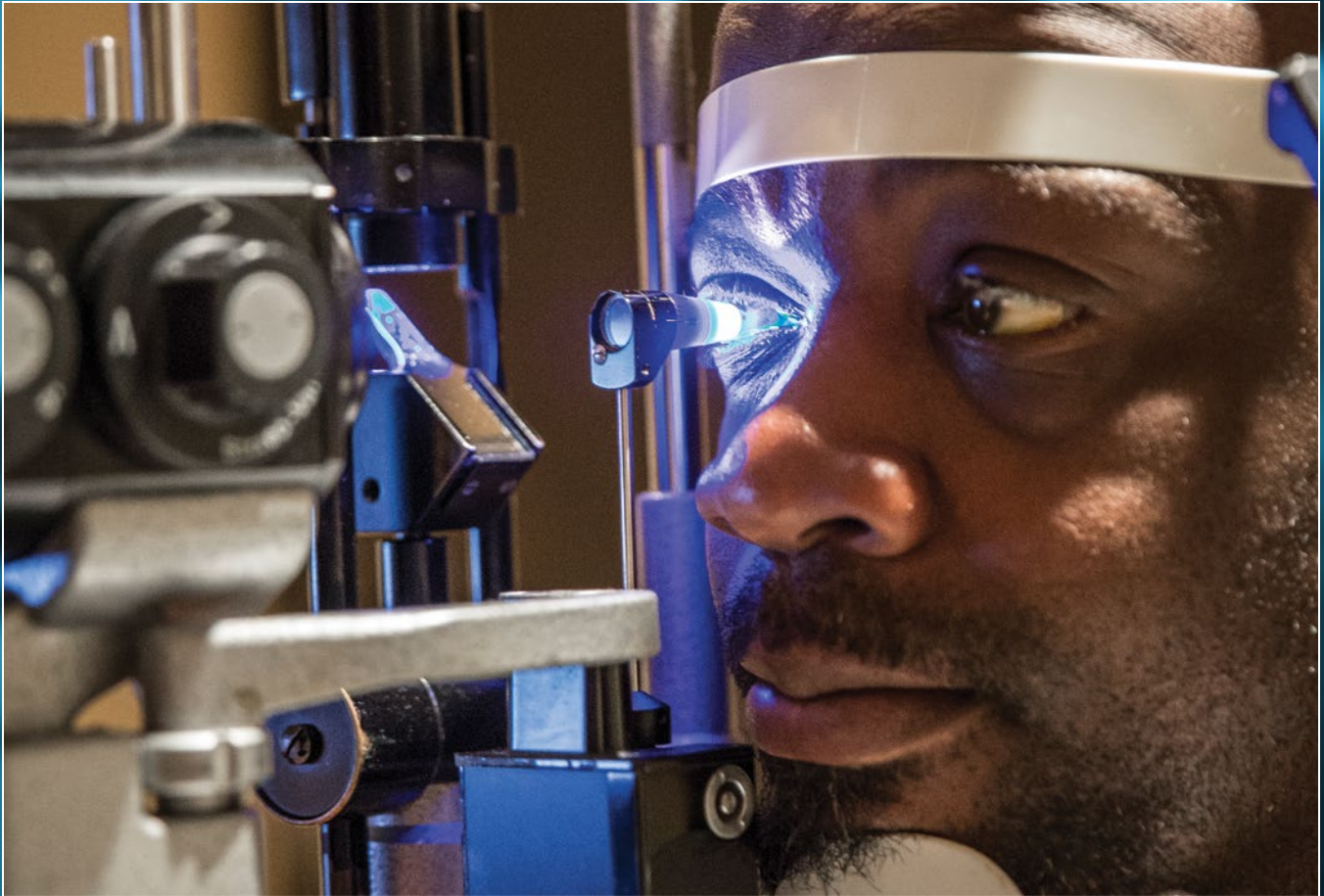




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EYE INSTITUTE

Vision...for Life.



focus on patient care:
*DMEI's Glaucoma Team Provides
Highly Specialized and Innovative Care*

• DMEI •
inVIsion

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE

patient care
education
vision research
leadership
service

DMEI clinical directory

Oklahoma Health Center

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McGee Eye Surgery Center (MESCC)

Harold Hamm Diabetes Center
1000 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 150

Oklahoma City, OK 73104

(405) 271-3363

Medical Director: Robert J. Christensen, MD

*DMEI Ophthalmologist Performing Cataract Surgery in Adults

**DMEI Ophthalmologist Performing Cataract Surgery in Children

Dean McGee Eye Institute

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

DMEI President and Chief Executive Officer
Edward L. Gaylord Professor and Chair
Regents' Professor
Department of Ophthalmology
University of Oklahoma
Gregory L. Skuta, MD

DMEI Executive Vice President
and Chief Operating Officer
Administrator, Department of Ophthalmology
Garyl G. Geist, MAcc

DMEI Vice President of Finance
and Chief Financial Officer
Kimberly A. Howard

DMEI Executive Director of Development
Jim Durbin

Co-Editors
Nicole M. Glenn
Gregory L. Skuta, MD

Contributors
Jim Durbin
Melody A. Marcum, MHR
April Wilkerson

Feature Writer
April Wilkerson

Design and Layout
Christi Cooper, Cooper & Heart Creative

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Development Office
Dean McGee Eye Institute
608 Stanton L. Young Blvd., Suite 346
Oklahoma City, OK 73104
(405) 271-1611

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The Dean McGee Eye Institute is dedicated
to serving all Oklahomans and the global
community through excellence and leadership in
patient care, education, and vision research.



• DMEI • inVision

WINTER 2020

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The Preferred Eye Care Provider of the OKC Thunder

FRONT COVER PHOTO CREDIT:
Simon Hurst Photography

DMEI SURGEONS AT FOREFRONT OF *Innovative Glaucoma Treatments*



Gregory L. Skuta, MD

GLAUCOMA IS THE SECOND LEADING CAUSE OF BLINDNESS WORLDWIDE (and the leading cause of irreversible blindness) and the most common cause of blindness among African Americans. Approximately 3 million Americans are affected by glaucoma, although around half of those are undiagnosed.

In simple terms, glaucoma is a condition in which intraocular pressure is determined to be too high for a particular individual, resulting in damage to the optic nerve and peripheral vision and, if advanced, to the central reading vision. The importance from a public health standpoint of preventing visual loss from glaucoma was a key factor in my decision to become a glaucoma specialist.

Since my glaucoma fellowship training at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, we have witnessed tremendous strides in the diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma. These include the introduction of such technologies as ocular

coherence tomography to better evaluate the damage to the optic nerve and retinal nerve fiber layer that can occur in glaucoma; advances in automated testing of the visual field/peripheral vision, which, as already noted, can be affected in glaucoma and progress to legal blindness if the glaucoma is not adequately treated; and the development of a remarkable number of new medications that have improved our ability to effectively treat glaucoma.

Early in my career, the surgical treatment options for glaucoma were relatively limited and, although generally effective in lowering intraocular pressure, carried significant short- and long-term risks. Over the past several years, we have experienced a surgical renaissance in which several less invasive glaucoma surgeries have become available. Glaucoma surgeons at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) have been key players in developing and introducing new glaucoma surgical modalities to the citizens of Oklahoma.

DMEI's very own Mahmoud A. Khaimi, MD developed a procedure known as ab interno canaloplasty (ABiC), about which more is shared in the feature story and for which he was recognized as *The Journal Record's* Innovator of the Year in 2017. Dr. Khaimi has lectured extensively both nationally and internationally to educate ophthalmologists about this and other surgical procedures. In addition to traditional glaucoma procedures, other innovative procedures offered to DMEI's glaucoma patients include the XEN gel stent, iStent Inject, and Hydrus Microstent.

Other members of DMEI's Glaucoma Service include Drs. Andrew Bailey and Ben Harvey. In addition to being an outstanding glaucoma surgeon, Dr. Bailey is a Navy veteran who served in Iraq and has received multiple teaching awards for his talents as an educator. Dr. Harvey, who joined the Eye Institute from the private sector approximately one year ago, is a gifted leader who currently serves as president of the Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology and was honored by the *Oklahoma Gazette* among its "Forty Under 40" in November 2019 (see page 17).

All four of the ophthalmologists on the DMEI Glaucoma Service are deeply committed to the education of residents and fellows. The glaucoma fellowship, which was established at

DMEI in the early 1990s, has now trained 26 fellows in the subspecialty of glaucoma who practice throughout the country. The fellowship has become one of the most competitive in the nation, as reflected by the fact that in the past 10 years of the glaucoma fellowship match,

in which applicants are "matched" with programs through a mutual ranking system, DMEI has matched with its "first choice" six times and "second choice" three times!

In the feature story on pages 46-51 in this edition of DMEI *InVision*, you will learn more about access to the latest in glaucoma surgical innovation and the surgeons who provide these services with skill

and compassion. Their goal is to ensure that, for patients with glaucoma, vision is preserved for their lifetimes so that they can enjoy the precious gift of sight!



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

“Glaucoma surgeons at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) have been key players in developing and introducing new glaucoma surgical modalities to the citizens of Oklahoma.”

NEW VETERANS AFFAIRS EYE CLINIC OPENS



Pictured (left to right) during an appointment at the new VA Eye Clinic: Jacob D. Warmath, MD (resident), Doyle Newton (a VA patient and Korean veteran), and Kristen N. Collister, MD, MPH (resident).

IN AUGUST 2019, THE VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) MEDICAL CENTER IN OKLAHOMA CITY OPENED A NEWLY RENOVATED EYE CLINIC ON THE GROUND FLOOR. The beautiful 6100-square-foot facility houses 17 examination rooms and affords veterans from across the state a venue in which to receive exceptional eye care. The clinic offers numerous services including routine eye examinations, comprehensive surgical eye care, low vision rehabilitation, and subspecialty care in glaucoma, retina, oculoplastic surgery, and neuro-ophthalmology.

Paul M. Munden, MD, who is an ophthalmologist, serves as the Chief of Surgery at the VA Medical Center, where residents from the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI)/University of Oklahoma (OU) help provide care for more than 40 weeks of their three-year residency experience.

Serving the veterans of Oklahoma remains a prized opportunity of every DMEI physician and is one of the most meaningful experiences for residents completing their training at DMEI. The physicians and staff at the Oklahoma City VA Eye Clinic are deeply grateful for the service of all veterans and continually strive to provide the best eye care possible as a modest but sincere expression of appreciation for the sacrifices made by the wonderful veterans of Oklahoma! ■



EACH YEAR DMEI'S RESIDENTS HONOR A PHYSICIAN WITH AN EXCELLENCE IN ATTENDING AT VA AWARD.

This award is given in recognition of excellence in the supervision of residents at the Oklahoma City VA Medical Center. Recipients over the past 15 years include:

- 2019 - Andrew K. Bailey, MD
- 2018 - Andrew K. Bailey, MD
- 2017 - Layne E. Goetzinger, MD
- 2016 - David W. Jackson, MD
- 2015 - Andrew K. Bailey, MD
- 2014 - Annie Moreau, MD, FACS
- 2013 - Ronald M. Kingsley, MD
- 2012 - Adam G. de la Garza, MD
- 2011 - Ensa K. Pillow, MD
- 2010 - Mahmoud A. Khaimi, MD
- 2009 - Layne E. Goetzinger, MD
- 2008 - Donald U. Stone, MD
- 2007 - Layne E. Goetzinger, MD
- 2006 - Cynthia A. Bradford, MD
- 2005 - Adam C. Reynolds, MD

The Oklahoman Readers' Choice Awards

AT AN EVENT AT THE EMBASSY SUITES ON AUGUST 22, the Dean McGee Eye Institute's (DMEI's) Optical Shops and the McGee Eye Surgery Center (MESC) were announced as winners in their categories in *The Oklahoman's* 2019 Readers' Choice Awards. DMEI's Optical Shops have now been Readers' Choice winners in three of the past four years, and MESC has been named a winner for two straight years (winner in 2018 and co-winner in 2019). ■



Robert C. Dimick, DMEI's Optical Shop Manager, holds 2019 Readers' Choice Award from The Oklahoman for Best Optical Shop.



James G. Elledge, RN, BSN, Administrator and Director of Surgical Operations at the McGee Eye Surgery Center (MESC), and Angela M. Heroux, RN, MESC's Operating Room Manager, with 2019 Readers' Choice Award for Best Eye Surgery Center.

DID YOU KNOW...

- > That retina specialists from the Dean McGee Eye Institute in Oklahoma City also see patients in Lawton, Shawnee, and Enid?
- > That the University of Oklahoma Department of Ophthalmology ranked among the country's top 20 in National Institutes of Health funding in 2019 and was in the top 10 among public universities?

Lieutenant Governor Visits Eye Institute

OKLAHOMA LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MATT PINNELL VISITED the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) on September 16, 2019, for a tour and meeting with DMEI administrative and medical leadership. The Lieutenant Governor learned more about the Institute and its mission and expressed his gratitude for the role it plays in fulfilling its mission of serving all Oklahomans through excellence and leadership in patient care, education, and vision research. In addition, he indicated a desire to include DMEI in future state branding initiatives.

The Dean McGee Eye Institute is grateful for Lieutenant Governor Pinnell's time, interest, and leadership in better understanding the Institute's commitment to caring for Oklahoma's citizens. ■



Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell

DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE/UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA NATIONALLY RANKED (AGAIN) BY *OPHTHALMOLOGY TIMES*

IN OCTOBER 2019, THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) at the University of Oklahoma (OU) was again ranked among the top academic programs in the nation in a survey released by *Ophthalmology Times*. Based on the responses from chairpersons and residency program directors of ophthalmology departments across the country, DMEI/OU was ranked among the top 12 programs overall and also in the top 12 for its clinical, residency, and research programs. It was # 6 among centers affiliated with a public university in the first three categories and # 7 among public universities in research.

Only eight other programs were ranked among the top 12 in all four categories. They were the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute/University of Miami, Wilmer Eye Institute/Johns Hopkins University, Wills Eye Hospital/Thomas Jefferson University, Massachusetts Eye and Ear/Harvard University, W.K. Kellogg Eye Center/University of Michigan, University of Iowa, Duke University Eye Center, and Moran Eye Center/University of Utah. ■

Inaugural Cosmetic Open House

ON NOVEMBER 1, 2019, THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) HOSTED ITS INAUGURAL COSMETIC OPEN HOUSE.

Over 60 individuals attended to learn more about DMEI's broad spectrum of cosmetic services. Live demonstration procedures and educational lectures were included in the evening's program. Attendees were able to view live demonstrations of a Sciton HALO™ laser skin resurfacing procedure, filler procedure, and Botox procedure. Drs. Nathan Blessing and Jeremy Tan educated attendees on brow positions and lower eyelid blepharoplasty during the two lecture segments of the program.

If you are interested in Botox, fillers, laser skin resurfacing, eyelid surgery, or any other oculo-facial cosmetic procedures, then go to your trusted source, DMEI's oculo-facial plastic surgeons. Please call 405.271.1096 or 800.787.9018 to learn what options might work best for you based on your specific needs. ■



Educational lecture session with Nathan W. Blessing, MD.



Live demonstration of the Sciton HALO laser skin resurfacing procedure by Jeremy F. Tan, MD.



DMEI ALUMNUS RUNNING FOR CONGRESS

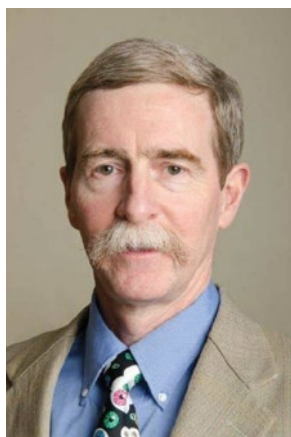
WILLIAM S. CLIFFORD, MD, MBA, WHO COMPLETED

his residency and fellowship at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) in the early 1990s, announced in September 2019 his candidacy for Kansas' 1st Congressional

District in the U.S. House of Representatives. The general election for this seat, currently held by Representative Roger W. Marshall, MD (an obstetrician) who is running for the U.S. Senate, will take place in November 2020.

Dr. Clifford is chair of DMEI's Acers Society, a trustee-at-large on the American Academy of Ophthalmology's Board of Trustees, and a past president of the Kansas Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons. He has practiced ophthalmology for more than 24 years with Fry Eye Associates in Garden City, Kansas, where he is very active in the community and serves as chair of the Finney County Commission.

Dr. Clifford's background and numerous achievements (he is an Air Force Academy graduate and former F-15 Eagle fighter pilot) were featured in the winter 2017 edition of DMEI's *InVision* magazine (issue 14, pages 46-49). ■



23 DMEI Ophthalmologists Recognized as 2020 *Best Doctors in America* and/ or *Castle Connolly Top Doctors*

- + Ann Acers-Warn, MD, MBA
- * Andrew K. Bailey, MD
- + John M. Bell, MD
- *+ Cynthia A. Bradford, MD
- *+ Reagan H. Bradford Jr., MD
- *+ Bradley K. Farris, MD (now retired)
- * Brian K. Firestone, MD
- *+ Stephen R. Fransen, MD
- *+ Layne E. Goetzinger, MD
- + Jean R. Hausheer, MD, FACS
- * Ralph B. Hester III, MD
- *+ David W. Jackson, MD
- *+ Mahmoud A. Khaimi, MD
- * Ronald M. Kingsley, MD
- *+ Annie Moreau, MD, FACS
- *+ Rebecca K. Morgan, MD
- *+ Anil D. Patel, MD, FRCS, FACS
- * Vinay A. Shah, MD
- *+ R. Michael Siatkowski, MD
- *+ Rhea L. Siatkowski, MD
- *+ Gregory L. Skuta, MD
- *+ Deana S. Watts, MD
- *+ Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHSc

* *Best Doctors in America* (2019 and/or 2020)

+ *Castle Connolly Top Doctors*

*+ *Both*

2019 EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

AT THE 2019 DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

and Employee Recognition Ceremony in the Inasmuch Foundation Atrium on December 6, 48 employees were recognized for their 530 collective years of service to the Institute and Department of Ophthalmology. Congratulations to all! ■



Pictured (left to right): Garyl G. Geist, Feng Li, MD, MPH, MS, Dana M. Garber, OD, FAAO, Delores Watley, Ann Acers-Warn, MD, MBA, and Gregory L. Skuta, MD. Drs. Li and Garber were each recognized for 20 years of service and Watley and Dr. Acers-Warn each for 25 years.

25 YEARS

Ann Acers-Warn, MD, MBA
Cherie Davis
Delores Watley

20 YEARS

Dawn Bartosh
Daniel J.J. Carr, PhD
Dana M. Garber, OD, FAAO
Feng Li, MD, MPH, MS
R. Michael Siatkowski, MD
Rhea L. Siatkowski, MD

15 YEARS

Teresa Berry
Linda Boone
Steve Brush
Robert Dimick
Anil D. Patel, MD, FRCSC, FACS
Ammaji Rajala
Fatemeh Shariati
Sonya Strang

10 YEARS

Sherry Anderson
Roseanne Bell
Daniel Carrel
April Coker
Geraldine de la Cerda
Sonny Icks
Kristi Lutes
Katherine Ramirez
Bianca Smith
Jill Srnka
Brandi Turner
Ramonia Wilson

5 YEARS

Andrew K. Bailey, MD
Ramona Burrus
Noemi Cerda
Lenee Church
Jeremy Cooper
Jessica Cortes-Garcia
Dianna Crawford
Ashley Eberhardt
James Elledge
Brian K. Firestone, MD
Heather Freitag
Marilyn Garrity

Helen Howell
Risa Johnson
Ginger Looper
Kay Lynn Keylon
Michelle McNeal
Ashley Sparks
Cherie Vinson



Meet Team FC (Football Club) Skutakowski, the Men's Over 25 D2-Summer 2 (July-September 2019) Indoor Champions from SoccerCity Oklahoma City.

The team, which compiled a record of 9-0-1, included five ophthalmologists. From left to right: Andrew K. Bailey, MD, Jon "Christian" Berry, MD (resident), David R. Griffin, MD (resident), Nathan W. Blessing, MD, and Andrew T. Melson, MD. Gregory L. Skuta, MD is pictured left center with the physician soccer players. Not pictured is the other team namesake, Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski.

DMEI Becomes the Preferred Eye Care Provider of the OKC THUNDER



IN DECEMBER 2019, THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) announced its new partnership with the Oklahoma City Thunder as the organization's "Preferred Eye Care Provider."

"Over the years, the Thunder has had a long-standing relationship with the Dean McGee Eye Institute, which has provided services and eye exams for Thunder players," said Will Syring, vice president of corporate partnerships. "We are proud to welcome them to the Thunder Corporate Partnership family as they share their story through our marketing assets to reach our fan base throughout the state."

"We believe that this exciting partnership between the Thunder and the Dean McGee Eye Institute joins two very strong brands and allows us to effectively share with the public Dean McGee's national reputation for excellence and the broad range of eye care services available at our multiple locations," said Dr. Gregory L. Skuta, DMEI's president and chief executive officer.

The partnership will include radio spots during the season and signage both in and outside of Chesapeake Energy Arena. ■

Dean McGee Recognized as One of the Nation's Top Eye Institutes on Social Media

DURING THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY held in San Francisco in October, Robert F. Melendez, MD, MBA from Albuquerque, New Mexico and some medical students from the University of New Mexico presented the results of a study in which they evaluated social media and their use by academic eye centers. The Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) was cited in their presentation as the fastest growing academic ophthalmology Facebook page over the past two years. The Institute was also recognized as the second-fastest growing on Instagram.

We are grateful for all of our followers who have been part of this growth. If you are not yet following DMEI on social media, we encourage you to do so by finding us [@DeanMcGeeEyeInstitute](#) on both Facebook and Instagram. ■

BRADLEY K. FARRIS, MD RETIRES

Leaving Behind a Lasting Impact



*Dr. Bradley K. Farris, a Presbyterian Health Foundation Presidential Professor, and patient at Dean McGee Eye Institute.
Photo Credit: Simon Hurst Photography*

IN HIS 33-YEAR CAREER AS A NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGIST AT THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI), Bradley K. Farris, MD profoundly affected people's lives in Oklahoma and around the globe.

He restored hope and created bonds with his patients who feared losing their vision. He

taught students, residents, and fellows the skills of neuro-ophthalmology and the ethics and compassion necessary to practice it. He researched and discovered new treatments for complex conditions. And, he led teams to the other side of the world to partner with people of other cultures for better care for their patients.

Dr. Farris, who retired in September from DMEI as a professor in the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Medicine, created a legacy of integrity, intellect, and kindness that everyone who met him will never forget.

“From the day I started my practice in July 1986, I realized that to thoroughly address a patient's needs, I needed to not only understand their physical visual complaints, but also to understand the emotion by which they carry their complaints, and how they rely on their spirituality to get through the problem. I learned how to be a spirit-soul-body doctor,” he said. “No matter what background or country people come from, they appreciate their doctor taking time to listen to them, and the offer of a comforting prayer. It's a big portion of healing, and I have been astounded at how much my patients appreciate that, which makes it difficult to let go because of the bonds we've created.”

Dr. Farris' journey toward becoming a neuro-ophthalmologist began with medical school and residencies (in both ophthalmology and neurology) at the OU College of Medicine. In 1986, he

FROM DMEI AFTER 33 YEARS *on People Around the World*

BY APRIL WILKERSON

completed a fellowship in neuro-ophthalmology at the esteemed Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, Florida, then immediately returned to Oklahoma and DMEI to begin his practice.

Patient Care

Neuro-ophthalmology is a unique specialty at the intersection of neurology and ophthalmology, often focusing on complex neurologic disorders that also affect vision. Many of his patients came to him with vision problems that other providers had not understood. As a neuro-ophthalmologist, Dr. Farris spent more time talking with his patients than many other physicians may have time to do, listening and looking for clues that point toward a diagnosis. Often he worked with colleagues in neurology and neurosurgery to diagnose and treat all elements of the condition. Such is the case with brain tumors, head injuries, and multiple sclerosis, all of which can cause vision problems. He also took an interdisciplinary approach with idiopathic intracranial hypertension (IIH), a condition that has increased in prevalence in recent years.

“This is a disease of 20- to 40-year-old women who are overweight and have developed increased pressure inside their heads due to the overproduction of cerebrospinal fluid,” Dr. Farris said. “This leads to a combination of headache and vision loss due to chronic swelling of the optic nerves. As a neuro-ophthalmologist, I help make the diagnosis and

am aggressive in protecting vision. We partner with neurology to help manage headache, and we use neurosurgeons as part of the team to intervene with neurological shunts if we can’t protect vision with other measures.”



Dr. Farris with a patient in Africa.

Research

As part of an academic medical center, Dr. Farris has led and participated in clinical research studies to uncover new answers for his patients. For IIH, he began looking for a new way to treat the condition beyond the medication traditionally used, acetazolamide (Diamox), which sometimes doesn’t work, and a surgical shunt, which often failed in earlier years. Dr. Farris recognized that surgically decompressing

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the optic nerve would benefit many patients. Working with a neurosurgery resident, Dr. Farris gathered appropriate instruments, created an orbital retractor, and then used them to develop a technique called optic nerve sheath decompression, which is now the procedure of choice for IIH in a multitude of institutions.

“Through our research, the procedure turned out to be highly effective and low risk,” he said. “It all came about because of an observation of a difficult problem with no easy solution, and asking, ‘Why can’t we do better?’ That has been a high point in my career.”



Dr. Farris lecturing in China. Photo Credit: Alex Lobodiak

Another research project began when Dr. Farris noticed a pattern of patients saying that every time they went to a grocery store, they got so dizzy that they had to hold on to a shopping cart to make it out of the store. He remembered that during his fellowship, he contributed to a study of “familial dizziness,” for which the drug acetazolamide (Diamox) helped. He began using that medication for these patients and monitored their outcomes. The drug dramatically helped, and the disorder came to be known as “shopping cart syndrome” and, later, visual vertigo.

Education and Global Eye Care

Dr. Farris is especially well known for his global eye care service and the resident and fellow training woven through those programs. In 2000, he was approached by a non-governmental organization to consider helping with a significant problem in the Sichuan province of China: treatable blindness due to cataracts. Although initially hesitant, Dr. Farris traveled to China and saw the problem: Surgeons were only able to do 30,000 to 60,000 surgeries in a year, which didn’t come close to meeting the need of about one million people with cataracts.

Rather than taking DMEI ophthalmologists to China to perform surgery, Dr. Farris looked upstream to the cause of the problem. He found an archaic educational system in which the surgeons who were experienced in cataract surgery didn’t want to teach the technique to their residents for fear of being surpassed in reputation or excellence. Because of that, residents had to work in a hospital or assist with procedures for up to 10 years before they were even allowed in the operating room by themselves. That created a bottleneck and suppression of teaching.

“I realized that DMEI’s responsibility and effort were not to provide surgeons, but to be teachers of teachers and to teach them true professorship,” he said. “We wanted to help them change their education program to train more effective surgeons who cared about the burden of treating blindness in China.”

Over the past 20 years, that’s exactly what he did. Working with Chinese ophthalmologists, Dr. Farris and his team shortened residency training to three or four years in the Sichuan province and changed the educational process so that residents were taught to create a differential

The "real" Dr. Farris (right) posing with his retirement memento and his cutout (left). Guests enjoyed taking photos with the Dr. Farris cutout in the selfie photography area during the retirement reception held for him in August in DMEI's Inasmuch Foundation Atrium.



diagnosis and pursue diagnostic testing specific to a patient's disease.

"Every year when I go back, they're better. They're very bright and eager young doctors who are anxious to learn to do it the right way," he said. "We've been successful to the point that the Chinese have asked us to develop a new residency program patterned after DMEI's program and modified for the Chinese culture."

In 2011, Dr. Farris launched a program in Swaziland, Africa, now called Eswatini. With no medical school and only one ophthalmologist to care for the needs of the country, Dr. Farris and his team began providing subspecialty care on each trip and access to telemedicine for consultation on difficult cases. As with China, the effort in Africa has lessened the burden of treatable blindness.

Each year, half of the residents at DMEI go to China and the other half to Africa, where they begin to understand global needs and the importance of giving back. DMEI also developed a global eye care fellowship in which the fellow spends three months in China, three months in Africa and, in the future, one month in India learning how to perform special cataract surgical techniques that require less advanced technology than currently used in countries like the United States. As part of their education, residents and fellows also learn about the need to provide care for patients with limited resources back at home.

"The residents and fellows tell me that their eyes become opened to a need they never realized," he said. "They also gain a greater appreciation for what they have at home in their educational process. Most of them develop a desire to work internationally in some way during their careers."

Given Dr. Farris' enormous impact in developing the Global Eye Care Program, Gregory L. Skuta, MD, DMEI's president and chief executive officer, announced at Dr. Farris' retirement reception on August 15 that the program had been renamed the Bradley K. Farris, MD Global Eye Care Program and that more than \$100,000 of additional support had been donated to the program.

Dr. Farris has received numerous awards in his career, including three Gaylord Faculty Honor Awards at DMEI, the OU Regents' Award for Superior Teaching, the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award, the Tian Fu Friendship Award from the Sichuan province, and the World Experiences Foundation Global Citizenship Award in Health Care. Whether teaching at DMEI or providing that education across the globe, Dr. Farris always makes sure his students are steeped in knowledge and skills, but he goes a step beyond by opening their eyes to the importance of humanistic principles in improving patients' lives.

"I'm excited that many of the young doctors today really want to make a difference and a lasting impact in people's lives instead of just pursuing a lifestyle," he said. "I enjoy teaching my students, residents, and fellows how to create legacy – making people around you better than you, then multiplying that." ■

JEAN R. HAUSHEER, MD, FACS RECEIVES AWARD FROM THE OKLAHOMA COUNCIL OF THE BLIND

IN SEPTEMBER 2019, JEAN R. HAUSHEER, MD, FACS was awarded a Leroy F. Saunders Award for her devotion and dedication to blind Oklahomans.

The Oklahoma Council of the Blind instituted the LeRoy Saunders Award in 2002. This award is in honor of Mr. Leroy Saunders, who contributed a lifetime of dedicated effort in promoting the abilities of individuals who are blind and to improve their quality of life. His professional endeavors expanded employment opportunities for Oklahomans who are blind. His national advocacy role through active participation in the American Council of the Blind and the President's Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled exemplifies his lifelong achievements in the field of blindness.

Dr. Hausheer was also honored at a banquet on October 10 among *The Journal Record's* "50 Making a Difference," from whom *The Journal Record's* "Woman of the Year" was chosen. This year's "Woman of the Year" was a fellow physician, Dr. Kayse Shrum, who is the president of the Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences in Tulsa. ■



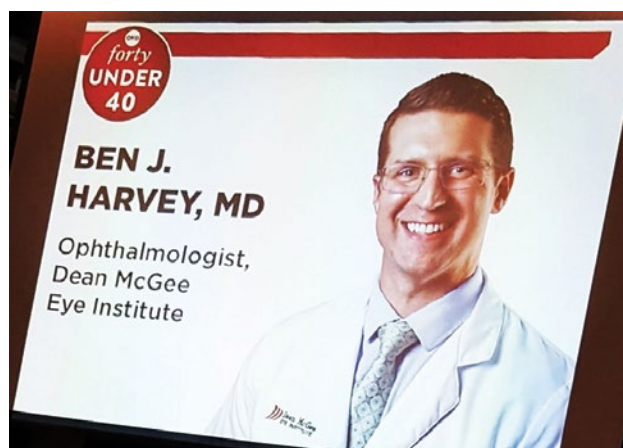
Jean R. Hausheer, MD, FACS
Clinical Professor

DR. BEN J. HARVEY NAMED TO *Oklahoma Gazette's* “Forty Under 40” Class of 2019

BEN J. HARVEY, MD, CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR on the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI)/University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology faculty, was honored among the *Oklahoma Gazette's* “Forty Under 40” class of 2019. This year’s “Forty Under 40” Awards Reception was held on November 12 at the Chesapeake Boathouse. The evening provided guests and honorees an opportunity to meet and learn more about each other while enjoying views of the Oklahoma River and Oklahoma City skyline.

The *Oklahoma Gazette's* “Forty Under 40” program honors 40 exceptional individuals under age 40 who have made significant contributions to shaping the Oklahoma City landscape. Through redefining and improving business practices, advancing education, and raising the bar for civic and artistic endeavors, “Forty Under 40” honorees positively impact the greater Oklahoma City area.

Dr. Harvey joined DMEI’s glaucoma service in March 2019, is the current president of the Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology (OAO), and is a graduate of the American Academy



Ben J. Harvey, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor

of Ophthalmology’s Leadership Development Program. He completed his residency at DMEI/OU, followed by a glaucoma fellowship at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute of the Palm Beaches (Florida). Dr. Harvey is respected for his outstanding skills as a clinician and surgeon, leadership in the OAO, and compassion for his patients.

Dr. Harvey is the fourth member of the DMEI/OU faculty to be honored by the “Forty Under 40” program over the past three years. ■

Dr. Riaz Awarded a Gold Medal for His International Contributions as a Young Ophthalmologist



Dr. Kamran M. Riaz (at podium on right), clinical associate professor at DMEI, presents a lecture in New Delhi, India. At the meeting, he was honored with a Gold Medal by the Indian Society of Cornea and Keratorefractive Surgeons for his important contributions.

IN AUGUST, Kamran M. Riaz, MD was invited as an international faculty member at the 2019 Conference of the Indian Society of Cornea and Keratorefractive Surgeons (ISCKRS). During the meeting in New Delhi, Dr. Riaz, who joined the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) in March 2019 as a clinical associate professor in cornea/external disease/refractive surgery, was awarded a Gold Medal for his international contributions as a young ophthalmologist (under age 40). ■



J. Scott Samples Joins DMEI as Contact Lens Specialist



J. Scott Samples, NCLE, CPOT

J. SCOTT SAMPLES, NCLE, CPOT joined the Dean McGee Eye Institute in September 2019 as a contact lens specialist and fitter. A native of Columbus, Georgia, Samples previously worked for 18 years with Precision Optical in Columbus and was a lead optometric technician there with special expertise in contact lenses, including "medical fits" for conditions such as keratoconus. He is a certified paraoptometric technician (CPOT) and also is certified by National Contact Lens Examiners (NCLE). Samples and his wife Crystal reside in Edmond and have three children.

Cynthia A. Bradford, MD and Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHSc Recognized for Teaching Excellence



Cynthia A. Bradford, MD (right) receiving her teaching award from Frederick C. Miller, PhD (left), associate professor in the Departments of Cell Biology and Family and Preventive Medicine in the OU College of Medicine. Dr. Miller serves as co-chair of the Recognition and Awards Committee for the Academy of Teaching Scholars.

CYNTHIA A. BRADFORD, MD AND TAMMY L. YANOVITCH, MD, MHSC were recognized for their achievements as educators at an Academy of Teaching Scholars Reception in October at the Andrews Academic Tower.

Dr. Bradford was the recipient of a 2019 M. Dewayne Andrews, MD Excellence in Teaching Award in Clinical Education (of medical students), and Dr. Yanovitch received a 2019 M. Dewayne Andrews, MD Excellence in Teaching Award in Graduate Medical Education (GME).

Dr. Bradford is a Presbyterian Health Foundation Presidential Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and in the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Medicine.

Dr. Bradford's clinical focus is on comprehensive ophthalmology and cataract/intraocular lens implant surgery. She is a graduate of Texas A&M University and earned her medical degree with high honors from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. She completed her ophthalmology training at DMEI/OU and subsequently joined the faculty here in 1987.

A clinical associate professor in the Department of Ophthalmology at DMEI, Dr. Yanovitch's clinical focus is on pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus with special interests in amblyopia, eye muscle surgery, double vision, pediatric glaucoma, and children with special needs.

She is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Tulsa and earned her medical degree with high honors from the OU College of Medicine. She completed her ophthalmology residency at DMEI/OU and her fellowship at Duke University, where she also served on the faculty before joining DMEI/OU.



Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHSc

Prior recipients from DMEI of the M. Dewayne Andrews, MD Excellence in Teaching Award in GME include Drs. Annie Moreau, R. Michael Siatkowski, Brian K. Firestone, and Andrew K. Bailey. ■

TWO ARE RECOGNIZED WITH LIFE ACHIEVEMENT HONOR AWARDS



*Cynthia A. Bradford, MD
Presbyterian Health Foundation
Presidential Professor*

DRS. CYNTHIA A. BRADFORD AND R. MICHAEL SIATKOWSKI

have been recognized with Life Achievement Honor Awards by the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) for their exceptional contributions to the Academy and the profession. They were among 18 individuals confirmed by the AAO's Board of Trustees for this honor in 2019.

Before becoming president of the AAO in 2017, Dr. Bradford was a member of the Academy's Board of Trustees, serving as Senior Secretary for Advocacy from 2009 to 2014. Other vital roles within the Academy include service as Secretary for State Affairs from 2004 to 2008 and as Executive Editor for the AAO text, *Basic Ophthalmology*, which is used to teach medical students nationally and internationally.



*R. Michael Siatkowski, MD
David W. Parke II, MD Professor
David Ross Boyd Professor
Vice Chair for Academic Affairs
Residency Program Director*

Dr. Siatkowski recently completed terms as president of the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus and of the Program Directors Council for the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology. He also has served as a director of the American Board of Ophthalmology and as vice chair of the Residency Review Committee for Ophthalmology for the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

"We are very proud of Drs. Bradford and Siatkowski's continuing extraordinary achievements but especially of their unwavering commitment to serving patients, colleagues, and our wonderful profession," said Dr. Gregory L. Skuta, DMEI president and chief executive officer and a recipient of this award in 2013. ■

CLINICAL CARE STAFF CERTIFICATION UPDATE



IN NOVEMBER 2019, DANIEL B. CARREL, COA, earned his certification in Ophthalmic Surgical Assisting (OSA).

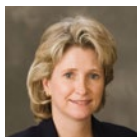
Achievement of the OSA subspecialty certification exemplifies knowledge in the procedures and instrumentation necessary to assist in ophthalmic surgical suites. Candidates who are interested in obtaining OSA certification must be a COA (certified ophthalmic assistant), COT (certified ophthalmic technician), or COMT (certified ophthalmic medical technologist) certificant in good standing. The OSA examination is one hour in length and is comprised of 75 scored multiple-choice questions.



IN DECEMBER 2019, TERESA HUYNH became a certified ophthalmic assistant (COA). The COA is the entry-level core designation designed to start eye care professionals on the path to success and confirms an assistant's knowledge in 19 specific content areas. The COA certification examination is three hours in length and is comprised of 200 scored multiple-choice questions.

Congratulations to Daniel Carrel and Teresa Huynh on their professional accomplishments!

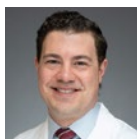
FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES



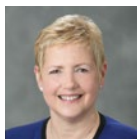
ANN ACERS-WARN, MD, MBA, recently presented “What’s the Risk?” to the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin, Nov. 2019.



ROBERT E. ANDERSON, MD, PhD, recently published Craig L.B., Brush R.S., Sullivan M.T., Zavy M.T., Agbaga M.P., Anderson R.E. “Decreased Very Long Chain Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids in Sperm Correlates with Sperm Quantity and Quality,” *The Journal of Assisted Reproduction and Genetics*, July 2019, [Epub ahead of print]; and Deák F., Anderson R.E., Fessler J.L., Sherry D.M. “Novel Cellular Functions of Very Long Chain-Fatty Acids: Insight From ELOVL4 Mutations,” *Frontiers in Cellular Neuroscience*, Sept. 2019. He presented two papers both entitled “Role of Very Long Chain Fatty Acids (\geq 28-carbons) in Retina, Brain, and Testes,” 14th Fatty Acids and Cell Signaling Conference: Fatty Acid Metabolism and Oxidation, University of Texas Dell College of Medicine (Austin, TX), Sept. 29 – Oct. 1, 2019 and 17th European Federation Lipid Congress and Expo, Seville, Spain, Oct. 2019. On Jan. 23, 2020, he received the prestigious Dean’s Award for Distinguished Medical Service from the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Medicine Alumni Association (see page 36).



NATHAN W. BLESSING, MD, successfully passed the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (ASOPRS) written and oral entrance examinations in Nov. 2019 and will be inducted into ASOPRS in June 2020. His recent publications and presentations include Blessing N.W., Bermudez-Magner J.A., Fernandez M.P., Rosenberg A.E., Dubovy S.R., Johnson T.E. “Solitary Fibrous Tumor of the Orbit: A Case Series with Clinicopathologic Correlation and Evaluation of STAT6 as a Diagnostic Marker,” *Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*, Sept. 2019; Danek D.J., Blessing N.W., Tse D.T. “Corneal Perforation with Uveal Prolapse: An Initial Presentation of Orbital Metastatic Breast Cancer,” *American Journal of Ophthalmology Case Reports*, Sept. 2019; Blessing N.W., Lee W.W. “Direct Eyebrow Elevation (Chapter 8),” In: Burnstine MA, editor, *Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery of the Upper Face: Eyelid Ptosis, Dermatochalasis, and Eyebrow Ptosis*, 1st edition, New York: Thieme, Oct. 2019, pp 54-58; and Tran A.Q., Patete C.L., Blessing N.W., Rong A.J., Garcia A., Dubovy S.R., Tse D.T. “Orbito-Scleral-Sinus Invasion of a Basal Cell Carcinoma in a Patient with Human Immunodeficiency Virus after Treatment on Vismodegib,” podium presentation at the ASOPRS 50th Annual Fall Scientific Symposium, San Francisco, CA, Oct. 2019. He was a moderator for the Thyroid Eye Disease Session, ASOPRS 50th Annual Fall Scientific Symposium, San Francisco, CA, Oct. 2019.



CYNTHIA A. BRADFORD, MD, recently received a 2019 Life Achievement Honor Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology for her outstanding service to the Academy and the profession of ophthalmology (see page 20) and was recognized with an M. Dewayne Andrews, MD Excellence in Teaching Award in Clinical Education (medical students), Oct. 2019 (see page 19).



BRADLEY K. FARRIS, MD, is being recognized in 2020 as an “Unsung Hero” by the American Academy of Ophthalmology. This honor is part of the Academy’s 2020 Year of the Eye activities and recognizes Dr. Farris’ and others’ contributions to the profession of ophthalmology.



JEAN R. HAUSHEER, MD, FACS, currently serves as chair of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority’s Administrative Rules Advisory Committee and as a member of its Pharmacy Advisory Committee and Returned Mail Task Force. She also serves on the Oklahoma State Chamber Board of Directors and on the Chamber’s Health Care and Workforce Committees and was appointed by the Oklahoma Attorney General to the Oklahoma Opioid Fatality Review Commission. Dr. Hausheer was the program director for the Christian Ophthalmology Society Annual Meeting, Kansas City, MO, July 2019. In April 2020, she will receive the Ed Calhoon, MD Leadership in Medicine Award from the Oklahoma State Medical Association (more to come in the next edition of DMEI *InVision*).



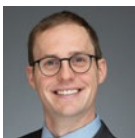
CAROLYN E. KLOEK, MD, recently published Moustafa G.A., Borkar D.S., Borboli-Gerogiannis S., Greenstein S.H., Lorch A.C., Vasan R.A., Kloek C.E. “Optimization of Cataract Surgery Follow-up: A Standard Set of Questions Can Predict Unexpected Management Changes at Postoperative Week One,” *PLoS One*, Sept. 2019; and McKay K.M., Borkar D.S., Moustafa G.A., Haviland M.J., Kloek C.E. “Clinical Factors Affecting Operating Room Utilization in Cataract Surgery: Results from the PCIOL Study,” *Journal of Cataract and Refractive Surgery*, Aug. 2019. Her recent speaking engagements include Session Moderator, “The Future of Ophthalmology,” New England Ophthalmological Society, Boston, MA, Sept. 2019; “The Digital Transformation of Healthcare,” New England Ophthalmological Society, Boston, MA, Sept. 2019; and “Teaching Communication Skills to Residents,” American Academy of Ophthalmology, San Francisco, CA, Oct. 2019.



DARREN J. LEE, PhD, recently published Muhammad F., Wang D., Montieth A., Lee S., Preble J., Foster C.S., Larson T.A., Ding K., Dvorak J.D., Lee D.J. “PD-1+ Melanocortin Receptor Dependent-Treg Cells Prevent Autoimmune Disease,” *Scientific Reports*, Nov. 2019.

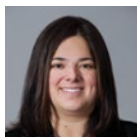


SUN YOUNG LEE, MD, PhD, was awarded a Clinician Scientist Development Grant from the Presbyterian Health Foundation, July 2019. Her research team presented a poster entitled “Endophthalmitis After Transconjunctival Pars Plana Vitrectomy Without Prophylactic Intraoperative Subconjunctival Antibiotics,” American Society of Retina Specialists 2019 Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, July 2019. In Dec. 2019, she received an adjunct faculty appointment in the OU Department of Physiology.



ANDREW T. MELSON, MD, recently co-authored Melson A.T., McClelland C.M., Lee M.S. “Update on Ocular Myasthenia Gravis,” *Current Opinion in Neurology*, accepted for publication, Nov. 2019.

FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES



ANNIE MOREAU, MD, FACS, recently published Rhodes R., Moreau A., Romano E., Cannon T. "The Cervicofacial Flap," *Operative Techniques in Otolaryngology*, June 2019. She was named as a team leader on the OU College of Medicine Admission Board.



RAJU V.S. RAJALA, PhD, was recently awarded a four-year R01 grant from the National Eye Institute (2019-2023) entitled "Neuroprotection Mechanism for Photoreceptors."



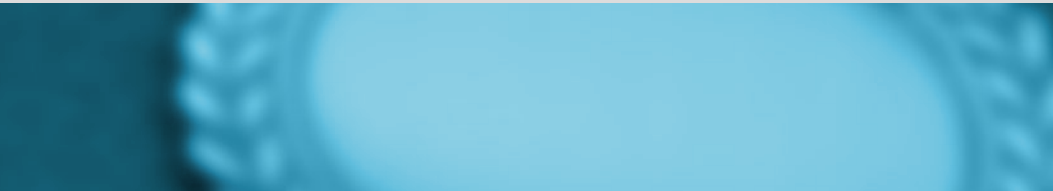
KAMRAN M. RIAZ, MD, recently published Schechet S.A., Riaz K.M., Hariprasad S.M. "Posterior to Anterior Migration of a Large Optic Fragment in a Pseudophakic Eye," *German Medical Science Ophthalmology*, in press; Simon N.C., Farooq A.V., Zhang M.H., Riaz K.M. "The Effect of Pharmacological Dilation on Calculation of Targeted and Ideal IOL Power Using Multivariable Formulas," *Bio Med Central Ophthalmology*, in press; and Grodsky J.D., Doshi R., Riaz K.M. "Medical Management and Visual Rehabilitation of Limbal Niche Dysfunction," *Journal of Cataract and Refractive Surgery*, in press. His recent lectures include Osler Ophthalmology Written Board Review Course (Director of Optics Curriculum and Lecture Series) and Oral Board Review Course (Director of Optics Lecture Series and Lead Instructor for Optics Mock Orals), Chicago, IL, Sept. 2019. His invited lectures include "Combining MIGS and Corneal Surgery" and "Why I Have Become a FLACS (femtosecond-laser-assisted cataract surgery) Atheist," Indian Society of Cornea & Keratorefractive Surgeons Annual Meeting, New Delhi, India, Aug. 2019; "Basics of Iris Hooks, Iris Rings and Capsule Tension Devices," Northwestern Phacoemulsification Course, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL, Aug. 2019; and "Diagnosis of Corneal Ectasia," "Dropless Cataract Surgery," "Management of Dysphotopsia," and "Why I Have Become a FLACS Atheist," 35th Annual Scientific Congress, Department of Ophthalmology, Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt, Jan. 2020.



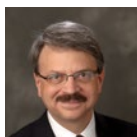
VINAY A. SHAH, MD, was a recent speaker and moderator at the 2019 American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Annual Meeting's Technology Theater: "Smartphone and Mobile Technology Update," Chicago, IL, Oct. 2019. In addition, he was course director and instructor for the AAO Skills Transfer Lab: "Smartphones in Ophthalmology: #TheFutureIsAI," Chicago, IL, Oct. 2019.



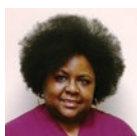
R. MICHAEL SIATKOWSKI, MD, recently received a 2019 Life Achievement Honor Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) for his outstanding service to the Academy and the profession of ophthalmology (see page 20). In January 2020, he became the AAO's Associate Secretary for Subspecialty Day. Dr. Siatkowski recently published Singman E.L., Boland M.V., Tian J., Green L.K., Srikumaran D., The Writing Committee of the Ophthalmology Program Directors Study Group. "Supervision and Autonomy of Ophthalmology Residents in the Outpatient Clinic in the United States. II: A Survey of Senior Residents," *Bio Med Central*



Medical Education, June 2019; Siatkowski R.M. “Truth, Transparency, and Teaching,” *Journal of the American Medical Association Ophthalmology*, July 2019; Gong D., Winn B.J., Beal C.J., et al. “Gender Differences in Case Volume Among Ophthalmology Residents,” *Journal of the American Medical Association Ophthalmology*, Sept. 2019; Siatkowski R.M. “Obituary for John T. Flynn, MD,” *Journal of American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus*, Oct. 2019; and Rogers K.A., Wilson A.A., Wyckoff M.A., Siatkowski R.M. “Computer-Based Quality Improvement for Management of Functionally Monocular Patients,” *Ophthalmology*, Jan. 2020. His recent presentations include pediatric neuro-ophthalmology speaker and organizer, American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus/Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists/Asia-Pacific Strabismus and Pediatric Ophthalmology Society joint meeting, Sydney, Australia, Nov. 2019; panelist, “Diagnostic Errors and Challenges—Avoid the Traps!,” Double Vision Section, AAO Neuro-Ophthalmology Subspecialty Day, San Francisco, CA, Oct. 2019; and symposium organizer, AAO/Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology, “New Concepts in Adult Learning,” AAO Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, Oct. 2019.



GREGORY L. SKUTA, MD, will serve as an ad hoc grant reviewer for Research to Prevent Blindness in New York City and as a panel leader for the American Board of Ophthalmology (ABO) oral examination (he is an emeritus director of the ABO) in March 2020 and as the Wolfe Foundation Lecturer at the 2020 Iowa Eye Annual Meeting in Iowa City, Iowa in June 2020.



RAMONIA WILSON, MS, VR, RC, BSN, RN, CCM, CRNO has been elected to serve as a director on the National Certifying Board for Ophthalmic Registered Nurses (NCBORN). Her three-year term began on Jan. 1, 2020. NCBORN is an independently incorporated organization supported by the American Society of Ophthalmic Registered Nurses (ASORN) for the purpose of developing and implementing the certifying process for ophthalmic registered nurses. With regard to this opportunity, Wilson states, “It is my belief that this experience is an instrument that will only enhance my personal and professional growth. I am excited by and committed to the opportunity to positively influence the study of ophthalmology and visual rehabilitation. My goal is to ignite a fire, encourage and inspire other RNs to grow also and to promote safe, effective practices in the field of ophthalmology.”



TAMMY L. YANOVITCH, MD, MHSc, received an M. Dewayne Andrews, MD Excellence in Teaching Award in Graduate Medical Education from the Academy of Teaching Scholars, Oct. 2019 (see page 19); served as a mentor examiner for the fall 2019 American Board of Ophthalmology Oral Examination; and published Freedman S.F., Kraker R.T., Repka M.X., Wallace D.K., de Alba Campomanes A., Yanovitch T.L., Orge F.H., Gearinger M.D., Pediatric Eye Disease Investigator Group (PEDIG). “Incidence and Management of Glaucoma or Glaucoma Suspect in the First Year After Pediatric Lensectomy,” *Journal of the American Medical Association Ophthalmology*, Nov. 2019, [Epub ahead of print].

PHILANTHROPY UPDATE

Myers Joins Institute's Foundation Board



Max J. Myers, MBA

MAX J. MYERS, THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) FOUNDATION'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS,

serves as the chief financial officer for and is a founding partner of Tall Oak Midstream. He previously served as treasurer of OGE Energy Corporation.

Originally from the Wichita, Kansas area, Myers earned an undergraduate degree in business with a concentration in geology and a Master of Business Administration degree, both from the University of Kansas (KU). He currently serves on the KU Business School's Dean's Advisory Board. In Oklahoma City, he is the treasurer of Allied Arts and a member of the Board of Junior Achievement of OKC, for which he is a former Chairman of the Board. Myers previously served on the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics.

Myers and his wife Janie, who is a speech pathologist, have two sons and live in Edmond. ■

The year 2020 is a special one in the world of eye care and is made even more meaningful by the fact that the Dean McGee Eye Institute will celebrate its 45th Anniversary on December 4, 2020!



Dean McGee
EYE INSTITUTE

Vision...for Life.



Jim Durbin
Executive Director of Development

DONORS HELP DMEI REACH OUT TO STUDENTS IN NEED

HARDING CHARTER PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL IN OKLAHOMA CITY is a free and public school of choice that provides each student with an academically challenging educational experience. As some of the students who attend Harding may not have access to regular eye examinations, the school surveys all incoming ninth grade students and new upper class students during the fall semester of each year to ascertain if they regularly see a primary eye care provider. For any students who do not have a primary eye care provider, a team from the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) performs a vision screening each fall. If an issue is revealed, a student is provided a full eye exam at DMEI and provided treatment or prescriptive lenses if needed (all at no cost if the family does not have insurance and meets income eligibility requirements).

In 2019, this outreach was supported in part by a generous donation from Ray and Pat Potts. With their support, DMEI staff members were able to screen 67 students. Of these students, it

was determined that 33 required further follow-up with either an optometrist (21 of the students) or an ophthalmologist (12 of the students). To date, 17 of these 33 students have responded and have been seen by, or have scheduled an appointment with, one of DMEI's doctors.

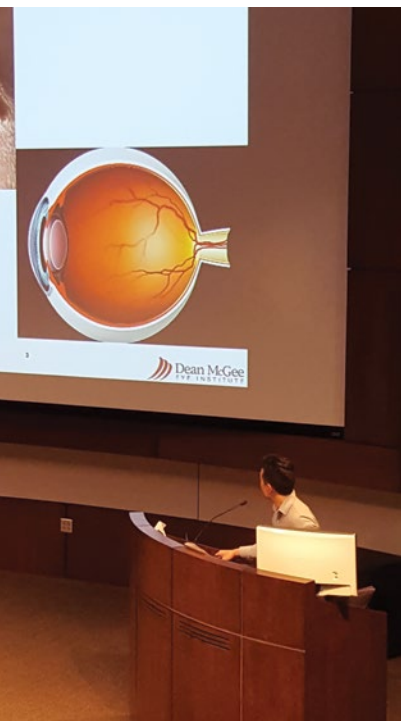
All of us at the Dean McGee Eye Institute are proud of this program and the positive influence it can have on the lives and learning of young people with eye care needs and how it can help advance them along the road to success. We truly appreciate the generosity of the Potts, which helped make this 2019 outreach possible! ■



DMEI technician Rikkilyn Hibbard (left) and a Harding student (right) during a vision screening at Harding Charter Preparatory High School.

18th Annual Macular Degeneration/Low Vision/Glaucoma (MDLVG) Seminar

The Dean McGee Eye Institute is dedicated to serving all Oklahomans and the global community through excellence and leadership in patient care, education, and vision research.



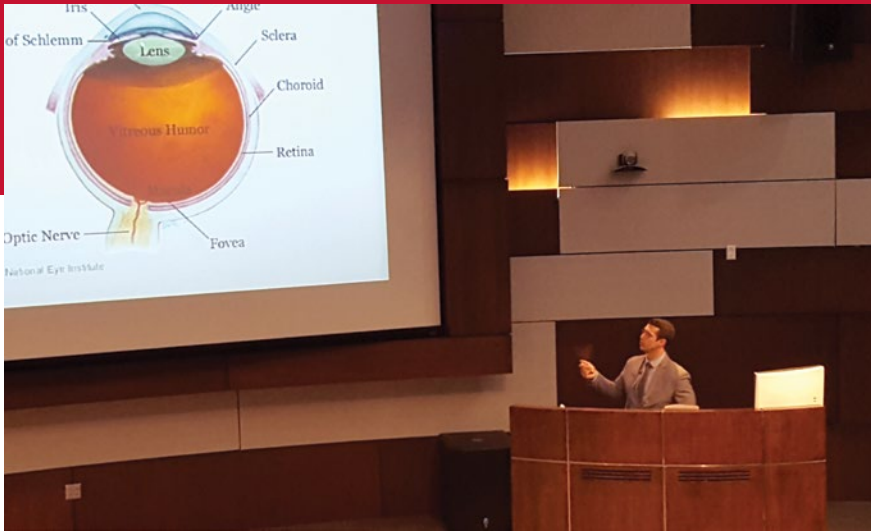
Dr. Stanley Park from DMEI gives a presentation on macular degeneration.

THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) HELPED FULFILL ITS MISSION

of serving patients through excellence and leadership in education by welcoming over 50 patients and guests to its 18th Annual Macular Degeneration/Low Vision/Glaucoma (MDLVG) Seminar. The community outreach event was held at the Samis Education Center at OU Children's Hospital on October 25 and was emceed by Jim Durbin, DMEI's executive director of development. Attendees heard from Judith A. Riley, OD, a low vision optometrist from NewView

Oklahoma (Tulsa); DMEI glaucoma specialist Ben J. Harvey, MD; and DMEI vitreoretinal surgery fellow Stanley S.K. Park, MD, in addition to representatives from NewView Oklahoma (Oklahoma City), the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation/Visual Services, and the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

The Institute is grateful to Alcon, the platinum sponsor for the seminar, and to volunteers from Delta Gamma at the University of Oklahoma. Other sponsors included the Samis Education Center, Southwestern Group of Companies, and OKC Digital. Exhibiting companies were Alcon, DMEI Optical Services, Genuine Care Rehabilitation, Inc. and Easy Living Concepts, NanoPac, Inc., Oklahoma Healthy Aging Initiative, Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, and Precision Optical. ■



Dr. Ben Harvey from DMEI presenting on glaucoma at the MDLVG Seminar.



Dr. Judith Riley (NewView Oklahoma, Tulsa) providing information on low vision devices.

Delta Gamma and “Service for Sight”

THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) IS IN THE FOURTH YEAR OF ITS partnership with the ladies of Delta Gamma (DG) from the University of Oklahoma (OU)-Norman campus. DG’s mission fosters lifetime enrichment for members and promotes “Service for Sight” through required philanthropy and service hours. DMEI was the recent recipient of half of the funds raised from DG’s 2019 fall fundraising event, called Anchorsplash. In 2019, \$7,459 was raised for the DMEI Foundation. To date, Delta Gamma has successfully raised almost \$45,000 for the DMEI Foundation! Anchorsplash is a swimming competition in which fraternities on campus compete in synchronized swimming and a number of other aquatic activities. This is one of the most popular and well-attended student-based events at OU.

ALPHA IOTA CHAPTER OF DELTA GAMMA 📍 744 ELM AVE | NORMAN, OK | 73069 📞 ESTABLISHED 1918

SURPRISING WAYS TO LEGACY WITHOUT WR

YOU CAN LEAVE A LEGACY AT THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) WITHOUT WRITING A CHECK. CONSIDER THESE OFTEN-OVERLOOKED GIFTS THAT CAN REFLECT YOUR CHARITABLE GOALS AND MAKE A MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE.

Stocks

If you own stock that has increased in value since you purchased it (and you have owned it for at least one year), donating it to the DMEI Foundation can score you tax savings. Not only will you receive the same income tax savings (if you itemize) as you would if you wrote us a check, but you will also eliminate capital gains taxes on the transfer, which can be as high as 20 percent.

Contact Jim Durbin at 405.271.7803 or jim-durbin@dmei.org for instructions on how to donate stock to the DMEI Foundation.

Bank and Brokerage Accounts

You can name one or more individuals or charities as the beneficiary of your financial accounts. There are two ways to do this based on the assets:

1. **Payable on death (POD):** Applies to your bank accounts—checking, savings accounts, and certificates of deposit (CDs).
2. **Transfer on death (TOD):** Applies to your brokerage or investment accounts.

State laws govern payable-on-death accounts and transfer-on-death accounts. Please consult with your bank representative or investment advisor if you are considering these types of gifts.

Remember, you can designate a certain percentage of the account rather than transferring all of the account solely to the DMEI Foundation. The beneficiary also has no rights to the funds until after your lifetime, allowing you to use the money in the account freely, change the beneficiary, or close the account.

LEAVE A GIVING A CHECK

Real Estate

If your home no longer fits your lifestyle or you are looking to downsize and simplify your life, consider donating it for the benefit of DMEI before putting it on the market. There are a number of tax-savvy ways to turn “home sweet home” into a charitable gift. However, gifts of real estate can be complex, so we always recommend that you consult with us before beginning the process and ask your professional advisor for help.

Life Insurance

Your need for life insurance likely declines as you get older, making it a great gift option that does not involve giving up assets you use today.

There are two main ways people use life insurance to support DMEI:

1. Name the DMEI Foundation as the beneficiary (or co-beneficiary) of an existing life insurance policy. After your lifetime, the proceeds support our mission.

2. Make the DMEI Foundation the owner and beneficiary of an unneeded policy, which may provide tax savings for you. The funds become immediately available for the Foundation’s use.

Where Do I Start?

We are happy to help you find the right gift option to meet your goals and discuss how your gift can support the Dean McGee Eye Institute. Please contact Jim Durbin at 405.271.7803 or jim-durbin@dmei.org.

Source: The Stelter Company. The information in this article is not intended as legal or tax advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney or tax advisor. Figures cited in any examples are for illustrative purposes only. References to tax rates include federal taxes only and are subject to change. State law may further impact your individual results.

DMEI Patient Donated Blankets to Global Eye Care Program

BY APRIL WILKERSON

FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS, LORRITA BAGWELL WAS A PATIENT OF BRADLEY K. FARRIS, MD, recently retired neuro-ophthalmologist at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI). During her appointments, Dr. Farris often talked to her about DMEI's global eye care program in China and Africa (now known as the Bradley K. Farris, MD Global Eye Care Program). During one of those visits, she felt a nudge to help out by providing blankets for those who would otherwise sleep on the ground.

That was about six years ago, and Bagwell faithfully provided blankets each year for Dr. Farris to take to Africa. Bagwell passed away in December, but with the help of her daughter, Kimberly Seals, had already purchased the next set of blankets.

"My mother would never give herself any credit. She always told Dr. Farris that God gets the credit," said Seals, who cared for her mother at her Edmond home. "Dr. Farris would come back and show us videos of people receiving the blankets and how appreciative they were. We were amazed because such a tiny act on our part made a huge difference to them."

Seals and her mother have purchased 10 blankets each year. While her mother had to stay within a budget, they have been discerning about the types of blankets bought in order to meet the needs of the recipients.



Dr. Bradley K. Farris and patient in Africa with blanket donated by the late Lorrita Bagwell.

"The blankets have to be dark in color and thick because, most of the time, they're going directly onto the ground," Seals said. "They also have to be easily shaken or beaten to clean because they don't have easy access to water to wash them. Dr. Farris gives them to people who are elderly or have severe disabilities or illnesses because they have very little comfort in their lives."

Seals said being part of the program made her realize that people in the United States sometimes complain about insignificant things in comparison.

"Dr. Farris told us about the first person who received a blanket and how their reaction had the DMEI team in tears. Then he had us in tears just telling us about it," Seals said. "After that, Mom said, 'We're getting blankets from now on.'" ■

Grateful Patient Receives Eyesight-Saving Treatment

BY APRIL WILKERSON

AVIS TAYLOR WAS WORRIED, NOT JUST ABOUT HER FAILING EYESIGHT but whether she could receive treatment for it at all.

Taylor and her husband, Cecil, had lost their jobs, their insurance, even their home. But a serendipitous conversation with a couple with whom they were staying led her to the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI), where she could receive treatment despite her financial situation.

Taylor had developed a severe cataract in her right eye and lost useful sight in that eye. She was panicked until she was connected to DMEI. Staff in the Patient Financial Assistance Program (PFAP) told her she indeed could receive treatment for her cataract. Soon, she had a date for surgery with Layne E. Goetzinger, MD, one of DMEI's cataract surgeons.

"I was nervous, but Dr. Goetzinger and the nurses were great," Taylor said. "They answered all my questions and told me I could ask more anytime."

But, even more important to Taylor was the respect with which she was treated.

"When you don't have insurance or money, you sometimes wonder what kind of treatment you will get," she said. "I felt like that did not matter at all. They weren't treating me like a second-class citizen. I felt like I was important from the moment I went there and after the surgery as well."

After surgery in October, Taylor could see again. She also learned that she has a cataract in her left eye, though not nearly as serious. She said she will return to DMEI for that surgery too.

The nurses and staff at DMEI helped Taylor with other concerns as well. She knew she had been prediabetic but had changed her eating habits and lost a lot of weight. Nurses checked her blood sugar and told her it had indeed returned to normal. To obtain her prescriptions related to the cataract surgery, staff members provided coupons and told her how to save money on her eye medication.

"I've never had people take care of me the way they did," she said. "If anybody ever asks me where to go for their eyes, it would be Dean McGee, hands-down." ■

13th Annual OU Vision Workshop and



Michael Elliott, PhD (left) presents Dr. David Calkins (right) with memento commemorating the 2019 Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD Lecture.

**DEAN MCGEE
EYE INSTITUTE
(DMEI)
RESEARCHERS**
and other vision scientists from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC), Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, University of North Texas, and University of

Texas-Southwestern participated in the 13th Annual OU Vision Student and Postdoctoral Fellow Workshop held on September 19-20, 2019 in the Tullos O. Coston, MD Lecture Hall at DMEI. The keynote speaker and Fourth Annual Robert E. Anderson MD, PhD Lecturer was David J. Calkins, PhD, Denis M. O'Day Professor, Vice Chair and Director for Research, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee. His Anderson Lecture was entitled "The Neuroscience of Glaucoma." Dr. Calkins also gave a career development lecture at the workshop entitled "For the Love of the Game: Service Through Leadership."

Dr. Calkins is also professor of pharmacology and professor of psychology at Vanderbilt University and the director of the Vanderbilt Vision Research Center, home to some 50 vision scientists across disciplines and departments. He is considered one of the world's leading

authorities on the neurological basis of vision loss in blinding eye disease and on neuronal protection, repair, and regeneration for conditions that affect the retina, optic nerve, and early visual pathways.

Professor Calkins earned his Bachelor of Science in mathematics from the University of Michigan Honors College and his PhD in neuroscience from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He completed postdoctoral fellowships at the Max Planck Institute for Brain Research in Frankfurt, Germany, and at the Johns Hopkins University Krieger Mind-Brain Institute. Dr. Calkins served on the faculty at the University of Rochester (New York) School of Medicine and Center for Visual Science before being recruited to Vanderbilt University Medical Center in 2004. There his research focus shifted towards the underlying mechanisms



Dr. Chris Schafer (right), a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Courtney Griffin's laboratory at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, receives the OU Vision Workshop's R.E. Anderson Award for Best Paper from Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD (left). Dr. Griffin also has an adjunct appointment in the OU College of Medicine's Department of Cell Biology.

4th Annual Anderson Lectureship

of vision loss in glaucoma and on developing new translational therapies and drugs. He has authored over 80 research articles, reviews and book chapters, including key publications in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *Nature*, *Journal of Neuroscience*, *Molecular Neurodegeneration*, and *Neurobiology of Disease*. He also holds editorial positions on several neurology, ophthalmology, and neuroscience journals.

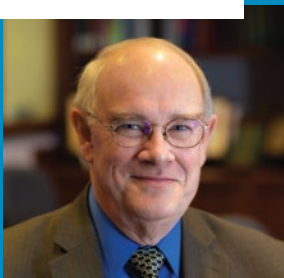
Professor Calkins, who has held and continues to hold numerous grants from the National Eye Institute and other funding agencies, has been named an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Neuroscience Fellow and has been awarded the Thomas R. Lee Award for National Glaucoma Research and the Lewis Rudin Glaucoma Prize of The New York Academy of Medicine. He was recognized by Research to Prevent Blindness with a Senior Scientific Investigator Award (2014) and more recently with the Stein Innovation Award (2018). In 2016, he was named a Gold Fellow by the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology for his contributions to the vision research community and was

named an inaugural awardee of the Stanley Cohen Innovation Fund. Dr. Calkins currently is chief editor and author of the upcoming textbook, *The Visual System*, to be published by Oxford University Press in 2020. ■



Hunter Porter (middle), a PhD candidate in the laboratories of Drs. Willard Freeman and Jonathan Wren at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, receives the OU Vision Workshop's Wei Cao Award for Innovation from Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD (left). Also shown are Dr. Feng Li (second from left), Dr. David Calkins, the 2019 Anderson Lecturer (second from right), and Dr. Michael Elliott (right).

SAVE THE DATE



5th Annual Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD Lecture
October 1, 2020

14th Annual OU Vision Workshop
October 1-2, 2020

Tullos O. Coston, MD Lecture Hall, Dean McGee Eye Institute, Acers Pavilion, Fifth Floor

Paul A. Sieving, MD, PhD

Professor of Ophthalmology, University of California - Davis Eye Center
Former Director, National Eye Institute

2020 Recipient of the Dean's Award for Distinguished Medical Service

ROBERT E. "GENE" ANDERSON, MD, PhD WAS PRESENTED with the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Medicine Alumni Association's 2020 Dean's Award for Distinguished Medical Service as part of the Alumni Association's Evening of Excellence gala event on January 23 at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

Dr. Anderson eloquently expressed his thanks for the award and emphasized the importance of research in general and at the OU Health Sciences Center in particular.

Martin-Paul Agbaga, PhD, an assistant professor in the Departments of Cell Biology and Ophthalmology, also was on the program as the College of Medicine Research Scholar and delivered an inspiring message about the

importance of his prior seed grant from the OU College of Medicine Alumni Association in achieving success with regard to his recently awarded R01 and R21 grants from the National Institutes of Health.

David R. Harlow, the chief executive officer of BancFirst Corporation, received the Dean's Award for Distinguished Community Service. Mr. Harlow and Drs. Anderson and Agbaga all received standing ovations from the more than 500 people in attendance.

Congratulations to the two Dean's Awardees for their recognition and to Drs. Anderson and Agbaga for representing the Dean McGee Eye Institute and OU Department of Ophthalmology so marvelously at the 2020 Evening of Excellence! ■



Dean's Awardees David R. Harlow (left center) and Dr. Robert E. "Gene" Anderson (right center) are shown with Executive Dean John P. Zubialde, MD (far left) and Jason S. Lees, MD (far right), president of the Alumni Association.



Dr. Anderson delivers his acceptance remarks.



Drs. Anderson (back, second from right) and Agbaga (back left) are joined by family, friends, and colleagues at the Evening of Excellence.

RESEARCH FACULTY— DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

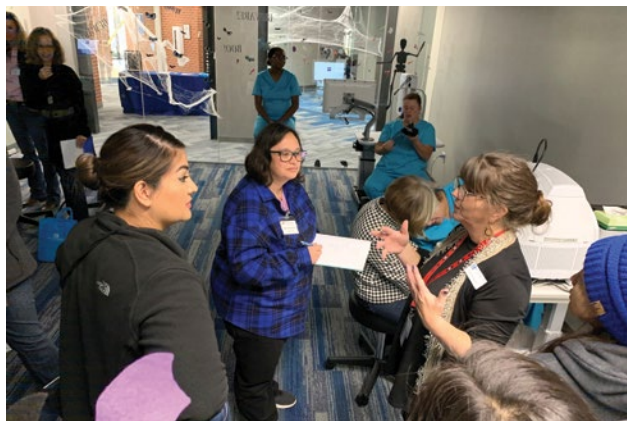
Martin-Paul Agbaga, PhD
 Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD
 Lea D. Bennett, PhD
 Richard S. Brush, BS
 Michelle C. Callegan, PhD, FARVO

Daniel J.J. Carr, PhD
 Yan Chen, PhD
 Phillip S. Coburn, PhD
 Michael H. Elliott, PhD, FARVO
 Kevin K. Fuller, PhD

Dimitrios Karamichos, PhD
 Darren J. Lee, PhD
 Sun Young Lee, MD, PhD
 Feng Li, MD, MPH, MS
 Raju V.S. Rajala, PhD

FALL TECHNICIAN LECTURE SERIES

IN OCTOBER 2019, THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE'S (DMEI'S) FALL TECHNICIAN LECTURE SERIES was held in partnership with Metro Technology Centers in Metro Tech's new ophthalmic assistant training classrooms at its northeast Oklahoma City campus. Twenty-two ophthalmic assistants and technicians from the community attended along with students from the "Eye Care Technologies" program at Metro Tech. Stephanie Huggins, a certified ophthalmic technician (COT) with DMEI, taught Goldmann applanation tonometry, which is the "gold standard" for measuring intraocular pressure. Jeremy Cooper, a certified ophthalmic medical technologist (COMT) also with DMEI, taught ocular motility testing, and Shannon Robison, COT with Metro Tech and the director of the program, demonstrated how to perform optical coherence tomography (OCT), which obtains diagnostic images of the back of a patient's eye. ■



Shannon Robison, COT (right) instructing two attendees during training sessions at Metro Technology Centers' northeast Oklahoma City campus.



Pictured are Shannon Robison, COT (left), Stephanie Huggins, COT (back left), and Jeremy Cooper, COMT (back right) with six students currently enrolled in Metro Tech's "Eye Care Technologies" program.



SAVE THE DATE!
44th Annual OU Resident and Alumni Meeting
Friday/Saturday, June 5-6, 2020

41st Tullio O. Coston, MD Lecture (June 6)

Tamara R. Fountain, MD

President-Elect, American Academy of Ophthalmology

Immediate Past President, American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Past Chair, Board of Directors, Ophthalmic Mutual Insurance Company

THE 28TH ANNUAL WALTER J. STARK



Dr. Ruth D. Williams (center) pictured with her husband, Dr. Stephen C. Gieser, and several Dean McGee Eye Institute ophthalmology residents.

THE 28TH ANNUAL WALTER J. STARK MEMORIAL LECTURE WAS DELIVERED

by Ruth D. Williams, MD, in the Tullos O. Coston, MD Lecture Hall on September 30, 2019. Her presentation was entitled “The Evolution of Evidence: Clinical Decision-Making in the 21st Century.”

Dr. Williams is glaucoma consultant and partner at the Wheaton Eye Clinic in Wheaton, Illinois, which she joined in 1991 and for which she served as president and chief executive officer from 2010 to 2018. The chief medical editor of the American Academy of Ophthalmology’s (AAO’s) *EyeNet* magazine since 2016, Dr. Williams served as president of the Academy in 2012.

Dr. Williams grew up in Wyoming, earned her Bachelor of Science degree in biology at Wheaton (Illinois) College, and was an Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society graduate of Rush Medical College in Chicago, Illinois. After an internship at West Suburban Hospital in Oak Park, Illinois, she completed her ophthalmology residency at California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco, California, followed by a glaucoma fellowship with Shaffer Associates/University of California – San Francisco.



Drs. Ruth D. Williams and Stephen C. Gieser (center) with members of the Stark Family on September 30. Pictured (left to right) with a bust of Dean A. McGee: Susan Moorman, Dr. Walter Stark Jr., Polly Stark, Drs. Gieser and Williams, Robert White, and Penny Repogle.

MEMORIAL LECTURESHIP

An outstanding figure in the profession of ophthalmology, Dr. Williams held numerous leadership positions in the AAO prior to her service as president, including trustee-at-large on the AAO Board of Trustees, secretary for member services, and major roles in the Academy's programs for young ophthalmologists. Dr. Williams also has been very active in the American Medical Association (AMA) and served as chair of the AMA's Ophthalmology Section Council and as chair of the AMA's Surgical and Specialty Section. Currently, she is vice chair of the Glaucoma Research Foundation in San Francisco.

Dr. Williams has served as secretary for Women in Ophthalmology and as an examiner for the American Board of Ophthalmology. For her service to the Academy, Dr. Williams has received a Secretariat Award and Senior Achievement Award. She also has received numerous "Best Doctor/Top Doctor" accolades.

In addition to maintaining a busy clinical practice, Dr. Williams has served as a national spokesperson on ophthalmic issues through television, radio, and magazine interviews and has lectured broadly both nationally and internationally.

Dr. Williams and her husband, Dr. Stephen C. Gieser, also a glaucoma specialist at the Wheaton Eye Clinic, have three children. She is an avid reader and snow skier and has completed numerous marathons.

It was an honor for the Dean McGee Eye Institute to host Dr. Williams, one of the most prominent leaders in American ophthalmology, as the 28th Walter J. Stark Memorial Lecturer! ■



SAVE THE DATE: Monday, October 19, 2020
THE 29TH ANNUAL WALTER J. STARK MEMORIAL LECTURESHIP
8:30 am–9:30 am • Tullos O. Coston, MD Lecture Hall

Wallace L. M. "Lee" Alward, MD

Frederick C. Blodi Professor of Ophthalmology
Vice Chair, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences
Director, Glaucoma Service
University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine
Iowa City, Iowa

DMEI Distinguished Visiting Lecturers



OCTOBER 21, 2019

Anthony C. Arnold, MD (left center)

Professor and Chief, Neuro-Ophthalmology Division
Vice Chair for Education

Director, University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) Optic Neuropathy Center
UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Los Angeles, California

Grand Rounds Guest Lecture:

"Imaging the Microvasculature of the Optic Nerve Head with Ischemic and Nonischemic Edema"

2020 Distinguished Lecturers

FEBRUARY 10

**Alice Lorch, MD, MPH,
and BR Daubman, MD**
Harvard University
Massachusetts Eye and Ear
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

**Focus on Ethics, Professionalism,
and Communication**
Topic: "Breaking Bad News to Patients"

MARCH 9

Leon W. Herndon Jr., MD
Professor of Ophthalmology
Chief of Glaucoma Division
Duke University Eye Center
Durham, North Carolina

Topic: Glaucoma

Mentorship at Dean McGee Eye Institute

AN ELEMENT OF THE VISION OF THE DELTA GAMMA (DG) SORORITY is to provide life-enriching educational opportunities for its members. The ladies of DG at the University of Oklahoma (OU) once again committed a portion of their 2019–2020 volunteer hours to shadowing Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) doctors in clinic and in surgery at the McGee Eye Surgery Center. A total of 10 different shadow sessions were coordinated by DMEI’s Director of External Relations, Melody Marcum, along with coordination of 13 DG volunteers donating their time to the DMEI pediatric eye clinic, where they read to young patients. ■



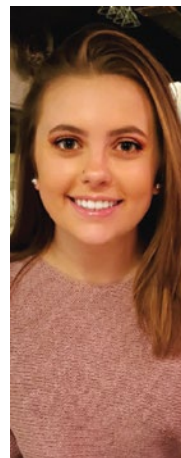
Brandalyn D. Loyko, OD (right) was shadowed in clinic by Halle Gutierrez (left), a junior at OU and a member of Delta Gamma.

“Thank you so much for allowing me to intern at Dean McGee this summer. I can confidently say that this summer was one of the best summers I have ever had. I learned so much through this experience and the projects that I did. I will take these lessons with me and apply them in everything I do for the rest of my life.” – Anna Kakish



Anna Kakish, a junior at OU and a member of Delta Gamma, currently serves as a part-time administrative assistant to Garyl G. Geist, the Dean McGee Eye Institute’s executive vice president and chief operating officer.

“I have had a wonderful experience so far interning at the McGee Eye Surgery Center. Thank you so much for this opportunity, and I wanted to let you know that I was recently accepted into OU’s nursing program!! I hope to continue my internship next semester. I have learned so much and am thankful to have had this experience.” – Lauren Schenian



Lauren Schenian, a sophomore at OU and a member of Delta Gamma, was recently admitted into OU’s nursing program.

Table Rock Regional Roundup

THE OKLAHOMA ACADEMY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY (OAO) HELD ITS ANNUAL CONFERENCE in conjunction with the Table Rock Regional Roundup Meeting at Big Cedar Lodge in Ridgedale, Missouri on September 19-21, 2019. This four-state regional educational meeting includes the OAO, Arkansas Ophthalmological Society, Kansas Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, and Missouri Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons. The annual conference attracts approximately 100 ophthalmologists from these four states and from across the country. It features educational sessions on the latest in clinical and surgical treatments, practice management, and advocacy issues.

Dr. Andrew K. Bailey, a glaucoma specialist and clinical associate professor at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI), along with recent resident graduate, Valerie L. Lobodiak, MD, presented “Training vs. Attending Ab-Interno Canaloplasty (ABiC): A Retrospective Review.” In addition, Dr. Gerta Mane, a current senior resident, presented “Da Vinci and the Eye: How Ophthalmic Disease Influences Perception of Art.”

The next Table Rock Regional Roundup Meeting is scheduled for September 24-26, 2020, again at Big Cedar Lodge in Ridgedale, Missouri. ■



Andrew K. Bailey, MD
Clinical Associate Professor



Gerta Mane, MD
PGY-4 Resident



Valerie L. Lobodiak, MD
2019 Resident Graduate

Medical Student Ophthalmology Workshop Prepares Future MDs

DECADES AGO, MEDICAL STUDENTS WERE TAUGHT HOW TO EXAMINE THE eye by non-ophthalmologists. David W. Parke II, MD, past president and chief executive officer (CEO) of the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and current CEO of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, asked Cynthia A. Bradford, MD to arrange for ophthalmologists to teach second-year medical students (MS2s) basic eye examination skills. The MS2 Ophthalmology Workshop was thus implemented and has since been held annually every fall.

During the first two years of medical school when students in the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Medicine learn the science of medicine (anatomy, biochemistry, pharmacology, pathology, physiology, etc.), they also have a course called Clinical Medicine I & II. As OU medical students learn to take a medical history and perform examinations, DMEI physicians teach the history-taking and examination-of-the-eye portions of the course.

Dr. Bradford, who is a Presbyterian Health Foundation Presidential Professor in the OU Department of Ophthalmology and oversees medical student education at DMEI (see pages 19-20), presents two 45-minute lectures early

in the week. At the end of the week on Friday afternoon, small groups of the second-year medical students work with DMEI clinical faculty or a DMEI resident to learn to perform a basic eye examination, including how to measure the vision, examine the pupils, check eye movements, test the peripheral vision, examine and evert the eyelids, and use the direct ophthalmoscope to evaluate the optic nerve and retina. There are visual aids to address basic concepts and help students understand what an ophthalmologist does.

Medical surveys have shown that people fear the loss of vision more than any other body function. Therefore, whatever specialty of medicine the students ultimately choose, having an understanding of the human eye and basic examination skills related to the eye is critical. ■



Cynthia A. Bradford, MD

OKLAHOMA OPHTHALMOLOGIST



Lee E. Schoeffler, MD

DURING HIS MORE THAN 40 YEARS OF OPHTHALMOLOGY PRACTICE IN OKLAHOMA,

Lee E. Schoeffler, MD, committed himself to improving his patients' lives through clinical care and advocating for policy at the state and national levels.

Dr. Schoeffler came of age as an ophthalmologist alongside the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI). He graduated from the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Medicine in 1970 and finished his residency in

1975 at OU, caring for patients in the basement of the Rogers Building, just north of what is now the OU Hudson College of Public Health. Dr. Schoeffler did not actually train at DMEI because the original building was dedicated late in the same year that he finished residency. But he watched the structure come to life, along with the dreams of many physicians and city leaders, as well as the Institute's namesake, prominent businessman Dean McGee.

"I went to the original luncheon that launched the Eye Institute," Dr. Schoeffler said. "It was a great experience – lots of good people laid the groundwork and brought the Institute to fruition. Dr. Tom Acers also played a key role as the first chair of the ophthalmology department and president of DMEI. Dr. Acers was very bright, and he was a bulldog. You needed a bulldog to bite onto the project and not let go until it was finished, and he did a great job."

"It was a bold step to create DMEI, and they did it," he added. "It was and remains an innovation in Oklahoma." In December 2020, DMEI will celebrate its 45th anniversary (see page 26).

In July 1975, Dr. Schoeffler began a private practice in Tulsa. In the late 1970s, he became intrigued by Dr. Conor O'Malley's new methods for treating vitreoretinal diseases. Dr. Schoeffler attended several related meetings and decided he wanted to specialize in that area. In 1982,

WATCHED DMEI COME TO LIFE

BY APRIL WILKERSON

he closed his practice and began a fellowship in vitreoretinal surgery at the Devers Eye Institute and the University of Oregon in Portland. In 1983, he returned to Tulsa and reopened his practice, where he treated patients until he retired in December 2016.

Around 1976, Dr. Schoeffler began his foray into medical politics. He and his practice partner, Dr. Joe Cole, were elected to lead the Tulsa Ophthalmological Society. This Society helped represent ophthalmology at the legislature on political and scope of practice issues, something that Dr. Schoeffler continued throughout his career.

Dr. Schoeffler was a delegate to the American Association of Ophthalmology and later was the first from Oklahoma to serve on the Board of Councilors for the reorganized American Academy of Ophthalmology. He also served as president of the Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology. In 2004, he was elected to the board of PLICO, an Oklahoma health care liability insurance carrier that was acquired by the MedPro Group in 2015.

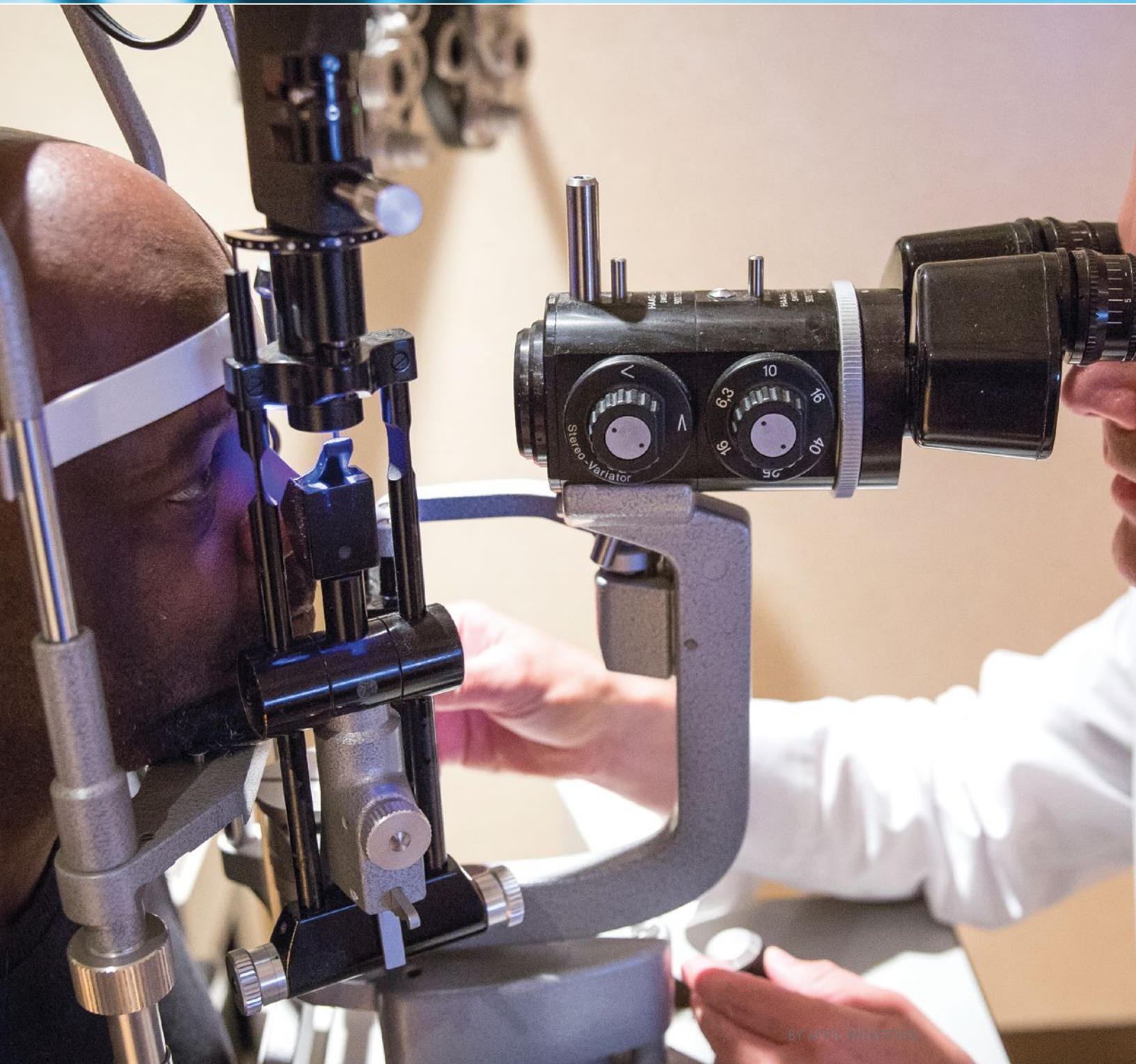
In the early 2000s, Dr. Schoeffler became involved with the Oklahoma State Medical Association (OSMA). He was elected president of OSMA in 2008 and helped lead a project to construct a new building for its headquarters. He was later elected to serve on the OSMA health board.

In 2009, Dr. Schoeffler received the Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology's Distinguished Service Award for his commitment to this organization. He has served on the OU College of Medicine Admissions Board and the Oklahoma Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees for the OU College of Medicine Alumni Association,

from which he received the Physician of the Year Award – Private Practice in 2015.

A native of northeastern Oklahoma, Dr. Schoeffler has enjoyed playing music outside of work, including performing with the Tulsa Community College Orchestra as a French hornist beginning in 1980. After retirement, he moved to Norman, where he resumed music and taking lessons. He and his wife, Kay, have four children. ■

“It was a bold step to create DMEI, and they did it,” he added. “It was and remains an innovation in Oklahoma.”



BY APRIL ANDERSON

Dr. Andrew K. Bailey (right) examines a patient with glaucoma. He is the recipient of multiple teaching awards.



Dean McGee Eye Institute's Glaucoma Specialists

PROVIDE INNOVATIVE CARE AND TREATMENTS

BY APRIL WILKERSON

AT THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI), OPHTHALMOLOGISTS SPECIALIZING IN GLAUCOMA OFFER A BALANCED AND BROAD RANGE OF MEDICAL, LASER, AND SURGICAL THERAPIES TO PROTECT VISION FROM THIS DAMAGING ARRAY OF EYE CONDITIONS.

Four DMEI ophthalmologists are highly specialized in the treatment of glaucoma, one of the leading causes of blindness for people over age 60. Glaucoma generally falls into two categories – open-angle and closed-angle, both typically causing increased pressure in the eye. As the optic nerve is damaged over time, people may experience blind spots, first in their peripheral vision and eventually affecting their central vision. Treatment for glaucoma has advanced extensively in recent years, and DMEI ophthalmologists take time for plenty of discussion about the best approach given each patient's life and preferences.

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“The glaucoma team at the Dean McGee Eye Institute has been very active in clinical and surgical trials to refine our understanding of the most appropriate treatments for glaucoma and has been particularly engaged in studying and developing innovative surgical approaches,” said Gregory L. Skuta, MD, president and chief executive officer of the Dean McGee Eye Institute and Edward L. Gaylord professor and chair of the University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology.

In addition to leading DMEI, Dr. Skuta is one of the Institute’s glaucoma specialists. Along with treating patients, he has furthered the field through research, education, and national and international leadership. He is a past president of the American Glaucoma Society and American Academy of Ophthalmology, past Board of Governors member of the World Glaucoma Association, and a member of the Glaucoma Research Society, among many other glaucoma-related activities. His clinical research has advanced the field of glaucoma, and he has a particular interest in wound healing and its modulation in glaucoma filtering surgery, as well as glaucoma clinical trials.

Some of Dr. Skuta’s thoughts and observations on advances in the field of glaucoma are shared in his “President’s View” on pages 2 and 3.

DMEI clinicians and surgeons treat patients across the spectrum of glaucoma, from early diagnosis to advanced. Because DMEI is a major referral center for the state and region, the doctors here tend to see more patients with challenging cases of glaucoma, who benefit from physicians’ expertise and cutting-edge technology.

For patients with early glaucoma, administration of eye drops is often the first line of treatment for lowering eye pressure. Used daily, the drops are effective and generally well-tolerated. However, they can be expensive, and it’s frequently hard for patients to remember to use them every day. That’s when laser surgery becomes an option. Andrew K. Bailey, MD, a clinical associate professor and former DMEI resident and glaucoma fellow, is among the ophthalmologists offering several types of laser therapy. Some of these open or “unclog” the eye’s drainage system, called the



Pictured (left to right): Gregory L. Skuta, MD (DMEI president, chief executive officer, and glaucoma specialist) receives American Glaucoma Society’s (AGS’) President’s Award in 2018 from AGS President Cynthia Mattox, MD.

trabecular meshwork, while others reduce the amount of fluid made by the eye.

“Water is produced in the eye, similar to a natural spring bringing forth water into a creek,” Dr. Bailey said. “We can apply laser thermal energy to turn down that output to reduce the amount of water (called “aqueous humor”) being put into the drainage system, thereby reducing the pressure on the optic nerve.”

In some situations, laser surgery can become first-line therapy. However, when eye drops and/or laser therapy are no longer effective enough, the Institute offers a variety of surgical procedures, both “traditional” and “minimally invasive.” DMEI glaucoma specialists perform both types but also tend to focus on different areas.

One of the most significant minimally invasive surgical advancements, called ABiC, originated at DMEI and has become prevalent worldwide for treating glaucoma. ABiC, which stands for ab-interno canaloplasty, was developed by Mahmoud A. Khaimi, MD, who is originally from Michigan, completed his fellowship at DMEI in 2006 with Dr. Skuta, and was then recruited to stay on the faculty. Dr. Khaimi’s path to creating ABiC began in early 2008 when a new procedure called canaloplasty was introduced in the United States. Dr. Khaimi, now a clinical professor and director of the glaucoma fellowship program, was among

“...the doctors here tend to see more patients with challenging cases of glaucoma, who benefit from physicians’ expertise and cutting-edge technology.”



Mahmoud A. Khaimi, MD was honored as The Journal Record's 2017 Innovator of the Year.

the early adopters and national leaders in the procedure, in which a small catheter is placed into the eye’s drainage system to enlarge this canal (called the canal of Schlemm) and relieve pressure. Canaloplasty rejuvenates the eye’s natural outflow system without having to rebuild it.

However, Dr. Khaimi felt it could be improved upon and made even less invasive, and he did just that five years ago when he developed ABiC. He used the world’s smallest catheter—at a diameter of 200 microns—to thread into and around the

eye’s drainage system through a tiny incision. The drainage system is ballooned open and its volume increased, allowing more “water” into the drain.

“It’s the same approach as a cardiologist feeding a catheter into a person’s heart, finding the



DMEI technician measuring intraocular pressure in a patient.

...continued from previous page...

clogged blood vessel and ballooning it open,” Dr. Khaimi said. “The revolutionary part of ABiC is that we gain access to the natural drainage system through a small incision in the cornea, and we’re able to flush out the drainage system and restore its function. We’re able to intervene a lot earlier in the disease process with ABiC, which has been a paradigm shift for both physicians and patients.”

Dr. Khaimi has performed more than 5,000 ABiC procedures and has lectured and taught it across the nation and world. In 2017, he was named “Innovator of the Year” by *The Journal Record* for his innovation.

DMEI offers many other minimally invasive surgeries for glaucoma that provide quick recovery time and less risk for patients. Those include XEN gel stents implanted in eyes to

lower pressure by creating a new pathway for the aqueous fluid in the eye, and surgeries in which stents are placed through the meshwork directly into the eye’s natural drainage system.

“It’s liberating to have more options with greater safety profiles for patients,” Dr. Bailey said.

Traditional surgeries still very much have a role in glaucoma treatment, however. Some patients need more pressure relieved than a minimally invasive procedure can accomplish. Traditional surgeries such as trabeculectomy or glaucoma implants involve incisions and sutures to fashion new drainage systems.

“I perform some minimally invasive surgeries, but I tend to fill the role of the traditional glaucoma surgeon,” said Ben J. Harvey, MD, a clinical assistant professor at DMEI who is actively engaged in training residents and fellows. “Traditional surgeries take more time and post-surgery care, but if you’re able to do them properly, the outcomes are really good. One of most common traditional surgeries I perform is the trabeculectomy, in which you are fashioning a new drainage system for the eye using the patient’s own tissue, without inserting devices or implants.”

No matter the type of glaucoma treatment, patients benefit from DMEI having multiple faculty on the glaucoma service. These ophthalmologists can collaborate on difficult cases and, among the four specialists, provide numerous options for all patients. They also work closely with other DMEI subspecialists (e.g., retina surgeons) in managing complex types of glaucoma.

Beyond the walls of DMEI, ophthalmologists advocate for their patients and their profession through service with many organizations.

Dr. Harvey is currently the president of the Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology (OAO), which has successfully promoted state legislation benefitting patients. One is the Early Eye Drop Refill Bill, which allows patients to refill their eye drop prescriptions in a timely fashion.

“If patients have used all their eye drops and still have a few days until the specified refill date, this bill requires insurance to pay for an earlier refill,” Dr. Harvey said. “Otherwise, the patient would have to pay out of pocket or go a certain amount of time without using the drops, which can worsen their glaucoma. Patients sometimes put more than one drop in their eye, or they miss their eye entirely, and with a finite amount of drops in a bottle, it can be difficult to exactly utilize that prescription during a 30-day period.”

Dr. Bailey also has been involved with OAO as a member at-large. In addition, he is active as an educator, teaching residents and fellows at DMEI and at the VA Medical Center, for which he has received three Excellence in Attending Awards in the past five years. In 2018, he was recognized with an M. Dewayne Andrews, MD Excellence in Teaching Award in Graduate Medical Education.

Dr. Khaimi has served as the vice chair of the Glaucoma Practicing Ophthalmologists Curriculum Committee of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, which created educational materials for ophthalmologists’ recertification process required by the American

Board of Ophthalmology. He also teaches residents and fellows at DMEI and served as associate editor for the book *Essentials of Glaucoma Surgery*.

“...we have a role to play in advocating for our patients and our profession.”

For his efforts in patient care and leadership, Dr. Harvey was named a member of the *Oklahoma Gazette’s* “Forty Under 40” Class of 2019 (see page 17).

“I feel like we have a role to play in advocating for our patients and our profession,” Dr. Bailey said. “We want to educate policymakers on the downstream effects of their decisions, either good or bad. Having those conversations allows for the best-informed decisions.”

On a daily basis, the members of DMEI’s glaucoma service are working together to ensure that their patients are the benefactors of clinical and surgical innovations designed to help preserve vision for their lifetimes. ■



Ben J. Harvey, MD was honored among the *Oklahoma Gazette’s* “Forty Under 40” Class of 2019.

“

A diamond does not start out polished and shining. It once was nothing special, but with enough pressure and time, it becomes spectacular.

– Solange Nicole, Author

”





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