The Dean McGee Eye Institute emerged in 1973 from the shared vision of a handful of Oklahoma City citizens – ophthalmologists Drs. Dick Clay and Tom Acers, and community and business leaders including Stanton Young, Jim Tolbert, John Houchin, and Dean McGee. Their objective was to build an institute that would educate physicians, contribute to the science of curing blindness, and provide Oklahoma with the type of state-of-the-art eye care normally available in only large academic centers.

On December 5, 1975, this same group of leaders dedicated the Dean McGee Eye Institute building. When the institute opened it housed four ophthalmologists and no scientists. Over the ensuing 30 years, literally millions of patients have walked in through its doors. Many have ultimately walked out the doors with sight that they feared was lost forever to disease or injury.

Let’s fast-forward to 2005.

The Dean McGee Eye Institute is now home to 29 ophthalmologists, two optometrists, one ocularist (a professional who makes and fits artificial eyes), 12 vision research laboratories, and 250 other members of the Institute staff. Nearly 140,000 patient visits will be recorded in 2005. Over 20,000 of those visits will be made by patients unable to pay for the care they need – patients
who will be seen at no (or drastically reduced) charge.

Every single University of Oklahoma medical student will spend time in Institute lecture halls, laboratories, or clinical space. So will students from many other medical schools. Today, nearly 40% of Oklahoma ophthalmologists have received some portion of their education at DMEI. Over one hundred applications are received for each ophthalmology residency position.

Finally, DMEI research laboratories are wall-to-wall with scientists, technicians, centrifuges, chemical hoods, DNA sequencers, high tech instrumentation and computers. In fiscal year 2003, vision researchers based at Dean McGee ranked sixth in the nation in competitive grant funding from the National Eye Institute of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Over the past decade DMEI’s research program had the highest rate of growth of any eye institute in the United States.

The result: the Dean McGee Eye Institute is bursting at the seams. Unfortunately, our patients know that finding a parking place sometimes means circling the lot many times. Waiting rooms can be overfilled; we have had to move six of our physicians across the street to leased space in another building. This is a burden on our visually handicapped and elderly patients – many of whom must go back and forth from building to building. It diminishes one of the huge advantages of an institution like Dean McGee – that all the needed ophthalmologists, subspecialists, and all the cutting edge diagnostic instrumentation are in one location in close proximity to each other for convenient and rapid consultation.

As for the researchers, we literally have to turn away talented, innovative scientists who want to join our faculty simply because we don’t have available the 1,000 or 3,000 square feet of lab space they require to do their work.

Clearly this is unsustainable. Without new space, the Institute will be forced to cut back on patient care services and restrict its research programs. Some of our patients have nowhere else to go – particularly the most vulnerable patients who are unable to pay for care. Without new space, some of our most productive scientists – those who bring in millions of dollars to the local economy and whose discoveries are unveiling new vistas in the cure of blinding eye disease – will move on to other institutions.

After months of study and preparation, the Dean McGee Eye Institute Board of Trustees determined that DMEI should proceed with planning to construct a second major building...
that would permit expansion of the research and patient care programs. This was not an easy decision. It was clear the project would be expensive. As a nonprofit institution, DMEI would have to raise the necessary funds. The time and energy needed to plan and to supervise design and construction of the building would carry its own costs. Yet, the Board was adamant that the successes of the past decade should not be wasted; that the trajectory of growth should continue. DMEI had emerged as an internationally respected institution, and Oklahoma could not afford to jeopardize that success or to miss an opportunity for even greater accomplishments. The Board determined that space was the rate limiting factor.

A design review committee invited some Oklahoma-based architectural firms to submit designs. The architects were asked to envision a combined patient care and research facility that would not only be highly functional and compatible with the needs of our patients, but would also reflect an exciting and aesthetically attractive design. The winning design, by Architectural Design Group of Oklahoma City, was chosen from among a field of truly distinguished plans.

The result will be nearly a doubling of DMEI’s vision research capacity ...

Over 60,000 square feet in size, the new building is joined to the existing Dean McGee Eye Institute building by a four story semicircular atrium – an atrium that is not only a key design component, but which has critical functional elements. The new building has four floors – two that are largely research, and two principally for patient care. An adjacent two story parking deck will house nearly four hundred cars.

The result will be nearly a doubling of DMEI’s vision research capacity – 20,000 square feet of new laboratory and office space. New scientist teams can be recruited and assembled in fields like retinal molecular genetics, nanotechnology, artificial vision, and neuroimmunology. All of the Institute’s Oklahoma Health Center physicians will be reunited in the facility, leaving room to recruit new subspecialists in fields including retinal diseases, tumors, and pediatric ophthalmology. The combined buildings will accommodate a nearly 40% net increase in patients.

What will all this cost? Over $25 million! An additional $5 million is needed to provide a permanent restricted endowment to support the building and its programs of scientific investigation. Quality vision science research is not inexpensive. The alternative – vision loss – is worse.

We are already nearly $16 million of the way towards that goal! Thanks to the generosity of many foundations, corporations, and individuals, it is our hope to begin construction in 2006 with completion in 2008. We need the space tomorrow.

Winston Churchill said, “It is always wise to look ahead, but difficult to look farther than you can see.” It is our fervent hope and prayer that this exciting new building will take the Dean McGee Eye Institute and the community it serves farther than you can see.
The new Dean McGee Eye Institute building project will include three new patient care centers made possible through the generosity of three remarkable Oklahoma families.

Katie and Aubrey McClendon of Oklahoma City have pledged a $1 million gift to enable the creation of a major patient care center honoring the late Hal D. Balyeat, M.D. The center, to be located in the new building, will integrate comprehensive ophthalmology and anterior segment surgery – including cataract surgery. One of the Institute’s original physicians, and a nationally respected cataract surgeon, Dr. Balyeat was renowned as a caring and ethical ophthalmologist and a superb teacher. Many ophthalmologists who completed their residencies at Dean McGee, when confronted by a challenging surgical problem, still ask themselves, “Now, what would Hal do?” The Dean McGee Eye Institute is deeply honored that the McClendons, two of Oklahoma’s most innovative and generous citizens, have dedicated this gift to the memory of Hal Balyeat.

The Institute’s pediatric ophthalmology center will be relocated to the new building and renamed as the Rainbolt Family Pediatric Ophthalmology Center. This new patient care center reflects the commitment of the Rainbolt family – Gene, Jeannine, David, and Leslie – to the care of children and to preventing and fighting the needless loss of their sight. The Institute’s Mike Siatkowski, M.D. will be the Center’s first Director and will continue his efforts to not only develop the highest quality patient care programs but to establish the Center as a nationally recognized facility for clinical research to advance the science of pediatric eye care. The impact of the Rainbolt’s generosity will resonate for decades to come.

The Dean McGee Eye Institute currently conducts nearly 30 peer-reviewed and approved clinical trials. This has grown from fewer than five such trials in the mid-1990’s. Through the clinical trial process, Oklahoma patients have the opportunity to not only participate in the process of scientific discovery, but also frequently to access through these trials new drugs or treatment strategies available only in selected national centers. As a part of the new DMEI construction project, clinical trials will be consolidated in a new Zarrow Family Clinical Research Center. Endowed by a gift from The Maxine and Jack Family Foundation and The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation of Tulsa, the new center is expected to dramatically enhance the ability of DMEI ophthalmologists to accept new trials, offering innovative options to our patients with serious disease.
Additional Support for The Capital Campaign

**National Institutes of Health**

The National Eye Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), awarded DMEI a $3.7 million CO6 NIH Construction grant to assist in the new construction of the research laboratories in the new building. Dr. Paul Sieving, Director, of the National Eye Institute, stated, “This was a competitive grant. It is a real measure of success to know that the research funded here is in the top 10 in eye funding in the entire country.”

**The University Hospitals Trust**

The University Hospitals Trust approved a $3 million expenditure over a three-year period to the OU College of Medicine/Department of Ophthalmology to assist the Dean McGee Eye Institute in its physical plant expansion.
ANNUAL APPEAL: IN SUPPORT OF INDIGENT CARE

All of us here at the Dean McGee Eye Institute deeply appreciate our patients and friends who supported the 2004 Annual Appeal. For the third year in a row, we saw the number of donors increase as more and more people gave so that their fellow citizens without financial resources might enjoy better sight. DMEI physicians give of their time and talent and those who donated helped to make up the difference.

This past year’s annual appeal raised more than $76,000 from 340 donors to help defray an indigent care budget that reaches $1.5 million annually. Those who made a contribution to the 2004 Annual Appeal will help those patients at DMEI who cannot afford treatment and have few other places to go. Every single gift received in response to the annual appeal will help pay for the eye care for those patients. We are truly grateful to each and every one of you.

CALENDAR YEAR GIVING – 2004

This past year, more than 480 donors pledged or contributed $703,000 to the Dean A. McGee Eye Institute Foundation during calendar year 2004. This generosity helped support specific programs and projects or (via unrestricted gifts) supported the changing needs of the Eye Institute. DMEI is indebted to all of you who have helped enhance our ability to provide excellence in patient care, education and research.

HOW TO MAKE A GIFT

Gifts to the Dean A. McGee Eye Institute Foundation can be restricted to vision research, patient care, medical education or the Capital Campaign. Alternatively, your gifts can be unrestricted, making funds available where the Eye Institute has its greatest need. The attached self-addressed return envelope has been included to provide you with an easy way to make a gift to the Foundation. After your gift has been processed, we will send you an acknowledgement and receipt for your records.
CALCULATION YEAR 2004 GIVING BY LEVELS

RECOGNITION

The Dean A. McGee Eye Institute would like to recognize and honor the hundreds of generous donors who contributed more than $703,000 to the Foundation between January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004 (Capital Campaign Donors Excluded – see page 5). We hope that you will take a few minutes to look at the names of the people and organizations whose gifts have improved the quality of life for so many in this state and surrounding region and whose support of vision research has advanced eye care for all.

MAJOR BENEFACTORS
($10,000 AND ABOVE)
Sterling S. Baker, M.D. *
Ray M. Ballyeat, M.D. *
Donald E. Beahm, M.D. *
Dr. and Mrs. D. Randolph Brown *
William S. Clifford, M.D. *
James L. Dunagin, M.D. *
Dr. and Mrs. Stephen R. Fransen *
Luther L. Fry, M.D. *
Robert D. Gourley, M.D. *
Dr. and Mrs. P. Lloyd Hildebrand *
Rick D. Isernhagen, M.D. *
Mr. Harold J. Kleen
Robert T. Lee, M.D. *
James H. Little, M.D. *
Laressa McBurney Trust
Steven Montgomery, M.D. *
W. Stanley Muenzler, M.D. *
Oklahoma City Community Foundation
Dr. and Mrs. Mark and Denise Scott *
Dr. and Mrs. Scott and Kala Sigler *
Michael L. Soper, M.D. *
Scot A. Sullivan, M.D. *
Drs. Brett and Ann Warn *
Zarrow (Maxine and Jack) Family Foundation
David E. Zuech, M.D. *

BENEFACTORS ($1000–$9999)
Alcon Laboratories, Inc.
Oklahoma City Retailers Foundation at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation
Bruce and Anne Crum
The Cuesta Foundation, Inc.
Gary T. Denslow, M.D.
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Elder
Ernest E. Fellers Trust
Mr. and Mrs. David F. Griffin
Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Ingle
Mr. Jack Jacobs
Jones Foundation (The Fred and Mary Eddy)
Mr. and Mrs. Michael E. Joseph
Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Joullian, III
Ms. Linda P. Lambert
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lookabaugh
Mrs. Roberta M. Eldridge Miller, Trust

Dr. Rebecca Morgan and Dr. James George
Dr. and Mrs. David W. Parke, Sr.
Drs. David and Julie Parke
Ms. Pam W. Parrish
Mr. and Mrs. David E. Rainbolt
George and Nancy Records
Mr. James R. Reves
Nelson R. Sabates, M.D.
Lee E. Schoeffler, M.D.
Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey T. Shaver
Dr. and Mrs. Walter J. Stark, Jr.
Dr. Mylan Vannewkirk
Melody Marcum-Watson
Richard E. Weisbarth, OD, FAAO
Mrs. Elizabeth Zoernig Milam

FRIENDS ($100–$499)
Mr. Marle O. Abshire
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Acri
Ms. and Mrs. Vernon L. Adams
Lee and Mary Kathryn Anderson
Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Anderson
Dr. and Mrs. M. Dewey Andrews
Ms. Hazel D. Armstrong
Ms. Betty Base
Mr. Gordon Belshe
Ms. Yolanda Birdwell
Blackwell Resources, LLC
Mr. Albert W. Bode
Charles P. Bogie III, M.D., Ph.D.
President and Mrs. David Boren
Jane and Don Bown
Drs. Reagan and Cynthia Bradford
Mr. Ronald E. Bradshaw
Edward N. Brandt, Jr., M.D.
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Buchanan, III
Mr. Arthur W. Buswell
Robert and Dolores Call
Dan and Michelle Callegan
Mr. Keith E. Camerer
Mr. and Mrs. Hiram W. Camp
Sterling and Heather Cannon
Drs. Wei Cao and Feng Li
Dr. and Mrs. Dan Carr
Center for Nonprofits
Mr. Sam J. Cerny
Denise R. Chamblee, M.D.
Ms. Doris Jane Chediak
Mr. and Mrs. John Coultis
Mr. and Mrs. Aileen Ray Cowan
Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Christensen
Dr. Richard A. Clay
Mr. Robert E. Coalson
Ms. Katherine Ann Collier
Mr. John Lee Compton
ConocoPhillips Company
Ms. Kathy Coolahan
Mr. and Mrs. John Coulis
Ms. Aileen Ray Cowan
Ms. Virginia H. Craig
Russell D. Crain, M.D.
Col. Robert H. Crawford, Jr.
Mr. Stanley Deardeuff

PATRONS ($500–$9999)
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Ackerman
Mrs. Ann Simmons Alspaugh
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew D. Bown
Mr. Kent Candler
Mrs. Cornelia Caraway
Dr. and Mrs. Bradley K. Farris
Ms. Connie Garrick
Mrs. Blanche Gordon
Mr. James L. Henry
Mr. Bill J. Hogan
Ms. Kimberly A. Howard
Dr. and Mrs. Ronald M. Kingsley
Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company Foundation, Inc.
Mr. Ed L. Paramore
Ms. Olga Pellow
Pamela J. Poland-Amis, M.D.
Mr. Dale Proctor
Ms. Kathy Coolahan
Mr. Marle O. Abshire
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Acri
Mr. and Mrs. Vernon L. Adams
Lee and Mary Kathryn Anderson
Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Anderson
Dr. and Mrs. M. Dewey Andrews
Ms. Hazel D. Armstrong
Ms. Betty Base
Mr. Gordon Belshe
Ms. Yolanda Birdwell
Blackwell Resources, LLC
Mr. Albert W. Bode
Charles P. Bogie III, M.D., Ph.D.
President and Mrs. David Boren
Jane and Don Bown
Drs. Reagan and Cynthia Bradford
Mr. Ronald E. Bradshaw
Edward N. Brandt, Jr., M.D.
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Buchanan, III
Mr. Arthur W. Buswell
Robert and Dolores Call
Dan and Michelle Callegan
Mr. Keith E. Camerer
Mr. and Mrs. Hiram W. Camp
Sterling and Heather Cannon
Drs. Wei Cao and Feng Li
Dr. and Mrs. Dan Carr
Center for Nonprofits
Mr. Sam J. Cerny
Denise R. Chamblee, M.D.
Ms. Doris Jane Chediak
Mr. and Mrs. John Coultis
Mr. and Mrs. Aileen Ray Cowan
Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Christensen
Dr. Richard A. Clay
Mr. Robert E. Coalson
Ms. Katherine Ann Collier
Mr. John Lee Compton
ConocoPhillips Company
Ms. Kathy Coolahan
Mr. and Mrs. John Coulis
Ms. Aileen Ray Cowan
Ms. Virginia H. Craig
Russell D. Crain, M.D.
Col. Robert H. Crawford, Jr.
Mr. Stanley Deardeuff

* Acri Society Life Member
Dr. and Mrs. Neil M. Glass
Ms. Mary Goliwas
Mr. Francis (Frank) Graeser
Mr. William W. Green
Ms. Mattie Louise Griffis
Mr. Werner Gubelin
Ms. Leanne H. Guinn
Ms. Charlotte N. Hagan
James and Ann Halligan
Mr. Robert O. Hanefield
Mr. and Mrs. John T. Hannah
Ms. Sue Harrington
Dee and John Harris
Mr. Robert Harvey
Mr. and Mrs. Maylen Hatfield
Mr. Louie A. Hattensty
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Hayton
The Hertz Corporation
Mr. and Mrs. R.L. Hewitt
Mr. and Mrs. James A. Hicks
Mr. Arch B. Hill
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Hoberoek
Ms. Marie R. Hodges
Ms. Elaine B. Honnold
Mr. Johnnie S. Hood
Ms. Elgenia Hornbeck
Ms. Esther Howard
Mr. Robert Howard
Ms. Martha Patton Hudson
Ms. Joan Humphrey
Mr. and Mrs. John K. Humphries
Ms. Orieta Jackson
Mr. and Mrs. Paul M. Jackson
Ms. Wilma L. Jackson
Jet State Branch of Cleo State Bank
Mr. William Johnston
Mr. John T. Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Jones
Ms. Mary Louise Khouyr
Mr. Dennis Kidder
Ms. Vada Killam and Ms. Gloria Cumpston
Ms. Donna B. King
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer W. King, Jr
Mr. William T. Kinnison
Mr. Eldon K. Knight
Mr. Dale L. Kohler
Dorothy Kraker
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Krittenbrink
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur L. Landt
Dr. Loris Lauener
Ms. Lois L. Layton
Mr. and Mrs. Terry J. Leavitt
Mrs. Sonja E. Lesko
Ms. Dorothy L. Little
Mr. and Mrs. William Pierce Long
Mr. Gordon Long
Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Lorenz
Ms. Flora I. Lynn
Mr. Frank MacArty
Mr. Bill Mack
Ms. Winona Madison
Dr. and Mrs. Rex Martin
Mr. Don A. Martin
Ms. Mary H. Massie
Stephanie and H. June Mather
Ms. Beverly A. Maxwell
Travis and Teresa Mayhugh
Ms. Linda K. McAfee
Vernon McArthur Estate
Mrs. Catherine McCaslin
Wade Thomas McCoy, M.D.
Ms. Ruth McCrum
Marion and Linda McFadden
Mr. A.W. McMurphy
Mr. J.W. McReynolds
Mrs. E.L. Merlin
Inora G. Miller, M.D.
Mrs. Jane Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Elton Mills
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Mitchell
Mr. and Mrs. George Mitchell
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Mitchell
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald E. Mitchell
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Moudy
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence E. Mullins
Mr. and Mrs. David A. Murray
Faysal L. Nasr, M.D.
Mr. Elmer L. Nichols
Ms. Wilma Nichols
Ms. Loretta Nicholson
Mr. Charles Ognibene
Mrs. Evelyn Orth
Mr. Quentin Osborne
Ms. Mary Ann Padgett
Ms. Sharan P. Perts
Mr. and Mrs. James M. Perkins
Mr. Edward J. Perkins
James and Alice Perry
Ms. Mary Petricke
Mr. Paul A. Purtroff
Ms. Lela Racer
Marvin and Linda Resnick
Mr. and Mrs. R.D. Richardson
Ms. Jeanette Rivenbark
Jaime and Phillip Rodriguez
Col. Frank L. Rose, Jr.
Mr. Eli Rubowitz
Dr. Sumner Arnold Russman
Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Rutherford
Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy R. Sales
Robert and Debi Sample
Ms. Cordelia Sanders
Mrs. Janice Schauf
Ms. Louise Schlittler
Mr. and Mrs. Roy B. Scott
SemCrude, L.P.
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Shaffer
Ms. Ethel J. Shores
Mr. Herman Siegfried
Jim Sims
Ms. Ruby B. Slough
Mr. and Mrs. Bradley J. Smith
Ms. Cleopatra Smith
Ms. Jeanne Hoffman Smith
Ms. Mildred E. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Bobie P. South
Ms. Elizabeth Spinner
Mr. Lavern Speier
Mr. and Mrs. Archie Starks
Rev. and Mrs. Raymond Stephens
Ms. Erma Summers
Sunoco, Inc.
Superior Pipeline Company
Mr. Frances M. Tarpley
Ms. Alberta Taylor
Mr. Willet E. Tenney
Thoma and Sutton Eyecare Professionals, LLC
Ms. Reba F. Thompson
Ms. Susan K. Townley
R.A. and Evelyn Traynor
Ms. Alice M. Troy
Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Bill Tucker
Mr. Charles Turney
Mr. Robert Unruh
Mr. Mark A. Wadsworth
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Ward
Mr. Michael A. Ward
Ms. Madeline Ware
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Waters
Mr. William Waugh
Mr. Carl Wayt
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Webb
Ms. Karen S. Weddle
Mr. Don E. Wheatley
Ms. Wanda J. White
Stuart N. White, D.D.S.
Mr. and Mrs. Lon Dean Williams
Willis Engineering Consultants
Dick and Pat Wilson
Dr. and Mrs. Robert G. Wilson
Mr. Norman E. Wilson
Ms. Patricia Wischert
Ms. Pearl Young
The four-fold mission of DMEI is to provide patient care, medical education, research, and community service. The vast majority of DMEI physician trainees are from the U.S. Periodically, however, an outstanding international candidate is identified, and DMEI has the opportunity to extend the community it serves. In February 2005, Dr. Su Ann Lim of Singapore completed a one-year fellowship in neuro-ophthalmology and returned to her native country to serve a population in need.

Dr. Lim is a graduate of the National University of Singapore and performed her ophthalmology training with the direct support of the Ministry of Health, Singapore. Singapore, a nation of 4 million, also serves portions of nearby countries (Malaysia, Indonesia), yet is home to only three neuro-ophthalmologists. Need for another was obvious to the government of Singapore. Out of all the trainees in the country, Dr. Lim was asked to pursue subspecialty training with full financial support during a year of fellowship abroad. From among a myriad of opportunities, she chose DMEI, braving one full year of U.S. immigration procedures before she could begin. Her plans also required a high level of family support. Dr. Lim’s husband, a successful electrical engineer in Singapore, resigned his position, and came to America for one year to be “Mr. Mom” to their three children, Matthew, Zachary, and Rachel.

During her time in Oklahoma, Dr. Lim performed in an outstanding manner. Neuro-ophthalmologist Bradley K. Farris, M.D. notes that, “Su Ann is one of the brightest and most intellectually curious fellows I have ever trained. She brought a tremendous level of knowledge and surgical skill into the fellowship.” Dr. Anil Patel comments on her thirst for knowledge and compassionate and caring manner. R. Michael Siatkowski, M.D., states, “Su Ann is in the top 5 percent of all fellows I have trained. Her clinical skills, research productivity, and warm personal manner have made it a joy and an honor to be involved in her education. I count her as a trusted colleague and good personal friend.”

While at DMEI, in addition to her clinical responsibilities, Dr. Lim was very busy on the research side as well, producing two original scientific publications in major journals. She was selected to present the latter research at the annual meeting of the North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society earlier this year.

Su Ann has returned as Consultant in Neuro-ophthalmology at Tan Tock Seng Hospital in Singapore, caring for patients, training residents, and continuing her research in the epidemiology of neuro-ophthalmologic disease in that region of the world. DMEI is grateful to have been involved in her training and for the opportunity to impact health care in another part of the world.
SKUTA TAKES OFFICE AS AGS PRESIDENT

On January 1, DMEI’s Gregory L. Skuta, M.D. took office as President of the American Glaucoma Society – one of the world’s largest scientific society of ophthalmologists specializing in the management of glaucoma. The American Glaucoma Society has over 400 members worldwide and has as its mission statement, “To promote excellence in the care of patients with glaucoma and preserve or enhance vision by supporting glaucoma specialists and scientists through the advancement of education and research.” Dr. Skuta’s term of office will be two years.

Dr. Skuta joined the faculty of the Dean McGee Eye Institute in 1992, coming from the full-time faculty at the University of Michigan. An internationally respected clinician investigator and educator, he also maintains a busy clinical practice – truly bridging the gap between cutting edge science and its real world clinical application. He remains active in numerous clinical trials and has been the Principal Investigator on several NIH awards.

“Greg Skuta was the very first person I recruited to Oklahoma,” notes Dr. Parke. “And he has become a role model for all of us.” In addition to this new position, Dr. Skuta is a Director of the American Board of Ophthalmology and Secretary for Ophthalmic Knowledge of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. In 1998, he became the first volunteer faculty member at the University of Oklahoma ever to be named to an endowed Chair – the James P. Luton Chair.

“Members of the DMEI family and particularly my partner, Dr. Adam Reynolds, have been highly supportive of my involvement in the American Glaucoma Society. The AGS is firmly committed to promoting better understanding and treatment of conditions such as primary open-angle glaucoma, which affects at least two million Americans,” commented Dr. Skuta.