

NEWS FROM HARVARD OPHTHALMOLOGY | ISSUE 44, JANUARY 2024

# EYE WITNESS



## FOSTERING LEADERSHIP AT HARVARD OPHTHALMOLOGY

- ▶ Highlights from 2023 ARVO Meeting
- ▶ Alumni News and Updates
- ▶ Register for the Upcoming Annual Meeting and Alumni Reunion



**HARVARD**  
MEDICAL SCHOOL

DEPARTMENT OF  
Ophthalmology

## Redefining Leadership

Harvard Ophthalmology has a long legacy of cultivating and nurturing future leaders in our field. As Chair of the department, one of my key responsibilities is to provide leadership development opportunities across our mission areas of clinical care, research, and education that benefit trainees, faculty, and administrative staff at every stage of their careers. Our goal is to help members of our department, institutions, and indeed the whole vision and ophthalmology community, reach their maximum potential.

Early in my career, I was driven by my passion for retina surgical and medical care and translational research. I was lucky enough to be a member of the research teams that developed successful new therapies for retinal diseases. The first of these was photodynamic therapy with verteporfin for the treatment of choroidal neovascularization in AMD and other conditions, and secondly, the discovery of the key role of VEGF in ocular neovascularization, and therapies to block it in neovascular AMD, diabetic retinopathy, retinal vascular occlusion, and retinopathy of prematurity. I attribute much of my success to the support and guidance of my mentors in retina, research, and leadership.

Soon after I was promoted to Professor of Ophthalmology, a search was opened for the Chair of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School and Chief of Ophthalmology at Mass Eye and Ear. That role had never been one I sought, but my mentor, Dr. Ephraim Friedman, encouraged me to throw my hat in the ring. He told me that I had certainly had success as a clinician scientist, but that now it was time for me to give back to the institution by serving as a leader and creating an environment that provides support and opportunity for the next generation.

An academic department as large as ours provides opportunities for all kinds of faculty career paths: for basic scientists (albeit with a connection to clinical diagnosis or therapy), clinical experts, clinician educators, and clinician scientists. Balancing the multifaceted responsibilities of these career paths already demands a certain level of professional development. Integrating leadership development into one's career path opens additional gratifying and challenging opportunities.

In this issue of *Eye Witness*, we are excited to share a glimpse into the robust spectrum of leadership opportunities at Harvard Ophthalmology. These span



our institutions and range from service on committees or organizing a visiting professor event, to fellowship and service director roles, or leading laboratory groups or centers of excellence. We provide training opportunities, both internal and external, and encourage collaboration across disciplines and between administrative staff and faculty. Growing and supporting the next generation of leaders is the key to a bright and hopeful future.

**Joan W. Miller, MD**

David Glendenning Cogan Professor of Ophthalmology and Chair, Department of Ophthalmology, Harvard Medical School

Chair of Ophthalmology, Massachusetts Eye and Ear and Massachusetts General Hospital

Ophthalmologist-in-Chief, Brigham and Women's Hospital

# Leadership Training Fosters Brighter Future for Ophthalmology and Beyond

Harvard Ophthalmology is one of the premier ophthalmology departments in the nation, renowned for its commitment to developing future leaders and innovators in the field. Here, faculty and trainees are immersed in an environment characterized by inclusivity and support, where professional development is a top priority. Emerging leaders at all stages of their careers are encouraged to take advantage of the many opportunities we offer to refine and broaden their expertise, paving the way for them to assume important and influential roles in the field.

Below, we highlight just a few examples of the many opportunities we extend to our community.

## Trainees: The Future of Ophthalmology

We recognize that trainees are the lifeblood and future of our department. We are fully invested in their success and have implemented a range of initiatives aimed at their growth and development. Our residents, fellows, and postdocs will grow their careers along diverse paths, and our goal is to ensure they emerge with needed skills, ready to excel as leaders in their respective areas of expertise.

### Public Speaking and Presenting

It is important that our trainees emerge from our programs with a strong knowledge base and skillset, but also the ability to communicate effectively, contributing to their success as leaders and scholars in the field of ophthalmology. Various department events, such as weekly grand rounds, postdoctoral seminars, the Harvard Ophthalmology Annual Meeting and Alumni Reunion, and the Biennial Cornea Conference, give trainees practice in preparing and presenting a variety of topics in a range of settings.

As part of the Chandler Visiting Professorship, residents choose a subspecialty area and select a visiting professor to whom residents will present and discuss their cases, providing an invaluable platform to enhance their presentation skills.



*Patricia D'Amore, PhD, in the lab with a trainee*

Two residents are selected to serve as meeting co-chairs and work with faculty to develop the program.

Our annual Residents' Course is a day-long event that focuses on a topic selected by residents. With guidance from a faculty mentor, ophthalmology residents present to faculty and each other on a range of related topics.

As part of our postdoctoral research programs, all trainees are required to give an hour-long seminar highlighting their research. This gives them a chance to develop presentation skills and receive valuable feedback from faculty.

### Chief Resident and Director of the Mass Eye and Ear Trauma Service

The role of Chief Resident presents many opportunities to gain education leadership and mentoring experience. Our Chief Resident coordinates trauma coverage at Mass Eye and Ear, Mass General Hospital, and Brigham and Women's Hospital, and serves as a key member of the ophthalmology education leadership team.

**About 1 in 5** Department Chairs of Ophthalmology in the United States and Canada are our alumni.

Many of our former Chief Residents have gone on to become important leaders in the field, including:

- Donald J. D'Amico, MD, Chair of Ophthalmology at Weill Cornell Medical College
- Kathryn A. Colby, MD, PhD, Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at NYU Grossman School of Medicine
- Carolyn Kloek, MD, Chief Medical Officer, OU Health
- Demetrios Vavvas, MD, PhD, Director of the Retina Service at Mass Eye and Ear and Co-Director, Harvard Ophthalmology Ocular Regenerative Medicine Institute

### Annual Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Residents' Retreat

The Society of Heed Fellows and the Heed Foundation host an annual Residents' Retreat for selected trainees who are interested in pursuing careers in academic medicine. Co-sponsored by the American Ophthalmological Society and Research to Prevent Blindness, the event allows residents to network and learn from university faculty. Only 30-35 residents are selected from across the country, and programs are limited to two residents.

### AUPO Resident and Fellow Research Forum

Each year, Harvard Ophthalmology nominates trainees for the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO)/Research to Prevent Blindness Resident and Fellow Research Forum. This forum was established to encourage the most promising trainees to pursue careers in academic ophthalmology and vision research. Selected awardees present their research during the AUPO annual meeting.



2023 Residents Course at Mass Eye and Ear

### Membership in Professional Societies

Within ophthalmology, we are fortunate to have many professional organizations that aid in educating and empowering our community. We encourage all trainees to join and become active members in organizations, including the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology.

### Faculty Leadership Initiatives

The strength of any academic institution lies in its faculty, and at Harvard Ophthalmology, professional development is a cornerstone. By providing numerous opportunities for faculty to lead—whether through committee participation or program leadership—we ensure that the future of ophthalmology is shaped by a diverse array of voices.

### Sponsorship for Training Programs

The department actively identifies emerging leaders and looks for ways to help them get to the next level. We sponsor promising individuals for training programs that will contribute to their success.

One of these is the annual Harvard Medical School Leadership Development Program for Physicians and Scientists. The three-day program focuses on human resource management, negotiations, finance, self-assessment, communications, and personal career development. Over 41 faculty have attended this program since 2003.

Another new and competitive program is the AUPO Academic Leadership Development Program. Established in 2020, the course includes interactive, in-person sessions, webinars, and networking, and concludes with a final session at AUPO's annual meeting. Three of our faculty have been selected to date.

### Anne Klibanski Visiting Scholars Award: Championing Women Leaders

The department consistently nominates women faculty for the Anne Klibanski Visiting Scholars Award. This award—given through the Mass General Center for Faculty Development—is presented to women faculty clinicians, educators, researchers, and senior postdocs at Mass General who exhibit extraordinary potential as leaders in their respective fields. These individuals stand to gain immense benefits from engaging in speaking engagements, mentorship opportunities, and networking experiences on a national scale. Awardees serve as a



virtual visiting professor and present grand rounds at a national or international institution.

Since the award was established in 2020, Harvard Ophthalmology has had successful award recipients each year—a testament to the exceptional caliber of our faculty.

### Internal Committees and Event Co-Chairs

Our faculty actively contribute to and lead various committees that keep our department and institutions thriving. This engagement ranges from the HMS Faculty Council and Harvard Ophthalmology Residency Steering and Selection Committees to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee and the Institutional Review Board.

Faculty also serve as co-chairs of various departmental events, including our Annual Meeting and Alumni Reunion.

### Mid- and Junior-Level Leadership Roles within the Department

The department has created Associate Fellowship Program Director and Associate Service Director roles within our education and clinical leadership teams, providing junior faculty the chance to develop important leadership skills.

Within the fellowship programs, this new role enables junior faculty to closely engage with our trainees and nurtures their passion for education while igniting the spark for future leadership. They serve as integral figures in guiding and shaping the educational experiences of our trainees, offering invaluable mentorship and fostering an environment of collaborative learning.

Similarly, the Associate Service Directors serve as indispensable supporters to the Service Directors and

Administrative Directors, sharing work in operations, recruiting, personnel, and annual career conferences.

### Research Leadership for Centers of Excellence and Institutes

The Harvard Ophthalmology Centers of Excellence and Institutes are multidisciplinary collaborations that unite clinicians, educators, investigators, trainees, and laboratories across the department, with each directed toward a specific eye disorder (Center) or scientific discipline (Institute).

Typically, each Center and Institute is co-led by one clinician scientist and one basic researcher who exemplify the scientific and collaborative leadership characteristics critical to the achievement of our mission—an approach that has resulted in great synergy.

### Principal Investigators for Departmental Grants

Our researchers are provided with opportunities to serve as Principal Investigators for major departmental grants, including the National Research Service Award (NRSA) Institutional Research Training Grant (T32) and National Institute of Health Center Core Grants (P30). The PIs gain important experience in grant management, strategic planning and vision, project oversight, communication and reporting, regulatory compliance, and mentoring and training.

### Professional Associations

The department supports and encourages the nomination of faculty for membership in professional societies, such as Retina Society or Cornea Society, as well as leadership roles within those societies. For instance, many faculty serve on the ARVO Annual Meeting Program Committee, with some senior faculty serving as Section Chairs.

## Ensuring Excellence for Generations to Come

Harvard Ophthalmology’s mission extends far beyond the present. With an unwavering dedication to clinical care, research, and education, the department is steadfast in upholding its legacy of excellence. Our emphasis on leadership development ensures that patients worldwide continue to receive the highest quality of care today and in the future.



Alice Lorch, MD, MPH, with a colleague at Mass Eye and Ear

## Highlights from the 2023 Harvard Ophthalmology Annual Meeting and Alumni Reunion

On June 9, 2023, Harvard Ophthalmology hosted its Annual Meeting and Alumni Reunion with approximately 350 faculty and alumni in attendance. This full-day event featured faculty and alumni talks, award presentations, a poster contest, gala dinner, and many opportunities to catch up and reconnect. The event was chaired by Gena Heidary, MD, PhD; Rachel Huckfeldt, MD, PhD; and the Directors of Harvard Ophthalmology Alumni, Joseph B. Ciolino, MD; and Joseph F. Rizzo III, MD, along with Joan W. Miller, MD.

Congratulations to our 2023 achievement awardees and memorial Mariana Dieste Mead lecturer:



*Ilene K. Gipson, PhD, presenting research on the function of mucins*

### Distinguished Research Achievement Award

Ilene K. Gipson, PhD, was a leading cornea scientist at Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass Eye and Ear for more than three decades and is Professor of Ophthalmology, Emerita, at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Gipson discussed her research on the function of mucins on the ocular surface epithelia and their alteration in disease and infection.



*M. Roy Wilson, MD, MS, discussing his personal journey with glaucoma*

### Distinguished Clinical Achievement Award

M. Roy Wilson, MD, MS (class of '85), an expert in glaucoma epidemiology who has served in many important leadership roles throughout his career, including most recently President of Wayne State University, discussed his life experience in ophthalmology in the presentation titled, My Personal Journey with Glaucoma: A Cautionary Tale of Race-Based Medicine.



*Peter S. Hersh, MD, and Joseph Rizzo III, MD*

### Mariana Dieste Mead Lecturer

Peter S. Hersh, MD, class of '86 and former Harvard Ophthalmology Chief Resident, presented this year's Mariana Dieste Mead Lecture. Dr. Hersh's lecture, Beyond Crosslinking: Corneal Tissue Addition Keratoplasty

(CTAK) for Keratoconus, discussed corneal tissue addition keratoplasty (CTAK) for the treatment of keratoconus. Dr. Hersh is the Founder of the Cornea and Laser Eye Institute and Director of the Cornea and Refractive Surgery Division at Rutgers Medical School. This lecture honors the memory of Mariana Dieste Mead, MD, an accomplished ophthalmologist who trained and worked at Harvard Ophthalmology and Mass Eye and Ear.

## Trainee Poster Contest

In the evening, attendees gathered at The Newbury Hotel for the annual trainee poster contest, reception, and gala dinner. Thank you to poster contest judges Pablo Altschwager Krefft, MD; Ankoor Shah, MD, PhD; Levi Kanu, MD; Bruce Ksander, PhD; Michael Lin, MD; Qin Liu, MD, PhD; Austin Meeker, MD; and Daniel Sun, PhD, and thank you to all residents and fellows for your participation.

Drs. Gena Heidary and Rachel Huckfeldt announced the Poster Contest winners.

Congratulations to:

- Jonathan Lin, MD, PhD, ophthalmology resident, for his poster, *Aqueous Humor Neurofilament Light Chain is a Marker of Neurodegeneration in Glaucoma*
- Filippos Vingopoulos, MD, a postdoctoral research fellow at Mass Eye and Ear, for his poster, *Quantitative Contrast Sensitivity Correlates Better Than Visual Acuity with Geographic Atrophy Size in Advanced Dry AMD: A New Functional Endpoint*



Trainee Poster Contest at the Annual Meeting and Alumni Reunion Reception

- Shazia Ashraf, PhD, a postdoctoral research fellow at Mass Eye and Ear, for her poster *ATM-Mediated Prominent DNA Damage Response in Fuchs Endothelial Corneal Dystrophy*
- Cindy Hoppe, MS, a graduate student and member of the Gregory-Ksander Laboratory at Schepens Eye Research Institute at Mass Eye and Ear, for her poster, *The Alternative Complement Pathway Triggers Neuroinflammation, Glial Activation, and Retinal Ganglion Cell Death in a Microbead Induced Mouse Model of Glaucoma*

**Register for the 2024 Harvard Ophthalmology Annual Meeting and Alumni Reunion, June 13-14, 2024 at [eye.hms.harvard.edu/annualmeeting](https://eye.hms.harvard.edu/annualmeeting)**



Attendees at the Starr Center of Mass Eye and Ear for presentations



## Highlights from the 2023 ARVO Meeting

Harvard Ophthalmology was well represented at the Association for Research and Vision in Ophthalmology (ARVO) Imaging in the Eye Conference and Annual Meeting, held in April 2023 in New Orleans. Faculty and trainees from across the department participated as panelists, lecturers, and presenters, with several faculty receiving honors and awards. We also welcomed 250 guests at our annual ARVO Alumni Reception.

Congratulations to all our faculty who received ARVO awards for their outstanding contributions to vision research.

### Claes H. Dohlman, MD, PhD, Honored with António Champalimaud Vision Award Lecture

Claes H. Dohlman, MD, PhD, whose pioneering research at Harvard Ophthalmology and Mass Eye and Ear has forever changed the way conditions of the cornea are understood and treated, received the 2022 António Champalimaud Vision Award for his vast contributions to vision research in September 2022. This award, often referred to as the “Nobel Prize of Vision,” is the highest distinction bestowed in ophthalmology and vision science. Dr. Dohlman received the award along with fellow 2022

Champalimaud Laureate, Gerrit R. J. Melles, MD, PhD, founder of the Netherlands Institute for Innovative Ocular Surgery and the Melles Cornea Clinic in Rotterdam.

As part of the award, a special named lecture was presented by Dr. Dohlman and Reza Dana, MD, MSc, MPH, during the ARVO annual meeting.

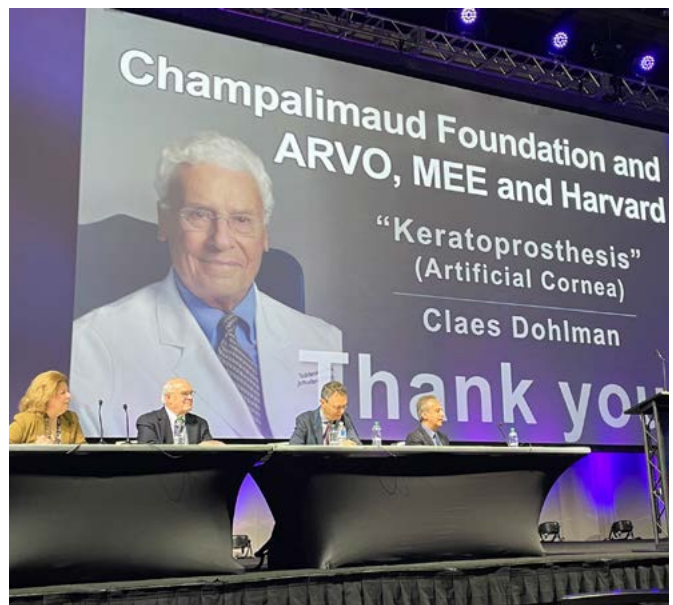
Harvard Ophthalmology is the only ophthalmology department to receive the Champalimaud Award multiple times and boasts the most laureates to date.

In 2014, six HMS researchers were recognized for identifying vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) as the key driver of angiogenesis in diseases of the eye, leading to the development of revolutionary anti-VEGF therapies for diseases, including age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and other retinal vascular diseases.

In 2012, two former Harvard Ophthalmology faculty members and their collaborators were recognized for the invention of optical coherence tomography. This technology—one of the greatest advances in ophthalmic imaging—was developed in collaboration by colleagues at Mass Eye and Ear, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Massachusetts General Hospital.



Harvard Ophthalmology Alumni Reception



Champalimaud Award Lecture honoring Claes H. Dohlman, MD, PhD



## Eric Pierce, MD, PhD, Received Proctor Medal

Dr. Pierce presented the 2023 Proctor Medal Lecture, in recognition of his outstanding achievements in ophthalmology research. Dr. Pierce is internationally renowned for his pioneering research on the molecular genetics of inherited retinal disorders (IRDs). His research



*Eric Pierce, MD, PhD, presenting the 2023 Proctor Lecture*

has led to the discovery of several novel IRD-causing genes. He has also played a leading role in developing CRISPR-Cas9 genome engineering for the treatment of IRDs, and has led cutting-edge gene therapy clinical trials, including a first-of-its-kind CRISPR-Cas9 gene therapy trial for Leber congenital amaurosis.

## Patricia D'Amore, PhD, MBA, Named ARVO President

Dr. D'Amore was named the President of ARVO at the annual meeting. She has served as an ARVO Trustee since 2019. Her term as president will run from April 2023 to April 2024.

## 2024 ARVO Awardees Announced

- Martine J. Jager, MD, PhD, an Adjunct Scientist at Schepens Eye Research Institute, will receive the 2024 Mildred Weisenfeld Award for her distinguished scholarly contributions to the clinical practice of ophthalmology.
- Daniel Saban, PhD, alumnus and Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and Immunology at Duke University, will receive the 2024 Cogan Award for his contributions to research in ophthalmology.

## 32nd Biennial Cornea Conference

Harvard Ophthalmology hosted its 32nd Biennial Cornea Conference on October 21-22, 2022, at Mass Eye and Ear. The two-day event—attended by more than 165 people—featured two named lectures, four panels and conference sessions, a poster contest, and gala dinner.

Congratulations to our poster contest winners:

1st Place: Shima Dehghani, MD (Zahedan University of Medical Sciences)

“Angiogenesis modulation by locally administered regulatory T cells in high-risk corneal transplantation”

2nd Place: Mohit Parekh, PhD (Mass Eye and Ear)

“Effect of ROCK inhibitor on cell migration in Fuchs endothelial corneal dystrophy”

**Save the Date for the 33rd Biennial Cornea Conference  
October 4-5, 2024 in Lisbon, Portugal**



*Stefano Bonini, MD, Professor and Chairman of Ophthalmology at University of Rome Campus Bio-Medico, presented the Claes H. Dohlman, MD, lecture.*



*Arlene Sharpe, MD, PhD, George Fabyan Professor of Comparative Pathology Chair, Department of Immunology at Harvard Medical School, presented the J. Wayne Streilein lecture.*

## 8th Annual Military Vision Symposium

In March 2023, Harvard Ophthalmology hosted its 8th annual Military Vision Symposium at Mass Eye and Ear. The two-day event brought together military leaders, clinicians, and scientists, with the goal of propelling innovative research that will lead to improved treatment and prevention strategies for combat-related eye injuries.

More than 100 attendees joined for panel discussions, lectures, and lightning talks on a range of topics, including robotics and AI-assisted ophthalmic care delivery to war zones, complete eye transplantation, and non-surgical strategies for the management of corneal injuries.

Congratulations to our trainee lightning talk winners:

### FIRST PLACE

- Nikolay Boychev, PhD, Mass Eye and Ear, "Overcoming antimicrobial resistance in bacterial keratitis with an antibiotic-eluting contact lens"

## 2023 Frederick A. Jakobiec Visiting Professorship

On March 6, 2023, R. Nick Hogan, MD, PhD, Professor of Ophthalmology, Pathology, Neurology, and Neurological Surgery at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, presented at the Meltzer Auditorium of Mass Eye and Ear as the 2023 Frederick A. Jakobiec Visiting Professor. Dr. Hogan is an internationally invited lecturer and researcher in neuro-ophthalmology, ocular pathology, and prion disease. He presented on his research, "Polyglucosan Body Disease: Neuro-Ophthalmology and Pathology."

### SECOND PLACE (THREE-WAY TIE)

- Matthew Frost, PhD, University of Connecticut Health, "Neuroprotection and regeneration of optic nerve axons in blast pressure wave model of traumatic optic neuropathy"
- Yuan Tian, PhD, Duke Eye Center, "Efficient anterior chamber particle tracking using adaptive scanning OCT"
- Asmaa Zidan, MD, Mass Eye and Ear, "Pro-regenerative and anti-fibrotic effects of calcitonin gene-related peptide on corneal wound healing"

Thank you to our planning committee members Dong Feng Chen, MD, PhD; Joseph Ciolino, MD; and Darlene Dartt, PhD.

### EVENTS UPDATE...

Join us at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Annual Meeting Harvard Ophthalmology Alumni Reception on May 5 in Seattle, Washington.

Stay tuned for details on registration!





## Team of Researchers Identify New Genetic Variant Protective Against Alzheimer's Disease

Joseph F. Arboleda-Velasquez, MD, PhD, an Associate Scientist at Mass Eye and Ear, Yakeel T. Quiroz, PhD, Director of the Familial Dementia Neuroimaging Laboratory at Massachusetts General Hospital, and an international team of researchers have discovered a new protective variant against Alzheimer's disease. In a paper published in *Nature Medicine*, the team identified a rare genetic variant of the gene RELN that is associated with over two decades of resilience to autosomal dominant Alzheimer's disease in a male patient.

Insights from their findings pinpoint a region of the brain that may provide an optimal treatment target in the future.

"The genetic variant we have identified points to a pathway that can produce extreme resilience and protection against Alzheimer's disease symptoms," said Dr. Arboleda, a co-senior author on the paper. "These are the kinds of insights we cannot gain without patients. They are showing us what's important when it comes to protection and challenging many of the field's assumptions about Alzheimer's disease and its progression."

## Risk-Stratification Tool Guides Surveillance After Pediatric Closed-Globe Traumatic Hyphema

Ankoor S. Shah, MD, PhD, a pediatric ophthalmologist at Mass Eye and Ear and Boston Children's Hospital, and colleagues conducted the first study showing the timing of ocular hypertension (OHT) in children with traumatic hyphema. Using logistic regression analyses, they presented a risk-stratification tool to guide surveillance for OHT after injury. This algorithm was published in the *American Journal of Ophthalmology*. The team retrospectively studied 304 pediatric patients (305 eyes) who sustained closed-globe injury and hyphema between January 2002 and April 2019, presented for treatment within three days of injury, and were followed for at least three visits and at least 21 days. The median follow-up was 591 days, and 57% of patients had >180 days of follow-up. The risk-stratification algorithm proposed in the paper guides clinicians in surveillance for OHT in pediatric patients after closed-globe traumatic hyphema. However, it should be regarded as a starting point. A multicenter validation study is recommended to improve these recommendations.



## New Genetic Mutation Behind Childhood Glaucoma Identified

A team led by Harvard Ophthalmology scientists at Mass Eye and Ear and Boston Children's Hospital discovered a new genetic mutation that may be the cause of severe cases of childhood glaucoma. The new study, published in the *Journal of Clinical Investigations*, could lead to improved screening for childhood glaucoma and more targeted treatments. Through advanced genome-sequencing technology, the researchers found a mutation in the thrombospondin-1 (THBS1) gene in three ethnically and geographically diverse families with childhood glaucoma histories.

The researchers then confirmed their findings in a mouse model that possessed the genetic mutation and went on to develop symptoms of glaucoma driven by a previously unknown disease mechanism. "This is a very exciting finding for families affected by childhood glaucoma," said Janey Wiggs, MD, PhD, the Austin Chandler Professor of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School. "With this new knowledge, we can offer genetic testing to identify children in a family who may be at risk for the disease and start disease surveillance and conventional treatments earlier to preserve their vision. In the future, we would look to develop new therapies to target this mutation."



## What's Next for Our Resident Graduates?

Congratulations to our Chief Resident and PGY-4/Senior Residents who recently transitioned to the next phase of their ophthalmology careers. Isaac Bleicher, MD, is the Chief Resident and Director of the Ophthalmology Trauma Service for AY 2023-24. AY 2022-23 Chief Resident Neal Patel, MD, and our residents matched with top clinical and research fellowship programs.

### OPHTHALMOLOGY RESIDENTS

#### Yanna Bian, MD

Cornea Fellow at Mass Eye and Ear

#### Isaac Bleicher, MD

AY 23-24 Chief Resident and Director of the Ocular Trauma Service at Mass Eye and Ear

#### Alexandra Castillejos-Ellenthal, MD

Glaucoma Fellow at Duke University

#### Daniel Liebman, MD, MBA

Glaucoma Fellow at Mass Eye and Ear

#### Lisa Lin, MD

Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Fellow at Mass Eye and Ear

#### Luis Martinez-Velasquez, MD, PhD

Vitreoretinal Fellow at Mass Eye and Ear  
Recipient of Heed Fellowship

#### Makalya McCoskey, MD

Oculoplastics Fellow at Texas Oculoplastics Consultants

#### Jared Sokol, MD, MBA

Retina Fellow at Stanford University



2023 Resident Graduation

### AY 22-23 CHIEF RESIDENT

#### Neal Patel, MD

Retina Fellow at New York Eye and Ear

### OPTOMETRY RESIDENTS

#### Sydney Marie Krisa, OD

Associate Physician, Contact Lens Service and Dry Eye Therapy, Charlotte, North Carolina

#### Julie Lin, OD

Instructor in Ophthalmology, Harvard Medical School; Member of the Optometry and Contact Lens Service, Mass Eye and Ear

## What's Next for Our Fellow Graduates?

### ANTERIOR SEGMENT, MASS EYE AND EAR

#### Jonathan Maxwell Lam, MD

Private Practice, Boca Raton, Florida

### CORNEA, EXTERNAL DISEASE, AND REFRACTIVE SURGERY, MASS EYE AND EAR

#### Karam AlRahman Alawa, MD

Center for Excellence in Eye Care, Miami, Florida

#### Sila Bal, MD, MPH

Global Ophthalmology Fellow, Moran Eye Institute, University of Utah Health

#### Catherine Liu, MD

Instructor in Ophthalmology, Harvard Medical School; Member of the Comprehensive Ophthalmology and the Cornea and Refractive Surgery Services, Mass Eye and Ear

#### Leonid M. Zukin, MD

Physician/Surgeon, Mile High Eye Institute, Denver, Colorado

### GLAUCOMA, MASS EYE AND EAR

#### Aimee C. Chang, MD

Glaucoma Specialist, Spectrum Eye Physicians, Santa Cruz, California

#### Christian Lieu, MD

Private Practice, Seattle, Washington

### INHERITED RETINAL DEGENERATIONS, MASS EYE AND EAR

#### Priya Rani Gupta, MD

Ophthalmologist, Cornerstone Eye Associates, Rochester, New York

**MEDICAL RETINA FELLOW, MASS EYE AND EAR****Natalie T. Huang, MD**

Retina Consultants Medical Group, Sacramento, California

**MEDICAL RETINA FELLOW, BEETHAM EYE INSTITUTE AT JOSLIN DIABETES CENTER****Cris Martin P. Jacoba, MD**

Retina Attending, Longwood Eye and LASIK Center, West Springfield, Massachusetts

**NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY, MASS EYE AND EAR****Emilie Bergeron, MD**

Neuro-ophthalmology, comprehensive ophthalmology, and cataract surgery, CHU de Québec-Université Laval

**Tais Couto Bernardes P Estrela, MD**

Pediatric Ophthalmology Fellowship, Boston Children's Hospital/Mass Eye and Ear

**NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY AND ADULT STRABISMUS, MASS EYE AND EAR****Aishwarya Sriram, MD**

Global Ophthalmology Fellowship, University of Utah/Moran Eye

**OCULOPLASTICS, MASS EYE AND EAR****Jonathan E. Lu, MD**

Kaiser Permanente, Northern California

**OPHTHALMIC GENETICS, BOSTON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL****Jad Ayash, MD**

Cornea, External Disease, and Refractive Surgery Fellowship, University of Alabama Birmingham

**PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY AND STRABISMUS, BOSTON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL/ MASS EYE AND EAR****Tiffany A. Chen, MD**

Assistant Professor, Department of Ophthalmology, University of California San Francisco

**Leyla Yavuz Saricay, MD**

Cornea, External Disease, and Refractive Surgery Fellow, Mass Eye and Ear

**Marguerite C. Weinert, MD**

Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatric Ophthalmology, Department of Ophthalmology, University of Michigan

**SURGICAL RETINA FELLOW****Ishrat Ahmed, MD, PhD**

Assistant Professor, Wilmer Eye Institute

**Jose Ricardo Davila, MD**

Instructor in Ophthalmology, Harvard Medical School, Retina Service, Mass Eye and Ear

**Marisa Gobuty Tieger, MD**

Assistant Professor, Tufts School of Medicine

**UVEITIS, MASS EYE AND EAR****Marez M. Megalla, MD**

Vitreoretinal and Uveitis Attending, University of Massachusetts

**2023 GRADUATION AWARDS****Simmons Lessell Excellence in Education Award**

Lucy H. Young, MD, PhD

**Clinical Teacher of the Year Award**

Clifford Kim, MD

**Surgical Teacher of the Year Award**

Nahyoung Grace Lee, MD

**Residency Appreciation Award**

Kathy Long, RN, a nurse in the Mass Eye and Ear Emergency Department

**Fellow of the Year**

Caroline Chiou, MD

**Resident Peer Recognition Award**

Lisa Y. Lin, MD

**Trainees Receive Heed Fellowships**

Four Harvard Ophthalmology trainees were awarded Heed Fellowships for AY2023-2024. This postgraduate fellowship is one of the most prestigious honors for trainees who are pursuing academic careers in ophthalmic patient care, education, and research.

Congratulations to:

**David J. Doobin, MD, PhD**

Vitreoretinal Fellow at Mass Eye and Ear

**Jennifer C. Hu, MD, MS**

Vitreoretinal Fellow at Mass Eye and Ear

**Anthony Marte, MD**

Glaucoma Fellow at Mass Eye and Ear

**Luis A. Martinez-Velazquez, PhD, MD**

Vitreoretinal Fellow at Mass Eye and Ear

## Faculty Updates

### HMS APPOINTMENTS/PROMOTIONS (NOVEMBER 2022-JUNE 2023)

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#### To Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology

- Ryoji Amamoto, MD, Mass Eye and Ear, Secondary Appointment
- Yihe Chen, MD, Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass Eye and Ear
- Robert Mallery, MD, Mass Eye and Ear, Secondary Appointment
- Elizabeth Rossin, MD, PhD, Mass Eye and Ear

#### To Instructor of Ophthalmology

- Kanika Agarwal, MD, Mass Eye and Ear
- Tomas Blanco, PhD, MSc, Mass Eye and Ear
- Sivan M. Elyashiv, MD, Mass Eye and Ear
- Marcela Garita-Hernandez, PhD, Mass Eye and Ear
- Clifford B. Kim, MD, Mass Eye and Ear
- Song Li, PhD, Mass Eye and Ear
- S. Mohamad Ali A. Sadiq, MD, Boston Children's Hospital, Part-time

### LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS

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**Pablo Altschwager, MD**, Director of Medical Retina, Boston Children's Hospital

**Austin Meeker, MD**, Associate Fellowship Director, Cornea Fellowship, Mass Eye and Ear

**Mohammad Dahrouj, MD, PhD**, Associate Director, Retina Clinical Trials, Mass Eye and Ear Infection Control Committee, Mass Eye and Ear

**Dan A. Gong, MD**, Associate Director, Retinal Imaging, Mass Eye and Ear

**Clifford Kim, MD**, Associate Program Director, Harvard Ophthalmology Residency Training Program

**Nimesh (Nemo) Patel, MD**, Director, Pediatric Retina, Mass Eye and Ear Director, Pediatric Retina, Mass General Hospital

**Aparna Raghuram, OD, PhD**, Vice Chair/Member of the Executive Committee, Pediatric Eye Disease Investigator Group

**Allison Soneru, MD**, Associate Fellowship Director, Anterior Segment Fellowship Program, Mass Eye and Ear

**Christian Song, MD**, Associate Director, Comprehensive Ophthalmology and Cataract Consultation Service

**Nandini Venkateswaran, MD**, Infection Control Committee, Mass Eye and Ear

**Daniel Vu, MD**, Associate Fellowship Director, Glaucoma Fellowship, Mass Eye and Ear

**Michael K. Yoon, MD**, Associate Director, Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Service, Mass Eye and Ear Fellowship Programs Leader, Department of Ophthalmology, Mass Eye and Ear



## NEW FACULTY

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### SPRING 2023

**Kanika Agarwal, MD**, joined the department as an Instructor of Ophthalmology and member of the member of the Comprehensive Ophthalmology and Glaucoma Service at Mass Eye and Ear. Dr. Agarwal earned her medical degree at Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine and completed residency at Eastern Virginia Medical School. Dr. Agarwal completed a postdoctoral fellowship in anterior segment with Mass Eye and Ear in 2022.

**Ryoji Amamoto, PhD**, joined the department as an Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and researcher at the Ocular Genomics Institute at Mass Eye and Ear. Dr. Amamoto graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in 2010. He then completed a one-year Fulbright Fellowship at École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne in Switzerland before earning his PhD in the Biological and Biomedical Sciences program at Harvard University in 2017. He recently completed a postdoctoral fellowship with Constance Cepko, PhD, in the Genetics Department at Harvard Medical School.

**Sivan Elyashiv, MD**, joined the Ophthalmology Emergency, Consult, and Hospitalist Services as a hospitalist. She also sees patients at an Emergency Department follow-up clinic with a focus on uveitis. Dr. Elyashiv earned her MD at Tel Aviv University, Israel, and completed her residency training at Goldschleger Eye Institute, Sheba Medical Center, Tel Hashomer, Israel. She completed a Uveitis Fellowship at New York Eye & Ear Infirmary of Mt Sinai. After her fellowship, she returned to Israel to the Goldschleger Eye Institute where she was Director of the Uveitis and Ocular Immunology Service.

**Edith Reshef, MD**, joined the Boston Children's Hospital's Department of Ophthalmology as an ophthalmic plastic surgeon. Dr. Reshef earned her medical degree from Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and completed her residency training here at Harvard Ophthalmology. She completed an Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship at Mass Eye and Ear in July 2022.

### SUMMER 2023

**Inas F. Aboobakar, MD**, a Mass Eye and Ear hospitalist and glaucoma researcher in Janey Wiggs' laboratory, joined the hospital's Glaucoma Service. Dr. Aboobakar earned her medical degree from Duke University School of Medicine and completed her residency training at Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins University. She then joined Mass Eye and Ear for a one-year Glaucoma Fellowship. She will continue to work part-time as a hospitalist and glaucoma researcher while seeing glaucoma patients.

**Michael Chang, MD**, joined the Comprehensive Ophthalmology and Glaucoma Services at Mass Eye and Ear. He earned his MD from Harvard Medical School and completed his ophthalmology residency training and Glaucoma Fellowship at Mass Eye and Ear/Harvard Ophthalmology. In 1989, Dr. Chang started in private practice at Eye Health Services where his practice grew and where he served as Corporation President from 2013-2019. In 2021, Eye Health Services merged with Ophthalmic Consultants of Boston.

**Julie Lin, OD**, joined the Optometry and Contact Lens Service at Mass Eye and Ear. She earned her BS in Biology from Emory University and her OD from the State University of New York College of Optometry. Dr. Lin recently completed her Optometric Residency in Ocular Disease and Cornea/Contact Lens at Mass Eye and Ear under the direction of Amy Watts, OD.

## NEW FACULTY

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**Catherine Liu, MD**, joined the Mass Eye and Ear Cornea and Comprehensive Ophthalmology and Cataract Services. She earned her MD from the University of Sherbrooke and completed her ophthalmology residency training at McGill University. Dr. Liu recently completed a two-year fellowship in cornea, external disease, and refractive surgery at Mass Eye and Ear under the direction of Jia Yin, MD, PhD, MPH, and Austin Meeker, MD.

**Asha Meloottu, OD**, joined the Optometry and Contact Lens and Vision Rehabilitation Services at Mass Eye and Ear. She earned her BS in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology from the University of Washington and her OD from the New England College of Optometry. Dr. Meloottu completed an Optometric Residency in Low Vision and Traumatic Brain Injury Rehabilitation at the VA Boston Healthcare System.

**Samira Mortazavi, OD**, joined the Optometry and Contact Lens and Vision Rehabilitation Services at Mass Eye and Ear. Dr. Mortazavi earned her BS in Public Health Education from the University of Houston and her OD from the New England College of Optometry. Dr. Mortazavi completed an Optometric Residency in Ocular Disease and Low Vision at the Doris Miller VA Medical Center in Waco, Texas.

## FALL 2023

**Jose Davila, MD**, who recently completed a vitreoretinal fellowship at Mass Eye and Ear, joined the hospital's Retina Service as a faculty member this fall. Dr. Davila earned his MD from the University of Michigan with the highest distinction and completed his residency training at Stanford University. He completed the second year of his two-year Vitreoretinal Surgery Fellowship and was recognized with the 2022 Mass Eye and Ear Ophthalmology Fellow of the Year award. After graduation, Dr. Davila volunteered on a medical mission trip before starting his new role.

**Hyunjoo J. Lee, MD, PhD**, joined the Cornea and Refractive Surgery and Comprehensive Ophthalmology and Cataract Services at Mass Eye and Ear. Dr. Lee earned her MD/PhD and completed her residency training at Boston University School of Medicine. She then came to Mass Eye and Ear for a cornea, external disease, and refractive surgery fellowship.

**K. Matthew McKay, MD**, joined the immunology and uveitis and retina services as a faculty member this fall. Dr. McKay earned his MD from University of Pennsylvania and completed residency training at Mass Eye and Ear 2019. He completed a uveitis fellowship and a vitreoretinal surgery fellowship at the University of Washington prior to his return to Mass Eye and Ear.

## DEPARTURES

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**Mary Elizabeth Aronow, MD**, an Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and member of the Retina Service at Mass Eye and Ear, left the department to take a new role in retina research at Genentech. An accomplished clinician scientist focused on ocular oncology, she has presented her research at numerous national and international meetings. Dr. Aronow joined the department in 2017 from Wilmer Eye Institute/Johns Hopkins University.

**Benjamin Jastrzembki, MD**, left Boston Children's Hospital in February to relocate to California to be closer to family. He has joined the faculty at the University of California, Davis. Dr. Jastrzembki first joined the department in 2015 as a Harvard Ophthalmology resident. He went on to complete a fellowship in pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto before rejoining the department as a faculty member at Boston Children's Hospital in 2019. Dr. Jastrzembki has been recognized for his excellence in teaching on several occasions. He was voted Educator of the Year by UMass Residents in 2021 and received the Dr. Robert Pashby Award while at the University of Toronto.

**Joseph J. (Jamie) Raevis III, MD**, left the department in February to relocate to New Jersey to be closer to family. He joined Monmouth Retina Consultants, a private practice on the Jersey Shore. Dr. Raevis joined the Retina Service at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in the fall of 2021 after completing a two-year vitreoretinal fellowship at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

**Elizabeth Fortin, MD**, an Instructor in Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School and member of the Neuro-ophthalmology Service at Mass Eye and Ear, left the department in March. Dr. Fortin came to Mass Eye and Ear in 2019 for a neuro-ophthalmology fellowship and joined the Harvard Ophthalmology faculty in 2020. She specializes in disorders affecting the optic pathways, the extraocular muscles, the neuro-muscular junction, and central nervous system conditions affecting vision. While at Mass Eye and Ear, Dr. Fortin's research focused on diseases affecting the optic nerve, including optic neuritis, non arteritic ischemic optic neuropathy, and giant cell arteritis.

**Sina Sharifi, PhD**, an Instructor in Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical school and Investigator at Mass Eye and Ear, left the department in March. He joined us in 2016 as a postdoctoral research fellow and was promoted to the faculty in 2021. An interdisciplinary scientist and National Institutes of Health K99/R00 Pathway to Independence grant recipient, Dr. Sharifi developed several approaches to enhance biocompatibility and the shelf-life of the current Boston Keratoprosthesis. He also designed a methodology to crosslink corneal tissues through a combination of ionizing irradiation and media's polarity.

**Neena B. Haider, PhD**, an Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School and Scientist at Mass Eye and Ear, left the department in April 2023. An expert in the field of genetics, Dr. Haider joined the department in 2012 after beginning her academic career at the University of Nebraska. Her work at Mass Eye and Ear has focused on identifying key genetic factors that modulate inherited retinal diseases and investigating the influence of genes on the multipotency of neural stem cells and retinal progenitors. Dr. Haider has been developing therapeutic targets for retinal degenerations, including age-related macular degenerations and diabetic retinopathy.





## Awards and Grants

### FACULTY AWARDS AND HONORS

Recipient of the Harvard Medical School 2023 William Silen Lifetime Achievement in Mentoring Award  
**Joseph F. Rizzo III, MD**

Recipient of the Harvard Medical School Robert P. Masland Jr. Teaching Award  
**David Hunter, MD, PhD**

Nominated for the 2022 Harvard Medical School Equity, Social, Justice and Advocacy Award  
**John B. Miller, MD**

Recipient of the 2023 Mass Eye and Ear Norman Knight Leadership Development Award in Ophthalmology  
**Christian Song, MD**

Elected to Academy of Athens as a Corresponding Member  
**Evangelos Gragoudas, MD**

Elected to Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis  
**David Friedman, MD, PhD, MPH**

Elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences  
**Elizabeth Engle, MD**

Recipient of the 2023 American Ophthalmological Society Medal  
**Evangelos Gragoudas, MD**

Recipient of the American Physiological Society 2023 Gabor Kaley Memorial Lectureship Award  
**Patricia D'Amore, PhD, MBA**

Elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation  
**Jennifer K. Sun, MD, MPH**

Elected to the American Society for Microbiology as At-Large Director  
**Michael S. Gilmore, PhD**

Elected to Association of American Physicians  
**Lloyd Paul Aiello, MD, PhD**

American Society of Retinal Specialists Honor Award  
**Lucia Sobrin, MD, MPH**

Winners of the 2022 ARVO Scientific Image Contest  
**Mengyu Wang, PhD**  
**Anton Lennikov, PhD, MD**

2022 Bartley R. Frueh Award for Best Presentation by a Young Member at the ASOPRS Foundation Fall Meeting  
**Edith Reshef, MD**

Recipient of the Donald M. Gass Lectureship Award  
**Lloyd Paul Aiello, MD, PhD**

Recipient of the Kern Faculty Fellowship for Leading Change for Humanistic Healthcare  
**Gena Heidary, MD**

Inducted as a North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society (NANOS) Fellow  
**Eric Gaier, MD, PhD**

Named to the 40 under 40 list in Ophthalmology in *Ophthalmology Management*  
**Nandini Venkateswaran, MD**

Research to Prevent Blindness 2022 Career Development Award  
**Thomas Dohlman, MD**

Research to Prevent Blindness 2022 International Research Collaborators Award  
**Mengyu Wang, PhD**

Recipient of Honorary Doctorate from SUNY College of Optometry  
**Anne Fulton, MD**

Recognized as a 2022 Wunderkind by STAT News  
**Elizabeth Rossin, MD, PhD**

Recipient of the Incredible Innovation & Scientific Contribution Award from The Real World Ophthalmology  
**Grayson Armstrong, MD, MPH**

## CENTER OF FACULTY DEVELOPMENT OF MASS GENERAL HOSPITAL EXCELLENCE IN MENTORING AWARDS

Ally for Women Faculty Award

**David S. Friedman, MD, PhD, MPH**

Rising Mentor Award

**John B. Miller, MD**

## MGB PILLARS OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

### COMMITMENT TO AN EXCEPTIONAL PATIENT EXPERIENCE

*Ocular Oncology Care Team*

**Ivana Kim, MD**, Co-Director, Ocular Melanoma Center, Mass Eye and Ear

**Helen A. Shih, MD**, Medical Director, Mass General Hospital Proton Therapy Centers

**Ryan J. Sullivan, MD**, Oncologist, Mass General Hospital

### COLLABORATING ACROSS THE SYSTEM

*Wentworth-Douglass and Mass Eye and Ear Retinopathy of Prematurity Screening Program—Mass Eye and Ear Team Members*

**Mohammad Dahrouj, MD, PhD**, Retina Service, Mass Eye and Ear

**Nimesh (Nemo) Patel, MD**, Director, Pediatric Retina, Boston Children's Hospital; Retina Service, Mass Eye and Ear; Associate

Fellowship Director, Vitreoretinal Surgery Fellowship, Mass Eye and Ear

**Debra Rogers**, Senior Vice President of Ophthalmology, Mass Eye and Ear

**Errieana Tejada**, Medical Administrative Assistant, Retina Service, Mass Eye and Ear

**David Tosatti**, Director of Operations, Mass Eye and Ear

## BOSTON MAGAZINE TOP DOCTORS 2023

Congratulations to the following Harvard faculty who were recognized as one of *Boston Magazine's* "Top Doctors 2023"

### Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Mark C. Kuperwaser, MD

### Boston Children's Hospital

Linda R. Dagi, MD  
Gena Heidary, MD, PhD  
David G. Hunter, MD, PhD  
Melanie A. Kazlas, MD

### Mass Eye and Ear

Teresa C. Chen, MD  
Michael A. Chang, MD  
Reza Dana, MD  
Dean Elliott, MD  
Suzanne Freitag, MD  
David S. Friedman, MD, PhD  
Matthew Gardner, MD  
Leo Kim, MD, PhD  
Grace Lee, MD  
Brendan E. McCarthy, MD  
Joan W. Miller, MD

Shizuo Mukai, M  
Roberto Pineda II, MD  
Joseph F. Rizzo III, MD  
Lucia Sobrin, MD  
David M. Wu, MD, PhD  
Michael K. Yoon, MD  
Lucy H. Young, MD, PhD

### Former Faculty

Ambika Hogue, MD  
Sarwat Salim, MD

## NAMED TO THE OPHTHALMOLOGIST 2023 POWER LIST

Ula Jurkunas, MD  
Janey L. Wiggs, MD, PhD

**GRANTS (AUGUST 2021-MAY 2022)**

\$747,000 over three years

**Ryoji Amamoto, PhD, Mass Eye and Ear**

National Institutes of Health R00 Grant

“Elucidating the molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying cone survival in the peripheral retina in mouse models of retinitis pigmentosa”

\$75,000 over one year

**Anil Chekuri, PhD, Mass Eye and Ear**

Ellison Foundation Grant

“ECM remodeling as a therapeutic approach for the treatment of age-related macular degeneration”

\$1,428,861 over three years

**Yihe Chen, MD, Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass Eye and Ear**

US Army Medical Research Grant

“Safety and efficacy of supersaturated oxygen emulsion as a novel topical treatment in open globe surgery”

\$2,462,500 over five years

**Yihe Chen, MD, Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass Eye and Ear**

National Institutes of Health R21 Grant

“Mechanisms of immunological memory-mediated pathogenesis in chronic autoimmune uveitis”

\$220,235 over five years

**Joseph Ciolino, MD, Mass Eye and Ear**

Boston Children’s Hospital Grant

“Differentiation of clinical phenotypes of inflammatory and neuropathic ocular pain conditions with morphologic measures and functional brain neuroimaging”

\$2,211,501 over five years

**Joseph Ciolino, MD, Mass Eye and Ear**

National Institutes of Health UG3 Grant

“Anesthetic-eluting contact lens for the treatment of corneal pain”

\$2,462,500 over five years

**Reza Dana, MD, MSc, MPH, Mass Eye and Ear**

National Eye Institute R01 Grant

“The Impact of donor diabetes on corneal immune cells and graft survival”

\$14,400 over one year

**Emma Davies, MD, Mass Eye and Ear**

Mass Eye and Ear Grant

“Corneal transplant research”

\$10,000 over one year

**Sara Djambazovska, Boston Children’s Hospital**

Bertarelli Masters Research Fellows Program

“Bertarelli Program in Translational Neuroscience and Neuro-engineering”

\$1,204,897 over three years

**Zhigang He, PhD, Boston Children’s Hospital**

Gilbert Family Foundation

“Novel strategies of protecting retinal ganglion cells and their axons in NF1 optic pathway glioma models”

\$1,607,428 over five years

**Gang Luo, PhD, Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass Eye and Ear**

National Eye Institute R21 Grant

“Overcome the barriers of vision care in Africa using smartphones”

\$10,000 over on year

**Alexandre Luster, Boston Children’s Hospital**

Bertarelli Masters Research Fellows Program

“Bertarelli Program in Translational Neuroscience and Neuro-engineering”

\$38,333 over on year

**Milica Margeta, MD, PhD, Mass Eye and Ear**

Research to Prevent Blindness

“Gene augmentation therapy for retinitis pigmentosa 28”

\$682,256 over five years

**Eleftherios Paschalis, PhD, Mass Eye and Ear**

University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center Grant

“Immunopathogenesis of adenovirus keratitis”

\$1,750 over one year

**Aparna Raghuram, OD, PhD**

National Eye Institute Pediatric Eye Disease Investigator Group (PEDIG)

“Intermittent Exotropia Study 7: Full-time patching vs observation for intermittent exotropia in children”

\$541,750 over two years

**Daniel Sun, PhD, Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass Eye and Ear**

National Eye Research Institute R21 Grant

“The astrocyte transcriptome in age and glaucoma: A comparative study of the optic nerve head, optic nerve proper and corpus callosum”

\$85,000 over one year

**Ye Sun, MD, PhD, Boston Children's Hospital**

Boston Children's Hospital Pilot Grant

"Targeting disease-associated microglia via Trem2 controls severe retinopathy of prematurity"

\$45,000 over one year

**David Wu, MD, PhD, Mass Eye and Ear**

Retina Research Foundation

"Metabolic modulation of complement in the retinal pigment epithelium"

\$118,875 over two years

**Jie Zheng, MSc, PhD, Boston Children's Hospital**

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and

Stroke K99 Grant

"Circuit dynamics of structuring episodic memories in humans"

## TRAINEE AWARDS

Research to Prevent Blindness Medical Student Eye Research Fellowship

**Cherrell Price, third-year medical student at Morehouse School of Medicine and 2021 alumna of Harvard Ophthalmology Research Scholars Program**

## MASS EYE AND EAR

2022 Gragoudas-Folkman Award

**James Harris, MD, PhD**  
**Jonathan Lin, MD, PhD**

American Society for Investigative Pathology  
2022 Young Investigator Outstanding Research Award  
**Ping Hu, MD, PhD**

Selected as Representative for AAO Advocacy Program and winner of the 2022 AAO EyeWiki® Resident and Fellows-in-Training Contest  
**Cris Jacoba, MD**

2022 Cornea and Eye Banking Forum, Best Paper Session Award  
**Hamid Alemi, MD, MPH**

Recipient of the Evangelos S. Gragoudas Award at the 2023 Macula Society Annual Meeting  
**Ines Lains, MD, MSc, PhD**

## RECIPIENTS OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR FOUNDATION RESEARCH GRANTS

**Anil Chekuri, PhD, Schepens Eye Research Institute**

"Mechanism and therapeutic opportunity for familial dysautonomia associated optic neuropathy"

**Marcela Garita-Hernandez, PhD, Mass Eye and Ear**

"Modeling NMNAT-1 associated with early onset retinal degeneration using hiPSC-derived retinal organoids"

**Raulas Krusnauskas, PhD, Mass Eye and Ear**

"Proof of concept for twin prime editing of RP1 mutations for inherited retinal degenerations"

**Isdin Oke, MD, Boston Children's Hospital**

"Newborn genomic screening strategies to reduce disparities in the visual outcomes of retinoblastoma survivors"

Named to the 40 under 40 list in Ophthalmology in *Ophthalmology Management*

**Ines Lains, MD, MSc, PhD**

American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery  
2023 Resident Excellence Award

**Aaron R. Kaufman, MD**  
**Jennifer A. Tran, MD**

Real World Ophthalmology Visionary Award  
**Daniel L. Liebman, MD**

2023-2024 Abelson Family Fellowship  
**Aaron Kaufman, MD**

2023-2024 Richard J. Simmons and Ruthanne B. Simmons Glaucoma Fellowship  
**Cristina Lieu, MD**

2022-2023 Robert Brockhurst Academic Development Award  
**Ishrat Ahmed, MD, PhD**

2022-2023 Thomas J. Madden Fellowship in Retina  
**Marisa Tieger, MD**



## Dr. Silas Wang Creates Custom Mass Eye and Ear Clock for Altschuler Training Laboratory

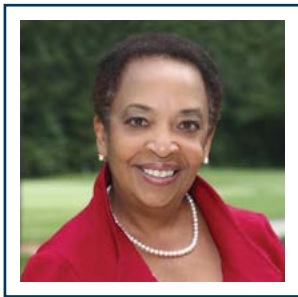
Silas L. Wang, MD, a member of the Comprehensive Ophthalmology and Cataract Consultation Service, has generously made a custom wall clock and donated it to the Samuel and Nancy Jo Altschuler Ophthalmology Surgical Training Laboratory. Dr. Wang engraved the historical Mass Eye and Ear logo on the clock to symbolize the importance of surgical training and of the time that our ophthalmology trainees spend honing their skills in the laboratory.



*Clock gift created by Silas Wang, MD*

Dr. Wang noted that teaching residents has been an important and meaningful part of his career here, and it is an honor to be able to contribute a small decorative and historical improvement to the laboratory. He uses a laser engraver to handcraft clocks as a personal hobby.

## Alumni Corner



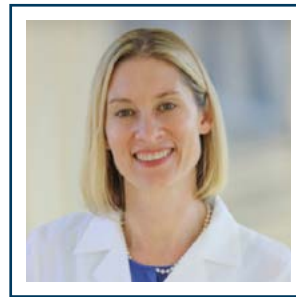
### Eve Higginbotham, SM, MD, ML, Presents the Edward Packson Memorial Lecture

Eve J. Higginbotham, SM, MD, ML, a Mass Eye and Ear alumna and new member of

its Board of Directors, delivered the 80th annual Edward Jackson Memorial Lecture at the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) 2023 annual meeting.

The Jackson Memorial Lecture—considered one of the most distinguished lectures in the field of ophthalmology—honors the legacy of Dr. Edward Jackson (1856–1942), a prominent ophthalmologist whose contributions include popularizing the use of the retinoscope and developing techniques for examining the eye.

Dr. Higginbotham was the inaugural Vice Dean for Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. She is also a Senior Fellow at the Leonard Davis Institute for Health Economics and Professor of Ophthalmology specializing in glaucoma. Dr. Higginbotham is a highly respected leader in academic medicine, an exceptional clinical scientist, and a dedicated advocate for social justice and inclusion, diversity, and equity.



### Carolyn Kloek, MD, Named Inaugural Chief Medical Officer for Oklahoma University

Carolyn Kloek, MD, alumna and former faculty member and department leader at Harvard

Ophthalmology, has been named the inaugural Chief Medical Officer for OU Health. In her new role, Dr. Kloek is responsible for the performance, quality, safety, and experience of clinical services at OU Health. She serves as the implementation arm and effector of clinical care outcomes for the organization, building foundational resources, and acting as a catalyst and resource for change.

Dr. Kloek previously served as Vice Chair of Quality and Innovation at Dean McGee Eye Institute, and most recently as Senior Vice President of Clinical Strategy and Integration at OU Health. She earned her bachelor's degree in biochemistry and molecular biology from Dartmouth College, received her medical training from Harvard Medical School and then completed an ophthalmology residency at Harvard Ophthalmology.

After completing residency, Dr. Kloek served as Chief Resident and Director of the Ocular Trauma Service, Program Director of the Harvard Ophthalmology Residency Training Program, Clinical Director at Mass Eye and Ear, Longwood, Chief of the Division of Ophthalmology at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Associate Chief of Ophthalmology at Mass Eye and Ear.

## Boston Magazine Top Doctors 2023

Congratulations to the following Harvard Ophthalmology alumni who were recognized as one of *Boston Magazine's* "Top Doctors 2023"

Ann M. Bajart, MD	Nicoletta Fynn-Thompson, MD	Thomas R. Hedges II, MD	Gisela Velez, MD
Amita K. Bhatt, MD	David S. Gendelman, MD	Michael B. Raizman, MD	Helen K. Wu, MD
Alison Callahan, MD	Phillip M. Gendelman, MD	Susannah G. Rowe, MD	Deborah E. Zuckerman, MD
Mark P. Dacey, MD	Mark P. Hatton, MD	Kailenn Tsao, MD	

Congratulations to the following alumni Named to *The Ophthalmologist* 2023 Power List

Eduardo Alfonso MD, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Miami	Julia A. Haller, MD Shigeru Kinoshita, MD, PhD, Kyoto Prefecture University of Medicine	Audrey R. Talley Rostov, MD, Northwest Eye Surgeons Nadia Waheed, MD, Tufts Medical Center
Jean Bennett, MD, PhD Neil M. Bressler, MD, Johns Hopkins Medicine	Philip J Rosenfeld, MD, PhD, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Miami	Sonia H. Yoo, MD, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Miami

## In Memoriam

**Stephen P. Bartels, PhD**, former research faculty member at Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass Eye and Ear, passed away on May 4, 2023. Dr. Bartels earned his doctorate in physiology from George Washington University. He then went on to work as an ophthalmologist at Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass Eye and Ear working towards his lifelong dream to find a cure for glaucoma. Dr. Bartels then went on to work for Bausch and Lomb as a Senior Scientist.

**George E. Garcia, MD**, former Associate Chief of Ophthalmology at Mass Eye and Ear, passed away on November 17, 2022. Dr. Garcia served in the army as an optometrist during the Korean War before completing medical school and beginning his career as an ophthalmologist. In 1968, he started a successful private practice, Boston Eye Physicians & Surgeons, with colleagues Abraham Pollen, MD, and Baruch Sachs, MD, and he served as Associate Chief of Ophthalmology at Mass Eye and Ear from 1984 to 1991.

In addition to his growing private practice and leadership role at Mass Eye and Ear, he was a lifelong advocate for ophthalmology. He served in several leadership positions at the American Association of Ophthalmology, including as its president from 1980 to 1981, and was an integral part of its merger with the American Academy of Ophthalmology in

1981. At the Academy, he held numerous leadership positions on the board, culminating in his role as president in 1990.

**Samuel Jacobson, MD, PhD**, an alumnus, passed away on January 4, 2023. Dr. Jacobson earned his medical degree from the University of Illinois and PhD from the University of London. He completed residency and a fellowship at Mass Eye and Ear. He was a clinician-scientist and pioneer in the field of retinal degenerations. In 2018, Dr. Jacobson was awarded the Antonio Champalimaud Vision Award for his work in gene therapy treatment for retinal degenerations.

**Jim Sharp, MD**, an alumnus, passed away on April 28, 2023. Dr. Sharp earned his medical degree at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. After medical school, Dr. Sharp served as Captain and Flight Surgeon in the U.S. Air Force. Dr. Sharp then returned to University of Arkansas to complete a four-year ophthalmology residency before moving to Boston to complete a vitreoretinal fellowship at Mass Eye and Ear. Dr. Sharp served as Chief of Staff at Washington Regional Medical Center and was a member of the American Medical Association, the American Society of Retina Specialists, the Arkansas Medical Society, a Fellow in The American Academy of Ophthalmology, and past president of the Washington County Medical Society.

### Eye Witness | Issue 44, January 2024

*Eye Witness* is published three times per year by Harvard Ophthalmology and is intended for faculty, trainees, staff, alumni, affiliates, partners, and friends.

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**EVENTS UPDATE...**

Visit [eye.hms.harvard.edu/annualmeeting](http://eye.hms.harvard.edu/annualmeeting)  
to register today.



**Harvard Ophthalmology  
Annual Meeting and  
Alumni Reunion**  
**June 13-14, 2024**

*Celebrating the  
200<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary of  
Mass Eye and Ear*

The banner features a blue sky background with a cityscape of Boston. On the left, there are four circular inset images: the top one shows two men in suits shaking hands; the middle one shows a group of five people (three men and two women) standing together; the bottom-left one shows a man in a suit speaking at a podium; and the bottom-right one shows a woman in a white lab coat pointing at a whiteboard. A large white circle on the right contains the text 'Celebrating the 200th anniversary of Mass Eye and Ear'.

AFFILIATES: Massachusetts Eye and Ear | Massachusetts General Hospital | Joslin Diabetes Center/Beetham Eye Institute | Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center | Boston Children's Hospital | Brigham and Women's Hospital | VA Boston Healthcare System | VA Maine Healthcare System | Cambridge Health Alliance PARTNERS | L V Prasad Eye Institute (India) | Shanghai Eye and ENT Hospital, Fudan University (China)