



Iowa Vision



Department of Ophthalmology
and Visual Sciences

Volume 2 Issue 1

Spring 2009

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Fantastic finish!

For the Pittsburgh Steelers and their fans it was a fantastic finish to Super Bowl XLIII, scoring the winning touchdown with less than a minute left to play in the game and beating the Arizona Cardinals by a score of 27-23!

For Anthony Balik, a patient of the University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences and avid football fan, it was a thrilling Super Bowl to watch, too. It was also his first!

Mr. Balik suffered a chemical injury in 1961, losing vision in both eyes in the process and dashing his own plans to play college football. Undeterred, he proceeded to learn how to get around with the use of

a cane, graduate from college, and pursue a 37 year career with the Iowa Department of Human Services.

Limited to light perception for much of the time since his injury, he has undergone several treatment alternatives including two corneal transplants in his left eye that were both rejected. His local ophthalmologist thought he might be a candidate for an artificial cornea and referred him to The University of Iowa. **Kenneth Goins, MD**, professor of clinical ophthalmology on the cornea, external diseases and refractive surgery service, thought the same after meeting Balik in 2006.

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From the Department Head

The current economic situation has likely impacted all of us in one way or another. Despite this challenging environment, our department continues to strive to provide the finest in clinical care and medical education, as well as conduct important ophthalmic research.

In this edition, you'll read about faculty members who are traveling across the country to educate our alumni and government officials about eye disease and the importance of vision research. Our residents and alumni are contributing to global efforts to improve vision. Back in Iowa City, we are testing and using new treatments, and aggressively pursuing lines of research that show great promise. We also celebrated the opening of new office and laboratory spaces.

Over the past few months, we have seen the departure of two of our faculty members to pursue new and challenging opportunities. Theirs will be big shoes to fill and we wish them all the best. We also welcomed a new faculty member to our team. Two colleagues have been appointed to named professorships, a reflection of the level of trust that our donors and supporters place in us. Stewardship of the resources needed to create these professorships is even more important today and something we take very seriously.

I invite you to contact us to let us know how you are doing or to provide feedback on our eye program by emailing us at: iowaeyecare@uiowa.edu.

Warm regards,

Keith D. Carter, MD

Professor and Department Head

Lillian C. O'Brien and Dr. C.S. O'Brien

Chair in Ophthalmology



Fantastic finish!
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After nearly 50 years of being legally blind, Anthony Balik is thrilled with his restored vision.

“We knew early on that Mr. Balik would be a high risk cornea transplant candidate and that a more aggressive course of treatment using an artificial cornea could yield a better outcome,” said Dr. Goins.

Care for Mr. Balik involved collaboration between several subspecialty areas including UI’s

cornea and external diseases, glaucoma, and vitreoretinal services. **Young Kwon, MD, PhD**, professor of ophthalmology in UI’s glaucoma service, performed a seton placement to prevent glaucoma postoperatively after the keratoprosthesis placement. **Stephen Russell, MD**, professor of ophthalmology in the vitreoretinal service, did a vitrectomy to remove blood and traction on the retina one week after keratoprosthesis surgery. Balik’s fantastic finish came when Dr. Goins replaced his damaged cornea using a Boston Keratoprosthesis, a procedure that led to 20/50 vision.

Keratoprotheses (artificial corneas) are designed to provide a clear corneal window in patients with severe corneal opacification and corneal blindness. Two artificial cornea devices are currently approved for use in the United States: the AlphaCor® artificial cornea and the Dohlman-Doane or Boston Keratoprosthesis (Boston KPro). The Boston KPro was approved by the FDA for use in the United States in 1992. Reports from literature support high success rates based on visual acuity outcomes and retention rates of the device. The devices are not widely used because of the complications that can occur, but for certain individuals the use of an artificial cornea presents a better option than cornea transplantation.

“Dr. Goins and the UI eye care team gave me another chance to see. I can do so much more than before, including watching movies, and playing hide and seek with my grandkids,” said a joyful Balik. “I was also able to see my wife for the first time, who is more beautiful than I imagined.”

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Iowa garners high marks in latest *Ophthalmology Times* rankings

The 2008 *Ophthalmology Times* survey of ophthalmology department chairpersons and residency directors revealed that Iowa continues to be regarded as one of the finest eye programs. Awards recognize excellence in the teaching and development of residents, quality patient care, and aggressive research pursuits. Recent results for UI:

8 in Best Overall Programs

8 in Best Clinical (Patient Care) Programs

3 in Best Residency Programs

Iowa also received an Honorable Mention among the Best Research Programs.

Ophthalmology Times

Usher syndrome expert speaks on Capitol Hill



William Kimberling, PhD, speaks to attendees

University of Iowa visiting professor of ophthalmology, **William Kimberling, PhD**, spoke on Capitol Hill earlier this spring, on understanding and diagnosing Usher syndrome, the leading cause of combined blindness and deafness in the United States.

The briefing, co-hosted by the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research and the Foundation Fighting Blindness, focused on how researchers studying deafness and retinal degenerations are working together toward potential treatments. Kimberling is collaborating with researchers at the UI Carver Family Center for Macular Degeneration which provides nonprofit genetic testing for rare eye diseases.

His research seeks to develop inexpensive and accessible genetic screening for young children who are born deaf or with severe hearing loss to determine if they are affected by Usher syndrome.

Dr. Kimberling directs the Center for the Study and Treatment of Usher Syndrome at Boys Town National Research Hospital in Omaha and is also a professor of biomedical sciences at the Creighton University School of Medicine.

While in Washington, Dr. Kimberling also made a series of visits to the offices of the Iowa and Nebraska delegation, including Cong. Dave Loebsack (D-IA), Sen. Mike Johanns (R-NE), and Sen. Ben Nelson (D-NE).



Dr. Kimberling with Erik Fatemi, who works for Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), Chair of the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS) Appropriations Subcommittee



Dr. Kimberling with Cong. Dave Loebsack (D-IA), a long-time medical research supporter

Photos courtesy of National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research

Hope for Vision supports inherited eye disease research at UI

Arlene V. Drack, MD, associate professor in ophthalmic genetics, received a \$50,000 grant from Hope for Vision to support the development of effective treatment strategies for human retinitis pigmentosa and Bardet Biedl syndrome (BBS).

Dr. Drack, who joined the UI and Carver Family Center for Macular Degeneration as a clinician-scientist in 2008, is pursuing an ambitious goal of human gene replacement therapy for autosomal recessive RP and BBS. She and other UI researchers are utilizing several high-throughput techniques for screening DNA samples for disease-causing mutations that were pioneered at The University of Iowa, including a multi-platform, tiered testing approach for heterogeneous recessive diseases that takes maximal advantage of both allele specific and DNA sequencing approaches.

BBS is a pleiotropic autosomal recessive disorder with the primary clinical features of pigmentary retinopathy, obesity, extra fingers and toes, learning disabilities, kidney abnormalities, and hypergenitalism. The disorder is also associated with an increased susceptibility to hypertension, diabetes mellitus, and congenital heart defects. The retinal degeneration associated with BBS is severe, has an early onset, and usually leads to blindness by age 20.

Alward delivers Shaffer lecture at AAO '08



Wallace L. M. Alward, MD, Frederick C. Blodi Chair in Ophthalmology, department vice chair and professor of ophthalmology, delivered the distinguished Robert N. Shaffer Lecture at the 2008 AAO Joint Meeting. Alward, a leading glaucoma specialist, discussed the latest developments in the molecular genetics of glaucoma in his lecture. His current research projects include the evaluation of families with inherited glaucomas, comparison of glaucoma surgical techniques, evaluation of pigmentary glaucoma and advanced methods of combined glaucoma and cataract surgery.



W. Lee M. Alward, MD

UI resident and alumnus help fight blindness in India

Advancements in technology and links between global societies demonstrate that the world seemingly is becoming a smaller place and people are more interconnected. The field of medicine reflects these trends as well.

Ophthalmology residents today are often looking for training and educational experiences that expose them to different models of healthcare and international medicine. For UI Ophthalmology resident, **Nandini Gandhi, MD** ('10R), this meant a trip to the Aravind Eye Hospital in Madurai, India. Aravind, considered one of the finest eye hospitals in the world, hosts and trains resident physicians from the U.S.



Dr. Gandhi (third from left) joins Cornea faculty and Dr. Pramanik (center) for a group photograph.

Dr. Gandhi visited Aravind on a short term rotation to gain a more realistic understanding of what international ophthalmology might have to offer. While there, she joined the Hospital's cornea faculty in clinic and operating room. She was also fortunate enough to observe the first successful deep anterior lamellar keratoplasty using the big bubble technique at Aravind. "It was incredibly valuable to see how another system operates, how resource conscious they are, how differently they treat some common diseases, and how they deal with patient compliance. It really allowed me to step back and gain some perspective," said Dr. Gandhi.

Dr. Gandhi also had an opportunity to work alongside UI alumnus, **Sudeep Pramanik, MD** ('05R, '06F), while in Madurai. Dr. Pramanik has been helping fight blindness in India since his first trip to the country as a cornea fellow at Iowa. In 2005, he joined **Keith Carter, MD**, department chair, on an ORBIS medical mission trip to India. This fateful experience brought him back several times to perform endothelial keratoplasty and teach



Dr. Pramanik (left) outside a satellite clinic in Yelandur, a rural part of the Karnataka state of India

courses on endothelial corneal transplant at the Aravind Eye Hospital, the Vittala International Institute of Ophthalmology in Bangalore, and the Disha Eye Hospital in Barrackpore.

Dr. Pramanik credits his interest in international eye care to **Thomas Weingeist, PhD, MD**, former chairman, **Thomas Oetting, MD**, residency program director, and other UI faculty. "I was trained under Drs. **John Sutphin** (UI emeritus professor) and **Kenneth Goins** (UI professor of clinical ophthalmology), and was fortunate to have an opportunity to travel to India to teach and perform eye surgery," said Dr. Pramanik. "This experience exposed me to a great environment for testing new therapies and treatments. It also allowed me to establish valuable connections across the world," he added.

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Entrance to Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai, India



Dr. Pramanik (right) traveled to India on ORBIS project in 2005.

New surgical implant tested at UI prevents total blindness

A work accident leaves a woman blind in one eye. As she copes with the loss, within months the vision in the other, previously uninjured eye begins to blur, and the eye becomes red and inflamed.

The rare eye condition, known as sympathetic ophthalmia, occurs when vision is lost in one eye through injury or multiple surgeries, and the body's overactive immune system attacks the remaining healthy eye. Left untreated, a person can become completely blind.

However, University of Iowa ophthalmologists and colleagues have tested and are now using a surgical implant called Retisert to prevent complete vision loss



Retisert device compared to size of dime. Photograph courtesy of Bausch and Lomb

and eliminate dependence on systemic, or whole-body, immunosuppression. Before use of the surgical technique, doctors had to “shut down” a person’s entire immune system to stop the attack on the remaining good eye.

“Until recently, the primary treatment option for sympathetic ophthalmia was nonsurgical and involved high doses of oral steroids followed by oral immunosuppressive medication to preserve vision in a patient’s remaining eye,” said **Vinit Mahajan, MD, PhD**, assistant professor of ophthalmology. “But this treatment, similar to organ transplantation cases, subjects patients to life-long use of immunosuppressive drugs that have serious side effects such as osteoporosis, weight gain, potentially life-threatening infection and liver or kidney damage,” he added.

The new Retisert treatment involves the surgical implantation into the endangered eye of a small plastic tab that contains a slow-release steroid called fluocinolone acetonide. The insert provides immunosuppression only to the endangered eye, not other body parts. It lasts for about two and a half years and then can be replaced.

Along with UI retinal surgeons **James Folk, MD**, professor of ophthalmology, and **Karen Gehrs, MD**, clinical associate professor of ophthalmology, Mahajan published a retrospective paper online in January in the journal *Ophthalmology* that documents the successful use of Retisert to treat eight patients with sympathetic ophthalmia.

In addition to the UI and the Wills Eye Institute, the study involved researchers at the University of Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary and Sentro Oftalmogico Jose Rizal at the University of the Philippines. The study was supported in part by a grant from Research to Prevent Blindness.



Research to Prevent Blindness renews UI support

A \$110,000 research continuation grant from Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB) will help support investigations at the UI Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences into the causes, treatment and prevention of blinding diseases such as macular degeneration and glaucoma.

To date, RPB has awarded grants totaling nearly \$3.4 million in research support to UI investigators.

“We are grateful for the continued support of RPB. Unrestricted funding is critical in our faculty’s efforts to find the underlying causes of eye diseases and develop effective treatments to those diseases,” said **Keith D. Carter, MD**, professor and head of ophthalmology and visual sciences.

Fighting blindness in India, continued from page 4

These connections have proved productive and personally rewarding to Dr. Pramanik as he has been involved in numerous projects and successful efforts to provide quality, affordable eye care to the people of India.

“We are proud of Sudeep for all he has done and for sharing his love of international ophthalmology with Nandini. We hope to find ways to expand the international experience of our residents and this

was a great start,” said **Thomas Oetting, MD**, professor of clinical ophthalmology and residency program director.

Educational and research collaborations with international academic medical centers such as the Aravind Eye Hospital are actively encouraged at the University of Iowa. This tradition of exchange is something the department strives to instill in all of the students, residents and fellows who train here.

Ceremonies honor two new professorships



Left to right: Lynette L. Marshall, UI Foundation president and CEO; Jean E. Robillard, MD, UI vice president for medical affairs; Rommel Fuerste, MD ('83MD); Jeff Nerad, MD; Paul B. Rothman, UI Carver College of Medicine dean; Keith D. Carter, MD; Gretchen Fuerste, MD ('78MD, '82R); Hunter Fuerste, MD ('82MD)

The department formally recognized the establishment of two new professorships in ophthalmology. Last December, faculty and members of the Marion and Frederick Fuerste family gathered to celebrate the appointment of **Jeffrey A. Nerad, MD**, as the inaugural Marion and Frederick Fuerste, M.D. Professorship of Ophthalmology. Nerad, who joined the faculty in 1985, is a professor in the oculoplastic, orbital and oncology service. The Fuerste Professorship will be used to provide support and promote research and education in ophthalmology.



Members of the Keech family with Drs. Arlene Drack and Ed Stone, along with Sally Mason, UI president (far right)

This spring the department also celebrated the appointment of **Arlene V. Drack, MD**, as the inaugural Ronald V. Keech, MD, Associate Professor in Ophthalmic Genetics. Keech, a University of Iowa physician who died in 2007, was renowned as a pioneering leader in pediatric ophthalmology. The Keech Professorship was created by using a portion of a \$5 million gift made in 2006 by Lucille A. Carver of Muscatine, Iowa. That gift, which established the John and Marcia Carver Nonprofit Genetic Testing Laboratory within the UI Carver Family Center for Macular Degeneration, was made through the University of Iowa Foundation. The professorship uniquely supports a clinician-scientist position and allows Iowa to recruit and retain a leader in the fields of pediatric ophthalmology and ophthalmic genetics.



UI Vice President for Medical Affairs, Jean Robillard, MD, congratulates Arlene Drack, MD

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Unexpected estate gift benefits AMD research

When Dina Schrage of Merrillville, Ind., was planning her estate in 1997, her only malady was age-related macular degeneration (AMD). In working with her attorney, she made decisions regarding gifts to leave her surviving family members and other charities she supported. The conversation between the two reached a lull, however, when Schrage realized she had more to give and no idea as to who the recipient should be.

Ms. Schrage gave her lawyer the mission to find organizations engaged in AMD research. At that time, Internet use by this law firm was in its infancy. Because the UI Carver Family Center for Macular Degeneration was on the forefront of technology and based on the reputation of the UI Department of Ophthalmology and Visual

Sciences, the lawyer's Internet research produced two institutions: The University of Iowa and another university on the East coast. Being a Midwesterner herself, Schrage chose to leave the remainder of her estate to the UI Carver Family Center for Macular Degeneration.

The gift, totaling nearly \$1.9 million, is being used to support macular degeneration research and is a perfect example of the impact bequests can have on a program.

Not only do gifts of this nature directly and positively affect patients, their fami-

lies, and future patients, they can also help accomplish estate planning and philanthropic goals by minimizing taxes and conserving more of the estate.

Planned gifts can be in a variety of forms, including bequests through wills, gifts through living trusts, charitable remainder trusts, life insurance gifts, and beneficiary designation in retirement plans. To find out more about opportunities to give to the University of Iowa Eye Program, please contact the UI Foundation at (800) 648-6973 or visit our website at www.givetoiowa.org/eye



THE CARVER FAMILY CENTER
for **MACULAR DEGENERATION**

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA



There *is* something you can do

The University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences is proud to be recognized as one of the best eye care and research programs in the country. Private support allows us to sustain and increase our margin of excellence in patient care, education and research in ophthalmology and the visual sciences. If you are interested in supporting our mission, please visit:

www.givetoiowa.org/eye

For information about how your contribution can have an impact, please contact:

Mitch Beckman
Executive Director of Development
UI Foundation
800-648-6973 or
mitch-beckman@uiowa.edu

Professorships, continued from page 6

The department is pleased to have 12 named professorships and chairs. The significance and prestige accompanying named positions are something we are extremely proud of achieving. We are grateful for the generosity of the many faculty, alumni, colleagues, friends, and patients who helped to establish these and other endowments as a means of fulfilling our educational, clinical, and research mission.

Lee and Beaver returning to Texas

Andrew G. Lee, MD, professor of ophthalmology, neurology and neurosurgery, and Hilary A. Beaver, MD, associate professor of ophthalmology, recently left The University of Iowa for Houston, Texas. Dr. Lee, who completed his residency at the Baylor College of Medicine, is returning to Houston as chair of a new department of ophthalmology at Methodist Hospital Medical Center.

Dr. Lee made many significant contributions since joining the department in 2000, particularly in medical education and leadership of the department's fellowship program. He is a skilled clinician who cares deeply about the patients he treats.

"Hilary and I greatly enjoyed our nine years at Iowa. One of the best parts of The University of Iowa is access to some of the best minds in ophthalmology. The ability to walk around the corner and get

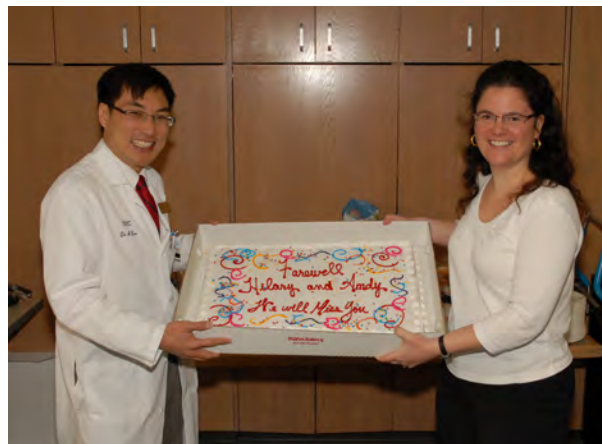
a curbside consult from an Ed Stone or a Lee Alward, or Keith Carter or a Mike Wagoner or any of our faculty really is a big plus of being in an academic center of this caliber and we will miss everyone, staff, faculty, residents and fellows alike," commented Dr. Lee.

Dr. Lee will remain active with the department in an adjunct role, helping to ensure Iowa residency and fellowship programs continue a tradition of excellence.

Besides serving in the Comprehensive Ophthalmology service, Dr. Beaver played a key role as medical student coordinator and also believes strongly in providing the finest in patient care. She added, "Although we are looking forward to our new

opportunities in Houston, we will miss the department, the university, the great Iowa patients, and Iowa City."

Keith D. Carter, MD, department chair, expressed his sentiments, "We will truly miss Andy and Hilary and wish them all the best. Their energy, dedication to our students, and compassion for patients will be hard to replace."



Dedicated to progress in ophthalmology

Many faculty from the University of Iowa go on to become leaders in academic medicine and private practice, always seeking to contribute to the practice of eye care and field of vision research. Here is a snapshot of some of the individuals who have made their mark in Iowa City and beyond.



Department of Ophthalmology 1965-6

Seated: Drs. P. Baloglou, W. Snyder, M. Armaly, P.J. Leinfelder, A.E. Braley, H. Burian, R. Watzke, P. Boeder, F. Blodi
Row 2: Drs. T. Lawwill, J. Pearlman, W. Coulter, R. Baller, M. Mazow, S.H. Thompson, R. Moore, W. Newsom, D. Greif, R. Motley, R. Stephens, D. Miles
Row 3: Drs. C. Burns, D. Doughman, V. Kirkegaard, P. Jahnke, H. Stephenson, R. Widner, J.T. Leinfelder, J. Chambers, E. Sornson, F. Reuling, O. Weigmann

Kitzmann returns to Iowa

Anna S. Kitzmann, MD ('08F), returned to the UI department of ophthalmology and visual sciences as an assistant professor of ophthalmology. Kitzmann completed a fellowship in the Cornea, External Disease and Refractive Surgery Service at Iowa in 2008 and after a short stint away, rejoined the department as a faculty member. Welcome back, Anna!

Dr. Kitzmann's clinical focus is on patients with diseases of the cornea and corneal transplantation, external disease, and refractive surgery as well as comprehensive ophthalmology. She specializes in cataract surgery, deep anterior lamellar keratoplasty, artificial keratoprosthesis, and intracorneal ring segments.



Visit us online

The department provides several teaching resources online. Check out the many cases and tutorials available on our EyeRounds educational website - www.eyerounds.org

Recent cases posted include a case involving an unresponsive infant with bilateral retinal hemorrhages, "Boston Keratoprosthesis: An option for patients with multiple failed corneal grafts," and "Resident Surgeon Competency: Learning to use the PASCAL laser system."

Video tutorials are also available on EyeRounds. A recent addition is an introductory tutorial on the use of the PASCAL argon laser which joins classic tutorials such as the one on intravitreal tap and injection for endophthalmitis.

Visit EyeRounds.org on Facebook as well and become a fan! Simply search for "EyeRounds.org" from your Facebook page. To sign up to be notified about new cases, click on the link on the EyeRounds page for this option.

We also provide an innovative web-based resource for teaching gonioscopy examination techniques at: www.gonioscopy.org

Iowa Eye Association Annual Meeting to be held on June 18-19

Ophthalmologists and department alumni are invited to attend the Iowa Eye Association Annual Meeting this year in Iowa City. This year's meeting features an outstanding line-up of lecturers including:

Paul R. Lichter, MD, University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center (Mansour F. Armaly Lecture)

William (BJ) Dupps, MD, PhD, Cleveland Clinic (Distinguished Alumni Lecture)

James A. Davison, MD, Wolfe Eye Clinic (Wolfe Foundation Lecture)

Valerie A. Purvin, MD, Midwest Eye Institute (Alson E. Braley Lecture)

The meeting also includes the always spirited poker tournament, popular golf outing, and other social gatherings. More information and registration may be found online at our department website, or by contacting Pat Zahs at 319-356-4475 or patricia-zahs@uiowa.edu



Residents participate in phacoemulsification course

UI residents visited Madison, Wis., for the annual phacoemulsification course the University of Iowa holds in conjunction with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Ophthalmology. The annual trip allows residents an opportunity to learn more about this surgical technique for cataracts.

Residents pause for group photograph with Iowa faculty members on the University of Wisconsin campus



Grand opening of research space at UI Research Park

The Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences and Ophtherion, Inc. celebrated the opening of new corporate and academic research facilities at the University of Iowa Research Park. Business and government leaders joined members of the department and UI research community to tour the facilities and learn more about the cutting-edge diagnostic tools that Ophtherion is developing to treat and prevent age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and other chronic diseases. AMD research focuses on genetic findings that affect the entire immune system, including a critical pathway known as the alternative complement system.



Iowa 2nd District Congressman Dave Loebsack (D) (left) visits with Department head Keith Carter, MD (right)



Iowa's Dr. Greg Hageman (far right) shares his experiences with Doug Getter, Iowa Biotechnology Association's Executive Director (left) and Iowa State Representative David Jacoby (D) (center)



Expanded space for Iowa Lions Eye Bank and Iowa KidSight

Representatives of the Iowa Lions Eye Bank and our Cornea and External Disease Service joined donor families and cornea recipients, friends, and supporters to celebrate the Iowa Lions Eye Bank's newly expanded and remodeled space. Iowa KidSight, a joint project of the Lions Clubs of Iowa and the department, also celebrated the opening of their new office space with Lions Club members and other community members.



Iowa Lions Eye Bank Executive Directors from 1955 to present (from left to right): Pat Mason ('82 - '04), Ruth Fisher ('55 - '83), Cindy Reed ('04 - present)



Garret Locke, Iowa Lions Eye Bank Technical Director, describes partial-thickness corneal transplant tissue preparation to visitors during a tour of the new lab.



Vision screening equipment on display in the new Iowa KidSight office

Iowa alumni reconnect in Atlanta



Alumni and friends of the department gathered at the Commerce Club in Atlanta for the Iowa Eye Association Alumni Reception during the 2008 American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual meeting.

Save the date for the next gathering at the 2009 AAO-PAAO Joint Meeting in San Francisco on Sunday, October 25th.



UI physician takes eye education to the sunshine state

Reid Longmuir, MD, assistant professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences, shared the latest information on glaucoma and other common eye diseases with alumni and friends of the Univer-

sity of Iowa at the UI Carver College of Medicine's National Mini Medical School Program in Tampa, Fla. Dr. Longmuir, a physician in UI's glaucoma and neuro-ophthalmology services, helped attendees

gain a better understanding of eye diseases and their impact on an aging population.

The mini-medical school program is designed for science educators, health consumers, students interested in careers in health care and basic sciences, retirees interested in continuing education, and anyone else wishing to take a scientific exploration of health and disease. With an aging population in mind, this year's programs included a focus on vision health. Information may be found at:

www.medicine.uiowa.edu/minimedicalschool



Andrea Lusk, MD ('99R) with Reid Longmuir, MD



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Upcoming events

Join us in Iowa City for our Clinical Conference Series where we explore and discuss relevant and interesting clinical topics in Ophthalmology. Check our web site for the latest dates, topics, and registration information: <http://tinyurl.com/UIowaClinConf>

The 2009-2010 Clinical Conference Series includes:

September 11	Cataract/Comprehensive Ophthalmology
October 9	Retina
December 4	Pediatric Ophthalmology
February 5, 2010	Glaucoma
March 5, 2010	Neuro-ophthalmology
April 2, 2010	Oculoplastic Surgery

May 1	11th Annual Iowa Optometric Conference , Iowa City
May 3-7	ARVO 2009 Annual Meeting , Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
May 14	Spring Dedication Ceremony, Iowa Lions Donor Memorial and Healing Garden , Iowa City
May 15	Resident and Fellow Research Day , Iowa City
June 12-13	UI Carver College of Medicine Alumni Reunion Weekend , Iowa City
June 18-19	Iowa Eye Association Annual Meeting , Iowa City
June 25	Resident and Fellow Graduation Celebration , Iowa City
July 10	Midwest Eye Research Symposium , Iowa City
October 9-10	UI Homecoming Reunion Weekend , Iowa City
October 24-27	2009 AAO-PAAO Joint Meeting , San Francisco, Calif.
October 25	Iowa Eye Association Alumni Reception, AAO Annual Meeting , San Francisco, Calif.