

# Vision

Fall 2025/Winter 2026



Department of Ophthalmology | Francis I. Proctor Foundation

## Eye Innovation

The ophthalmology breakthrough edition

### The future of vision: A letter from our Chair

I am honored to present to you this very special Eye Innovation Issue focusing on breakthroughs at **UCSF Ophthalmology** and **Francis I. Proctor Foundation**. I'm excited to share this extraordinary moment when discoveries are transforming lives around the world and restoring hope for countless patients.

Our leadership in vision science spans over 150 years of innovation. We are once again recognized among the nation's top 10 vision centers, operating the largest surgical eye care program in Northern California from our state-of-the-art Wayne and Gladys Valley Center for Vision and the new UCSF Bayfront Medical Building. Our achievements have transformed the field of eye care worldwide, with pioneering work

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**Innovation timeline**  
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Nisha Acharya, MD, MS

## A letter from our Chair (cont.)



Jacquie Duncan, MD

by **Creig Hoyt, MD**, who set global care standards through his groundbreaking infant cataract surgery techniques. These discoveries have been complemented by innovative technologies

like those of **Dan Schwartz, MD**, with the Light Adjustable Lens™ and retinal blood flow imaging. Through the Francis I. Proctor Foundation (established in 1947 to eradicate trachoma), we continue advancing our mission to save and restore sight for present and future generations.

### Breakthrough discoveries in action

Innovation drives UCSF Ophthalmology.

**Meghan Shan, MD, PhD's** Artificial intelligence (AI) will enable glaucoma screening at pharmacies.

**Jeremy Keenan, MD, MPH**, uses AI technology in trachoma diagnoses via smartphone photos in remote villages.

### Global impact and future vision

The Francis I. Proctor Foundation's antibiotic research prevented one in four infant deaths

in Niger, Malawi and Tanzania in Sub-Saharan Africa. Our teams conduct mass screenings of a quarter million people in Nepal.

Our researchers develop stem cell and gene therapies for untreatable conditions. The need for research funding has never been greater.


### National recognition and partnership for progress



We are proud that **UCSF**

**Ophthalmology** has been ranked among the top 10 in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*. Your partnership makes this innovation possible. Early donations have leveraged millions in additional research funding, showing how philanthropy accelerates discovery.

Together, we are working to ensure vision care advances at UCSF.

With gratitude for what lies ahead. 

Jacquie Duncan, MD

Theresa M. and Wayne M. Caygill, MD  
Distinguished Professor and Chair of Ophthalmology

### Your VISION to the future of Ophthalmology

VISION is produced by **All May See**, a 501(c)(3) public charity. Its mission is to raise funds for UCSF Ophthalmology and Francis I. Proctor Foundation. This makes possible breakthroughs in vision research, state-of-the-art patient care, educational opportunities for residents and fellows, and community service.

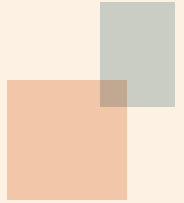
### QR codes at your service

QR codes are circle barcodes that allow readers to quickly access additional content online. Just scan the code with the camera on your smartphone or tablet and click the link that appears on screen. This one links to All May See's home page.



[AllMaySee.org](https://AllMaySee.org)

# Today's discoveries, tomorrow's cures




## Innovation in progress

### Smart contact lens tracks eye pressure 24/7

The laboratory of **O'Rese Knight, MD**, is developing a revolutionary smart contact lens that continuously monitors eye pressure around the clock to prevent glaucoma blindness. Current methods miss dangerous overnight spikes that damage the optic nerve.  [Read full article on page 6.](#)



### Glaucoma monitoring at home

The laboratory of **Yvonne Ou, MD**, develops portable devices that monitor glaucoma progression at home, transforming patient care into convenient health management.  [Read full article on page 7.](#)




### Smartphone AI for trachoma detection

The laboratory of **Jeremy Keenan, MD, MPH**, is training artificial intelligence models to detect trachoma — a bacterial infection causing blindness — from smartphone photos. This AI tool gives local health workers instant diagnoses in remote villages, bringing expert eye care to millions where doctors are scarce.  [Read full article on page 8.](#)




### AI-powered glaucoma care

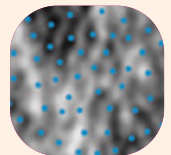
**Meghan Shan, MD, PhD**, is developing artificial intelligence that combines patient history and

clinical data to diagnose glaucoma — a leading cause of blindness. These tools could make screening available at pharmacies or homes, potentially reducing specialist wait times and halting disease before vision loss occurs.  [Read full article on page 9.](#)




### Revolutionary eye imaging technology

**Jacque Duncan, MD**, uses breakthrough imaging to view individual light-sensing cells in living retinas. By watching how diseases affect these cone photoreceptors, researchers better understand which treatments work.  [Read full article on page 10.](#)




### Advanced eye structure imaging

**Tyson Kim, MD, PhD**, creates imaging tools that reveal eye structures and fluid movement never seen before, providing unprecedented insights into ocular dynamics.  [Read full article on page 11.](#)



### Mass eye disease screening in Nepal

The laboratory of **Jeremy Keenan MD, MPH**, uses advanced imaging to screen a quarter million people for glaucoma, diabetic eye disease, and macular degeneration before symptoms appear.  [Read full article on page 12.](#)



*Continued next column*

## Our future vision is clear

The next generation of vision breakthroughs is on the horizon. With your support, we can bring these revolutionary technologies from concept to clinic:

**AI-powered imaging tools** detect diseases years before symptoms appear

**Bionic vision systems** restore functional sight for those with profound vision loss

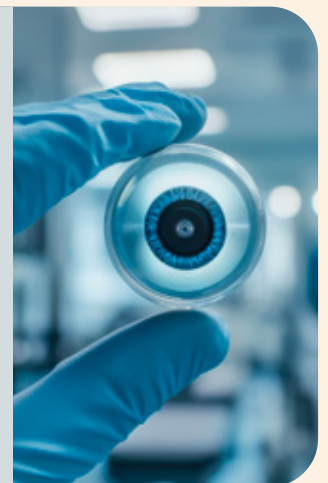
**Regenerative therapies** use patients' own cells to rebuild damaged retinal tissue

**Precision medicine approaches** target the genetic roots of eye disease

**Wearable diagnostics** are used for continuous monitoring of eye health between visits

**Global tele-ophthalmology networks** bring expert care to remote regions

**Gene-editing technologies** eliminate inherited eye disorders for future generations





# Our innovation journey

## Where we started

For over 150 years, **UCSF Ophthalmology** has pioneered groundbreaking vision care innovations through the world-renowned **Francis I. Proctor Foundation** and **That Man May See** (now **All May See**). This comprehensive timeline traces our remarkable journey from founding through transformative breakthroughs shaping global eye care.

**Our unwavering goal:** eliminate preventable blindness through cutting-edge innovation and research. New discoveries continue to emerge from our laboratories, promising to revolutionize eye care for generations to come.

1873

**Division of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology** established within Department of Surgery at UCSF School of Medicine.



1912

**Ophthalmology** becomes an independent division, fully separate from otolaryngology.



1934

Department of Ophthalmology established as separate entity with **Fredrick C. Cordes, MD**, as its first chair.



1947

**Francis I. Proctor Foundation** established at UCSF to fight trachoma, once the second-leading cause of blindness.



1971

**That Man May See** was founded by **Michael Hogan, MD**, and **Samuel Kimura, MD**, to end eye disease through philanthropy.



1970s

**Steven Shearing, MD**, created the "Shearing Lens," revolutionizing cataract surgery with standard fixation method.



1980

**Thomas Mazzocco, MD**, develops "Mazzocco Taco," improving lens placement and recovery in cataract surgery.



1982

**Creig Hoyt, MD**, pioneers early surgery for congenital cataracts in infants, setting a global standard of care.



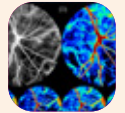
1984

**George F. Hilton, MD**, developed pneumatic retinopexy, a global in-office treatment for retinal detachment, a blinding disease.



1993

**Matthew LaVail, PhD**, develops retinal degeneration models, enabling breakthroughs in therapy development.



1998

**Jon R. Polansky, MD**, and **Thai Nguyen, PhD**, pioneered glaucoma genetics by identifying *TIGR* and *GLC1A* genes.



1998

**Richard Stephens, PhD**, sequenced the Chlamydia trachomatis genome, advancing understanding of trachoma's cause and evolution.



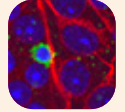
2003

**That Man May See** funded **Francis I. Proctor Foundation's** trachoma control in Ethiopia through mass antibiotic distribution.



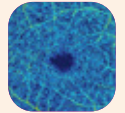
2005

**Jorge Alvarado, MD**, identifies cell mechanisms in glaucoma, shaping modern therapies for vision preservation.



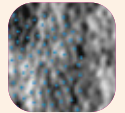
2006

**Dan Schwartz, MD**, introduces OCT angiography, allowing noninvasive imaging of retinal blood flow.



2007

**Jacque Duncan, MD**, uses new tools to study photoreceptors and test treatments for retinal diseases.



2009

**Eugene de Juan, MD**, and **Jacque Duncan, MD**, test **artificial retina (Argus II)** in blind patients with retinitis pigmentosa.















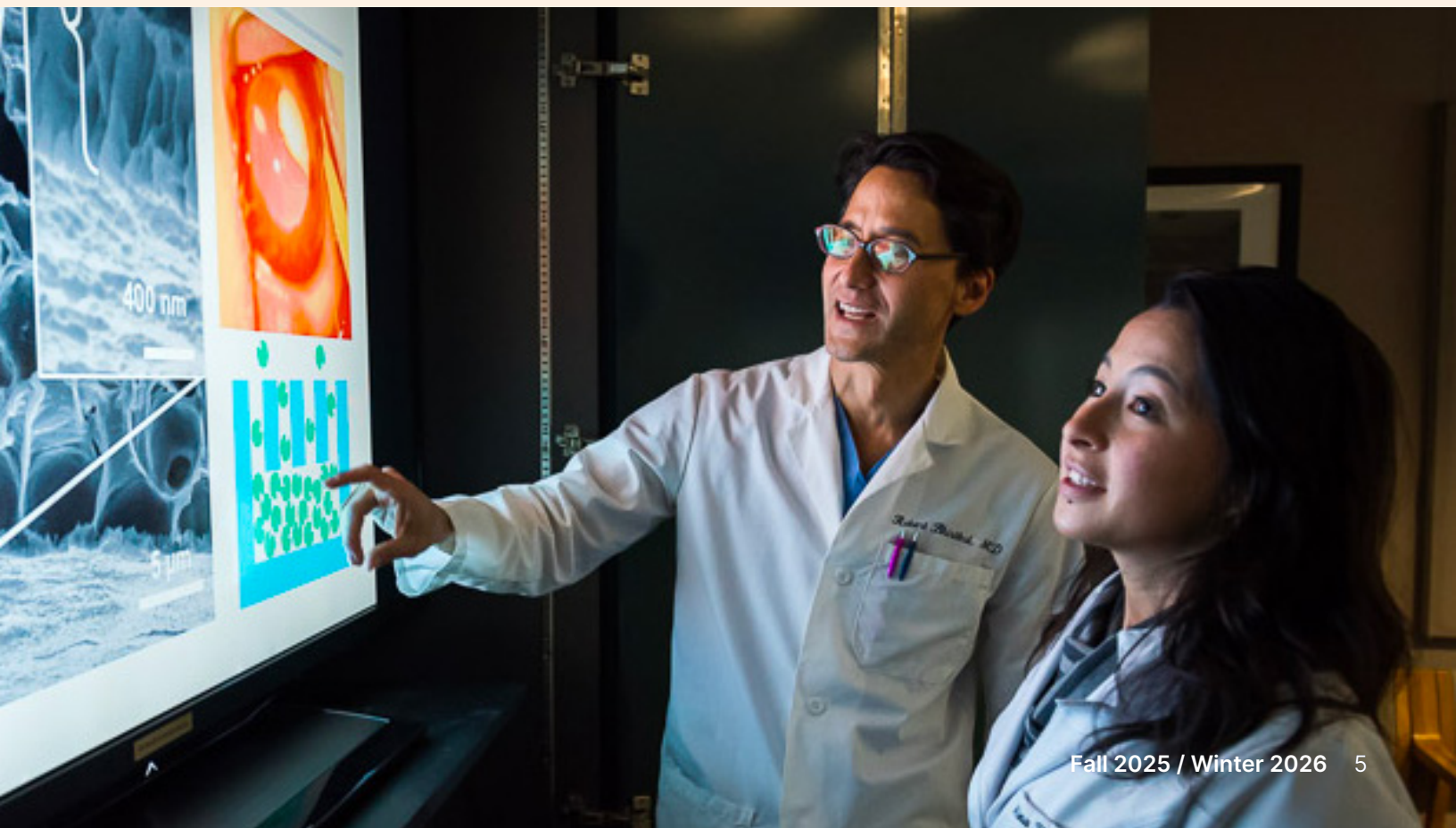
2012

**UCSF PROSE Clinic** opens for complex corneal disease — one of only two in western U.S., fewer than 20 worldwide.



# Our innovation journey (cont.)

<p><b>2013</b></p> <p><b>Eugene de Juan, MD</b>, creates implantable device that improves drug delivery to the retina to treat macular degeneration.</p> 	<p><b>2018</b></p> <p><b>Maxence Nachury, PhD</b>, coins “ciliopathy,” linking retinal degeneration to diabetes, obesity, and other systemic diseases.</p> 
<p><b>2013</b></p> <p>FDA approves world's first <b>artificial retina (Argus II)</b> for patients with profound vision loss from retinitis pigmentosa.</p> 	<p><b>2020</b></p> <p><b>Wayne and Gladys Valley Center for Vision</b> opens at UCSF Mission Bay, expanding vision care access.</p> 
<p><b>2017</b></p> <p>FDA approves <b>Light Adjustable Lens™</b> by <b>Dan Schwartz, MD</b>, enabling post-surgery vision correction using UV light.</p> 	<p><b>2021</b></p> <p><b>That Man May See</b> becomes <b>All May See Foundation</b>, reflecting a broader and inclusive mission.</p> 
<p><b>2017</b></p> <p><b>David Sretavan, MD, PhD</b>, received FDA approval for the ZEPTO IOL Positioning System for cataract surgery lens implantation.</p> 	<p><b>2023</b></p> <p>UCSF surgeons implant <b>Light Adjustable Lens™</b> with post-surgery vision customization — created by <b>Dan Schwartz, MD</b>.</p> 
<p><b>2018</b></p> <p><b>Gould Syndrome</b> named for <b>Douglas Gould, PhD</b>, discovery of a rare genetic disorder often affecting eyes.</p> 	<p><b>2024</b></p> <p>UCSF opens world's first <b>Center of Excellence for Gould Syndrome</b>, providing specialized care for <b>COL4A1/COL4A2</b> patients.</p> 
<p><b>2018</b></p> <p><b>Aparna Lakkaraju, PhD</b>, identifies drug targets with promise for treating age-related macular degeneration.</p> 	<p><b>2025</b></p> <p><b>Julie Schallhorn, MD, MS</b>, received FDA approval for a transcutaneous eyelid closure device for blink palsy — <b>NeuroTrigger</b>.</p> 



## INNOVATION IN PROGRESS

# Smart lenses to transform glaucoma care



O'Rese Knight, MD

### Development of a 24-hour Intraocular Pressure Monitor by the Knight Lab

#### The challenge

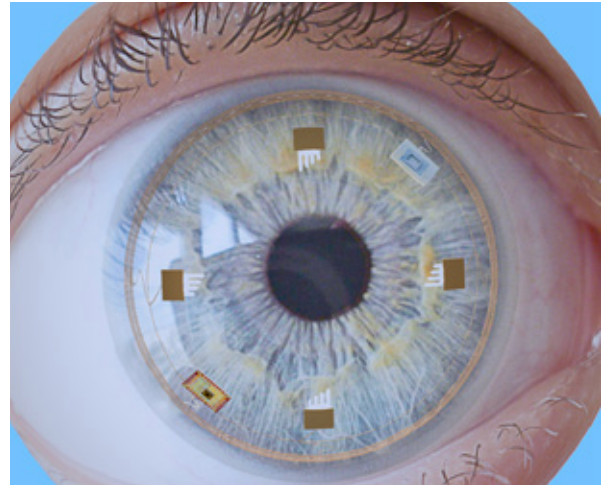
Glaucoma is one of the leading causes of vision loss and blindness in the U.S. and worldwide. Vision loss is believed to occur when intraocular pressure (IOP) rises above what the optic nerve can tolerate. All current therapies are designed to lower IOP, yet clinical care faces a serious limitation: eye pressure can only be measured during office visits. This means dangerous overnight spikes often go undetected, leaving patients vulnerable to silent, irreversible damage.

#### A smarter solution

The **Knight Lab** is addressing this gap by developing a smart contact lens capable of 24-hour automated IOP assessment. By embedding novel technology into the lens, the lab aims to capture a complete picture of pressure changes throughout daily life — information that could transform the way glaucoma is monitored and treated.

#### Catalyzing innovation


A \$50,000 peer-reviewed award in 2023 from the **All May See Foundation** to Dr. Knight



Prototype smart contact lens mock-up on a student's eye, designed to monitor intraocular pressure.

provided vital early support. Since then, the **Knight Lab** has filed three patents, presented its work at the **Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)**, and earned significant federal backing, including a prestigious **R01 award** from the **National Eye Institute (NEI)** and funding from the **National Science Foundation (NSF)**.

#### The road ahead

With a prototype in development, this innovation has the potential to shift glaucoma care from reactive treatment to proactive prevention — helping millions worldwide preserve their sight and avoid preventable blindness. 

Valley Center for Vision/Koret Vision Clinics  
treat the most complex glaucoma cases.



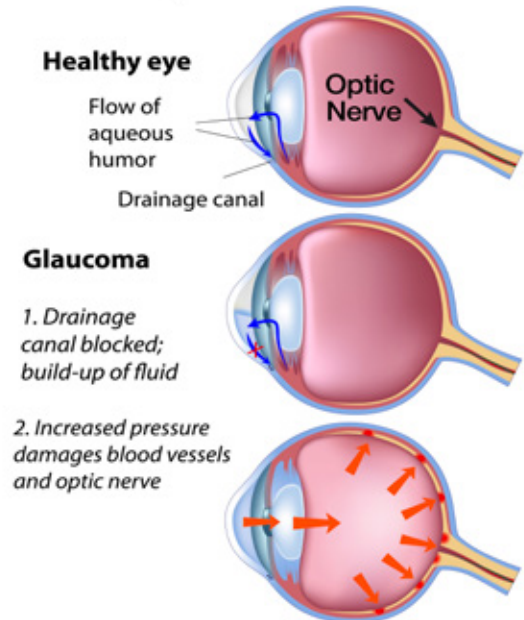
# Glaucoma-focused

The **UCSF Glaucoma Clinic** provides specialized care for glaucoma, an eye condition causing optic nerve damage and potential vision loss.

The clinic excels in complex cases, including repeat surgeries, single-eye vision, and advanced damage.

Ophthalmologists treat all glaucoma types with surgical valve implantation and innovative non-penetrating procedures.

## Development of Glaucoma



## INNOVATION IN PROGRESS

# New devices will enable glaucoma home monitoring

**Cutting-edge UCSF research aims to make eye monitoring within every patient's reach.**

For people with glaucoma, regular eye exams are essential to prevent irreversible vision loss, yet traditional tests can be time-consuming and inconvenient, often requiring multiple clinic visits. At UCSF, the **Ou Lab** is developing portable, patient-friendly diagnostic tools for home use, drawing on discoveries of how glaucoma develops at the cellular level to design tests that are both rigorous and easy to use. "Our goal is to give patients more control," says principal investigator **Yvonne Ou, MD**. "Imagine monitoring your eye health at home, the way people track blood sugar or blood pressure." This research requires constant lab-clinic collaboration, patient volunteers, and sustained funding, as federal support diminishes, but could transform glaucoma care by making monitoring faster, more comfortable, and empower patients to safeguard their sight. 🧐



Dr. Ou's patient Sandra Chew is participating in a 1-year clinical study using virtual reality visual field testing in the comfort of her home and on her own schedule.

# Smartphone AI could prevent blindness



Soon remote global communities could use smartphone AI technology to instantly diagnose trachoma, bringing expert-level eye care where specialists are unavailable.



Jeremy Keenan, MD, MPH

**A simple smartphone photo could save millions from preventable blindness thanks to artificial intelligence.**

Trachoma, a bacterial infection that causes blindness, remains a major health problem in Africa. Currently, detecting the disease requires training field graders to examine children's eyes during community-wide surveys — a resource-intensive process limited by expert availability.

The **Keenan Lab** at the **Francis I. Proctor Foundation** is addressing this challenge by training artificial intelligence models to detect trachoma using smartphone photos.

This work directly supports one of the Foundation's founding missions: eliminating blinding trachoma.

Their solution works by enlisting experts to grade existing photos for trachoma, creating a large database that trains the artificial intelligence models. The researchers are actively developing more convenient grading platforms and financial incentives for the valuable time these busy experts contribute to the project.

If successful, this technology would allow non-specialist field staff to simply take a smartphone photo instead of enlisting specialized experts for examinations. This could bring screening to millions living in areas where trachoma is common but few experts are available. 🧐



## INNOVATION IN PROGRESS

# AI eye screening

**Artificial intelligence could soon bring glaucoma screening to local pharmacies and homes, helping detect this silent disease before it steals sight.**




**Meghan Shan, MD, PhD**

**Meghan Shan, MD, PhD**, is creating AI tools that combine eye images, pressure readings, and risk factors to diagnose glaucoma, a common eye disease that can lead to irreversible blindness. This addresses a critical challenge: making specialized glaucoma screening accessible to everyone.

Currently, diagnosing glaucoma requires highly trained specialists who analyze complex medical data. There is no single test for glaucoma — doctors must piece together information from multiple sources, creating a serious shortage between those who need screening and available specialists.

The AI solution teaches computer systems to analyze the same data that human specialists examine — eye pressure measurements, visual field tests, and optic nerve photos — essentially creating digital experts that can spot glaucoma patterns.

If successful, patients could get tested at their local pharmacy or monitor their condition from home instead of waiting for specialist appointments, enabling earlier treatment and reducing irreversible vision loss. 



From left to right: Christine Man Ting Lin, BA; Max Lin Rivera, BA, Computer Science; Sophia Yu-Chieh Shiao, MD, MTM; and, Krish Nachnani.

## URGENT NEED:

**Help power what's next —**

Accelerate breakthroughs in UCSF vision research



**DONATE NOW**

## INNOVATION IN PROGRESS

# Advanced imaging tracks vision loss cell by cell



Jacque Duncan, MD

Breakthrough technology sees individual light-sensing cells in living patients' eyes, revolutionizing treatment of diabetic eye disease and inherited blindness.

### How it works

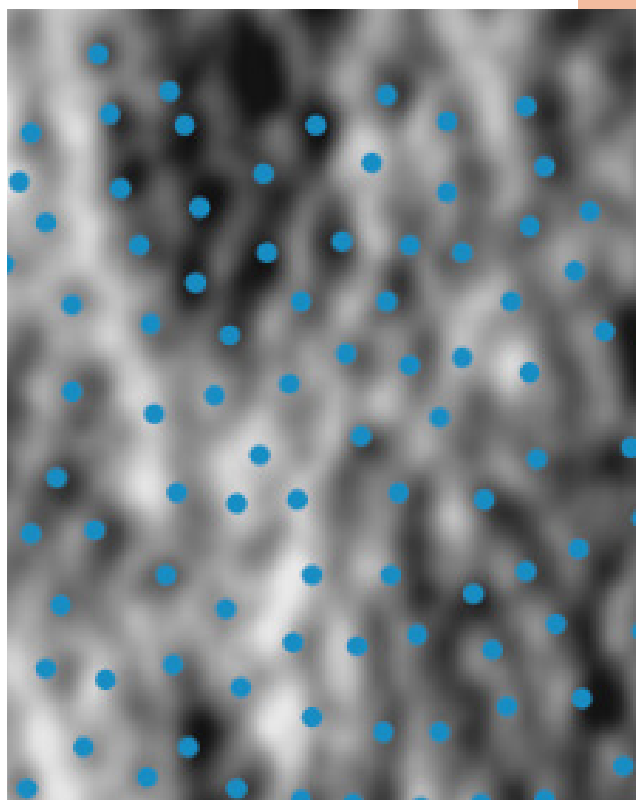
Working with optics and retinal biology experts, the **Duncan Lab** uses adaptive optics scanning laser ophthalmoscopy (AOSLO) — a groundbreaking imaging technique that can visualize individual photoreceptors, the eye's light-sensing cells, without invasive procedures.

Each tiny white spot in their images represents a single cone cell that captures light and sends signals to the brain, giving doctors an unprecedented window into how eye diseases damage vision.

### Studying disease at the cellular level

The lab focuses on diabetic retinopathy — a leading cause of blindness in working-age adults — and age-related macular degeneration as well as inherited retinal degenerations.

By tracking individual photoreceptor cells over time, researchers can observe exactly how these diseases progress and which areas of



Each spot is an individual light-sensing cell in a living patient's retina, allowing doctors to track vision cell health and test new treatments.


the retina are most vulnerable to damage, information that's impossible to obtain through traditional eye exams.

### Current progress and challenges

The research is advancing successfully. Imaging is challenging in some patients who have cataracts, retinal swelling, or high refractive error.

### Transforming treatment decisions

This technology will provide new ways to measure how vision cells respond to treatments, helping doctors determine which patients could benefit most from specific therapies.

It could significantly shorten clinical trials and accelerate the development of new treatments for patients facing vision loss. 

# Optical imaging can reveal disease origins in patients



Tyson Kim, MD, PhD

**Researchers in the Kim Lab can now observe the eye down to individual cells and fluid movement, opening pathways for treating vision-threatening diseases.**

## Seeing the unseen

**Tyson Kim, MD, PhD**, creates powerful imaging and computational tools that visualize fine structures and fluid dynamics deep within the eye using noninvasive methods. These technologies capture real-time changes, allowing researchers to understand how diseases, like glaucoma, begin, progress, and evolve.

## Breakthrough applications


The lab is developing real-time visualization of aqueous humor drainage patterns in the eye, revealing what was previously hidden. Poor drainage can cause dangerous pressure build-up that damages the optic nerve in glaucoma.

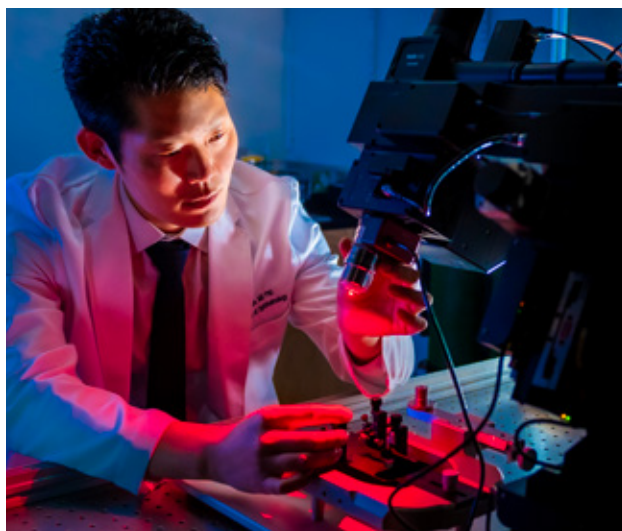
Additionally, the lab is investigating how to perform detailed analysis of retinal blood flow to detect early signs of systemic conditions like vascular dementia, before symptoms develop.

## Clinical challenges

Translating these imaging platforms from laboratory to clinical use requires extensive optimization and safety validation. Limited funding for early-stage research also delays progress.

## Transforming treatment

This cutting edge research is already generating actionable insights with clear clinical relevance. For example, noninvasive techniques to directly visualize fluid drainage in the eye shed new light on targetable treatments for glaucoma. By uncovering the root causes of disease and offering new therapeutic strategies, Dr. Kim's work aims to preserve vision and improve quality of life for patients facing these challenging conditions. 



Dr. Kim working with imaging equipment in the lab.



## INNOVATION IN PROGRESS

# Nepal receives life-changing UCSF advanced eye scans

**A groundbreaking Francis I. Proctor Foundation trial is screening people in Nepal for early signs of glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, and macular degeneration.**

### Unprecedented scale

The **Keenan Lab** is conducting the first randomized trial to screen everyone age 60 and older in a quarter-million-person region using optical coherence tomography (OCT) — a sophisticated retinal imaging test that can detect early signs of progressive eye diseases.


### Advanced technology in remote areas

Using non-invasive OCT technology, damage from glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, and age-related macular degeneration can be spotted before patients notice symptoms. The portable equipment reaches remote communities where eye care was not previously available.

### Current challenges

The massive scope presents logistical challenges requiring extensive coordination and resources. The team operates four screening units, but additional teams would accelerate the process and improve effectiveness.

### Global impact potential

Participants receive free screening and subsidized treatment at the local eye hospital. The goal is proving that systematic early detection can prevent vision loss on a population level. If successful, this model could be replicated worldwide, bringing sight-saving care to millions in underserved regions. 



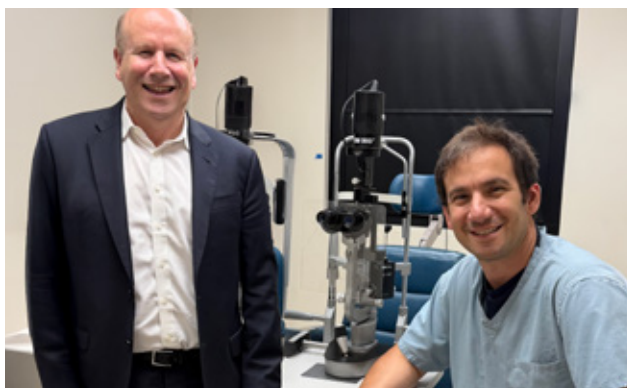
Dr. Keenan examines patients in Nepal.

## FROM DISCOVERY TO PREVENTION


# Advancing care for retinal detachment

**Frank Brodie, MD, MBA**, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and his uncle, **Dan Schwartz, MD**, Professor Emeritus of Ophthalmology were awarded the **2025 UCSF Catalyst Award** to pursue an ambitious project in preventing retinal detachment. Retinal detachment is a surgical emergency and a potentially blinding condition that affects 1:300 people in their lifetime.

As people age, the gel in the back of the eye, the vitreous, liquifies and pulls away from the retina. This is termed 'Posterior Vitreous Detachment' (PVD). In some people, development of PVD causes the fragile underlying retina to tear. Retinal tears allow fluid to flow through the tear and lift the retina from the eye wall, forming a retinal detachment.




Dan Schwartz, MD and Frank Brodie, MD, MBA

With Dan Schwartz, MD, they invented a procedure to prevent PVD, the inciting event in retinal tears and detachment. They are currently testing and refining the procedure in an animal model. 

## INNOVATION IN PROGRESS

# Self-guided curriculum for ocular exam skills

### Self-taught eye training fills education gap

Eye health education is crucial, but medical schools are reducing ophthalmology instruction, leaving fewer doctors experienced in treating eye emergencies. **Madeline Yung, MD**, has created self-paced online learning programs teaching medical students eye exam skills like vision testing and equipment use. This method works as well as one-on-one instruction while being flexible and accessible. Early success of this curriculum has been published in the *Journal of Academic Ophthalmology* and been supported by **UCSF Innovations in Education** funding as well as the Hellman Fellowship. 



Screenshot from the medical student education module.

## FUTURE VISION

# Eye on tomorrow's breakthroughs

Building on today's groundbreaking research at **UCSF Ophthalmology** and **Francis I. Proctor Foundation**, we envision the next generation of vision discoveries transforming patient care. These innovations represent the natural evolution of our current scientific discoveries into revolutionary clinical applications.

### Enhanced vision from birth

**Bruce Conklin, MD's** CRISPR genetic research if successful, could potentially

treat many inherited retinal diseases that currently lead to blindness. His work focuses on diseases caused by single gene mutations.

Enhancement may be the ultimate goal — imagine children with better protection against inherited eye diseases, or adults with built-in defense against age-related vision loss.

### Super sight: Human vision without limits

Imagine doctors with enhanced diagnostic capabilities — using AI-powered imaging

*Imagine the year 2045: contact lenses displaying health data, predicting diseases, and translating text. This isn't science fiction — it's UCSF innovations becoming reality.*



tools to detect disease years before symptoms appear. This aligns with current UCSF work: artificial intelligence identifying diseases early, devices restoring sight to the blind, and gene treatments repairing vision problems.

The next generation of vision breakthroughs builds directly on today's UCSF innovations, poised to revolutionize how we prevent, diagnose, and treat eye diseases worldwide.

### Global screening: AI that never blinks

**Jeremy Keenan, MD, MPH's** AI trachoma detection enables expanded diagnostic applications. Smart contact lenses, building on **O'Rese Knight, MD's** prototypes, could monitor eye health in real time.

Machine learning algorithms would identify risk patterns years ahead, enabling preventive interventions.


### Restoring sight through technology

UCSF researchers are pioneering bionic vision systems to restore functional sight for those with profound vision loss. These implants bypass damaged retinal cells, delivering visual information directly to the brain.

### Transforming global eye care

UCSF's Francis I. Proctor Foundation revolutionizes remote eye care through tele-ophthalmology networks connecting providers with specialists instantly. AI-powered diagnostics may prevent blindness for millions lacking access.

### Funding the future of sight

These technologies require dedicated research and brilliant minds. The **All May See Foundation** bridges today's possibilities with tomorrow's realities. When you support All May See, you're investing in a future where blindness becomes preventable. Please donate today at [allmaysee.org/donate](https://allmaysee.org/donate). 





The  
**10in10**  
challenge

If you can see,  
help someone who can't



Scan to donate

**Please help us raise \$10M in 10 weeks** to sustain groundbreaking research that advances early detection and sight-restoring treatments for devastating eye diseases such as glaucoma and macular degeneration.

**Donate:** [allmaysee.org/10in10](https://allmaysee.org/10in10) | 415.476.4016 | [allmaysee@ucsf.edu](mailto:allmaysee@ucsf.edu)  
Or scan QR code to give.



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# Additions+++

## New UC President: James B. Milliken

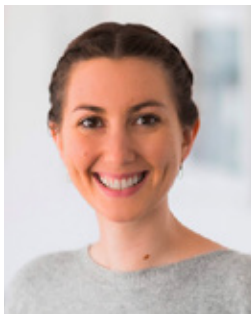


**The University of California** welcomes James B. Milliken as our new 22nd President. He is focused on expanding educational access for underserved students and strengthening UC's position as the world's preeminent public research university, ensuring our mission continues to thrive. He also champions affordability initiatives and collaborative partnerships.

Milliken brings valuable experience from his leadership at the University of Texas system and The City University of New York, where he helped low-income students access higher education through groundbreaking tuition programs.

Milliken often engages with campus communities throughout the UC system. Look for him at upcoming events across our ten campuses and academic health centers. **For more information visit <https://bit.ly/Milliken2025>.** 

## All May See Board: Katherine Niemeyer, MD



**All May See Foundation** welcomes **Katherine Niemeyer, MD**, the new Frederick C. Cordes Eye Society President and a member of our board of directors. Her focus is on advancing integrated vision care and enhancing quality of life through comprehensive ophthalmology services, ensuring our mission of preventing blindness and restoring sight continues to thrive. Dr. Niemeyer brings valuable experience from her ophthalmology residency at Boston University and fellowship at the Francis I. Proctor Foundation at UCSF, specializing in uveitis and ocular inflammatory disease. Her extensive global health work in Ethiopia, India, and Lesotho drives her commitment to improving vision care access for all patients.

Dr. Niemeyer collaborates with teams across Kaiser Permanente San Francisco and UCSF. We are excited to have her join our board. 




## Innovation Series launches at 2025 Legacy Society luncheon

### Philanthropic partners celebrate global breakthroughs

On Sunday, June 8, 2025, the **All May See Foundation's (AMS) 20/20 Legacy Society** gathered at St. Francis Yacht Club for the inaugural **Innovation Series** event — sustaining breakthrough momentum at UCSF Ophthalmology and the Francis I. Proctor Foundation. In attendance were legacy society members, friends of AMS, as well as current and past AMS board members.

**Jacque Duncan, MD**, Chair of UCSF Ophthalmology, highlighted how philanthropic partnerships accelerate treatments for macular degeneration and vision-threatening diseases.

**Thomas Lietman, MD**, Director of the Francis I. Proctor Foundation, presented UCSF's innovative global strategies for preventing blindness worldwide. **Jeremy Keenan, MD, MPH**, Director of International Programs, Francis I. Proctor Foundation showcased revolutionary diagnostic technologies deployed in rural Nepal. This project includes portable screening equipment and train-the-trainer models transforming glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy detection in remote communities.

These approaches represent the core mission of the **Innovation Series**: translating philanthropic support into real-world solutions expanding access to sight-saving care. Special thanks to Massy Safai, MD, for her generous support of this event. To aid in these efforts, visit [allmaysee.org/donate](https://allmaysee.org/donate). 



From left to right: Kathleen Rydar; Robert Stamper, MD; Thomas Lietman, MD; Isabel P. "Patsy" Schuchardt; Massy Safai, MD; Nancy Voorhees; Robert Savoie, Deborah Chesky; and Jacque Duncan, MD



Jeremy Keenan, MD, MPH



Thomas Lietman, MD, and Dale Ames



Sophie Cole, MD, and Massy Safai, MD



Gretchen Kimball and Nancy Voorhees



Deborah Chesky, All May See Foundation President



Kathleen Rydar and Margaret Burns Ames

# Fiscal Year 2025 Awards

This past fiscal year **All May See** transferred over **\$3 million** in donor designated awards to the **UCSF Department of Ophthalmology** and **Francis I. Proctor Foundation**. Additionally, the Board of Directors of All May See approved **\$451,600** in faculty and postdoctoral research awards for the following projects:

## 1 Improving diagnosis of brain inflammation disease

### Principal Investigators:

Nailyn Rasool, MD;  
Melike Pekmezci, MD

Hypertrophic pachymeningitis is a serious brain condition causing vision and hearing loss, balance problems, and chronic headaches caused by inflammation of the brain's protective covering. This inflammation can stem from infection, cancer, or autoimmune disorders, but doctors often can't identify the underlying cause, delaying treatment and allowing neurological damage to progress. The **Rasool Lab** is using advanced genetic methods to identify specific causes of brain inflammation. By pinpointing whether the condition stems from infection, cancer, or autoimmune disorders, doctors can provide faster, targeted treatments that prevent permanent damage and improve outcomes.👁️



## 2 Understanding protein defects that cause severe nearsightedness

### Principal Investigator:

Yoshihiro Ishikawa, PhD

Collagens are essential building blocks that provide structure and support for tissues throughout the body, with Collagen IV being particularly important for healthy eyes. Dr. Ishikawa's research focuses on a protein called prolyl 4-hydroxylase isoform 2 (P4HA2), which is crucial for producing Collagen IV in cells. When P4HA2 doesn't function properly, it can lead to high myopia (severe nearsightedness that significantly impairs vision and increases risk of retinal detachment). This research aims to understand exactly how changes in P4HA2 disrupt normal collagen production and cause this serious vision problem. By identifying these mechanisms, researchers could develop targeted treatments to prevent or correct the collagen defects that lead to high myopia and its complications.👁️





## 3 Revolutionizing how dry eye treatments are tested and studied

### Principal Investigator:

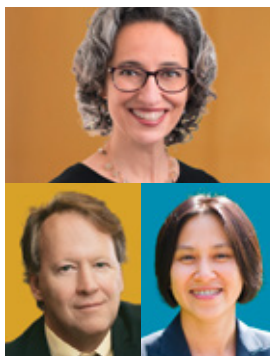
Gerami Seitzman, MD

### Contributing Faculty:

Tom Lietman, MD, and  
Thuy Doan, MD, PhD

Dry eye disease causes discomfort and blurry vision that makes everyday tasks difficult.

Most studies testing new dry eye treatments have failed to show meaningful results because they don't include enough diverse patient groups. Dr. Seitzman's research aims to move these clinical trials from doctors' offices to patients' homes using remote monitoring technology. This approach allows researchers to reach more patients and collect better data, leading to improved therapies for dry eye disease.👁️



## 4 Developing new procedures to prevent vision loss from macular degeneration

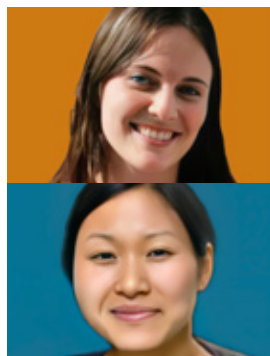
### Postdoctoral Principal Investigator:

Paige Leary, PhD

### Research Mentor:

Felice Dunn, PhD

In the retina, rod cells control night vision while cone cells manage color vision and motion detection. In retinal diseases, rod vision problems often occur



before cone vision problems, suggesting these cell types depend on each other. Dr. Leary's research uses genetic tools to selectively remove rod photoreceptors while leaving cone cells intact, testing how cone function changes as rods are lost. This knowledge could lead to earlier diagnosis and new treatments for retinal degeneration.👁️

## 5 Preventing corneal toxicity from targeted cancer therapies

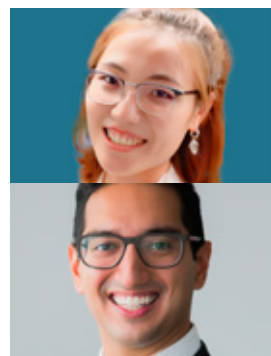
### Postdoctoral Principal Investigator:

Rongshan Yan, PhD

### Research Mentor:

Neel Pasricha, MD

Antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs) are promising targeted cancer therapies that deliver toxic drugs directly to cancer cells, reducing damage to healthy tissues. However, about 50% of ADCs cause significant corneal toxicity, leading to eye pain and blurry vision that forces patients to delay, reduce, or discontinue their potentially life-saving cancer treatment. Current treatments are ineffective at preventing or treating this eye damage. Dr. Yan's research focuses on understanding how ADCs enter corneal cells through macropinocytosis ("cell drinking"). By using repurposed drug compounds to block this cellular process, researchers aim to prevent ADC corneal toxicity. This work could lead to the first effective treatment for protecting eyes during ADC therapy, allowing cancer patients to safely receive their full course of treatment.👁️



*Continued next column*

## Fiscal Year 2025 Awards (cont.)

### 6 Developing treatments for vision loss in Bardet-Biedl syndrome

#### Principal Investigator:

Maxence Nachury, PhD

Inherited retinal degeneration affects approximately 170,000 Americans, including patients with Bardet-Biedl syndrome (BBS), a rare genetic disorder causing progressive vision loss. Dr. Nachury's research has found that in BBS, a protein called IMPG2 fails to get returned to the right place within light-sensing cells in the eye. This disrupts the protective environment that normally surrounds these delicate cells, leading to increased levels of harmful chemicals and inflammation. His lab will investigate whether this protein malfunction is the main cause of vision cell death in BBS patients and explore treatments to reduce these damaging chemicals and slow vision loss. 👁



### 7 Improving treatments for autoimmune eye diseases

#### Principal Investigators:

Matilda Chan, MD, PhD;  
Finn Wolfreys, PhD

When the immune system mistakenly attacks the body instead of fighting germs, it can cause serious eye diseases including thyroid eye disease, uveitis (eye inflammation), certain glaucoma types, and corneal transplant rejection. Dr. Chan is developing a new testing system that can study many disease-causing antibodies at once, unlike current methods that examine only a few at a time. This innovative technique also preserves antibodies for repeat testing, allowing researchers to better understand how these rogue antibodies work. This research could lead to improved treatments for a wide variety of autoimmune eye conditions. 👁



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## 8 Developing CRISPR gene-editing treatments to cure inherited retinal diseases

### Principal Investigator:

Bruce Conklin, MD

Retinitis pigmentosa and many other inherited retinal diseases are currently incurable. However, Dr. Conklin's research focuses on diseases caused by mutations in just one copy of a gene (individuals have two copies of each gene). In these "dominant" diseases, the faulty gene copy causes blindness even though patients have one normal gene copy. Dr. Conklin is using CRISPR gene-editing technology to selectively silence the faulty gene while leaving the healthy copy intact. Genetic studies show people with only one working copy of these genes have normal vision. His pilot studies target the *PRPH2* and *PRPF8* genes, and if successful, this approach could potentially treat many inherited retinal diseases that currently lead to blindness.👁️



## 9 Developing new treatments to prevent vision loss from macular degeneration

### Principal Investigator:

Aparna Lakkaraju, PhD

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) destroys central vision in millions of people globally, with cases rising rapidly.



Current treatments have failed because scientists don't fully understand the disease. Dr. Lakkaraju discovered that two key proteins, C3 and HTRA1, work together to keep retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) cells healthy. These cells are critical because each supports about 50 light-sensing cells. When this protein balance is disrupted, RPE cells are injured, causing vision loss. Her research will restore this balance and develop treatments to preserve vision.👁️

## 10 Essential equipment replacement for the study of ocular development

### Principal Investigator:

Doug Gould, PhD

When the front part of the eye doesn't form properly during development, children can develop early and severe glaucoma (a disease that damages the optic nerve and causes blindness). Dr. Gould uses animal models to study how eyes normally develop, focusing on how cells work with supporting proteins that act like scaffolding in the eye. Mutations in the ECM protein collagen IV alpha 1 (COL4A1) cause a multi-system disorder that includes abnormal eye formation. His lab studies what happens when this protein and others don't function properly during eye development.

This research could help physicians better understand, prevent, or treat the serious glaucoma that often develops when children's eyes don't form correctly.👁️





# Two-Year Update on All May See funded research awards

All May See provides annual peer-reviewed research awards to UCSF Ophthalmology and Francis I. Proctor Foundation researchers exploring innovative solutions for vision disorders. In 2023, **\$300,000** funded these projects:



## **Project Title:**

Developing new tools to study eye structural proteins and related diseases

**Principal Investigator:** Doug Gould, PhD

**Findings:** Problems with structural proteins called collagens can cause serious eye diseases, including developmental defects that lead to glaucoma. Current research tools make it difficult to study how these proteins work in living tissues. Dr. Gould's research focuses on developing better tools by tagging collagen proteins with fluorescent markers. With All May See support, his lab successfully created two new laboratory mouse strains with tagged collagen proteins, allowing researchers to track how these proteins are built up and broken down in real-time. These specialized mouse models are now ready for testing. Once validated, these tools will help researchers better understand collagen-related eye diseases and potentially develop new treatments for patients with collagen defects.👁️



## **Project Title:**

Discovering how to protect vision cells from glaucoma damage

## **Postdoctoral Principal Investigator:**

Mengya Victoria Zhao, MD, PhD, Duan Lab

**Findings:** Glaucoma causes blindness by destroying retinal ganglion cells — nerve cells connecting the eye to the brain. Interestingly, some cells naturally resist damage better than others. Dr. Zhao's research focuses on understanding why certain cells survive, which could lead to better treatments. With All May See support, Dr. Zhao led the effort to apply advanced spatial transcriptomics technology to resilient neurons in the retina. She and colleagues at the **Duan Lab** identified how different cell types respond to glaucoma stress. This work helped secure support from BrightFocus Foundation and the National Eye Institute. It contributed to prominent research papers published at *Cell Reports* (2023), *Cell* (2024), and *Neuron* (2025), bringing scientists closer to vision-preserving therapies for glaucoma patients. The techniques developed will guide future studies on protecting vulnerable vision cells from damage.👁️

**Project Title:**

Finding the best glaucoma treatments to prevent blindness

**Principal Investigator:**

Cathy Sun, MD

**Findings:** Glaucoma is the leading cause of permanent blindness worldwide, but many clinical trials don't include diverse patient populations. Dr. Sun's research focuses on planning a large-scale study comparing two common glaucoma treatments: laser therapy and medications. With All May See support, her lab developed surveys for eye doctors and patients to understand treatment preferences. This planning grant helped lay the foundation for a pragmatic registry-based randomized clinical trial (RRCT) in ophthalmology and helped the **Sun Lab** secure additional funding from the American Glaucoma Society and NIH. 🧐

**Project Title:**

Speeding up lab-grown retina development

**Postdoctoral Principal Investigator:**

Vindo Lekkala, PhD, Ullian Lab

**Findings:** Scientists are growing retinal organoids, miniature human retinas derived from patient induced pluripotent stem cells, to study eye diseases and test therapies. These models typically take nearly a year to mature, delaying research progress. With All May See's support, researchers are using gene-editing tools to accelerate retinal development. An initial approach fell short but provided valuable lessons. Now, a piggyBac-transposon based method aims to stably activate key genes for faster maturation. If successful, this method could mature retinal organoids much earlier, enabling quicker disease modeling, higher-throughput drug testing, and, ultimately, accelerating progress toward treatments for blindness and other vision disorders. 🧐

**Project Title:**

Preventing vision loss in macular degeneration and Stargardt disease

**Postdoctoral Principal Investigator:**

An Cheng, PhD, Lakkaraju Lab

**Findings:** Two serious eye diseases — dry age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and Stargardt disease — destroy the sharp central vision that 50 million people worldwide depend on for reading, driving, and recognizing faces. These conditions cause harmful waste to build up in the eye while damaging the cell's power sources (mitochondria). Scientists investigated what triggers this devastating damage and identified novel mechanisms that can be targeted in AMD. The group is now building upon these findings made possible by All May See support and pursuing NIH R01 research funding. 🧐

***O'Rese Knight, MD's 2-year research update is highlighted in an article on page 6.***


## Our faculty in the spotlight

### Neeti Parikh, MD, named McLeod Endowed Chair

UCSF has appointed **Neeti Parikh, MD**, as the *inaugural* **Stephen D. McLeod, MD, Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology**, recognizing her leadership in education and vision science.



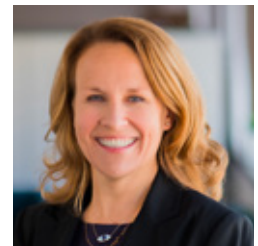
Dr. Parikh, an Associate Professor specializing in cataract surgery, serves as Vice Chair of medical student education and Academic Director for comprehensive service. She provides patient care and trains residents at UCSF and Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital. A Teaching Scholar's Program graduate, she has received multiple honors, including the **Academy of Medical Educators Excellence in Teaching Award**.

The endowed chair, honoring former Department Chair Stephen McLeod, MD, was established through the generosity of lead donors **Don and Judy McCubbin**, the **Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation** and 75 donors who raised over \$1,040,000. Dr. Parikh's scholarly work focuses on developing health disparities curriculum, establishing microsurgery labs, and creating innovative instructional materials for medical students. 


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### Jacque Duncan, MD, receives ARVO award

**Jacque Duncan, MD**, Chair of UCSF Ophthalmology, has received the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Foundation's **2025 Oberdorfer Award in Low Vision Research**. She presented a lecture at the ARVO Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City.



Dr. Duncan specializes in diagnosing and managing patients with retinal degenerations, including age-related macular degeneration, retinitis pigmentosa, cone-rod dystrophy, and Stargardt disease. She chairs the Foundation Fighting Blindness Scientific Advisory Board and co-chairs the Clinical Consortium Executive Committee with 48 clinical centers and over 160 investigators.

Working with vision scientists **Austin Roorda, PhD**, and **Joe Carroll, PhD**, Dr. Duncan uses adaptive optics — advanced imaging technology — to study vision cells in patients with genetic changes causing vision loss. The Oberdorfer Award, supported by Lighthouse Guild, honors research addressing low vision and blindness rehabilitation. 



## UCSF hosts McLeod Leadership Lecture

On March 13, 2025, UCSF Department of Ophthalmology hosted the 2nd annual **Dr. Stephen McLeod Endowed Leadership Lecture**, featuring **Tamara R. Fountain, MD**, Professor of Ophthalmology, Rush University Medical School. The lectureship, endowed by UCSF alumnus **David Chang, MD**, and his wife **Victoria Chang**, honors **Stephen D. McLeod, MD**, former UCSF Department Chair.

The daughter of a commercial airline pilot, and a former President of AAO, Dr. Fountain delivered “*Pilots and Physicians, Passengers and Patients: Situational Awareness When Stakes Are High.*” Drawing parallels between aviation and medicine, she emphasized high-stakes critical decision-making. Her central message: “Remember your training — fly the plane.” Just as pilots must focus on flying, physicians must prioritize treating patients by consistently evaluating patient history, physical exam findings, and test results. 🧐



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## UCSF celebrates inaugural Stamper visiting lectureship in glaucoma

On January 30, 2025, UCSF Department of Ophthalmology hosted the inaugural **Robert L. Stamper, MD, Endowed Visiting Lectureship in Glaucoma**, honoring Dr. Stamper’s contributions to glaucoma research over five decades.



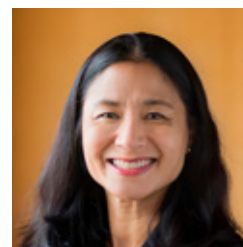
**Jeff Liebmann, MD**, the Shirlee and Bernard Brown Professor and Vice Chair, Dept. of Ophthalmology at Columbia University Irving Medical Center, delivered “Enhancing and Evaluating Optic Nerve Resilience in Glaucoma.” His presentation explored mitochondrial dysfunction in glaucoma and nicotinamide as a potential neuroprotectant.

**Robert L. Stamper, MD**, Fortisure Distinguished Professor at UCSF, has published nearly 125 peer-reviewed papers and authored two glaucoma textbooks. More than 80 donors contributed over \$270,000 to establish this lectureship — Dr. Stamper, and his wife Naomi, personally donated and matched contributions. 🧐

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## Protecting sight in the digital workplace

**Matilda Chan, MD, PhD**, brought her vision health expertise to **Airbnb’s** 7,300 employees worldwide. Partnering with Airbnb’s Communications team, Dr. Chan recorded a podcast on maintaining healthy eyes despite long hours on digital devices.



The podcast debuted on July 16th in Airbnb’s Slack channel and company newsletter and had over 3,000 views, and dozens of reactions — earning “podcast success” status.

This collaboration highlights growing workplace wellness initiatives addressing digital eye strain in tech environments. All May See Foundation is exploring additional partnerships with technology companies to share vision health strategies. 🧐


# New UCSF Ophthalmology Faculty



**Qing Wang, MD, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor**

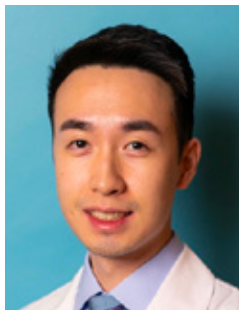
**Dr. Qing Wang** joins UCSF in October 2025 as an Assistant Professor specializing in glaucoma.

Dr. Wang earned her MD and PhD degrees from Columbia University through the Medical Scientist Training Program. She completed her ophthalmology residency and postdoctoral research fellowship at UCLA's Stein Eye Institute, followed by a glaucoma clinical fellowship at Johns Hopkins University's Wilmer Eye Institute.

Dr. Wang's clinical expertise spans minimally invasive and traditional glaucoma surgeries, which she actively teaches to residents and fellows. Her research focuses on pediatric glaucoma, building on her PhD training in neurobiology. Dr. Wang will develop a niche in pediatric glaucoma through observerships with experts in California, throughout the United States and abroad. 

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## New UCSF Optometrists



**Michael Chang, OD**

**Dr. Michael Chang** joined UCSF in August 2025 as an optometrist providing comprehensive eye care.

Dr. Chang earned his Bachelor of Science degree at the University of British Columbia. He completed his Doctor of Optometry at UC Berkeley Herbert Wertheim School of Optometry & Vision Science and his residency at the San Francisco VA Medical Center, where he gained extensive experience in primary eye care and ocular disease management.

Dr. Chang's clinical focus encompasses comprehensive eye examinations, contact lens fitting, and management of various ocular conditions including glaucoma and diabetic eye disease. He works closely with ophthalmology colleagues to provide coordinated patient care.

Dr. Chang was born in Whittier, California, and grew up in Taiwan before moving to Vancouver, Canada with his family. Outside of work, he enjoys hiking and swimming.

**NEXT PAGE:** More new Optometrists >

## New UCSF Optometrists (cont.)



### Emmy Tian, OD

**Dr. Emmy Tian** joined UCSF in September 2025 as an optometrist with expertise in specialty contact lenses.

Dr. Tian earned her Doctor of Optometry from UC Berkeley's Herbert Wertheim School of Optometry & Vision Science and completed her residency in Cornea and Contact Lenses at the Southern California College of Optometry. She gained extensive experience working with complex corneal conditions and advanced contact lens fitting techniques during her training.

Dr. Tian has extensive experience fitting corneal and scleral gas permeable lenses for patients with keratoconus (a condition in which the cornea becomes cone-shaped) and other corneal disorders. Her expertise helps patients with irregular corneas achieve clearer, more comfortable vision when traditional contact lenses aren't suitable. She is passionate about improving quality of life for patients with challenging visual conditions.

Dr. Tian enjoys trying new recipes and teaching herself creative hobbies including hand lettering and embroidery. 🧵

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- Kathleen Rydar Inspiration Fund



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## PATIENT CLOSE-UP

# A lifetime of sight

When San Francisco native John Nicolai was three years old, a day by the Russian River changed his life forever. What began as an innocent attempt to cut roses ended in tragedy: he accidentally pierced his right eye with a kitchen knife.

His mother, a nurse, immediately rushed him to a local hospital. By sheer chance, **Dr. Ward Wick**, who had just completed his UCSF training, was vacationing nearby. Dr. Wick, together with the legendary **Dr. Michael Hogan** of UCSF — who later co-founded what is now the **All May See Foundation** — stepped in to save John's sight.

"I was in the hospital for over a week," John recalls. "Dr. Hogan and his colleagues stabilized my eye with a delicate procedure. My mother was by my side every day." His recovery was slow and uncertain, and for a time his vision was very poor. Three months later his mother placed drops of Lourdes water into his eyes — gifted to her by the Daughters of Charity. Remarkably, his vision improved from 20/100 to 20/30 within 24 to 48 hours, a result many described as a "miracle".

### Growing up with sight restored

Despite the seriousness of his injury, John had a remarkably normal childhood. He played sports enthusiastically, enjoyed his studies, and rarely felt limited by his vision. His high school years at Saint Ignatius in San Francisco were filled with activity and achievement. "It had no real effect on me," he says. "But I was always a little more sensitive about protecting my eyes."

Dr. Hogan remained a steady and caring presence in John's life throughout high school. Each visit served as a reminder of the preciousness of his eyesight and the extraordinary skill of the physicians who had given it back to him.

### A full life of work and service

John joined the San Francisco office of Ernst & Young in 1974 and went on to build a highly successful career at that organization, serving as office managing partner and holding leadership roles throughout the world. Beyond his professional achievements, John dedicated himself to service, including two decades on the board of his alma mater, the University of San Francisco.


Today, at 76, John continues to lead an active and fulfilling life. But his eye journey has not ended. In recent years, complications from cataract surgery elsewhere led him back to UCSF — this time to cornea specialist **Dr. Julie Schallhorn**, who performed a partial cornea transplant. “Dr. Schallhorn was incredible,” John says. “She told me not to worry, and she was right. I had complete faith in her.”

### **Giving back**

John sees his journey as one shaped by both exceptional medical expertise and unwavering faith. His experiences inspired him to give back meaningfully. He and his wife, Claudette Nicolai, are deeply engaged in supporting San Francisco and Bay Area charities. Together, they serve as co-trustees of the Thelma Doelger Charitable Trust, which recently made a generous gift to the All May See Foundation in support of UCSF Ophthalmology.

“If I could speak to Dr. Hogan, I would tell him how proud he should be of the legacy he left behind,” John reflects. “Without his leadership and innovation, my life would have been very different.”

John’s story is a powerful reminder of the difference visionary physicians and generous supporters can make. Because of care that began more than seven decades ago, he has lived a full life of work, service, and love — all with the gift of sight.

Today, the **All May See Foundation** continues Dr. Hogan’s legacy, ensuring that patients like then three-year-old John receive the extraordinary care that transforms lives. Please give at [allmaysee.org/donate](https://allmaysee.org/donate). 

*“If I could speak to Dr. Hogan, I would tell him how proud he should be of the legacy he left behind. Without his leadership and innovation, my life would have been very different.”*

**John Nicolai**



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# Nisha Acharya, MD, MS

**Dr. Nisha Acharya has transformed UCSF Ophthalmology with over two decades of excellence in clinical care, research, and mentorship.**

At the **Francis I. Proctor Foundation**, Dr. Acharya has cultivated a legacy of mentorship while driving groundbreaking advances in infectious eye disease and strengthening UCSF Ophthalmology's global impact. Born in Wilmington, Delaware, and raised in New York, Texas, and Illinois, she developed a passion for science alongside a love of classical music. She earned undergraduate and master's degrees at Stanford University before attending UCSF School of Medicine in 1996. Following residency at Harvard, she returned to UCSF for a fellowship at Proctor — and has been a faculty member ever since.

Today, Dr. Acharya holds the Elizabeth C. Proctor Distinguished Professorship in Ophthalmology, Epidemiology, and Biostatistics, serves as Associate Director of **Francis I. Proctor Foundation**. She directs the Uveitis and Ocular Inflammatory Disease Clinic, and is Vice Chair for Faculty Development and Mentorship while raising two children.

Her interest in ophthalmology began in medical school, inspired by a professor's work in ocular infection and inflammation. Mentorship has remained central to her career, and she now fosters the next generation of physicians and scientists with the same dedicated guidance she once received.



Dr. Acharya is particularly proud of establishing a leading uveitis clinic, sustaining an NIH-funded research program on ocular infection and inflammation, and mentoring countless students, residents, fellows, and staff. She believes that empowering team members and recognizing their unique strengths is key to advancing medicine collaboratively.

Looking ahead, she will deliver the **C. Stephen and Frances Foster Lecture on Uveitis and Immunology** at American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), and in 2026, she will receive the **Mildred Weisenfeld Award for Excellence in Ophthalmology** at ARVO and will give the **UCSF Faculty Research Lecture in Clinical Science**. For Dr. Acharya, these milestones reflect a career defined not by awards, but by impact — on patients, research, and the next generation of ophthalmologists.👁️



# From the President of All May See

## An eye on innovation

As we close this special Eye Innovation issue, I am reminded that every breakthrough, every patient story, and every bold idea you've read about in these pages is possible because of you. Your generosity and partnership fuel the discoveries that are reshaping vision science and bringing hope to countless individuals around the world.

This year, you stood with us as UCSF scientists developed pioneering therapies, expanded access to care in underserved communities, and advanced innovations that bring us closer to cures for blindness. Together, we are not just funding research — we are creating possibilities, nurturing future leaders, and building a world where sight can be preserved and restored for all.

Looking ahead, the pace of discovery is only accelerating. With your continued support, the extraordinary progress we've celebrated here will become tomorrow's standard of care. I invite you to stay engaged — join us at upcoming events, visit our labs, or share our story with someone new. The future of vision is within reach, and together, we will ensure that all may see. 👁️

With my warmest personal regards,



**Deborah J. Chesky, LMSW, MBA, CFRE**

President, All May See Foundation

**P.S.** Congratulations to the entire UCSF Ophthalmology team on being ranked among the top 10 in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report* — a testament to the Department's exceptional dedication to advancing vision care and saving sight.



# Vision

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