

Farther than You Can See



*David W. Parke II, M.D.
DMEI President and CEO*

“ ... many have ultimately walked out the doors with sight that they feared was lost forever ... ”

The Dean McGee Eye Institute emerged in 1973 from the shared vision of a handful of Oklahoma City citizens – ophthalmologists Drs. Dick Clay and Tom Acers, and community and business leaders including Stanton Young, Jim Tolbert, John Houchin, and Dean McGee. Their objective was to build an institute that would educate physicians, contribute to the science of curing blindness, and provide Oklahoma with the type of state-of-the-art eye care normally available in only large academic centers.

On December 5, 1975, this same group of leaders dedicated the Dean McGee Eye Institute building. When the institute opened it housed

four ophthalmologists and no scientists. Over the ensuing 30 years, literally millions of patients have walked in through its doors. Many have ultimately walked out the doors with sight that they feared was lost forever to disease or injury.

Let's fast-forward to 2005.

The Dean McGee Eye Institute is now home to 29 ophthalmologists, two optometrists, one ocularist (a professional who makes and fits artificial eyes), 12 vision research laboratories, and 250 other members of the Institute staff. Nearly 140,000 patient visits will be recorded in 2005. Over 20,000 of those visits will be made by patients unable to pay for the care they need – patients



New Dean McGee Eye Institute building – architect's rendering

who will be seen at no (or drastically reduced) charge.

Every single University of Oklahoma medical student will spend time in Institute lecture halls, laboratories, or clinical space. So will students from many other medical schools. Today, nearly 40% of Oklahoma ophthalmologists have received some portion of their education at DMEI. Over one hundred applications are received for each ophthalmology residency position.

Finally, DMEI research laboratories are wall-to-wall with scientists, technicians, centrifuges, chemical hoods, DNA sequencers, high tech instrumentation and computers. In fiscal year

2003, vision researchers based at Dean McGee ranked sixth in the nation in competitive grant funding from the National Eye Institute of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Over the past decade DMEI's research program had the highest rate of growth of any eye institute in the United States.

The result: the Dean McGee Eye Institute is bursting at the seams.

Unfortunately, our patients know that finding a parking place sometimes means circling the lot many times. Waiting rooms can be overfilled; we have had to

move six of our physicians across the street to leased space in another building. This is a burden on our visually handicapped and elderly

Without new space, the Institute will be forced to cut back on patient care services and restrict its research programs.

patients – many of whom must go back and forth from building to building. It diminishes one of the huge advantages of an institution like Dean McGee – that all the needed ophthalmologists, subspecialists, and all the cutting edge diagnostic instrumentation are in one location in close proximity to each other for convenient and rapid consultation.

As for the researchers, we literally have to turn away talented, innovative scientists who want to join our faculty simply because we don't have available the 1,000 or 3,000 square feet of lab space they require to do their work.

Clearly this is unsustainable. Without new space, the Institute will be forced to cut back on patient care services and restrict its research programs. Some of our patients have nowhere else to go – particularly the most vulnerable patients who are unable to pay for care. Without new space, some of our most productive scientists – those who bring in millions of dollars to the local economy and whose discoveries are unveiling new vistas in the cure of blinding eye disease – will move on to other institutions.

After months of study and preparation, the Dean McGee Eye Institute Board of Trustees determined that DMEI should proceed with planning to construct a second major building

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DMEI DIRECTORY

that would permit expansion of the research and patient care programs. This was not an easy decision. It was clear the project would be expensive. As a nonprofit institution, DMEI would have to raise the necessary funds. The time and energy needed to plan and to supervise design and construction of the building would carry its own costs. Yet, the Board was adamant that the successes of the past decade should not be wasted; that the trajectory of growth should continue. DMEI had emerged as an internationally respected institution, and Oklahoma could not afford to jeopardize that success or to miss an opportunity for even greater accomplishments. The Board determined that space was the rate limiting factor.

A design review committee invited some Oklahoma-based architectural firms to submit

*The result will be nearly
a doubling of DMEI's
vision research capacity ...*

designs. The architects were asked to envision a combined patient care and research facility that would not only be highly functional and compatible with the needs of our patients, but would also reflect an exciting and aesthetically attractive design. The winning design, by Architectural Design Group of Oklahoma City, was chosen from among a field of truly distinguished plans.

Over 60,000 square feet in size, the new building is joined to the existing Dean McGee Eye Institute building by a four story semicircular atrium – an atrium that is not only a key design component, but which has critical functional elements. The new building has

*Winston Churchill said,
"It is always wise to look ahead,
but difficult to look farther
than you can see."*

four floors – two that are largely research, and two principally for patient care. An adjacent two story parking deck will house nearly four hundred cars.

The result will be nearly a doubling of DMEI's vision research capacity – 20,000 square feet of new laboratory and office space. New scientist teams can be recruited and assembled in fields like retinal molecular genetics, nanotechnology, artificial vision, and neuroimmunology. All of the Institute's Oklahoma Health Center physicians will be reunited in the facility, leaving room to recruit new subspecialists in fields including retinal diseases, tumors, and pediatric ophthalmology. The combined buildings will accommodate a nearly 40% net increase in patients.

What will all this cost? Over \$25 million! An additional \$5 million is needed to provide a permanent restricted endowment to support the building and its programs of scientific investigation. Quality vision science research is not inexpensive. The alternative – vision loss – is worse.

We are already nearly \$16 million of the way towards that goal! Thanks to the generosity of many foundations, corporations, and individuals, it is our hope to begin construction in 2006 with completion in 2008. We need the space tomorrow.

Winston Churchill said, "It is always wise to look ahead, but difficult to look farther than you can see." It is our fervent hope and prayer that this exciting new building will take the Dean McGee Eye Institute and the community it serves farther than you can see.



The Dean McGee Legacy:

DMEI DONORS – REMARKABLE GENEROSITY

The new Dean McGee Eye Institute building project will include three new patient care centers made possible through the generosity of three remarkable Oklahoma families.

Katie and Aubrey McClendon of Oklahoma City have pledged a \$1 million gift to enable the creation of a major patient care center honoring the late Hal D. Balyeat, M.D. The center, to be located in the new building, will integrate comprehensive ophthalmology and anterior segment surgery – including cataract surgery. One of the Institute’s original physicians, and a nationally respected cataract surgeon, Dr. Balyeat was renowned as a caring and ethical ophthalmologist and a superb teacher. Many ophthalmologists who completed their residencies at Dean McGee, when confronted by a challenging surgical problem, still ask themselves, “Now, what would Hal do?” The Dean McGee Eye Institute is deeply honored that the McClendons, two of

THREE CENTERS NAMED

HAL BALYEAT PATIENT CARE CENTER
Katie & Aubrey McClendon

RAINBOLT FAMILY
PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY CENTER

ZARROW FAMILY CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTER

The Board of the Dean McGee Eye Institute has approved opportunities to recognize in perpetuity extraordinary gifts made to the Capital Campaign by the following naming opportunities:
\$2 Million

LL: Molecular Research Center

1st Floor: Comprehensive Care Center

2nd Floor: Subspecialty Care Center

3rd Floor: Vision Research Complex

\$1 Million

3rd Floor: Immunology Laboratory

Macular Degeneration Research Center

Retinal Diseases Center

Oculoplastic & Reconstructive Surgery Center

Glaucoma Center

Clinical Diagnostic Imaging Center

\$500 Thousand

3rd Floor: Biochemistry Laboratory

3rd Floor: Core Genetics Facility

Corneal and External Diseases Center

LL: Molecular Biology Laboratory

4th Floor: Molecular Pathogenesis Laboratory

Visual Rehabilitation Center

Ocular Prosthetics Center

3rd Floor: Conference Room

Research Imaging Center

Oklahoma’s most innovative and generous citizens, have dedicated this gift to the memory of Hal Balyeat.

The Institute’s pediatric ophthalmology center will be relocated to the new building and renamed as the **Rainbolt Family Pediatric Ophthalmology Center**. This new patient care center reflects the commitment of the Rainbolt family – Gene, Jeannine, David, and Leslie – to the care of children and to preventing and fighting the needless loss of their sight. The Institute’s Mike Siatkowski, M.D. will be the Center’s first Director and will continue his efforts to not only develop the highest quality patient care programs but to establish the Center as a nationally recognized facility for clinical research to advance the science of pediatric eye care. The impact of the Rainbolt’s generosity will resonate for decades to come.

The Dean McGee Eye Institute currently conducts nearly 30 peer-reviewed and approved clinical trials. This has grown from fewer than five such trials in the mid-1990’s. Through the clinical trial process, Oklahoma patients have the opportunity to not only participate in the process of scientific discovery, but also frequently to access through these trials new drugs or treatment strategies available only in selected national centers. As a part of the new DMEI construction project, clinical trials will be consolidated in a new **Zarrow Family Clinical Research Center**. Endowed by a gift from The Maxine and Jack Family Foundation and The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation of Tulsa, the new center is expected to dramatically enhance the ability of DMEI ophthalmologists to accept new trials, offering innovative options to our patients with serious disease.



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(\$10,000)+

\$1,000,000 +

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View of the new and old buildings from the patient parking lot – architect's rendering

Additional Support for The Capital Campaign

National Institutes of Health

The National Eye Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), awarded DMEI a \$3.7 million CO6 NIH Construction grant to assist in the new construction of the research laboratories in the new building. Dr. Paul Sieving, Director, of the National Eye Institute, stated, "This was a competitive grant. It is a real measure of success to know that the research funded here is in the top 10 in eye funding in the entire country."



Dr. Paul Sieving

The University Hospitals Trust

The University Hospitals Trust approved a \$3 million expenditure over a three-year period to the OU College of Medicine/Department of Ophthalmology to assist the Dean McGee Eye Institute in its physical plant expansion.

2005 DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

ANNUAL APPEAL: IN SUPPORT OF INDIGENT CARE

All of us here at the Dean McGee Eye Institute deeply appreciate our patients and friends who supported the 2004 Annual Appeal. For the third year in a row, we saw the number of donors increase as more and more people gave so that their fellow citizens without financial resources might enjoy better sight. DMEI physicians give of their time and talent and those who donated helped to make up the difference.

This past year's annual appeal raised more than \$76,000 from 340 donors to help defray an indigent care budget that reaches \$1.5 million annually. Those who made a contribution to the 2004 Annual Appeal will help those patients at DMEI who cannot afford treatment and have few other places to go. Every single gift received in response to the annual appeal will help pay for the eye care for those patients. We are truly grateful to each and every one of you.



*Penny Mills Voss, CFRE
Vice President for
Development, DMEI*

CALENDAR YEAR GIVING – 2004

This past year, more than 480 donors pledged or contributed \$703,000 to the Dean A. McGee Eye Institute Foundation during calendar year 2004. This generosity helped support specific programs and projects or (via unrestricted gifts) supported the changing needs of the Eye Institute. DMEI is indebted to all of you who have helped enhance our ability to provide excellence in patient care, education and research.

HOW TO MAKE A GIFT

Gifts to the Dean A. McGee Eye Institute Foundation can be restricted to vision research, patient care, medical education or the Capital Campaign. Alternatively, your gifts can be unrestricted, making funds available where the Eye Institute has its greatest need. The attached self-addressed return envelope has been included to provide you with an easy way to make a gift to the Foundation. After your gift has been processed, we will send you an acknowledgement and receipt for your records. ▲



View of the new building and atrium from Stanton L. Young Boulevard

CALENDAR YEAR 2004 GIVING BY LEVELS

RECOGNITION

The Dean A. McGee Eye Institute would like to recognize and honor the hundreds of generous donors who contributed more than \$703,000 to the Foundation between January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004 (*Capital Campaign Donors Excluded – see page 5*). We hope that you will take a few minutes to look at the names of the people and organizations whose gifts have improved the quality of life for so many in this state and surrounding region and whose support of vision research has advanced eye care for all.

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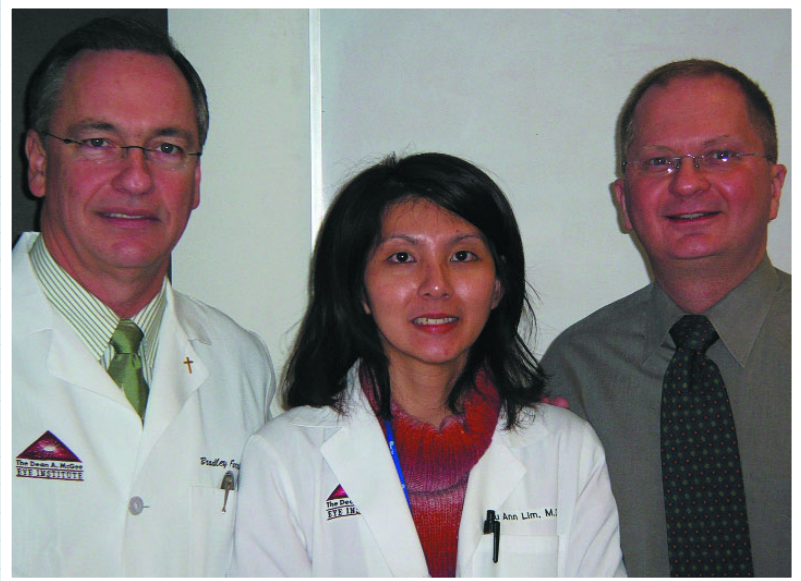
The four-fold mission of DMEI is to provide patient care, medical education, research, and community service. The vast majority of DMEI physician trainees are from the U.S. Periodically, however, an outstanding international candidate is identified, and DMEI has the opportunity to extend the community it serves. In February 2005, Dr. Su Ann Lim of Singapore completed a one-year fellowship in neuro-ophthalmology and returned to her native country to serve a population in need.

Dr. Lim is a graduate of the National University of Singapore and performed her ophthalmology training with the direct support of the Ministry of Health, Singapore. Singapore, a nation of 4 million, also serves portions of nearby countries (Malaysia, Indonesia), yet is home to only three neuro-ophthalmologists. Need for another was obvious to the government of Singapore. Out of all the trainees in the country, Dr. Lim was asked to pursue subspecialty training with full financial support during a year of fellowship abroad. From among a myriad of opportunities, she chose DMEI, braving one full year of U.S. immigration procedures before she could begin. Her plans also required a high level of family support. Dr. Lim's husband, a successful electrical engineer in Singapore, resigned his position, and came to America for one year to be "Mr. Mom" to their three children, Matthew, Zachary, and Rachel.

During her time in Oklahoma, Dr. Lim performed in an outstanding manner. Neuro-ophthalmologist Bradley K. Farris, M.D. notes that, "Su Ann is one of the brightest and most intellectually curious fellows I have ever trained. She brought a tremendous level of knowledge and surgical skill into the fellowship." Dr. Anil Patel

comments on her thirst for knowledge and compassionate and caring manner. R. Michael Siatkowski, M.D., states, "Su Ann is in the top 5 percent of all fellows I have trained. Her clinical skills, research productivity, and warm personal manner have made it a joy and an honor to be involved in her education. I count her as a trusted colleague and good personal friend."

While at DMEI, in addition to her clinical responsibilities, Dr. Lim was very busy on the research side as well, producing two original scientific publications in major journals. She was selected to present the latter research at the annual



Drs. Brad Farris, Su Ann Lim, Mike Siatkowski

meeting of the North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society earlier this year.

Su Ann has returned as Consultant in Neuro-ophthalmology at Tan Tock Seng Hospital in Singapore, caring for patients, training residents, and continuing her research in the epidemiology of neuro-ophthalmologic disease in that region of the world. DMEI is grateful to have been involved in her training and for the opportunity to impact health care in another part of the world. ▲

SKUTA TAKES OFFICE AS AGS PRESIDENT

On January 1, DMEI's Gregory L. Skuta, M.D. took office as President of the American Glaucoma Society – one of the world's largest scientific society of ophthalmologists specializing in the management of glaucoma. The American Glaucoma Society has over 400 members worldwide and has as its mission statement, "To promote excellence in the care of patients with glaucoma and preserve or enhance vision by supporting glaucoma specialists and scientists through the advancement of education and research." Dr. Skuta's term of office will be two years.

Dr. Skuta joined the faculty of the Dean McGee Eye Institute in 1992, coming from the full-time faculty at the University of Michigan. An internationally respected clinician investigator and educator, he also maintains a busy clinical practice – truly bridging the gap between cutting edge science and its real world clinical application. He remains active in numerous clinical trials and has been the Principal Investigator on several NIH awards.

"Greg Skuta was the very first person I recruited to Oklahoma," notes Dr. Parke. "And he has become a role model for all of us." In addition to this new position, Dr. Skuta is a Director of the American Board



Gregory L. Skuta, M.D.

"It is an extraordinary honor, privilege, and opportunity to serve patients with glaucoma and my profession in this new role."

– Dr. Skuta

of Ophthalmology and Secretary for Ophthalmic Knowledge of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. In 1998, he became the first volunteer faculty member at the University of Oklahoma ever to be named to an endowed Chair – the James P. Luton Chair.

"Members of the DMEI family and particularly my partner, Dr. Adam Reynolds, have been highly supportive of my involvement in the American Glaucoma Society. The AGS is firmly committed to promoting better understanding and treatment of conditions such as primary open-angle glaucoma, which affects at least two million Americans," commented Dr. Skuta. ▲



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