Oklahoma Health Center
DMEI Acers and Parke Pavilions • 608 Stanton L. Young Blvd. • Oklahoma City, OK 73104

Comprehensive Ophthalmology/
Cataract Surgery
(405) 271–1090 • (800) 787–9012
Cynthia A. Bradford, MD
Brian K. Firestone, MD
Layne E. Goetzinger, MD
David W. Jackson, MD
Theresa A. Larson, MD
Deana S. Watts, MD

Contact Lenses
(405) 271–6084 • (800) 787–9012
Carri L. Ferguson, FCLSA
Contact Lens Specialist
Rosita Ghazanfari, OD
Contact Lens Specialist

Cornea and External Disease
(405) 271–1095 • (800) 787–9017
Rhea L. Siatkowski, MD
Jennifer L. Wu, MD

Glaucoma
(405) 271–1093 • (800) 787–9015
Andrew K. Bailey, MD
Mahmoud A. Khairni, MD
Steven R. Sarkisian, Jr., MD
Gregory L. Skuta, MD

LASIK Surgery
(405) 271–2500 • (877) 406–4193
David W. Jackson, MD
Jennifer L. Wu, MD
(580) 250–5855
Jean R. Hausheer, MD, FACS

Low Vision Rehabilitation
(405) 271–1793 • (800) 787–9012
Rebecca K. Morgan, MD

Neuro–Ophthalmology
(405) 271–1091 • (800) 787–9013
Bradley K. Farris, MD
Anil D. Patel, MD
(405) 271–1094 • (800) 787–9016
R. Michael Siatkowski, MD

Ocular Oncology/Ophtalmic Pathology
(405) 271–1090 • (800) 787–9012
Brian K. Firestone, MD

Ocular Prosthetics
(405) 271–3391 • (800) 787–9012
Nancy A. Lambert, BCO

Optical Services
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Optometry
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Dana M. Garber, OD
Rosita Ghazanfari, OD
Brendalyn D. Loyko, OD
Jessica L. Lucas, OD
Jamie N. Rodriguez, OD (August 2015)

Pediatric Ophthalmology/Strabismus
(405) 271–1094 • (800) 787–9016
Janine E. Collinge, MD
R. Michael Siatkowski, MD
Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHS

Retina/Vitreous
(405) 271–1092 • (800) 787–9014
Reagan H. Bradford, Jr., MD
Stephen R. Fransen, MD
Ronald M. Kingsley, MD
Robert E. Leonard II, MD
Vinay A. Shah, MD

Stephenson Laser Center
(405) 271–2500 • (877) 406–4193

Trauma/Emergency
(405) 271–6060 • (800) 787–9012

Uveitis
(405) 271–1090 • (800) 787–9012
Theresa A. Larson, MD
Jennifer L. Wu, MD

McGee Eye Surgery Center (MESC)
Harold Hamm Diabetes Center • 1000 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 150 • Oklahoma City, OK 73104
(405) 271–3363 • Medical Director: Robert J. Christensen, MD

Dean McGee Eye Institute Satellite Locations

EDMOND
1005 Medical Park Blvd., 73013
(405) 271–0913

Comprehensive Ophthalmology/
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Theresa A. Larson, MD

Contact Lenses
Rosita Ghazanfari, OD

Glaucoma/Comprehensive Ophthalmology/
Ophthalmic Surgery
Andrew K. Bailey, MD

Optometry
Angela M. Plant, OD

Optical Services
(405) 271–0909

NORTHWEST OKC
3500 N.W. 56th, #101, 73112
(405) 271–9500

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Ophthalmic Surgery
Brian K. Firestone, MD
Ralph B. Hester III, MD

Optical Services
(405) 271–9506

Optometry
(405) 271–1090 • (800) 787–9012
Dana M. Garber, OD
Rosita Ghazanfari, OD
Brendalyn D. Loyko, OD
Jessica L. Lucas, OD
Jamie N. Rodriguez, OD (August 2015)

Retina/Vitreous
Vinay A. Shah, MD

Optical Services
(580) 585–5425
DMEI InVision

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For more information about this publication or to be placed on the mailing list, please contact:
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DMEI InVision is online at: www.dmei.org

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SUMMER 2015
ON DECEMBER 4, 1975, THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) CELEBRATED the dedication of its original building in a momentous ceremony that included many dignitaries from Oklahoma City and the University of Oklahoma (OU) Health Sciences Center. Noted business and civic leader Dean McGee himself was there as someone who had undergone successful surgical repair of a retinal detachment just four years earlier. Through that experience, Mr. McGee recognized the importance of building a major eye institute in Oklahoma City. Without question, he would be very proud of what he helped create 40 years ago.

Stanton L. Young, another major civic icon who passed away in mid-March of this year at age 87, also was there. In fact, it was at the same event that 11th Street in front of the newly christened Eye Institute was renamed Stanton L. Young Boulevard. Mr. Young served for many years on the DMEI Board of Trustees and as chair of its Oklahoma Eye Foundation and DMEI Foundation. The Board of Trustees and DMEI Foundation are now chaired by two major leaders of the next generation, David Rainbolt and Rainey Williams, Jr. respectively.

The many other community leaders and ophthalmologists who, between 1965 and 1975, helped create the vision for the 70,000-square-foot Dean McGee Eye Institute included Drs. Richard Clay, Tullos Coston, and Thomas Acers, the latter of whom was the first full-time chair of the OU Department of Ophthalmology and the founding president of the Eye Institute. Thirty years later, the second president of the Eye Institute, Dr. David Parke II, and James Tolbert III,
then chair of the DMEI Board of Trustees, recognized the need for a second 78,000-square-foot pavilion, which was dedicated on a beautiful autumn day in September 2011 to further advance the Institute’s missions of patient care, education, vision research, leadership, and service.

To honor the legacies of the Institute’s first two leaders, the pavilions were named the Thomas E. Acers, MD Pavilion and David W. Parke II, MD Pavilion respectively in May 2014. Dr. Acers passed away in 2005, and Dr. Parke now serves as Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the world’s largest and most influential such organization.

As the Dean McGee Eye Institute celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2015, we are grateful for the opportunity to help preserve and restore vision for the hundreds of thousands of Oklahomans from all 77 counties who have passed through our doors. In 2014, our clinicians and surgeons, many of whom are national leaders in their fields, provided more than 170,000 total patient visits and performed almost 8000 surgical procedures in our surgery center. In fact, patient visits over the past 20 years have exceeded 2.5 million!

Education was one of Dr. Acers’ passions, and our educational programs remain among the most competitive in the nation. Since 1975, we have trained 123 residents and 89 fellows in ophthalmology. More than 60% of our former residents elected to practice in Oklahoma and surrounding states.

The vision research enterprise at the Eye Institute is among the most productive in the country with respect to funding from the National Institutes of Health and Research to Prevent Blindness. Our scientists, led by Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD, will continue to relentlessly pursue treatments and cures for macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, infectious diseases affecting the eye, corneal disorders, and other major eye conditions.

All of this has become possible because, 40 years ago, forward-thinking Oklahoma City leaders very much like today’s leaders created and literally built upon an extraordinary vision for our future. All of us at the Dean McGee Eye Institute pledge to advance that vision for the next 40 years and beyond!

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

...we are grateful for the opportunity to help preserve and restore vision...
Robert E. “Gene” Anderson, MD, PhD, Honored for his 20 Years of Service as Director of Research

A CEREMONY WAS HELD IN THE INASMUCH FOUNDATION ATRIUM on Wednesday, December 10 to honor Dr. Robert E. “Gene” Anderson and his 20 years of scientific discovery, leadership, mentorship, and distinguished service at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and in the University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology. The ceremony included remarks from Dr. M. Dewayne Andrews, Senior Vice President and Provost of the OU Health Sciences Center and Executive Dean of the OU College of Medicine.

Dr. Anderson was appointed to a position at the Dean McGee Eye Institute in January 1995 by former President and CEO, Dr. David W. Parke II, and brought his National Institutes of Health (NIH)-supported research projects from the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston to Oklahoma City. In the 20 years since Dr. Anderson’s arrival, DMEI has become one of the nation’s premier vision research centers. The Institute now has ten independent scientific investigators all with their own funded research. Dr. Anderson is currently the Director of Vision Research at the Eye Institute, a George Lynn Cross Research Professor, the Dean McGee Professor of Ophthalmology, Professor of Cell Biology, and Adjunct Professor of Geriatric Medicine at the OU Health Sciences Center.

Dr. Anderson said that, of his accomplishments, he is most proud of the Eye Institute’s two consecutive five-year grants from the NIH as a Center of Biomedical Research Excellence in support of young scientists as they pursue specific research projects. Dr. Anderson further notes that “that program was huge in developing the infrastructure at DMEI to conduct vision research as well as developing the careers of young people. The whole program was designed to mentor young scientists and help them achieve scientific independence so they could
successfully compete for NIH gold standard funding.”

“Dr. Gene Anderson, one of the world’s leading vision scientists, has, in his 20 years at the Dean McGee Eye Institute, wielded an enormous and transformative impact not only on the scientific mission and level of grant support for vision research at the Eye Institute and in the Department of Ophthalmology, but also at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center as a whole,” said Dr. Gregory L. Skuta, President and CEO of the Dean McGee Eye Institute.

In honoring him on this special day, it was announced that the conference room on the lower level of the David W. Parke II, MD Pavilion has been named the Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD Conference Room in recognition of his extraordinary achievements and contributions.
ON JANUARY 22 Oklahoma State Representative Mark McBride toured the Dean McGee Eye Institute. Representative McBride represents District 53 and was elected in 2012. He serves as Vice Chair on three committees in the House.

Pictured (left to right): Dr. Gregory L. Skuta, President and CEO of the Dean McGee Eye Institute, Lana G. Ivy, Vice President of Development for DMEI, State Representative Mark McBride, and Dianne Rasmussen, LLC.

DMEI EXECUTIVES VISITED with and toured state Senators Rob Standridge, Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee and Ervin Yen, MD, Vice-Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, on April 17. These visits are coordinated to assist the Senators in learning about the mission of the Dean McGee Eye Institute and its vital service to Oklahomans and their constituents.

Pictured (left to right): Dr. Gregory L. Skuta, President and CEO of the Dean McGee Eye Institute, Senator Rob Standridge, Senator Ervin Yen, Lana G. Ivy, Vice President of Development for DMEI, Garyl G. Geist, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for DMEI, and Dianne Rasmussen, LLC.
SEVEN OKLAHOMA STATE LEGISLATORS visit DMEI on April 28 from the House Public Health Committee.

Front row (left to right): Dianne Rasmussen, LLC, State Representatives Claudia Griffith (District 45) and Jeannie McDonald (District 78), and DMEI Vice President of Development, Lana Ivy.

Back row (left to right): DMEI Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Garry Geist, Representatives Mike Ritze, Chair (District 80), Glen Mulready (District 68), Weldon Watson (District 79), Doug Cox (District 5), Ben Loring (District 7), Matt Nowlin, Representative Cox's intern, and DMEI President and CEO, Gregory L. Skuta.
Celebrating the 2014 Holiday Thunder Tailgate Party!

DMEI EMPLOYEES GATHERED in the Inasmuch Foundation Atrium on Friday afternoon, December 12, 2014, for a Holiday Thunder Tailgate Party. In a series of holiday celebrations, this event followed DMEI Thunder Night on December 9 against the Milwaukee Bucks (Thunder 114, Bucks 101) for which each employee was given two tickets. The tailgate party included Employee Service Recognition Awards and drawings for many special gifts.

20 YEARS

Congratulations to employees with 20 Years of Service (left to right): Dr. P. Lloyd Hildebrand, Delores Watley, Cherie Davis, and Dr. Ann Warn (not pictured).

15 YEARS

15 Year Service Awards were given to (left to right) Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski, Laura Blish, Keri West, Dr. Dana Garber, Melanie Hykes, Dr. Daniel Carr, and Dr. Feng Li. Not pictured are: Dawn Bartosh, Karen Carter, and Dr. Rhea Siatkowski.
10 YEARS

Employees recognized for their 10 Years of Service with Dr. Gregory L. Skuta (second from left) and Matt Bown (far right) are: Fatemeh Shaviati, Teresa Berry, Leela Baker, Dr. Anil Patel, Robert Dimick, Lorrie Brison Neal, Sonya Strang, Linda Boone, Ammoji Rajala, and Richard Brush.

5 YEARS

5 Year Service awardees were recognized with Dr. Gregory L. Skuta (second from left) and Matt Bown (far right). Employees standing left to right are: Dr. Xue Cai, Roseanne Goliwas, April Coker, Bianca Smith, Daniel Carrel, Kristi Lutes, Geraldine de la Cerda, Jill Srnka, and Sherry Anderson. Not pictured are Sonny Icks, Katherine Ramirez, Brandi Turner, and Ramonia Wilson.
New DMEI Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer Named

MR. GARYL GEIST BEGAN HIS APPOINTED POSITION as the new Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer (EVP/COO) of the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) on February 9, 2015. Prior to his appointment, he was the Chief Operating Officer of the Oklahoma Allergy and Asthma Clinic, a role that he held since 2010.

From 2001 to 2010, he served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Valir Health, LLC.

During Geist’s tenure at the Oklahoma Allergy and Asthma Clinic (OAAC), OAAC experienced increased productivity and efficiency of the clinical operations and growth in the number of providers. He also oversaw renovations of the main Oklahoma Health Center clinic and OAAC’s three satellite clinics. Those with whom he has worked have praised Geist’s skills as a leader, organizer, communicator, problem-solver, strategic thinker, and motivator. A graduate of Leadership Oklahoma, Geist was recognized by The Journal Record in 2009 among “Achievers Under 40” and in 2010 among “Most Admired CEOs.”

“Garyl Geist’s impressive background in healthcare management, strategic planning and operations underscores our commitment to a continuing legacy of strong leadership in this position at the Dean McGee Eye Institute,” said Gregory L. Skuta, MD, DMEI President and CEO and Edward L. Gaylord Professor and Chair of the OU Department of Ophthalmology. “Garyl’s exceptional leadership has resulted in remarkable growth and increased effectiveness and efficiency in the organizations for which he has worked in the past. I am confident that Garyl will apply those same skills here to help propel the Eye Institute to new levels of excellence in the years to come.”

A native of Ardmore, Geist earned his undergraduate degree in accounting from East Central University in Ada and his Master’s Degree in Accountancy from the University of Oklahoma.

The Geist family resides in northwest Norman. Lynn Geist, Garyl’s wife of 23 years, is a fifth-grade teacher at Truman Elementary School in Norman. They have two sons (Conner and Caden) and two daughters (Lillie and London) ranging in age from 17- to 5-years-old.
SHERRY D. ANDERSON, COT, received her Certified Ophthalmic Technician certification from the Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO), April 2015.


HAYLEE M. DRAKE, COA, received her Certified Ophthalmic Assistant certification from the Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO), April 2015.


ASHLEY R. HUGHES, COA, received her Certified Ophthalmic Assistant certification from the Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO), April 2015.


MAHMOUD A. KHAIMI, MD, was recently appointed Vice Chair of the Glaucoma Panel for the Practicing Ophthalmologists Curriculum – American Academy of Ophthalmology; participated in “Meet the Expert” sessions at the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS) Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA; served as “Canaloplasty Symposium” moderator and speaker at the ASCRS Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA; and conducted an OU web chat explaining the severity, symptoms, risk factors, and treatments for glaucoma. He presented two posters at the American Glaucoma Society Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA entitled “Outcomes of Bleb Revision with Mitosol After Express Shunt Surgery” and “Express Shunt Surgery Following Failed Canaloplasty.” He presented three posters at the ASCRS Annual Meeting, San
Diego, CA entitled “Efficacy of Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty After Canaloplasty;”
“Regional Corneal Thickness in Eyes with the Ex-PRESS Drainage Device;” and
“Intermediate Outcomes of Mini Glaucoma Shunt Surgery Under Scleral Flap After Failed
Canaloplasty.” He recently published Allan E.J., Khaimi M.A., Jones J.M., Ding K., Skuta
G.L. “Long-Term Efficacy of the Baerveldt 250 mm² Compared with the Baerveldt 350
mm² Implant,” Ophthalmology, March 2015.

ROBERT E. LEONARD II, MD, was an invited guest speaker for the Montana

KIMBERLY J. MAXFIELD, COA, received her Certified Ophthalmic Assistant
certification from the Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology
(JCAHPO), April 2015.

ANNIE MOREAU, MD, FACS, was elected to the OU Health Sciences Center Faculty
Senate. Her recent presentations include: Robinson M.E., Moreau A., Siatkowski R.M.,
Farris B.K. “Relationship Between High Opening Pressure on Lumbar Puncture and Failure
of Optic Nerve Sheath Decompression to Prevent Progressive Visual Loss in Patients with
Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, Feb. 2015; and video presentation, “Complex Grade III
Choristoma of the Anterior Segment,” at the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic &
Reconstructive Surgery Annual Fall Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2014.

HEMANG K. PANDYA, MD, was featured on KFOR-TV with host Linda Cavanaugh
and discussed age-related macular degeneration, April 2015.

RAJU V.S. RAJALA, PhD, was recently awarded a bridge grant from Presbyterian
- Sept. 2015. He recently published the following articles: Woodruff M.L., Rajala A.,
Fain G.L., Rajala R.V.S. “Effect of Knocking Down the Insulin Receptor on Mouse Rod
Responses,” Scientific Reports, Jan. 2015; Gupta V.K., Rajala A., Rajala R.V.S. “Non-
Canonical Regulation of Phosphatidylinositol 3-Kinase Gamma Isoform Activity in
Retinal Rod Photoreceptor Cells,” Cell Commination and Signaling, Feb. 2015; Zulliger
R., Naash M.I., Rajala R.V.S., Molday R.S., Azadi S. “Impaired Association of Retinal
Degeneration-3 with Guanylate Cyclase-1 and Guanylate Cyclase Activating Protein-1
Leads to Leber Congenital Amaurosis,” Journal of Biological Chemistry, Feb. 2015;
Takahashi Y., Chen Q., Rajala R.V.S., Ma J.X. “MicroRNA-184 Modulates Canonical Wnt
Signaling Through the Regulation of Frizzled-7 Expression in the Retina with Ischemia-
Induced Neovascularization,” FEBS Letters, March 2015; and Rajala R.V.S., Ranjo-Bishop


GREGORY L. SKUTA, MD, is currently serving as Immediate Past President of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) and is in his last year on the AAO’s Board of Trustees. He has been appointed to serve on the Board of Directors of the American Glaucoma Society Foundation. Dr. Skuta participated in a Special Emphasis Panel grant review for the National Eye Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, in March 2015. In May 2015, Dr. Skuta delivered the Judy and C. David Fritch, MD Lecture, “Glaucoma Surgery 2015: Where Are We Now? Can We Do Better,” at the University of Nebraska Medical Center’s Gifford-Truhlsen Conference in Omaha, where he serves on the Advisory Council for the Truhlsen Eye Institute. At the Congress of the European Society of Ophthalmology in Vienna in June 2015, he co-moderated a symposium entitled “Clinical and Surgical Perspectives in Glaucoma” and also presented a lecture on “Trends in Glaucoma Care in the United States.”


The Dean Mcgee Eye Institute lost a friend and Oklahoma City a prominent civic and business leader, Stanton L. Young, on March 15, 2015. Mr. Young was president of The Young Companies, which included Pepsi Cola franchises, Journey House Travel, oil and gas production and various commercial real estate ventures.

For more than four decades, Stanton L. Young was a champion of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. He was unwavering in his vision to elevate the health sciences center to a premier academic medical center of national stature. Mr. Young served as Chair of the Presbyterian Hospital Board of Trustees, Presbyterian Health Foundation, Dean Mcgee Eye Institute Foundation, Oklahoma City Urban Renewal Authority Board, Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, and Oklahoma County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

During his lifetime, he served on numerous civic boards and received many awards. Mr. Young was awarded Honorary Doctorates from the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City University and Oklahoma Christian University and was honored by the dedication of the Stanton L. Young Biomedical Research Building in his name. In 1975, a portion of 11th Street was renamed Stanton L. Young Boulevard in recognition of his efforts on behalf of the Health Sciences Center.

Stanton L. Young leaves an extraordinary legacy of generosity and service to others and will be greatly missed by DMEI and all who knew him. Memorial contributions can be made to the Dean Mcgee Eye Institute Foundation in support of the Stanton L. Young Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology.
THE ANSCHUTZ FOUNDATION PROVIDES GRANT FOR VITAL LASER EQUIPMENT

THE ANSCHUTZ FOUNDATION has provided a grant to assist in the purchase of a new state-of-the-art multi-wavelength laser that replaced an aging laser. This new laser will allow DMEI glaucoma and retinal surgeons to better serve patients from Oklahoma and the surrounding states.

The gift from the Anschutz Foundation was recently supplemented by a gift from Mr. Richard Dulaney to complete funding for this vital technology.

This multi-wavelength laser permits its use for such glaucoma procedures as laser suture lysis after glaucoma filtering surgery, laser trabeculoplasty for open-angle glaucoma, and laser iridotomy for angle-closure glaucoma and such retinal procedures as panretinal photocoagulation and macular laser procedures for conditions such as diabetic retinopathy and macular degeneration.

Glaucoma and retinal disease are leading causes of blindness, and DMEI’s glaucoma and retinal surgeons are among the busiest in the country. In the 2013-2014 academic year, the Glaucoma Service, now comprised of four attending ophthalmologists and a fellow, and the Retina Service, which includes five attending ophthalmologists and a fellow, provided more than 28,700 total patient visits and more than 2,200 office laser procedures.

HELP US GROW THE DMEI TECHNOLOGY FUND

A BIG THANK YOU to our 2014 annual appeal donors who gave to the DMEI Technology Fund! With your help, over $120,000 was raised and we were able to purchase a much needed Spectralis HRA/OCT. This equipment has multicolored imaging that delivers high contrast, detailed images, and its ultra-wide field lens produces superior peripheral angiography. All of these qualities will help in the diagnosis of such retinal-related eye conditions as diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, and ocular tumors.

The DMEI Technology Fund helps provide our patients with the most up-to-date equipment for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases affecting all parts of the eye. Our technological needs continue to increase for clinical patient care. If you would like join us in supporting this effort, please use the enclosed pledge card in the magazine.
THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE gratefully acknowledges the donors who gave gifts in 2014 to support our missions of patient care, vision research, education, and community outreach. Every effort has been made to include all gifts and pledges from January 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014.

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- Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hough
- Lana G. Ivy
- Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Jackson
DMEI RESEARCHERS RECEIVE NEW R21 NIH/NEI GRANT

CO-PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS,

Drs. Nawajes A. Mandal and Dimitrios Karamichos, have received a two-year grant totaling $429,078 from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Eye Institute (NEI). The grant will support the study of human scar formation mechanisms as a result of corneal injury, which currently causes severe vision loss or blindness in more than 10 million people worldwide. Studies of human scar formation mechanisms have been limited by the unavailability of human tissue and culture models. They will investigate a novel mechanism of corneal scar formation by evaluating the role of sphingolipids in their 3D human in-vitro model as well as in-vivo mouse model. The grant began in April and will conclude in March 2017.
Presidential Professorship Awarded to Michelle C. Callegan, PhD

AT THE OU HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER SPRING FACULTY AWARDS CEREMONY

on April 27, President David Boren announced that Michelle C. Callegan, PhD, James P. Luton Professor of Ophthalmology and Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, has been awarded an Edith Kinney Gaylord Presidential Professorship.

Dr. Callegan, who also serves as Associate Director of Research for the Oklahoma Center for Neuroscience (OCNS), joined the faculty at the University of Oklahoma (OU) in 1999 after completing her postdoctoral fellowship training in the Department of Ophthalmology. Her research in the pathogenesis and treatment of bacterial ocular infections has been generously supported by numerous funding agencies, including the National Institutes of Health/National Eye Institute (NIH/NEI), Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB), and the Department of Defense. She has more than 60 peer-reviewed publications and is particularly well known for her important work on Bacillus endophthalmitis and endogenous endophthalmitis.

Dr. Michelle C. Callegan, PhD, (left) accepts the Presidential Professorship award from University of Oklahoma President David L. Boren (right) at a ceremony on April 27.

Dr. Callegan is past Program Committee chair for the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology’s (ARVO’s) Immunology/Microbiology section and has been recognized as a Gold Fellow by ARVO for her service to this large international organization. In addition, Dr. Callegan was the recipient of OCNS’ Distinguished Service Award in 2013.

RESEARCH FACULTY—DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD
Martin-Paul Agbaga, PhD
Richard S. Brush, BS
Xue Cai, PhD
Michelle C. Callegan, PhD
Daniel J.J. Carr, PhD
Phillip S. Coburn, PhD
Ana Chucalir Elliott, PhD
Michael H. Elliott, PhD
Dimitrios Karamichos, PhD
Darren J. Lee, PhD
Feng Li, MD, MPH, MS
Nawajes A. Mandal, PhD
James F. McGinnis, PhD
Raju V.S. Rajala, PhD
Lily L. Wong, PhD
THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE IS participating in a two-year NIH-funded trial study to determine the use of the drugs Eylea, Avastin, and Lucentis for patients with diabetic macular edema (DME). The nationwide study includes 660 people from 89 sites. Participants are 61 years old on average and have had type 1 or type 2 diabetes for 17 years (on average). Under the direction of DMEI retina physicians, Drs. Ronald M. Kingsley, Robert E. Leonard II, and Vinay A. Shah, seven patients are being treated at DMEI in the trial.

The one-year results show that all three drugs, on average, improved vision at 1 year in eyes in patients with DME, but Eylea provided more improvement for patients with moderate vision loss. Lucentis and Avastin performed similarly to Eylea, on average, when vision loss was mild.

Mrs. Mary Smith, a DMEI patient, heard about the study through Dr. Kingsley and wanted to participate for two reasons: (1) to maintain her sight, and (2) to improve her sight if possible. Mrs. Smith, who has had diabetes for 32 years, says “the study and care that that she received at DMEI met her expectations and also helped explain previous and future issues for her vision. The protocol was lengthy. The education was as good as the study results. I can’t express my gratitude enough to Dr. Kingsley and all the persons who dealt with my care.” The study was especially challenging for Mrs. Smith, as she was diagnosed with breast cancer during the course of the study and was undergoing chemotherapy at the same time of the clinical trials.

Diabetic macular edema (DME) involves a build-up of blood and fluid in the macula, the part of the eye needed for sharp, straight-ahead vision. DME can occur in people with diabetic retinopathy and is the most common cause of diabetes-related vision loss. Of the 15 million Americans with diabetes, 7.7 million have diabetic retinopathy and 750,000 have DME. DME can occur at any stage of diabetic retinopathy. The full results of the study can be found at www.mei.org/clinical-trials-studies.
Two DMEI Researchers Testify at House Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee Hearing

ON APRIL 29, DR. DANIEL J.J. CARR AND ROBERT E. “GENE” ANDERSON testified in Washington, DC before the US House of Representatives’ Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services (LHHS), Education and Related Agencies of the House Committee on Appropriations in support of increased funding for the National Institutes of Health/National Eye Institute (NIH/NEI) and of the NIH’s Institutional Development Award (IDeA) Program. A major component of the IDeA Program focuses on establishing major institutional Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (CoBRE) grants, which help broaden the geographic distribution of NIH funding and support the professional development of young scientific investigators.

Oklahoma Congressman Tom Cole serves as the chair of this vital Appropriations Subcommittee. Dr. Anderson spoke on behalf of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO), and Dr. Carr spoke on behalf of ARVO and the National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (NAEVR).
DMEI Distinguished Lecturer Series
2015-2016

August 17   Glenn H. Strauss, MD  
Chief Medical Officer, Help Me See, New York, NY  
TOPIC: Global Ophthalmology

September 28 WALTER J. STARK MEMORIAL LECTURE  
Bartly J. Mondino, MD  
Director, Jules Stein Eye Institute, Los Angeles, CA

October 12  William J. Feuer, MS Scientist  
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Miami, FL  
TOPIC: Biostatistics

January 11  Douglas J. Rhee, MD  
Chair, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
University Hospitals Case Medical Center, Cleveland, OH  
TOPIC: Glaucoma

On April 12, Richard A. Lewis, MD (center), Distinguished Lecturer from the Cullen Eye Institute at the Baylor College of Medicine, spoke to DMEI Residents and Fellows about Ophthalmic Genetics.

SAVE THE DATE

Dean McGee Eye Institute Ophthalmology Symposium 2016

June 4, 2016

40TH OU RESIDENT AND ALUMNI MEETING  
37TH TULLOS O. COSTON LECTURE

Carol L. Shields, MD  
Professor, Jefferson Medical College  
Wills Eye Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Samis Education Center, The Children’s Hospital, Oklahoma City
DMEI PHYSICIANS RECOGNIZED AS
BEST DOCTORS IN AMERICA (2014),
OKLAHOMA SUPER DOCTORS (2015),
AND CASTLE CONNOLLY’S TOP DOCTORS (2015)

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cynthia A. Bradford, MD</td>
<td>Best Doctors In America, Oklahoma Super Doctors, Castle Connolly's Top Doctors</td>
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<td>Reagan H. Bradford, Jr., MD</td>
<td>Best Doctors In America, Oklahoma Super Doctors, Castle Connolly's Top Doctors</td>
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<td>Bradley K. Farris, MD</td>
<td>Best Doctors In America, Oklahoma Super Doctors, Castle Connolly's Top Doctors</td>
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<td>Stephen R. Fransen, MD</td>
<td>Best Doctors In America, Oklahoma Super Doctors, Castle Connolly's Top Doctors</td>
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<td>Ralph B. Hester III, MD</td>
<td>Best Doctors In America</td>
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<td>P. Lloyd Hildebrand, MD, FACS</td>
<td>Best Doctors in America, Castle Connolly's Top Doctors</td>
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<td>David W. Jackson, MD</td>
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<td>Mahmoud A. Khaimi, MD</td>
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<td>Ronald M. Kingsley, MD</td>
<td>Best Doctors in America, Oklahoma Super Doctors</td>
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<td>Robert E. Leonard II, MD</td>
<td>Best Doctors in America, Oklahoma Super Doctors</td>
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<td>Rebecca K. Morgan, MD</td>
<td>Best Doctors in America, Castle Connolly's Top Doctors</td>
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<td>Anil D. Patel, MD</td>
<td>Best Doctors in America</td>
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<td>Steven R. Sarkisian, Jr., MD</td>
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<td>Vinay A. Shah, MD</td>
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<td>R. Michael Siatkowski, MD</td>
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<td>Rhea L. Siatkowski, MD</td>
<td>Best Doctors in America</td>
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<td>Gregory L. Skuta, MD</td>
<td>Best Doctors in America, Oklahoma Super Doctors, Castle Connolly's Top Doctors</td>
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<td>Ann A. Warn, MD, MBA</td>
<td>Oklahoma Super Doctors, Castle Connolly's Top Doctors</td>
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<td>Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD</td>
<td>Best Doctors in America</td>
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LEE SCHOEFFLER, MD, was named 2015 Physician of the Year - Private Practice by the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Medicine Alumni Association. Dr. Schoeffler, a practicing ophthalmologist and vitreoretinal surgeon in Tulsa, completed his residency training in the OU Department of Ophthalmology in 1975. He has remained organizationally active in the field of medicine with service to the American Association of Ophthalmology, to the American Academy of Ophthalmology, as President of the Oklahoma State Medical Society in 2008, on the Board of Directors of PLICO, and on the Oklahoma Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision. In 2009, he was the inaugural recipient of the Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology’s Distinguished Service Award.
SAVE THE DATE
Friday, October 30, 2015
Macular Degeneration/Low Vision/Glaucoma (MDLVG) Seminar

Please join us for this informative seminar to learn from the Dean McGee Eye Institute faculty and an occupational therapist and hear about the latest adaptive devices and technology for those experiencing low vision.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list for this seminar, please call 405-271-7801.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LUKE COMMISSION (TLC), the Global Eye Care (GEC) Program is developing a new vision screening and cataract surgery initiative in support of Swaziland’s National Eye Care Plan. This February, Dr. P. Lloyd Hildebrand traveled to Swaziland to help design and implement a vision screening station in TLC’s robust mobile hospital outreach program. These outreaches evaluate 800–1000 patients per day using eight stations for different aspects of health screening. Vision screening has become Station 9 for TLC’s mobile hospital and is now staffed 100% by TLC staff. During his visit, Dr. Hildebrand led three vision screening outreaches providing care for 200–250 patients a day including vision testing, reading glasses and referrals for advanced disease. Over 120 patients blind from cataract were identified and referred for vision-restoring surgery.

In March, the Global Eye Care team returned to Swaziland, this time working alongside Dr. Jonathan Pons, an ophthalmologist at the Good Shepherd Eye Clinic in Siteki. This year, under the leadership of Dr. Bradley Farris, the team consisting of OU/DMEI faculty members Lloyd Hildebrand and Brian Firestone along with Drs. Mark Robinson (neuro-ophthalmology fellow), Derek Bitner (senior resident) and Evan Sussenbach (senior resident) participated in high volume clinics, community outreach visits, eye surgery and academic exchange with local physicians and nurses. The surgical workload included many cases referred from TLC vision screenings performed a month earlier.

The Dean McGee Eye Institute’s first Global Eye Care (GEC) Fellow, Dr. Jacquelyn Jetton, is completing her Master’s of Public Health in International Eye Care at the prestigious London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in London, England and will be returning to Swaziland to complete her thesis in pediatric vision screening.

Dr. Elizabeth Gauger, the current GEC Fellow, is in Chengdu, China, where she will spend three months working with the Sichuan Provincial People’s Hospital ophthalmology program and its Blindness Prevention Program.
Preserving Eyesight Through Foresight
IN THE MID-1960’S, THE SOUTHWEST REGION OF THE UNITED STATES was number one in reported cases of new blindness per year relative to its population. Many of the nation’s visual science centers were on the east and west coasts, and facilities for blindness prevention were very limited.

Oklahoma City ophthalmologist Richard Clay, MD had an idea that would dramatically alter that landscape: an independent eye institute in Oklahoma. Early champions included civic leaders Stanton L. Young, James R. Tolbert III, Robert S. Kerr, Jr., Harvey Everest, John Kirkpatrick, E.K. Gaylord, and John Houchin. Their big, bold goal was to establish not just an eye institute, but the premier eye institute that would serve the entire state and surrounding region. The first step was to create the Oklahoma Eye Foundation to raise funds and lay the groundwork.

Then, in 1971, the man for whom the institute would be named, Dean A.

...continued on next page...

John M. Houchin, President of the Board of Trustees of the Dean McGee Eye Institute, standing beside Mr. and Mrs. Dean A. McGee, seated at right, addresses a luncheon banquet marking the start of construction of the Eye Institute. A banner captured the very essence of what the new Institute would be: “Preserving eyesight through foresight: Created to saving your vision through treatment, education and research.” (Photo courtesy of The Oklahoman 10-26-74)
McGee, became the catalyst that propelled the concept forward.

“Mr. McGee had a detached retina and was referred by his ophthalmologist to Tullos O. Coston, MD and Thomas E. Acers, MD, who repaired it,” recalls Tolbert, who has served on the Dean McGee Eye Institute Board of Trustees for more than four decades and as its chair for half that time. “In the course of that experience, there was a lot of discussion about why there was such a limited number of eye specialists in Oklahoma City.”

That situation changed in the span of only four years, during which the foundation raised funds for facility construction, negotiated the purchase from the Oklahoma City Urban Renewal Authority of the 5.5-acre site on which the Institute would be built, and entered into a unique affiliation agreement between the Institute and the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine whereby physicians at the

Doors opened December 5, 1975.
The uniqueness of the Dean A. McGee Eye Institute was more than just its private–public university relationship or ‘hybrid’ faculty structure. Its real uniqueness was in its teaching philosophy—that relationship of student and teacher—and a ‘code of conduct’ based on mutual respect.

OU faculty members,” Tolbert explains. “Tom Acers was a gifted and passionate clinician. But his deepest commitment was to education. He really wanted to train doctors. That was infectious.”

Acers’ daughter, Ann Warn, MD, MBA, who has practiced ophthalmology in DMEI’s Lawton, Oklahoma, facility her entire 20-year career, says Acers thought of each resident as one of his children. But, she adds, his passion for people extended to every individual who was part of the DMEI team or walked through its doors.

Institute also would be faculty members of OU’s Department of Ophthalmology.

The 70,000-square-foot, $2.5 million Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) opened its doors on December 5, 1975, with Acers, chair of the OU Department of Ophthalmology, as its founding president. He recruited Coston and four other top ophthalmologists to join him as clinicians and educators.

Today, DMEI is the preeminent organization that its founders envisioned, with an international reputation for outstanding patient care, vision research, and educational programs.

“This was an unusual hybrid because the idea was to have a not-for-profit organization—the Institute—with doctors who also would be

“Today, DMEI is the preeminent organization that its founders envisioned...”
he was excited to come to DMEI because of its very strong clinical and educational reputation and its separate structure of governance and funding, which set it apart from a typical academic department. “The Eye Institute had a lot of potential to grow and expand by its own vision and ability to execute that vision,” Parke states. “It had a lot of room to progress in terms of research and grow larger and more significant in the delivery of tertiary and quaternary care in addition to primary eye care.”

His decision to recruit Anderson, he says, was deliberate and intentional. “I realized we were starting from nothing in terms of research,” he relates. “We had no National Institutes of Health (NIH) research grants, no real peer-reviewed

“My dad devoted his life to the Eye Institute, resident education and family,” Warn says. “He cared about every individual in the building and strived to make sure everybody was treated with the utmost respect. His legacy was striving for excellence and always putting the patient first.”

With Acers’ retirement in 1992, the Institute conducted a national search and hired David W. Parke II, M.D. from the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston as its new chief executive. Parke, in turn, recruited Robert E. “Gene” Anderson, MD, PhD from Baylor in the Texas Medical Center in Houston to be the director of research.

Parke, currently CEO of the San Francisco-based American Academy of Ophthalmology, says
With that growth came the need for additional space. A new 78,000-square-foot, $47 million expansion and renovation that includes the pavilions now named in honor of Acers and Parke was dedicated in September 2011.

“We are deeply appreciative of the opportunity to compassionately serve our patients in a very special and unique environment that also emphasizes the importance of conducting world-class vision research and educating future generations of ophthalmologists,” says Gregory L. Skuta, MD, who in 2009 became the Eye Institute’s third president and CEO and shares some of his perspectives on page 2. “The remarkable achievements of basic science going on and no tradition of it. But the Board bought into the vision and operational realities of trying to build a basic and translational research presence.”

In less than 10 years, DMEI became one of the largest NIH-funded ophthalmology centers in the country.

“David literally took us to the next level,” Tolbert says. “We expanded rapidly and became justifiably recognized regionally as the best place for clinical care. And we consistently have had great success in attracting the most highly qualified graduates to become residents in our educational program.”
the Dean McGee Eye Institute are the result of attracting many of the nation’s leading clinicians, surgeons, and educators; an amazing and committed staff; the disciplined and creative work of our scientists; the insightful stewardship of our volunteer Board members; and the hundreds of generous donors who have supported our missions over the past 40 years.”

“As we look toward the next 40 years and the 40 beyond that, I am confident that the Eye Institute will continue to fulfill its deep commitment ‘to serving all Oklahomans and the global community through excellence and leadership in patient care, education, and vision research.’”
The Dean McGee Eye Institute is dedicated to serving all Oklahomans and the global community through excellence and leadership in patient care, education, and vision research.
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www.dmei.org