Collaborative Partnerships Are Key to Excellence in Lab-to-Bedside Care
Oklahoma Health Center
DMEI Acers and Parke Pavilions
608 Stanton L. Young Blvd. • Oklahoma City, OK 73104
405.271.6060

Comprehensive Ophthalmology/Cataract and Ophthalmic Surgery/Premium Cataract Surgery
405.271.1090 • 800.787.9012
John M. Bell, MD*
Cynthia A. Bradford, MD*
Victoria A. Bugg, MD*
Layne E. Goetzinger, MD*
David W. Jackson, MD*
Carolyn E. Kloek, MD*
Andrew T. Melson, MD*
Deana S. Watts, MD

Optical Services
405.271.6174 • 800.787.9012

Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
405.271.1096 • 800.787.9018
Thai Do, MD
Annie Moreau, MD, FACS
Jeremy F. Tan, MD

Optometry
405.271.1090 • 800.787.9012
Rachel M. Caywood, OD, FAAO
Dana M. Garber, OD, FAAO
Brandalyn D. Loyko, OD
Jessica L. Lucas, OD, FAAO

Pediatric Ophthalmology/Strabismus
405.271.1094 • 800.787.9016
Maria E. Lim, MD**
R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA
Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHSc
Emily M. Zepeda, MD**
Laurie A. Hahn-Parrott, CO, COT, MBA (Orthoptist)

Retina/Vitreous
405.271.1092 • 800.787.9014
Reagan H. Bradford Jr., MD
Razek G. Coussa, MD, FRCSC
Stephen R. Fransen, MD
Ronald M. Kingsley, MD
Jila Noori, MD
Vinay A. Shah, MD

Stephenson Refractive Surgery/Laser Center
405.271.2500 • 877.406.4193

Trauma/Emergency
405.271.6060 • 800.787.9012

Uveitis
405.271.1092 • 800.787.9014
Jila Noori, MD

Contact Lenses
405.271.6084 • 800.787.9012
Rachel M. Caywood, OD, FAAO
Scott Samples, NCLE-AC, CPOT

Cornea and External Disease/Corneal Cross-Linking
405.271.1095 • 800.787.9017
Aman Mittal, MD*
Kamran M. Riaz, MD*
Rhea L. Siatkowski, MD*

Glaucoma
405.271.1093 • 800.787.9015
Andrew K. Bailey, MD*
Ben J. Harvey, MD*
Mahmoud A. Khaimi, MD*
Gregory L. Skuta, MD

LASIK and Refractive Surgery
405.271.2500 • 877.406.4193
David W. Jackson, MD*
Aman Mittal, MD*
Kamran M. Riaz, MD*

Low Vision Rehabilitation
405.271.1793 • 800.787.9012
Rebecca K. Morgan, MD

Neuro-Ophthalmology/Adult Strabismus
405.271.1091 • 800.787.9013
Andrew T. Melson, MD*
James C. O’Brien, MD
Anil D. Patel, MD, FRCSC, FACS

405.271.1094 • 800.787.9016
R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA

Ocular Oncology/Ophthalmic Pathology
405.271.7825 • 800.787.9012
Brian K. Firestone, MD*

Ocular Prosthetics
405.271.3391 • 800.787.9012
Nancy A. Lambert, BCO

*DMEI Ophthalmologist Performing Cataract Surgery in Adults
**DMEI Ophthalmologist Performing Cataract Surgery in Children

Dean McGee Eye Institute Satellite Locations

NORTHWEST OKC
3500 N.W. 56th, #101, Oklahoma City, OK 73112
405.271.9500
Comprehensive Ophthalmology/Cataract and Ophthalmic Surgery/Premium Cataract Surgery
Ralph B. Hester III, MD*
Cornea (Medical) and External Disease
405.271.1095 • 800.787.9017
Thomas C. Wolf, MD
Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
Jeremy F. Tan, MD
Optometry
Tasha J. Schellenberg, OD
Optical Services
405.271.9506

EDMOND
1005 Medical Park Blvd., Edmond, OK 73013
405.271.0913
Comprehensive Ophthalmology/Cataract and Ophthalmic Surgery
John M. Bell, MD*
Glaucoma/Comprehensive Ophthalmology/Cataract and Ophthalmic Surgery/Premium Cataract Surgery
Andrew K. Bailey, MD*
Neuro-Ophthalmology/Comprehensive Ophthalmology
Anil D. Patel, MD, FRCSC, FACS
Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
Jeremy F. Tan, MD
Optometry
Angela M. Plant, OD, FAAO
Jessica L. Lucas, OD, FAAO
Optical Services
405.271.9090

LAWTON
3201 W. Gore Blvd., #200, Lawton, OK 73505
580.250.5855
Comprehensive Ophthalmology/Cataract and Ophthalmic Surgery/Premium Cataract Surgery
Ann Acers-Warn, MD, MBA*
Jean R. Hausheer, MD, FACS
Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
Thai Do, MD
Optometry
Brad V. Nuttall, OD
Retina/Vitreous
Vinay A. Shah, MD
Optical Services
580.585.5425

McGee Eye Surgery Center
Harold Hamm Diabetes Center
1000 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 150
Oklahoma City, OK 73104
405.271.3363
Medical Director:
Robert J. Christensen, MD
The Dean McGee Eye Institute is dedicated to serving all Oklahomans and the global community through excellence and leadership in patient care, education, and vision research.
Working Together to Fulfill Our Mission

“It takes a village to raise a child.”
—African Proverb

“The Dean McGee Eye Institute is dedicated to serving all Oklahomans and the global community through excellence and leadership in patient care, education, and vision research.”
—Mission Statement of DMEI

Most people will recognize the first sentence from a book published by Hillary Clinton in 1996. The origins of the phrase remain obscure, but there are a number of similar quotes in various African societies. They translate into related thoughts such as “A child does not grow up in only a single home;” “A child belongs not to one parent;” and “Whoever is not taught by the mother will be taught by the world.” Regardless of how much you agree or disagree with Mrs. Clinton’s politics, you will recognize truth in the concept. As a father myself, I realize that strong and loving parents are absolutely crucial to a child’s upbringing, but I am extremely grateful for other family members, friends, teachers, and colleagues who filled in the gaps for areas that are not my forte.

The second sentence reflects our tripartite mission, as well as our intent to have an influence not only locally, but worldwide. It is a bold statement that speaks of our desire to maximize our impact upon visual health and enrichment of life on the grandest of scales. Many partners are necessary for us to excel on this journey. In this issue of DMEI InVision, you will read about some of our most prominent partners in this quest.

We all recognize the value of working together to achieve goals. We all also admire individual excellence, and stand in awe of many highly accomplished people in our world. There is a careful balance to be struck between these two phenomena, a balance which, if not reached, precludes an organization from achieving its highest goals. For example, an amazing point guard may score yet another triple double, but the team loses the game. Conversely, a virtuoso first violinist may overpower and
obscure the soloist for the orchestra, resulting in an awkward, unbalanced performance. The ideal combination is a team or an orchestra comprised of individuals each competing or performing at their highest level, but yet recognizing that the greater good is the collective performance of the entire group.

Ben Roethlisberger, retired quarterback for the Pittsburgh Steelers (my hometown team), recently gave an interview in which he commented that during his tenure, the culture of the organization evolved from a “team first” to a “me first” attitude. He felt that this shift in dynamics was behind the Steelers’ problems in the 2020 playoffs. Whether he is right about the horrendous Cleveland loss or not, it is true that lack of cohesiveness impairs a team’s ability to win. And so it is in medicine as well. The new CEO of OU Health, Dr. Rick Lofgren, frequently states that “Medicine is a team sport,” and he is absolutely correct. When you re-read our mission statement and see how much it incorporates, it’s easy to realize that we at DMEI need many others on our team.

To be sure, there is a downside to the individual in teamwork—specifically, that everyone loses some autonomy. But there is an even greater downside to the team with too much individuality—the scale and scope of what they could have accomplished is always diminished. For us at DMEI, whether it is through caring for patients, discovering new treatments for eye disease, or preparing the next generation of ophthalmologists, our ultimate goal is always to improve quality of life. We can do this at a much higher level because of all those who partner with us.

We can do this at a much higher level because of all those who partner with us.

You are part of the DMEI team. If you work at DMEI, you are directly involved on the front lines of pursuing our mission. If you are a patient or a referring doctor, you have honored us with the opportunity to work with you to improve and preserve vision. If you are a contributor of your time or your resources to DMEI, you have sacrificed some of your personal benefits for a greater good. It does take a village of wonderful and dedicated people to fulfill our mission. Mother Teresa said it well: “I can do things you cannot. You can do things I cannot. Together we can do great things.”

Let us all, then, do what we can. Thank you for your past, present, and future roles on the DMEI team.

R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA
Chief Executive Officer
Dean McGee Eye Institute
Edward L. Gaylord Professor and Chair
David Ross Boyd Professor
Department of Ophthalmology
University of Oklahoma College of Medicine
KEVIN K. FULLER, PHD, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA (OU) DEPARTMENTS OF Ophthalmology and Microbiology/Immunology and whose laboratory is housed in the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI), has been named one of The Journal Record’s 2022 “Achievers Under 40 - Class XIX.” This distinction recognizes Oklahoma’s best and brightest young professionals from a wide variety of backgrounds who are making a difference in their communities and professions. Dr. Fuller, one of 45 honorees selected from nearly 100 nominations, was among those recognized at an awards reception held on the roof terrace of the Oklahoma City Museum of Art on May 12.

Dr. Fuller is a gifted scientist whose research is focused on fungal infections of the cornea. He joined the DMEI/OU faculty in June 2018. Dr. Fuller’s current research support includes a highly competitive R01 grant (scored at the seventh percentile) from the National Eye Institute and a prestigious Career Development Award from Research to Prevent Blindness.

A native of Toledo, Ohio, Dr. Fuller earned his undergraduate degree summa cum laude from Bowling Green State University (Bowling Green, Ohio) and his PhD from the University of Cincinnati, where he was Graduate Student of the Year in 2009. He completed his postdoctoral fellowship at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth in Hanover, New Hampshire.

Dr. Fuller and his wife, Erika Artinger, who is an attorney and general counsel for the Oklahoma State University Board of Regents, have one daughter.

He is the second member of the DMEI/OU faculty to be honored by The Journal Record’s “Achievers Under 40” program, with Kamran M. Riaz, MD, being the first.
IN THE APRIL 2022 ISSUE OF OKLAHOMA MAGAZINE, DR. JAMES C. O’BRIEN was included among the state’s “40 Under 40” recognized as “influential young leaders (who) drive the state forward.” He is the third member of the faculty at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and in the University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology to be honored in this way.

A native of Texas, Dr. O’Brien joined the neuro-ophthalmology faculty at DMEI/OU in 2018 and is currently a clinical assistant professor. In 2020, he was selected as the recipient of an M. Dewayne Andrews, MD Excellence in Teaching Award in Graduate Medical Education.

Dr. O’Brien earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at Austin and his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, where he was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. He completed his internship at Houston Methodist Hospital, followed by a residency in ophthalmology at DMEI/OU. Dr. O’Brien served in outstanding fashion as chief resident during 2016-2017 and also completed a neuro-ophthalmology fellowship at DMEI/OU in 2017-2018 before joining the faculty.

In his personal time, Dr. O’Brien volunteers his talents by offering eye exams to underserved communities and enjoys spending time with his wife, daughter, and two dogs as well as reading, brewing, and barbecuing.

Previous DMEI/OU recipients of this recognition include Kamran M. Riaz, MD, and Ben J. Harvey, MD.
THREE APPOINTED TO DMEI/OU CLINICAL FACULTY

Razek G. Coussa, MD, FRCSC, will join the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI)/University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology in the fall of 2022 as a clinical assistant professor and vitreoretinal surgeon.

A native of Syria, Dr. Coussa earned bachelor’s (chemical engineering) and master’s (biomedical engineering) degrees at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, followed by a master’s degree in bioscience enterprise from the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. He then returned to Montreal to complete his medical degree and ophthalmology residency at McGill University.

Dr. Coussa pursued fellowships in pediatric ophthalmology, inherited retinal dystrophies, and adult strabismus at the Cleveland Clinic’s Cole Eye Institute in Cleveland, Ohio, and in medical retina and molecular ophthalmology at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. In July 2022, he completed a prestigious two-year fellowship in vitreoretinal surgery at the University of Iowa.

Already the author or co-author of at least 35 peer-reviewed publications, Dr. Coussa is fluent in three languages and has numerous outside interests.

Thai Do, MD, also will join the DMEI/OU ophthalmology faculty in the fall of 2022 as a clinical assistant professor.

Originally from southern California, Dr. Do is an ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgeon who earned his undergraduate degree (summa cum laude) from the University of California, San Diego, and his medical degree from Indiana University in Indianapolis. After an internship at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis, he completed his ophthalmology residency at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in Houston, where he served as chief resident in his final year.

Prior to joining the DMEI/OU faculty, Dr. Do served as a fellow in ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery at the Detroit (Michigan) Medical Center in affiliation with Wayne State University’s Kresge Eye Institute.

He and his wife Kassie Benner, who is a nurse, were married in October 2021.

Both physicians will be seeing patients primarily at the Oklahoma Health Center location.

Brad V. Nuttall, OD, joined DMEI’s Lawton clinic in August as a clinical instructor and general optometrist. A native of Idaho, Dr. Nuttall received his bachelor’s degree (exercise science) from Brigham Young University – Idaho in Rexburg and his optometric degree from the Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University in Fullerton, California. He has worked as a full-time optometrist at the Lawton Indian Hospital since August 2017.

Dr. Nuttall and his wife Tracy reside in Lawton and have four young daughters. He completed a two-year volunteer mission in Brazil from 2005 to 2007.
Dr. Siatkowski Honored with Prestigious Association Awards

AT THE 2022 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY AND STRABISMUS (AAPOS) in Scottsdale, Arizona, in late March, R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA, was honored with both the Marshall M. Parks Bronze Medal and a Lifetime Achievement Award. Parks Bronze Medals are awarded by AAPOS and the Children’s Eye Foundation of AAPOS to past AAPOS presidents (Dr. Siatkowski served as AAPOS president in 2018-2019) and other individuals who, like Dr. Siatkowski, have made noteworthy contributions to children’s eye care through excellence in leadership, innovation, dedication to patients, and outstanding contributions to the profession.

The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes Dr. Siatkowski’s many years of devoted service to AAPOS and its mission and is based on a program of special honor points. Dr. Siatkowski also received a Life Achievement Honor Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology in 2019, has served as president of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology’s (AUPO’s) Program Directors Council (2018-2019), and is currently a trustee-at-large on the AUPO’s Board of Trustees.

Congratulations to Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski on these truly exceptional AAPOS honors!

Carolyn E. Kloek, MD, Operation Sight Volunteer of the Year

CAROLYN E. KLOEK, MD, HAS BEEN NAMED an Operation Sight Volunteer of the Year by the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS) Foundation for her work in serving underprivileged patients. The ASCRS Foundation’s Operation Sight program is fueled by a nationwide network of over 700 volunteer eye surgeons who are dedicated to helping those in need in their own communities. Since 2014, more than 7,000 financially vulnerable, uninsured Americans, who cannot afford or access care, have received life-changing cataract surgery through this program.

Dr. Kloek is a clinical associate professor and associate residency program director at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and in the University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology. She serves as senior vice president of clinical strategy and integration for OU Health, and also has recently assumed an additional administrative role at DMEI (see page 49).
DR. RASKOB APPOINTED TO INSTITUTE’S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AS THE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC), Gary E. Raskob, PhD, now serves on the Dean McGee Eye Institute’s (DMEI’s) Board of Directors. He succeeds Dr. Jason Sanders, who accepted an executive leadership position at the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine in Burlington, Vermont.

Dr. Raskob, who holds a Regents’ Professorship in Epidemiology and Medicine, joined the OUHSC faculty in 1991 and had served as the dean of the Hudson College of Public Health since 2002. He is considered one of the world’s foremost experts on thrombosis (blood clotting) and antithrombotic therapy and has authored or co-authored more than 200 publications. During his career, Dr. Raskob has held several national leadership roles in the field of public health, including service as an advisor to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and chair of the Board of Directors for the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health.

Dr. Raskob received his bachelor of science degree in pharmacology from the University of Toronto (Ontario, Canada), a master of science degree in clinical epidemiology and health research methodology from McMaster University (Hamilton, Ontario, Canada), and a PhD in pharmaceutical sciences from OU.

Dr. Raskob and his wife Peggy reside in Oklahoma City.

Institute a Winner in The Journal Record’s 2022 “Reader Rankings”

ON JUNE 23, the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) was named the winner in The Journal Record’s 2022 “Reader Rankings” in the “Best Specialty/Health Care Research Institute/Facility” category. The announcement was made during a reception honoring the 2022 “Reader Rankings” finalists held at the University of Central Oklahoma Boathouse in the Oklahoma City Boathouse District. DMEI was one of three finalists in this category.

Pictured (left to right): Sarah Barrow, associate publisher for The Journal Record; Jim Durbin, DMEI executive director of development; Tiara Bryles, DMEI director of revenue cycle; Jerry Nelson, DMEI director of human resources; Raju Rajala, PhD, M.G. McCool professor of ophthalmology; and Steve Metzer, associate editor for The Journal Record.
IN MARCH, GREGORY L. SKUTA, MD, was accepted for active membership in the prestigious American Ophthalmological Society (AOS). This represents the culmination of a rigorous three-year process, which included preparation and acceptance of a thesis. His thesis, “An IRIS Registry-Based Assessment of Primary Open-Angle Glaucoma Practice Patterns in Academic Versus Nonacademic Settings,” used data from the American Academy of Ophthalmology’s (AAO’s) IRIS Registry (Intelligent Research in Sight) to evaluate differences in patient demographics; level of severity; and clinical, diagnostic, and surgical practice patterns for ophthalmologists practicing in academic versus nonacademic/community settings. Co-authors were Drs. Kai Ding, Flora Lum, and Anne L. Coleman. The thesis will be published in the American Journal of Ophthalmology in October.

Dr. Skuta is only the seventh person from Oklahoma ever to be inducted into the AOS. All seven have served on the faculty at the Dean McGee Eye Institute/University of Oklahoma and include Tullos O. Coston, MD (1967), Thomas E. Acers, MD (1981), Robert G. Small, MD (1988), James Chodosh, MD, MPH (2006), David W. Parke II, MD (2007), R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA (2011), and Dr. Skuta (2022). Dr. Chodosh subsequently assumed a faculty position at Massachusetts Eye and Ear/Harvard Medical School (see page 51), and Dr. Parke became chief executive officer of the AAO.

The AOS was founded in 1864 as the first specialty society in this country. Its mission is to promote excellence in patient care, education, and research, to address essential issues in medicine, and to advance the art and science of ophthalmology.

ON JULY 19, members of the Dean McGee Eye Institute’s administrative team hosted Richard P. “Rick” Lofgren, MD, MPH, FACP (second from right), OU Health’s inaugural president and chief executive officer since March 2022. Dr. Lofgren leads the overall health system, reporting directly to the OU Health Board of Directors. He is responsible for the strategic vision, clinical and operational direction, strategic growth, quality and safety, financial performance, and ongoing integration of OU Health.
AT AN EVENT AT THE EMBASSY SUITES DOWNTOWN/MEDICAL CENTER in Oklahoma City on August 18, the Dean McGee Eye Institute’s (DMEI’s) Optical Shops and the McGee Eye Surgery Center (MESC) were announced as winners of The Oklahoman 2022 Readers’ Choice Awards in their categories. DMEI’s Optical Shops have now been Readers’ Choice winners in six of the past seven years, and MESC has been named a winner for five straight years (winner in 2018, 2020, 2021, and 2022 and co-winner in 2019).

We are happy to announce that DMEI also was voted as the Best Eye Care Clinic. In addition, DMEI doctors were chosen for Best Ophthalmologist – Anil D. Patel, MD, FRCSC, FACS – and Best Optometrist – Jessica L. Lucas, OD, FAAO.

Approximately 235,000 Readers’ Choice votes were submitted this year. Congratulations to all of the awardees, and thank you, voters, for your support!
Dr. Harvey Receives 2022 Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology Distinguished Service Award

BEN J. HARVEY, MD, CLINICAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and in the University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology, received the 2022 Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology (OAO) Distinguished Service Award during the DMEI Ophthalmology Symposium 2022/46th Annual OU Resident and Alumni Meeting held at the Colcord Hotel on June 11. The Distinguished Service Award is the OAO’s highest honor and is a peer recognition award given to ophthalmologists who have exhibited a lifelong dedication to the OAO and/or to the profession.

A native of Texas, Dr. Harvey earned his undergraduate (summa cum laude) and medical (Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society) degrees from Texas Tech University, where he also served his internship. He completed his ophthalmology residency at DMEI/OU and served as a glaucoma fellow (2011–2012) at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. After more than six years in private practice in the Oklahoma City area, Dr. Harvey joined DMEI/OU in early 2019.

Dr. Harvey is very active in the state and national ophthalmologic communities. He is a 2016 graduate of the American Academy of Ophthalmology’s (AAO’s) Leadership Development Program and has served as director-at-large (2013 – 2015), president-elect (2015 – 2017), and president (2017 - 2021) of the OAO.

In 2017, Dr. Harvey was instrumental in gaining passage of the “Early Eye Drop Refill Bill” by the Oklahoma legislature. Currently, he serves as the Oklahoma Academy’s councilor to the AAO.

Dr. Harvey and his wife, Leigh, a physical therapist, have three children.

Ben J. Harvey, MD (left), 2022 Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology Distinguished Service Awardee, receives recognition from R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA, DMEI chief executive officer and chair of the OU Department of Ophthalmology, during this year’s DMEI Ophthalmology Symposium/OU Resident and Alumni Meeting.
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH PROGRAM

Donna J. Sullins
Lane Assistant
Edmond Satellite Office
March 2022

Renee A. Fabian
Office Manager
Edmond Satellite Office
April 2022

Charles P. Harrington
Information Technology Supervisor
May 2022

Mariah K. Biswell
Ophthalmic Technician
Northwest Satellite Office
June 2022

Vicky L. Wolzen
Diagnostics Imaging Manager
July 2022

Jill Srnka
Ophthalmic Technician
Edmond Satellite Office
August 2022

In March 2022, Helen F. Howell, was recognized as Employee of the Month by the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) Resident Council based on her consistent demonstration of excellence. This is the second time for Howell to receive this award, placing her in a very elite group of respected honorees on the OUHSC campus.

In the July 2022 issue of Oklahoma Magazine, the Dean McGee Eye Institute was listed among “The Best of the Best” ophthalmologists in Oklahoma City. Thank you to all who voted in the publication’s 23rd annual poll!
JEAN R. HAUSHEER, MD, FACS, A CLINICAL PROFESSOR at the Dean McGee Eye Institute’s Lawton facility, received the 2021 Physicians’ Campaign for a Healthier Oklahoma Prevention in Practice Award at the Oklahoma State Medical Association’s (OSMA’s) 2022 inaugural banquet held on April 9 at the Embassy Suites Downtown/Medical Center in Oklahoma City. Dr. Hausheer was recognized for her work on and as chair of the Healthier Oklahoma Coalition (HOC) Task Force on COVID-19, which was created in April 2020 in response to the pandemic. In November 2020, the task force initiated weekly statewide COVID-19 press conferences.

This award is designed to recognize exemplary physicians, organizations, and OSMA members for putting “prevention into practice” and showing proactive leadership and responsibility in working with patients and colleagues to encourage healthier lifestyle choices and improve the overall health and well-being of Oklahomans. This includes excellence in promoting clinical prevention and wellness education in their medical centers and communities as well as demonstrating dedication and commitment as healthcare providers.

The HOC includes the OSMA, Oklahoma Osteopathic Association, Oklahoma Hospital Association, Oklahoma Academy of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Oklahoma Academy of Family Physicians, Oklahoma Nursing Association, and Oklahoma Dental Association.

At the banquet, Dr. Hausheer, who served as OSMA president from April 2018 to April 2019, also received a Presidential Citation from George W. Monks, MD, a Tulsa dermatologist and later OSMA president.

During the event, Dr. Hausheer also was presented with a Presidential Citation from George W. Monks, MD, OSMA president from April 2020 to April 2021 and current OSMA Legislative Council chair.
Edmond Optical Shop Optician Provides Outstanding Care

Dear Chelsea Aday,

Thank you so much for helping me select the best pair of lenses that best fits my everyday needs. Your knowledge base and professionalism was outstanding, which further helped me to make an informed decision on what lenses would benefit my eyesight long-term.

I was so thrilled with my new progressive lenses, especially after years of the basic lenses, that I brought my “never better than basic lenses” husband in to see you. After being shown the advantages of progressive lenses, he was ready to get new frames. He has had the same style of eyeglass frames for 42 years! Thanks to your wonderful optical shop selection and caring, you were able to get him in an up-to-date pair of frames with the best lenses for his eyes on the market. He is a professional mechanical engineer and uses his computer non-stop. After 42 years, I enjoy seeing him blush when I tell him how truly handsome he is in his new glasses! Needless to say, we both adore our glasses. We both can tell a major change in our eyes after working all day.

Terry and Steven Bradford

Award Granted for Women’s Eye Health

DRS. CYNTHIA A. BRADFORD, VICTORIA A. BUGG, AND MARIA E. LIM, clinical faculty at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI), and Kai Ding, PhD, with the Hudson College of Public Health/University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC), will collaborate with investigators from the University of Utah and Mayo Clinic on a project entitled “Blindness in the US: Do Women Bear a Greater Burden?”

This work will be supported by a coveted Research to Prevent Blindness/American Academy of Ophthalmology Award for IRIS Registry Research. Dr. Mary Elizabeth Hartnett from the University of Utah’s Moran Eye Center will serve as the overall principal investigator.

Dr. Ding, who was awarded a President’s Associates Presidential Professorship effective July 1, 2022, is an associate professor in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology in the Hudson College of Public Health. He has provided expert biostatistical support for DMEI and the OU Department of Ophthalmology since 2012.
Lea D. Bennett, PhD
- Awarded a Presbyterian Health Foundation bridge grant, July 2022.
- Poster presentation: “Patients Diagnosed with Autosomal Dominant Macular or Pattern Dystrophy Who Harbor the Mutation p.Pro210Arg in PRPH2 Have Clinical Abnormalities in Both Rod and Cone Photoreceptors,” Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, May 2022

Yan Chen, PhD
- Funded by PHF to extend a year-two team science grant, “Mitochondrial TRX2 in the Pathogenesis of Diabetic Retinopathy,” with Shaoning Jiang, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics, July 2022 – June 2023.
- Serves as co-investigator for a PHF bridge grant with Hala Chaaban, MD, associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics.

Jean R. Hausheer, MD, FACS
- Recognized as a 2022 Castle Connolly Top Doctor.
- Recent awards include: Oklahoma State Medical Association (OSMA) 2021 Physicians’ Campaign for a Healthier Oklahoma Prevention in Practice Award; and OSMA Presidential Citation (see page 13), April 2022.
- Became a member of the Planning Committee for the International One Health Pandemic Summit located at the Oklahoma Pandemic Center, May 2022.
- Served as program director for the 46th Annual Christian Ophthalmology Society Meeting, West Palm Beach, FL, June 2022.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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| Jila Noori, MD        | • Moderator: Joint virtual retina meeting, Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and Farabi Eye Hospital (Tehran, Iran), Feb. 2022.  
• Presenter: “Retinal Vasculitis,” joint virtual retina meeting, DMEI and Farabi Eye Hospital (Tehran, Iran), Feb. 2022.  
• Joined Diabetic Retinopathy Clinical Research Network and American Uveitis Society. |
• Grant reviewer: National Eye Institute Center Core Grant for Vision Research (P30) Special Emphasis Panel, March 2022. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kamran M. Riaz, MD</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Received Faculty Aesculapian Award, University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, Class of 2022, April 2022 (see page 39).</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Named director of medical student research at Dean McGee Eye Institute (see page 41).</td>
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<td>• Became a member of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery Young Eye Surgeon Clinical Committee, June 2022 – June 2025.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Published: Riaz K.M., Gill M.S., Murphy D.A., Ding K., Khaimi M.A. “Surgical Management of Intraocular Pressure with Ab-Interno Canaloplasty in Post-Keratoplasty Patients: 12-Month Results,” <em>Cornea</em>, March 2022, published online ahead of print.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Published: Khan A., Murphy D.A., John F.T., Dastjerdi M.H., Riaz K.M. “Anterior Segment OCT Findings and Atypical Refractive Changes Secondary to Epstein-Barr Virus Associated Nummular Keratitis,” <em>Journal of Cataract and Refractive Surgery Online Case Reports</em>, April 2022.</td>
</tr>
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## FACULTY & STAFF
### AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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| **R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA** | •Received the Marshall M. Parks Bronze Medal and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (AAPOS), March 2022 (see page 7).  
| **Gregory L. Skuta, MD**     | •Accepted for membership: American Ophthalmological Society, March 2022 (see page 9).  
  •Named lecturer: Mansour F. Armaly Lecture, “What Have We Learned Since Eddy, Billings, and 1987?,” Iowa Eye Meeting, Iowa City, Iowa, June 2022.  
  •Grant reviewer: National Eye Institute Special Emphasis Panel, Clinical Applications, July 2022. |
Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma Supports Surgical Education Efforts

THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) HAS RECEIVED A $250,000 GRANT FROM THE MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION OF OKLAHOMA to enhance its surgical education efforts. The funds will be used to acquire a new surgical and teaching microscope for the McGee Eye Surgery Center (MESC) along with upgraded hardware and software to help make performing premium cataract surgery safer, more efficient, and more precise. In addition, the grant will enable DMEI to upgrade the surgical video recording system in each of the five operating rooms at MESC to easily and efficiently record surgical procedures and automatically store them on DMEI’s computer network. The system also will provide a wireless real-time video feed to a flat-screen television installed in each of the operating rooms.

R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA, DMEI’s chief executive officer and Edward L. Gaylord professor and chair of the University of Oklahoma Department of Ophthalmology, stated, “We are extraordinarily grateful for this very generous donation. The upgraded microscope will allow our surgeons to more accurately align toric intraocular lenses used to correct astigmatism in cataract surgery patients, and the software will generate a detailed, specific cataract surgery plan and alert surgeons if the patient has pre-existing conditions that might be a concern. The surgical recording system will allow for more robust didactic training of residents, fellows, and medical students in support of DMEI’s educational mission. We would not have been able to make these improvements without the wonderful support of the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma.”

Three of the five video recording systems have been installed as of June 30, 2022. DMEI anticipates that the remaining video recording systems and the new microscope will be installed during the third quarter of calendar year 2022 and will be well integrated into its training programs before the end of the year.

“Our support for DMEI is a demonstration of our commitment to education and wellness,” said John L. Logan, executive director of the Foundation. “Training the next generation of ophthalmologists requires current technology, and we are proud to assist in the process.”

In 2021, a Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma grant of $260,000 was awarded to endow DMEI’s visiting lecture series in perpetuity (see DMEI InVision, issue 23, summer 2021, page 21). DMEI has been truly blessed by their kindness and generosity towards the Institute and our mission.”
LEE W. YOUNG, Dean McGee Eye Institute Foundation (DMEIF) board director, businessman, civic leader, and philanthropist, died on May 22, following a courageous battle with colon cancer. He was 61 years old.

A native of Oklahoma City, Mr. Young is survived by his wife Laura Young; daughters Anna Lee Young, Alexandra Wright, and Claire Foltz; sons Stephen Young, Carter Wright, and Trevor Wright; and sister Marie Elise Young. He was predeceased by his parents, Jean Warren and Stanton L. Young, and his sister, Carol Young.

Mr. Young had served on the DMEIF Board of Directors since 2018. He had a passion for horses, and was committed to animal welfare, serving on the boards of Nexus Equine and the Oklahoma Humane Society. Mr. Young also served on the boards of World Neighbors, The University Hospitals Foundation, Presbyterian Hospital, and First National Bank of Oklahoma. He was particularly proud to present the Stanton L. Young Master Teacher Award each year. Named after his father, the award recognizes an outstanding faculty member of the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Medicine.

A graduate of Casady School in Oklahoma City and Babson College, a business school in Wellesley, Massachusetts, Mr. Young later founded Young Energy, an oil and natural gas company located in Oklahoma City.

“Although all of us at the Dean McGee Eye Institute are saddened by Lee’s passing, we also are grateful for his leadership, brilliant insights, and enormous generosity of spirit that positively impacted so many,” said R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA, chief executive officer of the Institute and chair of the OU Department of Ophthalmology. “Lee was a kind and loving husband, father, brother, and friend who was revered by all. His broad and remarkable influence will endure.”
National Doctors’ Day is observed annually in the United States on March 30 as a day to honor physicians. For the second year, the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) Foundation sent a mailing to DMEI patients offering them a way to say “thank you” to their doctor(s) by making an unrestricted gift to the DMEI Foundation in honor of their doctor(s) and, if they desired, by providing a note of gratitude.

We were once again thrilled with the response! We received over $27,000 in donations from more than 345 patients, over half of whom were first-time donors. (See a complete list of donors on pages 22-23.)

However, the most fulfilling aspect of this initiative was the hundreds of notes of gratitude that were received. The notes for each doctor were bound together in an attractive notebook and presented to each of them as a keepsake. Examples of those notes are presented below:

**A note of gratitude for Dr. Ann Acers-Warn...**

“You have been a source of inspiration and encouragement to me on many occasions. I’m so grateful for the wisdom and care I have received for over 25 years! Many times I have been in the dark (literally – because of complications with my eyes), and you have always been there to take care of me. I’m grateful!”

– Debbie Pratt

**A note of gratitude for Dr. Andrew Bailey...**

“I wish to acknowledge my surgeon, Dr. Bailey. He is a younger version of my father, both having backgrounds as military surgeons before entering private practice as ophthalmologists. Dr. Bailey has shown himself to be an amazingly talented eye surgeon; focused, caring, and compassionate. His belief in a higher power represents a humbleness and a humility that I find reassuring for so gifted a surgeon. Thank you Dr. Bailey... you remain a gem.”

– Ron Culver, USAF, Ret.

We thank all of those who honored their doctors with notes of gratitude and gifts to the DMEI Foundation!
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YOU KNOW THAT A WILL IS VITAL WHEN it comes to distributing your assets to the people and causes you care about, but did you know that creating one has personal benefits? This is particularly apparent when you use it to give a gift to an organization you love, such as the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI).

Here is how including a charitable gift in your will benefits you:

1. **It can lessen anxiety.** Thinking and planning ahead can make it less daunting to talk about what happens when you’re gone. How? It gives you reassurance that the people and causes close to your heart are included in your final wishes.

2. **It can lend perspective.** Taking stock of what’s important can help you focus on your goals and be more aware of how you want to impact the world.

3. **It sets an example.** Your gift can be an inspiration. Your story can have a ripple effect on your loved ones or others with whom you share it.

4. **It just feels good.** Giving makes you feel good. Research shows that the act of giving reduces stress-related activity in one area of the brain while increasing reward-related activity in another.

5. **It can be adjusted.** A gift in your will is revocable, which means it can be changed at any time—that includes the amount, the assets, and the area of purpose you are supporting. You are free to alter your plans as needed to reflect life’s changes.

6. **It reflects your personal legacy.** A gift in your will is your opportunity to contribute to a cause that is meaningful to you and have it extend beyond your lifetime.

7. **It is versatile.** Through your will, you can give a specific item, an amount of money, a gift contingent upon certain events, or a percentage of your estate. You can balance your generosity to DMEI with an assurance that loved ones are taken care of first. Estate planning professionals often counsel their clients to have an annual or biannual estate plan “checkup” to ensure that the most recent version of their will reflects their wishes.

8. **It is likely to be the biggest gift you will ever give.** The assets in your estate reflect a lifetime of your work and investments. Giving a gift through your will is likely to be the largest donation—and largest impact on a cause you care about—you will ever make.
9. **It allows you to enjoy your assets today.** Because the distribution of your assets occurs after your lifetime, you retain control of your assets during your life.

10. **It makes a difference.** When you give a gift in your will, you are making the named organization part of your family and you become a part of the fabric of that organization by helping it carry its mission forward into the future.

Of course, loved ones are the first people to consider when drafting your will. Then, think about the nonprofits you want to support. Providing for institutions and causes you care about, such as DMEI, is an excellent way to demonstrate your values, help you gain a better understanding of what’s important to you, and set an example for others to follow.

**WE CAN HELP**

Every gift is meaningful and helps us continue our mission. Contact Jim Durbin at 405.271.7803 or jim-durbin@dmei.org to discuss how your will can make a difference.

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**DMEI Foundation Briefs**

- Seventy donors, with average gifts of $6,000, have helped raise $420,000 for the **DMEI Alumni Professorship** towards a goal of $500,000. This professorship will provide a two-year award to a deserving faculty member to support him or her in fulfilling the academic mission of the Eye Institute. We are almost to our goal! You can help us reach it by donating by check using the enclosed envelope or online at [www.dmei.org/donate-now](http://www.dmei.org/donate-now).

- Donations to the **Gregory L. Skuta, MD Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology** have reached nearly $895,000 towards a goal of $1 million, including a recent gift of $50,000 from the Presbyterian Health Foundation. If you would like to help us honor Dr. Skuta in this way, please make a donation by check using the enclosed envelope or online at [www.dmei.org/donate-now](http://www.dmei.org/donate-now).

- An anonymous donor has matched the lead gift to the **Tolbert Family Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology** with a pledge of $200,000. This, coupled with additional donations totaling $163,500, brings the amount raised to date to $563,500. The goal for this endowed chair is $1 million. Anyone wishing to honor Jim Tolbert, civic leader and chair emeritus of the DMEI Board of Directors, or his family with a gift to this endowed chair may do so by sending a check in the enclosed envelope or by donating online at [www.dmei.org/donate-now](http://www.dmei.org/donate-now).

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*Source: The Stelter Company. The information in this article is not intended as legal or tax advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney or tax advisor.*
AT ITS APRIL 2022 MEETING, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE SARKEYS FOUNDATION approved a grant of $1 million for the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) to establish the John M. Bell, MD Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology. The chair is named for Dr. Bell, clinical associate professor at DMEI and in the University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology. He practices comprehensive ophthalmology at DMEI’s Oklahoma Health Center and Edmond locations. The grant was made in recognition for Dr. Bell’s exceptional contributions to the field of ophthalmology in Oklahoma and as a volunteer on the Sarkeys Foundation Board, on which he has served since 2011.

“We are so grateful that the Sarkeys Foundation has chosen to honor Dr. Bell in this way,” stated R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA, DMEI’s chief executive officer and chair of the OU Department of Ophthalmology. “John has been a respected leader in Oklahoma ophthalmology throughout his career. As a skilled physician and cataract surgeon, he has provided his patients with outstanding care and treated them with respect and compassion. This recognition could not have happened if John were not held in such great esteem by so many people throughout Oklahoma. We are blessed to have Dr. John Bell at the Dean McGee Eye Institute, where his legacy will live on through this chair and the accomplishments of all of the future holders.”

Dr. Bell joined DMEI/OU Department of Ophthalmology in August 2017. A native of Oklahoma, he is a graduate of Norman High School and earned his undergraduate (with highest honors, Phi Beta Kappa) and medical (with distinction, Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society) degrees from OU. Dr. Bell completed his internship at the OU Health Sciences Center and his ophthalmology residency at Scott and White in Temple, Texas. He joined the Oklahoma City Clinic in 1991 and served as president of the clinic from 2002 to 2017.

Dr. Bell has assembled a remarkable record of leadership and service, and has served as president of the Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology (OAO) and chair of the OU Board of Regents. He was on the Board of Trustees of the OU College of Medicine Alumni Association from 2002 to 2015. In April 2017, while still at the Oklahoma City Clinic, Dr. Bell was recognized as Physician of the Year—Private Practice by the OU College of Medicine Alumni Association. He received the OAO’s Distinguished Service Award in 2019 and also is a past recipient from DMEI residents of the Excellence in Attending Award at the Oklahoma City Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

This grant continues the Sarkeys Foundation’s longstanding support of DMEI’s mission. The foundation’s first grant to DMEI was in 1978, and their total giving to DMEI now stands at $1.875 million. Kim Henry, the former First Lady of Oklahoma, has served as the executive director of the Sarkeys Foundation since 2009.
FORMER SPEAKER OF THE OKLAHOMA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VISITS INSTITUTE

ON MAY 25, THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) had the honor of hosting former Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, T.W. Shannon. Of note, he also visited DMEI on March 29, 2012, while Speaker-elect for the Oklahoma House. Mr. Shannon is currently chief executive officer of Chickasaw Community Bank in Oklahoma City.

DMEI is grateful for Mr. Shannon’s time, interest, and leadership in better understanding the Institute’s mission and commitment to the state of Oklahoma. The Institute provides eye care for Oklahomans from all 77 of the state’s counties.

COVID-19 Update

DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) closely follows the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and OU Medicine, which have public health and infectious disease experts who determine guidelines and policy for health care facilities. In the field of eye care, our doctors and clinical staff are at particular risk given the close proximity to patients during examinations. Despite that, DMEI doctors and clinical staff have remained very healthy with no major illnesses during the ongoing pandemic. We attribute this, in part, to our strict masking guidelines. Our guidelines are as follows: masks are mandatory for all patients, visitors, clinical providers, and employees who have face-to-face interaction with patients. We permit KN95, N95, or surgical grade masks. Scarves, bandanas, and cloth masks are not permitted.

We extend a special thanks to a patient of Dr. Ronald M. Kingsley, who wishes to remain anonymous, for his generous donation of 240 N95 masks. His thoughtfulness towards DMEI and our employees is much appreciated as we remain vigilant with regard to the current Omicron BA.5 subvariant.
The following names reflect gifts received by the Dean McGee Eye Institute and/or Dean McGee Eye Institute Foundation from January 1 through December 31, 2021. They include gifts and pledges as well as payments on previous pledges.

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Susan T. Young
Betty Jean and Robert P.
Yuyuenyongwatana, PhD
Afroza & Musharraf Zaman, PhD, MD
D’Anna and Carl H. Ziese Jr.

Up to $99

Marilyn L. Aaron
Mrs. Lee Acers
Martha A. Adams
Adriana Aguilar
Willie Mae Ahdunko
Rideonso Almeida Jr.
Richard W. Amend
Byron Ames
Anonymous
Anonymous
Alma M. Anthony
Janis and Kenneth Antone
Kenneth W. Arinwine
Mr. & Mrs. Laurence B. Armstrong
Jo Beth Arterberry
Helene F. Bacher
Judith Bachman
Jerry D. Balentine
Robert C. Barnett
Lora L. Bassham
Elton L. Beavers
Joe Ann Beeson
Maxine E. Beisley
Carol Ann Bell
Roseanne Bell
Charlotte S. Bellah
Robert Eugene Benz
Paskel D. Bevan
Patricia B. Biggers
Theresa Blanchard
Braxton M. Boggs
Donna J. Bonds
Alice Mae Borders
Rick and Rita Bornoff
MSG (Ret). Jacci Bowers
Michele Boyd
Margie L. Brace
Betty Brannan
John G. Brooks
Brittney Brown
Jennifer Brown
Marlene Brown
Oather B. Burrough
Bernard Butler
Glen Butler
Lori A. Caffield
Virginia C. Cannata
Joyce E. Carle
Gloria A. Carmichael
Mary A. Carson
Renate Carson
Jon M. Carter
Joseph and Mattie Carter
Lakisha Carter
Michael Carter
Linda K. Chambers
Billie R. Chandler
Joyce A. Chapman
Joseph E. Chiricoske
Lenee Church
Delores Clark
Edward and Matilda Clements
Diana J. Cobb
Coffeyville Resources
Naomi R. Colbert
Jean Coleman
Margaret R. Coleman
Sharon G. Coleman
ConocoPhillips Company
Myrna Cook
Shirley A. Cooks
Andrea Cooper
Nickie V. Cooper
Ioawana M. Cotten
Mr. and Mrs. Lester Cowden Jr.
Karen T. Cox
Charles B. Crews
Jamie Crosby
Cedric L. Cudjo
Margaret A. Cukjati
Hazel Cusac
C. Lois Daniels
Elizabeth M. Daniels
Michael Daniels
Judith K. Davidson
Sheila E. Davidson
Cherie K. Davis
Gordon Davis
Kara Davis
Linda A. Davis
Carolyn Dearstynex
Myrna DeBose
Leona Denning
Marion Dennis
Kadisha Deskins
Mary Elaine Devin
Marilyn M. Diedmann
Retha Digman
Michael Dodoo
Delesia A. Dolton
Stanley Domstead
Billy D. Donovan
JoAnna Alexander Donovan
Betty J. Dooley
Nancy A. Dremann
Helen Lee Duckett
Amanda Dunlap
Rodney Dutton
W. Samuel Dykeman
Mary P. Eddy
Christopher B. Edwards
Sandi L. Edwards
Linda and Bill Elifstrom
Jimmie J. Ellis
Robert B. Epstein, MD
Scott D. Epstein
Cena A. Ervin
Joyce E. Eykamp
Margaret A. Farmer
Peggy D. Farris
Rosena L. Fasching
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Feese
Nancy Ferrell
Teresa Z. Fife
Jackie Fisk
Kit L. Fong
Zeola A. Ford
Steven T. Forrest
Sheena Foster
LaSandra Fowler
Helen Franczene
Charlotte J. Freeland
Gwenda G. Freeman
Sara French
Donothy A. Frosh
Wilma Fukas
Genevieve J. Fultan
Ruth Gable
Arabela Galan
Marilyn Garrity
Patrick and Linda Gibson
Nicole Glenn
Golden Creek Minerals
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Raymond C. Green
Minna W. Hall
Naomi F. Hall
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Gloria J. Hamlin
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Mary Hammonds
Linda Hampton
Dale and Cynthia M. Hanchey, PhD
Connie G. Harding
Chelsea Harkness
Marilyn Harmon
Jennifer Harris
Marie L. Harris
Richard and Mary Harvey
Jamie G. Heard
Arlene Henderson
Pamela Henderson
Marlon E. and Karen Henry
Marvin Henschel
David Paul Herrod
Mattie L. Herrod
Freida Hickman
Shannon Highsmith
Josephine Hill
David and Manetta Holtam
Wilbur House
Mary Lynn Hughes
Carl L. Huitt
Marissa Hundley
Catherine and Owen Hurst
Jerry E. and Eva Joyce Ingram
Kristi Ingram
Teresa Irvin
Debra Jackson
Sonya Jackson
Linda A. Jefferson
Carra D. and Ivan L. Johnson
Delbert W. Johnson
Risa Johnson
Robert L. Johnson
Shirley A. Johnson
Wanda Johnson
Breana Jones
Christeeana Jones
Jay F. Jones Jr.
Jody B. Kallsen
Barbara E. Keating
Mae Lois Keith
Diana and Mark Keys
Almetric Kinslow
Reba E. Klick
Lee Y. Konopnicki
Luella K. Koppitz
Christopher Korstjens
Cinda W. Lafferty
Nell Largent
Geneva Larney
Brooke Larson
Lorraine M. Lear
Laryssa Leite
Mary Kay Lentz
Laurnell E. Lenz
Betty J. Lewis
Charles A. Lewis
Diane Lewis
2021 Acers Society

HONORING DR. THOMAS E. ACERS, BENEFITING OPHTHALMOLOGY RESIDENT & FELLOW EDUCATION

LIFETIME MEMBERS
Jackie Acers *
Ann Acers-Warn, MD, MBA
Evan J. Allan, MD
Francis “Ted” Applegate, MD *
Andrew K. Bailey, MD
Sterling S. Baker, MD
Ray M. Balyeat, MD
Donald E. Beahm, MD
David A. Bernitsky, MD
Charles P. Bogie III, MD, PhD
Matthew D. Bown
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D. Randolph Brown Jr., MD
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Russell D. Crain, MD
Sam S. Dahn, MD
James L. Dunagin Jr., MD
Bradley K. Farris, MD
William J. Faulkner, MD
Stephen R. Fransen, MD
Luther L. Fry, MD
John M. Garber, OD, FAAO
Garyl G. Geist
Robert D. Gourley, MD
Jeffrey W. Grisham, MD
Scott M. Guess, MD
Ben J. Harvey, MD
Jean R. Hausheer, MD, FACS
Joshua F. Hendrix, MD
John J. Herlihy, MD *
P. Lloyd Hildebrand, MD, FACS
Kimberly A. Howard
Blake A. Isernhagen, MD
Rick D. Isernhagen, MD
David W. Jackson, MD
Alison Acers Jetton
Kevin A. Kerr, MD
Mahmoud A. Khaimi, MD
Robert T. Lee, MD, FACS
James H. Little, MD
Melody Marcum
Amalia M. Miranda, MD
Steven N. Montgomery, MD
Annie Moreau, MD, FACS
W. Stanley Muenzler, MD *
A. Ahmed Nasrullah, MD
Jacquelyn A. Jetton O’Banion, MD, MSc
David W. Parke II, MD
Anil D. Patel, MD, FRCS, FACS
Reena N. Patel, MD
Ronald J. Pinkenburg, MD
Helga Fuenfhausen Pizio, MD
John A. Robinson, MD
Nelson R. Sabates, MD
Siv Brit Saetre, MD
Steven R. Sarkisian Jr., MD
Lee E. Schoeffler, MD
David L. Schwartz, MD
Mark H. Scott, MD
R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA
Gregory L. Skuta, MD
Michael L. Soper, MD
Donald U. Stone, MD
 Scot A. Sullivan, MD
Jeremy F. Tan, MD
Paul S. Tlucek, MD
Matthew P. Traynor, MD
Roland A. Walters, MD
Deana S. Watts, MD
G. Rainey Williams Jr.
James B. Wise, MD
Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHSc
David E. Zuech, MD

ANNUAL MEMBERS
Brayden R. Barrientez, MD
Cynthia A. Bradford, MD
Reagan H. Bradford Jr., MD
John Russell Burks, MD
Steven H. Dewey, MD
Farzad Jamshidi, MD, PhD
Jay C. Johnston, MD
Ronald M. Kingsley, MD
Andrew L. Rodenburg, MD
Kurt D. Weir, MD
Andrew A. Wilson, MD
Thomas C. Wolf, MD

THE ACERS SOCIETY WAS ESTABLISHED by the alumni of the University of Oklahoma Department of Ophthalmology in recognition of its first full-time chair, Dr. Thomas E. Acers. The Society exists to support ophthalmology resident and fellow education of the highest quality. Proper training and supervised clinical experience for tomorrow’s ophthalmologists will best serve both patients and the profession. Members of the Acers Society share this commitment.

Chair: William S. Clifford, MD, MBA, Garden City, Kansas
Committee Members: Ann Acers-Warn, MD, MBA, Lawton, Oklahoma
Donald E. Beahm, MD, Great Bend, Kansas
P. Lloyd Hildebrand, MD, FACS, Las Vegas, Nevada
James H. Little, MD, Norman, Oklahoma
Annie Moreau, MD, FACS, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Roland A. Walters, MD, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Ex-Officio: R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

*Deceased
Dr. Agbaga to Serve on Biology and Development of the Eye Study Section

MARTIN-PAUL AGBAGA, PHD, HAS BEEN INVITED to serve as a member of the National Institutes of Health’s (NIH’s) Biology and Development of the Eye Study Section, Cell Biology (CB) Integrated Review Group, Center for Scientific Review (CSR), for a term beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2028. The appointment was made on behalf of Lawrence A. Tabak, DDS, PhD, acting director of the NIH. Dr. Agbaga, an assistant professor in the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Medicine’s Departments of Cell Biology and Ophthalmology, conducts his research in a laboratory at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI).

Membership on an Initial/Integrated Review Group (IRG) represents a major commitment of professional time and energy as well as a unique opportunity to contribute to the national biomedical research effort. IRGs review applications submitted to the NIH, make recommendations on the applications to the appropriate NIH national advisory council or board, and survey the status of research in their fields of science.

Dr. Agbaga reviewed for this study section as an ad hoc member in 2021 and was nominated for his demonstrated competence and achievement in his scientific discipline as evidenced by the quality of his research accomplishments, publications in scientific journals, and other significant scientific activities and honors. Service on an IRG also requires mature judgment and objectivity as well as the ability to work effectively in a group, additional qualities that Dr. Agbaga will bring to this important assignment.
AS PART OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA (OU) College of Medicine Alumni Association’s Evening of Excellence gala event on March 24 at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, Gregory L. Skuta, MD, (center, right) was presented with the 2022 Dean’s Award for Distinguished Medical Service, and G. Rainey Williams Jr. (center, left) received the Dean’s Award for Distinguished Community Service. Pictured with the awardees are Mary Zoe Baker, MD (left), president of the OU College of Medicine Alumni Association, and John P. Zubialde, MD (right), executive dean of the OU College of Medicine.

The Evening of Excellence honors individuals and organizations making significant contributions to research and medicine in Oklahoma. Proceeds from the Evening of Excellence support medical research at the OU College of Medicine. To date, the Alumni Association has awarded $3.9 million in grant support to 167 researchers.

See the full story in a previous issue of DMEI InVision (issue 24, winter 2022, pages 18–19).

**Two Honored at 2022 Evening of Excellence**

**RESEARCH FACULTY—DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY**

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<td>Richard S. Brush, BS</td>
<td>Michael H. Elliott, PhD, FARVO</td>
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<td>Michelle C. Callegan, PhD, FARVO</td>
<td>Kevin K. Fuller, PhD</td>
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OU Vision Club Seminar Series

THE OU VISION CLUB is proud to host visits and seminars by local, national, and international experts in vision research. The Vision Club Seminar Series is held at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and is sponsored by DMEI and the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

Recent Events:

APRIL 7, 2022
Suzanne M.J. Fleiszig, OD, PhD, FAAO
Professor of Optometry and Vision Science
Associate Dean for Basic Sciences
Department of Optometry
University of California, Berkeley

“The Cornea and Pseudomonas aeruginosa: Role Models of Diversity, Inclusion and Cooperation”

APRIL 14, 2022
Matthew J. Hart, PhD
Director, Center for Therapeutic Sciences
Professor of Research, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

“Drug and Target Discovery at the Oklahoma Center for Therapeutic Sciences”

Upcoming Events:

NOVEMBER 10, 2022
Danielle M. Robertson, OD, PhD
Associate Professor
Department of Ophthalmology
Director, Advanced Dry Eye Specialty Clinic
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas
Jami M. Gurley, PhD, was appointed as an Assistant Professor of Research in the University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology in April. Dr. Gurley is a native of Oklahoma, and earned her bachelor of science degree at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond and her PhD in biochemistry and molecular biology from the OU Health Sciences Center (OUHSC). She completed her postdoctoral fellowship at OUHSC in Dr. Michael H. Elliott’s laboratory at the Dean McGee Eye Institute.

From a research standpoint, Dr. Gurley is interested in understanding the early stages of vascular breakdown that occur with microvascular diseases of the retina. She has a particular interest in retinal blood vessel dysfunction as it relates to diseases such as diabetic retinopathy, hypertensive retinopathy, and age-related macular degeneration.

Dr. Gurley is a member of Women in Eye and Vision Research and has served as president of OUHSC’s Postdoctoral Association. She has received research support from the American Heart Association, Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology, and Presbyterian Health Foundation. In September 2022, she will participate in the seventh annual Emerging Vision Scientists Day, which is coordinated by the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research and held on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.

Tonia S. Rex, PhD
Spencer and Marlene Hays Director in Translational Vision Research
Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences
Associate Vice Chair for Translational Research
Vanderbilt Eye Institute
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Dr. Agbaga Receives Amalia M. Miranda, MD Special Recognition Award

ON JUNE 11, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT MARTIN-PAUL AGBAGA, PHD, was the recipient of the third Amalia M. Miranda, MD Special Recognition Award. Dr. Agbaga is an assistant professor in the Departments of Cell Biology and Ophthalmology at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC).

This award is supported by a gift from the late Paul Silverstein, MD, in honor of his wife Amalia M. Miranda, MD. Dr. Miranda is a highly respected Oklahoma City comprehensive ophthalmologist who is a past president of the Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology (OA0), a recent Oklahoma Councilor to the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), an AAO Guest of Honor in 2017, and the recipient of the OA0 Distinguished Service Award in 2017.

The Amalia M. Miranda, MD Special Recognition Award honors an individual associated with the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and OU Department of Ophthalmology who, like Dr. Miranda, received his/her undergraduate, graduate, and/or postgraduate education/training outside of the United States or Canada and who has made important contributions to patient care and/or vision research. Dr. Miranda is a native of Seville, Spain, and completed her undergraduate and medical degrees and ophthalmology residency at the University of Seville. She served on the DMEI medical staff from 1983 to 1993.

A native of Ghana in West Africa, Dr. Agbaga received his bachelor of science degree with first class honors from Ghana’s University of Cape Coast, and completed his master’s degree and PhD in cell biology at OUHSC. He also pursued his postdoctoral fellowship training at OUHSC in the laboratory of Dr. Robert E. “Gene” Anderson before becoming an assistant professor of research and then assistant professor.

Dr. Agbaga’s current research is focused on unraveling the essential role of very long chain fatty acids in retinal and brain function using models of mutant fatty acid elongase-4 (ELOVL4) protein. This could help determine possible future treatments for autosomal dominant Stargardt-like macular dystrophy and potentially age-related macular degeneration.

As an esteemed leader in vision research, Dr. Agbaga’s current or recent funding includes support from the National Institutes of Health (R01 and R21), Presbyterian Health Foundation, and Harold Hamm Diabetes Center.
THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER (OUHSC) has renewed an unrestricted grant from Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB) in the amount of $115,000, which is renewable for up to five years for a total of $575,000, to support eye research conducted by the Department of Ophthalmology, which is housed in the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI). The funding has been awarded based on a thorough review of criteria, including the department’s research activities, laboratory environment, and clinical and scientific staff, as evaluated by RPB’s renowned Scientific Advisory Panel.

The funds will be deployed at the discretion of the department chair to provide maximum flexibility in developing and expanding eye research programs, and to provide opportunities for creative planning that go beyond the scope of restricted project grants.

OUHSC holds one of only 30 RPB unrestricted grants nationwide. It is ranked 16th in the nation and eighth among programs affiliated with a public university with respect to cumulative RPB funding ($6.23 million).

“This grant will be critical to advancing our department’s scientific study of retinal degenerations, diabetic eye disease, infectious and inflammatory disease, and other conditions that can result in permanent vision loss,” stated Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski, the Edward L. Gaylord professor and chair of the OU Department of Ophthalmology and DMEI’s chief executive officer. “All of us at OU and DMEI are extremely grateful to RPB for their generous support and the extraordinary impact it has had on the growth and success of our vision research programs.”

Since it was founded in 1960, RPB has channeled more than $397 million into eye research. As a result, RPB has been identified with nearly every major breakthrough in vision research during that time.

For information on RPB’s grant program, listings of RPB institutional and individual grantees, and findings generated by these awards, go to www.rpbusa.org.
Dr. Kamran Riaz Honored with Aesculapian Award

KAMRAN M. RIAZ, MD, WAS RECOGNIZED ON APRIL 21 AS THE RECIPIENT OF A FACULTY AESCULAPIAN AWARD for excellence in teaching in the clinical sciences. He is the first ophthalmologist ever to receive this prestigious award, which was presented by representatives from the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Medicine Class of 2022. Dr. Riaz is a cornea specialist at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and clinical associate professor in the OU Department of Ophthalmology.

This award, named after the Greek and Roman god modeling the ideal physician, is given by medical students to faculty and residents who have dedicated themselves “to the teaching of their art and to the art of teaching”.

Dr. Riaz was honored for his outstanding mentorship of junior and senior medical students in research as well as in the clinical setting. His contributions as an educator are detailed in DMEI InVision, issue 24, winter 2022, pages 44 – 45, and issue 23, summer 2021, page 6.

“This is a significant honor for Dr. Riaz and for the Dean McGee Eye Institute,” said R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA, DMEI/OU’s chief executive officer and department chair. “A former DMEI physician, the late Dr. Robert G. “Bob” Small, was nominated for an Aesculapian Award late in his career (April 2012) and once told me that this was one of the greatest highlights of his professional life.”

Since joining DMEI in March 2019, Dr. Riaz’ practice has focused on complex and premium cataract surgery, corneal transplantation, refractive surgery, and the management of difficult and challenging surgical cases. In 2021, he was awarded “40 Under 40” and “Achievers Under 40” recognitions by Oklahoma Magazine and The Journal Record, respectively.

Dr. Riaz and his wife, Sanaa A. Hameed, MD, have three young children.

Frederick C. "Kris" Miller, PhD (center), assistant dean for preclinical curriculum in the OU College of Medicine, vision researcher, and associate professor in the Departments of Cell Biology and Family and Preventive Medicine, was the recipient of the 2022 Edgar W. Young Lifetime Achievement Award at the April 21 banquet. He is pictured with R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA (left), and Leo Tsiokas, PhD (right), chairs of the OU Departments of Ophthalmology and Cell Biology, respectively.
TYLER C. FRISKE, MD, NAMED NEW CHIEF RESIDENT

DR. TYLER C. FRISKE HAS BEEN SELECTED AS CHIEF RESIDENT for the 2022-2023 academic year, which started on July 1. Dr. Friske grew up in Colorado Springs, Colorado, before moving to Dallas, Texas, where he attended Southern Methodist University as a President’s Scholar and graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering. He completed his medical degree at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, and was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. During his time at Baylor, Dr. Friske served as a student co-chair of the Admissions Committee and worked extensively as a peer mentor and tutor. Following medical school, he completed a transitional internship at Presbyterian St. Luke’s Medical Center in Denver, Colorado, where he was an intern class representative.

Dr. Friske began his residency in ophthalmology at the Dean McGee Eye Institute/University of Oklahoma (DMEI/OU) in 2020. He is an Eagle Scout and enjoys cooking, skiing, hiking, camping, and spending time with friends and family.

Dr. Friske’s predecessor as chief resident, Andrew R. Osborn, MD, will join his father, Daniel R. Osborn, MD, in practice at the Missouri Eye Institute in Springfield, Missouri.

DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE AMONG NATION’S TOP EIGHT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT AND DOXIMITY 2022-2023 SURVEYS

THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) WAS RANKED 8TH in the nation among academic eye centers affiliated with a public university and 19th (tie) overall by U.S. News & World Report in its 2022-2023 survey. In the latest Doximity survey of ophthalmology residency programs, DMEI/University of Oklahoma was ranked 7th among public institutions and 16th overall. Only 16 centers, including seven affiliated with public universities,* were ranked in the top 20 in both surveys.

* The other six were the University of California at Los Angeles and San Francisco, respectively, University of Iowa, University of Michigan, University of Utah, and Oregon Health and Science University.
ON MAY 5, A SPECIAL SESSION OF the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Medicine Interdisciplinary Grand Rounds was held via Zoom for a public audience. An Interdisciplinary Approach to Dyslexia was presented by Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) pediatric ophthalmologist Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHSc, along with a neuropsychologist, pediatrician, speech pathologist, and social worker (all from the OU College of Medicine). A reading specialist/educator from Tulsa Public Schools also participated in the outreach event.

Each professional on the panel discussed his or her roles in the diagnosis and management of dyslexia, which is a reading disorder in which a child reads below the expected level given his or her age, grade in school, and intelligence. Children with this problem read slowly and have trouble understanding what they read, may have trouble with word recognition, and may confuse words that look alike.

The expert panel helped guide attendees through identifying a child with a possible learning disorder, the clinical management, and the complex referral process required to treat dyslexia. Although dyslexia is the most common learning disability, it remains widely misunderstood. The outreach event, organized by Colton Hill, MPH, interdisciplinary education chair, OU College of Medicine, Class of 2024, provided the necessary resources to empower a child to overcome a disorder that all health care providers will inevitably encounter in his or her field of practice and daily lives.

DMEI Announces New Director of Medical Student Research

IN JULY, DR. KAMRAN M. RIAZ WAS ANNOUNCED as the new director of medical student research at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI). His responsibilities in this leadership role will include matching medical students from the University of Oklahoma (OU) and those visiting from outside institutions with research projects. Dr. Riaz also will organize research electives and preceptorships for medical students.

Dr. Riaz has been recognized for his outstanding mentorship of junior and senior medical students in research as well as in the clinical setting (see page 39). He is a dedicated and gifted clinician, surgeon, teacher, and researcher, and we are delighted to have him formally overseeing the ophthalmology medical student research program at DMEI/OU!
Clinical Rotations Conducted at Dean McGee Eye Institute

The Dean McGee Eye Institute’s (DMEI’s) technician supervisors, Daniel Carrel, COA, OSC, OSA, Marisela McNeal, COA, Sonya Strang, COT, and Rikkilyn Hibbard, COMT, along with Emilee Roberts, COA, have been providing clinical instruction to the students enrolled in the “Eye Care Technologies” program at Metro Technology Centers’ northeast Oklahoma City campus. Adult students Alicia Carrasco and Brooke Bridgford from the Metro Technology Centers program have completed their clinical skills evaluation, and both have full-time ophthalmic technician positions with the Institute.

Eye care technician adult students during clinical rotations at DMEI. Pictured (left to right): Ana Valdez, Brianna Banks, Ingrid Juarez, Barenca Maldonado, Jacqueline Rivera, and Ariana Beo.

Eye care assistant high school students during clinical rotations at DMEI. Shown (left to right): Abril Martinez Gonzalez, Isabella Perkins, Tami’ Ania Melvin, Jessica Yanez, and Johanna Pineda Avila.

Supporting National Doctors’ Day

On National Doctors’ Day on March 30, the “Eye Care Technologies” eye care assistant high school students and eye care technician adult students displayed their support for DMEI doctors. Monetary support from generous patient donors also honored our DMEI doctors via a Doctors’ Day giving campaign (see pages 21-23).
Fundraising for Education

On April 22, the Metro Technology Foundation hosted its 12th Annual Sowing the Seeds of Success banquet at the Oklahoma History Museum in Oklahoma City. The purpose of the event was to provide support and scholarships for students at Metro Technology Centers and to recognize top students. Isabella Perkins, a student in the “Eye Care Technologies” program, was awarded the “Health Careers High School Student of the Year.” This honor qualified her to advance to the “Superintendent’s Students of the Year” competition.

Pictured (left to right): Garyl Geist, DMEI executive vice president and chief operating officer; Daniel Carrel, COA, OSC, OSA, DMEI technician supervisor; award winner Isabella Perkins; and Anil Patel, MD, FRCSC, FACS, DMEI medical director.

Congratulations to the following faculty members who received academic promotions effective July 1, 2022:

- Michael H. Elliott, PhD, FARVO, Professor
- Stephen R. Fransen, MD, Clinical Professor
- David W. Jackson, MD, Clinical Professor  
- Maria E. Lim, MD, Clinical Associate Professor
- Rhea L. Siatkowski, MD, Clinical Professor
- Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHSc, Clinical Professor
Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma Distinguished Visiting Lecturer

MAY 9, 2022

Donald L. Budenz, MD, MPH
Kittner Family Distinguished Professor
Chair, Department of Ophthalmology
University of North Carolina School of Medicine
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Topic: “Glaucoma at the Center of the Earth”

Pictured (left to right): R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA; Mahmoud A. Khaimi, MD; Donald L. Budenz, MD, MPH; and Gregory L. Skuta, MD.

Dr. Budenz (center) with DMEI residents, fellows, and faculty.
Dr. Deanna Dang Receives 2022 Dean McGee Award in Ophthalmology

DEANNA H. DANG, MD, RECEIVED the 2022 Dean McGee Award in Ophthalmology, which is given annually to the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Medicine “graduating senior with the most outstanding performance in ophthalmology.” Dr. Dang, who was born in Jacksonville, Florida, earned her undergraduate degree (magna cum laude) in music (keyboard/music performance) from the University of Florida, a master’s degree in piano performance from OU-Norman, and her medical degree (with distinction, Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, and Gold Humanism Honor Society) from OU. Before entering medical school, she was a piano preparatory instructor at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee. Dr. Dang is currently an integrated intern at OU as part of her ophthalmology residency at the Dean McGee Eye Institute/OU.

Dr. Dang also received the Dean’s Award as “the graduate who best exemplifies those principles that characterize the qualities of an outstanding physician” and the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award, which is presented by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation “to the student showing the greatest promise through commitment to the scholarly acquisition and effective application of knowledge and who has gained the complete respect of peers with high standards of integrity, compassion, and dedication to the practice of medicine.”

Congratulations to Dr. Dang for these very distinguished honors!

SAVE THE DATE!
DMEI Ophthalmology Symposium 2023
47th Annual OU Resident and Alumni Meeting
Friday/Saturday, June 9 – June 10, 2023

43rd Annual Tullos O. Coston, MD Lecture (June 10)
Judy E. Kim, MD
Professor of Ophthalmology
Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Trustee-at-Large, American Academy of Ophthalmology
President-Elect, American Society of Retina Specialists
RESIDENTS

Pictured (left to right) are the 2022 graduating residents, Andrew R. Osborn, MD (chief resident); J. Christian Berry, MD; Kristen N. Collister, MD, MPH; Jacob D. Warmath, MD; and Farzad Jamshidi, MD, PhD.

J. Christian Berry, MD (second from right), has completed three years of residency training and will remain at the Dean McGee Eye Institute/University of Oklahoma (DMEI/OU) for an additional year of training as a glaucoma fellow. Graduating residents are shown with (left to right) Drs. Andrew T. Melson (associate residency program director), R. Michael Siatkowski (chief executive officer, department chair, and residency program director), and Carolyn E. Kloek (associate residency program director) during the DMEI Ophthalmology Symposium 2022/46th Annual OU Resident and Alumni dinner held on Saturday, June 11 at the Colcord Hotel in Oklahoma City.

Kristen N. Collister, MD, MPH, has completed three years of residency training and will remain at DMEI/OU for advanced training in glaucoma and oculoplastic surgery, after which she will pursue service as a comprehensive ophthalmologist and educator with Samaritan’s Purse in Gabon, a country on the west coast of Central Africa. Dr. Collister was unable to attend the event as she and her husband, Dr. Peter Collister, had just welcomed their second son, Asa Joel, on June 9, 2022.

Farzad Jamshidi, MD, PhD (second from right), has completed three years of residency training and will enter a vitreoretinal surgery fellowship at the University of Iowa in Iowa City.

Andrew R. Osborn, MD (second from right), has completed three years of residency training and will enter private practice at the Missouri Eye Institute in Springfield, Missouri.

Jacob D. Warmath, MD (second from right), has completed three years of residency training and will pursue a cornea and refractive surgery fellowship at the University of Florida in Gainesville prior to entering military service with the United States Air Force.
Oliver G. Fischer, MD, MS (center), has completed a two-year vitreoretinal surgery fellowship and will enter private practice as a vitreoretinal surgeon in Austin, Texas. He is pictured with Vinay A. Shah, MD (left), vitreoretinal surgery fellowship director, and Reagan H. Bradford Jr., MD (right).

Joseph W. Fong, MD (center), has completed a one-year neuro-ophthalmology fellowship and will practice neuro-ophthalmology, adult strabismus, and comprehensive ophthalmology at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (Hamilton Eye Institute), Memphis VA Medical Center, and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. He is pictured with R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA (left), chief executive officer and department chair, and Anil D. Patel, MD, FRCSC, FACS (right), neuro-ophthalmology fellowship director.

Charles Daniel McGuffey, MD (right), has completed a one-year cornea/external disease/refractive surgery fellowship and will enter private practice as a cornea specialist in Jackson, Mississippi. He is pictured with Rhea L. Siatkowski, MD (left), cornea and external disease fellowship director.

Connor M. Smith, MD (left), has completed a one-year glaucoma fellowship and will enter private practice in Plano, Texas, with an emphasis on glaucoma and comprehensive ophthalmology. He is pictured with Mahmoud A. Khaimi, MD (right), glaucoma fellowship director.
In July 2022, an integrated PGY-1 internship year in medicine, surgery, and ophthalmology was implemented at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and University of Oklahoma (OU) Health Sciences Center as part of the ophthalmology residency program.

### INCOMING 2022 PGY-1 DMEI/OU INTEGRATED INTERNS

- **Ethan P. Adre, MD**  
  - College: University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL  
  - Medical School: University of Miami, Miami, FL  
  - Interim Year: University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, OK

- **Annah P. Baykal, MD**  
  - College: University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY  
  - Medical School: University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, OK  
  - Interim Year: University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, OK

- **Deanna H. Dang, MD**  
  - College: University of Florida, Gainesville, FL  
  - Medical School: University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, OK  
  - Interim Year: University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, OK

- **Manish F. “Max” Harrigill, MD**  
  - College: Millsaps College, Jackson, MS  
  - Medical School: University of Mississippi, Jackson, MS  
  - Interim Year: University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, OK

- **Brandon S. Kingrey, MD**  
  - College: Brown University, Providence, RI  
  - Medical School: Brown University, Providence, RI  
  - Interim Year: University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, OK

### INCOMING 2022 PGY-2 DMEI/OU RESIDENTS

- **Ahmad Abdel-Aty, MD**  
  - College: University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL  
  - Medical School: Yale University, New Haven, CT  
  - Interim Year: University of Central Florida, Ocala, FL

- **Adam R. Bleeker, MD**  
  - College: Northwestern College, Orange City, IA  
  - Medical School: University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD  
  - Interim Year: University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD

- **Juliana C. Bryant, MD**  
  - College: University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS  
  - Medical School: University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, OK  
  - Interim Year: University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, OK

- **Mostafa “Moses” Khattab, DO**  
  - College: Northeastern State University, Broken Arrow, OK  
  - Medical School: Oklahoma State University, Tulsa, OK  
  - Interim Year: Oklahoma State University, Tulsa, OK

- **Ashley A. Ooms, MD**  
  - College: Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA  
  - Medical School: Rutgers University, Newark, NJ  
  - Interim Year: University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, OK
IN JULY, CAROLYN E. KLOEK, MD, WAS APPOINTED AS VICE CHAIR FOR QUALITY AND INNOVATION for the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology. In this novel capacity, Dr. Kloek will develop data streams to measure important patient experience, safety, and outcome parameters, and will design and implement various process improvements to enable DMEI to achieve enhanced goals in these areas. Her work will interface with pertinent business operations and educational and academic targets as well. Dr. Kloek also will play a crucial role in developing and configuring DMEI’s Epic electronic health record and practice management platform in order to more efficiently perform data analysis necessary for success in these endeavors. She will continue in her role as associate residency program director, one in which she has already demonstrated notable success.

“With over a decade of prior experience in clinical operations and educational programming at Massachusetts Eye and Ear/Harvard Medical School, as well as her current position as senior vice president of clinical strategy and integration at OU Health, Dr. Kloek is eminently qualified to assume these roles for ophthalmology,” said R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA, DMEI chief executive officer, chair of the OU Department of Ophthalmology, and residency program director. “In so many ways, she has already made DMEI better as an organization, and now will continue to do so in a greater capacity.”

Dr. Wiggins is the current president of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), past president of the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (AAPOS), and managing partner of Asheville Eye Associates in Asheville, North Carolina, where he has practiced as a pediatric and neuro-ophthalmologist since 1991. Dr. Wiggins is also a consulting associate with Duke University’s Department of Ophthalmology.

A native of North Carolina, Dr. Wiggins earned his undergraduate (Phi Beta Kappa) and medical (Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society) degrees at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill. After completing an internship at North Carolina Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill and a residency in ophthalmology at Duke Eye Center in Durham, North Carolina, Dr. Wiggins pursued a fellowship in pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus at Baylor College of Medicine/Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston, Texas, and a fellowship in neuro-ophthalmology at Duke Eye Center. He spent one year as a pediatric ophthalmologist and clinical assistant professor at King Khaled Eye Specialist Hospital in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, before joining Asheville Eye Associates. In 2003, he obtained a Master
of Healthcare Administration degree from UNC at Chapel Hill.

Dr. Wiggins is a past president of the American Eye Study Club and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Ophthalmic Mutual Insurance Company, for which he was treasurer and chair of the Finance Committee from 2016 to 2021. From 2014 to 2019, he served as the AAO’s Senior Secretary for Ophthalmic Practice, an Academy Board of Trustees position. Dr. Wiggins also has been on the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Ophthalmic Executives and has served as an examiner for the American Board of Ophthalmology (ABO) since 2013. He will become an ABO director in 2023. Dr. Wiggins has been recognized with the AAO’s Senior Achievement Award, three AAO Secretariat Awards, an APOS Honor Award, the AAPOS-Children’s Eye Foundation Marshall M. Parks Bronze Medal, and among Best Doctors in America.

In his publications, Dr. Wiggins has addressed a wide variety of topics, including pediatric and neuro-ophthalmologic conditions, professional liability issues, electronic health records, and the ABO’s maintenance of certification program. His numerous presentations include the Wolken Ethics Lecture at the University of Iowa and recognition as the Guest of Honor of the New England Ophthalmological Society.

Outside of medicine, Dr. Wiggins enjoys golf and genealogy. He and his wife Kim, who earned her bachelor of science degree in nursing from UNC at Chapel Hill, have two adult sons and a daughter.

SAVE THE DATE: Monday, October 17, 2022
THE 30TH ANNUAL WALTER J. STARK MEMORIAL LECTURESHIP
8:30 am–9:30 am • Tullos O. Coston, MD Lecture Hall

James Chodosh, MD, MPH
Edith Ives Cogan Professor of Ophthalmology
Associate Director, Cornea and Refractive Surgery Service
Associate Chief of Ophthalmology Education
Massachusetts Eye and Ear/ Harvard Medical School
Incoming Inaugural Chair
Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences
University of New Mexico, Albuquerque
RESIDENT/ALUMNI MEETING AWARDS

EDWARD AND THELMA GAYLORD FACULTY HONOR AWARD:
ANNIE MOREAU, MD, FACS

Pictured (left to right): J. Christian Berry, MD, Jacob D. Warmath, MD, Annie Moreau, MD, FACS, Farzad Jamshidi, MD, PhD, and Andrew R. Osborn, MD. Not shown: Kristen N. Collister, MD, MPH.

DMEI FACULTY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESIDENT CLINICAL EDUCATION:
BRIAN K. FIRESTONE, MD

Pictured (left to right): J. Christian Berry, MD, Jacob D. Warmath, MD, Brian K. Firestone, MD, Farzad Jamshidi, MD, PhD, and Andrew R. Osborn, MD. Not shown: Kristen N. Collister, MD, MPH.

DMEI FACULTY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESIDENT SURGICAL EDUCATION:
ANDREW K. BAILEY, MD

Pictured (left to right): J. Christian Berry, MD, Jacob D. Warmath, MD, Andrew K. Bailey, MD, Farzad Jamshidi, MD, PhD, and Andrew R. Osborn, MD. Not shown: Kristen N. Collister, MD, MPH.

DR. & MRS. THOMAS E. ACERS RESIDENT HONOR AWARD:
AUSTIN L. LAGROW, MD

Pictured (left to right): Austin L. LaGrow, MD, and Ann Acers-Warn, MD, MBA.
As part of the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) Ophthalmology Symposium 2022 and the University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology’s 46th Annual Resident and Alumni Meeting, the recipients of a number of awards were announced during a ceremony held on the second floor of the Colcord Hotel on the evening of Saturday, June 11.

**ROBERT G. SMALL, MD RESIDENT AWARD FOR MEDICAL STUDENT EDUCATION:**

**CYNTHIA K. MCCLARD, MD, PHD**

Pictured (left to right): Cynthia K. McClard, MD, PhD, and Carolyn E. Kloek, MD.

**RESIDENT OUTSTANDING DMEI STAFF AWARD:**

**CRYSTAL A. MCAFEE CERTIFIED OPHTHALMIC ASSISTANT**

Pictured (left to right): Jacob D. Warmath, MD, Farzad Jamshidi, MD, PhD, Crystal A. McAfee, J. Christian Berry, MD, and Andrew R. Osborn, MD. Not shown: Kristen N. Collister, MD, MPH.

**RESIDENT OUTSTANDING DMEI STAFF AWARD:**

**KATY D. KING PATIENT APPOINTMENT COORDINATOR**

Pictured (left to right): Farzad Jamshidi, MD, PhD, Jacob D. Warmath, MD, Katy D. King, J. Christian Berry, MD, and Andrew R. Osborn, MD. Not shown: Kristen N. Collister, MD, MPH.

**ANNIE MOREAU, MD FELLOW TEACHING AWARD:**

**JOSEPH W. FONG, MD**

Pictured (left to right): J. Christian Berry, MD, Farzad Jamshidi, MD, PhD, Joseph W. Fong, MD, Jacob D. Warmath, MD, and Andrew R. Osborn, MD. Not shown: Kristen N. Collister, MD, MPH.
For Former DMEI Resident Adesina, It’s All About Saving Vision – One Patient at a Time

IF THERE WERE EVER AN EXAMPLE OF THE AMERICAN DREAM COME TRUE, it’s former Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) resident Ore-ofeoluwatomi (Ore-ophe) Adesina, MD, whose physician parents immigrated to the United States when he was only four years old.

Today, the former DMEI resident and University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Medicine graduate’s exceptional medical skills and work ethic have made him one of the nation’s leading experts in neuro-ophthalmology. Since 2013, he has held multiple clinical and academic leadership positions with the University of Texas (UT) Health Science Center and its McGovern Medical School in Houston. Specifically, Dr. Adesina serves as both medical director and director of neuro-ophthalmology for the school’s Ruiz Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science and the Robert Cizik Eye Clinic.

He is also an associate professor of ophthalmology and a clinical associate professor of neurology, holds the university’s John P. McGovern Professorship in Ophthalmology, and runs the neuro-ophthalmology consult services for the university-affiliated Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital, and the Lyndon Baines Johnson Hospital.

Dr. Adesina treats patients of all ages, performing oculoplastic and orbital surgeries in both inpatient and outpatient settings, plus complex adult strabismus surgery and optic nerve sheath fenestrations.

Accepting the UT-Houston appointment presented him with a unique professional challenge, Dr. Adesina said, since he didn’t just step into a ready-made position coming out of fellowship. The university’s ophthalmology department leaders were looking to expand neuro-ophthalmic eye care services, and he was hired with the mandate to build up that aspect of the practice.

“I was and continue to be the only full-time staff neuro-ophthalmologist,” Dr. Adesina said. “My experience has been unique in that I came straight out of fellowship as the director of my own service. It has been both a huge opportunity and a huge challenge in that I have had to build the practice and service from scratch, forging relationships with the departments of neurology, neurosurgery, and neuroradiology, amongst other specialties. It has been a blessing, however, as I have been able to grow a comprehensive and compassionate clinical practice to serve patients who would otherwise not have access to quality neuro-ophthalmic care.”

Dr. Adesina also supervises medical students, residents, and fellows, and provides ongoing education to healthcare professionals and colleagues. For the past five years, he has
For Former DMEI Resident Adesina, It’s All About Saving Vision – One Patient at a Time

received the college’s Dean’s Teaching Excellence Award.

“I have built the clinical curriculum for neuro-ophthalmology, developed research projects, and established a surgical practice that is unique to neuro-ophthalmic practice,” he said. “Despite the challenges, I believe that I have built a clinical and academic practice to be proud of, and one that provides the entire Houston community with excellent neuro-ophthalmic care, regardless of their financial resources.”

Long before he would treat his own patients, Dr. Adesina grew up hearing medical stories around the dinner table related by his Nigerian parents, a neuropathologist (his father) and a pediatrician (his mother). They practiced in multiple medical facilities across the country, and in 1995, when he was in middle school, they moved to Oklahoma. Growing up listening to his parents “talk shop,” Dr. Adesina heard and saw the satisfaction and fulfillment they received from helping patients and solving difficult cases.

After graduating from Norman North High School, in Norman, Oklahoma, Dr. Adesina went on to earn a bachelor of science degree from OU in chemical engineering, graduating with distinction.

While a medical student at OU, Dr. Adesina determined that he had an affinity for the neurosciences and wanted to be a surgeon, but it wasn’t until a conference presentation by DMEI’s Dr. Bradley K. Farris, at the end of his third year of medical school, that everything clicked.

“I saw the cases he was presenting, and I was hooked,” he said. “Neuro-ophthalmology was where I found my place.” He would go on to complete an internship in internal medicine at OU, followed by a three-year residency at DMEI under the guidance of program director R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA.

“As an Oklahoma kid, it was a dream come true, and my training was second to none. The volume of surgeries performed, the
After DMEI, Dr. Adesina completed a fellowship in neuro-ophthalmology and a preceptorship in oculoplastic and orbital surgery, both at the University of Utah’s Moran Eye Center in Salt Lake City.

Dr. Adesina has earned dozens of scholastic and professional accolades. He is a Fellow of both the North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society (NANOS) and the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), and was recently selected to participate in the latter’s Leadership Development Program. In addition, Dr. Adesina is listed in the 2021 edition of America’s Best Doctors, is a Texas Super Doctors “Rising Star” for 2021 and 2022, and is a Castle Connolly Top Doctor, representing the top seven percent of doctors across the U.S.

Another endeavor that is dear to his heart is serving as a mentor through the AAO’s Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring Program, which was created to help recruit underrepresented minorities to the field of ophthalmology.

“I’m a physician because my parents were; it was a familiar sight to me,” Dr. Adesina said. “Most minority students haven’t been exposed to that and don’t see it as an option for themselves. For me, it’s really rewarding to talk to students to address misconceptions and help them be competitive in pursuing a medical career.”

Outside his practice, Dr. Adesina spends his free time with wife Seun, a registered nurse, and their three children — Emanuel, 8; Gabrielle, 6; and Alexander, 3.

“I feel connected to Oklahoma,” he said. “I spent 18 years of my life there, including middle school through residency, so when I think of home, it’s definitely Oklahoma.”
MANUAL SMALL INCISION CATARACT SURGERY COURSE HELD AT DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE

THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) was very fortunate to partner with SEE International for the first time in hosting a manual small incision cataract surgery (MSICS) level 1 course at DMEI on June 4. SEE surgeons have used MSICS throughout the world to treat tens of thousands of patients with cataracts, the leading cause of reversible blindness globally. This quick, self-sealing, and fast-healing technique allows volunteer teams to perform twice as many surgeries than with other manual procedures. Because MSICS is usually performed only in areas with limited access to medical equipment, it is rarely included in traditional ophthalmic training – which is why SEE International has been training surgeons providing humanitarian services in the procedure since 2006.

To learn more about SEE International, go to seeintl.org.

During SEE International’s MSICS training session on June 4, a group of 11 DMEI physicians, PGY-4 residents, and fellows learned this invaluable surgical technique from SEE International faculty members Dr. Glenn Strauss (front, center), Dr. Michel Gelinas (right, center), Dr. Susan MacDonald (virtual), and Mr. Marvin Luzum (left, center), director of warehouse operations at SEE International.

DMEI senior resident, Kristen N. Collister, MD, MPH (left), and neuro-ophthalmology fellow, Joseph W. Fong, MD (right), receive instruction from Dr. Gelinas (back, left) and Dr. Strauss (back, right).

Photo Credit: Richard Yeager
WHEN THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) OPENED ITS DOORS IN 1975, AMONG THE FOUNDERS’ FOREMOST GOALS WAS TO ESTABLISH STRONG PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER SPECIALIZED MEDICAL RESEARCH AND TREATMENT FACILITIES IN OKLAHOMA CITY AND BEYOND.

Fast forward to 2022, and “those partnerships are flourishing, resulting in the highest level of care for patients and a well-deserved reputation as one of the best ophthalmology education and research facilities in the country,” said R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA, DMEI’s chief executive officer and Edward L. Gaylord professor and chair of the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Medicine’s Department of Ophthalmology.

Following are a few highlights from some of DMEI’s most successful and productive partnerships:
As one would expect, the largest and most symbiotic of these partnerships is with the OU College of Medicine. DMEI is the clinical home of the Department of Ophthalmology, chaired by Dr. Siatkowski, and its staff physicians also have academic appointments and instructional roles within the college.

“In short, every single student graduating from the OU College of Medicine spends time with DMEI physicians, to their great benefit,” said Associate Dean for Student Affairs Mark A. Fergeson, MD. In his academic role, Dr. Fergeson is charged with facilitating and improving each student’s clinical experiences, including those at DMEI. All of the approximately 135-140 students in each year’s class of medical students are exposed to ophthalmology from the very beginning of their training.

“We would not be able to adequately train our students without the Dean McGee Eye Institute,” Dr. Fergeson said. “We obviously have a very close relationship, as every single medical student is exposed to ophthalmology each year of their education, and that is done by our ophthalmology faculty, all of whom are on the DMEI clinical staff. DMEI faculty lectures begin early in their first year. The first two years are more didactic, but (students) do begin learning to perform eye exams, using professional actors hired by the college.”

Once they reach their third and fourth years, that training expands to more in-depth ophthalmology rotations, workshops, supervised patient care, and more. Having access to a faculty and facility of the caliber of DMEI’s means that students also have expanded opportunities to participate in vision research, Grand Rounds discussions, and/or interdisciplinary learning and research teams.

One of the tremendous strengths of the partnership between DMEI and the college is the opportunity for students to pursue cutting-edge research that adds to their knowledge base and boosts their career from a very early stage.

“Dean McGee has an amazing research network that they facilitate, and that provides great opportunities for our students,” Dr. Ferguson said. “Every student who is interested in ophthalmology has an opportunity. Students often end up being able to present their research at (professional) meetings, and it’s very common for them to get authorship on papers.”

One of the most recent examples of this benefit, he noted, came at the 2022 national meeting of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, where OU medical students mentored by DMEI’s Dr. Kamran M. Riaz presented seven different oral paper presentations (see DMEI InVision, issue 24, winter 2022, pages 44 - 45). In addition, earlier this year an OU College of Medicine student worked with Dr. Tammy L. Yanovitch at DMEI to assemble a large
interdisciplinary team that created a webinar on dyslexia (see page 41).

Once students enter their residency and fellowship training, the collaborative opportunities become even greater.

“Dean McGee is the home of our Department of Ophthalmology, one of our accredited programs, and it's one of the more significant programs,” said Elisa A. Crouse, MD, MS, OU Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education, as well as the university’s Designated Institutional Official. Competition for ophthalmology residencies and fellowships is very intense, Dr. Crouse said, adding that she and her fellow college administrators are extremely hands-on as a result.

“As a college of medicine, we are very customized in our approach to graduate medical education,” she said. “We work very closely with the program directors and coordinators at all the facilities we work with, including Dean McGee, to ensure accreditation and help facilitate improvements in the learning environment.”

She added, “The goal in graduate medical education is to involve residents in research, so even if they don’t perform research in their later careers, they do understand how to interpret research that will impact their patients.”

Residency and fellowship training programs and opportunities continue to grow. The residency program has recently expanded to four years of training, incorporating the internship year (see page 48). In addition, DMEI’s retina fellowship program is being expanded under the supervision of Vinay A. Shah, MD, inaugural recipient of the Thelma Gaylord Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology.

Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation

As an international leader in research related to autoimmune disorders, the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation (OMRF) has made numerous major medical discoveries throughout the years. The renowned institution’s cutting-edge researchers work closely with Dean McGee faculty and trainees on a wide variety of vision-related research, particularly in patients with autoimmune conditions and diabetes.

One such research project is headed by Scott M. Pflaker, PhD, who is a key member of OMRF’s Aging and Metabolism Research Program and also holds an adjunct teaching appointment with the Department of Cell Biology. Dr. Pflaker’s six-person research team is collaborating with DMEI’s Martin-Paul Agbaga, PhD, on research mechanisms related
to multiple sclerosis (MS). The focus of this study is to learn more about the mechanisms causing optic neuritis, which is a potentially blinding complication experienced by many MS patients.

For the past 15 years, again working with researchers from both organizations, Dr. Agbaga also has focused on studying the biological mechanisms that cause Stargardt disease, a rare genetic eye disease that affects the retina and causes progressive vision loss in children and young adults.

Dr. Pflaker works in concert with Dr. Agbaga to design, direct, and interpret the data from these and other studies. He also organizes and oversees meetings with his own and Dr. Agbaga’s laboratory researchers to discuss data and troubleshoot any issues related to ongoing studies.

“Collaborative projects between OMRF and DMEI researchers provide fertile ground for maximizing the expertise and equipment at the two institutions to promote vision health,” Dr. Pflaker said. “This collaborative and collegial environment further provides student trainees with unmatched opportunities to expand their learning and training through cross-institutional interactions.”

Harold Hamm Diabetes Center

As with OMRF, Dean McGee faculty and staff work closely with the Harold Hamm Diabetes Center to provide interdisciplinary care and help patients with diabetes avoid or delay the vision-related complications of the disease. Given the direct correlation between diabetes and vision loss, and the high prevalence of diabetes in Oklahoma, this relationship is crucial.

Among many research projects, the two facilities are participating in a long-term clinical trial for the diabetes drug semaglutide, and its impact on vision for people with type 2 diabetes, under the direction of Ronald M. Kingsley, MD, a DMEI medical retina specialist.

Of note, the Institute’s ambulatory surgery center, the McGee Eye Surgery Center, is located on the first floor of the Harold Hamm Diabetes Center building.
The partnership between DMEI and the Stephenson Cancer Center (SCC) is a natural fit, according to ocular oncologist Brian K. Firestone, MD, who helps coordinate the collaborative patient care and research efforts between the two facilities. Firestone explained that he and his DMEI team work hand in hand with SCC’s oncology, pathology, and radiation therapy physicians and staff to provide the highest level of care for cancer patients.

“Clinically we work together extensively in caring for our patients, since as ophthalmologists, we also deal with cancer and cancer-related issues,” Dr. Firestone said. “In addition, if a patient at SCC is on chemotherapy, we test their vision before and during treatment, monitoring for any toxicity or visual side effects.”

Dr. Firestone also serves on the center’s Head and Neck Tumor Board, which meets once a week to review cases and treatment plans, including patients with eye cancers. All new patient cases of head and neck cancer are presented and discussed at the Head and Neck Tumor Board. The Tumor Board is led by the oncology nurse navigator and is attended by otolaryngologists/head and neck surgeons, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, a dental oncologist, a prosthodontist, a neuro-radiologist, a neuro-pathologist, a dermatopathologist, Dr. Firestone, DMEI oculoplastic surgeons (Annie Moreau, MD, FACS, and Jeremy F. Tan, MD), all residents in the Departments of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery and Radiation Oncology, fellows in medical oncology and radiation oncology, and SCC case workers.

Along with patient care, DMEI and SCC collaborate on a number of leading-edge clinical research studies, often presenting at professional meetings, such as the International Society of Ocular Oncologists.

“What’s important is that we all work as a team,” Dr. Firestone said. “We are unique in that we’re the only place in Oklahoma and in the region that has this sort of inter-disciplinary ocular cancer treatment team.”

Dr. Firestone noted that this collaborative approach with SCC also significantly adds to the overall quality of medical education provided. “Education is one of the pillars of the Dean McGee mission,” he said. “The majority of our medical students regularly rotate through DMEI, and along with SCC we hold student workshops to teach about oncology as a career.”

“Cancer care is difficult and can be emotionally draining, but it is also incredibly rewarding when we can be part of a team that helps patients conquer something that is so frightening,” Dr. Firestone concluded.
Community Collaborations

As if seeing patients, teaching medical students, and conducting research weren’t enough, DMEI faculty, residents, and fellows also participate in a wide variety of partnerships within the community, including collaborations with NewView Oklahoma for patients with low vision. Another example is their conducting free vision screening clinics at Oklahoma Children’s Hospital and Harding Charter Preparatory School.

In mid-July, several individuals associated with DMEI participated in the Remote Area Medical (RAM) vision screenings and eye health evaluations on the Southwestern Oklahoma State University campus in Weatherford. Almost 200 people received eye exams, and dozens of pairs of glasses were distributed. “It was a true blessing to participate in such a great event in our own ‘backyard.’ RAM provided all the necessary infrastructure, food, and housing. I feel so grateful for RAM and the opportunity they gave us,” said Dr. Tammy L. Yanovitch, a clinical professor at DMEI and director of medical student education.

You will often find DMEI team members making presentations to students at all educational levels, teaching about eye health and encouraging them to pursue careers in ophthalmology or optometry (see DMEI InVision, issue 24, winter 2022, page 41 for a community piece on Jessica L. Lucas, OD, FAAO, and the OU Pre-Optometry Club). Dana M. Garber, OD, FAAO, has introduced young children at the K-8 Westminster School in Oklahoma City to eye health through a unique hands-on presentation (see front cover photo). For advanced placement (AP) physics students from Heritage Hall’s high school in Oklahoma City, Dr. Victoria A. Bugg has helped teach physical optics.

DMEI staff also make themselves available for a variety of interesting community initiatives, Dr. Siatkowski noted. One of the most recent successes was a collaboration with the Oklahoma City Museum of Art for a virtual “The Science of Seeing” program. This included the museum’s exhibition, “Moving Vision: Op and Kinetic Art from the Sixties and Seventies,” presented concurrently with a lecture by DMEI’s Maria E. Lim, MD, about the eye’s anatomy and physiology and how humans see and process visual information.

“It has been said that if you want to go fast, go alone. But if you want to go far, go together,” emphasized Dr. Siatkowski. “Our collaborations with others are absolutely crucial to DMEI’s continuing success. We are truly blessed by the ability to work together with many wonderful people and organizations. The end result is better lives for our city, our state, and the global community.”

Drs. Tammy L. Yanovitch and Bradley K. Farris (left and right center) led a volunteer group of current DMEI/OU residents, recent OU medical school graduates, and current OU medical students for the two-day, eye care, pop-up RAM clinic in Weatherford, Oklahoma, at the Pioneer Event Center on the Southwestern Oklahoma State University campus.
No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it.

– H.E. Luccock
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