

# EYE

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## New Agents for Macular Disease

UCLA's Jules Stein Eye Institute is once again contributing to the advancement of clearer vision for patients across the globe. The major causes of new blindness in the developed world are age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and diabetic eye disease. For the past 10 years, the research strategy of the Institute's Retina Division has focused on the basic biologic and pathologic underpinnings of these conditions. **Steven D. Schwartz, MD**, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and Chief of the Retina Division reports, "Our handpicked team of retina specialists continues to explore the translation of basic science paradigms into actual treatment interventions for patients losing vision from these all too common blinding conditions. Our group is studying angiogenesis, apoptosis, and gene therapy and I am proud to say we are realizing the goal of bringing these advanced scientific concepts from the bench to the bedside. We now have greatly improved treatments for these conditions, particularly for AMD, which destroys the central vision and limits everyday functioning and quality of life for millions of American seniors."

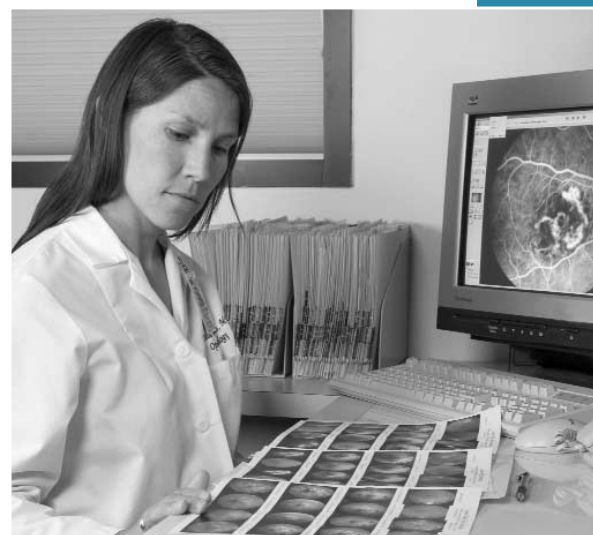
### Advanced Drug Interventions

**Christine R. Gonzales, MD**, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, "has made enormous contributions

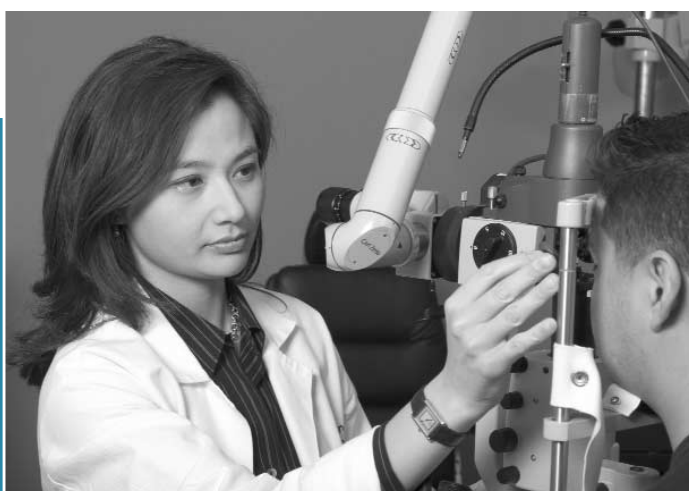
to the fight against AMD," reports Dr. Schwartz. Dr. Gonzales' work is on a new drug called Macugen. "Macugen is an extremely exciting breakthrough," explains Dr. Gonzales.

"This drug turns off the biologic switch for new blood vessel growth and leakage, which constitute wet or neovascular AMD. Macugen acts like an antibody, binding very selectively only to the bad form of VEGF (vascular endothelial growth factor), VEGF 165. The other isoforms of VEGF, which are important for normal capillary functions and other physiologic processes, are spared. This is critical to the drug's excellent safety profile." Dr.

Gonzales heads the JSEI team, the leading academic center in patient enrollment in phase III trials that included 117 sites around the world. "Macugen," she continues, "treats all subtypes and all lesion sizes of wet AMD. This means that Macugen will meet an otherwise unmet medical need for three-quarters of our wet AMD patients." As Dr. Schwartz sums up, "We now have the first treatment that not only stabilizes vision for an expanded group of patients but may also help some patients regain vision."



**Retina Specialists:**  
Clockwise from top,  
Drs. Christine Gonzales,  
Anurag Gupta, and Tara Young



By applying fundamental scientific knowledge to blinding eye diseases, the Retina Division and its team in the Clinical Research Center are translating decades of basic science work into clinically relevant treatment interventions for countless patients.

Some investigations are building on therapeutic modalities already in use, trying to minimize the risks of treatment. As **Tara A. Young, MD**, Clinical Instructor of Ophthalmology explains, “Patients losing vision can’t wait for all the answers to come in, so we use treatments that seem to help—such as argon laser for leaking vessels in diabetic retinopathy—yet we may not know exactly how they work.

Identifying the mechanisms of action would allow us to make therapies more efficient, with fewer side effects.” Dr. Young has been studying how apoptosis—triggering selected cells to commit suicide—is activated by photodynamic therapy with the drug Visudyne, currently the only approved treatment for certain forms of “wet” or neovascular AMD. “In the laboratory, we are looking at specific molecular pathways and cascades of drug action, to better understand how this therapy causes unwanted photoreceptor cell death. Controlling apoptosis may help us refine AMD treatment and allow us to spare healthy cells so therapy can be less destructive than our current Visudyne treatments.”

Drug Gene Therapy and More

“Another approach to tackling macular disorders is gene therapy,” reports Assistant Professor **Anurag Gupta, MD**. “Gene therapy clinical trials have arrived and for the first time human ocular disease interventions on the genetic level are being investigated in patients.” UCLA’s JSEI is working with Johns Hopkins University and select sites around the country. “The idea is simple,” explains Dr. Gupta, “we take the ability to replicate and a few other features out of the viral DNA and replace it with the message for a therapeutic protein, in this case, PEDF (pigment epithelial derived factor). We inject the altered, non-reproducing virus into the eye. It infects the target tissues and instead of making new virus and propagating an infection, it tricks the host cells into making the desired therapeutic protein right where the eye needs it most.” Dr. Gupta reports the phase I safety trials proved safe at various doses and that phase II trials are planned. He noted, “Some patients are hesitant about injections into the eye. More often than not their anticipation of discomfort is much worse than the actual experience. In fact, most people say that getting blood drawn hurts more.”



Clinical research coordinators (left to right) Rosaleen Ostrick, Jenny Suh, and Malou Rosman review a study patient’s fundus photographs.

Dr. Gupta and the team are also studying a drug that may prevent the onset of wet macular degeneration in the unaffected eye of patients suffering severe visual loss in one eye. This drug, anecortave acetate, has not proven effective in the treatment of active wet AMD, but may hold promise as a prophylactic agent. As Dr. Gupta notes, “We won’t have the answer for five years, but if it’s positive, it’s worth waiting for.”

In addition to these and other chemical and biologic agents to hold macular disorders at bay, Institute retina surgeons are continuing their pioneering work in minimally invasive vitreoretinal approaches and are taking advantage of newly available tools. “We now have a powerful imaging technology called OCT, or ocular coherence tomography,” reports Dr. Gonzales. “OCT measures the thickness of the retina and subretinal fluid. During the next phase of trials with Macugen, we will examine whether OCT is a better monitor of therapeutic effectiveness than fluorescein angiography, the modality used today.”

Current successes are projected to benefit patients at UCLA’s Jules Stein Eye Institute and around the world. By applying fundamental scientific knowledge to blinding eye diseases, the Retina Division and its team in the Clinical Research Center are translating decades of basic science work into clinically relevant treatment interventions for countless patients. Efforts are focused on new discoveries, on improving safety and efficacy of treatments, and on disease prevention. As Dr. Gupta puts it, “Ideally, we prefer to prevent the fire in the first place, rather than trying to put it out once the house is irreversibly damaged.”

JULES STEIN EYE INSTITUTE  
RANKS AMONG TOP OPHTHALMOLOGY PROGRAMS

The Jules Stein Eye Institute is listed among the top ophthalmology programs in the United States in the yearly survey of Best Programs by *Ophthalmology Times*. The rankings were determined via a poll of 164 chairmen and residency directors from ophthalmology departments across the United States.

The Jules Stein Eye Institute ranked third in the nation in the Best Overall category, up from its fourth place ranking last year. JSEI and the other top ranking programs in this category were cited for outstanding work in teaching and developing residents into the nation’s up-and-coming ophthalmologists, and their efforts to educate the public about eye care. The programs were also honored for embracing and promoting the philosophy of continued research among professional staff.

The Institute was ranked third for Best Clinical Program, reflecting its deep commitment to excellence in patient care. Recognized as a leader in eye research for many years, the Institute ranked second nationally in the Best Research Program category.

EYE

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## DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY FACULTY HOLD TERM CHAIRS

The Jules Stein Eye Institute is pleased to announce five faculty members with the Department of Ophthalmology who are new term chair holders. The establishment of a five-year term chair is particularly significant, as it extends the benefits of an endowment more widely throughout a particular field by supporting the teaching, research, and clinical activities of a distinguished faculty member for a specified period; then, another leading ophthalmologist has the opportunity to be appointed to the chair.



Dr. Joseph Caprioli

**Joseph Caprioli, MD**, Chief of the Glaucoma Division, has been appointed as the David May II Professor of Ophthalmology. Dr. Caprioli's basic science and clinical research is leading the way for new approaches to glaucoma. His investigations involve the assessment of optic nerve and nerve fiber layer structure, which is important to early detection and timely treatment.

*The David May II endowment was established in 1998 by the family of David May II, a founding member of JSEI's Board of Trustees.*



Dr. Anne Coleman

**Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD**, Director of the UCLA Center for Eye Epidemiology and the UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic, is the newly appointed Frances and Ray Stark Professor of Ophthalmology. Dr. Coleman devotes much of her research to understanding the epidemiological and social implications of eye diseases such as glaucoma, cataracts, and age-related macular degeneration (AMD), including the study of lifestyle limitations imposed on patients. Under Dr. Coleman's direction, another epidemiological study is underway, evaluating the role that vision plays in osteoporotic fractures caused by falls.

*The Frances and Ray Stark Chair in Ophthalmology was established in 1992 by The Fran and Ray Stark Foundation.*



Dr. Joseph Demer

**Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD**, Chief of the Comprehensive Ophthalmology Division, has been appointed as the new Grace and Walter Lantz Professor of Pediatric Ophthalmology. Dr. Demer's studies focus on the role of the brain and extraocular muscles in the control of eye movements and visual perception. He is also involved in the development of new methods of magnetic resonance imaging of the structure and function of the eye muscles and their nerve connections.

*The Grace and Walter Lantz Endowed Chair was established in 1991. Mr. Lantz, who died in 1994, created beloved cartoon characters such as Oswald the Lucky Rabbit, Andy Panda, Chilly Willy, and Woody Woodpecker. Mrs. Lantz was the voice behind the Woody Woodpecker character until her death in 1992.*



Dr. Gary Holland

**Gary N. Holland, MD**, Chief of the Cornea-External Ocular Disease & Uveitis Division, has been appointed as the Vernon O. Underwood Family Professor of Ophthalmology. In addition to the study of corneal diseases, Dr. Holland's research focuses on ocular toxoplasmosis, the most common cause of retinal infections in the general population. Dr. Holland has also been involved in the study of HIV-related eye disease, such as cytomegalovirus retinitis, and was the first to describe the ocular complications of AIDS.

*The Vernon O. Underwood Family Endowment was established in 1995 by Adrienne Underwood in memory of her late husband.*



Dr. Sherwin Isenberg

**Sherwin J. Isenberg, MD**, is the newly appointed Laraine and David Gerber Professor of Ophthalmology at UCLA's Jules Stein Eye Institute. In addition to his work at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, Dr. Isenberg is the Chief of the Ophthalmology Division at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in Torrance. Dr. Isenberg's research emphasizes various surgical and medical aspects related to children's eye diseases, including the development of a new instrument that measures the blood gases from the eye. Additionally, he is involved in an ongoing study in Asia, examining the use of povidone-iodine as an effective treatment for bacterial infections.

*The Laraine and David Gerber Endowment was established in 1995.*

## ORBITAL SURGERY: A MASTER'S SYMPOSIUM AND DISSECTION WORKSHOP

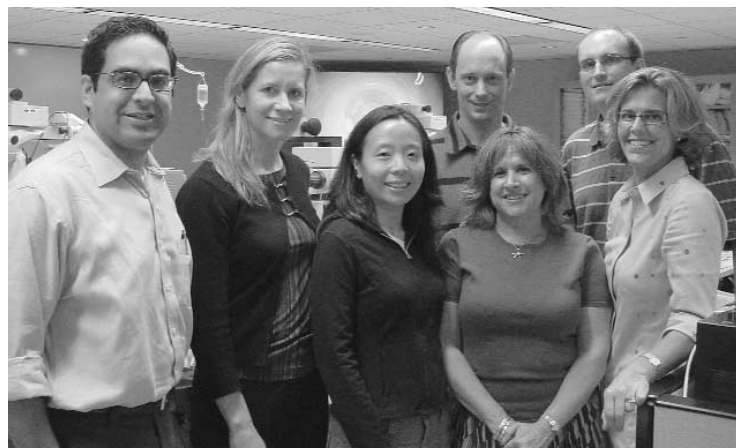
The Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Division hosted a master's level symposium and dissection workshop at the Jules Stein Eye Institute on December 3-4, 2004. The course brought together experts in orbital surgery from around the world. Featured guest faculty included **Geoffrey E. Rose, MD, FRCS**, from Moorfields Eye Hospital in London, England. Didactic presentations, videotapes and cadaver dissection were utilized to illustrate and explore various surgical approaches to the orbit.



Pictured from left (back row) Drs. Howard Krauss, Bruce Becker, Steve Leibowitz, Norman Shorr, Geoffrey Rose, Robert Goldberg, Kenneth Feldman, Stan Saulney, (front row) Drs. Tanuj Nakra, Richard Bryant, Robert Schwarcz, Angelo Tsirbas, Raymond Douglas, Jonathan Kim

## PFIZER OPHTHALMOLOGY TRAINING CENTER

Residents from the Jules Stein Eye Institute traveled to Peapack, New Jersey, on July 16, 2004, to receive hands-on ophthalmic surgical education at the Pfizer Ophthalmology Training Center. The residents were accompanied by **Kevin M. Miller, MD**, Professor of Ophthalmology, and **Jeanne Jernigan-Mott** of Advanced Medical Optics, Inc. The day-long training session began with a didactic presentation followed by hands-on instruction of advanced phacoemulsification techniques in the wet lab. Dr. Miller was instrumental in securing the funding for this unique educational experience.



(Left to right) Jules Stein Eye Institute residents Drs. Vinit Mahajan, Polly Quiram, Wei Jiang; Dr. Kevin Miller; Bonni Scepkowski, manager of the Pfizer laboratory; Dr. Sean Dumars, resident; and Jeanne Jernigan-Mott

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## VISION SCIENCE CONFERENCE



Over 55 basic and clinical scientists attended the Tenth Annual Vision Science Conference at Lake Arrowhead, California.

On September 24–26, 2004, over 55 basic scientists and clinical researchers gathered for the Tenth Annual Vision Science Conference at the UCLA Conference Center in Lake Arrowhead, California. The event was sponsored by the National Eye Institute Vision Science Training Grant under the direction of the Jules Stein Eye Institute.

Following tradition, the ethics seminar marked the opening of the conference. The attendees were divided into debate

teams and instructed to take positions on a wide range of controversial issues and opinions, from the ethical use of animal subjects to authorship. A panel of judges, consisting of faculty and trainees, closed each debate by recognizing the team that delivered the best argument. The diverse group of participants offered variety in their poster presentations and talks throughout the weekend. Open discussion followed each presentation and allowed trainees to answer questions and receive feedback. Fei Yu, PhD, a statistical consultant in the JSEI Clinical Research Center and member of the Department of Biostatistics in the School of Public Health at UCLA, closed the conference with a presentation on biostatistics, bioinformatics, and epidemiology that was especially valuable for trainees and investigators new to medical informatics.

This year's conference planning committee included Committee Chairs Eiko Kitamura, PhD, and Vivek Yellore, PhD, as well as Ling Chen, MD; Rajendra "Kumar" Ganglum, PhD; Evan Hsieh; Catherine Kaschula, PhD; Sheryll Mangahas; and Lawrence Yoo. Vision Science Training Grant Coordinator Sonia Jones provided invaluable assistance. Debora B. Farber, PhD, DPhhc, and Gabriel H. Travis, MD, were the faculty advisors for this event.

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## SECOND ANNUAL JSEI CLINICAL AND RESEARCH SEMINAR

Due to the overwhelming success of last year's combined Research and Alumni Day and Postgraduate Seminar, the Department of Ophthalmology will hold the second annual Jules Stein Eye Institute Clinical and Research Seminar on May 20–21, 2005, in the RPB Auditorium of the Jules Stein Eye Institute. The seminar provides continuing education for ophthalmologists and vision scientists, as well as research and training opportunities for residents and fellows.

The Jules Stein Lecture will be presented by **Edwin Mercer Stone, MD, PhD**, Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics; The Bradley R. Straatsma Lecture will be presented by **Martin Friedlander, MD**, Professor of Ophthalmology at the Scripps Research Institute; and the Thomas H. Pettit Lecture will be presented by **Donald O. Kikkawa, MD**, Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of California, San Diego.

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## CORNEA/REFRACTIVE SURGERY UPDATE FOR OPTOMETRISTS

Optometrists from across the state traveled to the Jules Stein Eye Institute on September 26, 2004, to attend the Cornea/Refractive Surgery Update. The course was held in the Research to Prevent Blindness Auditorium and was sponsored by the UCLA Laser Refractive Center. Course Chairman **D. Rex Hamilton, MD**, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, organized the program that included lectures on inflammatory and infectious disorders of the cornea, keratoplasty, contact lens fitting, corneal topography, and refractive surgery complications. A special guest lecture on topical anti-inflammatory and antibiotic agents was presented by **Bruce E. Onofrey, OD**, Director of Optometric Internships at Lovelace Medical Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Other featured speakers included UCLA ophthalmologists and optometrists **Anthony J. Aldave, MD**; **Jonathan P. Christie, OD**; **Paul Dougherty, MD**; and **Barry A. Weissman, OD, PhD**.

### UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association hosts Annual Reception

The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association hosted its annual reception at the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, on October 24, 2004. Over 100 Jules Stein Eye Institute faculty members and staff, and resident and fellow alumni from around the world gathered to meet and renew acquaintances.



JSEI Alumni Drs. Kenneth Hoffer (left) and Kevin Miller

## EYE LINES



UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association



(Left to Right) JSEI Faculty member and alumnus Dr. Arthur Rosenbaum, greets Drs. Pauline Cheong, David Schultz and Arnold Barron and their guests at the JSEI reception.



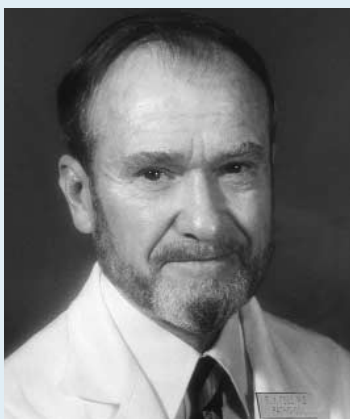
Dr. Robert Goldberg (center) is flanked by JSEI fellows and residents (left to right) Drs. Robert Schwartz, Richard Bryant, Sean Dumars, Guy Ben Simon, Polly Quiram, and Emma Clay.



UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association Treasurer and Secretary, Dr. Robert Goldberg (left) and Association Vice President, Dr. Katherine Gardner greet fellow alumnus Dr. Andrew Caster (center).

## ROBERT Y. FOOS, MD IN MEMORIAM

**R**obert Y. Foos, MD, 40-year member of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and 30-year Director of the Pathology Laboratory at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, has died. A Professor Emeritus at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Dr. Foos succumbed to prostate cancer at the age of 82 at his home in Beverly Glen, California.



Dr. Robert Foos

Born in 1922 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he enlisted in the US Army 11 months before the December 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, and was discharged six years later as a Captain in the Army Air Corps. After leaving military service, he earned a DVM degree at the Davis campus of the University of California, and subsequently practiced general veterinary medicine for six years in the California high desert. He then earned an MD degree at UCLA, where he was a member of the faculty of the Department of Pathology until retirement in 1993. Upon completion of his residency he was called upon to fill a vacancy in the ocular pathology program at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, where he served as program Director until retirement.

As an academic pathologist, Dr. Foos' interests spanned the spectrum of diseases affecting the eye. His research program was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health for 28 years. The program's major contributions were in detailed clinico-pathologic correlation of developmental, inflammatory, aging, and neoplastic diseases of the eye, notably of the neurosensory retina. Following his retirement, he assembled this work into what he labeled as his *Magnum opus*: a two volume atlas-textbook treatise entitled "System of Ocular Pathology", which he described as his 'legacy to medicine.'

In consideration of his contributions to the field of ophthalmic pathology, he was a frequent Visiting Professor and Guest Lecturer at national and international institutions. In addition, he received many awards and accolades, including the Conrad Berens Grand Prize (Mexico City, 1970), the Knapp Award (Atlantic City, 1971), and more recently, a Senior Honor Award (American Academy of Ophthalmology, 1986), the Zimmerman Medal (Atlanta, 1995), and the S. Rodman Irvine Prize (Jules Stein Eye Institute, 2001). He was a charter member of the American Association of Ophthalmic Pathologists and a 30-year member of the Verhoeff Ophthalmic Pathology Society.

One would expect that outside his academic heritage, Dr. Foos' extracurricular activities would be limited; however, he found time for his passion of bicycling, especially long-distance touring. Such tours were usually solo and of his planning. They covered 43 of the 50 United States, 17 foreign countries, and six continents.

Dr. Foos is survived by Sunny, his wife of 58 years, their four children (and seven grandchildren), and a host of grateful students and colleagues.

## FORREST E. HULL, MD IN MEMORIAM

**I**nstitute faculty and staff were saddened by the passing of **Forrest E. Hull, MD**, on October 6, 2004. He was 93 years old and visiting relatives with his wife Marte when he died. Dr. Hull was on the clinical faculty of the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of California, Los Angeles, since his appointment in 1954. Throughout his association, he regularly contributed to medical student teaching and postdoctoral instruction in the Department of Ophthalmology, and was among the distinguished faculty members to receive the prestigious Senior Honor Award for over 25 years of meritorious service to the Department's academic programs.



Dr. Forrest Hull

A 1938 graduate of the University of Southern California Medical School, Dr. Hull served in the United States Army Medical Corps until 1953, progressing from the status of a resident to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and Chief of the Eye Section at Letterman Army Hospital in San Francisco. Following his retirement from the United States Army Corps, he opened an eye clinic in Lancaster, California, where he continued seeing patients into his 80s. A respected member of the community, Dr. Hull was elected to the first city council when Lancaster became a city in 1977. A park located near the clinic he founded was recently dedicated in his honor.

## FACULTY HONORS AND GRANTS

**T**he 2004 DUAG Award was presented to **Ralph D. Levinson, MD**, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, at the Sixth International Symposium on Uveitis on September 20–22, 2004. His publication, "Strong associations between specific HLA-DQ and HLA-DR alleles and the tubulointerstitial nephritis and uveitis syndrome," co-authored by faculty member **Gary N. Holland, MD**, and members of the UCLA Immunogenetics Laboratory, won the first prize for clinical uveitis research.

A major grant from the National Eye Institute was awarded to **Arthur L. Rosenbaum, MD**, Professor of Ophthalmology and Chief of the Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Division. Effective September 1, 2004, the three-year grant will be used to further investigation into treatment of strabismus (misalignment of the eyes) due to rectus muscle palsy.

On September 21, 2004, the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS) paid tribute to the lifelong contributions to ophthalmic education and training worldwide of UCLA Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology **Robert M. Sinskey, MD**, by naming the Robert M. Sinskey Pediatric Eye Clinic in Addis, Ababa, Ethiopia, in his honor.

Professor Emeritus of Ophthalmology and Founding Director of the Jules Stein Eye Institute **Bradley R. Straatsma, MD**, received the 2004 Visionaries Award from Bausch & Lomb at the American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting on October 24, 2004. The award recognizes significant contributions to ophthalmology and visual science.

## UCLA MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARD

**O**n October 22, 2004, the UCLA Medical Alumni Association honored **Debora Farber, PhD, DPhhc**, Karl Kirchgessner Professor of Ophthalmology, with the UCLA Medical Alumni Association Medical Science Award for her outstanding achievements in medical research.

Dr. Farber, a UCLA faculty member since 1977, was among the first vision scientists to apply molecular biology to identify genes that cause retinal degeneration in animal models and humans. Her seminal work is expected to lead to the control and ultimate prevention of the disease process in retinitis pigmentosa and related vision problems in humans.



The UCLA Medical Alumni Association Medical Science Award was presented to Dr. Debora Farber by Dr. Bartly Mondino (left), Director of the Jules Stein Eye Institute, and Dr. Claude Wasterlain (right), Vice-Chair of the UCLA Neurology Department.

## KOLOKOTRONES CHAIR IN OPHTHALMOLOGY

**W**endy and Theo Kolokotrones have established the Kolokotrones Chair in Ophthalmology with a \$1-million gift. This endowment will support the teaching and research of a cataract surgeon and scientist who has national and international recognition, thus advancing this important field. Currently, cataract is the most common blinding condition in the world, and corrective surgery is the only treatment option.

**Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, Director of the Jules Stein Eye Institute, stated, “The generosity of the Kolokotrones family is a wonderful investment in the future of vision science. This Chair will provide essential resources for an outstanding scholar in cataract surgery.”

Theo, a graduate of the University of Chicago and the Harvard Business School, is President and co-founder of PRIMECAP Management Company. In January 2004, he was chosen as one of the 2003 Domestic Stock Managers of the Year by the Morningstar Global Investment Research Firm. Wendy is a graduate of the University of Chicago and is on the Board of Directors for the Union Station Foundation, an organization dedicated to helping poor and homeless residents of Pasadena to rebuild their lives. Theo and Wendy have two children, Tom and Mark, both graduates of Harvard University. The couple has been a loyal supporter of the Jules Stein Eye Institute since 1994.

## FUNDING KERATOCONUS RESEARCH

**T**he Center for Keratoconus, located in Santa Rosa, California, has established a fund at the Jules Stein Eye Institute to underwrite research initiatives to study the causes and management of keratoconus, a progressive eye disease that is characterized by a thinning and steepening of the cornea. Those who have keratoconus experience a mild to severe decrease in vision, depending on the amount of corneal tissue affected. Currently, there is no known cure for this disease and, because it begins as nearsightedness and astigmatism, many are unaware they have it during the early stages. Initial funds from the Center will underwrite two investigations and purchase much-needed equipment.



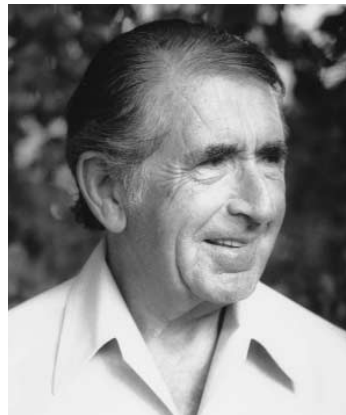
Founded in 1999 by **Robert Gavin**, a former actor from ABC’s hit show *Land of the Lost*, the Center for Keratoconus was created to address the need for increased public awareness and understanding of this condition, which affects as many as 300,000 people in the United States. Today it is the largest non-profit health organization for keratoconus. Its aim is to eliminate the disease as a health problem, and help patients restore normal vision by supporting research, education, advocacy, and service.

“The Jules Stein Eye Institute continues to be a leader in keratoconus research, and thus a valuable resource to patients across the nation,” said Mr. Gavin, President and CEO of the Center for Keratoconus. “We are proud to support the Institute’s important research efforts to better understand the disease and improve the quality of vision and life for keratoconus patients.”

For more information about the Center and keratoconus, visit [www.kcenter.org](http://www.kcenter.org).

## ARTHUR SPITZER— LEAVING AN ENDURING LEGACY

**A**rthur Spitzer was an avid philanthropist and businessman, who became the largest stockholder of a petroleum corporation based in San Antonio, Texas. Born in Austria and a former resident of Germany, he moved to California more than 50 years ago, where he raised his son Travis and daughter Samantha.



Arthur Spitzer

Before his death in December 2003 at age 91, Arthur established a charitable gift annuity with The UCLA Foundation to benefit both the Jules Stein Eye Institute and the UCLA

Center on Aging. In exchange, Arthur was entitled to an income tax charitable deduction for a portion of the gift value, and he received fixed payments for the balance of his lifetime.

Arthur was a long-time JSEI contributor and a close friend of the Stein and Oppenheimer families. **Gerald Oppenheimer** said, “Arthur’s foresight and generosity will benefit the Institute for years to come. We were fortunate to have his friendship and support. He will be greatly missed, but his legacy will live on.”

For more information on establishing a charitable gift annuity, please contact Nancy Graydon in the Development Office at (310) 206-9701.

## KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION, INC.

**M**embers of the Knights Templar of the State of California presented **Maria C. Ortube, MD**, Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Fellow, with a \$30,000 grant from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. This award will fund her study “Orbital Imaging in Craniosynostosis: Understanding the Pathophysiology of Complex Strabismus.”



Pictured from left are Paul Mc Elwain, Grand Captain General; Richard Cooper, Past Grand Commander of California; Dr. Arthur Rosenbaum, Chief of the Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Division; Dr. Maria Carolina Ortube; Dr. Joseph L. Demer, Chief of the Comprehensive Ophthalmology Division; and Donald Spencer, Past Commander.

If you would like to make a contribution to the Institute, you may do so by means of the remittance envelope included in this issue of EYE. For additional information, please call or write to the following:

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## IMPROVING OPHTHALMIC PRACTICE AROUND THE WORLD

Developed to address the worldwide need for improved ophthalmic practice and sight conservation programs, the International Fellowship and Exchange Program at the Jules Stein Eye Institute offers one- and two-year fellowships to outstanding ophthalmologists from outside the United States. Under the supervision of specific faculty, fellows participate in the clinical and research activities of ophthalmic subspecialties according to their training needs. The program promotes interaction with ophthalmology institutes around the world, and provides an opportunity to train physicians who will be ambassadors for the Institute, and have extensive impact on patient care and physician training in their home communities.

International fellowship programs at the Institute are available in all ophthalmic subspecialties. This installment focuses on the International Fellowship and Exchange Program in orbital and ophthalmic plastic surgery under the direction of **Robert Alan Goldberg, MD**, Professor of Ophthalmology and Division Chief, and **John D. McCann, MD, PhD**, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology.

### Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery

Orbital and ophthalmic plastic surgery is a relatively young discipline. The first clinic at the Jules Stein Eye Institute took place in 1974. Although this subspecialty is now available in communities across the nation, there are still many countries where large segments of the population don't have access to the special skills of an orbital and ophthalmic plastic surgeon.

The Jules Stein Eye Institute has always welcomed visitors from other countries to observe and learn the newest ophthalmic concepts and techniques. In 1997, the Institute designed a more formal international fellowship program in orbital and ophthalmic plastic surgery. **Juan Delgado, MD**, a top graduate from Bogotá, Colombia, was the first fellow to complete the demanding and intensive one-year program. Encouraged by this success, the Department of Ophthalmology approached Mr. David Leveton, trustee for the Ann C. Rosenfield Fund, with a proposal to support a robust fellowship program in clinical and basic science research for these elite international physicians.

The Ann C. Rosenfield International Fellowship Fund has enabled the Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Division to recruit the best and brightest ophthalmologists from around the world into its program. The unique training at UCLA allows graduates to bring new skills, techniques, and insights to their countries of origin, where many establish academic programs to train and educate the next generation of leading ophthalmologists. The Institute also benefits from its international fellows, who share medical concepts from their own homelands, which are often reflective of long experience and unique analyses of problems. Strong bonds are formed and we continue to keep in touch with these fellows, and support their burgeoning academic careers, once they return home.

### Recent International Fellow Graduates

**1997/1998: Juan Andres Delgado, MD**, has a busy practice in Bogotá, Colombia. Dr. Goldberg recently visited Bogotá and met with ophthalmology residents and practicing ophthalmologists who trained under Dr. Delgado. Dr. Delgado continues to support our program by participating in alumni courses, sharing his interesting and difficult cases, and directing the best medical students in Colombia towards consideration of advanced training at UCLA.

**1998/1999: Andres Borba de Silva, MD**, has an academic practice in Sao Paulo, Brazil, where he is establishing a strong reputation for innovative work in oculoplastic surgery. He attended our annual alumni research day at the Jules Stein Eye Institute and presented a paper describing the use of phosphatidyl choline to dissolve orbital fat, providing a novel method to treat orbital and oculoplastic disease without invasive surgery.



In the operating room, Dr. Robert Goldberg (third from left) is accompanied by (left to right) national ophthalmology fellow Dr. Robert Schwarcz and international ophthalmology fellows Drs. Angelo Tsirbas and Guy Ben Simon, who appreciate the opportunity to observe and learn the latest surgical techniques in orbital and ophthalmic plastic surgery.

**1999/2000: Alvaro Alfonso, MD**, returned to El Salvador, where he divides his time between a busy oculoplastics referral practice, working at the Benjamin Blomm Children's National Hospital, and volunteering at the Rosales General National Hospital. Dr. Alfonso also participates in the National Ophthalmology Resident Training Program and is an active member of the Salvadorian Society of Orbital and Oculoplastic Surgery.

**2000/2001: Miguel Gonzalez-Candial, MD**, joined the faculty of the IMO Eye Hospital, a prestigious academically oriented multidisciplinary ophthalmology group in Barcelona, Spain. Last year, he organized a highly regarded international symposium on Orbital Surgery and Oculoplastics in Barcelona that attracted over 200 participants from Europe and beyond.

**2001/2002: Suat Ugurbas, MD**, returned to Turkey to join the Zonguldak Karaelmas University, Faculty of Medicine, where he is now Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Dr. Ugurbas, a member of the Turkish Oculoplastic Society, credits the successful completion of the Institute's international fellowship program with his rapid ascent to a leadership position in his country's ophthalmic community.

**2003/2004: Guy Ben Simon, MD**, from Israel, has completed a number of important scientific manuscripts and presented papers at major meetings. He has been offered academic positions in Israel, and will clearly be a leader there in academic ophthalmology.

**2004/2005: Angelo Tsirbas, MD**, from Australia, is this year's international fellow in orbital and ophthalmic plastic surgery. Following his fellowship year at UCLA, he will return to Australia with unique academic and clinical experiences.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO 2004 MAKE SURGERY BEARABLE SUPPORTERS

A special thank you to our generous donors who contributed to the JSEI Affiliates' *Make Surgery Bearable* holiday fundraising efforts.

The December campaign raised hundreds of dollars to sponsor Dr. Teddy MD teddy bears for future pediatric ophthalmology patients.

If you would like information on how to sponsor a bear, please call the JSEI Affiliates at (310) 825-4148 or visit our website at [www.jseiaffiliates.com](http://www.jseiaffiliates.com)



# Special Events & Activities

## INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES DINNER SERIES

To coincide with World Vision Day on October 14, 2004, Gail and Gerald Oppenheimer hosted a dinner for their close friends and supporters of the Jules Stein Eye Institute. Along with Institute Director Bartly J. Mondino, MD, faculty members Robert Alan Goldberg, MD; Steven D. Schwartz, MD; and Joseph Caprioli, MD, updated guests on the latest advances in research, education, and patient care.



Gail and Gerald Oppenheimer hosted the dinner. Mr. Oppenheimer is a member of JSEI's Board of Trustees, and is the son of the late Doris Stein.



Founding Institute Director Dr. Bradley Straatsma welcomes long time supporter Frances Brody.



From left, David Leveton, a Trustee of the Ann Rosenfield Trust that supports the International Fellowship Program at JSEI, is joined by his wife Susan, and Randi and Dr. David Fett, Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology.



From left, Joseph Kean, Erlenne Sprague, JSEI Director Dr. Bartly Mondino, and Chardee Trainer and husband Thomas Trainer enjoy the dinner conversation.



Sammy Davis, Jr. biographer Burton Boyer (left) with Dr. Robert Goldberg, Chief of the Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Division.



Travis Spitzer (left), son of long-time JSEI contributor the late Arthur Spitzer, joins Retina Division Chief Dr. Steven Schwartz.

### IMPORTANT JSEI PHONE NUMBERS

#### PATIENT CARE

JSEI Ophthalmology Referral Service	(310) 825-5000
JSEI Ophthalmology Emergency Service	(310) 825-3090
after hours	(310) 825-2111
JSEI Specialty Areas:	
Aesthetic Eye and Facial Surgery	(310) 794-9341
Contact Lens Service	(310) 206-6351
Cornea-External Ocular Disease & Uveitis	(310) 206-7202
Glaucoma	(310) 794-9442
Neuro-Ophthalmology	(310) 825-4344
Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus	(310) 825-5000
Refractive Surgery (Custom LASIK, Custom NearVision CK)	(310) 825-2737
Retina	(310) 825-5000

#### FUND RAISING AND OUTREACH

JSEI Development Office	(310) 206-6035
JSEI Affiliates	(310) 825-4148

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