

THE FUTURE OF Vision

Summer
2020

University of California, San Francisco | Department of Ophthalmology | Francis I. Proctor Foundation | That Man May See



Clinical Study of Azithromycin

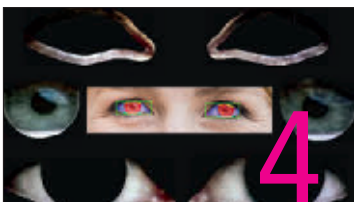
ACTION Against COVID-19

Premier research teams worldwide are racing to halt the devastation of this novel coronavirus. The Francis I. Proctor Foundation for Research in Ophthalmology quickly joined the fight, using its 20 years of experience with the antibiotic azithromycin to search for solutions.

Two decades ago, That Man May See helped to launch the Proctor Foundation's research to eliminate the blinding disease trachoma in Ethiopia. The seed-funded pilot study examined the impact of azithromycin on infants and young children. Findings proved that the antibiotic drastically reduced prevalence of the eye disease and saved children's lives.

Continued on page 2

A PEEK INSIDE:



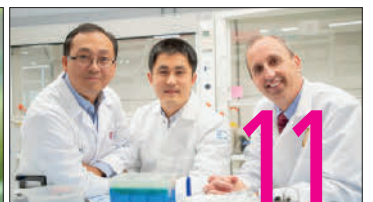
COVID-19 Drives Novel Solutions



Class of 2020 Excels



New Leader Joins That Man May See



Honors Fuel Major Research Efforts



FOCAL POINT

Dear Friends,

As we present this issue of **Vision** magazine, our first thoughts are for your health and safety in this unprecedented time. This issue underscores the talent and resilience of UCSF Ophthalmology's laboratory researchers and clinician scientists as they lead the way toward solutions to the complex health issues we face.

From nationwide clinical trials for coronavirus treatments to a young child's recovery from eye cancer, we are committed to transforming lives. Work to combat the current health crisis is made possible by a remarkable faculty as well as generous and loyal contributors.

This spring, That Man May See saw the retirement of beloved president Kathleen Rydar, and we welcome the arrival of Deborah Chesky to lead in that role. We invite you to honor Kathleen's commitment by contributing to the new Kathleen Rydar Inspiration Fund to support exceptional patient care, research, and education.

We are grateful for your continued support and look forward to welcoming you to our soon-to-be-open Wayne and Gladys Valley Center for Vision.

Sincerely,

Stephen D. McLeod, MD
Theresa M. and Wayne M. Caygill, MD, Distinguished Professor and Chair

ACTION Against COVID-19

Continued from page 1

Leaping into Action

Now, **Catie Oldenburg, ScD, MPH**, and **Thuy Doan, MD, PhD**, lead a clinical trial for COVID-19. They have leveraged Proctor Foundation's deep azithromycin expertise to swiftly initiate a well-designed, nationwide, randomized clinical trial, with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Planning for such rigorous studies often takes months and even years, but the team is already enrolling patients, following a markedly compressed planning period.

The clinical trial is called Azithromycin for COVID-19 Treatment in Outpatients Nationwide (ACTION). The research team, which also includes **Ben Arnold, PhD**; **Travis Porco, PhD**; and **Tom Lietman, MD**, hopes to recruit at least 2,300 patients by the end of the year.

The trial will help researchers understand the potential effect of a single dose of the antibiotic in halting progression of COVID-19 in patients who are not hospitalized. Azithromycin is an antibiotic used to treat many common bacterial infections, and it may have antiviral and anti-inflammatory properties.

The Proctor team collaborates with the Stanford Clinical Virology Lab to recruit newly diagnosed COVID-19 patients. This lab has been performing a high volume of California tests for the virus, known as SARS-CoV-2. COVID-19 patients nationwide are encouraged to participate, and more virology labs will be recruited as well.

Inside the Trial

Each participating patient will be sent a single dose of the azithromycin or a look-alike placebo. Because the study is conducted completely via mail and email, patients with proof of a positive SARS-CoV-2 test can enroll from anywhere in the United States within three days of their positive test result. Participants

will then complete five short online questionnaires over the subsequent three weeks.

In addition, Dr. Doan and her lab team will analyze biosamples taken at home by interested participants. Their analysis will provide insight into the precise effects of the azithromycin.

Changing Science, Changing World

In the face of this pandemic, the Proctor team is experiencing synergy like never before.

"There's a level of cooperation across disciplines that was unusual before," says Dr. Oldenburg. "I feel that the way researchers are working together during the pandemic is going to change how we do science forever."

Evidence generated by the ACTION trial will serve as a blueprint for future trials. "We don't think this is the last coronavirus epidemic that we're going to see," says Dr. Oldenburg. "What we learn now will allow us to jumpstart effective research practices during future epidemics."

Dr. Oldenburg stresses the importance of patients stepping forward to participate in gold-standard clinical trials like this one. "To understand and properly evaluate drug treatments," she says, "the best thing we can do is to conduct and volunteer to take part in randomized controlled trials."

Join the Trial

If you or someone you know tests positive for COVID-19, please consider enrolling in the ACTION study within three days of diagnosis. Learn more: proctor.ucsf.edu/action-trial 415.326.3761



Dr. Catie Oldenburg



Dr. Thuy Doan



Dr. Ben Arnold



Dr. Travis Porco



Dr. Tom Lietman

Keeping Patients Safe



To protect eye patients during the COVID-19 pandemic, UCSF Ophthalmology has implemented stringent safety measures. Innovative solutions are taking shape as clinical teams maximize precautions.

UCSF vision clinics have reopened for nonurgent patient care needs after adopting new policies and practices to protect both patients and practitioners.

“UCSF Ophthalmology is honored to be a trusted health partner during this crisis,” says **M. Reza Vagefi, MD**, medical director for the Department of Ophthalmology. “Our teams are making every effort to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to ensure that patients continue to receive the very best vision care.”

Precautions at All Eye Clinics

All UCSF vision clinics at the Department of Ophthalmology and Francis I. Proctor Foundation for Research in Ophthalmology follow the safety guidelines of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Many new protocols are in place to reduce the risks of viral transmission. Patients can expect prescreening and rescreening for COVID-19, shorter appointments and waiting times, limits on nonessential visitors, and requirements for masks.



Monitoring the eye pressure of a glaucoma patient



Protective plexiglass shields have been installed on all the examination slit-lamp microscopes.


Protective plexiglass shields have been installed on every slit-lamp microscope, creating a physical barrier during face-to-face eye exams. UCSF's **Matthew Russell, MD**, and his father-in-law, Lorne Dubin, kindly fabricated, installed, and donated the innovative shields.

The premises and all instruments undergo disinfection or sterilization each morning, between patients, and at night. All exam room surfaces, including chairs, chin rests, and door handles, are cleaned and disinfected.

Drive-Through Testing

UCSF glaucoma specialists are minimizing contact with drive-through tests to monitor eye pressure, also called intraocular pressure. The brief procedure involves gently touching a disposable, single-use tonometer tip to the surface of the eye while the patient remains inside his or her vehicle.

Telehealth Rising

Telehealth refers to medical triage, diagnosis, and care provided remotely. Pioneered for those living far from medical help, this touchless method reduces transmission risks. Clinicians now meet with patients via video, email, and phone to adjust medication, consult on upcoming surgeries, examine the external eye, and check vision. Brief clinical tests are paired with remote appointments to review test results and go over treatment plans. 

“UCSF Ophthalmology is honored to be a trusted health partner during this crisis.”

— Dr. M. Reza Vagefi,
Medical Director

Research to the Rescue



At press time, UCSF vision scientists had already launched 18 research projects to address aspects of the pandemic. Here are a few highlights.

Forecasting Viral Spread in California

Travis Porco, PhD, MPH; Lee Worden, PhD; Seth Blumberg, MD; and Rae Wannier, BS; of the Proctor Foundation are analyzing mathematical models to guide public health policy, in coordination with the San Francisco Department of Health. The team’s analysis focuses on real-time assessment of current control measures, as well as analysis of contact investigation, mask usage, and social distancing.

Using Artificial Intelligence and Selfies to Diagnose Eye Diseases

Luca Della Santina, PhD, and **Michael Deiner, PhD,** lead a team of clinicians and computer scientists to develop “deep learning” methods that can identify conditions that affect the surface of the eye (external disorders) from selfie images taken by patients (or their families or caregivers) at home. This tool has strong potential to support telemedicine for vision care during and after the pandemic. Collaborators include **Seanna Grob, MD; Julius Oatts, MD; Gerami Seitzman, MD; Tom Lietman, MD;** and **M. Reza Vagefi, MD.**

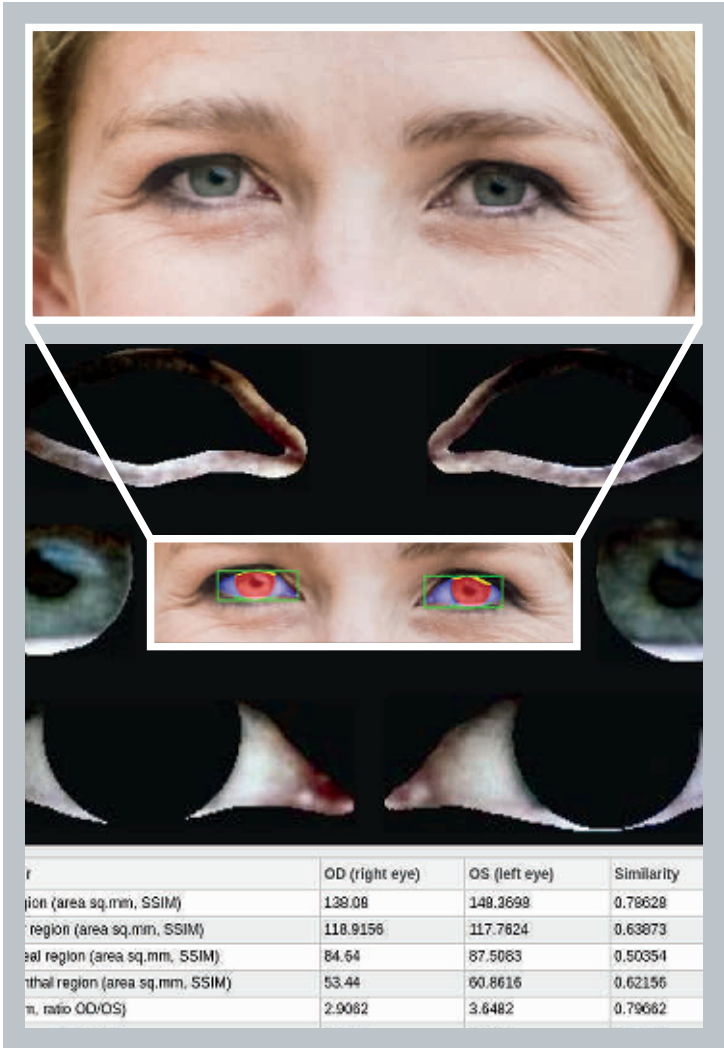
Home Testing for Glaucoma Patients

Yvonne Ou, MD, and **Michael Deiner, PhD,** are studying whether a novel mobile visual field test for glaucoma patients can provide an effective at-home alternative to conventional in-clinic testing during the pandemic. Co-developed with Vivid Vision, Inc., the test uses inexpensive virtual reality headsets and oculokinetic perimetry methods pioneered by **Bertil Damato, MD, PhD, FRCOphth.** Dr. Ou can quickly evaluate the results of tests that her patients perform in their homes.

Pinpointing Short-Distance Viral Spread

Julie Schallhorn, MD, and **Gerami Seitzman, MD,** lead two investigations to determine the presence and prevalence of aerosolized SARS-CoV2 viral particles emitted when patients speak (or sing!). One focuses on people at a testing site and the other on patients convalescing at home. The team also includes **Thuy Doan, MD, PhD,** who performs the genetic diagnostic testing, and **Miel Sundararajan, MD.** Findings will inform future safety guidelines. 👁

Research support is provided by the National Institutes of Health, Research to Prevent Blindness, and That Man May See.



A novel artificial intelligence tool automatically generated measurements for eye characteristics from a digital image of Dr. Seanna Grob. The tool has the potential to diagnose external eye disorders from photos taken at home during the pandemic.



At a COVID-19 screening tent, a Proctor fellow and a nurse study virus aerosolization caused by speech.

UCSF East Bay Vision Clinic

Providing vision care in comprehensive ophthalmology, glaucoma, retina, oculoplastics, and optometry.

Call 415.353.2800 to discuss moving your vision care.

First-Year Gifts Celebrate Sight

Little Mackenzie Fredeen's first birthday was cause for a party.

Her parents, Jordanna Howard and Jeff Fredeen, invited family and friends and asked everyone to consider making charitable gifts to That Man May See for research aimed at retinoblastoma. A rare, early childhood eye cancer that develops in the retinal tissue, retinoblastoma can be curable if diagnosed early, as was Mackenzie's case.

When Mackenzie was only three-and-a-half months old, Jordanna noticed that her baby's eye would often sidetrack. When a local eye doctor dilated the eye, she could see the tumor. The family turned to UCSF's **Armin Afshar, MD, MBA**, a specialist in eye tumors and disorders of the retina and vitreous.

Expert care and seven rounds of chemotherapy later, Mackenzie is making wonderful progress. "You wouldn't know anything was wrong with her," says Jordanna. "Chemo never held her back – she has no fear!"

Coping with a Child's Illness

Dr. Afshar's compassionate care played a significant role in the lives of this family. "He's the most amazing person," Jordanna explains. "I don't think I could ever repay or express how much gratitude I have for him. He and his team saved my daughter's life."

Throughout their daughter's treatment, Mackenzie's parents displayed different coping styles. Jordanna primarily focused on her child's basic needs and shared her feelings only with the medical team, her immediate family, and close friends. Jeff took another approach, seeking information through online support groups hosted by parents dealing with similar family health crises.



Mackenzie Fredeen is thriving after chemotherapy to treat a malignant eye tumor.



“Chemo never held her back – she has no fear!”

— Jordanna Howard, Mackenzie's mother

Generous Birthday Gift to That Man May See

For future occasions, such as Mother's Day, Christmas, and birthdays, the family plans to continue requesting donations to support Dr. Afshar's research through That Man May See. His research focuses on improving treatments for retinoblastoma and the genetic analysis of uveal melanomas. Mackenzie's parents

hope that other families will benefit from their generosity and that, someday, all children will enjoy lifetimes of sight!

"This is a wonderful tribute to Dr. Afshar's care and compassion," remarks Deborah Chesky, incoming president of That Man May See. "We truly appreciate this family and their journey." 👁

If you are inspired by the example set by Mackenzie's family, visit thatmanmaysee.org/donate to learn how you can support UCSF's vision research.

Welcome New Faculty



Dr. Alexander Smith

joins the Department of Ophthalmology after seven years at the UCSF Department of Medicine. With a background in membrane biology, his research focuses on neurodegenerative and autoimmune diseases.

PhD: University of New Mexico, Albuquerque (Cell Biology)
Postdoctorate: Department of Physiology, University of Toronto
Previous Position: Staff scientist, UCSF Department of Medicine

Q What drew you to UCSF and to vision research?

A UCSF is a world-renowned institution that fosters collaboration with leading researchers focusing on basic science and clinical projects that have the potential to benefit human health. Our work on the membrane organization of a protein led us to investigate how the optic nerve is damaged in neuromyelitis optica.

Q What are the goals for your research on cerebrospinal fluid and the eye?

A My primary goal is to understand novel treatment methods, such as injecting drugs directly into the cerebrospinal fluid, for optic neuritis and other ophthalmic diseases. I also am really excited to determine if a buildup of toxic proteins from the cerebrospinal fluid in the visual pathway contributes to visual disturbances or vision loss. These are often associated with neurodegenerative diseases. Finally, we want to learn if the retina is a useful site for diagnosis in neurodegenerative diseases. That is, to what extent is the eye a window to the brain?

Q What are some of your findings?

A Briefly increasing the pressure in the brain greatly increases the amount of cerebrospinal fluid tracers taken up by the optic nerve. We believe this finding has important implications for delivering therapeutics to the optic nerve and for understanding ophthalmic diseases where brain pressure is chronically elevated. It's possible that this finding could lead to better treatments for autoimmune and neurodegenerative diseases affecting the eye.

Q What has been a highlight in your career to date?

A Seeing experimental therapeutic treatments that we have tested in the lab be translated into treatments for patients in need has been extremely gratifying.

Q How do you like to spend your free time?

A I really enjoy exploring the outdoors: hiking, biking, and camping with my family. I love that there are so many amazing outdoor spaces a short distance from the city. 🏞️

Graduate Laboratory Scientists



Joshua Kramer, BS
Inflammation in the Eye
BS: Georgia State University (Chemistry)
Birthplace: Georgia
Mentor: Dr. Lamba



Nicole Tsai, MS
Retina-Brain Circuits
MS: Yale University (Cell Biology)
Birthplace: New Jersey
Mentor: Dr. Duan



Tirthasree Das, MS
Primary Cilia Biology
MS: Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (Cell Biology, Biochemistry)
Birthplace: India
Mentor: Dr. Nachury



Colin Germer, BS
Age-related Macular Degeneration
BS: University of Wisconsin, Madison (Genetics)
Birthplace: Wisconsin
Mentor: Dr. Lakkaraju



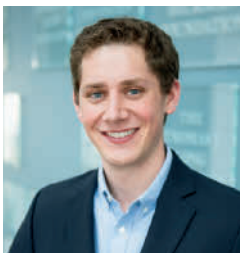
Angela Matcham, BS
Retina-Brain Circuits
BS: UC San Diego (Neuroscience)
Birthplace: New Jersey
Mentor: Dr. Duan



Mengya Victoria Zhao, MD
Optic Nerve Regeneration
MD: Shanghai Jiaotong University (Retinal neurons, axon regeneration)
Birthplace: China
Mentor: Dr. Duan



Hannah Graham, BS
Retina Circuit Development
BS: Brown University (Neuroscience)
Birthplace: Massachusetts
Mentor: Dr. Duan



Scott Harris, BS
Visual Neuroscience
BS: Duke University (Retinal Physiology)
Birthplace: California
Mentor: Dr. Dunn



Nilsa La Cunza, BS
Age-related Macular Degeneration
BS: New Jersey Institute of Technology (Bioengineering)
Birthplace: Peru
Mentor: Dr. Lakkaraju

Residents Zoom Ahead



The Residency Class of 2020, from left: Drs. Neel Pasricha, Jonathan Li, Frances Wu, Lesley Everett, and Bethlehem Mekonnen

The most prestigious ophthalmology fellowship foundation in the country has again chosen graduates of the UCSF Ophthalmology residency program.

Lesley A. Everett, MD, PhD; Neel D. Pasricha, MD; and Frances Wu, MD, were all selected for Heed Ophthalmic Foundation fellowships, which support postgraduate research.

The class of 2020 merited three of only 22 fellowships awarded nationwide, rising to the top in a pool of 450 applicants. This brings to 24 the number of UCSF Ophthalmology residents honored with Heed fellowships since 2009.

“The high caliber of applicants admitted to UCSF residencies and faculty commitment to

training future ophthalmology leaders both play roles in their outstanding achievements,” says **Saras Ramanathan, MD**, director of the Residency Program.

Training for Leadership Roles

Dr. Everett will embark on a fellowship in medical retina at Kellogg Eye Center, University of Michigan. Dr. Pasricha will specialize in cornea, external disease, and refractive surgery during his fellowship at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, University of Miami. Dr. Wu will specialize in surgical retina care during her fellowship at Massachusetts Eye and Ear, Harvard University.

Fellow residents **Bethlehem D. Mekonnen, MD**, and **Jonathan Li, MD**, also gained impressive placements. Dr. Mekonnen will begin a fellowship in cornea and

refractive surgery at Stanford University. Her career goal is to improve ophthalmic care delivery in sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Li will serve as a comprehensive attending ophthalmologist at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center, allowing him to also pursue vision research at ForSight Labs, LLC, an incubator for ophthalmic innovation.

Zooming Ahead

Social distancing shaped the 2020 graduates’ final semester but did not slow their trajectories. They turned to Zoom video to serve eye patients with remote vision care appointments and to interview for highly competitive scholarships and fellowships. Clearly, the class of 2020 is exceptional. 🧐



Recent Gifts for UCSF Ophthalmology

That Man May See thanks you for generous contributions and new pledges for the UCSF Department of Ophthalmology and Francis I. Proctor Foundation, made between November 21, 2019, and May 31, 2020. Gifts at every level make a difference.

Founder's Circle (\$10,000,000+)

Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation

Distinguished Contributors (\$1,000,000+)

Bernie Newcomb and Gerry Marshall

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and Samuel J. Kimura, MD

The David and Elva Sinai Foundation, Inc.

Joan and David Traitel

Entrepreneurs (\$50,000+)

Huang Pacific Foundation

Jeanne and Sandy Robertson

Sandler Foundation

Investors (\$25,000+)

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Kathlyn McPherson Masneri and Arno P. Masneri
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Dr. Thomas and Mrs. Yvonne Mazzocco

Lynn M. Pasternak

The Schreck Family

Charles Zaloudek, MD

Director's Council (\$10,000+)

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Lydian Accelerator

Alastair and Celine Mactaggart

Don and Judy McCubbin

Debbie and Mitch Menaged

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Joan Platt

Kathleen L. Rydar

Ira G. Wong, MD, MS, and Eleanor W. Wong

Jim and Janet Wulfsberg

Luminaries (\$5,000+)

Anonymous (3)

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Brooks Family Foundation

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Susan S. Cronholm

The Dauber Foundation

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Dream Makers (\$2,500+)

Anonymous (2)

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Mary Ann Miliias St. Peter

Eric Zankman and Pamela Kaufmann

Innovators (\$1,000+)

Anonymous

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Andrew Zwick

That Man May See Leadership Transition



Kathleen Rydar (left) and Deborah Chesky collaborated while they sheltered in place.

At the most recent meeting of its board of directors, That Man May See welcomed a new president, Deborah Chesky from Upstate New York, and conferred on Kathleen Rydar the title of President Emeritus.

For 16 years, Kathleen led UCSF’s support foundation for ophthalmology, sharing her passion for science and from-the-heart altruism, resulting in over \$200 million raised to support the mission to save and restore sight.

Department Chair **Stephen McLeod, MD**, Proctor Foundation Director **Tom Lietman, MD**, and the UCSF Ophthalmology faculty share their gratitude. “Kathleen’s legacy is truly remarkable,” says Dr. McLeod. “Under her guidance, we have flourished with charitable support that has been central to our advancement as an institution.”

The *Future of Vision* campaign ensured support for the new Wayne and Gladys Valley Center for Vision at Mission Bay. This state-of-the art facility brings together a remarkable community for patient care, research, and education aimed at overcoming visual impairment and blindness, here and around the globe.

Ensuring a Bright Future

“As That Man May See prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary, we feel especially grateful and excited about Deborah’s arrival to lead us into a productive future,” says John de Benedetti, chair of That Man May See’s board of directors. “Her wealth of experience and personal warmth have quickly made her a welcome member of our family.”


Deborah brings a successful track record of philanthropic leadership and a personal commitment to issues of health and vision. She began her career as a social work director at hospitals in Niskayuna, New York, then moved to philanthropy in health care and ultimately to higher education advancement.

Most recently, Deborah served as Senior Advancement Officer for

Foundation Relations at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, forging successful relationships with many philanthropic leaders nationally and throughout the Bay Area.

So That All May See

Deborah’s passion and commitment to excellence were not hampered by the shelter-in-place directive issued her first day on the new job. Focused on That Man May See’s vision, she established a fund that honors Kathleen for her inspirational guidance of the organization.

“I can’t wait to meet all of our wonderful supporters and friends,” says Deborah. “We are enhancing our technological capacities to stay in touch during this unusual time, and I look forward to meeting you in person – soon!” 

Help us imagine a world in which all may see.

Donate to the Kathleen Rydar Inspiration Fund.

By Phone	Online
415.476.4016	thatmanmaysee.org/donate

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Credits

In Memoriam



Albert R. Schreck

Albert Schreck served on the board of That Man May See beginning in 2005. His contributions were many, imaginative, and heartfelt. He chaired the Development Committee during the *Future of Vision* campaign, toward which he was a generous supporter. He shared humor and gratitude for achievements with donors and staff alike. Albert was a trustee of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Abelard Foundation.

Horses were his passion. Albert was one of the longest tenured Masters of Foxhounds in America, serving over 40 years as Master Emeritus of the Los Altos Hounds and Honorary Master of the Limerick Hounds in Ireland. Albert graduated from Williams College and attended Stanford University School of Law, where he met his wife, Joel Wells Schreck.

Professionally, Albert served as general partner for Kingsley Schreck Wells and Reichling and chairman of Montgomery Capital Corporation. The new owners of 244 California Street, where Albert had a downtown San Francisco office since 1967, named the building in his honor.

As his family writes, “A respite with Albert made your day a little brighter. He was the most generous of anyone we had ever met.”



R. Douglas Norby

Doug Norby joined the board of That Man May See in 2015. His gratitude for the research and care of UCSF clinician scientist **David G. Hwang, MD, FACS**, led him to the cause of saving and restoring sight.

Doug served in many leadership roles including chair of the Audit Committee, proud that every audit was clean. He was a valued member of the cabinet for the *Future of*

Vision campaign; Doug and his wife, Susan Anderson-Norby, supported the effort generously.

Doug had a diverse background, strong financial management experience, and a successful track record in early-stage and public companies in a range of industries. He served as the chief financial officer for numerous Silicon Valley companies, including Tessera Technologies, Inc.; Zambeel, Inc.; Novalux, Inc.; Mentor Graphics Corporation; and Syntex Corporation.

Prior to forming his own company in mergers and acquisitions, Doug served as president and chief operating officer of Lucasfilm Ltd. His directorships of publicly held companies were many, especially in the tech sector.

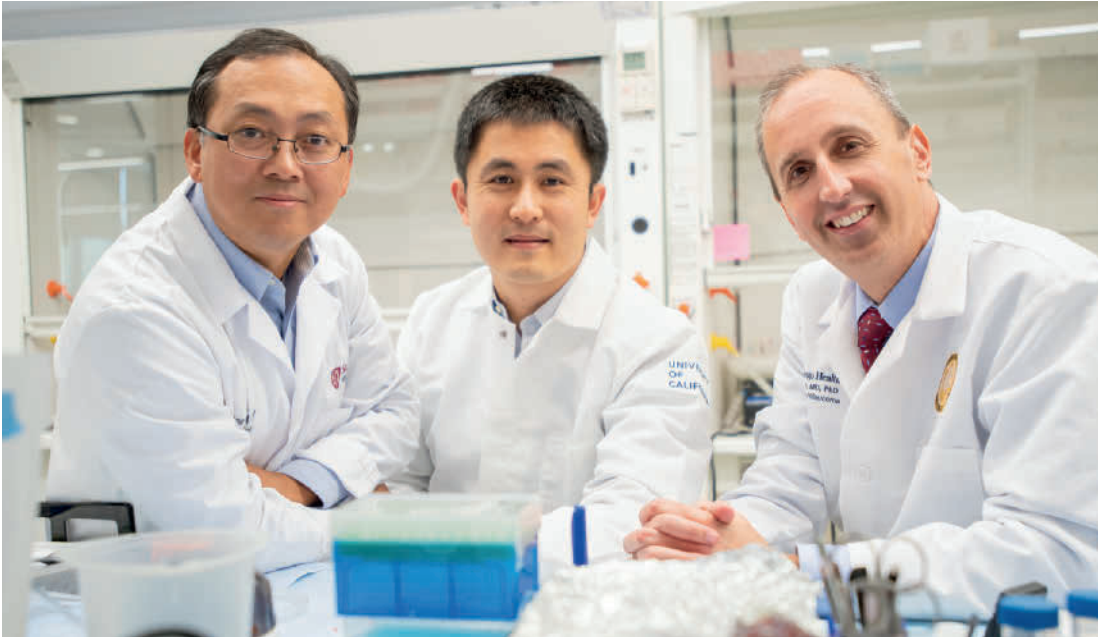
Doug held a BA in Economics from Harvard University and an MBA from Harvard Business School.👁️

Make an Honorary Gift

The families of Albert Schreck and Doug Norby suggest gifts in their loved ones’ memories be made to That Man May See.

415.476.4016
thatmanmaysee.org/donate

Faculty News



Dr. Xin Duan (center) with two of his co-principal investigators: Dr. Yang Hu, of Stanford University (left), and Dr. Derek Welsbie of UC San Diego.

Momentum Toward Sight Restoration

The Glaucoma Research Foundation has awarded a second \$200,000 grant to developmental neurobiologist **Xin Duan, PhD**. One of four principal investigators for the multiyear Catalyst for a Cure vision restoration initiative, Dr. Duan and his UCSF team will continue researching methods for regenerating neurons and neural connections, with the goal of restoring high-quality sight to those who have lost vision to glaucoma.



Pathway Visionary Award

The American Diabetes Association honored molecular biologist **Maxence Nachury, PhD**, with an award that includes \$1.625 million for Dr. Nachury's research project "Regulation of body weight homeostasis and beta cell function by primary cilia." Defects in cilia – tiny hair-like projections of cells – are recognized as culprits in several genetic disorders, including obesity, diabetes, and retinal

degeneration. Presented to only two researchers nationwide, the foundation's Pathway awards advance innovative work to halt diabetes and obesity.



Leadership in Matrix Biology

Doug Gould, PhD, has been elected to the Council for the American Society for Matrix Biology. The society advances understanding of the extracellular matrix, an elaborate organization of proteins that function outside cells. This matrix provides physical support for the cells and relays biological information that is critical to cell and tissue function. Abnormalities or aging of the extracellular matrix

contributes to a broad range of vision-related diseases, from developmental glaucoma to age-related macular degeneration. 

VISION is produced by **That Man May See**, a 501(c)3 public charity. Its mission is to raise funds for the dedicated faculty of UCSF Ophthalmology to make possible breakthroughs in vision research, state-of-the-art patient care, educational opportunities for residents and fellows, and community service.

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Leadership
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Early Detection to Halt Spread

Underfunded health clinics, lack of running water, and other public health deficits leave millions of people in sub-Saharan Africa vulnerable to COVID-19. In response, the Proctor Foundation is leveraging two clinical trials underway in Burkina Faso to look for early signs of COVID-19 outbreaks. Led by **Catie Oldenburg, MPH, ScD**, the trials examine the impact of azithromycin on child mortality and involve 50,000 infants and young children.

Health workers are now tracking COVID-19 symptoms and influenza-like illnesses in participating clinics. This "syndromic surveillance" method was used to detect an increase in influenza-like illness in New York prior to the first major rise in COVID-19 cases, at a time when the number of lab-confirmed flu cases was declining. With this "early warning system," the Proctor Foundation aims to empower local governments and health organizations to respond as quickly as possible to stem the spread of the virus. 



Researchers added COVID-19 surveillance to clinical trials treating children in Burkina Faso. This young participant is taking her dose of azithromycin.

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