The UC San Diego Department of Ophthalmology at the Shiley Eye Institute offers the most advanced treatments across all areas of eye care. Our world class clinicians, surgeons, scientists and staff are dedicated to excellence and providing the best possible patient care to prevent, treat and cure eye diseases. Our research is at the forefront of developing new methods for diagnosis and treatment of eye diseases and disorders. In addition to educating the leaders of tomorrow, we are committed to serving the San Diego and global community.
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On the cover: An artist’s representation of an optic nerve head. See article on page 12.
Dear Friends,

Partnerships and collaborations based on trust and common goals can become enduring relationships. This past year the Shiley Eye Institute (SEI) has added partnerships and deepened relationships with our patients and donors, the greater San Diego community, and colleagues within the UC San Diego campus and beyond. We could not have made it this far without you, and will share some of the exciting news.

Just a few months ago, we strengthened our partnership with the Downtown San Diego Lions Club. The club supported our Shiley EyeMobile for Children for many years. This year, however, they reaffirmed the partnership by funding our newly named Downtown San Diego Lions Club BioBank for Vision. Already, their support is making a difference and ensuring SEI leadership in ophthalmic genetics.

During the past year, generous donations from grateful patients and friends have had a major impact on and accelerated the innovative research being conducted at the Richard C. Atkinson Laboratory for Regenerative Ophthalmology team. Collaborating with world leading scientists from the UC San Diego Department of Neurosciences, as one example, the Atkinson Laboratory team is seeking to develop gene therapy to rescue and restore vision that has been lost in patients with glaucoma. This effort complements their ongoing work to develop stem cell therapies to prevent and cure glaucoma, retinal degenerations and other blinding eye diseases. Such cross-disciplinary partnerships are essential for discovery and advancing discovery to the patient.

As another example of our partnering, Daniel Chao, MD, PhD, who oversees our medical student education, is working with the UC San Diego Student Free Clinic to implement use of the cell phone for examination and management of the underserved community in San Diego. And a local Girl Scout Troup is partnering with us to collect eyeglasses for these individuals at the Lions Optometric Clinic in downtown San Diego. As still another example of the partnership, this one between UC San Diego Health and the San Diego Padres, the Shiley EyeMobile traveled to spring training in Peoria where SEI staff performed eye examinations for the Padres players and staff.

With the UC San Diego Rady School of Management, we initiated a Leadership and Innovation lecture series to provide our faculty, residents and fellows with leadership and entrepreneurial skills to succeed in the changing landscape of vision research and healthcare.

I am invigorated daily by the clinical excellence, world leading research and dedication of our faculty and staff. It is a privilege to partner with our patients, colleagues and big-hearted advocates.

Sincerely,

Robert N. Weinreb, MD
Chair and Distinguished Professor, Ophthalmology
Director, Shiley Eye Institute
Director, Hamilton Glaucoma Center
Morris Gleich, MD Chair in Glaucoma
Dear Friends,

The Shiley Eye Institute at UC San Diego Health is a shining example of the university’s mission to advance education, research, patient care and public service. Our clinical and research faculty are world leaders who train tomorrow’s innovators in ophthalmology, lead groundbreaking investigations, and bring new breakthroughs into the clinic to benefit our patients, including those in underserved communities.

These achievements are due to the hard work and collaborations of our outstanding faculty, residents, fellows and staff, who strive for excellence and make UC San Diego a global destination for health. This quality of care benefits the citizens of our region, our global community, and UC San Diego’s mission and standing. UC San Diego is ranked as a top public university in the nation based on our research, service and social mobility, for the eighth consecutive year, as well as the 14th best university in the world. These rankings are a reflection of our talented campus members and generous supporters. It is because of you that UC San Diego and the Shiley Eye Institute have grown and flourished over the decades.

Thank you for your support and continued partnership with UC San Diego and the Shiley Eye Institute.

Pradeep K. Khosla, PhD
Chancellor, UC San Diego
Dear Friends of the Shiley Eye Institute,

With the close of 2017 approaching, let’s pause to celebrate – again – another year of achievement and distinguished success by the faculty and staff in the Department of Ophthalmology and at Shiley Eye Institute. Both continue to be innovative and vital hubs within UC San Diego School of Medicine and UC San Diego Health, the region’s only academic health care system.

The researchers, physicians and staff at Shiley have always seen farther and better than most. Long before “big data” became a buzzword, Shiley doctors were observing and documenting patients through a longitudinal glaucoma study known as Diagnostic Innovations in Glaucoma – now decades old but still going strong. Shiley’s BioBank is a repository of tissue samples from more than 5,000 patients with myriad eye conditions, each linked to highly detailed clinical histories, each a potential goldmine in the search for new insights and therapies.

Every year at Shiley is marked by significant news and progress. A few examples for 2017:

Using the gene-editing tool CRISPR/Cas9, Shiley scientists with colleagues in China announced they had reprogrammed mutated rod photoreceptors to become functional cone photoreceptors, reversing cellular degeneration and restoring visual function in two mouse models of retinitis pigmentosa.

With colleagues across the country, Shiley scientists identified three distinct stretches of genetic material on chromosomes linked to Fuchs endothelial corneal dystrophy, an inherited, progressive vision disorder.

And working with industry, Shiley scientists and engineers have developed the nanotechnology and wireless electronics for a new type of retinal prosthesis, bringing research one step closer to restoring the ability of neurons in the retina to respond to light.

These are just three remarkable examples from a place where remarkable is the norm. Other researchers are working with stem cells to grow new retinas or use machine learning to improve clinicians’ abilities to spot the smallest tell-tale signs of vision problems.

All of this happens at Shiley and across campus, an epitome of community and collaboration where the benefits ultimately extend far beyond. I celebrate this year’s work and achievements at Shiley. I look forward to more in the next year – and in the many years to come.

David Brenner, MD
Vice Chancellor, UC San Diego Health Sciences
Dean, UC San Diego School of Medicine

Dear Friends,

UC San Diego Health has been widely recognized as a national and international leader in high quality eye care and is the San Diego region’s sole academic medical center. Every patient who comes through our doors has access to our extraordinary faculty and to innovative treatments and clinical trials. Our team members are dedicated to living our mission—to deliver outstanding patient care through a commitment to groundbreaking research and inspired teaching—every day.

It is this commitment that draws people, from newborns to seniors, to the Shiley Eye Institute. Patients come from around the region and the world because of the Shiley Eye Institute’s focus on world class clinical care and innovative research aimed at treating the most difficult eye conditions. The center’s stellar reputation has also recently led to nearly double-digit growth in visit and surgical volumes, and nationally recognized physician scientists continue to be recruited and join the Shiley Eye Institute faculty, where they find unparalleled scientific and clinical collaboration opportunities.

These collaborations, across the full spectrum of specialties and subspecialties, inform and enhance research and the quality of care our patients receive. Still, the exceptional physicians and staff at Shiley remain as dedicated to the community as they are to their patients. Through the Shiley Eye Institute, the center provides essential vision screenings and care to underserved children across San Diego.

I am incredibly proud of the extraordinary work being done at the Shiley Eye Institute as we continue to recruit world-class physicians and researchers and explore ways to grow and meet patient demand for ophthalmology services.

Patty Maysent, MPH, MBA
CEO, UC San Diego Health
Shiley Eye Institute

2017 in Review

PATIENT VISITS 92,077
SURGERIES PERFORMED 4,450
CLINICAL TRIALS 31

NATIONAL EYE INSTITUTE GRANTS 63
PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS 261
PATIENT AGE SPAN 1 day - 107 years
With the goal of accelerating research to prevent blindness, the Downtown San Diego Lions Club Welfare Foundation has made a generous gift to support the UC San Diego Shiley Eye Institute’s BioBank—the largest gift the local organization has made to a single project. In recognition of their support, the BioBank research lab at the Shiley Eye Institute has been named the Downtown San Diego Lions Club BioBank for Vision.

The BioBank was launched in 2012 with the goal of leveraging the latest in bioinformatics technology and genetic-sequencing tools to advance understanding of diseases such as macular degeneration, glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy—all of which are leading causes of blindness in the United States. The BioBank
provides a library of biological samples with complete medical and family history and other demographic information that researchers can utilize to learn about predictors for diseases (biomarkers) and effectiveness of therapies.

“The BioBank allows our ophthalmology team to make remarkable advances in understanding the biology of diseases and the promise of personalized medicine,” said Robert N. Weinreb, MD, chair and Distinguished Professor of Ophthalmology and director of the Shiley Eye Institute. “The support from the San Diego Lions Club Welfare Foundation aids our research and helps us to better diagnose, prevent and treat eye diseases.” Celebrating 100 years, the Lions International has a long history of service to prevent blindness, restore eyesight and improve eye health. In 1925, Helen Keller urged Lions everywhere to become “Knights of the Blind.” Since then, sight programs have been a hallmark of Lions Clubs around the world, including the Downtown San Diego club.

In keeping with this focus, the local club came to UC San Diego with the goal of supporting a major project that leverages the latest technology and research to help patients with blinding eye diseases. “The BioBank has the potential to make a significant difference for the thousands of patients in San Diego with blinding eye diseases, as well as patients around the world,” said Steve Zapoticzny, president of the Downtown San Diego Lions Club. “We are thrilled to join the Shiley Eye Institute—the nation’s leading institute for efforts to prevent and cure blindness—in this partnership.”

Terry Loftus, past-president for the Downtown San Diego Lions Club, led the partnership proposal along with fellow Lion and past-president George Saadeh. “We were looking into stem cell and genetic research that is making strides toward curing these diseases,” said Loftus. “When we came across an article about what UC San Diego is doing in this area, the pieces started to fall into place.” More than 150,000 individuals in San Diego County suffer from retinal degeneration, glaucoma or diabetic retinopathy. At the Shiley Eye Institute, doctors and researchers have made measurable progress in addressing these and other primary diseases of vision.

“Our physician-scientists are involved in diverse and collaborative research projects that aim to improve treatments for eye diseases and hasten the day when blindness is entirely preventable,” said Dr. Weinreb. “The BioBank provides a critical resource that they can draw upon to accelerate the translation of research into treatments.” Partnering with the Shiley Eye Institute at UC San Diego is a great way to celebrate the Downtown San Diego Lions Club’s 95th Anniversary!
I was playing chess with a friend and snow was falling between us.

I could see a cascade of snowflakes steadily falling into our teacups. She couldn't see it and the room wasn't cold. But the snow was everywhere.

The visions weren't the result of a psychiatric condition. It was damage to my optic nerves, turning the world into a flickering maze that I sometimes got lost in, like a television tuned to a channel that's just barely within the antenna's reach (or if you're born after 1995, like seeing the entire world in 240p).

The optic nerve damage comes from glaucoma. At age 28, I was told that I was the second-youngest person ever diagnosed with genetically inherited PXF glaucoma (pseudoexfoliation glaucoma), a condition that normally affects people over 65.

Seven years before my glaucoma diagnosis, I was fortunate to become a well-known photographer. I shot my first magazine cover at 21 and in subsequent years, my work appeared in Italian Vogue, MTV, VH1, Elle, Marie Claire, New York Magazine and Harper’s Bazaar. When the glaucoma hit, I thought that my photography career was finished. Little did I know that the visual impairments would lead to new creative breakthroughs.

There have been 15 eye surgeries. Most were attempts to stop the glaucoma from advancing, and until I met Robert N. Weinreb, MD, all of those surgeries failed - while leading to new complications, which sometimes required surgeries of their own to repair. A couple of the surgeries were to fix corneal damage from a LASIK-gone-wrong that happened - randomly and unrelatably, according to doctors - right before the glaucoma hit.

On top of the optic nerve damage from glaucoma, all of these surgeries left most parts of my eyes – the retinas, corneas and lenses – slightly worse for the wear. This has made the world look and feel more mysterious, layered and dazzling than before.

Back to the aforementioned snow indoors. I’ll be sitting across the table having a conversation with someone and there’ll be a blizzard tearing the air apart everywhere around us. It’s as if all houses are inhabited by ghosts – not ghosts of people, but of strange weather phenomena, poltergeists that vary in intensity based on the color of the walls and the quality of light.

When I look up at the sky, I see not one moon, but 8 or 9, with smudges and smears of light all around them. It makes me feel like I’m an explorer on another planet, looking up at the sky to see unfamiliar celestial bodies, making wishes on each one that I see. It's better now that my cornea is mostly fixed, but there's still a beautiful layer of light leaks, a feeling like all lights are wrapped in tinsel.

And of course, there was the most terrifying of glaucoma symptoms, the savage rainbows that appear when pressure is dangerously high around every light source. It's the most terrifying, beautiful thing I've ever seen. I hope to never see it again.
It took me a long time to find beauty in the visual distortions, and it took me even longer to find beauty in how the surgeries transformed my outward appearance. Every time I looked in the mirror, I saw all this evidence of every surgery that ever happened. I was always told that my eyes were my most beautiful feature and now they reminded me of pain and loss. But after a time, I began to see beauty in that, too. My new artificial lens implants, swapped in to fix the cataracts, reflect light differently, so that there’s always an extra sparkle inside my eyes. When I blink, you can catch them flickering like tiny cybernetic enhancements. “I can’t stop looking at your Blade Runner eyes,” someone told me once. I like being half-replicant.

When I returned to my photography studio, I was determined not to let my visual impairment slow me down. A lack of control around my eyes’ function led to an obsessive, disciplined quest to master lighting. I let the fragmented feeling of my visual impairment come through in my work, experimenting with glitch art and long exposures. I stopped relying on what I saw, and started using my intuition to feel out the stories of the people I photographed.

In his book *Play Anything*, philosopher Ian Bogost talks about the pleasure of limits. This belief came to him, in part, through watching his visually-impaired father interface the world. “Blindness ruptures confidence,” writes Bogost. “It recognizes the preposterousness of all things... it glints with wonder, wonder at the fact that we can gain any purchase on the world whatsoever, that we can touch even part of its sensuousness, that we can characterize its experience at all, even a little.”

That sense of wonder is something that I’ll never take for granted.

*Photo by Chad Michael Ward*
Science often sounds extremely complicated to most people. Visions is a new multidisciplinary project that revolves around the eye depicted by a scientist and an artist. One utilizes a microscope and the other a paintbrush.

**Dorota Skowronska-Krawczyk, MSc, PhD,**  
Assistant Professor, and artist Eva Henry have embarked on a unique endeavor with the goal of sharing their vision: take science out of the laboratory and make it more accessible to the non-scientific world. They want to add the “A” (art) into the “STEM” education (science, technology, engineering and math) thus STEAM.
As part of her aim to put the “A” into the STEM education, Dorota invited Eva into her laboratory. The images from her microscope normally are only accessible to scientists. Using micro images from Dorota’s lab, Eva is using watercolors, ink graphics and canvas to portray these images. Both bring medical experiences to translate science into art - Dorota, as a scientist with a PhD in biochemistry and Eva, as a former lab technician turned artist applying her visual arts education. Together they bring out the colorful biological structures from under the scientist’s microscope and replace it with vibrant paint and ink.

Dorota’s research concentrates on gene expression regulation and the impact of global changes in nuclear organization on cellular programs including aging and age-related diseases in the eye. She recently started her own laboratory at UC San Diego (the DSK lab) and is focused on understanding the transcriptomic and epigenetic changes associated with neuro-degeneration and aging to describe molecular pathways underlying pathological processes in glaucoma.

Toronto-based Polish-Canadian artist Eva began her professional life in the medical field and this experience from a hematology lab has stayed with her forever. In Canada, she pursued an education in visual arts, fine arts and computer graphics. Throughout her career in the arts, she has nurtured the connection to her medical background through scientific illustration. Only recently, when Eva began to work with watercolors, did she discover the potential of the medium. The daily conversations with Dorota, thousands of miles away, and sharing each other’s passions brought to the surface the idea that the vision of integrating science and art could actually take shape.

Dorota hopes to continue to make her research accessible to the community well beyond the scientist. She would like to explain what she is doing using other means of communication - through images. These photos from the microscope are now getting new life thanks to Eva’s skillful brush.
RECEIVING AN UPSETTING DIAGNOSIS AND THE SIX SEQUENTIAL REACTIONS THAT FOLLOW

Published in the La Jolla Village News May 19, 2017
Posted on May 22, 2017 by Natasha Josefowitz, PhD
Recently I noticed that things were getting a bit blurry, so I went to the Shiley Eye Institute at UC San Diego to have it checked out. Guess what? Dr. William Freeman, Director of the Jacobs Retina Center, said I have macular degeneration! He was helpful in explaining what it is and the treatment for it, trying to be reassuring, but it didn’t sound good. I have the dry kind in my left eye and the wet kind in my right.

I am 90 years old and often wondered which of my organs would fail first. In my age group whatever doesn’t dry out, leaks. Little did I know that my first failed organ would be leaking blood vessels in my eye! “Intra-retinal fluid hemorrhaging in my retina.”

When things like this happen to me, I become interested in observing myself to study my reactions to the news, assuming that I am not the only one to react this way and hoping that it might be helpful to others. The stages of reactions I went through upon receiving this upsetting diagnosis:

STAGE 1
Shock: Somehow this does not fit the image I have of myself as invulnerable. It’s hard to believe that what I have seen happen to others is now happening to me. There is an element of fright; I am scared of the unknown.

STAGE 2
In a funk! Feeling sorry for myself. On my way home I bumped into a couple of friends; I was very teary-eyed as I told them my bad news.

STAGE 3
Catastrophising: Worst-case scenario—I’m going to lose my sight; I will go blind. There’s a white cane in my future. I am a writer, a researcher; I read a lot. This is the end of my productive life!

STAGE 4
Research: Checking out WebMD and Mayo Clinic online, talking to friends who have it...gathering information. Looking into available resources such as equipment that magnifies print, books on tape, speech recognition software on computers (none of which I will need in the foreseeable future).

The incredible luck is that I live next to some of the top eye-care facilities in the world—the Shiley Eye Institute, the Joan and Irwin Jacobs Retina Center, and the Hamilton Glaucoma Center — so I could not be in better hands.

The scientist who discovered the substance that causes the leaky blood vessels is Napoleon Ferrara, MD, who also invented the most commonly used class of drugs to treat it (anti-VEGF agents). He is appointed to the UCSD Departments of Ophthalmology and Pathology, the Moores Cancer Center, and the Shiley Eye Institute. As a result, I feel reassured that I will be able to keep writing for another few years (I’m betting on making it to 100).

While waiting to be tested on the latest equipment at Shiley, I saw Eric Cabezas, who was part of a research team at the Hamilton Glaucoma Center when I worked as a tester for their new machines for about 10 years. He told me that 20 years ago macular degeneration was a sentence for eventual blindness; now there is treatment to prevent further deterioration. He cautioned me that for some people there is no best-case scenario. What helps in these circumstances is support. What is most useful is being part of a group of people with similar diagnoses where coping strategies can be shared.

STAGE 5
Treatment: My treatment consists of specially formulated vitamins for the dry kind of macular degeneration in my left eye and a monthly injection in my right eye, which will slow progression of the disease there. The idea of an injection in my eye made me anxious; there was no need to be. Shiley retina specialist, Eric Nudleman, MD, PhD, began by numbing my eye. When I asked him when he was going to proceed with the injection, he replied he was already done. I was surprised as I felt no pain.

STAGE 6
Best-case scenario: This isn’t so bad. My father used to say: “If this is the worst that will happen to me, I’m signing the contract.” I am writing this with my eyes still dilated, but I couldn’t wait to tell my readers what is happening to me as a possible roadmap for others. Yes, we can all go from funk through let’s explore all options to celebrate what still works (my head, more or less), and re-invent ourselves with new disabilities, new coping mechanisms, and maybe the opportunity for new adventures. I’m game!

The incredible luck is that I live next to some of the top eye-care facilities in the world—the Shiley Eye Institute, the Joan and Irwin Jacobs Retina Center, and the Hamilton Glaucoma Center — so I could not be in better hands.
Physician scientist, **Shira L. Robbins, MD**, clinical professor, cares for and studies the smallest of humans – premature infants. Dr. Robbins performs research to preserve and protect the vision of premature infants. She stated, “These tiny two pound babies, born way too early, must heroically battle to survive and then tragically develop this blinding disease. My research targets ways to give these babies and their families a fighting chance at more normal vision. I cannot imagine a more fulfilling career.”

Her research is supported by the Hartwell Foundation Individual Biomedical Research Award, who is funding her to study omega-3 fatty acids as a therapy for the prevention of retinopathy of prematurity (ROP), a condition that affects the vision of premature infants. She hopes to improve the methods by which doctors diagnose, prevent and treat blinding disease in the most vulnerable of babies.

As part of the study, Dr. Robbins and her team including former Shiley resident and fellow Hema Ramkumar, MD are investigating premature infants’ fatty acid biochemistry and biomarkers of pro-inflammatory and angiogenic genes. This could potentially lead to new therapies to treat babies born prematurely, resulting in a transformative benefit to prevent ROP and the associated blindness.

To date, her work has validated that premature infants born in San Diego are lacking in fatty acids compared to full-term infants. The replacement of missing fats may affect so many aspects of health since fatty acids are building blocks of cell walls both structurally and chemically. Omega-3 fatty acids affect chemical signaling, clotting, blood vessel contractility and reduce inflammation. They are the most common fat in our brains and are therefore essential for early brain development.

Dr. Robbins’ clinical practice focuses exclusively on pediatric ophthalmology and adult eye realignment in the Anne F. and Abraham Ratner Children’s Eye Center at the Shiley Eye Institute.
NEW DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL STUDENT EDUCATION

Daniel Chao, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, was appointed as the Director of Medical Student Education. He succeeds Henry Ferrerya, MD, who has been Director for the past 5 years. “It is my great honor and privilege to succeed Dr. Ferrerya as Director of Medical Education. My goal is to continue the strong tradition of medical student education, teaching, and mentorship that has been present at the Shiley Eye Institute under his leadership.”

The Shiley Eye Institute’s role in medical student education includes training of UC San Diego medical students in direct ophthalmoscopy, offering rotations to medical students from UC San Diego and elsewhere, as well as advising and mentorship for those medical students pursuing ophthalmology as a career.

Dr. Chao has particular interests in the role of new technologies in improving medical student education. He is conducting a study to determine if a smartphone based ophthalmoscopy device may be superior to the traditional direct ophthalmoscopy in the teaching of medical students. In addition, he sees the UC San Diego Student-Run Free Clinic Project, a UCSD medical student run program providing accessible, quality healthcare for the underserved, as an outstanding opportunity for UCSD medical students to gain first hand experience in ophthalmology.

“I am thrilled to play a role in medical student education here at Shiley. When I was a medical student, a few key mentors served as role models and inspired me to pursue ophthalmology as a career. I hope to increase exposure to the field of ophthalmology to all UCSD medical students, and mentor new generations of medical students to pursue ophthalmology.”

SHILEY EYE INSTITUTE WELCOMES ANDREW CAMP, MD

The UC San Diego Shiley Eye Institute welcomes glaucoma specialist and clinical researcher Andrew Camp, MD, as an Assistant Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology. Dr. Camp earned a dual Bachelor of Arts in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology and Psychology from Boston University. He received his medical degree from the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, did an Ophthalmology residency at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, and then completed a Glaucoma fellowship at the UC San Diego Shiley Eye Institute and Hamilton Glaucoma Center. Dr. Camp’s clinical focus is the management of adult and childhood glaucoma.

Dr. Camp’s research interests include the development of novel intraocular pressure measurement devices, personalized glaucoma treatment regimens, national and international eye health in underserved populations, and anterior and posterior glaucoma imaging techniques.

Daniel Chao teaching direct ophthalmoscopy to medical students using a smartphone based ophthalmoscope.

Dr. Chao has particular interests in the role of new technologies in improving medical student education. He is conducting a study to determine if a smartphone based ophthalmoscopy device may be superior to the traditional direct ophthalmoscopy in the teaching of medical students. In addition, he sees the UC San Diego Student-Run Free Clinic Project, a UCSD medical student run program providing accessible, quality healthcare for the underserved, as an outstanding opportunity for UCSD medical students to gain first hand experience in ophthalmology.

Daniel Chao, MD, PhD and Srinivas Iyengar, MD (volunteer faculty), and Derek Mai, MD (3rd year ophthalmology resident) with medical students Yeji Kim, Scarlett Chen, and George Villatoro at the UCSD Ophthalmology Free Clinic in downtown San Diego.

The UC San Diego Shiley Eye Institute welcomes glaucoma specialist and clinical researcher Andrew Camp, MD, as an Assistant Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology. Dr. Camp earned a dual Bachelor of Arts in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology and Psychology from Boston University. He received his medical degree from the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, did an Ophthalmology residency at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, and then completed a Glaucoma fellowship at the UC San Diego Shiley Eye Institute and Hamilton Glaucoma Center. Dr. Camp’s clinical focus is the management of adult and childhood glaucoma.

Dr. Camp’s research interests include the development of novel intraocular pressure measurement devices, personalized glaucoma treatment regimens, national and international eye health in underserved populations, and anterior and posterior glaucoma imaging techniques.
Shiley EyeMobile Partners with San Diego Padres

As partners, the Padres will be collaborating with UC San Diego Health on awareness efforts to promote healthy living and disease prevention in San Diego.

Since its founding in 2000, the Shiley EyeMobile program has screened almost 200,000 children across San Diego County. The mission of the Shiley EyeMobile is to give vulnerable populations of children the vision and eye care they need to succeed in school and in life by identifying, treating, and preventing vision disorders. Additionally, the program educates and provides community outreach about the importance for kids to receive vital eye care as well as routine eye exams while removing barriers to accessing comprehensive vision care. The EyeMobile program provides children with the best sight to allow them to be “school ready” so they can learn at their maximum potential.

Keys to the Shiley EyeMobile program’s success include the use of the latest information technology – electronic medical records, a dedicated multilingual staff, students and community volunteers. It is estimated that 1 in 4 children have vision problems. Early detection and treatment have proven to reduce the negative impact vision problems may have on a child’s learning ability and development. If left untreated, conditions such as amblyopia, could lead to irreversible vision loss and psychosocial effects.

During the past year, UC San Diego Health and the San Diego Padres formed a partnership to provide the baseball team with expertise in all medical fields. One of the first medical specialties to move forward was the Department of Ophthalmology through the EyeMobile. On a regular basis, the Shiley EyeMobile successfully addresses the need for vision care of underserved children in San Diego County. Through this new partnership, the eye doctors on the EyeMobile examined the entire team and staff at the Padres training camp in Peoria, Arizona.

The entire Padres team and personnel were examined and those with eye disorders were then referred to Shiley Eye Institute ophthalmologists for further evaluation and possible treatment. The Padres players are slightly taller than the children regularly seen on the EyeMobile!

As partners, the Padres will collaborate with UC San Diego Health on awareness efforts to promote healthy living and disease prevention in San Diego. The Department of Ophthalmology looks forward to collaborating with the Padres on future outreach programs.
Each year, more than 13,000 students’ vision is screened at over 225 locations across San Diego County. Once a child is identified as needing further examination, the EyeMobile travels to the school with optometrists offering free dilated eye examinations. Those children needing eye correction are given glasses at no charge with a visual acuity check at the school location. The program then follows up with the parents and teachers to make sure the child is wearing the glasses. If the children are identified as having more serious eye conditions, they are referred to the pediatric ophthalmologists at the Anne F. and Abraham Ratner Children’s Eye Center at the Shiley Eye Institute. The EyeMobile staff utilizes the information received to then provide longitudinal learning ability assessment and research.
Congratulations to Peter J. Savino, MD, clinical professor of ophthalmology and neurosciences, on practicing medicine for over forty-four years. After a notable career at the Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia, he joined the Shiley Eye Institute faculty nine years ago. Physician, professor and researcher, he is an internationally known expert on neuro-ophthalmology and known for writing the textbook *Clinical Decisions in Neuro-ophthalmology* and the handbook entitled *Color Atlas and Synopsis of Clinical Ophthalmology – Neuro-Ophthalmology*.

Dr. Savino has been the principal investigator on several studies funded by NIH grants and has published more than 200 articles in scientific journals. His research and clinical interests include myasthenia gravis, optic neuritis, atrophy and neuropathy, visual field defects, brain and nervous system tumors, degenerative, metabolic inflammatory and demyelinating diseases.

Why did you become an ophthalmologist? Neuro-ophthalmologist?
My academic career began in the late 1950’s at Manhattan College taking liberal arts classes. I became interested in biology and attended medical school at the University of Bologna School of Medicine in Italy. During my internship at Grasslands Hospital in New York, I was mentored by a first year ophthalmology resident who encouraged me towards ophthalmology. The military draft was still in effect and through a special program, I was able to choose full residency training in a specialty of my choice (ophthalmology) and subspecialty (neuro-ophthalmology) in civilian hospitals and then serve in the military. I was accepted into the Georgetown University residency program then became a Heed Fellow at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at the University of Miami. I then served in the US Navy at the Medical Regional Medical Center in Philadelphia.

Are there any special patients over the years that impacted you significantly?
In 1987, an adorable 10 year-old girl named Maggie from central Pennsylvania came into my office with a tumor on her optic nerve. The surgeons treating her wanted to do an orbital exenteration to remove the tumor. Exenteration is removal of the ocular socket and part of the face to remove the tumor. This surgery causes great disfigurement. I thought this method was too severe and disagreed with the treatment plan.

At this time, a new technology called computerized axial tomography or CT scan had been developed. Maggie was scanned with this new device and we were able to see exactly where the tumor was located and more importantly how it could be followed postoperatively. My recommendation was to remove the tumor through a craniotomy with no facial scarring. After Maggie and her parents heard the various treatment plans, they decided upon my plan of action - to just have the tumor removed. She ended up with the tumor removed with no facial scarring and was cured! The tumor had not recurred.

I followed Maggie for years and we became close. Years later, I received an invitation to that little
girl’s wedding – she had grown into a beautiful young woman. At the ceremony, the priest told this story of her tumor and her surgery and there was not a dry eye in the house. During the toasts at the reception, Maggie’s sister, the maid of honor, announced that the doctor who saved Maggie’s life (me) was in attendance. Maggie then asked me for the honor of her first dance.

“I will never forget that moment or that dance” Dr. Savino said, “Maggie is my most memorable patient because of the major impact I believe I have had on the life of my patient and friend Maggie for the good.”

Today, Maggie is healthy and married with two children. We are still in touch and she sees me every couple of years to check in as a patient.

**QUOTE FROM MAGGIE:**

Nearly 30 years ago, Dr. Peter Savino entered my life. This man, my doctor, devoted himself to guiding my family through many life-decisions: those decisions would change my life forever. He was kind, smart and trusting. At some point, not long after we met Dr. Savino, he became so much more to me than the man in the white coat. When you spend 30 years seeing someone as often as I did, it was natural that he became my friend. Still Dr. Savino is so much more – he was a father figure at times; he protected me and comforted me. I am honored to say that Dr. Savino has been by my side throughout every life milestone….my wedding and the birth of my children: William and Charlotte.

**What are the changes you have seen in ophthalmology or Neuro-ophthalmology?**

The biggest changes I have witnessed in neuro-ophthalmology would be in neuro-imaging. Before 1974, tumor diagnosis was accomplished indirectly by investigating the patients symptoms and examining indirect radiologic techniques. With CT and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), radiologists and other physicians can visualize directly. This has made for more exacting diagnosis and treatments for patients.

**Why did you come to Shiley?**

While working at Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia, I decided to go from full to part time. I looked at many different Ophthalmology departments across the country. I was most attracted to the Shiley Eye Institute at UC San Diego because of the excellent educational program, teaching opportunities and most importantly the outstanding faculty. I very much wanted to continue my teaching and Shiley was the best place to do this.

**What do you see as the next big advance or opportunity in ophthalmology?**

Targeted therapies such as gene therapy or utilizing biologicals will be the most impactful advances going forward for all patients. Here at Shiley, we have a whole cadre of physicians and scientists working towards this end. The biggest opportunities I see at Shiley are the research possibilities. Shiley has a tremendous basic research team with a huge clinical population which serves to expedite the translational medicine possibilities here.

**What do you do in your free time?**

In my free time, my wife Marie and I like to travel for good food and to visit dear old friends around the world. Traveling has become so cumbersome that it takes major effort – we would rather put our efforts into friendship. I do enjoy a good game of golf now and then too!
By utilizing the gene-editing tool CRISPR/Cas9, Kang Zhang, MD, PhD, professor of ophthalmology, has reprogrammed mutated rod photoreceptors to become functioning cone photoreceptors, reversing cellular degeneration and restoring visual function in two mouse models of retinitis pigmentosa (RP).

Dr. Zhang and his research team at the Shiley Eye Institute, UC San Diego and colleagues in China, published their findings in *Cell Research* (2017 Jun;27(6):830-833. doi:10.1038/cr.201.57) demonstrating the CRISPR/Cas9 to deactivate a master switch gene called Nrl and a downstream transcription factor called Nr2e3.

RP is a group of inherited vision disorders caused by numerous mutations in more than 60 genes.

In RP, which affects approximately 100,000 Americans and 1 in 4,000 persons worldwide, rod-specific genetic mutations cause rod photoreceptor cells to dysfunction and degenerate over time. Initial symptoms are loss of peripheral and night vision, followed by diminished visual acuity and color perception as cone cells also begin to fail and die. There is no treatment for RP. The eventual result may be legal blindness.

CRISPR, which stands for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats, allows researchers to target specific stretches of genetic code and edit DNA at precise locations, modifying select gene functions. Deactivating either Nrl or Nr2e3 reprogrammed rod cells to become cone cells. "Cone cells are less vulnerable to the genetic mutations that cause RP," said Zhang. "Our strategy was to use gene therapy to make the underlying mutations irrelevant, resulting in the preservation of tissue and vision."

The scientists tested their approach in two different mouse models of RP. In both cases, they found an abundance of reprogrammed cone cells and preserved cellular architecture in the retinas. Electro-retinography testing of rod and cone receptors in live mice show improved function.

Zhang said a recent independent study led by Zhijian Wu, PhD, at the National Eye Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health, also reached similar conclusions. The researchers used adeno-associated virus (AAV) to perform the gene therapy, which they said should help advance their work to human clinical trials quicker. "AAV is a common cold virus and has been used in many successful gene therapy treatments with a relatively good safety profile," said Zhang. "Human clinical trials could be planned soon after completion of preclinical study. There is no treatment for RP so the need is great and pressing. In addition, our approach of reprogramming mutation-sensitive cells to mutation-resistant cells may have broader application to other human diseases, including cancer."
Retinal Degenerative (RD) Diseases, such as age-related macular degeneration (AMD), retinitis pigmentosa (RP), Leber’s congenital amaurosis (LCA) and glaucoma, cause blindness that is irreversible once photoreceptors or ganglion cells are lost. Pluripotent stem cells (PSCs) have an amazing regenerative capacity giving rise to new tissues throughout the body, including cells that form the eye. Retinas derived from such cells hold the potential to generate new sources of cells and tissue for transplantation, as well as a system to address the origins of disease and a platform to test new drugs that could prevent blindness itself.

Under the direction of Karl Wahlin, PhD, the Richard C. Atkinson Laboratory for Regenerative Ophthalmology at the Shiley Eye Institute has been developing new strategies for vision repair using pluripotent stem cells. Using stem cell derived human 3D “mini-retinas” and genetic engineering, his lab seeks to develop new ways to understand how the human retina forms and how genetic defects result in human retinal disease.

3D “mini-retinas” that are being developed in his lab resemble actual retinas of people. His lab is using ‘precision molecular scissors’ to introduce fluorescent reporters into stem cells to track retinal cells as they are born. This approach has allowed investigators at Shiley to optimize the microenvironment of cultured stem cell derived mini-retinas. For example, by recreating low oxygen conditions normally experienced by a human embryo, they could exploit the fluorescent signature of retina reporters to confirm that such conditions also improved the outcome of early eye development in experimental settings. These findings are encouraging results that will hopefully lead to more efficient ways to generate transplant-ready retinal cells.

Recently, the laboratory has also used gene-editing to introduce mutations into laboratory grown stem cells that recreate human retinal disease. The “disease-in-a-dish” approach merges gene-editing with lab grown 3D retinas to create the closest living thing to an actual diseased human retina. While still in early phases of development, it is hoped that these newly developed tools will enable screening of neuroprotective and gene-therapy tools aimed at blocking retinal degenerative disease.

Using stem cell derived human 3D “mini-retinas” and genetic engineering, his lab seeks to develop new ways to understand how the human retina forms and how genetic defects result in human retinal disease.
Recently, Weldon Haw, MD, clinical professor, consulted with the veterinary team at SeaWorld® San Diego on eye surgeries for a dolphin and penguin. The goal of these state-of-the-art surgeries was to restore the animals’ eyesight so they may go on to see for many years to come.

“SeaWorld® is a world-class organization with an excellent veterinary medical team performing challenging animal life saving activities everyday”, stated Dr. Haw.

Although there are many differences between humans and marine animals, the essential aspects of the surgical care for these animals are similar to humans. The veterinary medical team is able to provide anesthesia, deliver medications and perform surgical care.

The veterinary team at SeaWorld® is incredibly grateful to experts like Dr. Haw for lending their expertise and sharing best practices. While

UNIQUE COLLABORATION

“I was honored to offer my corneal surgery expertise and be part of this endeavor to increase the vision for these aquatic animals.”
Each year, the Shiley Eye Institute (SEI) attracts outstanding ophthalmologists and scientists from throughout the world to join the SEI team. SEI is honored to host Fulbright-Fight for Sight Scholar, Shyamanga Borooah, MD, PhD, from the United Kingdom (UK). Dr. Borooah, a retina specialist and researcher, is investigating possible new therapies for retinal degenerations in the laboratory of Radha Ayyagari, PhD, Professor of Ophthalmology and Pathology, at the Joan and Irwin Jacobs Retina Center.

Dr. Borooah completed his medical training at Imperial College in London, his ophthalmology residency at the University of Edinburgh and retinal fellowship at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London. He also obtained a PhD in stem cells from the University of Edinburgh during his residency.

His initial ophthalmic training began prior to the development of intra-vitreal injections to treat age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and there were relatively few treatments to prevent sight loss. He regularly saw patients who were losing vision but at the time could not offer any treatment. This sparked his initial interest in research focused on developing therapies for patients with untreatable retinal disease. It was clear to Dr. Borooah, that existing technologies for developing treatments for AMD were not suitable for developing and testing the next generation of ocular therapeutics. Fortunately, he was in Edinburgh during his residency which is the UK’s stem cell and regenerative medicine hub. He had a chance encounter with Professor Sir Ian Wilmut, PhD who had developed “Dolly” the first cloned sheep. Dr. Wilmut suggested that a way of improving therapeutic success would be to create models of human disease using human cells essentially creating a “retinal disease in a dish”.

In 2013, Dr. Borooah was awarded a prestigious Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Training Fellowship and a Rowling Scholarship sponsored by author J.K. Rowling (of Harry Potter fame) to develop a model of AMD in a dish using stem cells. He demonstrated that human skin cells could be reprogrammed into retinal cells. Additionally, he found that the retina of patients with macular disease showed the signs of disease in a dish and used this model to identify potential avenues for therapy in humans. He was awarded a highly prestigious Fulbright-Fight for Sight scholarship to continue his research in 2016 and was also supported by the Bayer Global Ophthalmic Awards Program to continue his clinical training.

Dr. Borooah feels that “the Shiley Eye Institute at UC San Diego provides a core of world-class ophthalmic research and ideal foundation for my ongoing research.” He specifically wanted to collaborate with Dr. Ayyagari because, “she is one of only a few researchers in the world to have successfully generated a model of inherited macular degeneration.” This model could potentially offer a pathway to therapeutic translation of his earlier findings.

Dr. Borooah’s work at Shiley will concentrate on treating Dr. Ayyagari’s macular degeneration model. His ultimate aim is to develop a range of different therapeutics that can be used for the treatment of patients at different stages of currently treatable inherited diseases.
Corneal diseases are among the most common causes of visual impairment and blindness, with Fuchs endothelial corneal dystrophy (FECD), a gradual swelling and clouding of the cornea, being the most common reason for eventual corneal transplants.

Natalie A. Afshari, MD, professor of ophthalmology, (Nature Communications 2017 Mar 30;8: 14898. Doi:10.1038) and her team of researchers at the Shiley Eye Institute, the UC San Diego School of Medicine, with colleagues at Case Western University, Duke University and the National Institutes of Health, have identified three novel genomic loci — distinct stretches of genetic material on chromosomes — linked to FECD, which often clusters in families and is roughly 39 percent heritable.

“Previously, there was one known FECD locus. We’ve expanded that number to four,” said Dr. Afshari, “these findings provide a deeper understanding of the pathology of FECD, which in turn will help us develop better therapies for treating or preventing this disabling disease.”

FECD affects the innermost layer of cells in the cornea (the transparent front cover of the eye), called the endothelium. The endothelium is responsible for maintaining the proper amount of fluid in the cornea, keeping it clear. FECD is a progressive disorder in which the endothelium slowly degrades, with lost clarity, pain and severely impaired vision. It affects 4 percent of the U.S. population above age 40 and worsens with age. Women are two to four times more affected than men. While there is symptomatic treatment in early stages, surgery — often a corneal transplant — is the only remedy after significant vision loss occurs.

The research team conducted a genome-wide association study, an analytical approach in which scientists look for genetic variants in individuals associated with a particular disease. This study involved 1,404 patients with FECD and 2,564 controls of European ancestry. The results confirmed the known role of the TCF4 gene, but also revealed associations with three other loci: KANK4, LAMC1 and LINC009970/ATPB1. Researchers also found some genomic markers that were more associated by gender, with LAMC1 increasing FECD risk in women while TCF4 increased risk in men.

“While more work must be done to precisely elucidate what these proteins do,” said Afshari, “the results suggest they have essential roles in sustaining and maintaining the health of the corneal endothelium. This knowledge improves our understanding of the genetic risk factors for FECD and gives us new therapeutic targets.”
FUCHS RUNS IN FAMILIES

Four years ago, Ileana Amado went to her local ophthalmologist in the country Panama complaining of blurry vision, sensitivity to light, eye pain and difficulty seeing at night. She was diagnosed with Fuchs corneal endothelial dystrophy, an eye disease that affects individuals’ ability to see details – visual acuity.

After the diagnosis, she relayed this information to her immediate and extended family and they began to realize she was not the only one with this condition. They found out that their father’s brother had this condition as well. Ileana then discovered her siblings, Melissa and Camilo, were also having vision issues.

The siblings decided to pursue further online researching for the most knowledgeable physician on Fuchs. Luckily, they found Natalie A. Afshari, MD, professor of ophthalmology at the Shiley Eye Institute. The Amado siblings made appointments together to travel to San Diego to be examined by Dr. Afshari. Dr. Afshari did a thorough exam on all three as well as taking their blood samples for Dr. Afshari’s genetic study of Fuchs Endothelial Dystrophy. All three siblings have the condition but in varying stages. Two months later their father and mother flew from Panama to San Diego to visit Dr. Afshari for the same eye condition and to participate in the same study.

During the last year, Dr. Afshari’s laboratory has identified 3 novel genes leading to Fuchs corneal dystrophy. This was done through the study of Fuchs dystrophy involving over 2000 patients and 16 different centers. Dr. Afshari is the first author of the paper describing the findings in the journal Nature Genetics.

The family’s participation is greatly appreciated as it contributes to the understanding of the molecular and cellular causes of pathogenesis of Fuchs corneal endothelial dystrophy which in turn will help develop better therapies for treatment and detection of this disabling disease.

GIRL SCOUTS SERVICE AT SHILEY

Seven-year-old Lauren Lee has been a patient of David B. Granet, MD, professor of ophthalmology and Director of the Anne F. and Abraham Ratner Children’s Eye Center, since 2014. Through her personal connection with Dr. Granet, she knows how important eyeglasses can be in a person’s life.

As a Girl Scout in a Del Sur area troop, she and her friends decided that collecting gently used glasses for the needy would be a good service project for them. In early June 2017, there was a large gathering of Girl Scout troops from all over San Diego County. She and her troop informed all who were attending to bring used glasses with them to the event. They collected over 40 pairs of glasses and personally presented them to Dr. Granet. The girls were gratified to be helping others less fortunate.

The Shiley Eye Institute donates eyeglasses in good condition to the Lions Optometric Vision Clinic in San Diego. The frames are re-purposed and used to fulfill new prescriptions for the underserved of San Diego. If you are interested in donating eyeglasses, please bring them to the Shiley Eye Institute at your next appointment.
Twelve-year-old Mary* has night blindness. Even though her vision is normal during the day, at night, she can’t see and becomes easily disoriented.

Her night blindness has made her feel self-conscious and different. When she visits amusement parks, she has to leave early and misses all the evening activities because she can’t see in the dark. During a recent middle school over-night camping trip, she needed special assistance to guide her during nighttime activities.

Her parents have known that she had a retina condition for the past seven years, but no one has been able to make a definitive diagnosis. The retina is the light-sensitive layer of tissue which lines the back of the eye that captures light and sends visual messages through the optic nerve to the brain. Mary’s parents worried her condition could be a progressive retinal disease that would lead to blindness later in life.

Mary’s doctor referred them to Eric Nudleman, MD, PhD, assistant professor of ophthalmology and pediatric retina specialist at the Shiley Eye Institute, for diagnosis and treatment. After a full retina examination and specialized imaging, Dr. Nudleman suspected an inherited retinal dystrophy. He suggested that Mary see his colleague, Henry A. Ferreyra, MD, associate professor of ophthalmology and a retina specialist at Shiley and an expert in the field of hereditary retinal degenerations.

Based on the appearance of her retina, Dr. Ferreyra thought Mary could have retinitis punctata albescens, a progressive retinal degeneration, or fundus albipunctatus, a non-progressive form of night blindness due to prolonged dark adaptation. Both conditions have a very similar appearance and are difficult to distinguish. Dr. Ferreyra ordered more testing for Mary’s eyes, including electroretinography (ERG). An ERG is a test used to measure the function of the retina. Although an ERG was done previously and was abnormal suggesting retinitis punctata albescens, he suspected fundus albipunctatus and performed a modified ERG to evaluate for prolonged dark adaptation.

After examining the results of her testing, Dr. Ferreyra believed that Mary had fundus albipunctatus since her ERG responses normalized with prolonged dark adaptation. In order to make a definitive diagnosis, Dr. Ferreyra ordered genetic testing to look for mutations in the gene 11-cis retinol dehydrogenase 5 (RDH5). RDH5 is a gene that encodes for an enzyme involved in the conversion of 11-cis retinol to 11-cis retinal and necessary for normal vision, especially in low-light conditions. Mutations in the RDH5 are responsible for fundus albipunctatus.

After ordering the genetic testing, she was found to have two disease causing mutations in the RDH5 gene. Additional genetic testing of her parents confirmed that she had autosomal recessive fundus albipunctatus. Mary was so relieved that Dr. Ferreyra had finally diagnosed her with a non-progressive disease and she was not going blind. She can now go on to achieve her dream of becoming an architect when she grows up. She loves to draw and paint.

Sometimes our doctors at the Shiley Eye Institute have to be detectives. This teamwork by our specialists demonstrates how personalized medicine can change lives, especially for the young.

Mary* is a fictitious name; patient wants anonymity.
Four Shiley Alumni Named in *The Ophthalmologist* “Top 100 Power List 2017”

Alumnus Alex Huang, MD, PHD was named #1 on the internationally recognized “Top 100 Power List 2017” under the age of 40 from the publication *The Ophthalmologist*. He completed a fellowship in 2013 (with Robert N. Weinreb, MD) and is currently faculty at Doheny Eye Institute, UCLA.

Other alumni included who ranked highly on the list are C. Andrés Benatti, MD, (Cordoba, Argentina) in cornea and refractive surgery (with Natalie A. Afshari, MD), Kaweh Mansouri, MD (Lausanne, Switzerland) in glaucoma (with Robert N. Weinreb, MD) and Joseph Nezgoda, MD (Wellington, Florida) in retina (with William Freeman, MD and Michael Goldbaum, MD).

Congratulations on the outstanding accomplishments of these SEI alumni!

Award-Winning Oculoplastic Research

Research within the Division of Oculofacial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery was recently recognized at the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Annual Meeting. Dr. Bradford Lee, an alumnus and a graduate fellow from UCSD Department of Ophthalmology, was awarded the Marvin H. Quickert Award for Outstanding Thesis. His co-authors on the study were Don Kikkawa, MD, Bobby Korn, MD, PhD and Radha Ayyagari, PhD.

The study examined next generation RNA Sequencing from patients with active Thyroid Eye Disease. Thyroid Eye Disease is a disfiguring autoimmune disorder that affects the thyroid gland, the eyes, and other soft tissues of the body. It can lead to disfigurement and in some cases, blindness. The study showed that certain genes are activated and this research may lead to improved treatment.

The Shiley Eye Institute was the first in the United States to have a dedicated clinic for Thyroid Eye Disease patients. Shiley also works closely with the Graves’ Disease and Thyroid Foundation to sponsor an annual conference for patients. With this collaboration, patients with this devastating disorder have a resource for support and care.

In the overall list of ophthalmologists and vision scientists (“Top 100 Power List for 2016”), three Shiley Eye Institute faculty, Robert N. Weinreb, MD (Top 25 in the world), Napoleone Ferrara, MD (Top 100 in the world) and Kang Zhang, MD, PhD (Top 100 in the world) were recognized for their accomplishments as well.
GLAUCOMA

Glaucoma can cause blindness if untreated and is the second leading cause of blindness in the United States. As many as 3 million Americans have glaucoma, and at least one half do not know it. Although there is no cure yet, loss of vision can be slowed or halted with medical and/or surgical treatment. The best way to protect your sight from glaucoma is to get tested. Early diagnosis and appropriate treatment are the keys to preserving vision.
Akram Belghith, PhD
Assistant Project Scientist of Ophthalmology
Graduate School
University of Strasbourg, France
Fellowship
University of California, San Diego
Special Interests
Change detection and monitoring of glaucoma; Image processing and machine learning classifier analyses

Christopher Bowd, PhD
Research Scientist of Ophthalmology
Director of the Hamilton Glaucoma Center-based Visual Field Assessment Center
Co-Director of the Hamilton Glaucoma Center-based Imaging Data Evaluation and Analysis (IDEA) Center
Graduate School
Washington State University
Postdoctoral Fellowship
University of California, San Diego
Special Interests
Early detection and monitoring of glaucoma; Machine learning classifier analyses of imaging and visual function measurements

Andrew S. Camp, MD
Assistant Professor
Medical School
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
Residency & Fellowship
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
University of California, San Diego Shiley Eye Institute
Special Interests
Development of novel intraocular pressure measurement devices, personalized glaucoma treatment regimens, national and international eye health in underserved populations, and anterior and posterior glaucoma imaging techniques

Won-Kyu “Daniel” Ju, PhD
Adjunct Professor of Ophthalmology
Graduate School
The Catholic University in Korea (Masters & PhD)
Postdoctoral Fellowship
Washington University in St. Louis
Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute
Special Interests
Mechanisms for neuroprotection and neurodegeneration in glaucoma - Oxidative stress and glutamate excitotoxicity in glaucoma - Mitochondrial dynamics; bioenergetics and dysfunction in retinal ganglion cell (RGC) and optic nerve head (ONH) astrocyte in glaucoma - Mitochondria-related gene therapy for retinal ganglion cells and optic nerve head astrocyte neuroprotection in glaucoma
John H.K. Liu, PhD

Adjunct Professor of Ophthalmology
Director, Glaucoma Molecular Pharmacology Laboratory

Graduate School
National Tsing Hua University (MS Molecular Biology)
Texas A&M University (PhD Pharmacology)

Postdoctoral Fellowship
Harvard Medical School

Special Interests
Regulation of intraocular pressure and ocular blood flow; 24-hour sleep laboratory for glaucoma and other eye diseases

Rigby Slight, MD

Associate Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology

Medical School
University of Oklahoma; Internship at UCLA

Residency
University of Southern California

Special Interests
Clinical research in glaucoma; UC San Diego Optic Disc Reading Center

Derek S. Welsbie, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology

Medical School
University of California, Los Angeles

Residency & Fellowship
The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine / Wilmer Eye Institute

Special Interests
Neuroprotection in glaucoma and other optic neuropathies; Use of functional genomic technologies to identify novel mediators of axon injury signaling in neurons; Development of dual leucine zipper kinase inhibitors; Role of dual leucine zipper kinase in traumatic brain injury

Notables & Awards
2017 OKAP Teaching Award, Shiley Eye Institute, 2017 Whitehill Prize for Excellence, UC San Diego Academy of Clinician Scholar, 2017 Douglas H. Johnson Award for Glaucoma Research, Brightfocus Foundation

Dorota Skowronkska-Krawczyk, PhD

Adjunct Professor of Ophthalmology

Graduate School
University of Geneva, Switzerland

Postdoctoral Fellowship
Eye Hospital Jules Gonin, Lausanne, Switzerland
University of California, San Diego

Special Interests
Molecular mechanisms in retina development and in genetic and age related eye diseases, including glaucoma

Adjunct Professor of Ophthalmology
Director, Glaucoma Molecular Pharmacology Laboratory

Graduate School
National Tsing Hua University (MS Molecular Biology)
Texas A&M University (PhD Pharmacology)

Postdoctoral Fellowship
Harvard Medical School

Special Interests
Regulation of intraocular pressure and ocular blood flow; 24-hour sleep laboratory for glaucoma and other eye diseases
Neuro-ophthalmologists diagnose and treat neuro-sensory disorders including brain tumors, double vision, giant cell arteritis, ischemic optic neuropathy, optic neuritis, papilledema, pseudotumor cerebri, thyroid eye disease and visual field defects. Shiley Eye Institute’s skilled neuro-ophthalmologists conduct routine diagnostic tests and a thorough evaluation while working with the referring physician to manage the condition or illness.

Peter J. Savino, MD
Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology & Neurosciences

Medical School
University of Bologna School of Medicine

Residency
Georgetown University Medical Center

Fellowship
University of Miami

Special Interests
Myasthenia gravis optic neuritis, atrophy and neuropathy; brain and nervous system tumors visual field defects; Degenerative, metabolic, inflammatory & demyelinating diseases; vascular disorders

Notables & Awards
2017 America’s Top Doctors/Castle Connolly Top Doctors
The Shiley Eye Institute Cornea and Refractive specialty is dedicated to the health and functioning of the cornea and combines unparalleled care, expertise, and state-of-the-art equipment to ensure the best experience for patients. The Shiley Eye Institute provides comprehensive eye care for a range of routine, complex and high-risk corneal, cataract and external diseases, as well as the most current vision correction procedures.

Natalie A. Afshari, MD, FACS

Professor of Ophthalmology
Stuart I. Brown MD Chair in Ophthalmology in Memory of Donald P. Shiley
Chief, Division of Cornea and Refractive Surgery
Vice-Chair for Education, Department of Ophthalmology

Medical School
Stanford University Medical School

Residency & Fellowship
Harvard University, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary

Special Interests
Corneal surgery; Fuchs Dystrophy; Corneal transplantation; Endothelial keratoplasty (DSEK & DMEK); Intacs and collagen crosslinking for keratoconus; Laser refractive surgery, including LASIK and PRK, Surgical and medical diseases of cornea; Cataract surgery

Notables & Awards
2017 America’s Top Doctors/Castle Connolly Top Doctors, 2017 San Diego Magazine Top Doctors
Jiagang “Jack” Zhao, PhD
Associate Project Scientist of Ophthalmology
Graduate School
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
Postdoctoral Fellowship
Salk Institute for Biological Studies, La Jolla, California
Special Interests
Age related macular degeneration; Diabetic retinopathy; Inherited retinal degeneration
Notables & Awards
2017 America’s Top Doctors/Castle Connolly Top Doctors

Weldon W. Haw, MD
Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology
Chief of Ophthalmology at Veterans Administration Medical Hospital
Medical School
University of California, Los Angeles School of Medicine
Residency
Stanford University School of Medicine (Chief Resident)
Fellowship
Stanford University School of Medicine (Chief Fellow)
Special Interests
Corneal and cataract surgery, Intraocular lenses, Dry Eye/ Pterygium, Cornea transplantation, Refractive surgery/LASIK
Notables & Awards
2017 America’s Top Doctors/Castle Connolly Top Doctors

Chris W. Heichel, MD
Associate Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology
Medical School
Chicago Medical School
Residency
University of California, San Diego (Chief Resident)
Fellowship
University of California, San Diego
Special Interests
Corneal transplantsations and Keratoprostheses; Challenging cataract and IOL surgeries; LASIK; Intacs, & Visian ICL; Advanced techniques in laser & refractive surgery; Keratoconus; Ocular Surface Tumors; Limbal Stem Cell Transplantation
Notables & Awards
2017 America’s Top Doctors/Castle Connolly Top Doctors

Stuart I. Brown, MD
Professor of Ophthalmology
Dr. Richard and Tatiana Lansche Chair in Ophthalmology
Medical School
University of Illinois Medical School
Residency
Tulane Medical School
Fellowship
Harvard University, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary
Special Interests
Cornea and external diseases
Notables & Awards
2017 Super Doctors
Diseases of the retina cause severe and debilitating vision loss. Our retina physicians diagnose and treat macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, tumors, inherited retinal disease, retinal detachment, macular holes, and other important retinal diseases.
Radha Ayyagari, PhD

Professor of Ophthalmology and Pathology
Chief of Ophthalmic Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory (CLIA certified)
Director of Shiley Eye Institute BioBank

Graduate School
Osmania University, Hyderabad, India

Postdoctoral Fellowship
Molecular Genetics at the National Eye Institute, NIH, Bethesda

Special Interests
Molecular genetics of macular and retinal dystrophy; Biological mechanisms underlying retinal diseases; Age-related macular degeneration; Diabetic retinopathy; and Glaucoma

Notables & Awards
2017 Gold Fellow, The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology

Dirk-Uwe Bartsch, PhD

Associate Adjunct Professor of Ophthalmology
Co-Director, Jacobs Retina Center

Graduate School
University of California, San Diego

Postdoctoral Fellowship
University of California, San Diego

Special Interests
Retinal Imaging Scanning Laser Imaging - confocal / non-confocal; Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT); Indocyanine Green and Fluorescein Angiography; Tomographic Reconstruction of the Posterior Pole

Daniel L. Chao, MD, PhD

Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology

Medical School
Stanford University (MD and PhD)

Residency
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, University of Miami

Fellowship
University of California, San Francisco

Special Interests
Surgical and medical management of retinal diseases, diabetic retinopathy, age related macular degeneration; Translational research; Scientific focus on developing zebrafish as a model for retinal diseases; Technology development for new treatments and diagnostics for retinal disease

Lingyun Cheng, MD

Adjunct Professor of Ophthalmology

Medical School
Shanxi Medical University, China

Residency
The First Teaching Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, China

Fellowship
University of California, San Diego
Ideta Eye Hospital, Japan

Special Interests
Ocular drug delivery and vitreoretinal diseases
Henry A. Ferreyra, MD
Associate Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology

Medical School
University of California, San Diego

Residency
University of California, San Diego

Fellowship
University of California, San Diego

Special Interests
Electrophysiology Inherited disorders of the retina; Age-related macular degeneration; Diabetic retinopathy; Retinopathy of prematurity

Notables & Awards
2017 Outstanding Teacher Award (Resident Award), 2017 America’s Top Doctors/Castle Connolly Top Doctors

Eric Nudleman, MD, PhD
Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology

Medical School
Albert Einstein College of Medicine (MD) Stanford University (PhD)

Residency
Washington University in St. Louis

Fellowship
Associated Retinal Consultants / William Beaumont Hospital

Special Interests
Adult and pediatric vitreoretinal diseases, including macular degeneration, diabetic eye disease, retinal vein occlusions, retinal detachments, proliferative vitreoretinopathy, macular holes and epiretinal membranes; Specialty interest in pediatric vitreoretinal diseases, including the surgical management of advanced retinopathy of prematurity, familial exudative vitreoretinopathy, Coats disease, persistent fetal vascular syndrome, and intraocular trauma; Scientific focus on developmental angiogenesis, with emphasis on the role of the Wnt Signaling pathway in developmental vascular diseases

THYROID EYE CLINIC

Thyroid Eye Disease is a complex autoimmune disease that affects not only vision but also causes pain and deformity. Drs. Granet, Kikkawa, and Korn have helped hundreds of patients with this disfiguring disorder and have published extensively on its characteristics and treatment.

Don O. Kikkawa, MD
David B. Granet, MD
Bobby S. Korn, MD, PhD
Orbits. Eyelids. Face. Lacrimal system. These are the domains of oculofacial plastic surgery. Birth defects, cancer, trauma and the aging process can all alter the periorbital region. These surgeons rebuild, reconstruct, renew and make whole again. The UCSD Division of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery is an internationally recognized leader in patient care, teaching and research. Dr. Kikkawa and Dr. Korn have pioneered innovative operations and techniques that have become the standard.
Preventing and treating vision loss/ocular problems in children is the highest priority at the Ratner Children’s Eye Center. Dr. David Granet and Dr. Shira Robbins are world-renowned specialists in helping children with eye misalignments (strabismus), nystagmus, congenital diseases like pediatric cataracts and glaucoma, acquired problems from blocked tear ducts to “lazy eye” (amblyopia) as well as trauma. From premature babies to teenagers our team ensures that each child seen at the family oriented Ratner Children’s Eye Center is given the attention and personal medical care they deserve in a child-friendly atmosphere.

Adults with strabismus suffer from an old childhood problem, trauma or a disease causing eye misalignment and require individualized intervention. Recognized worldwide for their teaching & developments in this field, the specialized surgeons at the Ratner Eye Center can help virtually everyone—regardless of age—suffering from various ocular misalignments and their consequences.
GENETICS

Genetics is the study of genes, genetic variation, and heredity in living organisms. It is generally considered a field of biology, but intersects frequently with many other life sciences and is strongly linked with the study of information systems.

Kang Zhang, MD, PhD
Professor of Ophthalmology
Founding Director, UCSD Institute for Genomic Medicine
Co-Director, Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering, Institute for Engineering in Medicine

Medical School
Harvard Medical School / Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MD / PhD Program)

Residency
The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine / Wilmer Eye Institute

Postdoctoral Fellowship
University of Utah School of Medicine

Special Interests
Age related macular degeneration; Diabetic retinopathy; Inherited retinal degeneration

Peter Shaw, PhD
Assistant Adjunct Professor of Ophthalmology
Clinical and Translational Research Institute
School of Medicine Recruitment and Admission Committee

Graduate School
McMaster University, Ontario, Canada

Postdoctoral Fellowship
University of California, San Francisco

Special Interests
Evaluation and diagnosis of eye diseases including macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma and inherited retinal degenerations by genetic variants and plasma biomarkers; Investigation of how genetic and oxidative stress risk factors impact on disease pathology; Development of molecular and gene therapy methods to treat eye diseases
REGENERATIVE OPHTHALMOLOGY

Retinal degeneration (RD) disease, such as age-related macular degeneration (AMD), retinitis pigmentosa (RP), Leber’s congenital amaurosis (LCA) and glaucoma are blinding disorders, that unfortunately, are untreatable once photoreceptors or retinal ganglion cells are lost. Pluripotent stem cells (PSCs) are remarkable cells that can give rise to virtually every cell type in the body including cells that form the eye. Retinas derived from such stem cells offer a potential means to generate new cells and tissue for transformation, a system to address the origins of disease and a platform to screen for drugs that could block the disease process.

Researchers at the Shiley Eye Institute are using stem cell derived human 3D ‘mini-retinas’, genetic engineering and drug screening to better understand how the human retina forms and to understand the complex biology of human retinal disease and explore potential cures. Combining the power of stem cells and genetic engineering we are developing so-called ‘disease-in-a-dish’ models to explore totally new ways to treat retinal disease.

Karl Wahlin, PhD

Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
Director, Richard C. Atkinson Laboratory for Regenerative Ophthalmology

Graduate School
The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine (Neuroscience)

Fellowship
The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine / Wilmer Eye Institute

Special Interests
Directed differentiation of pluripotent stem cells and their application towards the study of retinal development and eye disease; Photoreceptor cell development and retinal connectivity; Retinal and optic nerve regeneration
OCULAR PATHOLOGY

Ophthalmic pathology focuses on diseases of the eye and its neighboring tissues. Precision diagnosis of diseases is provided by the ophthalmic pathology service. Diseased tissues are examined macroscopically, microscopically and on the ultrastructural level. Advanced genomic, proteomic, and cytogenetic techniques can be utilized to diagnose diseases at a molecular level. The pathologic diagnosis of the disease plays a vital role in patient care.

Jonathan H. Lin, MD, PhD, FCAP
Associate Professor
Medical School
Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons (MD & PhD)
Residency
Brigham Women’s Hospital (Anatomic Pathology)
Fellowship
University of California, San Francisco (Ophthalmic Pathology)
Special Interests
Ophthalmic Pathology including pigmented ocular lesions (uveal melanoma, primary acquired melanosis), basal cell carcinoma, sebaceous gland lesions, inflammatory lesions (sclerosing orbital inflammatory pseudotumor, IgG4 disease), MALToma, corneas (PKPs, DSAEKs), conjunctival biopsies (conjunctival intraepithelial neoplasia - CIN), orbital lesions, intraocular fine needle aspirates/vitrectomy specimens; Cellular and molecular mechanisms of retinal degeneration; RPE and ocular stem cells

Napoleone Ferrara, MD
Distinguished Professor of Ophthalmology and Pathology
Senior Deputy Director for Basic Sciences, UCSD Moores Cancer Center
Medical School & Residency
University of Catania Medical School, Catania, Italy
Fellowship
University of California, San Francisco
Special Interests
Regulation of angiogenesis (the formation of new blood vessels) and the role of VEGF (vascular endothelial growth factor); Continue to develop new therapies to treat age related macular degeneration building upon past development of Avastin® and Lucentis®.
COMPREHENSIVE OPHTHALMOLOGY

Shiley's comprehensive ophthalmology division provides primary eye care for all conditions of the eye and surrounding structures, both routine and urgent. This specialty offers routine ophthalmic evaluations which screen and treat a wide range of ophthalmic conditions including cataracts, ocular surface disorders, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy and macular degeneration. Diagnostic services include evaluation of visual acuity, refraction, slit lamp evaluation, ophthalmoscopy, tonometry, gonioscopy and visual field testing.

Typical treatments include prescription medications and/or optical correction, however, occasional surgical intervention for cataracts and laser treatments are offered as part of comprehensive ophthalmology. The comprehensive ophthalmology division refers patients to the Department’s subspecialty ophthalmologists for evaluations regarding eye surgery and/or long-term treatment. The comprehensive service handles most of the general ocular problems and those patients desiring screenings for cataracts, glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy.
Shiley Eye Institute optometrists are eye care professionals who perform comprehensive eye exams and are experts at fitting all types of contact lenses and glasses. Visual impairment from inherited diseases to diabetic retinopathy and macular degeneration can result in profound vision loss. Using the latest technological advancements in optical aids, optometrists provide much needed care for our low vision patients. Working hand in hand with Shiley ophthalmologists, the optometry service strives to deliver the best possible care to each patient.
EDUCATION

OPHTHALMOLOGY DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR LECTURE SERIES
AND GRAND ROUNDS

Monthly, the UC San Diego Department of Ophthalmology offers the Distinguished Professor Lecture Series with a world-renowned invited visiting professor. Prominent specialists and international leaders update our residents, fellows and faculty as well as ophthalmologists and optometrists from around San Diego County. Continuing medical education (CME) credits are offered to attendees along with a reception immediately following the lectures.

The community is also invited to the departmental weekly Grand Rounds every Monday afternoon. The Grand Rounds consist of case presentations with moderated discussion. Interesting eye diseases, treatment dilemmas and surgical challenges are often the theme. These are offered in the Shiley Eye Institute Education Center.

2016 – 2017 VISITING PROFESSORS:

October 24, 2016
NARESH MANDAVA, MD
Professor & Chair, Department of Ophthalmology
University of Colorado
Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute
TITLE: “Translational Research in Ophthalmology”

January 9, 2017
EDWARD BUCKLEY, MD
Chair of Department of Ophthalmology
Vice Dean for Medical Education
Duke University
TITLE: “I Wish I Hadn’t Done That: Lessons Learned the Hard Way”

December 21, 2016
MICHAEL F. CHIANG, MD
Knowles Professor of Ophthalmology
Medical Informatics & Clinical Epidemiology
Casey Eye Institute
Oregon Health & Science University
TITLE: “Applications of Informatics and Big Data to Ophthalmology: Promises, Challenges and Solutions”

March 6, 2017
RICHARD K. PARRISH, II, MD
Professor and Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education
Director, Glaucoma Service
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute
University of Miami
TITLE: “When It Looks Like Science, But It’s Not”
VISION RESEARCH LECTURES

The Vision Research Lecture series addresses the latest advance in vision science and clinical ophthalmology. Each presentation features UC San Diego Department of Ophthalmology’s faculty, as well as a selection of leading vision scientists from around the globe. These lectures are held in the Shiley Eye Institute Education Center.

01/05/17 JIA YIN, MD, PHD
Corneal Fellow
Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary
TITLE: “Neuro-modulation of Angiogenesis in Corneal Inflammation”

01/12/17 KATHERINE A. HIGH, MD
President and Chief Scientific Officer
Spark Therapeutics
TITLE: “Overview of Clinical Development of Voretigene Neparvovec, an AAV Vector for Inherited Retinal Dystrophy due to Mutations in RPE65”

01/13/2017 LOUIS PASQUALE, MD
Professor of Ophthalmology
Harvard Medical School
Director, Glaucoma Service
Director, Ophthalmology Telemedicine
Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary
TITLE: “Using Epidemiology, Genomics and Lab Science to Dissect the Etiology of Primary Open Angle Glaucoma”

01/30/2017 DAVID HUANG, MD, PHD
Peterson Professor of Ophthalmology
Professor of Biomedical Engineering
Oregon Health & Science University
TITLE: “Optical Coherence Tomographic Angiography”

02/15/17 JASON S. MEYER, PHD
Associate Professor of Biology
Indiana-Purdue University, Indianapolis
TITLE: “Modeling Retinal Development and Optic Neuropathies with Human Pluripotent Stem Cells”

02/17/17 GRACE L. SHEN, PHD
Group Leader and Director, Retinal Diseases Program
Division of Extramural Science Programs, Vision Research Program
National Eye Institute, National Institutes of Health
TITLE: “Vision Research and NEI Grant Funding”

03/27/2017 PEARSE A. KEANE, MD
NIHR Clinical Scientist and Honorary Consultant Ophthalmologist
NIHR Biomedical Research Centre
Moorfields Eye Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust
University College London, Institute of Ophthalmology
TITLE: “Reinventing the Eye Examination in the Era of Big Data and Artificial Intelligence”

04/14/17 DONALD E. INGBER
Founding Director, Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering at Harvard University
and Judah Folkman Professor of Vascular Biology, Harvard Medical School & Boston Children’s Hospital
Professor of Bioengineering, Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering & Applied Sciences
TITLE: “Catalyzing the Next Technology Wave: Biologically Inspired Engineering at the Wyss Institute”

07/14/17 RYO ASAOKA, MD
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
University of Tokyo
TITLE: “Accurate Assessment of Progression of Glaucoma and How We Could Approach the Prevention of Blindness”

07/20/17 RAJESH GUPTA MD
Professor of Computer Science and Engineering and Jeffrey Elman, MD
Former Dean of Social Sciences
Founding Co-Directors of the new UCSD Data Science Institute
UC San Diego
TITLE: “The New UCSD Data Science Institute”
GRADUATION HIGHLIGHTS
On June 15, 2017 the Department of Ophthalmology graduated outstanding residents and fellows with a ceremony and dinner. Graduating residents were Kyle J. Godfrey, MD, (Chief Resident), Nickisa M. Hodgson, MD, Brenda E. Nuyen, MD and Courtney L. Ondeck, MD. Graduating fellows included: Andrew S. Camp, MD and Benjamin Y. Xu, PhD in glaucoma; Craig See, MD and Harish Raja, MD in cornea; Audrey Ko, MD in ocularplastics; Hema L. Ramkumar, MD and Joseph Ho, MD in retina and Megha Pansara, MD in pediatrics.

The fourth annual “Lamont Ericson, MD Award for Outstanding Patient Care by a Resident” was presented by Jeff Lee, MD to Sally Baxter, MD. Dr. Ericson was an outstanding former resident in the Department who passed away in 2007 at a young age.

ARVO WRAP-UP
After the May 7-11, 2017 Annual Meeting of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) in Baltimore, Maryland, the Department of Ophthalmology held an ARVO Wrap Up in the Shiley Eye Institute Education Center. The Department of Ophthalmology and the Shiley Eye Institute presented over 67 papers and posters. The Wrap Up on June, 5, 2017 provided an opportunity for residents, fellows, faculty and medical students to hear and view the outstanding research that has been conducted in the Department during 2016-2017, as well as engaging the scientists in discussion about their projects.

INAUGURAL SHILEY EYE INSTITUTE GLAUCOMA FELLOWS MEETING
On March 4, 2017, the Inaugural Shiley Eye Institute Glaucoma Fellows Meeting, organized by Arthur J. Sit, MD (Mayo Clinic) and Kaweh Mansouri, MD (Lausanne, Switzerland), took place during the American Glaucoma Society Conference in San Diego.

It was a very special evening reviewing the many accomplishments of the UC San Diego Glaucoma Fellows, visiting with colleagues and making new friends with the current Fellows. The group plans to convene together again at scientific meetings around the world, such as ARVO or the World Glaucoma Congress.

OPHTHALMOLOGY UPDATE
The 2017 Ophthalmology Update was held February 18-19, 2017 at the Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines. The event was a great success with over 300 attendees. Don O. Kikkawa, MD and Robert N. Weinreb, MD served as Program Chairs. The interdisciplinary faculty of ophthalmic subspecialties gave presentations on the latest surgical techniques, innovative ideas and research in ophthalmology.

WORLD GLAUCOMA CONGRESS
The World Glaucoma Congress took place from June 28 – July 1, 2017 in Helsinki, Finland. Many fellows from around the globe mentored by Robert N. Weinreb, MD and Linda Zangwill, PhD were in attendance and presented to the gathering.
The UC San Diego ophthalmology residency training program is a three-year program with a total of 12 resident physicians (four per year of training).

Our highly selective residency program receives over 400 applications per year from throughout the country to fill four positions. The program is known for its outstanding clinical and surgical training, as well as the value placed on scholarly activity and compassionate patient care. Our residents are among the brightest and most motivated, and continue to be high achievers during and after their training.

As a result, graduating residents are regularly chosen for competitive post-residency Fellowship training in various subspecialties of Ophthalmology, such as Cornea, Glaucoma, Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and Retina at the Shiley Eye Institute. During their training residents learn, under the supervision of the renowned Shiley faculty, to care for patients from all walks of life and with every type of eye problem, from common to very rare eye conditions.

In addition, with departmental support, residents partake in the many cutting-edge research opportunities available in the UC San Diego Department of Ophthalmology and present their work at pre-eminent national meetings such as the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology. The UC San Diego Ophthalmology Residency Training Program was recently recognized by the national accrediting body, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, with a commendation on the excellence of the Residency Program and its faculty.
SHILEY EYE INSTITUTE offers world-class fellowships in cornea, glaucoma, ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery, pediatric ophthalmology, and retina. Fellows are exposed to intense training in both the clinical and research settings. Many go on to prominent academic positions around the world as well as practicing as outstanding clinicians in the global ophthalmic community.

Not Pictured:
Xin Li
Sha Wang

Patricia Manalastas, MD
Elham Ghahari, MD
Mojtaba Golzan, PhD
Nara Gravina Ogata, MD
Rafaella Cleto Penteado, MD
Tadamichi Akagi, MD, PhD
Andres Camp, MD
Mark Christopher, PhD
Fabio Daga, MD
Elham Ghahari, MD
Mojtaba Golzan, PhD
Huiyuan Hou, MD, PhD
Patricia Manalastas, MD
Sasan Moghimi, MD
Masaki Nakanishi, PhD
Nara Gravina Ogata, MD
Rafaella Cleto Penteado, MD
Luke Saunders, PhD
Takuhei Shoji, MD
Myoungh Sup Sim, PhD
Zhichao Wu, PhD
Benjamin Xu, MD, PhD
Adeleh Yarmohammadi, MD
Chunwei Zhang, MD
As such, the book aims to bridge clinicians, eye researchers, and science professionals with present human space program developments. This work also compares current astronaut health problems with Earth-based health conditions such as elevated ICP and other ocular problems in astronauts after their missions in the International Space Station.

John HK Liu, PhD and his collaborators published Intracranial Pressure and its Effect on Vision in Space and on Earth: Vision Impairment in Space detailing our understanding of refraction change and other ocular problems in astronauts after their missions in the International Space Station.


GENERAL


GLAUCOMA


Shi MS, Kim KY, Ju WK. Role of Cyclic AMP in the Eye with Glaucoma. *BMB Rep.* 50:60-70. [PMCID: PMC27916026]


Volume 123, Issue 12, 2016, Pages 2509-2518, ISSN 0161-6420.


OCULOPLASTICS


PATHOLOGY


PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY


Children Aged 5 to 12 Years with Amblyopia A Randomized Clinical Trial. JAMA Ophthalmol. 2016 Dec 1;134(12):1391-1400.


REGENERATIVE OPHTHALMOLOGY


RETINA


Gaber R, Nudleman EN, Freeman WR. PhD Thesis: Retinopathy of Prematurity, Tanta University School of Medicine, Tanta, Egypt 2017.


Ferrara N. Commentary on “Humanization of an Anti-VEGF Monoclonal Antibody for the Therapy of Solid Tumors and Other Disorders”. *Cancer Res.* 2016 Sep 1;76(17):4913-5.


Vannousfaderani ES, Belghith A, Yousefi S,..., Goldbaum MH. Diabetic Retinopathy Detection from Image to Classification Using Deep Convolutional Neural Network. 2016; abstract 5961, Seattle


KA, Trese MT. Correspondence. Retina. 2017 May;37(5):e52-e54.


CLINICAL TRIALS

CORNEA
SHP640-301: A Phase 3, Multi-center, Randomized, Double-Masked Study to Evaluate the Clinical Efficacy and Safety of SHP640 (PVP-Iodine 0.6% and Dexamethasone 0.1%) Ophthalmic Suspension Compared to Placebo in the Treatment of Adenoviral Conjunctivitis.
PI: Weldon W. Haw, MD
Shire Human Genetic Therapies, Inc.

SHP640-303: A Phase 3, Multi-center, Randomized, Double-Masked Study to Evaluate the Clinical Efficacy and Safety of SHP640 (PVP-Iodine 0.6% and Dexamethasone 0.1%) Ophthalmic Suspension Compared to Placebo in the Treatment of Bacterial Conjunctivitis.
PI: Weldon W. Haw, MD
Shire Human Genetic Therapies, Inc.

Evaluation of Efficacy of 20 μg/ml rhNGF New Formulation (With Anti-Oxidant) in Patients With Stage 2 and 3 Neurotrophic Keratitis.
PI: Natalie A. Afshari, MD
Dompé Farmaceutici, Spa.
2016 - Present

Randomized Double-Blind Phase II Study of Radioactive Iodine (RAI) in Combination with Placebo or Selumetinib for the Treatment of RAI-Avid Recurrent/Metastatic Thyroid Cancers.
Sub-I: Natalie A. Afshari, MD

GENETICS
Evaluating Genotypes Using Intravitreal Aflibercept Injection.
PI: Kang Zhang, MD, PhD
Regeneron

GLAUCOMA
A0081096 Prospective Randomized 12 233k Controlled Study of Visual Field Change in Subjects with Partial seizures Receiving Pregabalin or Placebo.
PI: Christopher J. Bowd, PhD
Pfizer Inc.

The Efficacy and Safety of Bimatoprost SR in Patients With Open-angle Glaucoma or Ocular Hypertension.
PI: Andrew S. Camp MD
Allergan

Myopic and Glaucomatous Optic Neuropathy Changes Using Swept Source OCT.
PI: Linda Zangwill, PhD
Topcon Inc.

Evaluation of the Repeatability and Reproducibility of AngioVue.
PI: Robert N. Weinreb, MD
Neurovision

PEDIATRICS
An Observational, Multi-center Study of the Prevalence of Cerebrotendinous Xanthomatosis (CTX) in Patient Populations Diagnosed with Early Onset Idiopathic Bilateral Cataracts.
PI: Shira L. Robbins, MD

RETI NA
Suprachoroidal Injection of Triamcinolone Acetonide With IVT Aflibercept in Subjects With Macular Edema Following RVO (SAPPHIRE).
PI: Daniel L. Chao, MD, PhD

Testing and Evaluation of a Retinal Prosthesis.
PI: Dirk Bartsch, PhD
Nanovision, BioSciences, Inc.

Safety and Pharmacokinetics Following Intravitreal Injection of Daunorubicin Loaded Porous Silicon Particles.
PI: Eric Nudleman, MD, PhD

A Two-Year, Randomized, Double-Masked, Multicenter, Three-Arm Study Comparing the Efficacy and Safety of RTH258 versus Aflibercept in Subjects with Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration.
PI: William R. Freeman, MD
Novartis

Safety and Efficacy of Brimonidine Posterior Segment Drug Delivery System in Patients with Progression in Glaucoma.
PI: Robert N. Weinreb, MD
Genentech

STARFISH Genotyping.
PI: Robert N. Weinreb, MD
Genentech

iVue ETM Study.
PI: Robert N. Weinreb, MD
Optovue
Geographic Atrophy Secondary to Age-related Macular Degeneration.
PI: William R. Freeman, MD
Allergan, Inc.

A Phase II, Multi-Center, Randomized, Active Treatment-Controlled Study of the Efficacy and Safety of the Ranibizumab Port Delivery System for Sustained Delivery of Ranibizumab in Patients with Subfoveal Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration.
PI: William R. Freeman, MD
Genentech

A Phase 3, Double-Masked, Randomized Study of the Efficacy and Safety of Intravitreal Aflibercept Injection in Patients with Moderately Severe to Severe Nonproliferative Diabetic Retinopathy.
PI: William R. Freeman, MD
Regeneron

Evaluation of Safety and Systemic Pharmacokinetics after Single and Repeat Doses of Abicipar Pegol (AGN-150998) Intravitreal Injections in Patients with Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration.
PI: William R. Freeman, MD
Allergan

A Randomized, Masked, Controlled Trial to Study the Safety and Efficacy of Suprachoroidal CLS-TA in Conjunction with Intravitreal Aflibercept in Subjects with Central Retinal Vein Occlusion.
PI: Daniel L. Chao, MD, PhD
Clearside Medical

A Phase III, Multicenter, Randomized, Double-Masked, Sham-Controlled Study to Assess the Efficacy and Safety of Lampalizumab Administered Intravitreally to Patients with Geographic Atrophy Secondary to Age-Related Macular Degeneration.
PI: Henry Ferreyra, MD
Genentech

NEW TECHNOLOGY TO HELP WITH RETINAL DISEASE

The retina is the light-sensitive membrane of tissue which is composed of layers including one that contains rods and cones that lines the back of the eye and sends visual messages through the optic nerve to the brain.

This innovative research, published in the Journal of Neural Engineering, is a new technology consisting of silicon nanowires that sense light thus sending an electrical signal to stimulate the retina. It is also a wireless device that transmits power and data to the nanowires over a wireless link. The prosthesis is surgically implanted in the animal model below the retina. These nanowires are replacing the eye’s photoreceptor cells that are destroyed in retinal diseases such as macular degeneration, retinitis pigmentosa and diabetic retinopathy. There is no cure for these diseases, and millions of people around the world could potentially benefit from this device in the future.

Animal studies with rats have progressed enough so that clinical testing on humans potentially could be started in about 18 months.
GRANTS

NATALIE A. AFSHARI, MD
Integrative Genetic Analyses in Fuchs Endothelial Corneal Dystrophy
Pt: Natalie A. Afshari, MD
NIH, March 2013 – February 2017

A Genome Wide Association Study of Fuchs Endothelial Corneal Dystrophy
Pt: Natalie A. Afshari, MD
Center for Inherited Disease Research (CIDR), NIH X01 HG006619

RADHA AYYAGARI, PHD
Genetics of Hereditary Retinal Degenerations
Pt: Radha Ayyagari, PhD
The Foundation Fighting Blindness, July 2011 - July 2017

Insights into AMD Derived from the Genetic Mechanisms in Late Onset Retinal Macular Degeneration (L-ORMD)
Pt: Radha Ayyagari, PhD
Thome Memorial Foundation, December 2014 - December 2017

Molecular Pathology Underlying Retinal Degeneration due to the Involvement of CTRP5/C1QTNF5 and MFRP Genes
Pt: Radha Ayyagari, PhD
The Foundation Fighting Blindness, June 2015 - June 2018

Molecular Basis of Hereditary Retinal Degenerations
Pt: Radha Ayyagari, PhD
NIH/NEI, June 2016 - May 2021

DIRK-UWE G. BARTSCH, PHD
Mechanistic-Based Non-Invasive Assessment of Retinal Damage in HAART Era
Pt: Dirk-Uwe G. Bartsch, PhD
NIH, June 2006 - August 2021

Animal Structure and Function
Pt: Dirk-Uwe G. Bartsch, PhD
NIH, July 2012 - June 2018

Test Intravitreal Injection Drug Devices
Pt: Dirk-Uwe G. Bartsch, PhD
Nano vision Biosciences, Inc., March 2014 - May 2018

CHRISTOPHER BOWD, PHD
Predicting and Detecting Glaucomatous Progression Using Pattern Recognition
Pt: Christopher Bowd, PhD
NIH, February 2012 - July 2016

Machine Learning Methods for Detecting Disease-Related Functional and Structural Change in Glaucoma
Pt: Christopher Bowd, PhD
NIH, July 2017 - June 2019

DANIEL L. CHAO, MD, PHD
A Zebrafish Model of Wet Macular Degeneration
Pt: Daniel L. Chao, MD, PhD
Bright Focus Foundation, July 2017 - July 2019

MICHAEL H. GOLDBAUM, MD
Evaluating Phenotypes using Intravitreal Aflibercept Injection
Pt: Michael H. Goldbaum, MD
Regeneron, 2014-2018

DAVID B. GRANET, MD
An Observational, Multi-center Study of the Prevalence of Cerebrotendinous Xanthomatosis (CTX) in Patient Populations Diagnosed with Early Onset Idiopathic Bilateral Cataracts
Pt: Shira L. Robbins, MD
Retrophin, Inc., 2016 - Present

WON-KYU JU, PHD
Mitochondrial Dysfunction in Glaucomatous Optic Neuropathy
Pt: Won-Kyu Ju, PhD
NIH, September 2009 – August 2018

JONATHAN H. LIN, MD, PHD
Protein Homeostasis and Proteotoxicity Mechanisms
Pt: Jonathan H. Lin, MD, PhD
NIH/NINDS, February 2015 - January 2020

Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms of Age-Related Retinal Degeneration
Pt: Jonathan H. Lin, MD, PhD
VA/BLR&D, April 2014 - March 2018

Endoplasmic Reticulum Stress in Neurodegeneration
Pt: Jonathan H. Lin, MD, PhD
VA/RR&D. February 2017 - January 2021

The Jackson Laboratory Center for Precision Genetics: New Models to Novel Therapeutics
Pt: Burgess, Nishina
Subcontract: Jonathan H. Lin, MD, PhD
NIH/OD, August 2015 - June 2020

UCSD Alzheimer Disease Research Center Pilot Project 3
Pt: Galasko
Pilot Project: Jonathan H. Lin, MD, PhD
NIH/AG, September 2016 - August 2017
Amydis Diagnostics Ocular Tissue Project
PI: Jonathan H. Lin, MD, PhD
Amydis Diagnostics, Inc, September 2016 - August 2017

ERIC D. NUDLEMAN, MD, PHD
Testing Intravitreal Injection Drug Particles
PI: Eric D. Nudleman, MD, PhD
Biospinnaker Sciences, Inc., April 2017 - June 2018

SHIRA ROBBINS, MD
Amblyopia Treatment Study: Study of Binocular Computer Activities for Treatment of Amblyopia (ATS18)
PI: Shira Robbins, MD
PEDIG JAEB Center for Health Research, October 2014 - December 2018

Omega-3 Fatty Acids as a Therapy for the Prevention of Retinopathy of Prematurity
PI: Shira Robbins, MD
Hartwell Foundation, April 2015 - March 2018

PETER SHAW, PHD
HTRA1 as a Therapeutic Target in the Treatment of Wet AMD
PI: Peter Shaw, PhD
NIH/NEI, August 2015 – August 2020

DOROTA SKOWRONSKA-KRAWCZYK, PHD
Molecular Mechanism of Glaucoma
PI: Dorota Skowronska-Krawczyk, PhD
NIH, March 2017-February 2022

ROBERT N. WEINREB, MD
Adages III: Contribution of Genotype to Glaucoma Phenotype in African Americans
PI: Robert N. Weinreb, MD
NIH, September 2013 – August 2018

Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences Career Development K12 Program
PI: Robert N. Weinreb, MD
NIH, April 2015 – March 2020

Ocular Hypertension Treatment Study 20-Year Follow-Up: Clinic Center
PI: Robert N. Weinreb, MD
NIH, April 2015 – March 2018

Unrestricted and Challenge Grant - Research to Prevent Blindness
PI: Robert N. Weinreb, MD

KARL J. WAHLIN, PHD
Modeling Photoreceptor Development and Disease Using Human Pluripotent Stem Cells
PI: Karl J. Wahlin, PhD
NIH, August 2016 - July 2019

Microenvironment Based Optimization of Retinal Induction Using CRISPR-CAS9 Reporter Pluripotent Stem Cells as an Expandable Source of Retinal Progenitors and Photoreceptors
PI: Karl J. Wahlin, PhD
CIRM, October 2016 - September 2019

DEREK WELSBIE, MD, PHD
High-Content High-Throughput Functional Genomics in Rodent Retinal Ganglion Cells PI: Derek Welsbie, MD, PhD
Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB) Career Development Award, July 2013 - June 2017

Dual Leucine Zipper Kinase (DLK) as a Mediator of Retinal Ganglion Cell Injury Co-I: Derek Welsbie, MD, PhD
NEI/NIH, July 2013 - June 2017

Developing Dual Leucine Zipper Kinase Inhibitors for Glaucoma
PI: Derek Welsbie, MD, PhD
Brightfocus Foundation Glaucoma Research Award, July 2014 - June 2016

Targeting Dual Leucine Zipper Kinase as a Therapeutic Strategy for Traumatic Optic Neuropathy and Brain Injury
PI: Derek Welsbie, MD, PhD
Dept. of Defense Vision Research Program Translational Research Award, July 2014 - June 2017

Glaucoma Neuroprotection: Rho-associated Kinase 2 (ROCK2) as an Upstream Activator of Dual-leucine Zipper Kinase (DLK) in Response to Axonal Injury
PI: Derek Welsbie, MD, PhD
Ziegler Foundation Career Development Award, November 2014 - October 2017

Novel AAV/CRISPR Therapeutic for DLK Inhibition PI: Derek Welsbie, MD, PhD
Brightfocus Foundation Glaucoma Research Award, July 2017 - June 2018

High-Throughput Screening in a Mouse Model of Leber Hereditary Optic Neuropathy
PI: Derek Welsbie, MD, PhD
NIH/NEI Loan Repayment Plan (LRP), July 2014 - June 2016

LINDA ZANGWILL, PHD
Diagnostic Innovations in Glaucoma Study (DIGS): High Myopia and Advanced Diseases
PI: Linda Zangwill, PhD
NIH, March 2017 – February 2022

African Descent and Glaucoma Evaluation (ADAGES) IV: Alterations of the Lamina Cribrosa in Progression
PI: Linda Zangwill, PhD
NIH, April 2017 – March 2021

P30-Center Core Grant for Vision Research
PI: Linda Zangwill, PhD
NIH, July 2012 – June 2018

Translational Vision Research Training at UCSD
PI: Linda Zangwill, PhD
NIH, April 2016 – March 2018
The Role of Microvasculature in the Pathophysiology of Glaucoma
Pl: Linda Zangwill, PhD
BrightFocus Foundation. July 2017-June 2019

Ocular Hypertension Treatment Study 20-Year Follow-Up: Resource Center for the UCSD Optical Coherence Tomography Reading Center
Pl: Linda Zangwill, PhD
NIH, April 2015 – March 2018

Optical Coherence Tomography in the Ocular Hypertension Treatment Study (Zeiss)
Pl: Linda Zangwill, PhD
2015-2018

Dietary Interventions to Improve Vision
Pl: Linda Zangwill, PhD
UC San Diego Krupp Endowment Fund (KEF) Research Awards, November 2016 – October 2018

KANG ZHANG, MD, PHD
Limbal Stem Cell Fate and Corneal Specific Enhancers
Pl: Kang Zhang, MD, PhD
NIH/NEI, April 2015 – March 2020

Non-Coding Variants Predisposing to Age-Related Macular Degeneration
Pl: Kang Zhang, MD, PhD
NIH/NEI, August 2015 – June 2018

Molecular Mechanism and Therapy for Ocular Melanoma
Pl: Kang Zhang, MD, PhD
NIH/National Cancer Institute, March 2017 – February 2022

HITI-Mediated Gene Editing for RYR1 Myopathy
Pl: Kang Zhang, MD,
May 2017-May 2019
RYR-1 Foundation

THREE SHILEY FACULTY AWARDED FOUNDATION GRANTS

The BrightFocus Foundation from Maryland awarded Derek Welsbie, MD, PhD “The Dr. Douglas H. Johnson Award for Glaucoma Research” for his paper on “Novel AAV/CRISPR therapeutic for DLK inhibition”.

Linda Zangwill, PhD and Daniel Chao, MD, PhD also received research grants from BrightFocus: Dr. Chao for his proposal entitled “A zebrafish model of macular degeneration” and Dr. Zangwill for “The role of microvasculature in the pathophysiology of glaucoma.”

Congratulations!
LECTURES

NATALIE A. AFSHARI, MD
August 2016, Invited Speaker, National Medical Association – Ophthalmology Section, Los Angeles, CA “Challenging Cases in Cornea and Cataract Surgery”

September 2016, Invited Speaker, Kaiser Permanente 33rd Annual Ophthalmology Symposium, Anaheim, CA “ROCK Inhibitors and Cornea”

October 2016, International Cornea Course Anterior Segment Reconstruction 2016, Asociación para Evitar la Ceguera en México, Mexico City, Mexico “Indications and Techniques for Corneal and Corneoscleral Patch”

February 2017, Ophthalmology Update 2017, La Jolla, CA “Vitrectomy for the Anterior Segment Surgeon”

February 2017, Ophthalmology Update 2017, La Jolla, CA “Grand Rounds of Challenging Cataract Cases and Lens Surgery”

February 2017, Ophthalmology Update 2017, La Jolla, CA “All About Amniotic Membrane”

April 2017, Lorand V Johnson Lecture, Cleveland Ophthalmological Society Meeting, Cleveland, OH “Corneal Transplants, Flaps, Lasers, Bubbles: Recent Advances in Cornea and Refractive Surgery”

April 2017, Invited Lecture, Cleveland Ophthalmological Society Meeting, Cleveland, OH “All About Amniotic Membrane”

April 2017, Grand Rounds Invited Lecture, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH “Clinical Challenges in Cornea: When the Patient Hasn’t Read the Textbook”

May 2017, Invited Lecture, 13th Annual Harvard Medical School Intensive Cataract Surgery Training Course, Harvard University, Boston, MA “Practical IOL Calculations”

June 2017, Invited Speaker, The Pacific Coast Oto-Ophthalmological Society 101st Meeting, Waimea, HI “All About Amniotic Membranes”

June 2017, Invited Speaker, The Pacific Coast Oto-Ophthalmological Society 101st Meeting, Waimea, HI “ROCK Inhibitors, Stem Cells and Beyond”

June 2017, 20th Annual US Navy Refractive Surgery Course, Navy Medical Center, San Diego, CA “Epithelial Ingrowth”

RADHA AYYAGARI, PHD
July 2017, National Eye Institute, NIH, Bethesda, MD “Finding Elusive IRD Causing Mutations by Whole Genome Sequencing”

CHRISTOPHER BOWD, PHD
22nd International Visual Field and Imaging Symposium, Udine, Italy “Structural Change can be Detected in Advanced Glaucoma”

Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology 2017 Imaging in the Eye Conference, Baltimore, MD “Feature Transfer in Deep Learning Models to Detect Glaucomatous Optic Disc Changes”

DANIEL L. CHAO, MD, PHD
2017 Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan “Clinical Approaches to Restoration of Vision in the Retina”

2017 Taiwan Veterans General Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan “Translational Approaches to Retinal Vascular Disease”

2017 National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan “Translational Approaches to Retinal Diseases”

NAPOLEONE FERRERA, MD
Kloster Seeon Young Investigator Meeting & 9th International Kloster Seeon Meeting, Munich, Germany, September 15-20, 2016 “Angiogenesis”

Johns Hopkins University, Wilmer Science Seminar Series, Baltimore, Maryland, October 17, 2016

Japanese Clinical Ophthalmology Meeting, Kyoto, Japan, November 3-6, 2016

Mayo Clinic Angiogenesis Symposium, Jacksonville, FL, November 17-20, 2016

Pharmacology Seminar Series, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA, 92093

San Raffaele Institute Retreat, Baveno, Italy, March 10-12, 2017

AACR Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, April 2-5, 2017


Chinese Vascular Biology Organization (CVBO) Meeting, Guangzhou, People’s Republic of China, June 24-25, 2017

MICHAEL H. GOLDBAUM, MD

Midwest Ocular Angiography Conference, Waikaa Beach, Hawaii, July 28, 2016 “Positive Scotoma from Paracentral Acute Middle Maculopathy”

Midwest Ocular Angiography Conference, Waikaa Beach, Hawaii, July 30, 2016 “Distinguishing between Chronic Central Serous Chorioretinopathy and Polypoidal Choroidal Vasculopathy”

International Society of Ocular Oncology, Syndey, Australia, March 2017 “Vogt Koyanagi Harada Syndrome and Other Immune Responses to Ocular and Cutaneous Melanomas”

Midwest Ocular Angiography Conference, Tallin, Estonia, August 2017 “Breast Carcinoma Metastatic to Optic Nerve Head”

Midwest Ocular Angiography Conference, Tallin, Estonia, August 2017 “Vogt Koyanagi Harada Syndrome and Other Immune Responses to Ocular and Cutaneous Melanomas”

DAVID B. GRANET, MD

August 2016, Orange County Medical Association, Irvine, CA “10 Things Pediatricians Need to Know About Pediatric Ophthalmology”


October 2016, Department Grand Rounds for Henry Ford Hospital & Medical Centers, Detroit, MI “Pearls for the Ophthalmologist”, and “Pediatric Ophthalmology for the Ophthalmologist”

October 2016, American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL “l-Phones, Electronic Devices and Eye Apps”

November 2016, San Diego County Optometric Society, San Diego, CA “Reading, Learning and Vision”, and “Adult Strabismus”

January 2017, UC San Diego, Department of Ophthalmology, La Jolla, CA “Nystagmus”

January 2017, UC San Diego, Department of Ophthalmology, La Jolla, CA “All Things Related to Pediatric Ophthalmology”

March 2017, Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology Post Graduate Convention, World Forestry Center, Portland, OR “Muscling in on Refractive Surgery and Myopia”, “Advances in Strabismus”, “Reading, Learning and Vision”, and “Geeking Out on Cases in Pediatric Ophthalmology”

March 2017, UC San Diego, Department of Ophthalmology, La Jolla, CA “Strabismus Surgery Review”

WELDON W. HAW, MD

August 2016, UC at San Diego School of Medicine & Shiley Eye Institute Cataract Surgery Wet Laboratory Workshop. San Diego


September 2016, Continuing Specialized Education (CSE) Advance Cataract Surgery Techniques Course. Jobson. Dallas, TX “Advanced Cataract Surgery Techniques- A Case Based Interactive Discussion”


Cataract Surgery- Improving Speed and Efficiency without Compromising Safety"

October 2016, UCSD Department of Ophthalmology & Shiley Eye Institute, La Jolla, CA “Corneal Dystrophies”

October 2016, UCSD Department of Ophthalmology & Shiley Eye Institute, La Jolla, CA “Inflammatory Disorders of the Anterior Segment”

November 2016, Newport Beach, CA “Update on Treatment of Pain and Inflammation following Ocular Surgery, Treatment of Endogenous Anterior Uveitis”

December 2016, Continuing Specialized Education Cataract Surgery and Wet Laboratory. Jobson. Dallas-Fort Worth, TX “Efficient Nucleus Disassembly and I/A Techniques”

December 2016, Continuing Specialized Education. Core Ophthalmic Resident Education (CORE) – Cataract Surgery and Wet Laboratory. Jobson. Dallas-Fort Worth, TX “Top 3 Surgical Pearls for Surgical Excellence-Cataract Surgery”


February 2017, Continuing Specialized Education. Cataract Surgery and Wet Laboratory. Jobson. Dallas-Fort Worth, TX

February 2017, Jobson Publishing. La Jolla, CA “Cataract & Cornea Section. Ophthalmology Update 2017: New Approaches to Medical and Surgical Therapies.”


February 2017 Jobson Publishing. La Jolla, CA “Update on Ocular Surface Diseases: Dry Eye Disease. Ophthalmology Update 2017: New Approaches to Medical and Surgical Therapies”


March 2017, University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine. Los Angeles, CA “Optimizing Outcomes of Cataract Surgery: Management and Prevention of Inflammation & Pain Following Intraocular Surgery”

March 2017, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ “Modern Cataract Surgery”

March 2017, Southern California College of Optometry – Marshall B. Ketchum University, Fullerton, CA “Managing Postoperative Inflammation & Pain Following Anterior Segment Surgery”

April 2017, University of New Mexico, School of Medicine, Department of Ophthalmology, Albuquerque, NM “Optimizing Outcomes of Modern Day Cataract Surgery”

CHRISTOPHER W. HEICHEL, MD
February 2017, UCSD Shiley Eye Institute, UCSD School of Medicine, La Jolla, CA “Update in DMEK and DSEK”

February 2017, Ophthalmology Update 2017 UCSD Shiley Eye Institute, UCSD School of Medicine, La Jolla, CA “Allergic Ocular Disease”

February 2017, Ophthalmology Update 2017 UCSD Shiley Eye Institute, UCSD School of Medicine, La Jolla, CA “Capsular Tension Rings”

DON O. KIKKAWA, MD
July 2016, 33rd Annual Superficial Anatomy and Cutaneous Surgery, Marriott Del Mar, CA “Periocular Reconstruction and Blepharoplasty”

August 27, 2016, Joint Meeting of the APSOPRS and JSOPRS, Osaka, Japan “Ptosis and Entropion”

September 30, 2016, Oculofacial Conference and Celebration, University of Wisconsin, Madison “Oculoplastics and Life Lessons from Dortz”

December 2, 2016, USC Oculoplastic Surgery Course, Los Angeles, CA “Upper Blepharoplasty and Asian Blepharoplasty”

March 2017 International Symposium Ophthalmology, Dutch Society of Ophthalmology (Nederlands Oogheelkundig Gezelschap), Maastricht, Netherlands “Thyroid Orbitopathy: Have We Learned Anything in the Last Twenty Years?”

June 2017, ASOPRS International Thyroid Eye Disease Symposium, Vancouver, Canada “Surgery for Thyroid Eye Disease”
June 2, 2017, USC Roski Eye Institute 42nd Annual Symposium, Pasadena, CA “Update in Oculoplastic Surgery: Better Solutions for Old Problems”

July 2017, Dalian Medical University, Dalian, China “Soft Tissue Fillers and Neurotoxins”

BOBBY S. KORN, MD, PHD
July 29, 2016, Vision China 2016, Shenzhen, China “Optimizing DCR to a 10 Minute Procedure”

July 30, 2016, Vision China 2016, Shenzhen, China “Minimally Invasive Optic Nerve Sheath Fenestration”


September 11, 2016, San Diego County Optometric Society, San Diego, CA “Pearls and Pitfalls in Oculoplastics”

January 19, 2017 Southeastern Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons (SESPRS), Atlanta, GA “A Postoperative Day #0 Surprise”

February 18, 2017, Ophthalmology Update 2017, San Diego, CA “Fillers and Neurotoxins”

April 29, 2017, International Congress of the Brazilian Society of Oculoplastics, Belo Horizonte, Brazil “Aesthetic Surgery - How to Achieve the Best Results”


April 30, 2017, International Congress of the Brazilian Society of Oculoplastics, Belo Horizonte, Brazil “How to Restore an Almond Shaped Eyelid”


May 11, 2017, Grand Rounds, Department of Dermatology, UC San Diego “Oculoplastic Reconstructions after Mohs Surgery”


June 7, 2017, Vegas Cosmetic Surgery Meeting, Las Vegas, NV “Integrating Ptosis Repair with Aesthetic Blepharoplasty”


JEFFREY E. LEE, MD

JONATHAN H. LIN, MD, PHD
August 2016, Jackson Laboratory, Center for Precision Genetics Bar Harbor, ME “ER Stress in Neurodegeneration”

September 2016, International Society for Eye Research Tokyo, Japan “Oxidative and ER Stress in Eye Diseases”

October 2016, Osler Institute South San Francisco, CA “Eye Pathology”

November 2016, China Rare Diseases Consortium 4th Annual Conference Wuhan, China “Unfolded Protein Response Regulator, ATF6, is a Novel Achromatopsia Gene”

February 2017, Medical College of Wisconsin, Vision Sciences Distinguished Lecture Series Milwaukee, WI “ATF6 in Achromatopsia”

March 2017, Osler Institute Chicago, IL “Eye Pathology”

March 2017, American Society for Neurochemistry Little Rock, AR “ER Stress in Neurodegeneration”

April 2017, American Society for Investigative Pathology Chicago, IL “Diseases of the Endoplasmic Reticulum”

May 2017, Association for Research Vision Ophthalmology Baltimore, MD “ER Stress and Unfolded Protein Response in Ocular Health and Disease”

JOHN HK LIU, PHD
August 2016, Intraocular and Intracranial Pressure Gradient Related Diseases International Summit, Beijing, China “The Importance of Habitual 24-Hour IOP Measurement”
October 2016, Industrial Technology Research Institute International, San Jose, California “Experience in Clinical Trial of a Medical Device”


ERIC D. NUDELMAN, MD, PHD

March 2017 Osher Lecture, UC San Diego, La Jolla, CA “Emerging Therapies for Age-Related Macular Degeneration”

March 2017 Advances in Pediatric Retina (APR) Course, Duke University Eye Center, Durham, NC “Treatment of Adults with History of Pediatric Retinal Diseases”

SHIRA L. ROBBINS, MD

July 2016, UC San Diego Ophthalmology Residents “Retinopathy of Prematurity”

February 2017, Ophthalmology Residents, UC San Diego, “OKAP Review-Pediatric Ophthalmology”


February 2017, Ophthalmology Residents, UC San Diego “Didactic: Pediatric Glaucoma and Cataracts”

February 2017, Ophthalmology Residents, UC San Diego “Didactic: Phakomatoses”

November 2016, Ophthalmology Skills Session, UC San Diego Medical Students MS2 “Ophthalmology Skills Session”

April 2017, AAPOS, Nashville TN “Ligneous Conjunctivitis Related to Plasminogen Deficiency: Can We Finally Treat It?”

April 2017, Child Health and Disability Prevention Program, Pediatricians/Optometrists/Nurses/Medical Assistants, San Diego, CA “Vision Screening in Young Children”

July 2017, UC San Diego Ophthalmology Residents “Retinopathy of Prematurity”

PETER SHAW, PHD

2017 ARVO Meeting, Baltimore, MD “Oxidative Stress Impacts the AMD Pathology through Modulating Wnt Signaling Pathway”

DOROTA SKOWRONSKA-KRAWCZYK, PHD

2016 University of Geneva, Switzerland “Molecular Mechanism of Neuronal Degeneration in Glaucoma”

KARL WAHLIN, PHD

2016 Sanford Consortium Southern California Research Talk, La Jolla, CA “Gene-Editing and 3D Retinal Organoids”

ROBERT N. WEINREB, MD

2017 Bruno Boles Carenini Lecture, 1st International Congress of the Associazione Italiana Studio Glaucoma, Rome, Italy “Enhancing Angle Surgery for Glaucoma with Anterior Segment Optical Coherence Tomography”

2017 Glaucoma Update Manchester Royal Eye Hospital, Manchester, UK “Smart Glaucoma - Personalizing Glaucoma Care”

DEREK WELSBIE, MD, PHD

2016 Optometric Glaucoma Society Meeting, American Academy of Optometry “What Damages the Optic Nerve in Glaucoma,” and “Alternative Medicine in Glaucoma”

2016 West Coast Optometric Glaucoma Society Meeting “Glaucoma Pathophysiology”

LINDA ZANGWILL, PHD

2016 The 11th Chinese Glaucoma Society Congress, Changsha, China “Measuring the Rate of Structural Change in Glaucoma: A Better Way to Identify Progression”
2016 The 11th Chinese Glaucoma Society Congress, Changsha, China “OCT Angiography and Glaucoma”

2017 World Glaucoma Congress, Helsinki, Finland “Structure: How to Determine Glaucoma Progression by OCT / HRT”

2017 World Glaucoma Congress, Helsinki, Finland “The Role of Microvasculature in the Pathophysiology of Glaucoma: Evidence from OCT Angiography”

2017 World Glaucoma Congress, Helsinki, Finland “Utility of OCT for Detection of Localized Retinal Damage in Glaucoma”

2017 World Glaucoma Congress, Helsinki, Finland “AngioVue OCT Angiography in Glaucoma Research”

2017 Optical Coherence Tomography Angiography Summit, Portland, Oregon “Microvasculature Dropout in Glaucoma: Evidence from OCTA”

KANG ZHANG, MD, PHD
2016 Gene Therapy Session Speaker at the Targeting Ocular Disorders Conference, Boston, MA “Translating Genomics and Stem Cell Technology into Therapy for Major Blinding Diseases”

2016 Special Interest Symposium Speaker at the European Association for Vision and Eye Research, Nice, France “Lanosterol Reversal of Protein Aggregation in Cataract”

2016 Vision Science Seminar Speaker, University of Colorado, Denver, CO “Translating Genomics and Stem Cell Technology into Therapies for Blinding Eye Diseases”

2017 Tissue Engineering and Clinical Applications Speaker at the International Society for Stem Cell Research, Boston, MA “Lens Regeneration Using Endogenous Stem Cells with Gain of Visual Function”

2017 Clinical Advances in Stem Cell Research Speaker at the International Society for Stem Cell Research, Boston, MA “A Cell Therapy Approach to Treat Cataract”

2017 Brazilian Glaucoma Society, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil “Innovations in Ophthalmology”

2017 ARVO Conference, Baltimore, MD “Current Advances in Stem Cell Therapies and 3D Culture Systems”

2017 Chancellor’s Associates Colloquium, UC San Diego, La Jolla, CA “Aging, Age-Related Diseases, Biological Clock, and Reversal of Aging”

2017 Founders Symposium, UC San Diego, La Jolla, CA “Re-seeing the Unseen”

2017 UC Los Angeles, Westwood, CA “Translating Genomics and Stem Cell Technology into Eye Care”

EDUCATING THE FUTURE
ENTREPRENEURS AND LEADERS

Educating the future leaders in medicine requires not only the best instruction in ophthalmology but also equipping residents and fellows with the tools they need to succeed in the changing landscape of healthcare. These tools include formal leadership and business training.

This year, the Department in conjunction with the UC San Diego Rady School of Management, initiated a Leadership and Innovation Series. The lectures included topics such as “Skillful Leadership in Turbulent Environments” and “Actionable Leadership.” Shiley also hosted a session featuring possible entrepreneurial ideas for business development.

Many prominent San Diego business leaders offered their expertise in the sessions. The speakers included: Vish Krishnan, PhD, Steve Poizner, Chris Oveis, PhD, Pam Smith, PhD and Mary McKay, EdD (Rady School of Management), Ruben D. Florez-Saab, PhD (Office of Innovation and Commercialization), David Guss, MD (Professor Emeritus), Donald Kears, MD (Rady Children’s Hospital), Blair Sadler (formerly Children’s Hospital) and Neal E. Schmale (retired, Sempra Energy).
EVERY GIFT HAS AN IMPACT

For over 30 years, the philanthropic support from generous individuals, foundations and corporations has provided the Department of Ophthalmology with valuable resources for patient care, research, education and community service.

As a friend of the Department of Ophthalmology, there are several giving options for those who wish to contribute to our tradition of excellence. Every donation makes an impact on our patients, faculty, and staff, as well as the field of Ophthalmology. We cherish the partnership that we have developed with those generous members of the community and beyond who invest in us. There are also naming opportunities for gifts including: endowed chairs, laboratories, specialized ophthalmic clinics and research initiatives. We would welcome the opportunity to have a confidential conversation with you, so we clearly understand how you want your donation to be utilized.

VISIONARY CIRCLE
Members of the Visionary Circle are cumulative lifetime contributors of one million dollars or more to the Department of Ophthalmology. We appreciate their generosity.

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ANNUAL GIFTS
- CIRCLE OF SIGHT
Started in 1996, the Circle of Sight is the Shiley Eye Institute’s recognition program that acknowledges donors who make annual gifts of $250 or more to support the greatest needs of the Department. Several times a year, the Shiley Eye Institute’s Circle of Sight members are invited to attend Vision Research Lectures and receptions where members get to personally know our faculty. The members are also ambassadors for the Shiley Eye Institute within the San Diego community. The Circle of Sight group is the backbone of many of our successful initiatives.

TRIBUTE GIFTS
- ACKNOWLEDGE SOMEONE SPECIAL
Contributions can be made in memory, honor or in celebration of a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion. Gifts can be made to honor a special physician, for example, who has played a significant role in your eye health. Such a gift creates a legacy and memorializes the person by providing direct support to the Department.

PLANNED GIFTS
- YOUR VISION FOR TOMORROW
Many of our friends have found they can make a big impact with a gift in their will, a beneficiary designation on a retirement account or life insurance policy, or a gift that pays income. These are just some examples of innovative ways in helping our physician-scientists advance patient care and research in eye diseases. Some giving vehicles may even provide you with special tax advantages.

We would be pleased to provide you, your attorney, accountant or tax advisor with specific bequest language for inclusion in your will, trust or as a beneficiary of your retirement account.

ENDOWMENTS
- GIFTS IN PERPETUITY
A gift of endowment demonstrates your long-term commitment to the Department of Ophthalmology since the fund is maintained in perpetuity. Your gift can support programs, lectures, awards, fellowships and Chairs. An endowment serves as an enduring legacy since it often bears the name of a donor or loved one.

OUTRIGHT GIFTS
- IMMEDIATE IMPACT
Outright gifts of all sizes made with cash, check, credit cards, savings bonds, stocks, marketable securities or property provide immediate impact to our faculty and facility. If writing a check, please make payable to the “UC San Diego Foundation” and put the Shiley Eye Institute in the memo section. The check should be accompanied with a letter stating the focus of your donation and mailed to The Shiley Eye Institute, Mailcode 0946, 9415 Campus Point Drive, Room 241B, La Jolla, CA, 92093-0946.

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- DOUBLE OR TRIPLE YOUR GIFT
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For further information about making a donation, please contact:

KAREN ANISKO RYAN
Phone: 858-534-8017
Email: KANISKO@UCSD.EDU
The Honor Roll for the Department of Ophthalmology gratefully acknowledges donations from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. Thank you to all of the individuals, foundations and corporations listed below.

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Memorials
The Department of Ophthalmology sadly acknowledges friends and key supporters who have passed away during the past year. They remain in our thoughts.

Richard Butcher, MD
Prescott Crafts
Nicholas Frazee
George W. Houck
Albert R. Lubarsky
William S. McConnor
Etheil Shelley
Catherine (Kay) M. Stone
Judge Ross Tharp
Stephen R. Wax

This is a partial list. We have made every effort to be accurate in our listing and apologize if any mistake or omission has been made. Should you find an error or want to change your listing, please contact us at (858) 534-4981.
The gifts in this annual report are from our friends who have contributed over the past 12 months to bolster Shiley patient care, vision research, medical training and community outreach. No matter the size, each donation is equal in its importance and receives equal amount of gratitude from all of us at Shiley Eye Institute and on their behalf, Shiley patients and families.

One example of your philanthropy is a generous gift donated by Michael Luzich to honor his parents, Norman and Carol Luzich. The fund’s purpose is to honor Mr. and Mrs. Luzich, to accelerate regenerative research in glaucoma and to benefit patient care.

The donor champions a novel strategy of converting Müller glia cells in the retina into optic nerve fibers (the damaged fibers in glaucoma patients). We already know that Müller glia cells are not damaged by glaucoma. Further, in many organisms like fish and amphibians, injured Müller glia cells can turn into retinal cells similar to optic nerve cells.

The Norman and Carol Luzich Glaucoma Fund is providing four-year funding for an interdisciplinary team of 10 scientists from the Richard C. Atkinson Laboratory for Regenerative Ophthalmology in the Department of Ophthalmology (Derek Welsbie, MD, PhD and Karl Wahlin, PhD), the Shiley Eye Institute (Robert N. Weinreb, MD), and the Department of Neurosciences (Dan Gibbs, PhD and Mark Tuszyński, MD, PhD) to conduct this innovative research.

According to Robert N. Weinreb, MD, project leader and Distinguished Professor of Ophthalmology, “this exciting project will benefit greatly from the collaboration with Drs. Tuszyński and Gibbs, leaders in the science of spinal cord repair and regeneration.”

During the next two years, the Norman and Carol Luzich glaucoma research team seek to validate that this strategy can produce a meaningful regeneration of optic nerve cells in models of glaucoma. The project’s goal is to initiate human clinical trials in glaucoma patients by the end of 2021. If successful, this funding could change the paradigm of glaucoma treatment from the prevention of vision loss to restoration of vision and visual improvement.

To learn more about The Norman and Carol Luzich glaucoma research project, please contact: Karen Anisko Ryan
Director, Business Development & Communications
858-534-8017
kanisko@ucsd.edu

For a private consultation to learn about ways to tailor your gift in a way that is most meaningful for you, please contact: Helen Z. Liu
Senior Director of Development
858-246-2794
hzliu@ucsd.edu
The Shiley Eye Institute is dedicated to clinical care excellence of patients with eye disorders, cutting edge research on surgical techniques and treatments of eye disorders, ophthalmic education and innovative outreach to the community.
Pictured: Cross section of mouse eye immunostained with cone opsin antibodies.

Photo taken by: Radha Ayyagari, PhD and Lab