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**Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery**

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Angela M. Plant, OD, FAAO
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Retina/Vitreous
Reagan H. Bradford Jr., MD
Stephen R. Fransen, MD
Ronald M. Kingsley, MD
Sun Young Lee, MD, PhD
Ashvini K. Reddy, MD
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
DMEI InVision
Winter 2019

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OPHTHALMOLOGY IS AN ATTRACTIVE AND UNIQUE SPECIALTY IN THE PROFESSION OF MEDICINE IN THAT it allows its practitioners to provide a broad spectrum of both medical and surgical care. We are blessed to be able to treat patients of all ages and both genders; to care for individuals and families over many years and even lifetimes; and to protect and preserve the precious sense of sight that we all value so highly.

In addition to comprehensive ophthalmology, our specialty offers at least eight clinical/surgical subspecialties, including cornea/external disease/refractive surgery; glaucoma; neuro-ophthalmology; ocular oncology; ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery; pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus; retina/vitreous; and uveitis/ocular inflammatory disease. Among these, ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery, or oculoplastic or oculofacial plastic surgery, offers an incredibly diverse array of surgical procedures that encompasses the bony orbit and tissues that surround the eye, eyelids, brows, cheeks, foreheads, the tear drainage system, and even the removal of traumatized, painful, or tumor-filled eyes. Given the wide variety of conditions that present to oculoplastic surgeons, they frequently interact with neurosurgeons, otolaryngologists (ear/nose/throat/head and neck surgeons), oral and maxillofacial surgeons, plastic surgeons, medical and radiation oncologists, dermatologists, pathologists, and others. They also offer aesthetic surgical services, including skin rejuvenation and laser resurfacing.

We are very fortunate to have a truly outstanding team of oculoplastic surgeons at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI). Dr. Annie Moreau, who joined the Institute in 2012, is an associate professor, medical campus leader, and the recipient of multiple teaching awards. She even has a teaching award named for her! In the summer of
2018, she was joined by Drs. Nathan Blessing and Jeremy Tan, both of whom are clinical assistant professors. Dr. Tan is a native of New Jersey, and Dr. Blessing is a native of the Tulsa area, an Eagle Scout, and a National Merit Scholar. Both Drs. Tan and Blessing were summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa graduates of their respective undergraduate universities, the University of Delaware and Emory University. All three of our oculoplastic surgeons were Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society (the medical school equivalent of Phi Beta Kappa) inductees in medical school, Drs. Moreau and Blessing at the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Medicine and Dr. Tan at Temple University in Philadelphia. This team’s stellar qualifications and training are reflective of all of DMEI’s clinicians, surgeons, scientists, residents, and fellows.

Drs. Moreau and Tan completed their ophthalmology residencies at DMEI, and Dr. Moreau also completed her fellowship training here. After serving as DMEI’s chief resident in 2015-2016, Dr. Tan was a fellow with Ophthalmic Surgeons and Consultants of Ohio in Columbus. Dr. Blessing completed both his residency and fellowship at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami. This world-class level of training for all three of our oculoplastic surgeons translates into outstanding and compassionate care for all of their patients at the Eye Institute and at the OU Health Sciences Center.

In this edition of DMEI InVision, our feature story (pages 46-51) focuses on the wide variety of services offered by Drs. Blessing, Moreau, and Tan. Their work is absolutely fascinating, and their ability to impact patients’ vision and even their lives is truly extraordinary. Of course, the magazine also tells of the many achievements of our faculty, staff, alumni, and board members; the dedication of our expanded clinical space; the generosity of our donors; and the ways in which all of our patient care, educational, and vision research programs continue to fulfill our organizational mission and influence the course of our beloved profession.

In this first quarter of another exciting year, I would like to personally express my thanks to everyone who believes so deeply in what we are already accomplishing and hope to accomplish in 2019 and the months and years beyond!

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
ANIL D. PATEL, MD, CLINICAL PROFESSOR OF OPHTHALMOLOGY AND A NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGIST

at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI), is currently serving as president of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) Oklahoma chapter. His term as president began on January 1, 2018 and will continue until December 31, 2019.

AAPI Oklahoma was formed under the umbrella of National AAPI in 1988 and currently has over 100 active physician members. The association has striven over the years to enhance physicians’ professional growth and provide a forum to explore possibilities for giving back to the community.

Founded in 1982, AAPI as a national organization represents the interests of over 80,000 practicing physicians and 40,000 medical students, residents, and fellows of Indian origin. It serves as an umbrella organization to a network of over 160 component chapters, such as AAPI Oklahoma. One in every seven people in the United States is touched by the care of a physician of Indian origin at any given time.

Before becoming a member of the DMEI faculty in 2004, Dr. Patel served as a department head at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada where he had previously earned his undergraduate and medical degrees and was an ophthalmology resident. Dr. Patel, who also has served as DMEI’s medical director of clinical operations since 2006, completed his neuro-ophthalmology fellowship at the University of Iowa.

Dr. Patel was inspired to enter a career in medicine by his father, Dinu G. Patel, MD, who practiced family medicine for 46 years in Bengough and Regina, Saskatchewan before retiring at age 80. He passed away in February 2016.

“Medical education is an ongoing and never-ending process; you can never have enough.” – Dr. Dinu G. Patel, MD, pictured left, with Mrs. Chandrika Patel (right) and son Dr. Anil D. Patel (center).
IN OPHTHALMOLOGY TIMES’ 2018 SURVEY of chairpersons and residency program directors of ophthalmology departments across the country, the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) was recognized among the nation’s top 12 programs overall and among the top seven programs affiliated with a public university. The residency training program was ranked among the top ten (ninth) and was fourth in the nation among programs affiliated with a public university.

“Continuing national recognition of the Dean McGee Eye Institute’s people and programs is very gratifying, and we are incredibly grateful to our faculty, staff, residents, fellows, boards, alumni, and supporters who believe so deeply in our organizational mission,” stated Gregory L. Skuta, MD, DMEI’s president and chief executive officer.
Dr. Brian Firestone Named to Oklahoma Gazette’s “Forty Under 40” Class of 2018

BRIAN K. FIRESTONE, MD, CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR ON THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI)/UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA (OU) Department of Ophthalmology faculty, was honored among the Oklahoma Gazette’s “Forty Under 40” class of 2018. This year’s “Forty Under 40” Awards Reception was held on November 15 at the Chesapeake Boathouse. The evening provided guests and honorees an opportunity to meet and learn more about each other while enjoying views of the Oklahoma River and Oklahoma City skyline.

The Oklahoma Gazette’s “Forty Under 40” program honors 40 exceptional individuals under age 40 who have made significant contributions to shaping the Oklahoma City landscape. Through redefining and improving business practices, advancing education, and raising the bar for civic and artistic endeavors, “Forty Under 40” honorees positively impact the greater Oklahoma City area.

Dr. Firestone joined DMEI in January 2014. Since that time, his impressive achievements as an educator, outstanding skills as a clinician and surgeon, compassion for his patients, and transformative impact on the Eye Institute’s ocular oncology and ophthalmic pathology services represent a source of great pride for the Institute and University.

In 2017, two members of the DMEI/OU faculty, Drs. Janine Collinge and Dimitrios Karamichos, were recognized by the “Forty Under 40” program.
Vinay A. Shah, MD Visits the Blind People’s Association in India

THE BLIND PEOPLE’S ASSOCIATION IS ONE OF THE LARGEST ORGANIZATIONS in India working in the field of eye care and disability welfare activities. The hospital units provide approximately 20,000 eye surgeries every year including cataract, retinal, and glaucoma surgery.

Vinay A. Shah, MD and Dharmendra Kumar D. Jena, Manager, Blind People’s Association—Bareja Eye and General Hospital, first connected in May 2016 during Mr. Jena’s visit to the United States while participating as a professional fellow through the US State Department.

Dr. Shah, a clinical professor of ophthalmology at the Dean McGee Eye Institute, has visited the facility three times with his most recent visit in September 2018. He provides technical assistance to the doctors by sharing newer vitreoretinal surgical skills and bringing quality eye care to India through his surgical excellence and knowledge.

“Dr. Shah is an excellent human being and a great initiator to bringing quality eye care by using newer technology and training our human resources to enhance the quality of surgical outcomes,” stated Mr. Jena.
Gregory L. Skuta, MD Receives 2018 University of Wisconsin Distinguished Ophthalmology Alumnus Award

GREGORY L. SKUTA, MD RECEIVED THE University of Wisconsin Ophthalmology Alumni Association’s 2018 Distinguished Alumnus Award at the alumni reception on October 27 at the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Skuta completed his ophthalmology residency at the University of Wisconsin in Madison in 1985 and served as chief resident in his final year.

Dr. Skuta has served as president and chief executive officer of the Dean McGee Eye Institute since 2009 and is the Edward L. Gaylord Professor and Chair and Regents’ Professor in the University of Oklahoma Department of Ophthalmology. Past national leadership roles have included president of the AAO (2014) and American Glaucoma Society (2005-2006) and director for the American Board of Ophthalmology (2001–2008). He currently serves on the Board of Directors or Trustees for the Ophthalmic Mutual Insurance Company, National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research/Alliance for Eye and Vision Research, and AAO (chair of the Foundation Advisory Board for the Academy’s Foundation).

“I feel incredibly privileged to be an ophthalmologist and a resident alumnus of the University of Wisconsin. I will display this award with pride along with many wonderful memories of Madison,” stated Dr. Skuta. These memories include the outstanding training experience, Madison’s beautiful lakes, the Dane County Farmers’ Market, and the creation of lifelong friendships, not to mention proposing to Anne, his wife of almost 35 years, along the shore of Lake Mendota.”
AT THE 2018 DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE HOLIDAY CELEBRATION and Employee Recognition Ceremony on November 30, two individuals were recognized for 35 years of service to the Institute or Department of Ophthalmology, one for 30 years, six for 20 years, five for 15 years, nine for 10 years, and 14 for 5 years. Congratulations to all!

35 YEARS
SHERI E. GREENWOOD
Librarian
RONALD M. KINGSLEY, MD
Clinical Professor

Pictured (left to right) at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) Holiday Celebration and Employee Recognition Ceremony on November 30: Gregory L. Skuta, MD, Sheri E. Greenwood, Ronald M. Kingsley, MD, and Garyl G. Geist.

30 YEARS
MELODY A. MARCUM
Director of External Relations and Development

Pictured (left to right) at the DMEI Holiday Celebration and Employee Recognition Ceremony: Gregory L. Skuta, MD, Melody A. Marcum, and Garyl G. Geist.
THREE OPHTHALMOLOGISTS APPOINTED

BEN J. HARVEY, MD joined the Dean McGee Eye Institute’s (DMEI’s) glaucoma service on March 1 as a clinical assistant professor in the University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology.

Dr. Harvey is a native of Texas, earned his undergraduate (summa cum laude) and medical (Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society) degrees from Texas Tech University (where he also served his internship), completed his residency at DMEI/OU, and served as a glaucoma fellow (2011-2012) at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute of the Palm Beaches (Florida). He has been in private practice in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area for the past six years and has built a busy practice while also remaining very active in the state and national ophthalmologic communities. He is a 2016 graduate of the American Academy of Ophthalmology’s Leadership Development Program and is currently president of the Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology.

He and his wife Leigh, who is a physical therapist, have three children.

CAROLYN E. KLOEK, MD joined OU Medicine, Inc. in January 2019 as vice president of clinical strategy and integration for the health system, established February 1, 2018. Her husband, Dr. Ian Dunn, now serves as the new chair of the Department of Neurosurgery in the OU College of Medicine.

Dr. Kloek most recently served as the ophthalmology residency program director and as an assistant professor at Massachusetts Eye and Ear/Harvard Medical School in Boston and also held a number of administrative roles there. She completed her undergraduate degree at Dartmouth College, her medical degree at Harvard Medical School, her internship at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, and her ophthalmology residency at Harvard.

Although her OU Medicine commitments will occupy most of her time, Dr. Kloek will have an appointment as clinical associate professor of ophthalmology and will see comprehensive ophthalmology patients two half-days per week along with associated surgical responsibilities.

Dr. Kloek was born in St. Louis, is a leader in the profession of ophthalmology, and has received Women in Ophthalmology’s Emerging Leader Award in 2014 and Educator Award in 2017.

She and her husband have three children.
KAMRAN M. RIAZ, MD will join DMEI and the OU Department of Ophthalmology as a clinical associate professor in cornea/external disease/refractive surgery in March 2019.

A native of Chicago, Dr. Riaz earned his undergraduate degree (magna cum laude/Phi Beta Kappa) from the University of Illinois at Chicago and his medical degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine. He completed his internship at St. Joseph Hospital in Chicago; his residency at Northwestern University, where he served as chief resident in 2011-2012; and his fellowship at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas.

Dr. Riaz has served on the full-time faculty as an assistant professor at the University of Chicago since 2016 and received the Residents’ Excellence in Teaching Award (Teacher of the Year) in 2018. Dr. Riaz is also an accomplished and nationally respected educator in clinical optics.

He and his wife, Sanaa A. Hameed, MD, have three children.

MARIA E. LIM, MD ACCEPTED TO LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

MARIA E. LIM, MD, CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR at the Dean McGee Eye Institute, has been accepted into Leadership Oklahoma City’s “Linking OKC’s Young Adult Leaders (LOYAL)” class of 2018-2019. She is one of 64 members and one of only two physicians in LOYAL Class XIV. This is a highly competitive program in that it typically receives two to three times as many applications as can be accepted.

The goal of the program, which targets young adults just beginning their civic lives, is enhancement of personal and community leadership skills, community involvement, and active community engagement by the graduates, who are selected to represent a broad range of occupations and backgrounds.

LOYAL class members participate in a community project which encourages them to practice the skills they are learning in the program’s classes. This very special opportunity exemplifies Dr. Lim’s commitment to the Eye Institute’s missions of leadership and service!
Dr. Jean Hausheer Receives Master Certificate

IN OCTOBER 2018, JEAN R. HAUSHEER, MD, FACS RECEIVED HER Master Certificate in Healthcare Practice Management from the Meinders School of Business, Oklahoma City University.

The Meinders School of Business and the Oklahoma State Medical Association, of which Dr. Hausheer is the current president, have partnered to bring healthcare administration-focused coursework to healthcare professionals interested in expanding their business and leadership capabilities in healthcare practice management.

Each course in the master-level certificate program is designed to prepare today’s healthcare professionals to become resilient, strategic, innovative, communicative, high-level leaders prepared to navigate the challenges of today’s healthcare system.

The curriculum is aligned with the outcome competency models from the National Center of Healthcare Leadership and Healthcare Leadership Alliance in addition to the results of a 2015 survey of practicing medical practitioners across the state of Oklahoma.

ANN ACERS–WARN, MD, MBA is the recipient of the Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology’s (OAO’s) 2018 Distinguished Service Award. This is the OAO’s highest honor and recognizes those who have demonstrated a sustained commitment to the OAO and/or to the profession. She served as OAO president from 2003 to 2005.

Dr. Acers–Warn, who is the tenth recipient of this award, is currently a director of the American Board of Ophthalmology and on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee for the Ophthalmic Mutual Insurance Company. She also has held numerous other major state and national leadership roles.

MICHELLE C. CALLEGAN, PhD, has been appointed as the new director of vision research for the Dean McGee Eye Institute and OU Department of Ophthalmology (see page 35). She recently presented Arroz E. (Livingston), Mursalin M., Coburn P.S., Miller F., Lereclus D., Callegan M.C. “The Role of Immune Inhibitor A1 Metalloprotease in Bacillus Intraocular Infection,” International Conference on Gram-Positive Pathogens, Omaha NE, Oct. 2018; and Callegan M.C. “Novel Strategies for Combating Antibiotic Resistance in Eye Infections,” World Ophthalmology Congress, Barcelona, Spain, June 2018.

DANIEL J.J. CARR, PhD, recently presented “Update on Ocular HSV-1 Vaccine” as part of the Scientific Advisory Board Meeting of Rational Vaccines Inc., Oct. 2018. He also was a plenary speaker at the Eighteenth Annual Symposium in Virology at the Nebraska Center for Virology, Oct. 2018. The title of his presentation was “Highly Successful Immunologic Adversaries: Herpes Viruses.” Dr. Carr also presented a lecture in the Department of Ophthalmology, University of Texas-Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, TX, Oct. 2018, entitled, “Vaccination Against Ocular HSV-1 Infection: A Reality or Myth?” Dr. Carr continues to participate in National Institutes of Health (NIH) study sections including 201810 ZRG1F07-U (20) I Immunology Fellowship Review Panel in June, 2018 and the National Eye Institute (NEI) K+R Review Committee 2019/01 ZEY1 VSN(03) in Nov. 2018.


DIMITRIOS KARAMICHOS, PhD, was recently awarded a new NIH/NEI R01 grant, Project Title: A Novel Pathogenic Pathway for Diabetic Keratopathy, multi-principal investigator grant with Dr. Jian-Xing Ma (Chair, Department of Physiology, OUHSC); Presbyterian Health Foundation (PHF) 3D bioprinting seed grant, Project Title: Bioprinting Corneas for Transplantation, multi-principal investigator grant with Dr. Michelle C. Callegan (Department of Ophthalmology, OUHSC); and PHF bridge grant, Project Title: Utility of Prolactin-Induced Protein (PIP) as a Novel Keratoconus Biomarker. In the research section of the most recent edition of the OU Medicine magazine (Fall/Winter 2018), interesting research endeavors involving DMEI’s Drs. Robert E. “Gene” Anderson and Dimitrios Karamichos were featured on pages 34-36 and included Dr. Karamichos’ work with PIP and keratoconus.

ANNIE MOREAU, MD, FACS, received the M. Dewayne Andrews, MD Excellence in Preclinical Teaching Award from the OU College of Medicine as part of the Academy of Teaching Scholars, Oct. 2018 (see pages 36-37). Her recent lectures include “Periorbital Lesions: Diagnosis & Management,” American Academy of Optometry Annual Meeting, Oklahoma Chapter, Aug. 2018; and “Basic Principles of Oculoplastics for Mid-Level Providers,” yearly class, Physician Assistant Program, OU College of Medicine, Oct. 2018. Dr. Moreau along with Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski performed at the DMEI Resident Education Benefit Piano Concert, Inasmuch Foundation Atrium, Sept. 2018 (see page 38).


GREGORY L. SKUTA, MD, received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Wisconsin (Madison) Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences in Chicago, IL in Oct. 2018 (see page 8). In January 2019, he returned to the AAO’s Board of Trustees as chair of the Academy’s Foundation Advisory Board. He previously served on the AAO Board of Trustees from 2007 through 2015 and on the Academy’s Committee of Secretaries from 2001 through 2012.


TAMMY L. YANOVITCH, MD, MHSC, presented “The Flipped Classroom Approach to Teaching Residents Strabismus,” The Squint Club, Oklahoma City, OK, Sept. 2018; and “Killer Pediatric Eye Diseases: How to Avoid a Fatal Flaw,” AAO Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2018. She is an invited editorial board member for the Journal of the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus; an American Board of Ophthalmology (ABO) Oral Examiner; and a member of the ABO’s Item Development Committee.
Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits Honors Board Chair Emeritus, James R. Tolbert III

JAMES R. TOLBERT III, CHAIR EMERITUS of the Dean McGee Eye Institute’s (DMEI’s) Board of Directors, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits on November 27 during the Eighth Annual Visions Celebration held in Oklahoma City.

This year, Kevin Evans of Woodward, Dr. Kay Goebel, Anne Roberts, Beth Shortt, Stacy McDaniel, and Tolbert (all from Oklahoma City) were honored with awards at Visions: A Celebration of Nonprofit Leadership. In addition to his 46 years of service on the DMEI Board of Directors (and more than 20 years as chair), Tolbert has served as chair of the Myriad Gardens Foundation, the Oklahoma City and (state of) Oklahoma Arts Councils, and the University of Oklahoma Foundation. He and his wife Beth have received numerous awards for their extraordinary contributions to Oklahoma’s nonprofit sector and to community service, the arts, health, and education in particular.

Marnie Taylor, president and chief executive officer of the Center for Nonprofits, called the men and women honored on November 27 “Oklahoma’s finest” and lauded their work in advocacy, service, and leadership.

James R. Tolbert III
OKLAHOMA HALL OF FAME HONORS DAVID E. RAINBOLT AND SIX OTHERS

DARIE E. RAINBOLT, CHAIR OF THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE’S (DMEI’S) BOARD OF DIRECTORS SINCE 2013, and six others (Paul Allen, Enid; Charlie Christian, Oklahoma City, honored posthumously; Ree Drummond, Pawhuska; Mo Anderson, Waukomis; Carrie Underwood, Checotah; and Jon Stuart, Tulsa) were formally inducted into the 91st class of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame on November 15 at the Renaissance Tulsa Hotel and Convention Center. These accomplished Oklahomans join the 691 individuals who have been inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame since 1928. The 2018 honorees also were recognized in November with the unveiling of their portraits at the Gaylord-Pickens Museum, home of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. In addition, their biographies, photos, and videos are accessible through interactive exhibits in the museum.

Rainbolt served as chief executive officer of BancFirst for 25 years before becoming its executive chairman in 2017. He joined the DMEI Board of Directors in 1996 and has chaired numerous civic and professional organizations including the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce, Last Frontier Council of Boy Scouts, and Oklahoma Bankers Association.

The Oklahoma Hall of Fame was founded in 1927 with the purpose of honoring Oklahomans in their lifetimes with the state’s highest honor and educating Oklahoma’s youth on our rich history. The Gaylord-Pickens Museum, home of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, opened in 2007 with the intent of giving the public access to the stories of these and other inspirational Oklahomans.
Two New Members Join Institute’s FOUNDATION BOARD

CHRIS FLEMING has served as executive vice president of REHCO, LLC (the Bob Howard investment organization) since 2006. He earned Bachelor and Master of Business Administration degrees from the University of Oklahoma (OU) and is an alumnus of Harvard Business School.

Fleming is highly active in the community and holds numerous board positions, including the YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City Board of Directors, Board of Trustees for the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum, Board of Directors of i2E, and the MBA Advisory Board of OU’s Gene Rainbolt Graduate School of Business. He is currently president of the Myriad Botanical Gardens Foundation Community Board and serves on its Executive Committee.

Fleming lives in Moore with his wife Ashley and their two children.

LEE YOUNG is the president of Young Energy, an oil and gas exploration company, and holds or has held numerous board positions in Oklahoma City. These include the Children’s Hospital Foundation, Oklahoma Health Center Foundation, First National Bank of Oklahoma, and Nexus Equine.

He earned his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Babson College in Massachusetts. Young’s father, Stanton L. Young, served as chair of the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) Foundation’s Board of Directors for many years (preceding G. Rainey Williams Jr.) and also was a member of the DMEI Board of Directors.

Young and his wife Laura have five children and reside in Edmond.
Two New Members Join Institute’s
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SHELLY LAMBERTZ serves on the Board of Directors and as vice president of human resources for Continental Resources, an Oklahoma oil and gas company founded by her father, Harold Hamm. She earned her Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Oklahoma State University and subsequently worked for three U.S. Congressmen, including service as deputy chief of staff for Oklahoma Representative Frank Lucas.

Other roles have included chief operating officer for Hamm Capital, director of human resources and business development advisory for Hamm & Phillips Service Company, and executive director of the YWCA in Enid, Oklahoma.

Lambertz is currently vice chair of the Harold Hamm Diabetes Center Board of Advisors and a member of the Board of Trustees for the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence.

She and her husband Gant reside in Edmond and have two children.

G. JEFFREY “JEFF” RECORDS JR. is chairman and chief executive officer of MidFirst Bank, which is headquartered in Oklahoma City with primary markets in Oklahoma, Denver, and Phoenix. He earned his bachelor’s degree in economics from Claremont (California) McKenna College and now serves on its board in addition to the Smithsonian National Board.

Records is part owner of the Oklahoma City Thunder and ZaZa Hotels in Texas. In addition, he is co-founder and/or principal of Hunter Roberts Construction Group in New York, Snowmass Creek Capital, and other entities. His father, George J. Records, served on DMEI’s Board of Directors from 1994 to 2018.

Records and his wife Marisa reside in Oklahoma City and have three young children.
THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) WELCOMED OVER 50 PATIENTS and guests to the 17th Annual Macular Degeneration/Low Vision/Glaucoma (MDLVG) Seminar held at the Samis Education Center on Friday, November 30. Attendees heard from low vision specialist Rebecca K. Morgan, MD, glaucoma specialist Mahmoud A. Khaimi, MD, and retinal specialist Stanley S.K. Park, MD (fellow), all from DMEI, in addition to representatives from NewView Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation/Visual Services, the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and the Oklahoma Healthy Aging Initiative.

The Institute is grateful to Alcon, the platinum sponsor for the seminar. Other sponsors included: Samis Education Center, Southwestern Group of Companies, OKC Digital, and Standley Systems. Exhibiting companies were Alcon, DMEI Optical Services, Genuine Care Rehabilitation, Inc. and Easy Living Concepts, NanoPac, Inc., Oklahoma Healthy Aging Initiative, Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and Precision Optical.

This year’s MDLVG Seminar was dedicated to the memory of Cathy Holden, who was the senior vice president of rehabilitation/clinical operations for NewView Oklahoma and passed away unexpectedly in July 2018. ■
WHEN SUPPORTING THE CAUSES YOU LOVE, SUCH AS THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI), you want to make as large an impact as possible. This is harder to do if you let the government diminish the size of your gift through unnecessary taxes.

That is why, if you are thinking about using stock to make an impact at DMEI, donating the stock is a better option than selling it and donating the proceeds. When you give the Eye Institute appreciated securities that you have owned for more than one year, you may receive two tax benefits:

1. You are exempt from paying capital gains taxes on any increase in value—taxes you would pay if you sold the stock.

2. You are entitled to a federal income tax charitable deduction based on the current fair market value of the securities, regardless of their lower original cost, if you itemize.

HOW TO DONATE Stock

Here’s how to give appreciated securities to the Dean McGee Eye Institute:

• If you have the physical securities: Hand-deliver them to the Dean McGee Eye Institute, or mail us the stocks and stock power separately, to 608 Stanton L. Young Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73104 (Attn: Jim Durbin).

• If you don’t have possession of the physical securities: Contact Jim Durbin, Executive Director of Development, at 405.271.7803 or jim-durbin@dmei.org for instructions to electronically transfer your intended shares.

Together with your advisor, we can help you fulfill your charitable goals and protect your assets from unnecessary taxes!

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.
ON OCTOBER 11, THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) CELEBRATED THE OPENING OF ITS NEW $3.1 million, 20-examination room clinical space located on the third floor of the Thomas E. Acers, MD Pavilion. This state-of-the-art clinical facility has been named The Chickasaw Nation Center of Excellence for Diabetic Retinopathy and Macular Degeneration. The dedication ceremony was attended by Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt, DMEI faculty and board members, DMEI executive staff, project donors, and others from across the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center campus.

The generous lead matching grant from The Chickasaw Nation made the expansion possible. “We are extremely grateful for The Chickasaw Nation and others’ belief in our organizational mission and for their truly remarkable commitment to the timely completion of this vital project,” said Dr. Gregory L. Skuta, DMEI’s president and chief executive officer.

The full list of donors was included in the Summer 2018 edition of DMEI InVision (page 33).
Pictured (left to right) are participants and speakers in the October 11 dedication ceremony: Gregory Skuta, MD (DMEI president and CEO), G. Rainey Williams Jr. (DMEI Foundation Board of Directors chair), Mayor David Holt (Oklahoma City’s 36th mayor), David Rainbolt (DMEI Board of Directors chair), and Michael Samis (Chairman of the Board, OU Medicine, Inc. and member of the DMEI Board of Directors).

Pictured (left to right): Michael Cawley (DMEI Board of Directors), Governor Bill Anoatubby (DMEI Board of Directors and Governor of The Chickasaw Nation), and Dr. Gregory Skuta (DMEI president and CEO) visit the new Chickasaw Nation Center of Excellence after the DMEI Board of Directors meeting on December 19.

Dr. Gregory Skuta welcomes the attendees during the October 11 dedication ceremony held in DMEI’s Inasmuch Foundation Atrium.
NEARLY 20 YEARS AGO, MELISSA WEATHERS WOULDN’T HAVE PREDICTED THE JOURNEY SHE WOULD UNDERGO because of her eye condition. She couldn’t have guessed that not just one, but both of her eyes would deteriorate to the point of needing corneal transplants. She wouldn’t have known about the donor remorse she would feel because her transplants meant that two people had died. And she couldn’t have foreseen her status as an organ donor advocate, telling her story in the hopes of others donating the gift of eyesight.

But that’s exactly the path her life has taken, and today she is more grateful than ever for the gift of vision and for the physicians at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) who join her as caretakers of that gift.

“I am so thankful that I got a second chance to see,” said Weathers, a resident of Duncan. “If it weren’t for the organ donors and for the Dean McGee Eye Institute, I would be sitting at home now not being able to see or do anything.”

Weathers received the first hint of her eye problems when she was 18 years old and went for a routine eye exam in her hometown. Her doctor told her that he thought she had keratoconus, a condition in which the cornea begins bulging outward. She knew she had a family history of the condition, but she didn’t think much of it; she was young and her life was ahead of her.

Around 2007, she started having light sensitivity, her eyes were watering, and she couldn’t see well at night. Another eye doctor confirmed keratoconus as the culprit and told her that she would be a candidate for transplant before long. But life intervened again.

“That was right before I was getting married, so I told the doctor I wanted to think more about it. I put it on the back burner,” she said.

On Easter morning 2009, Weathers woke up and knew something was different. Instead of attending Easter service at her church, Weathers’ family drove her to an urgent care clinic. She could see blisters on her left eye, and doctors told her that her cornea had ruptured. She was referred to DMEI.

“I burst out crying because it really hit me then. I didn’t know anything about transplants..."

In summer 2009, Weathers saw Rhea L. Siatkowski, MD, one of DMEI’s physicians who specializes in corneal transplantation and care. That November, Weathers received a corneal transplant in her left eye.

“...and doctors told her that her cornea had ruptured. She was referred to DMEI.

“I burst out crying because it really hit me then. I didn’t know anything about transplants, and I was just dumbfounded,” she said.

In summer 2009, Weathers saw Rhea L. Siatkowski, MD, one of DMEI’s physicians who specializes in corneal transplantation and care. That November, Weathers received a corneal transplant in her left eye.
“I couldn’t even see two feet in front of me before the transplant, and afterward, it was amazing because I could see,” she said. “I remember being in a drug store staring at the stitching on some gauze and thinking, ‘Oh my gosh, I can see again.’”

Weathers’ good fortune continued until 2015, when she began having vision loss in her right eye. She was frightened at the process starting again, and she clung to her husband, Jayson, for help finding her way in the dark. The corneal transplant for her right eye was performed that fall. Trouble arose a little later for the same eye when she developed a cataract that was clouding her vision. But after cataract surgery, she can now see perfectly from her right eye as well.

There are limitations that come with the transplants – Weathers experiences dry eyes, especially with her right eye. As a senior human resources representative, she spends a lot of time in front of a computer screen, so she has to take frequent breaks and use eye drops. She can’t sit in front of bonfires, sit in hot tubs, or drive long distances because her eyes become fatigued.

But she remains grateful and wants to give back. She has become involved with several organ donation groups, including the Duncan Lions Club and its work with eye banks, and she talks about the importance of organ donations whenever she gets the chance, especially with regard to eye donations which are not always readily available.

Yet, DMEI holds a special place in her heart because when Weathers had her first corneal transplant, she did not have health insurance.

Through the generosity of past donors to the DMEI Foundation, however, there was a Patient Financial Assistance Program (PFAP) available to help cover the costs of her surgery.

“I am grateful to those donors to DMEI who helped me through the patient assistance program. I want to help others in a similar situation,” said Melissa who a few months ago held a fundraiser via Facebook on her birthday and raised several hundred dollars for PFAP. She has become an advocate for DMEI and all the work we do. She sums up her experience in one sentence, “If it weren’t for the Dean McGee Eye Institute, I would be blind.”

You can join Melissa in helping patients in need by donating online at dmei.org/donate-now and selecting Patient Financial Assistance Program from the dropdown menu or by sending a check in the enclosed envelope.
A $225,000 GRANT FROM THE STEPHENSON FAMILY FOUNDATION has allowed the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) to acquire an iFS Advanced Femtosecond Laser for the recently renamed Stephenson Refractive Surgery Center (SRSC) at DMEI. The iFS Laser makes LASIK flaps in half the time of the previous generation of femtosecond lasers and is safer and more precise than a conventional microkeratome.

Over 20 years ago, Charles and Peggy Stephenson generously supported the future of eye care in Oklahoma with a $678,500 investment to create the Stephenson Laser Center at DMEI. This investment brought cutting-edge excimer laser technology to the Institute. This type of laser is used to reshape the cornea at the microscopic level and allowed DMEI to offer LASIK and photorefractive keratectomy (PRK), which frees patients from the constraint of glasses and contact lenses, and other corneal procedures that improved vision in ways that were not possible before then. With upgrades along the way, this excimer laser continues to serve our patients well.

However, what has significantly changed over the past two decades is the way in which “LASIK flaps” and other corneal incisions are made. For many years, LASIK flaps (beneath which the corneal tissue is ablated with the excimer laser) were made with an instrument known as a microkeratome, which is an oscillating surgical blade that can make incisions measured in micrometers. Over the past several years though, this technology has been replaced with a special type of laser known as a femtosecond laser. This laser makes quicker, cleaner, more precise incisions compared to the microkeratome and has rapidly become the treatment of choice for refractive and other corneal patients.

The new iFS Advanced Femtosecond Laser offers these benefits:

- Visual recovery after surgery is much faster.
- Discomfort is reduced during and after surgery.
- It can be used in other procedures such as corneal transplants, corneal inlays, and correction of astigmatism.
- It enhances DMEI's educational opportunities for residents and fellows.
- DMEI surgeons will be able to participate in clinical trials related to corneal incisions.

“The Stephensons have once again invested in the future of eye care in Oklahoma,” stated Gregory L. Skuta, MD, president and CEO of DMEI. “This grant allows us to continue providing state-of-the-art refractive surgery to those Oklahomans looking for options beyond glasses and contacts while at the same time enhancing DMEI’s educational and clinical trials opportunities. We are grateful for the Stephensons’ longstanding and continuing belief in our mission.”

Anyone interested in a free LASIK evaluation is encouraged to call 405.271.2500 to schedule an appointment.
IN THE FIELD OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, THE TECHNOLOGY USED TO DIAGNOSE and treat patients is constantly advancing. To provide the best in patient care, the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) strives to remain on the cutting edge of these technological innovations. However, new technology is expensive and not always within the means of DMEI’s standard operating budget. In such circumstances, donations play an extremely important role.

G.T. and Elizabeth Blankenship understand the role that philanthropic support can play in fulfilling DMEI’s mission. They have contributed significantly to a number of initiatives at DMEI over the past 20 years including the establishment of the G.T. and Elizabeth Blankenship Center for Glaucoma Care as part of the capital campaign for the DMEI expansion project dedicated in 2011, both the David W. Parke II, MD Endowed Chair and the Stanton L. Young Endowed Chair, and the renovation of the Tullos O. Coston, MD Lecture Hall. As Gregory L. Skuta, MD, president and CEO of DMEI, relates, “When the Blankenships were presented with the importance of acquiring the technology the Eye Institute needs to care for our patients, they once again stepped up to help by making a $100,000 stock gift to our New Technology Fund, which helped acquire vital state-of-the-art equipment for our new oculoplastic surgeons (see pages 2-3 and 46-51). We are deeply honored by and grateful for their continuing generosity. This donation will make an extraordinary difference for our patients!”

If you would like to help ensure that patients at DMEI are diagnosed and treated with the latest technology, donate online at dmei.org/donate-now and select New Technology Fund or mail a check in the enclosed envelope.

Annual Gift from Delta Gamma Supports DMEI’s Patient Care, Vision Research, and Education Programs

DMEI WAS THE RECENT RECIPIENT OF HALF OF THE FUNDS RAISED from Delta Gamma’s 2018 fundraising event, called Anchorsplash. In its third year of raising funds for DMEI, a total of $7,098 was raised for the DMEI Foundation by the ladies of Delta Gamma from the University of Oklahoma (OU)—Norman campus. Anchorsplash is a swimming competition in which sororities, fraternities, service clubs, sports teams, and campus interest groups compete in relays, synchronized swimming, and other swimming events. This is one of the most popular and well-attended student-based events at OU.
Dr. Agbaga Mentor to Many Students

MARTIN-PAUL AGBAGA, PHD, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, has been involved in training 27 students at various stages in their educational experience since 2009. Dr. Agbaga, who works closely with Robert E. “Gene” Anderson, MD, PhD, has mentored six undergraduate students, with one of them just receiving admission to medical school and another already a physician assistant. Three are still completing their undergraduate work.

One of his 2018 summer students, Shreyoshi Hossain, earned the overall Award for Best Poster Presentation during the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) Summer Undergraduate Research Program on July 13 for her assistance on “Novel Methods for Enhancing Absorption of Dietary Very Long Chain Saturated Fatty Acids.” Hossain came to Dr. Agbaga’s laboratory from Caldwell University in New Jersey as part of the Summer Undergraduate Research Program.

Another student, Dustin Ryker, worked with David M. Sherry, PhD from the Department of Cell Biology on a model of vision and cerebellar degeneration, which Dr. Agbaga generated two years ago, and was awarded a $2,000 scholarship from Oklahoma City Community College.

Eniola Adewunmi from Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma, and Brett Szymanski from the University of Oklahoma, Norman were two of Dr. Agbaga’s mentees during the summer of 2018. Szymanski came to his laboratory as an intern from the Inasmuch Foundation.

Dr. Agbaga also has mentored 10 high school students from Oklahoma who have gone on to or completed college and pursued different career paths. One of these students, Shelby Wilkerson, was selected as a 2014 U.S. Presidential Scholar for Oklahoma. She was also the Crossings’ Class of 2014 valedictorian and a National Merit finalist. Another high school student mentored by Dr. Agbaga in 2017-2018, Omar Khan, attended the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics and was one of the top 20 students to emerge from 17,000 students from across the country to compete for a position on the U.S. Chemistry Olympiad Team in 2018. He is now an undergraduate at Columbia University.

In addition, Dr. Agbaga has mentored three summer medical students, worked directly with and trained four postdoctoral fellows, and mentored five graduate students who came to do rotations in the laboratory or returned to earn their doctoral degrees there.
Lea Bennett, PhD New Researcher at DMEI

LEA D. BENNETT, PhD JOINED the University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology as a member of the research faculty in September 2018.

A native of Texas, Dr. Bennett earned her undergraduate degree from Texas Tech University in Lubbock and her PhD in 2014 from the University of Oklahoma, where she was a graduate student with Dr. Robert E. “Gene” Anderson in the Department of Ophthalmology. She completed her postdoctoral fellowship at The Retina Foundation of the Southwest in Dallas, Texas, where she pursued her scientific interest in inherited retinal degenerations and acquired prestigious K99/R00 grant support from the National Eye Institute. Her R00 grant will provide three years of scientific support at OU. Since her arrival at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI), Dr. Bennett has also successfully acquired additional support from Oklahoma Shared Clinical and Translational Resources (OSCTR).

Inherited retinal diseases include achromatopsia; autosomal recessive, X-linked, and autosomal dominant retinitis pigmentosa; Bardet-Biedl syndrome; Best disease; blue cone monochromacy; choroideremia; cone-rod dystrophy; congenital stationary night blindness; enhanced S-cone syndrome; juvenile X-linked retinoschisis; Leber congenital amaurosis; Leber hereditary optic neuropathy; malattia leventinese; North Carolina macular dystrophy; pattern dystrophy; Sorsby dystrophy; Stargardt disease; Usher syndrome; and X-linked familial exudative vitreoretinopathy.

DMEI provides multidisciplinary approaches to these particular patients including clinical diagnosis, molecular diagnosis, genetic counseling, and general eye care in addition to potential future gene therapy and stem cell therapy, treatments that are rapidly advancing thanks to many scientists’ efforts all over the world.

Drs. Bennett and Lee and their work were featured in The Oklahoman on October 15 in a news piece entitled, “New Clinic to Study Genetic Causes of Blindness.” dmei.org/new-clinic-to-study-genetic-causes-of-blindness-drs-bennett-and-lee

Dr. Lea D. Bennett, PhD (Image provided by The Oklahoman)
12th Annual OU Vision Workshop and 3rd Annual Anderson Lectureship

DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI)
RESEARCHERS AND OTHER VISION SCIENTISTS from the Oklahoma Health Center, University of North Texas, University of Texas-Southwestern, and Baylor College of Medicine participated in the 12th Annual University of Oklahoma (OU) Vision Student and Postdoctoral Fellow Workshop held on October 18-19 in the Tullos O. Coston, MD Lecture Hall at DMEI. The keynote speaker and Third Annual Robert E. Anderson MD, PhD Lecturer was Patricia D’Amore, PhD, MBA, FARVO, Charles L. Schepens Professor of Ophthalmology and Professor of Pathology at Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts. Her Anderson Lecture was entitled “A Role for Endomucin, an Endothelial-Specific Mucin, in the Regulation of Inflammation and Angiogenesis.”

Dr. D’Amore received her undergraduate degree from Regis College in Weston, Massachusetts and her PhD from Boston University before completing her postdoctoral training at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. She also earned an MBA from Northeastern University in Boston. Dr. D’Amore has been at the forefront of angiogenesis (new blood vessel development) research and made seminal contributions in the identification of vascular endothelial growth factor as the major factor that causes pathological blood vessel growth in blinding neovascular eye diseases.

Administrative leadership roles held by Dr. D’Amore include vice chair of basic research in the Department of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School, director of research at the Schepens Eye Research Institute/ Massachusetts Eye and Ear, and director of the Howe Laboratory at Massachusetts Eye and Ear. Her numerous honors and awards include the Cogan Award, Proctor Medal, and Gold Fellow recognition by the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology; the Alcon Research Institute Award; the Jules and Doris Stein Professorship and Senior Investigator Award from Research to Prevent Blindness; and the Antonio Champalimaud Award.

Christopher M. Schafer, PhD (right), a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Courtney Griffin’s laboratory at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, receives the OU Vision Workshop’s Wei Cao Award for Innovation from Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD (left).
James L. “Jim” Dunagin Jr., MD is a resident alumnus from the University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology class of 1977, and he and his wife, Emily, are donors to the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI), which was dedicated during his residency. Dr. and Mrs. Dunagin have contributed to the mission of the Institute via monetary donations and have also graciously loaned art to adorn the walls of DMEI. As two of the many generous donors behind the fundraising efforts for the W. Stanley Muenzler, MD Professorship in Corneal Disease established in 2014, the Dunagins recently met the current recipient of the professorship, Dimitrios Karamichos, PhD.

Pictured (left to right): Gregory L. Skuta, MD, DMEI president and chief executive officer, James L. “Jim” Dunagin Jr., MD, Emily Dunagin, and Dimitrios Karamichos, PhD. The painting behind them is entitled “Anticipation (Female Choctaw Dancer),” was created by Mrs. Dunagin in 2003, and is on display on the first floor of DMEI’s Thomas E. Acers, MD Pavilion. Dr. Karamichos is an associate professor in the Departments of Ophthalmology and Cell Biology and holds the W. Stanley Muenzler, MD Professorship in Corneal Disease. His research focus is on keratoconus and corneal scarring and wound healing.

James L. Quinn (right), a predoctoral student in Dr. Robert C. Axtell’s laboratory at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, receives the OU Vision Workshop’s R.E. Anderson Award for Best Paper from Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD (left). Dr. Axtell also has an adjunct appointment in the OU College of Medicine’s Department of Microbiology and Immunology.
DARREN J. LEE, PhD, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR of Ophthalmology and Microbiology/Immunology, recently received funding from the Oklahoma Center for Adult Stem Cell Research (OCASCR) for his project entitled, “Stem Cell Derived Retinal Ganglion Cell Engraftment into a Post-Uveitic Eye.” The OCASCR Steering Committee deemed his research to have considerable merit. The successful completion of this project will provide additional information about tissue-specific stem cells and how to integrate them into an injured organ with the long-term goal of restoring vision in patients with damaged light-gathering cells. Dr. Lee’s request was approved for up to $120,000 for one year with additional support for overhead expenses.

“Dr. Lee is now among the outstanding group of Oklahoma scientists directly supported by OCASCR,” stated Gregory L. Skuta, MD, president and chief executive officer of the Dean McGee Eye Institute. “We congratulate him on this major achievement and look forward to the impact that this work will have in solving some of the puzzles related to inflammatory eye disease.”

At press time, Dr. Lee learned that he also will receive funding from the National Eye Institute for an R21 grant to study the dynamics of theocular immune response during uveitis (ocular inflammatory disease). ■

ROBERT E. “GENE” ANDERSON, MD, PhD, HAS BEEN NAMED a 2019 Harrington Scholar-Innovator Awardee. In addition to financial support for his project focused on treating systemic diseases and conditions with very long chain fatty acids, the Harrington Discovery Institute provides expertise and oversight in all aspects of the development of new drugs and therapeutic agents. The Cleveland-based institute is designed to translate science of great promise into therapeutics that can impact health.

The award provides initial support of $100,000 over two years with the potential for additional future major funding.

Dr. Anderson currently serves as interim chair of the Department of Cell Biology (see page 34).

Other recipients of the 2019 Harrington Scholar-Innovator Awards serve on the faculty at Stanford University, Washington University (St. Louis), University of Texas-Southwestern, Northwestern University, and Johns Hopkins University. ■
3D Bioprinter Acquired to Advance Vision Research

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 acquired a cutting-edge three-dimensional (3D) bioprinter to further his aim of engineering new corneas. Acquisition of the 3D bioprinter was supported by funds from a National Institutes of Health grant for which Darrin Akins, PhD is the principal investigator. In addition, the Presbyterian Health Foundation has awarded a $40,000 multi-principal investigator 3D bioprinting seed grant to Dr. Karamichos and Michelle C. Callegan, PhD, who has been appointed as the new director of vision research for the Dean McGee Eye Institute and Department of Ophthalmology (see page 35).

Keratoconus is an inherited condition in which the cornea begins to bulge and vision is affected. If left untreated, visual impairment and even blindness can develop. End-stage keratoconus patients require corneal transplantation (see pages 24-25). With a significant shortage of corneal donor tissue, 3D bioprinted corneas would be a major advancement. Dr. Karamichos’ hypothesis involves taking cells from the eye, prompting them to regress to their stem cell state, and then using the 3D bioprinter to create the native five layers of the human cornea. The newly engineered cornea would then be transplanted back into the patient’s eye. Because the transplanted cornea would be comprised of the patient’s own cells, the possibility of rejection would be very low.

“Keratoconus is the most common ectatic corneal disease and affects 1 in 400 people worldwide,” said Dr. Karamichos, who is also the director of strategic partnerships and program development for the Graduate College and the newly named associate director for research for the Oklahoma Center for Neuroscience. He is a principal investigator or co-principal investigator for two R01 grants from the National Eye Institute. “Despite a significant amount of research, the etiology and onset of the disease remains a puzzle. It is therefore imperative to be able to treat the manifestations of keratoconus. The recent explosion in popularity of 3D bioprinting is a testament to the promise of our research. If we can print corneas in the lab, that will be a breakthrough that will help not only patients with keratoconus, but also patients with other devastating corneal diseases and dystrophies. Our hypothesis and experimental design will help us bring cutting-edge work out of the lab and into the real world.”
LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS ANNOUNCED IN OUHSC AND DMEI RESEARCH PROGRAMS

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2018, DR. ROBERT E. “GENE” ANDERSON WAS APPOINTED to the role of interim chair of the Department of Cell Biology by Interim Executive Dean Dr. John P. Zubialde. Dr. Anderson previously had served as the chair of that department from 1998 to 2007. His laboratory, research programs, and staff remain at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and will continue without interruption. However, given the considerable responsibilities related to the interim chair position, it was elected to begin the process of identifying a successor for Dr. Anderson as director of vision research for DMEI and the University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology (see opposite page), a role in which he served for more than 20 years.

Dr. Gregory L. Skuta, DMEI president and chief executive officer, praised Dr. Anderson for his transformative impact on vision research at DMEI, the OU Health Sciences Center (OUHSC), and around the world. Dr. Skuta stated, “During Dr. Gene Anderson’s 24 years on the DMEI/OU faculty and under his 20½ years of leadership as director of vision research, DMEI and the Department of Ophthalmology have catapulted from no National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded basic research to become one of the nation’s leading institutions for vision research.

Thanks to Dr. Anderson, vision research also is now a major focus of scientific investigators in a number of other departments across the OUHSC campus.”

Dr. Anderson has served in the past as vice president of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) and as president of the International Society for Eye Research (ISER). At OUHSC, Dr. Anderson was named a George Lynn Cross Research Professor in 2005 and, as director of vision research, has held the Dean McGee Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology since 1998. He also served in the past as director of the Oklahoma Center for Neuroscience.

Given his more than 300 peer-reviewed publications and more than $50 million in total NIH and non-NIH grant support (with a focus on retinal degenerations and lipids and lipid metabolism in retinal structure and function) just during his years at OUHSC, Dr. Anderson has received numerous life achievement awards. These include 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, recognition as an Inaugural Gold Fellow by ARVO and as a 2016 honoree of the ARVO Foundation and Dowling Society, and being named an Inaugural Fellow of the International Society for the Study of Fatty Acids and Lipids.
MICHELLE C. CALLEGAN, PhD HAS BEEN APPOINTED as the new director of vision research for the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology. Her appointment was confirmed by the DMEI Executive Committee and became effective on February 1, 2019.

Dr. Callegan is a George Lynn Cross Research Professor and Edith Kinney Gaylord Presidential Professor and was awarded the James P. Luton Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology in 2014. (As director of vision research, she will assume the Dean McGee Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology.) In addition, Dr. Callegan is a professor of microbiology and immunology and recently served as the associate director of student affairs for the Oklahoma Center for Neuroscience (OCNS). After earning her bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees from Louisiana State University (yes, she is an LSU Tigers fan!), Dr. Callegan completed her postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC), joined the faculty as an assistant professor of ophthalmology in 1999, achieved tenure in 2006 as an associate professor, and rose to the rank of professor of ophthalmology in 2011.

“With active R01 and R21 grant support from the National Eye Institute (NEI), Dr. Callegan is considered one of the world’s top scientists on the pathogenesis of endophthalmitis and is THE world expert on all aspects of Bacillus infections of the eye,” stated Dr. Gregory L. Skuta, DMEI president and chief executive officer. She has authored or co-authored more than 70 peer-reviewed publications, reviews, editorials, and book chapters. Her honors and awards include a Career Development Award and Lew R. Wasserman Award from Research to Prevent Blindness, Gold Fellow recognition by the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO), service as past program chair for ARVO’s immunology/microbiology section, current service as co-chair of the ARVO Women’s Leadership Development Program, OCNS’ Distinguished Service Award, and inclusion on numerous editorial boards and study sections. “Dr. Callegan also has held many other leadership roles and has demonstrated outstanding skills as a communicator and mentor,” said Dr. Skuta.

Dr. Callegan’s responsibilities as director of vision research will include assisting in faculty recruitment; mentoring fellow faculty and advancing faculty development; assisting in the faculty promotion and awards processes; serving as the principal investigator on OUHSC’s NEI P30 core grant; representing the basic science faculty on the DMEI Executive Committee; enhancing interaction among clinical and basic science faculty; and assisting in enhancing the DMEI/OU Department of Ophthalmology’s national and international reputation.

“With active R01 and R21 grant support from the National Eye Institute (NEI), Dr. Callegan is considered one of the world’s top scientists on the pathogenesis of endophthalmitis and is THE world expert on all aspects of Bacillus infections of the eye,” stated Dr. Gregory L. Skuta, DMEI president and chief executive officer. She has authored or co-authored more than 70 peer-reviewed publications, reviews, editorials, and book chapters. Her honors and awards include a Career Development Award and Lew R. Wasserman Award from Research to Prevent Blindness, Gold Fellow recognition by the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO), service as past program chair for ARVO’s immunology/microbiology section, current service as co-chair of the ARVO Women’s Leadership Development Program, OCNS’ Distinguished Service Award, and inclusion on numerous editorial boards and study sections. “Dr. Callegan also has held many other leadership roles and has demonstrated outstanding skills as a communicator and mentor,” said Dr. Skuta.

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Andrew K. Bailey, MD and Annie Moreau, MD, FACS
Recognized for Teaching Excellence

Andrew K. Bailey, MD AND ANNIE MOREAU, MD, FACS were recognized for their achievements as educators at an Academy of Teaching Scholars Reception on Thursday, October 18 in the Andrews Academic Tower.

Dr. Bailey has been selected as the recipient of a 2018 M. Dewayne Andrews, MD Excellence in Teaching Award in Graduate Medical Education (GME) and Annie Moreau, MD, FACS is the recipient of a 2018 M. Dewayne Andrews, MD Excellence in Teaching Award in Preclinical Teaching.

Dr. Bailey is a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Ophthalmology at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI). He received the Excellence in Attending at VA Award in 2015.
Annie Moreau, MD, FACS (left) receiving her award from Daniel O’Donoghue, PhD (right).

and again in 2018 for his outstanding efforts as an educator. As an ophthalmology resident and glaucoma fellow at DMEI, he received the 2013 Robert G. Small, MD Award for Medical Student Education and the 2014 Annie Moreau, MD Fellow Teaching Award respectively.

An associate professor in the Department of Ophthalmology at DMEI, Dr. Moreau is widely recognized as an exceptional educator and has received numerous prior teaching awards including the inaugural Annie Moreau, MD Fellow Teaching Award in 2011, the 2014 Excellence in Attending at VA Award, a 2014 M. Dewayne Andrews, MD Excellence in Teaching Award in GME, the 2015 Edward and Thelma Gaylord Faculty Honor Award, and a 2018 Regents’ Award for Superior Teaching.

Other prior recipients from DMEI of the M. Dewayne Andrews, MD Excellence in Teaching Award in GME include Drs. R. Michael Siatkowski and Brian K. Firestone in 2016 and 2017 respectively.
A PIANO CONCERT AND SILENT AUCTION WERE HELD on Sunday, September 16 in the Inasmuch Foundation Atrium of the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI). Featured pianists included Annie Moreau, MD, FACS and R. Michael Siatkowski, MD. These two DMEI ophthalmologists and accomplished concert-level pianists also performed on Saturday, September 15 for the Squint Club, an international organization comprised of the world’s leading pediatric ophthalmologists and strabismus surgeons, including Dr. Siatkowski. The fundraising event on September 16 was sponsored by the Acers Society and Edmond Music with proceeds benefiting resident education. Over $60,000 was raised thanks to DMEI’s generous guests and donors.
SAVE THE DATE!
43rd Annual Resident & Alumni Meeting
Friday/Saturday, May 31–June 1, 2019

40th Tullos O. Coston, MD Lecture (June 1)
David W. Parke II, MD
Chief Executive Officer
American Academy of Ophthalmology
Past President and Chief Executive Officer
Dean McGee Eye Institute
Professor Emeritus
University of Oklahoma College of Medicine

Squint Club members gather for a group photograph during the international meeting held in Oklahoma City from September 13 to 16. Drs. R. Michael and Rhea Siatkowski (second and third from left) served as hosts for the meeting.

Among the silent auction items was this autographed movie poster from the original 1977 “Star Wars” blockbuster.
THE 27TH ANNUAL WALTER J. STARK MEMORIAL LECTURE WAS DELIVERED
by George A. Williams, MD, in the Tullos O. Coston, MD Lecture Hall on October 1. His presentation was entitled “IRIS Registry: Past, Present and Future.”

Dr. Williams is director of the Beaumont Eye Institute and professor and chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine in Royal Oak, Michigan, and also is a partner with Associated Retinal Consultants in Royal Oak. A native of the Chicago area, Dr. Williams earned his Bachelor of Arts degree (Phi Beta Kappa) from Denison University in Granville, Ohio and his medical degree (Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society) from Northwestern University in Chicago. He completed a residency in ophthalmology and a fellowship in vitreoretinal surgery at the Eye Institute of the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, where he also served on the faculty from 1984 to 1988. He joined Associated Retinal Consultants in 1988 and became department chair and director of the Beaumont Eye Institute in 2001.

Truly a leader among leaders, Dr. Williams is now president of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), immediate past chair of the Board of Directors of the Ophthalmic Mutual Insurance Company, and past president of the American Society of Retina Specialists.
and the Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons. He served as a member-at-large on the AAO Board of Trustees from 2009 to 2012 and as Secretary for Federal Affairs from 2014 to 2017. Dr. Williams represents the Academy as a member of the American Medical Association’s Relative Value Update Committee, has served in several other committee capacities, and has been recognized by the Academy with a Life Achievement Honor Award, Secretariat Award, and Special Recognition Award. He also has been named among the Best Doctors in America and America’s Top Doctors.

In addition to maintaining a busy clinical and surgical practice, Dr. Williams has authored or co-authored more than 300 publications and book chapters, has participated in more than 30 National Eye Institute-sponsored and other clinical trials, and has delivered more than 25 named lectures. In addition, he serves on the editorial boards of Retina, Retinal Physician, Retinal Cases and Brief Reports, Retina Today, and Current Opinion in Ophthalmology and is a member of numerous societies.

SAVE THE DATE: Monday, September 30, 2019
THE 28TH ANNUAL WALTER J. STARK MEMORIAL LECTURESHP
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
Distinguished Visiting Lecturers

AUGUST 20, 2018

Robert H. Rosa Jr., MD (center)
Professor, Departments of Surgery and Medical Physiology
Vice Chair for Research
Department of Ophthalmology
Scott & White Eye Institute
College of Medicine, Texas A&M Health Science Center

Grand Rounds Guest Lecture:
"From Stem Cells to Therapeutic Proteins for Ocular Disease"

OCTOBER 8, 2018

Laura L. Wayman, MD (center)
Professor of Ophthalmology
Vice Chair for Education
Vanderbilt Eye Institute

Grand Rounds Guest Lectures:
"The Role of Reflective Practice in Resident Development" & "The Use of Remote Mentorship to Improve Cataract Surgical Skills"
First-year medical students (Class of 2022) receive their white coats during the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Medicine’s White Coat Ceremony, which was held on August 16, 2018 at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum.

Jean R. Hausheer, MD, FACS, clinical professor of ophthalmology at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI)—Lawton and current president of the Oklahoma State Medical Association (OSMA), at the podium during the White Coat Ceremony. Christopher S. Candler, MD, EdD, the College of Medicine’s senior associate dean for academic affairs and emcee for the event, is seated at right. DMEI’s Dr. Gregory Skuta is on the left. In her remarks delivered on behalf of the OSMA, Dr. Hausheer encouraged these future physicians to listen carefully to patients and their stories, to learn from patients, and to remain humble as they master the art of the practice of medicine.

Gregory L. Skuta, MD, president and chief executive officer of DMEI and Edward L. Gaylord Professor and Chair and Regents’ Professor of OU’s Department of Ophthalmology, delivers the keynote address during the 2018 White Coat Ceremony. He summarized his message to the Class of 2022 with these 22 words, “Live with purpose, grace, a sense of personal mission, and high integrity; seek opportunities for service every day; and, above all, persevere.”
AS SHE WAS GROWING UP, JACQUELYN JETTON O’BANION, MD, MSc, was forming a picture in her mind of the work she wanted to do one day: serving people who face barriers to good health. Years later, when she arrived at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) as an ophthalmology resident, she worked with faculty to create the next stage of the road map toward her goals.

Dr. O’Banion is the granddaughter of the late Thomas E. “Tom” Acers, MD, the Institute’s founder and first full-time chair of the University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology, and the niece of Ann Acers-Warn, MD, MBA, now a clinical professor and state and national leader (see page 12) who has practiced ophthalmology in DMEI’s Lawton facility her entire 24-year career.

Dr. O’Banion’s work today is evidence that she met those goals. She is a comprehensive ophthalmologist and assistant professor at Emory Eye Center, assistant director of the global ophthalmology program, and director of the global ophthalmology fellowship on the Emory University/Emory Healthcare campus in Atlanta. Her work allows her to care for people at her home base in Georgia but also in countries throughout the world.

Dr. O’Banion brings a strong public health foundation to her work, knowing that she must think more broadly than treating the patient sitting before her.

“What may be best for the person in the chair may not help with the population as a whole,” she said. “My focus has become more about human capacity building and improving access to health care on a larger scale by focusing on the needs of the population. We are such a small part of a bigger system and bigger problems, but if we can start to look at those bigger issues, we can impart more change and have a larger impact.”

Through her work with the Global Ophthalmology Emory (GO-E) program, which has partners throughout the world, Dr. O’Banion seeks to understand the eye care needs of the population and then calls upon Emory specialists to provide treatments and training. For example, the program has a relationship with Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, where the need is great for better treatment of patients with retinoblastoma, diabetes, and retinopathy of prematurity. The Emory group works with Ethiopian faculty to address needs and develop solutions that are sustainable.

“When I work abroad today, direct patient care is such a small portion of what I do,” she said. “Today, I focus on training the physicians on how to do a surgical procedure so they can continue to do it when I leave, or developing infrastructure for residents to learn and become better doctors, or assessing needs and barriers to eye care so we can develop programs that will get the patients to the doctor.”

Through the relationship with Ethiopia, trainees in the global ophthalmology fellowship can opt to spend a year working in the country. However, fellows may also choose rotations with Emory’s other partners around the globe or serving the indigent population in Atlanta. Dr. O’Banion said her role is to curate each fellow’s program based on their interests. She serves as their support system and ensures they have a broad understanding of the public health problems many countries face, the need for
cultural competence, and the ethical and logistical challenges that often come with international work.

“My goal with the fellowship is to give each fellow the tools and experience to continue to direct change and make an impact in blindness prevention in whatever direction their career may take them,” she said.

During her time at DMEI and the OU Health Sciences Center, Dr. O’Banion found an additional family, she said, and received excellent training in developing her skills as a comprehensive ophthalmologist. She also began thinking about education beyond her residency, specifically a global ophthalmology fellowship. At that time, such a program was novel, but DMEI faculty, especially Drs. P. Lloyd Hildebrand, R. Michael Siatkowski and Bradley K. Farris, encouraged her and provided guidance.

“I chose DMEI as a residency program because they were also committed to the mission I saw myself in – serving populations with larger barriers and larger needs,” Dr. O’Banion said. “Because of this shared mission, I was able to pursue and develop the fellowship in global ophthalmology and have the career that I have today.”

During her fellowship, she traveled to Eswatini (a country in Southern Africa also known as Swaziland), Peru, and China, providing eye care and learning about the culture and local access to medical care. Her experiences were diverse: She operated by flashlight in Peru, attended cultural dances in Eswatini, was the guest of honor at a New Year’s celebration in China, and was warmed by countless hugs and smiles from patients in each place.

After her fellowship, Dr. O’Banion went on to complete a Master of Science degree in public health for eye care at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. The experience provided an even deeper understanding of her patients, whether in Atlanta or Ethiopia.

“I want to build programs and perform research that improves the state of eye care around the world,” she said. “I’m not only treating the disease but understanding the personal obstacles to accessing quality care.”
feature focus

Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
VIBRANT AND GROWING AT DMEI

BY APRIL WILKERSON
THE PRACTICE OF OPHTHALMIC PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY—OFTEN CALLED OCULOPLASTICS OR OCULOFACTORIAL PLASTICS—HAS SIGNIFICANTLY GROWN OVER THE PAST YEAR AT THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) WITH THE ADDITION OF TWO NEW FELLOWSHIP-TRAINED SURGEONS.

Jeremy F. Tan, MD and Nathan W. Blessing, MD began practicing oculoplastic surgery this past summer, joining Annie Moreau, MD, FACS, who sustained the program and prepared it for growth. The three surgeons provide a full range of functional and cosmetic surgical procedures for patients of all ages.

...continued on next page...
Two of the most common procedures performed by Drs. Blessing, Moreau, and Tan are blepharoplasty and ptosis surgery, which correct droopy eyelids that have affected the field of vision. Blepharoplasty involves removing skin to allow the patient to see better. Ptosis repair is slightly different. When explaining it to his patients, Dr. Tan uses the analogy of a garage door opener, a curtain and a curtain rod.

The garage door opener is the levator muscle, whose function is to raise the eyelid. The curtain is the eyelid itself, which can stretch, lie onto the eyelashes and affect vision. The curtain rod is the eyebrow, which almost always needs to be addressed when the eyelids have a problem. Whether a condition at birth or because of stretching that occurs over time, droopy eyelids can hinder vision.

Those procedures are specific to the upper eyelids, but patients often ask the surgeon to also address the lower eyelids, which otherwise can look mismatched.

“The best compliment I receive is when a patient comes in and tells me that a friend saw them and said, ‘You look well-rested.’ That’s what I’m looking for,” Dr. Tan said. “I don’t want you to look like you’ve had surgery done.”

Oculoplastic surgeons also are experts in the tear drainage system, which can become obstructed in both children and adults. Removing the obstruction is only one of the skills of oculoplastic surgeons; they are skilled in addressing the entire tear system, including problems with the tear film that cause an overflow of tears onto the cheek.

Unfortunately, tumors can grow in several parts of the eye, and the oculoplastic team is versed in their removal and reconstruction after the tumors.
are gone. Because DMEI is part of an academic health center, its physicians often collaborate with colleagues from other medical disciplines across campus to determine the best treatment for each patient. Weekly tumor board meetings include physicians from the fields of pathology, otolaryngology, radiation oncology, hematology-oncology, ophthalmology, dermatology, neurosurgery, oral and maxillofacial surgery, and others.

“We’re the bridge from ophthalmology to other head-and-neck specialties,” Dr. Blessing said. “Everyone is in the same room discussing each patient. It really enhances our ability to provide the best care.”

When patients have lesions on their eyelids, dermatologists and pathologists are sometimes consulted for a procedure called Mohs, which preserves as much healthy tissue as possible for oculoplastic surgeons to use during reconstruction of the eyelid. Tumors also can occur in the eye socket, which often warrants collaboration with neurosurgeons and otolaryngologists (ear/nose/throat specialists) to access the tumor and protect the surrounding anatomy.

“We may access the tumor from the sinus, back by the brain or through the nose, or a combination of those approaches,” Dr. Tan said. “Each of us knows the anatomy from our own points of view, and a multidisciplinary approach is sometimes the best approach.”

The oculoplastic team also receives in-house pathology insight from DMEI ocular oncologist Brian K. Firestone, MD, who provides consultation in determining whether a tumor is benign or malignant.

Another common condition treated by oculoplastic surgeons is thyroid eye disease, which deposits fibrotic tissues in the back of the eye socket and causes it to swell. Even if a patient’s thyroid is well-regulated, the correlating eye disease may still take a separate course, especially if the patient is a smoker. The condition can be treated with medical therapies, radiation, or a combination of the two, but eye socket surgery is often still necessary.

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Patients also see oculoplastic surgeons when they have experienced trauma that affects the eyes. For example, if a patient has been injured by a chemical, surgeons can perform ocular surface reconstruction – taking tissue from the patient’s mouth and grafting it to their eye socket to rebuild mucous membranes.

Working with DMEI’s ocular prosthetic service directed by Nancy A. Lambert, BCO, oculoplastic surgeons are the primary caretakers of patients who need to have their eyes removed and a prosthesis implanted.

“Those patients can have inflammation and scarring which leads to socket contraction and an inability to wear a prosthetic eye, so we sometimes have to rebuild eye sockets by using mucous membranes from the mouth to augment the natural lining or insert a new orbital implant to improve the socket’s volume,” Dr. Blessing said.

DMEI also offers a broad and growing range of cosmetic treatments and procedures. Botox and fillers can be used to address wrinkles and hollow spaces in the face, and surgery can improve the appearance of eyelids and eyebrows. A new piece of state-of-the-art equipment is further expanding the scope of oculoplastic surgeons. The Sciton JOULE™ Laser will provide resurfacing that improves skin texture, quality, and tone. It is DMEI’s first laser for cosmetic procedures and will augment the number and types of treatments provided. “The laser will allow us to grow the cosmetic services that we offer to our patients,” Dr. Blessing said. “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.”

If you are interested in undergoing a cosmetic procedure, or in learning what cosmetic options might work best for you, please call 405.271.1096 to schedule an appointment.

Drs. Blessing and Tan received 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. Both surgeons also previously
spent time at OU for medical school or residency, and they are glad to be back in Oklahoma.

“Our goal is to continue growing our service and taking care of patients in Oklahoma,” Dr. Blessing said. “Our program is strong, and we can offer our patients a complete set of both functional and cosmetic services.”
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DMEI Alumnus Leader in Global Ophthalmology  p. 44

The Dean McGee Eye Institute is dedicated to serving all Oklahomans and the global community through excellence and leadership in patient care, education, and vision research.

www.dmei.org