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inVision

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE

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research
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Dean McGee Eye Institute

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College of Medicine

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SPRING 2011

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FRONT COVER PHOTO:
Rebecca K. Morgan, M.D.
Dean A. McGee Eye Institute, Low Vision Rehabilitation
Thomas E. Acers Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology
University of Oklahoma College of Medicine

The Dean McGee Eye Institute's Greatest Resource: Its People

WE ALL RECOGNIZE THAT THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) IS VERY SPECIAL IN COUNTLESS WAYS, but it is our people who are our greatest resource. Some of the nation's most respected ophthalmologists provide patient care that is absolutely world class, and our vision scientists contribute to one of the leading programs in the country. Top medical students from across the nation compete annually for the four available residency positions, and many of our ophthalmologists and scientists are leaders in national and international organizations.

The Eye Institute also is blessed with outstanding staff who are deeply committed to providing the best possible service and care for our patients. In this issue of InVision, we feature the recipients of our Service Star awardees for their extraordinary efforts in a variety of capacities. We also introduce you to some of the individuals who provide special and unique services in such areas as contact lens, orthoptics, low vision rehabilitation, and ocular prosthetics.

Jean Ann Vickery, DMEI's Director of Contact Lens Services, and Carri Ferguson both have served or will serve as president of the Contact



Gregory L. Skuta, M.D.

Lens Society of America. Although they provide all levels of contact lens services, Jean Ann, Carri, and their exceptional staff also offer unique expertise that is vital to all of our medical staff but especially to our corneal specialists.

As an accomplished certified orthoptist, Lauren Pendarvis helps treat patients with a variety of conditions, including misaligned and amblyopic ("lazy") eyes. Lauren and her unique skill set have represented wonderful additions to DMEI since her arrival from Denver, Colorado, in 2005.

For those patients who lose vision despite the often heroic efforts of their ophthalmologists, Dr. Rebecca Morgan, a compassionate individual who trained as a glaucoma specialist at the esteemed Bascom Palmer Eye Institute,

provides vision rehabilitation services to assist individuals with limited vision to most effectively utilize that vision to maintain their daily activities. Given with respect with which she is held in her field, Dr. Morgan recently completed a five-year period of service on the American Academy of Ophthalmology's Vision Rehabilitation Committee.

Some individuals experience the misfortune of losing an eye from injury, tumor, or other causes. In these situations, Nancy Townsend, who relocated here from Toronto, Ontario, Canada, masterfully creates ocular prostheses to match the remaining eye. As shared in our feature story, her remarkable talents as an artist are augmented by a personal history that has provided a profound understanding of the emotional as well as medical elements of this experience for our patients.

Like all of us at DMEI in recent years, these practitioners have endured space limitations and other challenges while waiting for construction of a second DMEI building. Fortunately, that building will soon be completed! Our two new, beautiful, and innovatively designed research floors were completed in March. The two new clinical floors will provide a more spacious and comfortable environment for our patients, and the special services described above will be occupying new space this summer. A

dedication ceremony celebrating completion of the new building has been planned for Friday, September 30.

It is difficult to fully express our appreciation for all who contribute in such a magnificent

way to our mission as a teaching and research institution, which ultimately enhances the quality and expertise of the clinical and surgical care provided. As will be even better understood after reading the pages that follow, DMEI is truly an amazing team of

outstanding clinicians, surgeons, educators, scholars, scientists, residents, fellows, and committed staff who seek to provide only the very best for those whom we serve.

“**...DMEI is truly an amazing team...**”

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

COMMUNITY OUTREACH DMEI Provides Eye Screenings for Children

ON NOVEMBER 17, 2010, DMEI physician and staff members reached out to the community to perform eye screenings on 72 children in ages ranging from two to five at Oklahoma City Educare. The screening resulted in twenty-four children needing further testing at the Dean McGee Eye Institute. Oklahoma City Educare, opened in 2009, serves 200 disadvantaged children, ages birth to five years old, with year-round early childhood education programs. ■



Trenna Grayson, Educare, Health Manager; DMEI staff Karen Ochoa, Lauren Pendarvis, Nancy Duarte, Former Educare Program Director; Dr. Gregory Skuta, DMEI President and CEO; (inset) Melody Marcum



ENID MAYOR, JOHN CRINER, PRESENTED the Mayor's Choice Award Certificate and metals to Dr. Robert Leonard, DMEI physician, for providing retinal services in the Enid area.

DMEI'S CHINA PROGRAM

IN MARCH, STUDENTS FROM OU's Center for the Creation of Economic Wealth won first-place honors in the Social Entrepreneurship track at the 12th annual Wake Forest University Schools of Business Competition in Winston-Salem, N.C. Teams from around the world made two-minute elevator pitches to a panel of judges to earn seed capital for their business ventures. OU's winning proposal, EYEChina, won \$10,000 to invest in a plan to provide 1 million residents of rural Sichuan with high-quality, accessible and affordable cataract surgeries by 2020. DMEI's own Dr. Lloyd Hildebrand, OU associate professor of ophthalmology and co-founder and president/CEO of Inoveon Corporation, invented the winning technology and assisted the team.

THE AMERICAN GLAUCOMA SOCIETY

(AGS) has selected Jim Wise, MD, Oklahoma City, and DMEI supporter to receive the American Glaucoma Society Innovator Award. This prestigious award is given to an individual who has advanced the field of glaucoma research or patient care through impactful invention or innovation.



Oklahoma Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins Toured the Dean McGee Eye Institute in Fall, 2010



Pictured are: Jari Askins, Matt Bown, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Lana Ivy, VP of Development, Gregory Skuta, MD, President and CEO, Michael Siatkowski, MD, Vice Chair for Academic Affairs

14 DMEI OPHTHALMOLOGISTS ON BEST DOCTORS IN AMERICA LIST

FOURTEEN OPHTHALMOLOGISTS from the Dean McGee Eye Institute have been named to the widely respected Best Doctors in America® list.

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

Congratulations to the Dean McGee Eye Institute's List of Best Doctors in America:

- Cynthia A. Bradford
- Reagan H. Bradford, Jr.
- Bradley K. Farris
- Stephen R. Fransen
- P. Lloyd Hildebrand
- Ronald M. Kingsley
- Robert E. Leonard, II
- Rebecca K. Morgan
- Anil D. Patel
- Steven R. Sarkisian, Jr.
- R. Michael Siatkowski
- Gregory L. Skuta
- Donald U. Stone
- Ann Warn

Optical Shop Reduced Cost Program



Rose Goliwas, Optician at the downtown Dean McGee Optical Shop, assists a customer with a fitting.

MANY OF THE PATIENTS WE SEE at the Dean McGee Eye Institute do not have insurance and cannot afford eyeglasses. One of our missions is to help all Oklahomans, including those with limited financial means. In 2009, the Dean McGee Optical Shop initiated a program named the Reduced Cost Program. Through this Program, patients with limited financial resources can afford eyeglasses in Institute Optical Shops. Patients, who would have previously lived with outdated prescriptions, or even no eyeglasses, now have the opportunity to own a pair of quality, affordable eyeglasses.

Since starting the program in 2009 we have helped more than 500 patients purchase a pair of glasses under the Reduced Cost Program. We see the value of this program through grateful patients when they find out there is a place in their community that works with their budget to allow them to receive eyeglasses. The Dean McGee Eye Institute is pleased to support this program to provide not only clinical services, but also optical services to all of our patients. DMEI Optical shops are located in the downtown facility, NW Oklahoma City office, Edmond office, and the Lawton office. ■

DMEI Volunteers participate in Remote Area Medical Event

REMOTE AREA MEDICAL (RAM) CAME TO Oklahoma City for its first free health care event in Oklahoma. Several DMEI doctors, staff and family members volunteered at the state fair grounds on July 9-11, 2010. DMEI made around 1800 glasses for patients over the three day period. Those participating included Drs. Cindy Bradford, Lloyd Hildebrand, Adam delaGarza, Annie Moreau, staff members Cheryl Adams, Robert Dimick, and family members Sara Fransen and Grace Hannah Fransen, and Ben Fransen. Founded in 1985, RAM is a national volunteer medical care organization that teams up with local health care professionals to offer free dental, vision and general medical care. Oklahoma was the sixth state to benefit from Remote Area Medical's "Reach Across America" program. ■



DMEI NEW PRESIDENT AND CEO HONORED AT RECEPTION

THE OKLAHOMA CITY CHAMBER of Commerce hosted a reception honoring Gregory L. Skuta, MD, as the new President and CEO of the Dean McGee Eye Institute on Tuesday, August 31st, at the Presbyterian Health Foundation Conference Center. Over 80 Chamber members, OU officials, and Dean McGee Eye Institute donors attended the event. ■



(Left) Gary James, Frankfurt-Short-Bruza Associates, PC, Greater Oklahoma City Chamber Board of Advisors; (Middle) John Armitage, M.D., Oklahoma Blood Institute—Greater Oklahoma City Chamber Board of Advisors; (Right) Tony Shinn—Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Greater Oklahoma City Chamber Board of Advisors



Gregory L. Skuta, MD, visits with Elizabeth Zoerning Milam, DMEI board member and major donor, at the reception.

State Legislators Visit DMEI

MEMBERS FROM THE HOUSE Public Health Committee of the Oklahoma State Legislature made a special visit to the Eye Institute in February. Representatives included John Enns, David Derby, Randy Grau, Jadine Nollan, Mike Ritze, and Sean Roberts. Dr. Gregory Skuta gave an overview of the Eye Institute, outlining its various missions and service to the citizens of Oklahoma. A brief tour of the new DMEI building was given following the meeting. ■



Dr. Skuta responds to comments made by state legislators.

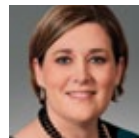


Visiting with Jim Rogers, Lobbyist, are Gregory L. Skuta, MD, DMEI President & CEO, Matthew D. Bown, DMEI Executive Vice President & CFO, Lana G. Ivy, Cynthia A. Bradford, MD, DMEI Physician, and Lana G. Ivy, DMEI Vice President of Development

FACULTY AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES



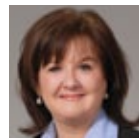
MICHELLE C. CALLEGAN, PhD, appointed Associate Director of Research for Oklahoma Center for Neuroscience (OCNS), September, 2010.



CARRI L. FERGUSON FCLSA, COT, BS, was selected as President-Elect of the Contact Lens Society of America (CLSA) beginning in April 2011 and will become President of the 1500-member Society in 2013.



LLOYD HILDEBRAND, MD, was one of three specialists in the OU College of Medicine who worked collaboratively to plan and complete a challenging nine-hour operation to remove a giant hairy nevus from a young child's face. A news briefing in January, 2011, was attended by The Oklahoman, KFOR-Ch. 4, KOCO-Ch. 5, KWTW-Ch. 9, OETA-Ch. 13, KOKH-Ch. 25, NewsOK.com and KTOK-1000.



LANA G. IVY, MBA, Vice President of Development, has been selected as one of Oklahoma State University's (OSU's) Top 50 Distinguished MBA Alumni by OSU's Spears School of Business. 2011 marks the 50th anniversary of the MBA program at Oklahoma State University and honorees will be recognized at an MBA 50th Gala Celebration in Stillwater this spring.



ROBERT E. LEONARD, MD, interviewed with Jiao Jiao Shen on KOCO-Channel 5, Oklahoma City, about the topic, "Can Hair and Eye Color Be a Risk for Macular Degeneration?" November, 2010.



JAMES F. MCGINNIS, PhD, appointed Associate Director of the Oklahoma Center for Neuroscience (OCNS), September, 2010. Nawajes Mandal, PhD, received a travel Fellowship award to attend the 2010 Biennial Meeting of the International Society for Eye Research (ISER) in Montreal, Canada, and also received an Asia-ARVO/NEI U.S. Travel Grant to attend the 2011 Asia-ARVO meeting in Singapore.



ANGELA M. PLANT, OD, made a medical mission to Ghana, Africa, in November, 2010, to examine Ghanaians who had never had eye exams. DMEI provided the equipment for the trip, made and provided all of the prescription eyewear for the residents Dr. Plant examined.



STEVEN R. SARKISIAN JR., MD, recently published the first case series of a new surgical technique to treat congenital glaucoma. The article titled "An Illuminated Microcatheter for 360-degree Trabeculotomy in Congenital Glaucoma: A Retrospective Case Series" was published in the October issue of the Journal of the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus.



R. MICHAEL SIATKOWSKI, MD, participated in a news briefing on research related to Retinopathy of Prematurity with patient Tara Harp and her infant son Elijah. KOCO-Ch. 5, OETA-Ch. 13, KSBI-Ch. 52, The Oklahoman and KTOK-1000 covered the news briefing, October, 2010.



DONALD U. STONE, MD and **CARRI L. FERGUSON FCLSA, COT, BS**, participated in a media conference about "Illegal Contacts Put Eyes at Risk," October, 2010.

5 Star Service Award Winners Recognized

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION IS AN IMPORTANT PART of DMEI and all employees are encouraged to recognize others for a job consistently well done. The "Reach for the Stars" recognition program is a way for DMEI to recognize, praise and thank our "Service Stars" for their dedication to the Institute and for their positive contribution to our success.



DMEI Service Star Award Recipients were recognized by Gregory Skuta, MD, President and CEO, and Matt Bown, Executive Vice President and Chief Officer, pictured above are: (Left to Right) Row 2: Matt Bown, Karen Morgan, Emilee Roberts, Renate' Carson, Delores Watley, Melissa Moore, Denise Huddleston, Dr. Greg Skuta; Row 1: Ramonia Wilson, Lynne' Schoors, Lena Redden, Janice Sims, Dina Kelly, Valerie Allison, Dawn Bartosh. Not pictured: Bob Cass and Brenda Smith.

DMEI Doctors Advocate for Funding During Visit to Capitol

IN JANUARY, DRS. JOHN ASH AND MICHELLE CALLEGAN joined other members of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Annual Meeting Program Committee on Capitol Hill during the 112th Congress to advocate for the finalization of Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 appropriations for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). ARVO advocates requested NIH funding at the \$31.8 billion level as proposed in the Senate omnibus bill from last session, ensuring that NIH funding keeps pace with biomedical inflation. Efforts to potentially roll back FY2011 funding to the FY2008 level would reduce NEI funding from the FY2010 level of \$707 million to \$667 million, a loss of \$30 million and a reduction in the number of NEI grants by 43—any one of which could hold the key to saving or restoring vision.

In 30 meetings during this National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (NAEVR) hosted Advocacy Day, the 11 domestic and 6 international ARVO advocates thanked staffers for FY2009 and FY2010 NIH/NEI funding increases, as well as stimulus funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), noting



Michelle Callegan, PhD, and John Ash, PhD, in front of Capitol.

the impact on their departments in terms of breakthrough vision science and employment of highly-trained technical personnel. To emphasize the return on investment, the advocates stressed the potential of their research to improve quality of life and save expenses to the healthcare system.

In his visits, John Ash, Ph.D. emphasized the value of NIH research by challenging staff to “find a government agency that spends money more efficiently than the NIH.” The advocates also described the impact of delayed appropriations, in terms of the continuity of research and retention of trained staff. ■



NAWAJES MANDAL, PhD, DMEI/OU Assistant Professor of Research, was selected to receive an Asia-ARVO/NEI U.S. Travel Grant to attend the 2011 Asia-ARVO Meeting on January 20-22, in Singapore. The travel awards were made possible by a grant from the National Eye Institute at the NIH. Recipients were selected based on their abstract submissions. Awarded an International Society for Eye Research (ISER) Travel Award to attend the ISER Biennial Meeting in Montreal, Canada in 2010.

CLINICAL TRIAL STUDY CAN POTENTIALLY HELP RETINOPATHY IN PREMATURE BABIES

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DRS. LLOYD HILDEBRAND AND R. MICHAEL SIATKOWSKI, the Dean McGee Eye Institute is participating in a retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) clinical trial study at the OU Medical Center/Children’s Hospital.



Lloyd Hildebrand, MD

Retinopathy of prematurity (ROP), a disease of the developing retina seen largely in babies born very prematurely, is the leading cause of treatable childhood blindness. The

prevalence of ROP is increasing in the developed world, and now occurs at epidemic rates in developing countries. This is compounded by a lack of skilled ophthalmologists required to meet the growing demand for ROP evaluations. Telemedicine Approaches to Evaluating Acute-phase ROP (e-ROP) is a clinical study that will assess a telemedicine system for evaluating ROP in premature babies at greatest risk of developing the disease. The study sponsored by the National Eye Institute of the National Institutes of Health and headquartered at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), employs a systematic

approach to the use of digital retinal imaging combined with standardized grading with the goal of improving the quality, access and efficiency of ROP care. An estimated 2,000 babies will be enrolled at 10 participating centers across the country, including the OU Medical Center/Children’s Hospital.

During the study, premature babies with birth weight less than 1251g (2.75 lbs) will undergo both retinal imaging and clinically indicated eye examinations on the same day. Certified non-physician ROP imagers



R. Michael Siatkowski, MD

using a corneal-contact camera will take digital images of the retinas (the back of the eyes) in both eyes. Trained non-physician readers will grade these images using a standardized protocol to identify eyes with severe disease that needs to be evaluated by an ophthalmologist experienced in diagnosis and treatment of ROP. Results of the readings will be compared to the diagnostic examinations by the ophthalmologist. Final results of the study are expected by May 2013. ■

PHILLIP S. COBURN, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, was awarded a National Eye Institute Travel Grant from the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO). These funds are to provide partial travel support to attend the ARVO Annual Meeting, May 1-5, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

research awards earned at OU VISION

STUDENT & POSTDOCTORAL WORKSHOP

THE 5TH ANNUAL OU VISION WORKSHOP was held October 7-8th 2010. This year's keynote lecturer, Jayakrishna Ambati, is a recognized leader in vision research accomplishing both important advancements in basic science and cutting edge translational research. His participation was symbolic of the growing initiative among the OU Vision group to accomplish similar goals. Today the OU Vision research community is a thriving, vibrant, and interactive group of 22 independent scientists, making the OU/ DMEI vision center one of the largest in the United States. At the workshop 14 young scientists including graduate students and postdoctoral fellows presented their most current discoveries. The presentations were evaluated and scored by a panel of 12 judges and top three were award travel grants. These presentations represent the very best qualities that we hope everyone will strive to achieve. In addition to a trophy, each award comes with money to support travel to scientific meetings.

This year's recognition goes to:

TODD WUEST—Wei Cao Innovation Award (*Mentor: Daniel Carr*)

MARTIN-PAUL AGBAGA—The Robert E. Anderson Best Presentation Award (*Mentor: Robert E. Anderson*)

KEVIN BROWN—The Robert E. Anderson Best Presentation Award (*Mentor: Ira Blader*)



Todd Wuest



Martin-Paul Agbaga



Kevin Brown

Visiting Professorship Program Re-Launched in 2010

THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND NATIONAL PROFILE of DMEI and the OU Department of Ophthalmology have been greatly enhanced by one of our new programs. In 2010 DMEI reconstituted its visiting professorship series with the initiation of our Distinguished Lecturer Program. In addition to its two annual named lectureships, the Costin and Stark lectures, the Dean McGee Eye Institute is inviting five high-profile ophthalmologists from around the country to visit the Institute each year. Lecturers typically arrive on a Sunday and enjoy a dinner with selected DMEI faculty, residents, and fellows. On Monday morning the residents present a challenging or complicated case for them to discuss, following which the Distinguished Lecturer delivers a 30 minute address on a clinical or research topic in his or her area of expertise. After a reception in honor of the event, the residents then receive several hours of lectures from the visiting guest.

“This program has significantly enhanced the residents’ education, and also allows us to “show off” our impressive roster of house staff and faculty, as well as our new expansion, to renowned physicians and scientists from across the country,” says Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski who has been instrumental in developing this program with the OU College of Medicine. Dr. Siatkowski holds the James P. Luton Chair in Ophthalmology and serves as the Vice Chair for Academic Affairs for the DMEI/OU Department of Ophthalmology. ■

DMEI Visiting Lecturers for the 2010-2011 Academic Year:

- Preston Blomquist, MD
- Constance E. West, MD
- Steven E. Gedde, MD
- George B. Bartley, MD
- Paul R. Langer, MD
- John G. Clarkson, MD
- Peter A. Savino, MD
- Robert H. Rosa, MD
- Ivan R. Schwab, MD
- Allen Laties, MD
- Maria Aaron, MD



Constance E. West, MD
University of Cincinnati
Specialty: Pediatric
Ophthalmology and
Strabismus



Preston Blomquist, MD
University of Texas
Southwestern
Specialty: Comprehensive
Ophthalmology

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

35th Annual DMEI Ophthalmology
Symposium/OU Resident and Alumni Meeting

June 11, 2011

Skirvin Hilton Hotel • Oklahoma City, OK



32nd Tullos O. Coston Lecturer

Roger F. Steinert, MD
Director of the Gavin Herbert Eye Institute
Irving H. Leopold Professor and Chair of the
Department of Ophthalmology
Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology
Professor of Biomedical Engineering
University of California, Irvine

DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE HOSTS 19th Annual Walter J. Stark Memorial Lectureship

National Ophthalmology Leader Dr. John Clarkson Named Guest Lecture

THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE

HOSTED the 19th Annual Walter J. Stark Memorial Lectureship was held at the Dean McGee Eye Institute on October 11 in Oklahoma City. The 2010 guest lecturer was Dr. John G. Clarkson, Executive Director of the American Board of Ophthalmology (ABO), the prestigious organization that certifies the nation's ophthalmologists.



Dr. John G. Clarkson, Executive Director of the American Board of Ophthalmology

In addition to his position with the ABO, Dr. Clarkson is the Dean Emeritus of the University of the Miami Miller School of Medicine and Chair Emeritus of the world-renowned Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in

Miami. Dr. Clarkson graduated from Princeton University and earned his medical degree from the University of Miami School of Medicine. He completed his residency in ophthalmology at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute and obtained his fellowship training in both ophthalmic pathology and vitreoretinal surgery at the Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute in Baltimore.

Dr. Clarkson's research and clinical interests include retinal vascular occlusive disease and clinical trials. He chaired the landmark Central Vein Occlusion Study, confirming the efficacy of laser treatment for a common retinal vascular disorder with potentially blinding complications. Dr. Clarkson has authored more than 60 publications and book chapters and has previously delivered the Wilmer Memorial Lecture and the Yale Lecture among his numerous lectures and visiting professorships.

"We were honored that Dr. Clarkson joined the list of distinguished ophthalmology leaders who have delivered the Walter J. Stark Memorial Lecture," noted Dr. Gregory Skuta, Dean McGee Eye Institute President/CEO and Edward L. Gaylord Professor and Chair of the OU Department of Ophthalmology. "Dr. Clarkson's presentation on the ABO's maintenance of certification process in today's changing medical regulatory environment was particularly timely, and his vast and varied



Photo caption...



Photo caption...

experience from clinical research to leadership punctuates his expertise on the subject."

The Walter J. Stark Memorial Lectureship has drawn lecturers from around the country to Oklahoma City. Mr. Stark served as administrator of the Dean McGee Eye Institute from 1978 until 1991. Under his leadership, the Institute experienced a notable period of expansion and growth. Colleagues, friends and family generously created the Walter J. Stark Memorial Lectureship in tribute to his contributions to the field of ophthalmology and to his community. ■



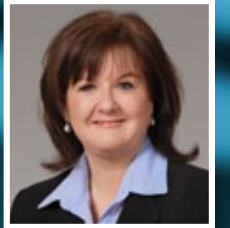
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SAVE THE DATE: Monday, October 10, 2011
WALTER J. STARK MEMORIAL LECTURESHIP
Susan Day

Program Director and Chair, Department of Ophthalmology, Medical Director & Designated Institutional Official (DIO), Graduate and Undergraduate Medical Education California Pacific Medical Center

- SAVE THE DATE -
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2011
New Building Dedication



Lana G. Ivy
Vice President of Development

PHILANTHROPY UPDATE

Keen Trustees Make Special Visit



ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2010, trustees of the Loris and Pauline Keen Charitable Trust made a special visit to tour the Institute and to make a major gift to establish the Keen Pediatric Ophthalmology Endowment Fund and an additional gift to the capital campaign. Since 1998 and including this most recent gift, the Keen Trust, which focuses on children's vision and health, has contributed more than \$578,000 to the Dean McGee Eye Institute. ■

The check presentation included (L-R) Walter Shafer, trustee of the Keen Trust, R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, DMEI Vice Chair for Academic Affairs, Dan McClung, trustee of the Keen Trust, Gregory L. Skuta, DMEI President and CEO, and Lana Ivy, DMEI Vice President of Development.

CHESAPEAKE ENERGY DONATES \$2 Million to the Capital Campaign

CHESAPEAKE ENERGY HAS MADE a new \$2 million gift to advance the completion of the \$44 million DMEI world-class research and clinical facility. "The generosity and impact of this gift can't be overstated. Chesapeake Energy's commitment to our community and the well being of Oklahoma's citizens is truly extraordinary," noted Dr. Gregory Skuta, President and CEO of the Dean McGee Eye Institute and Edward L. Gaylord Professor and Chair of the University of Oklahoma Department

of Ophthalmology. "When this project is completed, it is our patients who will benefit from the state-of-the-art clinical facilities and innovative research laboratories designed to advance vision care in a remarkable way. We are delighted to have a strong partnership with Chesapeake Energy." ■



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

THE STRIKING APPEARANCE OF the new five-story research and clinical center is taking shape as the building nears completion. Construction on the two research floors was completed in March. The final stages of construction of the clinical and administrative areas of the new facility will follow with completion planned for July 2011. A dedication ceremony is planned for Friday, September 30. ■



OU Helps with Expansion

IN OCTOBER, 2010, The University of Oklahoma Board of Regents approved the use of \$5 million from the state government for the purpose of renovating and expanding the Dean McGee Eye Institute. "We are extremely grateful to all the people who worked so closely together to make this allocation a reality. I especially

want to thank former Governor Henry, his staff, and President Boren for their support and confidence in the Dean McGee Eye Institute," said Dr. Gregory Skuta, President and CEO of the Dean McGee Eye Institute and Edward L. Gaylord Professor and Chair of the University of Oklahoma Department of Ophthalmology. ■

Vision research, patient care and education are top priorities of the campaign. To contribute, complete the enclosed envelope and return to the Dean McGee Eye Institute or contact Lana Ivy, Vice President of Development, 405-271-7803. All gift amounts are welcomed.

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We sincerely appreciate, recognize and honor in the following pages the many generous patients, friends, alumni, organizations, faculty and staff who have demonstrated their support of vision care and research by contributing to the Dean McGee Eye Institute.

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THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN FOR ITS patient care by top ophthalmologists, its leadership in vision research, and its quality training programs; however, it is DMEI physicians and DMEI special services working together as a team that result in the exceptional patient care available at the Dean McGee Eye Institute.

What many patients are surprised to learn is that special and unique services in the areas of contact lens, ophthalmics, low vision rehabilitation, and ocular prosthetics all are provided at the Eye Institute. These are often areas unknown to the patient until the patient's particular eye condition requires a trained professional in one of these areas. Showcased are the professionals and specialty services that they provide, all having a profound impact on DMEI's mission.

Dr. Rebecca Morgan, a deeply compassionate individual who trained as a glaucoma specialist, provides vision rehabilitation services to assist individuals with limited vision to most effectively utilize that vision to maintain their daily activities. Dr. Morgan, who is well respected in her field, directs the Low Vision Rehabilitation Clinic at DMEI. Many of the patients seen by Dr. Morgan have age-related conditions such as macular degeneration and glaucoma, but permanent vision loss may result from a wide variety of ocular and neurological disorders that can affect all ages.

Low vision is a loss of eyesight that is not correctable by conventional spectacles, medical treatment, or surgical intervention, and that makes it difficult or impossible to accomplish everyday activities such as reading, writing, shopping or watching TV. The vision rehabilitation services provided by Dr. Morgan and DMEI provide

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SPECIALTY SERVICES

improve patients' quality of life

...continued from previous page... individuals with the means to maximize the potential of their residual vision by use of compensatory strategies and adaptive aids such as magnifiers and “high tech” devices.

“We are here to help patients with low vision make the most of their remaining sight and keep their independence,” said Dr. Morgan. “Losing vision does not necessarily mean giving up one’s activities, but it does mean applying new ways of doing them.” In addition to undergoing a comprehensive low vision evaluation, patients struggling with vision loss work with occupational therapists and other rehabilitation professionals as needed to learn how to regain the ability to perform daily tasks and enjoy a more satisfying lifestyle.

Losing one’s eye from any cause is a traumatic event that can be devastating to a patient’s self-esteem as Nancy Townsend, DMEI Board-Certified Ocularist, well knows. Townsend, who lost her right eye after an injury at age 14, says that this is what led her into the profession of ocular prosthetics. An ocularist is someone who specializes in the fabrication and fitting

of ocular prostheses for people who have lost an eye or eyes due to trauma or disease. The fabrication process for a custom-made eye typically includes taking an impression of the eye socket, shaping a plastic shell, painting the iris and then fitting the ocular prosthesis.

Townsend, who has fitted and fabricated ocular prostheses for 30 years, served a five-year apprenticeship through the American Society of Ocularists. Now a board approved diplomat of Society, she creates life-like artificial eyes at the Dean McGee Eye Institute for patients of all ages. While fitting techniques have changed over the years—the acrylic prostheses now fit like a glove, she says—artistic ability remains a key component in making artificial eyes. Townsend

paints the iris in oils to match the companion eye and then applies vein patterns and tinting to create depth. She teaches the patient to insert the appliance, which usually only needs to be removed twice yearly for cleaning.

“My job is to put people back into society so they can blend in, while restoring their confidence and self-esteem,” Townsend said. “It’s the most rewarding job there is.”

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“My job is to put people back into society so they can blend in, while restoring their confidence and self-esteem.”

Nancy Townsend creating an artificial eye in her DMEI laboratory.





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Some eye conditions can only be treated with specialized contact lenses. These may include babies who have undergone cataract surgery or individuals who have conditions such as keratoconus, which is characterized by an abnormal curvature of the cornea. The board certified specialists in the Contact Lens Service at DMEI work with pediatricians ophthalmologists, corneal specialists, and others to provide specialized lenses and care for patients with complex eye conditions as well as to fit contact lenses for patients with more standard vision correction needs.

As a medical device that touches the surface of the eye, contact lenses can impact the health of the eye, so proper preventative assessment and care must be taken to maintain successful wear.

“Our standard of care and our level of care means that we are able to spend more time with patients,” said contact lens specialist Carri Ferguson. “Most people don’t realize that we fit all age ranges with contact lenses. We fit babies with unique visual needs to ‘baby-boomers’ to older individuals who have

advanced visual requirements. Our focus is on long-term ocular health.”

Contact Lens Services are offered not only at the OU Health Sciences Center location, but also at the locations in Edmond and

Northwest Oklahoma City. “The satellite offices are uniquely positioned for quick access, healthy-eyed patient needs,” said Holly Hamilton, contact lens specialist at the satellite offices.

The contact lens professionals know how to match the right contact lens type to each patient, whether specially made for a patient with corneal disease or for someone who tried contacts years before but didn’t find the right fit for his or her lifestyle.

“We have every kind of contact lens made today,” said Jean Ann Vickery, director of DMEI Contact Lens Services. “We are ahead of the curve in fitting new modalities as they come on the market. Patients have frequently been told that they have too much astigmatism to wear contact lenses, but with brand new technology, they can now have the vision of a firmer style lens but the comfort of a soft lens.”

“...our level of care means we are able to spend more time with patients.”

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Contact Lens Services staff (L-R) Carri Ferguson, Jean Ann Vickery, and Holly Hamilton.

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Orthoptics is a specialty focusing on binocular (“stereo”) vision and eye movement abnormalities most commonly found in the pediatric population. DMEI’s Certified Orthoptist Lauren Pendarvis is the only such specialist in Oklahoma City and one of only a few in the state. She performs tests and evaluations to measure visual acuity, binocular function and eye movements.

Working under the supervision of DMEI pediatric ophthalmologist, Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski, Pendarvis helps design treatment plans that may include exercises, patching, glasses, eye drops, prism therapy or eye muscle surgery.

Conditions that orthoptists treat include strabismus (misaligned eyes), amblyopia (lazy eye), reduced stereopsis (depth perception), headaches or eye strains with reading and

diplopia (double vision). Pendarvis, who earned her bachelor’s degree from Culver-Stockton College in Missouri and completed a two-year fellowship in orthoptics at the St. Louis Children’s Hospital through Washington University–St. Louis, says, “the greatest reward is seeing the improvement of patients over time. I encourage families not to be hesitant about seeking help. We see patients of all ages, developmental levels and verbal skills.”

“Without all of the special services provided by these gifted and highly committed individuals, we simply could not provide the outstanding level of patient care we do at DMEI,” said Gregory Skuta, M.D., President, Chief Executive Officer and E.L. Gaylord Chair. “Their remarkable dedication is vital to our mission and to our future. We are extremely proud to have them on our team.” ■



“The first step toward creating an improved future is developing the ability to envision it.”

—Unknown

Morning Glory Photo Courtesy of Mike Klemme Photography



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