



focus on technology:

How Technology Shapes the DMEI Patient Experience

• DMEI •
inVIsion

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE

patient care
education
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DMEI clinical directory

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An Age of High Technology and CONTINUOUS COMMUNICATION

WE LIVE IN AN AGE OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY AND VIRTUALLY CONTINUOUS COMMUNICATION. In order to keep pace with these realities, the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) has invested considerably in the latest technologies and offers femtosecond laser-assisted cataract surgery, the newest generation of phacoemulsification equipment for cataract surgery, collagen cross-linking for keratoconus, the latest advances in corneal transplant surgery, refractive surgery, cutting edge techniques known as minimally invasive glaucoma surgery (MIGS), optical coherence tomography (OCT) angiography, and much more. In the feature story on pages 50-55 of this edition of *InVision*, you will learn more about these and some of the other advances underway at the Institute (e.g., a new tablet-based registration system).

We are very fortunate that grateful patients and donors along with the generous support of several foundations have helped maintain our leadership in new technology through contributions toward the acquisition of specific major equipment and devices. In 2014, we established the DMEI New Technology Fund, which, in addition to large philanthropic contributions, has generated almost \$200,000 toward technological advances.



Gregory L. Skuta, MD

Beyond continuous updates in technology, communication through our website and other avenues also represents an important element of our organizational mission. In August 2012, we introduced a totally re-designed and more attractive website, which can be more easily updated in-house and offers a remarkable amount of information about the Institute.

At www.dmei.org, you can access the patient portal and also learn more about DMEI's history, patient care and surgical services, doctors and other eye care providers, educational programs,

and vision research programs. Copies of our YouTube Channel videos also are available along with news stories, press releases, and copies of our colorful and informative DMEI *InVision* magazines.

Within the past few months, we began to introduce brief showcase video clips of our clinicians and surgeons so that patients and prospective patients can learn more about their backgrounds, philosophies, and passions. These are available on the website by going to “Patient Care” and then “Doctors and Other Clinical Providers,” where you will find the names and photographs of our ophthalmologists, optometrists, and other providers. At this writing, 14 such showcase video clips have been produced with more being planned. For individuals for whom showcase video clips are currently available, an asterisk is placed beside their names.

All of us recognize the power of social media in world society. We therefore are now working with Big Wing Interactive and have established a Facebook page in order to ensure our visibility and relevance in the social media setting. Beyond technological advances in ophthalmic diagnosis and treatment, much of the feature story focuses on activities related to our patient portal, new self-service registration tool, and social media. We invite you to read this story

carefully and digest the information about the Eye Institute’s movements into these arenas.

Beyond technological advances in ophthalmic diagnosis and treatment, much of the feature story focuses on activities related to our patient portal, new self-service registration tool, and social media.

The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce and the Oklahoma Health Center Foundation, which serves 24 organizations located in the area in and around the Oklahoma Health Center, have designated this area as the city’s Innovation District. As a growing and vibrant member of the Innovation District, the Dean McGee Eye Institute is absolutely committed to providing our patients with the latest technology and

mechanisms for communication so that we can better fulfill our constant mission of “...serving all Oklahomans and the global community through excellence and leadership in patient care, education, and vision research.”



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

DR. JAMES WISE NAMED DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD WINNER



JAMES B. WISE, MD, A WORLD- RENOWNED RETIRED OPHTHALMOLOGIST

from Oklahoma City, was the recipient of the 2016 Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology (OAO) Distinguished Service Award during the OAO Annual Meeting in September held in conjunction with the four-state Table Rock Regional Roundup Conference. The

Distinguished Service Award, which is the OAO's highest honor, represents peer recognition for those who have exhibited a lifelong dedication to the OAO and/or to the profession of ophthalmology. Dr. Jean R. Hausheer, President of the OAO, presented the award to Dr. Wise.

An Oklahoma native, Dr. Wise received his undergraduate degree in chemistry from Oklahoma State University and completed medical school, a medical internship, and his ophthalmology residency at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. He then served for one year as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute of Ophthalmology in London before returning

to Oklahoma in 1966. He served as a full-time ophthalmologist for the University of Oklahoma Department of Ophthalmology from 1967 to 1972 and entered full-time private practice in 1972.

Dr. Wise studied and popularized a now widely performed glaucoma procedure known as laser trabeculoplasty, about which he and Dr. Stanton Witter co-authored a classic scientific publication in 1979. He also was one of the first ophthalmologists in the country to perform laser treatments for diabetic retinopathy. Dr. Wise has made many other important clinical and surgical contributions to the field of ophthalmology and also holds five world fishing records.

In 2011, the American Glaucoma Society recognized Dr. Wise with its inaugural Innovator Award. He also has been honored by The Glaucoma Research Foundation in San Francisco.

The Dean McGee Eye Institute congratulates Dr. Wise for his 2016 OAO Distinguished Service Award and salutes him for his outstanding contributions to the profession of ophthalmology! ■

OU Student Accepted into Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring Program

THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY (AAO) AND THE ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS OF OPHTHALMOLOGY (AUPO) LAUNCHED the inaugural Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring program at this year's Academy Annual Meeting in Chicago with Student Engagement Day. Dr. Mildred Olivier of the Midwest Glaucoma Center in Chicago and Dr. Susan Forster from Yale University served as co-chairs.

The goal of the program is to attract and then mentor Under-Represented Minorities (African-Americans, Hispanics, and American Indians) in ophthalmology. Seventeen students were accepted into the program. Most were first and second-year students from the Chicago area and the Midwest. Three undergraduate students also were included. Students hailed from medical schools at the University of Illinois, University of Michigan, Wayne State University, St. Louis University, Medical College of Wisconsin, Rush University, and University of Oklahoma (OU).

The only American Indian in the program, Zachary "Ryan" Mitchell, is a second-year student from the OU College of Medicine. A



Ryan Mitchell (seated), a second-year medical student in the OU College of Medicine, evaluates new technology at AAO 2016 in Chicago.

native of Oklahoma and of Cherokee heritage, Mitchell is very interested in pursuing ophthalmology as a career. As part of his application, in describing his interests related to medicine, Mitchell wrote:

“My hobbies and special interests related to medicine include medical mission trips to underprivileged areas and countries that don't have good access to health care. I have attended a surgical, medical mission trip to Guatemala with Health Talents International, where we served many patients in dire need of surgery. I plan on making this a yearly activity in my future practice. Also, I currently attend health fairs at local schools in Oklahoma City to teach and raise awareness to students about the dangers of smoking, secondhand smoking, and tobacco.” ■

DRS. DAHR AND SIGLER ASSIST WITH DMEI PATIENT CARE



Sam S. Dahr, MD

SAM S. DAHR, MD HAS BEEN ASSISTING the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) in providing part-time clinical coverage for patients with uveitis (inflammation of the eye) at the Oklahoma Health Center (OHC) facility. Dr. Dahr is a highly respected, fellowship-trained uveitis specialist and retinal surgeon currently in private practice in Oklahoma City. He is a graduate of Stanford University and the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Medicine, completed his ophthalmology residency at the University of Cincinnati, and pursued his fellowship training at the National Eye Institute (medical retina and uveitis/ocular immunology) and the University of Cincinnati (vitreoretinal surgery/ocular oncology). Dr. Dahr was recently appointed to serve a four-year term as a Member on the Ophthalmic Devices Panel of the Food and Drug Administration's Medical Devices Advisory Committee. He is also President-Elect of the Oklahoma County Medical Society.



Scott C. Sigler, MD

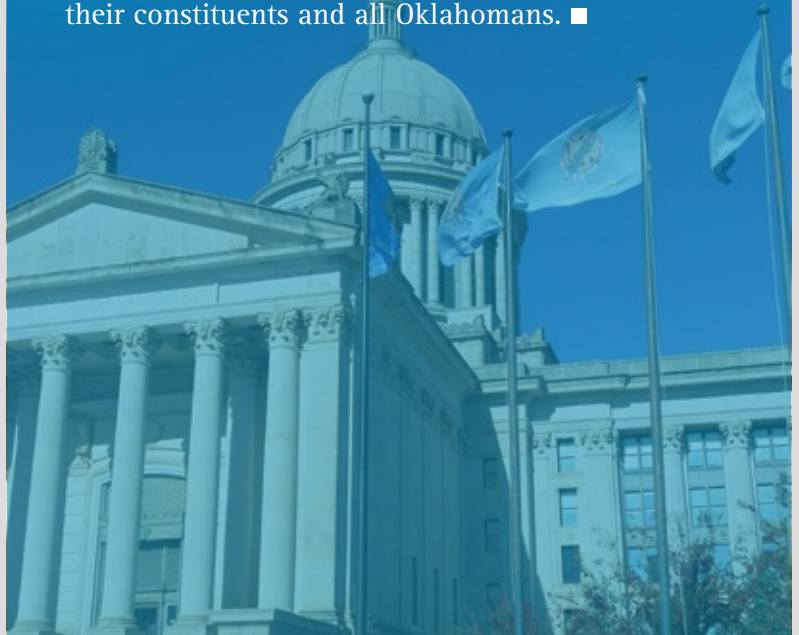
With the recent retirement of Dr. P. Lloyd Hildebrand (see page 8), Dr. Scott Sigler has engaged in the provision of clinical and surgical care of patients requiring oculoplastic services at DMEI's OHC location on a part-time basis. Dr. Sigler earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Texas—Austin, obtained his medical degree at the University of Texas—San Antonio, completed a residency in ophthalmology and fellowship in ophthalmic pathology at Washington University in St. Louis, and served as a fellow in oculoplastic surgery at the Casey Eye Institute/Oregon Health and Science University in Portland. He served on the full-time faculty at the Dean McGee Eye Institute from 1996 to 2005, is an award-winning educator, and currently practices in Edmond. ■

20 DMEI
OPHTHALMOLOGISTS
RECOGNIZED AS BEST
DOCTORS IN AMERICA
AND/OR CASTLE
CONNOLLY'S TOP
DOCTORS (2017)

Cynthia A. Bradford, MD
Reagan H. Bradford, Jr., MD
Bradley K. Farris, MD
Stephen R. Fransen, MD
Layne E. Goetzinger, MD
Ralph B. Hester III, MD
David W. Jackson, MD
Mahmoud A. Khaimi, MD
Ronald M. Kingsley, MD
Robert E. Leonard II, MD
Rebecca K. Morgan, MD
Annie Moreau, MD, FACS
Anil D. Patel, MD
Steven R. Sarkisian, Jr., MD
Vinay A. Shah, MD
R. Michael Siatkowski, MD
Rhea L. Siatkowski, MD
Gregory L. Skuta, MD
Ann A. Warn, MD, MBA
Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHSc

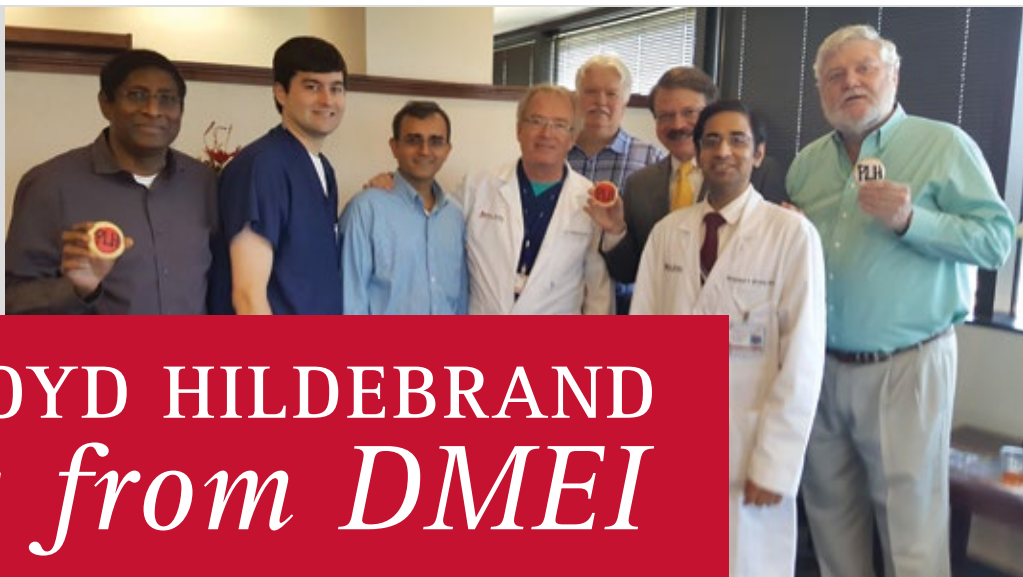
Legislative Visits

ON OCTOBER 3, OKLAHOMA STATE REPRESENTATIVE Terry O'Donnell, along with three candidates in open State House seats who were subsequently elected on November 8 (Tammy West, Mike Osburn, and Ryan Martinez), attended a luncheon and toured the Dean McGee Eye Institute. State Representative Chad Caldwell toured the Institute on the following day. On October 10, Minority Leader Scott Inman and State Representatives Jason Dunnington, George Young, and Cyndi Munson also participated in a luncheon and tour of the Eye Institute. These visits were coordinated by Dianne Rasmussen, LLC to assist state leaders in learning about the mission of the Dean McGee Eye Institute and its vital services to their constituents and all Oklahomans. ■



U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT 2016-2017 SURVEY

The Dean McGee Eye Institute was recognized as one of the **NATION'S TOP 20 ACADEMIC EYE CENTERS** and **7TH AMONG THOSE AFFILIATED WITH A PUBLIC UNIVERSITY.**



DR. P. LLOYD HILDEBRAND *Retires from DMEI*

P. LLOYD HILDEBRAND, MD, FACS, RETIRED FROM HIS FULL-TIME CLINICAL AND SURGICAL PRACTICE in ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery on July 31. He began his medical career in family practice and joined the faculty in Oklahoma City in 1994 after completing his residency in ophthalmology at the Dean McGee Eye Institute/University of Oklahoma (DMEI/OU) and a fellowship in ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery at the Casey Eye Institute/Oregon Health and Science University in Portland.

Promoted to Professor of Ophthalmology in 2011, Dr. Hildebrand is a superb clinician, gifted oculoplastic surgeon, and committed educator who is also an internationally respected authority in health information technology and telemedicine. He was the co-founder of Inoveon Corporation, a telemedicine company devoted to diabetic retinopathy screening, and has served as Inoveon's President, Chief Executive Officer, and Chair of the Board of Directors. Dr. Hildebrand recently served as Principal Investigator for the Data Management Center for eROP, a National Eye Institute-sponsored multicenter collaborative clinical trial to evaluate the use of telemedicine in the management of retinopathy of prematurity. In addition, he has played a key role in the success of DMEI's Global Eye Care (GEC) Program and served as Fellowship Director for DMEI's GEC Fellowship. He also helped inspire several DMEI residents to pursue fellowships in oculoplastic surgery and was the Director of DMEI/OU's fellowship program in this subspecialty area.

Pictured left to right: Raju V.S. Rajala, PhD, Clifton C. Fay, Jr., MD, Vinay A. Shah, MD, P. Lloyd Hildebrand, MD, FACS, Stephen R. Fransen, MD, Gregory L. Skuta, MD, Shripaad Shukla, MD, and Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD. Several are holding cookies initialized with "PLH" in Dr. Hildebrand's honor.

“Dr. Hildebrand expressed his thanks to “...the University and people of Oklahoma for an incredible opportunity to learn, teach, serve and discover—in ways that are unique and attributable to the amazing environment, opportunities and collegiality I found here.”

In recognizing Dr. Hildebrand, Gregory L. Skuta, MD, stated “The Dean McGee Eye Institute, the University of Oklahoma and the OU College of Medicine, the specialty of ophthalmology, the profession of medicine as a whole, and, most importantly, the thousands of patients whom Dr. Hildebrand has served have truly been advanced by his exceptional efforts. Given his innovative and entrepreneurial spirit (including recent success as producer of an award-winning movie!) and multi-faceted interests, we are certain that Dr. Hildebrand will continue to contribute to our world in extraordinary fashion. We are deeply grateful for his friendship and many years of leadership and service at DMEI/OU and wish him all the best in the years ahead.” ■

ANDERSON NAMED INAUGURAL FELLOW OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

DR. ROBERT E. "GENE" ANDERSON WAS INDUCTED IN

September as one of 12 inaugural Fellows of the International Society for the Study of Fatty Acids and Lipids (ISSFAL).

This prestigious honor represents additional recognition of Dr.

Anderson's enormous achievements in the field of lipid research as it relates to retinal development and disorders.

ISSFAL is an international scientific society established in 1991 and consisting of more than 500 members from more than 40 countries. Members of ISSFAL include scientists, medical professionals, educators, administrators, communicators, and others with an interest in the health effects of dietary fats, oils, and lipids, including omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids. ISSFAL's September Congress was held in Stellenbosch, South Africa.

Dr. Anderson is the Dean McGee Professor of Ophthalmology, George Lynn Cross Research Professor, and Director of Vision Research for the University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology and the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI). Dr. Anderson,



who is also Professor of Cell Biology and Chair Emeritus of the Department of Cell Biology, joined the DMEI/OU faculty in 1995.

His monumental work includes the discovery of the importance of omega-3 fatty acids in the visual system, which led the Food and Drug Administration's inclusion of long-chain n-3 fatty acids in human infant formula. His contributions with respect to the metabolism of polyunsaturated fatty acids in the retina and on the phosphoinositide signaling system are critical to our understanding of the function of the healthy human retina and, in particular, upon its dysfunction in common causes of blindness such as age-related macular degeneration. ■

ESCRS September 2016—Copenhagen



MAHMOUD A. KHAIMI, MD

ATTENDED THE 2016 Meeting of the European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons (ESCRS) in Copenhagen and participated in “Meet the Expert” sessions; served as “Ab Interno Canaloplasty (ABiC) Symposium” speaker; served as an in booth speaker/presenter; and presented two posters – “Safety and Efficacy of Ab-Interno Canaloplasty (ABiC) for the Treatment of Open-Angle Glaucoma” and “Three-Year Outcomes of Canaloplasty for the Treatment of Open-Angle Glaucoma”.

Steven R. Sarkisian, Jr., MD also attended the ESCRS Meeting in Copenhagen and was interviewed by Jonathan Khan, MD regarding a glaucoma procedure known as endoscopic cyclophotocoagulation (ECP), which is available at the McGee Eye Surgery Center. ■



EMPLOYEE *Appreciation* WEEK



THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI)

concluded Employee Appreciation Week on September 30 with an outdoor barbeque lunch. Special thanks go to DMEI barbeque master, Mark Wyckoff, who is also the Institute’s Chief Information Officer. DMEI’s Human Resources group (Paige Kuester, Katie Chambers, and April Coker) coordinated the week’s activities. Others playing a key role in the success of the week’s events including Patrick Bishop, Sandra Cooper, and Kim Howard. Howard is Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer for DMEI.

September 30 represented the fifth anniversary of the dedication ceremony for the Inasmuch Foundation Atrium, what is now the David W. Parke II, MD Pavilion, the renovations of what is now the Thomas E. Acers, MD Pavilion, and the New Horizons sculpture. Employee Appreciation Week provided a special opportunity to celebrate the work and mutual achievements that motivate all of us and to recognize the Institute’s 41 years of service to patients and the fulfillment of its multiple missions. Together we are making a difference! ■

Cynthia A. Bradford, MD, BEGINS TERM AS 2017 PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

CYNTHIA A. BRADFORD, MD, BEGAN HER TERM as the 121st President of the American Academy of Ophthalmology on January 1. She was elected by the Academy's 32,000-member community of ophthalmologists in recognition of her longstanding commitment to quality patient care and is the third woman to serve in this role.

Dr. Bradford has served the Academy in a variety of capacities. Her work on behalf of her profession spans clinical education, advocacy, and patient care. As President, she will lead efforts to enhance the care ophthalmologists provide to patients with a focus on physician wellness initiatives.

“The practice of medicine is a rewarding, yet challenging career,” said Dr. Bradford. “The changing health care environment places tremendous administrative burdens on physicians. We need strategies to keep ophthalmologists and the broader medical community, happy, healthy, and productive.”

Before serving as President-Elect in 2016, Dr. Bradford was a member of the Academy Board of Trustees as Senior Secretary for Advocacy from 2009 to 2014. Other leadership roles within the Academy include: Secretary for State Affairs from 2004 to 2008; and member



of the Interspecialty Education Committee, the Basic and Clinical Science Committee, and the Federal Health Manpower Task Force. She also served as Executive Editor for the AAO text, *Basic Ophthalmology*, which is used to teach medical students nationally and internationally.

Dr. Bradford's clinical focus is cataract and intraocular lens implant surgery. She is a Professor of Ophthalmology in the Department of Ophthalmology at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Medicine.

She is a graduate of Texas A&M University and earned her medical degree with high honors from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. She completed her ophthalmology training at DMEI/OU and subsequently joined the faculty here in 1987. ■

FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES



MICHELLE C. CALLEGAN, PhD, recently published Coburn P.C., Wiskur B., Miller F.C., LaGrow A., Astley R., Elliott M.H., Callegan M.C. “Bloodstream-to-Eye Infections Are Facilitated by Outer Blood-Retinal Barrier Dysfunction,” *PLoS One*, May 2016; Astley R., Coburn P.S., Parkunan S.M., Callegan M.C. “Modeling Intraocular Infections,” *Progress in Retinal and Eye Research*, May 2016; and Parkunan S.M., Randall C.B., Astley R.A., Furtado C., Lira S.A., Callegan M.C. “CXCL1, but not IL6, Significantly Impacts Intraocular Inflammation during Infection,” *Journal of Leukocyte Biology*, Nov. 2016. She recently presented Callegan M.C. “Bacterial Endophthalmitis: BOB’s Your Uncle,” University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Sept. 2016.



ANA CHUCAIR-ELLIOTT, PhD, recently published Chucair-Elliott A.J., Jinkins J., Carr M.M., Carr D.J. “IL-6 Contributes to Corneal Nerve Degeneration after Herpes Simplex Virus Type I Infection,” *American Journal of Pathology*, Oct. 2016. She was awarded the International Society for Eye Research (ISER) Travel Fellowship Award to present research at the 2016 ISER Biennial Meeting, Tokyo, Japan, Sept. 2016.



MICHAEL H. ELLIOTT, PhD, recently published Elliott M.H.*, Ashpole N.E., Gu X., Herrnberger L., McClellan M.E., Griffith G.L., Reagan A.M., Boyce T.M., Tanito M., Tamm E.R., and Stamer W.D.* “Caveolin-1 Modulates Intraocular Pressure: Implications for Caveolae Mechanoprotection in Glaucoma,” *Scientific Reports*, PubMed–Journal in process; Gu X., Reagan A.M., McClellan M.E., and Elliott M.H. “Caveolins and Caveolae in Ocular Physiology and Pathophysiology,” *Progress in Retinal and Eye Research*, In press, Epub ahead of print; Yu J.Y.†, Du M.†, Elliott M.H.†, Wu M., Fu D., Yang S., Basu A., Gu X., Ma J.-X., Aston C.E., and Lyons T.J. “Extravascular Modified Lipoproteins: A Role in the Propagation of Diabetic Retinopathy in a Mouse Model of Type 1 Diabetes,” *Diabetologia*, Sept. 2016; Coburn P.S., Wiskur B.J., Miller F.C., LaGrow A.L., Astley R.A., Elliott M.H., and Callegan M.C. “Bloodstream-to-Eye Infections Are Facilitated by Outer Blood-Retinal Barrier Dysfunction,” *PLoS One*, May 2016; Ding X.Q., Thapa A., Ma H., Xu J., Elliott M.H., Rodgers K.K., Smith M.L., Wang J.S., Pittler S.J., and Kefalov V.J. “The B3 Subunit of the Cone Cyclic Nucleotide-Gated Channel Regulates the Light Responses of Cones and Contributes to the Channel Structural Flexibility,” *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, April 2016; Sethna S., Chamakkala T., Gu X., Thompson T.C., Cao G., Elliott M.H.* and Finnemann S.C.* “Regulation of Phagolysosomal Digestion by Caveolin-1 in the Retinal Pigment Epithelium is Essential for Vision,” *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, March 2016; and Reagan A.M. Gu X., Hauck S.M., Ash J.D., Cao G., Thompson T.C., and Elliott M.H. “Retinal Caveolin-1 Modulates Neuroprotective Signaling,” *Advances in Experimental Medicine and Biology*, PubMed - in process. Dr. Elliott currently serves as Chair of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Members-in-Training Committee and as a member of the Research Grant Review Committee (RGRC) for the American Diabetes Association. *Indicates co-corresponding authors.

†Indicates equally contributing first authors.



BRADLEY K. FARRIS, MD, recently presented “The History of the Christian Ophthalmology Society,” Christian Ophthalmology Society Annual Meeting, Portland, Oregon, Aug. 2016; and “Prayer: When to Pray,” Baptist Student Union, University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, Sept. 2016.



GARETT S. FRANK, MD, recently published Frank G.S., Gupta P.K. “Current Theories and Methods of Managing Negative Dysphotopsia,” *International Ophthalmology Clinics*, Summer 2016; and Taravella M.J., Meghpara B., Frank G., Gensheimer W., Davidson R. “Femtosecond Laser-Assisted Cataract Surgery in Complex Cases,” *Journal of Cataract & Refractive Surgery*, June 2016. He recently presented Ahmed M.S., Frank G.S., Gregory D.G., McCourt E.A. “Amniotic Membrane Transplants in the Pediatric Population,” (Poster), American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2016.



DIMITRIOS KARAMICHOS, PhD, recently published Priyadarsini S., McKay T.B., Sarker-Nag A., Allegood J., Chalfant C., Ma J.-X., Karamichos D. “Complete Metabolome and Lipidome Analysis Reveals Novel Biomarkers in the Human Diabetic Corneal Stroma,” *Experimental Eye Research*, Dec. 2016; Zareian R., Susilo M.E., Paten J.A., McLean J.P., Hollmann J., Karamichos D., Messer C.S., Tambe D.T., Saeidi N., Zieske J.D., Ruberti J.W. “Human Corneal Fibroblast Pattern Evolution and Matrix Synthesis on Mechanically Biased Substrates,” *Tissue Engineering*, Oct. 2016; and McKay T.B., Hjortdal J., Sejersen H., Asara J.M., Wu J.L., Karamichos D. “Endocrine and Metabolic Pathways Linked to Keratoconus: Implications for the Role of Hormones in the Stromal Microenvironment,” *Scientific Reports*, May 2016. He was recently awarded the Wound Healing Foundation–2016 WHF Travel Scholarship and has been named to the Executive Board for the Oklahoma Center for Neuroscience. He participated in the following study sections: National Institutes of Health (NIH) Study Section–Biomaterials & Biointerfaces Study Section, NIH, Bethesda, MD, Feb. 2017; Department of Defense (DOD) Study Section–Clinical and Rehabilitative Medicine Research Peer Review Panel, Department of Defense, 2016; and DOD Study Section–Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP) Pre-application Diabetes (Pre-DIA) Review Panel for Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP), Department of Defense, 2016. He presented “Keratoconus: A Systemic Disease,” International Society for Eye Research (ISER), Tokyo, Japan, Keynote/Plenary Address, Sept. 2016.



MAHMOUD A. KHAIMI, MD recently participated in “Meet the Expert” sessions, served as “ABiC Symposium” moderator and speaker, and served as an in-booth speaker/presenter at the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2016. He was featured as the main speaker at ABiC Symposium, Atlanta, GA, Oct. 2016.



ANNIE MOREAU, MD, FACS, has been chosen to serve as an active member of the American College of Surgeons, Oklahoma Committee on Trauma to develop and implement meaningful programs for trauma care in local, regional, national, and international arenas. Guest lectures include: “Periorbital Anatomy & Lesions,” University of Oklahoma, Department of Dermatology, Oklahoma City, OK, Aug. 2016 and “Life-Threatening Ocular Emergencies,” Table Rock Ophthalmology Meeting, Ridgedale, MO, Sept. 2016.



RAJU V.S. RAJALA, PhD, recently published Rajala A., Wang Y., Rajala R.V.S. “Activation of Oncogenic Tyrosine Kinase Signaling Promotes Insulin-Receptor-Mediated Cone Photoreceptor Survival,” *Oncotarget*, July 2016; and Wang Y., Rajala A., Cao B., Ranjo-Bishop M., Agbaga M.P., Mao C., Rajala R.V.S. “Cell-Specific Promoters Enable Lipid-Based Nanoparticles to Deliver Genes to Specific Cells of the Retina In Vivo,” *Theranostics*, June 2016. His recent presentations

FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES

include Rajala A., He F., Kooker C., Wang Y., Wensel T.G., Anderson R.E., Rajala R.V.S. “Deletion of the Class III Phosphoinositide 3-Kinase in Cone Photoreceptor Cells Results in an Early Onset of Cone Photoreceptor Degeneration,” XVII International Symposium on Retinal Degeneration, Kyoto, Japan, Sept. 2016; Rajala A., Wang Y., Rajala R.V.S. “Activation of Oncogenic Tyrosine Kinase Signaling Promotes Insulin Receptor-Mediated Cone Photoreceptor Survival,” XVII International Symposium on Retinal Degeneration, Kyoto, Japan, Sept. 2016; Wang Y., Rajala A., Rajala R.V.S. “Lipid Nanoparticles as Delivery Vehicles for the Treatment of Retinal Degenerative Diseases,” XVII International Symposium on Retinal Degeneration, Kyoto, Japan, Sept. 2016; Kooker C., Rajala A., Wang Y., Rajala R.V.S. “Regulation and Function of Pyruvate Kinase M2 in Rod Photoreceptor Cells,” 10th Annual OU Vision Workshop, Oklahoma City, OK, Oct. 2016; and Kooker C., Rajala A., Wang Y., Rajala R.V.S. “Pyruvate Kinase M2 is Dispensable for Rod Photoreceptor Neurons,” Oklahoma Center for Neuroscience 25th Anniversary Symposium, Oklahoma City, OK, Nov. 2016.



STEVEN R. SARKISIAN, JR, MD, recently presented “Multicenter 3-Year Results After Combined Cataract Surgery and Supraciliary Microstent Implantation for Open-Angle Glaucoma,” 2016 American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2016; “Micro-Invasive Glaucoma Surgery: An Update from the Front Lines,” Medical College of Wisconsin Eye Institute, 40th Anniversary Scientific Symposium, Oct. 2016; “Intraoperative Gonioscopy: Tips and Tricks,” “Overcoming Challenges with the Trabecular Micro Bypass Stent,” “MIGS: What’s on the Horizon?,” ASCRS Young Eye Surgeons Advanced Cataract Surgery Meeting, Denver, CO, Sept. 2016; and “New Way for Ab Interno Trabeculotomy: Initial Results,” European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery Annual Meeting, Copenhagen, Denmark, Sept. 2016

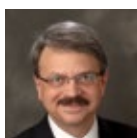


VINAY A. SHAH, MD, was recently invited as the Inaugural Alumni Guest Speaker at the Annual University of Missouri–Kansas City Ophthalmology Symposium and Resident Graduation, June 2016. He was a speaker and moderator at the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Technology Theater: Smartphone and Mobile Technology Update (duration 1 hour), and Course Director and Instructor, AAO Skills Transfer Lab: The iPhone and iPad for Ophthalmologists (duration 2 hours), Chicago, IL, Oct. 2016.

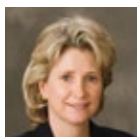


R. MICHAEL SIATKOWSKI, MD, was recently recognized with the Gold Humanism Honor Society Award and the M. Dewayne Andrews, MD, Excellence in Teaching Award (see pg. 38). He recently published Quinn G.E., Ying G.S., Repka M.X., Siatkowski R.M., Hoffman R., Mills M.D., Morrison D., Daniel E., Baumritter A., Hildebrand P.L., Schron E.B., Ells A.L., Wade K., Kemper A.R. “Timely Implementation of a Retinopathy of Prematurity Telemedicine System,” *Journal of American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (JAAPOS)*, Oct. 2016; Robinson M.E., Moreau A., O’Meilia R., Pagteilan J., Ding K., Siatkowski R.M., Farris B.K. “The Relationship Between Optic Nerve Sheath Decompression Failure and Intracranial Pressure in Idiopathic Intracranial Hypertension,” *Journal of Neuro-Ophthalmology*, Sept. 2016; Quinn G.E., Bremer D., Fellows R., Gong A.K., Hoffman R., Repka M.X., Shepard J., Siatkowski R.M., Wade K., Ying G.S. “Changes in Course of Retinopathy of Prematurity from 1986 to 2013: Comparison of Three Studies in the United States,” *Ophthalmology*, July 2016; Siatkowski R.M. “Excellence in Ophthalmology: Continuous Certification,” *Ophthalmology*, Sept. 2016. His recent presentations include Siatkowski R.M. “DI and C1,” Association for Research in Strabismus/Squint Club, Hilton Head, SC, Sept. 2016; “Neuro-Ophthalmic Tests for Children,” AAPOS/AAO Annual Symposium, American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2016; “Understanding the Etiology and Neurophysiology of Nystagmus,” American Orthoptic Council/American Association of

Certified Orthoptists (AOC/AACO) Annual Symposium, AAO Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2016; "Pediatric Neuro-Ophthalmology," 40th Annual Taylor Asbury Lecture, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, Oct. 2016; "Workup of CN3 palsy," "Dilemmas in Pediatric Neuro-ophthalmology," Al Watany/ARVO Egypt Ophthalmology Summit, Cairo, Egypt, Sept. 2016; and Yanovitch T.L., Siatkowski R.M., Moreau A., Robinson M., Motley W.W., Vehc K.C. "Struggling Resident Surgeons: Strategies for Success," AAO Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2016.



GREGORY L. SKUTA, MD, recently served as co-author of the following publications: Stein J.D., Zhao P.Y., Andrews C., Skuta G.L. "Comparison of Outcomes of Laser Trabeculoplasty Performed by Optometrists versus Ophthalmologists in Oklahoma," *JAMA Ophthalmology*, Oct. 2016; and Wilson D.J., Tasman W.J., Skuta G.L., and Sheth B.P. "The Evolution of the American Board of Ophthalmology Written Qualifying Examination," *Ophthalmology*, Sept. 2016 (supplement). He now serves on the Board of Directors of the Ophthalmic Mutual Insurance Company. In January 2017, he was an invited speaker for the Washington Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons and a visiting professor at the University of Washington Department of Ophthalmology in Seattle.



ANN A. WARN, MD, MBA, recently received the Senior Achievement Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology for her contributions to the Academy, its scientific and educational programs, and to the profession of ophthalmology.



LILY L. WONG, PhD, has been elected to a three-year term as a member of the Women in Eye and Vision Research (WEAVR) Leadership Committee (2014-2017). WEAVR is a program designed to encourage and strengthen the career paths of female vision researchers and represents an initiative by the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Foundation. She taught the Imaging portion of the Methods course (OCNS 5411) for the Neuroscience Program at the OU Health Sciences Center in September 2016; taught ten vision researchers to effectively use the imaging equipment in the National Eye Institute/DMEI Cellular Imaging Core Facility in 2016; volunteered on the interview committee for admission to the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics (OSSM) Class of 2017, April 2016; was one of twenty volunteer faculty members to participate in the June 2016 Investigative Research Scholars Program for OSSM; served as a faculty volunteer participating in a year-long research mentorship program for OSSM (2016-2017); and was a winner in the Cyagen Biosciences' "Smart is the new sexy" photo contest in 2016—an effort to re-brand the idea of "Being Smart" in our society.



TAMMY L. YANOVITCH, MD, MHSC, recently presented Yanovitch T.L., Siatkowski R.M., Moreau A. "Struggling Resident Surgeons: Strategies for Success," American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2016. She participated in the American Board of Ophthalmology (ABO) Exam Development meeting, Portland, Maine, Aug 2016; served as an ABO oral board examiner, San Francisco, CA, June 2016; currently serves on the AAO Subspecialty Day and Special Projects Planning Committees, 2016-2017; moderated the Hot Topics and Pediatric Ophthalmology Subspecialty Day Genetics courses, AAO Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2016; and was recognized by Elsevier publications as an Outstanding Reviewer for being in the top 10% of reviewers in terms of number of manuscripts reviewed for the Journal of American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (JAAPOS).

Robert Eugene Anderson, MD, PhD LECTURESHIP ANNOUNCED



Guests in attendance at the ceremony included (left to right): James R. Tolbert III—DMEI Board Chair Emeritus, Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD, George J. Records—DMEI Board Trustee., H. Anne Pereira, PhD—Dean of Graduate College at OUHSC, David E. Rainbolt—DMEI Board Chair, and G. Rainey Williams, Jr.—DMEI Foundation Board Chair.

ON SEPTEMBER 8, IN A WELL-ATTENDED CEREMONY in the Tullos O. Coston, MD Lecture Hall, Dr. Gregory L. Skuta announced the establishment of the Robert Eugene Anderson, MD, PhD Lectureship to honor Dr. Anderson's extraordinary legacy and transformative impact on vision research not only at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC), but around the world.

Dr. Anderson joined the DMEI/OU faculty in 1995. He holds the Dean McGee Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology, is DMEI's Director of Vision Research, was named a George Lynn Cross Research Professor in 2005, served as Director of the Oklahoma Center for Neuroscience from 1995 to 1999, and chaired the OU Department of Cell Biology from 1998 to 2007. He has acquired

more than \$60 million in career grant support, authored or co-authored approximately 300 peer-reviewed publications, edited 17 books, served as Vice President of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology and President of the International Society for Eye Research, and received numerous scientific life achievement awards.

As the Institute and Department of Ophthalmology prepared for the tenth anniversary of the Annual OU Student and Postdoctoral Fellow Vision Workshop, which was inaugurated in 2006, it was appropriate that the Keynote Lecture, which features the OU Vision Workshop's Visiting Scholar, would now be called the Robert Eugene Anderson, MD, PhD Lecture. Financial support for the lectureship will underwrite the cost of the named lecture and other workshop expenditures to ensure that Dr. Anderson's legacy and influence will continue far into the future.

On October 14, Jeffrey L. Goldberg, MD, PhD delivered the First Annual Robert Eugene Anderson, MD, PhD Lecture, which was entitled "Stem Cells for Glaucoma: Differentiation and Circuit Integration." Dr. Goldberg is Professor and Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at Stanford University. ■

The fundraising effort for the Anderson Lectureship is still active but closing soon. Contributions may be made by contacting Jim Durbin or Sandy Stewart in the DMEI Development Office at 405.271.1611. To date, more than \$200,000 in gifts and pledges has been received.

DRS. BRADFORD AND SIATKOWSKI RECOGNIZED IN BECKER'S ASCREVIEW



CYNTHIA A. BRADFORD, MD AND R. MICHAEL SIATKOWSKI, MD HAVE BOTH been recognized among *50 Ophthalmologists to Know* in 2016 by *Becker's ASCReview*. All of the ophthalmologists honored by Becker's are highly respected as leaders in their field, offering their hospitals, health systems, and professional societies expertise both clinically and technologically.



Drs. Bradford and Siatkowski are Professors of Ophthalmology at the Dean McGee Eye Institute/

University of Oklahoma (DMEI/OU) and are past recipients of the OU College of Medicine's prestigious Regents Award for Superior Teaching. Dr. Bradford now serves as President of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) and previously served on the AAO's Board of Trustees as Senior Secretary for Advocacy from 2009 to 2014.

Dr. Siatkowski holds the David W. Parke II, MD Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology and serves as Vice Chair for Academic Affairs and Residency Program Director. A member of the Board of Directors of the America Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (AAPOS), Dr. Siatkowski will become President of AAPOS in 2018. ■

GLAUCOMA BOOK PUBLISHED

STEVEN R. SARKISIAN, JR., MD, Clinical Professor and Glaucoma Fellowship Director, is pictured signing copies of his new book, *Minimally Invasive Glaucoma Surgery: A Practical Guide*. Published in December 2016, it has been well received and widely distributed. This remarkable resource will enable ophthalmologists to incorporate cutting-edge minimally invasive glaucoma surgery (MIGS) into practice and will be valuable for any clinicians who endeavor to advance the treatment of glaucoma. Dr. Sarkisian, who joined the faculty at the Dean McGee Eye Institute in 2006 and is regarded as an international authority on MIGS, joined Brian A. Francis, MD, MS and James C. Tan, MD, PhD as editors of the book. Drs. Francis and Tan both serve on the faculty at the Doheny Eye Institute/University of California—Los Angeles. ■



Cristofer J. Garza Joins DMEI as Contact Lens Specialist

MR. CRISTOFER J. GARZA JOINED THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) on November 28 as a full-time Contact Lens Specialist. He will be providing adult medical fits and healthy eye fits and also will see children.

Garza, who relocated from Pleasant Hill, California, is a Certified Ophthalmic Technician, an Advanced Certified Contact Lens Technician (National Contact Lens Examiners), and Certified Optician (American Board of Opticianry) who has worked for such organizations as the Spokane (Washington) Eye Clinic, SynergEyes, and Visionary Optics. He is active in the Contact Lens Society of America, the American Board of Opticianry-National Contact Lens Examiners, and the Scleral Lens Education Society.

Also an accomplished concert clarinetist, Garza has performed with the Couer d'Alene (Idaho) Symphony Orchestra, Opera Couer d'Alene, Spokane Civic Theatre, Washington-Idaho

Symphony Orchestra, and Mid-Columbia Symphony Orchestra.

In welcoming Garza to DMEI, Gregory L. Skuta, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer and Edward L. Gaylord Professor and Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology, stated "Cris Garza is a highly skilled and personally engaging professional, and we are thrilled to welcome him and his fiancé Melody Fisher to the DMEI family." ■



Dimitrios Karamichos, PhD, Elected to Membership in IBEST

ON NOVEMBER 11, THE FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA'S (OU'S)

Institute for Biomedical Engineering Science and Technology (IBEST, formerly known as the OU Biomedical Engineering Center, or OUBC) at OU-Norman voted to award full membership status to Dimitrios Karamichos, PhD. Dr. Karamichos is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology with a secondary appointment in the Department of Cell Biology. This is the first such appointment for a faculty member at the OU Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) and establishes a formal relationship between DMEI, OUHSC, and IBEST at OU-Norman.

Lei Ding, PhD, is the Director of IBEST and a Presidential Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Neuroscience at OU. He is also an Affiliated Associate Professor at the Laureate Institute for Brain Research in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The mission of IBEST is to catalyze and accelerate the development of research-based innovations that advance the effectiveness and efficiency of healthcare for the state of Oklahoma.

With the overarching goal of achieving IBEST's vision and providing a productive and collegial research environment for its members, five fundamental tenants of IBEST include:

I. **Multidisciplinary**—to focus on the convergence of disease, technology, and

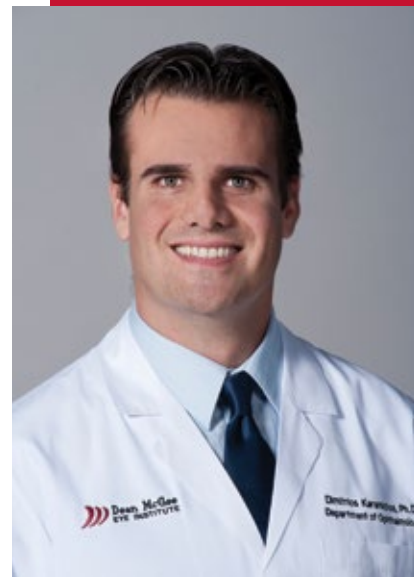
science by applying an engineering approach to medicine, and to advance multi-disciplinary engineering solutions for all types of healthcare.

II. **Teamwork**—to form a structured framework for cooperative research and educational activities at the interface of engineering and medicine, and to promote rigorous and creative scientific activity in targeted areas via building clinical-engineering teams.

III. **Cross Campus**—to promote collaboration between engineering and medicine in the OU community as well as its off-campus interface with industry, foundations, public/private research institutions, and the public healthcare sector.

IV. **Strategic Investment**—to invest in problem-driven research activity toward the objective of translating creative ideas into clinical medicine and novel products that will transform patient care and improve health and well-being.

V. **Visibility**—to enhance the visibility of engineering contributions from the OU community to healthcare advancements and to promote the reputation of the Institute nationally and internationally. ■



Ramonia L. Wilson, MS, VR, RC, BSN, RN, CCM, CRNO

RAMONIA WILSON'S QUEST FOR OPHTHALMIC

CERTIFICATION started June 1, 2009, when she began her journey as a Peri-Operative Registered Nurse for the McGee Eye Surgery Center. At that time, she was completing a dual Master's degree (MS) from Langston University for Rehabilitation Counseling (RC) and Visual Rehabilitation (VR). She finds the study of ophthalmology and visual rehabilitation both exhilarating and fascinating. Wilson was driven and motivated by her curiosity to learn all she could about the human eye. Friends, family, and co-workers all spurred her to "Keep on Keeping-On". She became a member of the American Society of Ophthalmic Registered Nurses (ASORN) to not only expand her knowledge and improve her practice in ophthalmology but to deliver to her patients the best care that she could provide.



To this end, Wilson, who is also a Certified Case Manager (CCM), pursued certification through the National Certifying Board of Ophthalmic Registered Nurses (NCBORN). This certification requires her as a Registered Nurse (RN) with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) to have a broad and specialized knowledge in many aspects and environments of ophthalmology. These include: anatomy and physiology, ophthalmic disease and disorders and related diagnostic testing, clinical ophthalmology, pharmacology, nursing assessment and intervention, surgical implications and ophthalmic surgical procedures, instrumentation and scrub technology, and visual impairment and professional issues. Wilson says, "It has been a long time coming, but with much prayer, study and perseverance, my vision of becoming a certified registered nurse in ophthalmology (CRNO) is no longer a dream but a reality. I hope to inspire and challenge other RNs to become certified in this great and rewarding field of study-ophthalmology." ■

ANN ACERS WARN, MD, MBA, ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE OKLAHOMA BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE AND SUPERVISION

ANN ACERS WARN, MD, MBA, HAS BEEN ELECTED TO SERVE as President of the Oklahoma Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision. Her one-year term began in September 2016.



Dr. Warn was appointed to the nine-member Medical Board by Governor Mary Fallin in 2013. Members typically serve for a total of seven years. The Medical Board consists of seven physicians and two non-physicians. It monitors qualifications, standards, and continuing education

for licenses regulated by the Oklahoma Medical Board (including physicians, physician assistants, physical therapists, and other health professionals) and conducts inquiries and hearings when needed.

A member of the Dean McGee Eye Institute faculty since 1994 and now a Clinical Associate Professor, Dr. Warn practices comprehensive ophthalmology in DMEI's Lawton facility and has held numerous

national and state leadership roles. She is Past President of the Oklahoma State Board of Health and the Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology, recently served as Chair of the American Academy of Ophthalmology's (AAO's) Council and on the AAO's Board of Trustees, and is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Ophthalmic Mutual Insurance Company and President of the Cameron University Foundation.

Dr. Warn succeeded Tulsa ophthalmologist Lee Schoeffler, MD as President of the Oklahoma Medical Board. Dr. Schoeffler is an alumnus of the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine and the ophthalmology residency program at OU.

In acknowledging Dr. Warn's many contributions, Dr. Gregory Skuta, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Dean McGee Eye Institute and Edward L. Gaylord Professor and Chair of the OU Department of Ophthalmology, stated, "It is clear that Ann Warn is highly regarded by both her patients and medical peers. Given her skills as a superb clinician, surgeon, and leader, we are delighted that she is a member of the DMEI family. She will continue to serve the people of Oklahoma exceedingly well in this vital role with the Oklahoma Medical Board." ■

PHILANTHROPY UPDATE

A GENEROUS LIFETIME GIFT TO HELP FUND CLINICAL RESEARCH IN PERPETUITY

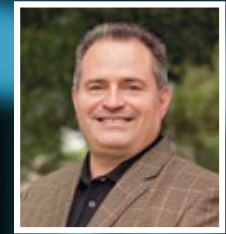
DOROTHY C. EATON WAS A LONG-TIME PATIENT and friend of the beloved late Dr. Hal Balyeat, who served on the faculty at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) from 1975 to 2003. According to Jim Durbin, Executive Director of Development for DMEI, “Dorothy began her donor relationship with DMEI with a modest unrestricted gift of \$100 in 1982, but no one knew at the time where that first gift would lead.” Over the next 14 years, Dorothy remained a regular, loyal donor to DMEI. “She gave consistently, year-in and year-out,” states Durbin, “and her gifts grew from \$100 to \$5,000 and then to \$10,000”.

With her larger gifts, Dorothy helped establish the Eaton-Balyeat Clinical Research Education Fund to help defray the costs incurred by residents, fellows, and supervising faculty in the planning, conducting, presenting, and publishing of clinical research projects. As she wished to fund it in perpetuity, in 1996, at the age of 83, Dorothy included a provision in her will establishing a charitable remainder trust for the benefit of the DMEI Foundation and the fund she had established. A charitable remainder trust is a planned giving vehicle that allows the donor to set aside funds for the benefit of one or more individuals, in Dorothy’s case, her step-daughter, but then passes funds to a charity upon the beneficiary’s death.

Dorothy continued to give to DMEI for five more years until her death in 2001, but her legacy was only just being established. In addition to the charitable remainder trust, Dorothy also gifted a retirement fund account to the DMEI Foundation totaling more than \$260,000. Then, with the passing of Dorothy’s step-daughter in June 2016, the final distribution from Dorothy’s estate made its way to the DMEI Foundation, 34 years after her first \$100 gift and 15 years after her death. That distribution totaled \$1,046,668 and increased the endowment’s balance to approximately \$1.4 million.

“What a testament to Dorothy’s love for the work we do at DMEI,” states Durbin. “Through her devotion and generosity, the Eaton-Balyeat Clinical Research Education Fund is a significant resource that will help us attract, retain, and educate the best and brightest residents and fellows and help us push the envelope of knowledge related to eye health.”

“Others can do what Dorothy did,” continues Durbin. “Anyone interested in learning about charitable remainder trusts, IRA / retirement fund donations, wills or other planned gifts should visit our planned giving website at plannedgiving.dmei.org or call me at 405.271.7803. I am sure there are other legacies waiting to be made.” ■



Jim Durbin
Executive Director of Development

An Anonymous Gift Helps DMEI Acquire Needed Capital Items

A **GENEROUS DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000** from an anonymous donor has enabled the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) to acquire a number of important capital items that will enhance scientific research and patient care in our clinics and ambulatory surgery center. “We are grateful that DMEI has such wonderful benefactors and are honored by this meaningful show of support for DMEI,” states Dr. Gregory L. Skuta, President and CEO of DMEI. “This contribution will enable us to obtain new visual acuity and imaging systems for our clinics; upgrade essential equipment for scientific research; and purchase a new surgical microscope. Without this support, these purchases may have been significantly delayed.” ■

Local Foundations Back DMEI Efforts to Recruit New Vision Scientists

THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) HOUSES

one of the nation’s leading Departments with respect to funding from the National Institutes of Health/National Eye Institute (NIH/NEI, Bethesda, Maryland) and Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc. (RPB, New York, New York). According to Dr. Gregory L. Skuta, DMEI’s President and CEO, “In order to sustain and advance DMEI’s national standing as a center of excellence for vision research, we would like to recruit at least four more early to mid-career scientists within the next two years.”

Key to achieving this goal is the provision of attractive scientific recruitment packages, which include start-up funds for key necessary equipment and personnel. “Recruitment of outstanding scientists can be a costly

endeavor,” notes Skuta, “and we are attempting to raise \$2 million for this initiative.”

Enter the Presbyterian Health Foundation (PHF) and the E. L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation, both of Oklahoma City. In July of this year, PHF made a grant of \$100,000 to DMEI for the recruitment of vision scientists. This was followed by a \$250,000 pledge from the Gaylord Foundation in October. “These two gifts, combined with an earlier \$75,000 gift from The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation and more than \$30,000 in donations from DMEI board members and other individuals gives us enough funds to successfully recruit a new scientist or scientists,” says Skuta, “and we are now actively identifying promising candidates.” ■

PATIENTS IN NEED ARE HELPED BY GIFT FROM TULSA'S ANNE AND HENRY ZARROW FOUNDATION

THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) TURNS NO ONE AWAY for necessary care, a commitment that has been a part of its mission since its founding in the early 1970s. Approximately 15 years ago, DMEI created the Patient Financial Assistance Program (PFAP) as the conduit through which philanthropic support from the DMEI Foundation could be directed to help those in need.

Understanding the vital role that DMEI plays as a safety-net provider for patients from throughout the state, The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation of Tulsa, Oklahoma made a recent grant of \$25,000 in support of PFAP. The foundation's support helps ensure that those who need help can receive it.

As Jim Durbin, Executive Director of Development for DMEI, states, "There is no other nonprofit ophthalmology institution in the state of Oklahoma. Many of the services, treatments, diagnostic tests, and surgical procedures performed at DMEI cannot be obtained by the uninsured, or underinsured, elsewhere in the region. Without DMEI and its Patient Financial Assistance Program, the low-income, at-risk patients who need treatment might not receive the care they need. We are grateful to the Zarrow Foundation for helping make this vital outreach possible."

Anyone interested in supporting PFAP may do so by sending a check using the enclosed reply envelope or by donating online at www.dmei.org/donate-now. ■



A BEAUTIFUL SCULPTURE entitled "Medicine Talk" has been donated to the Dean McGee Eye Institute by the Acers family. Created by artist Wayne Cooper, the sculpture was given to Dr. Thomas Acers in 1992 by his residents and friends upon his retirement as DMEI President and Department Chair. DMEI is very appreciative of the Acers family and their involvement with and support of the Institute and is honored to showcase this meaningful art piece.

Ann Acers Warn, MD, MBA and Jim Durbin, Executive Director of Development at DMEI, are shown with the sculpture, entitled "Medicine Talk."

MDLVG SEMINAR

THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI)

WELCOMED over 60 patients and guests to the 14th Annual Macular Degeneration/Low Vision/Glaucoma (MDLVG) Seminar held at the Samis Education Center on Friday, October 31. Attendees heard from low vision specialist Rebecca K. Morgan, MD, glaucoma specialist Andrew K. Bailey, MD, and retinal specialist Stephen R. Fransen, MD, all DMEI faculty. Other speakers included Cathy Holden, COMS and Marlene Snow, OTR/L, SCVL, NewView Oklahoma; Debi Trout, COMS, and Sabrina Stevenson, Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation/Visual Services; and Kevin Treese and Brian King, Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

Delta Gamma is a sorority on the University of Oklahoma (OU) – Norman campus that considers protecting the gift of sight as one of its highest priorities. Delta Gamma members Christa Bellack and Paula Tran served as volunteers for the MDLVG Seminar. DMEI is one of three approved organizations in the state where these and other young women contribute volunteer service hours while fulfilling Delta Gamma’s mission of “Service for Sight” and the Institute’s mission of “...

“What did you like best about this seminar? “All of the different products and services for low vision and learning more about glaucoma and macular degeneration. This is our second year to come—we really enjoy it!” S. Powell”



Andrew K. Bailey, MD presenting “Introduction to Glaucoma” at the MDLVG Seminar at the Samis Education Center on October 31.

...serving all Oklahomans and the global community through excellence and leadership in patient care, education, and vision research.”

Other supporting sponsors for the 2016 MDLVG Seminar included: Alcon Laboratories, Samis Education Center, Southwestern Group of Companies, and ComTech Design & Mail. Exhibiting companies were Alcon Laboratories, Dean McGee Eye Institute Optical Services, Genuine Care Rehabilitation, Inc. and Easy

Living Concepts, NanoPac, Inc., Oklahoma Healthy Aging Initiative, Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and Precision Optical. ■

DMEI DOCTORS SERVE IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



BRADLEY K. FARRIS, MD—Dr. Farris has worked at the Ministries of Jesus Medical Clinic in Edmond since its inception in 2000. He sees patients, on average, two Friday mornings each month. When asked why he serves, he stated, “Because I am called to do so.” Dr. Farris also plays a leading role in the Dean McGee Eye Institute’s (DMEI’s) Global Eye Care Program and its initiatives in China and Swaziland.



STEPHEN R. FRANSEN, MD—Dr. Fransen, a Mayflower Medical Outreach (MMO) volunteer, met Dr. Carlos Núñez, a practicing ophthalmologist in Jinotega, Nicaragua, in 2009. Given their shared profession and interest in retinal diseases, they developed a friendship and professional relationship. Dr. Núñez described an overwhelming amount of blindness and suffering directly related to preventable diseases of the eye. Furthermore, with no social security or government funded disability programs in Nicaragua, blindness is not only emotionally devastating, but also leads to poverty as it drastically impacts an individual’s way of life and ability to work.

Nica Eyes was established in 2011 to help address these problems. Since that first encounter, Dr. Núñez, his staff, and Dr. Fransen have conducted retinal clinics in which Dr. Fransen provides continuing education and instruction in procedures Dr. Núñez had not previously performed. In addition, Dr. Fransen provides remote consultations to Dr. Núñez during the year using the internet.



JEAN R. HAUSHEER, MD, FACS—In 2016, Dr. Hausheer traveled twice to Swaziland, Africa, once with the DMEI team and once with The Luke Commission (TLC). During her most recent trip, she was the only ophthalmologist there, and brought along DMEI ophthalmic technician Jamaal Richardson, COA, who taught new examination skills to Swazi workers. While there, Dr. Hausheer operated from 7:30 am to 9:30 pm Monday through Friday. She performed pterygium excisions with amniotic membrane grafting and also manual small incision cataract surgeries (MSICS) on blinding cataracts. In addition, Dr. Hausheer provided preoperative evaluations and postoperative examinations and taught special anesthesia techniques to the nurses. Prior to the trip, she helped obtain special diagnostic and surgical equipment for permanent use in Swaziland. (The diagnostic equipment, an ophthalmic ultrasound unit, was largely funded through support to DMEI’s Global Eye Care Program.) The American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) is creating a film documentary on Dr. Hausheer’s work in Swaziland, which will be shown this fall on the ONE (Ophthalmic News and Education) Network.

Dr. Hausheer also volunteers monthly at the Lawton Hearts that Care free medical clinic and serves on its Board of Directors. She is an active member of the Lawton Council for the Blind and was instrumental in starting the group, which includes patients with a variety of congenital and chronic conditions associated with severe visual loss. A patient of hers recently started a similar group in Duncan.

Dr. Hausheer is a member of the Christian Ophthalmology Society and has joined its EuroAfrican missions group. She will be volunteering in Gabon, Africa, in May 2017 and is currently learning French to prepare for her time in Gabon. While there, she will be working alongside ophthalmologist Wendy Hofman, MD, who received the AAO’s Artemis Award in 2015 for her humanitarian efforts. Dr. Hofman trains one African every three years to become an ophthalmologist.

AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD



RONALD M. KINGSLEY, MD—Dr. Kingsley serves one morning per month alternating between Skyline Urban Ministries and Crossings Community Center Clinic, both in Oklahoma City. Much of his focus is on providing eye examinations and glasses for individuals who cannot afford them. Patients with more serious eye conditions, such as diabetic retinopathy or glaucoma, may require referral for further evaluation and treatment. He attends these clinics “to try to use his limited gift of healing to share the love of Jesus and further God’s Kingdom.” Dr. Kingsley stated, “It’s really not very much considering all of the blessings that I’ve been given.”



ANNIE MOREAU, MD, FACS—In November, Dr. Moreau provided primary eye care to the underserved population of Cap Haitien, Haiti, and also trained local eye care providers. She has traveled to Haiti frequently since her first mission there in 1993. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, making it difficult for this small country to provide the needed eye care to its large underserved population. Dr. Moreau’s favorite aspect of serving in Haiti is knowing that she has made someone else’s day a bit easier by administering much needed care. With every trip, she finds the patients to be extremely grateful and the experience very humbling. Dr. Moreau, states, “It is a good reminder of why I went to medical school in the first place.”



ANIL D. PATEL, MD—Dr. Patel offers his time along with four University of Oklahoma (OU) medical students every year at a multispecialty health fair in Yukon. The health fair is jointly hosted by IPC Hebron (India Pentecostal Church of God) and AAPI (American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin). The students along with Dr. Patel check visual acuity and measure intraocular pressure (IOP) for the health fair attendees. “The OU medical students perform admirably, and I am very proud of their service,” stated Dr. Patel. The ‘eye station’ was a favorite stop among the health fair attendees.



R. MICHAEL SIATKOWSKI, MD—Dr. Siatkowski volunteers monthly at the Crossings Community Center Clinic in Oklahoma City and sees patients in the ophthalmology clinic for a half-day. Dr. Siatkowski states, “It is a wonderful facility that has the mission to treat body, soul, and spirit, and it is a blessing for me to be part of that.”



ANN A. WARN, MD, MBA—Dr. Warn currently serves as President of the Cameron University Foundation Board of Directors. The Foundation supports Cameron University, which is a public university located across the street from the Dean McGee Eye Institute’s Lawton office and is where she earned her MBA degree. The goal of Cameron is to provide a quality, and affordable, college education to students in southwest Oklahoma with the hope that these educated individuals will choose to stay in southwest Oklahoma and contribute to the community. Thanks in large part to support from the Cameron University Foundation, over 50% of Cameron students are able to graduate debt-free. Dr. Warn started out as a “President’s Partner” about 13 years ago. She became involved in the Foundation Board about six years ago and considers it an honor to be a part of the Cameron University/southwest Oklahoma partnership.

Eggers Family Champions Dean McGee Eye Institute for Decades

BY APRIL WILKERSON

FOR 20 YEARS AND COUNTING, THE EGGERS FAMILY FROM MORRISON, OKLAHOMA (15 miles north of Stillwater), has championed the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI).

People from communities large and small across Oklahoma support DMEI and entrust their eyesight to its physicians. But none may be as humble and dedicated as Virginia Eggers and her late husband, W.D. Eggers.

Rare is the family that donates consistently for 20 years, but for Virginia Eggers, it's simply the sensible thing to do. She and her husband received quality care from kind physicians and staff at DMEI, and she wants that tradition to continue.

"Dean McGee is a very important place, and it needs to keep going," Mrs. Eggers said. "I want them to learn all there is to learn about this eye business. There's so much to learn, I don't know if we'll ever know enough. I just marvel about vision."

Mrs. Eggers and her husband were referred to DMEI many years ago by their ophthalmologist

in Stillwater. At DMEI, they were first treated by Hal Balyeat, MD, and were instantly drawn to his kindness and ability to listen. "He was just very special, period," she said. "People who didn't know him missed something."

Both Mr. and Mrs. Eggers had their cataract surgery performed by DMEI physicians. Mrs. Eggers had hers done first, at a time when cataract patients spent the night in the hospital,

and she fondly remembers when entertainer Bob Hope came to Oklahoma in 1983 to dedicate the Bob Hope Eye Surgery Center at Presbyterian Hospital. By the time her husband had his surgery, the recovery time had been considerably shortened. Now most eye surgeries are performed at the McGee Eye Surgery Center inside the

Harold Hamm Diabetes Center building across the street to the south of DMEI.

After Dr. Balyeat passed away in 2003, Mr. and Mrs. Eggers began seeing David Jackson, MD, for their eye care. In more recent years, Mrs. Eggers has begun going to an ophthalmologist in Stillwater because it's closer and easier for

"Dean McGee is a very important place, and it needs to keep going," Mrs. Eggers said.

her family to drive her there. But she's made it clear that if she has a problem with her eyes, she's heading right back to DMEI. "They know I'm not stopping until I get to Oklahoma City," she said.

Before he passed away in 2014, Mrs. Eggers' husband owned W.D. Eggers Farm Supply, which operated at the junction of highways US 64 and US 177 (Bill's Corner), selling grain handling equipment to farmers from five states. She continues their tradition of giving to DMEI, often several gifts a year. Some have been given in memory of a loved one or friend who died; others are gifts toward research or to DMEI in general. Those gifts have added up, allowing the Institute to further projects and programs that otherwise might not have been possible.

When David Parke II, MD, was serving as President of DMEI, from the early 1990s through the late 2000s, he surprised Mr. and Mrs. Eggers one day while they were at DMEI for a checkup. He wanted to say a quick thank-you to a couple who may not have realized how meaningful their gifts have been.

"We were waiting for our doctor to come in that day, and I remember Dr. Parke coming in, and I thought, 'Oh my goodness, he's the President of this place,'" Mrs. Eggers said. "He thanked us and we visited for a few minutes, and on the way home, my husband and I talked about how special that was."

"I just love Dean McGee Eye Institute. Money needs to be distributed to where it will do the most good and, to us, that's vision." ■

2016 Acers Society

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

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Jackie Acers*
 Andrew K. Bailey, MD
 Sterling S. Baker, MD
 Ray M. Balyeat, MD
 Donald E. Beahm, MD
 David A. Bernitsky, MD
 Charles P. Bogie III, MD, PhD
 Matthew D. Bown
 D. Randolph Brown, MD
 Robert H. Bullington, Jr., MD
 Adam A. Carver, MD
 William S. Clifford, MD
 Russell D. Crain, MD
 Sam S. Dahr, MD
 James L. Dunagin, MD
 Bradley K. Farris, MD
 William J. Faulkner, MD
 Stephen R. Fransen, MD
 Luther L. Fry, MD
 John M. Garber, OD
 Garyl G. Geist, MACE

Robert D. Gourley, MD
 Jeffrey W. Grisham, MD
 Scott M. Guess, MD
 Jean R. Hausheer, MD, FACS
 John J. Herlihy, MD
 P. Lloyd Hildebrand, MD, FACS
 Kimberly A. Howard
 Rick D. Isernhagen, MD
 David W. Jackson, MD
 Alison Acers Jetton
 Kevin A. Kerr, MD
 Mahmoud A. Khaimi, MD
 Robert T. Lee, MD
 James H. Little, MD
 Amalia M. Miranda, MD
 Steven N. Montgomery, MD
 Annie Moreau, MD, FACS
 W. Stanley Muenzler, MD*
 David W. Parke II, MD
 Anil D. Patel, MD
 John A. Robinson, MD
 Nelson R. Sabates, MD

Steven R. Sarkisian, Jr., MD
 Lee E. Schoeffler, MD
 David L. Schwartz, MD
 Mark H. Scott, MD
 Gregory L. Skuta, MD
 Michael L. Soper, MD
 Donald U. Stone, MD
 Scot A. Sullivan, MD
 Matthew P. Traynor, MD
 Roland A. Walters, MD
 Ann Acers Warn, MD, MBA
 Deana S. Watts, MD
 G. Rainey Williams, Jr.
 James B. Wise, MD
 Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHSc
 David E. Zuech, MD

ANNUAL MEMBERS

Evan J. Allan, MD
 Jake P. Bostrom, MD
 Cynthia A. Bradford, MD
 Reagan H. Bradford, Jr., MD

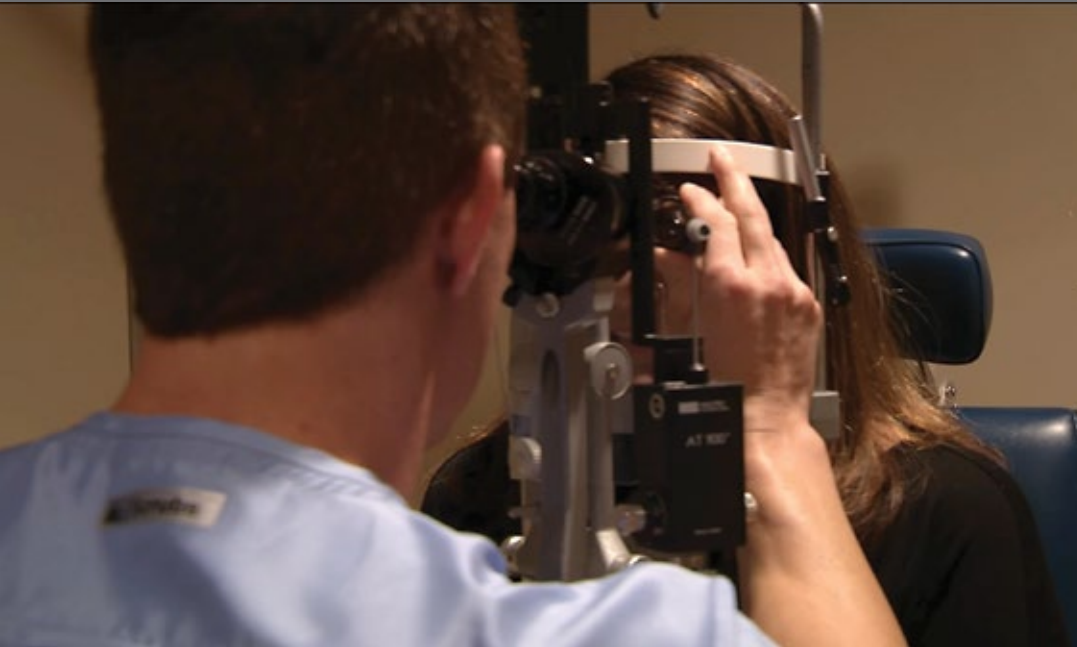
Denise R. Chamblee, MD
 Steven H. Dewey, MD
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gary
 Thomas A. Hawkins, MD
 Ralph B. Hester III, MD
 Jay C. Johnston, MD
 Ronald M. Kingsley, MD
 Silvia S. McKeivitt, MD
 Ensa K. Pillow, MD
 Mark E. Robinson, MD
 Allyson D. Schmitt, MD
 R. Michael Siatkowski, MD
 Rhea L. Siatkowski, MD
 Jonathan P. Walgama, MD
 Elizabeth R. Waller, MD
 Kurt D. Weir, MD
 Thomas C. Wolf, MD

*Deceased

COMPREHENSIVE EYE EXAMS SAVED PATIENT'S VISION

BY APRIL WILKERSON

*David W. Jackson,
MD examines patient
Martha Burger.*



“I was taking care of myself in many ways, but I thought, ‘I’m leaving something out,’” Burger said. “I am so glad I started going to Dean McGee.”

FOR MANY YEARS, MARTHA BURGER HAD ROUTINE VISION TESTS. The appointments were quick, and she didn’t think much about them beyond being a prerequisite for a new supply of the contacts she wore.

However, as time went by, she heard people talking about their comprehensive eye exams, which included dilation of the eyes. Something about those conversations spurred Burger to seek out an ophthalmologist for her eye care, and she landed at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI).

As it turns out, it was an eyesight-saving decision. In the span of just a few years, DMEI doctors discovered three different eye conditions, each of which could have stolen her eyesight if left untreated.

For a while, Burger’s eye exams didn’t reveal anything out of the ordinary, although her physician, David W. Jackson, MD, was watching a cataract. In addition, he learned while taking her medical history that she has Grave’s disease, an immune system disorder that can have implications for vision.

But Dr. Jackson also noticed something else: a thickening of Burger’s retina. She was beginning to experience distorted vision, especially as she tried to read things at a distance, such as billboards. Burger was referred to a DMEI retinal specialist, Robert E. Leonard II, MD. He performed surgery to remove scar tissue (known as an epiretinal membrane) from her retina, peeling off a thin layer to restore her good vision.

Following that procedure, Burger's cataract began to worsen, which is not uncommon for someone who has had retinal surgery. Dr. Jackson performed surgery to remove the cataract. However, it wasn't too long before another problem presented itself: Burger began experiencing double vision. She was referred to DMEI neuro-ophthalmologist, Bradley K. Farris, MD. This time, the cause was her Grave's disease, which can cause the muscles of the eyes to thicken and function improperly. Dr. Farris operated on the eye muscles to correct the double vision.

"The good news for me is that my issues were fixable," Burger said. "I was really lucky."

Burger has become an advocate for comprehensive eye exams and ongoing visits. Her conditions might not have been discovered nearly as early if her physicians hadn't been closely monitoring her eyes.

A recent study found that more than 6 in 10 adults had one of the following eye issues: difficulty seeing at night, blurry vision, reading up close, flashes of light, red, watery eyes, or double vision. However, only about 1 in 10 of those people ever saw an ophthalmologist.

Dilating the eyes, as part of an exam that includes a complete medical history, is crucial for good eye health, Dr. Jackson said.

"When the entrance to the eye, the pupil, is small, our view in is very difficult," he said. "So we use drops to dilate it and make it bigger, and then we can see all the structures behind it, including the lens, nerve, blood vessels, macula, and retina."

Burger was grateful to be receiving her care at DMEI, where numerous specialists are housed under one roof. The referral to different specialists was easy, and the three doctors who treated her sat down together to talk about her treatment and how each condition affected the other.

“The good news for me is that my issues were fixable,” Burger said. “I was really lucky.”

"You just don't find that everywhere. DMEI is such a jewel for Oklahoma," Burger said. "The physicians spent as much time as I needed to answer questions and explain all the surgeries to me."

Seventy percent of a person's sensory input is through the eyes, and Burger has renewed appreciation for the gift of vision. She never neglects her checkups, and she encourages others to do the same, especially if they have an immune disorder.

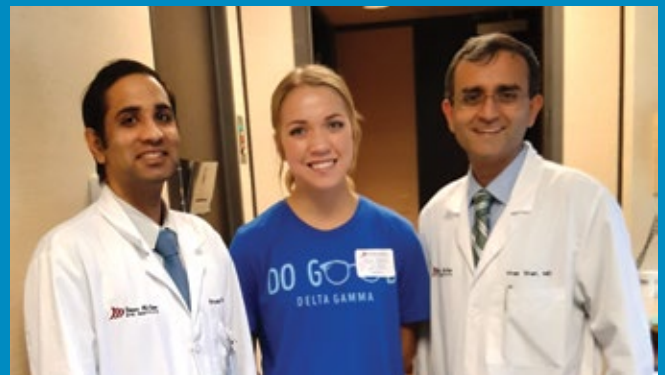
"I see better now than I have my whole life," she said. "But that almost wasn't the case. I feel so fortunate to be going to Dean McGee because they understand just how important your eyes are." ■

Delta Gamma and Dean McGee Eye Institute JOIN FORCES

THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE a partnership with the women of Delta Gamma (DG) on the University of Oklahoma (OU)-Norman campus. Delta Gamma’s mission fosters lifetime enrichment for members and promotes “Service for Sight” through required philanthropy and service hours. DMEI was the recent recipient of half of the funds raised from this year’s Delta Gamma annual fundraising efforts. The 2016 event, called AnchorSplash, raised \$10,077 for the DMEI Foundation. DG members committed their 2016-2017 volunteer hours to shadowing DMEI doctors, volunteering at the annual Macular Degeneration/Low Vision/Glaucoma Seminar held on October 31 and assisting patients with our newly implemented electronic patient registration system, Phresia. ■



OU freshman and business (marketing)/pre-medical student, Paula Tran (second from left), with DMEI optometrist, Dr. Jessica Lucas (third from left), and her technicians, McKenzie Neal (far left) and Jessica Cortes-Garcia (far right), at the Oklahoma Health Center (OHC) facility.



OU freshman and biology/pre-medical student, Maci French (center), with retinal fellow, Dr. Shripaad Shukla (left) and retinal specialist, Dr. Vinay Shah (right), at the OHC office.



OU junior and biology major/chemistry minor/pre-medical student, Chloe Denham (left), with DMEI optometrist, Dr. Angela Plant (right), at the DMEI Edmond office.



OU freshman and biology major/pre-medical student, Christa Bellack (center), and OU freshman business (marketing)/pre-medical student, Paula Tran (right), with DMEI Optical Services Director/Optical Lab Director, Robert Dimick (left).

Giving Tech: HOW TECHNOLOGY IS CHANGING THE WAY WE INTERACT WITH OUR DONORS

TECHNOLOGY IS NOT ONLY IMPACTING THE PATIENT EXPERIENCE AT THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI),

it is also impacting the donor experience. The past several months have seen an investment by the Development Office in a number of new initiatives that involve technology. From Facebook to crowdfunding to planned giving, we are excited about the possibilities for increased interaction with our supporters.

Our partnership with BigWing Interactive has given DMEI a presence on Facebook that allows us to spread the word about the good work we do here at the Institute in a way that we have never done before. Our goal is to keep our patients and their families and friends informed about what is happening at DMEI and provide them useful information related to eye health. Moving forward, we hope that those following our posts will better understand the value DMEI provides and help support us. For those who already support us, let your Facebook friends know it by sharing a post when you make donation, explaining why you support us and encouraging them to do the same.

Our online fundraising has been taken to a new level over the past several months. The standard online donation page has been updated and made easier to use for simple, secure online donating. In addition, we have partnered with Classy, Inc., the number one online and mobile fundraising platform, to take advantage of the power of crowdfunding and peer-

to-peer fundraising. It provides a platform that allows us to involve our donors in the process of raising funds for the Institute's work. For example, the parents of one of our pediatric patients undertook a crowdfunding campaign to support our Patient Financial Assistance Program as a way of showing their gratitude for all of the care their daughter has received at DMEI. Their campaign brought in over \$7,600 in just two weeks! Others can do this too. Such online fundraising is a great way for families, church groups, or civic clubs to show their support for DMEI. Or if you have a birthday coming up, create an online campaign to ask your family and friends to make a donation in the amount of your age and give the gift of sight to someone in need.

Creating a legacy at DMEI just got easier with our new planned giving webpage (*plannedgiving.dmei.org*), where you will find information to help you make an informed decision about what type of planned gift is right for you. Want to

make a gift that pays you income? Or need a significant tax break on appreciated assets? Or just want to know how to include DMEI in your will? Our new webpage has the answers to these questions plus a calculator that helps you see the benefits of giving specific types of gifts. If you think planned gifts are too complicated or are only for the very wealthy, you may be surprised to learn that this is not the case. We encourage you to go to our website and learn about all the options available to you.

We are excited to be able to offer you these new cutting-edge ways to help support DMEI and its mission! ■

WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT DMEI ONLINE

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
@DeanMcGeeEyeInstitute
Share with your friends!

START A CROWDFUNDING
CAMPAIGN FOR DMEI
with Classy.org
Contact us to learn how.

CREATE A LEGACY AT DMEI
Learn how at the new
PlannedGiving.DMEI.org

For questions, please contact
the DMEI Development Office
at 405.271.7801,
email: development@dmei.org,
or send us a message on Facebook!

VISION RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

Extends Funding to the OU Department of Ophthalmology

RESEARCH TO PREVENT BLINDNESS

(RPB) HAS AWARDED A GRANT of \$115,000 to the Department of Ophthalmology at the Dean McGee Eye Institute and the University of Oklahoma (OU) Health Sciences Center to support research into the causes, treatment, and prevention of blinding diseases. The research will be directed by Gregory L. Skuta, MD, Edward L. Gaylord Professor and Chair of the OU Department of Ophthalmology and President and Chief Executive Officer of the Dean McGee Eye Institute.

RPB is the world's leading voluntary organization supporting eye research. To date, the organization has awarded grants totaling \$5,356,600 to the OU Health Sciences Center, placing it among the top centers in the nation in cumulative RPB funding. Other top programs include Harvard Medical School, Johns Hopkins University, University of California - Los Angeles, University of

California - San Francisco, University of Michigan, Washington University - St. Louis, Duke University, University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University, University of Utah, University of Wisconsin, Oregon Health and Science University, and University of Southern California.

"This grant will be critical to advancing our Department's scientific study of retinal degenerations, diabetic eye disease, infectious and inflammatory disease, corneal disorders, and other conditions that can result in vision loss," Dr. Skuta stated. "Our strong history of support from RPB has played a vital role in the success of the vision research programs at the University of Oklahoma."

Since it was founded in 1960, RPB has channeled hundreds of millions of dollars to medical institutions throughout the United States for research into all blinding eye diseases. ■



SAVE THE DATE

2ND ANNUAL ROBERT E. ANDERSON, MD, PhD LECTURE

11th Annual OU Vision Workshop *September 28-29, 2017*

Tullos O. Coston, MD Lecture Hall at DMEI (Acers Pavilion, 5th Floor)

ANDERSON LECTURER: **Victor L. Perez, MD**

Walter G. Ross Chair in Ophthalmic Research
Director, Ocular Surface Center
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Miami, Florida

10TH ANNUAL OU STUDENT AND POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW VISION WORKSHOP

DMEI RESEARCHERS AND OTHER VISION SCIENTISTS from the Oklahoma Health Center participated in the Tenth Annual University of Oklahoma (OU) Vision Workshop held on October 14 in the Tullos O. Coston, MD Lecture Hall at the Dean McGee Eye Institute. The Distinguished Keynote Speaker was Dr. Jeffrey L. Goldberg, Professor and Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at the Byers Eye Institute at Stanford University. His keynote address, entitled “Stem Cells for Glaucoma: Differentiation and Circuit Integration,” was the inaugural Robert Eugene Anderson, MD, PhD Lecture (see page 16).

AWARD WINNERS:

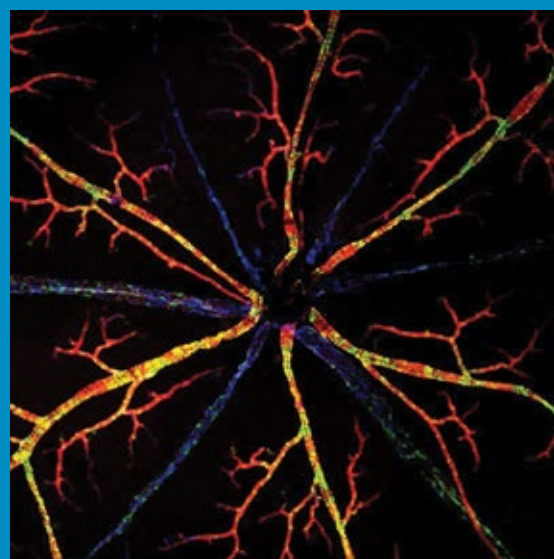
JOSEPH WILKERSON, a graduate student from Dr. Nawajes Mandal’s laboratory, won the Wei Cao Award for Innovation.

CHELSEA LARABEE, a graduate student from Dr. Scott Plafker’s laboratory, won the Robert E. Anderson Award for Best Paper.

The best cover photograph competition was won by **ALAINA REAGAN**, a graduate student from Dr. Michael Elliott’s laboratory. She received the honor of having her work (shown to the right) on the cover of the program booklet. ■



Shown from left to right are: Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD; Jeffrey L. Goldberg, MD, PhD; and Jason R. Sanders, MD, MBA. Dr Goldberg delivered the first Robert Eugene Anderson MD, PhD Lecture on October 14. Dr. Sanders is Provost and Senior Vice President for Health Affairs at the OU Health Sciences Center and also serves on DMEI’s Board of Trustees.



Pictured is a retinal flatmount at the optic nerve head prepared by Alaina Reagan. Retinal arterioles and venules are immunolabeled with smooth muscle and endothelial cell markers.

Annual Oklahoma Health Center Breakfast



Pictured left to right: David Harlow—Oklahoma Health Center Foundation Chair and Panel Moderator, Dimitrios Karamichos, PhD—Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI), G. Rainey Williams, Jr.—DMEI Foundation Board Chair, and Michael E. Joseph—DMEI Board Trustee.

EACH YEAR, THE GREATER OKLAHOMA CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE and the Oklahoma Health Center Foundation (OHCF) join together to celebrate the positive impact made by the Oklahoma Health Center on our community. The event features a distinguished guest speaker or panel of speakers with updates on how the 24 member organizations of the OHCF are influencing Oklahoma's future through research, health care, social services, and education. Previous guest speakers have included University of Oklahoma (OU) President David Boren, Governor Mary Fallin, Mayor Mick Cornett, and Devon Energy Executive Larry Nichols.

In the event on September 7 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, this year's panel speakers included Dimitrios Karamichos, PhD – Dean McGee Eye Institute – Assistant Professor, Departments

of Ophthalmology and Cell Biology, Faculty Member, Oklahoma Center for Neuroscience; Thomas C. Kupiec, PhD – CEO and President, ARL Bio Pharma, DNA Solutions and the Kupiec Group; Doris Mangiaracina Benbrook, PhD – Professor and Co-Director, Center for Cancer Prevention and Drug Development and the Gynecologic Cancers Program, Stephenson Cancer Center, OU Health Sciences Center (OUHSC); and H. Anne Pereira, PhD – Dean, Graduate College, Professor and Associate Dean, Research, College of Pharmacy, OUHSC.

Dr. Karamichos, who was recruited from Harvard Medical School/Schepens Eye Research Institute in Boston, discussed his research in corneal scarring and wound healing and corneal degenerations such as keratoconus as well as the attractions of moving his research program to the Dean McGee Eye Institute and OUHSC. ■



Visit from Xiaorong Li, MD, PhD, Prominent Chinese Retinal Surgeon and Researcher

DR. XIAORONG LI, DIRECTOR OF TIANJIN (CHINA) MEDICAL UNIVERSITY EYE HOSPITAL, the School of Optometry and Ophthalmology, and Tianjin Medical University Eye Institute, conferred with Dean McGee Eye Institute vision scientists during his visit to the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) on October 12. Dr. Li is a prominent Chinese retinal surgeon and scientific investigator with an interest in basic and clinical research related to diabetic retinopathy.

Tianjin is China's fifth largest urban center behind Shanghai, Beijing, Chongqing, and Guangzhou (source: WorldBook/United Nations).

Dr. Li's visit to OUHSC was arranged by Dr. Jian-xing "Jay" Ma, the Laureate Professor and Chair of the OU Department of Physiology and a renowned figure in diabetic retinopathy research.

Dr. Li is the editor of the *Chinese Journal of Ophthalmology*, has published 13 books as author or editor and more than 45 research articles in the scientific peer-reviewed literature, and has received numerous honors and awards. ■

Pictured left to right: Raju V.S. Rajala, PhD, Xiaorong Li, MD, PhD, and Gregory L. Skuta, MD during Dr. Li's visit to the Dean McGee Eye Institute and OU Health Sciences Center on October 12.

RESEARCH FACULTY— DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD
Martin-Paul Agbaga, PhD
Richard S. Brush, BS
Michelle C. Callegan, PhD
Daniel J.J. Carr, PhD

Phillip S. Coburn, PhD
Ana Chucair-Elliott, PhD
Michael H. Elliott, PhD
Dimitrios Karamichos, PhD
Darren J. Lee, PhD

Feng Li, MD, MPH, MS
Raju V.S. Rajala, PhD
Lily L. Wong, PhD

R. Michael Siatkowski, MD RECEIVES MAJOR HONORS

AS PART OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA (OU) COLLEGE OF MEDICINE'S

Third Annual Academy of Teaching Scholars Education Week, it was announced on September 28 that R. Michael Siatkowski, MD was the recipient of an *M. Dewayne Andrews, MD Excellence in Teaching Award in Graduate Medical Education*. Dr. Siatkowski serves as the David W. Parke II, MD Professor of Ophthalmology, Vice Chair for Academic Affairs, and Residency Program Director in the Department of Ophthalmology at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI). He is the recipient of numerous other teaching awards at DMEI/OU and the University of Miami (FL), and has held numerous national leadership positions.

“We are all aware of Dr. Siatkowski’s outstanding skills as a clinician, surgeon, inspiring educator, and national leader and are absolutely delighted that he has been recognized by the College of Medicine in this way,” said Gregory L. Skuta, MD, DMEI President and CEO and Edward L. Gaylord Professor and Chair of the OU Department of Ophthalmology.

Dr. Siatkowski joins DMEI’s Dr. Annie Moreau as a prior recipient of this award (2014).

Dr. Siatkowski also has been invited to become a member of the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS), a national honor society that recognizes senior medical students, residents,



Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski is congratulated on his Excellence in Teaching Award in Graduate Medical Education by Dr. M. Dewayne Andrews, Executive Dean and Vice President for Health Affairs (and the person for whom the award is named), at the newly constructed OU College of Medicine Academic Office Building. This building was dedicated in October 2016 as the M. Dewayne Andrews Academic Office Tower.

and role-model physician teachers who demonstrate exemplary respect for human beings through the practice of medicine. The GHHS was created by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation for Humanism in Medicine to emphasize the importance of professional virtues, humanism, interpersonal skills, and caring for others and to honor physicians who achieve this excellence.

DMEI faculty members in the GHHS include Drs. Bradley K. Farris and Annie Moreau, both of whom also were past recipients of the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award. Paul Tlucek, MD, a former OU medical student and ophthalmology resident, also is a GHHS member. ■



JAMES C. O'BRIEN, MD, A RESIDENT MEMBER OF THE OKLAHOMA ACADEMY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, won the first-place podium competition resident award during the Annual Table Rock Regional Roundup Conference at Big Cedar Lodge in Ridgedale, Missouri, in September. Dr. O'Brien is currently Chief Resident at the Dean McGee Eye Institute. His presentation was entitled, "Endophthalmitis: The Dean McGee Eye Institute Experience."

The regional conference includes state ophthalmology societies from Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, and Arkansas. ■

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, June 3, 2017

Dean McGee Eye Institute Ophthalmology Symposium 2017



41ST OU RESIDENT AND ALUMNI MEETING
38TH TULLOS O. COSTON, MD LECTURE

David F. Chang, MD

*Clinical Professor, University of California-San Francisco
Past President, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery*

Samis Education Center,
The Children's Hospital,
Oklahoma City

DANA M. GARBER, OD, FAAO EDUCATES OUR NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS



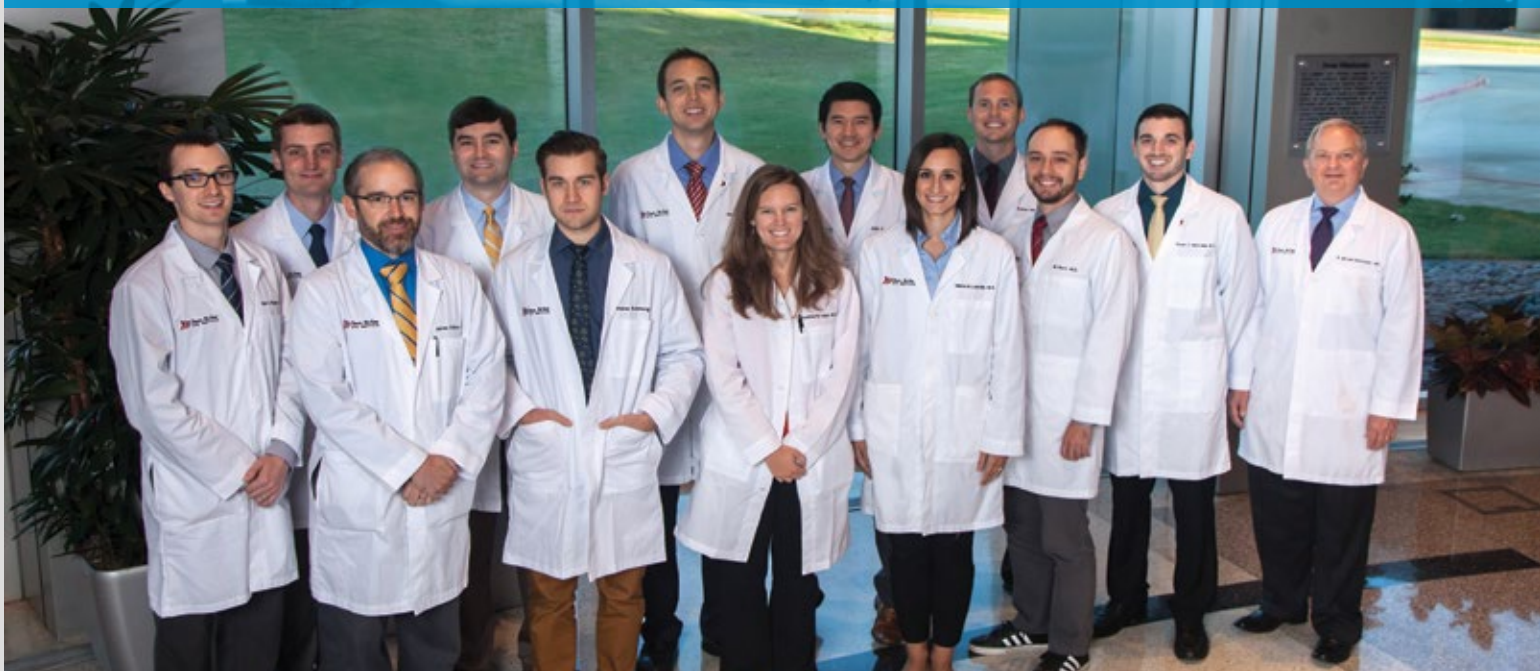
DR. GARBER ENLIGHTENED STUDENTS at Westminster School in Oklahoma City on the parts of the eye during a session on October 19. Her son, Landen, is a student at Westminster School. The development of children's knowledge and understanding is at the heart of the School's mission: To educate children by engaging them actively in experiences that challenge students to solve problems as cooperative, confident, and responsible learners. ■



Dissection of a pig's eye and hands-on activities were key features of Dr. Dana Garber's presentation at Westminster School.



TOP 20 RESIDENCY in Doximity 2016 Survey



The Dean McGee Eye Institute's ophthalmology residency program, in affiliation with the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, is ranked among the **COUNTRY'S TOP 20** and **8TH AMONG THOSE AFFILIATED WITH A PUBLIC UNIVERSITY**.



SAVE THE DATE: Monday, September 25, 2017

THE 26TH ANNUAL WALTER J. STARK MEMORIAL LECTURESHIP
8:30 am–9:30 am • Tullos O. Coston, MD Lecture Hall

Keith D. Carter, MD

*Lillian C. O'Brien and Dr. C.S. O'Brien Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology
Professor and Chair, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences
Professor of Otolaryngology
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics
Iowa City, Iowa
President-Elect, American Academy of Ophthalmology
President, Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology*

25th Annual Walter J. Stark



Dr. Sommer with his speaker's gift, symbolizing his profound impact on global health.

THE 25TH ANNUAL WALTER J. STARK MEMORIAL LECTURE WAS DELIVERED

by Alfred Sommer, MD, MHS in the Tullos O. Coston, MD Lecture Hall on September 26. His presentation was entitled "Vitamin A: From Sight to Life." Dr. Sommer is the Gilman Scholar and the University Distinguished Service Professor at Johns Hopkins University; Johns Hopkins Professor of Epidemiology, Ophthalmology, and International Health; and Dean Emeritus of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Born in New York City, Dr. Sommer is a *summa cum laude* graduate of Union College, earned his medical degree from Harvard Medical School, and received his Master of Health Science in Epidemiology from the Johns Hopkins' School of Public Health. He completed an ophthalmology residency and fellowship at the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore and subsequently has served on the faculty at Johns Hopkins University since 1976.

One of the world's most distinguished figures in ophthalmology and epidemiology, Dr. Sommer has published six books and more than 300 scientific articles; has delivered more than 70 named lectures, including the American Academy of Ophthalmology's (AAO's) Jackson Memorial Lecture and the Royal College of Ophthalmologists' Duke Elder Oration; and has

Memorial Lectureship

received numerous awards, including the Albert Lasker Award for Clinical Research (considered the American equivalent of the Nobel Prize), the Warren Alpert Foundation Prize, the Duke Elder International Gold Medal for Contributions to Ophthalmology, the Helen Keller Foundation Prize for Vision Research, the Lucien Howe Medal of the American Ophthalmological Society, and the Gonin Medal from the International Council of Ophthalmology.

In 2011, he was the recipient of the AAO's very highest honor, the Laureate Award, and also was named to the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery's "Ophthalmology Hall of Fame." In addition, he is a member of both the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Medicine (formerly Institute of Medicine).

Dr. Sommer's current research interests include child survival and blindness prevention strategies, micronutrient interventions, and the interface between public health and clinical medicine. His work with vitamin A earned him a chapter in the book "Scientists Greater than Einstein: The Biggest Life-Savers of the Twentieth Century." ■



Dr. Sommer pictured with DMEI's 12 residents.



Dr. Sommer (fourth from right) and his wife Jill (center) are pictured with members of the Stark Family.

40th Annual DMEI Ophthalmology Symposium/ OU Resident and Alumni Meeting, 37th Annual Tullos O. Coston, MD Lecture, & 13th Annual Acers Society Reception

CAROL L. SHIELDS, MD DELIVERED THE 37TH ANNUAL TULLOS O. COSTON, MD LECTURE on June 4 as part of the 40th Annual DMEI Ophthalmology Symposium/OU Resident and Alumni Meeting. Her Coston Lecture was entitled “A Generation of Progress with Intraocular Tumors.” She also delivered a second lecture, “Conjunctival Tumors: Fairy Tales and Magic Potions.”

Dr. Shields is Professor of Ophthalmology at Thomas Jefferson University in

Philadelphia and Co-Director of the Ocular Oncology Service at the Wills Eye Hospital.

A native of Pennsylvania, Dr. Shields earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame, where she played basketball and received the Byron Kanaley Award as the top student-athlete at Notre Dame. (She was the first woman ever to receive this award.) She completed medical school at the University of Pittsburgh, an internship at Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh, her residency at the Wills Eye Hospital, ocular pathology and ocular oncology



Pictured left to right: Steven R. Sarkisian, Jr., MD, Program Chair for the Annual Dean McGee Eye Institute Ophthalmology Symposium; Carol L. Shields, MD, Wills Eye Hospital, Philadelphia, PA, 2016 Tullos O. Coston, MD Lecturer; and Gregory L. Skuta, MD, President and CEO of the Dean McGee Eye Institute and Edward L. Gaylord Professor and Chair of the OU Department of Ophthalmology.



Members of the Thomas and Jackie Acers family gather around a photograph of DMEI's founding President, the late Thomas E. Acers, MD, and the First Lady of the Eye Institute, Jackie Acers, during the Acers Society Reception on June 4. Mrs. Acers passed away in March 2016.

fellowships at the Wills Eye Hospital, and a fellowship in orbital and eyelid tumors and reconstruction at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London. She subsequently joined the faculty at the Wills Eye Hospital, where she practices ocular oncology with her husband, Dr. Jerry A. Shields, and other associates.

Dr. Shields has authored or co-authored more than 1400 peer-reviewed publications, more than 300 book chapters, and 12 textbooks. She has served on the Editorial Board of 22 journals and has delivered more than 700 lectures nationally and internationally, including more than 40 named lectures. She served as President of the International Society of Ocular Oncology from 2013 to 2015.

Among her countless professional and personal honors, Dr. Shields has received Honorary Doctorate of Science degrees from the University of Notre Dame (2005) and Catholic University (2011), the American Academy of Ophthalmology's Life Achievement Honor Award (2011), and induction into the Academic All-American Hall of Fame (2011), the latter for lifetime success in athleticism and career. ■

AWARDS GIVEN AT SATURDAY, JUNE 4 DINNER HELD AT V2 EVENTS AT VAST



EDWARD AND THELMA GAYLORD FACULTY HONOR AWARD

Janine E. Collinge, MD (second from left) is pictured with graduating residents (left to right) James R. Hoffman, MD, Andrew A. Wilson, MD, Jonathan M. Perkins, MD, and Jeremy F. Tan, MD



EXCELLENCE IN ATTENDING AT VA AWARD

David W. Jackson, MD (second from left) is pictured with (left to right) Drs. Hoffman, Wilson, Perkins, and Tan.



DR. AND MRS. T.E. ACERS RESIDENT HONOR AWARD & ROBERT G. SMALL, MD RESIDENT AWARD FOR MEDICAL STUDENT EDUCATION

Jeremy F. Tan, MD (center), who received both awards, poses with Drs. Ann Acers Warn (left) and Gregory L. Skuta (right).



ANNIE MOREAU, MD FELLOW TEACHING AWARD

Jared R. Jackson, MD (second from left) is shown with (left to right) Drs. Hoffman, Wilson, Perkins, and Tan.



DMEI Alumnus Spends Life *Giving Back to Others*

BY APRIL WILKERSON

ALTHOUGH HE IS A SKILLED OPHTHALMOLOGIST IN SOUTHWESTERN KANSAS who treats patients from a six-state area, the word “doctor” is only one of many descriptors for William “Bill” Clifford, MD.

To paint the complete picture, several other words must be added: Decorated fighter pilot. Caring father and husband. Medical missionary. Civic volunteer. Philanthropist.

Dr. Clifford, who completed his residency and fellowship at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) from 1990 to 1994, is an alumnus

whose full life is something he wouldn’t trade for the world.

“It’s a fun ride. I enjoy every day,” he said.

When Dr. Clifford arrived at DMEI, he was 36, which is older than most ophthalmology residents. He entered the Air Force Academy at age 17, earning a bachelor’s degree in computer science and a master’s in business administration while also flying more than 1,000 hours in the F-15 Eagle fighter jet. But he dreamed of becoming a physician, so he earned another bachelor’s degree, in chemistry, at New Mexico

Pictured left to right: Luther L. Fry, MD, US Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS), and William S. Clifford, MD.

State University, and then attended medical school at the University of Southern California.

At DMEI, his faculty during residency and fellowship were his peers age-wise, and he learned from them how to take care of every conceivable eye problem. During his fellowship, he focused on glaucoma and corneal surgery. It was a valuable four years that prepared him well for his career today.

“It was a great experience, especially because I ended up in a rural area where I need to do everything. It’s 225 miles to the nearest subspecialty care, so it’s helpful to have had such a broad background,” Dr. Clifford said. “I also loved DMEI because they treat the trainees as fellow physicians. There was great mutual respect between the faculty and the residents and fellows. That very much attracted me to OU and to Dean McGee.”

After his fellowship at DMEI, Dr. Clifford signed a one-year contract to work as a glaucoma specialist at King Khaled Eye Specialist Hospital in Saudi Arabia. The position interested him because one of his mentors had spent time there. In addition, Dr. Clifford and his wife had married overseas while they were in the Air Force, and they had the itch to live outside the United States again. His year in Saudi Arabia was almost like another fellowship, he said, with great mentors and first-class facilities and resources.

But ultimately, Dr. Clifford and his wife, Jean, wanted to be part of a community back home and settle into a place where they could raise



Dr. and Mrs. William Clifford during their Air Force days in Germany.

their growing family. They landed in Garden City, Kansas, where Dr. Clifford had worked as a locum tenens for 10 days during his fellowship. He liked the rural setting and the ability to care for people from many miles around. He joined the practice of Fry Eye Associates. Today, 21 years later, he is co-owner of the practice and president of its multispecialty surgical facility.

In Garden City, Dr. Clifford performs the full range of ophthalmic surgeries, including advanced glaucoma procedures and corneal

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transplants. In addition to Kansas, the practice draws patients from Nebraska, Colorado, Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. He sometimes performs as many as 50 surgeries a week. The practice also takes part in FDA trials to study new devices and medications; because they are the only specialty practice for 225 miles, they have faithful patients and good follow-up for trials.

Dr. Clifford also was drawn to Fry Eye Associates because of the tone of service set by senior member Luther Fry, MD. "I really wanted to be somewhere where my services were needed and I could take care of all comers," Dr. Clifford said. "I had opportunities that were more commercial and profit-driven, but I really wanted to be at a place where we take care of everyone. It's a mission to southwest Kansas in some ways."

Outside of his busy practice, Dr. Clifford also goes on medical mission trips. His travels have taken him to Africa and China, but primarily South America. Since the early 2000s, he and his family have taken eight trips to Peru, where Dr. Clifford performs surgery and his family takes part in other mission activities. With a modest investment in equipment, eye surgery travels well, especially for physicians like Dr. Clifford who are skilled in older-style manual procedures in addition to newer approaches.

He mostly performs cataract and pterygium surgery. People in Peru tend to have cataracts that are harder, almost marble-like, versus softer cataracts found in North America. His patients in Peru fare better with the older surgical approach, in which Dr. Clifford makes a larger frown incision and takes the lens out in one piece.

“That harkens to my DMEI days. I really benefited from being there at a time of transition from older-style cataract surgery to newer styles, so I learned both.”

“That harkens to my DMEI days. I really benefited from being there at a time of transition from older-style cataract surgery to newer styles, so I learned both,” he said.

If that were all of Dr. Clifford's volunteer service, it would still be impressive. But it only scratches the surface. He is in his first term as a commissioner for

Finney County, the largest county in Kansas, and was recently elected as Chairman of the Finney County Republican Party. Previously, he served 13 years as an elected trustee of Garden City Community College. He also is active with several ophthalmology groups, including representing Kansas on the Council of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. He previously served as president of the Kansas Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons.

“Part of being in a community is helping to solve problems in the community,” he said. “I think it's important for physicians to be



Dr. Clifford (second from right) and his wife Jean (right) with their family.

involved politically. I think we need more physician advocates not only looking out for the profession, but for our patients, especially. Patients don't have the best lobby; somebody needs to speak for them."

Dr. Clifford has kept his ties to Oklahoma and DMEI as well. For 15 years, he made several trips a year to Oklahoma City's VA to work with every senior resident, which was also a way to honor his colleagues in the military. He also launched and serves as chair of the Acers Society, which was established in 2004 in recognition of Thomas E. Acers, MD, the first full-time chair of the OU College of Medicine's Department of Ophthalmology and founding president of DMEI. The Acers Society supports the education of residents and fellows; each receives \$1,250 in unrestricted money that can be used toward books, travel, meetings, and other expenses. Alumni of the program have given generously to grow the fund, which now totals approximately \$663,000.

"It's been a labor of love, a pleasure," Dr. Clifford said. "I was very close to Tom and Jackie Acers while at DMEI. They were like parents to me. People have rallied to honor Dr. Acers and support the residents and fellows. It's also a nice recruiting tool to attract residents."

At the center of everything Dr. Clifford does is his family. He and his wife have six children, ranging in age from 26 to 13. One is a biological child; they have adopted the others, some of whom have different types of learning disabilities. They are part of a loving home and are learning from their parents the importance of giving back in life.

"My wife and I had always planned on adopting. We've had our challenges, but we love our big family," he said. "Four of our six kids have gone on mission trips with us, and while I'm doing surgery, they do home building or food delivery. I want to show them that not everyone lives a privileged life, and they need to find a gift to share." ■



DMEI's new tablet-based registration and check-in system.



DMEI surgeons use advanced equipment in nearly every facet of care.

TECHNICALLY THRIVING:

How *Technology* Shapes the DMEI Patient Experience

BY KYLIE KALLSEN

THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) VALUES THE TIE BETWEEN TECHNOLOGY AND THE PATIENT EXPERIENCE. MEDICAL PROGRESS AND THE ADVANCEMENTS IT BRINGS ARE THREADED THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE INSTITUTE—SEAMLESSLY IMPROVING EVERYTHING FOR BOTH OUR PATIENTS AND PHYSICIANS.

Quality, personalized eye care, and technology go hand-in-hand. Ensuring the steadfast relationship between the two is what sets the standard of excellence throughout DMEI. When the vital care elements are kept in balance, amazing things happen. Life-changing

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improvements in the eye health of thousands in our community are made possible through the Institute's strategic clinical advancements.

"Our core values of patient care, education, and clinical and basic translational research put us in a position to provide innovation to support both patients and physicians," says DMEI Executive Vice President Garyl Geist.

DMEI's emphasis on technological improvements shows through in the latest medical equipment provided to physicians, clinical flow-focused updates, and the ability to reach patients on social media platforms.

DMEI surgeons use advanced equipment in providing state-of-the-art care to their patients.

Technological innovation is most evident in our Institute's medical services and procedures. Our skilled team of doctors, registered nurses, technicians, and other support staff are dedicated to the Institute's core value of education. This dedication ensures that our health professionals are capable of giving the most advanced care possible in specialties ranging from cataract and refractive surgery to neuro-ophthalmology.

DMEI provides the most advanced equipment to help in nearly every facet of the facility.

"Our physicians are incredibly skilled, and the technology we employ has to meet their skill set. We need to support the physician and the clinical flow," says Geist.



From check-in to appointment, patients interact with experience-improving information, diagnostic, and therapeutic technology.

The Optical Coherence Tomography Angiography, or OCTA, software is one recently provided tool. This imaging software allows for more accurate and refined diagnoses of conditions, including retinal vascular disease. With this software, physicians are able to view the blood flow in the retina, allowing for hundreds of at-risk patients who were unable to be diagnosed with previous methods to be checked for eye problems.

Another way DMEI stays on the cutting edge is through training. Faculty ophthalmologists stay on trend in field-relevant advancements. Our residencies and fellowships pave pathways for continued education. DMEI sponsors

“Our physicians are incredibly skilled, and the technology we employ has to meet their skill set.”

a continuing education program for ophthalmic technicians, our front line care givers, that is open for technicians from other practices. Once a year, DMEI hosts its Annual Resident and Alumni Meeting, which is a two-day event where clinical faculty, residents, fellows, researchers, other attendees, and alumni from across the country gather to

hear and present research projects capped with the Tullos O. Coston Lectureship by a nationally prominent keynote speaker. DMEI also shares its expertise with the public through events such as DMEI’s Annual Macular Degeneration/Low Vision/Glaucoma Seminar, which provides field-expert thought and discussion for those suffering from such conditions or who have a loved one affected.

As one of the nation’s leading eye health institutions, DMEI also has the responsibility of conducting in-depth eye health research and clinical trials. The efforts of this research explore a realm of eye-related health problems and disease, including glaucoma, cataracts, macular degeneration, and cancers.

“Dean McGee is a cutting edge facility from both a national and regional standpoint. What patients don’t see is the research and education that further advances care. For us to continue to offer the best care to patients, we have to



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be advocates for both research and education,” Geist says.

But the future of health technology isn’t limited to only clinical tools and procedures. It includes an overhaul of how patients become involved in their own personal care.

From check-in to appointment, patients interact with experience-improving information, diagnostic, and therapeutic technology.

Patient-focused innovations improve convenience and open communication. Providing personal health data to patients is an initiative propelled by the popular adaptation of appointment management technology. DMEI uses the Eye Care Patient Portal, a web-based application that provides secure online access to clinical data, visit recaps, and treatment details. The patient portal opens a channel of care-centered communication between medical service providers and patients. The flow of information allows patients to become partners in their own care by placing them in control of their medical data.

To make patient processes run more smoothly, DMEI recently implemented the clinical management tool, Phreesia, a self-service

registration software specifically programmed for medical clinic use. Its registration features allow for the fast collection of required patient information, like medical and family histories, therefore cutting down on waiting time in the clinic. Patients can register online before their appointments or easily complete digital forms on Phreesia’s smart tablets in the waiting room.

These streamlined processes save time and paperwork, giving patients more actual face-to-face interaction with eye care professionals.

There are some concerns that technical adaptations, like patient portals and electronic medical records, will cause a social disconnect or lead to impersonalized care

experiences between the patient and doctor, but the opposite is true. By providing the best care tools possible, health care providers can be efficient while keeping patients connected and informed. DMEI patient Martha Burger cites the importance of using communication and other available tools to take charge of personal eye health.

“Don’t take your vision for granted,” Burger says. “All of the tools necessary to keep it healthy are [at DMEI], so utilize them.”

Patient portals aren’t the only way patients can connect with DMEI. We have partnered

Patient-focused innovations improve convenience and open communication.

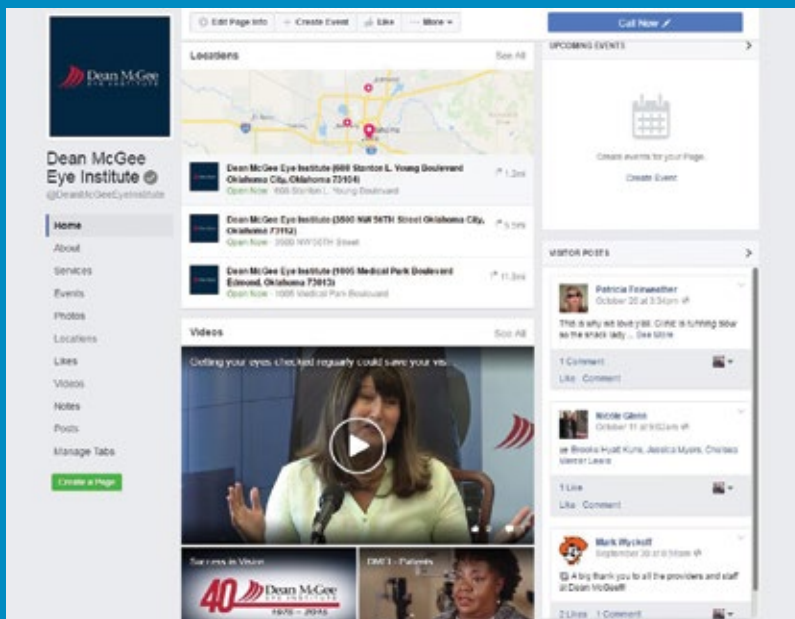
with BigWing Interactive, a full-service online marketing company offering web development, content marketing, organic search engine optimization, pay-per-click marketing, retargeting, and social media management, to create and enhance DMEI's social media and online efforts. With the Institute's new presence on Facebook, DMEI is more connected and accessible than ever before to the public we serve. By liking the Institute on Facebook @DeanMcGeeEyeInstitute, DMEI patients and supporters gain access to vision care information and DMEI updates and information. Through social media, patients have provided integral feedback by using messaging, reviewing, and rating features.

Socially Connected

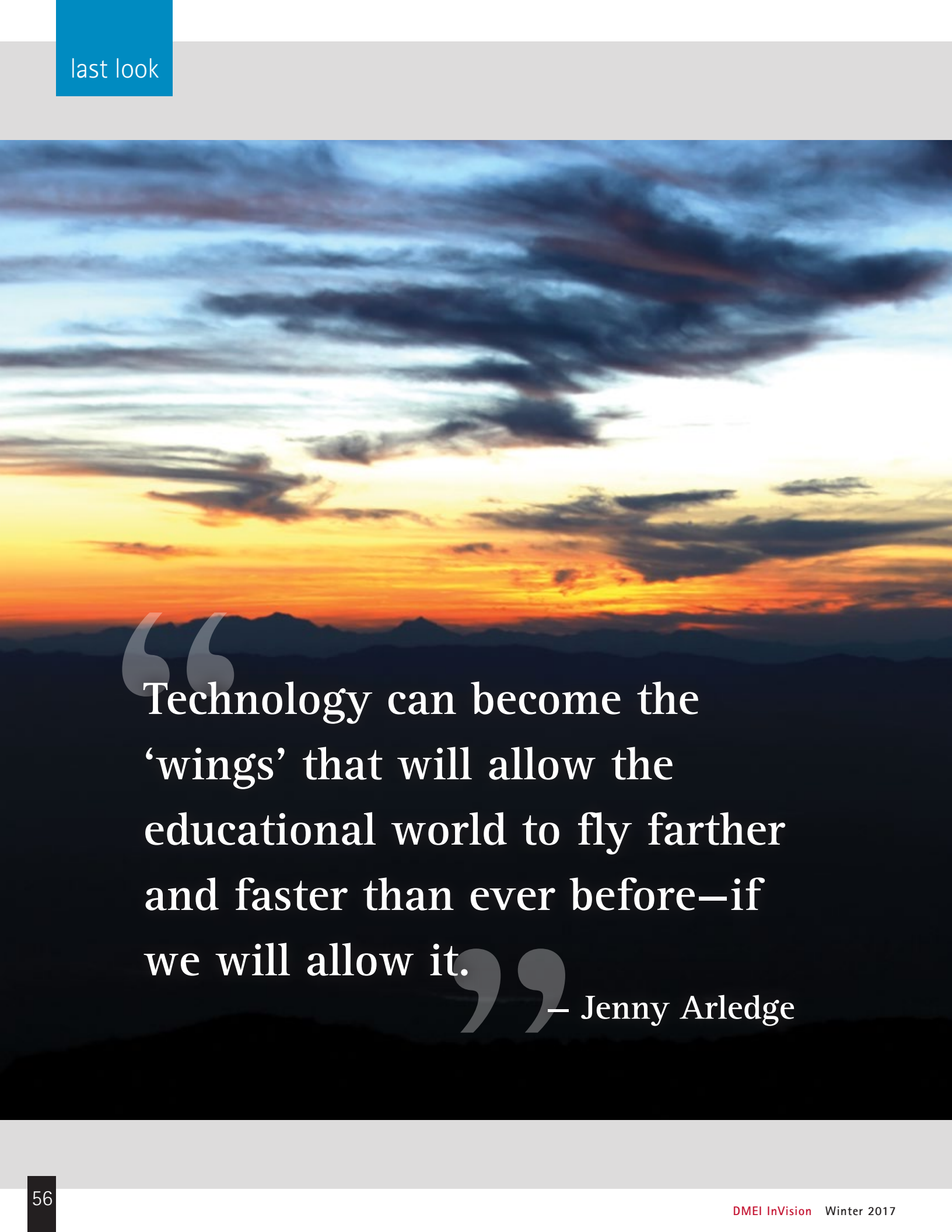
DMEI's Facebook following isn't shy. Followers have thanked staff for exceptional customer service and shared opinions on posted articles and blogs. One Facebook user thanked clinic staff for coming around with snacks and juice on a particularly busy day in the clinic to make sure those patiently waiting for appointments were okay. Others have used the platform to request direct information about specific DMEI services, and DMEI staff can respond directly to these inquiries and comments.

Overall, social media has allowed DMEI to join a conversation with current and prospective patients. Facebook makes it possible for the Institute to know what patients think, what we are doing right, and how processes can be improved.

Technological progress never stops, and DMEI is committed to staying at its forefront. Perhaps innovations yet to come may allow healthy vision for all. Until then, we will keep striving to provide our patients with the best in patient experience, care, and outcomes. ■



DMEI's Facebook following is active and thriving. Patients use the platform to relate experiences, request clinical information, and learn about the Institute.



“Technology can become the
‘wings’ that will allow the
educational world to fly farther
and faster than ever before—if
we will allow it.”

— Jenny Arledge





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www.dmei.org