



# VISIONS

Koret Vision Institute + Beckman Vision Center + Department of Ophthalmology + Francis I. Proctor Foundation

Summer 2014

University of California, San Francisco + That Man May See

## Focal Point



Dear Friends,

This summer issue of Visions magazine describes research that benefits patients in the Bay Area as well as far-reaching sites around the globe. Our lead stories define our mission – hastening discovery to solve the most complex eye disorders with the goal of saving and restoring sight worldwide.

Thank you for your support of our dedicated faculty. Your gifts to our support foundation, That Man May See, make possible these patient-centered research programs and recruitment funds for new laboratory scientists and clinician researchers.

It is exciting to welcome six new faculty members. Their expertise encompasses the cornea, medical retina, inflammatory and infectious disease, cataracts, neuro-ophthalmology, public health ophthalmology, and glaucoma research.

Dedicated to training the next generation of leaders in ophthalmology, we are especially proud of the continuing accomplishments of our residents. Prestigious Heed Awards were bestowed on Drs. Allison Loh, Shivali Menda, and Michael Seider. Our residents and fellows are consistently held in high regard by our faculty, patients, and colleagues around the country.

Your investments make a real difference, and we appreciate your generosity.

Sincerely,



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



An activist for retinal research support, Lorie Hirson enjoys a Sunday at the park with sons Noah and Ari.

## Solving Inherited Retinal Degeneration From Shadow to Sunlight

“What can you see, Mommy?”

Noah Hirson wants to know how his mother’s eye disease makes the world look different. “It’s like looking through a tunnel this wide,” she explains, holding her hands about four inches apart. Although her visual field has narrowed dramatically, the faces of her family – sons Noah, 8, Ari, 5, and husband Ron – remain vivid and detailed, for now.

At age 43, Lorie Hirson has a rare inherited form of retinal degeneration called retinitis pigmentosa. As in macular degenerations and glaucoma, the retinal cells progressively die off, impairing the eye’s ability to send signals to the brain. Twelve clinical researchers and basic scientists in UC San Francisco’s Department of Ophthalmology investigate the retina, working to understand how its precious cells deteriorate and how to protect and even regenerate vision cells.

Continued on page 2



Dr. Jeremy Keenan confers with volunteer health workers in Nepal.

## Preventing Corneal Blindness Proctor Team Engages Volunteers

A stem of rice, a chicken feather, threshing debris lifted by the wind. Such elements can easily scratch the front of the eye, inviting infections that lead to corneal ulcers, opaque scars, and vision loss. People who perform manual agricultural labor are far more likely to suffer corneal abrasions, and they are the least likely to receive sight-saving treatment.

### Promising Strategy, NIH Funding

With extremely high rates of corneal ulcers and related blindness, Nepal seeks solutions for its people. “In rural areas, eye hospitals are few and far between,” says **Kieran O’Brien, MPH**, study coordinator at UC San Francisco’s Francis I. Proctor Foundation for Research in Ophthalmology. “Poor

Continued on page 3

### A PEEK INSIDE:



Appointment for Dr. McLeod



New Faculty: Commitment to Research, Teaching, and Care



Gratitude for Recent Gifts



Residents Shine as Heed Fellows

“Retinal degenerative diseases pose some of the greatest challenges in ophthalmology today.”

– Dr. Jacque Duncan

#### Focus on Finding Answers

No approved treatments or cures for retinitis pigmentosa yet exist, but innovative therapies that emerge from UCSF's sustained laboratory investigation may brighten Lorie's prognosis. The faculty combines the latest findings in genetics, neurobiology, and physiology with bio-engineering advances to develop truly novel solutions for patients who are waiting and hoping.

“Retinal degenerative diseases pose some of the greatest challenges in ophthalmology today,” says leading researcher **Jacque L. Duncan, MD** (and Lorie's clinician). Dr. Duncan holds the Stephen G. Kramer, MD, PhD, Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology. These complex disorders call for many avenues of investigation. For example, more than 100 gene mutations can cause retinitis pigmentosa.

Over time, Lorie's visual field is expected to shrink to a pinhole at best. Prosthetics, experimental ocular transplants, and innovative gene therapies all hold potential. The Argus II Retinal Prosthesis System (see sidebar) delivers some fundamentals of sight and might make sense for Lorie in the future. A number of clinical trials designed to slow vision loss or restore sight to patients like Lorie are under

way. “Being able to keep any bit of sight would make a huge difference in my quality of life,” she says.

People with inherited retinal degenerations not only face progressive vision loss but the knowledge that family members are at risk. Lorie's older brother also inherited the disease.

Ophthalmologists guard patients' remaining sight while keeping them apprised of relevant research developments. Low vision consultants help them make the most of their vision through adaptive technologies. Most of all, those facing vision disabilities need support, empathy, and understanding from family, friends, and community, and a caring hand when help is needed.

#### Disabled, Not Helpless

“Night blindness came first, and I gave up driving completely in my 30s,” Lorie recalls. Her career in public relations is well suited to cities, and urban living has helped her stay self-reliant. The Hirsons reside in San Francisco, where Lorie can walk Ari to school and stop along Clement Street for groceries. She takes the bus daily, whether traveling to her son Noah's school, going to the gym, or visiting clients around the city. Reading continues to be a pleasure, and she benefits from high-contrast web content.



Ron and Lorie Hirson

## 3rd Annual Alcatraz Swim for Sight

### Join in!

Sunday, September 28, Aquatic Park, San Francisco

Swim to raise funds for vision research.

Make a donation to That Man May See.

**Goals:** \$100,000 and 100 swimmers

**To make a tax-deductible gift, register as a swimmer, or learn more, go to [thatmanmaysee.org/alcatraz/](http://thatmanmaysee.org/alcatraz/)**

“I'm still so independent,” Lorie says, “but people in my inner circle help me, and I ask for assistance in places like airports.” Over the past three years, her white cane has become important for navigating on her own.

#### Swimming Toward Hope

Not one to take her condition sitting down, Lorie has chosen to use swimming to raise awareness and vital funds for vision research. She and her husband Ron are organizing the third annual Alcatraz Swim for Sight (see sidebar). Offering a mile and a half of open bay swimming, the event will be held in September, San Francisco's warmest month. The couple also serves on the

board of directors of That Man May See, support foundation for UCSF vision science.

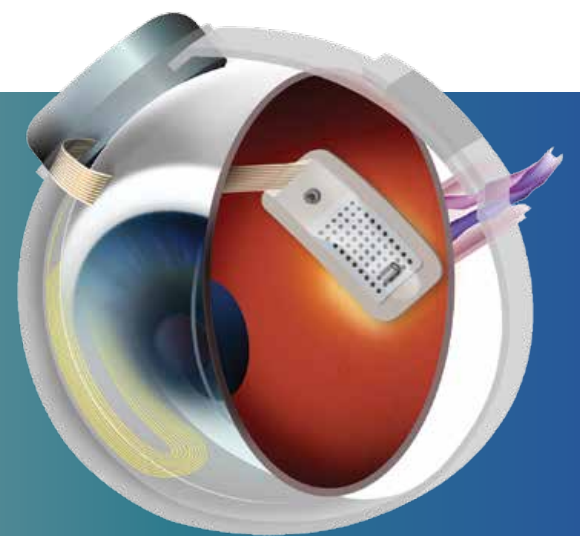
For the Hirsons, the silver lining of Lorie's disease is their sons' emerging sensitivity to others. “The boys are alert to people whom they identify as ‘similar to mom,’” says Lorie. “They are learning to be sympathetic and open to people who seem different.”

Noah is growing old enough to think about possible solutions. He wants to know if doctors can fix Lorie's eyes. ‘Hopefully in the future’ is her heartfelt response. ●

## Eye Research Fuels Breakthroughs

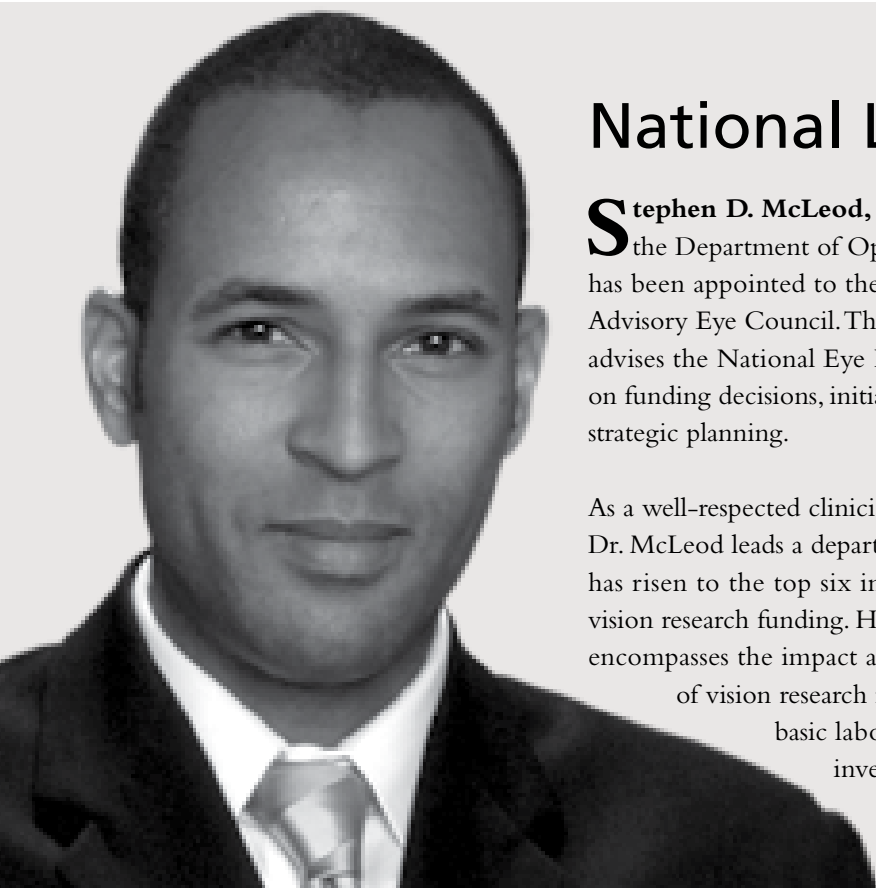
To change the fate of babies and children with inherited retinal degenerations, the **Claire Giannini Fund** recently awarded \$515,000 for Dr. Jacque Duncan's research program. Using adaptive optics technology, she will image patients' rods and cones in great detail.

The funds also will help establish a UCSF “reading center” for uniform analysis and interpretation of the novel images. This center will position UCSF as the premier site for collaborative, multicenter adaptive optics-based clinical trials and pave the way for future breakthroughs. **Foundation Fighting Blindness** also supports Dr. Duncan's work.



## Bionic Eye: Sight for the Blind

The Argus II Retinal Prosthesis System, now approved for US commercial use, was tested at UCSF and other leading eye centers. **Eugene de Juan Jr., MD**, the ophthalmology department's Jean Kelly Stock Distinguished Professor, cofounded Second Sight, which produces the system. UCSF plans to provide the device to Bay Area patients later this year.



## National Leadership Role for Dr. McLeod

**S**tephen D. McLeod, MD, chair of the Department of Ophthalmology, has been appointed to the National Advisory Eye Council. This committee advises the National Eye Institute on funding decisions, initiatives, and strategic planning.

As a well-respected clinician researcher, Dr. McLeod leads a department that has risen to the top six in federal vision research funding. His perspective encompasses the impact and challenges of vision research ranging from basic laboratory investigation to clinical trials

Dr. McLeod leads a department that has risen to the top six in federal vision research funding.

that study patients using innovative therapies.

The National Eye Institute, as part of the National Institutes of Health, works to identify and support the most promising research to prolong and protect the vision of the American people. It funds investigations that can generate scientific discoveries to save sight.

“The National Eye Institute is by far the nation’s most significant source

of funding for vision research, setting the direction and agenda,” explains Dr. McLeod. “This appointment is a tremendous opportunity to contribute to the process.”

UCSF Ophthalmology is ranked as one of the nation’s top eye institutes. Dr. McLeod’s four-year appointment will span the remainder of the Obama administration and the beginning of the next. ●

### Proctor Team Engages Volunteers

Continued from page 1

roads make traveling for treatment more difficult,” she adds. To overcome these challenges, the Proctor Foundation developed an intervention that relies on diagnosis and treatment by local volunteers.

Initial studies, seed funded by private investors, showed promise. The National Institutes of Health then awarded the Proctor Foundation \$2.25 million over

**The \$2.25 million study has the potential to reshape blindness prevention efforts worldwide.**

five years to plan, implement, and analyze a rigorous community-randomized trial, which has the potential to reshape blindness prevention efforts worldwide.

More than 200,000 people living in Nepal’s Bharatpur Valley are study subjects. A Proctor Foundation team – Kieran O’Brien, **Jeremy Keenan, MD, MPH;** **Nisha Acharya, MD, MA;** **Travis Porco, PhD;** **Jack Whitcher, MD, MPH;** and senior investigator **Tom Lietman, MD** – works closely with the Bharatpur Eye Hospital, the Seva Foundation, and local volunteers.

Nepal recruits women to provide basic health services in their villages and to rally participation in public health campaigns. More than 100 of these volunteers are learning techniques for diagnosis and treatment of corneal abrasions, guided by Dr. Keenan, Kieran O’Brien, and nine Bharatpur Eye Hospital health workers. Back in their home villages, these women will be on the front lines of blindness prevention.

#### Embracing Low and High Tech

A magnifying loupe and a special flashlight substitute for the ophthalmologist’s slit lamp in the field. Volunteers diagnose abrasions by gently pressing a fluorescein-coated paper strip inside the lower eyelid and then examining the eye. If the fluorescein shows green staining, the corneal surface has been compromised. The volunteers then apply ointments to prevent bacterial and fungal infections and teach their patients to use the medications at home. Follow-up exams and referrals of unhealed cases to the eye hospital promote effective care.



This volunteer health worker will provide diagnosis and treatment in her home village during the trial.

## CORNEAL ULCERS 4th Leading Cause of Blindness Globally

**ESTIMATED RATES  
OF CORNEAL ULCERS**  
Per 100,000 Person-Years

**Nepal 113-800**  
**California 27**

A smartphone application, customized at UCSF, speeds and improves data collection. Census takers upload demographics and images of each person’s eyes to establish baselines for corneal health, enabling the team to most accurately determine the rate of corneal ulcers.

#### Advancing Global Health

To determine the extent to which the Proctor Foundation’s innovative strategy has, in fact, reduced the rate of corneal ulcers and resulting blindness, researchers will meticulously analyze the huge data set produced by the trial. According to Dr. Lietman, “The outcomes could impact the development of a worldwide program to eliminate blinding corneal ulcers, including in California’s Central Valley, where manual harvesting increases risk.” ●

*Seed funds for initial investigations were provided by Laurence and Sue Spitters through That Man May See, Harper-Inglis Trust, Peierls Foundation, Mort and Marilyn Leiter, Chuck and Sue Leiter, the World Health Organization, and Research to Prevent Blindness. To learn more about ways to support corneal research at UCSF, contact Kathleen Rydar at That Man May See (415.476.4016 or rydark@vision.ucsf.edu).*



## Department of Ophthalmology

### Cataract Specialist Dr. Saras Ramanathan

Cataract specialist **Saras Ramanathan, MD**, has a passion for teaching complex cataract surgery and for mentoring young ophthalmologists in training. Her focus and commitment to both endeavors have brought her recognition for outstanding teaching at the University of Chicago, Johns Hopkins University's Wilmer Eye Institute, California Pacific Medical Center, and now at UCSF.

Dr. Ramanathan provides surgical care for cataract and lens implantation patients at the Parnassus campus. At San Francisco General Hospital she also serves as attending operating room surgeon while teaching residents to perform cataract

“I define my success in a patient's smile, a family's appreciation, and a resident's pride in achievement.”

– Dr. Saras Ramanathan

surgery. Her publications on surgical simulation and cataract surgery teaching methodology have influenced the way surgical ophthalmology is taught.

#### Training in Humanity

Dr. Ramanathan believes in teaching residents to be excellent communicators, too. “It's time to train residents to connect with their patients on a more powerful and personal level,” says Dr. Ramanathan. She is developing a formal curriculum to achieve just that.

“Our words, our tone, our quality of presence all help shape meaningful interactions and contribute to patient well-being,” says Dr. Ramanathan.

#### Attuned to Gratitude

“Truly it is in the many small moments of gratitude – a patient's smile, a family's appreciation, or a resident's pride in achievement – by which I define my success,” says the master teacher. She tells residents that reward comes hundreds



of time each week, if only they can be sensitive to it. ●

### Basic Scientist – Glaucoma Dr. Saidas Nair

“The ultimate hope is that our research will guide us to innovative therapies or interventions.”

– Dr. Saidas Nair

Vision scientist **Saidas Nair, PhD**, took a circuitous route from his home state of Kerala, India, to UCSF. After earning his doctorate in Mumbai, he investigated signaling mechanisms in visual photoreceptors at the University of Miami. He then advanced his training at the Jackson Laboratory, a world-renowned genetics research institute in Maine, where he pursued his interest in genetics of ocular diseases with a focus on glaucoma. Dr. Saidas, his wife Papia, and their

young daughter Isha are pleased to make the Bay Area their new home.

#### Many Tools, One Goal

Glaucoma is a leading cause of irreversible blindness. Most common forms result from the combined effects of multiple genetic mutations, most of which are yet to be identified.

At UCSF, Dr. Nair applies tools of genetics, genomics, physiology, and molecular and cell biology to identify and probe how genetic mutations contribute



to the disease. One major focus is angle-closure glaucoma, a severe subset of the disease that causes blindness in more people than any other form of glaucoma.

“Our goal is to identify these harmful genetic mutations and uncover the pathways through which they act to induce intraocular pressure elevation and vision loss. The ultimate hope is that our research will guide us to innovative therapies or interventions that significantly lower the risk of glaucoma without surgery,” says Dr. Nair.

#### Patients May Advance Research

Dr. Nair was attracted to UCSF for its reputation in research and its proximity to the Bay Area's biotechnology development. The department of Ophthalmology's outstanding glaucoma service also played a role. He is already forging alliances with clinician scientists to explore ways to tap into patient-based resources for screening relevant glaucoma-causing mutations. ●

### Neuro-Ophthalmologist Dr. Marc Levin

**Marc Levin, MD, PhD**, is excited to join UCSF, home to pioneers of his discipline. A fourth-generation San Franciscan who earned his medical and doctoral degrees in UCSF's Medical Scientist Training Program, Dr. Levin and his wife Jennifer Levin could not be happier to return to UCSF and his hometown.

#### Society of Heed Fellows

Dr. Levin's election to the Society of Heed Fellows, which each year distinguishes five ophthalmology fellows nationwide, symbolizes the excellence he brings to the department. Dr. Levin completed his ophthalmology residency and neuro-ophthalmology fellowship at The Scheie Eye Institute, University of Pennsylvania.

“I am passionate about moving the field of neuro-ophthalmology forward.”

– Dr. Marc Levin

“I am passionate about moving the fields of basic and clinical neuro-ophthalmology forward. UCSF's **Dr. William Hoyt** is really the grandfather of this field. He often stops by my clinic, which is a real joy,” says Dr. Levin. “**Creig Hoyt, MD, MA**, and **Jonathan Horton, MD, PhD**, have set the standard for academic neuro-ophthalmology,” he adds.

#### Interest in Optic Nerve

Dr. Levin cares for patients with neurologic disorders affecting vision, as well as surgical patients with adult strabismus. A particular interest of his is optic nerve disorders, which can

be caused by inflammatory, vascular, neoplastic, genetic, nutritional, or toxic factors.

In the laboratory, Dr. Levin investigates the pathophysiology and treatment of inflammatory optic neuropathies. He works to advance models for optic nerve damage in multiple sclerosis and neuromyelitis optica, diseases that affect the eye's anterior visual pathways. His graduate work focused on ion and water channels in epithelial cell membranes at the ocular surface, and he continues to evaluate promising therapies for dry eye syndromes.



Research collaborations are taking shape with UCSF faculty members **Alan Verkman, MD, PhD**; **Scott Zamvil, MD, PhD**; and **Ari Green, MD**. ●

# Welcomes New Faculty

## Francis I. Proctor Foundation for Research in Ophthalmology

### *Uveitis Specialist* Dr. John Gonzales

“If we can develop genetic profiles to pinpoint more diseases earlier, it likely will save lives as well as sight.”

– Dr. John Gonzales

The curiosity of **John Gonzales, MD**, shows how imagination, properly stoked, can ignite a career. After a childhood illness required blood tests, young John received a slide of his own blood from an enthusiastic medical technician. His parents then gave him a cheap microscope.

“That glimpse of my cells was the first spark,” says Dr. Gonzales. “My body contained a secret world within it.” His early passion for biology led him to the University of Southern California for a medical degree and then to the University of Texas at Galveston for his residency. During a UCSF fellowship in uveitis and nonsurgical corneal care, Dr. Gonzales also built expertise in retinal and corneal viral infections and dry eye.

#### Genetic Diagnoses Ahead

Dr. Gonzales served on the faculty of the Albert Einstein School of Medicine in New York City prior to joining the UCSF faculty. As a uveitis specialist, he uses laboratory tests to help determine the cause of each case, allowing a match with the best available treatment. Unfortunately, many uveitic diseases lack a diagnostic test.

Dr. Gonzales aims to address this problem by identifying genetic causes of particular uveitic disorders so that tests can be designed to diagnose them. Sarcoidosis, a systemic disease that causes uveitis and is life threatening when it reaches the lungs, is his first research subject. The work may lead to a simple blood test.

“If we can develop genetic profiles to pinpoint more diseases earlier, it likely will save lives as well as sight,” says Dr. Gonzales. ●



### *Cornea Specialist* Dr. Jennifer Rose-Nussbaumer

“It’s so rewarding to be able to restore sight with a new cornea.”

– Dr. Jennifer Rose-Nussbaumer

**Jennifer Rose-Nussbaumer, MD**, knows her way around the cornea and UCSF. She graduated from medical school here and became a fellow at the Proctor Foundation after a residency at Oregon Health and Science University. Cornea treatment, transplants, and artificial implants are her specialties.

“It’s so rewarding to be able to restore sight with a new cornea,” says Dr. Rose-Nussbaumer. Some of her patients have reversible blindness due to corneal opacity or edema (swelling); others face the threat of blindness.

#### Corneal Surgery, at Home and Abroad

To serve patients now and in the future, Dr. Rose-Nussbaumer provides surgical care through the Department of Ophthalmology cornea clinic, while reserving time for Proctor Foundation research to improve surgical techniques in the United States and adapt newer surgical techniques to developing nations. “In Ethiopia, I was involved in training two ophthalmologists to perform corneal transplants for the first time,” she says enthusiastically.

Prior to medical school, Dr. Rose-Nussbaumer earned a degree in theology while living in Paris. “Science and theology interest me because they both examine fundamental human questions,” she says. When she returned to San Francisco to pursue medical training, she brought back a French husband, Christophe Nussbaumer. French language and culture now permeate family life, as the couple raises their children Zachary, Lukah, and Nathan. ●



### *Infectious and Inflammatory Eye Disease Specialist* Dr. Emmett Cunningham Jr.

**Emmett Cunningham Jr., MD, PhD, MPH**, an internationally recognized authority on infectious and inflammatory eye disease, trained at UCSF in the mid-1990s as an ophthalmology resident and as a fellow in cornea, external disease, and uveitis at the Proctor Foundation.

Dr. Cunningham remained at the foundation as director of the uveitis service and head of the Pearl and Samuel J. Kimura Ocular Immunology Laboratory until 2001. Since that time, he has held a number of positions, including clinical professor of ophthalmology and director

of the uveitis service at the New York University School of Medicine, adjunct clinical professor of ophthalmology at Stanford University School of Medicine, director of the uveitis service at California Pacific Medical Center, senior vice president of medical strategy at Eyetech Pharmaceuticals, and partner at healthcare venture capital firm Clarus Ventures.

Now returned as a research associate, teaching will be his initial focus. “Resident and fellow education is one of my lifelong passions,” says Dr. Cunningham. He has received numerous awards for clinical teaching and written more than 300 publications. Dr. Cunningham received

“Resident and fellow education is one of my lifelong passions.”

– Dr. Emmett Cunningham Jr.

his doctorate in neuroscience from UC San Diego for work done at the Salk Institute and his medical and master’s of public health degrees from the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. He did additional fellowships in public health ophthalmology at the Wilmer Eye Center in Baltimore and in medical retina and uveitis at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London. ●



# Faculty News

Dr. Richard Abbott

## Dr. Abbott Takes International Bow



At a formal ceremony in Tokyo, Dr. Abbott received the International Duke Elder medal. Seated stage right is the crown prince of Japan.

### Friendship and Field Advancement

The Duke Elder medal is awarded every four years to one ophthalmologist whose leadership and teaching has contributed most to the development of international relations and friendship between ophthalmologists and who has advanced the field through contributions in writing and organization in ophthalmology. “My international colleagues and their patients provide the inspiration for my work,” says Dr. Abbott.

In addition to research and teaching, Dr. Abbott is recognized internationally for leadership in defining clinical practice guidelines, development of curricula for continuing clinician education, and ethics regarding eye care and eye surgery.

Dr. Abbott serves as chairman of the International Council of Ophthalmology Clinical Practice Guidelines Committee and as secretary for Global Alliances for the American Academy of Ophthalmology. He is also adjunct professor in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

The medal was presented by International Council of Ophthalmology President Bruce E. Spivey, MD, during the World Ophthalmology Congress in Tokyo in April. Dr. Abbott delivered the Duke Elder oration in Birmingham, United Kingdom, at the Royal College of Ophthalmologists Annual Congress in May. ●

*Adapted from a UCSF Blog by Juliana Bunim*

Internationally renowned ophthalmologist **Richard Abbott, MD**, was selected as the 2014 International Duke Elder medalist. Dr. Abbott, whose expertise is in corneal and external diseases of the eye, holds the Thomas W. Boyden Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology.

“I am humbled and deeply honored to receive this prestigious award,” says Dr. Abbott. “I would like to thank the UCSF Department of Ophthalmology and That Man May See for support that allows me to spend significant time on this international work.”



### Matilda Chan, MD, PhD

**Invited Lecturer:** “HSV-1 Us9-30 mutant as a candidate HSV vaccine in a mouse ocular model,” Biology & Pathobiology of the Cornea meeting, Gordon Research Conference, Ventura, California

This talk described a research collaboration between Dr. Chan and Dr. Jennifer LaVail on the possible use of a herpes simplex virus mutant as a vaccine against the reactivation of the virus following initial infection of the cornea.



### Jacquie L. Duncan, MD

**Appointment:** Accepted as one of 14 new members in the Macula Society



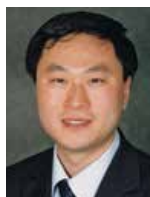
### Doug Gould, PhD

**Invited Lecturer:** “Genetics and the pathology of a multi-system collagen disorder,” UC Davis Department of Cell Biology and Human Anatomy (co-sponsored by the UC Davis Center for Vision Science)



### Jeanette Hyer, PhD

**Publication:** Venters SJ, Mikawa T, **Hyer J.** Central and peripheral retina arise through distinct developmental paths. *PLOS One* 8(4): Apr 2013.



### Shan Lin, MD

**Election:** Chair of the Patient Care Committee for the American Glaucoma Society



### Nancy A. McNamara, OD, PhD

**Publication:** Chen Y-T, Zhou D, Metzger T, Gallup M, Jeanne M, Gould D, Anderson M, **McNamara NA.** Spontaneous development of autoimmune uveitis is CCR2-dependent. *American Journal of Pathology*, 2014 Jun;184(6):1695-705. doi: 10.1016/j.ajpath.2014.02.024.

This publication shows a functional role for macrophages (cells involved in natural and adaptive immunity) in the pathogenesis of autoimmune-mediated uveitis.



### Yvonne Ou, MD

**Invited Lecturer:** “Synapse loss in a mouse model of ocular hypertension,” American Glaucoma Society Annual Meeting, Washington, DC

Dr. Ou presented research demonstrating there may be specific subtypes of optic nerve cells that are more susceptible in glaucoma, which may be useful in developing treatments that protect optic nerve cells from dying in glaucoma.



### Daniel M. Schwartz, MD

**Publication:** **Schwartz D,** Fingler J, Kim D, Zawadzki R, Morse L, Park S, Fraser S, Werner J. Phase-variance optical coherence tomography: A technique for noninvasive angiography. *Ophthalmology* 121(1):180-187, Jan 2014.



*Ophthalmology* cover story for Dr. Schwartz

## Koret Vision Research Laboratories + Beckman Vision Center + Proctor Foundation

Facilities of UCSF Ophthalmology

University of California  
San Francisco  
Department of Ophthalmology  
10 Koret Way, Room K-301  
San Francisco, CA 94143-0730  
www.ucsfeye.net

Francis I. Proctor Foundation  
95 Kirkham Street  
San Francisco, CA 94143-0944  
proctor.ucsf.edu

### HOW TO REACH US

#### Comprehensive Eye Center

415.353.2800  
Routine eye care, acute care,  
eye disease referrals

#### Eyeglasses & Contact Lenses

415.476.3100

#### Cataract and Cornea Care

415.514.8200

#### Glaucoma Care

415.514.6920

#### Neuro-Ophthalmology

415.514.6900

#### Ocular Oncology Care

415.514.6900

#### Ocular Plastic Surgery

415.353.2142

#### Pediatric Ophthalmology

415.353.2560

#### Proctor Medical Group

415.476.1442

#### Retinal Care

415.353.2402

#### Vision Correction Surgery Center

415.353.2020

Individualized vision correction surgery, including LASIK and PRK

Harvey Birsner, MD

# Bequest Endows Chair in Neuro-Ophthalmology

Before his death last year, **Harvey Birsner, MD**, named UC San Francisco a beneficiary of his estate. His nearly \$1 million endowment will be used to establish a chair in neuro-ophthalmology and for scholarships in the School of Medicine.

“Harvey was a remarkably talented neurosurgeon and an outstanding alumnus of the UCSF School of Medicine,” says **Stephen D. McLeod, MD**, chair of the Department of Ophthalmology. “He will be remembered in perpetuity through the research and teaching of the chair holders and by the students who are among the next generation of physician leaders.”

In 1970, when **William F. Hoyt, MD**, accepted Dr. Birsner as a UCSF neuro-ophthalmology fellow, he stipulated one condition: he had to read all three volumes of *Walsh & Hoyt's Clinical Neuro-Ophthalmology* before he began training.



Dr. Harvey Birsner

“Harvey knew a great deal about neurosurgery at the time, but not as much about the eye,” explains emeritus professor Dr. Hoyt, a world-renowned neuro-ophthalmology teacher and scholar. Dr. Birsner had earned his medical degree at the UCSF School of Medicine.

In 1972, he became the first neurosurgeon at Antelope Valley Hospital outside Los Angeles. In his near 30-year career there, his appointments included chief of surgery, chief of medical staff, and chairman of the board. Whenever the opportunity arose, he advised neurosurgeons to examine patients' eyes and fields of vision as a way to diagnose neurological disease. ●

*Special thanks to UCSF's Susan Godstone for her research and writing contributions.*

## Gratitude for Recent Gifts

*That Man May See appreciates the generous contributions and pledges for vision research, teaching, patient care, and community outreach received between November 13, 2013, and May 2, 2014. For a complete donor list, please visit [www.thatmanmaysee.org/how-you-can-help/contributors/](http://www.thatmanmaysee.org/how-you-can-help/contributors/)*

### Benefactors (\$500,000+)

Andrew and Cecilia Yau

### Visionaries (\$100,000+)

Theresa M. Caygill  
Dr. Thomas and Mrs. Yvonne Mazzocco  
Don and Judy McCubbin

### Entrepreneurs (\$50,000+)

Gerson and Barbara Bakar  
Peierls Foundation  
Sandler Foundation  
Ronald and Anita Wornick

### Investors (\$25,000+)

Anonymous  
Daniel Benatar  
Jack and Betty Demetree Family Foundation  
The Sean and Leslie Doherty Family  
Lynn M. Pasternak  
Chuck Robel  
Joan and David Traitel

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

Anonymous  
Thomas and Johanna Baruch  
BNY Mellon Wealth Management  
California HealthCare Foundation, Oakland, California  
Mrs. Daniel G. Cook  
Margaret R. Duflock  
Luke Evin and Deann Wright  
Françoise G. Fleishhacker  
K. Bruce and Lois Friedman  
Hazel and Michael Kawaja  
The Kimball Foundation  
Love Family Charitable Fund  
Ivan, Maris, and Harry Meyerson  
Norby Anderson  
Richard and Candace Olsen  
Lisle and Roslyn Payne  
Perkins Hunter Foundation

David and Bobbie Pratt  
Jeanne and Sanford Robertson  
Arthur and Toni Rembe Rock  
Sue and Laurence Spitters  
Ted and Betty Tight  
Michel and Masako Vacheron  
Lucinda Watson

### Luminaries (\$5,000+)

Mary and Phil Anderson  
The Bellini Foundation  
Timothy G. Berger, MD, and Jessica O'Dwyer  
H. Michael Braude  
Buck and Sylvia Breiholz  
Geraldine K. Cole  
Patrick and Ginger Connolly  
Paula Dawson  
John F. de Benedetti and Nina K. Srejovic  
Jerome H. Debs II  
Gloria and Saul Feldman  
William H. and Frances D. Green  
Dr. and Mrs. Sylvan D. Gross  
John Hall and Rebecca Derrington  
Donald and Roslyn Kahn  
Mrs. James P. Livingston  
Angus L. and Virginia MacLean Jr.  
Alastair and Celine Mactaggart  
The Mattson Family Conservation Foundation  
James and Janet Mitchell  
Gerry Marshall and Bernie Newcomb from Bernard A. Newcomb Fund at Silicon Valley Community Foundation  
Joan Platt  
W. Scott Thomas

### Dream Makers (\$2,500+)

Anonymous (2)  
Richard L. and Cecilia Abbott  
Joan and Peter Avenali  
Paul and Betty Baldacci Family Foundation

Edward and Margaret Collins  
Sandra and Conrad Donner  
Shustek Dubinsky Family Philanthropic Fund  
Elaine A. Eklund  
Enersen Foundation  
Bernard and Leah Freiwald  
The Hart 1998 Charitable Remainder Unitrust  
Ashok N. and Sudha N. Katti  
Lydia A. Lukian, MD  
John and Peggy Stock  
Robert K. and Barbara J. Straus Family Foundation, Inc.  
Camele S. Wanat  
Bruce U. Wintroub, MD, and Marya Wintroub  
Burton L. Wise, MD, and Myra Wise, PhD  
Ira G. Wong, MD, MS, and Eleanor W. Wong

### Innovators (\$1,000+)

Anonymous (5)  
Linda L. Aldrich  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bancroft  
Joelle Benioff  
C.M. Capital Foundation  
Johnson and Selina Cha  
David F. Chang, MD, and Victoria A. Chang  
Bruce and Suzanne Crocker  
Elayne R. Dauber and Philip S. Dauber  
Hal Dawson and Mary McVey  
Sue and John Diekman  
John and Marilyn Dougery  
Dr. and Mrs. James F. Eggert  
Allan J. Flach, MD, PharmD, and Teri Flach  
Megan Fletcher  
Tom and Gunilla Follett  
Mary Ellen and Michael E. Fox Family Foundation  
John and Barbara Glynn  
Paul and Béatrice Gomory  
Lorrie and Richard Greene

Robert A. Grimm  
Rod and Carole Hartless  
Dr. and Mrs. Dean R. Hirabayashi  
Jonathan C. Horton, MD, PhD  
Huntington Farms  
David K. Ingalls  
Nick and Becky Kemsley  
Local Independent Charities  
Bill and Barbara Loveless  
Zoya A. Lukian  
Donna L. and Edward E. Martins Foundation Inc.  
Leigh Matthes  
Faye Mellos and Michael Holland  
Dr. and Mrs. Stacy R. Mettler Jr.  
Barbara Musser  
Kathleen Heitz Myers and George E. Myers  
Ellen Magnin Newman  
Glenn and Connie Oclassen  
Rosanne and Michael Ogles  
Richard and Susan Olness  
Susan Page and Richard Metcalfe  
Barry Petersen  
Virginia M. Ratto  
John W. and Barbara H. Rosston at Silicon Valley Community Foundation  
Michael and Susan Schwartz Fund at Marin Community Foundation  
Victoria C. Smith  
R. G. Starmann Sr.  
William R. and Hannah Y. Sweet  
R. B. and Jean C. Switzer  
Ann and Marshall Turner  
R. Douglas Wayman, MD, and Shirley Wayman  
U. Christina West, MD, and William B. Conerly  
Marilyn and Jack Whitcher  
Diane Wilsey  
Allan and May Wu  
Eric Zankman and Pamela Kaufmann  
Peggy and Lee Zeigler  
Andy Zwick

That Man May See is 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.

To make a gift of cash or securities, go to [www.thatmanmaysee.org/donate](http://www.thatmanmaysee.org/donate) or call 415.476.4016 or email [tmms@vision.ucsf.edu](mailto:tmms@vision.ucsf.edu). Checks are payable to That Man May See.

### That Man May See

10 Koret Way, Box 0352  
San Francisco, CA 94143-0352  
[tmms@vision.ucsf.edu](mailto:tmms@vision.ucsf.edu)

VISIONS is a publication of the Department of Ophthalmology at UCSF and is produced by That Man May See.

### Editorial Board

Robert B. Bhisitkul, MD, PhD  
Tom Lietman, MD  
Yvonne Ou, MD  
David Sretavan, MD, PhD

### Copy

Becky Jennings  
Kathleen Rydar

### Managing Editor

Becky Jennings

### Editorial

Molly Boylan  
Kathleen Rydar

### Design

Ikkanda Design Group  
Donna Beilock  
Anat Rodan

### Photography

Genevieve Shiffar  
Trish Tunney

### Printing

Sungold Litho  
Bruce Mayfield

For a free subscription to VISIONS magazine, please call 415.476.4016 or go to [www.thatmanmaysee.org/why-it-matters/visions-magazine](http://www.thatmanmaysee.org/why-it-matters/visions-magazine)

To receive or cancel further fundraising communications from the Department of Ophthalmology or That Man May See, please contact:  
Records Manager  
Department of Ophthalmology, UCSF  
Box 0248  
San Francisco, CA 94143-0248

Help save sight and save lives.

Make a gift online at [thatmanmaysee.org](http://thatmanmaysee.org)

Retina Patient  
Looks to  
the Future



Alcatraz  
Swim  
for Sight

100 Volunteers  
Team Up  
with Proctor



Neuro-  
Ophthalmology  
Bequest

## The Next Generation Residents Shine as Heed Fellows

This spring, **Allison Loh, MD, Shivali Menda, MD, and Michael Seider, MD,** were honored with Heed Fellowships, the nation's most prestigious ophthalmology fellowship award. Selected from among 450 ophthalmology residents nationwide, the UCSF residents garnered three of the 20 Heed Fellowships given.

### UCSF Excellence Recognized

Heed Fellowships, which recognize passionate engagement, mastery, exceptional ability, and suitability for academic careers and leadership, are a recurring distinction. Since 2009, 47 percent of all UCSF Ophthalmology graduates received these fellowships – the highest number for a single residency program in the country. This accomplishment reflects UCSF Ophthalmology's high bar for acceptance as well as the excellence of its training. UCSF Ophthalmology's residency program is one of the best in the nation.

UCSF Ophthalmology's residency program is  
one of the best in the nation.

### Outstanding Training Benefits Patients

Working hand in hand with faculty ophthalmologists, residents help deliver excellent patient care at clinics on the Parnassus campus, the San Francisco VA (Veterans Affairs) Medical Center, and San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center. "The faculty uses resident teaching to actually enhance patient experiences," says Dr. Loh. "The superior medical and surgical training that I received at UCSF Ophthalmology helped me feel confident to deliver effective and compassionate care," adds Dr. Seider.

The honorees are excited to build on their rigorous UCSF Ophthalmology residencies. Drs. Loh and Menda will further their training at Oregon Health Sciences University – Dr. Loh in pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus, Dr. Menda in glaucoma. Dr. Seider, who graduated in 2013 and is completing his fellowship in ocular oncology with UCSF mentor **Bertil Damato, MD,** will pursue a vitreoretinal surgical fellowship at Duke University. ●



Residency graduates Drs. Allison Loh, Shivali Menda, and Michael Seider celebrate their prestigious Heed Fellowships.

### Recent UCSF Residents Awarded Heed Fellowships

- 2009 Drs. Shelley Day, Isabella Phan, Soraya Rofagha, Michele Trager
- 2010 Drs. Phoebe Lin, Marielle Young
- 2011 Drs. Charles Lin, Brett Shapiro, Alison Skalet
- 2012 Dr. Michael Chen
- 2013 Dr. Justin Baynham
- 2014 Drs. Allison Loh, Shivali Menda, and Michael Seider