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PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGISTS  
*keep eye on the future*

• DMEI •  
**inVIsion**

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE

vision care  
research  
education  
community

# DMEI clinical directory

## Oklahoma Health Center

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

### Comprehensive Ophthalmology/ Cataract Surgery

(405) 271-1090 ■ (800) 787-9012

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

### Contact Lenses

(405) 271-6084 ■ (800) 787-9012

Carri L. Ferguson, FCLSA  
Contact Lens Specialist  
Rosita Ghazanfari, OD  
Contact Lens Specialist

### Cornea and External Disease

(405) 271-1095 ■ (800) 787-9017

Alex W. Cohen, MD, PhD  
Jennifer C. Lee, MD (September 1)  
Rhea L. Siatkowski, MD  
Donald U. Stone, MD

### Glaucoma

(405) 271-1093 ■ (800) 787-9015

Andrew K. Bailey, MD (July 21)  
Mahmoud A. Khaimi, MD  
Steven R. Sarkisian, Jr., MD  
Gregory L. Skuta, MD

### LASIK Surgery

(405) 271-2500 ■ (877) 406-4193

Alex W. Cohen, MD, PhD  
David W. Jackson, MD  
(580) 250-5855  
Jean R. Hausheer, MD, FACS

### Low Vision Rehabilitation

(405) 271-1793 ■ (800) 787-9012

Rebecca K. Morgan, MD

### Neuro-Ophthalmology

(405) 271-1091 ■ (800) 787-9013

Bradley K. Farris, MD  
Anil D. Patel, MD  
(405) 271-1094 ■ (800) 787-9016  
R. Michael Siatkowski, MD

### Ocular Oncology/Ophthalmic Pathology

(405) 271-1090 ■ (800) 787-9012

Brian K. Firestone, MD

### Ocular Prosthetics

(405) 271-3391 ■ (800) 787-9012

Nancy A. Lambert, BCO

### Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

(405) 271-1096 ■ (800) 787-9018

P. Lloyd Hildebrand, MD, FACS  
Annie Moreau, MD

### Optical Services

(405) 271-6174 ■ (800) 787-9012

### Optometry

(405) 271-1090 ■ (800) 787-9012

Dana M. Garber, OD  
Rosita Ghazanfari, OD  
Brandalyn D. Loyko, OD  
Jessica L. Lucas, OD

### Pediatric Ophthalmology/Strabismus

(405) 271-1094 ■ (800) 787-9016

Janine E. Collinge, MD  
R. Michael Siatkowski, MD  
Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHSc

### Retina/Vitreous

(405) 271-1092 ■ (800) 787-9014

Reagan H. Bradford, Jr., MD  
Stephen R. Fransen, MD  
Ronald M. Kingsley, MD  
Robert E. Leonard II, MD  
Vinay A. Shah, MD

### Stephenson Laser Center

(405) 271-2500 ■ (877) 406-4193

### Trauma/Emergency

(405) 271-6060 ■ (800) 787-9012

### Uveitis

(405) 271-1090 ■ (800) 787-9012

Theresa A. Larson, MD  
(405) 271-1095 ■ (800) 787-9017  
Donald U. Stone, MD

## McGee Eye Surgery Center (MESC)

Harold Hamm Diabetes Center ■ 1000 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 150 ■ Oklahoma City, OK 73104

(405) 232-8696

## Dean McGee Eye Institute Satellite Locations

### EDMOND

1005 Medical Park Blvd., 73013

(405) 271-0913

### Comprehensive Ophthalmology/ Ophthalmic Surgery/Uveitis

Theresa A. Larson, MD

### Neuro-Ophthalmology/Comprehensive Ophthalmology

Anil D. Patel, MD

### Glaucoma/Comprehensive Ophthalmology

Andrew K. Bailey, MD (July 21)

### Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

Annie Moreau, MD

### Optometry

Angela M. Plant, OD

### Optical Services

(405) 271-0909

### NORTHWEST OKC

3500 N.W. 56th, #101, 73112

(405) 942-9545

### Comprehensive Ophthalmology/ Ophthalmic Surgery

Ralph B. Hester III, MD

Brian K. Firestone, MD

### Optometry

Tasha J. Schellenberg, OD

### Optical Services

(405) 271-9506

### LAWTON

3201 W. Gore Blvd., #200, 73505

(580) 250-5855

### Comprehensive Ophthalmology/ Ophthalmic Surgery

Jean R. Hausheer, MD, FACS

Ann A. Warn, MD, MBA

### Optical Services

(580) 585-5425

## Dean McGee Eye Institute

Home to the Department  
of Ophthalmology of the  
University of Oklahoma  
College of Medicine

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*Edward L. Gaylord Professor and Chair*  
*Department of Ophthalmology*  
*University of Oklahoma*  
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*Gregory L. Skuta, MD*

## A SPECIAL PRIVILEGE: **Caring for the Children of Oklahoma**

### **PRESERVING AND RESTORING VISION**

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

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

Eye Institute's Vice Chair for Academic Affairs and Residency Program Director.

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

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

The people here (at DMEI) are nice and friendly and willing to help.”

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

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

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

Working side by side with other DMEI ophthalmologists and primary care and subspecialty pediatricians, neonatologists, and pediatric surgeons at The Children’s Hospital at OU Medical Center, the pediatric eye care team at the Dean McGee Eye Institute is uniquely

positioned to provide major impact on enhancing vision for children from Oklahoma’s 77 counties and the surrounding region. It is truly a special privilege to care for those who will one day care for us!



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

**“To preserve and restore vision in a child for his or her lifetime is particularly gratifying.”**

## DMEI BOARD OF TRUSTEES WELCOMES Tricia L. Everest as its Newest Member

**TRICIA L. EVEREST HAS JOINED THE** Dean McGee Eye Institute Board of Trustees as its newest member. The Board welcomed her at her first meeting in December, 2013.

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

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



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

Everest attended Oklahoma City’s Casady High School before graduating from Vanderbilt University in 1993. She attended the University of Oklahoma College of Law, earning her Juris Doctor in 2003. Her legal work has included service as an Assistant Attorney General representing the State of Oklahoma. She is currently Of-Counsel with Gable Gotwals. ■

## Senator A.J. Griffin Tours the Eye Institute

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



## Dean McGee Eye Institute Named Best Eye Care Provider

**THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE** has been named as the winner of Best Eye Care Provider in the “Family Favorites Awards” category by readers of *Metro Family Magazine*, which has a readership of over 75,000 between the ages of 25 and 54. The award was announced in their February issue. Each month, 35,000 copies of the magazine are distributed in Edmond, northwest Oklahoma City, Nichols Hills, south Oklahoma City, Moore, Norman, Yukon, and Midwest City to over 500 distribution sites. ■







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

*Pictured is Mr. Riddle (left) with Gregory L. Skuta, MD (right), DMEI President and CEO.*

IN APRIL AT THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY (AAO) Mid-Year Forum in Washington, D.C., DMEI physicians Drs. Cynthia A. Bradford, Donald U. Stone, Ann A. Warn, Yasser M. Elshatory and Evan C. Sussenbach met with Oklahoma U.S. Representative James Lankford and Senator James Inhofe.

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



## DMEI RESIDENTS PARTICIPATE IN OU CHILDREN'S HEALTH FAIR

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



*Pictured above from left to right are residents Evan J. Allan, MD, and Andrew A. Wilson, MD, pointing to eye screening charts.*



*Dr. Wilson examines the eyes of a young participant.*



## Ocular Oncologist/Ophthalmic Pathologist **Brian K. Firestone, MD** JOINS DMEI FACULTY

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

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

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

pathology. He will hold an academic appointment as Clinical Assistant Professor.

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



Dr. Gregory L. Skuta, President and CEO of the Dean McGee Eye Institute and Edward L. Gaylord Professor and Chair of the OU Department of Ophthalmology stated, “Dr. Firestone is an absolutely delightful individual, and I am confident that, as a member of the faculty, he will demonstrate extraordinary commitment to patient care and our educational and academic missions.” ■

## DMEI OPHTHALMOLOGISTS ON *BEST DOCTORS IN AMERICA* LIST

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

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

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

## Glaucoma Service Adds New Faculty



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

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

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

## DMEI Pediatric Ophthalmologist and Professor Elected to National Position

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

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



## Employee Service Awards

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





# FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES



**MARTIN-PAUL AGBAGA, PhD**, recently published the following articles: Agbaga M.P., Logan S., Brush R.S., Anderson R.E. “Biosynthesis of Very Long-Chain Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids in Hepatocytes Expressing ELOVL4,” *Advances in Experimental Medicine and Biology*, April 2014; Mandal N.A., Tran J.T., Zheng L., Wilkerson J.L., Brush R.S., McRae J., Agbaga M.P., Zhang K., Petrukhin K., Ayyagari R., Anderson R.E. “In Vivo Effect of Mutant ELOVL4 on the Expression and Function of Wild Type ELOVL4,” *Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science*, March 2014; Logan S., Agbaga M.P., Chan M.D., Brush R.S., Anderson R.E. “Endoplasmic Reticulum Microenvironment and Conserved Histidines Govern ELOVL4 Fatty Acid Elongase Activity,” *Journal of Lipid Research*, April 2014; and Rajala A., Dighe R., Agbaga M.P., Anderson R.E., Rajala R.V. “Insulin Receptor Signaling in Cones,” *The Journal of Biological Chemistry*, July 2013.



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



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



**JANINE E. COLLINGE, MD**, helped organize and present Leenheer R.S., Collinge J.E., Cavuoto K.M., Wiggins R.E., Chamblee D.R. “GPS for Your Future: Career Navigation Tips for the Young Ophthalmologist,” American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (AAPOS) Annual Meeting in Palm Springs, CA, April 2014. She recently published Collinge J.E., Sprunger D.T. “Update in Pediatric Optic Neuritis,” *Current Opinion in Ophthalmology*, Sept. 2013.



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

Mural Cell Alteration,” *American Journal of Pathology*, Feb. 2014; and Bennett L.D., Brush R.S., Chan M., Lydic T.A., Reese K., Reid G.E., Busik J.V., Elliott M.H., and Anderson R.E. “Effect of Reduced Retinal VLC-PUFA on Rod and Cone Photoreceptors,” *Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science*, in press.



**BRADLEY K. FARRIS, MD**, recently published the following articles: Moreau A., Lao K.C., Farris B.K. “Optic Nerve Sheath Decompression: A Surgical Technique with Minimal Operative Complications,” *Journal of Neuro-Ophthalmology*, March 2014; and Chen H., Fan Y.C., He Q.H., Wu X.Y., Wei M., Eichner E.J., Farris B.K., Hildebrand P.L., Lei C.T., Wu S.H., and Yang J.Y. “Changed Trends of Major Causes of Visual Impairment in Sichuan, China from 1987 to 2006,” *International Journal of Ophthalmology*, Feb. 2014. Recent lectures include: “What is Neuro-Ophthalmology?,” Oklahoma Center for Neuroscience Neuro Night Series, Oklahoma City, Sept. 2013; “Neuro-Ophthalmological Findings in Acquired Head Injury,” Courage for Recovery Conference, Integris Baptist Hospital, Oklahoma City, Sept. 2013; “Monocular Visual Loss,” University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, Neuroanatomy Section, Oct. 2013; and “Functional Visual Loss,” Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO) & Association of Technical Personnel in Ophthalmology (ATPO), New Orleans, Nov. 2013. His presentation was voted “best” at JCAHPO & ATPO Meeting. Recent named lectureships include: “Global Eye Care,” The Raymond C. Cook, MD Lecture, Jones Eye Institute, University of Arkansas, Little Rock, Oct. 2013. Recent poster presentations include: “A Novel Superonasal Transconjunctival Approach to Optic Nerve Sheath Decompression without the Disinsertion of Extraocular Muscles,” North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society, San Juan, Puerto Rico, March 2014.



**JEAN R. HAUSHEER, MD, FACS**, became President of the Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology (OAO) on June 1, 2014. Recent national and regional presentations include: “Update: The Resident Hub” to Educating the Educators Forum at the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO) Annual Meeting, Miami, Florida, Jan. 2014; and “LASIK 101: The Basics,” FemtoLASIK wetlab instructor for ophthalmology residents, Midwest Annual Refractive Surgery Course, University of Iowa, March 2014.



**P. LLOYD HILDEBRAND, MD, FACS**, recently published Elshatory Y.M., Shah V.A., Hildebrand P.L. “Blurry Vision after Orbital Decompression,” *Ophthalmic Epidemiology*, Feb. 2014.

# FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES



**DIMITRIOS KARAMICHOS, PhD**, recently published the following articles: Karamichos D., Rich C.B., Zareian R., Hutcheon A.E., Ruberti J.W., Trinkaus-Randall V., Zieske J.D. “TGF- $\beta$ 3 Stimulates Stromal Matrix Assembly by Human Corneal Keratocyte-Like Cells,” *Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science*, Oct. 2013; Karamichos D., Funderburgh M.L., Hutcheon A.E.K., Zieske J.D., Du Y., Wu J., Funderburgh J.L. “A Role for Topographic Cues in the Organization of Collagenous Matrix by Corneal Fibroblasts and Stem Cells.” *PLOS ONE*, Jan. 2014; and Karamichos D., Hutcheon A.E.K., Rich C.B., Trinkaus-Randall V., Asara J.M., Zieske J.D. “In Vitro Model Suggests Oxidative Stress Involved in Keratoconus Disease,” *Scientific Reports*, Nature Publishing Group, in press. He has been invited to write a book chapter entitled “Transforming Growth Factor –  $\beta$ 3 Regulates Cell Metabolism in Corneal Keratocytes and Fibroblasts for “Studies on Corneal and Lens Disorders” in the Springer Book series called “Oxidative Stress in Applied Basic Research and Clinical Practice.” He was also featured in the International Society for Eye Research (ISER) newsletter, Winter 2014. His Special Interest Group (SIG) “Ectatic Corneal Disorders: Research, Diagnosis, and Treatment” was accepted for the 2014 ARVO Annual Meeting, May 2014, in Orlando, Florida. At that meeting, he was elected to the Program Committee for ARVO’s Cornea section. He also was recently elected as an OU College of Medicine representative to the OU Health Sciences Center Graduate Council.



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



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

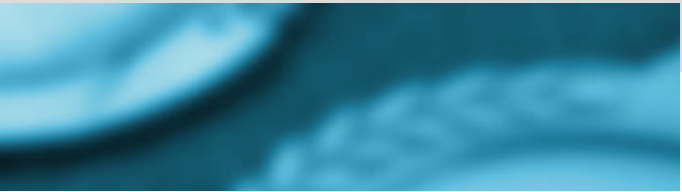


**ROBERT E. LEONARD II, MD**, recently published Vishak J.J., Flynn H.W., Smiddy W.E., Carver A., Leonard R., Tabandeh H., Boyer D.S., “Clinical Course of Vitreomacular Adhesion Managed by Initial Observation,” *Retina*, March 2014.



**NAWAJES A. MANDAL, PhD**, recently published the following articles: Chen H., Chan A.Y., Stone D.U., Mandal N.A. “Beyond the Cherry-Red Spot: Ocular Manifestations of Sphingolipid-Mediated Neurodegenerative and Inflammatory Disorders,” *Survey of Ophthalmology*, Jan./Feb. 2014; Mandal N.A., Tran J.T., Zheng L., Wilkerson J.L., Brush R.S., McRae J., Agbaga M.P., Zhang K., Petrukhin K., Ayyagari R., Anderson R.E. “In Vivo Effect of Mutant ELOVL4 on the Expression and Function of Wild Type ELOVL4,” *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science*, March 2014; Chan A.Y., Mann S.N., Chen H., Stone D.U., Carr D.J., Mandal N.A. “Sphingolipids in Ocular Inflammation,” *Advances in Experimental Medicine and Biology*, March 2014; and Marchette L.D., Sherry D.M., Brush R.S., Chan M., Wen Y., Wang J., Ash J.D., Anderson R.E., Mandal N.A. “Very





Long Chain Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids and Rod Cell Structure and Function,” *Advances in Experimental Medicine and Biology*, March 2014. He recently presented “Retinal Degenerations” at the 2nd Annual Raniyah Ramadan Foundation Symposium, East Central University, Ada, OK, Jan. 2014.



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



**RAJU V.S. RAJALA, PhD**, was recently awarded an R01 grant from the National Eye Institute entitled “Second Messengers in the Retina,” April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015 (Co-PI’s Rajala R.V.S. and Anderson R.E.). He recently published the following articles: Woodruff M.L., Rajala A., Fain G.L., Rajala R.V.S. “Modulation of Mouse Rod Photoreceptor Responses by Grb14,” *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, Jan. 2014; Rajala R.V.S., Basavarajappa D.K., Dighe R., Rajala A. “Spatial and Temporal Aspects and the Interplay of Grb14 and Protein Tyrosine Phosphatase-1B on the Insulin Receptor Phosphorylation,” *Cell Communication and Signaling*, Dec. 2013; and Rajala R.V.S., Rajala A., “Neuroprotective Role of Protein Tyrosine Phosphatase-1B in Rod Photoreceptor Neurons,” *Protein Cell*, Dec. 2013. He presented “Dynamic Signaling through Adapter Proteins and their Role in Photoreceptor Neuroprotection,” University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, March 2014.



**STEVEN R. SARKISIAN, JR., MD**, recently spoke on “Integrating the iStent Glaucoma Implant into Your Practice,” American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS), Winter Update Meeting, Fajardo, Puerto Rico, Feb. 2014. He also was featured in *Eye World* and interviewed about tips for implanting the iStent at the same meeting. It can be viewed on our website at [www.dmei.org/in-the-news](http://www.dmei.org/in-the-news). Dr. Sarkisian presented at a joint FDA-AGS Symposium in Washington, DC in Feb. 2014 about the AquaSys Xen Glaucoma Implant, a new device currently in clinical trials in the U.S. Posters presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Glaucoma Society (AGS) in Washington, DC, March 2014 include: “Collagen Matrix (Ologen) as a Patch Graft in Glaucoma Tube Shunt Surgery,” “Safety and Efficacy Outcomes of the Molteno3 Glaucoma Drainage Implant,” “ICE Surgical Technique Outcomes: MIGS Implantation of Trabecular Bypass Stent, Cataract Extraction, and Endoscopic Cyclophotocoagulation,” “Single-Center Retrospective

# FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES

Chart Review Comparing Efficacy and Safety of the EX-PRESS Glaucoma Filtration Device to Trabeculectomy in Patients with Glaucoma,” and “Open-Angle Glaucoma Subjects Not Controlled on One Preoperative Medication Treated by MIGS with Two Trabecular Micro-Bypass Stents.” He also presented a video of the iStent being implanted, which was voted by the AGS membership as the Best Video of the meeting. At the World Ophthalmology Congress, Tokyo, Japan, in April 2014, Dr. Sarkisian presented lectures entitled “Minimally Invasive Pediatric Glaucoma Surgery” and “A Collagen Matrix Implant as a Wound Modulator in Trabeculectomy with the Ex-PRESS Mini Glaucoma Device.” Recently published articles include: “Advances in Glaucoma Filtration Surgery, Two Devices in Development Make Use of Poiseuille’s Law,” *Glaucoma Today*, March/April 2014; Netland P.A., Sarkisian S.R. Jr, Moster M.R., Ahmed I.I., Condon G., Salim S., Sherwood M.B., Siegfried C.J. “Randomized, Prospective, Comparative Trial of EX-PRESS Glaucoma Filtration Device Versus Trabeculectomy (XVT Study),” *American Journal of Ophthalmology*, Feb. 2014, Epub Nov. 2013; and Bailey A.K., Sarkisian S.R. Jr. “Complications of Tube Implants and Their Management,” *Current Opinion in Ophthalmology*, March 2014.



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



**R. MICHAEL SIATKOWSKI, MD**, was awarded extension phase grant funding from the National Eye Institute for eROP (Telemedicine Approaches of Evaluating Acute-Phase ROP). Recent invited lectures include: Washington Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, Seattle, WA, March 2014; AAO Neuro-ophthalmology and Pediatric Ophthalmology Subspecialty Days, New Orleans, LA, Nov. 2013. He presented a poster at the AAO Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, Nov. 2013: Motley W.W., Golnik K.C., Anteby I.I., Attila H., Gole G.A., Murillo C., Olitsky S.E., Pilling R., Reddy A., Sharma P., Siatkowski R.M., Yadarola M.B. “Validity of Ophthalmology Surgical Competency Assessment Rubric for Strabismus Surgery (OSCAR:Strabismus) in Resident Training.” Peer-reviewed publications include: Adler E., Ding K., Siatkowski R.M. “Factors Related to Strabismus Decompensation After a Period of Prolonged Postoperative Stability,” *Journal of American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus*, Feb. 2014; Siatkowski R.M., Good W.V., Summers C.G., Quinn, G.E., Tung B. “Clinical Characteristics of Children with Severe Visual Impairment but Favorable Retinal Structural Outcomes in the Early Treatment for Retinopathy of Prematurity (ETROP) Study,” *Journal of American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus*, Feb.

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



**GREGORY L. SKUTA, MD**, is currently serving as 2014 President of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO). Recent presentations include: “Hypotony as an Adverse Outcome of Minimally Invasive Glaucoma Surgery,” Food and Drug Administration–American Glaucoma Society Workshop, Washington, DC, Feb. 2014; and “Insights into U.S. Glaucoma Care,” American Glaucoma Society’s Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, Feb. 2014. In April 2014, he co-moderated a session entitled “Managing Intraocular Pressure in Clinical Practice” at the World Ophthalmology Congress in Tokyo, Japan and a session on “Strange Bedfellows–The Promises and Perils of Healthcare Integration” at the 2014 AAO Mid-Year Forum in Washington, DC. He published an editorial entitled “Joys of Service to the Profession” in the AAO’s *EyeNet* magazine in Jan. 2014.



**DONALD U. STONE, MD**, was interviewed by News Channel 4 (KFOR) about sportscaster Bob Costas’ conjunctivitis, Feb. 2014. His interview can be viewed on our website, [www.mei.org/in-the-news](http://www.mei.org/in-the-news). Recently published articles include: Chan A.Y., Mann S.N., Chen H., Stone D.U., Carr D.J., Mandal N.A. “Sphingolipids in Ocular Inflammation,” *Advances in Experimental Medicine and Biology*, March 2014; and Jetton J.A., Ding K., Kim Y., Stone D.U. “Effects of Tobacco Smoking on Human Corneal Wound Healing,” *Cornea*, May 2014.



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



# PHILANTHROPY UPDATE

## Chickasaw Nation Provides Gift for DMEI Research Facilities

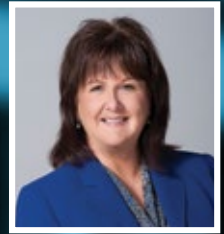
**THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE HAS** received a major gift from the Chickasaw Nation to complete the funding for renovation of the Institute's research facilities. The Chickasaw Nation's gift, together with support from other major donors, has allowed DMEI and the University of Oklahoma Department of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

"We are exceedingly grateful for the Chickasaw Nation's history of generous support for the Dean McGee Eye Institute," said Dr. Gregory Skuta, President and CEO of the Dean McGee Eye Institute and Edward L. Gaylord Professor and Chair of the OU College of Medicine's Department of Ophthalmology. "This most

recent gift will enable our scientists to further advance our vision research programs in a world-class facility that addresses such important conditions as age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and infectious diseases of the eye."

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





Lana G. Ivy  
Vice President of Development



Research Center to recognize the lead gift previously provided by this Tulsa-based foundation.

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

## DID YOU KNOW?

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



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Beulah Garcia	Sally and Mickey Kern	Monica Pierce	Judy Wagoner
Michelle Garrison	Mary King	Anna Mae Pinkston	Ashley Walker
Shirley Gavula	Amber Kirkes	Jack Pittenger	Misty Kay Wallace
Carla M. Gilbert	Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Kopecky	Ashley R. Powers	Yuhong Wang
Linda J. Gipson	Chandra Kroll	Janell M. Powers	Eva Delores Watley
Elizabeth A. Glathar	Glenda Lacy	Shrestha Priyadarsini	Karen S. Weddle
Nicole Glenn	Dana Leach	Laura Ransom	Holly Whiteside
Shena Goodman	Madison Light	Mr. and Mrs. Gary Rawlinson	Johnesha Whiteside
Janice Gordon	James Lightfoot	Mattie Laverne Ray	Tina Whittington
Ashley Graham	Mary K. Lingreen	Alaina Reagan	William J. and Brenda K. Wilcox
Heather Grainger	Carolyn Little	Kim Reed	Joe Wilkerson
Sheri E. Greenwood	Gordon Long	Forest Rippee	Ralph Williams
Gina Griffith	Nicole Lung	Emilee Roberts	Ashley Winslow
Andy Gu	JoNell Lunow	Dr. JD Robertson	Cheyenne Wolfskill
Ann Hadrava	Keven Lunsford	Dianne M. Rodriguez	Victoria L. Wolzen
Donna J. Hall	Kristi Lutes	Derek Royer	LaTonna Woods
Dr. and Mrs. James Halligan	Bill Mack	Akhee Sarker	Nancy Wright
Roberta L. Hamburger	Wendy Madewell	Judy A. Schatz	Sheryl Wright
Holly Hamilton	Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Marcum	Nova Schutkesting	Patrizia Yale
Edgar Hancock	Melody Marcum	Madeline and Bradd Schwartz	Min Zheng
Pam Hargis	Wanda Martin		
	Kimberly Maxfield		

# DMEI RESEARCHERS RECEIVE NIH/NEI GRANTS



*Michelle C. Callegan, PhD*

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



*Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD*

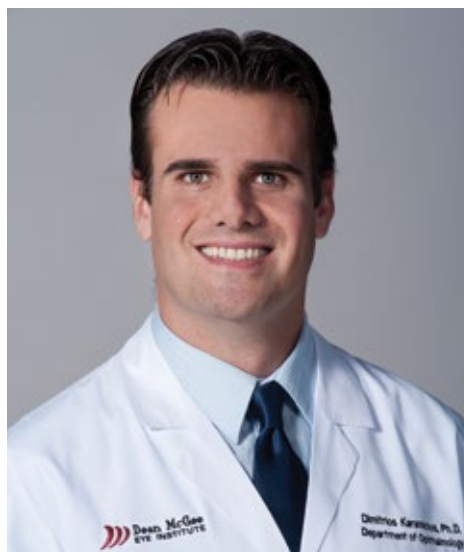
**ROBERT E. ANDERSON, MD, PhD, AND RAJU V.S. RAJALA, PhD**, co-principal investigators, were recently awarded an NEI R01 grant for one year to study second messengers in the retina. In macular degeneration, the light-sensing cells of the macula mysteriously malfunction and may over time cease to work.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



*Raju V.S. Rajala, PhD*

# DMEI Researcher Receives Grant to Study Keratoconus

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



*Dimitrios Karamichos, PhD*

## RESEARCH FACULTY— DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD  
Martin-Paul Agbaga, PhD  
Seifollah Azadi, PhD  
Richard S. Brush, BS  
Xue Cai, PhD  
Michelle C. Callegan, PhD

Daniel J.J. Carr, PhD  
Ana Chucair Elliott, PhD  
Phillip S. Coburn, PhD  
Michael H. Elliott, PhD  
Dimitrios Karamichos, PhD  
Feng Li, MD, MPH, MS

Nawajes A. Mandal, PhD  
James F. McGinnis, PhD  
Raju V.S. Rajala, PhD  
Lily L. Wong, PhD

## DMEI Scientist Named OU Presbyterian Health Foundation Presidential Professor

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

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

Established in 1996, Presidential Professors are those faculty members who excel in

all of their professional activities and who relate those activities to the students they teach and mentor. These professors inspire their students, mentor their undergraduate and/or graduate students in the process of research and creative activity within their discipline, and exemplify to their students (both past and present) and to their colleagues (both at OU and within their disciplines nationwide) the ideals of a scholar through their endeavors in teaching, research/creative activity, and service. The professorship is granted for a four-year period. ■



*OU President David L. Boren presents the Presbyterian Health Foundation Presidential Professorship Award to James F. McGinnis, PhD, during ceremonies on April 29.*



# DMEI DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

## EDUCATION IS A PRIME COMPONENT

**OF** the core mission of the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI). Dean McGee has many outstanding teachers among its clinical faculty; in addition to teaching medical students, residents, and fellows at OU, over the last three years these faculty members have delivered more than 150 presentations throughout the world.

The best educators realize the value of specialist, learning from and being challenged by extramural experts. With support from the OU College of Medicine, the

DMEI Distinguished Lecture Series was instituted in January 2010, under the direction of Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski, Vice Chair for Academic Affairs. Over the last four years, this program has brought 27 internationally acclaimed physician-educators to DMEI. Their presentations



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

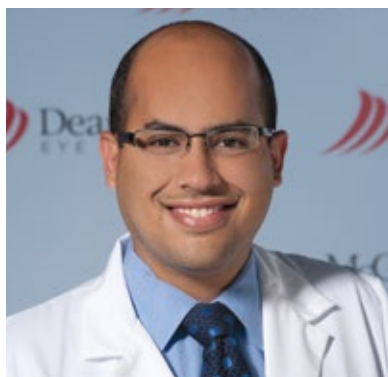


*Andreas K. Lauer, MD, (center), Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and Retinal Specialist, University of Oregon-Casey Eye Institute, was DMEI's Distinguished Lecturer on February 24, 2014. He is pictured above with DMEI residents and R. Michael Siatkowski, MD (far right).*

have covered not only the subspecialties of ophthalmology like glaucoma, retinal disease, and cataract surgery, but also topics such as medical ethics, global eye care, leadership and advocacy, and generational differences between teachers and learners. A typical visit by a DMEI Distinguished Lecturer includes formal presentations during Grand Rounds, informal discussions at dinners, and relaxed lectures and interactive sessions with residents and fellows.

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

## Senior Resident Receives Honors



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

## SAVE THE DATE

**Monday, September 29, 2014**

THE 23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL WALTER J. STARK MEMORIAL LECTURESHIP

8:30am–9:30am

Tullos O. Coston Lecture Hall

**Russell N. Van Gelder, MD, PhD**



*Boyd K. Bucey Professor and Chair, Department of Ophthalmology, University of Washington, Seattle*

*President-Elect, American Academy of Ophthalmology*

## SAVE THE DATE

**Tuesday, October 28, 2014**

## Macular Degeneration/ Low Vision/Glaucoma Seminar

Please join us for this informative seminar to learn from the Dean McGee Eye Institute faculty and an occupational therapist, and to hear about the latest adaptive devices and technology for those experiencing low vision.



If you would like to be added to the mailing list for this seminar, please call 405-271-7801.

A special thanks to our 2013 Macular Degeneration/Low Vision/Glaucoma Seminar sponsors: Alcon Laboratories, Samis Education Center, Southwestern Group of Companies, and Comtech Design Print & Mail. Exhibiting companies included DMEI Clinical Trials and Optical Services, NanoPac, Inc. Distributor for Freedom Scientific, OKVision, and Precision Optical.



# Global Eye Care Update

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

## *Life-Changing Surgery*

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

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



*Preoperative photograph.*



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



*Postoperative photograph with Dr. P. Lloyd Hildebrand.*





# — SWAZILAND, AFRICA



## *Bringing Joy*

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



*Photos by Dr. P. Lloyd Hildebrand*

To learn more about Central Oklahoma Woodturners Association visit [www.okwoodturners.net](http://www.okwoodturners.net)

Please help support the Global Eye Care Program today by making a donation! To contribute, go online to [www.dmei.org](http://www.dmei.org) and click the "Donate Today" button on the website or call the Development Office at 405-271-7801.



# *pediatric ophthalmologists* keep eye on the future

By Judy Kelley

**DR. R. MICHAEL SIATKOWSKI SOMETIMES STARTLES HIS PATIENTS BY ROARING LIKE A LION.** Dr. Janine Collinge sings and whistles, and Dr. Tammy Yanovitch uses toys that light up, all in the interest of



*Janine E. Collinge, MD, performs surgery on a young patient at the McGee Eye Surgery Center.*

getting their young patients' attention, even if it's just for a second.

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

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

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



“...pediatric ophthalmologists face a true challenge in treating not only the immediate problem but also keeping an eye out for the child's visual development in anticipation of future problems.”

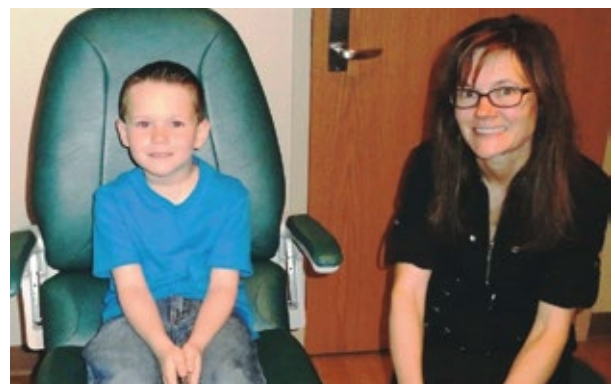
problem but also keeping an eye out for the child's visual development in anticipation of future problems.

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

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

Another significant challenge for the pediatric ophthalmology team is caring for premature babies whose numbers grow as neonatal intensive care units are increasingly able to keep alive premies born as early as 22 and 23

*...continued on next page...*



*Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, visits with patient, Cole Beverly, during his eye examination.*





*R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, examines a premature baby's eyes in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at The Children's Hospital at OU Medical Center.*

weeks. These very early births can result in a condition called retinopathy of prematurity or ROP which, untreated, can lead to blindness. In 2013, DMEI pediatric ophthalmologists performed 1,500 evaluations for ROP on premature infants, according to Dr. Siatkowski.

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

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

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

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

Correcting amblyopia can involve patching the “good” eye or blurring it with eye drops to force the brain to pay attention to the other eye. Over time, the weaker eye improves. Strabismus can be corrected with glasses or with muscle surgery.

Assisting the physicians with their young patients is Lauren Pendarvis, one of the country's relatively few certified orthoptists. She takes patient histories and conducts follow-up examinations, sometimes with adults suffering from vision problems that developed during childhood.

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

**I love kids. I love being able to help them and make an impact in their lives...**

only one color is seen; if too many flashlight beams are seen, double vision is revealed.

When Dr. Collinge wants to check a child's glasses prescription with a device called a retinoscope, she has to get him or her to stare into a bright light. "I tell them there is a puppy



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



*Lauren Pendarvis, Certified Orthoptist, conducts an eye screening with patient Cole Beverly, age seven.*

dog in the light and ask the child if he sees the puppy." Children not only claim to see the puppy but describe it at length—long enough for Dr. Collinge to get the readings she needs.

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

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

Early diagnosis and treatment are critical.

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

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





“Every child  
is a different  
kind of flower  
and all together,  
make this world  
a beautiful  
garden.”









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