

# VISION

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TREATMENT RESEARCH EDUCATION

## Ophthalmology: The Next Generation

*Duke Eye Center Educates the Future Leaders of Ophthalmology Research and Practice*

As a unit of one of the world's foremost academic medical centers, the Duke University Eye Center has, as part of its mission, a steadfast commitment to prepare the next generation of leaders in ophthalmic patient care, research, and education. Eye Center visitors may not realize the depth and breadth of educational programs taking place here at any given time: the training of ophthalmology residents, fellows, researchers, medical students, and ophthalmic technicians, as well as practicing ophthalmologists seeking continuing education. These men and women at varying levels of training share a common desire to ensure a bright future for ophthalmology and for the people they serve.

In this issue of VISION newsletter, we introduce our readers to two vital education programs at the Duke Eye Center. **On page 3**, learn how our ophthalmology residency and clinical fellowship programs prepare physicians and physician-scientists to excel in patient care and clinical research. **On page 5**, see how our research fellowship and post-doctoral



training programs give emerging scientists the chance to work side-by-side with experienced basic science researchers to delve into the unanswered questions that may someday lead to breakthroughs in the treatment of eye disease.

"Our goal," says Dr. David L. Epstein, chair of the Duke Department of Ophthalmology, "is to train the next generation of leaders in ophthalmology. We aim to be home to clinician-scientists who can apply the latest in science to the advancement

of the understanding and treatment of eye diseases. At the same time, we strive to train inquisitive physicians, who in the clinical practice of ophthalmology are always asking why certain diseases are occurring in this way, and thinking of ways to improve the treatment and care of our patients. On the basic science research side, we continue to foster a spirit of scientific inquiry that will open new avenues of thought to help us win the battle against blinding eye disease."

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## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER



*“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is to not stop questioning.”*

~ Albert Einstein

Albert Einstein, renowned scientist of the 20th Century, believed that life was a journey – a daily quest to live, learn, and aspire to create a better tomorrow. Einstein also believed, as I do, that one of our greatest responsibilities in life is to never stop questioning. It is only through our constant inquisitiveness and pursuit to understand, that we can endeavor to make the world in which we live a better place.

It is for this reason that I am grateful to lead such a noble institution as the Duke Eye Center. As you will read in this issue of VISION, the faculty and staff of the Duke Eye Center are committed to fulfilling its important missions to apply the latest science to advance the understanding of blinding eye disease, and to train the next generation of ophthalmic leaders in patient care, research, and education. Advances are being made in the development of gene therapy and novel drug delivery methods to treat glaucoma and diseases of the retina; novel new drug treatments are preserving vision in glaucoma and pediatric patients; the creation of a new corneal glue is facilitating the corneal wound healing process; and new surgical procedures to treat macular degeneration and corneal disease are now a reality.

But even as we make great strides in our quest to learn all that we can about eye disease and to train the next generation of researchers and clinicians, we could not achieve our aspirations were it not for the special and much-needed support and benevolence of our Advisory Board and many other generous supporters and ambassadors. They understand the importance of our mission and are dedicated to helping us realize our dreams to preserve, and ultimately, restore vision – to create hope for tomorrow.

The next two years are exciting and important times for the Duke Eye Center, as we aspire “to not stop questioning” and to build the new Albert Eye Research Institute. We hope that you will join us on our journey to help build a place where we can pursue advanced research, train the next generation, and create hope for tomorrow.

*David L. Epstein, M.D.*

David L. Epstein, MD

# So You Want to Be an Ophthalmologist?

## *Clinical Residency and Fellowships Prepare Physicians to Lead, Excel*

**A**fter completing medical school, newly minted physicians who wish to pursue a career in eye care, clinical research, or academia head to a three-year ophthalmology residency program.

With a reputation as one of the nation's top eye residency programs, the Duke Department of Ophthalmology receives nearly 400 applications each year from medical school students who hope to come to Duke to learn the ins and outs of their chosen specialty. Each year, from the many qualified applicants, the Department must choose four.

It isn't easy to choose from among the top medical students in the country, says Dr. Pratap Challa, Duke's ophthalmology residency program director. "Our goal is to

"Our goal is to train the leaders of the future in ophthalmology, so we look for a strong academic career as well as special characteristics like experience with research in a medical field or a personal experience that peaked their interest in ophthalmology."

~ Pratap Challa, MD

train the leaders of the future in ophthalmology, so we look for a strong academic career as well as special characteristics like experience with research in a medical field or a personal experience that peaked their interest in ophthalmology. Basically, we're looking for bright and compassionate individuals who have a strong, longstanding desire to go into ophthalmology."

Through the residency program, these young physicians gain the tools they need to be successful as ophthalmologists in the future. They attend lectures on everything from the science of ophthalmology and treatment issues, to professionalism, ethics in medicine, and presentation skills. They rotate through each of the Eye Center's services and work with experienced faculty to enhance their patient care abilities. They practice surgery and fine-tune their skills, first in a practice lab, and later working under supervision with patients. And they work on research projects with faculty mentors.

Dr. John Denny is a second-year ophthalmology resident at Duke. "One of the strongest points of this residency is the interaction with the faculty, who are very approachable and energetic about teaching."

Another strength is the wide variety of patients and eye care issues that residents get to see at the Duke Eye Center and at the Durham Veterans Administration Hospital, Denny notes. "We appreciate the patients' willingness to let us see them in conjunction with the attending



Michelle Evans and Dr. Pratap Challa

physicians, and their willingness to be part of our education."

By the end of the three-year program, residents are prepared to go into a general ophthalmology practice. However, more than half of Duke's residents choose to go on to advanced clinical training in a subspecialty fellowship program, the ultimate training for those who want to go into subspecialty practice or academic careers. Duke residents generally go on to the nation's top fellowship programs.

At Duke, the Department of

Ophthalmology offers one- and two-year clinical fellowships in five subspecialties: vitreoretinal, oculoplastics, glaucoma, cornea, and pediatrics. Getting one of the 13 eye fellowships is just as competitive as getting into the residency program:

some of the country's best ophthalmology residents come to Duke.

Retina Service Chief Dr. Brooks McCuen directs the Eye Center's clinical fellowship program. "The leaders of the next generation need to be experts in their areas of interest. The fellowship program here helps



Dr. John Denny

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## So You Want to Be an Ophthalmologist

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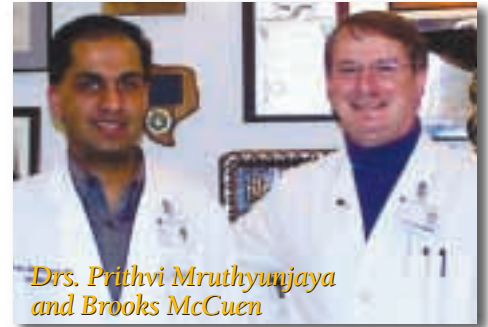
prepare those future leaders for their future roles by teaching them the latest techniques and serving as mentors for them, both clinically and in research and education.”

Unlike residents, fellows are already trained and licensed ophthalmologists who are fully qualified to treat patients and perform eye surgery, notes Dr. Prithvi Mruthyunjaya, a vitreoretinal fellow and a former chief ophthalmology resident at Duke. “Each of the subspecialty departments at Duke have attending physicians with different interests, clinically and research-wise. Interacting with this group gives us insight

into different styles of treating patients and techniques at the cutting-edge of what’s going on in the world.

“The Duke vitreoretinal fellowship is, by reputation, the best in the country, due to the strength of the faculty, their diverse interests, and the experience that you get as a fellow,” Mruthyunjaya adds. “They give us a lot of independence, with appropriate supervision, which allows us to take a leadership role in caring for our patients, while making sure that we’re doing the right thing. It was a great opportunity and a great honor to be selected for this fellowship.”

Michelle Evans, who coordinates the Department of Ophthalmology’s education programs, is impressed by the intelligence and dedication of those who come to the Duke Eye



*Drs. Prithvi Mruthyunjaya and Brooks McCuen*

Center to train, and believes that the future of ophthalmology is in good hands. “In our clinical residency and fellowship programs, we’re taking young physicians and transforming them into world-class ophthalmologists who will go on to provide excellent patient care, teach other physicians, and pursue research. These are the men and women who will carry the torch for ophthalmology into the future.”

## Two Distinguished Named Chairs Awarded in Department of Ophthalmology



*Dr. Brooks McCuen*

**D**uke Eye Center is pleased to announce that two members of the Department of Ophthalmology have been selected to receive a named chair. This distinguished professorship is the highest honor Duke can confer upon a faculty member. **Dr. Brooks W. McCuen, II**, has been awarded the Robert Machemer Professor of Ophthalmology in the School of Medicine, and **Dr. Paul P. Lee** has been awarded the James Pitzer Gills, III, M.D. and Joy Gills Professor of Ophthalmology in the School of Medicine.

Drs. McCuen and Lee were recognized by their fellow Duke colleagues, also holding named chairs, during a banquet at the Washington Duke Inn on April 30, 2003.

We congratulate them both for receiving this most distinguished and highest of honors.

*We are pleased to announce the naming of these new, distinguished chairs as we go to press. We look forward to bringing you a more in-depth story in our Fall/Winter 2003 issue of VISION.*



*Dr. Paul Lee*

# Brilliant Brains, Great Hands

*Post-Docs and Research Fellows Contribute to Eye Research Even as They Train*

**G**oldis Malek calls herself a bit of an idealist when she talks about finding a way to prevent age-related macular degeneration before it occurs. But that's exactly what the field of eye research needs: bright young scientists like Malek, a post-doctoral research fellow, with the drive, creativity, and idealism that may someday lead to breakthroughs in the battle against blinding eye disease.

Emerging scientists who have the desire and intellect to become leaders in the field of eye research generally take one of two paths. Many earn a PhD in a field such as cell biology, genetics, or biochem-

“Disease-focused research is not like a hundred-meter dash, the pole vault, long jump, or high jump. It's more like the decathlon: you have to be good in many things to win. Eye disease is a complex process – it combines principals of cellular and molecular biology, genetics, an ability to conduct clinical trials, and all sorts of things.

~ Fulton Wong, MD, PhD

istry, then take a post-doctoral fellowship in a research laboratory for several years to learn and explore before accepting a junior faculty position at a university. Others, after earning a medical degree, choose to further their understanding of the science of medicine, rather than patient care, and apply to a research fellowship program. In the Duke Eye Center's research laboratories, both types of scientists are working side-by-side with our experienced faculty, sharing ideas and techniques in a quest to gain new insight into a range of eye diseases studied here.

Among the Eye Center's post-doctoral research fellows, there are those who earned their doctoral degrees in eye-related fields, and others who focused on basic science disciplines like physiology or genetics that they now want to apply to eye disease. Both are important to the Eye Center's research efforts, says Research Director Fulton Wong, PhD.

“Disease-focused research is not like a hundred-meter dash, the pole vault, long jump, or high jump,” he explains. “It's more like the decathlon: you have to be good in many things to win. Eye disease is a complex process – it combines principals of cellular and molecular biology, genetics, an ability to conduct clinical trials, and all sorts of things. In the Duke Eye Center's research program, our faculty is experienced not only in the individual disciplines in basic research, but



*Drs. Catherine Bowes Rickman and Goldis Malek*

also in applying those techniques, knowledge, and skills to the study of eye diseases. Our specialty is in providing the right mix of multidisciplinary skills and experiences to the trainees to accomplish this task.”

Eye Center post-docs come to Duke for two or three years, and spend most of their days in the laboratory working with their faculty mentors. Their positions are funded by grants secured by their mentors, and competition for the best candi-



*Dr. Fulton Wong*

dates is fierce. Basic science researcher Catherine Bowes Rickman, PhD, mentors two post-doctoral fellows in her age-related macular degeneration (AMD) research program, which focuses on understanding the vision loss associated with AMD with the

goal of saving the cone cells that die in the center of the retina.

Bowes Rickman was pleased when Malek contacted her about doing a post-doctoral fellowship in her Duke lab. Malek brought extraordinary experience from her PhD training in vision science, where she

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## Brilliant Brains, Great Hands

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worked with a world-renowned researcher on the pathology of human AMD at the cellular level.

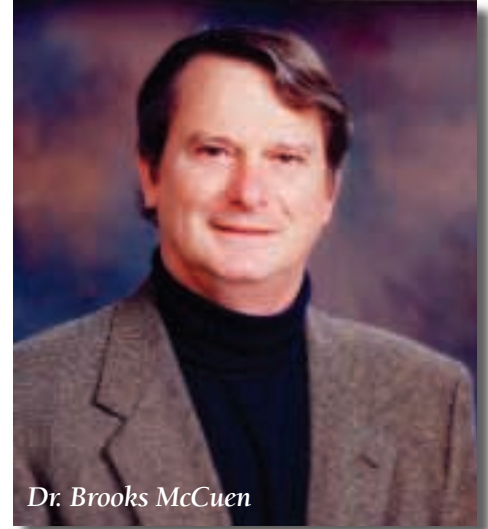
“Even though some of the characteristics of age-related macular degeneration were identified as far back as the late 1800s, progress toward understanding this disease has been excruciatingly slow,” says Malek, who joined Bowes Rickman’s lab in November. “I wanted to continue what I was studying in graduate school, and joining Cathy’s lab provided a great opportunity for me to pursue my research interests. Since coming, I have been exposed to different techniques and have also been collaborating with researchers in Duke’s department of neurobiology. This has been helpful in allowing me to approach this disease from other angles. Right now, there are limited surgical options for patients with the advanced form of AMD, but hopefully with research we will be able to further understand the steps leading up to the disease, and eventually slow it down and even prevent it from occurring.”

“Post-docs like Goldis are a great addition to a research team. They are at the peak of their hunger

and awareness of the field,” Bowes Rickman notes. “They bring great hands and brilliant brains. Often they’re looking for a new way to use what they’ve learned and break out on their own. We give them the environment, support, and mentoring and then challenge them to use their training to pursue some burning scientific question – relating to what we do – any way they wish. Goldis is applying her knowledge of the human disease to an animal model that will let her test very specific theories about AMD that she could not do before, as well as learn new ways to get the answers. Here at the Eye Center, Goldis will continue to develop into an independent investigator and develop new collaborations and friendships with colleagues that will hopefully become part of her lasting network.”

Daniel Stamer, PhD, also did his post-doctoral training at Duke, working on glaucoma research with Eye Center Chairman Dr. David Epstein from 1997 to 1999. Stamer is now a tenure-track assistant professor of ophthalmology and pharmacology at the University of Arizona.

“I have benefited tremendously from my experiences at Duke,”



*Dr. Brooks McCuen*

Stamer says. “Dr. Epstein was an active mentor who taught me much about glaucoma and ways to study the regulation of aqueous outflow. This knowledge and experience has enabled me to compete successfully for National Institutes of Health funding. I was also introduced to many leaders in the field of glaucoma research with whom I have since developed productive collaborations and friendships.”

The Eye Center’s other major research training program is the research fellowship, which draws medical doctors (MDs) from around the world to Duke for a year or more. Although most of these fellows are highly trained, experienced ophthalmologists – and they may spend some time observing in Duke’s patient care clinics and operating rooms – their main focus is on research. Former fellows include the heads of several major ophthalmology programs in medical centers around the world.

Dr. Brooks McCuen, chief of the Eye Center’s retina service, leads the research fellowship program. “This program is designed to attract bright, young, international physicians to Duke for advanced research training so that they can go back to their

“This program is designed to attract bright, young, international physicians to Duke for advanced research training so that they can go back to their home countries and their academic institutions and advance the care and research there. Having these future academic stars helps build Duke’s international reputation.”

*~ Brooks McCuen, MD*

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# New Duke Development Team To Help Eye Center Secure Resources to Achieve Mission

A new Duke team has been formed to guide and catalyze the Duke University Eye Center's development efforts to raise funds to support the Eye Center's goals and aspirations.

Five Duke University Medical Center development veterans comprise this new team. Steve Rum, Vice Chancellor for Development and Alumni Affairs, leads the group, which includes Assistant Vice Chancellor Dorothy Williams, Major Gifts Director Lori Osowski, and Regional Major Gift Officers Ashlyn Sowell and Culver Stapleton. This experienced team is looking forward to forging new relationships with Eye Center benefactors and friends, while continuing their work on behalf of the Medical Center as well.

The team strives to sustain and build upon the warm, caring relationships formed by Sandy Scarlett, who recently left the Eye Center after nearly two decades to pursue an advanced career opportunity at Peace College (see inset).

"Our mission, as one, is to raise



Lori Osowski,  
Ashlyn Sowell and  
Culver Stapleton

funds to help the Duke Eye Center achieve its missions of patient care, research, and education," Rum says of the major-gift development team. "The Eye Center is a critical component of the Duke University Medical Center, so it is a priority of the leadership of the Medical Center for us to devote the development resources to support this world-class institution."

"We are enjoying the opportunity to meet the many friends of the Eye Center," Osowski says. "All of us on the team are passionate about this cause, and the Eye Center faculty and staff are just wonderful to work with. It is an honor to get to share the good work of these outstanding physicians and scientists."

Currently, the team's main focus is on a \$10 million campaign to complete the Ruth and Herman Albert Eye Research Institute, a state-of-the-art research facility that will provide much-needed space and resources for the Eye Center's growing patient care, research, and education missions.

The sixth member of the Eye Center's development team is Renee Wallace, who is responsible for the many day-to-day activities and logistics that go into a successful fundraising operation, including

"We are excited to be working with the many alumni and friends of the Duke Eye Center. In addition, it is rewarding to have the opportunity to work with the care providers who every day make a positive impact in the lives of many who come to the Duke for their eye care."

~ Dorothy Williams

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## New Duke Development Team

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the annual fund campaign and other mailings. Dr. Epstein, Rum, and Wallace join forces to coordinate and lead the biannual meetings of the Advisory Board.

Ultimately, the Eye Center plans to recruit a new, full-time development officer. As the newest member of the development team, this professional will forge relationships with new prospective bene-

“I have been tremendously impressed with Steve Rum and my ‘four amigos’ – Dottie, Ashlyn, Culver, and Lori – and the resources, competence, energy, and goodwill that they bring to our efforts to achieve our goals and complete the fundraising for the Albert Eye Research Institute.

~ David L. Epstein, MD

factors and friends, while working out of the Eye Center.

“Creating this team allows the Eye Center to take full advantage of Duke Medical Center’s substantial development resources and ensures that the Eye Center’s critical fundraising needs will continue to be met in a cost-effective manner, even as we search for the ideal person to replace Sandy,” Rum explains. “Our team members bring a wealth of experience to the

table, and we are excited about the opportunity to help raise funds for such a worthwhile enterprise as the Eye Center.”

Duke Department of Ophthalmology Chairman David L. Epstein says: “I have been tremendously impressed with Steve Rum and my ‘four amigos’ – Dottie, Ashlyn, Culver, and Lori – and the resources, competence, energy, and goodwill that they bring to our efforts to achieve our goals and

complete the fundraising for the Albert Eye Research Institute. Their active participation and ownership of our needs also reflect the commitment of Duke University Medical Center and Dean Sandy Williams to this project and to creating an ophthalmology program at Duke that is second-to-none. This commitment should bring joy and hope to those who suffer from potentially blinding eye diseases and their caring families.”

## Sandy Scarlett Departs Duke, Finds Peace

The Eye Center faculty and staff were saddened when Sandy Scarlett announced that she was leaving Duke, but expressed bittersweet joy and gratitude towards her when she took the opportunity of a new challenge and career advancement as the new Vice President of External Relations and Chief Development Officer at Peace College in Raleigh.

In nearly 19 years at the Eye Center – 26 years at Duke – Scarlett developed scores of meaningful relationships with friends and benefactors and raised tens of millions of dollars to support the Eye Center’s priorities.

“Sandy Scarlett has been, for many years, the heart and soul of the Duke Eye Center,” says Dr. Epstein. “With her values and caring, she contributed greatly to the expansion and success of our program. She deserves a lot of credit for helping to make the Albert Eye Research Institute a reality. I have watched her personal growth and increasing leadership with admiration, and as for all learning institutions where people grow to increasing levels of responsibility, I am pleased, although with a touch of sadness, that she has moved on to a position of great responsibility at Peace College. Her good deeds will continue as our foundation at the Eye Center, and we wish her the very best in her new position and career direction.”

“The true blessing at the Eye Center came from meeting the patients, whose courage and faith both inspired and challenged,” Scarlett says. “A life lesson I will always carry with me is to cherish the ability to see and the need to be courageous if some is irretrievably lost.

“I miss being a part of a nationally recognized medical center and seeing firsthand the advancement of eye care and treatments. Although it was time for me to take this next step and I am very pleased to be at Peace College, I know that I will always want to be a part of Duke.”

# Roslyn Lachman

*Chair of Eye Center's Advisory Board is a True Blue (Devil) Ambassador for Duke*

**R**oslyn Lachman and her husband, Milton, can't abide by people who ask, "What have you done for me lately?" The Lachmans have long memories, and they pride themselves on remembering those who have been good to them over the years. Duke University and its Medical Center are fortunate to be on that list.

Roz and Milton Lachman have been loyal friends of Duke since her undergraduate days here in the 1940s. Today, the Lachmans' generosity and friendship extends to programs across the Duke campus, including the Eye Center, where Roz Lachman chairs the Advisory Board and Milton is a Board member, and where a Lachman Family Endowment provides vital support for research to further the understanding and treatment of eye disease.

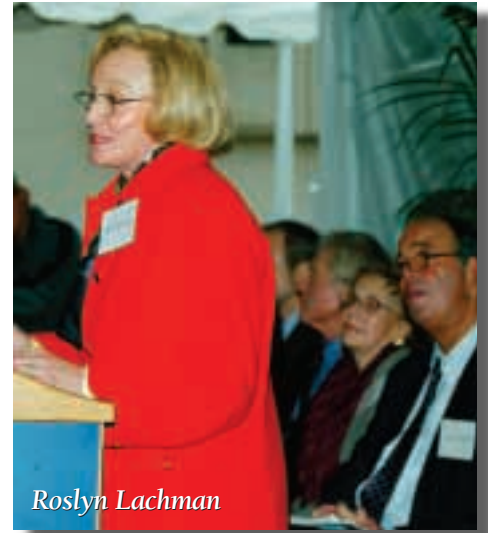
"We have never forgotten all the things Duke has meant to us, for me as a student, for our older son as a

student, all the wonderful medical care we have had – and so we believe in always remembering and returning what we can," she says.

After graduating from Duke, Mrs. Lachman got involved with the University's alumni and fundraising programs near their home in the New York area. Twenty-eight years ago, after moving to Palm Beach, Florida, Milton injured his hand, and the couple decided it was time to find good medical care closer to their new home than New York. They chose Duke University Medical Center for its location and reputation.

While they were in Duke Hospital for Milton's surgery, a doctor stopped by to visit. It was Dr. Bill Anlyan, then Chancellor of the Medical Center, and the three became fast – indeed, lifelong – friends, bonding over tennis and the shared medical issues that led the men to joke that they must be brothers.

The friendship with Dr. Anlyan



*Roslyn Lachman*

led the Lachmans to become more and more involved with the Medical Center; today, the Heart Center, Davison Club, the Eye Center, and the Department of Urology are just a few of the many programs that benefit from the couple's advice, advocacy, and support. Roz and Milton have each served on the Medical Center's Board of Visitors and on several other advisory boards, and have created, or contributed to, research and scholarship endowments across the Medical Center. The Lachmans are members of the Pinnacle Society, which recognizes friends who contribute to Duke at the highest levels.

As two of Duke's most steadfast and energetic ambassadors, the Lachmans have introduced scores of friends to the University and the Medical Center. For more than 14 years they have hosted a dinner at their home during the annual Palm Beach Forum, a program that brings Duke physicians and researchers to Florida to share the latest advances in medicine. It was at one of those dinners that the Lachmans' longtime friends, Ruth and Hy Albert, who became strong supporters of the Eye Center, first got to know Duke.

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*Milton and Roz Lachman (far right) at the Albert Eye Research Institute Ground-breaking with (L-R) Chairman David Epstein, Evelyn Hunter-Longdon, Leonard and Rose Herring, Janet and Richard Albert, and Ruth Albert.*

## Roslyn Lachman

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The Lachmans' own introduction to the Duke Eye Center came as a result of an ophthalmic emergency. During an overnight visit to Duke, Milton awoke with terrible pain in his eye. Although it was a Sunday morning, Dr. Anlyan called the Eye Center's Dr. Banks Anderson, who quickly met the couple and treated Milton that morning.

"And there we were again, being happy with the care we were getting, and getting more involved," she recalls.

Roz is the first woman to chair the Eye Center's Advisory Board.

"It's one of the most unique boards at Duke," she says. "It is a productive group of very interesting people who have a great deal of interest in eye care, a lot of pride in the people on the staff here, and who are dedicated to making Duke Eye Center the very best in the country. Our big concern now is to raise funds to complete the new Albert Eye Research Institute building with all that it will offer for patients and staff."

The Lachmans have made a generous contribution to the building fund and hope to encourage others to join them in this important initiative for the future of the Eye Center.

While the Lachmans still live in Florida, they spend part of each summer up in Vancouver, British Columbia, where their son, Bill, and his family live and where the Lachmans conduct some of their real estate business. Another son, Gary – a 1974 Duke graduate, and now a member of the Duke Heart Center's advisory board – lives in Maryland, so the Lachmans spend a lot of time traveling to see their four grandchildren.

When she is not engaged in her many volunteer activities, business,

or visiting family, Roz is an avid tennis player, a fitness enthusiast, and – she says through gritted teeth – is trying to play golf, a sport her husband loves. A music lover, she began taking piano lessons several years ago and practices every day.

It was Gary who, while growing up in Westchester, New York, once anointed Roz "the meanest mother in Scarsdale." It was a badge she wore with pride, she smiles, recalling that

"When I first came to Duke over 10 years ago, Roz and Milton Lachman befriended me, and they have become true friends, mentors, and 'surrogate parents' to me ever since," Dr. Epstein says. "They are, first and foremost, true Duke University patriots. Their first words when we met were how special Duke University was, both the people and the values, how opportunities to excel were unlimited, and how I needed to take full advantage of all the opportunities, and 'this was how to do it.' They were – and always are – right!"

~ David L. Epstein, MD

she responded with, "I think that's great, because it means I care."

Today, Gary and Bill aren't the only ones who call Mrs. Lachman "mom." Dr. David Epstein, chair of the Duke Department of Ophthalmology, likes to refer to her as his surrogate mother in appreciation for the support and advice – and when needed, tough love – he has received from her since he arrived at Duke.

"When I first came to Duke over 10 years ago, Roz and Milton Lachman befriended me, and they have become true friends, mentors, and 'surrogate parents' to me ever since," Dr. Epstein says. "They are, first and foremost, true Duke University patriots. Their first words when we met were how special Duke University was, both the people and the values, how opportunities to excel were unlimited, and how I needed to take full advantage of all the opportunities, and 'this was how to do it.' They were – and always are – right!"

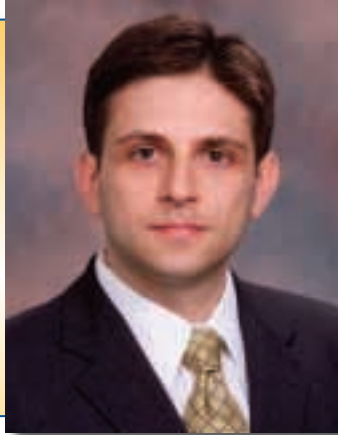
"As we got to know each other, they became truly excited about the unlimited potential for the Eye Center at Duke University, and they have been wonderful advocates, benefactors, and ambassadors for the Eye Center and Duke over these years. They have also been important advisers to me as the Eye Center has grown and excelled and is now close to its destiny of becoming second-to-none."

Dr. Epstein calls the Lachmans "two very special people who bleed Duke blue, share all our best values, and constantly perform selfless good deeds for us all without ever asking for recognition." As grateful as he is for their friendship and support, the entire University is even more fortunate to have such gracious and generous friends as Roslyn and Milton Lachman.

## NEW FACULTY PROFILE

# Lawrence Buono, MD

### *Neuro-Ophthalmologist Enjoys Being 'Eye Detective'*



**L**awrence Buono enjoys being a detective.

Well, technically, he's a neuro-ophthalmologist. But, as the new assistant professor of ophthalmology explains, the two careers have a lot in common.

As a neuro-ophthalmologist, Buono specializes in the diagnosis and management of diseases of the optic nerve, visual pathways in the brain, the orbit, and the ocular motor system. More simply, as he puts it, "neuro-ophthalmologists deal with everything in the visual system, including the eye itself."

Most patients who see a neuro-ophthalmologist have been referred by other ophthalmologists, optometrists, neurologists, and neurosurgeons due to an unexplained visual problem. That's where the detective work comes in, says Buono.

"Often, when patients come to us, they've already seen several doctors, and the diagnosis is uncertain. The patient will bring his CT and MRI scans, various diagnostic tests, and lab results. Our job is to take all those pieces, put them together and decide if additional testing is necessary. We're the last ones in the chain of referral, and that's real exciting. When you can figure out what the problem is, patients are very grateful to finally have an answer."

Some of the problems neuro-ophthalmologists diagnose can be life-saving. For instance, Buono once saw a patient with a chronic red eye who was being treated for allergies; the neuro-ophthalmologist determined that the patient actually had a potentially life-threatening miscommunication of blood flow between an artery and vein in the

*"In ophthalmology, everything's right there for you to see. For the most part, you can really help people with their problems and do something for them. I found that exciting."*

*~ Lawrence Buono, MD*

base of the brain. Buono was able to refer the patient for surgery to correct the problem. In general, Buono either performs surgery on his own patients or refers them to a neurosurgeon, depending on the situation.

Since joining the Duke University Eye Center faculty in January, Buono has maintained a busy schedule. On Mondays and Fridays,

he sees patients with neuro-ophthalmic disorders at the Duke Eye Center. Tuesdays and Thursdays he provides general ophthalmic care, including cataract surgery, and management of glaucoma and diabetes at the Duke Eye Center at Southpoint in Southern Durham. On Wednesdays, he performs surgery, teaches residents and medical students, and pursues research on optic nerve diseases such as ischemic optic neuropathy (a stroke of the optic nerve) and inherited types of vision loss.

Born and raised in Yonkers, New York, Buono spent his teenage years working summers in his family's Manhattan pizza restaurant. He saw first-hand how long and hard his father worked and learned the strong work-ethic values that would foster his own career one day. As he began medical school at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, he thought he wanted to be a general surgeon, but after being introduced to the field of ophthalmology, he knew he had found his ideal profession. "I thought, 'this is great.' You get to examine patients and see exactly what their problem is. In internal medicine, you can listen to the lungs, but you never get to see them unless you're operating. In ophthalmology, everything's right there for you to see. For the most part, you can really help people with their problems and do something for them. I found that exciting."

Buono completed his ophthalmology residency at New York Medical College in 2001, and then returned to Philadelphia for a two-year fellowship in neuro-ophthalmology at Wills Eye Hospital. When he completed his specialized

*Continued on page 12*

## FACULTY PROFILE Lawrence Buono, MD

*continued from page 11*

training, he accepted Duke's offer to join the Eye Center faculty.

Duke Neuro-Ophthalmology Service Chief Stephen Pollock says: "I am delighted that Dr. Buono has joined the faculty at the Duke University Eye Center. He comes to us with outstanding credentials, superb clinical skills, and a strong interest in disease-based research. His expertise in neuro-ophthalmology and in the care of patients with general eye problems will undoubtedly make him a much sought-after resource for doctors throughout North Carolina."

Buono is pleased to be at the world-renowned Duke University Medical Center. "I was impressed with Duke's Ophthalmology Department, which provides me with opportunities to teach and to interact with world-class ophthalmologists in every subspecialty. Duke has an outstanding reputation, and everyone has been very helpful, not only at the Eye Center but at the hospital as well."

One of the perks of living in North Carolina is the opportunity to play golf, and Buono enjoys having time to hit the links now that the grueling work schedule of his residency and fellowship days are behind him. He is also looking for a

dojo to practice aikido, a Japanese martial art. And while the restaurant business did not turn out to be in Buono's blood (his younger brother is now in the family business), the family's love of cooking appears to have a genetic link – Buono dabbles in gourmet Italian, Japanese, and French cooking.

He may be Chef Emeril in the evenings and Tiger Woods on weekends, but during the week, Duke's new Sherlock Holmes is using his powers of deduction to help patients understand and overcome serious eye issues. When all goes well, Watson, it's elementary.

## Medical Student Updates

Medical students at the Duke School of Medicine enjoy extraordinary opportunities to pursue research or advanced studies in related fields during their third year of medical school. Read what the Eye Center's third-year medical students have been pursuing and accomplishing in Duke's Department of Ophthalmology.

**Prithu Mettu**, a third-year Duke medical student, is currently studying under the mentorship of Chairman Dr. David Epstein and Dr. Vasanth Rao for his third-year research program. Prithu was awarded a 2002 Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB) Medical Student Fellowship for his research project investigating an aspect of normal physiology of aqueous humor outflow facility and its potential role in glaucomatous disease. His abstract entitled "Role of Lysophospholipid Growth

Factors and Edg Receptors in the Regulation of Aqueous Humor Outflow Facility" was accepted as a poster presentation for the 2003 Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Annual Meeting in May in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. In addition, Prithu was selected from over 1,500 applicants to receive an ARVO/National Eye Institute Travel Fellowship Grant to present his research at this year's annual meeting. Prithu will be extending his program here at the Duke Eye Center for another year to pursue additional investigation in glaucoma research.

**Paul Stephano**, a third-year Duke medical student, is a Howard Hughes research fellow studying under the mentorship of Dr. Dennis Rickman and Chairman Dr. David Epstein for his third-year research program. Paul is studying the transplantation of neural stem cells into



*Prithu Mettu and Paul Stephano*

the eyes of rats whose retinas have been damaged. This research has implications for neurodegenerative diseases of the retina, including glaucoma and age-related macular degeneration. Paul gave a platform presentation at the 2003 ARVO Annual Meeting in May and was selected from over 1,500 applicants to receive an ARVO/National Eye Institute Travel Fellowship Grant to present his research at the meeting.

## Eye Center Family Loses ‘Angel’

### Memorial to honor Barbara Stage, beloved friend and colleague

In November 2002, the Duke Eye Center family lost a wonderful friend and colleague with the passing of Barbara Stage. Barbara died at age 60 after a long battle with cancer that she fought with her trademark strength, courage, selflessness, and humor.

As the research administrator for the Department of Ophthalmology for more than 20 years, Barbara worked with basic scientists, clinical researchers, faculty, and fellows to help them secure grant funding for their research. She managed the finances and logistics to allow the scientists to focus on what they do best.

“She did a fantastic job managing our research program,” says Department Administrator Charles Mansfield, who worked with Barbara for 16 years. “She was a wealth of information, and knew how to get things done in the bureaucratic world of federal grant funding. She was thought highly of by the people here

“Barbara’s are some of the shoulders that this Institute is being built upon, the same shoulders that we cried on, leaned on, and that helped us up when we were frustrated and tired. Barbara was a fountain of joy, a fountain of life.”

~ Rand Allingham, MD



as well as with those she worked with at the National Institutes of Health.

“Barbara was one of the most responsible, loyal, and dedicated people I’ve ever worked with. I trusted her and could confide in her. She was an integral member of our team, and is sorely missed.”

Carol Holmes, a close friend and long-time colleague of Barbara’s, says her friend would be best described as “unselfish.”

“She always took the time to listen, whether personally or professionally. She was truly dedicated to her position and to her friends.”

Department Chairman Dr. David Epstein noted that, “in addition to being a truly wonderful human being, Barbara was a friend, mentor, advocate, and ‘den mother’ for our research faculty and staff, whom she

really cared about both as scientists and as people. She was also an important advisor and friend to me.”

“Barbara was the glue that held the researchers and faculty together,” says Dr. Rand Allingham, chief of the Glaucoma service, who worked closely with Barbara for many years. “She was a special, healing, inspirational person.”

Barbara was thrilled at the prospect of the new Albert Eye Research Institute being built at Duke, Dr. Allingham recalls. “Barbara’s are some of the shoulders that this Institute is being built upon, the same shoulders that we cried on, leaned on, and that helped us up when we were frustrated and tired. Barbara was a fountain of joy, a fountain of life.”

For that reason, the Eye Center plans to honor Barbara Stage by creating a memorial in the garden outside the new Albert Eye Research Institute. Dr. Allingham envisions a comforting, healing place where faculty and staff, patients and friends can go to ease their minds and collect their thoughts – a warm, inviting haven that will eternalize Barbara’s spirit. Carol believes that the garden setting will be a perfect tribute to her friend, who always loved the change of seasons.

Husband John Stage refers to the Eye Center as Barbara’s second home and family. “She cared a lot for the people she worked with, and I think it was reflected in how people felt about her. It’s overwhelming to me what the Eye Center is going to do for her, but she really gave her life to this place. After her first surgery,

*Continued on page 37*



Laura Enyedi, MD

## Duke University Eye Center in Cary is Now Welcoming Pediatric Patients.

Duke Pediatric Ophthalmologist Laura Enyedi, MD,  
is currently welcoming new pediatric patients.

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# Children's Eye Care Now Available at Duke's Cary Office



*Drs. Natalie Afshari, Laura Enyedi, and Sanjay Asrani*

In response to requests from our patients and the community, the Duke Eye Center of Cary is now offering pediatric eye care services. Since opening in 2001, the Cary office has offered comprehensive ophthalmology services, as well as glaucoma and cornea specialty services, to adults.

Pediatric Ophthalmologist Laura Enyedi, MD, a Duke assistant clinical professor of ophthalmology and pediatrics, will be at the Duke Eye Center of Cary each Thursday to provide a full range of services for infants and adolescents with complex eye problems that require treatment or surgery.

Dr. Enyedi, a member of the

Duke University Medical Center faculty since 1999, specializes in treating young children with strabismus and amblyopia, two of the more common eye diseases in children. She is a graduate of the University of North Carolina School of Medicine and completed her training in ophthalmology at

Duke. Dr. Enyedi will continue to see patients at the Duke University Eye Center and the Duke Children's Health Center in Durham, and will perform any required surgery at the Eye Center's Durham clinic.



*Dr. Laura Enyedi*

"I am pleased to have the opportunity to be more convenient for my existing patients who live

in Cary, and to serve other children and families in the area," Dr. Enyedi says. "With all the young families living in Cary, this is a great opportunity to meet their eye care needs more conveniently, right in their own community."

"Dr. Enyedi's presence in Cary meets a long overdue need for a pediatric ophthalmologist in the local community," says Dr. Sanjay Asrani, a glaucoma specialist who supervises Duke's Cary office and sees adult patients there. "Parents have been asking for the last 18 months for a pediatric ophthalmologist, and I am sure they will be thoroughly pleased with Dr. Enyedi and her skill in dealing with children."

"I am pleased to have the opportunity to be more convenient for my existing patients who live in Cary, and to serve other children and families in the area. With all the young families living in Cary, this is a great opportunity to meet their eye care needs more conveniently, right in their own community."

*~ Laura Enyedi, MD*

# Faculty Update

**Natalie Afshari, MD**, was invited to be a judge for the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery scientific posters in June 2003.



Dr. Afshari presented seven research projects at the annual meeting of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology in Florida. The presentations included research on a thirty year study of Fuchs corneal dystrophy, conjunctival tumors, recurrent corneal erosions, and microbiology of ocular infections.

Another study on LASIK was also presented at the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery. Dr. Afshari was interviewed by the NBC-17 television news channel after she talked about LASIK and refractive surgery at the NBC-17 Health and Fitness Fair in February. She was an invited speaker at the Annual Conference on Sex and Gene Expression where she spoke about gender differences in the aging eye in March. As a clinical committee member of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery she was a panelist for a LASIK and cataract symposium in April 2003 in San Francisco.

Dr. Afshari continues to serve as Duke's principal investigator for the clinical trial of Dehydrex for the treatment of recurrent corneal erosion.

**Rand Allingham, MD**, attended the American Society of Human Genetics meeting in Baltimore, where he presented research that has identified specific



regions in certain chromosomes that harbor genes that cause primary open angle glaucoma (POAG), the most common form of glaucoma in humans. New analysis methods have revealed that these genes are particularly important in younger patients with glaucoma. The latter research was also presented at the the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology meeting in Florida, the largest eye research meeting in the world.

To understand how these genes affect patients from different parts of the world, **Drs. Leon Herndon, Pratap Challa**, and Allingham have studied glaucoma patients in Ghana, West Africa, for the past four years. Drs. Herndon and Allingham will return to Ghana in May to initiate a research team of Ghanaian ophthalmologists, nurses, and laboratory staff in Accra, Ghana, to examine glaucoma patients and obtain DNA samples year-round. This team will greatly accelerate the progress of this project.

Dr. Allingham was also awarded the Research to Prevent Blindness Physician-Scientist Award, granted to conduct a pilot project to identify the genetic causes of glaucoma in the U.S.'s Hispanic population. The project will involve collaboration among

clinical researchers at the Duke Eye Center, Duke Center for Human Genetics, and the University of Arizona in Tucson. POAG is more common in Americans of Hispanic descent than Caucasians, and approaches the frequency seen in African-Americans.

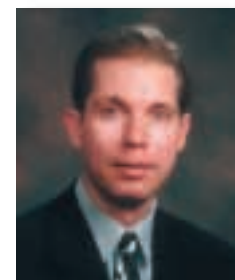
Identifying the specific genes that cause glaucoma in peoples of the world will be a major breakthrough, yielding new understanding of disease processes that will lead to new diagnostic and treatment options. The construction of the Albert Eye Research Institute at the Duke Eye Center will provide much needed space and facilities to conduct this groundbreaking research.

**Sanjay Asrani, MD**, presented two papers at the International Glaucoma Symposium in Spain in March. He authored a publication in the *Journal of Glau-*



*coma* and co-authored a publication in the *American Journal of Ophthalmology* on the effect of newer glaucoma medications. He is currently working on a project to visualize the drainage system of the eye with the latest imaging technology, optical coherence tomography. He is also continuing his research into the use of that technology for early diagnosis of glaucoma.

**Alan Carlson, MD**, was selected as one of four surgeons representing the United States at the International Medical Panel for the Advancement of Cataract Treatment (IMPACT) meeting in



Mexico in August. This international meeting brings together the top cataract surgeons in the world to address the latest advances in surgical techniques and instrument technology used in cataract and intraocular lens surgery.

Dr. Carlson received an invitation from the American Academy of Ophthalmology to address the Refractive Surgery Subspecialty program in Anaheim, California, regarding the Natural History of Myopia and Hyperopia. He was also invited to lecture to the Indianapolis Ophthalmology Society and will deliver Grand Rounds at the Indiana University Department of Ophthalmology.

Dr. Carlson was also invited to participate in the 2nd International Congress on LASEK and Advanced Surface Ablation in June hosted by the Cleveland Clinic.

In April, Dr. Carlson spoke at the Bluegrass Ophthalmology Conference in Lexington, Kentucky. He delivered four lectures addressing new developments in surgical techniques as well as the prevention and management of refractive surgery complications.

In May, his participation in the Duke Vision Symposium included lecturing on recent advances in the field of laser vision correction and corneal surgery.

Dr. Carlson continues to serve as faculty liaison for the development office and served as faculty host for this year's Bryant Lecturer, Dr. Dan B. Jones.

**Pratap Challa, MD**, received the 2003 American Glaucoma Society Novartis Ophthalmics Research Award for his study of pseudoexfoliation glaucoma.



Along with co-authors **Drs. Herndon and Allingham**, he has published a paper analyzing the prevalence of myocilin mutations among glaucoma patients in Ghana, West Africa. A second paper he recently published in the *Journal of Glaucoma* examined the readability of ocular medication inserts.

**Sharon Fekrat, MD**, is vice president of the North Carolina Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons for 2003 and has been selected as North Carolina's representative on the program committee for the 2004 Southeastern Regional Ophthalmology Meeting. She serves on the editorial board of the *American Journal of Ophthalmology*, co-chairs the Young Physicians Section of the American Society of Retina Specialists, and recently joined its Preferences and Trends Survey Committee. Dr. Fekrat has been selected by her peers to join the American Academy of Ophthalmology's Ophthalmic Knowledge Base Panel for Retina/Vitreous. The American Board of Ophthalmology wants to develop a knowledge base that identifies and defines areas of knowledge important to the delivery of quality eye care to shape the examinations for the certification maintenance process for ophthalmologists in the U.S.



Dr. Fekrat has had a manuscript accepted to the *American Journal of Ophthalmology* on the role of intravitreal triamcinolone for cystoid macular edema in eyes with central retinal vein occlusion. She chairs the selection committee for the Eye Center's annual Robert Machemer Research Award, and is the site

principal investigator for four multi-center clinical trials for age-related macular degeneration.

**Sharon Freedman, MD**, is senior author on two abstracts that will be presented as posters at the upcoming annual meeting of the American Association of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus. "Management of Ocular Torsion and Diplopia after Macular Translocation" and "Angle Closure after Diode Retinal Laser for Retinopathy of Prematurity" will be presented, respectively, by **Drs. Derek Hess** and **Lucas Trigler**, both clinical fellows in pediatric ophthalmology at Duke. Dr. Freedman also provided updates on pediatric cataracts and glaucoma at the Pan-American Congress of Ophthalmology in March. She continues to evaluate the effects of glaucoma medications and surgical treatments for children with glaucoma, and works with **Drs. Cynthia Toth** and **Laura Enyedi** to improve the visual outcomes of patients with macular degeneration after macular translocation surgery.



**Leon Herndon, MD**, appeared on WTVD with TV reporter Angela Hampton in March on a segment focusing on updates in glaucoma to increase awareness of this disease. He also gave three lectures on glaucoma at the Royal Hawaiian Eye Meeting in Maui, and served as moderator and lecturer at the SEE/ISRS Meeting in St. Maarten.



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As a philanthropic supporter, you are very important to us at the Duke University Eye Center. The Eye Center development staff wishes to continue to assist you during your visits to ensure your experience with us is the best. On April 14th of this year, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) went into effect. As a result, we can no longer, by law, assess your health records or scheduled appointments. If you would like for us to continue to meet with you during your future visits to the Eye Center, or if we can assist you in any way, please contact our development office at 919-684-3182 or email us at [walla023@mc.duke.edu](mailto:walla023@mc.duke.edu).



*David Berry with David L. Epstein, MD*

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## Faculty Update

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**Glenn Jaffe, MD**, was the named lecturer at the Wilmer Eye Institute, where he delivered a talk in March on the rapidly emerging field of intraocular drug delivery. He

described how different types of delivery systems can be tailored for specific eye diseases and how these methods can avoid side effects that occur when drugs are given orally or intravenously. He presented data to show how a novel steroid delivery device containing fluocinolone acetonide can be effective in the treatment of eyes in patients with severe ocular inflammation (uveitis), diabetic retinopathy, and vein occlusion.

On May 16, Dr. Jaffe directed a course on optical coherence tomography, a new imaging method used extensively at Duke and around the

world to diagnose and treat retinal disorders and glaucoma. The course was co-directed by senior photographer Greg Hoffmeyer, and featured presentations by the Duke vitreoretinal faculty, **Dr. Sanjay Asrani** from the Glaucoma service, and Dr. Joe Izatt from the Biomedical Engineering Department at Duke. Also in May, Dr. Jaffe organized a session on innovative drug delivery systems in inflammation at the International Symposium on Ocular Inflammation in Italy, a gathering of specialists from all over the world.

**Terry Kim, MD**, was invited as Visiting Professor by the Departments of Ophthalmology at Yonsei University and Hanyang University in Seoul, Korea this past November 2002.



He was also guest lecturer for the 2002 Korean Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery Meeting held at Asan Medical Center. He presented

lectures on new phacoemulsification techniques and LASIK complications management. Dr. Kim was also invited as Visiting Professor for the 14th Biennial Cornea Conference at Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia, PA, where he presented lectures on laser-activated corneal adhesives and complications and endothelial issues in LASIK surgery.

At the 2003 American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery meeting in San Francisco, CA, Dr. Kim presented papers on the suturing of LASIK flaps with **Dr. Terry Semchshyn**, and the use of novel bio-dendrimer adhesives for securing LASIK flaps with **Dr. Paul Kang**. Along with Drs. Dimitri Azar, Eric Donnenfeld, and other colleagues, Dr. Kim participated in a teaching course on corneal surgical techniques for repairing refractive surgical complications, and also served as panelist for the refractive surgery session on LASIK microkeratomes. Dr. Kim was invited by Dr. Terrence O'Brien to participate in an Ocular Surgery News roundtable discussion of new fourth-generation fluoroquinolone

antibiotics. At the 2003 Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology meeting in Sarasota, FL, **Drs. Scott Blackmon** and Kim presented an innovative surgical technique for performing lamellar keratoplasty. **Drs. Andrew Velazquez** and Kim are currently working on a manuscript for the use of new biodegradable adhesives for corneal surgery.

As an editorial board member for *Cornea* and section editor for *Current Opinion in Ophthalmology*, Dr Kim continues to remain busy in the administrative and editorial activities for both of these respected peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Kim is also excited to serve as mentor for his Visiting Adjunct Assistant Professor **Dr. Pil Jae Jung** from Pohang City, South Korea. For the next year, Dr. Jung will be participating in numerous corneal and refractive surgery research projects and will also be observing clinics and surgery here at Duke University Eye Center.

Dr. Kim looks forward to his invitation as visiting lecturer for the Tenth International Ophthalmology Congress in St. Petersburg, Russia in September 2003. He was also invited by former Duke Corneal Fellow **Dr. Saiyid Akbar Hasan** to serve as Visiting Professor at Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, FL this upcoming winter.

**Gordon Klintworth, MD, PhD,**



participated at several professional meetings in the United States, including the Verhoeff-Zimmerman Society, Cogan History of Ophthalmology Society, U.S.-Canadian Academy of Pathology, and the Alcon Research Institute. He also attended a conference on the genetics of rare disease in Washington, DC. Dr.

Klintworth served on the editorial board of *Laboratory Investigation* and the scientific advisory board of Research to Prevent Blindness. At the Cogan History of Ophthalmology Society meeting, he delivered a paper entitled "Norman Ashton: The First Pathologist to Devote a Full-Time Career to Ophthalmic Pathology." In May, various aspects of his research on inherited diseases were presented at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology meeting and at the International Society for Genetic Eye Diseases meeting in Paris. The Ophthalmic Pathology Tutor and Disease database that he has been preparing for several years was launched on the Internet (<http://eyepathologist.com>). Dr. Klintworth was appointed to a five-year term on the cornea panel of the National Eye Institute to consider worthwhile projects related to the cornea and its disorders.

**Paul Lee, MD, JD,**



has spoken recently on glaucoma care and chronic eye conditions at the Chicago Ophthalmological Society meeting, the Research to Prevent Blindness Science Writer's Symposium, and the annual Chronic Disease Conference, and a Centers for Disease Control symposium. He is a member of the NCQA working group on creating an indicator for glaucoma screening for health plans, and is on the editorial board of the *Chinese Journal of Ophthalmology*. Dr. Lee will be a panel member on the presentation of a new, international severity classification system of diabetic retinopathy at the American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting in Florida in October.

**John Michon, MD, MS,**



was an invited guest of the Hong Kong University Faculty of Medicine in November, where he lectured on informatics and biomedical research. He also addressed the Hong Kong Ophthalmological Society on clinical and surgical considerations for thyroid eye disease. Dr. Michon's National Institutes of Health/World Health Organization-supported epidemiological research in Hong Kong was published this spring in the *British Journal of Ophthalmology*.

Last fall, Dr. Michon presented a paper at the North Carolina Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons meeting in Asheville and was an invited speaker at the School of Information and Library Sciences at UNC-Chapel Hill, where he spoke on "Metadata and the Semantic Web." He also presented on biomedicine and the semantic web at the Duke Department of Medicine's Grand Rounds in February. Dr. Michon serves as a scientific reviewer for *Ophthalmology*, the *British Journal of Ophthalmology*, and *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences*.

**Carol Ziel, MD,**



spoke on cataract surgery combined with filtration surgery at the Forsyth Medical Center Conference in December. She addressed the senior group at Calvary Baptist Church and the Healthwise Senior Group on eye health in the elderly. Dr. Ziel also presented her information on releasable suture technique for the Duke Vision Symposium this spring and at the biannual McKinley Conference in April.

## NEW FACULTY PROFILE

**Terry Semchyshyn, MD**

*Providing Laser and Cornea Services to the Winston-Salem Community*



**E**ven before he began his ophthalmology training, Dr. Terry Semchyshyn (rhymes with “physician”) enjoyed working with people with visual limitations to help them get the most out of life.

An experienced telemark skier (telemark is a demanding form of skiing which includes aspects of both cross-country and alpine skiing), Semchyshyn spent several winters during college and medical school working as a ski instructor. One of his favorite students was an older gentleman, also an advanced skier, with advanced macular degeneration. An experienced skier with good peripheral vision but no central vision, the man asked Semchyshyn to ski ahead of him and make wide turns for him to follow.

“What a tremendous pleasure it was to see this gentleman having such a good time,” Semchyshyn recalls. “He had not been able to ski for a long time; and it was amazing to see that despite his limited vision, he could still enjoy the same activities that he had enjoyed in the past.”

The memory remained with Semchyshyn, who is now completing his fellowship training as a clinical associate on the cornea and external disease and refractive surgery service team at the Duke University Eye Center. He will join the Duke faculty

this summer at McKinley Ophthalmology/ Duke Eye Center of Winston-Salem. In Winston-Salem, Semchyshyn will perform laser vision correction surgery at the Duke Center for Vision Correction. He will also perform cataract and transplant surgery and treat patients with cornea and external disease problems such as

“I’m very excited and proud to be part of this program,” he says. “The spirit and care of the Duke staff at the Eye Center and in Winston-Salem is second to none, and I look forward to offering that same level of care to my patients.”

~ Terry Semchyshyn, MD

keratoconus and Fuchs’ dystrophy. As a member of the Duke Eye Center’s cornea and external disease service team, where he will work closely with Drs. Alan Carlson, Terry Kim, and Natalie Afshari, who are based in Durham. He will also train ophthalmology residents and participate in an international research study

with Drs. Kim and Afshari to test an innovative corneal transplant technique that can lead to more rapid visual recovery and healing than traditional surgeries for patients with Fuchs’ dystrophy and keratoconus.

The Canadian-born, New Jersey-bred Semchyshyn first became interested in ophthalmology as a pre-med student at Duke. In addition to taking classes in political science, Russian, and Ukrainian (his last name is Ukrainian) and playing saxophone in Duke’s pep band, Semchyshyn interned at Duke Medical Center. He had an opportunity to work with Dr. Bruce Shields, then a member of the Duke Eye Center faculty, now chair of ophthalmology at Yale University. The experience with Dr. Shields helped shape Semchyshyn’s future.

“Dr. Shields is a gentleman and such a respectful, caring person. The way that he interacted with patients, I got a sense that they were reassured just by him being there. After seeing him at the Eye Center, I became interested in what Duke Medical Center had to offer.”

Another mentor at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine confirmed Semchyshyn’s decision to go into ophthalmology. During his residency at Vanderbilt, he had the unusual opportunity to perform refractive surgery and become certified on the laser. By the time he began his fellowship, Semchyshyn had already performed several LASIK procedures.

Duke’s cornea and external disease fellowship provides surgical experience in corneal transplantation, refractive laser (LASIK) surgery, and surgery for cataracts and cancerous conditions on the surface of the eye. Working closely with the doctors who are now his faculty colleagues, Semchyshyn says he appreciated the excellent teaching and hands-on skills he acquired.

“Duke set up a wonderful environment for us to be successful in our education. Some of the procedures that we perform help people who simply don’t want to wear glasses; but we also have patients with corneal scars, painful conditions like corneal abrasions, corneal transplants where there is a lot of surface haze, and we can use the laser to treat those conditions. I’ve had the opportunity to work with Dr. Afshari on an innovative surgery for people who have extremely scarred-over corneas—so severe that they aren’t even candidates for transplant. Some of these people can go from being completely blind to having some limited vision. The opportunity to use these tools to help people like that is very rewarding.”

This summer will be a busy one for Semchyshyn, beginning with his wedding in June. Following that, he will move and begin his faculty position in Winston-Salem in July. He is looking forward to the jazz and bluegrass scene in the Triad, and to finding opportunities to ski.

“I’m very excited and proud to be part of this program,” he says. “The spirit and care of the Duke staff at the Eye Center and in Winston-Salem is second to none, and I look forward to offering that same level of care to my patients.”

Duke Cornea and External Disease Service Chief Alan Carlson is pleased to have this fellow join the faculty. “Dr. Semchyshyn is a superbly talented clinician and surgeon, perfectly suited for our patients desiring state-of-the-art, compassionate care at our Winston-Salem facility.”

As he begins working with patients in Winston-Salem, Semchyshyn will continue to strive for the fulfillment he found on the ski slopes years ago: helping those with visual challenges enjoy life to the fullest.

## Outreach Update

### *Duke Eye Center Hosts 8th Annual Free Eye Screening*

**D**uke University Eye Center held its 8th annual free vision and glaucoma screening on Saturday, January 25, 2003 at its clinic on Erwin Road. Although Durham had suffered an ice and sleet storm earlier in the week, the bright sun and warmer weather brought many of our citizens out in force for a free vision check. In all we screened 200 members of the community. Thanks to our faculty, staff, and volunteers that gave of their time to make the event a huge success. The first annual free vision and glaucoma screening was coordinated in January 1996 in recognition of January as National Glaucoma Awareness Month.



### *Duke Eye Center Promotes Laser Vision Correction Surgery at NBC-17 Health and Fitness Fair*

**D**uke Eye Center reached out to the local community the weekend of February 8-9, 2003 at a Health and Fitness Fair sponsored by NBC-17. Held at the Raleigh Convention Center in Wake County, the Eye Center communicated the benefits of laser vision correction surgery (LASIK) to more than 20,000 members of its community during the two-day event. Those desiring to find out more about LASIK were invited to attend an on-site seminar on Saturday hosted by Dr. Terry Semchyshyn and on Sunday by Dr. Natalie Afshari.



# More Than Medicine

*Duke Center for Macular Degeneration Strives to Meet Full Spectrum of AMD Patients' Needs*

**W**hen someone is diagnosed with age-related macular degeneration, emotions and questions abound. Will I go blind? How will I continue to work, or do mundane things like write a check or read a book? How can our family deal with the anger, frustration, and fear that we're feeling?

When The Duke Center for Macular Degeneration was established, its leaders knew that, to meet the needs of patients with age-related macular degeneration (AMD), the Center must go beyond first-rate medical care to provide a full spectrum of services that address the psychological, social, educational, and low-vision needs of these patients and their families.

Currently, 12 million Americans have been diagnosed with AMD. Within the next three decades, as the baby boomer population ages, that number will rise to nearly 25 million. Despite these staggering numbers, a comprehensive AMD program did not yet exist anywhere else, so Duke set out to create the model.

Center for Macular Degeneration Director Michael Cooney, MD, asked Eye Center Clinical Social Worker Renee Karmey, Vision Rehabilitation Coordinator Deborah Lapolice, and AMD Center Program Director Mary Ward to spearhead the monumental task of identifying and coordinating all of the non-medical services that the Center needs to provide.

"Our goal is to develop an infrastructure that can anticipate and address all of the needs of AMD patients and their families," Cooney



*Mary Ward and Renee Karmey*

states. "Medical care is certainly part of that, and it's what we've been providing here at Duke at a top-notch level for years. But there are a lot of the other needs that must be addressed, and that's what our team strives to do."

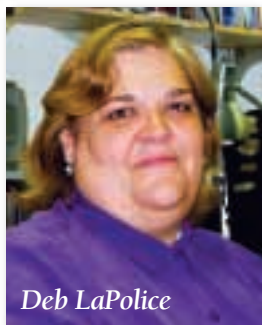
In addition to seeing a physician, each patient at the Duke AMD Center meets with Lapolice, who assesses the vision they currently have and discusses their goals and concerns. She then recommends glasses, prescriptions, low-vision devices like magnifiers and telescopes, and other strategies to use their remaining vision to continue activities such as reading, watching television, viewing other people's faces, or taking care of medical needs.

"With macular degeneration, patients will lose their central vision, but they do not go totally blind," Lapolice explains. "We can train them to use the peripheral vision that they have, and our orientation and mobility specialist can teach them how to function better in their daily lives."

Clinical Social Worker Renee

Karmey runs a support group program for AMD patients and has helped set up a peer-to-peer support program so patients with similar experiences can help each other. She also provides individual, couples, and family counseling through the Patient and Family Support Program. And because almost 80 percent of people who have lost central vision suffer from some form of depression, Karmey seeks to identify at-risk individuals and help them get the support and care they need.

"When macular degeneration strikes, it doesn't happen to the one person: it happens to everyone in their life," Karmey explains. "There's so much emotional impact. People can feel overwhelmed, sad, guilty, frustrated, or angry. All of a sudden, the simple day-to-day things that we take for granted, they can't do. As a licensed clinical social worker, I can help patients and family members acknowledge and deal with these difficult emotions, introduce them to the idea that they can learn to do things differently, that they're not alone, assess them for conditions like depression and anxiety, and direct them to



*Deb LaPolice*

helpful resources in the community. People do not have to suffer: there's help available."

As program director for the AMD Center, Ward's challenge is to coordinate all of these services with the medical component so that patients have a smooth, positive experience at the Center. She has also helped forge collaborative relationships with the Duke Center for Aging to address the needs of patients.

"Since AMD strikes later in life, many patients are dealing with so much more than this disease," Ward notes. "For instance, they may be caring for a spouse with Alzheimer's. The collaborative efforts with the Center for Aging are wonderful because we can use their expertise to further help our patients."

"Research is a big part of the Duke AMD Center as well," Ward adds. "A lot of people come to Duke not only for great medical care, but also because it's important to them to know what's on the forefront of AMD research. It's our job to share the latest information with them."

## Meet the AMD Retina Physicians

Michael J. Cooney, MD  
Sharon Fekrat, MD  
Glenn J. Jaffe, MD  
Brooks W. McCuen, MD  
Eric A. Postel, MD  
Cynthia A. Toth, MD

"When patients leave the Center, we want them to feel hopeful about the future, and feel that we really care about them. We want them to know that there are resources here if they want or need them. Life is never the same once you have AMD, but the more you know about it, the more you can feel that it's going to be okay."

~ Mary Ward

Because a lot of fear and stigma is associated with AMD – often as a result of incomplete or incorrect information – education is an important part of The Duke Center for Macular Degeneration's mission. The Center provides educational programs for patients and families, as well as training for the Eye Center's staff to keep them well informed about AMD. Ward has also arranged community outreach programs that bring Duke AMD clinicians and researchers to Triangle area aging agencies, nursing homes, and residential facilities – anywhere people may have questions regarding macular degeneration.

According to Cooney: "Macular degeneration is a complicated disease, and when patients first get the diagnosis, they're often too shocked and upset to hear all that the doctor is telling them. So we are building a patient education program to allow our AMD patients and their families to sit down in a more relaxed environment with a trained educator who can answer their questions and spend the time necessary to really understand this disease."

"When patients leave the Center, we want them to feel hopeful about the future, and feel that we really care about them," Ward says. "We want them to know that there are resources here if they want or need them. Life is never the same once you have AMD, but the more you know about it, the more you can feel that it's going to be okay."

## North Carolina State Lions Convention Convenes in Atlantic Beach

The North Carolina State Lions Club held its annual convention in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina, March 29-31, 2003. Duke Eye Center staff members Renee Wallace, Michelle Evans, and Erinn Cronin attended the convention, representing the Eye Center's commitment to work together with the NC State Lions to create a better world of vision and hope through eye screenings, eye research, and supporting the Needy Children's Fund.

*To learn more about how you can support the mission to preserve and, ultimately, restore vision, please call Renee Wallace at the Duke Eye Center Planning and Development Office at 919-668-3182.*



# Clinical Social Worker Helping Eye Patients Cope, with Compassion and Kindness

Dealing with vision loss is never easy: not for the patient, or for his or her family. With compassion and kindness, Duke University Eye Center Clinical Social Worker Renee Karmy strives to ease the sense of loss faced by patients and their loved ones and help them rebuild their lives around their new reality.

As a master's prepared licensed mental health professional, Karmy has been a key member of the Duke Eye Center health care team for nearly six years. She works with individuals, couples, families, and groups to assess and work through difficult emotional, family, or social issues that arise from sudden or chronic vision problems. Some days that means providing counseling; other days, arranging housing or meals. For many patients, it means a combination of services to smooth the road and provide caring support.

"Our eyes are our preferred sense, so there's a lot of grieving that occurs with the loss of vision," Karmy

"She eagerly goes the extra mile to facilitate the most difficult situations, always approaching patients and their families with respect and professionalism. The Eye Center is very fortunate to have someone with such dedication and expertise working with our patients, young and old."

~ Sharon Freedman, MD

explains. "The loss of vision can easily trigger memories and unresolved feelings from other life issues and losses. I pride myself on taking a holistic approach to each patient, looking beyond their visual diagnosis."

Karmy is trained to help people find solutions to many of life's most difficult situations. She assesses patients for emotional problems like depression or anxiety, provides confidential counseling services, connects people with resources in the community, and helps manage care for patients in their community. She also helps patients who don't have medical insurance understand how to use government and third-party programs.

Called by Department of Ophthalmology Chairman David L. Epstein "the conscience of the Eye Center," Karmy is indeed the heart and soul of the Eye Center for many Duke patients.

Duke Pediatric Ophthalmologist Sharon Freedman has seen the social worker's impact firsthand.

"From complex psychosocial issues to basic food and shelter needs, Renee is always ready to help out any patient and family in need," Freedman says. "She eagerly goes the extra mile to facilitate the most difficult situations, always approaching patients and their families with respect and professionalism. The Eye Center is very fortunate to have someone with such dedication and expertise working with our patients, young and old. She is a tremendous asset to our Eye Center, allowing the physicians to provide state-of-the-art medical and surgical care, while she provides vital psychosocial support for our patients and families."



Karmy works with patients of all ages. She helps parents deal with their teenagers' behavioral and school issues, and works with mothers of visually impaired infants to overcome the absence of pupil dilation in these

babies, a visual response that normally is part of the maternal-infant bonding process, but that can be replaced with other activities to create strong, early bonds between mother and child.

While working in a hospital in New York City in the 1970s, Karmy, who is trained in art therapy, first saw the therapeutic benefits of art. She and Eye Center Arts Program Coordinator Betty Haskin have teamed up to create an art cart to visit children and their parents awaiting eye surgery to relieve some of their anxiety.

At the other end of the age spectrum, she works with older patients with macular degeneration, glaucoma, and other eye diseases to help families acknowledge and deal with the often-overwhelming feelings that accompany a diagnosis. As a member of The Duke Center for Macular Degeneration clinical team, she has helped implement a peer-to-peer support program and an AMD support group.

"I want to help people be the best they can be, and help them see that they have the power and creative ability to help themselves," she says. "If I can help people connect with others and find the strength in themselves to find new ways to be, I consider that a success."

*Renee Karmy's door is open to all patients and families to help with a variety of issues related to vision loss. For an appointment, contact her at 919-684-2477.*

# Research To Prevent Blindness Honors Duke Eye Center Faculty and Medical Student

**G**laucoma Service Chief **Dr. Rand Allingham** and third-year medical student **Prithu Mettu** were recently recognized by Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB) with two prestigious awards. Dr. Allingham was awarded the highly esteemed RPB Physician-Scientist Award for his research studying the genetics of glaucoma in Hispanics. Dr. Allingham's new research project is specifically designed to identify the genetic causes of glaucoma in the Mexican-American population. An earlier study by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) found Hispanics, like African-Americans, to be at high risk for developing glaucoma, particularly in the later years. Dr. Allingham has devoted his career to researching the underlying cause of glaucoma by studying the genetics of this disease in different ethnic populations.

Prithu Mettu, under the mentorship of Dr. Vasanth Rao and Chairman Dr. David Epstein, was honored



*Dr. Rand Allingham and Prithu Mettu*

with the 2002 RPB Medical Student Fellowship for his research project investigating an aspect of normal physiology of aqueous humor outflow facility and its potential role in glaucomatous disease. "Receiving the RPB Medical Student Fellowship is a tremendous honor for which I am extremely grateful. It has afforded me an exceptional opportunity to fully experience the fundamental tenets of biomedical research: continuous inquiry and discovery within the context of ophthalmologic disease," says Prithu. Dr. Epstein was also recognized, on behalf of the Department of Ophthalmology, with the RPB Unrestricted Award.

RPB was founded over 40 years ago and is headquartered in New York, New York. RPB is committed to facilitating the advancement of research with the goal of developing more effective treatments, preventives, and cures for all eye diseases that steal precious sight. In its mis-

sion to preserve and, ultimately, restore sight, RPB mobilizes and disseminates financial resources in support of eye research. RPB can be identified in one way or the other with virtually every major scientific advance in eye research.

Dr. Gordon Klintworth, distinguished Joseph A.C. Wadsworth Research Professor of Ophthalmology at the Duke Eye Center and past director of research, sits on the Scientific Advisory Board of RPB. Commenting on the special mark of distinction these awards hold, Dr. Klintworth says, "RPB requires exceptionally high standards for the recipients of their awards and it takes a student and physician of exceptionally high caliber to receive such an honor. The Medical Student Fellowship Award will allow Prithu to take a year off from his medical school studies to devote time to the pursuit of research, while the Physician-

*"RPB requires exceptionally high standards for the recipients of their awards and it takes a student and physician of exceptionally high caliber to receive such an honor."*

*~ Gordon Klintworth, MD, PhD*

*Continued on page 37*



# Awards & Recognitions

## More Accolades for Duke Eye Imaging

Congratulations to Eye Center photographer **Terry Hawks** for receiving honorable mention for her slit-lamp photograph at the Ophthalmic Photographers' Society Scientific Exhibit at the American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting in Orlando, Florida in October 2002. Duke Eye Imaging has now secured awards in this prestigious competition for five straight years.



Hawks



Hoffmeyer

**Greg Hoffmeyer** of Duke Eye Imaging won three of nine awards issued during last year's International Conference of Ophthalmic Photography competition held in Australia in June. Greg also had an original article on OCT republished in the December 2002 issue of *The Chinese Journal of Optometry and Ophthalmology*. Greg will have a follow up article published this fall in *The Journal of Ophthalmic Photography*.



Burns

Carl Zeiss-Meditec, a leading optics/ophthalmology manufacturer, honored Duke Eye Imaging photographers **Greg Hoffmeyer, Russell Burns, Ellen Young, and Teresa Hawks** by featuring their images in their 2003 corporate calendar. **Greg Hoffmeyer** and **Jeff Napoli** secured similar honors with cover photos in the *Archives of Ophthalmology and Refractive Surgery*, a monthly periodical.



Young



Napoli

## Duke Eye Imaging Hosting 1<sup>st</sup> Annual "The Art of OCT" Conference

As a recognized leader in the clinical and research applications of OCT imaging, Duke Eye Center seeks to educate and train users throughout the world in this new imaging field. In conjunction with the Eye Center's Duke Vision Symposium, The OCT Reading Center at Duke hosted its first annual educational program on OCT May 16, 2003. Entitled "*The Art of OCT: Current Applications in Ophthalmic Imaging*," this intense, all-day course featured a morning lecture series including talks on vitreoretinal, glaucoma, and technical considerations of OCT, as well as an open forum encouraging attendee/instructor interchange. Two Zeiss Stratus OCT 3 workshops were held in the afternoon. The course was open to physicians, technicians, optometrists, and ophthalmic photographers both new and experienced to this rapidly emerging imaging field. The conference sold out as early as March, a testament to Duke's reputation as a leader in continuing medical education in ophthalmology.

## Eye Center Students Receive ARVO Honors

Fifteen Duke Eye Center Medical Students, Residents, and Fellows recently had abstracts accepted by the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO). They presented their abstracts at ARVO's annual meeting May 4-9, 2003 in Fort Lauderdale, FL. Four received the additional honor of receiving an ARVO travel grant, which paid for their travel to and from the meeting. Founded in 1928, ARVO's mission is to encourage and assist research, training, publication, and dissemination of knowledge in vision and ophthalmology. Bravo Duke Eye Center Medical Students, Residents, and Fellows!

### Fellows with Abstracts Accepted

Sameer Ahmad, MD  
Mark Cahill, MD  
Claudia Cohen, MD  
Prithvi Mruthyunjaya, MD

### Residents with Abstracts Accepted

Scott M. Blackmon, MD  
John Denny, MD  
Herb Greenman, MD  
Paul C. Kang, MD  
Dianna Miele, MD  
Sherman W. Reeves, MD  
Nouman Siddiqui, MD  
Jennifer Weizer, MD  
David L. Yeh, MD

### Medical Students with Abstracts Accepted

Prithu Mettu  
Paul Stephano

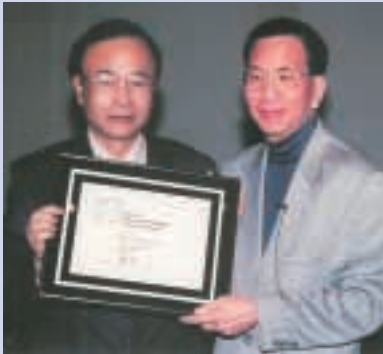
### Travel Grant Honors

Mark Cahill, MD (fellow)  
Prithu Mettu (medical student)  
Paul Stephano (medical student)  
Jennifer Weizer, MD (resident)



## Dr. Pratap Challa Recipient of Prestigious AGS Research Award

Congratulations to Dr. Pratap Challa who was recently awarded the prestigious American Glaucoma Society (AGS) Novartis Ophthalmics Research Award for his research into the cause of pseudoexfoliation, a very common cause of glaucoma worldwide.



At the Eighteenth Awards Symposium of the Alcon Research Institute, held in Ft. Worth, Texas on March 14, 2003, **Fulton Wong, PhD** lectured on "Retinitis Pigmentosa: Bridging the Gap between Mutation and Phenotype". **A recipient of the 2002 Alcon Research Institute Annual Award**, Dr. Wong is shown here with Professor Yozo Miyake, a member of the Awards Committee.

## Alumni Reminisce at Annual AAO Meeting

On October 21, 2002, Duke Eye Center alumni gathered with faculty and staff at the Rosen Center in Orlando, Florida for the annual Alumni Reception at the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) meeting. Everyone had a great time reminiscing and catching up with old friends and colleagues.



## Congratulations!



Congratulations to Fulton Wong, PhD, on his promotion to Professor of Ophthalmology and Professor of Neurobiology.



Congratulations to Sharon Fekrat, MD, on her promotion to Associate Professor of Ophthalmology.



Congratulations to Calvin Mitchell, MD, on his promotion to Associate Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology.

# Grants, Awards, and Clinical Studies

*Duke University Eye Center receives over \$3.8 million in Sponsored Research Funding during Fiscal Year 2002-2003. Congratulations Award Recipients!*

**Natalie Afshari, M.D.**, Cornea Service, has received a new NIH sponsored clinical trial with funding from Holles Laboratories, Inc. to investigate *Dehydrex for Treatment of Recurrent Corneal Erosions*.



**R. Rand Allingham, M.D.**, Glaucoma Service, has received a new research grant from Pharmacia & Upjohn Company to support a *Fellowship Program* that will focus on educational research activities in the area of ophthalmology.



**R. Rand Allingham, M.D.**, Glaucoma Service, has received a new *Physician-Scientist* award from Research to Prevent Blindness. This award supports nationally recognized physicians engaged in clinical eye research at medical institutions in the United States and is designed to provide greater opportunities for specialized study with direct application to the human condition.



**R. Rand Allingham, M.D.**, Glaucoma Service, has received a new two-year research grant from the American Health Assistance Foundation to investigate the *Genetic Studies of POAG in Hispanic Americans*.

**R. Rand Allingham, M.D.**, Glaucoma Service, has received continued grant funding from NIH/NEI via Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary to study *Familial Primary*

*Open Angle Glaucoma*.



**Catherine Bowes Rickman, Ph.D.**, Basic Science, has received continued funding for the *Career Development* award from Research to Prevent Blindness. This award is designed to attract young physicians and basic scientists to conduct eye research.



**Catherine Bowes Rickman, Ph.D.**, Basic Science, has received continued grant funding from NIH/NEI to study the *Characterization of Genes in Normal and AMD Retinas*.



**Pratap Challa, M.D.**, Glaucoma Services, has received a new one-year research grant from the American Glaucoma Society to study the *Pathogenesis of Pseudoexfoliation Syndrome*.



**Pratap Challa, M.D.**, Glaucoma Services, has received a new two-year research grant from the American Health Assistance Foundation to investigate the *Genetic Study of Pseudoexfoliation Syndrome*.



**David L. Epstein, M.D.**, Chairman Duke University Eye Center, Glaucoma Service, has received continuous grant support from Research to Prevent Blindness to help finance departmental research activities.

This *Unrestricted Grant* provides support to faculty, fellows, residents, and promising young medical students enabling them to pursue innovative and potentially groundbreaking research projects and pilot studies of importance to vision research.



**David L. Epstein, M.D.**, Chairman Duke University Eye Center, Glaucoma Service, and Fulton Wong, Ph.D., Basic Science, have received continuous grant funding from NIH/NEI for the *Core Grant for Vision Research* which provides groups of investigators who have achieved independent NEI funding with additional, shared support to enhance their own and their institution's capability for conducting vision research.



**David L. Epstein, M.D.**, Chairman Duke University Eye Center, Glaucoma Service, and Pedro Gonzalez, Ph.D., Basic Science, have received continuous grant funding from NIH/NEI to study the *Metabolism of the Trabecular Meshwork*. This research is focused on understanding how the fluid inside the eye, the aqueous humor, normally leaves the eye through the trabecular meshwork-Schlemm's canal outflow pathway; and how an abnormality in this process can cause both primary and secondary types of glaucoma. Dr. Epstein and Dr. Gonzalez along with P. Vasantha Rao, Ph.D.,

Basic Science, have developed novel drugs for the trabecular meshwork that have the potential to cure the abnormality in aqueous outflow that leads to the fundamental hydrodynamic pathology of glaucoma. Their goal is to develop a once or twice a year eye drop or other drug treatment for glaucoma that is potentially curative.



**Sharon Fekrat, M.D.**, Vitreoretinal Service, has received funding for a new clinical trial from Eye-tech Pharmaceuticals, Inc. to investigate the *Safety, Tolerability, and Pharmacokinetics of 3 MG/Eye Intravitreal Injections of Pegaptanib Sodium in Patients with Exudative Age-Related Macular Degeneration.*



**Sharon Fekrat, M.D.**, Vitreoretinal Service, has received a new three-year clinical research agreement from Bausch & Lomb, Inc. to *Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of an Intravitreal Fluocinolone Acetoide Implant in the Treatment of Patients with Clinically Significant Diabetic Macular Edema.*



**Sharon Freedman, M.D.**, Pediatric Service, has received continued grant funding from NIH/NEI via University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston to study the *Early Treatment for Retinopathy of Prematurity.*



**Glenn Jaffe, M.D.**, Vitreoretinal Service, has renewed a four-year research grant from NIH/NEI to study *Cytokine Modulation in Proliferative Vitreoretinopathy.*



**Glenn Jaffe, M.D.**, Vitreoretinal Service, has received a new two-year Minority Supplement research grant from NIH/NEI to support postdoctoral training in the investigation of *Cytokine Modulation in Proliferative Vitreoretinopathy.*



**Glenn Jaffe, M.D.**, Vitreoretinal Service, has received a new one-year research agreement from Neurotech USA to study the *Preclinical Evaluation of NT-501 Performance in the Rabbit Eyes.*



**Gordon Klintworth, M.D., Ph.D.**, Basic Science, has received continued grant funding from NIH/NEI to study *BIGH3 Wild Type and Mutant Proteins.*



**P. Vasantha Rao, Ph.D.**, Basic Science, has received a one-year *Medical Student Eye Research Fellowship* from Research to Prevent Blindness on behalf of Priyatham Mettu so that he may devote time to the pursuit of a research project under the guidance of Dr. Rao.



**P. Vasantha Rao, Ph.D.**, Basic Science, has renewed a five-year research grant from NIH/NEI to study *Role of Rho GTPases in lens growth, development, and cataract formation.*



**P. Vasantha Rao, Ph.D.**, Basic Science, has received a new three-year research grant from NIH/NEI to study the *Role of Rho Kinase in Aqueous Humor Outflow Pathway.*



**Cynthia Toth, M.D.**, Vitreoretinal Service, supervises Duke's performance of optical coherence tomography reading center services in support of a clinical study funded by Control Delivery Systems, Inc. for the *treatment of patients with diabetic macular edema.*



**Cynthia Toth, M.D.**, Vitreoretinal Service, has received continued grant funding from NIH/NIBIB for her continued research partnership with Joseph Izatt, Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering titled: *Partnership for Research in Optical Coherence Tomography.*



**Cynthia Toth, M.D.**, Vitreoretinal Service, has received continued grant funding from NIH/NEI through a subcontract with Johns Hopkins University for the Duke Eye Center participation in the *Submacular Surgery Trials.*



**Robin Vann, M.D.**, Comprehensive Services, and Elmar Schmeisser, Ph.D., Adjunct Professor of Ophthalmology at Duke have received a new three-year research grant from the U.S. Army Research Office to study *Nonlinear Dynamical Characterization of Neural Population Response Variability.*



**Fulton Wong, Ph.D.**, Basic Science, has received continued grant funding from The Foundation Fighting Blindness to study *Transgenic Pigs and Mice as Models for Therapeutic Research.*



## What's New in Research



**Glenn Jaffe, MD,** recently obtained approval from the Food and Drug Administration and the Duke IRB (the committee that oversees clinical research at Duke) to begin place-

ment of a fluocinolone acetonide sustained drug delivery device on a compassionate use basis to treat patients with swelling in the macula associated with branch retinal vein occlusion and central retinal vein occlusion.

Branch retinal vein occlusion is a blockage of one of the veins in the retina that carries blood away from the retina and back to the heart. This is the second most common disease of the retinal vessels after diabetic retinopathy; people with high blood pressure and glaucoma are at increased risk for this problem. Central retinal vein occlusion is a blockage of the main vein that drains blood out of the eye. It is also a relatively common condition for which patients with glaucoma, diabetes, and high blood pressure are at increased risk.

Macular edema is swelling in the central part of the retina and

is an important cause of decreased visual acuity in patients with both types of retinal vein occlusion. While laser photocoagulation is frequently used in an effort to decrease the swelling and increase visual acuity in patients with branch retinal vein occlusion, the improvement in visual acuity is often not very great, and the technique is not effective for macular edema associated with central occlusion. Several experimental treatments have been tested in an effort to improve this condition, but none have been definitively shown to be effective. Recently, steroid injections have been given around the eyes or directly into the eyes of patients with both types of occlusions; although this treatment sometimes causes decreased macular edema, the effect typically wears off in a few months.

Dr. Jaffe has started a pilot study to determine whether a fluocinolone acetonide sustained drug delivery implant can provide long-lasting treatment for macular edema in eyes of these patients. Fluocinolone acetonide is a steroid that can be encapsulated into a pellet that releases medication over a three-year period. Dr. Jaffe has begun to implant these devices in eyes of patients with retinal vein occlusion on a compassionate use

basis. He has previously had success with this device in the treatment of patients with severe uveitis (inflammation in the eye), and has participated in multi-center trials of this device in the treatment of patients with uveitis and those with macular edema associated with diabetic retinopathy. Brenda Branchaud is the study coordinator for the vein occlusion study. For more information, call her at 919-681-1569.



**Eric Postel, MD,** reports that recruitment for the study of the genetics of age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is proceeding well, and a companion effort, the Controls for

Ocular Disease Study, is also underway. Through these efforts, Postel and his research team hope to identify the genetic and epidemiologic factors that predispose to the development of AMD, and to build a large control population that will further the study of this and other ocular diseases. For information about these efforts or to participate, please contact the study coordinators, Jennifer Caldwell or Ruth Domurath, at 1-800-283-4316.

## Have you met... **Renee Wallace?**



**R**enee joined the Duke Eye Center's administrative staff in 1997. Not long after, she was tapped to be executive assistant to Department of Ophthalmology Chairman David Epstein. In November 2002, after five years working directly with Dr. Epstein, Renee took on a new challenge as stewardship officer in the Eye Center's Development Office.

### **What she is doing now:**

Renee is responsible for the day-to-day activities of the Eye Center's Development Office. She works with the Advisory Board, current and prospective donors, and residency and fellowship program alumni; organizes the Beacon Club's annual fundraising program; plans all development-related events; and is part of the effort to make the new Albert Eye Research Institute building a reality. As stewardship officer, her goal is to build strong relationships with patients, contributors, and friends of the Eye Center.

### **Why she took on this new challenge:**

"I attribute my new position to Dr.

Epstein. In working with him, I became very involved and close with our Advisory Board members. I'm truly southern, and he said, 'you have a special way with these people.' He felt that was my calling, so he kind of pushed me in this direction."

### **You might have met Renee if:**

You visited the Eye Center recently. Renee spends time each week visiting friends of the Eye Center, welcoming them, making sure that their needs are being met and that they are happy with their experience.

### **Her favorite part of working at the Eye Center:**

"Meeting the patients, and feeling that I have made a difference. I also enjoy working with the Advisory Board members: they are very kind and gracious individuals. I feel very blessed to be a part of Duke and to have the opportunity to work with such intelligent, wonderful physicians and staff. There's so much knowledge around you and so many people committed to eye disease. It is quite humbling to be involved in that."

### **When she's not working:**

Renee's life is all about family: her husband, Kelly, their 9-year-old daughter and two-and-a-half-year-old son, and a large extended family of brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews, and parents. Renee also enjoys the beach and is involved in her church. She is proud to be a member of the North Carolina Lions Club, which has established a generous endowment for the Eye Center's pediatrics program.

### **According to Dr. Epstein:**

"In all my decades in ophthalmology, Renee is the most talented special events person I have ever encountered. She has outstanding taste, decision making, and focus, and she is exceptionally attentive to detail, especially in knowing what it takes to ensure that every single person enjoys the event and feels comfortable and satisfied. This ability, combined with her personal nature to be very caring, sensitive, and trustworthy, represent the essence of what is needed in a stewardship officer. I have high expectations and confidence in her growing responsibility in her new position at the Eye Center."

**To Learn More About How You Can Support The Duke Eye Center, Contact:  
Renee Wallace**

Planning & Development, Duke University Eye Center  
Box 3802, Durham, NC 27710 • (919) 684-3182 or 800-422-1575

# Inspiring Art Exhibit on Loan to Eye Center

*Women of Vision on display April to July*

The Duke Eye Center Arts Program is proud to bring an inspiring new exhibit to Durham. *Women of Vision: An Experience in Seeing by the Visually Impaired*, on loan to the Eye Center from the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens in Jacksonville, Florida, debuted at Duke on April 7th. Pieces will be on display in the Touchable Art Gallery and around the Eye Center until early-July.

The exhibit features the work of twelve visually impaired and blind women – some creative novices, others experienced artists – who met at the Cummer Museum monthly over a one-year period to discover fulfillment through the communicative power of the visual and literary arts. The 30 pieces on display represent the breadth of media used by the artists: clay, basket weaving, letter press, acrylic painting, charcoal and pastel work, poetry and memoirs, and pieces that combine language and image. Photographs of the artists at work complement their pieces.

Duke Eye Center Arts Program Coordinator Betty Haskin saw the exhibit at the Cummer Museum in 2001 and immediately knew it would be perfect for the Eye Center's constituents. "People often talk about what our limitations are, but this exhibition gives a very clear message of how creative people can be, even if they're working with visual impairments. I hope this exhibit will give that 'can-do' message about what people who are visually impaired can achieve."

A grant from the Duke-Semans Fine Arts Foundation of Durham made it possible to bring the exhibit to the Eye Center.



## Duke Eye Center Presents 2002 Employee Service Awards

On October 16, 2002, Duke Eye Center faculty and staff gathered for a luncheon to recognize 33 employees for their longstanding commitment and years of service with the Eye Center. We congratulate and thank them for their dedication and service!

### 5 Years

Ketha Brooks  
 Patience Dadizie  
 Teresa Davis  
 Cynthia Drumgoole  
 Lynn Green  
 Brenda Hinson  
 Greg Hoffmeyer  
 Randy Ikner  
 Renee Karmy  
 Dr. Terry Kim  
 Dr. Paul Lee  
 Michelle McCall  
 Dr. Brian McKay  
 Reggie Prince  
 Karen Summerville  
 Paula Sumner  
 Annette Taylor-Snead  
 Renee Wallace  
 Patricia Wrenn  
 Barbara Young

### 10 years

Dr. David Epstein  
 Nick Hernandez  
 Pat Hurt  
 El Marie Parker-Brodie  
 Clayton Smith

### 15 years

Joann O'Neal  
 Enochya Niyawwme  
 Dr. Stephen Pollock

### 20 years

Cathy Cox  
 Anita Ollie  
 Eleanor Carter

### 25 years

Brian Dodge

## Dr. Brooks McCuen Honored Guest at The Japanese Duke Eye Center Alumni Association

The Japanese Duke Eye Center Alumni Association convened their 2nd annual meeting of alumni and friends in Tokyo-kaikan, Tokyo, Japan in November 2002. Dr. Brooks McCuen and his wife, Mrs. Sarah McCuen, were the honored guests at the annual event. While there, Dr. McCuen was the invited speaker at the 39th Annual Meeting of the Vitreoretinal Society of Japan in Tokyo, and the 68th Annual Meeting of Middle Japan Ophthalmic in Osaka. Dr. McCuen presented “New principles in Pharmacologic Vitreolysis,” “Diabetic Retinopathy: Current Techniques and Indications,” and “Pathogenesis and Treatment of Idiopathic Macular Hole” at the meetings.

The Japanese Duke Eye Center Alumni Association also honored Dr. Yasuo Tano who presented the Jackson Memorial Lecture at the American Academy of Ophthalmology Meeting in October 2002. The first meeting of Duke Eye Center Alumni Association in Japan was held in 2000 with honored guests Dr. Banks Anderson and his wife, Mrs. Nancy Anderson, present. Everyone enjoyed reminiscing while at the event. Dr. McCuen said, “All Duke Eye Center fellows are like family and are welcome to visit us anytime.” Now totalling 12, the Japanese Duke Eye Center Alumni Association represents physicians who are now among the leading ophthalmologists in Japan.



### Brilliant Brains, Great Hands

*continued from page 6*

home countries and their academic institutions and advance the care and research there. Having these future academic stars helps build Duke’s international reputation. At the same time, these fellows contribute materially to the research taking place here, so they are very valuable members of our research team.”

Marcin Czajka, MD, is a research fellow from Poland now completing his second year at Duke. He took a break from training in vitreoretinal surgery in his homeland to come to the Eye Center.

“Duke has a very good research program for people like me. I’m doing basic science research, but I can also observe the clinical side, watch the doctors do surgery, and do a lot of practical things. My plan is to go back home, finish my vitreoretinal training, and be a vitreoretinal surgeon. My experience here and watching the other doctors doing surgery should really help me.”

By bringing together these brilliant minds, great hands, and diverse perspectives on the science of eye disease, the Duke Eye Center’s research program hopes to prepare a cadre of scientists who can compete successfully in ophthalmology’s version of the decathlon, build their own teams, and someday bring home a gold medal in the battle against blinding eye disease.

### Eye Center Family Loses ‘Angel’

*continued from page 13*

I was overwhelmed by the string of people who came to see her at the hospital: it showed how many lives she touched in positive ways.”

Dr. Allingham agrees, having been one of those personally touched. Of Barbara, he says, “I always used to wonder if there were angels, but I don’t have a doubt anymore – I’ve met one.”

*If you would like to find out how you can support the memorial fund for Barbara Stage, please contact*

*Renee Wallace, Duke University Eye Center, Office of Planning and Development, Box 3802, Durham, NC 27710, or call Renee at (919) 684-3182.*

### Research to Prevent Blindness

*continued from page 29*

Scientist Award given to Dr. Allingham will help facilitate research that seeks to understand the underlying genetic causes of glaucoma.”

Competition for the awards is intense and applications undergo an extremely rigorous review process due to the numerous high-quality proposals from the many excellent institutions currently performing eye disease research, notes Dr. Klintworth. “To avoid any perceived conflict of interest, members of the scientific advisory board leave the room when applications from their own institutions are considered, and they abstain from voting on such proposals.”

# What is an Orthoptist?

Two certified orthoptists are important members of the Duke Eye Center's eye care team. Just what do Sandra Holgado, CO, Lois Duncan, CO, COMT, and their fellow orthoptists do?

Orthoptists are allied health professionals who work in partnership with ophthalmologists to help children and adults with a range of medical conditions that cause misalignment of the

eyes. Orthoptists are trained and certified to examine patients with strabismus, amblyopia, and other eye disorders and manage their ongoing treatment.

Orthoptists work primarily with children diagnosed with **strabismus, or misalignment of the eye, and amblyopia, or "lazy eye."** They also help evaluate and treat adults with strabismus or double vision, and patients of all ages who have convergence insufficiency, a condition where the eyes get tired when reading or doing near-sighted work and drift outward.

"As orthoptists, we are specially trained in techniques to examine and treat eye misalignment problems in children and adults," Sandra explains. "We work closely with pediatric ophthalmologists, neuro-ophthalmologists, and other specialists, providing a

unique point of view during the patient's assessment. Once the course of treatment is determined, we can continue to work with the patients a bit more independently from the physician, using techniques such as patching an eye, teaching them exercises to do at home to

strengthen the eye muscles, using prisms or glasses, or eye drops or other treatments."

To become an orthoptist, candidates must first earn a bachelor's degree and then be accepted into one of a handful of two-

year professional training programs around the country. The trainees learn about this specialized field through lectures and observing in the clinics. Toward the end of their training, they see patients while under supervision by experienced faculty. Upon completion of the two-year program, graduates must become certified orthoptists by passing written and oral exams; they must be recertified every three years. Dr. Edward Buckley, Duke Pediatric Ophthalmology Service Chief, is a past president of the American Orthoptic Council, the organization that provides this certification. To keep up with the latest advances in their field, like physicians, orthoptists participate in continuing education, present at conferences, and publish in professional journals.

Duke pediatric ophthalmologist Sharon Freedman, MD, works closely with Sandra and Lois to care for Eye Center patients. "Orthoptists are invaluable to our Pediatric Ophthal-



Sandra Holgado

mology and Strabismus service at Duke," Dr. Freedman says. "They are skilled in the evaluation and ongoing management of our many children with amblyopia and strabismus, as well as our adult patients with a range of strabismus and

vision issues. In addition, they use a specialized technique to assess vision in our many very young patients who are not able to tell us what they see. Their perspective and experience greatly enhance our ability to provide excellent care for our patients."

As an orthoptist for over 30 years, Rachael Pietrini Klein has spent a great deal of her life pursuing the study and treatment of strabismus and amblyopia. Having suffered from double vision herself for more than half her life, Ms. Klein has been discouraged that others like her never have been able to achieve binocular vision (merging images from both eyes into one) in spite of the best techniques and treatments available. To educate the general public about the science of orthoptics and the important role orthoptists play in the diagnosis and treatment of strabismus, and to encourage and finance research efforts in the field of binocular vision in strabismus, **Ms. Klein established the Strabismus/Orthoptic Endowment Fund.**

To learn more about how you can help support strabismus research and the field of orthoptics, please contact Renee Wallace at the Duke Eye Center Planning and Development Office at 919-684-3182.



Lois Duncan

"Orthoptists are invaluable to our Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus service at Duke,"

~ Sharon Freedman, MD

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Please contact Michelle Evans at 919-684-3836 for more information.

## Dr. Dan Jones Visits Duke Eye Center

Dan B. Jones, MD, was recently invited to Duke Eye Center to lecture in the Eye Center's Joseph M. Bryan Research Lecture Series. Dr. Jones presented two lectures on corneal disease entitled: "Modern Management of Microbial Keratitis" and "Solving the Dilemmas of Herpetic Eye Disease." A native of Raleigh, Dr. Jones graduated from Duke University Medical School in 1962. He completed his residency in ophthalmology at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, University of Miami School of Medicine, and his fellowship training in corneal diseases at Moorfields Eye Hospital at the Institute of Ophthalmology in London. Having joined Baylor College of Medicine as Associate Professor of Ophthalmology in 1972, Dr. Jones is now the Sid W. Richardson Professor and Margaret Root Brown Chair of Ophthalmology at the Cullen Eye Institute at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas.

Mr. Joseph M. Bryan, a grateful glaucoma patient and generous benefactor of the Duke Eye Center, established the Bryan Endowment Fund to support a visiting lecturer series on eye disease. This series is now known as the Bryan Research Lectures.



L-R: Drs. Andrew Velazquez, Cornea Service Chief Alan Carlson, guest lecturer Dan B. Jones, Natalie Afshari, Terry Kim, and Terry Semchyshyn

## Duke Launches New Ophthalmic Technician Training Series



Duke University Eye Center was invited by the Duke Outreach Program to participate in an educational series with the Southern Regional Area Health Education Center (SRAHEC) in Fayetteville, NC. As part of the series, Carolyn Vaughan, Manager of Clinical Services, and Michelle Evans, Education Coordinator, will organize an educational series for ophthalmic technicians. In ophthalmology, ophthalmic technicians serve a variety of functions assisting the physician in every aspect of patient care. Technicians are certified by the Joint Commission of Allied Health Personnel in ophthalmology. As part of the certification, technicians are required to attend continuing education activities such as the new initiative with SRAHEC.

## Congratulations to John G. Rose, MD

Winner of the Ocular Innovation Award



Drs. John Rose, Prithvi Mruthyunjaya, and Pratap Challa

**John Rose, MD**, is the 2001 recipient of the Duke Eye Center Award for Ocular Innovation. Dr. Rose completed his residency training at the Duke Eye Center in 2001 and is currently an oculoplastics fellow in Madison, Wisconsin.

This cash award is given annually to the Department and the Resident

judged to have produced the best published article in a national eye journal. The Ocular Innovation Award is sponsored anonymously by a former Eye Center resident.



Michelle Evans and Carolyn Vaughan



Published twice annually  
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Editor: Heather Newbold

Contributing Writer:  
Laura Ertel

Duke University Eye Center  
Planning and Development Office  
DUMC 3802  
Durham, NC 27710

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*“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.  
The important thing is to not stop questioning.”*

~ Albert Einstein

**Visit Duke Eye Center’s Web Site at: [www.dukeeye.org](http://www.dukeeye.org)**