

EYE WITNESS

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Revolutionary gene therapy treatment “comes of age”



On March 20, 2018, Massachusetts Eye and Ear made medical history by performing the first FDA-approved gene therapy procedure for patients with inherited blindness. The procedure was performed by Jason Comander, MD, PhD, Associate Director of the Inherited Retinal Disorders Service at Mass. Eye and Ear, on a 13-year-old boy, Jack Hogan, from Fairhaven, New Jersey.

The treatment, commercially identified as Luxturna™, was developed by Spark

Therapeutics and approved in December by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for patients aged 12 months and older. Luxturna™ has been shown to improve visual function in children and adults with inherited retinal disease caused by mutations in the gene *RPE65*. It is the first and only FDA-approved gene therapy treatment for an inherited disease.

This is truly a pivotal moment in medicine, and one that holds exciting promise to make precision-based medicine an integral and routine component of patient care. Luxturna™ is the culmination of decades of work by many individuals to bring gene therapy from science fiction to clinical reality for patients with inherited retinal degenerations; early success with the therapy was demonstrated by researchers at the University of Pennsylvania, Perelman School of Medicine, led by Jean Bennett, MD, and Al Maguire, MD.

We are thrilled that Mass. Eye and Ear was selected as just one of eight medical centers in the United States and the only site in New England certified to offer this life-changing therapy to patients. This distinction underscores our long, successful history of developing and delivering translational retinal therapies, and our ongoing experience with developing gene and genetic therapies in the Harvard Ophthalmology Ocular Genomics Institute (OGI) at Mass. Eye and Ear.

While Luxturna™ is only for patients known to have mutations in the *RPE65* gene, our goal is to continue to work hard behind-the-scenes to leverage this success and accelerate the development of similar gene therapies for the many blinding retinal diseases that still afflict our patients. Several are being developed and tested in the OGI and the Inherited Retinal Disorders Service, led by OGI director, Eric Pierce, MD, PhD.

In talking about performing surgery on his young patient, Dr. Comander said, “It is an honor to be involved in this exciting procedure following FDA approval, and to play a role in allowing a 13-year-old boy an opportunity to enjoy improved vision for years to come... I am so excited the time has come when we can offer this ground breaking therapy to our patients, who are truly in need of our help.”

I agree wholeheartedly, and believe this seminal moment in gene therapy and in ophthalmology treatments is a harbinger of the innovation to come.

Joan W. Miller, MD

Chief and Chair

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Dual faculty honors for Eric Pierce, MD, PhD

Eric A. Pierce, MD, PhD, has been promoted to Professor of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School and named the William F. Chatlos Professor of Ophthalmology. The dual honors reflect Dr. Pierce's breadth of accomplishments as an exemplary clinician scientist, investigator, mentor, and department leader. Renowned for his pioneering research on inherited retinal degenerations (IRDs), Dr. Pierce and colleagues discovered several novel IRD disease genes (*RP1*, *TTC21B*, *NMNAT1*, and *IFT172*). From these discoveries, he developed novel methods, including genetic sequencing and gene therapy methods, to study retinal degenerations. A devoted teacher and mentor, Dr. Pierce also holds several key leadership appointments. He directs the Harvard Ophthalmology Ocular Genomics Institute (OGI) as well as the Berman-Gund Laboratory for Retinal Degenerations, the Inherited Retinal Disorders Service, and the Inherited Retinal Degenerations Fellowship at Mass. Eye and Ear.

Dr. Pierce's groundbreaking contributions to ophthalmology date back to his early years as a trainee. During his pediatric ophthalmology fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital, he was instrumental in elucidating the role of vascular endothelial growth factor in retinal neovascularization, which helped form the scientific foundation for current antiangiogenic therapies for disorders such as neovascular age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and diabetic retinopathy. Following several years on the faculty at Boston Children's Hospital, he was recruited to the Scheie Eye Institute at the University of Pennsylvania.

At Scheie, he developed a research program focused on the molecular bases of IRDs. He also helped create a genetic eye disease clinic at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). At CHOP he played a key role in establishing the safety and efficacy of gene therapy for the *RPE65* genetic form of IRD. This work came full circle in December 2017 when the FDA granted approval of Luxturna™ (Spark Therapeutics), the first directly administered gene therapy approved in the United States that targets a disease caused by mutations in a specific gene. Luxturna marks a milestone in gene therapy and its potential to bring precision medicine to bear on a wide range of blinding diseases.

Recruited to Harvard Ophthalmology/Mass. Eye and Ear in 2011, Dr. Pierce has developed a successful clinical and translational research program to elucidate the molecular genetics of IRDs. Through his multiple leadership roles, he has brought a heightened focus to translational research, modern genomic technologies, and clinical trials of novel genetic therapies. As Director of the OGI, he initially recruited an exceptional team of researchers, postdoctoral fellows, and administrative staff, including **Luk Vandenberghe, PhD**; **Jason Comander, MD, PhD**; and **Rachel Huckfeldt, MD, PhD**. Since then, he has worked closely with Harvard Ophthalmology Chair, Joan W. Miller, MD, to build the OGI into a multi-institutional center of excellence that today provides advanced genomics and gene therapy techniques to vision researchers across Harvard.

To expand the use of novel genetic therapies to a broad array of ophthalmic disorders, Dr. Pierce and Dr. Vandenberghe are working with members of the OGI to develop adeno-associated virus-mediated gene therapies for a number of inherited retinal degenerations. In addition, Dr. Pierce and clinician scientist colleagues Drs. Comander and Huckfeldt are performing several industry-sponsored studies of gene therapies within the Inherited Retinal Disorders Service.

In an effort to improve diagnostic testing for patients, Dr. Pierce, **Janey Wiggs, MD, PhD**, and colleagues have developed a comprehensive genetic diagnostic test for genetic eye disorders, including IRDs, early-onset glaucoma, and primary optic atrophy. In 2013, Mass. Eye and Ear became the first facility in the Northeast to offer CLIA-certified genetic testing to patients with inherited eye diseases.

Continued on page 5



Pierce/Harman Photography

Research innovations

- Identified the *RP1*, *TTC21B*, *NMNAT1*, and *IFT172* genes as IRD disease genes
- Generated a photoreceptor sensory cilia proteome database to facilitate identification of IRD genes
- Developed next-generation sequencing-based genetic testing for inherited eye disorders
- Continues as an investigator on several clinical trials of gene-based therapies for IRDs



Pierce/Harman Photography



John Fernandez, Alice McPherson, MD, and Joan W. Miller, MD
 Boston, MA—On October 4, 2017, the department celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Mass. Eye and Ear Retina Service. The reception also paid tribute to the life and legacy of Dr. Charles Schepens, who founded the service. Alice McPherson, MD, was the first woman fellow to train under Dr. Schepens.



Cambridge, MA—On November 6, 2017, the Harvard Ophthalmology Infectious Disease Institute (IDI) hosted the 5th Annual Boston Area Antibiotic Resistance Network (BAARN) meeting, which featured lectures, poster presentations, and networking opportunities. **Michael Gilmore, PhD**, founder of BAARN, discussed the opportunities and challenges of using targeted antimicrobial delivery as an alternative to systemic use for many infections. Additional presentations were made by IDI members **Paulo Bispo, PhD**, and **Daria Van Tyne, PhD**.



Dr. Dohlman (center) with some of his first fellows: (left to right) Stephen Klyce, PhD; James Aquavella, MD; Peter Laibson, MD; and Jules Baum, MD

Boston, MA—With record-high attendance, the 30th Biennial Cornea Conference on October 12-14, 2017, brought together leading experts in cornea and ocular surface disease. Kazuo Tsubota, MD, PhD, Professor and Chair of Ophthalmology at Keio University School of Medicine, presented the Claes H. Dohlman Lecture. **Reza Dana, MD, MSc, MPH**, Claes H. Dohlman Professor of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School, presented the J. Wayne Streilein Lecture. The event also included a special program in honor of Dr. Dohlman, and his 60 years of contributions to corneal science and education.

“Dr. Dohlman’s opus of research and clinical work has benefited millions of people around the world, and his legacy of knowledge thrives today in the hundreds of fellows, students, and colleagues he has trained and mentored over the years. Harvard Medical School—and indeed, the whole world—is a far better place today because of his remarkable talent, contributions, and character,” said Chief and Chair Joan W. Miller, MD.



Harvard Ophthalmology residents at the Court of Two Sisters, New Orleans

New Orleans, LA—More than 50 Harvard Ophthalmology faculty members, representing five affiliates, participated as course instructors, panelists, moderators, and lecturers during the American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting, held November 11-14, 2017. **Reza Dana, MD, MSc, MPH**, Mass. Eye and Ear; **Mary Daly, MD**, VA Boston Healthcare System; **Paolo Antonio Silva, MD**, Beetham Eye Institute at Joslin Diabetes Center, along with 11 alumni received AAO awards for their outstanding contributions to vision research, education, and service. The event coincided with the Harvard Ophthalmology/Mass. Eye and Ear alumni reception, which drew nearly 200 guests from across the country.



Updates in education and clinical care

STEM internship in regenerative ophthalmology expands in 2018

Michael Young, PhD,

Co-director of the Harvard Ophthalmology Ocular Regenerative Medicine Institute, launched a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) internship program in regenerative ophthalmology for high school students. The interns attend faculty research lectures and visit department laboratories and facilities. Three students from Revere High School participated in the program in 2017. For summer 2018, Dr. Young plans to broaden participation to students who are 16 years or older from all local schools.



Shire Scholar Program offers fellowships in cornea and anterior segment

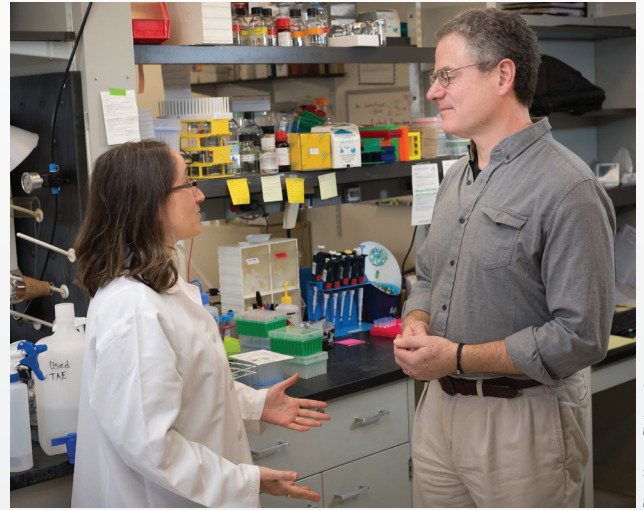
Mass. Eye and Ear partnered with Shire Pharmaceuticals to sponsor the Shire Scholar in Cornea and Anterior Segment Translational Research program. The program provides protected time for early-stage researchers and/or clinician scientists to train with Harvard Ophthalmology leaders in the field. Current or prospective cornea fellows pursuing translational research at Mass. Eye and Ear can apply in spring 2018.

Boston Children's Ophthalmology opens in NY

Boston Children's Ophthalmology, a new pediatric ophthalmology practice in Hawthorne, NY, (40 Saw Mill River Road) opened in December, 2017. Affiliated with Children's Hospital Ophthalmology Foundation and Boston Children's Hospital Department of Ophthalmology, the new Westchester County practice further solidifies collective efforts to provide world-class care to pediatric patients in the northeast and in the New York metropolitan area. **Carolyn Graeber, MD**, provides care for all ophthalmic conditions in children, including strabismus, ptosis, cataracts, and glaucoma.

Dual faculty honors for Eric Pierce, MD, PhD

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Research fellow Revital Bronstein, PhD, with Eric Pierce, MD, PhD

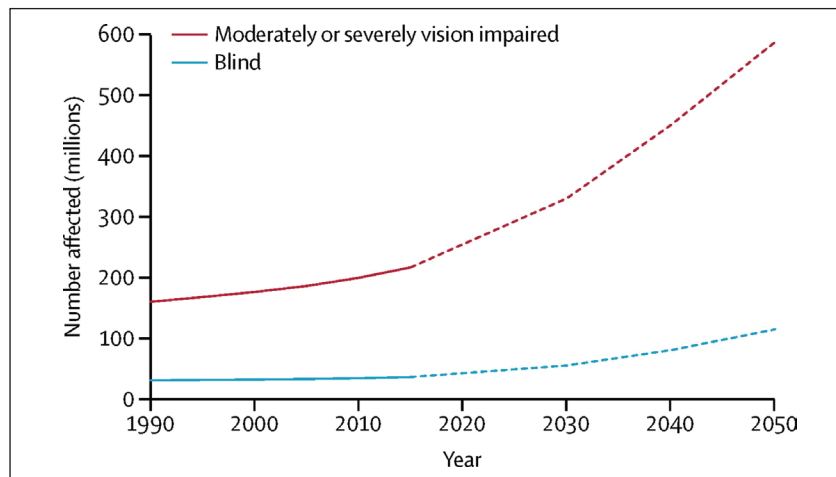
Dr. Pierce is excited to work with a talented group of investigators in the Ocular Genomics Institute to help bring precision medicine to patients with inherited eye disorders. "We're hoping to help bring many more gene and genetically-informed therapies to our patients," he says.

A devoted teacher and mentor, Dr. Pierce directs the Inherited Eye Disease Fellowship and helps to train postdoctoral fellows and medical students in his laboratory. His achievements have been recognized with several distinguished awards, including the Crystal Ball Award from the Foundation for Retina Research (2014), Nelson Trust Award for Retinitis Pigmentosa from Research to Prevent Blindness (2014), and the Alcon Research Institute Award (2016).

"Dr. Pierce is a true pioneer in the area of inherited retinal degenerations, and has helped position the department as a global leader in IRDs, gene-based therapy, and genomics research. His work holds exciting promise as we continue to expand our knowledge of these diseases and move toward a future of precision medicine."

—Joan W. Miller, MD

Global vision impairment increases: Time to scale up



Global trends and predictions of numbers of people who are blind or moderately or severely vision impaired, from 1990–2050

The number of people with avoidable blindness due to a preventable or treatable cause is projected to increase from now until 2050, according to a systemic review and meta-analysis published August 2017 in *Lancet Global Health*. Researchers, including author **John Kempen, MD, MPH, MHS, PhD**, and collaborator **Reza Dana, MD, MSc, MPH**, Mass. Eye and Ear, found that more people are affected by vision loss because of increases in population, specifically those who are 60-70 years old.

“Global and regional prevalence estimates for blindness and vision impairment are important for the development of public health policies,” said Dr. Kempen. “Observations from our study highlight the need to scale up vision impairment efforts at all levels.” This study was funded by the Brien Holden Vision Institute.

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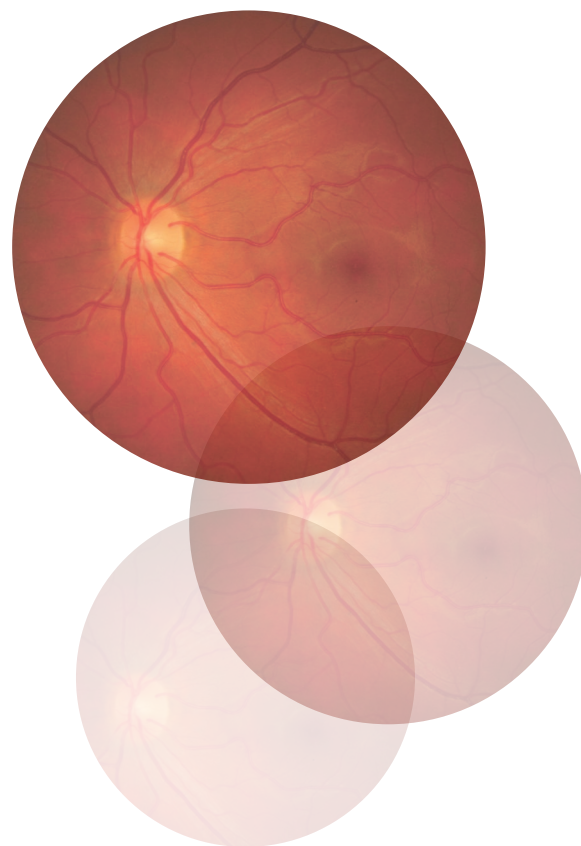
Under development: Biomarkers for age-related macular degeneration

Metabolomics can be used to identify potential blood biomarkers for age-related macular degeneration (AMD), including its level of severity, according to a report published September 12, 2017 in *Ophthalmology*. Mass. Eye and Ear researchers **Deeba Husain, MD**; **Joan W. Miller, MD**; and **Inês Lains, MD, MSc**, studied blood samples from 90 patients with AMD and identified 87 metabolites that were significantly different when compared to those without AMD. They also noted varying characteristics between the blood profiles of each stage of the disease. The most significant metabolites were involved in lipid metabolism, particularly via the glycerophospholipid pathway.

These findings may lead to earlier diagnoses and better prognostic information for patients and, potentially, new targets for AMD treatment. This research was made possible by the Miller Retina Research Fund, Mass. Eye and Ear; the Champalimaud Vision Award; Research to Prevent Blindness; and the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology/Harvard Medical School Portugal Program.

Emerging treatments for glaucoma

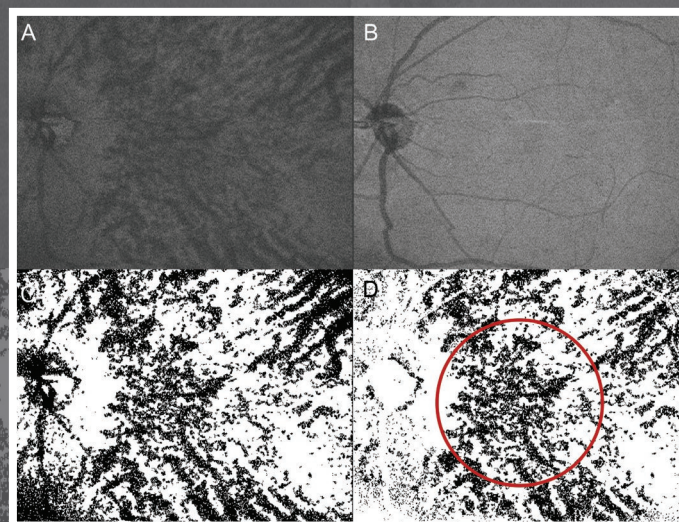
Two new FDA-approved glaucoma drugs will become available in early 2018: latanoprostene bunod (Vyzulta™, Bausch + Lomb and Nicox) and netarsudil (Rhopressa™, Aerie Pharmaceuticals). Both were approved for the reduction of intraocular pressure (IOP) in patients with open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension. Vyzulta™ is the first prostaglandin analog with one of its metabolites being nitric oxide. **Louis Pasquale, MD**, Director of the Glaucoma Service at Mass. Eye and Ear, and collaborators isolated the effect of nitric oxide on IOP in mice and lambs, which offered insight into the novel mechanism of action (Muenster & Lieb et al., *IOVS*, 2017). These drugs may be a welcome addition for glaucoma patients, especially those who are otherwise facing more invasive laser or incisional surgical procedures.



Imaging may offer new insights into progression of diabetic choroidopathy

Choroidal vascular density and volume are significantly reduced in more advanced stages of diabetic retinopathy, according to a report published in the *American Journal of Ophthalmology*. The research team, led by **John B. Miller, MD**, Mass. Eye and Ear, noted that new imaging modalities, such as swept source optical coherence tomography, may help researchers understand how choroidal vessel disease contributes to diabetic eye disease and predict both disease progression and treatment response.

FIGURE: Representative example of swept source optical coherence tomography (SS-OCT) en face images and image processing. (A) Representative en face SS-OCT image 70 mm below Bruch membrane; the optic disc and retinal vessels are visible in addition to the choroidal vasculature. (B) En face SS-OCT image at the level of the Bruch membrane showing optic nerve and retinal blood vessels that is used as a mask and applied to all subsequent images. (C) The same image after binarization. (D) The same representative image after masking. The optic nerve and blood vessels are no longer visible after masking. The red circle is 6 mm in diameter centered on the fovea; this region is used for macular subanalysis.



Regulating genetic expression may halt progression for inherited retinal disorders

A novel modifier gene therapy platform, developed by **Neena Haider, PhD**, Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass. Eye and Ear, has the potential to be broadly effective in restoring retinal integrity and function across a range of genetically diverse inherited retinal disorders and other degenerative retinal diseases. Licensed by Ocugen, Inc., the ground-breaking technology encompasses the targeted delivery and expression of certain nuclear hormone receptors that are expressed naturally in retinal tissue. These receptors play a vital role in regulating retinal cell development, maturation, metabolism, visual cycle function, and survival. In multiple animal models, Dr. Haider has shown that modifier gene therapy can stabilize retinal cells by regulating the expression of key genes required for proper retinal function. While single-gene replacements have shown tremendous promise in rare retinal diseases, they are highly specific and cannot cover the multitude of disease-causing genetic defects. In comparison, genetic modifiers represent a powerful and broader means of halting disease progression and improving outcomes for people with blinding retinal diseases.

Coming up: Harvard Ophthalmology at ARVO 2018

Imaging in the Eye Conference: April 28 | Annual Meeting: April 29 – May 3

Join Harvard Ophthalmology faculty, alumni, and trainees in Honolulu, Hawaii, for the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) annual conference and meeting. Basic and clinical researchers from around the globe will come together to discuss the latest advances in vision science and share strategies to inform the public, patients, and policy makers on their important sight-saving work.



AWARD LECTURES



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Friedenwald Award Lecture

What Escher and Bach teach us about immunology
Sunday, April 29 | 11:45 am – 12:30 pm

Reza Dana, MD, MSc, MPH, FARVO, the Claes H. Dohlman Professor of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School and a Mass. Eye and Ear alumnus (class of '95), is internationally recognized in the field of corneal immunology and transplantation biology.

Proctor Award Lecture

From observations in the retina clinic to insights into pathophysiology
Sunday, April 29 | 10:45 – 11:30 am

Harvard Ophthalmology alumnus **Samuel Jacobson, MD, PhD, FARVO** (class of '80) is one of two Proctor Medal recipients (along with Artur V. Cideciyan, PhD, FARVO). Dr. Jacobson—now Professor of Ophthalmology at Penn Medicine, Scheie Eye Institute—is a pioneer in the application of gene-based therapies, among others, for diseases previously considered as incurable.

Weisenfeld Award Lecture

Discovering mechanisms in the changing and diverse pathology of ROP
Sunday, April 29 | 5:15 – 6:00 pm

Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass. Eye and Ear alumna **Mary Elizabeth Hartnett, MD, FACS, FARVO** (class of '89) has significantly advanced our understanding of retinopathy of prematurity. She is Professor of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences at the Moran Eye Center, University of Utah, where she studies the mechanisms of normal and aberrant angiogenesis.



NETWORKING EVENTS

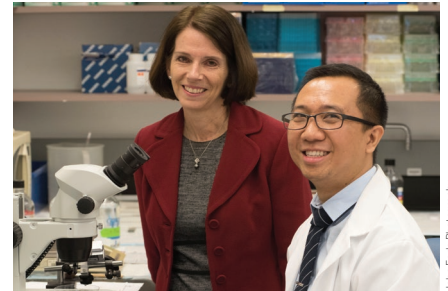
Harvard Ophthalmology and Mass. Eye and Ear Annual Alumni Reception

Halekulani on the Beach at Waikiki, Honolulu, HI
Sunday, April 29 | 8:00 – 10:00 pm

Annual Women in Eye and Vision Research (WEAVR) Luncheon

Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI
Tuesday, May 1 | 1:30 – 3:00 pm

HONORS



John Earle Photography

Dr. David L. Epstein Award (ARVO Foundation)

- Mentor: **Janey Wiggs, MD, PhD, FARVO**, Mass. Eye and Ear
- Mentee: Ryan Collantes, MD, Harvard Medical School

Project: The genetics of childhood glaucoma in the Philippines: genetic testing, gene discovery and implications for treatment

ARVO Foundation Honorees

- **Shigeru Kinoshita, MD, PhD, FARVO**, a former Harvard Ophthalmology Visiting Professor
- **Alice R. McPherson, MD**, Mass. Eye and Ear alumna (class of '60)

New Dowling Society Member

- **Ronald E. P. Frenkel, MD**, Mass. Eye and Ear alumnus (class of '88)

2017 Collaborative Research Fellowship (ARVO Foundation)

- **Emiliano Teran-Bobadilla, PhD**, Universidad Autonoma de Sinaloa in Mexico
Collaborator/mentor: **Russell Woods, PhD**, Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass. Eye and Ear
Project: Information acquisition as a biomarker to evaluate vision impairment due to glaucoma



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Awards, grants, and honors



Pictured: Mathew Levine (Consultant, AMDF), Paul F. Gariepy (Secretary and Trustee), Dr. Haider, Joe Kennedy (Representative), Jennifer Williams (Marketing Director), Mark Torrey (Vice President and Trustee), and John (Chip) Goehring (President of AMDF, Board of Trustee).

AMERICAN MACULAR DEGENERATION FOUNDATION

Neena Haider, PhD, Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass. Eye and Ear, received a \$150,000 grant over two years for her work on AMD.

BOSTON FOUNDATION

Patricia D'Amore, PhD, MBA, and **Eric Ng, PhD**, Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass. Eye and Ear, received \$354,300 from the May J. Wikstron Fund for one year to develop a novel small molecule for the prevention and treatment of dry AMD.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OPHTHALMOLOGY FOUNDATION

Several Harvard Ophthalmology faculty members at Boston Children's Hospital received 2018 Discovery Awards, which include \$25,000 over one year to support research projects:

- **Anne Fulton, MD**: The leading disease front and preferred retinal locus in Stargardt disease
- **Aparna Raghuram, OD, PhD**: Concussion and learning disabilities
- **Mary Whitman, MD, PhD**: Genetic causes of ptosis and oculomotor synkinesis
- **Carolyn Wu, MD**: Ongoing amblyopia treatment studies
- **Gena Heidary, MD, PhD**: Ongoing Saccadic Vector Optokinetic Perimetry (SVOP) studies

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DOHLMAN SOCIETY (HARVARD OPHTHALMOLOGY)

Research fellow **Miguel González, MD, PhD**, and cornea faculty member **Hajirah Saeed, MD**, co-won the 2017 Claes Dohlmán Fellowship Award. This award recognizes outstanding fellows/junior faculty training in the area of cornea, refractive surgery, and external diseases.

EDITAS MEDICINE

Qin Liu, MD, PhD, and **Eric Pierce, MD, PhD**, Mass. Eye and Ear, are co-PIs of a Sponsored Research Agreement Award in the amount of \$1,709,705 over three years for their project, "CRISPR/Cas gene editing for USH2A associated inherited retinal degeneration."

FIGHT FOR SIGHT - STREILEIN OCULAR IMMUNOLOGY FOUNDATION

François Lebreton, PhD, Mass. Eye and Ear, received a 2017 Grant-in-Aid Award for \$22,500 to conduct a pilot study of the functional genomics of conjunctivitis *Streptococcus pneumoniae*.



FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS (FFB)

Luk H. Vandenberghe, PhD, Mass. Eye and Ear, and **Rob Collin, PhD**, Radboud University Medical Center, collaborator and lead author on the paper, "In vitro and in vivo rescue of aberrant splicing in CEP290-associated LCA by antisense oligonucleotide delivery," received the 2017 Ed Gollob Board of Directors' Award during the September FFB Investing in Cures Summit. According to FFB, Vandenberghe's and Collins' work represents "outstanding progress in research that's bringing us closer to sight-saving treatments and cures." Dr. Vandenberghe is Director of the Grousbeck Gene Therapy Center at Mass. Eye and Ear and Associate Director of the Harvard Ophthalmology Ocular Genomics Institute. He is a leader in the design and development of novel gene therapy vectors for ocular indications and is currently working to advance retinal gene therapy.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Gabriel Kreiman, PhD, Boston Children's Hospital, received \$300,000 over two years for his project, "EAGER: Top-down processes to extract meaning from images."

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH/NATIONAL EYE INSTITUTE

- **Jing Chen, PhD**, Boston Children's Hospital, received an R01 grant (\$2,212,500 over five years) for her project, "Wnt signaling-mediated control of blood retinal barrier."

- **Bruce Ksander, PhD**, Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass. Eye and Ear, received \$275,698 for one year to investigate ABCB5-positive stem cells as a potential therapy for limbal stem cell deficiency.

EyePhone LLC received a Small Business Innovation Research Phase II award (\$950,000 over two years) to complete the development of a mobile app to measure strabismus. EyePhone LLC was founded by Co-Principal Investigators, **Gang Luo, PhD**, and **Kevin Houston, OD, MSc**, along with **Shrinivas Pundlik, PhD**, and **Matteo Tomasi, PhD**—all from Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass. Eye and Ear.

- **David Sullivan, PhD**, received an NIH R21 grant in the amount of \$541,750 over two years to evaluate cationic amphiphilic drugs for the treatment for Meibomian gland dysfunction.

ROBERT MACHEMER FOUNDATION

Mass. Eye and Ear vitreoretinal fellow **James "Tony" Stefater, MD, PhD**, received the 2017 Vitreoretinal Research Scholarship, which included \$20,000 to support the development of a novel postoperative intraocular retinal tamponade agent.

For the latest news, research publications, faculty updates, awards, and more, visit: eye.hms.harvard.edu



DR. CAROLYN KLOEK PARTICIPATING IN NEW HMS PEER-LEARNING MENTORING PROGRAM

Harvard Medical School adapted the Brigham and Women's Faculty Mentoring Leadership program for mid-career and senior faculty physician and scientist mentors to enhance their mentoring effectiveness. Recognized as an emerging leader and outstanding educator by several organizations, including Women in Ophthalmology, Carolyn Kloek, MD, is participating in the inaugural cohort for the new HMS Faculty Mentoring Leadership Certificate Program. This peer-learning experience commenced on November 8, 2017 and includes interactive, case-based sessions with a cohort of faculty from various disciplines. Participation in this program leads to HMS Certification of Leadership in Mentoring.

Advocacy

Washington, D.C.—As part of the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR) Emerging Vision Scientists Program, **Neena Haider, PhD**, and **Hajirah Saeed, MD**, met with Congress on September 13-14, 2017 to advocate for vision research. Dr. Haider attended this event with the American Macular Degeneration Foundation (AMDF). Dr. Saeed presented her research on the economic and societal effects of Stevens-Johnson syndrome. She also met with staff from the offices of Massachusetts Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey, and Massachusetts Representative Stephen Lynch.



Dr. Saeed (right) meeting with an aide in Senator Elizabeth Warren's office

Faculty updates

RECRUITS

Efrén González, MD

Ocular Oncology Service (Director), Boston Children's Hospital



Dr. González completed two ophthalmology residencies (Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León in Mexico and Boston University) and three clinical fellowships (in vitreoretinal surgery at the Valley Retina Institute, McAllen, TX; in ocular oncology at the University of Toronto; and in pediatric ophthalmology and adult strabismus at BCH). In

addition to directing the new Ocular Oncology Service at BCH, Dr. González has an adult vitreoretinal surgery practice based at the Boston Eye Group in Brookline, Massachusetts.

Carolyn Graeber, MD

Boston Children's Ophthalmology, Boston Children's Hospital



Dr. Graeber earned her MD from Yale University, completed her ophthalmology residency training at New York University's Langone Medical Center, and completed a fellowship in pediatric ophthalmology and adult strabismus at Boston Children's Hospital (affiliated with HMS). Dr. Graeber provides care for

all ophthalmic conditions in children, including strabismus, ptosis, cataracts, and glaucoma, at Boston Children's Ophthalmology. This new pediatric ophthalmology practice opened in December 2017 in Westchester County, NY.

Anna Kirillova, OD

Optometry Service, Boston Children's Hospital

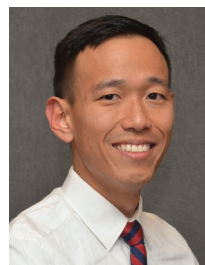


Dr. Kirillova earned her BSc from Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, Israel and her OD from New England College of Optometry. She completed her pediatric optometry residency at Tufts Medical Center, Perkins School for the Blind, and Boston Medical Center/ New England College of Optometry and practiced optometry in Israel until

moving to Boston. Dr. Kirillova specializes in optometric services for patients with amblyopia, aphakia, cataracts, glaucoma, glioma, and macular degeneration.

Patrick Lee, OD

Optometry Service, Vision Rehabilitation Service, Mass. Eye and Ear



A University of Michigan graduate, Dr. Lee earned his OD from Illinois College of Optometry and completed a one-year residency in ocular disease and low-vision rehabilitation at ICO. Next, he worked at SEE Eyewear (optometry) and The Chicago Lighthouse for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired (vision rehabilitation)

and taught vision rehabilitation to optometry residents. At Mass. Eye and Ear, Dr. Lee will see patients at the main campus (243 Charles Street) and Longwood campus (800 Huntington Ave.).

Mohammad-Hossein "Nima" Mohammad-Shahi, MD

Glaucoma Service, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center



Dr. Mohammad-Shahi completed his medical training and ophthalmology residency at McGill University Faculty of Medicine. After completing his glaucoma fellowship at the University of British Columbia, he joined the department in September 2017. At BIDMC, his clinical practice focuses on the medical and surgical management

of glaucoma and cataract surgery.

Preeti Mokka, OD

Optometry Service, Boston Children's Hospital



Dr. Mokka has a BSc from Boston University and an OD from New England College of Optometry. She completed a pediatric optometry residency at New England Eye Institute at Tufts Medical Center. Dr. Mokka's clinical experience includes visual therapy in a school-based setting and specialty services for strabismus,

uveitis, and amblyopia. She also conducts research on the effects of vigabatrin on the nerve fiber layer with Drs. Fulton, Raghuram, and Kirillova, as well as infant vision screening assessments.

David Solá-Del Valle, MD

Glaucoma Service, Mass. Eye and Ear

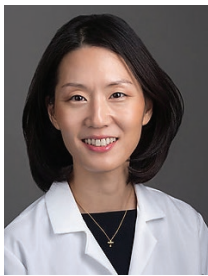


Dr. Solá-Del Valle completed his ophthalmology residency training at Harvard (class of '15) and subspecialty training in glaucoma at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. With training in minimally invasive glaucoma surgery, he focuses his clinical practice on the medical and surgical management of common,

rare, and complex forms of glaucoma. He sees patients at Mass. Eye and Ear's main campus in Boston (243 Charles Street), the clinical care office in East Bridgewater, and the Boston VA. Interested in research related to glaucoma, cataract, and graduate ophthalmology medical education he is currently evaluating the efficacy of newer glaucoma treatments and plans to study the most effective ways to educate the next-generation of glaucoma and cataract specialists.

Jae Young (Jane) You, MD

Cornea Service (Director), Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center



Dr. You received her medical training from Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth and Brown University School of Medicine and completed her ophthalmology residency training at Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital-Lifespan. After completing her cornea fellowship at Wilmer Eye Institute, she joined the department

in October 2017. Dr. You's clinical and research interests are in pediatric cornea. Her clinical practice includes dry eyes, cataract surgery, corneal dystrophies, corneal transplants (including DMEK and DSAEK), and refractive surgery.

Ayellet Segrè, PhD

Harvard Ophthalmology Ocular Genomics Institute (Genetic Biostatistician), Mass. Eye and Ear



Dr. Segrè earned her PhD in Genetics and Genomics from Harvard University and completed a fellowship in Medical and Population Genetics at the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT. She has worked as a Computational Biologist at the Broad Institute since 2013. As a member of the Ocular Genomics Institute,

Dr. Segrè focuses on next-generation sequencing, genome-wide association studies, metabolomics, and the integration of -omics data with clinical phenotyping and electronic medical records.

PROMOTIONS

To Associate Professor of Ophthalmology

- **Joseph Ciolino, MD**, Mass. Eye and Ear
- **Tatjana Jakobs, MD**, Mass. Eye and Ear
- **George Papaliadis, MD**, Mass. Eye and Ear

To Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology

- **Mary Aronow, MD**, Mass. Eye and Ear
- **Petr Baranov, MD, PhD**, Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass. Eye and Ear
- **Jason Comander, MD, PhD**, Mass. Eye and Ear
- **Tobias Elze, PhD**, Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass. Eye and Ear
- **Jack Greiner, DO, PhD**, Part-time, Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass. Eye and Ear
- **Kevin Houston, OD, MSc**, Mass. Eye and Ear
- **Heitian Lee, PhD**, Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass. Eye and Ear
- **John B. Miller, MD**, Mass. Eye and Ear
- **Bharti Nihalani-Gangwani, MD**, Part-time, Boston Children's Hospital
- **Yoshihiro Yonekawa, MD**, Mass. Eye and Ear, Boston Children's Hospital

To Instructor in Ophthalmology

- **Xiaoqing Guo, PhD**, Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass. Eye and Ear
- **Yihe Chen, MD**, Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass. Eye and Ear

LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS

- **Kathryn Hatch, MD**, succeeded **Roberto Pineda II, MD**, as Director of the Refractive Surgery Service of Mass. Eye and Ear.
- **Alice Lorch, MD**, was appointed Associate Director of Quality for Ophthalmology at Mass. Eye and Ear
- A member of the Harvard Ophthalmology faculty since 2006, **Norhan Torun, MD**, was appointed Ophthalmologist-in-Chief at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in January 2018. She succeeds **Frank Berson, MD**, who served as Chief for 27 years. Dr. Berson will transition to Ophthalmologist-in-Chief emeritus and plans to continue teaching residents.

Regional and National

- **Thaddeus Dryja, MD**, Scientific Advisory Board, ProQR Therapeutics N.V.
- **Suzanne Freitag, MD**, Editor-in-Chief of *Orbit*, the international journal on orbital disorders and oculoplastic and lacrimal surgery
- **Carolyn Kloek, MD**, Board Member, New England Ophthalmological Society (NEOS)
- **Joseph F. Rizzo III, MD**, Treasurer of the New England Ophthalmological Society (NEOS)

DEPARTURES

- **Iryna Falkenstein, MD**, Mass. Eye and Ear Glaucoma Service
- **Matt Goodman, OD**, Mass. Eye and Ear Optometry and Contact Lens Service
- **Ambika Hoguet, MD**, Mass. Eye and Ear Glaucoma Service
- **Ahmad Kheirkhah, MD**, Mass. Eye and Ear (research)
- **Jerome Mauris, PhD**, Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass. Eye and Ear
- **Christina Moon, MD**, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
- **Angela Turalba, MD**, Mass. Eye and Ear Glaucoma Service



Michael Sandberg, PhD, with the late Eliot Berson, MD

Michael Sandberg, PhD, retired from the department after 44 years of service. Recruited to the Berman-Gund Laboratory for the Study of Retinal Degenerations and the Electroretinography Service (now the Inherited Retinal Disorders Service) at Mass. Eye and Ear in 1973, Dr. Sandberg developed and maintained much of the equipment that is currently used to diagnose and characterize the natural history of inherited retinal disorders in patients. He also mentored numerous research and clinical fellows—some of whom brought their new skills and training back to their home countries. Dr. Sandberg also has authored more than 150 original articles on topics related to both patients and animal models of human retinal disease and served as lead investigator on studies of macular degeneration and cystoid macular edema.



Upcoming events

See a full list of Harvard Ophthalmology events at eye.hms.harvard.edu/calendar

QUALITY, HUMANISM, AND PROFESSIONALISM (QHP) GRAND ROUNDS CME

Mass. Eye and Ear, Meltzer Auditorium, simulcast to Karp 11 Conference Room at Boston Children's Hospital; Joslin Diabetes Center; and Mass. Eye and Ear, Longwood

Adrienne W. Scott, MD

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
April 12 | 8:00 – 9:00 am

NEW ENGLAND OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY AM/PM SESSIONS CME

Hynes Convention Center, Boston, MA

- April 20: Glaucoma/Emerging ocular infections
- June 1: Complications/Subspecialty sessions: neuro, oculoplastics, uveitis

VISITING PROFESSOR LECTURE IN PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY

Boston Children's Hospital

Gil Binenbaum, MD, MSCE

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
April 18

HARVARD OPHTHALMOLOGY & MASS. EYE AND EAR RESIDENT AND CLINICAL FELLOW GRADUATION

Meltzer Auditorium at Mass. Eye and Ear
June 21 | 4:00 pm

LANCASTER COURSE IN OPHTHALMOLOGY CME

Colby College, Waterford, ME

June 17 - August 20

Founded in 1946, the Lancaster Course has provided training for ophthalmologists from all over the world. The annual, seven-week-long program offers contemporary and extensive coverage of the basic sciences and clinical sciences in ophthalmology. Many teaching hospitals use the Lancaster course to supplement their residency training programs. Registration is required. Visit the special programs section at www.colby.edu.

Alumni corner

STAAR Surgical Company appointed Mass. Eye and Ear alumnus (class of '04) **Scott D. Barnes, MD**, to Chief Medical Officer on October 2, 2017. Dr. Barnes is Chief of Ophthalmology Services for Womack Army Medical Center, Fort Bragg, NC.

Mass. Eye and Ear/Harvard Ophthalmology alumnus (class of '96, '98), **Robert B. Bhisitkul, MD, PhD**, was appointed to the Scientific Advisory Board of AntriaBio, a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company. Dr. Bhisitkul is a Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology and retinal specialist at the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine's Department of Ophthalmology.



Kevin Caldwell, courtesy of Ronald G. Michels Fellowship Foundation

Left to right: Johnathan Prenner, MD, Ronald G. Michels Foundation Annual Meeting Master of Ceremonies; Dr. Finn; and Glenn Jaffe, MD, Duke University Eye Center.

Harvard Ophthalmology alumna (class of '16), **Avni (Patel) Finn, MD**, received one of four Michels Foundation Fellowships at the 27th Annual Ronald G. Michels Foundation Meeting on November 10, 2017. Dr. Patel is currently a vitreoretinal fellow at Duke University Eye Center.

Mass. Eye and Ear alumnus (class of '56), **Chester C. Pryor II, MD**, was named a member of the 2018 class of Great Living Cincinnatians by the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber. A leader in his field, he was the first African-American to: intern at a private Cincinnati hospital, become a certified ophthalmologist in Ohio, serve as president of the Cincinnati Eye Society, and become a faculty member of the UC Department of Ophthalmology. Dr. Pryor currently serves as Professor Emeritus in Ophthalmology at the University of Cincinnati.

Mass. Eye and Ear alumnus (class of '06), **R. V. Paul Chan, MD, MSc, FACS**, Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), received the John H. Pantou, MD, Professorship in Ophthalmology. Dr. Chan is also Vice Chair for Global Ophthalmology, Director of the Pediatric Retina and Retinopathy of Prematurity Service, and Co-Director of the Vitreoretinal Fellowship Program.

In memoriam



Alfred Witherspoon Scott, Jr., MD, an ophthalmologist and longtime member of Mass. Eye and Ear, passed away July 16, 2017. Born January 5, 1926, in Athens, GA, Dr. Scott received his medical training from HMS. He met his future wife Emily Keller Hubbs during his internship at Philadelphia General Hospital, and they married in

1949. He served as a U.S. Naval physician at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, and then completed his residency training in ophthalmology at HMS (class of '55). He started a private practice in Boston and was an Assistant Professor at HMS, where he taught medical students for 18 years. He also mentored interns and residents at Mass Eye and Ear and was elected President of the Medical Staff on two separate occasions. He retired from active practice at age 72.



Harvard Ophthalmology alumnus (class of '63) **Robert D. Reinecke, MD, OD**, passed away in January 2018 at the age of 88. A lauded pediatric ophthalmologist, Dr. Reinecke was a professor at Albany Medical College before becoming Ophthalmologist-in-Chief at Wills Eye Hospital and Professor and Chairman

of Ophthalmology at Jefferson Medical College. He was the first Director of the Foerderer Research Center, which eventually became internationally acclaimed for its landmark work in understanding eye movements and nystagmus. Dr. Reinecke lectured and published extensively, and served in various leadership roles, including president of the Academy (1989) and the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (1975-1976). He was a mentor and inspiration for future generations of pediatric ophthalmologists.



Mass. Eye and Ear alumnus **Álvaro Rodríguez González, MD**, passed away on November 13, 2017 at the age of 93. Originally from Colombia, Dr. Rodríguez González completed a retina fellowship under the mentorship of Charles Schepens in 1956. A leader in the field of retina, Dr. Rodríguez founded the Fundación Oftalmológica

Nacional, trained more than 132 ophthalmologists (who are now global leaders in their discipline), and was one of the Retina Society's most senior members. In October 2017, he joined colleagues in Boston for celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the Retina Service at Mass. Eye and Ear and the 50th anniversary of the Retina Society—both of which paid tribute to his mentor, Dr. Schepens.

Alumni Giving Society

OF HARVARD OPHTHALMOLOGY @ MASS. EYE AND EAR

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Connect. Learn. Discover. Celebrate.



Annual Meeting and Alumni Reunion

All current and former residents, fellows, postdocs, and faculty members are invited to attend this exciting two-day event of scientific exchange and networking.

Friday, June 8: Annual Meeting

- Faculty lectures span basic, translational, and clinical research
- Joseph F. Rizzo III, MD, presents the Mariana D. Mead Lecture
- Trainees present posters before the gala dinner at the Four Seasons

Registration is required eye.hms.harvard.edu/alumnireunion

For questions or assistance with registration contact Ophthalmology_Events@meei.harvard.edu or call Julie Dutcher at 617-573-3350

CME AVAILABLE: Fees associated with *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* have been provided by the Department of Ophthalmology. View the event web page for complete information.

Saturday, June 9: Alumni Reunion

- Alumni from 10 classes ('68, '73, '78, '83, '88, '93, '98, '03, '08, and '13) present scientific and clinical lectures
- Dimitri Azar, MD, MBA, receives the Distinguished Research Achievement Award
- C. Stephen Foster, MD, receives the Distinguished Clinical Achievement Award
- Joan W. Miller, MD, presents the Department Update, which will showcase our recent achievements and future endeavors
- Attendees can tour the state-of-the-art Altschuler Ophthalmology Surgical Training Laboratory and the Abraham Pollen Archives and Rare Book Library at Mass. Eye and Ear