THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
Department of Ophthalmology

# Eyewitness

SPECIAL GRADUATION ISSUE

SPRING/SUMMER 2011 #17

**NOTES FROM THE CHAIR**

## The Vision of One Special Patient

As an ophthalmologist specializing in blinding retinal diseases such as age-related macular degeneration (AMD), I have always believed in life-long learning through journal articles, professional societies, and the probing questions of our brilliant trainees. But it is from my patients that I learn what no seminar or publication can teach: how they cope day-to-day with the trappings of their disease, what they lose (and sometimes gain) along the way, how medical treatment affects their vision and their lives, and how they often transcend the challenges of visual disability.

Dr. Joan Miller with Seymour Robins in 2008. *Photo by Don Victor*

Seymour "Rob" Robins was a remarkable individual and a patient of mine from 1999 until his recent death at age 97. After military service in World War II, Rob lived and worked in New York City as a graphic designer. His cut paper designs were included as part of a 1985 exhibit at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum, and one of his designs was a great favorite among the cards sold by the Museum of Modern Art. In 1970, he relocated to Sheffield, MA in the Berkshires, living and working in a 250-year-old barn he converted to a home and studio, where he produced posters for such classic Berkshire venues as Tanglewood Music Series and the Jacobs Pillow Dance Festival. In 2008, the Sheffield Historical Society mounted a retrospective of his graphic accomplishments, including many of his cut paper holiday cards and designs.

After experiencing diminishing vision for a number of years, Rob was referred to Mass. Eye and Ear in 1999 by his local ophthalmologist who felt he might benefit from some of the cutting-edge treatments we were developing for AMD. I was privileged to take care of him through his initial diagnosis of dry AMD which, over time, progressed to the more severe neovascular form. Rob's condition did not respond to treatment, despite repeated medical procedures. As a graphic artist his visual perception was particularly precious to him, and he certainly mourned its loss. However, he set out to find ways to adapt.

Rob moved into a senior independent living facility so that he wouldn't spend all of his energy managing day-to-day living. He discovered that many others in the facility had vision problems and developed a program of lectures and an exhibition by vendors of visual aids and equipment. He started to write about living with macular degeneration, sharing his witty anecdotes in his prose. With his observational skills heightened by his training as a graphic artist, Rob fastidiously documented his altered visual perceptions. In 2005, he published *Vision Junkie: Essays and Other Writings from the Parallel World of the Legally Blind.* I often share copies of his book with patients so they may benefit from another patient's perspective on the experience of coping with and even thriving with AMD.

Rob met adversity head on and was never defeated by his disability; he adjusted and moved on. I was honored to be a part of his remarkable life. Below we share some excerpts from articles he wrote in 2009, at age 95, titled "How I See: A Legally Blind Nonagenarian Tells All; or, Reversing Salomé's Dance of the Seven Veils" and "How I See, Part 2: The Nitty Gritty of My Day," revealing his remarkable talent for observation and inspirational zest for life.

*I am officially legally blind. That is a weird and baffling description of a problem that puts a limit on some of my best behavior for living. Years ago, when my ophthalmologist found that my visual acuity had a number greater than 20/200, she sent that information to the proper government agency. Good as well as undesirable things began to happen to me.*

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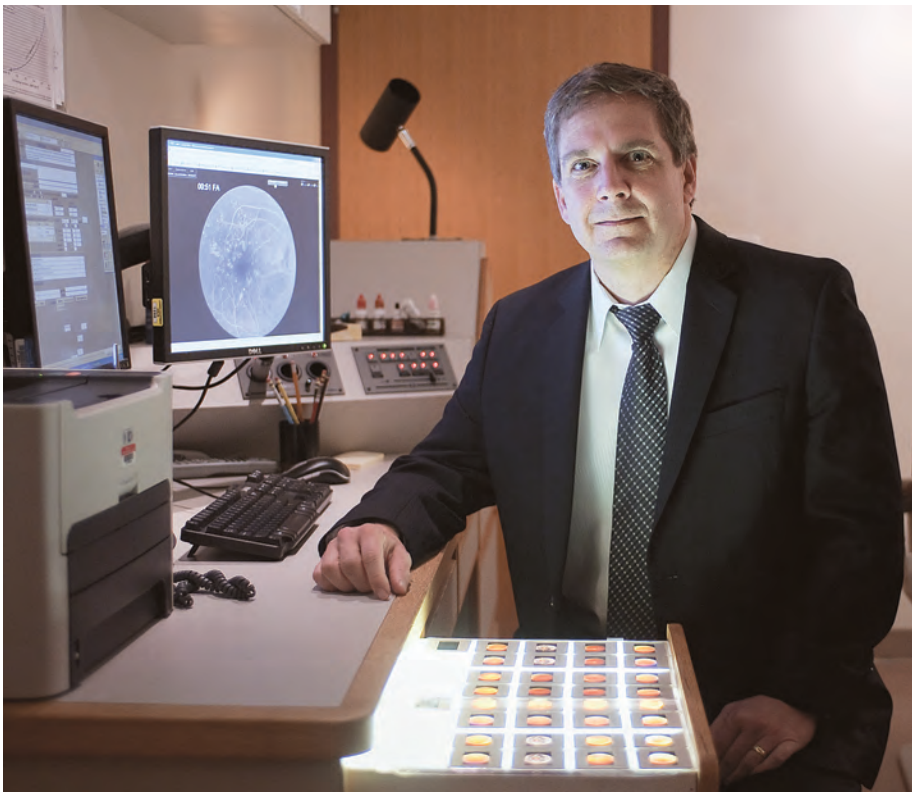

Lloyd P. Aiello, MD, PhD

# In this issue:



**Published three times a year:**

Joan W. Miller, MD, Editor
Judy Gibian, Staff Writer
Suzanne Ward, Staff Writer

HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

# Lloyd P. Aiello, MD, PhD Promoted to Professor of Ophthalmology

Lloyd Paul Aiello, MD, PhD, Director of the Beetham Eye Institute at Joslin and Head of the Section of Eye Research at Joslin, has been promoted to Professor of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Aiello received his doctorate in biochemistry and medical degree from Boston University School of Medicine. He completed residency in ophthalmology at the Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute at Johns Hopkins University and Hospital before coming to the Joslin Diabetes Center, where he completed both a clinical vitreoretinal and a research fellowship. He joined the Joslin staff in 1994.

A third-generation Joslin ophthalmologist [son of HMS Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology Lloyd M. Aiello and grandson of Dr. William P. Beetham], Dr. Aiello is committed to eliminating vision loss due to diabetic retinopathy and other diabetes-related pathologies of the eye. These maladies account for the majority of blindness among working-age individuals in America and other developed countries. His research aims to determine the underlying biochemistry and molecular mechanisms of these diseases, then develop and test novel therapeutic interventions through rigorous translational and clinical trial research.

Dr. Aiello and collaborating Joslin scientists – including George L. King, M.D., Head of the Section on Vascular Cell Biology and Director of Research at Joslin – were key members of the HMS teams working on angiogenesis research (a field founded by HMS Professor M. Judah Folkman) and its role in eye disease. Their pioneering work demonstrated the role of vascular endothelial growth

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*Lloyd P. Aiello, continued from page 2*

factor (VEGF) in diabetic retinopathy and the therapeutic potential of VEGF inhibitors. In related research, Dr. Aiello's laboratory made significant progress toward understanding and manipulating the expression, regulation and signaling functions of VEGF and its receptors. Dr. Aiello published the first evidence that protein kinase C-beta (PKC-beta) is involved in excessive blood-vessel growth and vascular leakage in diabetic retinopathy. The team went on to develop a PKC-beta inhibitor that interrupts the actions of this protein, thus opening a new therapeutic avenue for diabetic and other retinopathies.

> **"Lloyd P. Aiello is a joy to have as a faculty member and is extremely deserving of his promotion to Professor of Ophthalmology. He is the ideal clinician-scientist, combining clinical insight with scientific rigor. He is a wonderful mentor and a skilled administrator both in his home department and nationally in the DRCR Network."**
>
> — Joan W. Miller, MD

Dr. Aiello is recognized internationally for his leadership in diabetic retinopathy research. In 2002, he founded and served as the inaugural chair for the Diabetic Retinopathy Clinical Research Network (DRCR.net), a national collaborative network dedicated to facilitating multi-center clinical research for diabetic retinopathy, diabetic macular edema and related disorders. Funded by the National Eye Institute, the DRCR.net is now comprised of 150 centers nationwide representing academic medical institutions and private practice groups. In its brief history, the network has rapidly emerged as the premier clinical trial group in diabetes – mentioned in the U.S. Congressional Record – and lauded by the National Institutes of Health as establishing the paradigm for collaborative clinical trials. Dr. Aiello has been a leader in DRCR.net-led clinical trials. A recently published major finding of the network demonstrated that a VEGF inhibitor (ranibizumab) either with prompt or deferred laser therapy for the treatment of diabetic macular edema is superior to laser therapy alone – the standard therapy for the past 25 years. With nearly twice as many patients gaining vision and only one third as many losing vision, this represents a significant advance in the standard of care for this condition and clinical validation of the early VEGF studies in diabetic eye disease.

In 2008, Chief and Chair, Joan Miller, MD named Dr. Aiello Vice Chair for Centers of Excellence (COE) in the HMS Department of Ophthalmology. These centers are designed to coordinate the department's efforts in patient care, research and training in key areas of ophthalmology in order to leverage the expertise and core strengths of faculty across affiliates. As Vice Chair, Dr. Aiello brings a wealth of collaborative insight, experience and energy to this role. Initial COE targets include diabetic eye disease, AMD, cornea, and glaucoma. ■

**Dr. Aiello is the author of 134 original papers and 215 publications. He has received 40 national and international awards and honors, including:**

- The Alcon Research Institute Award
- ARVO/Pfizer Ophthalmics Translational Research Award
- Award of Merit in Retina Research from the Retina Society
- Senior Achievement Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology
- The Dolly Green Scholar Award, the Special Research Scholar Award and the Lew R. Wasserman Merit Award from the Research to Prevent Blindness Foundation
- Rosenthal Foundation Award and the Paul Henkind Memorial Award from the Macula Society
- Charles Schepens Award in Research
- Outstanding Foreign Investigator Award from the Japan Society of Diabetic Complications
- The Novartis Award in Diabetes

HMS Department of Ophthalmology

# Congratulations to Our 2011 Resident & Fellow Graduates

## 2011 Resident Graduates

### Anthony Daniels, MD, MSc

*Career Plans: Vitreoretinal Fellowship, MEEI/HMS*

Born in Tel Aviv, Anthony grew up in Toronto, Canada. He attended medical school at the University of Pennsylvania on their highest full scholarship, the Gamble Scholarship, where he also received the Epidemiology Research Prize, the Jeffrey Berger ophthalmology research award, the Max Kade fellowship, and an American Society of Hematology research scholarship. In medical school, his research focused on idiopathic intracranial hypertension, retinal nerve fiber layer loss in multiple sclerosis, and immunologic receptor signaling pathways.

Anthony's passion for ophthalmology and his drive to excel have been apparent from the very beginning of his training. Throughout residency, he has lectured nationally and has authored more than a dozen journal articles. As a resident, his research has focused on uveal melanoma genetics, genotyope-phenotype correlations in Bardet-Biedl syndrome, and pediatric retina. His abstract received best clinical abstract prize at the 2010 Annual/Alumni Meeting of the HMS Department of Ophthalmology. He was selected to attend the 2010 Heed Residents Retreat in Chicago, and, just recently, was chosen as the Harvard Ophthalmology Alcon Scholar for 2011-2012 to continue his work studying metastasis in uveal melanoma.

### Rebecca Hunter, MD

*Career Plans: Immunology/Uveitis Fellowship, MEEI/HMS*

Rebecca was born in San Juan, PR and grew up in New Haven, CT. She received her MD from Yale University School of Medicine, where she held the Richard K. Gershon Student Research Fellowship. At Yale, Rebecca conducted research on the analysis of the murine cytomegalovirus Open Reading frames.

Rebecca recently submitted her Residents Course paper with Dr. Anne Marie Lobo, "Current diagnostic approaches to infectious anterior uveitis." She has done research with Dr. Shizuo Mukai on a retrospective analysis of vitreous hemorrhage in pediatric patients. Her preceptors have commented on her excellence in the clinic and in the operating room, describing her as "a well-rounded and intelligent physician" with a great bedside manner and superb surgical skills.

### Justin Kanoff, MD

*Career Plans: Chief Resident & Director of Ocular Trauma Service, 2011-12, MEEI/HMS*

Justin was born in Dallas, TX. He received his medical degree from University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. As an intern at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, he conducted research in Genechip analysis of keratocytes from patients diagnosed with keratoconus, identifying numerous genes of interest. He was awarded a Southwestern Medical Foundation Scholar.

Justin published several first author papers while in residency, two in *Cornea,* one in *American Journal of Ophthalmology* and a fourth that is currently in press. He is regarded as a gifted teacher. Preceptors have commented on his accurate examination skills and good judgment and have described him as an excellent surgeon. We look forward to his leadership as Chief Resident and Director of the Eye Trauma Service in the coming year.

### Sahar Kohanim, MD

*Career Plans: Cornea & External Disease Fellowship, MEEI/HMS*

Sahar was born in Tehran, Iran and immigrated to the US with her family when she was 15. In college, Sahar was selected to complete a Biomedical Research Program at MD Anderson Cancer Center, where she developed a radiotracer for use in imaging head and neck cancers. She attended medical school at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, where she was awarded the Dean's Research Grant and published several papers on urological cancers and ocular surface immunology.

Having worked during her residency with Drs. Deborah Langston, Kathryn Colby, Pedram Hamrah, and James Chodosh, Sahar completes training having authored a total of 22 publications, 9 abstracts, and one educational video. While a resident, she won an ASCRS Excellence in Residency Award, an AAO leadership grant, and attended congressional advocacy day. Preceptors have remarked on her excellent diagnostic skills, her eagerness to learn, and her enthusiastic participation in post-clinic rounds.

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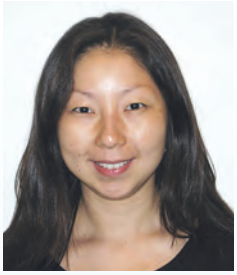
*2011 Resident Graduates, continued from page 4*



## Zhonghui "Katie" Luo, MD, PhD

*Career Plans: Cornea & External Disease Fellowship, MEEI/HMS*

Katie was born in Shanghai, China. She received a BS in Biochemistry and MS in Molecular Biology from Nanjing University, China and then matriculated to the MD-PhD program at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, earning her Ph.D. in Pathology & Cell Biology. She conducted research in the molecular biology of IG class switching. She was awarded an Outstanding Graduate Student Fellowship.

Throughout residency, Katie's preceptors have consistently remarked on her work ethic and eagerness to learn. At the October 2010 Cornea Society meeting, she gave a well-received talk about keratoprosthesis and is currently writing up results for publication. Her presentation on this topic earned her first prize at the New England Ophthalmology Society poster contest in 2009.

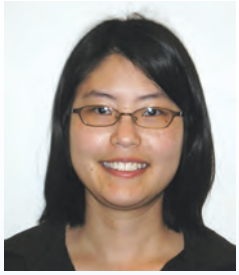
## Rajesh Rao, MD

*Career Plans: Vitreoretinal Fellowship, Barnes Retina Institute, Washington University, St. Louis, MO*

Raj was born in Milwaukee and received his medical degree from Yale University of Medicine. Since October 2009, Raj has worked in the laboratory of Dr. Dong Feng Chen where he has devised and completed basic science projects in burgeoning field of retinal epigenetics. His first-authored paper, published in IOVS, was the first report of the role of histone methylation patterns in the developing retina, and the first to show histone methyltransferases as a pharmacologic target to promote survival of retinal neurons. His Residents Course paper, written with Dr. Chen and Joan Miller, MD details the potential of novel epigenetic targets against ocular herpes virus infection. In May, Raj received an ARVO Foundation for Eye Research/ Retina Research Foundation Award. It is partly due to Raj's success, that Dr. Chen has added retinal epigenetics as a new focus in her laboratory.

## Benjamin Klibnoff, O.D.

*Optometric Resident Certificate Private Practice, Providence, Rhode Island, Academic Part-Time, New England College of Optometry, Boston*



## Hana Takusagawa, MD

*Career Plans: Glaucoma Fellowship, Devers Eye Institute, Oregon Health & Science University*

Born in Patchogue, NY, Hana received her MD from Mount Sinai School of Medicine, NY where she conducted research in carcinoid tumors metastatic to the eye and orbit with Alan Friedman. During residency, Hana has been involved in several novel clinical projects, including two studying risk factors in open globe injuries and the use of the ReCam II in young children, both of which led to ARVO presentations in 2009 and 2010. She co-authored a manuscript with Drs. Louis Pasquale and Teresa Chen on "Bilateral uveal effusion and angle closure glaucoma secondary to bupropion use" submitted to *Archives of Ophthalmology.* She had a poster presentation "Glaucoma Drainage Device Exposure in Patients with Boston Keratoprosthesis" at 2011 American Glaucoma Society meeting. She is also collaborating with Dr. Janey Wiggs in studies of infectious theories of Posner-Schlossman, and recently began working with Dr. Teresa Chen on projects involving spectral domain OCT and the ISNT rule.

Hana drafted the original Massachusetts Eye and Ear Emergency Ward Manual, and is an assistant Editor for the *Digital Journal of Ophthalmology.* She recently received a Visionaries of Boston Award and an AAO Mid-Year Forum Travel grant. Since 2009, she has mentored medical students through the HMS Residents Advising Medical Students Program. Preceptors have characterized her as a "talented and knowledgeable resident" with great surgical skills.

## Kimberly Trinca-Golde, MD

*Career Plans: Plans unspecified*

Born in Houston, TX, Kimberly received her MD with Honors from Baylor College of Medicine. She did research with Stephen Pflugfelder, MD on lacrimal inflammation using a k.o. mouse model of APECD (autoimmune polyendocrinopathy candidiasis ectodermal dystrophy) and was awarded the AOA & Killson Scholarship.

In her second year of residency, Kimberly helped organize the Chandler Lecture. She has presented at ARVO and at the AAO Annual Meeting. Preceptors have frequently commented on her fund of knowledge and outstanding exam and surgical skills, as well as the great rapport she fosters with patients. Faculty have also described her as "conscientious, thorough and always curious."

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*2011 Resident Graduates, continued from page 5*

## Chief Resident

### Lynn J. P. Perry, PhD, MD

*Career Plans: Clinical Fellow in Ophthalmic Pathology, MEEI/HMS; Heed Fellow*

Lynn was born in Durban, South Africa but her family traveled back and forth between South Carolina and Durban during her childhood. She completed a PhD. in Biochemistry, Cellular and Molecular Biology at Johns Hopkins University in 2001 and received her MD from Medical University of South Carolina at Charleston. As a resident, Lynn participated in research projects that resulted in ARVO abstracts in 2008 and 2009. During her junior year, she co-authored the medical student Emergency Room curriculum with fellow resident Dr. Nicole Benitah. Lynn has also been involved in the development of our interactive cataract training software program, the Mass. Eye and Ear Cataract Mentor, and has co-authored a book chapter with Bonnie Henderson, MD on correcting astigmatism via cataract surgery. Lynn was recently awarded a prestigious Heed Fellowship for the 2011-2012 academic year.

Lynn is a superb teacher and mentor. She is an accomplished clinician with excellent surgical skills, and has worked closely with Residency Program Director, John Loewenstein, MD, Associate Residency Director Carolyn Kloek, MD, and Joan Miller, MD to strengthen surgical training within the resident curriculum.

# 2011 Fellow Graduates

### Cornea

**John Clements, MD**
*Career Plans: Interim Medical Director, Boa Vista Eye Clinic, Benguela, Angola*

**Kristen Hawthorne, MD**
*Career Plans: Private practice, Oceanside, CA*

**Janie Yoo, MD**
*Career Plans: Ophthalmologist/ Administrator, Lusaka Eye Hospital, Lusaka, Zambia*

**Major J. Richard Townley, MD**
*Career Plans: Full time Academics, Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, TX*

### Glaucoma

**Mouhab Aljajeh, MD**
*Career Plans: Private practice, New Hampshire*

**Michael Horsley, MD**
*Career Plans: Private practice, Phoenix, AR*

**Julie Kim, MD**
*Career Plans: Plans unspecified*

**Tarek Shazly, MD**
*Career Plans: Plans unspecified*

### Neuro-Ophthalmology

**Ivey Thornton, MD**
*Career Plans: Private practice, Cleveland, OH*

### Ocular Immunology/ Uveitis

**Nicole Benitah, MD**
*Career Plans: Private practice, Los Angeles, CA*

**Rajiv Shah, MD**
*Career Plans: Clinical Fellowship in Vitreoretinal Surgery, Wills Eye Institute, Philadelphia*

### Ophthalmic Pathology

**Maria Kirzhner, MD**
*Career Plans: Full time Academics, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA*

### Ophthalmic Pathology & Neuro-Ophthalmology

**Rebecca Stacy, MD, PhD**
*Career Plans: Full time Academics, Mass. Eye and Ear/HMS*

### Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

**Yvette Santiago, MD**
*Career Plans: Private practice, Part time Academics, St. Luke's Medical Center, Quezon City, Philippines*

### Pediatric Ophthalmology

**Aparna Ramasubramanian, MD**
*Career Plans: Ophthalmology resident, Indiana University*

**Ankoor Shah, MD, PhD**
*Career Plans: Plans unspecified*

**Marielle Young, MD**
*Career Plans: Full-time academics, University of Utah*

### Retina

**Netan Choudhry, MD**
*Career Plans: Private practice, Toronto, Canada*

**Prisca Diala, MD**
*Career Plans: Plans unspecified*

**Ahad Fazelat, MD**
*Career Plans: Private practice, Manchester, NH*

**Jason Noble, MD**
*Career Plans: Private practice, Toronto, Canada*

**David Shih-wei Pan, MD**
*Career Plans: Private practice, Lincoln, NE*

**Marc-Andre Rhéaume, MD**
*Career Plans: Private practice, Part time Academics, University of Montreal, Canada*

**Babak Jian Seyedahmadi, MD**
*Career Plans: Private practice, Boston, MA*

### Research Fellows

**Kai Hu, MD**
**Andrea Cruzat, MD**
**Sahaharu Miyazono, PhD**
**Aliya Jiwani, BA**
**Maki Kayama, MD, PhD**
**Xanthi Koufoumichali, MD**
**Aristomenos Thanos, MD**
**Jun Suzuki, MD, PhD**

This year's graduation ceremonies include the presentation of the inaugural **Evangelos S. Gragoudas Prize** for outstanding research publication by research trainees. The award this year goes to Research Fellows **Yusuke Murakami, MD** and former Research Fellow **Georgios Trichonas, MD** for their paper, "Receptor interacting protein kinases mediate retinal detachment-induced photoreceptor necrosis and compensate for inhibition of apoptosis," published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, USA.

# 2011 Frederick A. Jakobiec Lecturer: John Irvine, MD

The Frederick A. Jakobiec Lecture was established to honor the academic leadership of Frederick Jakobiec, MD, DSc, who served as Chief and Chair of the HMS Department of Ophthalmology from 1989 until 2002. He is now the Henry Willard Williams Emeritus Professor of Ophthalmology and Emeritus Professor of Pathology and serves as Director of the David Cogan Ophthalmic Pathology Laboratory, where he has reinvigorated and expanded the laboratory's mission in clinical care, teaching, and research.

The tenth Frederick A. Jakobiec Lecturer, John Irvine, MD is a native of California. He received his BA in zoology from Pomona College and Master's degree in physiology from University of Southern California-Los Angeles. He attended Keck School of Medicine, USC, receiving his degree in 1982. He then headed east for his ophthalmology residency training at Mass. Eye and Ear/Harvard Medical School and remained at Mass. Eye and Ear for fellowship in cornea and external disease. On completing fellowship training in 1987, he joined the faculty at the USC Department of Ophthalmology and Doheny Eye Institute as Assistant Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology, rising to the rank of Professor in 1997. Dr. Irvine is currently the A. Ray Irvine Chair in Clinical Ophthalmology at USC, Chief of the Ophthalmology Service at the USC University Hospital, and Medical Director of the Doheny Eye Medical Group.

Clinically, Dr. Irvine's practice has focused on ocular surface tumors, infectious conditions of the anterior segment, and intraocular lenses. He has participated in over two dozen clinical trials, testing pharmacotherapies, surgical techniques and devices in anterior segment oncology and disease. At USC Dr. Irvine heads one of nine clinical sites in the U.S. and abroad offering the Prosthetic Replacement of the Ocular Surface Ecosystem (PROSE), a treatment model developed by HMS Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, Perry Rosenthal, MD at the Boston Foundation for Sight. The PROSE model can restore vision, reduce pain and support healing for patients with complex corneal disease through the use of custom-designed prosthetic devices to replace or support impaired ocular surface system functions.

Dr. Irvine's teaching efforts have a widespread audience, including medical students, residents, fellows, community ophthalmologist and non-ophthalmic physicians and practitioners. He currently serves as a group mentor in the Keck School of Medicine of USC curriculum, meeting weekly with first-year medical students in the course entitled "Professionalism in the Practice of Medicine." He is the Director of Continuing Medical Education at the Doheny Eye Institute and regularly participates in CME courses locally, nationally, and internationally.

From 1994 to 1998, Dr. Irvine flew with ORBIS International, the world ophthalmic service organization, teaching and performing surgery in Myanmar, Jamaica, China, and India. Administratively he continues to contribute on many levels to the Keck School of Medicine, USC University Hospital, and Doheny Eye Institute. He supports his profession through service on numerous local and national organizations, including the Los Angeles Society of Ophthalmology, the Research Study Club of Los Angeles, and the American Academy of Ophthalmology, where he served for six years on the Annual Program Planning Committee as Chair of the Cornea-External Disease Section.

Dr. Irvine has received both an Achievement Award and the Secretariat Award from the Academy for his sustained and outstanding contributions.

Dr. Irvine, the 2011 Frederic Jakobiec Lecturer, will speak on "Connections."

Pei-Fei Lee, MD

# New Lectureship Honors MEEI's First Glaucoma Fellow

Professor of Ophthalmology and Vice Chair of Ophthalmology at Duke University School of Medicine, Paul Lee, MD, JD, former Mass. Eye and Ear glaucoma fellow ('90-'91), has established the Dr. Pei-Fei Lee Lectureship in Ophthalmology to honor the memory of his late father. The endowed fund will be used to support a lectureship in ophthalmology with first preference given to topics related to glaucoma.

Dr. Pei-Fei Lee was a dedicated clinician-scientist whose interests spanned the clinic, classroom and laboratory. His son, Dr. Paul Lee, notes that Mass. Eye and Ear held a special place in his father's heart. Dr. Pei-Fei Lee was Mass. Eye and Ear's first glaucoma fellow where he was mentored by two MEEI luminaries, Drs. Paul Chandler and Morton Grant. According to his son, the late Dr. Lee "conveyed not only the thinking but also the importance of the principles and character of both his mentors." The teachings of Drs. Chandler and Grant, whose extraordinary body of clinical and research work led to understanding and defining treatments for glaucoma, have been borne out over the last 50 years. On a personal level, Dr. Lee felt indebted to Mass. Eye and Ear and for the outstanding training and education he received during his fellowship. As a child, Dr. Paul Lee remembers visits to MEEI and The Retina Foundation (now Schepens Eye Research Institute) where his father also worked with famed retina surgeon and pioneer, Dr. Charles L. Schepens.

"My father would have been very pleased with the energy, enthusiasm and accomplishments of Dr. Miller and the MEEI faculty. The lectureship gift not only honors his appreciation of the Infirmary but will carry on his personal legacy by continuing to advance the education of future ophthalmologists."

– Paul Lee, MD

**"The lectureship holds special significance as we currently explore academic partnership opportunities with colleagues from Shanghai Eye and Ear, Nose, and Throat Hospital at Fudan University."**

– Joan W. Miller, MD

Following retirement, Dr. Pei-Fei Lee devoted himself to building educational bridges between the U.S. and China. "My father would have been very pleased with the energy, enthusiasm and accomplishments of Dr. Miller and the MEEI faculty," said Dr. Lee. "The lectureship gift not only honors his appreciation of the Infirmary but will carry on his personal legacy by continuing to advance the education of future ophthalmologists."

"We are honored that Dr. (Paul) Lee chose MEEI to establish this lectureship in memory of his father which pays tribute to the wonderful work carried out by our faculty every day," said HMS Department of Ophthalmology Chair, Dr. Joan Miller. "Given Dr. Pei-Fei Lee's commitment to education, I think the lectureship holds special significance as we currently explore academic partnership opportunities with colleagues from Shanghai Eye and Ear, Nose, and Throat Hospital at Fudan University."

Dr. Lee passed away in May, 2009 at the age of 83. ■

If you would like more information about establishing a legacy gift to Mass. Eye and Ear, please contact Melissa Paul at 617-573-4168.

# FY11 Alumni Giving Society

## OF HMS OPHTHALMOLOGY @ MASS EYE AND EAR

# We're halfway there with less than halfway to go!

Consider a contribution and help us meet our 2011 AGS membership goal of 100+ HMS alumni. Your generosity supports the vital work carried out across the department and gives momentum to exciting new initiatives in the classroom, clinic and laboratory. How you designate your support is your choice. Members are invited to department events throughout the year and are recognized in this newsletter and Mass. Eye and Ear publications.

The Society recognizes individuals who make annual gifts of $1,000 or more within the fiscal year (October 1-September 30). To learn more, contact Melissa Paul at **melissa_paul@meei.harvard.edu** or call 617-573-4168. Gifts are tax-deductible.

## *Many thanks to the following members:*

**Visionary – Gifts of $10,000 or more**
Dimitri Azar, M.D. and Nathalie Azar, M.D.
Kenneth R. Kenyon, M.D.
Paul P. Lee, M.D., J.D.
Joan W. Miller, M.D.
Richard J. Simmons, M.D.

**Innovator – Gifts of $5,000-$9,999**
John C. Barber, M.D.
Michael E. Hettinger, M.D.
Deborah Pavan Langston, M.D.
Steven J. Rose, M.D.
Kazuo Tsubota, M.D.
Michael D. Wagoner, M.D., PhD

**Pioneer – Gifts of $2,500-$4,999**
Anthony P. Adamis, M.D.
Frank G. Berson, M.D.
Donald J. D'Amico, M.D. and Kimberly C. Sippel M.D.
Deborah R. DiStefano, M.D.
B. Thomas Hutchinson, M.D.
Michael A. Lemp, M.D.
Robert A. Lytle, M.D.
Shizuo Mukai, M.D.
Oliver D. Schein, M.D.
Shelby R. Wilkes, M.D., MBA and Jettie M. Burnett, M.D.

**Friend – Gifts of $1,000-$2,499**
Manuel Agulto, M.D.
Dean Francis Arkfeld, M.D.
James V. Aquavella, M.D.
Wing Chu, M.D.
Peter C. Donshik, M.D.
Philip M. Falcone, M.D.
Ronald B. Frenkel, M.D.
Dasa V. Gangadhar, M.D.
Herbert Giller, M.D.
Melanie R. Graham, M.D. and Kenneth B. Graham, M.D.
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Amyna Sultan, M.D.
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Lucy H.Y. Young, M.D., Ph.D.

**Every Vote Counts – Literally!**

Don't forget to cast your vote in the summer, 2011 *Ophthalmology Times* peer-rated survey. Your support can help increase visibility of the HMS/MEEI clinical and academic programs. Just 328 physician subscribers determined last year's rankings. If you don't subscribe to *Ophthalmology Times,* then consider signing up at their website: **www.modernmedicine.com/modernmedicine/ophthalmology/home/40207**. If you're already a subscriber, your vote may make the difference!

# Michael S. Gilmore Appointed First Sir William Osler Professor of Ophthalmology

(l to r) Joan Miller, MD, Chief and Chair, HMS Department of Ophthalmology; Susan Hilles Bush, MD, daughter of the late Susan Morse Hills; Michael Gilmore, PhD, first incumbent of the Osler Professorship; Nancy Tarbell, MD, HMS Dean for Academic and Clinical Affairs, John Fernandez, President and CEO, Mass. Eye and Ear Infirmary.

On March 14, 2011, Michael S. Gilmore, PhD was celebrated by colleagues, friends and family as the first Sir William Osler Professor of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School. The appointment of Dr. Gilmore to this distinguished professorship honors both his achievements and the legacy of Susan Morse Hilles, a generous friend to Mass. Eye and Ear, and her remarkable ancestor, Sir William Osler. The gift of the Osler Professorship was, during Mrs. Hilles' lifetime, an anonymous bequest that represented her ultimate gift to Mass. Eye and Ear and to Harvard. During the recent ceremony her daughter, Dr. Susan Hilles Bush, noted that her mother's generosity made many things possible at Mass. Eye and Ear. In 1997, in honor of her $1 million gift, Mass. Eye and Ear dedicated the Susan M. Hilles Emergency Department, New England's only 24/7 eye and ear emergency facility. Mrs. Hilles also provided support to MEEI clinician scientists working in ophthalmology research.

**The gift of the Osler Professorship was, during Mrs. Hilles' lifetime, an anonymous bequest that represented her ultimate gift to Mass. Eye and Ear and to Harvard.**

William Osler was a Canadian physician who received his MD from McGill University, and subsequently studied in London, Berlin, and Vienna before returning to Montreal in 1874. In 1884 he was invited to Philadelphia to become Professor of Clinical Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Four years later, he was recruited to Baltimore as Physician-in-Chief of the soon-to-open Johns Hopkins Hospital and Professor of Medicine at the planned school of medicine. At Hopkins, Dr. Osler pioneered the close integration of the hospital with the instruction of medical students – a model that emphasized bedside teaching. During his 14 years at Hopkins, Dr. Osler revolutionized the medical curriculum of the United States and Canada, ushering in the era of scientific medicine. Through lectures and his landmark textbook, first issued in 1892, *Principles and Practice of Medicine,* he had a tremendous influence on both clinical practice and medical education in the United States. Perhaps his most lasting legacy was his vision of how a physician ought to be: skillful and competent, yet approachable and compassionate.

*continues on page 11*

Michael Gilmore, PhD, first incumbent of the Sir William Osler Professor of Ophthalmology receives congratulations from Nancy Tarbell, MD, HMS Dean for Academic and Clinical Affairs.

*Michael S. Gilmore, continued from page 10*

Sir William Osler is often called "The Father of Modern Medicine" for his emphasis on physical diagnosis and his many innovations in clinical training. Less known was his keen interest in infectious disease. In a landmark speech before the AMA he noted, "Humanity has but three great enemies: fever, famine and war; of these by far the greatest, by far the most terrible, is fever." Fever, in those days, meant infection. As the first incumbent of the Osler Professorship, Dr. Gilmore is a global leader in the study of antibiotic-resistant bacterial infection.

Former President and Director of Research at Schepens Eye Research Institute, Dr. Gilmore joined the Howe Laboratory at Mass. Eye and Ear in July 2010. Dr. Gilmore studies ocular microbiology, using the eye, a naturally immune-limited tissue, to study the subtle host-pathogen balance during bacterial infections. He is world-renowned for his expertise in the pathogenesis of keratitis and endophthalmitis caused by antibiotic-resistant *staphylococci, streptococci,* and *enterococci.* As Principal Investigator of the NIH-sponsored interdisciplinary Harvard-wide Program on Antibiotic Resistance, Dr. Gilmore is promoting collaborations among HMS, affiliate hospitals, the Broad Institute and the pharmaceutical industry in the fight against methecillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus.* This program is identifying and validating new compounds for treating multidrug resistant staphylococcal infection, and studies of bacterial genomes are identifying new therapeutic targets.

**Dr. Gilmore is promoting collaborations among HMS, affiliate hospitals, the Broad Institute and the pharmaceutical industry in the fight against methecillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus.**

Dr. Gilmore received his Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, as the Colin MacLeod Fellow, from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC). After postdoctoral training at the University of Wuerzburg, Germany and the University of Michigan, he returned to the OUHSC to join the faculty in 1984. There he rose through the ranks in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, and the Department of Ophthalmology, to hold the titles of George Lynn Cross Research Professor in the College of Medicine, and MG McCool Professor of Ophthalmology. From 2000 to 2004 he also served as OUHSC Vice President for Research. At HMS Dr. Gilmore is an affiliate of the HMS Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, and is a member of the Biological and Biomedical Sciences Program. He serves on the steering committees of the Harvard Microbial Sciences Initiative, and the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard Infectious Disease Initiative. His numerous honors include a Fogarty Senior International Fellowship at Cambridge University, an Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship, a VH Honeymon Distinguished Lectureship, and the OUHSC Regents Award for Distinguished Research. ■

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*Notes from the Chair, continued from cover*

*Many of my friends have said that I really can see because I am able to do so many things well and a few of them have taken to jokingly calling me a "fraud." To help my doubting friends with unhindered vision understand how I piece together my visual world, I have worked out the following exercise for them to try. I tell them, "Sit very comfortably without stress or tension. Try to close your eyes just a tiny fraction at a time to reduce the amount of light entering your eyes…to the point where barely any light is entering…"* ***This is the way I see.***

*My eyes no longer respond properly to the stimulus of light. I compare the reduced light to Salomé's Dance of the Seven Veils, except in reverse. I am adding cloudy veil upon cloudy veil to obscure the image I am trying to grasp, rather than removing veil after veil. I can only get a hint of what the almost perceived complete image will contain. But don't treat that lightly. I have learned to use reduced light and partial image to behave almost as a sighted person at times. I can begin to fathom through the dense fog what I might be facing, or a tiny fragment of cognizance will give me an understanding of what the whole picture should be.*

**Try to close your eyes just a tiny fraction at a time to reduce the amount of light entering your eyes… to the point where barely any light is entering… This is the way I see.**

— Seymour Robins

*Over the many years that I had excellent vision, I was interested in everything I saw. As an artist and designer, visual curiosity was paramount. When my eyes went bad, it was almost as though I had spent a lifetime training to cross over to the parallel world of the legally blind. Being engrossed in what was happening visually in my seeing years made it easier to understand and describe what happened when my sight left me. My great experiences with a lifetime of unhindered vision as an artist are still the major factor in enabling me to function in the low-vision life of the legally blind.*

*My eyes still respond with a happy recognition of some colors. Red, orange, yellow and some greens penetrate my sluggish receptor cells. In our dining hall I frequently will order an omelet. They make excellent ones, but it is really the penetrating quality of the yellow-orange egg, especially when joined with cheese, that makes an omelet a desirable dish. Sitting down to the breakfast table with my back to the sharp Berkshire morning sunlight, I know where the kitchen staff has set up my coffee cup. They know to pour me half a cup of coffee, and I put the palm of my hand flat over the top of the cup to check how hot it is and how much is left. The orange juice in the dark blue ceramic container is a successful presentation, and the contrast of the orange liquid in the dark blue cup is helpful in enabling me to determine how much is left.*

*Residing in an independent living community gives me the opportunity to recognize many friends. I can identify them by size or build or their manner of dress as well as their voice. I can identify people after I have known them for a while by the way they move or walk. I could not identify my good friend Lou when he was sitting at the dining room table. When he stood up and walked, I recognized him immediately. His shoulders were pressed forward, causing his arms to swing in his unique way, and his head was pressed forward, too. My other sensory capacities complete the orchestration of being knowledgeable of my immediate environs and companions. Some of the women use perfume that tells me from ten feet away who they are. I comment happily on this, and it never fails to please.*

*I frequently receive compliments on my clothing. I have no problems picking out clothing if I have to, including jackets or sport coats, because I have had my clothes for so long I can identify each article by touch. I have a sizable and colorful array of suspenders. By examining them with my fingers I can identify which they are. Some are wider, some narrow, some more elastic. When my clean laundry arrives each week, a pair of suspenders is attached to each pair of pants. Dressing can be tedious, especially if the suspenders get tangled with the pants and I have to start again. I can get impatient; it is about the only time I tend to lose my cool.*

*There is of course more in both gains and losses. I sorely miss reading newspapers and magazines. I've learned to find television channels and programs that present their broadcasts in a vivid language that takes the place of pictorials, and I greatly enjoy having visual things described to me. My son Clem, an artist, explains some of the paintings he is working on, and it pleases me. Artists among the residents of my community will also tell me abut their paintings or prints when I ask, and I really enjoy these conversations. I think the tremendous advantage I have in this low-vision world is my great wealth of visual experiences gathered during my sighted days. I enjoy my days more now as a writer and author because I had those wonderful years as an artist. Having both is very, very good. Being legally blind still offers great opportunities for a full and exciting life.* ■

*(Reprinted with permission, estate of Seymour Robbins)*

# Ophthalmology Grand Rounds

### Academic Year '11-12

Grand Rounds are held every Thursday from 8:00-9:00 AM in Meltzer Auditorium, 3rd Floor, Mass. Eye and Ear. Continuing Medical Education credit is available. A monthly list is posted at **www.masseyeandear.org**.

### Special Grand Rounds Events

**July 28, 2011**: Quality, Humanism and Professionalism Program Quarterly Lecture. Speaker: Luis Sanchez, Director of Physician Health Services, Mass. Medical Society.

**September 22, 2011**: Quality, Humanism and Professionalism Program Quarterly Lecture. Speaker: TBD.

# Upcoming Events

The Department of Ophthalmology at Mass. Eye and Ear sponsors a range of special lectures and courses. For further information, please consult the Ophthalmology Education section at **www.masseyeandear.org**.

**July 22-23, 2011**: Second Annual Harvard Medical School Department of Ophthalmology Fellows' Vitreoretinal Course

**August 20-24 2011**: American Society of Retina Specialists 29th Annual Meeting, Boston, MA

**September 1-2, 2011**: Cornea Visiting Professor: Anthony Aldave, MD, Jules Stein Eye Institute, UCLA

**September 21, 2011**: Pediatric Ophthalmology Visiting Professor Lecture Series, Children's Hospital Boston [with video link at Mass Eye and Ear], Alan Scott, MD, Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute, San Francisco

**September 30-Oct 1, 2011**: 27th Biennial Cornea Conference, Schepens Starr Center for Scientific Communications, 185 Cambridge Street

**November 9, 2011**: Pediatric Ophthalmology Visiting Professor Lecture Series, Children's Hospital Boston [with video link at Mass. Eye and Ear], Graham Quinn, MD, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

**November 16, 2011**: The Harvard Glaucoma Joint Lab Meeting Visiting Professor Lecture: Claude Burgoyne, MD, Scientist and Research Director, Optic Nerve Head Research Laboratory, Devers Eye Institute, Portland, OR

**November 17-18**: Cornea Visiting Professor: Stephen Kay, MD, University of Liverpool, UK

**December 9, 2011**: Paul A. Chandler Lecture, Mass. Eye and Ear

# Awards, Grants & Other Honors

**Professor of Genetics (Ophthalmology) Constance L. Cepko, PhD** was awarded the prestigious 2011 Alfred W. Bressler Prize in Vision Science from the Jewish Guild for the Blind. Dr. Cepko was cited for her recent research suggesting a new therapeutic approach for retinitis pigmentosa in humans and for studies that illuminate causes of cone death and possible new ways to slow or stop the loss of these critical vision cells.

**Anthony Daniels, MD, MSc**, a third-year ophthalmology resident at HMS who will begin his vitreoretinal fellowship at Mass. Eye and Ear in July, has been selected as the Harvard Ophthalmology Alcon Scholar for 2011-12. As the Alcon Scholar, Dr. Daniels will carry out a research project on uveal melanoma under the mentorship of Ivana Kim, MD. Utilizing a large cohort of tissue and blood samples gathered from decades of uveal melanoma patients seen on the Retina Service and employing a new separation method developed by Dr. Daniel Haber at the MGH Cancer Center, Dr. Daniels will isolate circulating tumor cells and perform gene expression profiling to elucidate the genetic events that mediate progression from blood-borne tumor cells to full metastasis.

**Carolyn Kloek, MD** has been named a Rabkin Fellow in Medical Education at the Shapiro Institute for Education and Research at HMS for academic year 2011-12. Her fellowship project is entitled "Creation of a standardized, case-based ophthalmology curriculum for medical students." This new curriculum has the potential to increase the quality of clinical training, enhance the ophthalmic learning experience of medical students (and perhaps encourage them to consider ophthalmology as a specialty path), and to serve as a model training program for institutions around the world.

Second year resident **Yao Liu, MD** was chosen as an invitee to the Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Residents' Retreat, to be held in Chicago in September. The goal of the retreat is to promote careers in academic ophthalmology. The retreat features 22 invited residents plus 22 faculty members from academic departments of ophthalmology across the U.S.

Nine HMS-affiliated trainees (six Mass. Eye and Ear, two Schepens, one Children's Hospital) were awarded travel grants to attend ARVO's 2011 annual meeting.

# Staff Updates

### Congratulations to the following staff on their HMS promotions/ appointments:

**Andrius Kazlauskas, PhD**, Schepens Eye Research Institute, Professor of Ophthalmology.

### Personnel Changes:

**Eric Pierce, MD, PhD** will join Mass. Eye and Ear in September, 2011 as Associate Director of the Berman-Gund Laboratory for the Study of Retinal Degenerations as a clinician and educator, and as Director of the new Ocular Genomics Institute, where he will oversee the Genetic Therapies program. Dr. Pierce will build on

the decades of research and clinical care in retinal degenerations undertaken by Eliot L. Berson, MD, the William F. Chatlos Professor of Ophthalmology at HMS. Dr. Pierce earned his PhD in biochemistry at University of Wisconsin-Madison and his MD at the HMS-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology. He completed ophthalmology residency at Mass. Eye and Ear, followed by a combined research-clinical fellowship in pediatric ophthalmology at Children's Hospital Boston; he then joined the ophthalmology faculty at Children's, focusing on retinitis pigmentosa 1 (RP1) gene research. In 1999, Dr. Pierce was recruited to Scheie Eye Institute in Philadelphia, where he directed his work toward retinal degenerations. His recent research efforts have focused on the use of next generation DNA sequencing to identify retinal degeneration genes, and to improve genetic diagnostic testing for patient with inherited retinal degeneration disorders.

**Dean Eliott, MD** joined Mass. Eye and Ear in December, 2010. He serves as Associate Director of the Retina Service, and his practice will include the main campus and satellite locations. Dr. Eliott was recruited from Doheny Eye Institute, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California Medical School, where he served as director of their vitreoretinal fellowship program. He will be nominated as the first incumbent of the newly created Stelios Evangelos Gragoudas Professorship in Ophthalmology.

**Leo Kim, MD, PhD** will join the Mass. Eye and Ear Retina Service in July, 2011 under the auspices K12 Harvard-Vision Clinical Scientist Development Program. His research program is centered on intraocular gene delivery of an anti-VEGF antibody delivered via adenovirus vector and will be done under the mentorship of Patricia D'Amore, PhD, MBA at SERI and Joan Miller, MD and Dean Eliott, MD of the Retina Service at MEEI. Dr. Kim completed his MD-PhD at Yale University's Medical Scientist Training Program and then on to Doheny Eye Institute-University of Southern California for ophthalmology residency and Vitreoretinal Fellowship, where he was a Heed Fellow. He is joined in Boston by his fiancée, Grace Lee, MD, now completing an Ocular Pathology/Oncology fellowship at Casey Eye Institute in Portland, Oregon and accepted for the 2012-14 ASOPRS Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship at MEEI with Suzanne Freitag, MD. In the interim, Dr. Lee will be a clinical research fellow at MEEI.

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

**Kevin Houston, OD, FAAO** will join Mass. Eye and Ear in July, 2011 under the auspices of the K12 Harvard-Vision Clinical Scientist Development Program. His research work with Professor of Ophthalmology, Eli Peli, at Schepens Eye Research Institute will focus on the use of p-prism glasses and computerized perceptual-motor training for patients having hemianopia with visual neglect. His clinical practice will be based at Mass. Eye and Ear's Vision Rehabilitation Center, with Mary Louise Jackson, MD. He will also be mentored by Joseph Rizzo III, MD. Dr. Houston obtained a Doctor of Optometry at Indiana University and has been leading its School of Optometry's Vision Rehabilitation Service in Indianapolis.

**Rebecca Stacy, MD, PhD** will join Mass. Eye and Ear in September, 2011 following completion of her combined fellowship at MEEI in Ophthalmic Pathology and Neuro-Ophthalmology as a Heed Fellowship awardee. She will continue as an attending physician in both services, with the majority of her time in the Cogan Ophthalmic Pathology Laboratory. Rebecca attended Washington University School of Medicine's (St. Louis) combined MD/PhD program and completed residency training at Mass. Eye and Ear.

**Michael K. Yoon, MD** will join the MEEI Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Service in mid-October, 2011. His practice will include orbital, lacrimal and eyelid disease in addition to neuro-ophthalmic problems. Dr. Yoon attended the Union College/Albany Medical College 7-year accelerated medical training program, graduating magna cum laude and with the Ophthalmology Achievement Award. He completed his ophthalmology residency at Tufts-New England Medical Center. For the past three years he has held a Neuro-Ophthalmology/Orbital Surgery Fellowship as well as an ASOPRS Oculofacial Fellowship, both at University of California-San Francisco Medical Center

Assistant Professor of Medicine and Infectious Disease Specialist **Miriam Baron Barshak, MD** will join the Mass. Eye and Ear Infectious Disease Service in September, 2011. Dr. Barshak is an HMS graduate and completed her residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital. She did her infectious disease fellowship in the Partners' Infectious Disease Program, during which she won both the Edward Kass Award for clinical excellence and the Maxwell Finland Award for excellence in research from the Massachusetts Infectious Disease Society. She has a special interest in group B streptococcal pathogenesis, and is looking forward to devoting herself full-time to patient care.

**Nancy Kim, MD, PhD** is transitioning to employment at Harvard Vanguard/Atrius in late June. Nancy quickly built a practice in Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery at MEEI's East Bridgewater office, and at HVMA since August 2009, while getting married and becoming a mother during the same time! She has been an important contributor and we wish her the very best.


**International Grand Rounds**: HMS faculty from Mass. Eye and Ear and Children's Hospital Boston participate in Grand Rounds joined by colleagues from the Shanghai Eye and Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital at Fudan University. HMS is hosting a five-member Shanghai team for an eight week visit to explore new opportunities for collaboration and outreach (see story, Eyewitness #16). Upgraded audio and visual technology in Meltzer Auditorium provided a 3-way, high tech link.

# Service

Two HMS faculty and a Mass. Eye and Ear pharmacist have contributed to the programs of the New England Chapter of The Glaucoma Foundation during the past few months. In February, Mass. Eye and Ear Clinical Pharmacist **Christine Finn, PharmaD**, presented a talk on glaucoma medications. In March, Associate Professor **Janey Wiggs, MD, PhD** spoke on genetics in the glaucoma clinic. In April, **Associate Professor Louis Pasquale, MD** discussed the role environmental factors play in exfoliation glaucoma.

**Manager Lynn Bushee** and **Kim Schoessow, OT** of Mass. Eye and Ear's Vision Rehabilitation Center visited the Brookwood School in Manchester, MA at the request of the daughter of MEEI Trustee, Paul George. Kim and Lynn demonstrated reading material and adaptive equipment that partially sighted and blind children utilize. Using magnifiers and distance devices plus some tactile and Braille books and blocks, they also spoke with the students about diversity and vision-impairment in children.

# Education Updates

**The American Society of Retina Specialists** is holding their 29th Annual Meeting in Boston from August 20-24, 2011. They are sponsoring a specialty refresher day on the 20th, and HMS Ophthalmology faculty are contributing their expertise. Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology **Roberto Pineda, II, MD** will be giving a cornea/anterior segment review; **Suzanne Freitag, MD**, MEEI's Director of the Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Service, will do the oculoplastics review. Join Mass. Eye and Ear/HMS at an early evening reception on Monday, August 22. Find details in your meeting materials!

**Professor of Ophthalmology (Pathology) Patricia D'Amore, PhD, MBA** was recently profiled in the *Colloquy,* the quarterly magazine of the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. The profile was part of a lead article, "The Big Picture, the Details, and Everything in Between," on a student-run mentoring program aimed to help women PhD candidates prepare for careers and lives in the sciences. Dr. D'Amore's connection with Irene Kim, now in her sixth year of a PhD program in virology has widened Irene's network and created new professional opportunities. Dr. D'Amore has become more sensitive to the needs of people in her own lab: "I didn't tend to give much positive feedback. I now realize what a difference that makes."

**Robert J. D'Amato, MD, PhD**, Professor of Ophthalmology was nominated for a 2010-11 HMS/HSDM Excellence in Mentoring Award.

# Alumni News

**Steven H. Cobb, MD** (former Mass. Eye and Ear/HMS faculty) reports some exciting growth in the Department of Ophthalmology at Mayo Clinic/Arizona in Phoenix, where he is in practice. Because Mayo is a major regional referral center, the department focuses a great deal of its efforts on the ophthalmic aspects of systemic diseases. The possible expansion of Mayo's College of Medicine to include a Phoenix campus will expand the practice greatly. Dr. Cobb reports that many of Phoenix's "snowbird" residents are from New England, giving him numerous opportunities to share in the care of mutual patients with HMS colleagues.

**Jayakrishna Ambati, MD** (vitreoretinal fellow alumnus), Professor of Physiology and Professor and Vice Chair of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, was awarded the AFER/Pfizer Ophthalmics/Carl Camras Translational Research Award at the 2011 annual meeting of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology.

**September 22-22, 2012**

**Second Biennial Symposium on Age-Related Macular Degeneration**

Organizing Committee Co-Chairs: Patricia D'Amore, PhD, MBA, Ivana Kim, MD, and Joan Miller, MD

Coming in 2012, the second AMD symposium will bring together international faculty with expertise in a diverse array of topics as well as leaders from related disciplines outside ophthalmology. An interactive format will focus on current and future topics in AMD research including genetics, RPE/Bruch's membrane/choriocapillaris, inflammation, stem cells and tissue engineering, imaging, animal models, and neurodegenerative disease. For information, please visit: **www.schepens.harvard.edu/amd_symposium**

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
Department of Ophthalmology

# Eyewitness

Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary
243 CHARLES STREET, BOSTON, MA 02114



## SAVE THE DATES!

HMS DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

## Special Events

**September 30-October 1, 2011**

### 27th Biennial Cornea Conference

Starr Center for Scientific Communications, 185 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA

Conference Co-chairs: James Chodosh, MD, MPH and Reza Dana, MD, MPH, MSc

The Biennial Cornea Conference explores current basic and laboratory research developments of the cornea and ocular surface, building links between this exciting new information and the numerous disease entities that afflict this portion of the eye. Two days of lectures will feature some 30 confirmed national and international speakers. Session topics include Ocular Pain and Sensation, Dry Eye and Ocular Surface, Infection, Inflammation and Angiogenesis, Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine. For information and to register please visit: **www.schepens.harvard.edu/cornea2011**

**July 22-23, 2011**

### Second Annual Mass. Eye and Ear Vitrectomy Course

Location: Mass. Eye and Ear Infirmary

This course is aimed towards first-year vitreoretinal surgical fellows (fellowship beginning in July 2011). The course has been designed to give the beginning fellow a brief but comprehensive introduction to techniques in vitreoretinal surgery, as well as to prepare the fellow for fellowship OR experience. Consisting of lectures, wet labs, and "dry labs" using virtual reality simulators, the course is taught by renowned faculty from the U.S. and abroad. All meals are provided and there is a gala dinner on the evening of July 23rd. To register, please visit **http://www.masseyeandear.org/for-professionals/ophthalmology/meetings-courses/**