

Eyewitness

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
Department of Ophthalmology



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

FALL/WINTER 2011 #18

Mass. Eye and Ear and Schepens Eye Research Institute Unite Forces



Joan W. Miller, MD
Chief and Chair

Pushing new boundaries that propel vision research forward is a hallmark of our department and, in June, led us to fulfill an exciting and historical agreement with the announcement that the Boards of two of our esteemed affiliates - Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary and Schepens Eye Research Institute (Schepens) – have agreed to join forces. This powerful new alliance creates the largest and most dynamic basic and clinical ophthalmology research enterprise in the world, uniting a passionately dedicated team of nearly 100 full-time HMS investigators and clinician scientists whose talents and expertise span a full spectrum of eye diseases and scientific disciplines. Both institutions will operate under the direction of Mass. Eye and Ear’s Board of Directors, while Schepens will retain its name and continue as a non-profit research center.

continues on page 4

Schepens in the Mass. Eye and Ear Family

Mass. Eye and Ear has long enjoyed a close collaboration with nearby Schepens Eye Research Institute (Schepens), a leading eye research organization. In June 2011, Schepens and Mass. Eye and Ear officially combined forces to create the world’s largest and most robust basic and clinical ophthalmology research enterprise. Nearly 100 full-time investigators and clinician scientists form a full spectrum of ophthalmic talent and resources dedicated to accelerating bench-to-bedside discoveries.

History of Schepens Eye Research Institute

In the late 1940s, as a researcher in the Howe Laboratory of Ophthalmology at Mass. Eye and Ear, Charles L. Schepens, MD, recognized the need for a dedicated eye research organization. In 1950, he established the Retina Foundation, which consisted of a handful of researchers working out of a modest Boston tenement. The foundation



Schepens triumvirate leadership team (l to r): Reza Dana, MD, MPH, MSc, Patricia D’Amore, MD, MBA, Eliezer (Eli) Peli, MSc, OD

was later renamed the Schepens Eye Research Institute to honor its influential founder and to better reflect the diversity of its expanding research programs; in 1991, it became formally affiliated with Harvard Medical School.

continues on page 3

“Life is a chain. Our bodies fail and eventually have to rest for a very long time, but our work lives on through our family, colleagues and friends.”

-Charles L. Schepens, MD



Joseph F. Rizzo III, MD

Joseph F. Rizzo III, MD Promoted to Professor of Ophthalmology

Joseph F. Rizzo III, MD was recently promoted to Professor of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School. Dually trained and board-certified in Ophthalmology and Neurology, Dr. Rizzo is Director of the Neuro-Ophthalmology Service at Mass. Eye and Ear, and was Director of the Center for Innovative Visual Rehabilitation at the Boston Veterans Affairs from 2001 – 2011. Dr. Rizzo is also Founder and Co-Director of the Boston Retinal Implant Project, a multidisciplinary and international research collaboration that is developing technologies to improve the quality-of-life for visually-impaired patients.

A native of New Orleans, Dr. Rizzo received his undergraduate and medical training at Louisiana State University. Following an internship at the University of California Medical Center (Los Angeles), Dr. Rizzo completed a neurology residency at Tufts University/New England Medical Center and then an ophthalmology residency at Boston University. He completed a clinical fellowship in neuro-ophthalmology at Mass. Eye and Ear under his clinical mentor, Dr. Simmons Lessell. Dr. Rizzo joined the faculty of the HMS Department of Ophthalmology in 1986. He received his first grant support in the late 1980s under the Physician-Scientist grant program administered by the National Institutes of Health during which time he worked in the laboratory of Richard Masland, Ph.D., then at the Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Rizzo succeeded Dr. Simmons Lessell as Director of Neuro-Ophthalmology at Mass. Eye and Ear in 2005.

Dr. Rizzo is actively engaged as a leader in training and academic events on a regular basis. He is the Program Director of the Mass. Eye and Ear Neuro-Ophthalmology fellowship, and is directly responsible for training fellows, residents, and medical students in his specialty. He regularly delivers lectures on diverse ophthalmic issues,

continues on page 5

Schepens in the MEEI family, continued from cover

Today, in a cutting-edge facility just a short walk from the main campuses of Mass. Eye and Ear and Massachusetts General Hospital, Schepens researchers advance the understanding of eye disease and facilitate the transfer of scientific knowledge into clinical use. Since its inception, Schepens has trained over 600 postdoctoral fellows and 500 eye surgeons, and has produced nearly 5,000 scientific papers and books on the eye.

Schepens Leadership

In 1993, J. Wayne Streilein, MD, joined Schepens Eye Research Institute as the DeWalt and Marie Ankeny Director of Research. He became President in 1995, and was responsible for the Institute's substantial growth in size and impact. After Dr. Streilein's sudden passing in 2004, microbiologist Michael Gilmore, PhD was recruited as President and Ankeny Director of Research. Dr. Gilmore led the Institute for five years before joining the Howe Laboratory at Mass. Eye and Ear to focus on research. In 2009, Kenneth Fischer, MBA, was named President and Chief Operating Officer. Co-Directors of Research Patricia A. D'Amore, PhD, MBA, Reza Dana, MD, MPH, MSc, and Eli Peli, OD, MSc, form the Institute's triumvirate research directorate.

The new partnership between Schepens and Mass. Eye and Ear follows years of intermittent discussions. "I believe that one of the main reasons this unification became a reality is the emphasis and efforts that Dr. Miller has put into organizing the HMS Department of Ophthalmology into one coherent unit," says Dr. Peli. "This strong effort to shift away from the 'us' and 'them' mindset over the last few years has made it possible for all involved to move ahead with greater trust and comfort." Dr. D'Amore is similarly enthusiastic about the joining of forces—particularly in terms of advancing the field of ophthalmology on multiple levels. "I am very excited about the alliance between Schepens and Mass. Eye and Ear," says Dr. D'Amore. "It is certain to lead to important breakthroughs in our understanding and treatment of eye disease."

Bridging the Gap Between Research and Clinical Application

Scientific endeavors at Schepens span all levels of research—from basic science to clinical testing—and often intertwine with ongoing investigations at Mass. Eye and Ear. "The research at the two institutions has always been highly complementary," explains Dr. D'Amore. "This unification will catalyze new and existing collaborations." Dr. Peli agrees that the collaborative efforts between the two institutions were beneficial long before the official unification, which sets the stage for future gains. "I am very optimistic that we will see many more benefits in the coming years," says Dr. Peli, "when the distinctions completely disappear and the strength of the new organization takes effect." For Dr. Dana, who holds directorships at both Schepens and Mass. Eye and Ear, this unification solidifies the "seamless process between the two institutions" that he has worked to develop. "Combined, we represent the world's largest group of scientists dedicated to

moving scientific discoveries into the clinic so patients benefit directly," he says. "We are working beyond 'collaboration' in the usual sense. The union of Schepens and Mass. Eye and Ear is a significant inroad to bridging the gap between research and clinical application."

Today, Schepens is structured into four distinct Centers of Excellence to streamline the transfer of scientific knowledge to clinical application. The outstanding scientific work carried out in these centers is now merging with ongoing basic, translational and clinical investigations in the Department of Ophthalmology's Centers of Excellence in AMD, cornea, glaucoma and diabetic eye disease, which were launched in 2010.

The Mobility Enhancement and Rehabilitation Center aims to improve eyesight in visually impaired patients. Researchers are developing novel and innovative techniques to enhance vision—and thus quality of life—for people with various forms of vision loss, including strabismus, amblyopia, age-related macular degeneration (AMD), and hemianopia. This center is directed by Dr. Peli, a worldwide authority in low vision who has developed innovative clinical techniques and a variety of low vision aids. He is Professor of Ophthalmology at HMS, and continues to provide specialized patient care as Director of the Vision Rehabilitation Service at New England Medical Center Hospital in Boston. At Schepens, in addition to being Co-Director of Research, Dr. Peli is Senior Scientist and Moakley Scholar in Aging Eye Research.

The Center for Corneal & External Eye Disease Research focuses on multiple conditions that affect the cornea, such as dry eye disease, corneal dystrophies, infections, and injuries. Dr. Dana, a leading expert in corneal inflammation and ocular surface biology, directs this center, which has helped develop numerous pharmacological treatments and innovative therapeutic methods. Dr. Dana is Professor and Claes H. Dohlman Chair in Ophthalmology at HMS, and Vice Chair of Academic Programs of the Department of Ophthalmology. He is Associate Chief of Ophthalmology and Director of Cornea and Refractive Surgery at Mass. Eye and Ear. At Schepens, Dr. Dana is Co-Director of Research, Senior Scientist, and the W. Clement Stone Scholar.

Center for Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) Research brings together outstanding scientists, engineers, and clinicians to decipher the mechanisms of AMD, a leading cause of vision loss that is becoming more and more prevalent with the aging population. The Center of Excellence for AMD Research is led by Dr. D'Amore, an internationally recognized expert of vascular growth and development. Dr. D'Amore's studies have helped form the foundations of vascular-targeting therapies, and also uncovered important physiological roles of vascular growth factors—yielding crucial insight into the safe use of antiangiogenic therapies. Dr. D'Amore holds professorships in ophthalmology and pathology at HMS, and serves as Vice Chair of Basic Research in the Department of Ophthalmology. Co-Director of Research at Schepens, Dr. D'Amore is also Senior Scientist and Ankeny Scholar of Retinal Molecular Biology.

The Minda de Gunzburg Center for Ocular Regeneration forms an arena for developing revolutionary methods to regenerate eye tissues. Michael Young, PhD, HMS Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and a leading expert in tissue and stem cell transplantation, leads the effort to develop regenerative therapies for various diseases, including AMD, glaucoma, corneal disease, and ocular cancer. Studies led by Dr. Young during the past five years have significantly advanced the understanding of tissue and stem cell transplantation in the retina—particularly in terms of graft survival and the formation of functional neural connections after transplantation. ■

In this issue:

Notes from the Chair.....Cover

Schepens in the Mass. Eye and Ear FamilyCover

Joseph F. Rizzo III, MD Promoted to Professor of Ophthalmology 2

Annual Meeting & Alumni Reunion Highlights 6

Expanded Vitroretinal Course Attracts Capacity Crowd 9

Department Releases Frontiers Report..... 9

HMS Welcomes Residency Class of 201410

Alumni Giving Society 12

The Abelson Family Fellowship in Cornea 12

News from All Over 13

Save the Dates 20

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Rajesh Rao, MD (HMS resident, class of 2011), Dong Feng Chen, MD, PhD (Schepens) and Taimur Malik, MD (Schepens postdoctoral fellow) share a laugh in the Chen lab at Schepens.

Notes from the Chair, continued from cover

A multi-benefit partnership

I am thrilled that this long-anticipated and unprecedented partnership has come to fruition. I firmly believe it's a win-win for both affiliates, our department and, ultimately, will bring tremendous benefits to people worldwide. Both Mass. Eye and Ear and Schepens, world-class in their own right, are tightly unified in their global mission to eradicate blinding diseases and mitigate vision impairment. Historically, they share a natural synergy that pairs their complementary areas of expertise and technology, and have often pooled people and resources to conduct critical laboratory and clinical investigations. They also share a decades-long tradition of research excellence and success; their combined basic and clinical investigations, for example, led to a major revolution in treating age-related macular degeneration, as well as laid the groundwork for developing current techniques used to treat corneal clarity and visual acuity in patients. These efforts alone have led to better eye health, saved sight and improved the quality of life for millions of people worldwide.

Today, Mass. Eye and Ear brings its outstanding research programs in retina, glaucoma, and genetics to the partnership, as well as its uncompromising success in translating laboratory discoveries into clinical triumphs. Schepens, in turn, offers an arsenal of expertise and contributions in ocular surface disease, immunology, stem cell therapies, regeneration, and mobility rehabilitation. Together, their scientifically rich and diverse partnership brings our fight against blindness to an unprecedented level - one that is primed to deepen collaborations among our scientists, accelerate bench-to-bedside discoveries and bring the most advanced care to patients. It will also foster professional development by creating a broader educational platform for resident and fellowship training.

Uniting the efforts of these two remarkable institutions is vital to our continuing mission of excellence. In this regard, the work being carried out by faculty at both Mass. Eye and Ear and Schepens will “stay the course,” further enhanced by a stronger, more collaborative environment; with our combined resources we've realized significant logistical and technological gains, which will facilitate our investigative work. I am also confident that this powerful new union will help to invigorate our recruitment efforts by attracting the best and brightest scientists and world-class researchers to our department. Finally, in this era of fluctuating funding, I anticipate that a more robust department will bolster our ability to attract critical research funding from government and industry sources.

A shared spirit of purpose, history and innovation

Beyond the intrinsic benefits of their collaboration, Mass. Eye and Ear and Schepens share a collegial spirit of purpose, innovation and success that dates to their inception. In 1824, Drs. Edward Reynolds and John Jeffries established the Boston Eye Infirmary (later re-named the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary) as a charitable eye clinic, “to alleviate suffering of less fortunate brethren,” and as a teaching center. In its 180-year history, Mass. Eye and Ear faculty have pioneered numerous tools and techniques and made countless scientific discoveries that have shaped the foundations of ophthalmology - from isolating the genes that cause retinoblastoma and one form of retinitis pigmentosa, to pioneering therapies for treating intraocular melanoma and neovascular age-related macular degeneration. Mass. Eye and Ear also established the first ophthalmic pathology laboratory in the U.S. (David Glendenning Cogan Laboratory), the first endowed ophthalmic research unit (The Howe Laboratory), and the world's first organized cornea subspecialty and structured fellowship program (pioneered by Claes H. Dohlman, MD, PhD).

A brilliant ophthalmic surgeon, scientist and dedicated educator, Schepens Eye Research Institute founder, Charles L. Schepens, is lauded as the “Father of Modern Retinal Surgery,” and responsible for developing numerous technological and surgical innovations. As a research fellow at Moorsfield Eye Hospital in London, Dr. Schepens built the first binocular indirect ophthalmoscope, a medical instrument that eventually revolutionized fundus examination and the practice of ophthalmology worldwide. While a research fellow at Mass. Eye and Ear, Dr. Schepens pioneered surgical techniques for treating detached retinas, including scleral buckling and the open sky vitrectomy; his devices and surgical techniques boosted the success rates of retinal reattachment from 40 to 90 percent. In 1950,

he founded The Retina Foundation (later re-named The Schepens Eye Research Institute) to promote intensive investigations of retinal disorders and diseases. Among his innumerable accomplishments, he is credited with establishing the subspecialty of retina within ophthalmology and, at Mass. Eye and Ear, with creating the world's first retina service where he served as Director until 1972. He became Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, Emeritus at HMS in 1978. Dr. Schepens passed away in 2006.

Collectively, the body of investigative work by Mass. Eye and Ear and Schepens faculty has served as the linchpin for countless scientific breakthroughs in ocular disease. Both institutions share a long held belief that integrating education, research and clinical practice is essential to advancing the field of ophthalmology. Since their inception, distinguished Mass. Eye and Ear and Schepens faculty have trained and mentored generations of clinician scientists and researchers, and made enormous contributions to the annals of ophthalmic literature. Their work and teachings have inspired generations of ophthalmologists and scientists who, today, continue to pass on their knowledge in classrooms, labs and patient care settings all around the globe.

Today, Mass. Eye and Ear brings its outstanding research programs in retina, glaucoma, and genetics to the partnership, as well as its uncompromising success in translating laboratory discoveries into clinical triumphs. Schepens, in turn, offers an arsenal of expertise and contributions in ocular surface disease, immunology, stem cell therapies, regeneration, and mobility rehabilitation.

Pursuing a 21st century mission

This remarkable milestone is the latest in a series of vital HMS affiliate partnerships and department initiatives in recent years. These changes, including our new alliance, continue to transform how we do business in every aspect of our mission; and, ultimately enable us to deliver the best, most accessible care to our patients. In tandem with these changes, the department's new Ocular Genomics Institute, directed by Eric Pierce, MD, PhD, a clinician, teacher, and world-leading scientist in retinal degenerative research, will pursue a vigorous effort to bring the exciting possibilities of “personalized medicine” to a 21st century reality. Thanks to modern genomics and powerful new computing technologies, delivering highly targeted care to patients based on their unique genetic makeup is now a question of “when” rather than “if.” Our department is aggressively positioned at this critical gateway and well-prepared with the best people, technology and resources to make a significant impact on what promises to be a revolution in healthcare delivery. ■

Joseph F. Rizzo, continued from page 2

and directs the neuro-ophthalmology section of the Lancaster Course, which is the oldest and largest training course in the nation for ophthalmologists. He also developed and directs the biennial Neuro-Ophthalmology Fall Festival, a unique one-and-a-half day symposium that exemplifies the art of traditional, case-based diagnostic formulations to provide a comprehensive overview on the diagnosis and management of common or medically-significant neuro-ophthalmic disorders. This year, Dr. Rizzo became the Director of the Alumni Weekend for the HMS Department of Ophthalmology, overlaying his role as co-chair of the department's Annual Meeting since 2008. The combined inaugural event was highly successful, drawing 240 attendees, including 90 alumni.

Dr. Rizzo's decades-long mission has focused on improving the diagnostic and treatment methods for neuro-ophthalmic visual disorders. He evaluates roughly 40 percent of all patients referred to the Neuro-Ophthalmology Service at Mass. Eye and Ear, and collaborates closely with neurologists at Massachusetts General Hospital to deliver high-quality care for patients with visual disorders. He conducts clinical research on a variety of disorders that impact vision, particularly diseases of the retina and optic nerve.

Dr. Rizzo founded Boston Retinal Implant Project (BRIP) in 1988 to develop a retinal prosthesis for patients with acquired blindness. As part of the program, Dr. Rizzo leads a team of physicians, scientists, and engineers who have been dedicated to developing advanced technologies to build implantable and non-implantable devices to provide visual input to blind patients, especially those who have retinitis pigmentosa and age-related macular degeneration. Hoping to take advantage of the surviving nerve cells in these patients, the retinal prosthesis being developed by Dr. Rizzo's team will transmit visual information to the brain by electrically stimulating retinal neurons that survive the degenerative process that causes blindness. The implant will be driven by a pair of “Smart Glasses”, which contain a small camera that captures details of the visual scene. A small wearable electronic component will process the visual scene and wirelessly transmit the images to the implant, which will then issue patterns of electrical pulses to the retina. The “Smart Glasses” can also be used independent of the implant to provide visual information to patients with any form of blindness. Special innovations to the implantable component include an ultra-low power design and a geometric architecture that minimizes that amount of hardware that is placed into the eye.

Dr. Rizzo has also been awarded three awards for excellence as a teacher during his tenure at Mass. Eye and Ear. ■

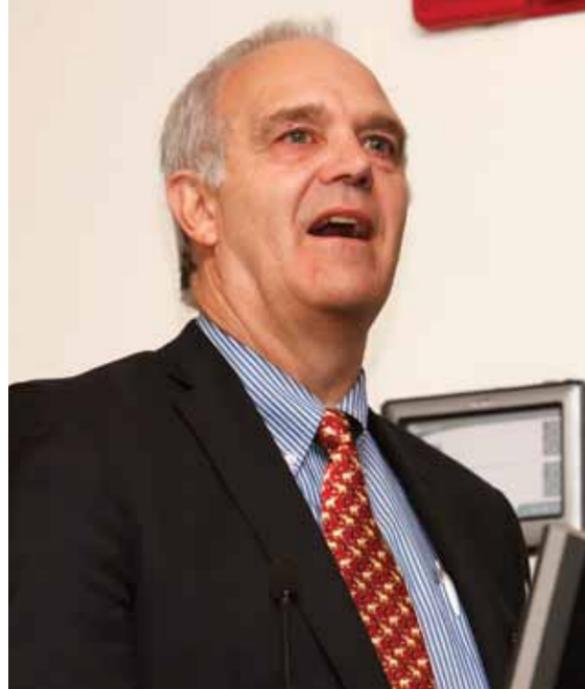
2011 HMS Annual Meeting and Alumni Reunion Delivers a High Impact Weekend

Record attendance, inspiring lectures, and a dynamic new format created a palpable sense of excitement and enthusiasm during the HMS Department of Ophthalmology's 2011 Graduation and Annual Meeting & Alumni Reunion three-day weekend. More than 240 faculty, alumni and trainees took part in the expanded 3-day event, which featured a new, integrated format combining scientific exchange with networking events and social activities. HMS Ophthalmology chair, Joan W. Miller, MD, noted that the 90+ alumni in attendance flavored the meeting with a strong sense of collegial spirit. "One of our goals this year was to encourage strong alumni attendance and participation," said Dr. Miller. "Reconnecting with alumni added an exciting new dimension to the meeting and makes one appreciate that the strength of the department is not just who we are today but the cumulative experience, wisdom and dedication of every trainee and faculty member who has passed through our doors. It's also a great opportunity to bring our alumni up to speed on department plans and programs so we are top of mind for spreading the word and increasing support."

Graduation Ceremonies

Traditional Department of Ophthalmology graduation ceremonies were held on June 16, and preceded meeting activities. Graduates and their friends and families were treated to the tenth annual Frederick A. Jakobiec Lecture in Ophthalmology given by HMS alumnus, John A. Irvine, MD. Dr. Irvine is currently the A. Ray Irvine Chair in Clinical Ophthalmology at the University of Southern California (USC) and Chief of Ophthalmology at USC University Hospital. He is also Director of the Cornea Service and Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs for the USC Ophthalmology Department.

A dedicated educator who has trained hundreds of medical students, residents, fellows and community ophthalmologists, Dr. Irvine's many teaching and service activities reflect the academic and leadership spirit of the Jakobiec lecture. He has built a large clinical practice while maintaining a research program and taking on numerous leadership roles. He has served on a variety of committees



John Irvine, MD, 2011 Mariana Mead Lecturer

for the American Academy of Ophthalmology and has been a board member of the Pan American Association of Ophthalmology. In addition to his other educational efforts in ophthalmology for trainees and practitioners, Dr. Irvine currently meets weekly with first and second year medical

students as a group mentor in a core medical school course, *Professionalism and the Practice of Medicine*, and is Director of Continuing Medical Education at Doheny, where he participates in CME courses in the U.S and abroad. His outstanding professional contributions have earned him both an Achievement Award and a Secretariat Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology. Graduates and faculty on hand thoroughly

enjoyed his lecture on "Connections."

Graduation ceremonies were wrapped up with teaching recognitions awarded to Matthew Gardiner, MD, director of Mass. Eye and Ear's Emergency Department, who was voted by residents as Teacher of the Year. Fellow of the Year, also by resident vote, was awarded to cornea fellow, Kristen Hawthorne, MD. This year's ceremonies also marked two new firsts. The department graduated its first Optometric Resident with a certificate presented to Benjamin Klibanoff, OD. Another graduation first was the presentation of the 2011 Gragoudas Prize for the best retinal paper published by a Mass. Eye and Ear trainee in academic year 2010-2011. This year's award – a \$10,000 prize – was presented to Yusuke Murakami, MD and George Trichonas, MD for their paper entitled, "*Receptor interacting protein kinases*

mediate retinal detachment-induced photoreceptor necrosis and compensate for inhibition of apoptosis." In 2012, Dr. Gragoudas will be offering two, \$5,000 awards for the best clinical and the best basic/translational research papers.

Annual Meeting and Alumni Reunion Highlights

The following day, Dr. Miller kicked off the Annual Meeting with a synopsis of department activities that recapped an extraordinary year of activity, accomplishments and growth. From the unification of Mass. Eye and Ear and Schepens Eye Research Institute to the launch of the new Ocular Genomics Institute, directed by Eric Pierce, MD, PhD who is working with Janey Wiggs, MD, PhD. Dr. Miller outlined the incredible array of innovation and collaboration that continues to build momentum across the HMS campus, as well as how these initiatives are positioning the department to be the leading ophthalmic center of excellence in the 21st century. The meeting segued to an informative program of presentations – orchestrated by Joseph Rizzo III, MD, Director of Alumni and Professor of Ophthalmology at HMS - that covered the latest advancements in clinical and research topics in the fields of glaucoma, retina, cornea and rehabilitation.

B. Thomas Hutchinson, MD, Associate Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at HMS and a consulting editor for the Harvard Medical School Health Newsletter, presented the Distinguished Alumni Award lecture. Dr. Hutchinson spoke on "*Protecting the Public (and your!) Interest,*" and detailed how he has successfully managed malpractice risk while protecting both his patients and his practice. Drawing from a half-century of experience, he outlined proven practice guidelines that are based on three basic tenets: live and practice according to the Hippocratic Oath, deliver quality eye care, and protect the public interest.

continues on page 8



HMS alumni (l to r): James V. Aquavella '61, Claes Dohlman '54, D. Brendan Sweeney '62, Betty Sweeney, Murray Johnstone '71, Richard Simmons '62, Anne Simmons, Ralph Hinckley '62, Dennis Freilich '65, Firmon Hardenbergh '60, Ljubisa Nikolic '84, Simmons Lessell '67

B. Thomas Hutchinson, MD Receives the HMS Distinguished Alumni Professional Achievement Award

Dr. Hutchinson completed his MD, residency, and research and clinical fellowships (Howe Laboratory, glaucoma) at Harvard Medical School and the HMS/Mass. Eye and Ear Department of Ophthalmology. For many years he was the director of the Harvard Postgraduate Course in Ophthalmology and for 10 years was an assistant chief editor of the *AMA Archives of Ophthalmology*. For four-plus decades, he has maintained an active role in the teaching of medical students, residents and fellows in ophthalmology.



Dr. Joan Miller presents the HMS Distinguished Alumni Professional Achievement Award to B. Thomas Hutchinson, MD.

He is past president of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and currently the chair of the Advisory Board of the Foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the Academy's public service foundation. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Academy's Lifetime Achievement Award and Distinguished Service Award. He has endowed two lectureships, one at Harvard Medical School in ophthalmology and one honoring his father at the West Virginia University School of Medicine.

Alumni Meeting, continued from page 7



John Irvine, MD, presented the 2011 Mariana Mead Lecture, titled "Professionalism: Achievement and Maintenance." In his lecture, Dr. Irvine explored the definition and role of "professional behavior" in modern practice, how it has evolved over the years, and how it fits into today's changing medical and socioeconomic climate. He addressed the possibility of achieving and maintaining the traditional virtues of professionalism – including the attributes of altruism, self-sacrifice and integrity – in the context of today's technological advances, which may alter how the doctor-patient relationship is managed. Dr. Irvine's Mariana Mead Lecture (power point presentation) is available at www.MassEyeAndEar.org/for-professionals/ophthalmology. A link to Eyewitness, Issue #17, is also available, which includes a profile of Dr. Irvine.

Winners for best clinical

posters went to HMS Ophthalmology residents Meenakashi Gupta, MD for her poster titled, "Higher Body Mass Index is Associated with Earlier Retinopathy Onset in Pediatric Patients with Type 1 Diabetes," and Aliya Jiwani, MD with a poster on "Solar Exposure as a Risk Factor for Exfoliation Syndrome." Best research poster awards went to Yu-Chieh Ko, MD, for his poster on "sGC α_1 -deficient Mice: A Novel Murine Model of Spontaneous Primary Open Angle Glaucoma," and Alisar Zahr, PhD for her poster titled, "Role of Endomucin-1 in Neutrophil-Endothelial Cell Interactions."

A complementary dinner celebration on Friday evening capped off the day's activities and set the stage for the dedicated alumni reunion events that followed. High energy

and excitement was a backdrop for reunion goers throughout the weekend. Hundreds of faculty along with 90 alumni – some coming from as far away as Pakistan and Belgrade – gathered to reconnect with former colleagues, fellows and residents. Although hard to believe, some HMS faculty had not returned to their alma mater in 40 years!

Newly graduated residents and fellows mixed with current and former faculty to hear inspirational talks delivered by representatives of 10 quinquennial graduating classes dating back to 1961. Lectures highlighted the careers and accomplishments of each lecturer and spanned topics from "Ophthalmology Resident Surgical Training in Changing Times," presented by Class of 2006 representative, Carolyn E. Kloek, MD, Associate Residency Program Director at HMS to "Deploying Technology to Combat Age-Related Ocular Morbidity," presented by Class of 1961 representative, James V. Aquavella, MD, Professor of Ophthalmology, University of Rochester, Flaum Eye Institute. Additional lectures spanned the topics of drug development, hysterical blindness, infectious keratitis, diabetic retinopathy and much more.

A key highlight of the day was a presentation by Dr. Miller celebrating the generosity of the department's Alumni Giving Society members. The Society was launched in December, 2010 to help support the vital work of HMS faculty and trainees, and recognizes gifts of \$1,000 or more to the department each fiscal year (October 1 – September 30). In FY11, several inspirational gifts were presented to the department, including the Richard J. Simmons and Ruthanne B. Simmons Fellowship Fund, the Dr. Pei-Fei Lee Lectureship in Ophthalmology and The Abelson Family Fellowship in Cornea at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. Drs. Mark Abelson and Richard Simmons were on hand to provide brief remarks.

In addition to providing an inspiring platform for scientific exchange, the Annual Meeting and Alumni Reunion weekend offered plenty of opportunity to get together with former classmates, tour newly renovated areas of Mass. Eye and Ear (an event which drew 60 people) and reconnect with Boston. On Sunday, many reunion goers wrapped up their weekend with a private group tour of the new Arts of America Wing at the Museum of Fine Arts and/or a trip to Fenway Park to see the Red Sox trounce the Milwaukee Brewers (12-3) – the perfect ending to a perfect weekend!

Special thanks to our 10 alumni representatives and our 2011 Alumni Reunion Executive Committee: Frank G. Berson, MD, B. Thomas Hutchinson, MD, Joan W. Miller, MD, Melissa M. Paul, and Joseph F. Rizzo III, MD. ■

Get involved!

Plans are well underway for next year's event. If you are interested in joining the Alumni Reunion committee, please contact Melissa Paul, Chief Development Officer, at (617) 573-4168 or melissa_paul@meei.harvard.edu

Expanded Vitreoretinal Course Attracts Capacity Crowd, Eminent Educators

The 2nd Annual Mass. Eye & Ear Vitrectomy Course, a unique and comprehensive workshop covering the theory and practice of vitreoretinal surgery, took place July 22-23, 2011. Free of charge to participants, this intense educational experience is modeled after Mass. Eye and Ear's nationally renowned cataract surgery course, and designed exclusively for first-year vitreoretinal fellows. The course gives the beginning fellow a brief but comprehensive introduction to techniques in vitreoretinal surgery, and preparation for the OR experience of the clinical fellowship. Participants join a distinguished group of world-class faculty in lectures, panel discussions, videos, wet labs, and a surgical simulation laboratory outfitted with Eyesi® virtual reality surgical simulators.

This year's course was organized by HMS Ophthalmology Vice Chair for Medical Education, John Loewenstein, MD, Demetrios Vavvas, MD, PhD, and Dean Elliott, MD, Associate Director of the Retina Service, and is the only educational event of its kind in the country. "From the get-go, this course has been a tremendous success because of its emphasis on hands-on training and a low student-teacher ratio," notes Dr. Loewenstein. "It offers fellows a significant learning experience with some of the world's most accomplished vitreoretinal surgeons."

The course debuted last July as a one-day workshop that drew 40 first-year vitreoretinal fellows from across the United States, and featured distinguished faculty from various institutions worldwide. Based on extremely favorable ratings from the inaugural course, this year's course was expanded to two days and attended by 60 fellows from around the country and abroad. Marshall Dial, Vice President of Sales at VRmagic, was also in attendance to discuss features of the company's Eyesi® virtual reality surgical simulator. The two-day event concluded with a gala dinner on the evening of July 23rd at the Taj Hotel in Boston.

"The course has grown significantly and was once again filled to capacity," says Dr. Elliott, which attests to the excellent training offered by the course; indeed, with over 25 renowned faculty in participation, the course provided a setting with a high teacher-to-student ratio. "All of this year's participants rated the course very favorably, and all of the faculty have volunteered to return next year," says Dr. Elliott. ■



Gil Grand, MD, Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at Washington University School of Medicine, teaches surgical techniques to first-year fellows during the 2nd Annual Vitreoretinal Course

Department Releases *Frontiers* Report

The Harvard Medical School Department of Ophthalmology is proud to announce the inaugural release of its comprehensive *Frontiers in Ophthalmology* report. A historical framework provides context for *Frontiers*, which showcases the department's key accomplishments, milestones and dynamic growth over the last several years in vision science, education and patient care, and explores how the efforts of our faculty have – and continue – to influence the pace and progress of ophthalmology worldwide. The report also spotlights the growing collaborations amongst our affiliates and across the global ophthalmic community, and details the initiatives we are pursuing today to ramp up our efforts to fight blinding diseases on a more robust scale. Many of these efforts are made possible by the department's key foundation partners, alumni and generous friends, several of whom are highlighted in the report.

"*Frontiers* is meant to inform, educate and engage a variety of audiences and, in essence, tell our story to the world," notes chief and chair, Dr. Joan W. Miller. "It's a unifying voice for the department and my hope is that we successfully convey not only who we are and what we do, but how firmly all of our affiliates are united in a single mission and vision."

Copies of the report have been distributed to HMS leadership, faculty, alumni and friends of the department (including our *Eyewitness* readers), as well as some 2,000 opinion makers and ophthalmology leaders in the U.S. and around the globe. Look for your copy in the mail. *Frontiers* is also available in PDF format at: www.MassEyeAndEar.org/specialties/ophthalmology. (Please see erratum note, page 19)

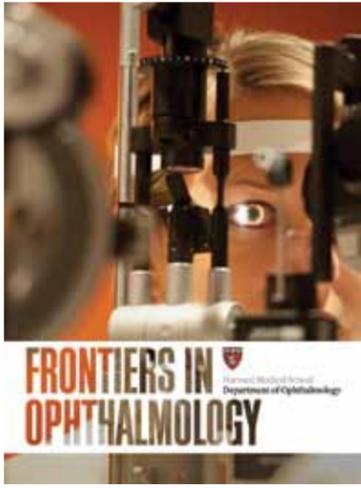
Here's what readers are saying...

Simply incredible!

Superb!

Well done and quite informative!

"It would be impossible to read *Frontiers* without achieving a sense of excitement and enthusiasm for the level of research and the educational programs underway. It was particularly gratifying to learn of the activity and achievements of so many faculty friends for whom I will always have the greatest respect and appreciation." -George J. Rabstjejk, Chairman Emeritus, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary ■



HMS Welcomes Residency Class of 2014

**Alison Barnes Callahan, MD**

Alison graduated *summa cum laude* from Princeton University with a degree in Psychology. At Princeton, she was awarded a number of prizes, including the George A. Miller Prize for the best thesis in Cognitive Science, and the Edward E. Jones Memorial Prize for the best thesis in social psychology. Her undergraduate research focused on decision-making. Alison received her MD from Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons in 2010. At Columbia,

she collaborated on a quantitative computer analysis of Retinopathy of Prematurity, and a project involving computer image analysis of iris curvature before and after laser peripheral iridotomy. Alison also organized and led a cadaveric study at the University of California/San Francisco's Orthopaedic Bioengineering Lab, where she characterized the biomechanical attributes of the cervical artificial pedicle screw, a type of spine fixation first characterized and performed at UCSF. Her investigations resulted in a first-author paper published in the journal *Spine*. During her four years at Columbia, Alison was one of three student-elected representatives to serve on the Dean's Advisory Committee.

**Kristine Lo, MD**

A native of the Philippines, Kristine joins the HMS residency program already a seasoned ophthalmologist with seven years of experience. She received a Bachelor of Science degree from Ateneo de Manila University graduating *cum laude* in 1996, and her medical degree from the University of the Philippines in 2001. While a resident at the University's Philippine General Hospital (PGH), she participated in clinical research on ocular surface

diseases including dry eye and pterygium. Following residency, she pursued a fellowship at PHG in cornea and external diseases working with Dr. Mario Valenton, the Philippines foremost expert in the field. Wanting to broaden her exposure and training in both subspecialties, Kristine was accepted for an ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery fellowship at Mass. Eye and Ear under the mentorship of Dr. Aaron Fay. As a fellow, she was immersed in a full breadth of clinical, academic, and research opportunities. She was extensively involved in resident training and published a first-authored paper in *Seminars in Ophthalmology* (May 2009), titled "Current theories on the pathogenesis of infantile hemangioma." Initially intending to return to private practice in the Philippines, Kristine's fellowship experience inspired her to change her career projectory to pursue an academic career in ophthalmology.

**Alice Lorch, MD**

Alice attended Yale College where she graduated *magna cum laude* in 2005 with a degree in biology. At Yale, she was awarded a Richter Fellowship and the William R. Belknap Prize for Excellence in Biology. Alice's research interests have spanned basic and clinical medicine, as well as global health and health systems development. She pursued her MD at Harvard Medical School where she received a scholarship in 2006 to participate in the HMS

Spanish Language Service Program; this took her overseas to rural clinics in Guatemala. She also completed a six-month research project in Chile

on preventative medicine supported by a David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies Graduate Fellowship. As a fourth-year medical student, Alice participated in the department's ophthalmology (elective) apprenticeship program where she worked with Kathryn Colby, MD, PhD, and Roberto Pineda II, MD on a Herpes Zoster Ophthalmicus project. She has also worked with Michael Morley, MD at Mass. General Hospital on two clinical research projects, including the clinical manifestations and treatment of Charles Bonnet Syndrome, and a research trial supported by the World Health Organization on patient safety at a Thailand hospital.

Sotiria Palioura, MD, PhD

A native of Greece, Sotiria Palioura came to the U.S. in 1999 to attend Yale College. She graduated *magna cum laude* four years later with both BSc and MSc degrees with distinction in molecular biophysics and biochemistry, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society. She also conducted research on the fidelity of protein synthesis in bacteria, and her work was published in *PNAS*. In 2003, Sotiria matriculated in the Medical Scientist Training Program at Yale University School of Medicine. There, she continued her research in bacterial protein synthesis—contributing to numerous publications, including *PNAS*, *Nature Chemical Biology*, and a first-authored paper in *Science*. Through a highly competitive selection process, Sotiria was chosen to attend the 2007 Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting in Germany, where she had the opportunity to meet with Nobel Laureates and other aspiring young researchers. At Yale, her capabilities were underscored with the MD/PhD Thesis Prize and the Farr Scholar Excellence in Research Award from Yale University School of Medicine. After earning an MD *cum laude* and a PhD in molecular biophysics & biochemistry in 2010, Dr. Palioura interned at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York; there, she conducted clinical research with Dr. David Abramson on evaluating the efficacy and toxicity of intra-arterial chemotherapy for advanced retinoblastoma.

**Thanos Papakostas, MD**

A Greek native, Thanos held an early affinity for mathematics and physical sciences, earning a spot on the National Olympic team in Mathematics in 1997 (Hellenic Mathematical Society) and, in 2000, on the National Olympic Team in Chemistry (Greek Chemist Association). Favoring a medical career, Thanos attended the University of Athens National and Kapodistrian Medical School, where he worked with Drs. Ioannis Ladas and Alexandros Rouvas on investigating combination treatments for "wet" age-related macular degeneration. In 2007, he joined Mass. Eye and Ear as a research fellow where he is currently investigating a novel hormonal therapy that holds promise for targeting metastatic tumor cells in uveal melanoma. He worked with Demetrios Vavvas, MD, PhD in collaboration with the lab of Patricia Donahoe, MD (MGH) to create a novel DNA construct for an internally FLAG-tagged Mullerian Inhibiting Substance, which retains full biological activity and is easily purified and tracked. This tool is a significant advance in the field, and a patent application has been filed with publications in progress. Thanos has been a very productive member of the lab, co-authoring 10 papers and a dozen abstracts.



HMS residents: Kimberly Trinca-Gold, MD (class of '2011), Meenakshi Gupta, MD, Glenn Yiu, MD, PhD, Peter Veldman, MD, Nancy Huynh, MD and Jessica Rankin, MD

Yoshihiro Yonekawa, MD

A New York native, Yoshihiro attended Wesleyan University where he completed a bachelor's degree in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry in 2004. At Wesleyan, he was selected for a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Research Fellowship and was awarded the Scott Biomedical Prize for a graduating senior demonstrating promise as a future academic physician. He pursued his MD at Weill Cornell Medical College, where he co-founded the Cornell Ophthalmology Interest Group, dedicated to vision screenings at homeless shelters and workshops for residents and faculty. Yoshihiro has garnered several awards and honors, including a Fight for Sight Student Grant, a Honjo International Scholarship, a USA Funds Scholarship and a Barr Summer Fellowship. He has also held a number of leadership positions with the Japanese Medical Society of America. At Weill, under the mentorship of Ronald Silverman, MD, Paul Chan, MD and Thomas Lee, MD, Yoshihiro's published his research on "Proton Beam Irradiation using a light field technique for the treatment of choroidal hemangiomas," and "Aplastic anemia secondary to 6-mercaptopurine initially presenting with a hemorrhagic retinopathy." He has also worked with Ivana Kim, MD and Margaret DeAngelis, PhD at Mass. Eye and Ear, exploring genetic and epidemiological factors for AMD.

**Harpal Sandhu, MD**

Harpal grew up in Vancouver, BC. He graduated *magna cum laude* from Harvard College in 2006, with a degree in chemistry. During his undergraduate career, he maintained a John Harvard Scholarship each year for academic excellence, and received the Detur Digniori Prize for sophomores, reflecting his high academic class rank (top 4%) during his freshman year. Harpal matriculated at Harvard Medical School and, in

2007, was awarded an American Brain Tumor Association Medical Student Summer Fellowship to conduct research in the Molecular Neurosurgery Lab of Robert Martuza, MD at MGH. His efforts focused on basic tissue culture and molecular biology techniques with glioma stem cells and oncolytic viruses. In his fourth year, Harpal opted to take the ophthalmology elective where he participated in research with Kathryn Colby, MD, PhD and Roberto Pineda II, MD. He also conducted research in the retina department at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital under the supervision of Jorge Arroyo, MD. Despite his busy schedule, Harpal spent three years mentoring underserved youth through the Martha Eliot health Center Mentoring Program; he also co-founded and led the International Relations and Biomedicine Circle in Boston.

**Danielle Trief, MD, MSc**

Danielle is a graduate of University of Pennsylvania where she double majored in Biological Basis of Behavior and Communications, with a double minor in Chemistry and Psychology, graduating *summa cum laude* in BBS, with distinction. As an undergraduate, and funded by a University Scholars Research Grant and a Millstein Family research grant, Danielle conducted research that focused on how altruistic acts can be evolutionary

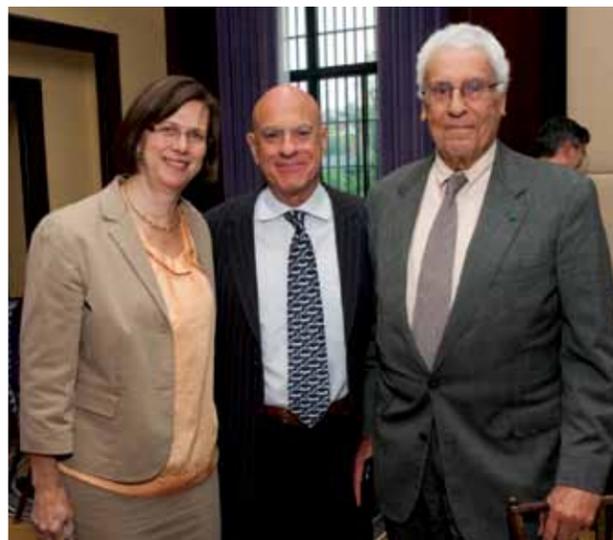
adventitious. Simultaneously, she conducted a study on how drugs can induce or exacerbate psychoses in an animal model of schizophrenia. Following graduation, she attended Oxford University on a Thouron Fellowship, where she completed a Master of Science in neuroscience, with distinction. Her research explored neuroplasticity, and combined transcranial magnetic stimulation and fMRI in order to observe how the brain adapts to temporary disruptions in signaling neuroplasticity. Her investigations were published in the journal, *Neuron*. She received her MD at Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons, where she pursued several international medical opportunities, including a Gold Foundation Grant for a Surgical Fistula Repair Trip to Niger, Africa, and a St. Lukes International Summer Internship in Tokyo. Danielle's current research is focused on Charles Bonnet Syndrome and visual deprivation.

**Optometry Resident****Mark Bernardo, OD**

Mark attended Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ, where he majored in Biological Sciences with a minor in Psychology, and received the Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholarship. He attended the New England College of Optometry (NECO), where he was inducted as a member of the Beta Sigma Kappa Honor Society, and awarded the Beider Moral Obligation Scholarship. During his clinical rotations at NECO, Mark served a diverse group of patients across the Northeast and gained a broad array of clinical experience. He also served as an academic tutor and clinical skills instructor, and managed the pre-clinical area. Mark volunteered for several community service activities, which included providing vision screenings at the local YMCA and the Lions Eye Mobile Project, as well as providing free vision care for the underprivileged through volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity. Fluent in Spanish and Tagalog (one of two official languages of the Philippines), Mark recently participated in a six-day medical mission to the Philippines sponsored by the EyeCare/WeCare Foundation where he assisted with 1,700+ screening and refractions for indigent patients. ■



FY11 Alumni Gifts Support Mission of Education at HMS



(l to r) Joan W. Miller, MD, Mark Abelson, MD, CM and Claes Dohlman, MD, PhD

Fiscal year 2011 contributions to the Department of Ophthalmology from 92 generous Alumni Giving Society members totaled \$318,000 in outright gifts. Educational philanthropy intensified this year with the addition of several new inspirational pledges totaling \$653,000. These gifts, to be paid over the next five years, include the Dr. Pei-Fei Lee Lectureship in Ophthalmology, and The Abelson Family Fellowship in Cornea at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary.

“This year, in particular, generous alumni contributions will enable us to expand our educational mission by supporting new fellowships in cornea and glaucoma, and by adding a brand new lecture,” said chief and chair, Joan W. Miller, MD. “I want to extend a heartfelt thanks to all Society members whose investments help provide the stimulating learning environment that keeps our training programs top of class and at the cusp of innovation.”

Dr. Miller also credits the strong show of support, in part, to Dr. Joseph Rizzo, Director of Alumni Relations at HMS Ophthalmology, whose ongoing efforts have been instrumental in boosting the visibility of the department and strengthening ties between alumni and the department.

Launched in 2010, the Alumni Giving Society shines a light on alumni philanthropy by recognizing gifts of \$1,000 or more to the department within the fiscal year, October 1 - September 30. ■

The Abelson Family Fellowship in Cornea at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary

In 1974, Mark Abelson, MD, CM, arrived at the HMS Department of Ophthalmology to pursue a joint fellowship in cornea and external disease research at Mass. Eye and Ear and Schepens Eye Research Institute. Under the mentorship of Dr. Claes Dohlman, and advisor Dr. Mathea Allansmith, he completed his fellowship two years later and joined Schepens Eye Research Institute in 1976. At Schepens, Dr. Abelson developed a passionate interest in ocular surface inflammation and allergy response – areas where little research was being done and funding from sponsoring industry and government agencies was scarce.

With Dr. Dohlman’s encouragement, Dr. Abelson set out to build a clinical practice and a clinical research organization to develop therapies for allergy and ocular surface disease. He was extremely successful in both activities. The research organization, Ophthalmic Research Associates (Ora), has been involved in the development of over one-third of the world’s currently marketed ophthalmic pharmaceutical products.

Throughout his career, Dr. Abelson has maintained his connection and support of Schepens, where he is currently a Senior Clinical Scientist and Trustee. In recent years, he has joined in HMS department activities more broadly – editing a section on pharmacology and contributing chapters for all three editions of Albert & Jakobiec’s Principles and Practice of Ophthalmology. In addition, Dr. Abelson lectures at department meetings, and teaches Harvard Medical School students. In 2011, he was promoted to Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School.

The Abelson family – including Dr. Abelson and his wife Annalee, their son Stuart (who now heads Ora and is a Trustee of Mass. Eye and Ear) and wife Kathryn, their son Richard and wife Mariana, and other Abelson family members – wanted to give back to Mass. Eye and Ear; they partnered with Dr. Dohlman to establish a fellowship fund at Mass. Eye and Ear. The Abelson family has pledged \$600,000, matched with \$600,000 from Mass. Eye and Ear from the proceeds of the Boston Keratoprosthesis, to create the Abelson Family Fellowship in Cornea at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary.

“This gift from the Abelson family is extraordinary on many levels,” says chief and chair Dr. Joan Miller. “Dr. Abelson is a shining example of an HMS Ophthalmology fellow who has gone on to establish a prominent career in bench-to-bedside research. Not only is Dr. Abelson a quintessential clinician scientist, but his family has also perpetuated his far-reaching impact with their ongoing work. We are extremely proud of Dr. Abelson’s achievements and truly honored to carry on his legacy with the Abelson Family Fellowship in Cornea.” ■

Ophthalmology Grand Rounds

Academic Year July 2011-June 2012

Grand Rounds are held every Thursday from 8:00-9:00 AM in Meltzer Auditorium, 3rd Floor, Mass. Eye and Ear and simulcast to the Karp 11 conference room at Children’s Hospital Boston. Continuing Medical Education credit is available. A monthly list is posted at www.MassEyeAndEar.org.

Invited Grand Rounds Speakers

January 26, 2012: Quality, Humanism and Professionalism Program Quarterly Lecture. Speaker: Susan Block, MD, Chair, Department of Psychosocial Oncology and Palliative Care, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

February 2, 2012: Matthew Gardiner, MD, Comprehensive Ophthalmology and Cataract Consultation Service, Director of Ophthalmology Emergency Services, Mass. Eye and Ear

Cornea Rounds

Cornea Rounds are hosted by the HMS Cornea Center of Excellence the 4th Wednesday of every month. MEEI Sloane Room, 3rd floor

Upcoming Events

The HMS Department of Ophthalmology sponsors an extensive array of special lectures and courses. For details, please consult the Ophthalmology Education section at www.MassEyeandEar.org.

For a complete listing of Schepens events please visit: http://www.schepens.harvard.edu/events_seminars/index.php

Pediatric Ophthalmology Visiting Professor Lecture Series

Children’s Hospital Boston [video link at Mass. Eye and Ear]

February 9, 2012: Scott Lambert, MD, Emory Eye Center

Cornea Visiting Professor Lecture Series

Meltzer Auditorium/Sloane Teaching Room, 3rd floor

November 10-11, 2011: Stephen Kaye, MD, Royal Liverpool University Hospital, UK

February 9-10, 2012: John Dart, MA MD FRCS FRCOphth, Moorfields Eye Hospital

March 22-23, 2012: Eduardo Alfonso, MD, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, University of Miami

The Harvard Glaucoma Joint Lab Meeting Visiting Professor Lecture

MEEI, Meltzer Auditorium

November 16, 2011: Claude Burgoyne, MD, Scientist and Research Director, Optic Nerve Head Research Laboratory, Devers Eye Institute, Portland, OR. Meltzer Auditorium

Paul A. Chandler Visiting Professorship and Lecture

MEEI, Meltzer Auditorium

December 9-10, 2011: Glenn Jaffe, MD, Duke University; resident case presentations

Edward B. Murphy, Jr., MD, and Leo T. Chylack, Jr. MD Distinguished Lectureship in Cataract Surgery

December 14-15, 2011: Thomas A. Oetting, MD, University of Iowa College of Medicine

Ephraim Friedman Lecture

February 29, 2012: Anthony Adamis, MD, Genentech, Inc. and Harvard Medical School.

Longwood Medical Area Ophthalmology Conference

Children’s Hospital Boston, Karp 11 conference room

November 18, 2011: Speaker TBA

January 20, 2012: Ankoor Shah, MD, Children’s Hospital Boston

January 25, 2012: Anneke den Hollander, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Ophthalmology, Radboud University Medical Center Nijmegen

Cornea Research Seminar

Schepens, 2nd floor conference room

November 18, 2011: Ula Jurkunas, MD, Mass. Eye and Ear/Schepens

December 16, 2011: David Sullivan, PhD, Schepens

January 20, 2012: Speaker TBA

February 17, 2012: Speaker TBA

March 16, 2012: Speaker TBA

New Frontiers in Corneal Disease

MEEI Boardroom, 8th floor

December 14, 2011: Reza Dana, MD, MPH, MSc, MEEI/Schepens, and Pedram Hamrah, MD, MEEI.

February 8, 2012: Joseph Ciolino, MD, MEEI and Daniel Kohane, MD, PhD, MIT and Children’s Hospital, Boston.

Cornea Slit Lamp Conference

MEEI Sloane Room or Meltzer Auditorium. Contact Schepens for details.

November 22, 2011: Covers corneal examination techniques and formation of differential diagnoses based on examination findings.

The Vision and Visual Optics (VIVO) Seminar Series

Schepens 2nd floor conference room; contact Jacqueline Doherty (617-912-2583) or Alex Bowers (617-912-2512), alex.bowers@schepens.harvard.edu

November 30, 2011: Gabriel Kreiman, PhD, Children’s Hospital, Boston.

December 9, 2011: Adam Reeves, PhD, Department of Psychology, Northeastern University

Boston Ophthalmic Pathology Lecture Series

MEEI, Meltzer Auditorium

April 17, 2012: Ralph Eagle, MD, Wills Eye Institute.

Department of Ophthalmology Residents and Fellows Graduation and 2012 Annual Meeting & Alumni Reunion June 8-10, 2012

Awards, Grants & Other Honors

Eliot Berson, MD, the William F. Chatlos Professor of Ophthalmology at HMS, has received a grant totaling



nearly \$1.5 million from Foundation Fighting Blindness for his project, "Efficacy, Safety and Toxicity of AAV-Mediated Human RPGRIP1 Replacement Gene Therapy

in Mice and Non-Human Primates."

Peter Bex, PhD, HMS Associate Professor of Ophthalmology received the 2011 Ernest & Elizabeth Althouse Scholar Award from Research to Prevent Blindness, one of RPB's Special Scholar Awards, which recognizes "promising young scientists of exceptional merit." The \$75K award will fund Dr. Bex's efforts to develop sensitive and efficient paradigms for vision assessment that minimize the burden of testing on patients.

Sunil Chauhan, DVM, PhD, was selected to receive this year's The Alice J. Adler Fellowship of the Schepens Eye Research Institute, one of the Eleanor and Miles Shore 50th Anniversary Fellowship Programs for Scholars in Medicine at HMS/HSDM. Dr. Chauhan's studies pertain to autoimmunity, alloimmunity and inflammation of the ocular surface. The fellowship program provides stipends to junior faculty, who are not yet independently funded, to help support their academic activities.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded a 5-year, \$2.08 million RO1 grant to Professor of Ophthalmology, **James Chodosh, MD, MPH**, for his project "Immunopathogenesis of Adenovirus Keratitis." Dr. Chodosh has received continuous NIH funding for his project since July 2000.

Reza Dana, MD, MPH, MSc, the Claes H. Dohlman Professor of Ophthalmology at HMS, received a \$375K research agreement award from Bausch and Lomb for his project, "Relative Efficacy of Lotemax vs. Zylet."

Last month, Mass. Eye and Ear was awarded an \$11 million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease – the largest in its 187-year history – to fund the Harvard-wide Project on Antibiotic Resistance. Leading the effort is **Michael Gilmore, PhD**, the Sir William Osler Professor of Ophthalmology at HMS and a member of the Howe Laboratory at Mass. Eye and Ear. Dr. Gilmore has recruited a team of investigators from across Harvard University, the Broad Institute and industry with the goal of generating between five and ten promising and tested new compounds for fighting multidrug resistant infection caused by staph and related bacteria.

Dr. Gilmore was also recently honored with a two-year Associate Membership at the Broad Institute of MIT, primarily for his collaborative work of the past several years related to analyses of enterococcal and staphylococcal genomes; his appointment became effective October 1, 2011.

HMS Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, **Pedram Hamrah, MD** has been awarded a 4-year, \$250,000 Research to Prevent Blindness Career Development Award. The goal of his project is to generate a comprehensive, mechanism-oriented survey of the behavioral similarities and differences between distinct corneal antigen-presenting cell (APC) subsets under normal conditions, inflammation and corneal transplantation. The RPB Career Development Award helps recruit young doctors to eye research and support promising junior ophthalmology faculty. Established in 1990, the program has recruited 156 vision scientists to research positions in departments of ophthalmology at universities across the country.

Tatjana Jakobs, MD, HMS Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology received a research award totaling \$93,800 from International Retinal Research Foundation for her project, "Glaucoma in Guinea Pigs."

Ula Jurkunas, MD, HMS Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology has been named the 2011 New England Corneal Transplant awardee for HMS/ Mass. Eye and Ear.



Sahar Kohanim, MD, Chief Cornea Fellow at Mass. Eye and Ear, was selected to receive the 2011 Claes Dohlman Fellow Society Award. This prestigious award recognizes outstanding fellows training in the areas of cornea, refractive surgery and external diseases.

David Glendenning Cogan Professor of Ophthalmology, **Richard Masland, PhD**, received a \$60,000 HMS Lefler Grant for his project, "Mechanosensitive Astrocytes" from The Edward R. and Anne G. Lefler Center for the Study of Neurodegenerative Disorders at Harvard Medical School. The Center's grants program funds two to four grants per year "for the stimulation and support of truly innovative research."

Jaya Rajaiya, PhD was awarded a 5-year, \$1.96 million RO1 grant from the National Institutes of Health for her project titled, "Lipid Rafts in Adenoviral Ocular Pathogenesis." Dr. Rajaiya is investigating the role of lipid rafts in the cell membrane and endosomal signaling in the entry and trafficking of adenoviruses in corneal cells, in order to understand the underlying molecular mechanism in adenoviral corneal pathogenesis.

The Boston Veteran's Affairs Healthcare System has awarded \$198,000 to Professor of Ophthalmology, **Joseph Rizzo III, MD** for his project, "Mild Blast-Induced TBI.

Lucia Sobrin, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at HMS, is this year's Mass. Eye and Ear recipient of the Eleanor and Miles Shore 50th Anniversary Fellowship for Scholars in Medicine. Dr. Sobrin is pursuing a genome-wide association study to look for genes associated with diabetic retinopathy in African-Americans.

HMS Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, **David Sullivan, PhD**, has received the Carel C. Koch Memorial Medal Award from the American Academy of Optometry for his work related to the Tear Film and Ocular Surface Society and his ongoing investigations of dry eye disease. The Carel C. Koch Memorial Medal Award is awarded to individuals who have made "outstanding contributions to the enhancement and development of relationships between optometry and other professions."

HMS Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, **Janey Wiggs, MD, PhD** has been awarded a 5-year, \$3.7 million grant from the National Institutes of Health for her studies on "Genetic Environmental Risk Factors for Exfoliation Syndrome and Glaucoma." NIH has also awarded Dr. Wiggs a supplemental \$663K core grant for the purchase of new sequencing equipment.

This summer Mass. Eye and Ear and the Curing Kids Fund awarded four, two-year research grants to Mass. Eye and Ear investigators. Two of these grants will support the research efforts of Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at HMS, **Ula Jurkunas, MD** ("Ex-vivo Expansion of Corneal and Oral Stem Cells for Autologous Cornea Transplantation: from Bench to Bedside") and Professor of Ophthalmology, **Joseph Rizzo III, MD** (Development of an Advanced 'Smart Glasses' Prototype to Provide Navigation Assistance for Blind Children"). Each award amount is just over \$50,000.

Mass. Eye and Ear held its inaugural Sense-ation! Gala in October 2010, which netted over \$800,000 for the new Mass. Eye and Ear Curing Kids Fund. This fund was created to help bring life-changing treatments for vision and hearing loss to

children and to accelerate cures and innovations through research. Monies from the fund will also provide services for needy children such as eyeglasses and hearing aids, seed a Curing Kids endowment for research to help kids, and support core research, including the development of a biobank that will enable HMS clinicians to study genetic differences for a host of ocular diseases.

Staff Updates

Congratulations to the following staff on their Mass. Eye and Ear or HMS promotions/ appointments:

Peter Bex, PhD, Schepens Eye Research Institute, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology

Sunil Chauhan, PhD, Schepens Eye Research Institute, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology

Kathryn Colby, MD, PhD, Mass. Eye and Ear, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology

Kip Connor, PhD, Mass. Eye and Ear, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology

Aaron Fay, MD, Mass. Eye and Ear, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology

Mary Louise Jackson, MD, Mass. Eye and Ear, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology

Nabil Jarudi, MD, Mass. Eye and Ear, Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology

Carolyn Kloek, MD, Mass. Eye and Ear, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology.

Carolyn Kloek, MD and Lloyd P. Aiello, MD, PhD lead Longwood expansion

Two recent faculty appointments will soon bolster activities related to our expanding presence in the Longwood Medical Area. Dr. Carolyn Kloek is named Clinical Director of Ophthalmology for Mass. Eye and Ear at Longwood. In this role, Dr. Kloek is helping to develop the new facility on Huntington Avenue, and will transition to launching and overseeing patient care in the completed building. She will be

working closely with Dr. Aiello, who has been named Associate Chief for Mass. Eye and Ear at Longwood. Dr. Aiello's responsibilities encompass Mass. Eye and Ear activities at Brigham & Women's Hospital, the Joslin practice and the developing facility on Huntington Avenue.

Jennifer Sun, MD, MPH appointed Vice Chair of the Diabetes Clinical Research Network (DRCR.net)

Dr. Jennifer Sun, Beetham Eye Institute at Joslin Diabetes Center, has been appointed as one of three Vice Chairs of the DRCR Network, an NIH-sponsored consortium of sites dedicated to research in diabetic retinopathy. As Vice Chair, Dr. Sun will directly monitor protocol adherence and recruitment for one-third of the Network's investigators and sites - a task for which she is well qualified having led the top site nationwide in study quality for multiple years. She will also serve as a member of the Network's Operations Group and Executive Committee and be highly involved in other aspects of protocol development and manuscript preparation for Network trials. Dr. Sun will continue in her current position as the nationwide Protocol Working Investigator for the DRCR Network, for which she assists in the proposal and development of new clinical trial protocols for future Network use.



Dr. Lloyd P. Aiello is founding chair of the DRCR Network, which was launched in 2002. The Network currently includes over 109 participating sites with over 320 physicians throughout the United States. Since its inception, the Network has rapidly emerged as the premier clinical trial group in diabetes with multiple congressional citations for excellence.

Gang Luo, PhD, Schepens Eye Research Institute, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology

George Papaliadis, MD, Mass. Eye and Ear, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology

Douglas Rhee, MD, has been named Associate Chief for Operations and Practice Development at Mass. Eye and Ear. Dr. Rhee will continue as Medical Director of Ophthalmology for our Stoneham and East Bridgewater locations.

Deborah Schlossman, MD, Joslin Diabetes Center/Beetham Eye Institute, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology

Janey Wiggs, MD, PhD, Associate Director of the Howe Laboratory, Associate Chief for Clinical Research and Co-Director of the HMS Glaucoma Center of Excellence, will lead the Genetic Diagnostics Section of the new Ocular Genomics Institute at Mass. Eye and Ear. In this role, she will collaborate closely with Director, **Eric Pierce, MD, PhD** to develop the Institute into a worldwide center of excellence for leading genomics-based advances in patient care.



On July 6, Harvard Medical School and the Department of Ophthalmology celebrated the appointment of **Andrius Kazlauskas, PhD** to HMS Professor

of Ophthalmology. Dr. Kazlauskas, Senior Scientist and the Sinon Scholar in Retinal Research at Schepens Eye Research Institute, is a world-renowned leader in the field of growth factor signaling as it relates to angiogenesis-based retinal diseases and proliferative diabetic retinopathy. His research investigations have spanned multiple fields of study and have led to groundbreaking discoveries in several areas of basic and clinical interest.

Personnel Changes:

Three new full-time investigators have joined the Eric Pierce Laboratory at Mass. Eye and Ear: **Qui Zhang, MD, PhD, Qin Liu, MD, PhD**, and **Donna Garland, PhD**.

Ankoor Shah, MD, PhD, former HMS/Mass. Eye and Ear resident (class of '09) and chief resident (2010) has completed his fellowship training at Children's Hospital Boston and has joined their pediatric ophthalmology division as a full-time faculty member.

Kim Fechtel, PhD, Mass. Eye and Ear Ophthalmology Research, has accepted the position of Director of Medical Informatics and Ophthalmology Research Operations. In this role, Kim will continue to implement research computing solutions, as well as develop a biorepository and research patient registry with the leaders of the Ocular Genomics Institute, Eric Pierce, MD, PhD and Janey Wiggs, MD, PhD. She will also work closely with Jay Balloffet and research leadership in directing Ophthalmology grant management, compliance and operations for our expanding research enterprise.

Nancy Joyce, PhD, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and Senior Scientist at Schepens, retired after 24 years of service to the Institute. She will retain the title of Emeritus Senior Scientist.

Community Service Cornerstone

Mass. Eye and Ear rounded off its 16th year of providing vision and hearing screenings to more than 500 children at the Neighborhood House Charter School in Dorchester. Several Department of Ophthalmology members were on hand, including HMS residents Alice Lorch, MD, Savannah Baril, MD and John Miller, MD and Children's Hospital Ophthalmology Foundation staff Kimberly Chan, OD and Melanie Kazlas, MD.

Photo: Dr. Chan tests a student's depth perception.



Service

As part of its community benefits program, Mass. Eye and Ear partnered with Vision Coalition Massachusetts this summer to provide free vision testing to students in the *Year Up, Boston* Program. Mass. Eye and Ear clinicians **Stacy Brauner, MD, Joseph Ciolino, MD** and **Anne-Marie Lobo, MD**, and residents **Savannah Baril, MD** and **Ramez Haddadin, MD** provided eye exams and eyeglasses to 33 students. *Year Up, Boston* provides employment training and internships to more than 200 young adults from the Greater Boston area each year.

Mass. Eye and Ear's Glaucoma Support Group presented "Learning Good Techniques for Glaucoma Eye Drop Administration," during September's monthly glaucoma support group. **Christine Finn, PhD** (Mass. Eye and Ear Pharmacy) provided information about glaucoma medications, medication adherence, eye drop administration and eye drop assistive devices. Mass. Eye and Ear physician's **Louis Pasquale, MD** and **Angela Turalba, MD** provided individual coaching to participants on the most effective ways to use eye drops and eye drop devices.

Education Updates

Deborah Pavan-Langston, MD, FACS Inducted into Phi Beta Kappa



One of Harvard's most prestigious honors was bestowed on HMS Professor of Ophthalmology **Deborah Pavan-Langston, MD, FACS**, who was one of three members of Harvard's 50th reunion class of 1961 to be inducted as an honorary Phi Beta Kappa member. Induction into Alpha Iota of Massachusetts, the Harvard College chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, requires a "record of outstanding scholarly achievement, showing both depth of study and breadth of intellectual interest." The society's annual Literary Exercises officially began commencement week, complete with a fife-and-drum procession to Sanders Theatre. As reported by Harvard Magazine, "Dr. Langston's Harvard honor was greeted with particularly loud and sustained applause."

An internationally renowned cornea expert, Dr. Langston pioneered studies in the efficacy and toxicity profiles of antivirals in animal models, and later translated these findings successfully to humans. Her expertise is sought in national and international health policy for the treatment of ophthalmic disease, including issues of viral latency, diagnosis, public health and clinical treatment. Former Chair of the FDA Ophthalmic Drug Advisory

Committee, she now serves on the President's Commission on Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Committee at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Langston's single-authored text, *The Manual of Ocular Diagnosis and Therapy*, comprises six editions

and had been published in seven languages.

As one of only five women in her 105-member medical school class, Dr. Langston went on to become the first woman accepted into Harvard's 200-plus year old Ophthalmology Residency Training Program. As a condition of acceptance, Dr. Langston was required to complete a two-year pre-residency fellowship, a prerequisite not imposed upon her male colleagues. She became the first female fellow in Dr. Claes Dohlman's corneal fellowship program and, in 1973, was appointed the first director of Mass. Eye and Ear's Cornea and External Disease Service. In her memorable 2008 Mariana Mead Lecture, Dr. Langston recounted her experience in training as a physician and cornea specialist at Mass. Eye and Ear. (Visit www.MassEyeAndEar.org/for-professionals/ophthalmology, *Eyewitness, Issue #10*, to view an excerpt from her speech.) Today, 60 percent of HMS Ophthalmology residents are women.

An Eye-stounding Success!

More than 220 participants from around the world enjoyed stimulating scientific exchange and lively lectures at **The 27th Cornea**

Biennial Conference, co-hosted by Schepens Eye Research Institute and the Mass. Eye and Ear, with support from Boston University School of Medicine, and Tufts University Center for Vision Research. The highly popular conference explores current basic and laboratory research developments of the cornea and ocular surface, and includes session topics on Ocular Pain and Sensation, Dry Eye and Ocular Surface, Infection, Inflammation, Angiogenesis, Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine. This year's event, which included dinner at the Harvard Club, featured 29 distinguished national and international speakers, and raised over \$100,000 for eye research. Feedback from participants was exceptionally enthusiastic.

Eric Pierce, MD, PhD, director of the new Ocular Genomics Institute, and HMS ophthalmology chair, **Joan Miller, MD** were featured speakers at a meeting of the Boston chapter of Foundation Fighting Blindness (FFB) held on October 1 in Meltzer Auditorium. Dr. Pierce updated the audience on, "Genetics of and Genetic Therapies for Inherited Retinal Diseases." Mass. Eye and Ear's Berman-Gund Laboratory, for which Dr. Pierce is Associate Director, is named in part, after Foundation Fighting Blindness Chairman Gordon Gund. Dr. Pierce has served on FFB's Scientific Advisory Board since 2003 and as chair since 2005. Dr. Miller presented on the topic, "Neuroprotection in Retinal Diseases: a fresh start."

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the former President of India, toured Schepens Eye Research Institute on Sept. 27. Dr. Kalam, who was attending a lecture series at Harvard Medical School, toured several Harvard labs during his visit to the United States. During the tour, Dr. Kalam spoke with **Michael Young, PhD** and **Dong Feng Chen, MD, PhD**, about stem cell research related to retinal diseases. He also met with **Leo Kim, MD, PhD**, and **Magali Saint-Geniez, PhD**, about current research projects, and with **Premnandhini Satgunam, OD, PhD**, about low vision research projects related to retinal disease vision loss.

In July, **Michael Gilmore, PhD**, the Sir William Osler Professor in Ophthalmology at HMS, co-chaired the 2011 Gordon Conference on Microbial Adhesion and Signal Transduction, a premier meeting on the behavior of microbes in nature, in association with biotic and abiotic surfaces, and host cells. This international venue features distinguished speakers and rising stars representing numerous scientific disciplines (molecular biologists, nano engineers, geneticists, biochemists, immunologists, cell biologists, animal and plant physiologists, chemists, theoreticians, and computer modelers), and promotes interdisciplinary collaborations among scientists trained in a wide variety of fields.

A group of four HMS faculty, including **Reza Dana, MD, MPH, MSc** (herpetic keratitis), **Ivana Kim, MD** (anti-VEGF therapies), **Douglas Rhee, MD** (canal-based surgeries), and **James Chodosh, MD, MPH** (herpetic eye disease), shared their subspecialty expertise as guest speakers at the 117th Congress of the French Society of Ophthalmology held in May. The conference drew 250 participants and enabled the exchange of research and insights with an international ophthalmology community.

Third-year ophthalmology residents **Nancy Huynh, MD** and **Yao Liu, MD** were selected to make presentations at the Women in Ophthalmology (WIO) Summer Symposium, held in August 2011. Dr. Huynh presented a poster on the topic, "Ocular involvement in hospitalized patients with Candidemia: analysis at a Boston tertiary care center." Dr. Liu presented a Complicated Case presentation on "Management of phacomorphic and neovascular glaucoma in an elderly patient." This is the first year that the WIO has accepted abstracts for posters and complicated case presentations.

The Tear Film & Ocular Surface Society (TFOS) issued a report in March detailing the conclusions and recommendations of the International Workshop on Meibomian Gland Dysfunction (MGD). The MGD report, which

provides a global consensus on the definition, classification, diagnosis and treatment of the disease, required over two years to complete and involved the efforts of more than 50 leading clinical and basic research experts from around the world. The report has been published in a special issue of *Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science (IOVS)*. According to TFOS Co-Founder and President, **David Sullivan, PhD**, all nine chapters of the report were among the 18 most frequently read articles in IOVS between July 2010 and June 2011, (the report was only available for three of those months). A downloadable version of the document may be obtained through a link on the TFOS website at www.TearFilm.org

Mass. Eye and Ear Space Renovations

Space renovations continue at a fast clip to keep pace with Mass. Eye and Ear's expanding clinical staff. A state-of-the-art renovation and expansion of the ninth floor neuro-ophthalmology suite was completed at the end of September. Glaucoma faculty are now comfortably situated in their new office suite on the 8th floor, while the associated relocation of cornea, uveitis and retina faculty nears completion.

Pending the finalization of expansion plans for new Mass. Eye and Ear research facilities, the laboratories of Richard Masland, PhD, Tatjana Jakobs, MD, and Douglas Rhee, MD have been relocated to the Schepens campus in order to accommodate the newly established Eric Pierce laboratory and Ocular Genomics Institute. Eliot Berson, MD, Director of the Berman Gund Laboratory for the Study of Retinal Degenerations is also making accommodations for the new Institute recruits.

Have a program or course to publicize? We would be happy to list it in the newsletter. Contact us at eyenews@meei.harvard.edu.

Alumni News

HMS glaucoma fellow ('84-'85), **David J. Palmer, MD**, Clinical Assistant Professor at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago, was inducted as president of the Chicago Ophthalmological Society, an organization which promotes educational opportunities for area ophthalmologists in practice and training. Dr. Palmer was also reinstated as the chairman of the Eye Care America-Senior Eye Care Program, a public service program of the American Academy of Ophthalmology promoting free or low cost eye care by volunteer ophthalmologists regionally and nationally. Dr. Palmer is in private practice in Chicago and Glenview, Illinois.

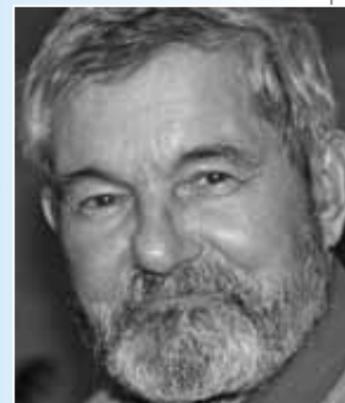
Former Mass. Eye and Ear/HMS research fellow, **Toru Nakazawa, MD, PhD** ('03-'06) has been promoted to Professor, Advanced Ophthalmic Medicine, at Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine. Dr. Nakazawa worked with Joan Miller, MD and Larry Benowitz, PhD during his fellowship training.

HMS alumnus **Rodrigo Alvarez, MD** has been appointed Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. Dr. Alvarez worked with Joan Miller, MD and John Loewenstein, MD at Mass. Eye and Ear while on sabbatical.

Morriss M. Henry, MD, ophthalmology resident (class of '59), was honored in April with the Asklepion Award from the Arkansas Medical Society (AMS). The annual award recognizes an AMS member who "promotes the art and science of medicine and the betterment of public health; embodies the values of the medical profession through leadership, service, excellence, integrity and ethical behavior; and serves the community through dedicated medical practice." Dr. Henry is a practicing ophthalmologist in Fayetteville, Arkansas, a past AMS president and a former (20-year) member of the Arkansas Legislature where he played a significant role in adding the organ donation designation to the Arkansas driver's license.

In Memoriam

Ephraim Friedman, MD, ophthalmologist and past President of Mass. Eye and Ear, passed away on June 18, 2011. Described by colleagues as a true renaissance man, Dr. Friedman was a skilled clinician and retinal surgeon, sculptor, educator, researcher and administrator.



Dr. Friedman completed his residency at HMS/Mass. Eye and Ear under Dr. David Cogan in 1961, followed by a research fellowship in the Howe Laboratory of Ophthalmology. He authored 36 scholarly articles focusing on the circulation in the eye, and developed the vascular model for the pathogenesis of age-related macular degeneration (AMD). In 1965, he became a professor and chair of the Boston University Medical School ophthalmology department. He served as Dean of the Boston University Medical School (1970-1974) and Dean of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine (1974-1983) before returning to Mass. Eye and Ear as President (1983-1990). He retired from administration in 1990.

In 2006, a gift from the Friedman Family Foundation initiated the Ephraim Friedman Lecture in honor of Dr. Friedman's extraordinary teaching, research and service to the field of ophthalmology and AMD. On the occasion of his 80th birthday, another family legacy gift was established: the Solman and Libe Friedman Professorship in Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School. Named for Dr. Friedman's parents, the professorship was made possible through a very generous gift from the Friedman Family Foundation with contributions from additional donors and the Foundation of Mass. Eye and Ear Infirmary. ■

Former HMS/Mass. Eye and Ear ophthalmology resident, **Mitchell Friedlaender, MD** passed away in July 2011 at the age of 65. Dr. Friedlaender was head of the ophthalmology division and director of the laser Vision Center at Scripps Clinic in La Jolla, California. An adjunct professor at The Scripps Research Institute, Dr. Friedlaender was also a frequent lecturer and consultant around the world. In 1980, he founded the Aspen Corneal Society and the Pacific Ophthalmic Forum. He is the author of several books, hundreds of scientific articles and, since 1999, was editor-in-chief of the journal, *International Ophthalmology Clinics of North America*.

Ruth S. Pollen, benefactor to Mass. Eye and Ear and wife of the late Dr. Abraham Pollen, passed away in June. Mrs. Pollen and her husband (until his death in 1994) actively supported Mass. Eye and Ear. In the 1980s, their generous philanthropy and fundraising efforts were pivotal in building and equipping the Rare Book Room of the Howe Library. Through their generosity, the hospital was also able to add to the collection of rare books and current textbooks, a tradition Mrs. Pollen continued until her recent death. Dr. Abraham Pollen, completed his ophthalmology residency at Mass. Eye and Ear in 1945, then joined the department where he remained on staff for three decades. In 1968, he co-founded The Ophthalmic Associates, later renamed Boston Eye Physicians and Surgeons, P.C. ■

Notice of Erratum: *A profile of our educational affiliation with the Cambridge Health Alliance was inadvertently omitted from the hard copy report (page 35) of Frontiers in Ophthalmology. This has been corrected in the online edition of the report, which can be viewed at www.MassEyeandEar.org/specialties/ophthalmology. We sincerely apologize for the error.*



SAVE THE DATES!

HMS DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

ALUMNI, ANNUAL, GRADUATION WEEKEND, JUNE 8-10

Friday, June 8, 2012

HMS Department of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting

Liberty Hotel (Ballroom), 215 Charles Street, Boston, 7:30am-4:30pm

Mariana Mead Lecturer: Joan O'Brien, MD, Scheie Eye Institute, U. Penn.

Distinguished Alumni Award: TBA

Tour new Mass. Eye and Ear facilities, 4:30pm-5:30pm

Annual and Alumni Meeting Reception/Dinner, 6:00pm-9:45pm

Saturday, June 9, 2012

Alumni Reunion Meeting

Mass. Eye and Ear Infirmary, 243 Charles Street, Boston, MA, 7:00am-3:00pm

Celebrating the graduating classes of 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, and 2007. To join the Alumni Reunion committee, please contact Melissa Paul, Chief Development Officer, at (617) 573-4168 or melissa_paul@meei.harvard.edu

Residents and Fellows Graduation, Meltzer Auditorium, 4:00pm

Sunday, June 10, 2012

Alumni Reunion Special Events - TBA

Visit www.MassEyeAndEar.org/alumnireunion for event updates.