

IOWA VISION

“Like me”

Winking-eye sock monkeys help comfort patients faced with removal of an eye. (Story inside)

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IOWAVISION

IOWA VISION is published for alumni, colleagues, and friends of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Iowa.

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A troop of customized monocular monkeys await their new owners and homes.

Eye cancer patients receive sock monkey “like me”



Lindsay Pronk, BCO, BADO, of UI Hospitals & Clinics Ocular Prosthetics Service checks in with Ellie. Pronk created the artificial eye for Ellie and helps her parents on the proper care.

The removal of an eye can be scary, especially for a child. University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics doctors and staff recognized an opportunity to change the experience and ease the concerns of young patients and their families.

Team members from the Eye Clinic partnered with the UI Hospitals & Clinics Volunteer Services to create a customized sock monkey doll for children who have an eye removed. The monkey features a winking eye to match the eye that the patient has removed (right or left). Handmade monkeys also have different



Volunteer Kenten Kingsbury (left) and Audrey Ko, MD, show off a few of the customized sock monkeys created for patients.

color remaining eyes and other features that add to the uniqueness of each.

The idea for personalized monkeys came from UI student volunteer **Kenten Kingsbury** and oculoplastic surgeon **Audrey Ko, MD**. They realized that sock monkey dolls were being made by a hospital volunteer group known as the Merry Monkey Makers, so the two arranged through Volunteer Services to have monkeys specially designed for Eye Clinic patients facing the loss of an eye.

“The idea of removing an eye is very difficult. It brings up questions about a child’s appearance after surgery and concerns about how the process might affect a child for the rest of their life, both medically and socially. My clinic volunteer, Kenten, came up with the amazing idea after seeing a couple families go through the heartbreaking decision to remove their child’s eye due to retinoblastoma or trauma. We thought customizing the monkeys to match the needs of our unique patients seemed like a simple way to make the whole process of having a prosthetic eye a little less scary,” states Ko.

More information at:
uihc.org/eye-cancer
uihc.org/ocular-prosthetics-service

Front desk receives facelift

The Eye Clinic front desk check-in and reception area received a needed facelift. Gone are the wooden columns and original décor from our move into the Pomerantz Family Pavilion in 1996. The remodeled area features a more open design with increased access to reception and scheduling staff, as well as several monitor displays welcoming patients.



Another option for pediatric patients

The Pediatric Specialty Clinic expanded to include four new exam rooms for pediatric ophthalmology providers. The space, which is located in the UI Stead Family Children’s Hospital, offers a convenient option for families needing to schedule other pediatric specialty appointments on the same day.

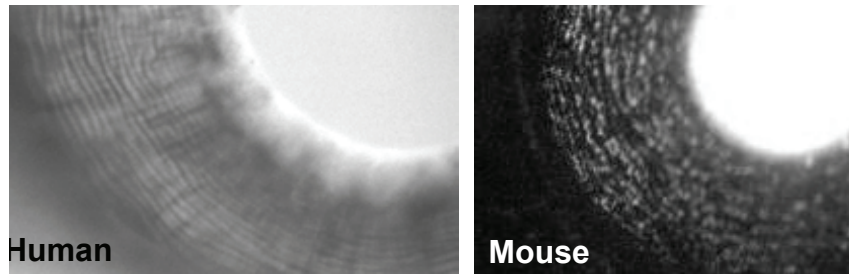


Searching for answers to exfoliation glaucoma

The Glaucoma Foundation provided research grants to **John Fingert, MD, PhD**, and **Michael Anderson, PhD**, to investigate the cellular processes involved in exfoliation syndrome and exfoliation glaucoma.

Exfoliation syndrome and exfoliation glaucoma at their core are caused by defects in cellular processes. Preliminary studies have suggested that abnormalities in the processes that cells use to eliminate waste products (autophagy) and by which cells produce energy in their mitochondria may be culprits in exfoliation syndrome. Fingert's lab will comprehensively test a panel of cell lines from exfoliation patients and control subjects for abnormalities to determine if these cellular processes are involved in exfoliation glaucoma.

Anderson's lab is developing robust mouse models of exfoliation glaucoma. The project proposes generating new mouse models of exfoliation syndrome by screening animals with targeted manipulations to genes that are known genetic risk factors for human disease. These mice could be used by the scientific community in a wide range of studies that will expedite development of new treatments and bring researchers closer to finding a cure.



Previous work from University of Iowa researchers found the first animal model resembling exfoliation syndrome, as illustrated above showing similarities in disease features of the iris. Current work funded by The Glaucoma Foundation will seek to identify mouse models with additional disease features.

Gene-based therapy selected as 'trial of the year'

Eye clinic physicians from University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics are co-recipients of the prestigious *David Sackett Trial of the Year Award*, presented annually by the Society for Clinical Trials.

The gene replacement trial titled 'Efficacy and Safety of Voretigene Neparvovec (AAV2-hRPE65v2) in Patients with RPE65-mediated Inherited Retinal Dystrophy (NCT00999609)' was conducted by **Stephen Russell, MD**, and others from UI Hospitals & Clinics, and other organizations.

More about the award and trial at sctweb.org/docs/toty/TOTY2017_Press_Release.pdf

Bringing artificial intelligence to health care

UI-developed technology diagnoses leading cause of blindness

University of Iowa Health Care patients are the first in the nation to have access to a new technology known as IDx-DR that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to diagnose diabetic retinopathy. IDx-DR is the first such technology authorized for commercialization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The technology was created by IDx, a privately held AI diagnostics company founded by **Michael Abràmoff, MD, PhD**, a retinal specialist and the Robert C. Watzke Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Iowa. Much of the research used to develop IDx-DR was conducted by Abràmoff at the UI and licensed through the UI Research Foundation.

IDx-DR is used by trained technicians and staff during routine office visits, with results available in minutes. The device's algorithm makes the diagnosis based on imaging of the patient's retina without the need for an eye specialist to interpret the results. If a patient is diagnosed with more than mild diabetic retinopathy, they are referred to an eye specialist for follow-up examinations and treatment. This new system provides a convenient option for people with diabetes to complete their recommended annual diabetic retinopathy exam, which is particularly important for the more than 50 percent of people with diabetes who are at high risk for vision loss and do not see an eye doctor on a yearly basis.

"The FDA's authorization to market IDx-DR is a historic moment that has the potential to launch a transformation in the way U.S. health care is delivered," says Abràmoff. "Autonomous AI systems have massive potential to improve health care productivity, lower health care costs,



and improve accessibility and quality. As the first of its kind to be authorized for commercialization, IDx-DR provides a roadmap for the safe and responsible use of AI in medicine."

"Dr. Abràmoff and his collaborators within the department and the University of Iowa have worked hard to develop this new technology and bring it to the point of patient care. We're proud of his focused efforts and are very excited about the implications this technology has on the diagnosis and treatment of diabetic eye disease," says **Keith Carter, MD**, UI professor and head of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences.

Providers at the Diabetes and Endocrinology Center at UI Health Care-Iowa River Landing in Coralville, Iowa, began using IDx-DR to screen patients for diabetic retinopathy last June.



IDx-DR uses artificial intelligence to capture and analyze a retinal image for diabetic retinopathy.

ONLINE EXTRA

Dr. Abràmoff and IDx were featured in recent editions of *Medicine Iowa* and *IOWA Magazine*, publications for alumni and friends of the University of Iowa. Check out <http://medcom.uiowa.edu/medicine/> <https://magazine.foriowa.org/>

View an interview discussing how AI is being used to autonomously diagnose diabetes-related eye disorders at University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics - <https://bit.ly/2SWY3Vp>

Graduation 2018



Graduating residents pictured left to right:

Tyler Risma, MD – Fuerste Eye Clinic, Dubuque, Iowa

Lorraine Provencher, MD – Glaucoma Fellowship, University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center, Ann Arbor

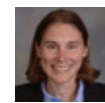
Matthew Miller, MD – Glaucoma Fellowship, University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics


Lindsay De Andrade, MD – Pediatric Ophthalmology Fellowship, UCLA Stein Eye, Los Angeles, Calif.


Thomas “TJ” Clark, MD – Oculoplastics Fellowship, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

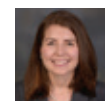
Graduating fellows:


 **Jane Bailey, MD (‘96R)**
University of Iowa Health Care


 **Elaine Binkley, MD**
Ocular Oncology Fellowship, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio


 **Christy Cunningham, MD**
Northland Eye Specialists, Liberty, Mo.

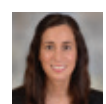
 **Sun Young Lee, MD, PhD**
Dean McGee Eye Institute, Oklahoma City, Okla.

 **Tara McGehee, MD**
University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville, Va.


 **James Peairs, MD**
California Retina Associates, Chula Vista, Calif.

 **Lael Stander, MD (‘12MD, ‘17R-Neurology)**
Colorado Springs Neurological Associates, Colorado Springs, Colo.

 **Ze Zhang, MD**
Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, La.

 **Francisca Zuazo Echenique, MD**
pursuing Ophthalmology Residency

Orthoptic program graduate

 **Adam Hauglid, CO** – Adam joined the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. He also received the Scobie Award for the highest score on the American Association of Certified Orthoptists examination, an award received by University of Iowa trained orthoptists 13 previous times.

Leinfelder award for top research presentations



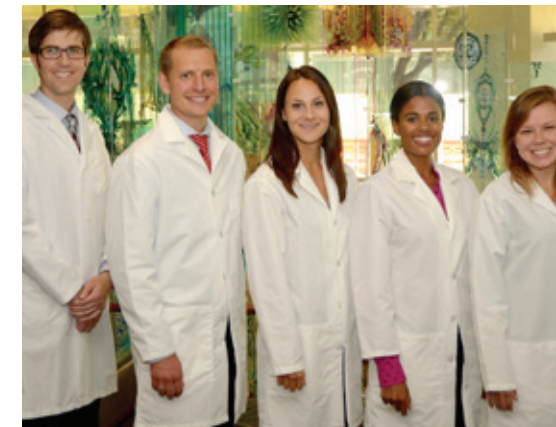
Elaine Binkley, MD (center), and **Brittini Scruggs, MD, PhD** (right), were selected for best fellow and best resident research projects and received the *P.J. Leinfelder Award* for 2018. They are joined in the photograph with **Ian Han, MD**, assistant professor of ophthalmology and new Resident and Fellow Research Day program director.

Stacy Thompson Resident Leadership Award



The *Stacy Thompson Resident Leadership Award* was presented to graduating resident physician **Lindsay De Andrade, MD** (right). She posed after receiving the award with her grandfather and emeritus faculty member, **G. Frank Judisch, MD** (‘62MD, ‘68R, former faculty).

Class of 2021 first-year residents



Pictured left to right:

Christopher Fortenbach, MD, PhD
BS, University of California, Davis
MD, University of California Davis School of Medicine, Sacramento, Calif.
PhD, University of California Davis School of Medicine, Sacramento, Calif.


Tyler Quist, MD
BS, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah
MD, University of Utah School of Medicine, Salt Lake City, Utah

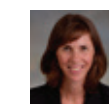
Caroline Wilson, MD
BA, Emory University, Atlanta, Ga.
MD, University of South Alabama College of Medicine, Mobile, Ala.


Alexis Warren, MD
BS, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.
MD, University of Kansas School of Medicine, Kansas City, Kan.


Lauren Hock, MD
BS, Clemson University, Clemson S.C.
MD, Rush Medical College, Chicago, Ill.


New fellows

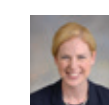
 **Alec Amran, MD – Surgical Retina**
MD, Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, Ore.
Residency, University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, Galveston, Texas


 **Nitsan Duvdevan-Strier, MD – Neuro-Ophthalmology**
MD, The Hebrew University Hadassah Medical School, Jerusalem, Israel
Residency, Rambam Health Care Campus, Haifa, Israel


 **James Huffman, MD – Cornea**
MD, University of Kentucky College of Medicine, Lexington, Ky.
Residency, University of Kentucky Medical Center, Lexington, Ky.


 **Laith Kadasi, MD – Medical Retina**
MD, Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, Mass.
Residency, Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Providence, R.I.

 **Benjamin King, MD – Surgical Retina**
MD, University of Tennessee College of Medicine, Memphis, Tenn.
Residency, The Hamilton Eye Institute and St. Jude Children’s Hospital, Memphis, Tenn.

 **Anne Langguth, MD (‘14MD) – Pediatric Ophthalmology**
MD, University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine
Residency, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, Ill.

 **Matthew Miller, MD (‘18R) – Glaucoma**
MD, University of Utah School of Medicine, Salt Lake City, Utah
Residency, University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics

 **Aron Sampson, MD – Ocular Pathology**
MD, Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, North Chicago, Ill.

 **Melanie Truong, DO – Neuro-Ophthalmology**
DO, Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, UNT Health Science Center, Fort Worth, Texas
Neurology Residency, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas

Teaching awards

Medical students and residents selections of “Best Teachers” for 2018 include:

Medical Student Teaching Awards:

Lori Provencher, MD (Resident)
Ze Zhang, MD (Fellow)
Scott Larson, MD (Faculty)

Resident Teaching Awards:

Elaine Binkley, MD (Fellow)
Erin Shriver, MD, FACS (Faculty)

Kolder Award

The *Kolder Award for Excellence in Ophthalmology* was awarded to the Resident Class of 2020 for a quality improvement project involving orbital compartment syndrome and the Department of Emergency Medicine.



Thurtell



Faculty mentor **Audrey Ko, MD** (left) and medical student **Kelly Yom** pose by Yom's "Dare to Discover" campaign banner hanging in the University Capitol Centre building on campus. The campaign highlights the faces of discovery and creativity at the University of Iowa.

A love of teaching

Associate professor **Matthew Thurtell, MBBS, MSc**, received the *Excellence in Clinical Coaching Award* from the Office of Graduate Medical Education. He was chosen from all the residency and fellowship programs in the Carver College of Medicine.

According to one of his many award nomination remarks: "Perhaps his greatest gift to trainees is teaching them how to explain findings, treatment options, and prognosis to the patients. He patiently teaches the complex concepts of neuro-ophthalmology and also the fine art of effective and empathic communication."

Mentoring medical students is another passion of many of our faculty. **Audrey Ko, MD**, assistant professor of ophthalmology, advised second-year medical student **Kelly Yom** on a project involving patient education and preparation for surgery. Yom's research was featured in the University of Iowa "Dare to Discover" campaign, which showcases researchers, scholars, and creators from across the UI.



Refractive course

Ophthalmology residents **Chris Fortenbach, MD, PhD, Spenser Morton, MD, and Anthony Chung, MD**, practice on donated corneal tissue during the Iowa Refractive Course last fall. The course draws attendees of residency programs from Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, and other areas of the Midwest. Guest faculty joined **Mark Greiner, MD, and Kenneth Goins, MD**, for a full-day teaching course held at the UI Health Care-Iowa River Landing clinic.

Academy recognition

Congratulations to the following alumni, faculty, and Iowa ophthalmologists for their recognition by the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO)!

LIFE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- **Michael Boland, MD, PhD** ('05R)
- **William J. Dupps, Jr., MD, PhD** ('04R)
- **Julie Falardeau, MD** ('02F)
- **Thomas Johnson, MD** ('80MD)

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- **Robert Dinn, MD** ('07R)
- **James Howard, MD** ('05R, '07F)

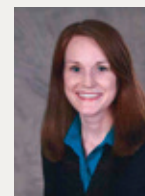
SECRETARIAT AWARD

- **Lisa B. Arbisser, MD** ('83R)
- **Hilary Beaver, MD** (former faculty)
- **Louise Mawn, MD** ('95R)
- **Raj Maturi, MD** ('99F)
- **Jane Edmond, MD** ('90F)
- **Christopher Rapuano, MD** ('91F)

The AAO Leadership Development Program XXI, Class of 2019 includes:



Jeremiah Brown, Jr., MS, MS ('96R, '98F), Schertz, Texas



Elizabeth Gauger, MD ('10MD, '14R), Cedar Rapids, Iowa



Chris Blodi, MD ('84F, former faculty), dropped by for a couple of interesting talks with our trainees.

Other Alumni Notes

- **Robert Honkanen, MD** ('99F), was named chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at Stony Brook University.
- **Andrew G. Lee, MD** (former faculty), is president of the North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society.
- **Jill Melicher-Larson, MD** ('09F), is president of the Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology.



- **Mariannette Miller-Meeks, MD** ('91R, former faculty), was elected to Iowa State Senate (District 41) and appointed to chair the Senate Human Resources Committee.

Congratulations to our alumni and colleagues for their accomplishments and dedication on behalf of the field of ophthalmology. If you receive a special award or distinction, let us know. Email us at iowaeyecare@uiowa.edu.

The *Iowa Vision Fall 2017-Winter 2018* edition misspelled the name of **Jane Edmond, MD** ('90F), in the Other Alumni Notes section. We apologize for the error.

Remembrances

- **John A. Bryant, MD** ('63MD, '70R), died on March 7, 2018, in Sparks, Nev.
- **Stewart M. Wolff, MD** ('56F), passed away on March 24, 2018, in Townson, Md.
- **Clifford M. Hendricks, Jr., MD** ('57MD, '61R), died in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on July 21, 2018.
- **William B. Snyder, MD** ('61MS, '61R, '66F), passed away on January 18, 2019. Snyder cofounded Texas Retina Associates and the Retina Foundation of the Southwest in Dallas.



Iowa Eye alumni **Angela McCallister, MD** ('14R) (left center), and **Elizabeth Tegins, MD** ('14F) (right center), visited with residents and fellows last fall. The two discussed career paths and transitioning to private practice.

Will you be passing through Iowa? Let us know if you are interested in dropping by the department for a visit, giving a Rounds talk, or meeting with our residents and fellows.

Iowa resident returns from Africa excited about mission work

Resident ophthalmologist **Brittini Scruggs, MD, PhD**, traveled to the Tenwek Mission Hospital in Bomet, Kenya, where she provided surgical and medical care alongside local eye specialists. She split her days between the operating room and eye clinic seeing patients and teaching clinic procedures, including lasers and injections.

Scruggs performed cataract surgery/phacoemulsification, helped Kenyan ophthalmologists in manual small incision cataract surgery (MSICS), and assisted a visiting retina surgeon with surgeries. She also helped with the retinopathy of prematurity screening in the hospital's NICU and had an opportunity to teach various procedures and exam techniques to the Kenyan clinic staff, physicians, and students.

"I really enjoyed teaching procedures and showing different exam techniques to the Kenyan clinical officers, physicians, and students. Skill transfer is such a rewarding part of mission work and will help patients get the care they need long-term," states Scruggs.

University of Iowa ophthalmology residents are given the opportunity to travel for an international training experience during the third year of residency training. These experiences expose residents to different health care systems around the world and help shape practice and career choices.



Extending eye care abroad

Cataract is the leading cause of reversible vision loss, and glaucoma is the leading cause of permanent vision loss worldwide. Millions of people are impacted and unnecessarily blinded by these conditions each year—much of this taking place in low- and middle-income countries.

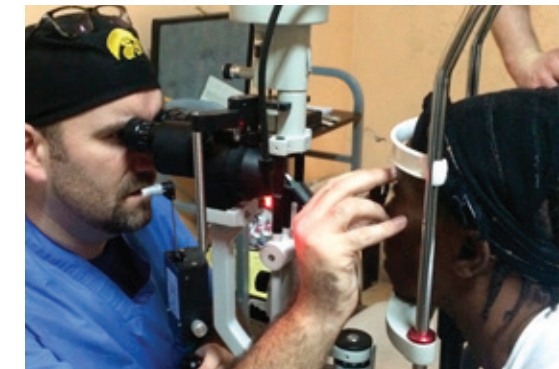
University of Iowa doctors are addressing this global health concern through international relationships they have formed across the ophthalmology and optometry fields. Glaucoma specialist **Daniel Bettis, MD**, is one of several doctors addressing the global need. He has a passion for providing eye care to underserved populations. Since 2013, he has traveled annually to Haiti and other locations to provide eye care and sight-saving surgeries through partnerships he has developed.

Bettis is currently focused on the less developed northern portion of Haiti where he has joined forces with local eye care providers at Vision Plus Clinic in Cap-Haitien. Each year he travels with a small team of ophthalmologists and health care providers for a one- to two-week period of teaching and surgical care. In addition to conducting surgery, the team focuses on sharing medical and surgical techniques as a way of expanding the local training that is available.

Future directions for the Haiti outreach include building capacity through local providers and the country's one ophthalmology residency program in Port-au-Prince. Broader plans are to involve ophthalmology fellows and residents on international outreach trips as a way of exposing ophthalmologists in training to the burden of blindness and differing health care systems around the globe.

"Not only does my work abroad 'feed' some of my core values and give me a renewed appreciation for my life at home, it also makes me a better doctor. We are forced to work in challenging conditions, constantly asking ourselves how we can do more with less to the benefit of our patients. This can lead to new and innovative ideas that we can use back home."

DAN BETTIS, MD



Resident **Lorraine Provencher, MD**, joined residency program director **Tom Oetting, MS, MD**, on an Orbis trip to Peru in April 2018. The two joined other volunteer faculty on a training and skill-transfer trip aboard the Orbis flying eye hospital. Provencher later participated in an Orbis Cybersight telemedicine teaching event involving cataract surgery.



Iowa trainees benefit from annual gifts

Thanks to the charitable support from two area organizations, resident ophthalmologists will have an easier time pursuing their training and research goals.

Bechtel Trusts of Davenport, Iowa, created the *H. Culver Boldt, M.D./Bechtel Education Fund* to help cover expenses for resident physicians to attend educational conferences or other successful practices in Iowa for networking and clinic exposure. Funds will also provide financial assistance to residents with research initiatives and projects they wish to pursue.

The Wolfe Foundation of Marshalltown, Iowa, donated to the department’s residency training program by establishing the *Wolfe Foundation Resident Equipment Scholarship Fund*. Proceeds from the fund will cover startup expenses such as tools, equipment, books, conferences, and other accessories needed to fulfill ophthalmology training. The foundation has a history of supporting the department with the creation of *The Wolfe Foundation Lecture* in 1969. This lecture allows distinguished ophthalmologists and scientists from across the country to participate in the teaching program at the University of Iowa.

“Support from grateful individuals, alumni, and generous organizations like the Bechtel Trusts and Wolfe Foundation not only benefits our current residents but helps the University of Iowa attract the best and brightest ophthalmologists in the future. By offsetting expenses such as books and meeting travel that our training program incurs, we are able to expand and enhance the resident experience,” says residency program director **Thomas Oetting, MS, MD**.



To learn more about how philanthropic support helps advance the work of the University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences and Institute for Vision Research, please contact:

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KATIE STURGELL katie.sturgell@foriowa.org

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 319-335-3305 or 800-648-6973

The UI acknowledges the University of Iowa Center for Advancement as the preferred channel for private contributions that benefit all areas of the university. For more information or to make a donation in support of the eye program, visit the secure website at givetoiowa.org/eye.

If you do not want University of Iowa Health Care to contact you for fundraising efforts based on your status as a patient, please contact the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Privacy Officer at 1-800-777-8442.



Drs. Budd Tucker (left) and Edwin Stone beside a sterile isolation chamber containing one of the robots in development for the University of Iowa’s Institute for Vision Research therapeutic stem cell program. The robot will automate the handling of patient-derived human cells as they mature into transplantable human retinal grafts. Image courtesy of UI Institute for Vision Research

New research fund will advance efforts to restore vision

STORY BY DANA LARSON

The University of Iowa and UI Institute for Vision Research received a \$5 million gift from Alice and John Butler of Dubuque, Iowa, to accelerate progress toward treatments for blinding eye diseases that affect millions of people worldwide. The gift establishes the Alice L. and John E. Butler Vision Research Fund, which will support gene and stem-cell based treatments for degenerative retinal diseases.

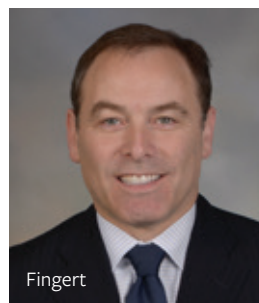
The Butlers’ gift will benefit the UI’s clinical stem-cell transplantation program and its goal to restore useful vision to people with advanced stages of retinal degenerations—ranging from common conditions like age-related macular degeneration to rare genetic forms of retinitis pigmentosa. The program seeks to use stem cells derived from the patient’s own tissue, correct gene mutations, and transplant them into the patient’s retina to restore vision. The gift will also support new research, including the effects of retinal degeneration on the ability of patients to drive safely.

“The loss of vision has a significant impact on a person’s life, and many of the conditions that cause vision loss are genetic. Being able to help identify and perfect a solution to prevent this from happening to people is incredibly impactful and meaningful to us,” says **Alice Butler**.

Brooks Jackson, MD, MBA, UI vice president for medical affairs and dean of the UI Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine, emphasizes the impact the Butlers’ gift will have on vision-related research and treatments at Iowa. “Philanthropic support is in many ways a vote of confidence,” he shares. “This generous gift commitment from the Butler family is a testament to the expertise of our scientists and clinicians who are poised to advance discoveries and treatments for both common vision problems and rare eye diseases.”

“The Butlers’ generous gift will support the state-of-the-art equipment and very talented people needed to move our gene- and stem-cell based treatments forward, which will ultimately allow us to restore vision to patients who have lost it,” says **Edwin Stone, MD, PhD**, director of the UI Institute for Vision Research and Seamans-Hauser Chair in Molecular Ophthalmology.

Learn more about vision research taking place at the UI Institute for Vision Research at ivr.uiowa.edu



Iowa Glaucoma Center accolades

The Glaucoma Research Society selected **John Fingert, MD, PhD**, for inclusion into membership. The society is a prestigious group of glaucoma researchers who discuss and stimulate compelling or innovative research to prevent glaucoma-related disability worldwide. Membership includes 86 active members, 35 emeritus, and 6 honorary members representing 26 countries.

Fingert holds the Hadley-Carver Chair in Glaucoma and directs the Glaucoma Genetics Lab. He joins University of Iowa faculty **Lee Alward, MD, Chris Johnson, PhD, and Sohan S. Hayreh, MD, MS, PhD, DSC, FRCS, FRCOphth**, (emeritus member) in the Society.



Nathaniel Sears, MD, was selected as the American Glaucoma Society's *Young Clinician Research Scientist* for 2018. The selection includes grant funding that Sears will use to develop a new animal model of glaucoma which will facilitate studies of the causes and cures for this potentially blinding disease.

New York Academy of Medicine awarded its prestigious 2018 *Lewis Rudin Glaucoma Prize* to professor of pediatrics and ophthalmology **Val Sheffield, MD, PhD**. The prize recognizes the most significant scholarly article on glaucoma published in a peer-reviewed journal in the prior calendar year. Sheffield's winning study, "CRISPR-Cas9-based treatment of myocilin-associated glaucoma," was published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS)* in 2017.



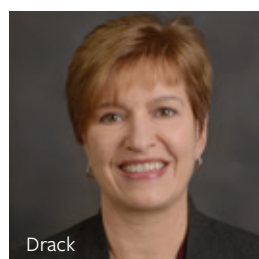
Visual fields expert receives prestigious award

Professor of ophthalmology **Chris Johnson, PhD**, received the American Academy of Optometry's highest honor. The *Charles F. Prentice Medal Award* was awarded to Johnson at the Academy's 2018 Annual Meeting in San Antonio.

Johnson is recognized as a world leader in the design of psychophysical testing for clinicians. His research has been instrumental in the development of methods to monitor progression of visual field loss and automated visual field testing.

The Prentice award recognizes a distinguished scientist or clinician-scientist for a career-long record of advancement of knowledge in vision science. It is considered to be the most prestigious of the Academy's awards for achievement in research.

Image courtesy of American Academy of Optometry



Drack recognized for scientific contributions

The Women in Ophthalmology (WIO) organization recognized **Arlene Drack, MD**, with its 2018 *Scientific Contribution Award*. The award recognizes a physician or non-physician scientist who has made a significant scientific contribution in the field of ophthalmology. It was presented to Dr. Drack at the American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting in Chicago.

Drack was selected based on her research involving gene replacement therapy for pediatric blindness that has contributed to the first FDA-approved treatment for a genetic cause of blindness.

Faculty changes

The department has added several faculty to our team. Each is a familiar face having trained at the University of Iowa at one point or another.

Jaclyn Haugsdal, MD ('13MD, '17R), joined our Comprehensive and Cataract Surgery service after a period in private practice. She provides cataract surgery, premium intraocular lens implants, and minimally invasive glaucoma surgery. She also performs refractive and laser vision correction surgery. Academic interests include resident education and ocular surgery simulation.

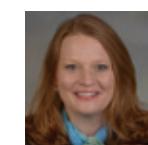
Two-time graduate **Jane Bailey, MD** ('96R, '18F), stayed after completing a neuro-ophthalmology fellowship in 2018. She provides neuro-ophthalmic and comprehensive eye care including micro incision cataract surgery using premium lens implants. Bailey sees patients in both the Neuro-ophthalmology and Comprehensive and Cataract Surgery Services.

The Pediatric Ophthalmology Service gained **Sara Downes, OD** ('04CO), as a pediatric optometrist. Downes completed orthoptic training in our department and is excited to return to Iowa City. She sees patients in the main hospital Eye Clinic and the new Pediatric Specialty Clinic located in the UI Stead Family Children's Hospital.

Another new addition to our physician ranks is **Erin Boese, MD** ('13MD), who joins our Glaucoma Service. Boese completed medical school at the University of Iowa before pursuing residency training at Casey Eye Institute and a glaucoma fellowship at the University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center. Her ties to the University of Iowa go beyond medical school as she is the daughter of Glaucoma colleague and professor of ophthalmology **Wallace L.M. Alward, MD**.

The Cornea and External Disease Service saw the departure of **Kenneth Goins, MD** (right). Goins relocated to Kansas to join his colleague and another former Cornea faculty member **John Sutphin, Jr., MD**. He was on faculty at the University of Iowa for 15 years and maintains emeritus faculty status with our department.

Other faculty departures include optometrist **Brian Kirschling, OD** (right), who now practices at the Iowa City VA Medical Center and comprehensive ophthalmologist **Michael Griess, MD** (far right), who relocated to Nebraska.



Department considered one of the best

U.S. News & World Report released its 2018-19 rankings for best ophthalmology programs in the United States. The University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences is pleased to remain among the best and listed as No. 7 in this year's ranking. **A complete list of rankings may be found at usnews.com/besthospitals.**



In addition, the Doximity Residency Navigator website lists University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics as the 4th best program in the nation and best in the Midwest.

Carter wraps up term as AAO President

Chairman and head of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences **Keith Carter, MD, FACS**, concluded his term as president of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. He wraps up a year of serving the ophthalmology community while focused on learning, advocacy, and diversity efforts.

"I have been a member and active within the academy for 30 years and during this time I have developed a deep appreciation for the work of academy members. My tenure as president validated the incredible dedication my colleagues here and abroad have for the specialty and our patients," shares Carter.



George Williams, MD (right), replaced **Keith Carter, MD, FACS**, as president of the American Academy of Ophthalmology in 2019. Williams also visited the University of Iowa in 2018 as a distinguished guest speaker.

Research to Prevent Blindness supports UI research

The Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences received an Unrestricted Grant from Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB) in the amount of \$115,000 a year to support eye research conducted in the department. Funding was awarded based on a thorough review of criteria, including the department’s research activities, laboratory environment, and clinical and scientific staff.

“Discretionary funding from RPB is very useful to our planning process and allows us to expand our research activities in exciting ways. We are also able to leverage our progress and success when pursuing additional grant funding, which is extremely helpful,” says **Keith Carter, MD**, department chair.

The University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine holds one of 32 RPB Unrestricted Grants nationwide.

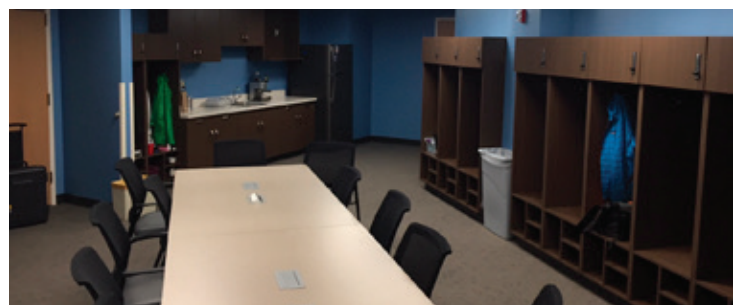
Information about the RPB award program at rpbusa.org



More remodeling

The ophthalmology resident work room was updated thanks to an estate gift from **Richard Claussen, MD** (’70MD, ’75R). Remodeled space provides individual desks and storage for each of our residents. Plus, there are tables and workspaces where trainees can share ideas and discuss tips on surviving call rotations.

Our retina fellow office (directly below) also underwent an overhaul and now provides improved space for the current and future fellows.



Milestones reached!

Iowa KidSight reached a milestone earlier this year. The child vision screening program exceeded 500,000 vision screenings of children!

A joint project of the Lions Clubs of Iowa and the department, Iowa KidSight is dedicated to early detection and treatment of vision impairments in young children. Members of Lions Clubs and other organizations volunteer to provide free vision screenings at schools, daycares, and other locations across the state. Of all the children screened, 29,328 (or 5.9 percent) required referral to an eye doctor for further evaluation and treatment.

Another major milestone involved the Iowa Lions Eye Bank and Lions Clubs of Iowa volunteers who have driven over 1 million miles across the state of Iowa for eye donation.

The Iowa Lions Eye Bank is the only eye bank in the state and relies on quick transportation of ocular tissue to its office located in Coralville. In 2009, Lions Club volunteers took over transportation duties from the Iowa State Patrol and began an almost daily transport from the Des Moines area to the eye bank. As of September 2018, the program had logged over 1 million miles of travel, and in the past 19 years over 4,800 corneas have been transported as a result of Lions’ volunteer service.

Thank you to Lions Clubs of Iowa for supporting the mission and efforts of our Iowa KidSight program and Iowa Lions Eye Bank!



Four-and-a-half-year-old Maylee Rose Allen received the milestone screening and passed with normal vision.



Donor eligibility specialist Ryan Quesnell (left), and Iowa Lion Roger Cox of the Montezuma Lions Club with a delivery of seven packages transported in one day.



Taking it to the streets (and mud)

Cyclists from the University of Iowa Institute for Vision Research (IVR) and supporters of the IVR teamed up to ride in the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa, or RAGBRAI, an annual seven-day bicycle ride across the state. The 2018 ride started in Onawa and traveled 428 miles before finishing in Davenport. The IVR team raised awareness for blinding eye diseases and vision research taking place at the University of Iowa.



The 2018 RAGBRAI route included an overnight stop in Iowa City. While in town, the IVR team stopped by campus to visit the laboratories and pose for a group photo.

Ophthalmology residents **Austin Fox, MD** (left image), and **Ben Janson, MD** (right image), competed in the Jingle Cross Cyclo-cross Festival in Iowa City in September. Cyclo-cross bicycle racing consists of a short course featuring pavement, trails, hills, and obstacles requiring the rider to dismount, carry, and remount the bike.



After 27 years with the Iowa Eye family, **Trish Duffel, MA**, retired from the department this past summer. More than a medical librarian, Trish was a wonderful resource and "go-to" person for so many in our department and beyond. Best wishes, Trish!



Annual meeting and alumni reunion

Dozens of alumni returned to help celebrate and recognize the many contributions of **H. Stanley Thompson, MD** ('66R, former faculty), during the 2018 Iowa Eye Annual Meeting. Thompson served on faculty for 30 years and taught and mentored hundreds of fellows, residents, and medical students.

Guest alumni speakers at the 2018 meeting included **David Tse, MD** ('82R), and **Kathleen Digre, MD** ('81MD, '85R, '87F), **Reid Longmuir, MD** ('02MD, '06R, '07F, '08F), and **Susannah Longmuir, MD** ('07R, '08F).

Several members of the Resident Class of 2008 were on hand to reconnect with each other, faculty, and friends. **Additional photos from the meeting and reunion activities may be found at iowaeyealumni.shutterfly.com.**



Mark your calendars for the next Iowa Eye Annual Meeting and Alumni Reunion on June 13-15, 2019.

We are preparing an outstanding educational program for comprehensive ophthalmologists and subspecialists alike. Distinguished speakers include:

- **Richard Anderson, MD** ('71MD, '75R, former faculty), Center for Facial Appearances, Salt Lake City, Utah (*Alson E. Braley Lecture*)
- **Malvina Eydelman, MD**, U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Washington D.C. (*Women in Ophthalmology Lecture*)
- **Richard Parrish, MD**, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Miami, Fla. (*Mansour F. Armaly Lecture*)
- **Robert Wiggins, Jr., MD**, Asheville Eye Associates, Asheville, N.C. (*Wolken Ethics Lecture*)

Complete event and registration information will be posted online at medicine.uiowa.edu/eye



Record turnout and celebration

Thanks to the all who joined us in Chicago at our Iowa Eye Alumni Reception! Over 200 alumni and friends gathered at the University Club of Chicago for an evening of reconnecting and reminiscing. We also celebrated Dr. Keith Carter's term as president of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

Images from the reception and previous events are posted online at iowaeyealumni.shutterfly.com.



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medicine.uiowa.edu/eye



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UPCOMING EVENTS

OPHTHALMOLOGY CLINICAL CONFERENCES

- March 8, 2019** **Retina** – Tim Stout, MD, PhD, MBA, Baylor College of Medicine
- April 5, 2019** **Cataract / Comprehensive (Wolfe Foundation Lecture)** – Steven Safran, MD, PA
- Sep. 27, 2019** **Oculoplastics** – Robert Goldberg, MD, UCLA Health
- Nov. 1, 2019** **Pediatric Ophthalmology** – David Wallace, MD, MPH, Indiana University School of Medicine

OTHER EVENTS

- April 26-28, 2019** **UI Carver College of Medicine Alumni Reunion Weekend** (Classes of '79, '69, and all past their 50th reunion), Iowa City
- April 28 - May 2, 2019** **ARVO Annual Meeting**, Vancouver
- May 10, 2019** **21st Annual Iowa Optometric Conference**, Iowa City
- May 17, 2019** **Resident and Fellow Research Day**, Iowa City
- May 20, 2019** **William E. Scott Pediatric Ophthalmology Lecture**, Iowa City
- June 13-15, 2019** **Iowa Eye Annual Meeting and Alumni Reunion**, Iowa City
- June 27, 2019** **Resident and Fellow Graduation, Hancher Auditorium**, Iowa City
- Aug. 2, 2019** **12th Annual Midwest Eye Research Symposium**, Iowa City
- Sep. 23, 2019** **William E. Scott Pediatric Ophthalmology Lecture**, Iowa City
- Sep. 26, 2019** **Iowa Refractive Course**, Iowa City
- Oct. 12-15, 2019** **AAO 2019 Annual Meeting and Iowa Eye Alumni Reception**, San Francisco
- Oct. 19, 2019** **UI Carver College of Medicine Alumni Homecoming Tailgate**, Iowa City



Join alumni and colleagues for our
**Iowa Eye Annual Meeting
and Alumni Reunion.**

This year's event is scheduled for
June 13-15, 2019.

See page 19 for more information.