focus on vision care:
PEDiatric Ophthalmologists
keep eye on the future
DMEI clinical directory

Oklahoma Health Center
DMEI Pavilions A & B • 608 Stanton L. Young Blvd. • Oklahoma City, OK 73104

Comprehensive Ophthalmology/Ophthalmic Surgery/Uveitis
Theresa A. Larson, MD
Neuro-Ophthalmology/Comprehensive Ophthalmology
Anil D. Patel, MD
Glaucoma/Comprehensive Ophthalmology
Andrew K. Bailey, MD (July 21)
Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
Annie Moreau, MD

Contact Lenses
(405) 271-6084 • (800) 787-9012
Carri L. Ferguson, FCLSA
Contact Lens Specialist
Rosita Ghazanfari, OD
Contact Lens Specialist

Cornea and External Disease
(405) 271-1095 • (800) 787-9017
Alex W. Cohen, MD, PhD
Jennifer C. Lee, MD (September 1)
Rhea L. Siatkowski, MD
Donald U. Stone, MD

Glaucoma
(405) 271-1093 • (800) 787-9015
Andrew K. Bailey, MD (July 21)
Mahmoud A. Khairi, MD
Steven R. Sarkissian, Jr., MD
Gregory L. Skuta, MD

LASIK Surgery
(405) 271-2500 • (877) 406-4193
Alex W. Cohen, MD, PhD
David W. Jackson, MD
(580) 250-5855
Jean R. Hausheer, MD, FACS

Low Vision Rehabilitation
(405) 271-1793 • (800) 787-9012
Rebecca K. Morgan, MD

Neuro-Ophthalmology
(405) 271-1091 • (800) 787-9013
Bradley K. Farris, MD
Anil D. Patel, MD
R. Michael Siatkowski, MD

Ocular Oncology/Ophthalmic Pathology
(405) 271-1090 • (800) 787-9012
Brian K. Firestone, MD

Ocular Prosthetics
(405) 271-3391 • (800) 787-9012
Nancy A. Lambert, BCO

Optic Nerve Surgery
(405) 271-1090 • (800) 787-9012
Annie Moreau, MD

Optical Services
(405) 271-6714 • (800) 787-9012

Optometry
(405) 271-1090 • (800) 787-9012
Dana M. Garber, OD
Rosita Ghazanfari, OD
Brandalyn D. Loyko, OD
Jessica L. Lucas, OD

Pediatric Ophthalmology/Strabismus
(405) 271-1094 • (800) 787-9016
Janine E. Collinge, MD
R. Michael Siatkowski, MD
Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHS

Stephenson Laser Center
(405) 271-2500 • (877) 406-4193

Low Vision Rehabilitation
(405) 271-1090 • (800) 787-9012
Rebecca K. Morgan, MD

McGee Eye Surgery Center (MESC)
Harold Hamm Diabetes Center • 1000 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 150 • Oklahoma City, OK 73104
(405) 232-8696

Comprehensive Ophthalmology/Cataract Surgery
Cynthia A. Bradford, MD
Brian K. Firestone, MD
Layne E. Goetzinger, MD
David W. Jackson, MD
Theresa A. Larson, MD
Deana S. Watts, MD

LASIK Surgery
(405) 271-2500 • (877) 406-4193
Alex W. Cohen, MD, PhD
David W. Jackson, MD
(580) 250-5855
Jean R. Hausheer, MD, FACS

Optometry
(405) 271-1090 • (800) 787-9012
Dana M. Garber, OD
Rosita Ghazanfari, OD
Brandalyn D. Loyko, OD
Jessica L. Lucas, OD

Stephenson Laser Center
(405) 271-2500 • (877) 406-4193

Optometry
(405) 271-1095 • (800) 787-9017
Janine E. Collinge, MD
R. Michael Siatkowski, MD
Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHS

Stephenson Laser Center
(405) 271-2500 • (877) 406-4193

Optometry
(405) 271-1095 • (800) 787-9017
Donald U. Stone, MD

Dean McGee Eye Institute Satellite Locations

EDMOND
1005 Medical Park Blvd., 73013
(405) 271-0913

Comprehensive Ophthalmology/Ophthalmic Surgery/Uveitis
Theresa A. Larson, MD

Neuro-Ophthalmology/Comprehensive Ophthalmology
Anil D. Patel, MD

Glaucoma/Comprehensive Ophthalmology
Andrew K. Bailey, MD (July 21)

Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
Annie Moreau, MD

Optometry
Angela M. Plant, OD

Optical Services
(405) 271-0909

NORTHWEST OKC
3500 N.W. 56th, #101, 73112
(405) 942-9545

Comprehensive Ophthalmology/Ophthalmic Surgery
Ralph B. Hester III, MD
Brian K. Firestone, MD

Optometry
Tasha J. Schellenberg, OD

Optical Services
(405) 271-9506

LAWTON
3201 W. Gore Blvd., #200, 73505
(580) 250-5855

Comprehensive Ophthalmology/Ophthalmic Surgery
Jean R. Hausheer, MD, FACS
Ann A. Warn, MD, FACS

Optical Services
(580) 585-5425
DMEI InVision

SUMMER 2014

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DMEI InVision is published twice yearly by the Dean McGee Eye Institute.

For more information about this publication or to be placed on the mailing list, please contact the Development Office.
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Oklahoma City, OK 73104
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DMEI InVision is online at: www.dmei.org

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PRESERVING AND RESTORING VISION in a person of any age is a very special, even sacred privilege, and one that all of us at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) hold dear. To preserve and restore vision in a child for his or her lifetime is particularly gratifying. The doctors and staff at the Dean McGee Eye Institute who care for literally thousands of Oklahoma’s children have an opportunity to improve the lives of our pediatric patients every single day.

Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski leads an outstanding team of three ophthalmologists who specialize in pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus and bring expertise from some of the country’s finest training programs. Dr. Siatkowski, for example, completed his subspecialty fellowship training at the esteemed Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, where he served on the faculty for six years before joining the DMEI faculty in 1999. A national leader in the profession of ophthalmology, Dr. Siatkowski also serves as the Eye Institute’s Vice Chair for Academic Affairs and Residency Program Director.

Dr. Tammy Yanovitch graduated at the top of her medical school class at the University of Oklahoma and also completed her ophthalmology residency here. After her fellowship training at Duke University, she remained on the faculty there for four years and returned to the Dean McGee Eye Institute in 2012 because she “had such a great residency experience here and wanted to contribute to that and be a part of this place.”

A native of New Jersey, Dr. Janine Collinge joined our faculty in August 2013. She served as Chief Resident at Washington Hospital Center/Georgetown University in Washington, DC and then completed a prestigious fellowship at Indiana University in Indianapolis before moving to Oklahoma City. Regarding her decision to enter an academic position, Dr. Collinge states, “It is an optimal way to practice and grow and give patients really good care.”
The people here (at DMEI) are nice and friendly and willing to help.”

In addition to these three talented ophthalmologists (who see patients at the Eye Institute as well as on the eighth floor of the OU Children’s Physicians Clinic), all of our optometrists also provide eye care to children, with Drs. Dana Garber, Jessica Lucas, and Brandi Loyko having a particular interest in pediatric vision. These professionals are joined by a certified orthoptist, Lauren Pendarvis, CO, and several skilled technicians. As shared in the feature story in this edition of InVision, this team is deeply committed to the visual welfare of Oklahoma’s children. They also care for adults who require attention to and correction of eye muscle imbalances or misalignments, also known as strabismus.

In the academic setting in which we practice, it is vital that we contribute to advancing the understanding and treatment of the eye disorders that affect infants and children. As The Children’s Hospital has one of the largest neonatal intensive care units in the nation, our physicians have been actively engaged in National Eye Institute-sponsored clinical trials of retinopathy of prematurity (ROP), including ETROP (the Early Treatment of Retinopathy or Prematurity) and eROP (Telemedicine Approaches to Evaluating Acute-Phase Retinopathy of Prematurity). The first major results of the latter study will be released in late June.

The Dean McGee Eye Institute also participates in the Pediatric Eye Disease Investigator Group (PEDIG), which has provided useful information on a variety of topics, including amblyopia (lazy eye), myopia (nearsightedness), nasolacrimal duct obstruction (blockage of the tear drainage system), and strabismus. These studies have greatly influenced the ability of pediatric ophthalmologists from throughout the world to better care for their young patients.

Working side by side with other DMEI ophthalmologists and primary care and subspecialty pediatricians, neonatologists, and pediatric surgeons at The Children’s Hospital at OU Medical Center, the pediatric eye care team at the Dean McGee Eye Institute is uniquely positioned to provide major impact on enhancing vision for children from Oklahoma’s 77 counties and the surrounding region. It is truly a special privilege to care for those who will one day care for us!

Gregory L. Skuta, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer
Dean McGee Eye Institute
Edward L. Gaylord Professor and Chair
Department of Ophthalmology
University of Oklahoma College of Medicine

"To preserve and restore vision in a child for his or her lifetime is particularly gratifying."
TRICIA L. EVEREST HAS JOINED THE Dean McGee Eye Institute Board of Trustees as its newest member. The Board welcomed her at her first meeting in December, 2013.

As an outstanding and active volunteer in the Oklahoma City community, Everest spends most of her time serving a variety of community projects and causes which include social services, health, arts, and education. She currently serves as an Advisory Board Chairman of the Inasmuch Foundation; Trustee of Oklahoma City University; Director of Allied Arts; Director for Mercy Hospital; Vice-Chair of the YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City; Director of Oklahoma Lawyers for Children; Vice-Chair of ReMerge; Director of Wilderness Matters; and in numerous roles with other nonprofit organizations.

David E. Rainbolt, Chair of the DMEI Board of Trustees said, “Tricia Everest is a woman of many talents and diverse experience. She brings a legal background with both private and public practice. Her work with nonprofits is extensive and hands on, and she is one of the key leaders in a younger generation of Oklahomans. The

Dean McGee Eye Institute is fortunate that Tricia has allied herself with us.”

Everest attended Oklahoma City’s Casady High School before graduating from Vanderbilt University in 1993. She attended the University of Oklahoma College of Law, earning her Juris Doctor in 2003. Her legal work has included service as an Assistant Attorney General representing the State of Oklahoma. She is currently Of-Counsel with Gable Gotwals.
THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE has been named as the winner of Best Eye Care Provider in the “Family Favorites Awards” category by readers of Metro Family Magazine, which has a readership of over 75,000 between the ages of 25 and 54. The award was announced in their February issue. Each month, 35,000 copies of the magazine are distributed in Edmond, northwest Oklahoma City, Nichols Hills, south Oklahoma City, Moore, Norman, Yukon, and Midwest City to over 500 distribution sites.

SENATOR A.J. GRIFFIN OF GUTHRIE made a special visit to the Dean McGee Eye Institute on January 20 to tour the facility and to meet with academic leaders. Pictured to the right are: Cynthia A. Bradford, MD, Professor, Department of Ophthalmology and Senior Secretary for Advocacy for the American Academy of Ophthalmology; R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, James P. Luton Professor of Ophthalmology, Vice Chair for Academic Affairs and DMEI Residency Program Director; Senator Griffin; and Gregory L. Skuta, MD, President and CEO of the Dean McGee Eye Institute, Edward L. Gaylord Professor and Chair of the OU Department of Ophthalmology and President of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. Senator Griffin has a strong interest in health care and in 2013 was awarded the Primary Care Association Legislative Champion of the Year and the Oklahoma Alcohol Professional Counselor Association Legislator of the Year.
DMEI RESIDENTS PARTICIPATE IN OU CHILDREN’S HEALTH FAIR

THE OU CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL ATRIUM at the Oklahoma Health Center was the location for OU’s annual Children’s Health Fair. DMEI residents and orthoptist, Lauren Pendarvis, performed 90 free eye screenings during the day-long event.

Pictured above from left to right are residents Evan J. Allan, MD, and Andrew A. Wilson, MD, pointing to eye screening charts. Dr. Wilson examines the eyes of a young participant.


Pictured from left to right: Yasser M. Elshatory, MD, PhD, Evan C. Sussenbach, MD, and Cynthia A. Bradford, MD.

ALBERT RIDDLE, LOCAL ARTIST and patient of Dr. Gregory L. Skuta, donated the above painting entitled “Searching for the Blues.” It is displayed in the G.T. and Elizabeth Blankenship Center for Glaucoma Care on the second floor of Pavilion A.

Pictured is Mr. Riddle (left) with Gregory L. Skuta, MD (right), DMEI President and CEO.
Ocular Oncologist/Ophthalmic Pathologist
Brian K. Firestone, MD
JOINS DMEI FACULTY

**DR. BRIAN FIRESTONE** began his appointment as a member of the faculty at the Dean McGee Eye Institute/OU Department of Ophthalmology in January.

Dr. Firestone is a native of Oklahoma and earned his undergraduate and medical degrees from Oklahoma Baptist University and the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine respectively. He completed his internship and residency in ophthalmology at Scott and White/Texas A&M Health Science Center. Most recently, he completed prestigious fellowships in ocular oncology and ophthalmic pathology with Drs. Jerry and Carol Shields, Sara Lally, and Arman Mashayekhi (ocular oncology) and Dr. Ralph Eagle (ophthalmic pathology) at the Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia. The ocular oncology service at the Wills Eye Hospital is regarded as the busiest in the world.

Dr. Firestone will be providing comprehensive ophthalmology services (including cataract surgery) as well as expertise and services in ocular oncology (with an emphasis on anterior and posterior segment cancers of the eye—melanoma, retinoblastoma, and other cancerous and pre-cancerous conditions) and ophthalmic pathology. He will hold an academic appointment as Clinical Assistant Professor.

He, his wife Jessica, and their three children (Henry, age 5; Harrison, age 3; and Nora, age 1) reside in the north Edmond area and are excited to be back home in Oklahoma.

Dr. Gregory L. Skuta, President and CEO of the Dean McGee Eye Institute and Edward L. Gaylord Professor and Chair of the OU Department of Ophthalmology stated, “Dr. Firestone is an absolutely delightful individual, and I am confident that, as a member of the faculty, he will demonstrate extraordinary commitment to patient care and our educational and academic missions.”
NINETEEN OPHTHALMOLOGISTS from the Dean McGee Eye Institute have been named to the widely respected Best Doctors in America® list.

- Cynthia A. Bradford, MD
- Reagan H. Bradford, Jr., MD
- Bradley K. Farris, MD
- Stephen R. Fransen, MD
- Ralph B. Hester III, MD
- P. Lloyd Hildebrand, MD, FACS
- David W. Jackson, MD
- Mahmoud A. Khaimi, MD
- Ronald M. Kingsley, MD
- Robert E. Leonard II, MD
- Rebecca K. Morgan, MD
- Anil D. Patel, MD
- Steven R. Sarkisian, Jr., MD
- Vinay A. Shah, MD
- R. Michael Siatkowski, MD
- Rhea L. Siatkowski, MD
- Gregory L. Skuta, MD
- Donald U. Stone, MD
- Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD

Physicians are peer nominated for the Best Doctors list from a polling of over 40,000 physicians in the United States in over 400 subspecialties of medicine. Only the top 5% of the doctors in America earn a spot on the list.

ANDREW K. BAILEY, MD, has joined the Dean McGee Eye Institute/OU Department of Ophthalmology’s Glaucoma Service as a Clinical Assistant Professor beginning on July 21, 2014.

Born in Denver, Colorado, Dr. Bailey earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Colorado and his medical degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine. He completed an internship in pediatrics (2004–2005) at the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, Virginia, where he was recognized as the Intern of the Year by the Department of Emergency Medicine. Dr. Bailey served in the United States Navy from 2004 to 2010 and as a General Medical Officer in the Navy from 2005 to 2010, during which time he was twice deployed to Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom for a total of 16 months of service there. He completed a residency in ophthalmology (2010–2013) at the Dean McGee Eye Institute/University of Oklahoma, where he also served as a glaucoma fellow.

“We are thrilled that Drew, his wife Breen, and their three children, Cole, Ben, and Brookelyn, will remain as members of the Dean McGee family. He will undoubtedly make outstanding contributions to our patient care, educational, and academic missions in the years ahead,” said Dr. Gregory L. Skuta, President and CEO of the Dean McGee Eye Institute and Edward L. Gaylord Professor and Chair of the OU Department of Ophthalmology.
DMEI Pediatric Ophthalmologist and Professor Elected to National Position

DR. R. MICHAEL SIATKOWSKI, DMEI’s Residency Program Director and Vice Chair for Academic Affairs, was elected as a Director-at-Large to the Program Directors Council (PDC) of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO). His seven-year period of service began on April 1, 2014, and will include one year (his sixth year) as President of the PDC.

The Program Directors Council is comprised of seven of the nation’s leading and most respected residency program directors and seeks to support residency program directors in their vital roles and to promote excellence in residency and ophthalmic education. Among its activities, the PDC offers an annual Educating the Educators conference which precedes the annual meeting of the AUPO.

Employee Service Awards

IN DECEMBER, DMEI MANAGEMENT recognized individuals who have been employed for five to thirty years. Individuals with twenty or more years of service are shown with DMEI leadership in the photograph to the right. They include (left to right): Matthew D. Bown, DMEI Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Sheri Greenwood, Medical Librarian (30 years), Steve Lynch, Optical Shop Manager (20 years), Melody Marcum, Director of External Relations and Development (25 years), Ronald M. Kingsley, MD, Ophthalmologist and Retinal Specialist (30 years), and Gregory L. Skuta, MD, DMEI President and CEO.

MICHELLE C. CALLEGAN, PhD, received a National Institutes of Health R01 grant “Vascular Permeability in Ocular Infections” for $1.9 million starting Jan. 2014 for 4 years; was awarded a Distinguished Service Award by the Oklahoma Center for Neuroscience last September; and recently published Hunt J.J., Astley R., Wang J-T, Callegan M.C. “TLR4 Contributes to the Host Response to Klebsiella Intraocular Infections,” Current Eye Research, March 2014. She was just elected as an OU College of Medicine representative to the OU Health Sciences Center Graduate Council.

ALEX W. COHEN, MD, PhD, recently published Gu X., Fliesler S.J., Zhao Y., Stallcup W.B., Cohen A.W., Elliott M.H. “Loss of Caveolin-1 Causes Blood-Retinal Barrier Breakdown, Venous Enlargement and Mural Cell Alteration,” American Journal of Pathology, Feb. 2014. On May 31, he was named as the recipient of the 2014 Edward and Thelma Gaylord Faculty Honor Award for outstanding teaching.


MICHAEL H. ELLIOTT, PhD, was selected as an Editorial Review Board member for Molecular Vision, 2014; his Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) presentation was selected as a “Hot Topic” (top 3% of submitted abstracts); and he was selected to chair the ARVO Members-in-Training Committee and began his term as Chair-elect at the recent ARVO meeting in Orlando. Dr. Elliott will serve as Chair at ARVO 2015. His recent publications include: Gu X., Reagan A., Yen A., Bhatti F., Cohen A.W., and Elliott, M.H. “Spatial and Temporal Localization of Caveolin-1 Protein in the Developing Retina,” Advances in Experimental Medicine and Biology, April 2014; Gu X., Fliesler S.J., Zhao Y.Y., Stallcup W.B., Cohen A.W., and Elliott M.H. “Loss of Caveolin-1 Causes Blood-Retinal Barrier Breakdown, Venous Enlargement and


MAHMOUD A. KHAIMI, MD, was featured along with his patient (Judy Cross) in The Oklahoman newspaper, Feb. 2014. The story focused on canaloplasty and the patient experience with that type of glaucoma surgery.

NANCY A. LAMBERT, BCO, was featured along with her patient (Suzana) in The Oklahoman newspaper, April 2014. The story focused on the advanced treatment the patient received at the Dean McGee Eye Institute and at OU Medical Center. (Several other media outlets covered this notable story too.)


**ANNIE MOREAU, MD**, recently published Moreau A., Lao K.C., Farris B.K. “Optic Nerve Sheath Decompression: A Surgical Technique with Minimal Operative Complications,” *Journal of Neuro-Ophthalmology*, March 2014. Dr. Moreau was an invited conference speaker on Management of Ocular Trauma for the Quebec Optometry Association, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, April 2014. On May 31, she was named as the recipient of the Excellence in Attending at VA Award for outstanding teaching at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center.


VINAY A. SHAH, MD, recently published Elshatory Y.M., Shah V.A., Hildebrand P.L. “Blurry Vision after Orbital Decompression,” Ophthalmic Epidemiology, Feb. 2014; and Elshatory Y.M., Siatkowski R.M., Shah V.A., Vajzovic L., Mahmoud T.H. “Diagnostic and Therapeutic Challenges,” Retina, March 2014. Recent presentations at the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA, in Nov. 2013 include: Course Director and Senior Instructor, AAO Skills Transfer Lab: The iPhone for Ophthalmologist (Basic); Course Director and Instructor, AAO Skills Transfer Lab: The iPhone for Ophthalmologist (Advanced); Senior Instructor, AAO Instruction Course: Breakthrough to Social Media; Senior Instructor, AAO/AAOE Instruction Course: Enhance Your Practice with Mobile Technology and Social Media; and Speaker, AAO Technology Theater: Smartphone Update and Disruptive Technologies.

2014. Recent interviews include a News 9 story about “Pediatric Color Blindness Testing” and an OU Medicine story, “Through a Child’s Eyes.”


AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA COLLEGE OF MEDICINE SENIOR BANQUET on May 29, Dr. John David Stephens received the 2014 Dean McGee Award in Ophthalmology as the most outstanding graduating medical student in ophthalmology. He will begin his ophthalmology residency at the Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia in July 2015. Pictured left to right are Anne Skuta, Gregory Skuta, MD, DMEI President and CEO, J. David Stephens, MD, and his wife Jenny Stephens.
PHILANTHROPY UPDATE

Chickasaw Nation Provides Gift for DMEI Research Facilities

THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE HAS received a major gift from the Chickasaw Nation to complete the funding for renovation of the Institute’s research facilities. The Chickasaw Nation’s gift, together with support from other major donors, has allowed DMEI and the University of Oklahoma Department of Ophthalmology to double the size of a translational vision research center to 7,750 square feet and provide updated technologies and facilities to more effectively conduct biomedical vision research. This research is funded by the National Institutes of Health, Research to Prevent Blindness and other major agencies.

“We are exceedingly grateful for the Chickasaw Nation’s history of generous support for the Dean McGee Eye Institute,” said Dr. Gregory Skuta, President and CEO of the Dean McGee Eye Institute and Edward L. Gaylord Professor and Chair of the OU College of Medicine’s Department of Ophthalmology. “This most recent gift will enable our scientists to further advance our vision research programs in a world-class facility that addresses such important conditions as age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and infectious diseases of the eye.”

In recognition of this and a prior gift, the third floor of the original DMEI building, for which renovations were completed in August 2013, will be named the Chickasaw Nation Center for Human Resources and Business and Clinical Support Services. The renovated research facilities will be named the J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation Translational Vision...
Research Center to recognize the lead gift previously provided by this Tulsa-based foundation.

A longtime partner, the Chickasaw Nation helped the Dean McGee Eye Institute establish its first Diabetic Retinopathy Outreach Program (DROP) clinic in Ada in 1997. Founded by Stephen R. Fransen, MD, a DMEI retinal specialist, and Dr. John Garber, an optometrist for the Chickasaw Nation, the program has proven effective in detecting and successfully treating diabetic retinopathy in its early stages in tribal members. Over the years, the Chickasaw Nation has been a generous supporter of the Eye Institute and played a significant role in the capital campaign for construction of its new building, which was dedicated in September 2011 and houses the Chickasaw Nation Center for Retinal Care.

DID YOU KNOW?

...THAT YOU CAN CREATE A LASTING LEGACY TO THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE BY DESIGNATING THE DMEI FOUNDATION AS THE BENEFICIARY OF YOUR INSURANCE POLICIES OR RETIREMENT PLANS? This is one of the most efficient ways to leave a planned gift to the Eye Institute. A retirement asset, such as an IRA account, makes an excellent bequest. If the IRA is given to your family, much of the value may be lost through estate and income taxes. By designating the DMEI Foundation as the beneficiary of all or part of your IRA, the full value of the gift is transferred tax-free at your death and your estate receives an estate tax charitable deduction. After significant life changes occur (such as a marriage, death, or divorce), it is important to update your beneficiary designations. This is a good time to designate a charitable organization as the primary or secondary beneficiary of your accounts and to list a contingent beneficiary in the event your primary or secondary beneficiaries predecease you. Please call Lana Ivy, Vice President of Development, at 405–271–7803 with any questions or to request additional information.
THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE

2013 ANNUAL DONORS

gratefully acknowledges the donors below who gave gifts in 2013 to support our missions of patient care, vision research, education and community outreach. Every effort has been made to include all gifts and pledges from January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013.

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MICHELLE C. CALLEGAN, PhD, has received a four-year grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Eye Institute (NEI) to study endophthalmitis, a bacterial infection and inflammation of the posterior segment of the eye, which, in severe cases, can cause vision loss or loss of the eye. The proposal will analyze the mechanisms underlying damaging inflammation during the disease. The mechanisms involved in permeability of the blood-retinal barrier, which allows inflammatory cells to enter the eye during post-traumatic and postoperative endophthalmitis, will be among those investigated. The grant also investigates the mechanisms that allow organisms to migrate from the bloodstream into the eye, causing endogenous endophthalmitis. The goal is to identify common mechanisms among infections with different ocular pathogens to arrive at a rational target for anti-inflammatory therapy.

ROBERT E. ANDERSON, MD, PhD, AND RAJU V.S. RAJALA, PhD, co-principal investigators, were recently awarded an NEI R01 grant for one year to study second messengers in the retina. In macular degeneration, the light-sensing cells of the macula mysteriously malfunction and may over time cease to work. Their laboratory discovered that phosphoinositide 3-kinase signaling acts as biological sunglasses to remove the toxic effects of light during the daylight portion of the day. Elimination of this protein from cones resulted in age-related cone degeneration. This team of scientists is working on animal models of cone degeneration to develop therapies to protect the foveal cones. Prolonging the life of foveal cones for even one decade would have a huge beneficial effect on usable vision in an aging population. Successful completion of this grant may help to design novel therapies for age-related cone degenerations.
DMEI Researcher Receives Grant to Study Keratoconus

DIMITRIOS KARAMICHOS, PhD, has received a three-year grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Eye Institute (NEI) to study keratoconus, a degenerative disorder of the eye in which structural changes within the cornea cause it to thin and change to a more conical shape than the more normal gradual curve. Keratoconus, which in severe cases can cause vision loss, is estimated to affect 1 in 500 to 1 in 2000 people. The study will develop a novel human in vitro model to study keratoconus and determine cellular defects. The metabolic profile of these cells will also be characterized. In addition, the grant will investigate the role of tears in healthy individuals and keratoconic patients by analyzing the metabolites and proteins that are being expressed and linking the results back to the in vitro model. The goal is to identify new markers and provide vital clues for the development of new treatments for keratoconus.

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JAMES F. MCGINNIS, PhD, Professor of Ophthalmology and Cell Biology, has been named a University of Oklahoma (OU) Presbyterian Health Foundation Presidential Professor. OU President David L. Boren announced the award at the OU Health Sciences Center’s Spring Faculty Meeting on April 29.

Dr. McGinnis, who also serves as Associate Director of Education for the Oklahoma Center for Neuroscience (OCNS), joined the faculty at the University of Oklahoma in 1997 and was recruited from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). His research in retinal physiology and the prevention of retinal degenerations has been generously supported by numerous funding agencies, including the National Institutes of Health/National Eye Institute (NIH/NEI), Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST). He is particularly well known for his pioneering work in the novel use of nanoceria particles as a promising new treatment for a variety of retinal degenerations.

Established in 1996, Presidential Professors are those faculty members who excel in all of their professional activities and who relate those activities to the students they teach and mentor. These professors inspire their students, mentor their undergraduate and/or graduate students in the process of research and creative activity within their discipline, and exemplify to their students (both past and present) and to their colleagues (both at OU and within their disciplines nationwide) the ideals of a scholar through their endeavors in teaching, research/creative activity, and service. The professorship is granted for a four-year period.
EDUCATION IS A PRIME COMPONENT OF the core mission of the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI). Dean McGee has many outstanding teachers among its clinical faculty; in addition to teaching medical students, residents, and fellows at OU, over the last three years these faculty members have delivered more than 150 presentations throughout the world.

The best educators realize the value of specialist, learning from and being challenged by extramural experts. With support from the OU College of Medicine, the DMEI Distinguished Lecture Series was instituted in January 2010, under the direction of Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski, Vice Chair for Academic Affairs. Over the last four years, this program has brought 27 internationally acclaimed physician-educators to DMEI. Their presentations have covered not only the subspecialties of ophthalmology like glaucoma, retinal disease, and cataract surgery, but also topics such as medical ethics, global eye care, leadership and advocacy, and generational differences between teachers and learners. A typical visit by a DMEI Distinguished Lecturer includes formal presentations during Grand Rounds, informal discussions at dinners, and relaxed lectures and interactive sessions with residents and fellows.

This program has not only enhanced the education of DMEI physicians, but also highlights to the visiting experts the work being done in Oklahoma City, allowing DMEI to continue to recruit the best and brightest residents, fellows, and faculty. DMEI plans on continued growth of this series as part of its goal to have its educational programs recognized at the pinnacle of those worldwide.

On April 29, 2013, DMEI’s Distinguished Lecturer, Dale K. Heuer, MD, Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology, Medical College of Wisconsin, presented to faculty and residents on the topic of glaucoma. Pictured left to right are: Stephen R. Sarkisian, Jr., MD, Dale K. Heuer, MD, Gregory L. Skuta, MD, and Mahmoud A. Khaimi, MD.
Senior Resident Receives Honors

YASSER M. ELSHATORY, MD, PhD, was honored with a Heed Foundation scholarship to help support his fellowship training at the University of Iowa in retina and vitreous surgery. Only a small minority of approximately 200 annual applicants receive this honor, and Dr. Elshatory is the first DMEI resident to earn a Heed Fellowship for at least the past 25 years. In addition, Dr. Elshatory has become the American Academy of Ophthalmology’s (AAO’s) only two-time winner (2013 and 2014) of the EyeWiki submission contest for his pieces on albinism and macular degeneration. In recognition of this honor, he was awarded two all-expense paid trips to the AAO Mid-Year Forum in Washington, DC.
Global Eye Care Update

THE DMEI GLOBAL EYE CARE TEAM left on March 13 for Swaziland, Africa, to provide medical eye care, participate in educational exchanges, and continue dialogue with various dignitaries in the country regarding its Vision 2020 National Eye Care Plan for Swaziland. This year’s team consisted of DMEI physicians Dr. P. Lloyd Hildebrand (Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon), Dr. Bradley Farris (Neuro-Ophthalmologist), Dr. Donald Stone (Corneal Specialist), and senior DMEI residents Dr. Blake Isernhagen and Dr. Evan Allan—Chief Resident. Dr. Paul Chen of California also joined the team in Africa.

Life-Changing Surgery

In its international work, the Global Eye Care team is sometimes faced with challenging cases. In Swaziland, the team saw a six-month old child with severe bilateral facial clefts. This rare birth defect can cause many problems, and surgical repair is complex. The mother found it challenging to bond with the child, but he was thriving. He faced losing vision because he did not have lower eyelids. After careful consideration, the team elected to operate. With simple instruments, a team effort, and three hours of surgery, the child emerged with closure of the clefts and much better eye protection...and elated parents!

DMEI ophthalmologist P. Lloyd Hildebrand, MD, FACS (Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon), performs surgery to correct the baby’s severe bilateral facial clefts.

Preoperative photograph.

Elated mother after surgery. The baby will be followed by Dr. Jonathan Pons, an ophthalmologist in Swaziland.

Postoperative photograph with Dr. P. Lloyd Hildebrand.
Bringing Joy

The Global Eye Care team joined organizers from Bethany First Church of the Nazarene in metropolitan Oklahoma City (who work with the Nazarene Mission in Swaziland) as the medical eye care team that made home visits to HIV/AIDS patients, lectured at Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital and worked in several medical and eye care clinics. The DMEI team brought 500 spinning tops donated by a group of wood carvers in Oklahoma to distribute as toys for the children in Swaziland. Thanks to Sarah Mantooth and Michael Reggio of the Central Oklahoma Woodturners Association for organizing this and the group’s contribution! “The spin tops were tools to create instant joy and bonding with the patients. Their bright color, demonstrating how they worked and then playing with them facilitated trust and friendship with the children.” said Dr. P. Lloyd Hildebrand, DMEI team physician.

To learn more about Central Oklahoma Woodturners Association visit www.okwoodturners.net

Please help support the Global Eye Care Program today by making a donation! To contribute, go online to www.dmei.org and click the “Donate Today” button on the website or call the Development Office at 405-271-7801.
pediatric ophthalmologists keep eye on the future

By Judy Kelley

DR. R. MICHAEL SIATKOWSKI SOMETIMES STARTLES HIS PATIENTS BY ROARING LIKE A LION. Dr. Janine Collinge sings and whistles, and Dr. Tammy Yanovitch uses toys that light up, all in the interest of getting their young patients’ attention, even if it’s just for a second.

For the Dean McGee Eye Institute’s (DMEI’s) three pediatric ophthalmologists, using creative and unusual techniques like these are a must if they are to diagnose, treat and manage the eye care of infants and children who, the physicians point out, aren’t just small adults and must be cared for differently.

For one thing, children have eye disorders that adults don’t have, plus completely different causes and forms of such “adult” diseases as glaucoma, cataracts and retinal detachment that require very different treatments. For another, youngsters can’t tell their doctors if their eyesight is blurry or something else is wrong with their vision. And most of these children have such short attention spans that even the simplest eye examination may require a song and a whistle.

Moreover, pediatric ophthalmologists face a true challenge in treating not only the immediate

Janine E. Collinge, MD, performs surgery on a young patient at the McGee Eye Surgery Center.
...pediatric ophthalmologists face a true challenge in treating not only the immediate problem but also keeping an eye out for the child’s visual development in anticipation of future problems.

Take the treatment for glaucoma in infants, where outflow drains that decrease eye pressure failed to develop properly. Surgery can open the drainage structure or provide a different outlet.

While some cases are a relatively easy fix, childhood glaucoma remains “a lifelong problem and requires regular follow-up,” said Yanovitch. “That’s the hard thing about a kid: in an adult you say, ‘We have to figure out how to get the pressure down and keep the eye healthy for the next 20 or 30 years.’ With a child, you have to figure out how to keep the pressure down and achieve adequate visual development while they are young and also make it last 80 years. It’s a big challenge.”

Another significant challenge for the pediatric ophthalmology team is caring for premature babies whose numbers grow as neonatal intensive care units are increasingly able to keep alive preemies born as early as 22 and 23...continued on next page...
weeks. These very early births can result in a condition called retinopathy of prematurity or ROP which, untreated, can lead to blindness. In 2013, DMEI pediatric ophthalmologists performed 1,500 evaluations for ROP on premature infants, according to Dr. Siatkowski.

“When babies are born too soon, the backs of their eyes haven’t completely finished growing, and because their growth environment is different outside the womb, it can go a little bit haywire,” explained Dr. Collinge. Particularly unfinished is the growth of blood vessels, and if oxygen or nutrition to the baby is limited, blood vessels can form an irregular network. The results are scarring, bleeding and detachment of the retina.

“Before people understood this well, children would become blind from being born prematurely. Because of studies done in the 1980s, we now have parameters for screening. Babies born before a certain age or below a certain weight are automatically funneled into a screening system and checked every one to two weeks to see if the blood vessels are growing the way they are supposed to,” Collinge said.

Laser treatment or injection of medicine into the eye to prevent bleeding and ultimate detachment and blindness is used if the blood vessel abnormality becomes severe.

While treatment of severe cases of ROP and other diseases is commonplace for the pediatric team and other highly specialized surgeons at Dean McGee, most of the young patients seen are being treated for amblyopia and strabismus. Amblyopia or “lazy eye” is poor vision in an eye that isn’t developing properly during childhood. Strabismus is the misalignment of the eyes that often manifests itself in crossed eyes.

Correcting amblyopia can involve patching the “good” eye or blurring it with eye drops to force the brain to pay attention to the other eye. Over time, the weaker eye improves. Strabismus can be corrected with glasses or with muscle surgery.
Assisting the physicians with their young patients is Lauren Pendarvis, one of the country’s relatively few certified orthoptists. She takes patient histories and conducts follow-up examinations, sometimes with adults suffering from vision problems that developed during childhood.

With tiny toys stuffed in one pocket and a packet of stickers in the other, Pendarvis has her own set of tools to examine the eyes of her young patients. To test binocular status, for example, Pendarvis will ask the child to look at the beam of a flashlight through glasses with red and green lenses and tell what he or she sees. If the child looks through only one eye, only one color is seen; if too many flashlight beams are seen, double vision is revealed.

When Dr. Collinge wants to check a child’s glasses prescription with a device called a retinoscope, she has to get him or her to stare into a bright light. “I tell them there is a puppy dog in the light and ask the child if he sees the puppy.” Children not only claim to see the puppy but describe it at length—long enough for Dr. Collinge to get the readings she needs.

“Kids are really fun,” she said. Pediatric ophthalmology “teaches you not to sweat the small things, to enjoy life and that it’s ok to make a fool out of yourself trying to get their attention.”

Yanovitch, the mother of a four-year-old, is accustomed to trying to connect with a small child. “I love kids. I love being able to help them and make an impact in their lives, being able to follow them and watch them grow. But it’s challenging because kids can’t always tell you what’s going on or if they can’t see clearly.”

Early diagnosis and treatment are critical.

“The most common cause of visual loss in the first four decades of life is amblyopia, and if it’s not treated in childhood becomes untreatable,” Dr. Siatkowski said.

“People say cataract surgery is so cost effective, and it is, but nothing is as cost effective as treating amblyopia with glasses, a patch or maybe drops that can give a child good vision for 80 years.”

R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, (center) stands with students from Harding Charter Preparatory School, Daylon Trueluck (left) and ViaFaith McCullough (right) after their eye exams at DMEI.

Lauren Pendarvis, Certified Orthoptist, conducts an eye screening with patient Cole Beverly, age seven.
“Every child is a different kind of flower and all together, make this world a beautiful garden.”
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