



focus on patient care:

*DMEI's Physicians Saving Eyesight
for Professional and Aspiring Athletes,
Weekend Warriors*

• DMEI •
inVIsion

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE

patient care
education
vision research
leadership
service

DMEI clinical directory

Oklahoma Health Center

DMEI Acers and Parke Pavilions

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Rhea L. Siatkowski, MD*

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Emily M. Zepeda, MD**

Laurie A. Hahn-Parrott, CO, COT, MBA
(Orthoptist)

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405.271.1092 ■ 800.787.9014

Jila Noori, MD

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

McGee Eye Surgery Center

Harold Hamm Diabetes Center

1000 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 150, Oklahoma City, OK 73104

405.271.3363

Medical Director: Robert J. Christensen, MD

Dean McGee Eye Institute Satellite Locations

NORTHWEST OKC

3500 N.W. 56th, #101, Oklahoma City, OK 73112

405.271.9500

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Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

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Optical Services

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EDMOND

1005 Medical Park Blvd., Edmond, OK 73013

405.271.0913

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John M. Bell, MD*

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Anil D. Patel, MD, FRCSC, FACS

Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

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Angela M. Plant, OD, FFAO
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Maria E. Lim, MD**

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Razek G. Coussa, MD, FRCSC

Optical Services

405.271.0909

OKLAHOMA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OU HEALTH

1200 N. Children's Ave., Suite 8-A, Oklahoma City, OK 73104

405.271.7887, option 2

Pediatric Ophthalmology/Strabismus

Maria E. Lim, MD**
R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA
Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHSc
Emily M. Zepeda, MD**

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3201 W. Gore Blvd., #200, Lawton, OK 73050

580.250.5855

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Ann Acers-Warn, MD, MBA*

Cornea and External Disease/Cataract, LASIK, and Refractive Surgery

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Retina/Vitreous

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Home to the Department
of Ophthalmology of the
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College of Medicine

R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA

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Kimberly A. Howard

DMEI Vice President of Finance and
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Mark A. Wyckoff

DMEI Vice President for Medical Informatics
and Technology
Chief Information Officer

Jim Durbin

DMEI Executive Director of Development

Co-Editors

Nicole M. Glenn

R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA

Gregory L. Skuta, MD

Contributors

Jim Durbin

Melody A. Marcum, MHR

Feature Writer

Staci Elder Hensley

Design and Layout

Christi Cooper, Cooper & Heart Creative

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For more information about this publication or to be
placed on the mailing list, please contact:

Development Office

Dean McGee Eye Institute
608 Stanton L. Young Blvd., Suite 346
Oklahoma City, OK 73104
405.271.1611

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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.



• DMEI • *in*vision

WINTER 2023

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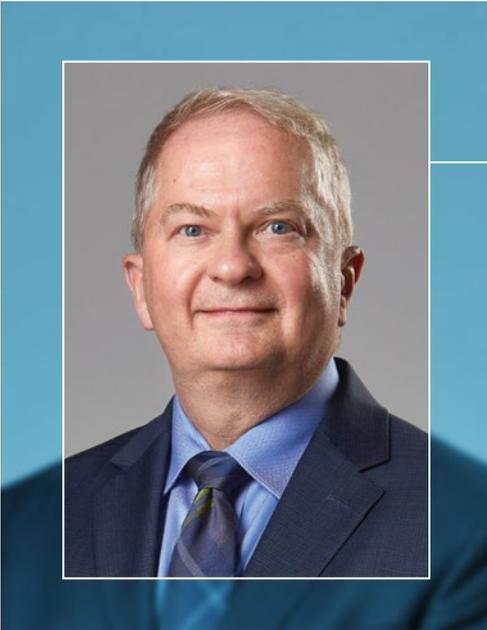
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PICTURED ON FRONT COVER:
(left to right) Matthew Smith; Victor Seidel; Macenzie Ruth; and Daniel Beckman



The Preferred Eye Care Provider of the OKC Thunder



R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA

Going the *Extra Mile...*

AFTER A FUN, BUSY, AND SCRUMPTIOUS HOLIDAY SEASON, I told my wife I needed to lose 10 pounds. As she shook her head, I was expecting to hear that I looked fine the way I was. Instead, she simply said “20.” This will not be easy for me (and I expect multiple failures on the way), but when I get there it will be worth it.

Life is full of opportunities to do important, positive, and life-changing—but difficult—things. And although many are blessed with amazing talent, abundant resources, or special opportunities, there is no substitute for hard work. As noted to the left, this is well recognized by highly productive people in all walks of life.

At the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI), we do hard things every day. This is one of the cardinal qualities that makes us such a great organization. I am honored to highlight just a few members of the DMEI family who have recently done some great, but very difficult, things.

Dr. Cindy Bradford was recognized with the State Affairs Hall of Fame Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology (please see page 5). This award was not for a single, or even several, events, but for decades of hard work promoting quality and safety for patients receiving medical and surgical eye care. For years she was often on a plane traveling to various state legislatures in the middle of the night, or in the dead of winter, to advocate for resources and laws to improve patient safety. Eye care in our country is notably better because of her hard work.

Dr. Greg Skuta recently was inducted into the American Ophthalmological Society, our nation’s oldest eye

“Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice, and, most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do.”

—Pele

“If you really look closely, most overnight successes took a long time.”

—Steve Jobs

“Sometimes the richest blessings come from pain and hard things.”

—Anne Graham Lotz

organization, dating to 1864 (please see DMEI *InVision*, summer 2022, issue 25, page 9).

Membership into this august group requires a complex nomination process, and completion of a high-quality original thesis that is rigorously reviewed by some of the world's most respected experts. Dr. Skuta literally spent nearly three years on this paper, and is one of only seven Oklahomans ever inducted into the group. (I am proud to say that all seven of these have been DMEI and/or University of Oklahoma doctors).

Dr. Kamran Riaz recently published a textbook on optics, which is destined to become a classic (please see page 4). Optics is a very difficult topic, and his book is the first ever to combine theoretical optics with the optics we use in the clinic and the operating room every day. One of my medical mentors, in his dying days, asked me to edit future editions of a wonderful textbook he had written. I told him I would consider it, but in my heart knew that I had neither the patience nor the willpower to do it. Another mentor, one of the most famous (and prolific) neuro-ophthalmologists in the world, J. Lawton Smith, MD, was asked to co-author what would become the bible of neuro-ophthalmology. Even he declined to write a textbook, but Dr. Riaz has done it.

In this issue you will also read about DMEI doctors providing very difficult and complex care to accomplished athletes as well as a young Afghani war refugee. Our support staff at DMEI also put themselves on the line for our patients.

This is one of the cardinal qualities that makes us such a great organization.

Recently a young lady with a suspected growing brain tumor based on eye exam was fearful to undergo an MRI scan. Renaté Carson counseled her extensively, and scheduled and rescheduled the scan five different times until it was done.

We have several people in new roles at DMEI, also doing tough things every day. Dr. Carolyn Kloek is our first vice chair for quality and innovation

(please see page 33 and DMEI *InVision*, summer 2022, issue 25, page 49), and Dr. Andrew Melson is our new residency program director (please see page 6). Drs. Razek Coussa and Lea Bennett are preparing to make DMEI a center for gene therapy for inherited retinal disease. All of them are all working hard and navigating complex challenges—stay tuned for the fruits of their labors.

It has been said that there is little traffic on the extra mile. But we at DMEI are ready and willing to go that extra mile as we create excellence in patient care, vision research, and medical education. I am honored to be part of this journey, and thank you for partnering with us.



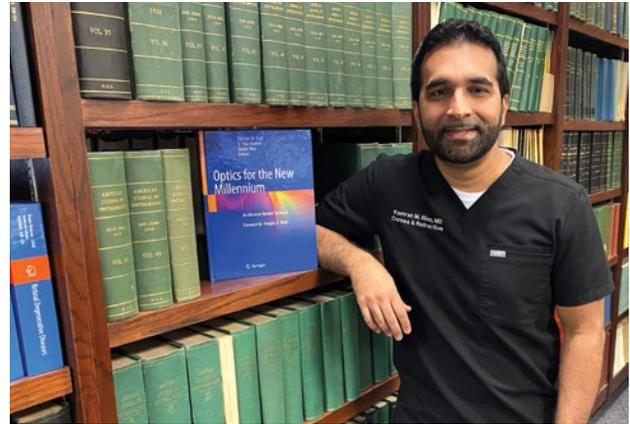
R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA
Chief Executive Officer
Dean McGee Eye Institute
Edward L. Gaylord Professor and Chair
David Ross Boyd Professor
Department of Ophthalmology
University of Oklahoma College of Medicine

Dr. Kamran M. Riaz Is Primary Editor for New Optics Textbook

KAMRAN M. RIAZ, MD, A CORNEAL SPECIALIST AT THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) and clinical associate professor and director of medical student research in the University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology, serves as primary editor of a new book, *Optics for the New Millennium: An Absolute Review Textbook*, which was published by Springer Nature Switzerland AG in September 2022. Dr. Riaz, who authored or co-authored 16 of the 30 chapters himself, was joined in this monumental effort by co-editors G. Vike Vincente, MD, of Chevy Chase, Maryland, and Daniel Wee, MD, of Stockton, California. The foreword was written by Douglas D. Koch, MD, Professor and Allen, Mosbacher, and Law Chair in Ophthalmology with the Cullen Eye Institute/Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas.

This book will serve as a one-stop-shop resource for the subject of optics, which is a required part of the education for all ophthalmologists and is relevant to examinations, clinical practice, and cataract and refractive surgery. According to Dr. Riaz, “It is a unique addition to the subject as no similar text exists, and I hope that it becomes a standard textbook nationally and internationally.” The book is available from Springer Publishing (springer.com) as well as from Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and several other online retailers.

The textbook was intentionally written to be understandable but also to contain humor and levity while emphasizing the clinical and surgical



Kamran M. Riaz, MD
Clinical Associate Professor
Director of Medical Student Research

relevance of optics, a subject that has historically and traditionally received less attention from trainees. “Hence, we have titled the book *Optics for the New Millennium*, but it’s really ‘Optics for Millennials,’” said Dr. Riaz.

Since joining DMEI in March 2019, Dr. Riaz’s practice has focused on complex and premium cataract surgery, corneal transplantation, refractive surgery, and the management of difficult and challenging surgical cases. In 2021, he was awarded “40 Under 40” and “Achievers Under 40” recognitions by *Oklahoma Magazine* and *The Journal Record*, respectively. In April 2022, Dr. Riaz received a Faculty Aesculapian Award from the OU College of Medicine’s senior class, the first ophthalmologist to ever receive this prestigious award.

Dr. Riaz and his wife, Sanaa A. Hameed, MD, have three young children. ■

Cynthia A. Bradford, MD, Receives AAO Secretariat for State Affairs 2022 Hall of Fame Award



Cynthia A. Bradford, MD
Presbyterian Health
Foundation Presidential
Professor

AT THE 2022 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

(AAO) in Chicago, Dr. Cynthia A. Bradford received the AAO Secretariat for State Affairs Hall of Fame Award for her commitment to state and national advocacy efforts. Dr. Bradford is

a Presbyterian Health Foundation Presidential Professor at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and in the University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology and has served on the faculty for more than 35 years (please see page 16).

To quote from the citation given to her on September 29, Dr. Bradford “has been on the

frontline of patient advocacy for her entire career. She has been an educator, but not only in the clinic. She has been an educator about the importance of patient safety at the state house and on Capitol Hill. She has been an educator to the next generation of advocates for ophthalmology. And, she has been an educator to those in the profession on what it means to be a committed advocate.”

Dr. Bradford, who is a comprehensive ophthalmologist and cataract surgeon at DMEI/OU, has served as president of the Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology (OAO), and as Secretary for State Affairs, Senior Secretary for Advocacy, and president of the AAO. For her decades of service to the profession, she has received the AAO’s Life Achievement Honor Award as well as the OAO’s Distinguished Service Award.

To learn more about Dr. Bradford, please see page 32. ■

OTHER 2022 AAO ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

AAO Senior Achievement Award

- Amalia M. Miranda, MD (Oklahoma City, OK) – For whom DMEI’s Amalia M. Miranda, MD Special Recognition Award is named.

AAO Achievement Award

- Jacquelyn A. O'Banion, MD (Atlanta, GA) – DMEI Resident Alumna (2013), DMEI Global Eye Care Fellowship Alumna (2014)
- Brian A. Welcome, MD (Greenville, SC) – DMEI Glaucoma Fellowship Alumnus (2002)

Dr. Andrew T. Melson Becomes New Residency Program Director

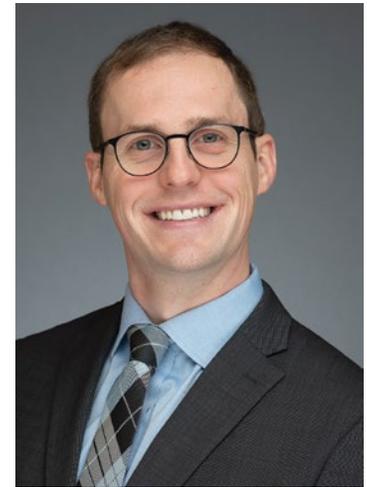
ON OCTOBER 1, 2022, ANDREW T. MELSON, MD, BECAME THE NEW RESIDENCY PROGRAM DIRECTOR at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and in the University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology. A former DMEI/OU resident and neuro-ophthalmology fellow, Dr. Melson joined the DMEI/OU faculty as an assistant professor in 2019, subsequently assumed duties as director of DMEI's resident clinic, and, in 2021, became an associate residency program director.

Dr. Melson's clinical and teaching activities include a blend of medical and surgical neuro-ophthalmology and comprehensive ophthalmology/cataract surgery. He has received numerous honors and awards, including the American Academy of Ophthalmology Achievement Award in 2020, the Gaylord Faculty Honor Award at DMEI/OU in 2021, and a 2021 M. Dewayne Andrews, MD Excellence in Teaching Award in Graduate Medical Education.

He earned his undergraduate (*summa cum laude*) and medical (Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society and Gold Humanism Honor Society) degrees from Saint Louis University, and completed his internship at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis, Indiana. He then served as a resident in ophthalmology at DMEI/OU, was chief resident during the 2017-2018 academic year, was the co-recipient of the Acers Resident Honor Award in 2018, and completed a neuro-ophthalmology fellowship at DMEI/OU (receiving the Annie Moreau, MD Fellow Teaching Award) before joining the DMEI/OU faculty.

Dr. Melson's wife, Danielle, is a physical therapist with INTEGRIS Health. They have a son, Oliver, who was born in June 2021.

"Dr. Melson's intelligence, integrity, and industriousness have afforded him many successes, and make him well poised for many more in the future," said Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski, DMEI's chief executive officer and Edward L. Gaylord professor and chair of the OU Department of Ophthalmology. "With his leadership and with Carolyn E. Kloek, MD, continuing as associate residency program director, the DMEI residency program will surely climb to new heights in the years ahead." ■



Andrew T. Melson, MD
Assistant Professor
Residency Program Director

DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE Utilizes OG&E's Commercial Lighting Program



Pictured (left to right) are Spencer Browne, OG&E's community affairs manager; Jeanette Staden, OG&E's senior program manager for commercial energy efficiency; Todd Walker, DMEI's facility maintenance supervisor; Patrick Bishop, facility maintenance staff; R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA, DMEI's chief executive officer and Edward L. Gaylord professor and department chair; Garyl Geist, DMEI's executive vice president and chief operating officer; Kim Howard, DMEI's vice president of finance and chief financial officer; and Eric Wehmuller with CLEAResult, the implementer for OG&E's Energy Efficiency Programs.

ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2022, REPRESENTATIVES WITH OKLAHOMA GAS AND ELECTRIC (OG&E) presented the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) with a rebate check for \$15,402 as part of OG&E's Commercial Lighting Program. In April 2022, DMEI replaced more than 150 energy-draining incandescent lighting fixtures with new light emitting diode (LED) lighting fixtures throughout the 55,000-square-foot employee parking garage. With the rebate, DMEI's net project cost was just over \$28,000 with a three-year full return on investment as a result of the anticipated kilowatt-hour savings.

OG&E's Commercial Lighting Program provides financial incentives to commercial and industrial clients who install new, high-efficiency lighting systems and implement other concepts to reduce energy consumption. The program is a true "win-win" scenario, as participants enjoy improved lighting and lower energy bills, while OG&E experiences both reduced peak-energy and overall demand. ■

Two Ophthalmologists Inducted into Gold Humanism Honor Society



Brian K. Firestone, MD, second from left, is pictured with (far left to right) Drs. Brian F. Lich (GHHS chapter advisor at OU), Phebe M. Tucker (recipient of the 2022 Tow Humanism in Medicine Award and speaker at the GHHS induction ceremony), and John P. Zubialde (executive dean of the OU College of Medicine.)



Rupin N. Parikh, MD, second from left, is pictured with (far left to right) Drs. Brian Lich, Phebe Tucker, and John Zubialde.

IN OCTOBER 2022, BRIAN K. FIRESTONE, MD, AND RUPIN N. PARIKH, MD, WERE INDUCTED INTO THE GOLD HUMANISM HONOR SOCIETY (GHHS). Dr. Firestone is an ocular oncologist and ophthalmic pathologist who holds the rank of clinical associate professor at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and in the University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology. Dr. Parikh is a PGY4 ophthalmology resident and will begin a fellowship in ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery at the University of Iowa in July 2023.

The GHHS is at the heart of the Arnold P. Gold Foundation's Community of Caring. Founded in 2002 through the generous support of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Berrie Foundation, and an anonymous donor, GHHS now has more than 180 chapters in medical schools and residency programs in the United States, Canada, and internationally. Close to 45,000 medical students, physicians, and other leaders have been inducted into GHHS and serve as role models for the human connection in health care. ■

DR. JEAN R. HAUSHEER IS NEW PRESIDENT OF CHRISTIAN OPHTHALMOLOGY SOCIETY



*Jean R. Hausheer, MD, FACS
Clinical Professor*

JEAN R. HAUSHEER, MD, FACS, became president of the Christian Ophthalmology Society (COS) in June 2022. Dr. Hausheer retired from her clinical and surgical practice at the Dean McGee Eye Institute's (DMEI's) Lawton facility as of December 2022 (please see pages 20-21).

DMEI's Bradley K. Farris, MD, and R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA, served as COS president from 1990 to 2000 and 2000 to 2009, respectively. J. Lawton Smith, MD, formed the society in 1977 as an interdenominational group of Christian ophthalmologists. Its mission is to further the knowledge of diseases of the eye, their prevention and treatment, and the objectives of the Christian ministry of healing. ■

Annie Moreau, MD, FACS, Receives Teaching Award

IN DECEMBER, DR. ANNIE MOREAU received a 2022 Outstanding Teacher Award from the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Medicine. On a 1 to 7 scale, her average teaching score exceeded 6.5.

We are proud to recognize Dr. Moreau, who is an associate professor at the Dean McGee Eye Institute and in the OU Department of Ophthalmology. She is also an Edith Kinney Gaylord Presidential Professor and has received numerous teaching awards (including the prestigious 2020 Stanton L. Young Master Teacher Award and a 2018 OU Regents' Award for Superior Teaching) for her exceptional and consistent excellence in medical education. ■



*Annie Moreau, MD, FACS
Edith Kinney Gaylord
Presidential Professor*

One of DMEI's Strongest Part

THE OKLAHOMA LION'S EYE BANK (OLEB), ONE OF THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE'S (DMEI'S) key partners in restoring vision to thousands of patients, celebrated its milestone 65th anniversary on December 2, 2022.

Headquartered in Oklahoma City, OLEB is one of the most respected eye banks in the United States (U.S.), and was established by the Oklahoma Lion's Club as a nonprofit service organization in 1957. Its primary mission is to recover corneal tissue from donors, evaluate that tissue's suitability for corneal transplants, and then prepare it for use in transplant patients. The tissues are then made available to corneal surgeons on an as-needed basis, said Lori Miller, OLEB's executive director.

The organization also has been partnering with DMEI since the latter's dedication in 1975, Miller noted. In fact, once the Eye Institute opened, the two entities were housed in the same building until 1989. They again shared quarters from 1992 to 1997, before OLEB expanded into its own building.

"We feel extremely lucky to have one of the premier eye institutes in the U.S. just a couple



of miles down the street from us," Miller said. "All of their surgeons are so knowledgeable, and we have learned from each one of them. It is a pleasure to provide corneal tissue to their patients, because we are confident that the outcomes will be excellent."

Since 2015, DMEI corneal specialist Rhea L. Siatkowski, MD, has served as OLEB's co-medical director, a volunteer position that she says is extremely rewarding.

"They are a fabulous eye bank—state-of-the-art, one of the cleanest, most well-organized, and expert at analyzing and preparing all types of corneal tissue," Dr. Siatkowski said. "Despite their small size, they provide for the most cutting-edge corneal procedures. Even if donor tissue isn't available to meet a particular patient's needs, they will make that extra effort and reach out to their contacts around the globe to try and obtain what's needed."

ners Celebrating 65 Years

BY STACI ELDER HENSLEY

“OLEB is vital to corneal transplants for our state and for the patients DMEI serves, and they are a great group to work with,” she added.

OLEB provides approximately 225 corneas to Oklahomans each year. Since its inception, it has facilitated the transplantation of nearly 23,000 corneas for patients in Oklahoma, the U.S., and more than 40 countries around the world. The organization is funded through two ongoing endowments, as well as placement fees for the tissue, which is typically paid through private insurance, Medicare, or Medicaid, Miller said.

She joined the organization in 2008 and was named executive director in 2015. Under Miller’s leadership, the team has continued to grow, and now consists of 10 full-time and three part-time employees.

“We are all very proud to work at a local nonprofit whose sole mission is to improve the lives of others by fulfilling the wishes of our donors and donor families,” Miller said. “The part that I enjoy most is knowing that we help these generous donor families make such a difference in the lives of people who they’ve never met and likely will never meet. It’s really quite something when you think about how they’re going through their worst day, right after losing a loved one, and yet they still think of helping others through corneal donation.” ■



On January 21, 2023, the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) hosted the 2023 DMEI and Oklahoma Chapter of the American Academy of Optometry Symposium. Forty-eight optometrists earned continuing education credits provided from lectures by eight DMEI ophthalmologists. More to come in the next issue of DMEI *InVision*.



Stephen R. Fransen, MD
Clinical Professor

Dr. Stephen R. Fransen Recognized as Health Care Hero Award Recipient by *The Journal Record*

STEPHEN R. FRANSEN, MD, IS BEING HONORED among *The Journal Record's* 28 Health Care Hero Award recipients for 2023. Dr. Fransen is a medical retina specialist and clinical professor who has served on the faculty at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and in the University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology since 1990.

The Journal Record's recognition program, now in its fourth year, honors individuals who go above and beyond to help make Oklahoma a healthier, safer, and happier place to live and work. "The champions of Oklahoma's health care industry deserve our recognition and gratitude," said Joe Dowd, editor of *The Journal Record*. "The fourth class of Health Care Heroes represents diverse talent, expertise, and a commitment to excellence in their endless pursuit to help others."

During his more than 32 years on the DMEI/OU faculty, Dr. Fransen created the "Diabetic Retinopathy Outreach Program," traveling to several First American clinics throughout the state to administer retinal care to this population in their local communities. He and his wife Cindy, a registered nurse, started traveling to Nicaragua in 2008 as part of the Mayflower Medical Outreach Program and subsequently established the Nica Eyes Project.

Dr. Fransen also is an award-winning educator and has been inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society for his empathetic and holistic approach to medical care. In addition, Dr. Fransen is the founder and chief medical officer for Lumata Health, which oversees a data-driven technology platform focused on efficient, high-quality eye care. His award nomination was made by Lumata Health with support from Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski, DMEI's chief executive officer and Edward L. Gaylord professor and chair of the OU Department of Ophthalmology.

This year's honorees will be celebrated during an event at the Oklahoma History Center on March 23. They also will be featured in a commemorative magazine insert in *The Journal Record's* March 24 issue. ■

DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE BOARD AND FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER TO BE HONORED AT 2023 EVENING OF EXCELLENCE

AS PART OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA (OU) COLLEGE OF MEDICINE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S EVENING OF EXCELLENCE GALA EVENT to be held on March 30, Michael A. Cawley will be presented with the 2023 Dean's Award for Distinguished Community Service.

The Evening of Excellence honors individuals and organizations making significant contributions to research and medicine in Oklahoma. Proceeds from the Evening of Excellence support medical research at the OU College of Medicine.

Mr. Cawley serves on the Board of Directors of both the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and the DMEI Foundation. He is the past president and chief executive officer (CEO) of the Ardmore-based Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation and has served on and chaired the OU Board of Regents. Mr. Cawley joined both the DMEI and DMEI Foundation boards in 2012.

Judith A. James, MD, PhD, will be presented with the 2023 Dean's Award for Distinguished Medical Service. Dr. James is the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation (OMRF's) vice president for clinical affairs as well as a George Lynn Cross Research Professor of Medicine and associate vice provost for clinical and translational science at the OU Health Sciences Center. She is also a



Michael A. Cawley



Pictured (left to right) in December 2018: Michael Cawley (DMEI and DMEI Foundation Board Director), Governor Bill Anoatubby (Governor of The Chickasaw Nation and former DMEI Board Director), and Dr. Gregory Skuta (former DMEI president and CEO) in The Chickasaw Nation Center of Excellence for Diabetic Retinopathy and Macular Degeneration.

member of the prestigious National Academy of Medicine and holds the Lou C. Kerr Endowed Chair in Biomedical Research at OMRF. Dr. James is recognized worldwide as a pioneer in autoimmune disease research.

The Wisdom Family Foundation, located in Alva, Oklahoma, will receive the Dean's Recognition of a Distinguished Oklahoma Institution.

More to come on the event and honorees in the summer 2023 issue of DMEI *InVision*. ■

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH PROGRAM



Michelle R. "Shelley" Robertson
Executive Administrative Assistant
Oklahoma Health Center
September 2022



Christina L. "Tina" Voigt
Patient Services Representative
Edmond Satellite Office
October 2022



April S. Coker
Human Resources Coordinator
Oklahoma Health Center
November 2022



Risa A. Johnson
Patient Appointment Coordinator
Oklahoma Health Center
December 2022



Debra K. Thompson
Patient Appointment Coordinator
Oklahoma Health Center
January 2023



Elizabeth A. Glathar
Certified Ophthalmic Assistant
Edmond Satellite Office
February 2023

Dr. Garber Graduates from American Academy of Optometry Leadership Course

ON OCTOBER 27, 2022, in San Diego, California, the Dean McGee Eye Institute's (DMEI's) Dana M. Garber, OD, FAAO, graduated from the newly expanded American Academy of Optometry Merton C. Flom Leadership Course. Dr. Garber was one of a very select group of participants for this prestigious national program and was subsequently approved by the Leadership Executive Committee to serve on the Academy Leadership Community Subcommittee. In this role, she will serve her profession by recruiting and developing future leaders in optometry. Congratulations to Dr. Garber for these significant achievements! ■



Dr. Dana Garber (left center) with organizers of the Flom Leadership Course. Pictured (left to right): Muriel M. Schornack, OD, FAAO; Megan A. Hunter, OD, FAAO; Dana M. Garber, OD, FAAO; Lindsay A. Sicks, OD, FAAO; Elizabeth Wyles, OD, FAAO; and Edward S. Bennett, OD, FAAO.



Te'Kira Lewis (left) and Kiuna Brown (right), both patient appointment coordinators at the Oklahoma Health Center location, enjoy interacting with Rumble the Bison.

2022 Employee Appreciation Day

THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) CELEBRATED Employee Appreciation Day on September 16, 2022, with an outdoor barbeque lunch and a special appearance from Rumble the Bison, the Oklahoma City Thunder's official mascot. Special thanks go to DMEI barbeque master Mark Wyckoff, who is also the Institute's vice president for healthcare informatics and technology. Employee Appreciation Day afforded a special opportunity to celebrate the work and mutual achievements of everyone at the Institute, to recognize DMEI's 47 years of service to patients, and to acknowledge the fulfillment of its multiple missions. Together we are making a difference, and having fun along the way! ■



Rumble assists the DMEI executive team in serving lunch on Employee Appreciation Day.



Pictured (left to right): J. Christian Berry, MD, DMEI glaucoma fellow; Steven Arnold, certified ophthalmic technician; Moriah Sanchez, lane assistant; Kim Carr, certified ophthalmic assistant; Katy King, patient appointment coordinator; and Justin Schulz, visiting medical student from the University of Vermont, enjoy their visit with Rumble.

2022 EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

35 YEARS

Cynthia Bradford, MD
Richard Flesher
Mark Dittmar



Mark Dittmar

Pictured (left to right): Garyl Geist (DMEI's executive vice president and chief operating officer), Cynthia Bradford, MD, Richard Flesher, and R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA (DMEI's chief executive officer and department chair).

30 YEARS

Gregory Skuta, MD



Pictured (left to right): Garyl Geist, Gregory Skuta, MD, and R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA.

15 YEARS

Michelle Garrison	Wanda Martin
Tara Hall	Laura Ransom
Jarrelle Jones	Valerie Vacek
Wendy Madewell	Cristina Wertz



Pictured (left to right): Garyl Geist, Valerie Vacek, Wendy Madewell, Michelle Garrison, Jarrelle Jones, and R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA.

10 YEARS

Julianne Countz	Deleshia Dolton	Megan Stiles
Cynthia Daniel	Jean Hausheer, MD, FACS	Peggy Werthmann
Megan Davidson	Annie Moreau, MD, FACS	Victoria Wolzen
Joyce Davis	Evelyn Ramos	



Pictured (left to right): Garyl Geist, Jean Hausheer, MD, FACS, Peggy Werthmann, Victoria Wolzen, Megan Davidson, Julianne Countz, Cynthia Daniel, and R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA.

At the 2022 Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) Holiday Celebration and Employee Recognition Ceremony held in the Inasmuch Foundation Atrium on December 9, 39 employees were recognized for their 505 collective years of service to the Institute and University of Oklahoma Department of Ophthalmology. Congratulations to all!

25 YEARS

Elizabeth Glathar



Elizabeth Glathar

20 YEARS

David Jackson, MD
Kelly Russell



David Jackson, MD



Kelly Russell

5 YEARS

John Bell, MD
Kara Bergner
Shawn George
Kara Green

Samuel Howard
DeAnne Isaacs
Danielle Leatherman
Maria Lim, MD

Danielle Stanfill
Kelsie Sweeney
Julie Wilkins
Mistie Winters



Pictured (left to right): Garyl Geist, Maria Lim, MD, Samuel Howard, Shawn George, John Bell, MD, and R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA.

THIRTY DMEI OPHTHALMOLOGISTS RECOGNIZED AS TOP DOCTORS OF THE 405 AND/OR CASTLE CONNOLLY TOP DOCTORS

- + Ann Acers-Warn, MD, MBA
- *+ Andrew K. Bailey, MD
- + John M. Bell, MD
- + Cynthia A. Bradford, MD
- *+ Reagan H. Bradford Jr., MD
- * Brian K. Firestone, MD
- + Layne E. Goetzinger, MD
- * Ben J. Harvey, MD
- *+ Jean R. Hausheer, MD, FACS
- * Ralph B. Hester III, MD
- *+ David W. Jackson, MD
- *+ Mahmoud A. Khaimi, MD
- * Ronald M. Kingsley, MD
- * Carolyn E. Kloek, MD
- * Maria E. Lim, MD
- * Andrew T. Melson, MD
- * Aman Mittal, MD
- *+ Annie Moreau, MD, FACS
- + Rebecca K. Morgan, MD
- * James C. O'Brien, MD
- *+ Anil D. Patel, MD, FRCSC, FACS
- * Kamran M. Riaz, MD
- * Vinay A. Shah, MD
- *+ R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA
- *+ Rhea L. Siatkowski, MD
- *+ Gregory L. Skuta, MD
- * Jeremy F. Tan, MD
- *+ Deana S. Watts, MD
- *+ Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHSc
- * Emily M. Zepeda, MD

* Top Doctors of the 405 (2023)

+ Castle Connolly Top Doctors (2023)

*+ Both

DMEI GLOBAL EYE CARE TE

IN NOVEMBER 2022, RESIDENT OPHTHALMOLOGISTS AND FACULTY members from the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) traveled to Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) in southeastern Africa to serve, teach, and learn. Drs. Brayden R. Barrientez (PGY-4 resident), Rupin N. Parikh (PGY-4 resident), Bradley K. Farris (director of global ophthalmology), Aman Mittal (cornea faculty), and Gregory L. Skuta (glaucoma faculty) spent nine days in Eswatini teaching and providing medical and surgical patient care. The surgical procedures included ten corneal transplants (performed by Drs. Mittal and Jonathan C. Pons), some in patients who had been on the waiting list for three to four years.

The DMEI team members worked with Dr. Pons, who lives and is based in Siteki, Eswatini, but provides ophthalmologic care throughout the country of 1.2 million people. They assisted Dr. Pons and his co-workers in various clinics (some via helicopter access) and operating theaters while directly refining many of the skills valuable in international work.

Ophthalmologists from DMEI have been traveling to Eswatini since 2011. Prior to November, the last visit had been in February 2020. Another group of DMEI ophthalmologists will travel to Eswatini in late February/early March 2023. ■



Drs. Rupin Parikh (left photo), Aman Mittal (center photo), and Brayden Barrientez (right photo) evaluate patients in the Good Shepherd Eye Clinic in Siteki, Eswatini. In the center photo, Dr. Jonathan Pons (foreground) explains the findings to the patient.

AM RETURNS TO ESWATINI



Pictured with donated medications and eye care supplies are (left to right) Drs. Bradley Farris, Gregory Skuta, and Jonathan Pons. They are joined by Dr. Zwane (left center) and another member of the eye care team (right center) at Mbabane (Eswatini) Government Hospital.



Pictured (left to right) are Drs. Jonathan Pons, Gregory Skuta, and Bradley Farris with an ophthalmic nurse (left center) and Dr. Pawulos (right center) from Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital in Manzini, Eswatini.



Drs. Aman Mittal (left) and Brayden Barrientez (center) performing manual small incision cataract surgery (MSICS) while Dr. Rupin Parikh (right) and a surgical technician observe.

Dr. Jean R. Hausheer Retires from

ON JANUARY 1, 2023, JEAN R. HAUSHEER, MD, FACS, a clinical professor and comprehensive ophthalmologist, retired from her full-time practice at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI), after 41 years (including internship and residency) of devoted service to her patients with 11 of those years at DMEI's Lawton facility.



*Jean R. Hausheer, MD, FACS
Clinical Professor*

Born in Iowa, Dr. Hausheer grew up in the Kansas City area, where she completed the combined bachelor of arts (BA)/doctor of medicine (MD) program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC). After her ophthalmology residency at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, Dr. Hausheer returned to Kansas City and established a busy and respected practice in comprehensive ophthalmology and cataract and refractive surgery. While in Kansas City, she served as residency program director for five years in the Department of Ophthalmology at the UMKC School of Medicine; as president of the Missouri State Ophthalmological Society; and as president of the Missouri State Board of Healing Arts.

Dr. Hausheer joined DMEI and the University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology

in January 2012, working predominantly in DMEI's Lawton clinic. She has assembled a remarkable record of leadership and service, receiving the Distinguished Service Award from the Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology (OAO), the LeRoy Saunders Award from the Oklahoma Council of the Blind, the Ed Calhoun, MD Leadership in Medicine Award from the Oklahoma State Medical Association (OSMA), and the Senior Achievement Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO). Dr. Hausheer has served as president of both the OAO and OSMA, and is currently president of the Christian Ophthalmology Society.

Dr. Hausheer also serves on the Healthier Oklahoma Coalition and was appointed by the Oklahoma Attorney General to serve on the Oklahoma Opioid Overdose Fatality Review Board. She chaired the AAO's Committee on Resident Education for a number of years and has served as an Oral Examiner for the American Board of Ophthalmology since 1994, helping administer 25 examinations. In addition, Dr. Hausheer was the executive editor of the second and third editions of the AAO's *Basic Techniques in Ophthalmic Surgery* textbook.



Dr. Jean Hausheer operating at Comanche County Memorial Hospital in Lawton on August 11, 2022, her last surgical day.

DMEI's Lawton Facility

She has participated in DMEI's global eye care program, traveling to southeastern Africa to serve patients in need, and has also volunteered with Samaritan's Purse and Mercy Ship Africa.

Dr. Hausheer will continue to see patients at the Lawton Indian Clinic during the first part of 2023. She and her husband James "Jim" Meyer, who retired from his position as US Foods' director of business development for healthcare foodservice in 2016 (after 25 years with US Foods), also look forward to spending more time with their blended family of six children and seven grandchildren.

"We are deeply grateful to Dr. Jean Hausheer for all of the good that she has done for the citizens of our state, for DMEI, and for the profession of ophthalmology," said R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA. "May the next phase of her life be truly blessed!" ■



On December 21, a retirement reception honoring Dr. Hausheer was held at DMEI's Lawton facility.

Back (left to right): Margie Murrow, Carmen Olivas, Dr. Ann Acers-Warn, Kathy Schemonia, Dr. Jean Hausheer, Ramona Burrus, Diane Hoppmann, Julie Cole, Esha Mafnas, and Jaimee Juarez. Front (left to right): Dr. Brad Nuttall, Eliza Hensley, and Michele Martinez.

DMEI AT NATIONAL MEETINGS



AMERICAN ACADEMY™
OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting

Chicago, Illinois

October 2022

- Kamran M. Riaz, MD
- Vinay A. Shah, MD
- R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA
- Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHSc



American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery Summer Meeting

Nashville, Tennessee

August 2022

- Kamran M. Riaz, MD



ASOPRS

American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Annual Fall Scientific Symposium

Chicago, Illinois

September 2022

- Annie Moreau, MD, FACS
- Austin L. LaGrow, MD
- Rupin N. Parikh, MD
- Elise E. Steinberger, MD



Alliance for Eye & Vision Research Eighth Annual Emerging Vision Scientists Day on Capitol Hill

Washington, District of Columbia

September 2022

- Jami M. Gurley, PhD

ROP Update

5th Biennial Retinopathy of Prematurity Update Meeting

Cleveland, Ohio

October 2022

- R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA

TRABECULAR MESHWORK STUDY CLUB

21st Annual Trabecular Meshwork Study Club

Washington, District of Columbia

December 2022

- Michael H. Elliott, PhD



Women in Ophthalmology Summer Symposium

Monterey, California

August 2022

- Maria E. Lim, MD

Dean McGee Eye Institute Proud to Be a Top Referrer to NewView Oklahoma

IN AUGUST 2022, SIX DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) OPHTHALMOLOGISTS attended a tour and luncheon at NewView Oklahoma's Oklahoma City location. As DMEI is one of NewView Oklahoma's top referral sources, NewView's leadership and staff shared the positive impact that DMEI doctors make for our city and state when they refer patients for NewView's low vision services.

Drs. Ben J. Harvey, Maria E. Lim, Andrew T. Melson, James C. O'Brien, Anil D. Patel, and R. Michael Siatkowski received a tour of the organization's Oklahoma City facility from Anita Miller, certified occupational therapy assistant; Ronita Smalley, rehabilitation community outreach manager; Lauren Branch, president and chief executive officer; Dr. Jo Pongsatien, medical director and low vision optometrist, and Dr. Nanki Kaleka, low vision optometrist.



Pictured (front to back) are Drs. Anil Patel, R. Michael Siatkowski, Maria Lim, and Andrew Melson at NewView Oklahoma's "blind luncheon."

The purpose of the tour was to help increase awareness and, working together, to continue delivering comprehensive low vision services to more Oklahomans. The tour also helped the DMEI physicians better understand the spectrum of services offered for their wide variety of patients.

The DMEI visitors also participated in a "blind luncheon." This experience, both enlightening and powerful, was implemented to help create empathy and understanding, as well as to highlight the importance of NewView Oklahoma's resources in allowing the individuals served to live independent and fulfilling lives. ■



YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

If you are an ophthalmologist with a *Doximity* profile, please plan to submit responses to this spring's surveys for 2023 - 2024 *US News & World Report's* "Best Hospitals" and *Doximity's* "Residency Navigator." Please consider selecting the Dean McGee Eye Institute/University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center as one of your choices for each survey!



FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES

Ann Acers-Warn, MD, MBA

- Began one-year term as chair of the American Board of Ophthalmology Credentials Committee.
- Began two-year term as chair of the Department of Surgical Services at Comanche County Memorial Hospital in Lawton, Oklahoma.



Endophthalmitis," *Experimental Eye Research*, Nov. 2022.

Thai Do, MD

- Presented: "Pathogenesis and Management of Thyroid Eye Disease," Dean McGee Eye Institute and Oklahoma Chapter of the American Academy of Optometry Symposium, Oklahoma City, OK, Jan. 2023.



Lea D. Bennett, PhD

- Published: Conley S.M., McClard C.K., Mwoyosvi M.L., Alkadhem N., Radojevic B., Klein M., Birch D., Ellis A., Icks S.W., Guddanti T., Bennett L.D. "Delineating the Clinical Phenotype of Patients With the c.629C>G, p.Pro210Arg Mutation in Peripherin-2," *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science*, July 2022.
- Published: Lynn J., Raney A., Britton N., Ramoin J., Yang R.W., Radojevic B., McClard C.K., Kingsley R.M., Coussa R.G., Bennett L.D. "Genetic Diagnosis for 64 patients with Inherited Retinal Disease," *Genes*, Dec. 2022.



Michael H. Elliott, PhD

- Presented: "Caveolin Function in the Trabecular Meshwork: Progress on Development of a Murine Model," 21st Annual Trabecular Meshwork Study Club, Washington, DC, Dec. 2022.
- Published: Chucair-Elliott A.J., Ocañas S.R., Pham K., Van Der Veldt M., Cheyney A., Stanford D., Gurley J., Elliott M.H., Freeman W.M. "Translational Response of Retinal Müller Glia to Acute and Chronic Stress," *Neurobiology of Disease*, Dec. 2022
- Published: Enyong E.N., Gurley J.M., De Ieso M.L., Stamer W.D., Elliott M.H. "Caveolar and Non-Caveolar Caveolin-1 in Ocular Homeostasis and Disease," *Progress in Retinal and Eye Research*, Nov. 2022.



Michelle C. Callegan, PhD

- Professional development: "Recognizing and Overcoming Bias" Webinar, Diversity Initiatives Committee Workshop, Navigating Gender/New Investigator Bias, Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO), Sept. 2022.
- Professional development: Leadership Development for "Women in ARVO" Program, Internal/External Positioning Webinar, ARVO, Oct. 2022.
- Published: Mursalin M.H., Coburn P.S., Miller F.C., Astley R., Callegan M.C. "Roles of CCL2 and CCL3 in Intraocular Inflammation During *Bacillus*



Brian K. Firestone, MD

- Serves as the primary investigator for clinical trial AU-011-202, "A Phase 2 Open-Label, Ascending Single and Repeat Dose Escalation Trial of Belzupacap Sarotalocan (AU-011) via Suprachoroidal Administration in Subjects with Primary Indeterminate Lesions and Small Choroidal Melanoma," sponsored by Aura Biosciences.



- The uveal melanoma oncology team at the Stephenson Cancer Center participated in an international phase 2 clinical trial involving Kimmtrak® (tebentafusp), a novel type of immunotherapy found to increase survival in patients with metastatic uveal melanoma. The findings were published in *Nature Medicine* in November 2022.
- Presented: “How to Approach Eye Tumors,” Dean McGee Eye Institute and Oklahoma Chapter of the American Academy of Optometry Symposium, Oklahoma City, OK, Jan. 2023.

Jami M. Gurley, PhD



- Received an Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology EyeFind Award, Oct. 2022.
- Scott Garrett, a second-year medical student in Dr. Gurley’s laboratory, received a VitreoRetinal Surgery Foundation Award, Oct. 2022.
- Poster presentation: Gurley J.M., Hargis E., Ballheim J.D., Pranay A., Batushansky A., Schafer C., Griffin T., Griffin C., Elliott M.H. “Investigation of Cellular Mechanisms Contributing to Adult Retinal Microvascular Smooth Muscle Cell Loss with Aging and Cav1 Depletion,” North American Vascular Biology Organization Conference, Oakland, CA, Oct. 2022.
- Poster presentation: Ballheim J.D., Gurley J.M. “The Role of Retinal Endothelial Cell Caveolin-1 in Smooth Muscle Cell Loss in Retina Micro-Vessels,” 111th Annual Technical Meeting, Oklahoma Academy of Science, Tulsa, OK, Nov. 2022.
- Published: Chucair-Elliott A.J., Ocañas S.R., Pham K., Van Der Veldt M., Cheyney A., Stanford D., Gurley J., Elliott M.H., Freeman W.M. “Translatomic Response of Retinal Müller Glia to Acute and Chronic Stress,” *Neurobiology of Disease*, Dec. 2022.

Ben J. Harvey, MD



- Presented: “Glaucoma: Is My Patient Progressing?,” Dean McGee Eye Institute and Oklahoma Chapter of the American Academy of Optometry Symposium, Oklahoma City, OK, Jan. 2023.

Jean R. Hausheer, MD, FACS



- Serves as District 5 Board of Trustees delegate to the Oklahoma State Medical Association (OSMA).
- Serves as co-chair to the Rural Physician Caucus at the OSMA.
- Served as co-chair of the annual OSMA Rural Physician Summit, Oklahoma City, OK, Jan. 2022 and Jan. 2023.

David W. Jackson, MD



- Presented: “The Optics of Premium IOLs,” Dean McGee Eye Institute and Oklahoma Chapter of the American Academy of Optometry Symposium, Oklahoma City, OK, Jan. 2023.

Ronald M. Kingsley, MD



- Published: Silva P.S., Liu D., Glassman A.R., Aiello L.P., Grover S., Kingsley R.M., Melia M., Sun J.K. “Assessment of Fluorescein Angiography Nonperfusion in Eyes with Diabetic Retinopathy Using Ultrawide Field Retinal Imaging,” for the Design Review Completion Report Retina Network, *Retina*, July 2022.
- Published: Lynn J., Raney A., Britton N., Ramoin J., Yang R.W., Radojevic B., McClard C.K., Kingsley R.M., Coussa R.G., Bennett L.D. “Genetic Diagnosis for 64 patients with Inherited Retinal Disease,” *Genes*, Dec. 2022.

FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES

Maria E. Lim, MD

- On-demand video editor and creator: “Stretch for Success,” Women in Ophthalmology Summer Symposium, Monterey, CA, Aug. 2022.
- Presented: “Updates in Pediatric Eye Care,” Dean McGee Eye Institute and Oklahoma Chapter of the American Academy of Optometry Symposium, Oklahoma City, OK, Jan. 2023.



Jessica L. Lucas, OD, FAAO

- Received “Best Optometrist” Award from *The Oklahoman* 2022 Readers’ Choice Awards, Aug. 2022 (please see DMEI *InVision*, summer 2022, issue 25, page 10).



Annie Moreau, MD, FACS

- Received Outstanding Teacher Award, University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, 2021-2022, Dec. 2022 (please see page 9).
- Poster presentation: Avila S., De La Garza A.G., Moreau A. “Acellular Fish Skin Graft for Periocular Reconstruction,” American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (ASOPRS) Annual Fall Scientific Symposium, Chicago, IL, Sept. 2022.
- Poster presentation: Parikh R.N., LaGrow A.L., Moreau A. “Adenocarcinoma of the Colon Presenting as Sphenoid Wing Metastasis,” ASOPRS Annual Fall Scientific Symposium, Chicago, IL, Sept. 2022.
- Poster presentation: Parikh R.N., Steinberger E.E., Tran H., Yu Z., Moreau A. “Sudden Onset Proptosis in a Child Due to Juvenile Ossifying Fibroma of the Orbit,” ASOPRS Annual Fall Scientific Symposium, Chicago, IL, Sept. 2022.



- Guest speaker: “Ophthalmic Eponyms,” Visiting Professor Conference, Department of Ophthalmology, Laval University, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada, Oct. 2022.
- Guest speaker: “Upper Eyelid Malpositions,” Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Department Conference, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC), Oklahoma City, OK, Dec. 2022.
- Guest speaker: “Ocular and Orbital Trauma,” Trauma Grand Rounds, Department of Surgery, OUHSC, Oklahoma City, OK, Dec. 2022.
- Piano concert with R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA, to benefit resident education, Inasmuch Foundation Atrium, Dean McGee Eye Institute, Oklahoma City, OK, Dec. 2022.
- Published: Sharieff J.A., Collister K.N., Moreau A., Tan J.F. “Periorbital Necrotizing Fasciitis in Oklahoma,” *Journal of the Oklahoma State Medical Association*, July/Aug. 2022.

Aman Mittal, MD

- Presented: “What’s New in Cornea,” Dean McGee Eye Institute and Oklahoma Chapter of the American Academy of Optometry Symposium, Oklahoma City, OK, Jan. 2023.



Anil D. Patel, MD, FRCSC, FACS

- Received “Best Ophthalmologist” Award from *The Oklahoman* 2022 Readers’ Choice Awards, Aug. 2022 (please see DMEI *InVision*, summer 2022, issue 25, page 10).
- Published: Fong J.W., Sharieff J.A., Patel A.D. “Outcomes of Giant Cell Arteritis Patients Treated with Tocilizumab in a Single Neuro-Ophthalmology Practice,” *Canadian Journal of Ophthalmology*, Sept. 2022, Epub ahead of print.



- Presented: “Pupillary Evaluation and Disorders,” Dean McGee Eye Institute and Oklahoma Chapter of the American Academy of Optometry Symposium, Oklahoma City, OK, Jan. 2023.

Raju V.S. Rajala, PhD



- Awarded a one-year Oklahoma Center for Adult Stem Cell Research grant, “Targeting Cell Cycle Regulators in the Retina as a Therapeutic Neuroregeneration,” Jan. 2023.
- Published: Rajala A., Teel K., Bhat M.A., Batushansk A., Griffin T.M., Purcell L., Rajala R.V.S. “Insulin-Like Growth Factor 1 Receptor Mediates Photoreceptor Neuroprotection,” *Cell Death and Disease*, July 2022.
- Published: Rajala A., Rajala R., Teel K., Rajala R.V.S. “Ribosomal Targeting Strategy and Nuclear Labeling to Analyze Photoreceptor Phosphoinositide Signatures,” *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta (BBA)-Molecular and Cell Biology of Lipids*, Aug. 2022.

Kamran M. Riaz, MD



- Appointed as a scientific program reviewer, Clinical Committee, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS) 2023 Annual Meeting, Sept. 2022.
- Appointed as a scientific program reviewer, Cataract Subcommittee, American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) 2023 Annual Meeting, Nov. 2022.
- Oral presentation: Karamichos D., Escandon P., Nicholas S., Murphy D., Van L., Cunningham R., Riaz K. “The Surprising Impact of Hormones on Keratoconus,” Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, May 2022.

- Poster presentation: Khan A., Hussain Z.S., Loya A. Shah K., Riaz K. “Early Lifetime Substance Use and Development of Significant Visual Impairment or Blindness: An Analysis of the National Survey on Drug Use and Health,” ARVO Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, May 2022.
- Oral presentation: Warmath J.D., Mian O., Dang D., Riaz K.M. “Risk Factors for Detachments Requiring Rebubbling Following Endothelial Keratoplasties at a Single Academic Institution,” World Cornea Congress VIII, Chicago, IL, Sept. 2022.
- Invited speaker: “What’s the Kraze with TK (Total Keratometry),” Southern Eye Congress 2022, Destin, FL, July 2022.
- Invited speaker: “What’s New in Biometry?,” Southern Eye Congress 2022, Destin, FL, July 2022.
- Invited speaker: “Update in Keratoconus,” Southern Eye Congress 2022, Destin, FL, July 2022.
- Panel discussant: “Challenging Corneal Cases,” Southern Eye Congress 2022, Destin, FL, July 2022.
- Lead instructor for wet labs, Phacoemulsification, Anterior Segment Surgery, Descemet Stripping Automated Endothelial Keratoplasty (DSAEK), and Descemet Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty (DMEK), ASCRS Summer Meeting, Nashville, TN, Aug. 2022.
- Invited lecturer: “Current Practice Patterns for IOL Calculations in Patients with Corneal Disease,” webinar hosted by Eversight Eye Bank, Sept. 2022.
- Skills transfer lab, “Intrascleral Haptic Fixation of IOLs,” AAO Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2022.
- Skills transfer lab, “Microsurgical Suturing Techniques,” AAO Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2022.
- Published: Wendelstein J., Heath M., Riaz K.M., Seiler T., Cooke D.L., Langenbucher A., Hoffmann P., Kohnen T. “Biometry and Intraocular Lens Power Calculation in Eyes with Prior Laser Vision Correction (LVC) – A Review,” *German, Klinische Monatsblätter der Augenheilkunde*, Aug. 2022.

FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES

Dr. Riaz, continued...

- Published: Wendelstein J., Kohnen T., Casazza M., Heath M., Riaz K.M., Cooke D.L., Hoffmann P., Langenbucher A. "Update on Biometry and Lens Calculation – A Review of the Basic Principles and New Developments," German, *Klinische Monatsblätter der Augenheilkunde*, Aug. 2022.
- Published: Riaz K.M., Vicente G.V., Wee D. "Optics for the New Millennium: An Absolute Review Textbook," Springer Nature Switzerland AG, Sept. 2022 (please see page 4).
- Published: Hefley B.S., Deighan C., Vasini B., Khan A., Hjortdal J., Riaz K.M., Liu Y., Karamichos D. "Revealing the Presence of Tear Extracellular Vesicles in Keratoconus." *Experimental Eye Research*, Nov. 2022.
- Published: Khan A., McGuffey C.D., Melson A.T., Riaz K.M. "Acute Anterior Uveitis with HLA-B27 Positivity After Corneal Crosslinking with Previous IntraStromal Corneal Ring Segment," *Case Reports in Ophthalmological Medicine*, Nov. 2022.
- Published: Khan A., Riaz K.M., Rangu N., Shah V.A., Hussain Z.S., Khaimi M.A. "Incidence and Clinical Characteristics of Postoperative Endophthalmitis After Ab-Interno Canaloplasty," *Clinical Ophthalmology*, Nov. 2022.
- Published: Cooke D.L., Riaz K.M., Murphy D.A., Findl O., Langenbucher A., Gu D., Basti S., Cannon N., Pantanelli S.M., Bolz M., Wendelstein J. "The CRW1 Index: Identification of Eyes with Previous Myopic Laser Vision Correction Using Only a Swept-Source OCT Biometer," *American Journal of Ophthalmology*, Nov. 2022, Epub ahead of print.

(The CRW Index stands for Cooke-Riaz-Wendelstein Index, which, if placed on devices used to calculate intraocular lens powers, can readily identify eyes that have had previous laser vision correction.)

- Published: Wendelstein J.A., Reifeltshammer S.A., Cooke D.L., Hirnschall N., Hoffmann P.C., Langenbucher A., Bolz M., Riaz K.M. "The 10,000 Eyes Study: Analysis of Keratometry, Abulafia-Koch-Regression Transformation, and Biometric Eye Parameters Obtained with Swept-Source Optical Coherence Tomography," *American Journal of Ophthalmology*, Jan. 2023.

R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA



- Served on the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Nominating Committee.
- Began term as trustee-at-large on the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology Board of Trustees.
- Invited presentation: "Medical/Legal Considerations in Retinopathy of Prematurity," Fifth Biennial Retinopathy of Prematurity Update Meeting 2022, Cleveland, OH, Oct. 2022.
- Invited presentation: "Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus," Academy Café, American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2022.
- Piano concert with Annie Moreau, MD, FACS, to benefit resident education, Inasmuch Foundation Atrium, Dean McGee Eye Institute, Oklahoma City, OK, Dec. 2022.

- Published: Fong J.W., Hahn-Parrot L., Siatkowski R.M. “Evaluation and Management of Symptomatic Vertical Strabismus and Diplopia,” *Journal of Binocular Vision and Ocular Motility*, Oct.–Dec. 2022.
- Published: Aggarwal S., Wisely C.E., Syed M., Siatkowski R.M., Challa P. “Learning From the 2021 Ophthalmology Match: Virtual Residency Matching During the COVID-19 Pandemic,” *Journal of Graduate Medical Education*, Dec. 2022.

Gregory L. Skuta, MD



- Visiting professor: “Advances in Glaucoma Care: A Career Perspective,” Department of Ophthalmology, Renaissance School of Medicine, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY, Oct. 2022.
- Published: Skuta G.L., Ding K., Lum F., Coleman A.L. “An IRIS Registry-Based Assessment of Primary Open-Angle Glaucoma Practice Patterns in Academic Versus Nonacademic Settings (AOS Thesis),” *American Journal of Ophthalmology*, Oct. 2022.
- Published: Kolomeyer N.N., Gupta D., Rhodes L.A., Maltzman J.S., Skuta G.L., Tsai J.C., Turalba A.V., Stein J.D., Emerick G. “Glaucoma Surgery and Lasers Should Be Performed by Surgeons (AGS Position Statement),” *Ophthalmology Glaucoma*, Nov./Dec. 2022.

Jeremy F. Tan, MD



- Presented: “Concerning Cosmetics: An Oculoplastic Perspective,” Dean McGee Eye Institute and Oklahoma Chapter of the American Academy of Optometry Symposium, Oklahoma City, OK, Jan. 2023.

Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHSc



- Received a University of Oklahoma Academy of Teaching Scholars Research Travel Grant, Dec. 2022.
- American Board of Ophthalmology Item Development Committee Leader and Oral Board Examiner.
- Workshop instructor: “Intermittent Exotropia Management,” American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2022.
- Workshop instructor: “Demystifying Dyslexia: Hints for the Ophthalmologist,” AAO Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2022.

PHILANTHROPY UPDATE

DELTA GAMMA HOSTS ANCHORSPLASH FUNDRAISER

THE LADIES OF THE ALPHA IOTA CHAPTER of Delta Gamma (DG) held their annual *Anchorsplash* event on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at the Murray Case Sells Swim Complex in Norman, Oklahoma. The philanthropic competition, in which fraternities on the University of Oklahoma (OU)-Norman campus compete, consists of three events: synchronized swimming, a relay race, and the belly flop. This is one of the most popular and well-attended student-based events at OU, and the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) was the recent recipient of half of the funds raised from *Anchorsplash*. With the \$6,150 raised in 2022, DG has now successfully raised over \$73,000 for the DMEI Foundation! ■

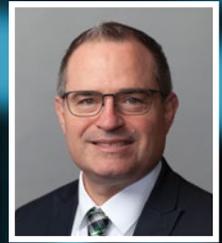


Photo courtesy of Oklahoma City Thunder.

“Where’s Rumble?” Presented by Dean McGee Eye Institute, the Preferred Eye Care Provider of the OKC Thunder

ON NOVEMBER 25, 2022, the Oklahoma City Thunder debuted its “Where’s Rumble?” promotion, which is sponsored by the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI). The promotion features the Thunder’s emcee and one lucky Thunder fan/contestant. Once the fan/contestant spots Rumble in the audience, the fan/contestant reads Rumble’s sign, “I can’t hear you, Thunder fans!!!!” Included in the Thunder prize pack for spotting Rumble is a \$150 certificate for the DMEI Optical Shop.

Promotion dates include(d) Friday, November 25; Sunday, January 8; and Sunday, March 5.



Jim Durbin
Executive Director of Development

Update on Surgical Education Efforts

IN MARCH 2022, THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) RECEIVED A \$250,000 GRANT from the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma to enhance its surgical education efforts through the acquisition of a surgical microscope, new surgical planning software, and an updated surgical recording system. The state-of-the-art Zeiss 700 series microscope that DMEI purchased represents the highest quality ophthalmic surgical microscope on the market. Having a high-quality microscope is essential for many of the complex procedures performed at the McGee Eye Surgery Center (MESC), which require optimal visualization. The model also has an actively adjustable observer microscope to facilitate advanced teaching methods and to provide the best view to surgical assistants.

The newly acquired Zeiss Veracity surgical planning software system allows surgeons to streamline the preoperative planning process and integrates all available data to help surgeons improve their patients' refractive outcomes. It interfaces directly with DMEI's measuring devices, microscopes, and, soon, the new Epic electronic health record (EHR) to provide an integrated, safe, and efficient system from start to finish. This technology will be incorporated into resident surgical training once the conversion to the Epic EHR takes place in June 2023.

The updated microsurgical recording system installed at MESC utilizes a custom microscope



In January 2023, the new Zeiss 700 series microscope with Callisto Technology was installed and is functional in this MESC operating room. This cutting-edge technology with recording capabilities allows for optimal visualization for the surgeons and their assistants. The surgical view also is broadcasted for the nursing staff and others, while the video is recorded and uploaded to a secure server for later viewing and educational use.

attachment to achieve very high definition video capture. Each surgery is recorded and automatically uploaded to a secure server, where it is labeled and archived. Surgical recordings can then be streamed and reviewed by surgeons and learners on their computers, smartphones, or other devices with the same quality and view that the primary surgeons had under the microscope.

Capturing the wealth of advanced surgeries performed at MESC with this degree of clarity has allowed DMEI to build an ever-increasing archive of surgical videos, which will serve as an exceptional resource for research and educational purposes. DMEI and MESC are deeply grateful to the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma for its support of these new technologies! ■

NEW DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE PHYSICIAN ADVISORY REP



Cynthia A. Bradford, MD
Presbyterian Health Foundation
Presidential Professor

IN DECEMBER 2022, R. MICHAEL SIATKOWSKI, MD, MBA, recognized Cynthia A. Bradford, MD, for her two years of service as an advisory member on the DMEI Board of Directors. For more than 25 years, Dr. Bradford oversaw medical student education for the University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology and the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI). In addition, she served as executive editor of the seventh and eighth editions of the American Academy of Ophthalmology's (AAO's) *Basic Ophthalmology*, which is used to teach medical students nationally and internationally.

In recognition of her longstanding commitment to education, Dr. Bradford, who is a Presbyterian Health Foundation Presidential Professor, has received the Gaylord Faculty Honor Award (1992), two Excellence in Attending at VA Awards (2001 and 2006), an OU Regents' Award for Superior Teaching (2011), and an M. Dewayne Andrews, MD Excellence in Teaching Award in Clinical Education (of medical students) in 2019.

A native of Texas, Dr. Bradford is a graduate of Texas A&M University (*magna cum laude*) and earned her medical degree (high honors, Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society) from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. She completed her ophthalmology residency at DMEI/OU and subsequently joined the faculty here in 1987. To learn more about Dr. Bradford, including her state and national service, please see page 5.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESENTATIVE



*Carolyn E. Kloek, MD
Clinical Associate Professor*

In January 2023, Dr. Carolyn E. Kloek, who is a comprehensive ophthalmologist and cataract surgeon at DMEI/OU, succeeded Dr. Bradford as a rotating faculty advisory member on the DMEI Board of Directors. She will serve in this role for two years. Dr. Kloek is a clinical associate professor and associate residency program director at DMEI and in the OU Department of Ophthalmology. She serves as senior vice president of clinical strategy and integration for OU Health and also as vice chair for quality and innovation for DMEI and the OU Department of Ophthalmology. At the December 2022 meeting of the DMEI Board of Directors, Dr. Kloek provided a DMEI quality update.

Dr. Kloek joined the DMEI/OU faculty in January 2019. Previously, she served as associate residency program director, then as residency program director, and in other administrative leadership roles at Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts Eye and Ear in Boston, where she earned her medical degree, completed her residency in ophthalmology, and established herself as an outstanding educator and innovator.

Born in St. Louis, Dr. Kloek completed her undergraduate degree at Dartmouth College. In 2020, she received DMEI's E.L. and Thelma Gaylord Faculty Honor Award for her outstanding performance as a resident educator. ■



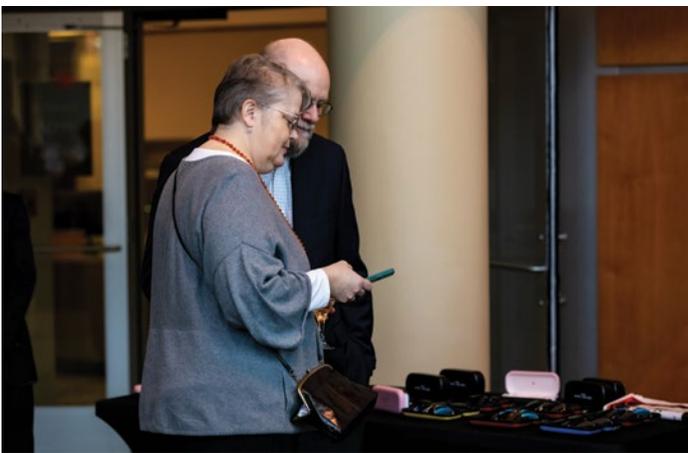
The two-part concert by Drs. Annie Moreau (left) and R. Michael Siatkowski (right) featured beautiful holiday melodies and was enjoyed by DMEI donors; members of the OU Health and OU College of Medicine administration; DMEI/OU faculty, staff, residents, and fellows; and guests.

RESIDENT EDUCATION BENEFIT CONCERT AND SILENT AUCTION

A PIANO CONCERT AND SILENT AUCTION were held on Sunday, December 4 in the Inasmuch Foundation Atrium of the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI). The afternoon's featured concert-level pianists included Annie Moreau, MD, FACS, and R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA. The fundraising event was sponsored by Edmond Music with proceeds benefiting resident education. Attendees were able to bid on an array of silent auction items, and over \$53,000 was raised thanks to everyone's participation and generosity! ■



A rousing dual-Steinway piano performance of "Oklahoma!" was performed as the afternoon's encore.



A sunglass pull from the DMEI Optical Shop offered a wide variety of designer sunglasses for purchase, with proceeds benefiting resident education.



Silent auction items included autographed musical artist memorabilia, vacation packages, designer luggage, OKC Thunder tickets, and more.

DMEI Docs Working Hard to Save

A MULTI-SUBSPECIALTY TEAM OF DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) PHYSICIANS has been working together for more than six months in an all-out effort to save the eye of a very special patient – a young boy whose family are Afghan refugees.

Hedayatullah “Hedya” Amin was only four years old when another young child accidentally stabbed him in the right eye with a needle,

piercing the cornea. Adequate care was not available in the family’s native Afghanistan, so the family traveled to Pakistan, where the child’s eye wound was sutured.

The family returned home, but 18 months later, before any follow-up treatment could be provided for Hedya’s eye, they were forced to flee Afghanistan during the pullout of United States military troops in 2021. After stops in Qatar and Germany, they eventually ended up in Oklahoma as part of a group of Afghans who were offered sanctuary by Governor J. Kevin Stitt. Soon after their arrival, the now six-year-old Hedya was referred to DMEI.

After an initial examination by Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski, Hedya’s care was next provided by corneal specialist Kamran M. Riaz, MD, who confirmed the presence of a significant corneal scar



Six-year-old Hedayatullah Amin with his father, Muhebullah, before surgery at the McGee Eye Surgery Center.

the Eye of Young Refugee

BY STACI ELDER HENSLEY

and sutures from the original closure that were loose or broken, plus lens damage in the form of a traumatic cataract, and adhesions and injury of the iris.

“When I saw the patient, he was very light sensitive and could hardly open his eyes. I felt so bad for this small kid because I could only imagine how much pain he bravely had to face for months,” Dr. Riaz said. While challenging both medically and logistically, the team performed surgery on Hedy in July 2022, which included removal of the cataract, lysis of iris adhesions, and placement of an intraocular lens. A second procedure followed in early August to remove additional loose stitches.

Although Hedy’s vision had improved, he developed scar tissue behind the lens implant, causing it to shift. Dr. Riaz is coordinating his ongoing care with DMEI ophthalmologists Dr. Razeq G. Coussa, a retinal surgeon with expertise in pediatric retinal surgery and training in pediatric ophthalmology, and Dr. Tammy L. Yanovitch, an experienced pediatric ophthalmologist. The child has also been prescribed glasses to help rehabilitate his vision and keep the eye protected.

The DMEI team anticipates that Hedy will require one or more additional surgical procedures and is monitoring him closely.

“Unfortunately, the visual prognosis is unknown at this time. There isn’t a very good chance that he will have normal vision in the eye,” Dr. Riaz said. “However, it’s a miracle that we were able to save the eye itself and maintain any vision at all. Fortunately, his left eye is excellent.”

Whatever the final outcome, “The Amin family is very grateful for all the doctors and staff at Dean McGee, especially Dr. Riaz, for making sure the family always knew what was going on and for doing everything in their power to help their son,” said Amy Smith, caseworker with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, which is sponsoring the family.

“Hedayatullah is very happy now, and his morale has lifted,” Smith said. “He is now able to watch TV and doesn’t shy away from playing with other children as he did in the past. He is also able to study now and has an overall improved quality of life.” ■

Grant and Gift from The Noble Foundation Support Surgical Training and Scientific Programs



DMEI resident, Elise E. Steinberger, MD, MS, training with updated EYESI virtual surgical simulator.



Richard S. "Steve" Brush, research instructor and systems manager for DMEI's lipid core facility, with one of the two mass spectrometers recently donated to the Institute by The Noble Foundation. The other mass spectrometer can be seen behind Dr. Martin-Paul Agbaga on page 39.

THE SAMUEL ROBERTS **NOBLE** FOUNDATION

THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) IS ONE OF THE PREMIER SURGICAL TRAINING PROGRAMS in the nation for ophthalmologists.

Crucial to this success is a state-of-the-art microsurgical training laboratory in which residents learn surgical techniques using both an EYESI virtual surgical simulator and animal cadaver eyes. In November 2022, DMEI received a \$50,000 grant from The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation to update this microsurgical wet lab in the Sarkeys Foundation Microsurgical Education Center with certain pieces of equipment and a software upgrade for the simulator, along with necessary surgical tools and supplies to support the training efforts.

In addition, The Noble Foundation has graciously donated to DMEI two mass spectrometers, which are scientific instruments that measure the masses and relative concentrations of atoms and molecules by making use of the basic magnetic forces on moving charged particles. If DMEI had to purchase these items directly, the cost would have been approximately \$900,000.

We are grateful to The Noble Foundation for allowing DMEI to continue to pursue our missions of producing highly skilled ophthalmic surgeons and advancing scientific discovery. ■

MARTIN-PAUL AGBAGA, PhD, RECEIVES GRANT FROM AMERICAN MACULAR DEGENERATION FOUNDATION



JUVENILE AUTOSOMAL DOMINANT STARGARDT MACULAR DYSTROPHY (STDG3) is a rare genetic eye disease that occurs when fatty materials build up behind the macula (the small area of the retina needed for sharp, central vision) to produce vision loss, usually beginning in childhood. Dean McGee Eye Institute vision researcher Martin-Paul Agbaga, PhD, has received a two-year American Macular Degeneration Foundation (AMDF) Stargardt Breakthrough Award in an amount just under \$230,000. Dr. Agbaga is an assistant professor in the Departments of Cell Biology and Ophthalmology at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) and a research leader in the field of very long chain fatty acid lipid metabolism as it relates to retinal diseases and other health conditions.

A native of Ghana in West Africa, Dr. Agbaga received his bachelor of science degree with first class honors from Ghana's University of Cape Coast, and completed his master's degree and PhD in cell biology at OUHSC. He also pursued his postdoctoral fellowship training at OUHSC in the laboratory of Dr. Robert E. "Gene" Anderson before becoming an assistant professor of research and then assistant professor. Dr.

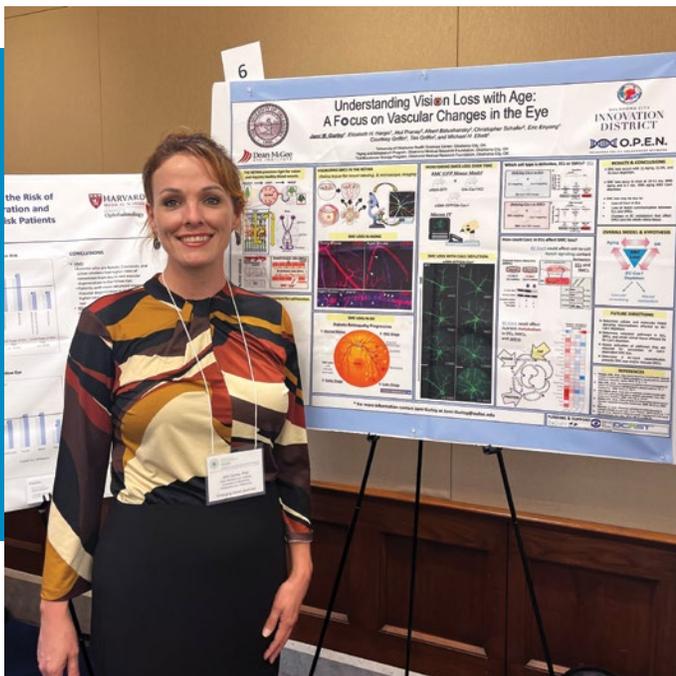


*Martin-Paul Agbaga, PhD
Assistant Professor
Departments of Cell Biology and Ophthalmology*

Agbaga's current or recent funding also includes support from the National Institutes of Health (R01 and R21), Presbyterian Health Foundation, and Harold Hamm Diabetes Center.

This award was made possible by a generous gift to the AMDF from the Estate of Harry B. Hubbard. It will support Dr. Agbaga's efforts to better define and design effective therapeutic strategies to prevent or at least delay the onset of retinal cell death in STDG3 patients. Findings from this project may ultimately benefit patients with age-related macular degeneration (AMD), the leading cause of blindness over the age of 65 in the United States, as well. ■

Emerging Vision Scientist, Jami M. Gurley, PhD, Educates and Advocates on



Dr. Jami Gurley pictured with her research poster on Capitol Hill.

ON SEPTEMBER 21 - 22, 2022, THE ALLIANCE FOR EYE AND VISION RESEARCH (AEVR), with support from Research to Prevent Blindness, held its Eighth Annual Emerging Vision Scientist (EVS) Program. The program engaged 21 early-stage scientific investigators nominated by their Departments of Ophthalmology or Schools/Colleges of Optometry from leading institutions across the United States. Jami M.

Gurley, PhD, an assistant professor of research in the University of Oklahoma Department of Ophthalmology whose laboratory is housed in the Dean McGee Eye Institute, was among the participants.

The program returned to Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, after two years of virtual events. It included AEVR's *Age-Related Macular Degeneration Awareness Week* Congressional Briefing on September 21 along with poster presentations by each of the 21 young scientists, in which they described their research and its potential promise for patients. The poster presentations were accompanied by a Congressional Reception in the Rayburn House Office Building.

On September 22, and under the auspices of the National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (NAEVR), the EVSs visited their Congressional delegation offices to request robust appropriations to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Eye Institute (NEI). After thanking Members for NIH/NEI funding increases in the FY2022 timeframe, they urged them to finalize FY2023 appropriations expeditiously with NIH funding at slightly over \$49 billion and NEI funding at \$950 million.

Gurley, PhD, Capitol Hill

“It was an honor to discuss the impact of eye and vision diseases and the disproportionately lower amount of eye and vision research funding compared to other areas of health research. The Congressional staff were very receptive and interested in learning more about the impact of eye and vision research on the community, scientific researchers, and the economy,” said Dr. Gurley, whose research is focused on retinal microvascular diseases. “I was also thrilled to interact with other junior investigators from across the nation.”

The Alliances designed this program to be an important component of these early-career vision scientists’ professional development and to train the next generation of vision research advocates. The 21 participating investigators came from 17 different institutions across the United States. ■



Dr. Jami Gurley (right) pictured outside Senator James P. Lankford's office on Capitol Hill with Matthew Penner (left), legislative correspondent for Senator Lankford.

RESEARCH FACULTY— DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

Martin-Paul Agbaga, PhD
Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD*
Lea D. Bennett, PhD
Richard S. Brush, BS
Michelle C. Callegan, PhD, FARVO

Daniel J.J. Carr, PhD, FARVO
Yan Chen, PhD
Phillip S. Coburn, PhD
Michael H. Elliott, PhD, FARVO
Kevin K. Fuller, PhD

Jami M. Gurley, PhD
Feng Li, MD, MPH, MS
Raju V.S. Rajala, PhD

** Professor Emeritus*

15th Annual OU Vision Workshop an

THE 15TH ANNUAL OU VISION WORKSHOP was held September 8-9, 2022, in the Tullos O. Coston, MD Lecture Hall at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI). The keynote speaker and Sixth Annual Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD Lecturer was Tonia S.



*Tonia S. Rex, PhD
2022 Anderson Lecturer*

Rex, PhD, Spencer and Marlene Hays Director in Translational Vision Research, Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, and Associate Vice Chair for Translational Research at the Vanderbilt Eye Institute in Nashville, Tennessee. Her September 8 Anderson Lecture was entitled “Oxidative Stress: A Common Mechanism in Optic Neuritis.”

Dr. Rex earned a bachelor of science degree in biochemistry from Oakland University (Rochester, Michigan), where she studied retinal energy metabolism and oxidative stress. She then obtained her PhD in molecular, cellular, and developmental biology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, studying the molecular and cellular effects of retinal detachment on photoreceptors. Dr. Rex completed her postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania, where she studied retinal gene therapy.

Dr. Rex’s laboratory studies the mechanisms underlying neurodegeneration of the visual system caused by glaucoma and ocular trauma and tests the efficacy of neuroprotective therapies. The Rex laboratory employs a murine (mouse) model, together with pharmacological, gene, microparticle, and cell replacement therapy approaches, to investigate new ways to preserve or restore sight after indirect traumatic optic neuropathy.

Additionally, Dr. Rex holds six patents, focused on a mutated form of erythropoietin (EPO), which is neuroprotective and also attenuates rises in red blood cell counts, making it safer for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases. Her laboratory uses recombinant adeno-associated viruses as a vehicle for the mutated EPO in murine models of glaucoma and ocular neurotrauma.

Dr. Rex has received several awards, including the Hope for Vision Young Investigator Award (2006), the Shaffer Prize for Innovative Glaucoma Research from the Glaucoma Research Foundation (2011), and the Research to Prevent Blindness Career Development Award (2011). Dr. Rex was also a winner of the National Eye Institute (NEI) Audacious Goals Challenge in 2013 for her goal of “Functional and Structural Neuroregeneration.” She is funded by the NEI to investigate mechanisms and therapy in glaucoma and by the Department of Defense to identify therapeutics for ocular trauma.

6th Annual Anderson Lectureship

More on the OU Vision Workshop

Vision research trainees presented their work in oral presentations all day on September 9. After the trainee presentations, Dr. Rex delivered a career development lecture at the workshop entitled “Passion, Perseverance, and Purpose.”

To cap the two-day event, a celebratory awards dinner was held at The Venue at Crew in downtown Oklahoma City. Postdoctoral fellow Dr. Huzzatul Mursalin, from Michelle C. Callegan, PhD’s laboratory, won the OU Vision Workshop’s R.E. Anderson Award for Best Paper, which was entitled “Therapeutic Potential of *Bacillus* Phage Lysin PlyB in Ocular Infection.” Graduate student Manali Kamath, from Kevin K. Fuller, PhD’s laboratory, received the OU Vision Workshop’s Wei Cao Award for Innovation. Her paper was entitled “Exploring the Role of Unfolded Protein Response as a Target for Treating *Aspergillus* Keratitis.” ■



Award winners Manali Kamath (second from left) and Dr. Huzzatul Mursalin (center) pictured with Drs. Tonia Rex, the 2022 Anderson Lecturer (third from left), and Michelle Callegan, DMEI’s director of vision research (third from right). Also shown are Drs. Kevin Fuller (far left), Yan Chen (second from right), and R. Michael Siatkowski (far right).

7th Annual Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD Lecture
Thursday, September 7, 2023

16th Annual OU Vision Workshop
Thursday/Friday, September 7 - 8, 2023

Tullio O. Coston, MD Lecture Hall, Dean McGee Eye Institute, Acers Pavilion, Fifth Floor

Steven J. Fliesler, PhD

Past President, Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology
State University of New York Distinguished Professor
Meyer H. Riwchun Endowed Chair Professor
Vice Chair and Director of Research
Department of Ophthalmology
Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
University at Buffalo

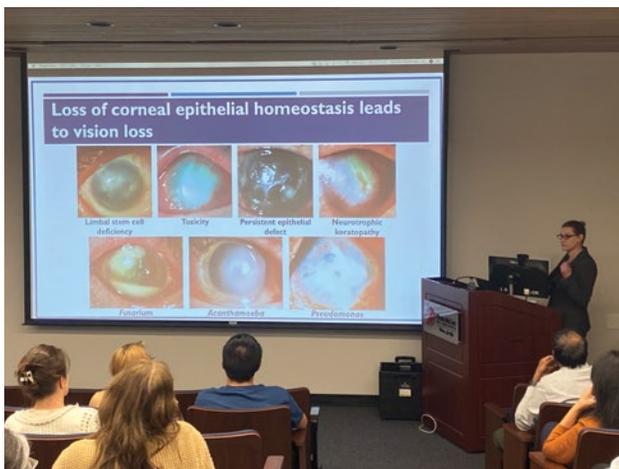
SAVE THE DATE



OU Vision Club Seminar Series

THE OU VISION CLUB is proud to host visits and seminars by local, national, and international experts in vision research. The Vision Club Seminar Series is held at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and is sponsored by DMEI and the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

Recent Event:



NOVEMBER 10, 2022

Danielle M. Robertson, OD, PhD

Professor

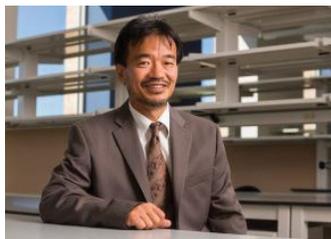
Department of Ophthalmology

Director, Advanced Dry Eye Specialty Clinic

University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas

“The Role of IGFBP-3 in Health and Disease: A Tale of Two Pathways”

Upcoming Event:



APRIL 6, 2023

Akihiro Ikeda, PhD

Professor

Department of Medical Genetics

McPherson Eye Research Institute

University of Wisconsin-Madison

University of Oklahoma Ophthalmology Interest Group

ON AUGUST 16, 2022, the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) hosted the University of Oklahoma (OU) Ophthalmology Interest Group for a donated spectacle (eyeglass) lens power reading/sorting event. Ten current or recent OU medical students gathered on a Sunday afternoon and measured the prescriptions of hundreds of pairs of spectacles that had been donated to those in need. Laura Ransom, medical student education coordinator and former ophthalmic technician; Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHSc, a clinical professor at DMEI and director of medical student education; and Michael T. Heath, MD, a 2022 OU medical graduate currently engaged in a pre-residency preceptorship at DMEI, taught the medical students how to read an eyeglass prescription. ■



Pictured (left to right) are Raneem Khattab (fourth-year medical student, MS4), Olivia Barber (MS4), Osamah Mian (MS3), Neal Rangu (MS2), Umar Sandhu (MS2), David Hoang (MS2), Macey Blakeley (MS2), Michael "Cole" McDonald (MS2), Emily Taylor (MS2), and Michael Heath, MD.

SECOND MANUAL SMALL INCISION CATARACT SURGERY COURSE HELD AT DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE



A resident physician practices manual small incision cataract surgery (MSICS) techniques during the SEE International course at DMEI.

THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) was very fortunate to partner with SEE International for the second time in 2022 in hosting a manual small incision cataract surgery (MSICS) level 1 course at DMEI on October 29.

SEE faculty member Dr. Glenn H. Strauss joined DMEI faculty members Drs. Andrew K. Bailey, Bradley K. Farris, and Andrew T. Melson in training five residents and two faculty members in this vital surgical technique.

"The course was an amazing success, as before. All attending were very grateful for the excellent instruction and hands-on experience," said Dr. Farris, professor emeritus in the OU College of Medicine.

The surgical principles from the MSICS course were subsequently applied by DMEI faculty member Aman Mittal, MD, and two residents (Brayden R. Barrientez, MD, and Rupin N. Parikh, MD) during their experience in Eswatini in November 2022 (please see pages 18-19).

THE 30TH ANNUAL WALTER J. STARK

THE 30TH ANNUAL WALTER J. STARK MEMORIAL LECTURE was delivered by James Chodosh, MD, MPH, in the Tullos O. Coston, MD Lecture Hall at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) on October 17, 2022. His presentation was entitled “The Corneal Ulcer Project.”

Dr. Chodosh was appointed professor and inaugural chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine effective September 1, 2022. Prior to assuming his leadership role in New Mexico, Dr. Chodosh was the Edith Ives Cogan Professor of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School (HMS) and Massachusetts Eye and Ear in Boston. There he served as vice chair for education, director of diversity and inclusion, associate director of the cornea and refractive surgery service, associate director of the infectious disease institute, director of the ocular burn service, and director of Boston Keratoprosthesis. Dr. Chodosh was also a member of the PhD program in virology at HMS, and was a key author for the American Academy of Ophthalmology's web pages on COVID-19, which garnered over 1.5 million views.

Born in New Jersey, Dr. Chodosh earned his undergraduate degree from Hampshire College (Amherst, Massachusetts) and pursued



Dr. James Chodosh (left center) pictured with members of the Stark family and Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski (far right), DMEI's chief executive officer and department chair during the 30th Annual Walter J. Stark Memorial Lecture reception.

additional premedical studies at New York University (New York City). He completed his medical school education and residency in ophthalmology at Baylor College of Medicine (Houston), clinical fellowship in cornea and external disease at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute (Miami), postdoctoral research fellowship in virology/molecular biology/infectious diseases at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (Memphis), and master of public health degree at the University of Oklahoma (OU).

Dr. Chodosh served on the DMEI/OU faculty from 1995 to 2008, rising to the rank of professor with tenure, serving as residency

MEMORIAL LECTURESHIP

program director, and holding the M.G. McCool Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology. He served as chair of the Anterior Eye Disease National Institutes of Health (NIH) Study Section and was on the National Advisory Eye Council for the NIH. Currently, he is chair of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Dermatologic and Ophthalmic Drugs Advisory Committee.

Dr. Chodosh has published over 375 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters, and was co-editor-in-chief of the *British Journal of Ophthalmology*. He is a recipient of the Alcon Research Institute Award and four awards from Research to Prevent Blindness. A dedicated teacher with many teaching and mentorship awards, he has personally trained over 70 clinical cornea fellows, and has mentored over 20 medical students under-represented in medicine.

Dr. Chodosh is internationally known and respected for his work on viral genomics and pathogenesis, and on development and use of

the Boston keratoprosthesis for severe corneal blindness. His basic research program on adenovirus pathogenesis and evolution has been continuously funded by the NIH since 1996, and his current funding runs through 2027. Dr. Chodosh also invented and patented a new, low-cost keratoprosthesis, the “Lucia,” to address corneal blindness in low-resource countries.

His primary clinical interests include infectious eye disease, ocular chemical injury, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, and the restoration of sight in patients with seemingly hopeless cases of corneal blindness via the Boston keratoprosthesis. Dr. Chodosh is dedicated to improving the quality of life for every person with vision loss, particularly those who may be otherwise underserved, and to growing diversity, equity, and inclusion in his chosen profession of ophthalmology.

It was an honor for the Dean McGee Eye Institute to welcome Dr. James Chodosh back as the 30th Walter J. Stark Memorial Lecturer! ■



SAVE THE DATE: Monday, October 16, 2023
THE 31ST ANNUAL WALTER J. STARK MEMORIAL LECTURESHIP
8:30 am–9:30 am • Tullos O. Coston, MD Lecture Hall

Daniel J. Briceland, MD

President, American Academy of Ophthalmology
Immediate Past Chair, Ophthalmic Mutual Insurance Company
Comprehensive Ophthalmology/Cataract Surgery
Sun City West, Arizona

Seven Medical Students Present at ASCRS

THE 2022 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CATARACT AND REFRACTIVE SURGERY (ASCRS) was held April 22-26, 2022, in Washington, DC. The meeting is internationally recognized for its focus on education and technological advances relevant to anterior segment surgery, which help attendees from across the globe acquire knowledge to improve surgical outcomes and patient care. There are hundreds of research submissions each year, and typically, only a few (if any) medical students from a single institution would be selected for the program. Amazingly, **seven** medical students (at the time) from the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Medicine were in attendance at the 2022 meeting: Deanna H. Dang (MS4), Michael T. Heath (MS4), Jacob A. Rogers (MS4), Raj P. Patel (MS4), Asher Khan (MS3-4, taking a research year), James Colton Hill (MS2), and Anushka M. Raj (MS2). For more information, please see DMEI *InVision*, winter 2022, issue 24, pages 44-45.

In the spring of 2022, these seven medical students' articles were published on the *Ophthalmology Times* Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) microsite web page. Pageviews for the top three articles as of early November 2022 can be seen below.

Article	Pageviews
“Patients with Higher Preoperative Measurements of Angle Kappa and Angle Alpha May Experience Blurry Vision, Dry Eyes Following Cataract Surgery” - Anushka M. Raj	1,679
“Accurate Refractive Predictions Remain Difficult in Patients with Keratoconus” - Michael T. Heath	993
“Study Compares Postoperative Refractive Accuracy of Formula-Modified Keratometry Values Versus Total Keratometry Values Obtained by a Swept-Source OCT Biometer with New-Generation Multivariable IOL Calculation Formulas” – Jacob A. Rogers	685

Kamran M. Riaz, MD, served as the faculty mentor and senior author for these articles. Dr. Riaz is a clinical associate professor at DMEI/OU, received a Faculty Aesculapian Award from the OU College of Medicine in April 2022, was named director of medical student research at DMEI in July 2022, and co-edited a new optics textbook, which was published in September 2022 (please see page 4). ■

Three of the Dean McGee Eye Institute's five PGY-4 residents will be continuing with ophthalmology subspecialty training as fellows during the 2023-2025 academic years. Congratulations to Drs. Christian A. Leal, Cynthia K. McClard, and Rupin N. Parikh!



Christian A. Leal, MD
Vitreoretinal Surgery Fellowship
Emory University School of Medicine
Atlanta, Georgia



Cynthia K. McClard, MD, PhD
Vitreoretinal Surgery Fellowship
Cincinnati Eye Institute
Cincinnati, Ohio



Rupin N. Parikh, MD
Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive
Surgery Fellowship
University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa



SAVE THE DATE!
DMEI Ophthalmology Symposium 2023
47th Annual OU Resident and Alumni Meeting
Friday/Saturday, June 9 – June 10, 2023

43rd Annual Tullos O. Coston, MD Lecture (June 10)

Judy E. Kim, MD

*Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences
Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
President, American Society of Retina Specialists
Past Trustee-at-Large, American Academy of Ophthalmology*

FROM FELLOW DMEI RESIDENTS TO BUSINESS PARTNERS: Drs. Matthew Traynor and Joshua Fullmer Offer Patients a ‘Premier’ Experience

BY STACI ELDER HENSLEY

WHEN ASPIRING OPHTHALMOLOGISTS DRs. JOSHUA R. FULLMER AND MATTHEW P. TRAYNOR graduated from medical school at the University of Utah and the University of Virginia, respectively, both sought advice from mentors, professors, and fellow students about where to apply for their residency.

Overwhelmingly, both were told about the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and the exceptional training opportunities they would receive there – if they could meet the entry standard. Fast forward a bit, and, as you would expect, both young physicians were thrilled when they were selected to become DMEI residents – Dr. Fullmer graduating in 2007 and Dr. Traynor in 2008. Dr. Traynor would also complete a glaucoma fellowship at DMEI in 2008-2009.

Although separated by one year in their training, the two quickly became friends as well as colleagues, bonding through their DMEI experiences and their mutual faith as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They became such good friends, in fact, that Dr. Fullmer would end up convincing Dr. Traynor, an Arizona native, to move to his own home state of Idaho, eventually merging their practices several years later in January 2021. Interestingly, four other Idaho ophthalmologists also obtained their residency and/or fellowship training at DMEI.

Prior to his residency, Dr. Fullmer earned a bachelor’s degree in zoology from Brigham Young University (BYU) and his medical degree from the University of Utah School of Medicine, where he was named to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. He completed an internship at Deaconess Hospital in Spokane, Washington.

Dr. Traynor, meanwhile, graduated *magna cum laude* from BYU with a business management/finance degree, then earned his medical degree from the University of Virginia School of Medicine, where he received its medical student teaching award. Prior to his DMEI residency, Dr. Traynor completed an internship with the Tucson Hospitals Medical Education Program.

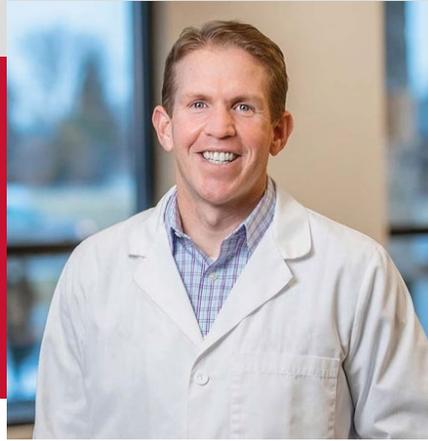
Practicing Together

Once Dr. Fullmer’s DMEI residency concluded in 2008, and since there was no established ophthalmology practice near his hometown of Rexburg, Idaho, he took what is now considered an unusual step.

“I hadn’t completely decided whether I was going to come home, but I felt it was the right decision, so I just came back and hung up a shingle,” he said. “While doing this, I drew on my friends and mentors at DMEI, and they gave me so much good advice and support.”



Joshua R. Fullmer, MD



Matthew P. Traynor, MD

“I’m grateful that DMEI gave me the training and experience to be comfortable coming back here and essentially being on my own,” Dr. Fullmer added. “I really feel the excellence as a training institution made the difference. There are some places with adequate training but that wouldn’t have left me with that comfort level to open my own practice.”

Dr. Traynor, meanwhile, had completed his glaucoma fellowship and was trying to determine where he wanted to practice. He and his family had visited the Fullmer family in Idaho several times, and they all fell in love with the area. After two years with a private practice in Idaho Falls, Dr. Traynor went out on his own in 2011, establishing Premier Eye Care of Eastern Idaho. Over the past 12 years, it has expanded to three locations, staffed by six specialized ophthalmologists, one optometrist, and more than 50 additional employees. (One of those locations is Dr. Fullmer’s former solo practice in Rexburg.)

All three offices provide comprehensive eye care. Dr. Fullmer sees patients of all ages, and while he performs more than 600 cataract surgeries each year, he said he particularly enjoys working with pediatric patients and treating challenging strabismus cases.

Dr. Traynor, meanwhile, said he conducts approximately 500 clinic visits and 50 surgeries each month, with roughly two-thirds of his practice being glaucoma patients.

Outside the office, both men are dedicated to their families, and each has six children, ranging in age from their early 20s to elementary school.

Dr. Traynor continues to support his alma mater through the DMEI Foundation. He is an Acers Society lifetime member, and also supports the DMEI Alumni Professorship and the Gregory L. Skuta, MD Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology.

“I am very grateful for the training I received at Dean McGee and how it prepared me for success in my career as an ophthalmologist,” he said. “In particular, I appreciated the support given to residents during training, the teaching and example of the attending physicians, and the friendship and mentorship of Dr. Greg Skuta, who was both my glaucoma mentor as well as the chair of the (University of Oklahoma) Ophthalmology Department based at Dean McGee. While I cannot adequately repay DMEI and everyone there for all they have given me, I hope that my contributions will support the training of future ophthalmologists and contribute to the continued excellent care of its patients.” ■

Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma Distinguished Lecture Series



OCTOBER 31, 2022

Denise R. Chamblee, MD* and Linda D. Harrison, PhD**

Risk Management, Ophthalmic Mutual Insurance Company (OMIC)

Topic: "Best Practices in Informed Consent"

** Dr. Chamblee (right center) is a pediatric ophthalmologist in Newport News, Virginia, a resident alumna of the Dean McGee Eye Institute/University of Oklahoma, and past chair of OMIC's Risk Management Committee.*

*** Dr. Harrison (left center) is OMIC's vice president for risk management.*



JANUARY 9, 2023

John E. Sutphin Jr., MD

Luther and Ardis Fry Professor and Chair
Department of Ophthalmology
University of Kansas
Kansas City, Kansas

Topic: "Thirty Years of Confocal Microscopy in Academia"

Dr. Sutphin (center) with DMEI residents, fellows, and faculty.



UPCOMING: APRIL 3, 2023

Michael S. Lee, MD

Professor
Mackall-Scheie Endowed Chair
Residency Program Director
Director of Neuro-Ophthalmology
Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Neurosciences
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota

DMEI's Physicians Saving Eyesight

FOR PROFESSIONAL AND ASPIRING ATHLETES, WEEKEND WARRIORS

BY STACI ELDER HENSLEY

WHETHER IT'S AN NBA STAR, A COLLEGE ATHLETE ON SCHOLARSHIP, OR A WEEKEND WARRIOR WHO HAD AN UNFORESEEN ACCIDENT, SPORTS-RELATED EYE INJURIES RUN THE GAMUT. THERE ARE ALSO MANY NON-INJURY-RELATED ISSUES THAT IMPACT THESE ATHLETES, SUCH AS DOUBLE VISION, LIGHT SENSITIVITY, DRY EYES, OR A DECREASE IN PERIPHERAL VISION, JUST TO NAME A FEW.

...continued on next page...

Vision-related sports injuries are frequently among the most challenging for Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) physicians. These types of sports-related cases and symptoms due to eye disease can involve a broad spectrum of conditions, and, as you would expect, so can the treatments. A young patient may need something as simple as glasses to correct a refractive error. Or, it may be a professional athlete with an orbital fracture who requires multiple surgeries to fully restore function. “Depending upon the age, type of injury, and the sport involved, no two cases are exactly the same,” said Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski, DMEI’s chief executive officer (CEO) and Edward L. Gaylord professor and chair of the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Medicine’s Department of Ophthalmology.

Who’s at Risk

About 30,000 sports-related eye injuries occur across the country each year, and 80% of those injuries occur in males, Dr. Siatkowski said.

DMEI physicians treat approximately 60 to 70 traumatic open globe cases per year, though not all are sports-connected. If the patient is local, trauma cases are frequently evaluated by DMEI clinical staff when the patient arrives at the hospital emergency room. Others are referred to DMEI for care at a later point. Once a patient with eye trauma is referred, he or she is typically seen within a matter of days.

“When you can help a professional athlete, it’s a very special thing. It goes beyond just improving vision when you know someone’s career is on the line, and you are able to do something about it that no one else can.”

At Dean McGee, Dr. Siatkowski added, the most commonly treated traumatic injuries in boys are caused by basketball and baseball, followed by a combination of paintball, pellet-gun, and other similar injuries. For girls, he said, the top injuries seen are related to softball, bicycling, and soccer.

Nationally, eye injuries are a leading cause of blindness, especially in children. However, in many cases — especially those that are sports-related — they can be prevented simply by wearing appropriate protective eyewear, Dr. Siatkowski noted. (Additional information about protective goggles and sports/vision safety tips is available through the National Eye Institute, at www.nei.nih.gov/learn-about-eye-health/nei-for-kids/sports-and-your-eyes).

Keeping Athletic Dreams Alive

In addition to treating patients from across the country, DMEI serves as the official eye care provider for the National Basketball

Association’s (NBA’s) Oklahoma City Thunder and has treated several of its players over the years.

“When you can help a professional athlete, it’s a very special thing,” Dr. Siatkowski said. “It goes beyond just improving vision when you know someone’s career is on the line,

and you’re able to do something about it that no one else can.”

One particular challenge was treatment of a top-tier baseball umpire who was left with damage to a nerve, resulting in a paralyzed eye muscle and severe double vision following a car accident. Through complex strabismus (eye muscle) surgery, Dr. Andrew T. Melson was able to reposition and transpose muscles, restoring normal eye alignment and near-normal movement, and curing the double vision.

“Following surgery, his vision and eye movement were largely restored, and he was able to resume his umpiring,” Dr. Melson said. “At least now he can confidently refute the next person who tries to call the umpire blind!”

MATTHEW SMITH

Countless other patients also have been able to resume their athletic pursuits thanks to Dean McGee’s clinical team. Among them is Matthew Smith, a college student golfer at

Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. He was referred to Dr. Siatkowski for treatment of anisometropic (related to unequal refractive error between the two eyes) amblyopia (commonly known as “lazy eye”). Treatment included specialized prescription glasses that, over time, strengthened the weak eye and allowed his eyes to begin working together properly. His vision improved steadily from 20/50 in the affected eye to 20/20.

“The other thing that happens with this type of amblyopia is that depth perception is often decreased, and his is now 100%, which is truly a cool thing,” Dr. Siatkowski said.

While he hasn’t decided yet whether to pursue golf professionally, Smith said he is glad to be playing competitively in college, and is grateful that he still has the chance to go pro, thanks to the treatment he received at DMEI.



Above: A young Matthew Smith wearing glasses.

Right: Smith playing golf for Samford University (Birmingham, Alabama).



“I had never heard of anyone getting such great results; I got very fortunate,” Smith said. “Playing pro is definitely a dream. Improving my vision is a big confidence thing for me, and having that fixed is now an aspect I don’t have to worry about.”

“I would recommend Dr. Siatkowski and the Dean McGee team to anybody,” he added. “It was definitely a different type of experience as opposed to going to a regular eye doctor. Everybody in there cared a lot, obviously.”

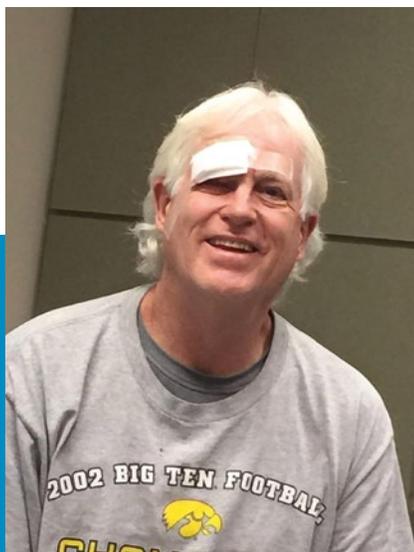
VICTOR SEIDEL

Another unusual case involves Victor Seidel, a first baseman for the Oklahoma City Outlaws. They have won the U.S. Senior Softball Association’s World Series and are frequent tournament champions, competing against 700 teams nationally. In 2016, Seidel was hit in the right eye by a ball during batting practice. The injury left him with traumatic mydriasis

(a permanently dilated pupil) and significantly elevated intraocular pressure, which required the constant application of three types of eye drops.

Eventually Seidel required surgery — a lens replacement to treat a trauma-related cataract and repair of the eye’s damaged internal drainage system. This was performed by Dr. Andrew K. Bailey and then-resident Dr. Ilya Sluch. A second procedure, to treat the enlarged pupil, was performed by former DMEI corneal surgeon Garrett S. Frank, MD. Seidel then received follow-up care from Dr. Angela M. Plant, an optometrist at DMEI’s Edmond office.

“They were great,” Seidel said of the care team. “I spent a lot of time there with follow-up visits, and they were very informative and answered all my questions. I do have to wear sunglasses, but my eye is fully healed. I have 20/25 vision in my damaged eye, and I’m still playing softball.”



Above: Victor Seidel after his eye injury.



Right: First baseman Seidel playing softball for the Oklahoma City Outlaws.

Right: Macenzie Ruth playing softball for the University of Science and Arts (Chickasha, Oklahoma).

Below: Ruth after her eye injury



MACENZIE RUTH

Softball scholarship athlete Macenzie Ruth presented a special challenge to the Dean McGee team. A student at the University of Science and Arts in Chickasha, Oklahoma, Ruth experienced a serious eye injury after hitting a cedar tree while snow tubing. Initially treated elsewhere for an orbital fracture and a severe laceration below the left eye, Ruth subsequently developed an abscess and was referred to Dean McGee, where she was seen only two days later by Dr. Jeremy F. Tan. He drained the abscess and later repaired the orbital fracture.

Ruth's case was complicated by the need for surgical removal of a considerable amount of tree shrapnel and organic debris in order

to improve the eye's function and reduce the risk for further infection, as well as aggressive treatment with injections to prevent scarring, Dr. Tan said. Ruth still has a somewhat reduced ability to gaze upward with her eye, which is not uncommon after orbital fractures, but she is able to compensate through head adjustments. She is once more playing softball (while wearing proper eye protection, of course), and last year made the All-American list of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

"I would give the Dean McGee people 10 out of 10," Ruth said of her care. "I felt like family. They got us in to see Dr. Tan within two days of my being referred. We even called him at 10:30 one night with an issue, and he took care of it right away. They were perfect, and I would recommend them to anyone with eye trouble."

...continued on next page...

Right: Daniel Beckman playing basketball for Franciscan University of Steubenville (Ohio).

Below: Beckman after his eye injury.



DANIEL BECKMAN

When first seen by DMEI physicians, Daniel Beckman was a high school basketball player. A blow to the right eye in 2017 caused an orbital fracture, and he was referred to DMEI, where he was surgically treated by Dr. Scott C. Sigler, an oculoplastic surgeon. Dr. Sigler is a clinical assistant professor of ophthalmology at DMEI/OU who sees patients and performs surgery at DMEI’s Oklahoma Health Center

“You can be kind of hopeless when you have so many impediments. You get very weary of dealing with it. I am very thankful for Dr. Mike and everyone at Dean McGee. I’ve always had a great experience with them. They really helped calm things down for me.”

facilities on a part-time basis while also maintaining a private practice in Edmond.

Beckman’s fracture healed; however, the muscle scarred to the bottom of the eye, limiting his ability to look upward. It’s a common occurrence in the wake of this type of surgery, said Dr. Siatkowski, who also treated Beckman. A second surgery, along with muscle exercises

and glasses, helped, but the double vision and limited movement persisted. During a third

procedure in 2019, DMEI surgeons used special sutures on the muscles of the good eye so that the movements of both eyes would match going forward. The double vision improved immediately.

Beckman has gone on to play basketball at Franciscan University of Steubenville (Ohio). “The body learns to adapt to your needs,” he said, regarding his time on the court. “I do remember I essentially had to correct myself with a lot of movements.”

“You can be kind of hopeless when you have so many impediments. You get very weary of dealing with it,” he added. “I am very thankful for Dr. Mike and everyone at Dean McGee. I’ve always had a great experience with them. They really helped calm things down for me.”

The Super Bowl of Eye Care

With a staff of 35 ophthalmologists, seven optometrists, 20 residents, and four to five fellows, “The Dean McGee Eye Institute is here to help ALL of our athletes, whether it’s repairing injuries or identifying other ways the eyes can be treated to maximize eye function,” Dr. Siatkowski said. “We’re not just here for the

complicated stuff, or treating cataracts in older patients. We also provide all the comprehensive eye care, truly a full range of services, as we give back to the community.”

“From soccer players to soccer moms, helping anyone we can to improve, preserve, or restore vision remains a rewarding experience.”

Adds Dr. Bailey, “We value the vision of all patients. From soccer players to soccer moms, helping anyone we can to improve, preserve, or restore vision remains a rewarding experience. We are fortunate to be part of a comprehensive system that is able to provide this service. Our schedulers, technicians, surgical teams, and administrative support staff are all part of a world-class championship team.” ■

Did You Know?

Eye protection has been around for more than 3,000 years. Protective eyeglasses for fencing were created as far back as 1,200 B.C., while baseball catcher’s masks began to appear on the scene in the mid-1800s.

People who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those who are doing it.

– George Bernard Shaw





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Oklahomans and the global community through excellence
and leadership in patient care, education, and vision research.*

• DMEI • inVision

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