into the patient is between seven and 21 days, but averages less than 14 days, for the expansion of the stem cell population.

The transplantation procedure is designed so that all corneal surgeons can perform it with ease to allow for wide adaptation of the treatment. First the abnormal tissue on the corneal surface is removed surgically, then the cultured stem cells are transplanted onto the eye. After the stem cells are restored, the corneal surface will become clear. If there is a dense scar in the stroma—a deeper layer of the cornea—further treatments, such as a corneal transplant, will be considered to fully restore a clear optical pathway.

The phase I clinical trial

The primary goals of Dr. Deng's phase I randomized controlled study are to manufacture and transplant cLSC onto the cornea successfully and have the cLSC populate the ocular surface. The secondary purpose is to validate the classification, diagnosis, and staging criteria.

The study will include 20 patients with severe to total LSCD in one eye only. The first five patients will receive the cLSCs to assess feasibility and safety. Then the next 15 patients will be randomized into the cLSC group and a scleral contact lens treatment control group in a 2:1 ratio. The main inclusion criteria are unilateral LSCD, secondary to injury or surgery, with no underlying genetic cause or autoimmune disorder, and a Snellen visual acuity of 20/160 or worse in the affected eye. As of May 2021, three patients have been treated with cLSC transplants, but recruitment is ongoing. Later phase clinical trials will include patients with bilateral disease. If successful, the trials will provide the first manufactured stem cells as a therapy, raising the current standard of care for LSCD.

Dr. Deng's clinical trial is a collaborative effort involving patients, colleagues, and fellow researchers at the Department of Ophthalmology, Broad Stem Cell Research Center, and Human Gene and Cell Therapy Facility at UCLA. The study is registered through ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT03957954), and it is funded by the National Eye Institute, the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, Prevent Blindness America, and Research to Prevent Blindness.

For more information, or if you have LSCD and would like to participate in the phase I clinical trial, please email: LSCDtrial@mednet.ucla.edu.

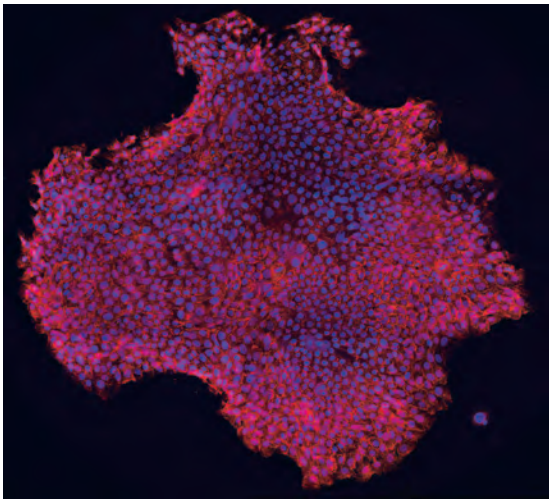


Image shows the staining of limbal stem cells cultured in a dish. The blue color highlights the nucleus of the cells, and the red color locates proteins that the stem cells express.

The transplantation procedure is designed so that all corneal surgeons can perform it with ease to allow for wide adaptation of the treatment.

A Sight-Saving Intervention

Maeyli Guadalupe Siomara Ramos Toj is a bright 13-year-old girl who dreams of becoming a teacher. She lives with her parents and four siblings in a small village in Santa María Ixhuatán, Santa Rosa, Guatemala.

In May 2017, Maeyli began experiencing redness and irritation in her right eye while she was at school, and she was told she had conjunctivitis (pink eye). Despite treatment with multiple eye drops, her condition did not improve; instead, her right eye gradually became more prominent and painful. Maeyli and her family saw multiple doctors and eventually made their way to a local hospital. Diagnostic imaging revealed an orbital tumor, an abnormal growth of tissue in the eye socket. Maeyli was admitted to the hospital for long-term care, during which time she underwent treatment with steroids and pain medication, but her symptoms continued to progress. For two years, Maeyli and her family went to numerous hospitals and physicians, including oncologists, ophthalmologists, and neurosurgeons, looking for treatment. A biopsy was scheduled for November 2020, but the procedure was cancelled when it was determined the risk of bleeding would be too high.

Desperate for care, her family sought assistance from a variety of organizations, and **Susan Carter-Lorenzana**, the director of Latin American Friends, was eager to help. The organization reached out to the Children's Eye Foundation of the American Academy of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus, who contacted UCLA Stein Eye Institute pediatric eye specialist **Stacy L. Pineles, MD**. Dr. Pineles, Jerome and Joan Snyder Chair in Ophthalmology and associate professor, shared Maeyli's story with **Robert Alan Goldberg, MD**, Bert O. Levy Endowed Chair in Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery and chief of the Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Division; and **Liza M. Cohen, MD**, a clinical fellow of Dr. Goldberg's specializing in oculoplastics. They reviewed Maeyli's medical records and MRI scans and determined that while her orbital tumor would be challenging to remove, they were willing to try.

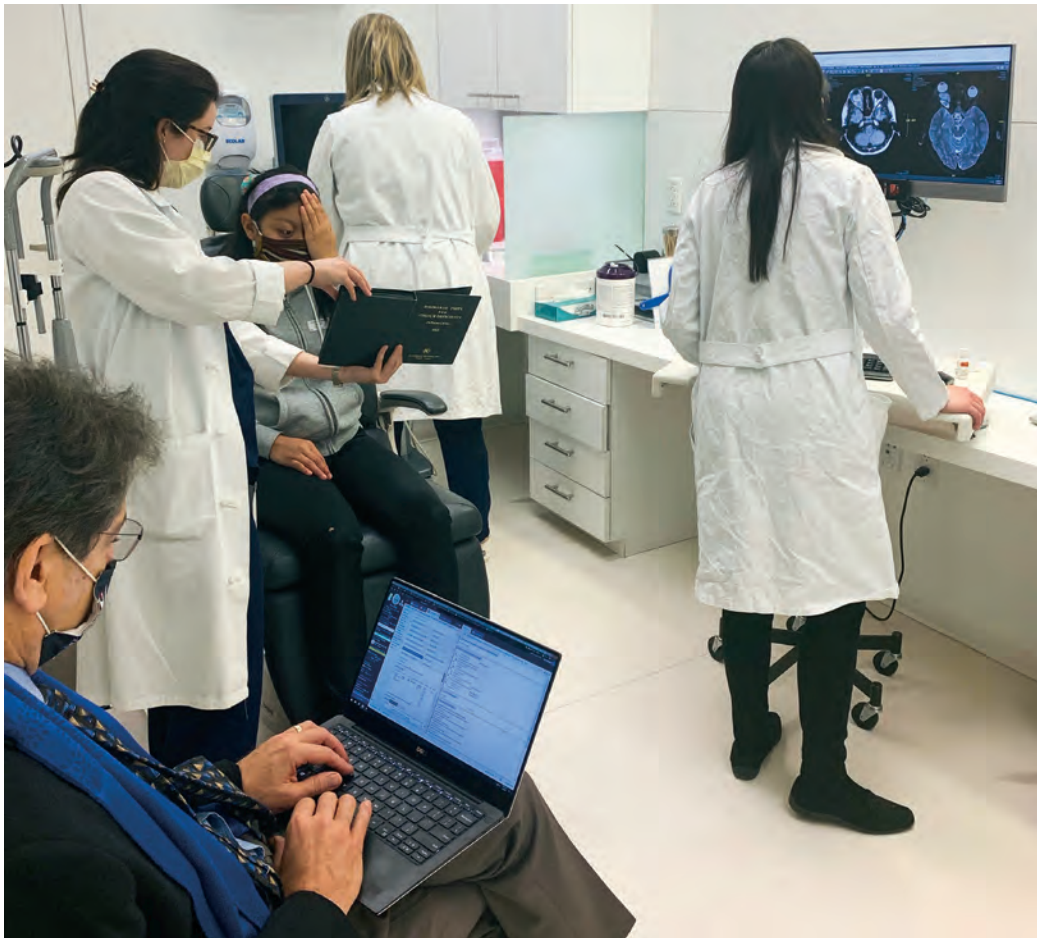
Ms. Carter-Lorenzana obtained emergency travel visas for Maeyli and her mother and arranged accommodations for their stay. Financial support was provided by the Indigent Children and Families Ophthalmic Care Program. Developed by the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology under the direction of Department Chair, **Bartly J. Mondino**, the Program allows patients from UCLA county hospitals and the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System to be treated by our residents and fellows at the Stein Eye Institute if they require specialized expertise or technology.

Maeyli and her mother arrived in Los Angeles on January 2, 2021. They had an appointment with Drs. Cohen and Goldberg on January 4 at the Stein Eye Institute to perform a full ophthalmic examination, including assessment of Maeyli's visual function, globe position, eye movements and alignment, as well as ultrasonography. Maeyli had normal vision, but the optic nerve was swollen, indicating she would likely lose vision without treatment. Compared to her left eye, Maeyli's right eye was 10 mm proptotic (protruding forward), and the surface was significantly dry, putting Maeyli at risk of continued eye pain and infection. The team reviewed Maeyli's MRI

of the orbits, which was consistent with a large orbital vascular malformation, and surgery was planned for later that week.

Anxious and excited, Maeyli and her mother returned to Stein Eye for surgery on January 6, 2021. Maeyli's procedure consisted of a right orbitotomy with biopsy and debulking of the tumor. The biopsy confirmed what the doctors suspected, specifically a benign venolymphatic malformation. The tumor was extensive and involved numerous critical structures in the deep orbit, so removing the tumor entirely carried significant risk of vision loss. The surgery went smoothly, and Drs. Cohen, Goldberg, and the team were able to successfully remove the vast majority of the tumor without significant bleeding. The small amount of remaining tumor was injected with bleomycin and bevacizumab to shrink it and prevent future growth.

Maeyli remained in Los Angeles with her mother for two weeks to recover after the surgery. At her final postoperative appointment, Maeyli's healing was going remarkably well with improvement in proptosis and no vision loss. Maeyli and her mother returned home to Guatemala, grateful for the care and hospitality they received at UCLA.



Diagnosed with an ocular tumor in her right eye, Maeyli's symptoms progressed unabated for two years. Maeyli likely would have lost the ability to see had it not been for a team of caring individuals, including physicians at the Stein Eye Institute who provided the sight-saving treatment she required.

Maeyli continues to heal, and her long-term prognosis looks bright. She has happily returned to school and playing with her siblings and friends.

IN MEMORIAM

The Generosity of Few is the Hope of Many

Gerald H. Oppenheimer 1922–2021

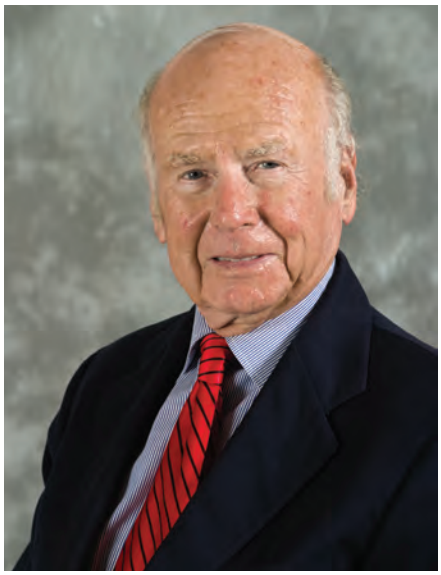
Executive, philanthropist, and community leader, Gerald H. "Jerry" Oppenheimer died peacefully surrounded by friends and family on May 4, 2021. He was 98.

For almost six decades, the UCLA Stein Eye Institute has been the recipient of Jerry's knowledge, skill, and philanthropic giving.

After the death of his stepfather, Dr. Jules Stein, and his mother, Doris Stein, Jerry took an active role in promoting their legacy at UCLA. He helped establish both the Doris Stein Eye Research Center and the Edie & Lew Wasserman Building, which transformed the Stein Eye Institute into a vision-science campus at UCLA. He was a hands-on member of the Stein Eye family, guiding the Jules and Doris Stein UCLA Support Group and serving as Consultant to the Board of Trustees.

"Jerry was dedicated to advancing the goal of a lifetime of good eyesight for everyone. He was beloved by all and known for his cordial, friendly, and supportive personality. He brought out the best in everyone," says **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and director of the Stein Eye Institute. "In addition, Jerry's remarkable altruism and vision have created unique programs that have jump-started hundreds of investigations."

As president of the Oppenheimer Family Foundation, Jerry assumed a leadership role in shaping and supporting the future of medical research at both UCLA and Stein Eye. The Stein Eye Center for the Prevention of Eye Disease, established in 2002 with a $3.1 million pledge from the Foundation, is committed to the discovery of agents and methods to prevent ophthalmic disease. And more than 320 young scientists are advancing medicine with seed funding from the Stein/Oppenheimer Endowment Fund, which has provided over $542.5 million in research grants.



Gerald H. "Jerry" Oppenheimer

"Jerry's focused support has helped ensure we remain at the forefront of scientific breakthroughs and maintain our worldwide preeminence in patient care, education, and research," says **Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD**, founding chair of the Department and founding director of the Institute.

The most vulnerable in our community also benefited from Jerry's patronage. In 2007, the Gerald Oppenheimer Family Foundation Center for the Prevention of Eye Disease directed a significant contribution to the Indigent Children and Families Ophthalmic Care Program, which provides much-needed ophthalmic medical care to economically disadvantaged children and adults.

Jerry was born in Kansas City, Missouri, on July 11, 1922. He began his career at 18, founding an aviation components business that counted Lockheed Martin and North American Aviation among its clients. During the Korean War, Jerry piloted F84 jets for the Strategic Air Command, flying 21 combat missions. He found later success in the banking, automotive, and software technology industries.

Jerry began actively supporting nonprofit organizations in the early 1980s. In addition to his advocacy on behalf of the Stein Eye Institute, pioneering research is being conducted through multi-year Oppenheimer grants to promote clinical and education efforts through the UCLA Medical Center in Complementary, Alternative and Integrative Medicine programs, and ongoing research in mind-body interactions is being accomplished at the Gail and Jerry Oppenheimer Center for the Neurobiology of Stress at UCLA and at the Center for East-West Medicine.

Jerry served on the UCLA Foundation Board of Trustees and Board of Governors. He was a Life Member of the Alumni Association and received the University Service Award in 1989. Among his other honors, Mr. Oppenheimer was the recipient of the Blind Children's Center Humanitarian Award; the California Institute for Cancer Research Lifetime Achievement Award; the Children's Bureau of Southern California Tradition of Caring Award; and the International Research Foundation for Children's Eyecare Vision of Light Award.

Jerry is survived by his wife Gail, his sons Bill and Mark, stepchildren Britt, Pablo, and Alyce, along with 10 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial gift to support UCLA Health. Donations may be directed to:

The UCLA Foundation
Attn: Lauren Bayans
PO Box 7145, Pasadena, CA
91109-9903
(310) 560-4287

Please make checks payable to *The UCLA Foundation*, and write in the memo line: "*In memory of Gerald Oppenheimer, Fund 15610E.*"

Vaccinating Our Vets

Care of veterans is a critical component of the Stein Eye Institute's affiliated network, and during the pandemic, Stein Eye physicians demonstrated that concern for our veterans' health extends beyond their eyes. Stein Eye faculty at the Veterans Affairs (VA) Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System began administering COVID-19 vaccines to veterans as soon as the shots became available. "Vaccinations were initially given to older service personnel and then to those who were immunocompromised, on a transplant list, receiving hemodialysis, on supplemental oxygen, or with a spinal cord injury. In addition, we vaccinated essential frontline workers and caregivers of veterans, and then opened up vaccinations to all clinic-facing employees," says **JoAnn A. Giaconi, MD**, chief of the Ophthalmology Section at the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System.

In the earliest stages of the pandemic, Stein Eye faculty also served in the Emergency Department's enhanced screening tent, testing veterans and fellow employees for COVID-19 and determining if they needed further care.

"It is an honor to vaccinate our veterans," says **Dr. Alpa Patel**, a volunteer faculty member in the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology. "They wanted to do their part to protect themselves and those around them, and to be a part of the solution to this pandemic. They truly are a special group of people who chose this path of service to our country."

Stopping Infant Blindness in Africa

There is an epidemic of blind babies in Sub-Saharan Africa from retinopathy of prematurity (ROP), and **Sherwin J. Isenberg, MD**, UCLA Professor of Ophthalmology and Pediatrics Emeritus, is leading the charge to prevent and end this upsurge. The Stop Infant Blindness in Africa (SIBA) initiative, co-chaired by Dr. Isenberg, was formed under the mandate, "We must act now to stop it."

ROP is an eye disorder caused by abnormal development of retinal blood vessels in premature infants. Due to their immature lungs, premature babies are often given supplemental oxygen, but if this oxygen is not carefully regulated, ROP can worsen and lead to blindness. The impact of childhood blindness is also an issue of child mortality. Experts estimate that roughly half of children in low-income countries who go blind will die within a few years of diagnosis, so the imperative to stop blindness from ROP is critical.

In 2014, it was estimated there were 4.2 million pre-term births in sub-Saharan Africa accounting for 28 percent of the total pre-term births globally. To address the imminent threat of blind babies in sub-Saharan Africa, SIBA has developed three pilot sites in Nigeria, Uganda, and Rwanda to provide neonatologists/pediatricians and ophthalmologists with the tools and training they need for preventing, screening, and treating ROP. "These sites will become centers for education where neonatal providers from throughout Sub-Saharan Africa will learn proper oxygen management for premature infants and screening/treatment for ROP," says Dr. Isenberg.

The International Pediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus Council, which was founded by Dr. Isenberg and others, created the SIBA initiative in partnership with the Children's Eye Foundation of the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology. Learn more at: childrenseyefoundation.org/what-we-do/africa-rop.

This premature newborn is receiving unregulated oxygen, which puts her at risk of developing retinopathy of prematurity and blindness.

A physician in Sub-Saharan Africa screens a newborn infant for retinopathy of prematurity (ROP), an eye disorder that can occur in babies who are born too early. ROP is caused by abnormal development of retinal blood vessels, and it can lead to blindness.

Advancing Global Health Research in Vietnam

Anthony J. Aldave, MD, chief of the Cornea and Uveitis Division, is committed to world health and the belief that everyone has a right to sight. He is an active member of the UCLA Center for World Health and works on its Global Surgery Initiative to improve access to and delivery of surgical care through program development, research, and education. In addition, Dr. Aldave is the founder of the non-profit organization Visionaries International, which is dedicated to eliminating corneal blindness worldwide.

In April 2021, Dr. Aldave was awarded $50,000 from the UCLA Global Health Seed Grant Program to conduct innovative research in a global setting. Dr. Aldave and researchers at UCLA are collaborating with investigators at Ho Chi Minh City Eye Hospital (HCMCEH) to evaluate the efficacy of long-term preserved corneas in managing perforated corneal ulcers, a common ophthalmic condition in Vietnam.

Corneal ulceration can lead to significant visual impairment and sight-threatening complications, including corneal perforation. At HCMCEH, there are on average 20,000 outpatient visits annually for infectious keratitis, with over 20 percent of these cases progressing to impending or actual perforation. Therapeutic penetrating keratoplasty (TPK) is an effective treatment for corneal perforation, but it requires the availability of corneal donor tissue. Almost all donor corneal tissue in Vietnam, however, is imported from the United States, which delays surgical management and results in progression of infection, and in some cases, expulsion of the intraocular contents.

Dr. Aldave and his co-investigators are evaluating VisionGraft, a sterile gamma-irradiated cornea preserved in albumin that can be stored at room temperature for up to two years. Its extended shelf life makes it an ideal solution for urgent TPK in regions like Vietnam without readily available fresh cadaveric donor tissue. Its acellular characteristics also minimize inflammatory reactions and the risk of rejection.

For this study, Dr. Aldave is also working with two early career investigators: **Huong Duong, MD**, an international fellow at Stein Eye from 2017–2018, who is now a consultant at HCMCEH, and **Simon Fung, MD**, assistant professor of ophthalmology at UCLA. The grant will serve as a mechanism for Drs. Fung and Duong to gain research experience under Dr. Aldave's mentorship.

Dr. Anthony Aldave assisting Dr. Huong Duong during corneal transplant surgery at the Ho Chi Minh City Eye Hospital in February 2020.

FACULTY AWARDS AND HONORS

Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology Honorees

UCLA Department of Ophthalmology faculty were recognized for their individual accomplishments, leadership, and contributions to the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO).

Congratulations to these ARVO Gold and Silver Fellows for their work advancing research worldwide to better understand the visual system and prevent, treat, and cure its disorders.

2021 ARVO Gold Fellows

SriniVas R. Sadda, MD

Alfredo A. Sadun, MD, PhD

2021 ARVO Silver Fellows

Anthony J. Aldave, MD

Xian-Jie Yang, PhD

Anthony J. Aldave, MD, Walton Li Chair in Cornea and Uveitis, was announced as a 2021 UCLA Global Health Seed Grant Program recipient. The $50,000 funding opportunity, co-sponsored by the Global Health Program and International Health Services, is for innovative research in global settings. Dr. Aldave is studying the use of long-term preserved corneas for perforated corneal ulcer in Vietnam.
(See related story on page 14.)

Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD, Arthur L. Rosenbaum, MD, Chair in Pediatric Ophthalmology, received the Bielschowsky Medal and presented the associated lectureship at the International Strabismological Association (virtual) meeting in Paris, France, April 24–25, 2021. The Bielschowsky Lecture is given every four years by a senior strabismologist who has received worldwide recognition for their work.

Uday Devgan, MD, FACS, FRCS, clinical professor of ophthalmology, was honored with the Faculty Teaching Award for the fifth time. Presented at the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology graduation on June 16, 2021, the honor reflects Dr. Devgan's passion about teaching the next generation of ophthalmologists.

JoAnn A. Giaconi, MD, health sciences clinical professor of ophthalmology, was nominated to be the next secretary of the American Glaucoma Society (AGS). Dr. Giaconi chaired the AGS inaugural symposium at the 2020 American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting, and she is chair of the 2021 AGS symposium.

Yirong Peng, PhD, assistant professor of ophthalmology, was awarded a $40,000 Genentech AMD Basic Research Fellowship. The Fellowship, established by the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology Foundation, will help support Dr. Peng's project, "Molecular and Evolutionary Underpinnings of Foveal Formation." The ultimate aim of Dr. Peng's research is to elucidate the structural basis for human vision and visual defects.

IN MEMORIAM

Roger William Sorenson 1929–2020

Roger W. Sorenson, MD, passed away at home on September 30, 2020, attended by family members. He was 91.

Dr. Sorenson was the 1978–79 president of the UCLA Stein Eye Institute Alumni Association. He served as a volunteer faculty member at Stein Eye assisting medical students and residents in completing their required clinical hours. A respected and beloved instructor, Dr. Sorenson received the Institute's S. Rodman Irvine Prize in 2000 in recognition of his demonstrated excellence in professional actions and exemplary dedication to teaching future generations of ophthalmologists.

Dr. Sorenson obtained his medical degree at the University of Illinois in Chicago, and he performed his internship at Mount Zion Hospital in San Francisco, where he met his wife of 65 years, Marlene. He joined the U.S. Army Medical Corps in 1955 and conducted his ophthalmology residency at Letterman Army Hospital. He provided ophthalmic care at Valley Forge Army Hospital in Pennsylvania for his last three years of service, and then he and his growing family returned to California where he was in private practice. Dr. Sorenson volunteered monthly at the 10th District PTA Clinic providing vision care to Los Angeles students who could not otherwise afford treatment. In addition, he attended service trips with the Flying Samaritans at UCLA to provide health care to underserved populations in Mexico.

Dr. Sorenson is survived by his wife, three daughters, two grandsons, two nieces, and several grand and great-grand nieces and nephews.

Stein Eye Alumnus Gives $29 Million Gift to UCLA

Allen H. Ginsburg, MD, and his wife **Charlotte Ginsburg** have donated $29 million to UCLA in transformational support. The Dr. Allen and Charlotte Ginsburg Center for Precision Genomic Medicine will be housed within the UCLA Institute for Precision Health. There, scientists and physicians will work together to leverage large data sets and modern technologies, such as CRISPR, to improve diagnostics and develop targeted, individualized treatment strategies for genetic diseases.

Dr. Ginsburg is a retired ophthalmologist who conducted his ophthalmology residency at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute from 1961 to 1964 under the tenure of the Institute's Founding Director and Founding Department Chair, **Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD**.

New EyeSTAR Track Combines Ophthalmology Residency with Medical Genetics Certification

In a national first, the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology is introducing a Medical Genetics track to the Stein Eye Institute's **S**pecialty **T**raining and **A**dvanced **R**esearch (EyeSTAR) program. This new track offers ophthalmology residency training in tandem with training by the UCLA Intercampus Medical Genetics Training Program leading to Clinical Genetics and Genomics certification by the American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics. The Program was established under the direction of **Drs. J. Bronwyn Bateman** and **Michael B. Gorin**, both UCLA residency alumni.

Understanding how variations in an individual's DNA may affect disease and health is the underpinning of medical genetics. With this knowledge, clinician-scientists can propel innovations in the diagnosis and detection of disease, as well as new approaches to treatment.

Founded in 1995, EyeSTAR continues to lead the nation in offering a combined ophthalmology residency training integrated with basic-science PhD training or post-doctoral fellowship research. EyeSTAR provides crucial training for residents aspiring to academic careers that incorporate clinical practice and research. The EyeSTAR Committee is chaired by **Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD**, Arthur L. Rosenbaum, MD, Chair in Pediatric Ophthalmology.

The UCLA EyeSTAR track in Medical Genetics addresses a critical need for clinicians and clinician-scientists at academic centers who have strong foundations in both clinical ophthalmology and genetics. The groundbreaking Medical Genetics track includes an understanding of modern molecular genetic diagnostics, clinical evaluations in adults and children, therapeutics, and research.

EyeMBA, introduced at UCLA in 2016, is another first-of-its-kind medical program. EyeMBA combines ophthalmology residency training with a master's degree in business administration. The initiative, developed by **Stacy L. Pineles, MD**, recognizes that future leaders of ophthalmology need financial, management, and measurement skills that are at the core of the MBA degree curriculum. Skills gained in EyeMBA are broadly applicable to leadership in academia, translational research, health system management, health care delivery, and the biomedical industry.

UCLA's Ophthalmology Residency Program encompasses a full breadth of instruction from general ophthalmology to ophthalmic subspecialties, and it is one of the top programs in the country. Its innovative EyeSTAR component is unique in the nation and recognized by the National Eye Institute and the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology as a model training program for clinician scientists in ophthalmology. EyeMBA is expected to attain similar standing.

For detailed information about EyeSTAR and its Medical Genetics track, or EyeMBA, go to: https://steinresidents.com/eyestar-eyemba/. To learn more about the UCLA Intercampus Medical Genetics Training Program, see: https://intercampus.genetics.ucla.edu/.

Elise Ma, MD, PhD Discusses Her Experience as an EyeSTAR Resident

As an EyeSTAR resident, I have a unique opportunity to explore specific research interests prior to my clinical training years. Before coming to UCLA for residency training, I completed a PhD program in neuroscience (with a focus on brain-gut axis) alongside my MD training. Since the prospect of an academic career is important to me, the EyeSTAR program has been an ideal opportunity for dedicated time to develop a groundwork in eye and vision research.

I am currently a post-doctoral researcher with **Joseph Caprioli, MD**, David May II Chair in Ophthalmology, basic science group. My work involves using a model for optic nerve injury to understand the impact of aging on retinal ganglion cell loss and glial cell responses to injury.

In addition to my primary research role, I participate in weekly clinical activities as part of my EyeSTAR training. At Stein Eye, this includes observing surgeries and working in the glaucoma clinic with Dr. Caprioli.

An additional highlight for me has been working with **Alfredo A. Sadun, MD, PhD**, Flora L. Thornton Endowed Chair in Vision Research, in his neuro-ophthalmology clinic at the Doheny Eye Centers UCLA–Pasadena. I have an interest in neuro-ophthalmology (a natural extension of my neuroscience background), so having this longitudinal clinical experience allows me to learn as much as I can about this field. While at Doheny, I witness a spectrum of rare conditions, including mitochondrial diseases of the optic nerve, and I am able to encounter patients who travel from all over to receive care. During non-pandemic times, interactions with international fellows at Doheny are meaningful to learn about the nuances of ophthalmology practices globally.

These dual experiences at Stein and Doheny have been vital towards continuing to build my passion for ophthalmology and contribute to shaping my specific interests within the field during this formative early stage of my training.

The Stein Eye and Doheny Eye Institutes historic alliance in 2014 set in motion a powerful force for discovery and innovation in research and eye care therapies. This synergy is also advancing the education of future global leaders in ophthalmology and vision science.

Education

Annual Comprehensive Ophthalmology Review Course

The UCLA Stein Eye Institute and the Doheny Eye Institute presented the annual Comprehensive Ophthalmology Review Course on February 18–21, 2021, virtually and on-demand.

The intensive four-day event reviewed the clinical essentials of each subspecialty in ophthalmology, and prepared the attendees for upcoming ophthalmology examinations and required continuing medical education recertification. Instruction concentrated on the epidemiology, clinical presentation, diagnosis, and management of ophthalmologic disease.

Directed by **Drs. John Irvine** and **Mitra Nejad**, the 2021 course included contributions from guest faculty **Drs. Melinda Chang**, **Rustum Karanjia**, **Todd Mondzelewski**, and **Kenneth Wright**. Participating UCLA course faculty were **Drs. Saba Al-Hashimi**, **Bruce Becker**, **Benjamin Bert**, **Simon Fung**, **Michael Gorin**, **Alex Huang**, **Michael Ip**, **Monica Khitri**, **Shawn Lin**, **Colin McCannel**, **Tara McCannel**, **Kevin Miller**, **Daniel Rootman**, **SriniVas Sadda**, and **Edmund Tsui**.

Aesthetic Eyelid and Facial Rejuvenation Course

The UCLA Stein Eye Institute presented its Aesthetic Eyelid and Facial Rejuvenation Course on March 20, 2021. The event was held virtually and combined live dissection sessions and lectures by highly regarded local, national, and international speakers.

One hundred eighty registrants, hailing from 20 states and 33 countries, attended the virtual course, which combined cadaver dissection, small group discussion, short practical videos, and focused lectures. The audience was able to ask questions in real time to both the lecturers and the faculty performing the dissection demonstrations. The participants, faculty, and attendees finished the day with new ideas to incorporate into their practice, along with a renewed passion for innovative aesthetic surgery.

The course was directed by **Drs. Robert Goldberg** and **Daniel Rootman**, with **Dr. Steven Leibowitz** serving as principal lecturer. Guest lecturers were **Drs. Tanuj Nakra** and **Julian D. Perry**. International guest lecturers were **Adit Gupta, MD**, Mumbai, India; and **Helen Lew, MD**, Seoul, Korea, with The Axelrod Lecture presented by **Dr. André Borba**, São Paulo, Brazil. UCLA Course Faculty were **Drs. Michael Groth**, **Jonathan Hoenig**, **Justin Karlin**, **Cynthia Boxrud**, **Liza Cohen**, **Kelsey Roelofs**, **Stefania Diniz**, and **Claire Smith**.

Dr. Steven Leibowitz was principal lecturer at the virtual Aesthetic Eyelid and Facial Rejuvenation Course and introduced the Participants' Salon, which included focus on blepharoplasty.

More than 100 people worldwide attended the virtual Aesthetic Eyelid and Facial Rejuvenation Course.

International Retinal Imaging Symposium

The International Retinal Imaging Society (IntRIS) presented their International Retinal Imaging Symposium virtually on June 4 and June 5, 2021. IntRIS was created to advance knowledge, science, and innovation in the field of retinal imaging. IntRIS integrates basic science, clinical medicine, and industry, with an aim to provide an infrastructure and platform to coordinate collaboration and exchange by those interested in retinal imaging.

The two-day meeting highlighted new technologies and applications of retinal imaging, providing insight and understanding in retinal imaging, and showcased the integral importance of innovative retinal imaging in the evaluation and management of retinal disease.

Course directors were **Drs. K. Bailey Freund**, **SriniVas Sadda**, and **David Sarraf**.

UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Clinical and Research Seminar

The Institute's most prestigious educational event, the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Clinical and Research Seminar, was held June 11, 2021, as a virtual live program.

The Seminar is designed as an update course covering current clinical and research aspects of each of the ophthalmic subspecialties. The one-day program included the full-time faculties of the Stein Eye and Doheny Eye Institutes, along with nationally prominent invited lecturers.

Sessions addressed current best practices in management, advanced surgical techniques, latest diagnostic technology, and translational research, in multiple educational formats, including didactic lecture, panel discussion, and case-based interactive presentations.

The annual seminar was highlighted by the following keynote lectures:

51st JULES STEIN LECTURER

Emily Y. Chew, MD
Director, Division of Epidemiology
and Clinical Applications
National Eye Institute/
National Institutes of Health

51st DOHENY MEMORIAL LECTURER

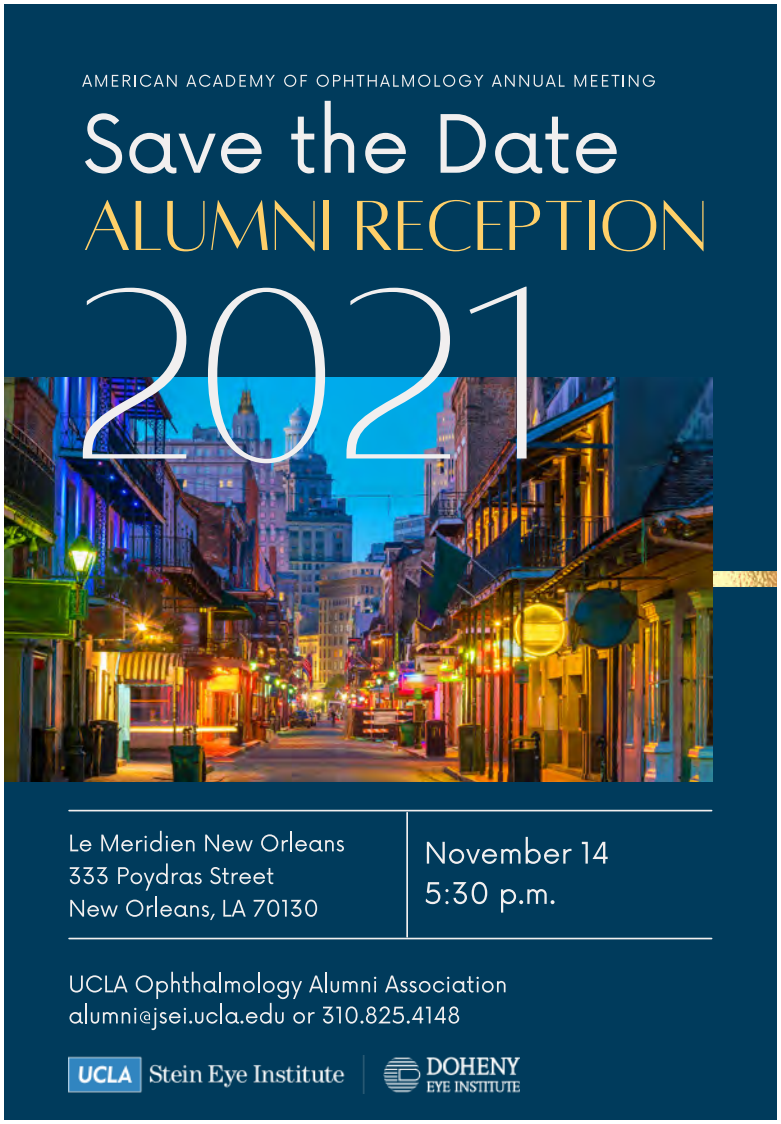
Jennifer I. Lim, MD
Marion H. Schenk Esq. Chair and
Professor of Ophthalmology
Director of Retina Service
Vice-Chair for Diversity and Inclusion
University of Illinois at Chicago

18th BRADLEY R. STRAATSMA LECTURER

Adnan Tufail, MD
Professor, University College London
Consultant Ophthalmologist,
Moorfields Eye Hospital,
London Claremont Clinic

18th THOMAS H. PETTIT LECTURER

John G. Ladas, MD, PhD
Surgeon/Director
Maryland Eye Consultants and Surgeons
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
Wilmer Eye Institute
Founder, Advanced Euclidean Solutions



Resident and Fellow Graduation and Award Ceremony

Residents, fellows, and faculty were honored for excellence at the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology graduation on June 16, 2021. The ceremony was held in the Research to Prevent Blindness Auditorium located on the Stein Eye Institute's vision-science campus in Westwood.

CLINICAL FELLOW RESEARCH AWARD

Liza Cohen, MD

RESEARCH FELLOW RESEARCH AWARD

Vahid Mohammadzadeh, MD

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW RESEARCH AWARD

Matthew J. Gerber, PhD

FACULTY TEACHING AWARD

Uday Devgan, MD

FELLOWSHIP FACULTY TEACHING AWARD

Daniel Rootman, MD

FELLOW TEACHING AWARD

Kirk Hou, MD, PhD

RESIDENT TEACHING AWARD

Ernest Puckett, MD

RESIDENT AWARD FOR MEDICAL STUDENT TEACHING

Ravin Sajnani, MD
Clinical Rotation Teaching

Gio Campagna, MD
Lower Division Pre-Clinical Teaching

Speaking at the graduation, Dr. Stacy Pineles, residency director, highlights the achievements of the Resident Class of 2021.

The Resident and Fellow Graduation included an award ceremony honoring excellence in research and excellence in teaching. Dr. Daniel Rootman was recipient of the Fellowship Faculty Teaching Award.

Each member of the Resident Class of 2021 stands ready to take the next step in their ophthalmology career.

Destinations of 2021 Graduating Residents

Michael daSilva, MD
Cataract and Refractive Surgeon
Black Hills Regional Eye Institute
Rapid City, South Dakota

Eliot Dow, MD, PhD
Heed Fellow
Byers Eye Institute
Palo Alto, California

Nicholas Iafe, MD
Vitreoretinal Fellowship
UCLA Stein Eye Institute
Los Angeles, California

Jaffer Kattan, MD
Glaucoma Fellowship
UCLA Stein Eye Institute
Los Angeles, California

Anh Pham, MD, PhD (EyeSTAR)
Glaucoma Fellowship
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute
Miami, Florida

Ernest Puckett, MD
Glaucoma Fellowship
UCLA Stein Eye Institute
Los Angeles, California

Austin Woolley, MD
Private Practice
Excel Eye Center
Provo, Utah

Andrea Yonge, MD
Glaucoma Fellowship
Shiley Eye Institute
La Jolla, California

Destinations of 2021 Graduating Fellows

CORNEA

Daniel Kornberg, MD
Kaiser Permanente
Antelope Valley, California

Patrick J. Pham, MD
(Doheny Fellow)
Private Practice
Los Angeles, California

GLAUCOMA

Arpine Barsegian, MD
Private Practice
Southern California

Golnoush Mahmoud Nezhad, MD
Glaucoma Research
UC San Diego
San Diego, California

Mohamed Sharaby, MD
Glaucoma Specialist
Eye Health America/
The Eye Associates
St. Petersburg/Tampa, Florida

MEDICAL RETINA

Jeffrey Eng, MD
Kaiser Permanente
Baldwin Park, California

Meira Fogel Levin, MD
Retina Specialist
Tel Aviv, Israel

Alice Wong, DO
Private Practice
New York, New York

RETINA

Kirk Hou, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
UCLA Stein Eye Institute
Los Angeles, California

Mercedes Rodriguez, MD
Dr. Charles's Eye Institute
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Adam Weiner, MD
Retina Consultants
Royal Oaks, Michigan

OCULOPLASTICS

Liza Cohen, MD
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois

Stefania Barbosa Diniz, MD
Attending Physician
Brasilia, Brazil

UVEITIS

Judy L. Chen, MD
Glaucoma Fellowship
UC Davis Eye Center
Sacramento, California

Dr. Michael Mathison, a current resident, says goodbye to Dr. Arpine Barsegian, a glaucoma fellow who is moving on to a private practice in Southern California.

Dr. Daniel Rootman (left), recipient of the Fellowship Faculty Teaching Award, celebrates the day with Dr. Uday Devgan, who was honored with the Faculty Teaching Award for an unprecedented fifth time.

The 2021 class of Graduating Fellows have received skilled training in a variety of ophthalmic subspecialties.

The Resident Class of 2022 can see their upcoming graduation on the horizon.

Incoming Residents

The UCLA Stein Eye Institute welcomes the 2024 incoming class of residents, who began their residency July 1, 2021.

Sarah M. Cheng, MD
Stanford University

Kendall L. Goodyear, MD
University of Pennsylvania

Robert C. Gunzenhauser, MD
Wake Forest University

Sasha Hubschman, MD
University of Miami

Maltish M. Lorenzo, MD, MS
Harvard University

Jack B. Margines, MD
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Angela J. Oh, MD
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Sagar Rambhia, MD (EyeMBA)
Case Western Reserve University

Iris Zhuang, MD
Baylor University

Fellows

Stein Eye Clinical Fellows 2021–2022

Greg Budoff, MD
Retina (2nd Year)

Stephan Chiu, MD
Cornea

Alexander B. Dillon, MD, MBA
Retina (2nd Year)

Samuel D. Hobbs, MD
Retina (1st Year)

Nicholas Iafe, MD
Retina (1st Year)

Jaffer Kattan, MD
Glaucoma

Jae Kim, MD
Cornea

Brian Lee, MD
Medical Retina

Timothy Peiris, MD
Medical Retina

Nathan Pirakitikulr, MD, PhD
Oculoplastics (1st Year)

Ernest R. Puckett, MD
Glaucoma

Kelsey A. Roelofs, MD
Oculoplastics (2nd Year)

Alexander R. Shusko, Jr., MD
Uveitis

Samuel J. Spiegel, MD
Neuro-Ophthalmology

Doheny Eye Clinical Fellows 2021–2022

David MacPherson, MD
Cornea

Nariman Nassiri, MD, MPH
Glaucoma

International Fellows

Stein Eye International Fellows 2021–2022

Aya Barzelay, MD
Retina, Israel

Piseth Dalin Chea, MD
Cornea, Cambodia

Jaime Dodds, MD
Retina, Argentina

Lourdes Grassi, MD
Glaucoma, Argentina

Golnoush Mahmoudi Nezhad, MD
Glaucoma, Iran

Ali Masoud, MD
Cornea, Iran

Massood Mohammadi, MD
Glaucoma, Iran

Onyinye Onyia, MD
Cornea, Nigeria

Moritz Pettenkofer, MD
Retina, Germany

Mercedes Rodriguez, MD
Retina, Argentina

Left to right: Graduating Residents Drs. Anh Pham (EyeSTAR), Austin Woolley, Andrea Yonge, and Michael daSilva (far right) join faculty instructors Dr. Uday Devgan (middle left) and Dr. Robert Alan Goldberg (middle right).

Veronica Romero Morales, MD
Medical Retina, Mexico

Teakkwan Rhee, MD
Glaucoma, Japan

Ahmad Santina, MD
Medical Retina, Lebanon

Pallavi Singh, MD
Oculoplastics, India

Dorian Zeidenweber, MD
Cornea, Israel

Doheny Eye International Fellows 2021–2022

Alireza Farahani, MD
Retina, Canada

Ye He, MD
Retina, China

Shin Kadomoto, MD
Retina, Japan

Houri Khanian, MD
Retina, Iran

Onnissa Nanegrungsunk, MD
Retina, Thailand

Roxana Teodorescu, MD
Neuro-ophthalmology, Romania

Jasaman Tojjar, MD
Retina, Sweden

Iori Wada, MD
Retina, Japan

Left to right: Clinical Fellow Research Awardee Dr. Liza Cohen (left) joins her oculoplastic fellowship colleagues, Dr. Stefania Barbosa Diniz and Dr. Kelsey Roelofs.

Left to right: Faculty members Drs. Shawn Lin, Mitra Nejad, Steven Schwartz, and Stacy Pineless enjoy the in-person festivities.

UCLA Stein Eye Institute

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Los Angeles, CA 90095
Referral Service: (310) 794-9770
Emergency Service: (310) 825-3090
After-Hours Emergency Service:
(310) 825-2111
uclahealth.org/eye

Stein Eye Center–Calabasas
26585 W. Agoura Rd., Suite 330
Calabasas, CA 91302
(310) 825-5000

Stein Eye Center–Santa Monica
1807 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 203
Santa Monica, CA 90403
(310) 829-0160

Doheny Eye Center UCLA–Arcadia
622 W. Duarte Rd., Suite 101
Arcadia, CA 91007
(626) 254-9010

Doheny Eye Center UCLA–Orange County
Orange Coast Memorial Medical Center
18111 Brookhurst St., Suite 6400
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
(714) 963-1444

Doheny Eye Center UCLA–Pasadena
Huntington Pavilion
624 S. Fair Oaks Blvd., 2nd Floor
Pasadena, CA 91105
(626) 817-4747

UCLA DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY
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Alumni Relations
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UCLA Health is consistently ranked among the best hospitals in the country by U.S. News & World Report, *and UCLA Stein Eye and Doheny Eye Institutes are ranked among the top five in the nation in ophthalmology.*