Dear Alumni:

I’m pleased to bring you this latest issue of the *AlumnEye News*, highlighting the activities of faculty, fellows and residents in the Department of Ophthalmology.

In this issue, you’ll read about the recently published paper in the *American Journal of Transplantation* and our researchers’ discovery of the process behind the rejection of second corneal transplants. This sort of activity is made possible in part by our annual event, the *Ball for Eye Research*, the proceeds of which fund laboratory research in the Department.

I’m also happy to report on the future plans of our graduating residents and fellows, as well as the important volunteer work carried out at the St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group in Israel by Drs. He, Lehmann, and Kennedy.

Finally, please keep in mind the importance of joining the AlumnEye Association. I want to thank current supporters of the association, and encourage those of you who have not yet joined to complete and return the 2015-2016 form on page seven.

Have a wonderful summer.

Chair’s Message

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RESEARCH NEWS: UNCOVERING THE AUTOIMMUNE PROCESS THAT CAUSES REJECTION OF SECONDARY CORNEAL TRANSPLANTS

Thanks to the process known as immune privilege, first-time corneal transplants have a 90 percent success rate. Patients needing secondary transplants are three times more likely to experience rejection of transplanted corneal tissue, or a loss of immune privilege.

A recently-published study by Department of Ophthalmology researchers in the *American Journal of Transplantation* examines the mechanism behind this phenomenon.

“Understanding why these rejections occur is important to further improving the ways in which corneal transplants are performed,” said the study’s senior author, *Jerry Y. Niederkorn, Ph.D.*, Professor and Vice Chair of Research in Ophthalmology, and Professor of Microbiology.

After studying mouse models, researchers discovered that after the first corneal transplant is accepted, T regulatory cells prevent other types of immune cells from attacking and rejecting the transplant. But severing... (continued on page 2)
2015 BALL FOR EYE RESEARCH

On Saturday, March 28, donors to and supporters of the Department of Ophthalmology gathered at the Dallas Country Club for the Ball for Eye Research (formerly known as the Eye Ball), an annual gala benefitting sight-saving research in the Department. With nearly 220 attendees, the Ball grossed well over $200,000 (the highest amount since 2008); net proceeds going directly to research were the most since the event began in 2001.

“I am so pleased with how this year’s Ball for Eye Research turned out,” said Dr. McCulley. “Thanks to our dedicated event chairs and generous donors, the funds raised by the Ball will enable our researchers to more vigorously continue building upon important discoveries we have made, including the identification of one of the genetic causes of a common type of macular degeneration, as well as a significant expansion in understanding the mechanism and development of age-related macular degeneration.”

The next Ball for Eye Research will take place on Saturday, April 2, 2016 at the Dallas Country Club. For more information, contact Jennifer Roemer, 214-648-0347, jennifer.roemer@utsouthwestern.edu.

Researchers found that the high Substance P levels can be blocked with drugs to restore the eye’s immune privilege and promote the acceptance of second corneal transplants. This inactivation results in rejection of more than 90 percent of the second corneal transplants in mice and helps to explain the curiously high risk for corneal graft rejection in patients who receive a second corneal transplant.

Researchers found that the high Substance P levels can be blocked with drugs to restore the eye’s immune privilege and promote the acceptance of second corneal transplants. Future research will focus on pharmacological strategies for restoring T regulatory cell function and promoting the survival of second corneal transplants. Other studies will determine if these findings can be extended to enhancing the immune response to cancers.

“In the future,” said Dr. Niederkorn, “ophthalmologists may be able to implement processes, and eventually prescribe medications, that can lower rates of rejection.”

HELPING THE NEEDIEST: VOLUNTEERING AT ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM EYE HOSPITAL

It was a busy week in early May for three ophthalmologists who travelled to Jerusalem, Israel, to volunteer at the St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. James Lehmann, M.D., residency and cornea fellow alumnus from San Antonio, David Kennedy, M.D., cornea fellow, and Yu-Guang He, M.D., Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, saw underprivileged patients in clinic, gave lectures, and performed surgeries.

In 2001, the Department began its working relationship with the hospital, which provides eye care to nearly 70,000 people in need each year in the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, regardless of ethnicity, religion, or ability to pay.

“What we saw from the start of this relationship,” said Dr. McCulley, a Commander with the Order of St. John, “was an opportunity to give some of our fellow surgeons intensive surgical experience at a first-class hospital abroad, while supporting a worthwhile cause.” Despite unsettled political conditions in Israel interrupting the program’s earlier years, volunteers returned as soon as the climate became more favorable.

Dr. Lehmann, a member of the Order of St. John, who has participated in volunteer trips to the hospital since 2005, is impressed with the progress made in subspecialty training available at St. John and in Israel. This is important, because the needs of patients are great: “The level of pathology in these patients is much higher than we see at home,” said Dr. Lehmann. “There is much more trauma, much more infection, and patients present much later.”

In addition to the flagship site in Jerusalem, the Eye Hospital Group operates outreach clinics in Gaza, Hebron, and Anabta, and has a mobile outreach team that targets isolated communities. The Jerusalem hospital is also home to an eye bank, an ophthalmology training program, and a nursing school, and is affiliated with the U.K.-based international charity of St. John, whose 25,000 worldwide members carry out philanthropic activities in more than 40 countries. The charity is also recognized by the U.N.

Along with seeing patients, Drs. Lehmann and Kennedy transported 21 donor corneas to the hospital, and demonstrated surgical transplantation techniques for physicians. Dr. Kennedy also presented a talk on “DMEK: Tips for Your First Case.”

But the learning process went both ways, said Dr. Kennedy: “While it’s valuable for us to be able to come here and feel like we’re helping patients, we’ve learned so much about some of the really rare conditions seen here.”

The quality of medical care, facilities, and equipment at the Eye Hospital “are just as good as what we have in the U.S.,” said Kennedy.

Dr. He, a retina subspecialist, examined patients in clinic at the hospital for, among other things, signs of diabetic retinopathy, and travelled to a village in the West Bank with the outreach clinic. He also gave two lectures for physicians at the hospital, including “Impact of Mobile Health on macular Surveillance – Where We Are” and “Necrotizing Herpetic Retinopathies.”

“This trip was fascinating and far exceeded any expectations I had,” said Dr. He, reflecting on his first trip to the St. John hospital. “I really enjoyed every minute of it.” — J.R.
**2015 GRADUATING RESIDENTS**

**Juan Arciniega, M.D.,** received his M.D. from the University of Carabobo in Valencia, Venezuela. He completed a postdoctoral cornea research fellowship at UT Southwestern, followed by his PGY1 year at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth. Dr. Arciniega will join Gulf Coast Eye Institute in McAllen, TX following graduation.

**Vinay Dewan, M.D.,** received his M.D. from Washington University in St. Louis, and completed his PGY1 year in the Department of Internal Medicine at Washington University. Dr. Dewan will enter the glaucoma fellowship program at UT Southwestern following graduation.

**Ross Lynds, M.D.,** attended UT Medical Branch in Galveston, followed by his PGY1 year at Presbyterian Hospital/Texas Health Resources in Dallas. After graduation, Dr. Lynds will take up a vitreoretinal fellowship at UT Southwestern.

**Brittany Ransom, M.D.,** received her M.D. from LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans; she remained in New Orleans for her PGY1 year at Tulane University. Dr. Ransom will join a group practice in Jacksonville, FL following graduation.

**Ivan Vrček, M.D.,** received his M.D. from UT Southwestern, followed by his PGY1 year at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas. After he graduates, Dr. Vrček will commence an oculofacial plastic and reconstructive surgery fellowship with Texas Oculoplastic Consultants in Austin.

**Kruti Dajee, M.D.,** completed her M.D. at UT Southwestern, and her PGY1 at Presbyterian Hospital/Texas Health Resources in Dallas. After graduation, Dr. Dajee will commence a vitreoretinal fellowship at UT Southwestern.

**Patrick Ford, M.D.,** received his M.D. from the University of Oklahoma in Oklahoma City, and completed his PGY1 year at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, MI. Following graduation, Dr. Ford will move to Anchorage, AK, and join a group practice at the Alaska Native Medical Center.

**Erwin Puente, M.D., Ph.D.,** received his M.D. and Ph.D. from Washington University in St. Louis. He went on to complete his PGY1 year at UT Southwestern. Following graduation, Dr. Puente will take up an assistant instructor position at UT Southwestern.

**Julie Linden Soto, M.D.,** completed her M.D. at the University of Oklahoma in Oklahoma City, after which she completed her PGY1 year at the Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle, WA. Dr. Soto plans on joining a group practice in Dallas upon graduation.

**Join the AlumnEye Association:**
Sign up now for the 2015-2016 academic year (see page 7)
2015 GRADUATING FELLOWS

S. Serdar Dogan, M.D., completed medical school and his residency training at Ankara University Medical School in Turkey. In 2014, he completed a cornea fellowship at UT Southwestern. Currently concluding his pediatric ophthalmology fellowship, Dr. Dogan will commence his PGY1 year in surgery at Methodist Hospital in Dallas, before starting his residency at UT Southwestern in 2016.

Justin Gutman, M.D., received his M.D. at SUNY Upstate in Syracuse, NY, and completed his residency at SUNY Downstate in Brooklyn. Following his vitreoretinal fellowship, Dr. Gutman will join Coastal Eye Group in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Dayane C. Issaho, M.D., completed medical school at Faculdade Evangélica do Paraná in Curitiba, Brazil and her residency at the clinical hospital of the Federal University of Paraná. She went on to her first pediatric ophthalmology fellowship at the Federal University of São Paulo in Brazil. At the conclusion of her current pediatric ophthalmology fellowship, Dr. Issaho will return to Brazil to both practice at the Hospital de Olhos do Paraná in Curitiba and join the faculty at the Federal University of São Paulo as an assistant professor.

Richard Moore, M.D., received his M.D. from the University of Texas Medical School at Houston, and went on to complete his residency at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, VA. Following his glaucoma fellowship, Dr. Moore will join the DeHaven Eye Clinic in Tyler, TX.

Robert Reinauer, Jr., M.D., received his M.D. at UT Health Science Center in San Antonio, and completed his residency at the Kresge Eye Institute at Wayne State University in Detroit, MI. Following his vitreoretinal fellowship, Dr. Reinauer will join New Vision Eye Center in Vero Beach, FL.

Prashanthi Giridhar, M.D., attended Texas Tech University School of Medicine in Lubbock, where she also completed her residency. At the conclusion of her pediatric ophthalmology fellowship, Dr. Giridhar will join Pediatric Eye Specialists in Fort Worth.

Geoffrey Hill, M.D., attended medical school at St. Louis University in St. Louis, MO, and completed his residency at John H. Stoger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County in Chicago. Dr. Hill will join Hill Vision Services in St. Louis at the conclusion of his cornea fellowship.

David Kennedy, M.D., completed his M.D. at LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans, and his residency at UT Southwestern. Following his cornea fellowship, Dr. Kennedy will join Gulf South Eye Associates in Metairie, LA.

Austin Lash, M.D., received his M.D. at LSU School of Medicine in Shreveport, LA, and completed his residency at LSU Health Science Center in Shreveport. At the conclusion of his cornea fellowship, Dr. Lash will join Eye Associates of East Texas in Tyler.

Michelle Nguyen, M.D., attended medical school at the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine in Los Angeles, CA, and completed her residency at Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, NY. Dr. Nguyen will join Eye Health Partners in Nashville, TN following her neuro-ophthalmology/oculoplastics fellowship.

Deepak Sobti, M.D., attended medical school at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in New York, and completed his residency at the University of Arizona in Tucson. At the conclusion of his neuro-ophthalmology/oculoplastics fellowship, Dr. Sobti will remain in Dallas and go into private practice.
Ahmed Soliman, M.D., attended medical school in Cairo, Egypt at Cairo University Hospitals, where he also completed his residency. Prior to his cornea fellowship at UTSW, Dr. Soliman undertook two other fellowships: medical retina at Harvard Medical School – Joslin Diabetes Center in Boston, MA and pediatric ophthalmology at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Dr. Soliman will return to Cairo this summer, and take up a faculty position at Cairo University Hospitals.

Roger A. Velasquez, M.D., received his M.D. from UT Health Science Center in San Antonio, where he stayed on for his residency. Dr. Velasquez will return to San Antonio following his glaucoma fellowship and join the faculty at UT Health Science Center as an assistant professor.

ALUMNEYE ASSOCIATION

The Department of Ophthalmology thanks the following 2014-2015 Association members for their gracious support of its continuing education activities:

Shawn Agee, M.D. (Birmingham, AL)
Ronald Barke, M.D. (Arlington, TX)
Carol Boren, M.D. (Brownwood, TX)
David Burk, M.D. (Bay City, MI)
Anthony W. Evangelista, M.D. (Arlington, TX)
Sidney Gicheru, M.D. (Irving, TX)
Michael Halsted, M.D. (Omaha, NE)
Sylvia Hargrave, M.D. (Dallas, TX)
Alfred L. Humphrey, M.D. (Arlington, TX)
John David Jones, M.D. (Lubbock, TX)
R. Galen Kemp, M.D. (Waxahachie, TX)
Rebecca Kurzon, M.D. (Winter Park, FL)
James Lehmann, M.D. (San Antonio, TX)
Mark B. Lindsay, M.D. (Bryan, TX)
Rajiv M. Rugwani, M.D. (Waxahachie, TX)
David Stager, Jr., M.D. (Plano, TX)
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♦ Acknowledgment in the next issue of the AlumnEye News, and on Alumni Day
♦ A reduced price for your dinner on Alumni Day
♦ Reduced costs for CME credit and lectureship courses
♦ One free drink ticket at the alumni reception on November 15, 2015 during the AAO meeting
DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY
ALUMNEYE ASSOCIATION

2015 - 2016
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
SEPT. 1, 2015 – AUG. 31, 2016

TOTAL DUE: $100

Name: __________________________________________________________________________
Graduation year: __________________________________________________________________________
Organization: __________________________________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________________________
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Dues: $100

Please make checks payable to UT Southwestern Ophthalmology AlumnEye Association

Mail application and check to:
UT Southwestern Medical Center
Department of Ophthalmology
ATTN: Ryan Myers
5323 Harry Hines Boulevard
Dallas, TX 75390-9057 [please include ‘+4’ zip code]
## ACTIVE FACULTY GRANTS AND AWARDS

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<td>Igor Butovich, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Biochemistry and Biophysics of Preocular Tear Film</td>
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<td>Yu-Guang He, M.D.</td>
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<td>Transplant and Tumor Rejection Processes Within the Eye</td>
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<td>W. Matthew Petroll, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Assessment of Corneal Fibroblast Biomechanical Behavior</td>
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<td>Danielle M. Robertson, O.D., Ph.D.</td>
<td>Interactive Effects of OSA and T2DM on Corneal and Ocular Surface Disease</td>
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<td>Danielle M. Robertson, O.D., Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Rafael Ufret-Vincenty, M.D.</td>
<td>Phase 3 Study of Lampalizumab Admin IV to Pts with Geographic Atrophy Secondary to Age-Related Macular Degeneration</td>
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<td>Rafael Ufret-Vincenty, M.D.</td>
<td>Role of Complement Factor H and Immunity in AMD.: Novel Transgenic Model</td>
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<td>Serena X. Wang, M.D.</td>
<td>Pediatric Eye Disease Investigator Group: Amblyopia Treatment Study, subcontract</td>
<td>Jaeb Center for Health Research, Inc.</td>
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<td>Serena X. Wang, M.D.</td>
<td>Study of Loteprednol Etabonate Ophthalmic Gel 0.5% vs. Prednisolone Acetate Ophthalmic Suspension 1% for Intraocular Inflammation Following Surgery for Childhood Cataract</td>
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<td>Serena X. Wang, M.D.</td>
<td>Effect of OMS302 Added to Standard Irrigation Solution on Intraoperative Pupil Diameter and Acute Postoperative Pain in Children through 3 Yrs</td>
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<td>Infant Aphakia Treatment Study (IATS), subcontract</td>
<td>Emory University</td>
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RESIDENT PAPER AWARDS AT TOA

Two Ophthalmology residents claimed the first and second prizes in the Texas Ophthalmological Association’s (TOA) resident paper competition, held during the annual TOA Meeting May 1-2. Xihui “C.C.” Lin, M.D., (r.) a second-year resident, received first place for his paper, “Ocular Manifestations and Management of Graft versus Host Disease.” Second place went to third-year resident Erwin Puente, M.D., Ph.D., (l.) for his paper, “Choroidal Melanoma Metastasis if Modulated by Kupffer Cells.”

“We are extremely proud of the quality of our residents’ annual research projects,” said Preston H. Blomquist, M.D., Residency Program Director and Vice Chair of Education. “Drs. Lin and Puente did a superb job representing UT Southwestern through their clinically relevant topics.”

All ophthalmology residency programs in Texas can nominate up to two resident papers. Four to five are selected by TOA for presentation at the organization’s annual meeting. ð-J.R.

LEUKEMIC RETINOPATHY

A 17-year-old adolescent boy presented with blurred vision for several weeks. Indirect ophthalmoscopy revealed dilated and tortuous vessels with diffuse retinal infiltrates and intraretinal hemorrhages as well as a macular leukemic infiltrate. Visual acuity was 20/400 OD and 20/20 OS, the white blood cell count was 521,400 cells/μL (to convert to ×10⁹/L, multiply by 0.001), and a bone marrow biopsy supported a diagnosis of chronic myelogenous leukemia. In this composite fundus image of the right eye with decreased visual acuity, peripheral intraretinal hemorrhages with cotton-wool spots are apparent in addition to a large leukemic infiltrate in the macula.


RECENT PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS*

*Since the last issue of the AlumnEye News newsletter

2014


2015


CLINIC LOCATIONS

DALLAS
Ophthalmology Clinic
Aston Ambulatory Care Center, 6th Floor
5303 Harry Hines Blvd.
Dallas, TX 75390-8866
Tel: 214-645-2020
Fax: 214-645-2011

Children’s Health℠
Children’s Medical Center Dallas
Ophthalmology Clinic
Ambulatory Care Pavilion, 6th Floor
2350 Stemmons Freeway (I-35)
Dallas, TX 75207
Tel: 214-730-5437
Fax: 214-456-7671

North Dallas Office
Northpoint Medical Arts
2606 Greenville Ave., Suite 180
Dallas, TX 75243
Tel: 214-645-0950
Fax: 972-669-4298

Laser Center for Vision Care
Outpatient Building, 5th Floor
1801 Inwood Road
Dallas, TX 75390-8895
Tel: 888-663-2020
Fax: 214-645-2036
Email: laservision@utsouthwestern.edu
Website: utswlasik.com

FORT WORTH
Fort Worth Office
Medical Plaza
800 8th Avenue, Suite 306
Fort Worth, TX 76104
Tel: 817-429-3050
Fax: 817-810-9611

PLANO
Children’s Health℠
Children’s Medical Center Legacy
Ambulatory Care Pavilion, #P-2200
7609 Preston Road
Plano, TX 75204
Tel: 469-303-4100
Fax: 972-673-4103