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Deana S. Watts, MD

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Anil D. Patel, MD, FRCS, FACS

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(405) 271-7825 • (800) 787-9012
Brian K. Firestone, MD*

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Nancy A. Lambert, BCO

Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
(405) 271-1096 • (800) 787-9018
Nathan W. Blessing, MD
Annie Moreau, MD, FACS
Jeremy F. Tan, MD
Becky B. Moore, PA

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Brandalyn D. Loyko, OD
Jessica L. Lucas, OD, FAAO
Jamie N. Rodríguez, OD

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R. Michael Siatkowski, MD
Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHSc
Emily M. Zepeda, MD**
Laurie A. Hahn-Parrott, CO (orthoptist)

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*Ophthalmologist Performing Cataract Surgery in Adults
**Ophthalmologist Performing Cataract Surgery in Children

Dean McGee Eye Institute Satellite Locations

NORTHWEST OKC
3500 N.W. 56th, #101, Oklahoma City, OK 73112
(405) 271-9500

Comprehensive Ophthalmology/Cataract and Ophthalmic Surgery/Premium Cataract Surgery/Intense Pulsed Light (IPL) Dry Eye Treatment
Ralph B. Hester III, MD*

Optometry
Tasha J. Schellenberg, OD

Optical Services
(405) 271-9506

EDMOND
1005 Medical Park Blvd., Edmond, OK 73013
(405) 271-0813

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Comprehensive Ophthalmology/Neuro-Ophthalmology
Anil D. Patel, MD, FRCS, FACS

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

Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
Jeremy F. Tan, MD

Optometry
Angela M. Plant, OD, FAAO
Jessica L. Lucas, OD, FAAO

Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus
Maria E. Lim, MD**

Optical Services
(405) 271-0909

LAWTON
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(580) 250-5855

Comprehensive Ophthalmology/Cataract and Ophthalmic Surgery/Premium Cataract Surgery
Ann Acers-Warn, MD, MBA*
Jean R. Hausheer, MD, FACS*

Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
Nathan W. Blessing, MD

Retina/Vitreous
Vinay A. Shah, MD

Optical Services
(580) 585-5425

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
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A REPUTATION FOR Educational Excellence

I was well aware of DMEI’s reputation for educational excellence and always encouraged Michigan medical students to consider DMEI/OU as they applied for residency programs in ophthalmology. That reputation has grown exponentially over the years, and the program itself also has grown. Beginning in 1962 (the year in which Tullos O. Coston, MD became the part-time chair of the department), the residency program trained three residents per year. In 2009, that number increased to four per year so that by 2011 (the year in which the second DMEI pavilion was dedicated), we had a complement of 12 residents.

In July 2018, we welcomed our first class of five residents and will have a total of 15 residents by July 2020. This expansion of our program allows more DMEI residents to engage in one of the best educational and surgical experiences in the nation and to better serve the eye care needs of our state and region.

A high proportion of Oklahoma ophthalmologists received their medical school education and/or residency training at OU, and all 11 recipients of the Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology Distinguished Service Award received their medical degree from OU, completed their residency at OU, and/or served on the faculty at DMEI/OU. We are particularly proud that of our four graduating residents in 2019, three entered comprehensive
ophthalmology practices in three different areas of Oklahoma and the fourth will pursue a career in comprehensive ophthalmology in his hometown of Little Rock, Arkansas.

Since 2011, Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski has served as the residency program director at DMEI/OU. With the engagement and support of faculty members highly committed to our educational mission, Dr. Siatkowski has led the program to higher levels of national prominence and, in April 2019, completed a one-year term as president of the Program Directors Council of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology. Clearly a national leader, Dr. Siatkowski is also a past director of the American Board of Ophthalmology and just completed a term as president of the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus.

Under his leadership, the residency program has been recognized by Doximity among the top 16 to 20 in the nation since 2015 and in the top seven to eight among programs associated with a public university. In the last two surveys published by Ophthalmology Times, the residency program ranked among the top 10 overall (ninth in 2018 and fourth among public universities and second in 2017 and first among public universities).

To recognize Dr. Acers’ incredible commitment to education, the Acers Society was established in 2004 in his honor to “support resident and fellow education of the highest quality” with the understanding that “proper training...of tomorrow’s ophthalmologists will best serve both patients and the profession.” Dr. Acers passed away in 2005 but his legacy lives on, and I am confident that he would be very proud of the growth and impact of the residency program about which he was so passionate. As a past Senior Secretary for Clinical Education for the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), I know that I am, as is Dr. David Parke II, who himself served as a residency program director for nine years at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston before becoming DMEI’s second president in 1992. Dr. Parke is now the chief executive officer of the AAO.

Please enjoy this edition of DMEI InVision, including the feature story on pages 60-63. I am certain that you will share our excitement about DMEI’s role in training future generations of ophthalmologists!

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

VISITS WITH STATE AND NATIONAL LEGISLATORS and their staff are coordinated to assist in conveying to them the role of ophthalmologists and all members of the eye care team, the mission of the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI), and the vital services provided to their constituents and all Oklahomans. Two such visits were hosted on January 21 and 30.

Pictured (left to right) during a legislative visit to DMEI on January 30: Gregory Skuta, MD, DMEI president and chief executive officer, State Representative Rhonda Baker, State Representative Nicole Miller, State Representative Marilyn Stark, State Representative Denise Crosswhite-Hader, State Representative Ajay Pittman, Dianne Rasmussen, who represents the Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology at the State Capitol, and Garyl Geist, DMEI executive vice president and chief operating officer.

State senators on the Health Committee who participated in the visit to the Institute on January 21 included:

- Chairman Jason Smalley
- Senator Paul Rosino
- Senator Roger Thompson - Appropriations Chairman
- Senator Michael Brooks
- Senator Darrell Weaver
- Senator Carrie Hicks

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 18 DMEI PHYSICIANS LISTED ON THE CASTLE CONNOLLY TOP DOCTORS LIST!

The June 2019 edition of Oklahoma Magazine featured Castle Connolly Top Doctors. The complete list includes 18 ophthalmologists from the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI). In addition to the Castle Connolly Top Doctors recognition, many DMEI ophthalmologists are cited among the Best Doctors in America or by both.

Ann Acers-Warn, MD, MBA
John M. Bell, MD
Cynthia A. Bradford, MD
Reagan H. Bradford Jr., MD
Bradley K. Farris, MD
Stephen R. Fransen, MD
Layne E. Goetzinger, MD
Jean R. Hausheer, MD, FACS
David W. Jackson, MD
Mahmoud A. Khaimi, MD
Annie Moreau, MD, FACS
Rebecca K. Morgan, MD
Anil D. Patel, MD, FRCSC, FACS
R. Michael Siatkowski, MD
Rhea L. Siatkowski, MD
Gregory L. Skuta, MD
Deana S. Watts, MD
Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHSc
IN MARCH, GOVERNOR KEVIN STITT APPOINTED JEAN R. HAUSHEER, MD, FACS, as a member of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority Board, which administers the state’s Medicaid program. Dr. Hausheer is a comprehensive ophthalmologist in the Dean McGee Eye Institute’s Lawton facility and a clinical professor in the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Medicine.

“I appreciate Oklahomans who are stepping up to serve our great state and give their valuable time and knowledge to help deliver a customer-centered government,” said Governor Stitt. The Governor appoints five of the newly reorganized Board’s nine members. His other appointees include Laura Shamblin, MD, Marc Nuttle, Stanley Hupfeld, and Philip Kennedy. Mr. Hupfeld is a former chief executive officer of INTEGRIS Health. He and Mr. Nuttle, a Norman attorney, were already serving on the Board.

Dr. Hausheer also has been selected as one of The Journal Record’s “50 Making a Difference,” from whom The Journal Record’s “Woman of the Year” will be announced on October 10. In addition, she is the immediate past president of the Oklahoma State Medical Association (OSMA) and the Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology. In early April, Dr. Larry A. Bookman, a gastroenterologist in the Oklahoma City area, succeeded Dr. Hausheer as OSMA president.

MARIA E. LIM, MD ACCEPTED TO LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

MARIA E. LIM, MD, CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR at the Dean McGee Eye Institute, has been selected as a member of the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma’s Leadership Class V, which began in July. Dr. Lim was among a large pool of applicants for the Leadership Class V, and her application and references elevated her to the top of the pool. Of note, Dr. Lim has donated her time outside of the Institute to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma’s Volunteer Center on several occasions. Her community involvement also has included engagement in Leadership Oklahoma City’s “Linking OKC’s Young Adult Leaders (LOYAL)” program.
IF YOU HAVE EVER CONSIDERED FACIAL COSMETIC SURGERY, particularly of the area surrounding your eyes, you want the best person for the job. The ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgeons at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) are experts in the field.

DMEI’s oculofacial plastic surgeons include Drs. Annie Moreau, Nathan W. Blessing, and Jeremy F. Tan. Drs. Blessing and Tan recently joined the team after receiving fellowship training from highly competitive programs overseen by the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, the only formal oculoplastic training body in the country.

DMEI recently added the Sciton JOULE™ Laser to the team’s inventory of cosmetic procedures.

This laser will enhance the number and types of treatments provided by DMEI’s oculofacial plastic surgeons. In particular, the Sciton JOULE™ Laser will provide many resurfacing treatments that improve the skin’s overall texture, quality, and tone.

“The laser will allow us to grow the cosmetic services that we offer to our patients,” Dr. Blessing says. “Because we are ophthalmologists, we know how to work around the eyes safely and we’re excited to offer a comprehensive set of cosmetic services for our patients.”

The Sciton JOULE™ Laser offers many treatments.
Sciton HALO Laser for Anti-Aging Treatments

The Sciton HALO is the first hybrid fractional laser that applies both ablative and non-ablative wavelengths to your skin. Both work together to remove the top layer of the skin while also heating the underlying skin to help your body produce more collagen. The HALO laser can be used on all skin types for a number of skin conditions and applications including the following:

- Wrinkles and fine lines
- Sun damage/dyschromia
- Skin texture
- Skin resurfacing
- Scar revision (including acne scars)
- Signs of aging
- Pigmented lesions
- Enlarged pores
- Medical dermatology/actinic keratoses

ProFractional Laser for Resurfacing

With the ProFractional Laser, DMEI surgeons are able to offer fast resurfacing results with minimal downtime. The laser removes narrow-diameter channels of the skin, covering a fraction of the total treatment area. This action initiates the body’s wound healing response while leaving the surrounding tissue intact for rapid healing.

MicroLaserPeel for Minimal Downtime

The MicroLaserPeel is a lighter treatment that removes the topmost layer of the skin. This helps your skin return to its natural smoothness and youthful glow. Most patients experience restored skin after only a couple of days of recovery.

ForeverYoung BBL Light Therapy

Forever Young BBL is intense pulsed light therapy that targets pigmentation issues such as spots caused by sun damage or rosacea. This light technology provides a more refreshed, rejuvenated and youthful appearance with minimal to no downtime.

If you are interested in undergoing a procedure with our oculofacial plastic team, or in learning what options might work best for you based on your specific needs, please call 405.271.1096 or 800.787.9018.
THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) IS PARTNERING WITH METRO TECHNOLOGY CENTERS to offer a new “Eye Care Technologies” program that prepares students for a career as an ophthalmic assistant.

Fundamentals of the eye care technologies program include vision testing, surgical assisting, lensometry, and conducting ultrasounds and digital photography. Metro Tech students will have the opportunity to engage in clinical internships under DMEI physicians.

“Dean McGee is excited to partner with Metro Tech to create a center of excellence in Oklahoma City,” said Gregory L. Skuta, MD, DMEI’s president and chief executive officer. “Ophthalmic assistants play a vital role on the eye care team, so we consider our participation in this program an important investment in the future of our profession.”

Graduates will be eligible to sit for the certified ophthalmic assistant (COA) examination through the International...
“Through a premier vision care program and one-of-a-kind partnership with the Dean McGee Eye Institute, our students are destined for excellence,” said Metro Tech Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer Bob Parrish. “We are working hand in hand with a national leader to offer full-time, evening and continuing education opportunities for eye care professionals.”

Facility renovations to house the program at Metro Tech’s northeast Oklahoma City campus are nearing completion. The program begins at the Metro Tech Health Careers Center in fall 2019.

Full-time and part-time enrollment information is now available at metrotech.edu, and 20 of 24 seats have been filled.

Dr. Bradley K. Farris Retires from Full-Time Practice

AS THIS EDITION WAS GOING TO PRESS, A RECEPTION WAS HELD for Dr. Bradley K. Farris on August 15 to mark his retirement from full-time academic practice after 33 years of devoted service to his patients and the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI). (More about Dr. Farris’ remarkable career and his retirement event will be included in the next edition of DMEI InVision.) Fortunately, he will continue to be involved in DMEI’s global eye care program.

At the August 15 reception, it was announced that the Eye Institute has renamed this program the Bradley K. Farris, MD Global Eye Care Program in his honor and that more than $100,000 of additional support has been donated to the program. Additional donations can be made by using the enclosed reply envelope or online at dmei.org/philanthropic-giving by clicking the Donate button and selecting the Bradley K. Farris, MD Global Eye Care Program from the dropdown menu. Thank you for your support!
GARYL G. GEIST, THE DEAN McGEE EYE INSTITUTE’S executive vice president and chief operating officer, hosted the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology’s (AUPO’s) Administrators Council Summer Board Meeting from June 13 to June 15 in Oklahoma City and at DMEI. Geist is a trustee-at-large on the 12-member Council.

Events included a meet and greet reception at and tour of the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum; a board meeting in DMEI’s Stanton L. Young Board Room; tours of the Switzer Center/Gaylord Memorial Stadium on the University of Oklahoma (Norman) campus and the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum; and dining events at Oklahoma City landmarks, including the historic Cattleman’s Steakhouse in the Stockyards District.
Becky Moore
New Physician's Assistant at DMEI

BECKY B. MOORE, PA joined the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) team in July as a physician’s assistant. Her main focus is supporting DMEI's oculofacial plastic surgeons.

Moore earned her undergraduate degree *(cum laude)* from the University of Mississippi and her master’s degree in physician assistant studies from Mississippi College.

If you are interested in undergoing a cosmetic procedure with our oculoplastic surgeons or in learning what options might work best for you, our team of knowledgeable surgeons can help make recommendations based on your specific needs. Schedule an appointment by calling 405.271.1096 or 800.787.9018. See pages 6-7 for more information.

Dr. Thomas Wolf Seeing Patients at DMEI

DR. THOMAS C. WOLF BEGAN ASSISTING the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) in May by providing part-time coverage for medical cornea and external disease patients at the Institute. Dr. Wolf sees patients on the first floor of the David W. Parke II, MD Pavilion on Friday afternoons each week. This includes patients with medical cornea and external disease issues, including dry eye. Dr. Wolf also is assisting in the care of patients with anterior uveitis (ocular inflammation of the anterior segment of the eye), stable postsurgical cornea patients, some triage patients, and other patients requiring visits on a short-notice basis.

Dr. Wolf earned his undergraduate degree at Oklahoma State University (where he was a member of the OSU football team and also an Academic All-American in 1972), obtained his medical degree at the University of Oklahoma (OU), completed a residency in ophthalmology at DMEI/OU, and served as a fellow in cornea/external disease at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami. He served on the full-time faculty at DMEI from 1990 until 2001 and currently has offices in various locations in the metropolitan area.
EMILY M. ZEPEDA, MD also joined the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and the University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology in early September as an assistant professor and member of the pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus service.

Dr. Zepeda grew up in the Chicago area, earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill (with highest distinction), and completed medical school (cum laude) at Loyola Stritch School of Medicine in Chicago. She served her internship and ophthalmology residency at the University of Washington in Seattle. Dr. Zepeda recently completed a fellowship in pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus at the University of Michigan’s W.K. Kellogg Eye Center in Ann Arbor.

Dr. Zepeda’s husband, Captain Jonathan Barillas, is assigned to Tinker Air Force Base, where he will fly the KC-135 air refueling tanker.

ANDREW T. MELSON, MD joined the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI)/University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology as an assistant professor and member of the faculty in early September. His clinical and teaching activities will include a blend of medical and surgical neuro-ophthalmology and comprehensive ophthalmology/cataract surgery.

Dr. Melson is a native of the Cincinnati, Ohio area, earned his undergraduate (summa cum laude) and medical (Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, Gold Humanism Honor Society) degrees from Saint Louis University, and completed his internship at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis, Indiana. He then served as a resident in ophthalmology at DMEI/OU, was chief resident during the 2017–2018 academic year, and completed a neuro-ophthalmology fellowship at DMEI this summer.

Dr. Melson has received numerous honors and awards, including a Distinction in Research Award and Community Service Award from the Saint Louis University School of Medicine, and was the co-recipient of the Dr. and Mrs. T.E. Acers Resident Honor Award at DMEI in 2018. In 2019, he received the Annie Moreau, MD Fellow Teaching Award.

Dr. Melson’s wife, Danielle Melson, is a physical therapist with INTEGRIS Health.
THE OPHTHALMIC MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY (OMIC) is the largest insurer of ophthalmologists in the United States and is currently chaired by Dr. Daniel Briceland from the Phoenix, Arizona, area.

Formed in 1987 by a group of visionary ophthalmologists, the specialty-specific program is unique to the ophthalmology industry. OMIC’s mission is to serve the needs of members of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) by providing high quality medical liability insurance products and services. OMIC strives to be a leader in the medical liability community and to promote quality ophthalmic care and patient safety.

OMIC has a long history of Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) connections. The current OMIC vice chair (and chair of the Risk Management Committee), Denise R. Chamblee, MD, Newport News, Virginia, is a 1992 resident graduate of DMEI and the University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology. Of OMIC’s 13 directors, four others also have strong ties to DMEI. Bradley D. Fouraker, MD, FACS, Brandon, Florida, is a 1987–1989 cornea fellowship graduate; David W. Parke II, MD, San Francisco, California, is the current chief executive officer of the AAO and past president and chief executive officer of DMEI; Gregory L. Skuta, MD, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, is DMEI’s current president and chief executive officer; and Ann Acers-Warn, MD, MBA, Lawton, Oklahoma (chair of the Underwriting Committee), is a 1994 resident graduate of DMEI and clinical professor at DMEI’s Lawton facility.
In June, JEREMY D. COOPER earned his certification as a Certified Ophthalmic Medical Technologist (COMT). He joins a small and elite group of individuals, as there are just over 900 COMTs worldwide. The certification process offered through the International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (IJCAHPO) is rigorous and time consuming and includes written and oral/practical examinations. The multiple-choice written examination consists of 160 scored questions and is three hours in length. The performance test is comprised of five to twelve skill areas.

COMT represents the highest level of training for ophthalmic technicians. Cooper joins Shelley Critchfield as the second COMT at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI). The COMT designation recognizes those individuals who have progressed through the Certified Ophthalmic Assistant (COA) and Certified Ophthalmic Technician (COT) levels or are training program graduates as accomplished eye care professionals. It also confirms knowledge in 17 content areas that the ophthalmic professional seeking the COMT designation performs on a daily basis.
In February, KRISTEN N. ZELLAR earned her certification as a Certified Ophthalmic Assistant (COA).

ARIEL K. PAPPADOPULOS (left) and BETHANY J. TAYLOR (right) earned their certifications as COAs in June.

KAREN OCHOA-LOPEZ earned her certification as a COA in July.

In August, GERALDINE DE LA CERDA (left), PEGGY L. SHEARS (center), and STEVEN J. ARNOLD (right) earned their certifications as COAs.

The COA is the entry-level core designation designed to start eye care professionals on the path to success. The COA designation confirms an assistant’s knowledge in 19 specific content areas. The COA certification examination is three hours in length and is comprised of 200 scored multiple-choice questions.
ANDREW K. BAILEY, MD, recently presented Griffin, D.R. and Bailey A.K. “A Novel Surgical Approach to Refractory Glaucoma, A Case Series Review,” Electronic Poster Presentation, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, San Diego CA, May 2019. He was awarded the VA Excellence in Teaching Award during the 43rd Annual OU Resident and Alumni Meeting, June 2019; was promoted to clinical associate professor, July 2019; and was assigned sub-investigator to Allergan 1698-301-007 Study.

LEA D. BENNETT, PhD, recently published Bennett L.D., Metz G., Klein M., Locke K.G., Khwaja A., Birch D.G. “Regional Variations and Intra-/Intersession Repeatability for Scotopic Sensitivity in Normal Controls and Patients with Inherited Retinal Degenerations,” Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science, Feb. 2019. She recently was awarded an Oklahoma Shared Clinical and Translational Resources research pilot grant and a grant from the Oklahoma Center for Adult Stem Cell Research.


CYNTHIA A. BRADFORD, MD, will receive a 2019 Life Achievement Honor Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO). She is a Presbyterian Health Foundation Presidential Professor at the University of Oklahoma and an esteemed national leader in the profession of ophthalmology. Dr. Bradford has served as Secretary for State Affairs and Senior Secretary for Advocacy for the AAO and was president of the Academy in 2017.


**DANIEL J.J. CARR, PhD**, recently published Royer D.J., Hendrix J.F., Larabee C.M., Reagan A.M., Sjoelund V.H., Robertson D.M., Carr D.J.J. “Vaccine-induced Antibodies Target Sequestered Viral Antigens to Prevent Ocular HSV-1 Pathogenesis, Preserve Vision, and Preempt Productive Neuronal Infection,” *Mucosal Immunology*, May 2019. His recent presentations include Carr D. “Experimental Vaccine Against Ocular Herpes Simplex Virus Type 1: Myth or Reality,” invited lecture as part of the mini-symposium entitled, “Vaccines and Research, Education, and Public Outreach” at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK, Jan 2019; and “Update on Ocular HSV-1 Vaccine” as part of the Scientific Advisory Board meeting of Rational Vaccines Inc., Boston, MA, April 2019. Dr. Carr with co-authors M. Montgomery and D. Royer presented “Virus-Specific T Cell Receptor Transgenic Mice Vaccinated with HSV-1 0 NLS Limit HSV-1-Induced Corneal Neovascularization in the Absence of Antibody” and with co-author D. Royer presented “Complement C3 and CD4 T Cells Coordinate Corneal Sensation Loss in HSV-1 Keratitis” during the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Annual Meeting in Vancouver, BC, Canada, May 2019. Dr. Carr accepted a position on the ARVO Animals in Research Committee for the next three years (2019-2021); was recently awarded a Presbyterian Health Foundation equipment grant of $30,752; and continues to participate as a grant reviewer for National Institutes of Health study sections including 2019/05 ZAI1 LR-M (M1) 1 in Feb., 2019/05 ZEY1 VSN (03) in March, and ZRG1 ETTN-G 12 in June 2019.


MICHAEL H. ELLIOTT, PhD, became a tenured associate professor in the Departments of Ophthalmology and Physiology as of July 1.


BRIAN K. FIRESTONE, MD, was promoted to clinical associate professor, July 2019.


JEAN R. HAUSHEER, MD, FACS, recently completed publication with the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) of the third edition of Basic Techniques in Ophthalmic Surgery, published June 2019. It has 638 pages, 81 chapters, 184 videos, 180 study questions (these are new to the textbook), and 75 authors with 11 section editors. Her role in this textbook has been twofold: executive editor of the entire product, as well as primary chapter author on “Manual Small Incision Cataract Surgery.” She
has been appointed to the Oklahoma Health Care Authority Board and named a 2019 “50 Making a Difference” honoree by The Journal Record (see page 5).


**NANCY A. LAMBERT, BCO**, was showcased on KWTV News 9 on June 20 during the 10:00 pm newscast. The story, entitled “Oklahoma Artist Creates Hope for Those Who’ve Lost an Eye,” tells of Lambert’s journey to becoming an ocularist and highlights her amazing talent.


**ANNIE MOREAU, MD, FACS**, was recently inducted into the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (ASOPRS) during the Spring ASOPRS Convention; named Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society Councilor for the OU Chapter; and named as a committee member for the University Council on Faculty Awards and Honors.

**RAJU V.S. RAJALA, PhD**, has been named an Edith Kinney Gaylord Presidential Professor (see page 35); was the recipient of the 2019 Elizabeth Anderson Award for Macular Degeneration Research from the BrightFocus Foundation; and received a two-year macular degeneration grant from the BrightFocus Foundation (2019-2021). He recently published Rajala R.V.S. “Metabolic and Non-metabolic Roles of Pyruvate Kinase M2 Isoform in Retinal Rod Photoreceptor Cells,” *Atlas of Science*, April 2019. His recent invited presentations include Rajala R.V.S. “Metabolic and Non-metabolic Roles of Pyruvate Kinase M2 Isoform in the Retina,” Federation of American Society for Experimental Biology, The Biology and Chemistry of Vision, Steamboat Springs, CO, June 2019; and Rajala R.V.S. “Pyruvate Kinase M2 Regulates Photoreceptor Structure, Function, and Viability,” University of Massachusetts Memorial Eye Center, Worcester, MA, March 2019. His Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)


GREGORY L. SKUTA, MD, now serves as treasurer of the National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (NAEVR)/Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR). He has served on the NAEVR/AEVR Board of Directors since 2016. In April 2019, he was inducted into the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology Foundation’s Dowling Society (see page 40).

JEREMY F. TAN, MD, was recently inducted into the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (ASOPRS) during the Spring ASOPRS Convention.


ANNIE MOREAU, MD, FACS AWARDED PRECLINICAL OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARD FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2017–2018

IN APRIL, ANNIE MOREAU, MD, FACS was awarded a Preclinical Outstanding Teacher Award for Academic Year 2017–2018 by the Preclinical Curriculum Subcommittee in the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine. An associate professor and oculoplastic surgeon at the Dean McGee Eye Institute, Dr. Moreau exhibited excellent teaching skills and was rated very highly by the first-year medical students with whom she interacted. She has received numerous other teaching awards for her efforts as an exceptional educator.
IN LATE 2018, MR. GEORGE J. RECORDS ANNOUNCED his retirement from the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) Board of Directors after 24 years of service from 1994 to 2018. Dr. Skuta and the Board commended him for his dedication to the Institute and for his active role in the community and with a number of organizations in Oklahoma City and around the state.

After graduating from Casady School, Mr. Records served as a 1st Lieutenant Strategic Air Command pilot in the United States Air Force before completing his degree in economics with distinction at Dartmouth. Mr. Records has received the Distinguished Graduate Award from Casady School as well as United Way’s Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Records is the past chairman and chief executive officer of MidFirst Bank.

He and his wife Nancy have been very generous supporters of DMEI, including the capital campaign, renovation of research facilities, the Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD Lectureship, the Acers Pavilion Third Floor Renovation Project, the Bradley K. Farris, MD Global Eye Care Program, and other initiatives.
2019 OKLAHOMA HALL OF FAME TO HONOR TRICIA L. EVEREST AND SEVEN OTHERS

EIGHT DISTINGUISHED OKLAHOMANS WILL BE INDUCTED into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame at its 92nd Annual Banquet on November 21, 2019 at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. Tricia L. Everest, a member of the Dean McGee Eye Institute Board of Directors since 2013, will be among this year’s inductees.

They will join the 698 others who have been inducted since 1928. David E. Rainbolt, chair of DMEI’s Board of Directors since 2013, was inducted into the 91st class of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame last year in Tulsa. The Oklahoma Hall of Fame was founded in 1927 with the purpose of recognizing Oklahomans with the state’s highest honor.

The 2019 Oklahoma Hall of Fame inductees include:

- James C. Day, Pond Creek
- Tricia L. Everest, Oklahoma City
- Gray Frederickson, Oklahoma City
- John Herrington, Wetumka
- Steve Largent, Tulsa
- John T. Nickel, Muskogee
- J.C. Watts Jr., Eufaula
- Chief Allen Wright/Kiliahote (posthumous induction), Mississippi/Boggy Depot, Choctaw Nation

U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT 2019–2020 SURVEY

The Dean McGee Eye Institute was ranked 8TH IN THE NATION AMONG ACADEMIC EYE CENTERS AFFILIATED WITH A PUBLIC UNIVERSITY and 20th overall.
IN MARCH 2018, the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) Board of Directors chair, David E. Rainbolt, welcomed Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski, vice chair for academic affairs and a pediatric ophthalmologist and neuro-ophthalmologist, as a voting member of the DMEI Board of Directors. Dr. Siatkowski had served as an advisory member on the DMEI Board since 2010.

He is also the residency program director and a David Ross Boyd Professor and holds the David W. Parke II, MD Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology. Dr. Siatkowski earned his undergraduate degree from Pennsylvania State University and medical degree (Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society) from Thomas Jefferson University and completed his residency training at St. Francis Medical Center in Pittsburgh and fellowship training at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, where he also served on the faculty from 1993 to 1999.

During his 20 years at DMEI, Dr. Siatkowski has received numerous teaching awards, including the Regents’ Award for Superior Teaching, and has held multiple national leadership positions, most recently president of the Program Directors Council of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology and president of the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus.
IN DECEMBER 2018, Dr. Gregory L. Skuta recognized and presented a memento to Dr. Reagan H. Bradford Jr. for his service as an advisory member on the DMEI Board of Directors for the past 20 years (1998 to 2018). Dr. Bradford is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Oklahoma (OU) and received his medical degree from the OU College of Medicine. After an internship at Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City, he completed his residency at DMEI followed by a vitreoretinal surgery fellowship at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami. Dr. Bradford joined the DMEI retina faculty in 1985 and has been a clinical professor since 2004. He also has served as the head of the ophthalmology clinical service for OU Medical Center since 1998. Dr. Bradford has participated in numerous clinical trials and has many published articles. He is a past recipient of the Edward and Thelma Gaylord Faculty Honor Award and was a Guest of Honor at the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Annual Meeting in 2017.

IN JANUARY 2019, Dr. Ronald M. Kingsley succeeded Dr. Bradford as a rotating faculty advisory member on the DMEI Board of Directors. He will serve in this role for two years. Dr. Kingsley, a medical retina specialist, has served on the faculty for 35 years and is a clinical professor. He received his undergraduate degree (cum laude) from Brandeis University and medical degree from Georgetown University. Dr. Kingsley completed his ophthalmology residency at Yale University Medical School in New Haven, Connecticut and a prestigious medical retina fellowship at the Moorfields Eye Hospital and Hammersmith Hospital in London, England. Dr. Kingsley is a past recipient of the Edward and Thelma Gaylord Faculty Honor Award and the Excellence in Attending at VA Award.
FOR NEARLY 40 YEARS, NANCY CONDIT has suffered from visually induced vertigo. That makes her especially qualified to give the advice she offers anyone suffering from the same condition: Don’t give up hope that you will get well.

Condit, who lives in Oklahoma City, first experienced severe vertigo in 1980 when she was on a small bus headed to a museum in Tulsa.

“The dizziness made me feel as though my head was a gong and something was banging back and forth in it,” she said. “When I got home, I was nauseous and worried about falling, so I spent a lot of time lying on the sofa resting my head in a pillow to try to keep it from feeling as if it were moving.”

That was her routine for much of the next seven years as she went to a variety of doctors, from ophthalmologists to internists to otolaryngologists, all to no avail. But she persisted and finally found Bradley K. Farris, MD (see page 9) at the Dean McGee Eye Institute. He prescribed acetazolamide, a diuretic that has been used to treat altitude sickness and some eye problems by decreasing the amount of fluid that can build up in the eye.

Condit said she initially took 500 milligrams twice a day. The medication has required some adjustment over the years as her symptoms came and went. Today, she is down to 125 milligrams twice a day, and just last year, she stopped feeling dizzy.

“It took a while to work, but with Dr. Farris’ encouragement, I kept on taking it, and with his support, I kept getting over bad episodes of vertigo,” Condit said. “Without his help and treatment, I think I might be in a nursing home.”

Condit learned a variety of coping mechanisms when her vertigo was at its worst. She was teaching at Oklahoma City Community College, as well as serving as an adjunct professor at the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City campus. She couldn’t drive for about six weeks, so her mother and brother
took her to work. Gradually, she began to feel like she could drive again.

“When I was teaching, I carried a glass of Coke around with me because I thought it would help with nausea, but I don’t think it did,” she said. “I also tried carrying something heavy in each hand because the balance seemed to help me when I was dizzy. And I avoided stairs.”

Condit said she got in the habit of measuring the steps it would take for her to get from one place to another. She also became a master planner of what she needed to accomplish while standing and while sitting.

“When I was up, I did all the things I needed to do when I was up, and when I was down, I was down,” she said. “I also got in the habit of never going into big-box stores because I was afraid they would make me dizzy. Even today, that habit continues.”

Condit later did freelance writing but eventually had to stop working because of some additional medical problems. Although her vertigo has occupied a large portion of her life, she is beginning to get involved with activities outside her home again. She has volunteered as a reading tutor at an Oklahoma City elementary school, and she writes a blog and is now able to read for pleasure without getting dizzy. She enjoys swimming, especially now that she can turn her head from side to side without dizziness. She was recently accepted into the Oklahoma Master Gardener Program, to begin this fall.

“Basically, I’m rebuilding my life,” she said. “But that’s why I tell people not to give up and to follow every lead. Find the doctor who can help you.”
IF YOU ARE 70½ YEARS OLD OR OLDER, you can take advantage of a simple way to benefit the Dean McGee Eye Institute and receive tax benefits in return. You can give up to $100,000 from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) directly to a qualified charity such as ours without having to pay income taxes on the money.

WHY CONSIDER THIS GIFT?

• Your gift will be put to use today, allowing you to see the difference your donation is making.

• You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions.

• If you have not yet taken your required minimum distribution for the year, your IRA charitable rollover gift can satisfy all or part of that requirement.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. I’ve already named the Dean McGee Eye Institute as the beneficiary of my IRA. What are the benefits if I make a gift now instead of after my lifetime?
A. By making a gift this year of up to $100,000 from your IRA, you can see your philanthropic dollars at work. You are jump-starting the legacy you would like to leave and giving yourself the joy of watching your philanthropy take shape. Moreover, you can fulfill any outstanding pledge you may have made by transferring that amount from your IRA as long as it is $100,000 or less for the year.

Q. I’m turning age 70½ in a few months. Can I make this gift now?
A. No. The legislation requires you to reach age 70½ by the date you make the gift.

Q. I have several retirement accounts—some are pensions and some are IRAs. Does it matter which retirement account I use?
A. Yes. Direct rollovers to a qualified charity can be made only from an IRA. Under certain circumstances, however, you may be able to roll assets from a pension, profit sharing, 401(k) or 403(b) plan into an IRA and then make the transfer from the IRA directly to the Dean McGee Eye Institute. To determine if a rollover to an IRA is available for your plan, speak with your plan administrator.

Q. Can my gift be used as my required minimum distribution under the law?
A. Yes, absolutely. If you have not yet taken your required minimum distribution, the IRA charitable rollover gift can satisfy all or part of that requirement. Contact your IRA custodian to complete the gift.
Q. When do I need to make my gift?
A. We must receive your gift by December 31 for your donation to qualify this year. If you have check-writing privileges on your IRA account, please mail your check by December 20 in order to give us time to process your gift before the end of the year.

Q. Do I need to give my entire IRA to be eligible for the tax benefits?
A. No. You can give any amount under this provision, as long as it is $100,000 or less this year. If your IRA is valued at more than $100,000, you can transfer a portion of it to fund a charitable gift.

Q. I have two charities I want to support. Can I give $100,000 from my IRA to each?
A. No. Under the law, you can give a maximum of $100,000. For example, you can give each organization $50,000 this year or any other combination that totals $100,000 or less. Any amount of more than $100,000 in one year must be reported as taxable income.

Q. My spouse and I would like to give more than $100,000. How can we do that?
A. If you have a spouse (as defined by the IRS) who is 70½ or older and has an IRA, he or she can also give up to $100,000 from his or her IRA.

It is wise to consult with your tax professionals if you are contemplating a charitable gift under the extended law. Please feel free to contact Jim Durbin at 405.271.7803 or jim-durbin@dmei.org with any questions you may have.

Source: The Stelter Company. The information in this article is not intended as legal or tax advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney or tax advisor. Figures cited in any examples are for illustrative purposes only. References to tax rates include federal taxes only and are subject to change. State law may further impact your individual results.

A PEGGY D. FARRIS ONE-OF-A-KIND PAINTING is proudly showcased at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI). The oil on canvas piece, “Passion,” is on loan from Gregory L. Skuta, MD and resides on the second floor of the David W. Parke II, MD Pavilion. The Rev. Dr. Farris is a longtime patient and friend of DMEI. We applaud her for her talents!
Meet Another DMEI Centenarian

AT THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI), WE love to celebrate our patients who are centenarians! Mrs. Dorothy Driver turned 101 on July 1 and is a patient of Dr. John M. Bell’s in our Edmond office. If you are a DMEI patient age 100 or more and would be willing to have your name included in the next edition of DMEI InVision, please contact the Development Office at 405.271.7801 or at DMEI-Development@dmei.org. We would love to add your picture too!

LOCAL FOUNDATIONS HELP RECRUIT NEW VISION SCIENTIST TO DMEI

WELL-QUALIFIED, GRANT-FUNDED RESEARCHERS are the foundation of a leading vision research program like that at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI). As there is intense competition to recruit such talent, recruitment packages, which include funds to set up a laboratory with equipment and personnel along with other start-up costs, are critical and can be significant.

So when DMEI had the opportunity to recruit Yan Chen, PhD, a National Eye Institute-funded vision scientist from the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston, Texas (see page 34 for more details), we reached out to two long-time donors to help secure her recruitment. The Presbyterian Health Foundation and the E.L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation each contributed $100,000 towards the recruitment effort. In combination with additional support from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, DMEI and the Department of Ophthalmology were successful in attracting Dr. Chen to our research team this summer.

“Philanthropic donations are essential to our scientific recruitment efforts,” states DMEI President and Chief Executive Officer Gregory L. Skuta, MD. “We are grateful to the Presbyterian Health Foundation and the E.L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation for their vision and generosity in helping DMEI recruit a scientist of Dr. Chen’s caliber to join our highly-ranked research enterprise.”
2018 Acers Society

HONORING DR. THOMAS E. ACERS, BENEFITING OPHTHALMOLOGY RESIDENT & FELLOW EDUCATION

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THE ACERS SOCIETY WAS ESTABLISHED by the alumni of the University of Oklahoma Department of Ophthalmology in recognition of its first full-time chair, Dr. Thomas E. Acers. The Society exists to support ophthalmology resident and fellow education of the highest quality. Proper training and supervised clinical experience for tomorrow’s ophthalmologists will best serve both patients and the profession. Members of the Acers Society share this commitment.

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Ex-Officio: R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
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The following names reflect gifts received by the Dean McGee Eye Institute and/or Dean McGee Eye Institute Foundation from January 1 through December 31, 2018. They include gifts and pledges as well as payments on previous pledges.

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The Chickasaw Nation
The J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation

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Minna W. Hall
Leigh and Ben Harvey, MD
Georgia B. Hathcock
Jean R. Hausheer, MD, FACS
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Hines
Gene A. Holm
Yan Chen, PhD New Researcher at DMEI

YAN CHEN, PhD JOINED THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA (OU)

Department of Ophthalmology as an associate professor and member of the basic science research faculty in June. Dr. Chen holds a secondary appointment as adjunct associate professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

A native of China, Dr. Chen earned her bachelor’s degree from Nanjing University and pursued master’s degree studies at Sun Yat-Sen University. She then completed her PhD at Emory University in Atlanta and postdoctoral fellowship at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, where her mentor was Paul Sternberg, MD, chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at Vanderbilt and president of the American Academy of Ophthalmology in 2013.

Dr. Chen joined the faculty at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston as an assistant professor in 2012. She previously held a K99/R00 grant from the National Eye Institute (NEI) and is currently supported by an R01 from the NEI as well as funding from the BrightFocus Foundation. Dr. Chen’s research focus is on the investigation of key signaling mechanisms in aging and/or degeneration of the retinal pigment epithelium.

Dr. Chen’s husband, Jiyang Cai, PhD, is an associate professor and vision researcher in the OU Department of Physiology. They have one son Ethan.

SAVE THE DATE

4th Annual Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD Lecture
September 19, 2019

13th Annual OU Vision Workshop
September 19-20, 2019
Tullos O. Coston, MD Lecture Hall, Dean McGee Eye Institute, Acers Pavilion, Fifth Floor

David J. Calkins, PhD
O’Day Professor – Vice Chair and Director for Research – Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences – Vanderbilt University – Nashville, Tennessee
PROVOST JASON R. SANDERS, MD, MBA ANNOUNCED at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) Spring Faculty Awards Ceremony on Monday, April 22 that Raju V.S. Rajala, PhD, MG McCool Professor of Ophthalmology and Professor of Physiology, has been named an Edith Kinney Gaylord Presidential Professor. Presidential Professorships are awarded to those faculty members “who excel in their professional activities and who relate those activities to the students they teach and mentor.” Dr. Rajala joins Drs. R. Michael Siatkowski, Daniel J.J. Carr, James F. McGinnis (now retired), Michelle C. Callegan, Bradley K. Farris, and Cynthia A. Bradford as members of the ophthalmology faculty who have received Presidential Professorships.

A native of India, Dr. Rajala received his PhD in biochemistry from Andhra University, completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Pathology at the University of Saskatchewan, and, in 2000, joined the laboratory of Dr. Robert E. “Gene” Anderson at OUHSC as an assistant professor of research. He was promoted to tenure-track assistant professor in 2003, associate professor in 2008, and professor in 2013, achieving tenure in 2010. Among his many scientific achievements, Dr. Rajala made the groundbreaking discovery that the insulin receptor was present in photoreceptor membranes and could be activated by light, subsequently producing activation of a phosphoinositide signaling pathway known to be neuroprotective in other tissues. His current research focus is on molecular messengers that regulate retinal photoreceptor survival and light activation of retinal insulin receptor signaling. His research is supported by an R01 (and a second pending R01) from the National Institutes of Health/National Eye Institute, for which he serves as a permanent member of the Biology of the Visual System Study Section.

As an esteemed leader in vision research, Dr. Rajala serves as associate editor of the *Biomed Central UK Ophthalmology Journal* and is on the editorial board for several other scientific journals. He is also a past recipient of a Career Development Award from Research to Prevent Blindness and has more than 125 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters.
KEVIN K. FULLER, PhD, assistant professor in the Departments of Ophthalmology and Microbiology/Immunology at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC), has been granted a Career Development Award by Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB).

The highly competitive RPB Career Development Award was established in 1990 to attract young physicians and basic scientists to eye research. To date, the program has given awards to 211 vision research scientists in departments of ophthalmology at universities across the country.

Dr. Fuller joined the OUHSC faculty in June 2018 from Dartmouth with a research focus on fungal infections of the cornea. The project that will be supported by this four-year, $300,000 RPB award is entitled “Elucidation of Aspergillus Fumigatus Signaling Pathways that Drive Corneal Infection.”

“With this prestigious RPB Career Development Award, Dr. Fuller has a unique opportunity to fill a critical niche in the exciting field of ocular microbiology,” stated Dr. Gregory L. Skuta, Edward L. Gaylord professor and chair of the OU Department of Ophthalmology and president and chief executive officer of the Dean McGee Eye Institute. “It is very clear that our strong history of support from RPB has played a vital role in the success of the vision research programs at the University of Oklahoma.”

Since it was founded in 1960, RPB has channeled more than $368 million into eye research. As a result, RPB has been identified with nearly every major breakthrough in vision research in that time. For information on RPB’s grant programs, listings of RPB institutional and individual grantees, and findings generated by these awards, go to www.rpbusa.org.
APPOINTMENT OF DIMITRIOS KARAMICHOS, PhD AS CHIEF EDITOR OF *Analytical Cellular Pathology*

**DIMITRIOS KARAMICHOS, PhD,** associate professor in the Departments of Ophthalmology and Cell Biology and also the W. Stanley Muenzler, MD Associate Professor in Corneal Disease recently was selected as the chief editor of *Analytical Cellular Pathology.*

*Analytical Cellular Pathology* is a peer-reviewed, open access journal that provides a forum for scientists, medical practitioners and pathologists working in the area of cellular pathology. The journal publishes original research articles, review articles, and clinical studies related to cytology, carcinogenesis, cell receptors, biomarkers, diagnostic pathology, immunopathology, and hematology.

As chief editor, Dr. Karamichos will be involved in triaging all submissions and approving the final decision on all manuscripts published in the journal. He will also develop the journal by encouraging high-quality submissions and increasing its visibility within the research community.

On becoming chief editor for the journal, Dr. Karamichos states, “It is a tremendous honor for me to be selected as the next chief editor of such a promising journal as *Analytical Cellular Pathology.* Special thanks to the Steering Committee for giving me this opportunity to drive and shape the future of our journal. Moving forward, I will try to institute some new measures so that our journal can be relevant and competitive in a very challenging field. My goal is to increase the number of papers submitted, while also increasing the quality of those published. More importantly, I plan to revisit and redefine the focus of our journal, as science is constantly evolving and becoming more and more multidisciplinary. In the coming months, I hope to be able to share more of my vision and clearly lay out my plans and dreams for our journal.”

At the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Dr. Karamichos also serves as the associate director of research for the Oklahoma Center for Neuroscience.

**RESEARCH FACULTY—DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY**

Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD  
Martin-Paul Agbaga, PhD  
Lea D. Bennett, PhD  
Richard S. Brush, BS  
Michelle C. Callegan, PhD  
Daniel J.J. Carr, PhD  
Yan Chen, PhD  
Phillip S. Coburn, PhD  
Michael H. Elliott, PhD  
Kevin K. Fuller, PhD  
Dimitrios Karamichos, PhD  
Darren J. Lee, PhD  
Sun Young (Sunny) Lee, MD, PhD  
Feng Li, MD, MPH, MS  
Raju V.S. Rajala, PhD
## CURRENT RESEARCH GRANTS FROM NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institute</th>
<th>Grant Number</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Martin-Paul Agbaga, PhD</td>
<td>NIAMS</td>
<td>R21</td>
<td>Defining the Mechanism of Altered Very Long Chain Fatty Acid Metabolism in Neuro-Ichthyotic Disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD</td>
<td>NEI</td>
<td>R01**</td>
<td>Essential Role of Very Long Chain Fatty Acids in Retinal Function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lea D. Bennett, PhD</td>
<td>NEI</td>
<td>R00</td>
<td>Genotype Phenotype Associations in Inherited Retinal Degeneration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle C. Callegan, PhD</td>
<td>NEI</td>
<td>R01</td>
<td>Pathogenic Mechanisms of Bacillus Endophthalmitis</td>
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<td></td>
<td>NEI</td>
<td>R21</td>
<td>Targeting Chemokines in Intraocular Infection</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NEI</td>
<td>P30</td>
<td>Center Core Grant for Vision Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel J.J. Carr, PhD</td>
<td>NIAID</td>
<td>R01</td>
<td>The Neuroimmunology of Viral Infection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yan Chen, PhD</td>
<td>NEI</td>
<td>R01</td>
<td>mTORC1-TFEB Pathway in Degeneration of the Retinal Pigment Epithelium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael H. Elliott, PhD</td>
<td>NEI</td>
<td>R01</td>
<td>Role of Caveolin-1 in the Maintenance of Blood-Retinal Barrier Integrity</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NEI</td>
<td>R01</td>
<td>Caveolae-Based Mechanosensors for Conventional Outflow Regulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin K. Fuller, PhD</td>
<td>NEI</td>
<td>R21</td>
<td>Fungal Virulence Factors During Corneal Infections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimitrios Karamichos, PhD</td>
<td>NEI</td>
<td>R01</td>
<td>Sex Hormones and Keratoconus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NEI</td>
<td>R01</td>
<td>A Novel Pathogenic Pathway for Diabetic Keratopathy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NEI</td>
<td>R01**</td>
<td>Utility of Prolactin-induced Protein as a Novel Keratoconus Biomarker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darren J. Lee, PhD</td>
<td>NEI</td>
<td>R01</td>
<td>Immunobiology of Experimental Autoimmune Uveitis Recovery Through the Melanocortin-Adenosinergic Pathway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NEI</td>
<td>R21</td>
<td>Dynamics of the Ocular Immune Response During Uveitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raju V.S. Rajala, PhD</td>
<td>NEI</td>
<td>R01</td>
<td>Second Messengers in the Retina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NEI</td>
<td>R01**</td>
<td>Neuroprotection Mechanism for Photoreceptors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Estimated Total NIH Research Funding (Annual Direct + Indirect Costs)**: $6.97 million

*NIAMS = National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases  
NEI = National Eye Institute  
NIAID = National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
**Denotes pending Notice of Grant Award
2020 Recipient of the Dean’s Award for Distinguished Medical Service

ROBERT E. “GENE” ANDERSON, MD, PhD HAS BEEN SELECTED by the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Medicine Alumni Association as the 2020 recipient of the Dean’s Award for Distinguished Medical Service. The award will be presented as part of the Alumni Association’s Evening of Excellence gala event on January 23 at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

Dr. Anderson has made enormous contributions in the field of vision research before and since his arrival at the OU Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) in 1995. He has acquired more than $68 million in total National Institutes of Health (NIH) and non-NIH grant support during his tenure at OUHSC and has more than 300 peer-reviewed publications.

Currently the interim chair of the Department of Cell Biology (for which he also served as chair from 1998 to 2007), Dr. Anderson served as director of vision research at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI), where his laboratory is still located, from 1998 to early 2019. He is a past president of the International Society for Eye Research (ISER) and past vice president of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO). Dr. Anderson has received numerous life achievement awards, including ARVO’s 2011 Proctor Medal, the Llura Liggett Gund Award in 2011 from the Foundation Fighting Blindness, the 2012 Paul Kayser International Award from ISER and the Retina Research Foundation, and recognition as a 2016 honoree of the ARVO Foundation and Dowling Society.

ERIN LIVINGSTON (LEFT) AND AUSTIN LAGROW (RIGHT), a graduate student and medical student respectively in the laboratory of Dr. Michelle C. Callegan, were selected for Knights Templar Eye Foundation travel grants to the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada in May. Livingston and LaGrow were also chosen as finalists to compete in the Members-in-Training competition at ARVO 2019, and Livingston won her section’s competition (Immunology/Microbiology).

HUZZATUL MURSALIN, a PhD candidate in Dr. Michelle C. Callegan’s laboratory, won an award at the Graduate Research Education and Technology (GREAT) Symposium in the spring for his oral presentation and also won the 25th Cora Verhagen Award in Immunology in May at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Annual Meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

AT THE 2019 MEETING of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) in Vancouver, British Columbia, Gregory L. Skuta, MD (third from left) was inducted into the Dowling Society, which recognizes individuals for their significant support of eye and vision research. He is joined in this photograph by (left to right) Dimitrios Karamichos, PhD, University of Oklahoma, 2018 Dowling Society inductee; Paul Sternberg Jr., MD, ARVO Foundation chair; and Robert E. “Gene” Anderson, MD, PhD, University of Oklahoma, 2011 Dowling Society inductee.
DR. KYLE A. ROGERS, while a third-year resident at the Dean McGee Eye Institute, presented, “Protective Eyewear for the Functionally Monocular Patient: A Quality Improvement Initiative” at the “Educating the Educators” program on January 23 as part of the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Brett M. Gudgel, MD Named New Chief Resident

DR. BRETT M. GUDGEL has been selected as chief resident for the 2019-2020 academic year, which started on July 1. Dr. Gudgel, who grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma, graduated from the University of Oklahoma (OU)-Norman with a B.S. in biochemistry and then attended the OU College of Medicine, where he graduated with Special Distinction (top 5% of class) and was elected into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society and the Gold Humanism Honor Society.

Dr. Gudgel and his wife McKenzie spent a year in Indianapolis while he completed his internship at Indiana University Methodist Hospital before moving back to Oklahoma City for his residency at the Dean McGee Eye Institute.

In his free time, Dr. Gudgel enjoys spending time with his wife, family (including daughter Macy born on July 23), and friends; watching Sooner football; snow skiing; wakeboarding; traveling; and reading.

Dr. Gudgel’s predecessor as chief resident, Vincent D. Venincasa, MD, has entered private practice as a comprehensive ophthalmologist in Edmond, Oklahoma.
FINNY T. JOHN, MD at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Annual Meeting held April 28 - May 2, 2019 at the Vancouver Convention Centre in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. His poster presentation was entitled, “Outcomes of Vogt-Koyangi-Harada Disease Among At-Risk Native Americans.”

AAO MID-YEAR FORUM

Pictured are seven Oklahoma attendees and two others at the 2019 American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Mid-Year Forum in Washington, DC. Back row (left to right): Gregory L. Skuta, MD, Jonathan E. Drummond, MD, and Reagan H. Bradford Jr., MD; and front row (left to right): Amalia M. Miranda, MD, Heather G. Mack, MD (from the University of Melbourne in Australia), Cynthia A. Bradford, MD, Michael W. Brennan, MD (from North Carolina and AAO president in 2009), Ben J. Harvey, MD, and Valerie L. Lobodiak, MD. Dr. Mack is president of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists and accompanied the Oklahoma delegation to Capitol Hill on April 11.
Vincent D. Venincasa, MD Receives College of Medicine’s 2019 Lloyd and Ruth Rader Award for Resident Scholarship

VINCENT D. VENINCASA, MD was one of two winners of the 2019 Lloyd and Ruth Rader Award for Resident Scholarship presented by the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Medicine on May 16. The award recognizes residents and fellows who demonstrate great promise in advancing both the clinical practice of medicine and medical research. There were seven nominees this year. Dr. Venincasa is the first Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) ophthalmology resident to ever receive this award.

Dr. Venincasa, who served as chief resident for 2018-2019, has been a shining example in elevating the quality of research for residents and fellows. He embraced research by publishing case reports and co-authoring 12 peer-reviewed publications. The Rader Award recognized his work in retinopathy of prematurity (ROP), in which he undertook a large analysis of infants with ROP seen at The Children’s Hospital over a five-year period. Parts of this very large study were presented at meetings of the American Ophthalmological Society and the American Academy of Ophthalmology, and the entire work has been published in the *Journal of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus*. Dr. Venincasa, who also has ongoing work in art perception in patients with ocular disease, has been described as “a model of kindness, compassion, and sensitivity.”

DMEI also had a second finalist for the award, Dr. Kyle A. Rogers, in recognition of his strong work on a quality improvement project for prescribing polycarbonate (impact-resistant) lenses for patients with only one well-seeing eye, as well as his development of an online tutorial in ophthalmology for medical students.

Congratulations to both Drs. Venincasa and Rogers for their significant contributions!
THE BRADLEY K. FARRIS, MD GLOBAL EYE CARE PROGRAM (see page 9) is a program supported by the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) to bring excellence in eye care, education, and vision research to underserved regions of the world. In May, ophthalmologists from DMEI traveled to China to provide training and eye care to the people of the Sichuan Province. DMEI ophthalmologists also traveled to Eswatini (Swaziland) in southeastern Africa in February.

Dr. Bradley Farris (seated left) performing surgery with an assistant in an Eswatini/Swaziland operating room with observing ophthalmologists (standing at back) from Mozambique and Rwanda.

Pictured (left to right): J. Russell Burks, MD, two eye clinic nurses, Dr. Raymond Bitchang, medical director of Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital (Manzini, Eswatini/Swaziland), Jonathan Pons, MD, Bradley Farris, MD, and Nathan Blessing, MD in a clinic established by DMEI with donated equipment and supplies. The team assists Dr. Pons, one of the only ophthalmologists practicing in Eswatini/Swaziland, in various clinics and operating theaters while directly learning many of the skills valuable in providing ophthalmic care to the people of this southeastern African country.
Bradley Farris, MD and a Chinese patient.

Andrew Melson, MD examines the brain scans of a global eye care patient in China.

Valerie Lobodiak, MD performs indirect ophthalmoscopy on a global eye care patient from the Sichuan Province of China.

Bradley Farris, MD and a Chinese patient.

Valerie Lobodiak, MD performs indirect ophthalmoscopy on a global eye care patient from the Sichuan Province of China.

Jeremy Tan, MD examines a patient with the slit lamp in China’s Sichuan Province.

Vincent Venincasa, MD evaluates the retina of a patient.

Andrew Melson, MD examines the brain scans of a global eye care patient in China.

Photo Credit: Alex Lobodiak
RESIDENT/ALUMNI AWARDS

E.L. AND THELMA GAYLORD FACULTY HONOR AWARD: BRADLEY K. FARRIS, MD
Pictured (left to right): J. Russell Burks, MD, Kyle A. Rogers, MD, Valerie L. Lobodiak, MD, Bradley K. Farris, MD, and Vincent D. Venincasa, MD.

AMALIA M. MIRANDA, MD SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD: VINAY A. SHAH, MD
This award was accepted on behalf of Dr. Vinay Shah by his wife, Kanan Shah, MD. Dr. Vinay Shah was unable to personally attend the event due to being out of the country but provided a video acceptance of this inaugural Miranda Award (see pages 48-49). Pictured (left to right): Paul Silverstein, MD, Kanan Shah, MD, and Amalia Miranda, MD.

EXCELLENCE IN ATTENDING AT VA AWARD: ANDREW K. BAILEY, MD
Pictured (left to right): J. Russell Burks, MD, Kyle A. Rogers, MD, Andrew K. Bailey, MD, Valerie L. Lobodiak, MD, and Vincent D. Venincasa, MD.

DR. & MRS. THOMAS E. ACERS RESIDENT HONOR AWARD: VALERIE L. LOBODIAK, MD
Valerie L. Lobodiak, MD (right) accepting her award from Ann Acers-Warn, MD (left) for her project evaluating the results of the glaucoma surgical procedure ab-interno canaloplasty, which has been pioneered by DMEI surgeon Mahmoud A. Khaimi, MD.

Photo Credit: Charlie Neuenschwander Photography
As part of the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology’s 43rd Annual Resident/Alumni Day, the recipients of a number of awards were announced at the meeting or during the reception and dinner held at Vast on the 50th floor of Devon Tower on the evening of Saturday, June 1.

**TARGETED RESIDENT FEEDBACK FORM (TARFF) AWARD – FACULTY: ENSA K. PILLOW, MD**

Pictured (left to right): Gregory L. Skuta, MD, Ensa K. Pillow, MD, and R. Michael Siatkowski, MD.

**ROBERT G. SMALL, MD AWARD FOR MEDICAL STUDENT EDUCATION: BRETT M. GUDGEL, MD**

Pictured (left to right): Gregory L. Skuta, MD, Brett M. Gudgel, MD, and R. Michael Siatkowski, MD.

**ANNIE MOREAU, MD FELLOW TEACHING AWARD: ANDREW T. MELSON, MD**

Pictured (left to right): Kyle A. Rogers, MD, J. Russell Burks, MD, Andrew T. Melson, MD, Valerie L. Lobodiak, MD, and Vincent D. Venincasa, MD.

A “Resident Outstanding Staff Award” was presented to Rashelle Briggs, COA in absentia for her excellent work with the residents as a certified ophthalmic assistant.
Dr. Shah Receives Inaugural AMALIA M. MIRANDA, MD SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

AT THE ACERS SOCIETY RECEPTION ON JUNE 1, it was announced that Vinay A. Shah, MD was the recipient of the inaugural Amalia M. Miranda, MD Special Recognition Award. This is a new award supported by a gift from Paul Silverstein, MD in honor of his wife Amalia M. Miranda, MD. Dr. Miranda is a highly respected Oklahoma City comprehensive ophthalmologist who is a past president of the Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology (OAO), a recent Oklahoma Councilor to the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), an AAO Guest of Honor in 2017, and the recipient of the OAO Distinguished Service Award in 2017.

The Amalia M. Miranda, MD Special Recognition Award honors an individual associated with the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI)/University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology who, like Dr. Miranda, received his/her undergraduate, graduate, and/or postgraduate education/training outside of the United States or Canada and who has made important contributions to patient care and/or vision research. Dr. Miranda

The recipient of the inaugural Amalia M. Miranda, MD Special Recognition Award was Vinay Shah, MD. Dr. Shah was unable to attend the event due to being out of the country but provided a video acceptance. His wife, Kanan Shah, MD, personally accepted the award on his behalf. Pictured (left to right) are members of the Silverstein/Miranda family with Dr. Kanan Shah: Debbie Silverstein, DVM, Andrea Silverstein, Beth Silverstein, Paul Silverstein, MD, Kanan Shah, MD, Amalia Miranda, MD, Steven Silverstein MD, Anne Silverstein, and Bruce Silverstein, MD. Drs. Miranda and Steven and Bruce Silverstein are all ophthalmologists.

Photo Credit: Charlie Neuenschwander Photography
is a native of Seville, Spain, and completed her undergraduate and medical degrees and ophthalmology residency at the University of Seville. She served on the DMEI medical staff from 1983 to 1993.

Dr. Shah, now a clinical professor and vitreoretinal surgeon at DMEI/OU, first trained at Gujarat University and the L.V. Prasad Eye Institute in India before extensive residency and fellowship training in the United States. He joined the DMEI faculty in 2011, is the retina fellowship director, and received the Senior Honor Award from the American Society of Retinal Specialists in 2007, the American Academy of Ophthalmology’s (AAO’s) Secretariat Award in 2015, an AAO Senior Achievement Award in 2017, and DMEI’s Gaylord Faculty Honor Award in 2018. Dr. Shah is an international leader in ophthalmologic smartphone applications.

The weekend of May 31/June 1 was very special for Drs. Silverstein and Miranda and their family in that they were honored on May 31 at the INTEGRIS Gala as the 2019 INTEGRIS Philanthropists of the Year. Their contributions span many decades and personal commitments to the Paul Silverstein Burn Center at INTEGRIS Baptist Medical Center, which is named in honor of Dr. Silverstein.

SAVE THE DATE: Monday, September 30, 2019
THE 28TH ANNUAL WALTER J. STARK MEMORIAL LECTURESHPH
8:30 am–9:30 am • Tullos O. Coston, MD Lecture Hall
Ruth D. Williams, MD
Chief Medical Editor, EyeNet Magazine
Past President, American Academy of Ophthalmology
Past President, Wheaton Eye Clinic

Drs. Amalia Miranda (center left) and Paul Silverstein (center right) were honored on May 31 as 2019 INTEGRIS Philanthropists of the Year.

Photo Credit: Emily Nicole Photography
JOHN M. BELL, MD, CLINICAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI), received the 2019 Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology (OAO) Distinguished Service Award during the 43rd Annual University of Oklahoma (OU) Resident and Alumni Meeting held at the Samis Education Center on June 1. The Distinguished Service Award is the OAO’s highest honor and is a peer recognition award given to ophthalmologists who have exhibited a lifelong dedication to the OAO and/or to the profession. The award was presented by Ben J. Harvey, MD, OAO president and a clinical assistant professor at DMEI.

Dr. Bell joined DMEI/OU Department of Ophthalmology in August 2017. A native of Oklahoma, he is a graduate of Norman High School and earned his undergraduate (with Highest Honors, Phi Beta Kappa) and medical (with Distinction, Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society) degrees from OU. He completed his internship at the OU Health Sciences Center and his ophthalmology residency at Scott and White in Temple, Texas. He joined the Oklahoma City Clinic in 1991 and served as president of the clinic from 2002 to 2017.

Dr. Bell has assembled a remarkable record of leadership and service and has served as president of the OAO and as chair of the OU Board of Regents. He is currently on the Board of Trustees of the Sarkeys Foundation and has served as its president in years past. He was on the Board of Trustees of the OU College of Medicine Alumni Association from 2002 to 2015. In April 2017, while still at the Oklahoma City Clinic, Dr. Bell was recognized as Physician of the Year—Private Practice by the OU College of Medicine Alumni Association. He also is a past recipient from DMEI residents of the Excellence in Attending Award at the Oklahoma City Veterans Affairs Medical Center.
Dean McGee Award in Ophthalmology

DR. ALLISON P. DRUMMOND (third from left) received the 2019 Dean McGee Award in Ophthalmology as the most outstanding University of Oklahoma College of Medicine graduating medical student in this specialty area. She will begin her ophthalmology residency at the University of Missouri – Kansas City in July 2020. She is joined in this photograph by (left to right) Anne M. and Dr. Gregory L. Skuta and her father, Dr. Jonathan E. Drummond, an ophthalmologist in Stillwater, Oklahoma, who also serves as the Councilor from the Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology (OAO) to the American Academy of Ophthalmology. He is also past president of the OAO.

SAVE THE DATE
Friday, October 25, 2019

18th Annual 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 also to 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 405.271.1611.
J. RUSSELL BURKS, MD, has completed three years of residency training and will enter private practice as a comprehensive ophthalmologist in Little Rock, Arkansas. All graduating residents are shown with Drs. Gregory L. Skuta (left, department chair) and R. Michael Siatkowski (right, residency program director and vice chair for academic affairs). Dr. Skuta also is pictured with all graduating fellows on page 53.

VALERIE L. LOBODIAK, MD, has completed three years of residency training and will enter private practice as a comprehensive ophthalmologist in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

KYLE A. ROGERS, MD, has completed three years of residency training and will enter private practice as a comprehensive ophthalmologist in Enid, Oklahoma.

VINCENT D. VENINCASA, MD, has completed three years of residency training and will enter private practice as a comprehensive ophthalmologist in Edmond, Oklahoma.
CRAIG D. ECK, MD, has completed a one-year cornea fellowship and will enter private practice in St. Louis, Missouri. Dr. Rhea L. Siatkowski (left) is the cornea fellowship director.

ABAYOMI E. FABUNMI, MD, has completed a one-year glaucoma fellowship and will enter private practice in Tampa, Florida. Dr. Mahmoud A. Khaimi (left) is the glaucoma fellowship director.

ANDREW T. MELSON, MD, has completed a one-year neuro-ophthalmology fellowship and will be joining the neuro-ophthalmology and comprehensive ophthalmology services at the Dean McGee Eye Institute/University of Oklahoma as an assistant professor. Dr. Anil D. Patel (left) is the neuro-ophthalmology fellowship director.
INCOMING 2019 RESIDENTS

Pictured (left to right): Drs. Farzad Jamshidi, Andrew Osborn, Kristen Collister, Jacob Warmath, and Christian Berry.

Jon “Christian” Berry, MD
College: Baylor University
Medical School: University of Texas – Southwestern

Kristen N. Collister, MD, MPH
College: Kettering University
Medical School: Texas Tech University

Farzad Jamshidi, MD, PhD
College: University of British Columbia
Medical School: University of British Columbia

Andrew R. Osborn, MD
College: Washington University - St. Louis
Medical School: University of Missouri - Columbia

Jacob D. Warmath, MD
College: Texas A&M University
Medical School: University of Oklahoma

INCOMING 2019 FELLOWS

Lee E. Moore, MD
Cornea Fellow
College: University of Mississippi
Medical School: University of Mississippi
Residency: University of North Carolina

Stanley S.K. Park, MD
Retina Fellow (second year)
College: University of California, San Diego
Medical School: Ohio State University
Residency: Havener Eye Institute/Ohio State University
Uveitis Fellowship: Bascom Palmer Eye Institute/University of Miami

Samuel L. Thomsen, MD
Glaucoma Fellow
College: Nebraska Wesleyan University
Medical School: University of Nebraska
Residency: University of Missouri - Columbia
DMEI Distinguished Visiting Lecturers

**JANUARY 21, 2019**

Janet L. Davis, MD (center)
Professor of Ophthalmology, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, University of Miami

Grand Rounds Guest Lecture:
"Infectious Posterior Uveitis: Don't Miss It!"

**APRIL 7, 2019**

Bennie H. Jeng, MD (center)
Chair, Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, University of Maryland

Grand Rounds Guest Lecture:
"Herpes Zoster Ophthalmicus: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly"

**AUGUST 19, 2019**

Thomas E. Johnson, MD (center)
Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, University of Miami

Grand Rounds Guest Lecture:
"Orbital Trauma Challenges"
DAVID W. PARKE II, MD DELIVERED THE 40TH TULLOS O. COSTON, MD LECTURE on June 1 as part of the 43rd Annual Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) Ophthalmology Symposium/University of Oklahoma (OU) Resident and Alumni Meeting. His Coston Lecture was entitled “Ophthalmology Practice in 2029.” He also delivered a second lecture, “Private Equity and Ophthalmology: What Happens When Investors Own Medical Practices?”

As the chief executive officer of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), Dr. Parke is the world’s most prominent leader in the profession of ophthalmology. He has served in this role since 2009, prior to which he served for 17 years (1992 to 2009) as DMEI’s second president and chief executive officer and chair of the OU Department of Ophthalmology. He is a professor emeritus in the OU College of Medicine.

A native of Connecticut and a graduate of Stanford University and Baylor College of Medicine (Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society), Dr. Parke completed his residency training at Baylor College of Medicine, serving as chief resident. He completed two years of fellowship training (Baylor College of Medicine and Medical College of Wisconsin) in diseases and surgery of the retina and vitreous and then served on the faculty of the Cullen Eye Institute/Baylor College of Medicine from 1983 to 1992.
The son and father of an ophthalmologist, Dr. Parke served as the president of the AAO in 2008 and received its Life Achievement Honor Award in 2009. He also has served as president of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology and Council of Medical Specialty Societies, as a director of the American Board of Ophthalmology, as an executive editor of the *American Journal of Ophthalmology*, and as chair of the Board of Directors of Medem, Inc. He currently is a member of the Board of Directors of the Ophthalmic Mutual Insurance Company as well as other boards. Dr. Parke was the recipient of the Dean’s Award for Distinguished Medical Service from the OU College of Medicine Alumni Association in 2007 and was elected to the prestigious Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis in 2009.

Dr. Parke’s professional and scholarly activities have focused on retinal diseases and surgery and on health policy and biomedical organizational leadership and development. He has delivered more than 20 named lectures.

In 2013, the David W. Parke II, MD Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology was established at DMEI in his honor and is held by R. Michael Siatkowski, MD. On May 31, 2014, DMEI’s second 78,000-square-foot pavilion, originally dedicated on September 30, 2011, was named the David W. Parke II, MD Pavilion in honor of his exceptional contributions to DMEI and the profession of ophthalmology.

He and his wife Dr. Julie T. Parke, a pediatric neurologist, have three grown children and four grandchildren.

**SAVE THE DATE!** Next year’s meeting is scheduled for Friday/Saturday, June 5–6, 2020.

41st Tullos O. Coston, MD Lecture (June 6)
Tamara R. Fountain, MD
*Immediate Past President, American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*
*Past Chair, Board of Directors, Ophthalmic Mutual Insurance Company*
*President-Elect Designate, American Academy of Ophthalmology*
FORTY YEARS AGO, JOHN A. ROBINSON, MD, FINISHED HIS RESIDENCY at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI), the first group of residents to have spent all of their training at the new facility. Today, he not only remembers his residency with fondness, but continues using the skills he learned to provide quality care for his patients.

Dr. Robinson has practiced ophthalmology in Shawnee, Oklahoma since finishing his residency in 1979. Today, as during his residency, he enjoys the daily service of taking care of his patients.

"Ophthalmology is one of the few specialties with a good combination of medical and surgical care," he said. "In a way, it’s like primary care, but it’s also specialty care because, with diseases like glaucoma, you take care of people over many years. The need is great because as people are living longer, there is much more eye disease than in the past. But many more conditions are treatable today that were not treatable decades ago."

Dr. Robinson said he believes DMEI’s residency is among the best anywhere. He values his own residency education and remembers the unwavering support of leaders like former chair Dr. Thomas Acers and his wife, Jackie. Dr. Robinson gained insight into the continuous quality of the residency program when he served as a volunteer faculty member at the VA and worked with well-prepared residents.

“When I filled in to teach, the residents were highly skilled and they learned so quickly,” he said. “Anything they didn’t know, they immediately understood after you told them.”

At the Robinson Eye Institute, his practice in Shawnee, Dr. Robinson provides a range of ophthalmology care, but today largely focuses on cataracts and glaucoma. An optometrist also sees patients in his practice, and three retina doctors—two from DMEI—come to provide part-time care. Three opticians provide eyewear on-site.

Dr. Robinson especially enjoys performing cataract surgery because of the joy it brings patients to have good vision once again.

“The postoperative patients are all so happy,” he said. “I recently had a patient with terrible cataracts who could not read at all. Even before
the operation was over, she was saying, ‘This is wonderful. I can see!’"

Dr. Robinson also fondly recalls a memorable encounter with the researchers who developed the science behind optical coherence tomography (OCT), an imaging technology that is routinely used today to diagnose eye conditions like glaucoma and age-related macular degeneration. In September 2001, Dr. Robinson had gone to visit his daughter in Germany, where she was spending a year learning the language and working in an electrical engineering laboratory. While visiting her in the lab, her co-workers showed Dr. Robinson a machine that would later be sent to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and fully developed into OCT.

“I was one of the first ophthalmologists to see the new higher resolution spectral domain OCT in Germany while it was still in a prototype stage, and one of the first scans with the spectral domain was of my daughter’s retina,” he said. “They were so excited to see an ophthalmologist and had so many questions about the clinical aspects.”

Over the years, Dr. Robinson has been involved in ophthalmology organizations at both the state and national level, including serving as president of the Oklahoma State Medical Association and the Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology, often advocating at the state Capitol for ways to provide better patient care. He also served as a Council member for the American Academy of Ophthalmology. In 2012, he received the Distinguished Service Award from the Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology.

Dr. Robinson has been deeply involved in his community as well, serving as board chairman for the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art, on the advisory board for Oklahoma Baptist University and as a member of the Rotary Club.

“I think it’s important for physicians to have activities other than their practice,” he said. “I’ve noticed that people who do only their regular work tend to burn out, and those who have other interests tend to enjoy their practice longer.”
According to numerous national rankings and metrics, the residency program at The Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) is one of the top in the country. For residents, that translates to gaining vast experience treating patients with conditions both routine and rare, performing a high volume of surgeries, and practicing the empathetic communication that is meaningful to all they encounter.

DMEI's residency slots—recently expanded from four to five each year—are highly competitive. Each year, the program receives about 450 applications for those five spots, which speaks to the quality training they know they will receive.

“The Dean McGee Eye Institute is blessed with truly outstanding residents and resident applicants,” said Gregory L. Skuta, MD, DMEI’s president and chief executive officer and chair of the University of Oklahoma (OU) Department
of Ophthalmology. “Every year, when we review the top 20 to 25 names on our match list, if they are not coming here, they are matching at other prestigious programs throughout the country.”

Because DMEI is connected to the OU Medicine academic healthcare system, residents are exposed to a broad spectrum of pathology, both medically and surgically. R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, director of DMEI’s residency program, said residents benefit greatly from that diversity. They experience the gamut of primary, secondary and tertiary care and help provide inpatient consultations at OU Medical Center, The Children’s Hospital and the Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center. With the state’s only Level 1 trauma center nearby, residents also treat a large amount of ocular trauma.

“Our residents typically say that, after finishing their residency at DMEI, they feel prepared to handle just about anything because they’ve seen it and treated it,” Siatkowski said. “It’s a very busy residency.”

Residents at DMEI are in the top 10 percent nationally in surgical volume. Typical graduating residents have performed more than 1,000 cases as a primary surgeon, which doesn’t include cases in which they have assisted or observed. Residents average 300 or more cataract surgeries, high above the accreditation requirement of 86 procedures, Siatkowski said.

Another important element is residents’ interaction with physicians from other specialties. Conditions such as brain tumors, other cancers, stroke, multiple sclerosis and diabetes have implications for the health of a person’s eyes.

“We have strong interactions with our colleagues in neurology, neurosurgery, pediatrics, endocrinology, rheumatology and much more,” Siatkowski said. “Many systemic diseases have ocular manifestations, and in some cases, we make the first diagnosis of a systemic disease by the ophthalmologic findings.”

Because residents are so well-versed in straightforward ophthalmology procedures, they have the opportunity to conduct many advanced procedures, like premium intraocular lenses that correct astigmatism and minimally invasive glaucoma surgery.

Brett M. Gudgel, MD, the current chief resident (see page 41), said he appreciates the balanced mix of DMEI’s residency program.

“There is an amazing balance between guidance and autonomy, surgery and clinical time, hands-on and didactic learning,” he said.

Residents also have a unique opportunity through DMEI’s global ophthalmology program, begun 20 years ago by Dr. Bradley K. Farris and now known as the Bradley K. Farris, MD Global Eye Care Program (see page 9). Each year, residents travel to the Sichuan Province of China or Eswatini/Swaziland, Africa, to provide patient care and medical education. Residents are deeply affected by their global experiences, Siatkowski said, and many continue an interest in global service after they graduate.

In addition to their busy clinical training, residents are required to conduct research, with...
the goal of publishing at least one paper in a peer-reviewed journal or presenting it at a national meeting. In the last 10 years, DMEI residents have nearly tripled their number of national research publications and presentations, Siatkowski said.

During their built-in time to conduct research, most residents choose a clinical research project, but about 10 percent pursue a basic science project. A strong faculty research program at DMEI—led for 20 years by Robert E. “Gene” Anderson, MD, PhD, and now by Michelle C. Callegan, PhD, director of vision research—mentors residents as they seek new answers through their investigations. Collaborations across campus with researchers in cell biology, physiology and microbiology/immunology are also strong. Conducting research helps residents learn to acquire and analyze data and to think in new ways, Siatkowski said, but it also teaches them to consider how it relates to patient care.

“All clinicians have to be involved in lifelong learning, and part of that involves evaluating new research that comes out,” Siatkowski said. “Having conducted research themselves gives residents a leg up on how they may incorporate new research into patient care.”

Vincent D. Venincasa, MD, who recently finished his DMEI residency, serving as chief resident, has also been a prolific researcher. He served as a co-author for 12 peer-reviewed publications and completed a large retrospective study looking at the natural course of the eye disease retinopathy of prematurity in extremely premature infants.

“Research in itself is important to build the medical knowledge base for our field,” he said. “Research as a concept, though, really helps one think, prioritize resources and discover innovative solutions that are applicable to all aspects of life.”

While patient care and research are major elements of DMEI’s residency, so is the goal of teaching residents the importance of interpersonal communication. It is crucial that they learn how to talk to and understand patients who come from diverse backgrounds, Siatkowski said, and those same skills are relevant to their interactions with colleagues and staff.

“We want our residents to have the ability to respect differences and embrace them, and to understand that even when people have different...
in the nation, and the program has consistently ranked in the top 20 according to Doximity (18th in 2019 and 8th among programs affiliated with a public university).

Over the next three years, DMEI will create an integrated residency program in which residents complete all four years of their training (including internship) at OU Medical Center/DMEI instead of doing their internship elsewhere and three years of residency here. Siatkowski said that switch will only better prepare residents and lead to better care for the patients they serve.

Working with residents is gratifying in numerous ways, Siatkowski said. They have novel, creative ideas and bring a dedication to gaining deep knowledge and superb skills.

“I believe our program is one of the top five in the country, and we are highly regarded on a national basis,” he said. “Sometimes we get the credit as leaders, but I look at myself as more of an enabler—to create an environment where everyone can flourish. The real reason we are so good is because of the quality of the residents and faculty, as well as our program coordinator, Helen Howell.”

Dr. Venincasa—who has transitioned to private practice as well as opening a free ophthalmology clinic for people without insurance—echoed Dr. Siatkowski’s view of the residency program.

“One of the best parts about the Dean McGee Eye Institute is the quality of the character of the attending physicians..."
What attracted me to the Dean McGee program was the feeling that I was being recruited not for my academic record or research background, but for the kind of person I was and the physician I’d become.

William S. Clifford, MD, MBA
– Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) Resident Class of 1993 and Fellow Class of 1994
– Trustee-at-Large, Board of Trustees, American Academy of Ophthalmology, 2018–2021
– President, Kansas Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, 1999–2001
– Chair, Acers Society, 2004–present
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 teacher and student—and a “code of conduct” based on mutual respect.

Thomas E. Acers, MD
- First Full-Time Chair, Department of Ophthalmology, University of Oklahoma, 1972-1991
- Founding President, Dean McGee Eye Institute, 1975-1991
- President, Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology, 1984-1985
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