



**focus on vision care:**  
CORNEA SPECIALISTS TACKLE  
THE MYSTERIES OF THE EYES

• DMEI •  
**inVIsion**

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE

vision care  
research  
education  
community

## DMEI phone directory

### Oklahoma Health Center

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#### Cornea and External Diseases

(405) 271-1095 ▪ (800) 787-9017

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Donald U. Stone, M.D.

#### General Ophthalmology/Cataract Surgery

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Charles P. Bogie III, M.D., Ph.D.  
Gemini J. Bogie, M.D.  
Cynthia A. Bradford, M.D.  
David W. Jackson, M.D.  
Deana S. Watts, M.D.

#### Glaucoma

(405) 271-1093 ▪ (800) 787-9015

Mahmoud A. Khaimi, M.D.  
Steven R. Sarkisian, Jr., M.D.  
Gregory L. Skuta, M.D.

#### Low Vision Rehabilitation

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#### Neuro-Ophthalmology

(405) 271-1094 ▪ (800) 787-9016

R. Michael Siatkowski, M.D.

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Nancy A. Townsend, B.C.O.

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(405) 271-6174 ▪ (800) 787-9012

##### Contact Lenses

(405) 271-6084 ▪ (800) 787-9012

Jean Ann Vickery, Director, Contact Lens Services

#### Optometric Services

(405) 271-1090 ▪ (800) 787-9012

Dana M. Garber, O.D.  
Angela M. Plant, O.D.

#### Pediatric Ophthalmology/Strabismus

(405) 271-1094 ▪ (800) 787-9016

R. Michael Siatkowski, M.D.  
Lucas Trigler, M.D.

#### Retina/Vitreous

(405) 271-1092 ▪ (800) 787-9014

Reagan H. Bradford, Jr., M.D.  
Stephen R. Fransen, M.D.  
Darin R. Haivala, M.D.  
Ronald M. Kingsley, M.D.  
Robert E. Leonard II, M.D.

#### Trauma/Emergency

(405) 271-6060 ▪ (800) 787-9012

### OU Harold Hamm Oklahoma Diabetes Center

1000 N. Lincoln Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104

SUITE 150

#### McGee Eye Surgery Center (MESCC)

(405) 232-8696

SUITE 340

#### General Ophthalmology

#### Cataract Surgery

(405) 271-2010 ▪ (877) 406-4193

Layne E. Goetzinger, M.D.  
David W. Jackson, M.D.

#### Refractive Surgery

(405) 271-2010 ▪ (877) 406-4193

David W. Jackson, M.D.

SUITE 390

#### Neuro-Ophthalmology

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Bradley K. Farris, M.D.  
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#### Oculoplastic Ophthalmology

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Adam G. de la Garza, M.D.  
P. Lloyd Hildebrand, M.D.

### Dean McGee Eye Institute Satellite Locations

Edmond ▪ Lawton ▪ Northwest Oklahoma City

#### EDMOND

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(405) 348-0913

#### General Ophthalmology

#### Glaucoma

Mahmoud A. Khaimi, M.D.

#### General Ophthalmology

#### Neuro-Ophthalmology

Anil D. Patel, M.D.

#### General Ophthalmology

#### Ophthalmic Surgery

#### Refractive Surgery

Charles P. Bogie III, M.D., Ph.D.

#### Optometric Services

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#### Pediatric Ophthalmology

#### Ophthalmic Surgery

Lucas Trigler, M.D.

#### Optical Services

Contact Lens Services

#### LAWTON

3201 W. Gore Blvd., #200  
(580) 250-5855

#### General Ophthalmology

#### Ophthalmic Surgery

Ann A. Warn, M.D.

John P. Fang, M.D.

#### Oculoplastic Ophthalmology

Noelene K. Pang, M.D.

#### Optical Services

#### NORTHWEST OKC

3500 N.W. 56th #101  
(405) 942-9545

#### General Ophthalmology

#### Ophthalmic Surgery

Gemini J. Bogie, M.D.

Ralph B. Hester III, M.D.

#### Optical Services

Contact Lens Services

### Dean McGee Eye Institute

Home to the Department  
of Ophthalmology of the  
University of Oklahoma

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Professor and Chair  
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University of Oklahoma*  
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# • DMEI • inVision

WINTER 2009

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# DMEI's Legacy of Leadership and Promise for the Future



Gregory L. Skuta, M.D.

**IT IS AN EXTRAORDINARY HONOR TO BE SELECTED** as the third President and Chief Executive Officer of the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and as Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology in the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Medicine. This period of transition provides a unique opportunity to reflect on DMEI's rich legacy of leadership and a most promising future.

After an illustrious 17-year tenure (1992-2009) as President/CEO/Chair, Dr. David Parke was appointed as Executive Vice President of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) effective April 1, 2009. He now leads the world's largest and most influential ophthalmology organization and undoubtedly will have broad and positive impact on our profession in this vital role. Dr. Parke also served as AAO president in 2008.

Dr. Parke's selection for this prominent position is not only a tribute to him personally but also to our institution and its proud heritage of outstanding leadership. Dr. Tullos Coston, a pillar of knowledge, dignity, and integrity, served as chair of the Department from 1963 to 1972. He was followed by Dr. Thomas Acers, who, in close collaboration with Mr. Dean McGee and Dr. Richard Clay, fulfilled a dream to construct a world-class eye institute in Oklahoma City, which culminated in the dedication of the Dean McGee Eye Institute in 1975. Dr. Acers served as Chair from 1972 to 1991 and as the first President and CEO of DMEI until succeeded by Dr. Parke.

The DMEI faculty have assembled a strong record of national and international service,

which has brought honor, respect, and recognition to our Institute. It would be impossible to list all of the past and current faculty who have held major leadership positions in our profession. To highlight just a few, Drs. Cynthia Bradford and Greg Skuta currently serve on the AAO's Board of Trustees, and Dr. Michael Siatkowski is a Director of the American Board of Ophthalmology. Dr. Robert "Gene" Anderson, our Director for Ophthalmic Research and past president of the International Society for Eye Research, recently was honored as a Gold Fellow by the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, for which he has served as a Vice President. Drs. Bradley Farris and Lloyd Hildebrand are transforming eye care and education through their heroic efforts in the Sichuan Province of China. The accomplishments of many others are highlighted elsewhere in this publication.

Thanks to this legacy of remarkable leadership, clinicians and surgeons in the forefront of the profession, outstanding training programs, a world-class research enterprise, a highly committed staff and Board of Trustees, and a major expansion of its physical facilities, DMEI and the OU Department of Ophthalmology are positioned to reach even higher levels of excellence and national prominence.

Even now, the OU residency program, directed by Dr. Charles Bogie, is regarded as one of the best in the nation. In the research arena, our Department remains in the top ten in the nation in funding from the National Institutes of Health. Upon completion of an 80,000 square foot expansion, our ability to recruit

additional current and future leaders in ophthalmology and vision research will help propel this institution forward and further secure its place as one of the country's premier eye institutes.

I am excited about our prospects and the tremendous possibilities that lie ahead. In reaching toward a future of great promise, we will ready ourselves to better serve not only the citizens of our great city, state, and region but also the national and global community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory L. Skuta". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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

\* Pending OU Regents consideration and approval

“...positioned to reach even higher levels of excellence and national prominence.”

## NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGIST DR. BRAD FARRIS HONORED AS ADOPT-A-DOC OF THE YEAR

DR. BRAD FARRIS, with the Dean McGee Eye Institute, was named Adopt-a-Doc of the Year by the Oklahoma Schools for Healthy



Lifestyles, a state education department program designed to teach elementary school children basic healthy living principles.

Dr. Farris was “adopted” by Tinker Elementary School in Midwest City two years ago as part

of the program. “I love teaching those kids about protecting their eyes from fireworks, paint ball guns, chemicals and anything else that could damage young eyes. Because I also deal with the brain in my practice, I also want to make sure they are protecting their brains with helmets and other protective gear on the playground or playing field,” said Dr. Farris.

The Schools for Healthy Lifestyles program was developed in 1997 to promote and maintain healthy lifestyles among children, families and school faculty. ■

## Senators and Representatives visit Dean McGee

ON MAY 13 AND MAY 20, DEAN MCGEE hosted lunches for new freshmen State Senators and Representatives. The purpose of the lunches was to acquaint them with the mission of the Eye Institute, its role within the University and the service it provides to the people of Oklahoma. They were briefed on the latest in vision research and clinical advances currently underway at the Institute. They also learned of Dean McGee’s extraordinary commitment to indigent care across the state and the positive economic impact the Institute has on the biotech corridor in Oklahoma City and the region.

Those representing the Eye Institute included Dr. Greg Skuta, Drs. Cindy and Reagan Bradford, Lana Ivy, Melody Marcum and Matt Bown. ■

### SAVE THE DATE

34th Annual DMEI Ophthalmology Symposium OU Resident and Alumni Meeting

June 12, 2010

Skirvin Hilton Hotel Oklahoma City, OK

George B. Bartley, M.D. 31st Tullos O. Coston Lecturer

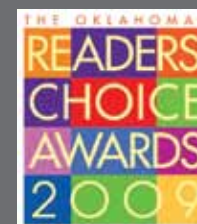
## DMEI FINALIST FOR BEACON AWARD

*Award Recognizes Institute’s Work with Underserved Students*

THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE was one of 26 finalists for the large business division of the Beacon Award for the ophthalmologists’ work with medically underserved schools.

The Beacon Award is given annually by the Journal Record newspaper in Oklahoma City to recognize Oklahoma City businesses for their contributions to the nonprofit community. The award is given to companies that “light the way” for others to achieve.

The Institute was honored for its program that provides free annual eye screening exams to incoming freshmen and new students at Harding Charter Preparatory High School and students with the KIPP Enterprise School. The program has identified vision and eye problems in these students that could have otherwise had a very negative impact on their ability to learn. ■



Dean McGee Eye Institute was named the Best Eye Doctor and Best Eye Surgery Center by The Oklahoman’s 2009 Readers’ Choice Awards.

## Glaucoma Specialist Helps Raise Awareness with Community

DMEI GLAUCOMA SPECIALIST DR. MAHMOUD KHAIMI and the Dean McGee Eye Institute team conducted 50 free glaucoma screening exams at the second annual free health fair at the Greater Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Oklahoma City in August. Early detection is the key to combating the effects of glaucoma. ■



Mahmoud Khaimi

## Macular Degeneration/Low Vision/ Glaucoma Seminar Discusses Latest Advances in Technology and Treatment

THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE and the Oklahoma League for the Blind (OLB) presented the latest in treatments and vision enhancement technology at the 8th Annual Macular Degeneration/Low Vision/Glaucoma Seminar on Tuesday, October 27.

More than 70 low vision patients heard directly from ophthalmologists with the Dean McGee Eye Institute about the disease processes

and new treatment options for macular degeneration, glaucoma and other eye diseases that cause long-term low vision. Patients received a hands-on opportunity to learn about the newest assistive technology for people with vision loss. Oklahoma League for the Blind specialists were on hand to speak with newly diagnosed patients about strategies for dealing with their vision impairment. ■

## AMD.org LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

IN JANUARY, the Macular Degeneration Partnership announced the completely redesigned AMD.org for people with age-related macular degeneration (AMD), their families and friends. With enhanced accessibility and features, visitors to AMD.org can set the font size with an easy click, switch to a high-contrast version, or use accessible technology like Jaws® and



ZoomText. A free subscription to AMD Update is available on the homepage. For more information, contact Judith Delgado, Executive Program Director, by phone at 310-623-4466, 888-430-9898, or by e-mail at [jdelgado@discoveryeye.org](mailto:jdelgado@discoveryeye.org). ■

Source: National Eye Health Education Program

*the sky is  
the limit!*

DONATE TO DEAN MCGEE  
USING GOODSEARCH ENGINE



GOODSEARCH WAS STARTED in 2005 by brothers, Ken and J.J. Ramberg. GoodSearch donates 50% of revenue to charities and schools designated by the user. The money it donates comes from advertising, so the organization pays nothing. It is estimated that each Web search generates approximately \$0.01 for Dean McGee. GoodSearch expanded in 2007 and now includes GoodShop, an online shopping center. Approximately 3% all the way up to 20% of purchases made through GoodShop are donated to your chosen charity. This is a great way to donate by one simple click of the mouse. The more people use GoodSearch, the more money will be directed towards causes. There is no cap on how much money it will direct to your charity.

To access this search engine, go to [www.GoodSearch.com](http://www.GoodSearch.com) ■

## 14 OPHTHALMOLOGISTS ON BEST DOCTORS IN AMERICA LIST

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

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

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

- Cynthia A. Bradford
- Reagan H. Bradford, Jr.
- Bradley K. Farris
- Stephen R. Fransen
- Adam G. de la Garza
- Darin R. Haivala
- P. Lloyd Hildebrand
- Ronald M. Kingsley
- Robert E. Leonard, II
- Rebecca K. Morgan
- Anil D. Patel
- Steven R. Sarkisian, Jr.
- R. Michael Siatkowski
- Gregory L. Skuta



## welcome our new faculty

### Nolene K. Pang CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR

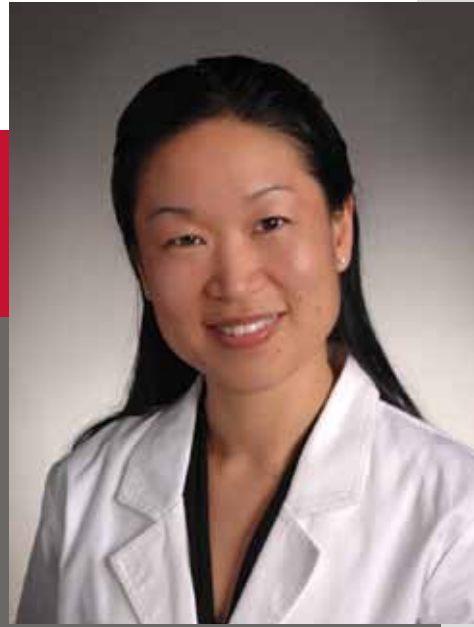
B.A., B.S.: La Sierra University, Riverside, California, 1997, Summa Cum Laude

M.D.: Loma Linda University School of Medicine, Loma Linda, California, 2001

INTERNSHIP: St. Joseph Hospital, Chicago, Illinois, 2001-2002

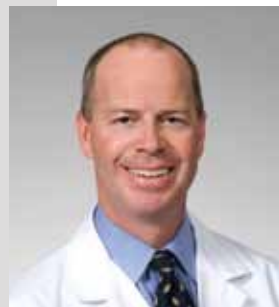
RESIDENCY: Department of Ophthalmology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, 2002-2005

FELLOWSHIP: Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Department of Ophthalmology, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 2005-2007



**THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE** and the University of Oklahoma announce with great pleasure the appointment of Dr. Noelene K. Pang to its faculty. Dr. Pang's professional activities will involve patient care, clinical research, and teaching. Clinically, she will concentrate her activities in the diagnosis and management of oculoplastic, lacrimal, and orbital problems. Dr. Pang pursued her undergraduate and medical training in California, followed by residency training

in ophthalmology at the Mayo Clinic. She then completed a two-year American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery-approved fellowship at the University of Toronto. Dr. Pang already has compiled numerous publications, abstracts, and national meeting presentations. We are very proud to welcome Dr. Pang to the Lawton Office of the Dean McGee Eye Institute and to the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Oklahoma. ■



**CHARLES P. BOGIE III, M.D., PH.D. IS THE NEW RESIDENCY PROGRAM DIRECTOR.** Dr. Bogie serves as Clinical Assistant Professor within the Department of Ophthalmology, University of Oklahoma. His special interests are in cataract and glaucoma surgery. He received both his medical degree and his doctorate of philosophy from the University of Oklahoma and completed his ophthalmology residency at the Dean McGee Eye Institute. Dr. Bogie joined the OU faculty in July, 2002. ■

## FACULTY AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES

**ROBERT E. ANDERSON M.D., PH.D.,** named Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) 2009 Gold Fellow. Received grants from the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science and Naito Foundation to present two keynote lectures in that country.

**JAMES F. MCGINNIS, PH.D.,** is one of only four scientists in the nation to be awarded the *Research to Prevent Blindness Senior Scientific Investigator Award.*

**STEVEN R. SARKISIAN, JR., M.D.,** named to the *Global Directory of Who's Who*, and the *Cambridge Directory of Who's Who*. Appointed to the Editorial Board of *Glaucoma Today*, a peer-reviewed journal focusing on current treatment and innovation for glaucoma.

**ROBERT E. LEONARD, II, M.D.,** presented a lecture at the Indian Health Service Biennial Meeting, and published a new book chapter in *Diabetes and Ocular Disease.*

**R. MICHAEL SIATKOWSKI, M.D.,** organized and co-directed pediatric neuro-ophthalmology symposium at the North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society meeting in Lake Tahoe. Served as a visiting professor in March at Harkness Eye Institute, Columbia University, New York. Gave farewell lecture "The Physician as Leader" in August after serving nine years as President of the Christian Ophthalmology Society. Presented the Kaye

Memorial Lecture "Perplexing Problems in Pediatric Neuro-ophthalmology" in Saskatoon, Canada. Submitted thesis to the American Ophthalmological Society "The Decompensated Monofixation Syndrome" in October, 2009.

**MAHMOUD A. KHAIMI, M.D.,** appointed as Chair, DMEI Clinical Care Committee in June, 2009. Received a Mentoring for Advancement of Physician-Scientists (MAPS) Award from the American Glaucoma Society. Published article in peer reviewed *Middle East African Journal of Ophthalmology* entitled "Canaloplasty Using the iTrack 250 Microcatheter with Suture Tensioning on Schlemm's Canal." Served as the Principal Glaucoma Screener at Mount Olive Baptist Church Annual Health Screening, Oklahoma City.

**NOELENE K. PANG, M.D.,** received the Marvin Quickert Thesis Award from the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, in October, 2009 for her thesis entitled "Orbicularis Oculi Force Comparison after Pretarsal and Preseptal Botulinum Toxin A Injections for Benign Essential Blepharospasm." Additional contributors included Drs. Oestreicher, Harvey, Kazdan, DeAngelis, and Patel.

**ANN A. WARN, M.D., M.B.A.,** recently received the Achievement Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), serves on AAO committees for the Ophthalmic Mutual Insurance Company and Congressional Advocacy and serves on the Council on Oklahoma State Board of Health. ■





# THE MECHANISM OF GP130 ACTIVATION IN PREVENTING RETINAL DEGENERATION

JOHN D. ASH, PH.D.

## RETINAL DEGENERATIONS ARE A CLASS OF NEURAL DEGENERATIVE DISORDERS THAT ULTIMATELY LEAD TO BLINDNESS.

In most cases, photoreceptor death is the result of long-term inflammation, exposure to environmental insults, and inherited genetic mutations. While disease-causing genes are present before birth, patients with retinitis pigmentosa or age-related macular degeneration typically do not develop disease for 40 to 80 years. The protracted time to develop symptoms suggests that retinal neurons have an internal mechanism for protection from chronic injury. Identifying this internally protective activity has been the primary focus of Dr. John Ash's research. Once identified, Dr. Ash hopes to develop these protective mechanisms into new therapeutics, with the goal of delaying or preventing blindness resulting from inherited retinal degenerations.

Dr. Ash uses rat and mouse animal models to identify internally protective proteins. His work has recently demonstrated that prolonged exposure to bright light changes the retina at the molecular level in ways similar to the changes induced by inherited genetic mutations. Specifically, he has found that proteins including fibroblast growth factor 2 (FGF2 or bFGF), ciliary neurotrophic factor (CNTF), leukemia inhibitory factor (LIF), brain derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF), oncostatin M (OSM), and cardiotrophin-like cytokine (CLC) are increased in mouse retinas that have been stressed with bright light or by inheriting a mutation that in humans causes autosomal dominant retinitis pigmentosa. According to Dr. Ash, "Increased abundance of these factors is likely to promote increased survival of rod and

cone photoreceptors. Identifying which of these factors are required and how they function inside photoreceptors is key to developing new therapies to delay or prevent retinal degeneration." Of the factors induced with bright light, Dr. Ash and other researchers have injected FGF2, CNTF, LIF, and BDNF into mouse eyes and have shown that each can prevent or ...continued on next page...

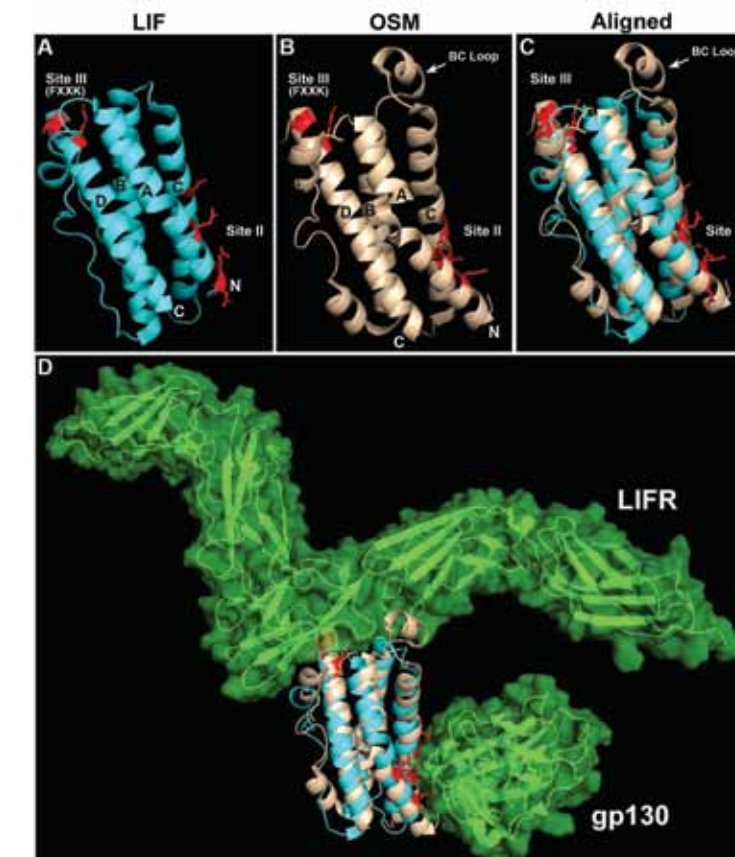


Figure 1: A, B) Crystal structures of LIF and OSM C) Shown on right is the alignment of OSM structure onto LIF to show differences between these proteins. While the overall structures and the active site orientation on LIF and OSM show remarkable conservation, the BC loop on OSM clearly projects out as a unique feature on OSM. D) Also shown on the bottom panel is the three dimensional model for LIF in complex with LIFR and gp130. OSM (beige) is overlaid on LIF (blue). These computer models are used to design modifications that improve binding and activation of receptors.

Opposite: Dr. John D. Ash working in lab



...continued from previous page...

delay blindness in mice caused by genetic mutations or bright light exposure.

Therefore, each of these factors and their receptors yield broad spectrum protection and are potential candidates for the mechanism of internal protection. In the last year, Dr. Ash has made significant advances in this project. Using a modified form of LIF that can block the LIF receptor and prevent its activation, Dr. Ash's lab has shown that LIF, OSM, or CLC are likely to be the most important factors expressed in the retina for internal protection. These all activate

“**...will identify new potential targets for... gene therapies.**”

a protein receptor on photoreceptors called gp130. Gp130 then activates a second protein called STAT3. Using genetically modified

mice that lack gp130 or STAT3, Dr. Ash has shown that the absence of these proteins largely eliminates internal protection of retinal photoreceptors and as a result mice with retinitis pigmentosa go blind much faster. When activated, STAT3 is a

transcription factor that can alter the expression of many other genes. Dr. Ash's current work is aimed at identifying how activating STAT3 protects photoreceptors by identifying genes regulated by STAT3. This will identify new

potential targets for either small molecule or gene therapies.

Protective therapies using ciliary neurotrophic factor (CNTF) are in human clinical trials to prevent blindness in patients with retinitis pigmentosa. However, CNTF, which uses gp130 and STAT3, has relatively weak binding to gp130. This may limit therapeutic value. Dr. Ash is currently developing a modified protein that can activate gp130 and STAT3 with much higher binding than any known molecule. Two proteins have been developed and have been shown to promote activation of gp130 and STAT3 at much lower concentrations. These factors are currently being tested in animal models. Once developed, these proteins could be used as a therapeutic to prevent blindness. ■

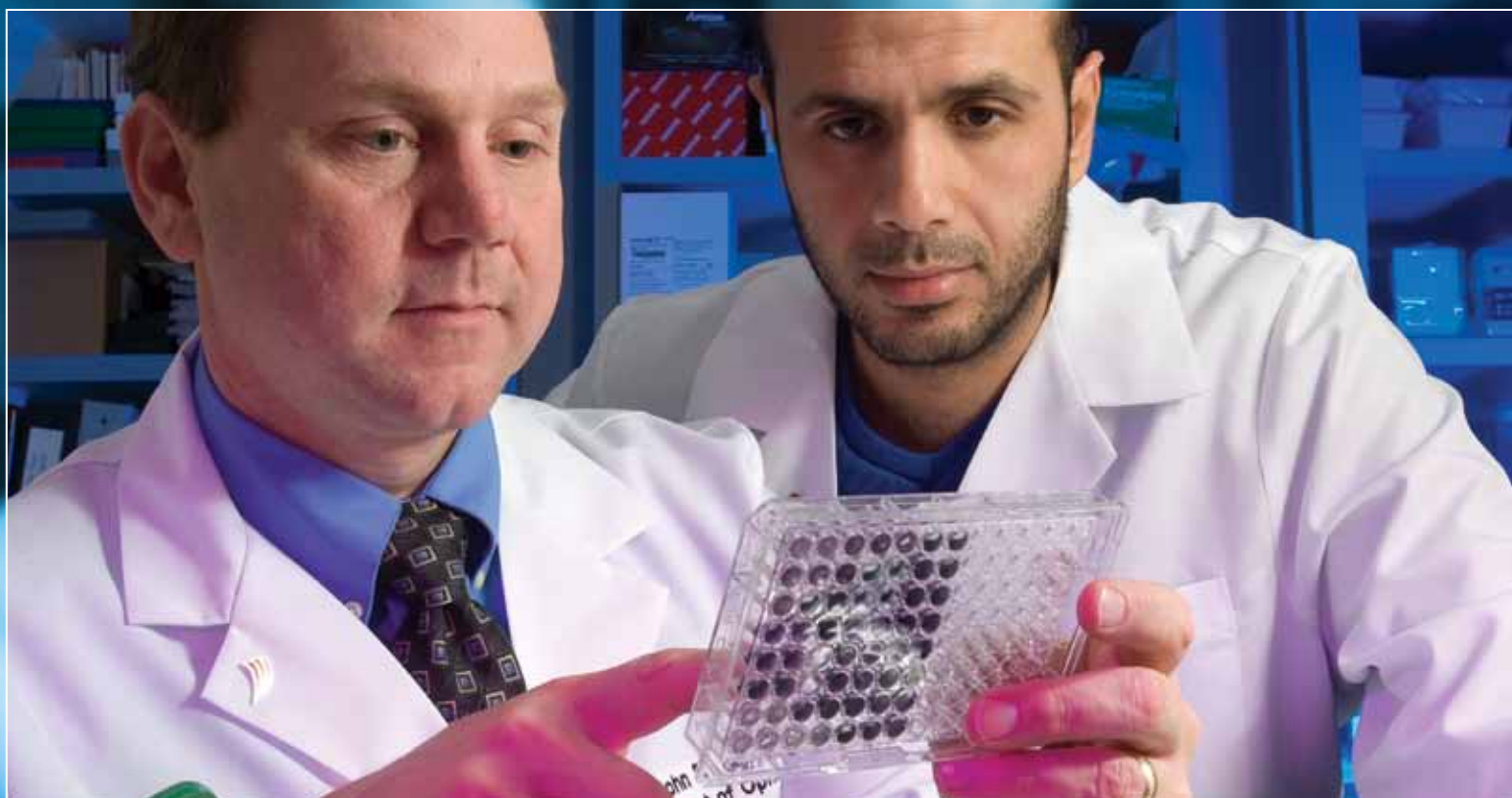
**DR. ASH IS A NATIVE OF** Houston, Texas. He received his Bachelors degree from Austin College which is just across the border in Sherman, Texas. He received his Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics



from the Ohio State University in 1994 and then received postdoctoral fellowship training in Cell and Developmental Biology at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. Dr. Ash is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, and is a productive researcher at the Dean McGee Eye Institute. He leads a research team of 7 which include 5 graduate students, one postdoctoral fellow, and one research technician.

Dr. Ash is active nationally. He is on the Scientific Advisory Board for the Foundation Fighting Blindness, the grant review panel for Fight for Sight, and the Scientific Program Committee for the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology. He is also on the Scientific Program Committee for the International Symposium on Retinal Degeneration.

Dr. Ash has 42 research publications spanning a period of 20 years.



Left: Dr. John D. Ash with fellow researcher



# new clinical trial: MICROPLASMIN

**THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE**, under the direction of Dr. Robert E. Leonard, II, Clinical Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and retinal specialist, is participating in a clinical trial evaluating the effectiveness of microplasmin, produced by ThromboGenics NV. ThromboGenics is a biotechnology company focused on the discovery and development of innovative biopharmaceuticals for the treatment of eye disease, vascular disease and cancer.

Microplasmin is in Phase III trials for the non-surgical treatment of diseases that affect the retina through vitreous traction. The Phase III program is referred to as the MIVI-Trust (Microplasmin for IntraVitreous Injection-Traction Release without Surgical Treatment). The program involves two clinical trials, one taking place in the US, and the other in Europe.

Currently, a surgical procedure called vitrectomy is used in treating vitreo-macular traction. Vitreo-macular traction is caused when the clear gel in the back of the eye called vitreous fails to separate completely. The gel may remain attached to the center of the retina, known as the macula, and pull on it to cause damage. Typically, the treatment for this condition is to perform a vitrectomy to remove the vitreous traction. Microplasmin is a drug that can dissolve the vitreous and relieve the traction without surgery. "Other retinal conditions, such as macular holes, diabetic retinopathy, tractional retinal detachment, and retinopathy of prematurity may one day benefit from the drug's ability to separate the vitreous from the retina in a non-surgical way", Dr. Leonard stated.

The trials will enroll approximately 320 patients across 40 centers in the United States, and 40 centers in Europe and North America. The DMEI site will enroll 8 patients, and studies are expected to be completed by the end of 2010. ■

*Dr. Robert E. Leonard, II with patient*



# RECENT RESEARCH GRANTS

RECIPIENT	AREA OF STUDY	SOURCE	AMOUNT
Robert E. Anderson, M.D., Ph.D.	Lipid Metabolism in the Retina	NIH/NEI	\$484,823
	Effect of Prolonged Administration of CI-1008 on Retinal Degeneration in Wistar and Long-Evans Rats	Pfizer Inc.	\$449,304
John D. Ash, Ph.D.	Development of New Therapeutics for Neuroprotection	Hope for Vision	\$50,000
	Combinatorial Use of Three Novel Therapies to Prevent RPE, and Photoreceptor Degeneration, as well as Subretinal Neovascularization	NIH/NCRR2	\$333,333
	Cytokine Regulation of Photoreceptor Gene Expression	NIH/NCRR2	\$340,000
Michelle C. Callegan, Ph.D.	Mechanisms of Inflammation and Vision Loss in Endophthalmitis	NIH/NEI	\$365,181
	Ocular Toxicity and Release Studies of CLT-003	Charlesson LLC	\$109,744
Daniel J.J. Carr, Ph.D.	Ocular Lymphangiogenesis	NIH/NEI	\$182,056
Michael H. Elliott, Ph.D.	Role of caveolin-1 in experimental diabetic retinopathy	OCAST	\$135,000
Anne Kasus-Jacobi, Ph.D.	Detoxification Role of Retinol Dehydrogenases RDH11 and RDH12	NIH/NEI	\$219,750
Nawajes A. Mandal, Ph.D.	Combinatorial Use of Three Novel Therapies to Prevent RPE, and Photoreceptor Degeneration, as well as Subretinal Neovascularization	NIH/NCRR2	\$333,333
	Nutritional Supplement of Phytochemicals in Prevention of AMD	Am. Health Assis. Fnd.	\$50,000
James F. McGinnis, Ph.D.	Senior Research Investigator Award	Res. Prev. Blindness	\$75,000
	Prevention of Inherited Retinal Diseases by Therapeutic Rare Earth Nanoparticles	NIH/NEI	\$374,845
	Combinatorial Use of Three Novel Therapies to Prevent RPE, and Photoreceptor Degeneration, as well as Subretinal Neovascularization	NIH/NCRR2	\$333,333
Gregory L. Skuta, M.D.	Unrestricted Award	Res. Prev. Blindness	\$110,000

## DMEI SENIOR RESEARCHER DR. ROBERT E. ANDERSON NAMED ARVO 2009 GOLD FELLOW



Dr. Robert E. Anderson working in his lab

IN MAY, 2009, ROBERT EUGENE ANDERSON, M.D., PH.D., was named by the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) to this year's inaugural class of distinguished Fellows. Dr. Anderson was among a small group of members recognized for their accomplishments, leadership and contributions to the Association. Dr. Anderson was honored as a Gold Fellow, the organization's highest level as determined by a rigorous point system. "We are very excited to offer this new prestige to our membership. We know that it will galvanize current members and inspire future ones," said ARVO President, Todd P. Margolis M.D., Ph.D. By accepting this honor, ARVO anticipates that fellows will continue to serve as role models and mentors for individuals pursuing careers in vision and ophthalmology research and to further ARVO's desire to "facilitate the advancement of vision research and the prevention and cure of disorders of the visual system worldwide." This includes advancing basic and clinical knowledge and serving as the leading international forum for vision research and the primary advocate for vision science worldwide. ■

## Research into Nanoparticles Earns Top Research Award

DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE  
RESEARCHER JAMES F. MCGINNIS PH.D.

is one of only four scientists in the nation to be awarded the *Research to Prevent Blindness Senior Scientific Investigator Award*.

The award is granted by Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB), the leading voluntary health organization supporting eye research. RPB awarded 100 grants totaling \$10.24 million in 2008. Dr. McGinnis received \$75,000 to continue his work in therapeutic applications using nanoparticles 1/20,000 the width of a human hair to protect against blindness.

"This prestigious award accelerates our research into the development of the therapeutic use of rare earth nanoparticles called nanoceria to restore function to photoreceptor cells and to preserve vision and prevent retinal degeneration and blindness," noted Dr. James McGinnis. "Our research in the laboratory and in animal models indicates these inorganic nanoparticles can mimic protective enzymes that can prevent oxidative stress in specific areas of the eye that is often the genesis of catastrophic vision loss."



Dr. James F. McGinnis conducting research

Dr. McGinnis has been a researcher and Professor of Cell Biology and Ophthalmology at the Dean McGee Eye Institute and the College of Medicine at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center for 12 years. Dr. McGinnis is highly published, and his research is also supported by a number of grants from the National Institutes of Health, National Eye Institute, National Science Foundation, Foundation Fighting Blindness and the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology.

Dr. McGinnis earned his Ph.D. in cellular and molecular biology from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Prior to his arrival at DMEI, he was a Professor in the Department of Neurobiology at the UCLA School of Medicine in Los Angeles, California. ■



## GRADUATE WORKSHOP OFFERS ARENA FOR NEW IDEAS *Best Vision Research Presentations Honored*

### THE 4TH ANNUAL OU VISION STUDENT AND POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW WORKSHOP, sponsored by



Dean Bok, Ph.D.

University of Oklahoma Department of Ophthalmology and the Dean McGee Eye Institute, was held this May, spotlighting presentations of the best of original research by graduate and post-graduate vision scientists-in-training at the Institute. The guest lecturer for the workshop was Dean Bok, Ph.D. from the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine.

The OU Vision Workshop is organized by graduate student volunteers to provide a forum for graduate and postgraduate scientists to gain experience and practice presenting and defending their work before their peers and teachers. The workshop has evolved beyond a training exercise into a truly collaborative sharing of ideas.

### OU Vision 2009 Workshop Winners

**Robert E. Anderson Award for Best Paper**  
Todd Wuest  
(mentored by Dan J.J. Carr, Ph.D.)

**Robert E. Anderson Award for Best Postdoctoral Paper**  
Shannon Conley  
(mentored by Muna Nassh, Ph.D.)

This award is named after Dean McGee Eye Institute senior scientist and nationally acclaimed researcher Robert E. (Gene) Anderson, M.D., Ph.D.

**The Wei Cao Award for Innovation**  
Yumi Ueki  
(mentored by John D. Ash, Ph.D.)

The Wei Cao Award for Innovation is given to the student or postdoctoral fellow whose work is determined by the judges to be the most creative, groundbreaking, or original. The hope is that the Wei Cao Award will foster innovation in the science of our trainees and at the same time acknowledge the extraordinarily creative human represented by the late Dr. Wei Cao, who passed away in Fall, 2007. ■



Left to Right: Todd Wuest, Shannon Conley, Yumi Ueki

## DMEI Hosts 18th Annual Walter J. Stark Memorial Lectureship

MICHIGAN OPHTHALMOLOGIST DR. PAUL LICHTER GUEST LECTURER

THE 18TH ANNUAL WALTER J. STARK MEMORIAL LECTURESHIP was held October 5, 2009 at the Dean McGee Eye Institute in Oklahoma City featuring guest lecturer Dr. Paul Lichter, Professor and Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and Director of the Kellogg Eye Center at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

“For nearly two decades, the Walter J. Stark Memorial Lectureship has brought some of the nation’s most distinguished leaders in ophthalmology to Oklahoma as guests and presenters,” noted Dr. Gregory L. Skuta, Dean McGee Eye Institute President and CEO. “The Lectureship is well known for highlighting the latest advances in the treatment of blinding eye diseases and other topics of great importance.”



Paul R. Lichter, M.D.

Dr. Lichter is a world-renowned glaucoma specialist who is also an expert on medical professionalism and ethics. His presentation entitled “Industry Influence on Ophthalmic Practice—The Way It Works” was highly relevant to current national discussions regarding healthcare.



Left to Right: Gregory L. Skuta, M.D., Paul R. Lichter, M.D., Walter J. Stark, Jr., M.D.

Dr. Lichter has held numerous leadership positions in ophthalmology and is a past president of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and past chair of the American Board of Ophthalmology. A native of Detroit, Dr. Lichter earned his undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Michigan. He completed his residency in ophthalmology at the University of Michigan and his fellowship training specializing in glaucoma at the University of California in San Francisco. Dr. Lichter has authored more than 200 scientific articles, editorials and book chapters and has delivered 36 named lectures. ■



## Annual Resident and Alumni Meeting Featured Intraocular Lens Expert

### THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

Department of Ophthalmology at the Dean McGee Eye Institute held its 33rd Annual Resident and Alumni Meeting in June, featuring the Tullos O. Coston Lecturer, Dr. Stephen S. Lane. Dr. Lane's presentation was entitled "Advances in Suture Fixation of Posterior Chamber Intraocular Lens".

Dr. Lane is past president of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery and has been an officer of the International Society of Refractive Surgery of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) and a board member of the Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology. He currently serves as Secretary for Online Education/Learning for the AAO, as co-medical editor of *EyeWorld*, and on the editorial board of the *Journal of Cataract and Refractive Surgery* and *Evidence-Based Eyecare*. Dr. Lane is also recognized by Best Doctors in America.



Stephen S. Lane, M.D. addresses the meeting participants

The Resident and Alumni Meeting is an opportunity for ophthalmologists to gain continuing medical education and to stay current in the latest vision treatments, surgeries and research. The 2010 meeting has been set for June 12, 2010, featuring George B. Bartley, M.D. from the Mayo Clinic as the Tullos O. Coston Lecturer. ■



## DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

# 2009-2010 RESIDENTS & FELLOWS

### Resident vs. Faculty Softball game

To kick-off the Annual Resident and Alumni weekend, the residents and faculty took a well deserved afternoon off from clinic to participate in a friendly softball game. Pictured below is Byron Wilkes, M.D. knocking one out of the park, which brought in two of his fellow residents. However, closing the gap is faculty member Bradley Farris, MD. As far as the winner goes, no one will truly ever know!



Byron N. Wilkes, M.D.



Bradley K. Farris, M.D.

### Graduating Class 2009

**Jake Bostrom, M.D.**

*Private Practice in Greenville, SC.*

**Eric Guglielmo, M.D.**

*Retina Fellowship at University of West Virginia.*

**Allyson Schmitt, M.D.**

*Pediatrics Fellowship at Vanderbilt University.*

**Joseph Clever, M.D. (Cornea Fellow)**

*Private practice in St. Charles, MO.*

**Matthew Traynor, M.D. (Glaucoma Fellow)**

*Private practice in Idaho Falls, ID.*

### Incoming Residents in 2010

**Eldad Adler, M.D.**

*Medical School: Sackler School of Medicine, Tel Aviv*

*Internship: University of California, Irvine*

**Andrew Bailey, M.D.**

*Medical School: University of Oklahoma*

*Internship: Naval Medicine Center, Portsmouth, VA*

**Jacquelyn Jetton, M.D.**

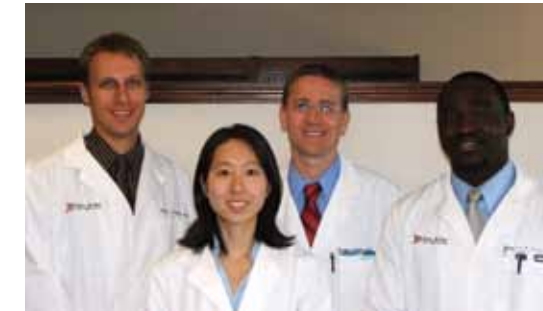
*Medical School: University of Texas, San Antonio*

*Internship: Legacy Emanuel Medical Center, Portland, OR*

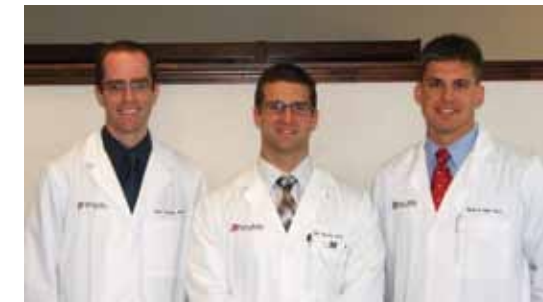
**Sean Paul, M.D.**

*Medical School: University of Texas, San Antonio*

*Internship: John Peter Smith Hospital, Fort Worth, TX*



First year Residents



Second year Residents



Third year Residents

### Current Residents and Fellows

**Ore-Ofe Adesina, M.D.**

*First year Resident*

**Adam Carver, M.D.**

*First year Resident*

**Annie Chan, M.D.**

*First year Resident*

**Ronald Hobbs, M.D.**

*First year Resident*

**Ben Harvey, M.D.**

*Second year Resident*

**Kevin Kerr, M.D.**

*Second year Resident*

**Paul Tlucek, M.D.**

*Second year Resident*

**Dan Brooks, M.D.**

*Third year Resident*

**Annie Moreau, M.D.**

*Third year Resident*

**Byron Wilkes, M.D.**

*Third year Resident*

**Scott Guess, M.D.**

*Retina Fellow*

**Marcos Reyes, M.D.**

*Glaucoma Fellow*

**Scott Storck, M.D.**

*Cornea Fellow*

There were 350 applications for this year's incoming residency class.

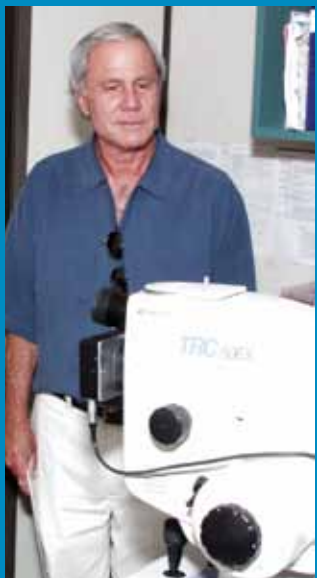


# PHILANTHROPY UPDATE



Lana G. Ivy  
Vice President of Development

## TOM DULANEY ADVANCES VISUAL IMAGING WITH CONTRIBUTION



Tom Dulaney views the new OCT equipment

**AS A LONG TIME FRIEND** and financial supporter of the Dean McGee Eye Institute, Tom Dulaney understands the need and the importance of high quality digital imaging. In year 2000, he and his brother purchased a radically new OIS Digital Imaging System (DIS) for

the Eye Institute. The DIS has since played a critical role in evaluating and managing glaucoma and retinal eye diseases. It images over 300 patients weekly and has over 60,000 exams stored in its system.

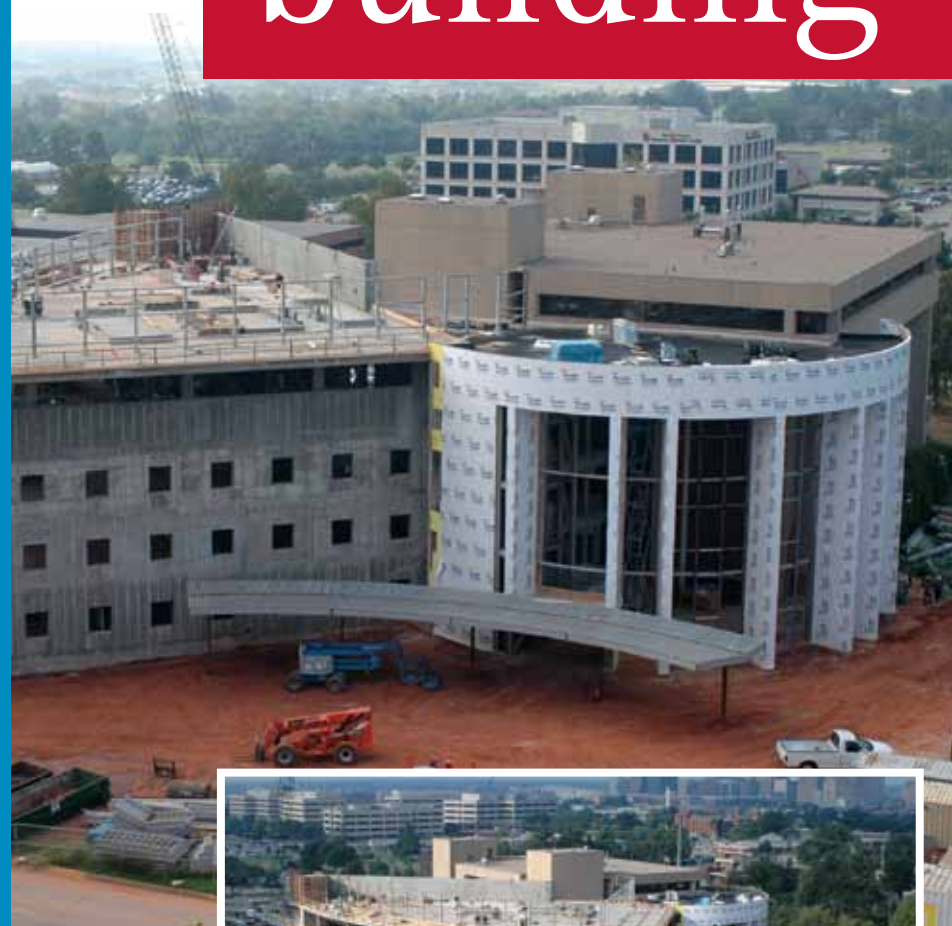
When approached about a new, key piece of technology—called Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT)—that could be fully integrated into the DIS system, Tom did not hesitate to help. This latest generation (high definition OCT), officially named the

Cirrus High Definition-Optical Coherence Tomography instrument, is believed to be the highest quality machine that allows the ophthalmologist to view details of the retina (lining the back of the eye) down to the size of a red blood cell and not visible with any other technology.

Patients with macular degeneration, diabetic retinal disease, and glaucoma as well as many others are analyzed using this OCT instrument. It requires no bright lights, no medication, and no injections. It has no complications. Yet it delivers critical information. “Since January 2008 alone, OCT imaging was required for more than 3,500 patients,” says Russ Burris, Director of Ophthalmic Photography for the Dean McGee Eye Institute.

“Tom understood the necessity for this new technology and wanted to provide the funds needed to advance digital imaging for all Dean McGee patients. It has been a pleasure to know Tom, to learn of his parents’ history with Dean McGee, and to share in his great enthusiasm for philanthropy. We are all appreciative of his continuing support,” says Lana Ivy, Vice President of Development. ■

## building the future



**THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE STRENGTHENS AND EXPANDS—FROM THE INSIDE OUT—TO OFFER THE MOST ADVANCED FACILITIES FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND STATE.**

Construction of the new \$43.5 million Clinical and Research Building is in progress and is scheduled to open in fall, 2010. The new five-story 80,000 square foot building for patient care, research and teaching includes two floors of clinical space, two floors of research laboratories, and one floor of support space. All floors will connect to the existing facility via a skywalk through a common four story atrium.

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



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# cornea specialists TACKLE MYSTERIES OF THE EYES

NEW TECHNOLOGY OFFERS A MICROSCOPIC IMAGE OF DISEASE

**BROOKE BARRY OF EDMOND WAS ONLY FOUR YEARS OLD** when her preschool teachers realized something was very wrong with her vision. Her parents rushed her to the family ophthalmologist who discovered this preschooler already had cataracts and glaucoma. Brooke was quickly becoming blind in both eyes.

Stunned, her parents brought Brooke to the Cornea Service at the Dean McGee Eye Institute where Dr. Donald Stone immediately pinpointed the problem as an autoimmune disease called “uveitis” that attacks the eyes.

Dr. Stone is a cornea and uveitis specialist and sees patients from all over Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas and Missouri.

“Uveitis is not particularly common, but we see a great deal of it here in the Cornea Service at the Dean McGee Eye Institute in both children and adults, because we tend to see the sickest patients in the region,” noted Dr. Stone. “Every day we see disorders of the cornea that most ophthalmologists may only see once in a lifetime.”

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*Below: Dr. Donald Stone and Brooke Barry*



“I couldn't believe my four-year-old was going blind, but today she is stabilized and seeing much more normally.”

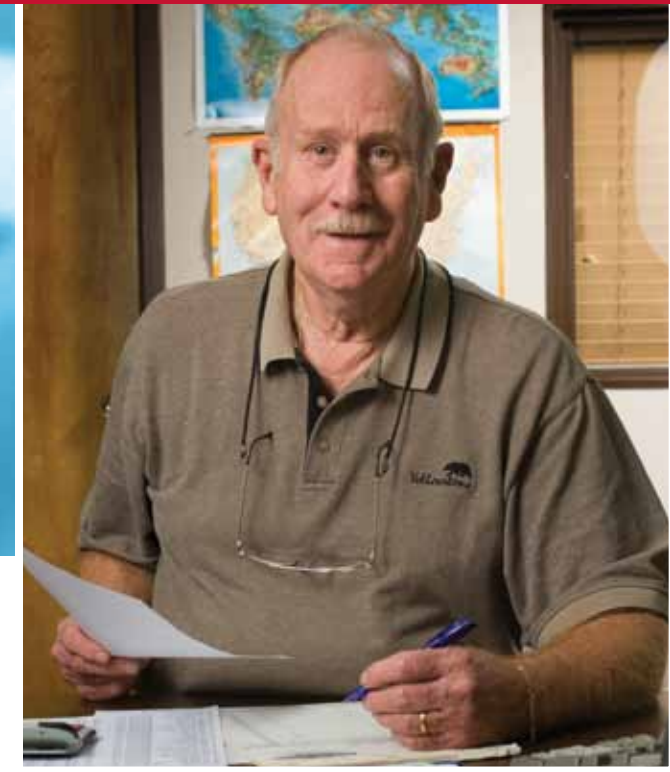
Suzette Barry, Brooke's mother





“For many years my vision every morning was like looking through a fog. Now I don't even have to wear eye glasses except for the tiniest print.”  
John Stone

“There was a time I could only distinguish light and dark—now with my vision greatly improved I have a second chance at life.”  
Jody Black



Above: Jody Black and Dr. Rhea Siatkowski, right: John Stone

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Brooke is now six years old. She had two cataract surgeries to repair her vision and still works with Dr. Stone and a pediatric rheumatology specialist to control her uveitis. Brooke's vision is much better and her future is bright.

Jody Black was blinded by chemical burns to the eyes in an accident over 10 years ago and could only distinguish light from dark. With severe burns to both eyes, traditional corneal transplant was his best hope a decade ago. Surgery after surgery restored some of his

vision only temporarily, but after implantation of a revolutionary newly developed artificial cornea known as a keratoprosthesis by Dr. Rhea Siatkowski, another corneal specialist with the Cornea Service at the Dean McGee Eye Institute, Jody's vision has improved to a level he has not experienced since his injury.

“Keratoprosthesis is an exciting surgery where a clear, artificial polymer is placed over the surface of the eye to replace the injured or diseased cornea,” noted Dr. Siatkowski. “When a traditional corneal transplant doesn't work, we can now employ a procedure that sandwiches

an artificial cornea between actual donated corneal tissue. This blended technique has dramatically decreased complications of the artificial cornea and increased our success.”

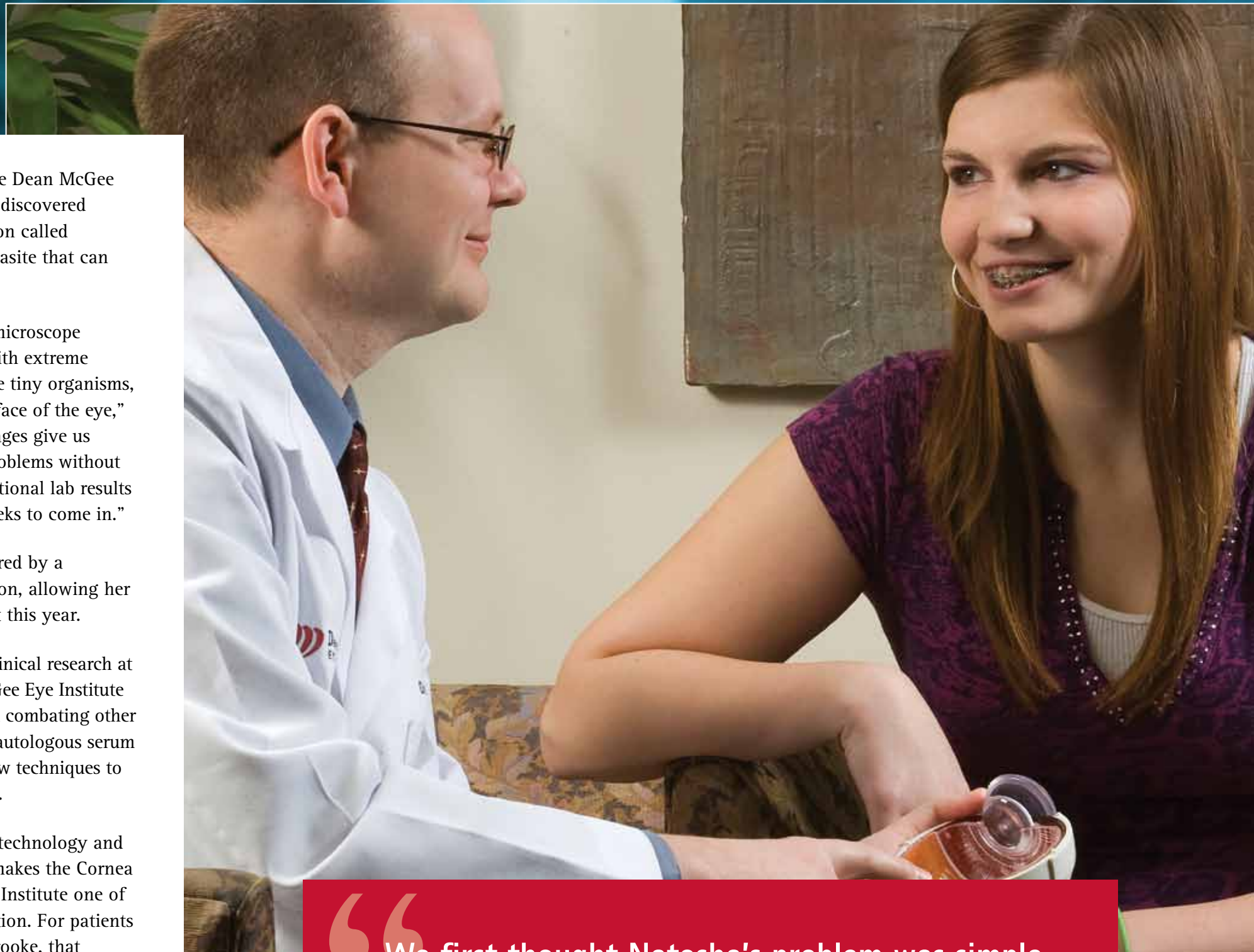
Jody Black can now see again! In fact, his vision has improved to the point he can even read again and now has a driver's license. He says the surgery has given him a second chance at life.

Oklahoma City Novelty sales manager John Stone started having cloudy vision every morning to the degree he could barely distinguish objects. “Waking everyday was like looking through a fog,” Stone noted. He learned he had a condition called Fuchs' endothelial dystrophy where the cornea loses

the layer of cells that maintains the normal clarity of the eye, resulting in a fluid build up; the fluid build up causes the cornea to swell and vision to be distorted.

Medications helped clear John's vision for a while, but one morning he awoke to cloudy vision that would not clear. He knew it was time to go to Dr. Siatkowski and the Dean McGee Eye Institute. Over the next four months, he underwent both cataract surgery and Descemet's Stripping Endothelial Keratoplasty  
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(DSEK), a form of corneal transplantation, in both eyes.

“Our team is working to provide patients with the latest in transplant options for the cornea,” continued Dr. Siatkowski. “We are using amniotic membranes from harvested placenta that can be surgically placed on the window of the eye as a kind of band-aid to then allow the natural cornea to heal from injury. With the very delicate and less invasive procedure called DSEK, we can also help patients with slowly progressing corneal diseases like Fuchs’ endothelial dystrophy. By surgically replacing the back layer of the cornea, we can stop the swelling that can rob these patients of their vision.”

At 71, John now has the vision he had as a young man. “My vision is crystal clear and bright. A whole new world has opened up for me,” exclaimed Stone.

15-year-old Natosha Logsdon of Roff, Oklahoma was one of those mysteries to the doctors in her hometown area. Last fall, she suddenly complained of eye pain and an inflamed eye that at first looked like simple “pink eye”. But the inflammation and pain continued, so Natosha’s parents took her to nearby doctors who diagnosed her with a viral infection and started her on one medication after another. But nothing was helping, and Natosha was getting worse. Her eye grew so painful and infected, she had to stop playing basketball her freshman year in high school.

When the family was sent to the Dean McGee Eye Institute, Dr. Stone quickly discovered Natosha had a very rare infection called *Acanthamoeba*, caused by a parasite that can strike contact wearers.

“We have access to a confocal microscope that can quickly scan the eye with extreme magnification allowing us to see tiny organisms, injuries and scarring on the surface of the eye,” continued Dr. Stone. “Those images give us the tools to quickly diagnose problems without having to wait for more conventional lab results that often take days or even weeks to come in.”

Natosha’s rare infection was cured by a specially compounded medication, allowing her to return to the basketball court this year.

The combination of basic and clinical research at the Institute gives the Dean McGee Eye Institute clinicians the very latest tools in combating other problems of the cornea such as autologous serum tears for chronic dry eye and new techniques to combat inflammation of the eye.

The access to ground-breaking technology and highly experienced specialists makes the Cornea Service at the Dean McGee Eye Institute one of the top-tier programs in the nation. For patients like Jody, John, Natosha and Brooke, that expertise has restored their vision. ■

“We first thought Natosha's problem was simple pink eye, but it kept getting worse and worse and our local doctors didn't know what to do. We are so thankful to Dr. Stone for solving the mystery and curing her rare infection.”

Darlene Logsdon, Natosha's mother



“My eyes are  
an ocean in  
which my  
dreams are  
reflected...”

—Anna M. Uhlich

*Water Reflection, Grand Lake, Oklahoma Photo Courtesy of Mike Klemme Photography*





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