Preserving vision and providing hope

Pediatric eye care part of a comprehensive network of children’s medical care

When Suzie Moorman was born she wasn’t given much of a chance to live. Born with a buildup of fluid inside the skull that leads to brain swelling (severe hydrocephalus) and a rare congenital brain disorder (alobar holoprosencephaly) in which the forebrain fails to completely separate the two hemispheres, Suzie faced long odds. The holoprosencephaly can cause serious defects in the development of the face and in brain structure and function.

Suzie’s parents, Heather and Mark Moorman, were in shock from the diagnosis and instructed to place their newborn daughter in hospice care, which they reluctantly did. They also were told that Suzie would have significant hearing and vision problems if she were to survive.

Undaunted by the prognosis and wanting to improve the quality of their daughter’s young life, the Moormans decided to seek another opinion at the University of Iowa Children’s Hospital where Suzie was evaluated by a team of physicians and medical professionals and at 2 months old received a life-saving shunt in her brain for the hydrocephalus. Since then numerous specialists, including several doctors from the UI Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, have taken over care of the now 8 year old Suzie.

Pediatric ophthalmologists at the UI Children’s Hospital first evaluated Suzie at 15 months old. They felt her case was unusual but something that could be improved through proper attention and careful follow-up. Suzie was seen by pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus doctors, as well as doctors in

“Providing hope” continues on page 6
Familiar face rejoins Vitreoretinal Service

Karen M. Gehrs, MD, returns to the Midwest and our Vitreoretinal Service as an associate professor of clinical ophthalmology after a stint in private practice in Florida. She specializes in the treatment of age-related macular degeneration (AMD), diabetic retinopathy, uveitis, macular holes, and other vitreomacular traction disorders. Her research interests include the development of genetic testing for AMD. Dr. Gehrs will see patients at the new University of Iowa Health Care – Iowa River Landing facility in Coralville, Iowa.

Carver College of Medicine welcomes new dean

The University of Iowa Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine has new leadership. Debra A. Schwinn, MD, will be the next dean of the College of Medicine. Dr. Schwinn was professor and chair of the Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, the Allan J. Treuer Endowed Professor of Anesthesiology, and adjunct professor of Pharmacology and Genome Sciences at the University of Washington in Seattle. Her appointment is effective Nov. 1, 2012, pending approval by the Iowa Board of Regents.

Dr. Schwinn succeeds Paul B. Rothman, MD, who was appointed dean of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and CEO of Johns Hopkins Medicine.

New cornea surgeon joins the department

There is a new physician on our Cornea, External Disease and Refractive Surgery Service. Mark A. Greiner, MD, joins the department as an assistant professor of ophthalmology. Dr. Greiner completed his medical school and residency training at the University of California at Davis School of Medicine. He comes from Portland, Ore., where he recently completed a clinical fellowship in Cornea and External Disease at Devers Eye Institute under renowned corneal surgeon, Dr. Mark Terry.

Dr. Greiner specializes in corneal transplantation, endothelial and lamellar keratoplasty, and keratoprosthesis. His research interests include new surgical techniques and outcomes involving Descemet membrane endothelial keratoplasty, Descemet stripping automatic endothelial keratoplasty, and keratoprosthesis.

New orthoptist

Our Pediatric Ophthalmology and Adult Strabismus Service experienced a changing of the guard. Orthoptist Amy Ellis-Iverson, CO (right), left the department for a new opportunity in Sydney, Australia. In her place, Megan Campbell, COT (left), joins us from Tennessee where she completed orthoptic training at the Vanderbilt Eye Institute.

U.S. News & World Report’s best hospital rankings for 2012-13 places the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics among the best in country. Ranked at #6 nationally, Iowa’s eye program is the best in the Midwest.

Now scheduling at Iowa River Landing

University of Iowa Health Care now offers the same world-class care in a new, convenient setting. Opened Oct. 8, 2012, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics-Iowa River Landing offers primary and specialty care, including ophthalmology, in Coralville.

Find out more at 319-467-2000 or www.uihealthcare.org/irl
Guidelines for genetic testing of inherited eye diseases

The rapidly changing pace of medicine and increased attention on personalized medicine present challenges to many ophthalmologists practicing today. One area of significant change is in ophthalmic genetics. Understanding genetics and genetic testing of complex eye diseases leaves some ophthalmologists wondering where to turn for information for their patients.

An American Academy of Ophthalmology Task Force set out to address this challenge with the development of guidelines for ophthalmologists to use when considering genetic testing. Guidelines are intended to provide guidance on principles underlying the approach to genetic testing and the role of ophthalmologists in genetic testing. They also provide recommendations on ensuring genetic counseling is offered when patients are tested, avoiding direct-to-consumer genetic testing, and avoiding routine genetic testing for genetically complex diseases until clinical trials confirm benefit.

Members of the Task Force included University of Iowa physicians Edwin Stone, MD, PhD, Chair, Arlene Drack, MD, and Val Sheffield, MD, PhD. Other members included Anthony Aldave, MD, Mathew MacCumber, MD, PhD, Elias Traboulsi, MD, and Richard Weleber, MD.

To view the full recommendations, visit www.aao.org/one. Select “Practice Guidelines,” then “Clinical Statements”

Photographing eye disease

Providing the finest eye care requires a team of physicians, nurses, technicians, and other professionals who can deliver a comprehensive set of services. One service that benefits patient care is the Ophthalmic Diagnostic Imaging Service. Diagnostic imaging combines art and science to produce images that help physicians diagnose eye diseases and conditions. Images document the progress of treatment and also aid in teaching and ophthalmic research.

Brice Critser, CRA, director of diagnostic imaging, combines his photography and science background to lead this service. Like many of the ophthalmology staff, Brice has been with the department and University of Iowa for many years. He is responsible for the diagnostic imaging service where he photographs patients, maintains the image database and aids physicians with special projects, including research. Most of his duties revolve around ensuring the best diagnostic imaging is provided.

“Patient care is one of the best things about being in a top program like Iowa,” states Brice. “Not only do we get the chance to help patients with their vision problems, but we are also fortunate to have a technologically advanced imaging service. Our ability, as a diagnostics group, gives us the opportunity to use the most current imaging technology to help patients being seen in clinic.”

Diagnostic images allow physicians to diagnose various eye conditions and document the progress of disease.
**UI physician receives foundation's highest research award**

![Image of UI physician receiving award](image1)

*Left to right* Dr. Ed Stone; Gordon Gund, FFB Co-Founder and Chairman; Ed Gollob, FFB President; and Dr. Stephen Rose, FFB Chief Research Officer. Credit: Craig Huey

The Foundation Fighting Blindness (FFB) recently named **Edwin Stone, MD, PhD**, as the recipient of the Llura Liggett Gund Award, the FFB’s highest research honor.

The award recognizes the “best of the best” researchers who have, throughout their careers, made the greatest contributions to the study of blinding retinal diseases. Since its inception 41 years ago, the recognition has now been awarded for only the seventh time.

Dr. Stone and his team have discovered genes associated with multiple vision disorders, including age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, retinitis pigmentosa, Leber congenital amaurosis, Stargardt disease, and Bardet-Biedl syndrome. Stone and his team are actively pursuing gene- and stem cell- based treatments for these disorders. He is also an investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

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**March of Dimes funds vision research at UI**

*Steven Stasheff, MD, PhD,* assistant professor of pediatrics and ophthalmology, was awarded $260,000 by the March of Dimes for research into the causes and treatments of incurable hereditary retinal diseases that cause childhood blindness.

The three-year project involves the study of developmental mechanisms and treatment alternatives for Leber’s congenital amaurosis (LCA), a group of early-onset retinal degenerative diseases. The study seeks to more precisely define fundamental disease mechanisms in certain forms of LCA, as well as shed light on the timing associated with treatment alternatives being developed. Principles identified are likely to apply to the development of more effective treatments for a wide variety of degenerative diseases throughout the nervous system.

The March of Dimes supports research aimed at preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality.

**For more information regarding Dr. Stasheff’s research, visit [www.healthcare.uiowa.edu/labs/stasheff/](http://www.healthcare.uiowa.edu/labs/stasheff/)**

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**Knights Templar supports UI vision researchers**

Two University of Iowa researchers were each awarded $50,000 career starter grants from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation for their research into eye disorders.

**Seongjin Seo, PhD,** assistant professor of ophthalmology, received a grant for evaluation of therapeutic targets for retinal degenerations and inherited eye diseases. **Gulab Zode, PhD,** research associate, received a grant for his research into a treatment for Juvenile-onset open angle glaucoma. Drs. Seo and Zode work in the laboratory of **Dr. Val Sheffield,** professor of pediatrics and ophthalmology and Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator. Sheffield was a recipient of early career funding from the Foundation.

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation supports clinical or basic researchers committed to the prevention and cure of potentially blinding diseases in infants and children. The organization has a history of funding University of Iowa researchers that dates back to 1989. Over the past 20-plus years, the organization has provided vital early career and basic research funding to a number of UI scientists.
Iowa Glaucoma Center receives new RO1 grant for glaucoma research

A University of Iowa research lab has received a three-year, $1.13 million grant from the National Eye Institute for continued research in glaucoma.

Markus Kuehn, PhD, associate professor of ophthalmology and director of the Glaucoma Cell Biology Laboratory, and his colleagues were awarded the grant to investigate whether cellular stress within a certain group of eye cells leads to the increased eye-fluid pressure that is associated with glaucoma.

The project builds on earlier research done in collaboration with Val Sheffield, MD, PhD, professor of pediatrics and director of the Division of Medical Genetics at UI Carver College of Medicine, which focused on an important eye protein called myocilin.

Genetic mutations in myocilin are a major cause of glaucoma, and the UI team previously discovered that mutated myocilin causes cellular stress and cell death in eye cells known as the trabecular meshwork.

In the new study, the UI team will utilize mouse models, cell cultures and stem cell biology to investigate how exactly this type of stress occurs. The Kuehn lab will work in collaboration with the Sheffield lab and the lab of Budd Tucker, PhD, assistant professor of ophthalmology at UI Carver College of Medicine.

The study seeks to improve the molecular understanding of glaucoma and could lead to entirely new approaches aimed at preserving vision in people with the disease. For more information, visit http://iowaglaucoma.org/

Pediatric ophthalmologist receives physician-scientist career award

Arlene Drack, MD, associate professor of pediatric ophthalmology and ophthalmic genetics, was granted a $100,000 RPB Physician-Scientist Award by Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB). These awards allow physicians at medical institutions in the U.S. to devote more time to clinical eye research activities, providing greater opportunities for specialized study with direct application to the human condition. Dr. Drack is one of 53 physician-scientists at 27 institutions who has received the award since it was established in 2000.

RPB is the world’s leading voluntary organization supporting eye research. Since it was founded in 1960, RPB has channeled hundreds of millions of dollars to medical institutions for research into the causes, treatment and prevention of blinding eye diseases. For information on RPB, go to www.rpbusa.org

Fingert awarded an American Glaucoma Society Midcareer Award

John Fingert, MD, PhD, associate professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences, was awarded a $40,000 Mid-Career Physician Scientist Award by the American Glaucoma Society. Awards target individuals between 5 to 20 years after fellowship and are designed to assist individuals starting new avenues of research.

Dr. Fingert’s research focuses on identifying the genes associated with glaucoma and characterizing their role in the development of disease. He will use the funding to generate and study a transgenic mouse model of glaucoma. Fingert states, “We are engineering mice to have the same genetic defect that causes glaucoma in some of our patients. By doing so, we hope to better understand the disease and to develop new treatments that are tailored to its specific cause. It is my hope that this research will provide new insights in glaucoma diagnosis and ultimately lead to a new class of sight saving, pressure-independent therapy.”

Information about Dr. Fingert and the Glaucoma Genetics Laboratory is at http://www.glaucoma-genetics-lab.org/
Research day recap

A broad spectrum of vision research projects were showcased at the annual Resident and Fellow Research Day held this spring. Residents, fellows, graduate students, and other researchers presented their work to faculty and a distinguished panel of guest judges who evaluated the research projects to select the P.J. Leinfelder Award winners.

Awardees for best research included:
- Resident Performance — John J. Chen, MD, PhD
- Fellow Performance — Gina M. Rogers, MD
- Basic Scientist Performance — Erin Burnright, PhD
- Kolder Humanitarian Memorial Award — Jeffrey Lynch, MPH, MD

Enhancing a tradition: Putting research into rounds

Grand Rounds, often referred to as Morning Rounds, are a long-standing tradition in the department. Held Monday through Thursday from 8 am-8:45 am, Rounds allow residents and fellows an opportunity to present interesting cases for discussion with faculty and colleagues. Clinical cases are complemented with discussions involving patient care, communications, ethics, and systems-based care.

This activity was enhanced to include more discussions involving vision research and how it translates to patient care. Ophthalmology Research Rounds has been introduced into the rotation with once a month sessions devoted to vision research taking place at the University of Iowa.

Morning Rounds are a great representation of our academic mission to provide the highest quality patient care, collaborative research, and the best in ophthalmic education.

“I think it’s given us some good perspective about everything that goes on behind the scenes in the lab, all the work that goes into improving the care we can deliver patients. (It) Also helps us generate our own research questions and to think critically. It’s also nice for the researchers to get their ideas and projects out there, have a chance to show off their successes and interests, and collaborate with clinicians,” according to third-year resident, Justin Risma, MD.

“Providing hope” continues from page 1

the contact lens and vision rehabilitation clinics, and experienced several treatment options for her farsightedness (hyperopia) and inability to see details (amblyopia). She attempted to wear glasses but soon afterwards began wearing contact lenses to improve her visual function and development. Starting from age 3, Suzie has also undergone a series of surgeries to correct the vertical alignment and crossing of her eyes.

“We’ve pursued a highly individualized treatment plan for Suzie as we work to improve her visual function. She has made remarkable progress and brightens our clinic each time she visits,” comments Susannah Q. Longmuir, MD, assistant professor of pediatric ophthalmology.

The Moormans are pleased with Suzie’s improving health as well as their encounters with the UI Children’s Hospital. “Our experiences have always been exceptional,” says Heather. “They all have believed in Suzie and focused on taking little steps with her and waiting patiently to see what Suzie would be able to see or do next.”

Doctors in the eye clinic continue to see Suzie and her family but less frequently than in her early years. Through all the surgeries, X-rays, CT scans, and procedures, Suzie maintains a positive attitude and always has a smile on her face. She is an outgoing little girl who enjoys reading to her parents.

“We have had several situations in which we were unsure what the future might hold for our daughter. The staff, no matter where we are in the hospital, tends to instill hope in us when we are so worried about our daughter,” states her mother, who adds, “This is the hospital which saved our child’s life and makes miracles happen every day for our child and many more!”

Cases like Suzie’s provide valuable teaching lessons for our resident and fellow physicians. Details of her case are presented on Eyerrounds.org, an educational website produced for ophthalmologists in training. Search “Holoprosencephaly”.

Guest judges included (left to right) Andrew Doan, MD, PhD (’05R); Michael Wagener, MD, PhD, Research Day Program Director; J. Douglas Cameron, MD, MBA; and John Kitchens, MD (’03R).
As a UI medical student in 2006, Jeffrey Lynch, MD, MPH (‘06MD/MPH, ‘12F), volunteered in Peru where he witnessed local residents sifting through boxes of donated eyeglasses, trying them on, and looking back to their families for approval. “Who knows if the lenses were even in the ballpark of their prescription,” he says.

In 2011 during his ophthalmology residency at St. Louis University, Lynch created ReSpectacle, a nonprofit organization that collects used eyeglasses and distributes them to underserved individuals in the United States and abroad.

ReSpectacle helps people find used eyeglasses that match their prescription strength, not just eyeglasses with frames they like. At www.respectacle.org, users with a lens prescription can easily browse a database of about 1,500 eyeglasses, submit an order if they find a match, and receive the glasses free by mail.

Volunteers in several U.S. cities collect and catalog donated eyeglasses. The ReSpectacle chapter in Iowa, where Lynch recently completed a pediatric ophthalmology fellowship at UI Hospitals and Clinics, is led by UI medical students Tyler Risma and Katie Lynch, Jeff’s sister. The chapter has over 20 active volunteers.

As leader of the student group UISight, Risma encourages its members to volunteer on an occasional Saturday when the ReSpectacle group meets to inventory new donations. “Students have the opportunity to meet health care professionals and learn how to use specialized equipment, like a lensometer for reading lens prescriptions,” Katie Lynch says. The sessions where volunteers inventory donations also allow her to touch lives all over the world. “With each donation, there’s the potential that I could be helping a person in a Third World country whom I’ll never meet, or the next patient I see at UI Hospitals and Clinics. There aren’t many ways that I could spend my time to help so many people,” she says.

Risma monitors the ophthalmology and pediatric ophthalmology departments at UI Hospitals and Clinics where donations are collected. ReSpectacle hopes to start accepting used glasses at drop-off sites in libraries, grocery stores, and optical shops around the Iowa City area. To date, the group has shipped glasses to seven states, mostly in the Midwest, and five countries. Shipping costs are supported by grants from the Mildred Brady and Rena Martin Charitable Eye Foundation and the Saint Louis University Auxiliary, as well as private donations received through the ReSpectacle website.

Jeff Lynch, who moved to a practice in St. Paul, Minn., upon completion of his fellowship in June, won the inaugural Kolder Humanitarian Award from the UI Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences earlier this year for his work with ReSpectacle.

Keith Carter, MD, chair of ophthalmology, supports the ongoing involvement of UI medical students and ReSpectacle, as well as Lynch’s initiative. “It’s exciting to see one of our former trainees address an important health issue. We wish him continued success and will support the project in whatever way we can,” Carter says.
Welcome our new residents and fellows

Class of 2015 First-year residents (left to right):

**Jeffrey Welder, MD**  
BA (Philosophy and Biochemistry), Cornell College; MD, University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine

**Jesse Vislisel, MD**  
BA (Biology), University of Iowa; MD, University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine

**Jonathan Hager, MD**  
BM (Violin Performance), Baylor University; MD, Baylor College of Medicine

**Bradley Sacher, MD**  
BS (Biology), University of Illinois, Champaign; MD, Rush Medical College, Chicago

**C. Blake Perry, MD**  
BA (Politics), Princeton University; Post-Bac. Pre-Med., Scripps College, Claremont, California; MD, George Washington School of Medicine

New Fellows

**Katrina A. Mears, MD, MSc, MRCOphth UK Retina**  
MD, School of Medicine, National University of Ireland, Galway; Ophthalmology Residency, Kresge Eye Institute, Detroit, Mich.

**Meagan B. Seay, DO Ophthalmic Pathology**  
DO, Texas Osteopathic Medicine, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Fort Worth, Texas

**Elizabeth O. Tegins, MD Retina**  
MD, SUNY Downstate Medical School, Brooklyn, New York; Ophthalmology Residency, Krieger Eye Institute, Sinai Hospital of Baltimore

**Shandiz Tehrani, MD, PhD Glaucoma**  
MD, PhD, Washington University School of Medicine, Saint Louis, Mo.; Ophthalmology Residency, Casey Eye Institute, Oregon Health Science University, Portland, Ore.

**Kimberly M. Winges, MD Neuro-Ophthalmology**  
MD, New York Medical College; Fellowship, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Medical Student Research Training (Neurology); Ophthalmology Residency, University of California - Davis, Sacramento, Calif.

**Timothy W. Winter, DO Pediatric Ophthalmology**  
DO, Western University of Health Sciences, Pomona, California; Ophthalmology Residency, Oklahoma State University Medical Center, Tulsa, Ok.; Fellowship, Neuro-Ophthalmology, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Miami, Fla.

Iowa residents Matthew Weed, MD (’14R) (left) and Justin Risma, MD (’14R), pose with Ruth D. Williams, MD, President of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) at the AAO 2012 Mid-Year Forum in Washington, DC. This annual forum provides an opportunity for Academy members and leaders of allied ophthalmic organizations to identify and discuss critical issues facing ophthalmology. For residents in training it offers valuable insights into the profession and the legislative issues relevant to ophthalmology.
Graduation 2012

Iowa’s graduates are pursuing opportunities from coast to coast and several places in between. Photographs from this year’s graduation ceremony are online at: www.iowayealumni.shutterfly.com

Resident Class of 2012 (left to right):

- **Chris Watts, MD**, joins Eye Physicians and Surgeons in Iowa City.
- **Esther Hong, MD**, enters private practice with Kaiser Permanente in Oakland, Calif.
- **Priya Gupta, MD**, is pursuing a Glaucoma Fellowship at Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, Md.
- **Matthew Ward, MD**, is staying for a Fellowship in Cornea and External Diseases.
- **Shaival Shah, MD**, goes to the University of Wisconsin-Madison for a Fellowship in Pediatric Ophthalmology.

2012 Fellows

- **Andrew Davis, MD**, is pursuing a military medicine career with the U.S. Army at the Madigan Army Medical Center in Fort Lewis, Wash.
- **Jeffrey Lynch, MPH, MD** (’06 MD/MPH), joins Associated Eye Care, a private practice in Woodbury, Minn.
- **Alethia Pantazis, MD**, is pursuing a private practice position in Ocala, Fla.
- **Gina Rogers, MD** (’11R), moves to Chicago, Illinois to join Eye Physicians & Surgeons of Chicago.

A.Brock Roller, MD (’10R), joins Texas Retina Institute in Round Rock, Texas.

Brian Tienor, MD, is pursuing a position with Arbor Centers for EyeCare in Homewood, Ill.

Xiayu Xu, PhD, in Dr. Abràmoff’s research group completed her PhD in Biomedical Engineering and is remaining at the University of Iowa to complete a postdoctoral fellowship.

Orthoptics Program

- **Grant Casey, CO**, joins Casey Eye Institute-Elks Children’s Eye Clinic in Portland, Ore.

**ALUMNI CORNER**

The American Academy of Ophthalmology recognizes several University of Iowa alumni for their contributions to the Academy and specialty.

- **Jane C. Edmond, MD (’90F)**, from Texas Children’s Hospital, Houston, Texas, was appointed Trustee-at-Large to the 2013 AAO Board of Trustees
- **Life Achievement Honor Award**
  - Edward J. Holland, MD (’85F)
- **Senior Achievement Award**
  - Laurie Gray Barber, MD (’84MD)
- **Achievement Award**
  - Michael V. Boland, MD, PhD (’05R)
  - Thomas A. Graul, MD (’00F)
  - Susan K. Mosier, MD (’99R)
  - Rahul T. Pandit, MD (’02R, ’03F)
  - Jonathan D. Walker, MD (’94F)

- **Secretariat Award**
  - Andrew G. Lee, MD (faculty member ’00-’09, current adjunct faculty)
  - Thomas A. Oetting, MD (’95R, current faculty)
  - Stephen R. Russell, MD (’88F, current faculty)
  - Christopher J. Rapuano, MD (’91F)

Congratulations to each of our alumni and colleagues for your hard work and dedication on behalf of the field of ophthalmology!

**If you receive a special award or distinction, let us know. Email us at iowayeincare@uiowa.edu**
Philanthropy helps fund research, training and patient care innovations and also provides unrestricted resources that can be used when and where the need is the greatest. The UI Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences is pleased to have the most endowed positions of any department in the UI Carver College of Medicine.

The generosity of our faculty, alumni, colleagues, and patients has been essential to creating endowed positions that allow faculty to pursue novel cures to eye diseases, enhance ophthalmic education, or offer enhanced levels of service to eye patients.

“The Keech Professorship allowed me to start a pediatric genetic eye disease clinic where each patient gets individualized attention. Our goal is to develop gene-based therapies for inherited eye diseases,” says Arlene V. Drack, MD, holder of the Ronald V. Keech, MD, Associate Professor in Ophthalmic Genetics Professorship. She adds, “This professorship is unique in that it creates a new position in the eye department: a physician-scientist position dedicated to finding cures for blindness in children. This type of position is becoming very rare. Because of the Keech Professorship, someone will always be able to do this important work at the UI.”

Endowed positions (Faculty member holding position):

- Lillian C. O’Brien and Dr. C.S. O’Brien Chair in Ophthalmology (Keith D. Carter, MD)
- The Seamans-Hauser Chair in Molecular Ophthalmology (Edwin M. Stone, MD, PhD)
- Frederick C. Blodi Chair in Ophthalmology (Wallace L.M. Alward, MD)
- The Pomerantz Family Chair in Ophthalmology (Randy H. Kardon, MD, PhD)
- The Martin and Ruth Carver Chair in Genetics (Val C. Sheffield, MD, PhD)
- The Roy J. Carver, Jr. Chair in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (Thomas L. Casavant, PhD)
- William Edwin Scott Education Chair for Pediatric Ophthalmology (supports Pediatric Ophthalmology training)
- Clifford M. and Ruth M. Altermatt Professorship in Glaucoma (Young H. Kwon, MD, PhD)
- Donald H. Beisner, MD and Judith Gardner Beisner Professorship (James C. Folk, MD)
- Marion and Frederick Fuerste, MD Professorship in Ophthalmology (H. Culver Boldt, MD)
- Dina J. Schrage Professorship in Macular Degeneration Research (Stephen R. Russell, MD)
- Ronald V. Keech, MD Associate Professorship in Ophthalmic Genetics (Arlene V. Drack, MD)
- Hansjoerg E.J.W. Kolder, MD, PhD Professorship in Best Disease Research (Robert F. Mullins, PhD)

The department also has numerous named lectures and awards that recognize excellence in teaching, research and clinical care. Many of these also recognize past leaders among our faculty in the field of ophthalmology. These include:

- Alson E. Braley Lecture
- Charles D. Phelps Memorial Award
- Fuerste Family Distinguished Alumni Lecture Series
- Hansjoerg E. Kolder Award for Excellence in Ophthalmology
- Mansour F. Armaly Lecture
- P.J. Leinfelder Award
- Wolfe Foundation Lecture

To learn more about how endowment funds support our mission and advance our efforts against eye disease, visit http://givetoiowa.org.eye

Why do you support the University of Iowa?

“I choose to give back to the Iowa training program for the following 3 reasons: 1. Iowa Ophthalmology has a rich tradition in education that needs to continue. This program is the one that sets the bar for how education in ophthalmology should be. 2. I am eternally grateful for the skills and confidence the program at Iowa gave me. 3. Because I can,” states David Zumbro, MD (“05F), of Alaska Retinal Consultants in Anchorage, Alaska.

Dr. Zumbro adds, “The thing I appreciated most about my time at Iowa is the patience of the staff...I am very much in awe of the staff who continually train a bunch of rookies every year. When I left, I had confidence in my skills and felt like I had seen just about everything.”
Promotions

Michael D. Abràmoff, MD, PhD, was promoted to professor of ophthalmology. Dr. Abràmoff is with the Vitreoretinal Service. His research interests include a focus on large-scale detection and diagnosis of retinal disease and glaucoma. Learn more about Iowa's image analysis research at http://www.biomed-imaging.uiowa.edu/

Markus H. Kuehn, PhD, was promoted to associate professor of ophthalmology. Dr. Kuehn leads the Glaucoma Cell Biology Laboratory, which is focused on determining the molecular events that lead to retinal ganglion cell death in a variety of retinal diseases. Find out more online at http://myweb.uiowa.edu/kuehnm/

Alward receives Iowa Regent Faculty Excellence Award

Wallace L.M. Alward, MD, professor of ophthalmology and vice-chair has been selected to receive the 2012 Regents Award for Faculty Excellence. The award is given by the Board of Regents, State of Iowa to honor faculty members for work representing a significant contribution to excellence in public education and contributions to the University of Iowa academic community.

Iowa's residency program director to serve on AAO Board of Trustees

The American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) nominated Thomas A. Oetting, MD, professor of ophthalmology and residency program director, as a Trustee-at-Large to the AAO Board of Trustees for 2013. The AAO Board of Trustees manages and directs the business affairs of the Academy in furtherance of its mission and strategic goals.

Tehrani receives Heed fellowship

Glaucoma fellow, Shandiz Tehrani, MD, PhD, has been awarded a Heed fellowship for 2012-2013. Since its founding in 1945, the Heed Ophthalmic Foundation has provided over $10 million in funding to assist young men and women in pursuing postgraduate studies in ophthalmology. The appointed individuals receive a monetary Merit Award and are recognized as Heed Fellows.
The 2012–2013 Clinical Conference Series

December 7, 2012  Neuro-Ophthalmology
Joseph F. Rizzo, III, MD, Massachusetts Eye and Ear

February 1, 2013  Oculoplastic Surgery
Phil Custer, MD, Washington University

March 15, 2012  Retina
Baruch Kuppermann, MD, PhD, University of California, Irvine

April 19, 2013  Glaucoma—Mansour F. Armaly Lecture
Harry A. Quigley, MD, Wilmer Eye Institute

Other Events

November 11, 2012  Iowa Eye Association Alumni Reception, AAO Annual Meeting, Chicago
May 16–17, 2013  Resident and Fellow Research Day, Iowa City
May 5–9, 2013  ARVO 2013 Annual Meeting and Iowa Alumni Reception, Seattle
May 10, 2013  15th Annual Iowa Optometric Conference, Iowa City
June 7–8, 2013  UI Carver College of Medicine Alumni Reunion (Classes of ’43, ’48, ’53, ’58, ’63, ’68, and ’73), Iowa City
June 14–15, 2013  Iowa Eye Association Annual Meeting, Iowa City