



Dean McGee  
EYE INSTITUTE  
*Vision...for Life.*

focus on patient care:  
*How DMEI Is Fulfilling Its Mission  
During a Global Pandemic*

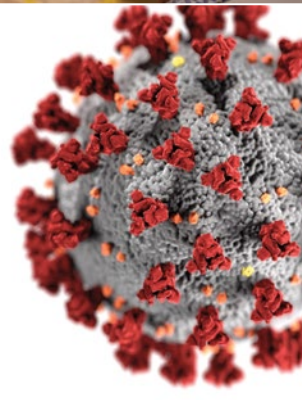
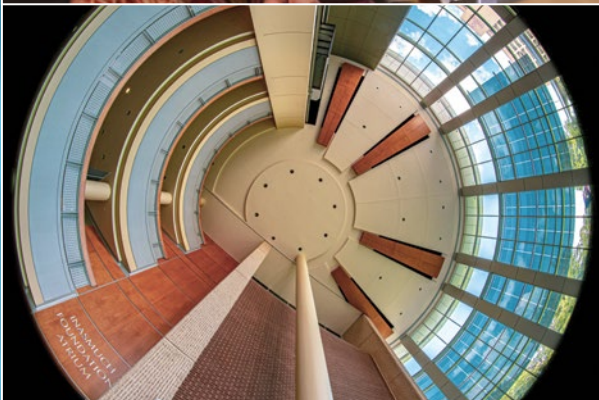


**Wearing a Mask  
is Required.**

**This is for the safety of  
yourself and others.**



Dean McGee  
EYE INSTITUTE  
*Vision...for Life.*



• DMEI •  
**inVIsion**

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE

patient care  
education  
vision research  
leadership  
service

# DMEI clinical directory

## Oklahoma Health Center

DMEI Acers and Parke Pavilions  
608 Stanton L. Young Blvd. ■ Oklahoma City, OK 73104

### Comprehensive Ophthalmology/ Cataract and Ophthalmic Surgery/ Premium Cataract Surgery

(405) 271-1090 ■ (800) 787-9012

John M. Bell, MD\*  
Cynthia A. Bradford, MD\*  
Brian K. Firestone, MD\*  
Layne E. Goetzinger, MD\*  
David W. Jackson, MD\*  
Carolyn E. Kloek, MD\*  
Andrew T. Melson, MD\*  
Deana S. Watts, MD

### Contact Lenses

(405) 271-6084 ■ (800) 787-9012

Rachel M. Caywood, OD, FFAO  
Scott Samples, NCLE-AC, CPOT

### Cornea (Surgical) and External Disease/ Corneal Cross-Linking

(405) 271-1095 ■ (800) 787-9017

Kamran M. Riaz, MD\*  
Rhea L. Siatkowski, MD\*

### Cornea (Medical) and External Disease

(405) 271-1095 ■ (800) 787-9017

Thomas C. Wolf, MD

### Glaucoma

(405) 271-1093 ■ (800) 787-9015

Andrew K. Bailey, MD\*  
Ben J. Harvey, MD\*  
Mahmoud A. Khaimi, MD\*  
Gregory L. Skuta, MD

### LASIK and Refractive Surgery

(405) 271-2500 ■ (877) 406-4193

David W. Jackson, MD\*  
Kamran M. Riaz, MD\*

(580) 250-5855

Jean R. Hausheer, MD, FACS\*

### Low Vision Rehabilitation

(405) 271-1793 ■ (800) 787-9012

Rebecca K. Morgan, MD

### Neuro-Ophthalmology/Adult Strabismus

(405) 271-1091 ■ (800) 787-9013

Andrew T. Melson, MD\*  
James C. O'Brien, MD  
Anil D. Patel, MD, FRCSC, FACS

(405) 271-1094 ■ (800) 787-9016

R. Michael Siatkowski, MD

### Ocular Oncology/Ophthalmic Pathology

(405) 271-7825 ■ (800) 787-9012

Brian K. Firestone, MD\*

### Ocular Prosthetics

(405) 271-3391 ■ (800) 787-9012

Nancy A. Lambert, BCO

### Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

(405) 271-1096 ■ (800) 787-9018

Nathan W. Blessing, MD  
Annie Moreau, MD, FACS  
Jeremy F. Tan, MD

### Optical Services

(405) 271-6174 ■ (800) 787-9012

### Optometry

(405) 271-1090 ■ (800) 787-9012

Rachel M. Caywood, OD, FFAO  
Dana M. Garber, OD, FFAO  
Brandalyn D. Loyko, OD  
Jessica L. Lucas, OD, FFAO

### Pediatric Ophthalmology/Strabismus

(405) 271-1094 ■ (800) 787-9016

Maria E. Lim, MD\*\*  
R. Michael Siatkowski, MD  
Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHSc  
Emily M. Zepeda, MD\*\*

Laurie A. Hahn-Parrott, CO, COT, MBA  
(orthoptist)

### Retina/Vitreous

(405) 271-1092 ■ (800) 787-9014

Reagan H. Bradford Jr., MD  
Stephen R. Fransen, MD  
Ronald M. Kingsley, MD  
Sun Young Lee, MD, PhD  
Jila Noori, MD  
Vinay A. Shah, MD

### Stephenson Refractive Surgery/Laser Center

(405) 271-2500 ■ (877) 406-4193

### Trauma/Emergency

(405) 271-6060 ■ (800) 787-9012

### Uveitis

(405) 271-1095 ■ (800) 787-9017

Sam S. Dahr, MD  
Jila Noori, MD  
Thomas C. Wolf, MD

## Dean McGee Eye Institute Satellite Locations

### NORTHWEST OKC

3500 N.W. 56th, #101, Oklahoma City, OK 73112  
(405) 271-9500

### Comprehensive Ophthalmology/Cataract and Ophthalmic Surgery/Premium Cataract Surgery/Intense Pulsed Light (IPL) Dry Eye Treatment

Ralph B. Hester III, MD\*

### Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

Annie Moreau, MD, FACS

### Optometry

Tasha J. Schellenberg, OD

### Optical Services

(405) 271-9506

### EDMOND

1005 Medical Park Blvd., Edmond, OK 73013  
(405) 271-0913

### Comprehensive Ophthalmology/Cataract and Ophthalmic Surgery

John M. Bell, MD\*

### Glaucoma/Comprehensive Ophthalmology/ Ophthalmic Surgery

Andrew K. Bailey, MD\*

### Neuro-Ophthalmology/Comprehensive Ophthalmology

Anil D. Patel, MD, FRCSC, FACS

### Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

Jeremy F. Tan, MD

### Optometry

Angela M. Plant, OD, FFAO  
Jessica L. Lucas, OD, FFAO

### Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus

Maria E. Lim, MD\*\*

### Optical Services

(405) 271-0909

### LAWTON

3201 W. Gore Blvd., #200, Lawton, OK 73505  
(580) 250-5855

### Comprehensive Ophthalmology/Cataract and Ophthalmic Surgery/Premium Cataract Surgery

Ann Acers-Warn, MD, MBA\*  
Jean R. Hausheer, MD, FACS\*

### Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

Nathan W. Blessing, MD

### Retina/Vitreous

Vinay A. Shah, MD

### Optical Services

(580) 585-5425

## 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

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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

SUMMER 2020

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The Preferred Eye Care Provider of the OKC Thunder

FRONT COVER PHOTO CREDIT  
(excluding coronavirus image):  
Matt Skuta



## Proud of the Dean McGee Institute and Its People *in these Most Unimaginable Times*



Gregory L. Skuta, MD

**UNPRECEDENTED. CHALLENGING.  
UNUSUAL. UNIQUE. EXTRAORDINARY.  
REMARKABLE. CRAZY. UNPARALLELED.  
INCONCEIVABLE.**

All of these and many more adjectives have been used to describe the times in which we live, reminded constantly of COVID-19 and its enormous impact on the daily lives of the world's citizens. However, one of my colleagues in an email message on March 29 used the word "unimaginable," which may best capture the essence of our daily existence. If someone had told any of us in October 2019 what we would

be experiencing six months later in April 2020, I am certain that the universal response would have been "That just can't possibly be."

I boarded my last airplane flights from New York City to Dallas-Fort Worth and then home to Oklahoma City on the evening of March 3 after a grant review meeting, having enjoyed a Broadway play two nights before. It was unimaginable that the vibrant New York City that I had just experienced would soon be totally consumed with COVID-19 and that Broadway would close its doors on March 12. It was also unimaginable that on March 11 with the now infamous OKC Thunder-Utah Jazz NBA game, events in Oklahoma City would signal the shutdown of virtually all sports activities.

As shared in the DMEI *InVision* feature story on pages 38-43, the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI), along with all of Oklahoma City's health systems, was engaged in late March and most of April with the largest prolonged reduction in clinical and surgical activity we have ever witnessed. Of all of the specialties in medicine, ophthalmology on a national level was the most impacted. According to *Eyewire* and Strata Decision Technology, "ophthalmology lost 81% of patient volume year-over-year when comparing 2-week volumes in March and April 2020 versus the same period in 2019. During the same period, it also found a 97% reduction in cataract surgery volume—the largest reduction of any

surgical procedure...” Another survey by The Commonwealth Fund revealed a 79% reduction in ophthalmology patient visits. These numbers are particularly painful knowing that the Eye Institute and Department of Ophthalmology were on course for a record year with regard to our services to patients.

Fortunately, even with multiple precautions in place as outlined in the feature story, clinical and surgical volumes increased considerably in May. By early to mid-June, DMEI’s volumes had returned to our busy baseline, an experience mirrored by other health care providers in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area. At the time of my writing these words in mid-July, our numbers remained strong. However, the marked rises in COVID-19-positive patients and hospitalizations in Oklahoma now compared to late May and early June serve as reminders of the ferocity of this viral menace and the uncertainties that currently exist and will continue for an unknown period of time as we labor to “bend the curve.”

Through our shared challenges, I have remained incredibly proud of the heroic and unwavering commitment by our clinicians, surgeons, scientists, residents, fellows, and staff to our patients as well as our educational and research missions. The depth of that commitment is further reflected in the major awards received by members of our faculty over the past several months (see pages 4-5, 8-9, 14, 25, and 32-33).



“  
**Through our shared challenges, I have remained incredibly proud of the heroic and unwavering commitment by our clinicians, surgeons, scientists, residents, fellows, and staff...**  
”

This edition of DMEI *InVision* clearly demonstrates this organization’s continuing devotion to its sense of purpose, steadfast resolve, and the fundamental principles that drive all that we do, even in the midst of a once-in-a-century (we hope) pandemic.

While serving our patients and their ophthalmic and medical needs, our efforts to also to protect them as well as ourselves, our families, and our communities will not abate. I am confident that we will persevere.

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



Annie Moreau, MD, FACS  
Associate Professor

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## Annie Moreau, MD, FACS Receives 2020 Stanton L. Young Master Teacher Award

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**ANNIE MOREAU, MD, FACS, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA (OU) DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY** and a revered and beloved Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) colleague, is the recipient of the 2020 Stanton L. Young Master Teacher Award! This is the most prestigious teaching award in the OU College of Medicine, and Dr. Moreau is the 37th faculty member and first ophthalmologist to receive this award.

The nomination process is led by the presidents of the junior and senior medical school classes, Medical Student Council, and Oklahoma chapter of the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Honor Medical Society. The recipient must be “a truly inspiring teacher, one who goes beyond excellence in conveying knowledge, touching lives, and changing attitudes.”

Originally from Montreal and educated in Quebec, Canada, Dr. Moreau was first an optometrist in Quebec, then for the US Indian Health Service in Ada, Oklahoma, and then at the Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center in

Oklahoma City. In 2006, she graduated from the OU College of Medicine, where she was inducted into AOA and received the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award. Dr. Moreau then completed a year of general surgery before entering an ophthalmology residency at DMEI/OU, where she was the co-recipient of the Acers Resident Honor Award in 2009 and subsequently completed a fellowship in ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery/neuro-ophthalmology. After one year on the faculty at Boston University and as an attending ophthalmologist in the Boston VA Health System, Dr. Moreau returned to DMEI/OU in 2012 as an assistant professor of ophthalmology and rose to the rank of associate professor in 2017.

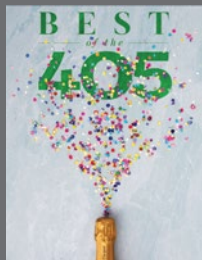
In addition to being a superb surgeon (she was inducted into the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in 2019), Dr. Moreau is an extraordinary educator for whom the Annie Moreau, MD Fellow Teaching Award was established in 2011 to honor her as the inaugural recipient and later recognize DMEI fellows for excellence in resident education. Since joining the DMEI/OU faculty in 2012, she has received the Excellence in Attending at VA Award (2014); M. Dewayne Andrews, MD Excellence in Teaching Awards in Graduate Medical Education (2014) and in Preclinical Education (2018) from the Academy

of Teaching Scholars; E.L. and Thelma Gaylord Faculty Honor Award (2015); and Regents' Award for Superior Teaching (2018, the second highest teaching award at the OU Health Sciences Center - OUHSC).

The highlights of Dr. Moreau's numerous leadership roles at DMEI/OU include service on the DMEI Executive Committee (2015-2019), as a member of the OUHSC Faculty Senate (2015-2021), as chair of the Medical Student Promotion Committee (2018-present), as Councilor for the OU College of Medicine's AOA chapter (2019- present), as a member of the University Council on Faculty Awards and Honors (2019-present), and as a member of the Admissions Board for the OU College of Medicine (2019-present). She has conducted multiple medical mission trips with a focus on Haiti; has been recognized among *Best Doctors in America* and *Castle Connolly Top Doctors*; and is an accomplished concert pianist who has helped benefit such causes as Prevent Blindness Oklahoma and residency education.

It seems very appropriate that an ophthalmologist should receive the Stanton L. Young Master Teacher Award in the year 2020! Congratulations, Dr. Moreau! Toutes nos felicitations! ■

## DMEI Is "Best of the 405" Winner



IN JANUARY, the *405 Magazine* staff created 109 different award categories in its 2020 "Best of the 405" competition. With nearly 180,000 votes tallied, the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) was honored in May in two categories: "Best Optometrist" and "Best Eyewear" of the 405! All of us at DMEI are grateful for this recognition of DMEI excellence!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 16 DMEI PHYSICIANS LISTED ON THE CASTLE CONNOLLY TOP DOCTORS LIST!

In the June 2020 edition of *Oklahoma Magazine* featuring *Castle Connolly Top Doctors*, the complete list included 16 ophthalmologists from the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI)! Approximately two-thirds (22) of DMEI's ophthalmologists (and all of those recruited before 2017) are listed among *Castle Connolly Top Doctors*, *Best Doctors in America*, or by both.

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Ann Acers-Warn, MD, MBA  
John M. Bell, MD  
Cynthia A. Bradford, MD  
Reagan H. Bradford Jr., MD  
Layne E. Goetzinger, MD  
Jean R. Hausheer, MD, FACS  
David W. Jackson, MD  
Mahmoud A. Khaimi, MD  
Annie Moreau, MD, FACS  
Rebecca K. Morgan, MD  
Anil D. Patel, MD, FRCSC, FACS  
R. Michael Siatkowski, MD  
Rhea L. Siatkowski, MD  
Gregory L. Skuta, MD  
Deana S. Watts, MD  
Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHSc



# TWO APPOINTED TO DMEI/OU CLINICAL FACULTY



*Rachel M. Caywood, OD, FAAO  
Clinical Instructor*

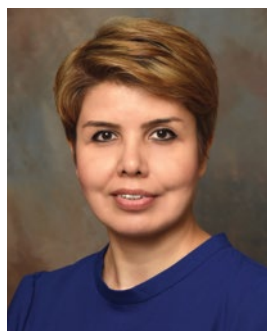
**IN EARLY MAY, RACHEL M. CAYWOOD, OD, FAAO,** joined the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and the University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology as a member of the Optometry Service.

Dr. Caywood grew up in Iowa, earned her bachelor's degree from the University of South Dakota, and completed her Doctor of Optometry degree (Beta Sigma Kappa Honor Society) at the Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago. She completed a one-year family practice residency in optometry at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

Since 2007, Dr. Caywood has served as an optometrist at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Oklahoma City, where she worked closely with many DMEI residents and ophthalmology faculty. She previously worked at the VAMC in Fayetteville, Arkansas and in private practices in the Tulsa area.

Dr. Caywood is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry (FAAO) and serves on the Exam Development Council for the National Board of Examiners in Optometry.

She and her husband Josh, who is a chemical engineer, have two daughters, Alyssa and Alexis. She enjoys audio books, travel, and cooking and is active in her local church.



*Jila Noori, MD  
Clinical Assistant Professor*

**JILA NOORI, MD** (full name Noorikolouri) joined the DMEI/OU Department of Ophthalmology as a uveitis and medical retina specialist in August.

Dr. Noori completed her uveitis and medical retina fellowships at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute/ University of Miami (Florida). Although her clinical focus will be on adult and pediatric patients with anterior and posterior uveitis (inflammatory eye disease), Dr. Noori also will provide care for macular and retinal vascular disease.

A native of Iran, Dr. Noori earned her medical degree and completed her ophthalmology residency and a vitreoretinal fellowship at the Tehran (Iran) University of Medical Sciences. She practiced in Iran as a comprehensive ophthalmologist between her residency and fellowship. After fellowship, she served for two years on the retina faculty at Farabi Eye Hospital at the Tehran University of Medical Sciences. From 2014 to 2017, she was a retina research fellow at the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Noori's three siblings are physicians in either practice or training in New York City, Los Angeles, and Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

We welcome Drs. Caywood and Noori to the Dean McGee Eye Institute and University of Oklahoma! ■



## *Dr. Annie Moreau Succeeds Dr. Reagan Bradford as Medical Staff Service Chief for Ophthalmology*



*Annie Moreau, MD, FACS  
Associate Professor*



*Reagan H. Bradford Jr., MD  
Clinical Professor*

**ON APRIL 1, ANNIE MOREAU, MD, FACS** succeeded Reagan H. Bradford Jr., MD as Medical Staff Service Chief for Ophthalmology at the University of Oklahoma (OU) Medical Center. Dr. Moreau is an ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgeon at the Dean McGee Eye Institute whose background and training are highlighted on pages 4-5. She had previously been Medical Staff Service Vice Chief for Ophthalmology.

Dr. Bradford had served in this role since 1998 and led the OU Medical Center's Ophthalmology Service well during an eventful period spanning more than 20 years. An accomplished vitreoretinal surgeon, Dr. Bradford is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of OU-Norman and received his medical degree from the OU College of Medicine. After an internship at Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City, he completed his residency at DMEI followed by a vitreoretinal surgery fellowship at the esteemed Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami.

Dr. Bradford joined the DMEI retina faculty in 1985 and has been a clinical professor since 2004. He also served as an advisory member on the DMEI Board of Directors from 1998 to 2018. Dr. Bradford has participated in numerous clinical trials and has many published articles. He is a past recipient of the Edward and Thelma Gaylord Faculty Honor Award and was a Guest of Honor at the American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting in 2017.

We thank Dr. Bradford for his more than 20 years of service in this key leadership position and are grateful to Dr. Moreau for assuming these important responsibilities! ■

# DR. SIATKOWSKI IS DISTINGUISHED



R. Michael Siatkowski, MD  
David W. Parke II, MD Professor of Ophthalmology

**R. MICHAEL SIATKOWSKI, MD, IS THE RECIPIENT** of the 2020 Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology (OAO) Distinguished Service Award. This is the OAO's highest honor and is a peer recognition award given to ophthalmologists who have exhibited a lifelong dedication to the OAO and/or to the profession of ophthalmology.

Dr. Siatkowski is the David W. Parke II, MD Professor of Ophthalmology, David Ross Boyd Professor, Vice Chair for Academic Affairs, and Residency Program Director at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI)/University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology. He held an OU Presidential Professorship from 2008 to 2012.

A native of Pennsylvania, Dr. Siatkowski completed his undergraduate and medical degrees, internship, and ophthalmology residency in his home state. He has served on the DMEI/OU faculty since 1999 and was previously on the faculty of the University of Miami's Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, where he completed fellowship training in neuro-ophthalmology and pediatric ophthalmology/strabismus. He has over 180 publications and book chapters and has lectured widely throughout the world.

"Mike's dedication to protecting vision in our state's pediatric population is unparalleled," said Dr. Ben J. Harvey, DMEI glaucoma specialist, OAO president, and a member of *Oklahoma Magazine's* "40 Under 40" Class of 2020 in April. "His training and accolades are peerless;



As this issue of DMEI *InVision* goes to press, the Oklahoma City Thunder is headed into the first round of the National Basketball Association playoffs. We are excited for our city and enthusiastically say, "Thunder Up!"



The Preferred Eye Care Provider of the OKC Thunder

# SERVICE AWARDEE

however, Mike's dedication to preserving vision surpasses these achievements and truly serves as a beacon of light for our state and our profession. In addition to Dr. Siatkowski's many roles, he also serves on Oklahoma's Infant and Children's Health Advisory Council, an advisory board to the Oklahoma State Department of Health and State Board of Health, providing recommendations regarding health care for infants and children. It is clear by his actions that to serve others is ingrained in his beliefs, and the Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology is honored to have R. Michael Siatkowski, MD receive the 2020 Distinguished Service Award."

His wife Rhea L. Siatkowski, MD is a cornea and anterior segment surgeon at DMEI. They have three children, Abigail, Elizabeth, and Joshua. Dr. Siatkowski is also an experienced classical pianist and has performed in multiple venues, including charitable events. ■

## Past Recipients:

- 2019 - John M. Bell, MD\*
- 2018 - Ann Acers-Warn, MD, MBA\*
- 2017 - Amalia M. Miranda, MD
- 2016 - James B. Wise, MD
- 2015 - Cynthia A. Bradford, MD\*
- 2014 - James L. Dunagin Jr., MD
- 2013 - W. Stanley Muenzler, MD
- 2012 - John A. Robinson, MD
- 2011 - Sterling S. Baker, MD
- 2010 - Roland A. Walters, MD
- 2009 - Lee E. Schoeffler, MD

*\*current DMEI/OU faculty member*

## Marissa R. Hundley Receives Employee of the Month Recognition



Marissa R. Hundley

**IN MAY, THE RESIDENT COUNCIL COMMITTEE** at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) recognized Marissa R. Hundley, patient appointment coordinator at the Dean McGee Eye Institute, as its Employee of the Month for her outstanding service to the OU ophthalmology residents. Hundley lives in Oklahoma City, is a 2019 graduate of the University of Central Oklahoma with a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership, and has worked at the Eye Institute since October 2018.

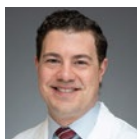
Due to current events and the need for social distancing, Hundley will receive her recognition at a future Resident Council Committee meeting. Congratulations, Marissa! ■



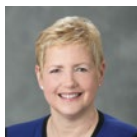
# FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES



**LEA D. BENNETT, PhD**, recently published: Bennett L.D., Klein M., John F.T., Radojevic B., Jones K., Birch D.G. "Disease Progression in Patients with Autosomal Dominant Retinitis Pigmentosa Due to a Mutation in Inosine Monophosphate Dehydrogenase 1 (IMPDH1)," *Translational Vision Science Technology*, Apr. 2020.



**NATHAN W. BLESSING, MD**, was inducted into the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (ASOPRS), June 2020. He traveled to Eswatini with the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) Global Eye Care Team (see pages 16-17) and gave the following lectures: "Periorbital Soft Tissue Reconstruction" and "Periorbital Infections," Good Shepherd Hospital Ophthalmology Symposium, Siteki, Eswatini, Feb. 2020. His recent publications include: Tran A.Q., Patete C.L., Blessing N.W., Rong A.J., Garcia A.L., Dubovy S., Tse D.T. "Orbital-Scleral-Sinus Invasion of Basal Cell Carcinoma in an Immunocompromised Patient on Vismodegib," *Orbit*, Apr. 2020; Jin H.D., Blessing N.W. "Cicatricial Ectropion and Madarosis Associated with Panitumumab Treatment of Metastatic Colorectal Cancer," *American Journal of Ophthalmology Case Reports*, June 2020; and Blessing N.W. Chapter 3: "Clinical Decision Making" and Chapter 14: "Socket Inflammation and Infection," In: Johnson T.E., editor, *Expert Guide to Anophthalmia*, 1st edition, Springer: Switzerland, 2020, pp 17-24 and 149-158 respectively. His abstract presentations include: Blessing N.W., Rong A.J., Tse B.C., Erickson B.P., Johnson T.E. "Our Experience Repairing Orbital Fractures with a Commercially Available Pre-sized and Pre-contoured Hybrid Porous Polyethylene – Titanium Implant" and Erickson B.P., Kossler A.L., Blessing N.W., Topping K.L., Ko A.C., Lee W.W., Johnson T.E. "The Superficial Temporal Artery as 'Biologic Jones Tube': A Cadaveric Proof of Concept," podium presentations, ASOPRS Virtual Spring Scientific Symposium, June 2020.



**CYNTHIA A. BRADFORD, MD**, serves on the Promotion and Tenure Committee for the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Medicine. Effective June 30, 2020, she completed more than 25 years of service overseeing medical student education activities for the OU Department of Ophthalmology and Dean McGee Eye Institute (see page 37).



**MICHELLE C. CALLEGAN, PhD**, is a member of the Promotion and Tenure Committee of the OU College of Medicine.



**SAM. S. DAHR, MD**, will receive an American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Achievement Award in 2020 for his service to the Academy.



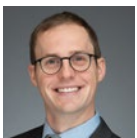
**JEAN R. HAUSHEER, MD, FACS**, will receive a Secretariat Award from the AAO in 2020 for her contributions to the Academy's Clinical Education Secretariat. In April 2020, she received the Ed Calhoun, MD Leadership in Medicine Award from the Oklahoma State Medical Association (see page 14).



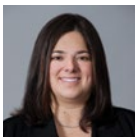
**DARREN J. LEE, PhD**, serves on the Student Appeals Board for the OU College of Medicine. He recently published: Lee D.J. “The Relationship Between TIGIT<sup>+</sup> Regulatory T Cells and Autoimmune Disease,” *International Immunopharmacology*, June 2020, Epub Mar. 2020; Muhammad F., Wang D., McDonald T., Walsh M., Drenen K., Montieth A., Foster C.S., Lee D.J. “TIGIT<sup>+</sup> A2Ar-Dependent Anti-Uveitic Treg Cells are a Novel Subset of Tregs Associated with Resolution of Autoimmune Uveitis,” *Journal of Autoimmunity*, July 2020, Epub Mar. 2020; and Muhammad F., Avalos P.N., Mursalin M.H., Ma J.X., Callegan M.C., Lee D.J. “Kallistatin Attenuates Experimental Autoimmune Uveitis by Inhibiting Activation of T Cells,” *Frontiers in Immunology*, May 2020. He received a grant entitled “Acquisition of Multi-Spectral Flow Cytometry for Advanced Single Cell Phenotyping” from the Oklahoma Center for Adult Stem Cell Research, Jan. 2020 (see page 18).



**SUN YOUNG LEE, MD, PhD**, recently published: Lee S.Y., Surbeck J.W., Drake M., Saunders A., Jin H.D., Shah V.A., Rajala R.V.S. “Increased Glial Fibrillary Acid Protein and Vimentin in Vitreous Fluid as a Biomarker for Proliferative Vitreoretinopathy,” *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science*, May 2020. She is the recipient of a Clinician Scientist Development Award from the Presbyterian Health Foundation, July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 (year two).



**ANDREW T. MELSON, MD**, will receive an AAO Achievement Award in 2020 for his service to the Academy. He recently published: Melson A.T., Warmath J.D., Moreau A., Farris B.K. “Superonasal Transconjunctival Optic Nerve Sheath Decompression: A Simplified Technique for Safe and Efficient Decompression,” *Journal of Neuro-Ophthalmology*, Mar. 2020; and Melson A.T., McClelland C.M., Lee M.S. “Ocular Myasthenia Gravis: Updates on an Elusive Target,” *Current Opinions in Neurology*, Feb. 2020.



**ANNIE MOREAU, MD, FACS**, received the 2020 Stanton L. Young Master Teacher Award, Apr. 2020 (see pages 4-5); serves as the chair of the Student Promotions Committee for the OU College of Medicine; and was a guest speaker at the North American Skull Base Society Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX, where she presented: “Management of Ophthalmic Complications Following Cavernous Sinus Meningioma Surgery,” Feb. 2020.



**RAJU V.S. RAJALA, PhD**, received the Amalia M. Miranda, MD Special Recognition Award, June 2020 (see page 25). His recent publications include: Rajala A., Rajala R.V.S. “A Non-canonical Rhodopsin-mediated Insulin Receptor Signaling in Retinal Photoreceptor Neurons,” *Cell Biology International*, Apr. 2020; Rajala R.V.S. “Aerobic Glycolysis in the Retina: Functional Roles of Pyruvate Kinase Isoforms,” *Frontiers in Cell and Developmental Biology*, Apr. 2020; Lee S.Y., Surbeck J.W., Drake M., Saunders A., Jin H.D., Shah V.A., Rajala R.V.S. “Increased Glial Fibrillary Acid Protein and Vimentin in the Vitreous Fluid as a Biomarker for Proliferative Vitreoretinopathy,” *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science*, May 2020; Rajala A., Soni K., Rajala R.V.S. “Metabolic and Non-metabolic Roles of Pyruvate Kinase M2 Isoform in Diabetic Retinopathy,” *Scientific Reports*, May 2020; and Rajala A., McCauley A., Brush R.S., Nguyen K., Rajala R.V.S. “Phosphoinositide Lipids in Ocular Tissues,” *Biology*, June 2020.

# FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES



**KAMRAN M. RIAZ, MD**, was an invited international panelist for two webinars, Al-Azhar University (Egypt) with approximately 150 attendees and the Indian Society of Cornea and Keratorefractive Surgeons with approximately 500 attendees, June 2020. His recent publications include: Grodsky J.D., Doshi R., Riaz K.M. “Medical Management and Visual Rehabilitation of Limbal Niche Dysfunction,” *Journal of Cataract and Refractive Surgery*, Jan. 2020; Schechet S.A., Hariprasad S.M., Riaz K.M. “Posterior to Anterior Migration of a Large Optic Fragment in a Pseudophakic Eye,” *German Medical Science Ophthalmology Cases*, Feb. 2020; Priyadarsini S., Whelchel A., Nicholas S., Sharif R., Riaz K.M., Karamichos D. “Diabetic Keratopathy: Insights and Challenges,” *Survey of Ophthalmology*, Feb. 2020; Haq Z., Zhang M.H., Benjamin M.J., Riaz K.M. “Short-term Non-infectious Outcomes After a Pars Plana Intravitreal Antibiotic-steroid Injection of Triamcinolone, Moxifloxacin, and Vancomycin During Cataract Surgery versus a Standard Postoperative Topical Regimen,” *Clinical Ophthalmology*, Apr. 2020; 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,” *Ophthalmology and Therapy*, May 2020, online ahead of print; Berry J.C., Moore L.E., Riaz K.M. “Novel Microforceps Technique Developed for Endothelial Surgical Procedures,” *Cornea*, in press; Berry J.C., Gudgel B.M., Riaz K.M. “Bilateral Asymmetrical Corneal Deposits in an Asymptomatic Patient,” *JAMA Ophthalmology*, in press; Riaz K.M., Williams B., Farooq A.V., Kloek C.E. “Resident-performed Cataract Surgery and Placement of Advanced Technology Intraocular Lenses,” *Clinical Ophthalmology*, in press; and Riaz K.M. “Perfecting the Yamane Technique,” *Cataract & Refractive Surgery Today*, Feb. 2020. His recent visiting professor lectures include: “Dropless Cataract Surgery,” “Ten Commandments of Femto Lasers,” and “Top 10 Pearls for DMEK,” 35th Annual Scientific Congress, Department of Ophthalmology, Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt, Jan. 2020; “Clinical, Surgical and Testable Optics,” Northwestern University, Chicago, IL, Feb. 2020; “Ophthalmic Optics: Clinical, Surgical and Testable Relevance,” Chicago Curriculum in Ophthalmology, Chicago, IL, Feb. 2020. His recent international lectures (webinars) include: “Intravitreal Injection of Antibiotic-Steroid with Cataract Surgery,” Al-Azhar University (Cairo, Egypt), Ophthalmology Grand Rounds, June 2020; and “Biometry Challenges in Long and Short Axial Length Eyes: Current Practices and Future Challenges,” Indian Society of Cornea and Keratorefractive Surgeons, June 2020. He also presented virtually at the 2020 American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery Annual Meeting: Sharma A., Riaz K.M., Patnaik A., Ulahannan S., Wang J.S., Ahnert J.R., Gill M., Ang Q., Cicic D., Bergonio G.R., Zhang C., Wiostko B. “Autologous Serum Tears (AST) Reverse Limbal Stem Cell (LSC) Dysfunction Secondary to Anti-HER2 Antibody-Drug Conjugate;” Riaz K.M., Williams B., Wang L., Farooq A.V. “Refractive and Keratometric Outcomes of Resident-performed Manual Limbal Relaxing Incisions: One-year Results;” Riaz K.M., Haq Z. “Clinical Outcomes of Intravitreal Antibiotic-steroid Injection of Triamcinolone, Moxifloxacin, and Vancomycin After Cataract Surgery;” Batliwala S., Riaz K.M. “Temporal Association Between Influenza Vaccination, Herpes Zoster Reactivation and *Purpureocillium lilacinum* Keratitis;” and Griffin D.R., Riaz K.M. “Refractive Accuracy of Multivariable Formulas for Eyes with Short and Long Axial Lengths.”

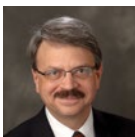




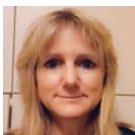
**VINAY A. SHAH, MD**, was interviewed for an AAO *EyeNet* magazine article, “Practice Management Apps for Ophthalmology: How to Get Started,” Apr. 2020.



**R. MICHAEL SIATKOWSKI, MD**, became the Associate Secretary for Annual Meeting Subspecialty Day for the AAO, Jan. 2020, and was awarded the 2020 Distinguished Service Award by the Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology, June 2020 (see pages 8-9). He also is the recipient of the 2020 Straatsma Award for Excellence in Resident Education (see page 32) as well as a Secretariat Award from the AAO for his contributions to the Academy’s Member Services Secretariat. His recent publications include: Jin H.D., O’Brien J.C., Siatkowski R.M. “Suprasellar Arachnoid Cyst Causing Reversible Junctional Scotoma,” *American Journal of Ophthalmology Case Reports*, Apr. 2020; Makkar A., Siatkowski R.M., Szyld E., Ganguly A., Sekar K. “Scope of Telemedicine in Neonatology,” *Chinese Journal of Contemporary Pediatrics*, Apr. 2020; 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; and 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,” *BMC Medical Education*, June 2019. His recent presentations include: Freedman R., Toyal A., Sankar P., Gieconi J., Graubart E., Kemp P., Noch D., Mian S., Siatkowski R.M., Sun G., Waxman E., Rosenberg J. “Resources, Reliability, and Factors Important to Ophthalmology Applicants,” platform presentation, Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO) Annual Meeting, Rancho Mirage, CA, Jan. 2020; Gudgel B., Dvorak J., Ding K., Siatkowski R.M. “Predictors of a Successful Ophthalmology Resident,” poster presentation, AUPO Annual Meeting, Rancho Mirage, CA, Jan. 2020; Siatkowski R.M. “Corrective Action Plans for Struggling Residents,” (Breakfast with the Experts), AUPO Annual Meeting, Rancho Mirage, CA, Jan. 2020; Siatkowski R.M. “The Residency CREW: Communication, Resilience, Efficiency, and Wellness,” AUPO Annual Meeting (Coordinator Program), Rancho Mirage, CA, Jan. 2020; and panelist for “Strabismus—Image? Operate?,” remote presentation, North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society Annual Meeting, Amelia Island, FL, Mar. 2020.



**GREGORY L. SKUTA, MD**, co-presented “Development and Fundraising” at the AUPO Annual Meeting in Rancho Mirage, CA, Jan. 2020 (see pages 34-35). On August 29-30, 2020, he will serve as a panel leader for administration of the virtual oral examination for the American Board of Ophthalmology (ABO). (He is an emeritus director of the ABO). Dr. Skuta will deliver the Wolfe Foundation Lecture at the Iowa Eye Annual Meeting in 2021.



**MISTIE D. WINTERS**, in July became a certified ophthalmic assistant (COA).

## 2020 Ed Calhoon, MD Leadership in Medicine Award



Jean R. Hausheer, MD, FACS  
Clinical Professor

**IN APRIL, JEAN R. HAUSHEER, MD, FACS**, clinical professor at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (Lawton), received the Oklahoma State Medical Association's (OSMA's) Ed Calhoon, MD Leadership in Medicine Award for 2020. This award was established by the OSMA Board of Trustees in 2001 and is presented to an OSMA member physician in recognition of his or her distinguished leadership and service to organized medicine at the county, state, or national level.

Dr. Hausheer served as OSMA president in 2018-2019 and as president of the Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology from 2014-2017. Currently, she is vice president of the Christian Ophthalmology Society and a member of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority Board, which administers the state's Medicaid program. She was among *The Journal Record's* "50 Making a Difference" in 2019. ■

## Scott Samples, NCLE-AC, CPOT Earns New Certification

**SCOTT SAMPLES, NCLE-AC, CPOT** earned the National Contact Lens Examiners Advanced Certification (NCLE-AC) in March. Samples provides contact lens services at the Dean McGee Eye Institute and moved here from Columbus, Georgia in 2019.

This Advanced Certification designation, NCLE-AC, is earned only after a practitioner has attained several years of experience, completes a prescribed curriculum of advanced education, and achieves a passing score on the rigorous examinations. Professionals with advanced certification credentials are equipped to work in a variety of practice settings, such as: ophthalmology practices, university hospitals, commercial offices, HMO/managed care offices, optometric offices, large clinics, and as independent opticians or optical product manufacturers. ■



Scott Samples, NCLE-AC, CPOT



Jim Durbin  
Executive Director of Development

# PHILANTHROPY UPDATE

## *E.L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation Awards \$1 Million to Create Thelma Gaylord Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology at Dean McGee Eye Institute*

**THE E.L. AND THELMA GAYLORD FOUNDATION CONTINUED ITS LONGSTANDING SUPPORT** of the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and the DMEI Foundation with the announcement of a \$1 million grant to fund the creation of the Thelma Gaylord Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology at DMEI.

“In recent years, with the help of generous donors such as the E.L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation, DMEI has invested heavily in the recruitment of clinical, surgical, and scientific talent,” states Gregory L. Skuta, MD, DMEI’s president and chief executive officer (CEO). “The Institute desires to do all that it can to support the new talent it has recently recruited as well as the talent it has nurtured over the years. Within a high-profile setting like DMEI, endowed chairs are important tools for sustaining the academic efforts of top-quality faculty. Furthermore, endowed chairs help advance the quality of DMEI’s programs and

demonstrate its commitment to its faculty and the academic mission. We are deeply grateful to the Gaylord Foundation for providing this strategic support that continues to propel the Institute forward.”

Dr. Skuta occupies the Edward L. Gaylord Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology, which is held in the University of Oklahoma (OU) Foundation and is awarded to the chairperson of the OU Department of Ophthalmology. Four other endowed chairs in ophthalmology are held in the OU Foundation.

During Dr. Skuta’s tenure as president/CEO/ chair, four endowed positions have now been established within the DMEI Foundation to create a total of nine for the Institute/ Department. “Our goal is for the Institute and Department to establish several more endowed positions to help support the incredible ophthalmologists and vision scientists who conduct their great work every day at the Dean McGee Eye Institute.” ■



# Farris Global Eye Care Program Impacts Eswatini

**THE BRADLEY K. FARRIS, MD GLOBAL EYE CARE PROGRAM** is a program supported by the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) to deliver excellence in eye care, education, and vision research to underserved regions of the world. Gifts from generous donors to the Farris Global Eye Care Program help offset costs of the medical trips to both Eswatini, Africa and the Sichuan Province of China. In February 2020, four ophthalmologists from DMEI [Drs. Nathan Blessing (and his wife Dr. Tracy Blessing, a restorative dentist), David Griffin, Brett Gudgel, and Andrew Melson (and his wife Danielle Melson, who is a physical therapist)], and one former DMEI ophthalmologist, Dr. Garrett Frank, traveled along with Dr. Farris to Eswatini (formerly known as Swaziland) to provide training and eye care to the people of the region.



*Nathan W. Blessing, MD (center) teaches external dacryocystorhinostomy surgery to Drs. Jonathan "Jono" Pons from Eswatini (back left) and Abel Polaze (front left) from Mozambique. DMEI residents Drs. Brett M. Gudgel (back center) and David R. Griffin (right) also observe.*



*David R. Griffin, MD examines Eswatini child.*

## A note from David R. Griffin, MD (Residency Class of 2020)...

Visiting Eswatini was deeply impactful and will be an experience I never forget. The need for medical care was overwhelming, and the scope of pathology encountered was genuinely unbelievable. I've always had an interest in international outreach, and this trip has solidified my resolve to participate in lifelong service abroad. You (donors) helped make this dream a reality, and I am forever grateful for your kindness and philanthropy. The lives of our medical team and hundreds of patients have been touched by your (donors') generosity.



*Tracy S. Blessing, DMD, Clinical Assistant Professor, Assistant Director, Advanced Education in General Dentistry, University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry, presents on periodontal disease.*



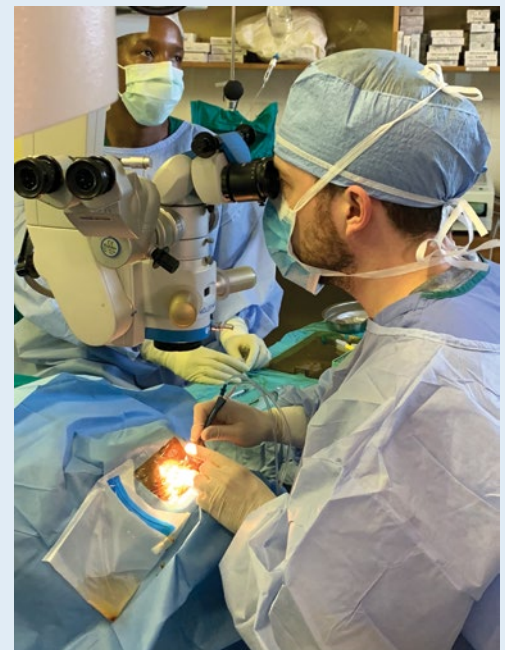
*Andrew T. Melson, MD (right) performing surgery with Brett M. Gudgel, MD (left) in an Eswatini operating room ("theatre").*



*Danielle C. Melson (right), a physical therapist with INTEGRIS Southwest Medical Center, provides physical therapy for a young Eswatini boy.*

## **A note from Brett M. Gudgel, MD (Immediate Past Chief Resident, Residency Class of 2020)...**

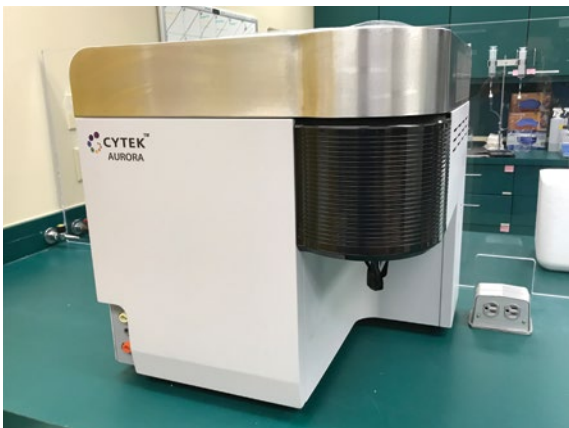
On a clinical level, our team and I were able to provide high-level, hands-on clinical and surgical care. In clinic, we were able to use our team of subspecialists to provide care that is not typically available in Eswatini. Many patients had waited months to see our Dean McGee specialists, and thankfully we were able to provide the necessary care for many of these patients. In the operating room (or "theatre" as they say in Eswatini), our subspecialists were equally impactful. As a resident, I had the opportunity to learn and assist in a special kind of cataract surgery called Manual Small Incision Cataract Surgery (MSICS). This technique for cataract removal is low-cost, high-quality, and not regularly done in the United States. This was an experience I would not have received elsewhere in my residency training and will be invaluable as I pursue future international ophthalmology opportunities.



*Brett M. Gudgel, MD performing surgery in Eswatini.*

## MARY K. CHAPMAN FOUNDATION AND OKLAHOMA CENTER FOR ADULT STEM CELL RESEARCH HELP DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE ENHANCE ITS CELLULAR IMMUNOLOGY RESEARCH

**CONDITIONS SUCH AS BLINDNESS, CANCER, DIABETES, AND AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE** are linked to the dysfunction of rare cell populations. The challenge is detecting these cells at the single-cell level. The current flow cytometers available on the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) campus only allow for identification of 9 to 12 different multicellular groups. However, a \$100,000 grant from The Mary K. Chapman Foundation and a \$146,650 grant from the Oklahoma Center for Adult Stem Cell Research (OCASCR—a program of the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust) will enable the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology to acquire an advanced multi-spectrum imaging flow cytometer. The balance of funds for acquisition and placement of this sophisticated device (approximately \$45,000) will come from an unrestricted grant from Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB).

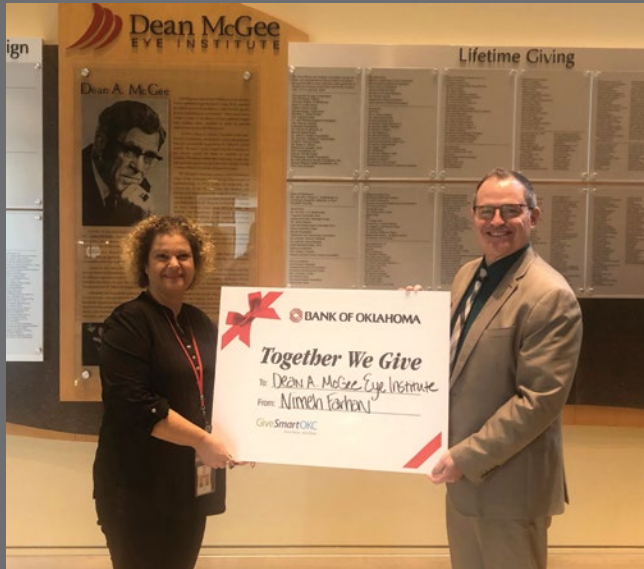


This equipment will allow researchers to identify up to 48 different single-cell populations and monitor the effectiveness of novel treatments at the cellular level. This will be the first such device on the OUHSC campus and will be the centerpiece of the Department of Ophthalmology's Ocular Immunobiology Core Facility. In addition, it will be available to investigators from across the campus, thus helping keep OUHSC scientists at the forefront of research. Darren J. Lee, PhD, an assistant professor in the Department of Ophthalmology, prepared the successful OCASCR grant application.

"We are very thankful to The Mary K. Chapman Foundation, OCASCR, and RPB for providing the funds needed to acquire this advanced cellular imaging device," says Gregory L. Skuta, MD, DMEI's president and chief executive officer and Edward L. Gaylord professor and chair of the OU Department of Ophthalmology. "Such support is vital to scientific progress, and it will allow investigators at DMEI/OU to continue to undertake cutting-edge research to find new treatments for vision loss and blindness." ■

**If you are interested in supporting DMEI/OU's vision research efforts, please donate online at [www.dmei.org/donate-now](http://www.dmei.org/donate-now) or enclose a check in the reply envelope included in this magazine. Together we can give the gift of sight to future generations!**





Nimeh Farhan (left), Bank of Oklahoma employee, and Jim Durbin (right), DMEI's executive director of development, pose with a presentation check given on behalf of Bank of Oklahoma through its employee giving campaign called "Together We Give".

## Dean McGee Eye Institute Crisis Response Fund **NEEDS YOUR HELP**

**LIKE ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY**, the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) has been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. We experienced a severe decline in revenue as non-essential appointments and surgeries were postponed; however, as we increase elective clinical and surgical activity and continue to care for those whose vision is threatened, you can help.

Your donation to our Crisis Response Fund can help us continue to provide care for patients threatened with vision loss. Funds are needed to help acquire personal protective equipment, maintain needed staffing, and cover other basic operating expenses so that DMEI can continue to serve those who need us during this challenging time.

**Please donate online today! Thank you! <https://dmei.org/giving/>**



# 2019 ANNUAL DONORS

The following names reflect gifts received by the Dean McGee Eye Institute and/or Dean McGee Eye Institute Foundation from January 1 through December 31, 2019. They include gifts and pledges as well as payments on previous pledges.

## \$250,000 - \$499,999

Anonymous  
The Chickasaw Nation

## \$100,000 - \$249,999

Estate of John Howard Gardner, MD  
E.L. and Thelma Gaylord  
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## \$1,000 - \$4,999

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Richard Alvarez, MBA  
Governor Bill Anoatubby  
Andrew K. Bailey, MD  
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Jean R. Hausheer, MD, FACS  
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Sun Young Lee, MD, PhD  
Herb Leonard  
Laura S. Miles, MD  
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Nelson R. Sabates, MD  
Siv Brit Saetre, MD and  
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Shirley A. Samis  
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# 2019 Acers Society

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

## LIFETIME MEMBERS

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G. Rainey Williams Jr.  
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Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHSc  
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Cynthia A. Bradford, MD  
Reagan H. Bradford Jr., MD  
Daniel R. Brooks, MD  
Denise R. Chamblee, MD  
Joshua R. Fullmer, MD  
Ronald M. Kingsley, MD  
Ensa K. Pillow, MD  
Ronald J. Pinkenburg, MD  
Andrew L. Rodenburg, MD  
Allyson Doiron Schmitt, MD  
Jonathan P. Walgama, MD  
Kurt D. Weir, MD  
Thomas C. Wolf, MD

\*Deceased

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

**Chair:** William S. Clifford, MD, MBA, Garden City, Kansas

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

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



## *Make 2020 Your Year to Give*

THE CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT contains enhanced charitable giving incentives, for both itemizers and non-itemizers alike, that can benefit you and the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI).

In particular, the CARES Act provides the following incentives:

- > **Cash contributions made in the year 2020 are fully deductible up to 100% of adjusted gross income for those who itemize their deductions.** This replaces the typical 60% limit and allows you to contribute more while reducing your tax liability. Gifts must be made to an eligible non-profit organization like the DMEI Foundation.
- > **There is a temporary universal charitable deduction of up to \$300 for cash gifts made in 2020 by those who do not itemize their deductions.** If you do not itemize deductions on your tax return, this is an opportunity typically not available to you to reduce your taxable income while supporting a charity of your choice such as the DMEI Foundation.
- > **Corporations may deduct up to 25% of taxable income for charitable gifts made in 2020.** Typically, the cap on corporate deductions is 10%, so if you own a business, you can reduce your taxable income to a greater degree and support the DMEI Foundation.

If you are in a position to contribute to the DMEI Foundation in support of the missions of the Eye Institute, 2020 may be an ideal year to do so. Gifts can be made online at [www.dmei.org/donate-now](http://www.dmei.org/donate-now) or by check in the reply envelope provided in this magazine.

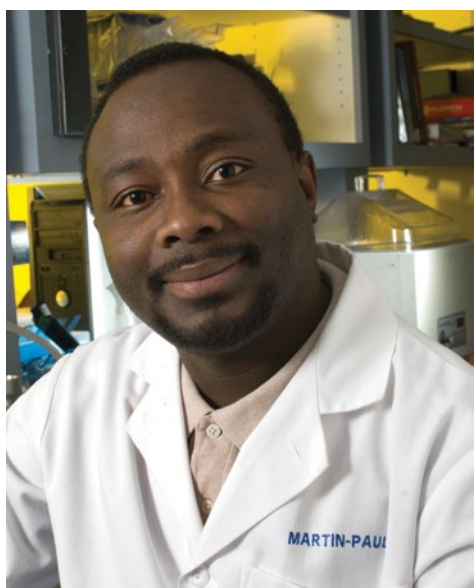
We thank you for your consideration.



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## Martin-Paul Agbaga, PhD Named to ISSFAL Board of Directors

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*Martin-Paul Agbaga, PhD  
Assistant Professor*

**MARTIN-PAUL AGBAGA, PHD HAS BEEN NAMED** to the Board of Directors of the International Society for the Study of Fatty Acids and Lipids (ISSFAL) and will serve a four-year term. ISSFAL is the leading organization in the world devoted to the study of fatty acids and their effects on human health and disease.

Dr. Agbaga is an assistant professor of cell biology and ophthalmology whose laboratory is located in the Dean McGee Eye Institute. He was nominated for the ISSFAL Board by Nicolas G. Bazan, MD, PhD (LSU Health-New Orleans School of Medicine), Michael A. Crawford, PhD, FSB, FRCPATH (Imperial College London), and Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD (Dean McGee Eye Institute/OU Department of Ophthalmology). ■

## RESEARCH RANKING NEWS

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**IN 2019, THE DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY** at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) was ranked among the nation's top 20 (#19) in National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding with \$6.4 million in NIH research grants. It was in the top 10 among public universities. With respect to its \$6.0 million in cumulative funding from Research to Prevent Blindness, the Department was ranked 14th in the country and eighth among public universities. ■

## Dr. Rajala Receives Amalia M. Miranda, MD Special Recognition Award

**IN JUNE, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT RAJU V.S. RAJALA, PHD** was the recipient of the second annual Amalia M. Miranda, MD Special Recognition Award. Dr. Rajala's current titles at the University of Oklahoma (OU) are shared in the caption with his photograph.

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

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

A native of India, Dr. Rajala received his master's degree and PhD in biochemistry from India's Andhra University, completed a postdoctoral fellowship in molecular biology at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada, and, in 2000, joined the laboratory of Dr. Robert E. "Gene" Anderson



*Raju V.S. Rajala, PhD  
M.G. McCool Professor of Ophthalmology  
Edith Kinney Gaylord Presidential Professor  
Professor of Physiology  
Adjunct Professor of Cell Biology  
Mentoring Faculty, Oklahoma Center for Neuroscience*

at the OU Health Sciences Center as an assistant professor of research. He was promoted to tenure-track assistant professor in 2003, associate professor in 2008, and professor in 2013, achieving tenure in 2010. Among his many scientific achievements, Dr. Rajala made the groundbreaking discovery that the insulin receptor was present in retinal photoreceptor membranes and could be activated by light, subsequently producing activation of a phosphoinositide signaling pathway known to be neuroprotective in other tissues.

The principal thrust of Dr. Rajala's current research is to redefine the understanding of neurodegenerative diseases of the retina. His research is supported by two R01 grants from the National Institutes of Health/National Eye Institute, for which he serves as a permanent member of the Biology of the Visual System Study Section. He also holds an active grant from the BrightFocus Foundation.

As an esteemed leader in vision research, Dr. Rajala serves as associate editor of the *Biomed Central UK Ophthalmology Journal* and is on the editorial board for several other scientific journals. He is also a past recipient of a Career Development Award from Research to Prevent Blindness and has approximately 130 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters. ■



## Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD Retires *A Leader Among Leaders and the Best of the Best*

**DR. ROBERT EUGENE "GENE" ANDERSON, WHO SERVED AS THE DIRECTOR OF VISION RESEARCH** at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) for more than 20 years and also as the chair or interim chair of the Department of Cell Biology for more than 10 years, retired from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) on June 30, 2020. It is very appropriate that Dr. Anderson was honored in January 2020 with the OU College of Medicine Alumni Association's Dean's Award for Distinguished Medical Service, the highest award that can be bestowed at OUHSC. It is also special that the year 2020 represents Dr. Anderson's 25th anniversary with DMEI/OU (he arrived in Oklahoma in January 1995) and the 50th anniversary of his first grant (1970) from the National Institutes of Health/National Eye Institute (NIH/NEI).

In a message shared on June 30, Gregory L. Skuta, MD, DMEI's president and chief executive officer and Edward L. Gaylord professor and chair of the OU Department of Ophthalmology, said, "Gene Anderson's enormous contributions and achievements as one of the world's leading vision scientists have been truly monumental at every conceivable level. Although he has been a transformational physician scientist and national and international leader in the field of biomedical and vision research, we have been most impressed by his warm personal touch, extraordinary skills as a teacher, and phenomenal and enduring record of personal and professional mentorship."

Dr. Anderson has assembled more than \$62 million of NIH grant funding since arriving at DMEI/OUHSC. Thanks to his own success, his ability to inspire others, and his broad reach



and influence, he transformed a Department of Ophthalmology with no basic science research support from the NIH before his arrival to a nationally respected vision research program ranked among the top in the country in NIH support and cumulative funding from Research to Prevent Blindness. He also made vision research a major focus of this campus.

“Gene’s collection of life achievement awards is truly impressive,” Dr. Skuta continued. “However, the greatest elements of Gene’s legacy are the unmatched loyalty, love, and admiration toward him that we all have witnessed time and time again that further confirm the singularity of his seemingly infinite sphere of influence, which has only broadened his scientific impact.”

“At the Dedication Ceremony for what is now DMEI’s David W. Parke II, MD Pavilion on September 30, 2011, the fact that Dr. Paul Sieving as the Director of the National Eye Institute could describe the Dean McGee Eye Institute as a ‘national treasure’ is quite simply the result of Gene’s talents and his longstanding and continuing commitment to promoting biomedical research. Gene too is a ‘national treasure,’ and we are all very proud to be among his colleagues and friends.”

“The magnitude of Dr. Robert Eugene Anderson’s achievements, integrity, sustained and exceptional enthusiasm for advancing vision science, and attributes as a role model for a multitude of young scientists is truly extraordinary,” Dr. Skuta concluded. “He is very deserving of all of the accolades bestowed upon

him. Although current circumstances will require a delay in a large public gathering to honor Gene’s retirement, all of us at DMEI/OUHSC wish him, his wife Gloria, and their beautiful family the very, very best in the months and years ahead. In the meantime, we look forward to our continuing friendships and are certain that, even in retirement, Gene will continue to bring great honor to the Dean McGee Eye Institute and the University of Oklahoma.” ■



On display in the Dean McGee Eye Institute’s Inasmuch Foundation Atrium are (left to right) Dr. Robert Eugene Anderson’s 2011 Proctor Medal from the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology; the 2011 Llura Liggett Gund Award from the Foundation Fighting Blindness; and the 2020 OU College of Medicine Alumni Association’s Dean’s Award for Distinguished Medical Service. Photo Credit: Matt Skuta

## RESEARCH FACULTY— DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

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Richard S. Brush, BS

Michelle C. Callegan, PhD, FARVO

Daniel J.J. Carr, PhD, FARVO

Yan Chen, PhD

Phillip S. Coburn, PhD

Michael H. Elliott, PhD, FARVO

Kevin K. Fuller, PhD

Darren J. Lee, PhD

Sun Young Lee, MD, PhD

Feng Li, MD, MPH, MS

Raju V.S. Rajala, PhD



## Victoria A. Bugg, MD Named New Chief Resident



Victoria A. Bugg, MD  
Chief Resident

### **DR. VICTORIA A. BUGG HAS BEEN SELECTED AS CHIEF RESIDENT**

for the 2020-2021 academic year, which started on July 1. Dr. Bugg grew up in Norman, Oklahoma, where she attended the University of Oklahoma (OU) and graduated with special distinction with a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering. She then completed medical school at the OU College of Medicine, where she was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. Dr. Bugg also completed her internship year in internal medicine at OU. She most enjoys spending time with her husband, Blake, who is an attorney landman in Oklahoma City, and their son, Blake Jr. During her free time, she also enjoys yoga, baking cookies, and spending time with her family.

Dr. Bugg's predecessor as chief resident, Brett M. Gudgel, MD, will be continuing his training as a cornea fellow at the Moran Eye Center/University of Utah in Salt Lake City. ■

## Virtual Grand Rounds

**THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY INVITES** all Oklahoma ophthalmologists and alumni to join via Zoom for the Dean McGee Eye Institute/University of Oklahoma weekly virtual grand rounds held each Monday morning at 8 am.

Currently, around 10 to 15 ophthalmologists from outside the Institute/Department join virtually, and one alumnus in Texas invites his colleagues.

For more information, please contact Helen Howell, [Helen-Howell@dmei.org](mailto:Helen-Howell@dmei.org). ■

# *DMEI Distinguished Visiting Lecturers*



**FEBRUARY 10, 2020**

**BR Daubman, MD and Alice Lorch, MD, MPH**  
(front, third and second from right)  
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, 2020**

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

**Topic:** "Far Advanced Glaucoma. One Patient's  
Perspective: Are We Making a Difference?"

## *U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT AND DOXIMITY 2020-2021 SURVEYS*

**THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE WAS RANKED 7TH** in the nation among academic eye centers affiliated with a public university and 20th overall by *U.S. News & World Report*. In the *Doximity* survey of ophthalmology residency programs, DMEI was ranked 8th among public institutions and 19th overall.

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

# THE GRADUATES OF 2020

## RESIDENTS



**DAVID R. GRIFFIN, MD**, has completed three years of residency training and will enter private practice as a comprehensive ophthalmologist in Pleasant Grove, Utah



**BRETT M. GUDGEL, MD**, has completed three years of residency training and will be continuing his training as a cornea fellow at the Moran Eye Center/ University of Utah in Salt Lake City.



**FINNY T. JOHN, MD**, has completed three years of residency training and will be staying at the Dean McGee Eye Institute/University of Oklahoma for an additional year of training as a glaucoma fellow.



**GERTA MANE, MD**, has completed three years of residency training and will be joining the Cataract and Laser Institute in Toledo, Ohio.

## FELLOWS



**LEE E. MOORE, MD**, has completed a one-year cornea fellowship and will enter private practice in Madison, Mississippi.



**STANLEY S.K. PARK, MD**, has completed a two-year vitreoretinal surgery fellowship and will be joining Kaiser Permanente in Northern California.



**SAMUEL L. THOMSEN, MD**, has completed a one-year glaucoma fellowship and will be joining Eye Surgical Associates in Lincoln, Nebraska.

# UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY INCOMING 2020 RESIDENTS & FELLOWS

## INCOMING 2020 RESIDENTS



*Pictured (left to right): Drs. Brayden Barrientez, Tyler Friske, Cynthia McClard, Rupin Parikh, and Christian Leal.*

### **Brayden R. Barrientez, MD**

**College:** Oklahoma Christian University  
**Medical School:** University of Oklahoma  
**Interim Year:** University of Oklahoma

### **Tyler C. Friske, MD**

**College:** Southern Methodist University  
**Medical School:** Baylor College of Medicine  
**Interim Year:** Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center (Denver)

### **Christian A. Leal, MD**

**College:** Stanford University  
**Medical School:** University of Texas Southwestern Medical School  
**Interim Year:** University of Texas Southwestern Medical School

### **Cynthia K. McClard, MD, PhD**

**College:** University of Texas, Austin  
**Medical School:** Baylor College of Medicine (MD, PhD)  
**Interim Year:** University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

### **Rupin N. Parikh, MD**

**College:** Northwestern University  
**Medical School:** Albany (NY) Medical College  
**Interim Year:** Columbia-Bassett Medical Center (Cooperstown, NY)

## INCOMING 2020 FELLOWS



### **Andrew C. Hou, MD**

**Cornea Fellow**  
**College:** City College of New York, New York, NY  
**Medical School:** State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate, Brooklyn, NY  
**Residency:** Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, MI



### **Oliver G. Fischer, MD, MSc**

**Retina Fellow**  
**College:** SUNY at Binghamton, NY  
**Master of Science:** Georgetown University, Washington, DC  
**Medical School:** Rush Medical College, Chicago, IL  
**Residency:** Bronx Care Ophthalmology, The Bronx, NY



### **Finny T. John, MD**

**Glaucoma Fellow**  
**College:** Cornell University, Ithaca, NY  
**Medical School:** SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, NY  
**Residency:** Dean McGee Eye Institute/ University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, OK



### **Jorge L. Malouf, DO**

**Global Eye Care Fellow**  
**College:** Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD  
**Medical School:** Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Athens, OH  
**Residency:** Larkin Community Hospital, South Miami, FL





## *R. Michael Siatkowski, MD to Receive 2020 Straatsma Award for Excellence in Resident Education*

### **DURING THE VIRTUAL RESIDENT/ ALUMNI DAY AWARD AND RECOGNITION EVENT ON JUNE 6,**

Dr. Brett M. Gudgel, the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology's outgoing chief resident, said, "I truly believe that we are fortunate to have the best (residency) program director in the country." The Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO) and American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) agree with this statement, as R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, the ophthalmology residency program director at DMEI/OU since 2011, is the recipient of the highly prestigious 2020 Straatsma Award for Excellence in Resident Education.

Dr. Siatkowski is the 18th individual to receive this award, which was established in 2003 to "recognize and celebrate an outstanding program director in ophthalmology." It is the highest national honor that can be bestowed on an ophthalmology residency program director. Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD, for whom the award is named, is the former chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and former director of UCLA's Jules Stein Eye Institute.

Dr. Siatkowski is also the vice chair for academic affairs for the Institute/Department, holds the David W. Parke II, MD Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology, and is the only ophthalmologist to have been named a David Ross Boyd Professor at OU. In 2018-2019, he served as president of the AUPO's Program Directors Council and as president of the American Association for Pediatric



*Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski (center) with the 2020 graduating residents. From left to right: Drs. David R. Griffin, Gerta Mane, Finny T. John, and Brett M. Gudgel.*

Ophthalmology and Strabismus. Dr. Siatkowski is a past director of the American Board of Ophthalmology, former president of the Christian Ophthalmology Society, and past vice chair of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education's Residency Review Committee for Ophthalmology. He currently serves as Associate Secretary for Subspecialty Day for the AAO and has received a Life Achievement Honor Award and three Secretariat Awards from the Academy. Dr. Siatkowski is also the recipient of the 2020 Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology Distinguished Service Award (see pages 8-9). His numerous teaching awards include four Gaylord Faculty Honor Awards at DMEI, an OU Regents' Award for Superior Teaching, and an M. Dewayne Andrews, MD Excellence in Teaching Award in Graduate Medical Education.

Dr. Siatkowski will be recognized as this year's Straatsma Awardee during the virtual Opening Session of AAO2020 and also at the 2021 AUPO Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas. He will deliver a special presentation at the AUPO meeting. ■

# Resident/Alumni Day Awards

**AS PART OF THIS YEAR'S ABBREVIATED** (Friday afternoon only) and virtual 44th Annual Resident/Alumni Day, the recipients of a number of awards were announced at the Zoom recognition and awards event on the evening of Saturday, June 6:



**E.L. and Thelma Gaylord Faculty Honor Award:**  
Carolyn E. Kloek, MD



**Excellence in Attending at VA Award:**  
Andrew K. Bailey, MD  
(also in 2015, 2018, and 2019)



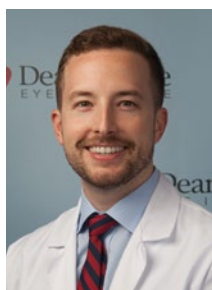
**Amalia M. Miranda, MD Special Recognition Award:**  
Raju V.S. Rajala, PhD



**Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology Distinguished Service Award:**  
R. Michael Siatkowski, MD



**Dr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Acers Resident Honor Award:**  
David R. Griffin, MD



**Robert G. Small, MD Award for Medical Student Education:**  
Brett M. Gudgel, MD  
(also 2019)



**Annie Moreau, MD Fellow Teaching Award:**  
Stanley S.K. Park, MD



**Resident Outstanding DMEI Staff Award:**  
Marissa R. Hundley

**Resident Outstanding VA Staff Award:**  
Melissa Greene



The Dean McGee Eye Institute/University of Oklahoma Department of Ophthalmology's beloved residency program coordinator, Helen Howell (left), also was recognized with the gift of a trip for her and her husband, John, to visit Disney World (when world conditions are more conducive). We are grateful for Helen's extraordinary impact on resident education and to the 37 individuals who contributed to this gift!

# DMEI WELL REPRESENTED AT ASSOC PROFESSORS OF OPHTHALMOLOGY 2



## THE MISSION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS OF OPHTHALMOLOGY (AUPO) is to serve,

strengthen, and represent departments of ophthalmology; to provide support, information, and leadership opportunities to department chairs, program directors, and other faculty members; to promote excellence in ophthalmic education; to foster vision research; and to promote ethical practice and excellence in eye care to ensure the best possible vision for the public.

Five representatives from Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI)/University of Oklahoma (OU) presented during the 54th AUPO Annual Meeting held in Rancho Mirage, California from January 29 to February 1, 2020. This meeting was attended by approximately 500 academic leaders from throughout the country, including DMEI/OU's Gregory L. Skuta, MD (department chair), R. Michael Siatkowski, MD (residency program director), Helen Howell (residency program

coordinator), Cynthia A. Bradford, MD (medical student educator), Garyl G. Geist (administrator), Carolyn E. Kloek, MD (member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology's Committee for Resident Education), and Brett M. Gudgel, MD (chief resident). Dr. Kloek also is the former residency program director at Massachusetts Eye and Ear/Harvard Medical School in Boston.

In keeping with DMEI's legacy of leadership and service, Drs. Thomas E. Acers and David W. Parke II, MD, DMEI's first two presidents, served as AUPO president in 1984-1985 and 2001-2002 respectively. In 2018-2019, the Institute's R. Michael Siatkowski, MD served as president of the AUPO's Program Directors Council. Garyl G. Geist, DMEI's executive vice president and chief operating officer, currently serves as a trustee-at-large on the AUPO Administrator Council, and Helen F. Howell, DMEI's residency program coordinator, is a member of the Program Coordinators Planning Committee and chaired this committee for the 2020 annual meeting. ■



# ATION OF UNIVERSITY 2020 ANNUAL MEETING



*Gregory L. Skuta, MD, DMEI president and chief executive officer and chair of the OU Department of Ophthalmology, presented "Development and Fundraising" during the Administrator Program session on January 31 along with Garyl G. Geist, MAcc.*



*Garyl G. Geist, MAcc, DMEI's executive vice president and chief operating officer, presented "Development and Fundraising" along with Gregory L. Skuta, MD during the Administrator Program session on January 31. As part of the AUPO Annual Meeting workshops on February 1, he also presented "ODs, PAs, NPs and Your Department: The Oklahoma Experience." Geist serves as a trustee-at-large on the AUPO's Administrator Council.*



*R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, DMEI/OU's residency program director and vice chair for academic affairs, presented "Corrective Action Plans for Struggling Residents" during the AUPO Annual Meeting's "Breakfast with Colleagues" roundtables session on January 31. He also presented "The Residency CREW: Communication, Resilience, Efficiency, and Wellness" during the Coordinator Program session on January 31. Dr. Siatkowski is a past president of the AUPO's Program Directors Council.*



*Drs. Brett M. Gudgel (chief resident at DMEI in 2019-2020) and R. Michael Siatkowski presented "Predictors of a Successful Ophthalmology Resident" as a poster at the Educating the Educators session on January 29. Dr. Gudgel also served as the resident representative to the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education's (ACGME's) Ophthalmology Review Committee (RC) from 2018 to 2020 and participated in a panel discussion providing an "ACGME Ophthalmology RC Update" for the Coordinator Program on January 31.*



*Helen Howell (far right, pictured with DMEI's 14 residents and Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski, front center), residency program coordinator at DMEI/OU, presented "What Has Development Got to Do with It?" during the Coordinator Program session on January 31. She also served as chairperson of the 2020 AUPO Program Coordinators Planning Committee.*



# Dr. Bell Serves as Mentor

**MEAGAN JOSEPHS SHADOWED DR. JOHN M. BELL**, a comprehensive ophthalmologist and clinical associate professor at the Dean McGee Eye Institute, in clinic and at the McGee Eye Surgery Center in March 2020. Josephs has been pursuing a career in health care for some time, and even worked in an emergency department, but she wanted to acquire more clinical experience. Josephs reached out to shadow Dr. Bell because family members in Norman had praised his intelligence and commitment to teaching. During her short time of shadowing, Josephs had the opportunity to learn much from Dr. Bell, who was both patient and receptive to her questions. Josephs enjoyed her time in the operating room, but the highlight of her shadowing experience was looking through a slit lamp and seeing white blood cells in the eye of a post-surgical patient. Josephs stated, “None of the textbooks I have read provided me such an immediate glimpse into the body’s immune response.”

In identifying Dr. Bell as a mentor, Josephs chose well as Dr. Bell is the past president of the Oklahoma City Clinic, past chair of the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents, past president of the Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology (OAO) and the recipient of the OAO’s 2019 Distinguished Service Award, and the OU College of Medicine Alumni Association’s 2017 Physician of the Year – Private Practice (while still at the Oklahoma City Clinic). ■



*John M. Bell, MD (left) with Meagan Josephs (right) during a shadow session at the Dean McGee Eye Institute.*



**DR. AUSTIN L. LAGROW** received the 2020 Dean McGee Award in Ophthalmology as the most outstanding University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Medicine graduating medical student in this specialty area. He will begin his ophthalmology residency at the Dean McGee Eye Institute/OU Department of Ophthalmology in July 2021.

## Leadership Transitions for Medical Student Education

### FOR MORE THAN 25 YEARS, DR. CYNTHIA A. BRADFORD OVERSAW MEDICAL STUDENT EDUCATION

for the University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology and the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI). In recognition of her longstanding commitment, Dr. Bradford, who is a Presbyterian Health Foundation Presidential Professor, has received the Gaylord Faculty Honor Award (1992), two Excellence in Attending at VA Awards (2001 and 2006), an OU Regents' Award for Superior Teaching (2011), and an M. Dewayne Andrews, MD Excellence in Teaching Award in Clinical Education (of medical students) in October 2019. She has served as executive editor of the seventh and eighth editions of the American Academy of Ophthalmology's (AAO's) *Basic Ophthalmology* (for medical students and primary care residents).

Even with her busy clinical and surgical practice and past service in such major leadership positions as president of the Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology (OAO), senior secretary for advocacy for the AAO, and AAO president, Dr. Bradford's devotion to medical student education has been unwavering. For her decades of service to the profession, Dr. Bradford received the OAO's Distinguished Service Award in 2015 and an AAO Life Achievement Honor Award in 2019.

As the Institute, Department, and College of Medicine approached the 2020-2021 academic year, Dr. Bradford felt that this would be an appropriate time to transition the oversight of medical student education. She and Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski, DMEI's vice chair for academic affairs, therefore conducted an interview process to identify a worthy successor.



Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHSc and Cynthia A. Bradford, MD

Based on the outcome of that process, the DMEI leadership is delighted that Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHSc agreed to accept the role of director of medical student education effective July 1, 2020. A clinical associate professor in the Department of Ophthalmology at DMEI, Dr. Yanovitch is a Phi Beta Kappa/*magna cum laude* graduate of the University of Tulsa and earned her medical degree (Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society) from the OU College of Medicine. She completed her ophthalmology residency at DMEI/OU and her fellowship in pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus at Duke University, where she also served on the faculty before joining the DMEI/OU faculty in 2011.

In October 2019, Dr. Yanovitch received an M. Dewayne Andrews, MD Excellence in Teaching Award in Graduate Medical Education. She also has received two Acers Resident Honor Awards and an AAO Achievement Award and AAO Secretariat Award. Dr. Yanovitch serves on the AAO's Subspecialty Day Planning Committee and is an Oral Board Examiner and member of the Item Writing Committee for the American Board of Ophthalmology.

Countless medical students and all of us at DMEI are grateful to Dr. Cynthia Bradford for her career-long dedication to medical student education and also thank Dr. Tammy Yanovitch for her acceptance of this appointment as the new director of medical student education at DMEI/OU! ■





# HOW DMEI IS FULFILLING ITS MISSION DURING A Global Pandemic



Charlene L. Meinke (right), physician support services manager, checking a patient's temperature in DMEI's Inasmuch Foundation Atrium. Photo Credit: Matt Skuta



Photo Credit: Matt Skuta

**VISUAL REMINDERS ARE EVERYWHERE AS YOU WALK INTO THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) ON THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA (OU) HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER CAMPUS AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.**

“Please Practice Social Distancing,” the small red signs respectfully ask.

Affixed on the floor every six feet throughout the entryways leading into the building, the reminders urge visitors to keep six feet distance between other people.

When it became clear in late March that most activities at the Health Sciences Center would be dramatically reduced by the pandemic, officials at DMEI, which also houses the OU Department of Ophthalmology, reduced clinical, surgical, and research activities, and implemented measures designed to protect both patients and the staff.

Today, everyone in the building wears a mask (see cover photo), and signage reminds visitors to maintain six feet of space between other individuals. No more than three to four people are allowed on elevators. Water fountains are shut down. More than half of the chairs in waiting areas were removed. Protective “breath shields” (see cover photo) were added to equipment that physicians use in eye exams with patients. Of course, frequent handwashing and disinfection have become part of the “DMEI routine.”

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Photo Credit: Matt Skuta



Photo Credit: Matt Skuta

There is more. Adult patients cannot have visitors with them (except under extenuating circumstances), and children can have only one parent. Patients, visitors, doctors, scientists, and staff are screened as they enter the building and their temperatures taken.

“Our patients and staff have been very respectful of the precautions we have taken on their behalf,” said Gregory L. Skuta, MD, president and chief executive officer (CEO) of the Institute and chair of the Department of Ophthalmology.

While the pandemic reduced many of its routine functions for a five-week period (see pages 2-3), the Institute continued to provide medical and surgical care to patients with critical needs.

“**The Institute remained open and functioning on all fronts.**”

“The Institute remained open and functioning on all fronts,” said Garyl Geist, the Institute’s executive vice president and chief operating officer. “When the need was there, we were still there to answer it.”

And none of its more than 300 employees were furloughed or laid off, Geist said. Work-from-home orders were in place for many of the Institute’s employees.

“We were still seeing time-sensitive, urgent, and emergent patients during that time,” Dr. Skuta added. “We also were performing surgeries on those patients who had issues such as retinal detachments, tumors, or uncontrolled glaucoma and needed prompt attention.”

Innovative approaches to patient care also were introduced. As one example, some selected

patients of Dr. Vinay Shah, a busy DMEI retina specialist, were initially screened in their cars or the parking lot just outside DMEI's Thomas E. Acers, MD Pavilion.

They were then brought inside to specially designated rooms on the first floor of the Acers Pavilion for further evaluation and testing and, if indicated, intraocular injections of medications designed for treatment of their "wet" age-related macular degeneration.

Although ophthalmology visits are less conducive to "virtual telemedicine visits," it has been possible to conduct some visits (e.g., some "triage" screening visits and postoperative visits in patients who had undergone oculoplastic surgery) in this way.

The Institute, which is celebrating the 45th anniversary of its 1975 dedication in 2020,



*Carmen A. Morales, patient service representative, checking in a retinal "injection patient." Photo Credit: Matt Skuta*



*Ba Luong from Super Cao Nguyen, an international grocery store in Oklahoma City, graciously made a donation of 8,000 gloves on behalf of the store to the Dean McGee Eye Institute. We are very thankful for Mr. Luong and Super Cao Nguyen's support during our critical time of need!*



*Daniel B. Carrel, COA, OSA, OSC, screening a retinal "injection patient" prior to entering the building. Photo Credit: Matt Skuta*



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employs roughly 40 clinical professionals and surgeons, providing eye care for patients not only on the Health Sciences Center campus but also at satellite locations in Edmond, Northwest Oklahoma City, and Lawton.

DMEI and the Department of Ophthalmology also maintain an ambitious research function with 10 scientists on the faculty. The laboratories were quiet during April.

**We continued very minimal on-site research, addressing only the highest priority needs while the research labs were essentially closed.**

“We continued very minimal on-site research, addressing only the highest priority needs while the research labs were essentially closed,” said Michelle C. Callegan, PhD, the Institute and Department’s director of vision research.

Finally, the Institute’s physicians and scientists also have teaching appointments in the OU College of Medicine. The Institute/Department has 15 ophthalmology residents (as of July 2020) and three to five post-residency fellows at any one time, as well as graduate students and postdoctoral research fellows. The Institute hosts regular grand rounds for residents, medical students, and faculty and a number of visiting professorships and research-oriented workshops annually.

“Our educational programs have continued but in a different format,” Dr. Skuta said. “Grand rounds and essentially all of our education-related meetings are conducted in a Zoom virtual format. Attendance has been excellent for our virtual grand rounds and other Zoom meetings.”

Perhaps the biggest challenge for the Institute early on was obtaining adequate personal protective equipment (PPE). Anil D. Patel, MD, the Institute’s medical director of clinical operations, found it necessary to obtain PPE from alternative sources beyond the Institute’s regular suppliers.

“We had a limited supply when the pandemic began,” Dr. Patel said. “We were obviously conserving and reesterilizing and using all contacts to acquire more.”

The Institute even commissioned some employees to break out their sewing machines for the greater good.



Photo Credit: Matt Skuta



*Cristal A. Phares (left), clinical applications specialist with a focus on DMEI's electronic health record; Merry A. Russell Davis (center), patient appointment coordinator; and Pam Carrel (right), mother of DMEI's Daniel B. Carrel, sewing masks at their homes.*

“We actually designated two employees and the mother of an employee to make masks from some of the material typically used to wrap surgical instruments,” Dr. Patel said. “That bought us some time, which was fortunate and innovative.”

The Institute finally solved the dilemma by acquiring PPE through some employee contacts with Asian suppliers. Among the individuals who helped acquire PPE were Dr. Maria Lim, a DMEI pediatric ophthalmologist, and her partner Mark Partridge.

DMEI, along with the rest of the Health Sciences Center campus, began a measured resumption of activities by early May, reinstating more routine exams and elective surgeries. All patients undergoing elective surgeries now receive preoperative COVID-19 testing.

But the pandemic will likely have an impact well into the future.

“I believe that the impact of COVID-19 could last from a few to many more months,” Dr. Skuta said. Please see Dr. Skuta’s “President’s View” on pages 2-3 for additional perspectives on DMEI’s COVID-19 experience.

Meanwhile, the reminders remain in place across the Institute’s campus: “Please Practice Social Distancing.” ■

*This feature story is based on a story written by Jim Stafford for the i&E Summer 2020 Magazine, Oklahoma’s bioscience magazine.*



*Mark E. Partridge (left) and Maria E. Lim, MD (right) posing with personal protective equipment that they helped acquire for the Institute.*





“Life is so much brighter when we focus on what truly matters.”



*Photo Credit: Xavier Coiffic, via Unsplash*



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