

1975 - 2025



Dean McGee
EYE INSTITUTE

• DMEI •
inVIsion

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE

patient care
education
vision research
leadership
service

DMEI clinical directory

Oklahoma Health Center

DMEI Acers and Parke Pavilions
608 Stanton L. Young Blvd. ■ Oklahoma City, OK 73104
405.271.6060

Comprehensive Ophthalmology/ Cataract and Ophthalmic Surgery/ Premium Cataract Surgery

405.271.1090 ■ 800.787.9012
John M. Bell, MD*
Victoria A. Bugg, MD*
Matthew S. Chorost, MD*
Layne E. Goetzinger, MD*
Carolyn E. Kloek, MD
Andrew T. Melson, MD*
Deana S. Watts, MD

Contact Lenses

405.271.6084 ■ 800.787.9012
Rachel M. Caywood, OD, FAAO
Scott Samples, FCLSA, NCLE-M, CPOT

Cornea and External Disease/Corneal Cross-Linking

405.271.1095 ■ 800.787.9017
Kamran M. Riaz, MD*
Rhea L. Siatkowski, MD*
Scott A. Vadala, MD*

Glaucoma

405.271.1093 ■ 800.787.9015
Andrew K. Bailey, MD*
Ben J. Harvey, MD*
Gregory L. Skuta, MD

LASIK and Refractive Surgery

405.271.2500 ■ 877.406.4193
Kamran M. Riaz, MD*
Scott A. Vadala, MD*

Low Vision Rehabilitation

405.271.1793 ■ 800.787.9012
Rebecca K. Morgan, MD

Neuro-Ophthalmology/Adult Strabismus

405.271.1091 ■ 800.787.9013
Andrew T. Melson, MD*
Anil D. Patel, MD, FRCSC, FACS

405.271.1094 ■ 800.787.9016
R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA

Ocular Oncology/Ophthalmic Pathology

405.271.7825 ■ 800.787.9012
Brian K. Firestone, MD

Ocular Prosthetics

405.271.3391 ■ 800.787.9012
Donnie R. Franklin, BCO, BADO

Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

405.271.1096 ■ 800.787.9018
Thai Do, MD
Annie Moreau, MD, FACS
Jeremy F. Tan, MD

Optical Services

405.271.6174 ■ 800.787.9012

Optometry

405.271.1090 ■ 800.787.9012
Rachel M. Caywood, OD, FAAO
Laura A. Kahn, OD
Brandalyn D. Loyko, OD
Jessica L. Lucas, OD, FAAO
Stacie Newton, OD

Pediatric Ophthalmology/Strabismus

405.271.1094 ■ 800.787.9016
Maria E. Lim, MD**
R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA
Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHSc

Kristen A. Anderson, CO (Orthoptist)
Laurie A. Hahn-Parrott, CO, COT, MBA
(Orthoptist)

Retina/Vitreous

405.271.1092 ■ 800.787.9014
Reagan H. Bradford Jr., MD
Ronald M. Kingsley, MD
Jila Noori, MD

Stephenson Refractive Surgery/Laser Center

405.271.2500 ■ 877.406.4193

Trauma/Emergency

405.271.6060 ■ 800.787.9012

Uveitis

405.271.1092 ■ 800.787.9014
Jila Noori, MD

Dean McGee Eye Institute Satellite Locations

NORTHWEST OKC

3500 N.W. 56th, #100, Oklahoma City, OK 73112
405.271.9500

Comprehensive Ophthalmology/Cataract and Ophthalmic Surgery/Premium Cataract Surgery

Ralph B. Hester III, MD*
Victoria A. Bugg, MD*
Matthew S. Chorost, MD*

Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Thai Do, MD
Jeremy F. Tan, MD

Optometry

Tasha J. Schellenberg, OD
Laura A. Kahn, OD

Optical Services

405.271.9506

OKLAHOMA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OU HEALTH

1200 N. Children's Ave., Suite 8-A, Oklahoma City, OK 73104
405.271.7887, option 2

Pediatric Ophthalmology/Strabismus

Maria E. Lim, MD**
R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA
Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHSc

Kristen A. Anderson, CO (Orthoptist)
Laurie A. Hahn-Parrott, CO, COT, MBA (Orthoptist)

Optical Services

405.271.7887

EDMOND

1005 Medical Park Blvd., Edmond, OK 73013
405.271.0913

Comprehensive Ophthalmology/Cataract and Ophthalmic Surgery

John M. Bell, MD*

Glaucoma/Comprehensive Ophthalmology/Cataract and Ophthalmic Surgery

Andrew K. Bailey, MD*

Neuro-Ophthalmology/Comprehensive Ophthalmology

Anil D. Patel, MD, FRCSC, FACS

Optometry

Angela M. Plant, OD, FAAO
Jessica L. Lucas, OD, FAAO

Optical Services

405.271.0909

LAWTON

3201 W. Gore Blvd., #200, Lawton, OK 73505
580.250.5855

Comprehensive Ophthalmology/Cataract and Ophthalmic Surgery/Premium Cataract Surgery

Ann Acers-Warn, MD, MBA*
Matthew S. Chorost, MD*

Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Thai Do, MD

Optical Services

580.585.5425

*DMEI Ophthalmologist Performing Cataract Surgery in Adults
**DMEI Ophthalmologist Performing Cataract Surgery in Children

McGee Eye Surgery Center

Harold Hamm Diabetes Center
1000 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 150, Oklahoma City, OK 73104
405.271.3363
Medical Director: Robert J. Christensen, MD

Dean McGee Eye Institute

Home to the Department
of Ophthalmology of the
University of Oklahoma
College of Medicine

R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA
DMEI Chief Executive Officer
Edward L. Gaylord Professor and Chair
David Ross Boyd Professor

Gregory L. Skuta, MD
DMEI Past President
David W. Parke II, MD Professor
Vice Chair for Faculty Development and External Relations
Regents' Professor and Past Chair

Carolyn E. Kloek, MD
Vice Chair for Quality and Innovation
Clinical Associate Professor

Kamran M. Riaz, MD
Vice Chair for Clinical Research
Thelma Gaylord Clinical Professor

Garyl G. Geist, MAcc
DMEI Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
Administrator, Department of Ophthalmology

Mark A. Wyckoff
DMEI Vice President for Medical Informatics and Technology
Chief Information Officer

Jim Durbin
DMEI Executive Director of Development

Co-Editors
Nicole M. Glenn
R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA
Gregory L. Skuta, MD

Contributors
Jim Durbin
Melody A. Marcum, MHR
John M. Paschal

Feature Writer
Staci Elder Hensley

Design and Layout
Christi Cooper, Cooper & Heart Creative

DMEI *InVision* is published twice yearly by the Dean
McGee Eye Institute.

For more information about this publication or to be placed
on the mailing list, please contact:

Development Office
Dean McGee Eye Institute
608 Stanton L. Young Blvd., Suite 346
Oklahoma City, OK 73104
405.271.1611

DMEI *InVision* is available online at:
dmei.org/publications

The Dean McGee Eye Institute is dedicated to serving
all Oklahomans and the global community through
excellence and leadership in patient care, education,
and vision research.

1975 • 2025
50 Dean McGee
EYE INSTITUTE
HONORING A LEGACY OF VISIONARY CARE



© 2025 Dean McGee Eye Institute

• DMEI • inVision

WINTER/SPRING 2025

IN THIS ISSUE

invisions

2 chief executive officer's view

4 news

- Dr. Cynthia Bradford's Expertise Has Benefited Ophthalmologists and Patients Nationwide
- DMEI Welcomes Back Dr. Scott Vadala as Member of Cornea Faculty
- 2024 AAO Annual Meeting Highlights
- Retinal Specialist Dr. Ronald Kingsley Bids DMEI Fond Farewell
- Global Eye Care Update
- Kamran Riaz, MD, Now Vice Chair for Clinical Research
- News from Canadian Valley Technology Center "Vision Care Technician" Program
- Cynthia Bradford, MD, and Jari Askins Honored Among 2024's 55 Over 55 *Inspiring Oklahomans*
- DMEI Residents Excel in Eyecelerator Competition at 2024 AAO Annual Meeting
- Clear Vision, Safer Care: DMEI's Quality Metrics Shine in 2024

16 faculty & staff

- 2024 Employee Service Awards
- 24 DMEI Ophthalmologists Recognized as *Castle Connolly Top Doctors* and/or *Top Doctors of the 405*
- Faculty & Staff Awards and Activities
- DMEI Presents at National and International Meetings
- *Doximity*: Your Vote Matters
- Employee of the Month Program
- *Castle Connolly Top Doctors* Accolades

donors

24 philanthropy update

- DMEI's Number of Endowed Positions Surges Thanks to Visionary Donors
- Delta Gamma Hosts *Anchorsplash* Fundraiser Benefiting Service for Sight
- Delta Gamma "Do Good" Service Project
- 2024 Annual Donors
- G. Rainey Williams Jr. Retires from DMEI Board and DMEI Foundation Board
- Grant from Inasmuch Foundation Addresses Ophthalmic Workforce in Oklahoma
- Noble Foundation Awards DMEI Grant for Vision Research

invisions

33 research

- Research Seminar Series
- New Vision Research Grants Awarded
- Research Faculty—Dept. of Ophthalmology
- Save the Date: 9th Annual Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD Lecture & 18th Annual OU Vision Workshop
- 17th Annual OU Vision Workshop & 8th Annual Anderson Lectureship

38 education

- 32nd Annual Walter J. Stark Memorial Lectureship
- Save the Date: 33rd Annual Walter J. Stark Memorial Lectureship
- DMEI Hosts Continuing Education Optometry Symposium
- Dr. Rachel Caywood Serves on National Board of Examiners in Optometry Council
- Save the Date: DMEI Ophthalmology Symposium 2025/49th Annual OU Resident and Alumni Meeting/45th Annual Tullos O. Coston, MD Lecture
- Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma Distinguished Lecturers
- Eye Care with Southern Flair: Oculoplastics Specialist & DMEI Alumnus Dr. Sterling Cannon
- Three DMEI Residents Will Continue as Fellows for 2025-2026
- Shadow Student Observes Surgery at McGee Eye Surgery Center
- DMEI Provides Vision Screening for OKC Thunder Corporate Office
- DMEI Provides Vision Screening for Harding Schools
- DMEI Provides Vision Screening for Variety Care

feature focus

48 A Vision of Better Eye Care—
DMEI Celebrates a Half-
Century of Exceptional Patient
Care, Teaching, and Research

last look

53 Honoring a Legacy of
Visionary Care

1975 • 2025
50 Dean McGee
EYE INSTITUTE
HONORING A LEGACY OF VISIONARY CARE



The Preferred Eye Care Provider of the OKC Thunder

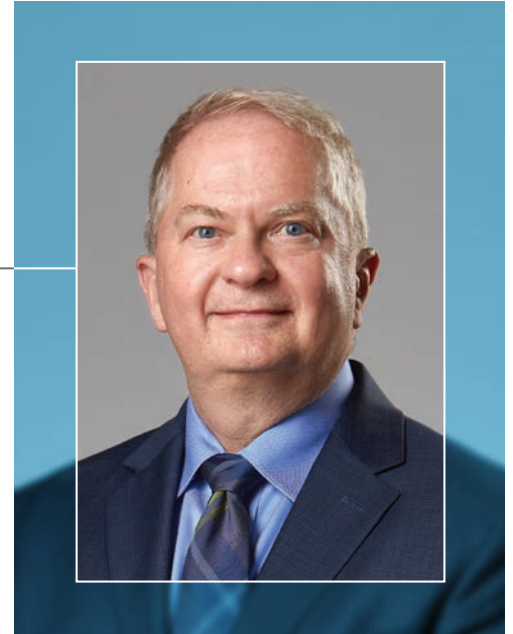
Celebrating Our “Golden” Anniversary

DEAR FRIENDS,

FOR MANY YEARS THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) HAS ENJOYED A STELLAR NATIONAL REPUTATION, BUT NOW WE ARE IN A NEW LEAGUE.

Along with Microsoft, Saturday Night Live, the movie “Jaws”, and the Honda Gold Wing, we are celebrating our 50th anniversary in 2025. Our feature article summarizes the impressive history of our organization.

A 50th celebration is a truly remarkable event, and people often do big things in recognition. I was absolutely thrilled when the DMEI residents had stone crabs shipped to me from my favorite Miami restaurant for my 50th birthday. When Ferrari turned 50 in 1995, they built only 349 F50s (0-65 mph in 3.8 sec) that started at \$2.1 million each. And for his 50th birthday bash in 1996, the Sultan of Brunei spent over \$27 million,



R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA

including \$1 million on champagne and caviar and \$16 million for a private performance by Michael Jackson.

The specialness of a 50th anniversary has been heralded by the use of gold throughout many different cultures for several millennia. Historians believe that this association dates back to ancient Rome, when wealthy noblemen gave their wives a silver wreath for their 25th wedding anniversary and a gold wreath for their 50th. Gold symbolizes strength, beauty, and commitment, and recognizes a history of long-standing trust and support over an experience that includes both joy and success, as well as challenges and sorrow.

When a reigning monarch achieves a major anniversary, the corresponding celebration is often referred to as a jubilee. Like the use of gold, the jubilee also arose many centuries ago. In ancient biblical times, every 50 years there was a jubilee, which was in essence a major socioeconomic recalibration of society—slaves were freed, debts were forgiven, and land reverted to its original owners. This was meant to reflect both the mercy and the justice of God, and His desire for people to live in freedom and abundance.

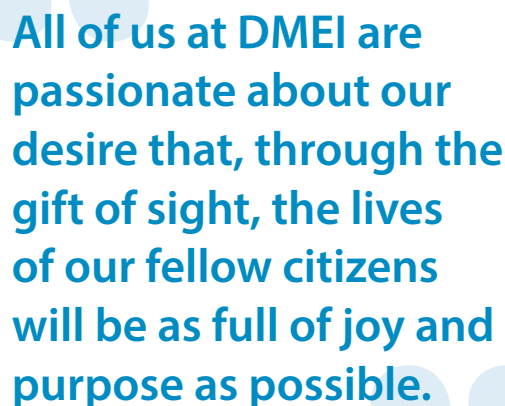
These centuries-old traditions of gold and jubilee have great meaning for DMEI. Our jubilee parallel is that all of us at DMEI are passionate about our desire that, through the gift of sight, the lives of our fellow citizens will be as full of joy and purpose as possible. And, as symbolized by the strength and durability of gold, we have an unwavering commitment to the people of our city and our state to persevere as vigorously as we can, through good times and bad, to bring the goal of excellent vision for all to fruition.

When I reflect upon all the people throughout the history of DMEI—those who had the vision, those who brought it to pass, those who have made important new discoveries, those who

have prepared a new generation of doctors, and those who are today bringing “vision...for life” to many, I am in true awe and have a sense of immense gratitude. Queen Elizabeth II said it best in her own Golden Jubilee message: “I

hope also that this time of celebration...will not simply be an occasion to be nostalgic about the past. I believe that, young or old, we have as much to look forward to with confidence and hope as we have to look back on with pride.”

Thank you, dear readers, for all you have done to support and advance DMEI over these past five decades. We look forward to the next 50!



All of us at DMEI are passionate about our desire that, through the gift of sight, the lives of our fellow citizens will be as full of joy and purpose as possible.



R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA
Chief Executive Officer
Dean McGee Eye Institute
Edward L. Gaylord Professor and Chair
David Ross Boyd Professor
Department of Ophthalmology
University of Oklahoma College of Medicine

LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION, AND PATIENT CARE:

Dr. Cynthia A. Bradford's Expertise Has Benefited Ophthalmologists and Patients Nationwide

BY STACI ELDER HENSLEY

WHEN CYNTHIA A. BRADFORD, MD, ARRIVED AT THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) AS AN OPHTHALMOLOGY RESIDENT IN 1984, little did she know she had started on a path to tremendous success, not just at DMEI, but well beyond its doors. After 37 years in practice (1987

to 2024), Dr. Bradford retired at the end of August from her position as one of the Institute's—and the nation's—top comprehensive ophthalmologists and cataract surgeons. She leaves behind an enormous imprint on her patients, colleagues, and the ophthalmology profession as a whole.

Unlike some physicians, Dr. Bradford never considered a career in medicine growing up. As her interests coalesced,

however, she chose to earn a bachelor's degree in medical technology from Texas A&M University, where she graduated *magna cum laude*.

“Immunology was something that became very appealing to me, but I had trouble deciding

between a career in research or medicine, which meant choosing between a PhD or an MD pathway,” she said. “I loved both, but in the end, I decided I preferred patient care. Curiously, I initially wanted to be a pediatric oncologist.”

Dr. Bradford went on to earn her medical degree with high honors from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, where she was also inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. From there she completed her internship at the University of Oklahoma (OU) Health Sciences Center and her residency at DMEI and in the OU Department of Ophthalmology. She considered several different specialties, but attending a lecture by a neuro-ophthalmologist is what determined her path.

“It was then I realized that eyes are beautiful, and I thought ‘That’s the most interesting thing I’ve ever seen,’” she said. “I began doing clinics and hanging out with ophthalmologists, and I truly loved it. I also knew this would give me the opportunity to do surgery, to teach, and to do research, which was very appealing.”

Dr. Bradford initially planned to return to her native Texas to practice after completing her ophthalmology residency. Instead, in 1987 she accepted an invitation from then-DMEI chief executive officer (CEO) and chair of the OU Department of Ophthalmology, Dr. Thomas E.



Cynthia A. Bradford, MD
Clinical Professor
Presbyterian Health Foundation
Presidential Professor

Acers, to become the first female faculty member in the Department. She practiced comprehensive ophthalmology, working with Dr. Hal Balyeat and Dr. Robert Shaver, two of her great mentors.

Teaching and Learning Together

Along with Drs. Balyeat and Shaver, Dr. Bradford said she was fortunate to have many wonderful mentors during the early part of her career. One of the most memorable was DMEI's first-ever female resident, Dr. Carol Blackwell-Imes (DMEI residency class of 1983), who welcomed Dr. Bradford with open arms.

“Women were still a minority, if not a rarity, in the profession at that time, and she was a wonderful source of encouragement and support,” Dr. Bradford said. “Everyone on the team was very generous and helpful.”

After multiple years as a comprehensive clinician and surgeon, Dr. Bradford eventually narrowed her scope to focus on cataract and intraocular lens implant surgery.

“Saving sight is the most rewarding area of medicine that you can practice,” she said. “It’s wonderful how much it gives back to the patients in terms of quality of life.”

A Born Leader

In 2017, Dr. Bradford officially became one of the most influential leaders in her profession when she was elected as the 121st president of the



Drs. Cynthia A. and Reagan H. Bradford Jr.

American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) – the world’s largest association of eye physicians and surgeons with 32,000 members. She was only the third woman to serve in this role.

“Saving sight is the most rewarding area of medicine that you can practice,” she said. “It’s wonderful how much it gives back to the patients in terms of quality of life.”

Her involvement with the AAO leadership came about through DMEI's former CEO and department chair, Dr. David W. Parke II, who was very active in committee work for the organization. Dr. Bradford was drawn in, becoming one of its medical student textbook editors and

working on other committees focusing on clinical education, advocacy, and patient care. Before becoming president, she was a member of the Academy's Board of Trustees, serving as senior secretary for advocacy from 2009 to 2014.

“During my service with the AAO, my goals were to enhance the care ophthalmologists provided to patients and at the same time focus on physician wellness initiatives,” she said. “Or in other words to be an advocate for both physicians and patients. That was wonderful, because I got to know ophthalmologists in every

...continued on next page...

single state. We were able to update guidelines, teach ways to enhance professionalism, and develop strategies to keep ophthalmologists and the broader medical community healthier, happier, and more productive.”

Dr. Bradford’s contributions have been recognized at the state and national levels. She received the Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology’s Distinguished Service Award in 2015, was named as one of the nation’s top 50 ophthalmologists by *Becker’s ASC Review* in 2016, and received a Life Achievement Honor Award from the AAO in 2019. Throughout her career Bradford has been the recipient of many additional honors, beginning with the Dr. and Mrs. T.E. Acers Resident Honor Award, presented for the Institute’s best resident research. A few years later, she earned the prestigious Edward and Thelma Gaylord Faculty Honor Award for “best teacher at DMEI.” In 2011, she received a prestigious OU Regents’ Award for Superior Teaching.

She also was influential in working with Dean McGee leadership to fine-tune and adapt its methods and procedures over the years, an early example being streamlining the Institute’s triage program to handle emergencies.

Another of her passions is working with veterans. She assisted DMEI leadership with developing a program to teach cataract surgery at the Oklahoma City Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center, an initiative which earned her the 2001 and 2006 Excellence in Attending at VA Awards.

Over the years, Dr. Bradford has taught hundreds of medical students and ophthalmology residents. She began as a clinical instructor in 1987 and retired from OU in 2021 as a full professor and Presbyterian Health Foundation Presidential Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology, three years prior to her departure from DMEI in 2024.

What’s Next

Between them, Dr. Bradford and her husband, DMEI retinal specialist Dr. Reagan H. Bradford Jr., have three children and six grandchildren, ranging from 3 to 15 years of age. Post retirement her plans are to spend time with her grandchildren, do some gardening, and take long walks with the family’s German Shepherd, Lexi.

Dr. Bradford said she has never regretted her decision not to return to Texas.

“Dean McGee has been a wonderful place to work and spend my career,” she said. “I was able to be involved in everything, both within the Institute as a clinician, surgeon, and educator, and as a contributor to the profession nationally. The list of wonderful memories is endless.”

One of those special memories includes a comment from a first-year resident. “She told me ‘Dr. Bradford, I’ve decided I want to grow up and be you,’” Dr. Bradford said with a smile. “That is something that will always stay with me.” ■



Grandchildren of Cynthia A. Bradford, MD, and Reagan H. Bradford Jr., MD.

Dean McGee Eye Institute Welcomes Back Dr. Scott A. Vadala as Member of Cornea Faculty

SCOTT A. VADALA, MD, IS A FELLOWSHIP-TRAINED CORNEA, EXTERNAL DISEASE, AND REFRACTIVE SURGEON WITH

expertise in advanced cataract and anterior segment surgery. A native of North Texas, Dr. Vadala earned both his undergraduate and medical degrees from Texas Tech University. He completed his ophthalmology residency at Wake Forest University in North Carolina, followed by a prestigious and highly competitive fellowship in cornea, external disease, and refractive surgery at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI).

After his training, Dr. Vadala practiced for a year in Phoenix, Arizona, where he specialized in cornea, cataract surgery, and complex ocular trauma as a member of the Arizona Ophthalmic Trauma Society. He has now returned to DMEI, bringing his expertise in advanced corneal transplantation techniques, complex and premium cataract surgery, and secondary intraocular lens implantation. Dr. Vadala will hold the title of clinical assistant professor in

the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine.

Dr. Vadala is skilled in managing the full spectrum of anterior segment diseases and offers state-of-the-art refractive surgical options tailored to each patient's needs.

He is passionate about providing exceptional care and visual outcomes through innovative surgical techniques.

Outside of medicine, Dr. Vadala resides in Oklahoma City with his golden doodle, Finley. In his free time, he enjoys running, cycling, hiking, racket sports, cooking, and reading. ■



Scott A. Vadala, MD

2024 AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

AAO Achievement Award

- Ore-ofe O. Adesina, MD (Houston, TX) – DMEI Resident Alumnus (2012)
- Kumar S. Sambhav, MD (Morgantown, WV) – DMEI Vitreoretinal Surgery Fellow (2022-2024)

Retinal Specialist Dr. Ronald M. Kingsley Bids DMEI Fond Farewell

BY STACI ELDER HENSLEY

OVER THE PAST FOUR DECADES, RONALD M. KINGSLEY, MD, HAS BEEN A MAINSTAY AMONG THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE'S (DMEI'S) OUTSTANDING CLINICIANS — a medical retinal specialist who has saved or stabilized the vision of thousands of patients, while at the same time training a new generation of superior ophthalmologists.

In December 2024, Dr. Kingsley retired from his full-time clinical, teaching, and research roles. He and his wife, Pamela, have since moved to Connecticut to be closer to their children and grandchildren; however, Dr. Kingsley will return to Oklahoma for one week each month over the



Ronald M. Kingsley, MD
Clinical Professor
DMEI Alumni Professor

next year in order to complete his research, work with residents, and help out with DMEI's Native American retina clinics across the state.

Like many physicians, Dr. Kingsley became interested in medicine through his father, a bioengineer who was engaged in a lot of early-day ultrasound research on the heart.

“I got to see him do sound waves, ultrasounds of hearts; he even arranged for me to observe open-heart surgery,” he said. “That was my first experience with medicine, and it spurred me on.”

Upon completion of his undergraduate studies at Brandeis University, Dr. Kingsley was accepted to Georgetown University's School of Medicine. After graduating, he did a retinal research fellowship at the prestigious Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute (part of Johns Hopkins University). He then completed his ophthalmology residency at Yale University. Through contacts made there, he was then offered a fellowship in retinal diseases at the Moorfields Eye Hospital and Hammersmith Hospital in London, England.



Pamela and Dr. Ronald Kingsley on their wedding day in 1996. In attendance were several DMEI friends and colleagues.

Westward Bound

Even though his studies had taken him overseas, Dr. Kingsley—who grew up in Philadelphia and Princeton, New Jersey—had never been very far west of the Delaware River until he arrived in Oklahoma to interview for a position at Dean McGee in 1983.

He was drawn to the Institute because an opportunity became available to work closely with DMEI's Dr. C.P. "Pat" Wilkinson, one of the premier retinal specialists and surgeons in the country.

"Pat was doing very important clinical trials for macular degeneration at the time, and I wanted to be part of it," Dr. Kingsley said. "It was a well-known clinical trial, and he promised me that he'd send me most of his medical retina cases, so I could build up a large practice and improve my retinal expertise quickly, which is what I wanted to do."

"When I took the job, I thought I'd be here for about five years or so, then go back to the East Coast, but it didn't work out that way," he added. "The reason I stayed is because I love my patients, my practice, and the people who work here. My kids were also happy, and I liked raising them here, where there are good values and good people."

Mentoring the Next Generation

While the bulk of his career has been in direct patient care, Dr. Kingsley also has participated in ground-breaking research, as well as training and supervising 155 residents and fellows through the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Medicine's Department of

Ophthalmology. A number of those former residents – like Drs. Cynthia A. Bradford, Reagan H. Bradford Jr., and Thomas Wolf – are among several who would end up joining the DMEI team and go on to exceptional careers of their own. For years, Dr. Kingsley has also supervised the retinal team at the Oklahoma City Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center.



In December 2023, Dr. Kingsley received the inaugural DMEI Alumni Professorship from Dr. Helga Fuenfhausen Pizio, DMEI/OU resident class of 1996 and DMEI Alumni Professorship Selection Committee member.

His sustained efforts as an outstanding educator have been recognized with several awards, including the first Edward and Thelma Gaylord Faculty Honor Award in 1988 and the most recent one in 2024. He received the Excellence in Attending at VA Award in 2000, 2003, and 2013 and was the inaugural recipient of the DMEI Alumni Professorship in late 2023.

...continued on next page...

Seeing Treatments Evolve

With his particular subspecialty, Dr. Kingsley said he doesn't see dramatic cures, unlike patients who undergo cataract surgery, for example. However, he has seen tremendous strides in the ability of ophthalmologists to keep vision stable or even improved in patients with diabetes and macular degeneration.



Pictured with Ronald M. Kingsley, MD (front), are some of Dr. Kingsley's longest-standing work companions and friends, Whitney G. Rollings and Melody A. Marcum (back, left to right), his lead technician and DMEI's director of external relations and development, respectively.

"My practice has really changed over the past 20 to 25 years," he said. "All we had before as treatment were lasers to cauterize leaking blood vessels and such. Patients would experience scarring, and we almost never improved their vision; we just maintained it. Now we use a lot of injections in the eye, and that's been a game-changer. We can actually improve vision with

these treatments by keeping blood and fluid from building up in the retina. Sometimes when the retina starts bleeding or swelling, you lose a lot of vision. We can now reverse some of that, which has been rewarding. Laser surgery is still sometimes required, but today I do not do so many lasers. I do thousands of injections a year to try and save vision in diabetics and patients with retinal blood clots, macular degeneration, and other eye conditions."

Building Patient Relationships

One of the best aspects of his specialty is the opportunity to build long-term relationships, since his patients have chronic conditions that require regular treatments and monitoring. That has allowed him to build up connections with patients that, in some cases, go back decades.

"I have a patient who sort of grew up with me, a man with diabetes whom I first saw when he was in his early 20s and struggling to deal with his disease and losing vision," Dr. Kingsley said. "Now he's in his 60s, he's got his own grown family, he's retired from two state agencies over the past 40 years, he's been a teacher and a basketball coach, and we've known each other for so many years. He's had a very meaningful life, and we kind of reminisce that it's all really possible because he's able to control his diabetes and his eye disease."

He added, "I think that's what's been the most rewarding for me, just to be able to maintain people's vision and try to keep them seeing as long as possible. With diseases like diabetes and macular degeneration they're never going to go away, but we can still keep patients doing the things they need and want to do." ■

GLOBAL EYE CARE UPDATE

IN SEPTEMBER 2024, JEREMY F. TAN, MD, THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE'S (DMEI'S) DIRECTOR OF THE BRADLEY K. FARRIS, MD GLOBAL EYE CARE PROGRAM, and Mostafa “Moses” Khattab, DO, a fourth-year resident ophthalmologist at DMEI and the University of Oklahoma (OU), traveled to Eswatini in southeastern Africa to serve, teach, and learn. Dr. Tan is a clinical associate professor in the OU College of Medicine and holds the Tolbert Family Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology.

On this trip, the DMEI team was joined by Alexander Davis, MD, PhD, a former DMEI/OU faculty member who is currently assistant professor, director of the cornea and external disease service, and director of medical student education at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center in Albuquerque. Dr. Davis's contributions were heavily focused on corneal disease and surgery. Dr. Khattab was able to perform approximately five primary manual small incision cataract surgeries (MSICS), a record for DMEI residents, under the tutelage of Drs. Jonathan Pons and Joel Alada, a colleague in practice with Dr. Pons. A record number of patients were also seen in the clinic during this trip, with over 250 on one of the days.



Pictured during a surgical case performed by Jeremy Tan, MD, are Drs. Tan (left), Mostafa “Moses” Khattab (back center), and Alexander Davis (right).

Dr. Pons lives and is based in Siteki, Eswatini, but provides ophthalmologic care throughout the country of 1.2 million people as well as to the greater African continent. Drs. Tan, Khattab, and Davis assisted Dr. Pons and his colleagues, spanning several aspects of medical outreach in various clinics and operating theaters while directly refining many of the skills valuable in international work. Ophthalmologists from DMEI have been traveling to Eswatini since 2011.

The first 2025 trip is planned for the spring. Again, DMEI physicians will be there to provide much needed care to those in Eswatini suffering from a wide range of ophthalmic disease and vision-threatening conditions. ■



Kamran M. Riaz, MD
Clinical Professor
Thelma Gaylord Endowed
Chair in Ophthalmology
Vice Chair for Clinical Research
Director, Stephenson Refractive
Surgery Center

Kamran M. Riaz, MD, Now Vice Chair for Clinical Research

DR. KAMRAN M. RIAZ, WHO IS A CLINICAL PROFESSOR at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and in the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Medicine and who also holds the Thelma Gaylord Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology, has been extremely effective in helping ensure that the OU College of Medicine students

who are interested in ophthalmology become involved in high-quality, impactful research. Through his mentorship over the past several years, dozens of medical students (seven at one American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery meeting alone!) have presented their DMEI work on the national stage. Dr. Riaz himself has been an incredibly prolific clinical researcher and author, with over 50 publications and two textbooks since his arrival at DMEI in 2019.

Because of the medical students' successes and his own enthusiasm and productivity with regard to clinical research, Dr. Riaz, who was previously DMEI's director of medical student research, was named vice chair for clinical research effective August 1. In this role, Dr. Riaz will continue his medical student work, but will also work with DMEI clinical faculty to help generate ideas, develop protocols, and be more efficient in executing, completing, and publishing/presenting clinical projects, both investigator-initiated and externally sponsored. Dr. Riaz will meet with clinicians individually to gather thoughts and refine ways in which he can help the faculty excel in this important endeavor.

To learn more about Dr. Riaz and his background and achievements, please see pages 12-13 of DMEI *InVision*, summer 2024, issue 29. ■

NEWS FROM CANADIAN VALLEY TECHNOLOGY CENTER "VISION CARE TECHNICIAN" PROGRAM



Kaylee A. Calhoun, COA

KAYLEE A. CALHOUN, a graduate of the 10-month "Vision Care Technician" training program at the Canadian Valley Technology (CV Tech) Center and current Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) technician, passed her Certified Ophthalmic Assistant (COA) examination in November. DMEI provides registered apprenticeships for students training to become eye care or ophthalmic assistants.

Marisela McNeal, COA, one of DMEI's technician supervisors, stated, "This is a meaningful accomplishment that reflects Kaylee's hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence in our field." All of us at DMEI congratulate Kaylee on this wonderful professional and personal achievement! ■

Cynthia A. Bradford, MD, and Jari Askins Honored Among 2024's *55 Over 55 Inspiring Oklahomans*



Cynthia A. Bradford, MD

DR. CYNTHIA A. BRADFORD, who is a retired clinical professor from the Dean McGee Eye Institute/University of Oklahoma (DMEI/OU), maintained a very busy clinical and surgical practice as a comprehensive ophthalmologist and highly accomplished cataract surgeon. Dr. Bradford is a state and national leader who served as president of the Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology and American Academy of Ophthalmology. To learn more about Dr. Bradford and her many achievements, please see pages 4 to 6.

JARI ASKINS, former lieutenant governor of Oklahoma (2007 – 2011) and current interim president of Cameron University in Lawton, has served as a member of the DMEI Foundation's Board of Directors for 10 years. She has been and continues to be an influential leader for the state of Oklahoma through her many roles in public and state service.



Jari Askins

The other 2024 honorees included such state luminaries as Lauren Branch, president and chief executive officer of NewView Oklahoma; Jalal Farzaneh, co-founder of Home Creations; Todd Lamb, former Oklahoma lieutenant governor and current president of the University of Central Oklahoma; Kevin Ogle, lead anchor for KFOR-TV in Oklahoma City; and Mike Turpen, former attorney general of Oklahoma.

This year's *55 Over 55* inductees were honored at an event at the State Capitol in Oklahoma City on October 17. ■

DMEI RESIDENTS EXCEL IN EYECCELERATOR COMPETITION at 2024 American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting

AT THE OCTOBER 2024 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY (AAO) in Chicago, Drs. Brandon S. Kingrey (PGY-3) and Jibrán A. Shariëff (PGY-2) won second place in the AAO Eyeceleerator competition “Winning Pitch Challenge” for their work on a smartphone device to take images of the optic nerve, retina, and other structures in the back of the eye through the pupil without dilation. The title of their presentation was “OphthoScope Smartphone Fundus Photography.”

The “Winning Pitch Challenge” is a Shark Tank-style competition featuring pitches from three early-stage ophthalmology innovators, with judges and the audience awarding cash prizes worth \$45,000.

Drs. Kingrey and Shariëff received a \$15,000 prize to further their research, plus the recognition of their innovation, perseverance, and intelligence by many prominent figures in ophthalmology. An Eyeceleerator “Winning Pitch Challenge” prize has never before been awarded to any residents, which makes their achievement even more impressive.

The winner of the \$25,000 first-place prize was Avnish Deobhakta, MD (Avant Sciences), an associate professor at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and attending surgeon at New York Eye and Ear of Mount Sinai in New York City. Third place (\$5,000) went to Allen Eghrari, MD, MPH (Glow VD), an associate professor and director of the Dana Center for Preventive



Drs. Brandon S. Kingrey and Jibrán A. Shariëff (fourth and fifth from left) with their second-place prize check are pictured with the first- and third-place winners, judges, and representatives from the Eyeceleerator competition.

Ophthalmology at Johns Hopkins University’s Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, Maryland.

Dr. Kingrey, who grew up in Wichita, Kansas, earned his bachelor’s (business economics) and medical degrees from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, where he was an Intercollegiate Rowing Association All-Academic Honoree as an undergraduate. A native of Tulsa, Dr. Shariëff was a Junior National Olympics qualifying athlete in fencing and earned his undergraduate degree (chemical engineering) from the University of Tulsa. He is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine.

We look forward to supporting their future work and are very grateful that Drs. Kingrey and Shariëff are part of the DMEI family! ■

Clear Vision, Safer Care: DMEI's Quality Metrics Shine in 2024

THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) CONTINUES TO SET THE STANDARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL EYE CARE

in Oklahoma and beyond, with 2024 metrics demonstrating outstanding surgical outcomes and patient care quality. Physicians at the McGee Eye Surgery Center performed over 7,000 surgical procedures in 2024, with complication rates consistently below national benchmarks. Notably, the DMEI cataract surgery program achieved zero endophthalmitis cases and no returns to surgery in the last quarter while maintaining a remarkably low anterior vitrectomy rate of 0.48% — significantly better than the national benchmark range of 1.5-4.0%.

The Institute's commitment to patient experience matches these impressive clinical outcomes. Throughout 2024, DMEI providers maintained excellence ratings above 4.7 out of 5 stars, with overall high patient satisfaction scores. DMEI glaucoma services achieved outstanding results, with 98.68% of primary open-angle glaucoma patients reaching their intraocular pressure reduction goals or having documented care plans, surpassing the CMS benchmark of 94.47%. These metrics reflect DMEI's dedication to our mission

of serving all Oklahomans and the global community through excellence in patient care.

As we move into 2025, we are strengthening our commitment to quality and safety by launching our first comprehensive Culture of Safety Survey. This initiative demonstrates our proactive approach to creating an environment where excellence thrives through open communication, continuous improvement, and unwavering focus on patient-centered care. The survey represents another step in enhancing our services and maintaining our position as a leader in ophthalmology care, education, and vision research. ■

“A culture of safety isn't built overnight—it's a commitment we make every day. By listening, learning, and acting on feedback, we create a stronger, safer environment for both our patients and our team.”



Carolyn E. Kloek, MD
Clinical Associate Professor
Vice Chair for Quality and Innovation

2024 EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

30 YEARS

Ann Acers-Warn, MD, MBA
Delores Watley



Pictured (left to right): R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA (DMEI's chief executive officer and department chair), Delores Watley, Ann Acers-Warn, MD, MBA, and Garyl G. Geist, MAcc (DMEI's executive vice president and chief operating officer).

25 YEARS

Feng Li, MD, MPH, MS
R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA
Rhea L. Siatkowski, MD



Pictured (left to right): Feng Li, MD, MPH, MS, R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA, Rhea L. Siatkowski, MD, and Garyl G. Geist, MAcc.

15 YEARS

Sherry D. Anderson, COT
Geraldine De La Cerda, COA
Jill R. Srnka, COT
Ramonia Wilson, RN



Pictured (left to right): R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA, Geraldine De La Cerda, COA, Jill R. Srnka, COT, Sherry D. Anderson, COT, Ramonia Wilson, RN, and Garyl G. Geist, MAcc.

10 YEARS

Andrew K. Bailey, MD
Lenee D. Church
Jessica J. Cortes-Garcia, COA
Dianna B. Crawford
James G. Elledge, RN
Brian K. Firestone, MD
Marilyn S. Garrity
Risa A. Johnson
Michelle A. McNeal



Pictured (left to right): R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA, Brian K. Firestone, MD, James G. Elledge, RN, and Garyl G. Geist, MAcc.



Pictured (left to right): R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA, Risa A. Johnson, Michelle A. McNeal, Jessica J. Cortes-Garcia, COA, Marilyn S. Garrity, and Garyl G. Geist, MAcc. Not pictured are Andrew K. Bailey, MD, Lenee D. Church, and Dianna B. Crawford.

At the 2024 Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) Holiday Celebration and Employee Recognition Ceremony held in the Inasmuch Foundation Atrium on December 6, 38 employees were recognized for their 475 collective years of service to the Institute and University of Oklahoma Department of Ophthalmology. Congratulations to all!

20 YEARS

Teresa M. Berry, ABOC	Ammaji Rajala
Robert C. Dimick, ABOC	Fatemeh Shariati
Anil D. Patel, MD, FRCSC, FACS	Sonya Strang, COT



Pictured (left to right): R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA, Teresa M. Berry, ABOC, Sonya Strang, COT, Robert C. Dimick, ABOC, Ammaji Rajala, Anil D. Patel, MD, FRCSC, FACS, and Garyl G. Geist, MAcc. Not pictured is Fatemeh Shariati.

5 YEARS

Yan Chen, PhD	Misty D. Kimmel	Candace N. Perry
Brittany L. Erickson	Carolyn E. Kloek, MD	Kamran M. Riaz, MD
Ben J. Harvey, MD	Marisela McNeal, COA	Annalissa B. Richardson
Teresa Huynh, COA	Andrew T. Melson, MD	Scott Samples, FCLSA,
Lydia P. Joseph	Eben-Ezer Orellana	NCLE-M, CPOT



Pictured (left to right): R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA, Yan Chen, PhD, Teresa Huynh, COA, Scott Samples, FCLSA, NCLE-M, CPOT, Misty D. Kimmel, Eben-Ezer Orellana, Brittany L. Erickson, Lydia P. Joseph, Ben J. Harvey, MD, and Garyl G. Geist, MAcc. Not pictured are Carolyn E. Kloek, MD, Marisela McNeal, COA, Andrew T. Melson, MD, Candace N. Perry, Kamran M. Riaz, MD, and Annalissa B. Richardson.

TWENTY-FOUR DMEI OPHTHALMOLOGISTS RECOGNIZED AS TOP DOCTORS OF THE 405 AND/OR CASTLE CONNOLLY TOP DOCTORS

- + Ann Acers-Warn, MD, MBA
- *+ Andrew K. Bailey, MD
- *+ John M. Bell, MD
- *+ Reagan H. Bradford Jr., MD
- * Victoria A. Bugg, MD
- * Thai Do, MD[^]
- *+ Brian K. Firestone, MD
- + Layne E. Goetzinger, MD
- *+ Ben J. Harvey, MD
- *+ Ralph B. Hester III, MD
- * Ronald M. Kingsley, MD
- *+ Carolyn E. Kloek, MD
- *+ Maria E. Lim, MD
- *+ Andrew T. Melson, MD
- * Annie Moreau, MD, FACS
- + Rebecca K. Morgan, MD
- *+ Anil D. Patel, MD, FRCSC, FACS
- *+ Kamran M. Riaz, MD
- *+ R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA
- *+ Rhea L. Siatkowski, MD
- *+ Gregory L. Skuta, MD[^]
- *+ Jeremy F. Tan, MD
- *+ Deana S. Watts, MD
- *+ Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHSc

* Top Doctors of the 405 (2025)

+ Castle Connolly Top Doctors (2025)

*+ Both

[^] Drs. Do and Skuta were named as “Rising Star” and “Legacy” awardees, respectively, by 405 Magazine/ Top Doctors of the 405.

FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES

Ann Acers-Warn, MD, MBA

- Hosted: “Visit with the 2025 American Board of Ophthalmology Chair,” American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting, Booth 1421, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2024.



Refractory Orbital Pythiosis,” ASOPRS 55th Annual Fall Scientific Symposium, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2024.

Ben J. Harvey, MD

- Chaired Table Rock Regional Roundup, Big Cedar Lodge, Ridgedale, MO, Nov. 2024.
- Invited lecturer: “Glaucoma Imaging and Analysis,” Table Rock Regional Roundup, Big Cedar Lodge, Ridgedale, MO, Nov. 2024.
- Oral presentation: “Academy Update from the American Academy of Ophthalmology’s Regional Representative, Secretariat for State Affairs,” Table Rock Regional Roundup, Big Cedar Lodge, Ridgedale, MO, Nov. 2024.
- Oral webinar presentation: “Glaucoma Case Carnival,” American Academy of Ophthalmology, Nov. 2024.



Michelle C. Callegan, PhD, FARVO

- Invited lecturer: “Targeting Innate Immunity in Bacterial Endophthalmitis,” The Cless Family Lecture Series, Illinois Eye Symposium on Inflammation and Infection, University of Illinois, Chicago, IL, Sept. 2024.
- Published: Mursalin M.H., Coburn P.S., Longoria-Gonzalez L., Astley R., Fischetti V.A., Callegan M.C. “Novel Anti-Microbial/Anti-Inflammatory Combination Improves Clinical Outcome of *Bacillus cereus* Endophthalmitis,” *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science*, Jan. 2025.



Andrew T. Melson, MD

- Surgical educator: Surgical Curriculum for Ophthalmology Residents (SCOR) Program, American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2024.
- Session moderator: Neuro-Ophthalmology Subspecialty Day, AAO Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2024.
- Course instructor: “The Swollen Optic Nerve,” AAO Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2024.
- Oral presentation (virtual): “NANOS: Iron Man’s Neuro-Nemesis,” Real World Ophthalmology Fall Session, Sept. 2024.
- Oral presentation: “Smartphones in Ophthalmology,” AAO Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2024.



Thai Do, MD

- Recognized with “Rising Star Award” by *405 Magazine/Top Doctors of the 405* as “an exceptional physician who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to the field of medicine early in their career” and “who exhibits remarkable clinical expertise, leadership, and a passion for advancing patient care,” Jan. 2025.
- Oral presentation: Ooms A., Wright K., Do T. “Low Dose Radiation Therapy in Managing Myeloid Sarcoma-Related Compressive Optic Neuropathy,” American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (ASOPRS) 55th Annual Fall Scientific Symposium, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2024.
- Poster presentation: Khattab M., Bleeker A., Baykal A., Kutteh L., Bowlware K., Tyungu D., Do T. “Pythium Antigen Immunotherapy - A Revolutionary Globe-Sparing Treatment for



Annie Moreau, MD, FACS

- Invited lecturer: “Management of Thyroid Eye Disease,” Endocrinology Scientific Symposium, University Laval, Québec City, Québec, Canada, Sept. 2024.
- Invited lecturer: “Sinus - Orbit Interface,” Otolaryngology Conference, University Laval, Québec City, Québec, Canada, Sept. 2024



Jila Noori, MD

- Oral presentation: “Validity of Spectral Domain OCT Angiography for Detection of Retinal Vasculitis,” University of California, Los Angeles/ American Uveitis Society International Workshop, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 2024



Kamran M. Riaz, MD

- Member, Intraocular Lens (IOL) Calculations Subcommittee, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery Cataract Clinical Committee, 2024 - present.
- Visiting professor: “Being Better Before the Ballgame: Utilizing Biometry and New IOL Formulas,” Grand Rounds, and “What’s on the Menu: An Overview of Currently Available Advanced Technology IOLs in the United States,” Resident Lecture, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY, Aug. 2024.
- Visiting professor: “Corneal Topography and Ray-Tracing Aberrometry,” “IOL Technology,” “Dropless Cataract Surgery,” “Endothelial Keratoplasty: Current and Future Directions,” “New Treatments for Corneal Neovascularization,” “Case Studies in Cataract Surgery,” “Case Studies in Refractive Surgery,” “Optics Problem Solving,” and “The Alphabet Soup of Modern Corneal Surgeries,” King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and King Khaled Eye Specialists Hospital, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Nov. 2024.



- Invited lectures: “Updates on Corneal Transplantation, Part I: Penetrating and Anterior Lamellar Procedures” and “Updates on Corneal Transplantation, Part II: Endothelial Replacement Procedures,” *AudioDigest Ophthalmology*, April 2024.
- Invited lecture: “Biometry Pearls: Evaluation of Biometric Data,” *AudioDigest Ophthalmology*, Aug. 2024.
- Oral presentation: “2024 Update on Scleral Fixation Techniques,” Keynote Lecture, Veterinary Ophthalmology Surgery Meeting, Chicago, IL, July 2024.
- Oral presentations: “MICE as a Primary and Precursor Therapy,” “New IOL Formulas for Keratoconic and Post-LVC Eyes,” and “Endothelial Cell Therapy: US Experiences,” Indian Society of Cornea and Keratorefractive Surgeons Annual Meeting, New Delhi, India, Aug. 2024.
- Oral presentation: “Show Me the Evidence: Point-Counterpoint,” Panelist, Refractive Surgery Subspecialty Day, American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2024.
- Oral presentations: “Corneal Topography – What Do I Need to Know as a Cataract Surgeon,” “IOL Calculations in 10 Types of Atypical Eyes,” and “Exploring the Limits with SS-OCT and OLCR Biometry Devices,” Course Director, Instructional Course, AAO Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2024.
- Oral presentation: “Academy Café: Cornea and External Disease Instructional Course,” AAO Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2024.
- Oral presentation: Wendelstein J.A., Riaz K.M., Pantanelli S.P., Cooke D.L., Gatinel D., Debellemanni G., Hoffer K.J., Langenbucher A., Hoffmann P.C., Findl O., Savini G. “Differences Between Keratometry and Total Keratometry Measurements in a Large Dataset Obtained With a Modern Swept-Source Optical Coherence Tomography Biometer,” paper presentation, AAO Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2024.
- Oral presentation: Rangu N., Chadrasekaran V., Mimouni M., Ouano D., Riaz K.M. “Clinical

FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES

- Outcomes of Mitomycin C Intravascular Chemoembolization (MICE) to Treat Corneal Neovascularization,” paper presentation, AAO Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2024.
- Skills transfer lab: “No Capsule, No Problem: Intrascleral Haptic Fixation (LAB 146A),” AAO Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2024.
 - Skills transfer lab: “Microsurgical Suturing Techniques (LAB 139A),” AAO Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2024.
 - Poster presentation: Hsueh J., Refai F., Riaz K.M. “Socioeconomic Disparities in Diagnosis and Treatment of Keratoconus Patients,” AAO Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2024.
 - Poster presentation: Mian O., Riaz K.M. “Risk Factors for Detachment Following Endothelial Keratoplasties at a Single Academic Institution,” AAO Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2024.
 - Published: Mian O., Warmath J., Refai F., Sandhu U., Multani K., Raj A., Dvorak J.D., Murphy D.A., Riaz K.M. “Determining Risk Factors for Detachment After Endothelial Keratoplasties: Nine-Year Review of a Single Institution,” *Cornea*, July 2024, Epub ahead of print.
 - Published: Mulpuri L., Ouano D.P., Riaz K.M., Warner E.J., Stone D.U., Cheung A.Y., Gomez A., Rangu N., Sabater A.L., Tonk R.S. “Intracameral Enoxaparin for Descemet Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty: A Pilot Safety Study,” *Cornea*, Aug. 2024.
 - Published: Escandon P., Choi A.J., Mabry S., Nicholas S.E., Cunningham R.L., Redden L., Murphy D.A., Riaz K.M., McKay T.B., Karamichos D. “Decreased Circulating Gonadotropin-Releasing Hormone Associated with Keratoconus,” *Cells*, Oct. 2024.
 - Published: Shamma H.J., Cooke D.L., Riaz K.M., Tonk R., Shamma M.C., Bleeker A., Anter A.M., Suraneni S., Leal S. “Updating the No-History Method in Intraocular Lens Power Calculation After Myopic Laser Vision Correction,” *Journal of Cataract and Refractive Surgery*, Oct. 2024.
 - Published: Wendelstein J., Wolfinger T., Riaz K.M., Seiler T.G., Casazza M., Fischinger I.R., Kohnen T., Bolz M. “Cat Eyes - Iris Capture as Unusual Complication After Phakic Posterior Chamber Intraocular Lens Implantation,” *Klin Monbl Augenheilkd*, Nov. 2024, German, Epub ahead of print.
 - Published: Redden L.D., Riaz K.M. Murphy D.A., Ding K., Khaimi M.A. “Efficacy and Safety of Ab-Interno Canaloplasty in Post-Keratoplasty Patients: 3-Year Results,” *Clinical Ophthalmology*, Nov. 2024.
 - Published: Raney A., Cottom S., Huff J., Phan T., LaGrow A., Leal C., Dvorak J.D., Riaz K.M. “Accuracy of a Commonly Used Mobile Ophthalmology Application’s Vision Assessment Tools in Measuring Five Vision Assessment Parameters,” *Eye (London)*, Dec. 2024.
 - Published: Riaz K.M., Wendelstein J.A., Koch D.D. “Depth of Field or Depth of Focus?,” *Journal of Cataract and Refractive Surgery*, Dec. 2024.
 - Published: “Top Tips for Refractive Surgery Consultations,” *Eyes on Eyecare*, Aug. 2024.
 - Published: “Overview of Current Monofocal Plus IOL Options,” *Ophthalmology Times*, Aug. 2024.
 - Published: “A Case of IOL Exchange in a Patient Unhappy with Their Previous Advanced Technology IOLs,” “A Case of Triple DMEK with Monofocal Plus IOL,” and “Mixing and Matching Monofocal Plus IOLs with Other Advanced Technology IOLs,” *Ophthalmology Times*, Aug. 2024.
 - Published: “What’s On the Horizon: Precision Medicine, AI, and Geometric Deep Learning” and “Managing Progression in Keratoconus,” *Eyes on Eyecare*, Nov. 2024.

Scott Samples, FCLSA, NCLE-M, CPOT



- Appointed to a four-year term on the Board of the National Contact Lens Examiners, Dec. 2024.
- Appointed as Clinical Instructor, University of Oklahoma Department of Ophthalmology, Nov. 2024.

R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA



- Revised the “Focus Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP)” course and developed a new patient safety module for the Ophthalmic Mutual Insurance Company, Fall 2024.
- Published: Saeed O.B., Siatkowski R.M., Coussa R.G. “Primary Scleral Buckling Vs. Vitrectomy For Stage 4A Retinopathy of Prematurity: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Surgical Outcomes,” *Eye*, Jan. 2025.
- Published: Johnson B., Makkar A., Sessler R., DeShea L., Siatkowski R.M., Bhatti F.N. “Validation and Feasibility of the Postnatal Growth and Retinopathy of Prematurity Retinal Screening Criteria at a Level IV Tertiary Care Neonatal Intensive Care Unit,” *American Journal of Perinatology*, May 2024.

Gregory L. Skuta, MD



- Completed a six-year term as chair of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Foundation Advisory Board on December 31, 2024. Dr. Skuta served on the AAO Board of Trustees for a total of 15 years (AAO president in 2014) and was a member of the AAO Committee of Secretaries for an additional six years.
- Recognized with “Legacy Award” by *405 Magazine/Top Doctors of the 405* as “a physician who has demonstrated exceptional contributions to the medical field and made a lasting impact on patient care, medical education, or community health” and “whose work has set a standard of excellence, inspiring future generations in medicine and leaving an indelible mark on the field,” Jan. 2025.
- Invited lecturer/panelist: Iwach A.G., Skuta G.L., Harrison L., Bucsi R. “Lessons Learned from Glaucoma Claims,” Ophthalmic Mutual Insurance Company Bruce Spivey, MD Forum, AAO Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2024.

- Published: Siegfried C.J., Skuta G.L., “Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the American Glaucoma Society: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow,” *Ophthalmology Glaucoma*, Jan./Feb. 2025.

Jeremy F. Tan, MD



- Video presentation: Vogt A.Z., Tan J.F. “Intact Fish Skin for Simultaneous Orbital Wall Reconstruction and Lower Lid Retractor Recession as Primary Stage for Planned Anophthalmic Socket Reconstruction,” American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery 55th Annual Fall Scientific Symposium, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2024.
- Oral presentation: “OK: GO, the DMEI Global Ophthalmology Program,” Table Rock Regional Round Up, Big Cedar Lodge, Ridgedale, MO, Nov. 2024.
- Oral presentation: “Missing Tissue Is the Issue: Considerations in Orbital Reconstruction,” Table Rock Regional Round Up, Big Cedar Lodge, Ridgedale, MO, Nov. 2024.

Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHSc



- Oral presentation: “Demystifying Dyslexia” and microsurgical wet lab, Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring Group, American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 2024.
- Poster presentation: Blakley M., Szymanski M., Ooms A., Yanovitch T. “Intraoperative Gray Area Surgical Complications of Strabismus Surgery,” University of Oklahoma College of Medicine Research Day, Dec. 2024.
- Published: Yanovitch T., Ooms A. “Introduction to Measuring Binocular Vision in Children,” *AAO ONE Network*, Video Series, Nov. 2024.
- Published: Park L., Nguyen S., Yanovitch T. “Ocular Manifestations of Congenital Syphilis,” *Review of Ophthalmology Online*, Nov. 2024.

DMEI PRESENTS AT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS



American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting

Chicago, Illinois

October 2024

- Brandon S. Kingrey, MD (Resident)
- Andrew T. Melson, MD
- Kamran M. Riaz, MD
- Jibrán A. Sharieff, MD (Resident)
- Gregory L. Skuta, MD
- Jeremy F. Tan, MD
- Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHSc



American Uveitis Society International Workshop

Stein Eye Institute

University of California, Los Angeles

September 2024

- Jila Noori, MD



American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Annual Fall Scientific Symposium

Chicago, Illinois

October 2024

- Annah P. Baykal, MD (Resident)
- Adam R. Bleeker, MD (Co-Chief Resident)
- Thai Do, MD
- Mostafa "Moses" Khattab, DO (Resident)
- Ashley A. Ooms, MD (Resident)
- Jeremy F. Tan, MD
- Ashtyn Z. Vogt, MD (Resident)



Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

January 2025

- Ashley A. Ooms, MD (Resident)

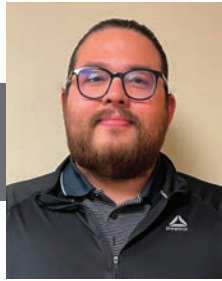


YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

If you are an ophthalmologist with a *Doximity* profile, please plan to submit responses to this spring's surveys for 2025 - 2026 *US News & World Report's* "Best Hospitals" and *Doximity's* "Residency Navigator." Please consider selecting the Dean McGee Eye Institute/University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center as one of your choices for each survey!



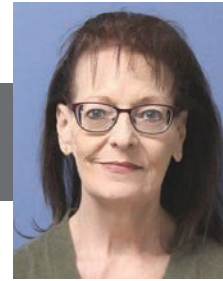
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH PROGRAM



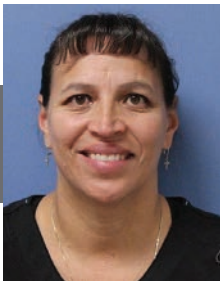
Nicholas V. Mata
Information Technology Support Analyst
Oklahoma Health Center
September 2024



Kathy M. Schemonia
Optician
Lawton Satellite Office
October 2024



Lorna L. Campbell
Patient Financial Service Coordinator
Oklahoma Health Center
November 2024



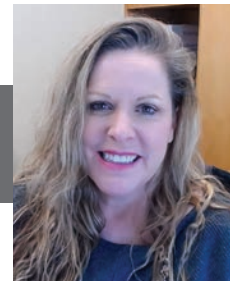
Margaret K. "Margie" Murrow
Surgery Scheduler
Lawton Satellite Office
December 2024



Maria Hernandez
Patient Appointment Coordinator
Oklahoma Health Center
January 2025



Katie M. Chambers
Human Resources Coordinator
Oklahoma Health Center
February 2025



Cristal A. Phares
Clinical Applications Team Leader
Oklahoma Health Center
March 2025

CASTLE CONNOLLY TOP DOCTORS ACCOLADES



TOP 5 HOSPITAL

MOST TOP DOCTORS IN OPHTHALMOLOGY CARE NATIONALLY

2025

#1 HOSPITAL OKLAHOMA

MOST TOP DOCTORS IN OPHTHALMOLOGY CARE

2025

#1 HOSPITAL OKLAHOMA

MOST TOP DOCTORS IN SURGERY CARE

2025

The other top five hospitals ranked nationally include #1. Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, #2. Wills Eye Hospital, #3. University of Michigan, #4. Massachusetts Eye and Ear, and #5. Ohio State University (tie with Dean McGee Eye Institute).

PHILANTHROPY UPDATE

DMEI's Number of Endowed Positions Surges Thanks to Visionary Donors

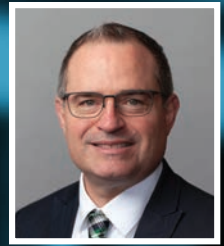
WITHIN AN ACADEMIC SETTING SUCH AS THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI)/UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA (OU) DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, ENDOWED POSITIONS ARE IMPORTANT TOOLS FOR RETAINING TOP-QUALITY FACULTY. Holding an endowed position is a distinction that demonstrates that a faculty member has performed at the highest level. In addition to this public recognition of excellence, interest earned on the endowment funds provides financial support for faculty members as they pursue educational, academic, scholarly, and service activities. As examples, these funds may allow a faculty member to hire a technician in his or her laboratory or to attend a national meeting to present research findings to others. As the competition for talent in academic ophthalmology increases, endowed positions are critical to our efforts to support and retain our brightest and most committed faculty.

Between 1990 and 2001, five endowed chairs were established at the University of Oklahoma (OU) Foundation for the benefit of faculty in the

OU Department of Ophthalmology. These chairs were named for the following individuals who played a critical role in establishing DMEI: Dean A. McGee, James P. Luton, Edward L. Gaylord, M.G. McCool, and Thomas E. Acers, MD (the first president and chief executive officer (CEO) of DMEI and first full-time chair of the OU Department of Ophthalmology).

From 2001 through 2011, when the focus was on a capital campaign for a major facility expansion, no additional endowed positions were established. Beginning in 2012, however, the DMEI Foundation began a significant effort to raise funds for endowed positions, including providing a 50% match for funds raised.

In late November 2012, Peggy and Charles Stephenson Jr. made the lead gift of \$500,000 to the **David W. Parke II, MD Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology** at the DMEI Foundation. This visionary gift would initiate 12 years of fundraising that has strategically transformed the ability of DMEI to recruit and retain top talent. Joining the Stepbensons in honoring



Jim Durbin
Executive Director of Development

Dr. Parke – the second president and CEO of the Eye Institute – were other community and state leaders such as the Maxine and Jack Zarrow Family Foundation, the E.L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation, and Elizabeth and G.T. Blankenship. They and 52 other donors contributed a total of \$1.44 million (\$2.16 million with the DMEI Foundation match).

The following year, the Presbyterian Health Foundation (PHF) donated \$500,000 to help establish the **Stanton L. Young Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology** to honor one of the driving forces behind the establishment of DMEI and the DMEI Foundation. Members of the Young family and their various family foundations contributed another \$450,000. These gifts plus those from 40 other donors totaled \$1.15 million (\$1.725 million with the matching funds).

Dr. W. Stanley Muenzler was a prominent and highly revered corneal surgeon who practiced in Oklahoma City for almost 50 years. When he passed away in 2013, 121 of his colleagues, friends, and family donated \$344,127 to honor Dr. Muenzler and memorialize his extraordinary legacy by establishing the **W. Stanley Muenzler, MD Professorship in Corneal Disease**. This amount was matched with \$172,000 from

the DMEI Foundation to create a \$516,000 professorship.

Shortly after Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski became the fourth CEO of DMEI and chair of the OU Department of Ophthalmology in March 2021, he did two things. He kicked off fundraising for an endowed position to honor his predecessor,

Gregory L. Skuta, MD, who served as DMEI’s third president/CEO and chair from April 2009 through February 2021. With the help of \$100,000 lead gifts from David Rainbolt, Peggy Kates, and Marsha and David Dickinson Jr., PhD, and donations from 108 friends, family, patients, and colleagues, a total of \$1 million was raised. This amount was matched with \$500,000 from the DMEI

Foundation to create the \$1.5 million **Gregory L. Skuta, MD Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology**.

In addition, Dr. Siatkowski reached out to the DMEI/OU alumni and asked them to help fund the **DMEI Alumni Professorship**, which would provide a two-year award to a deserving faculty member who excelled at promoting DMEI/OU’s academic mission. Seventy-six alumni responded, with additional gifts from DMEI faculty and friends, raising \$450,000 for the professorship.

“The past 12 years have proven to be extremely beneficial to the Institute with regard to endowed positions.”

...continued on next page...

There have been times when a single donor has funded an endowed position. These include the:

- **Farzaneh Family Foundation Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology** (funded with a \$1.5 million gift from the Farzaneh Family);*
- **Thelma Gaylord Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology** (funded with a \$1 million gift from the E.L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation);
- **Elizabeth Zoernig Milam Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology** (funded through a gift from her estate);
- **John M. Bell, MD Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology** (funded through a \$1 million grant from the Sarkeys Foundation); and
- **Dr. Robert S. and Nancy P. Ellis Endowed Professorship** (funded through a \$500,000 stock gift from Dr. Robert S. Ellis).

The **Tolbert Family Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology** was inspired by a friend of DMEI Board Chair Emeritus, Jim Tolbert III. This friend, who wants to remain anonymous, reached out to the DMEI Foundation and asked what it would take to establish an endowed chair in honor of Mr. Tolbert. Once he knew how much would be needed, he took it upon himself to ask some of Mr. Tolbert’s close friends and colleagues to donate. Ten others joined with this anonymous individual and together raised \$697,800, which was matched with \$348,900 from the DMEI Foundation to create a \$1.05 million endowed chair.

The most recent endowed chair campaign at DMEI was initiated by Peggy Kates, a donor

whose own experience with ocular cancer inspired her to advocate for and help underwrite an endowed chair, the initial purpose of which is to support ocular oncology faculty at DMEI. Kates donated \$300,000 toward this effort and was joined by Andria and Paul Heafy, PHF, MidFirst Bank, the Stephenson Family Foundation, George Records, and 73 other donors. Together, they raised \$642,300, which, with the DMEI Foundation match and interest earned to date, established the **\$1 million Ben and Peggy Kates Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology**.

The past 12 years have proven to be extremely impactful for the Institute with regard to endowed positions. During this timeframe, we have more than tripled the number of endowed ophthalmology positions in the DMEI and OU Foundations from five to 17 (with the addition of nine chairs and three professorships). As we begin our next 50 years, these endowed positions will help us recruit and retain the best and brightest clinicians and scientists. We are thankful to all the donors who have made this success possible. ■

If you would like to discuss honoring a family member, friend, or colleague in this manner (including through a bequest in your will), please reach out to Jim Durbin, DMEI’s executive director of development, at 405.271.7803 or via email at jim-durbin@dmei.org.

*Housed at the OU Foundation with a \$750,000 matching fund at the DMEI Foundation.

Delta Gamma Hosts *Anchorsplash* Fundraiser Benefiting Service for Sight

THE LADIES OF THE ALPHA IOTA CHAPTER OF DELTA GAMMA held their annual *Anchorsplash* event on Thursday, October 3, 2024, at the Westwood Family Aquatic Center in Norman, Oklahoma. The philanthropic competition, in which fraternities on the University of Oklahoma (OU)-Norman campus compete, consists of three events: synchronized swimming, a 200-meter relay race, and the belly flop. This is one of the most popular and well-attended student-based events at OU, and the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) was the recent recipient of half of the funds raised from *Anchorsplash*. With the \$7,409 raised in 2024, Delta Gamma has now successfully raised almost \$90,000 for the DMEI Foundation! ■



Anchorsplash 2024 Bests

Best Overall: Kappa Sigma

Best Synchronized Swimming: Kappa Sigma

Fastest Relay Race: Kappa Sigma

Best Belly Flop: Sigma Nu



DURING DELTA GAMMA'S FALL 2024 SEMESTER, A "DO GOOD" SERVICE PROJECT was spearheaded by Sara Ulrich, vice president of foundation, University of Oklahoma Delta Gamma (DG). Sara and DG sorority sisters created handmade cards of encouragement and pleasantries for McGee Eye Surgery Center patients. Pictured with the cards are members of Dean McGee Eye Institute leadership (left to right): Garyl G. Geist, MAcc, DMEI's executive vice president and chief operating officer; R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA, DMEI/OU's chief executive officer and department chair; and Jim Durbin, DMEI's executive director of development.

2024 ANNUAL DONORS

The following names reflect gifts received by the Dean McGee Eye Institute and/or Dean McGee Eye Institute Foundation from January 1 through December 31, 2024. They include gifts and pledges as well as payments on previous pledges.

\$250,000+

E.L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation
Inasmuch Foundation

\$100,000 - \$249,999

American Macular Degeneration Foundation
Gloria and Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD
Children's Health Foundation
Mrs. W. D. Eggers
Andria and Paul Heafy
Peggy J. Kates
Herman Meinders
Kathryn Paul
Sarkeys Foundation

\$50,000 - \$99,999

The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation
Presbyterian Health Foundation
David and Kim Rainbolt

\$25,000 - \$49,999

MidFirst Bank
Marisa and G. Jeffrey Records Jr.
Stephenson Family Foundation
Stanton L. Young Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,999

ASCRS Foundation
Patti Anderson
Anonymous
BancFirst
The James C. and Teresa K. Day Foundation
Roxanne J. and Mark A. Helm
Valerie L. Lobodiak, MD
Aman Mittal, MD
Mr. Larry Nichols
Oklahoma City Community Foundation
George J. Records
Drs. R. Michael and Rhea Siatkowski
Samuel L. Thomsen, MD
Elizabeth and James R. Tolbert III
Byron N. Wilkes, MD

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Alpha Iota Chapter of Delta Gamma Fraternity
American Fidelity Foundation
Anonymous
Jimmie Lynn & Billye Austin Foundation
Harriet Benson
Kim and Michael Joseph
Drs. David and Julie Parke
Richard and Gayle Parry
Kyle J. Royalty, MD
Polly and Walter J. Stark Jr., MD

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Evan J. Allan, MD
Janice and Governor Bill Anoatubby
Anonymous
Anonymous
Andrew K. Bailey, MD
Marilyn Balyeat
Daniel R. Brooks, MD
Robert H. Bullington Jr., MD
Dan and Michelle C. Callegan, PhD, FARVO
Angela and Adam A. Carver, MD
Mike and Betty Jane Cawley
Jean and William S. Clifford, MD, MBA
Cynthia A. and Tad Davis
Robert Dimick
Roger and Joanna Empie
Ernest E. Fellers Trust
Chris and Ashley Fleming
Garyl G. Geist
Leigh and Ben J. Harvey, MD
Sukanya and Joshua F. Hendrix, MD
Lindsay and Ronald P. Hobbs, MD
Howard Family Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Kimberly A. Howard
Paula and Van Jones Foundation
Mahmoud A. Khaimi, MD
Lee and Gregory D. Kiblinger, MD
Legit Kits, LLC
Maria E. Lim, MD and Mark Partridge
Lingo Construction Services, Inc.
Melody Marcum

Linda J. McCoy
James F. McGinnis, PhD
Amalia M. Miranda, MD
Rebecca K. Morgan, MD
Scott A. Murphy, MD
A. Ahmed Nasrullah, MD
Thy K. Nguyen, MD and Son H. Nguyen, MD
Jodi and Alan A. Norman, MD
Jacquelyn A. O'Banion, MD, MSc and Dennis D. O'Banion Jr., MD
Dr. Marion Paden
Reena N. Patel, MD
Penn Mutual Life Insurance
Helga Fuenfhausen Pizio, MD
James F. Ronk, MD
Siv B. Saetre, MD and James Entwistle Jr.
Mark H. Scott, MD
Dr. Gregory L. and Anne M. Skuta
Richard and Jackie Skuta
Streets of Africa
Scot A. Sullivan, MD
Becky and Barry Switzer
Jeremy F. Tan, MD
Judge and Mrs. Ralph G. Thompson
Cristina M. Tran, MD
Stacy and Lucas Trigler, MD
Casey and G. Rainey Williams Jr.
Judy and Thomas C. Wolf, MD
Diana R. Wolff
Mark Wyckoff
Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD
Marie Elise Young

\$500 - \$999

Cynthia A. Bradford, MD and Reagan H. Bradford Jr., MD
BTA Oil Producers, LLC
Theo and Elaine Carpenter
Denise R. Chamblee, MD
John and Mary Ann Coates
Comcast
Susan Shi Crutcher
Jim and Rebecca Durbin
Trent and Carly Hardman
Sue and Reece Hembree
Cynthia and David Heminger
Stephen Jackson
Michael and Syotha Jett

Jay C. Johnston, MD
Larry C. Kindt
Koda Operating, LLC
Linda P. Lambert
Mark J. Lewakowski
Felipe Lim, MD
Stephen Marks
Virginia and Don McCombs Jr.
Silvia S. McKeivitt, MD
Malcolm and Paula Milsten
Andrew R. Osborn, MD
Penny and Dee A. Replogle Jr.
Mary A. Sherman
Tom and Janath Slamans
Evan C. Sussenbach, MD
Sara and Kyle Sweet
Patricia Warren Swindle
Curtis Towery
Alice and C.P. Wilkinson, MD

\$100 - \$499

Faye Angelotti
Anonymous
Gloria A. and G. William Bailey
Cheryl F. and Jeff S. Baker
J. Edward Barth
Charlotte D. Bert
Bileau Bhasin
Pam and Roy Bollenbach
Diane and Kenny Brown
Judith C. Bullard
Tracey Burdick
Shizuko Burgess
Ashley and John Russell Burks, MD
Michael and Cynthia Carder
Susan Anne and N. Michael Chavez
Mr. and Mrs. Nate Clark
Gervis Coker
Delane and H. Wayne Cox
Carol and John Crellin
Huong T. Dao
Margaretta R. Dean
Gail Deaton
Maria Delgado
Susan and Steven H. Dewey, MD
Delores A. Emerson
Natalie A. Essary
Steven Faglie
David H. Fennema

Leslie and Jon R. Fishburn, MD
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Flesher
 Jay K. Foertsch
 Formentera Operations, Inc.
 Dr. Aaron and Lisa Fortney
 Bradley Fouraker, MD, FACS
 Michelle Garrison
 Pamela A. Genova
 Rosa L. Gibson
 Carla M. Gilbert
 Neil M. Glass, DDS, MD
 Doniece Glenn
 Gary Goss
 David E. Greiner
 Teri and Mike Griffin
 Mr. and Mrs. John J. Gullic
 Barbara Hall
 Naomi F. Hall
 Joanne and Thomas Hall
 Dale and Cynthia M. Hanchey, PhD
 Ted and Janice Harp
 Pricilla Harper
 Joseph W. Herbert
 Mattie L. Herrod
 LaVonne F. Holmes
 Wilbur House
 Ms. Helen F. Howell
 Betty Hunsucker
 Jane Hurst
 Joann Ingle
 Jerry and Joyce Ingram
 Barbara and Mason P. Jett, MD
 Warren L. Johnson
 William and Sharon Johnston
 Sharla Juvenal
 Kayton Family
 Linda Keel
 Barbara L. Kerrick
 Lee Y. and Robert M. Konopnicki
 Conchita Q. Kovach
 Michael G. Langren
 Feng Li, MD, MPH, MS
 Kok H. Lim, MD and Mariam Jaafar
 Lim, DDS
 Ellouise H. Love and Ernest P. Love
 Jessica L. Lucas, OD, FAAO
 Hoang Luong
 Brenda J. Madison
 June C. May, MD
 Louella McAfee
 Janice E. McCreary
 Mike E. McCurtain
 Danielle and Andrew T. Melson, MD
 Chester L. and Mary M. Miller

Linda M. and Keith L. Miller
 Kent and Duchess Moore
 Susan Moorman
 Annie Moreau, MD, FACS
 Joyce L. Morgan
 Michael F. Moroz
 William H. Myles Jr.
 Sharon Neuwald
 Judy Goforth Parker, PhD, APRN,
 FACHE
 Tom F. Parrish
 John Preston Parsons
 Sarah Beth and Preston Patterson
 Bob and Mary Ellen Petricek
 Cristal Phares
 Ensa K. Pillow, MD
 Donna J. Plewes
 Ronald Plunkett
 Mrs. Sandra Powell
 James M. and Hye R. Pruchnicki
 Darlene Reber
 Lena E. Redden
 Linda and Marvin Resnick
 Andrew L. Rodenburg, MD
 Jaime and Ruth Rodriguez
 James Ryan
 Meg Salyer
 Allyson D. Schmitt, MD
 Geneva and Benny Sisson
 Anne Claire Sneed
 Marva J. and Terry E. Spencer
 Charles and Nancy Stanphill
 Arthur M. Stevens
 Tom A. Thomas Jr. Fund
 Vincent D. Venincasa, MD
 David L. and Shirley B. Weeks
 Marilyn Wetmore
 Grace M. and Robert P. Wettemann
 Regina L. Whitefield
 Marsha L. Williams
 James R. Willis
 Andrew A. Wilson, MD
 Mistie Winters
 Karen J. Wright
 Sheryl Wright
 Patsy Ann Wylie
 Afroza and Musharraf Zaman, PhD

Up To \$99
 Ann Acers-Warn, MD, MBA
 Michael Alexander
 Martella and Oneil A. Anderson
 Anonymous
 Anonymous

Joyce Archibald-Hodge
 Joyce K. Atchison
 Paul A. Barfield
 Susan Barnes
 Eloise Bentley
 Boeing Gift Matching Program
 Benhardt Brockett
 Marlene Brown
 Victoria A. Bugg, MD
 Joyce E. Carle
 Joseph and Mattie Carter
 Elaine Coleman
 Jean Coleman
 Debra C. Cook
 CVR Supply & Trading
 Cindy Daniel
 Linda A. Davis
 Leona Denning
 Thai Do, MD
 Donald Dolph
 Phyliss A. Douglas
 Candace Downing
 George Duffy
 Mary E. Duhon
 W. Samuel Dykeman
 Betty A. Eagle
 Todd W. Engle
 Robert B. Epstein, MD
 Mrs. Doris N. Ervin
 Dennis and Margaret Farmer
 Peggy and Gerald Feese
 Earl C. Felton
 Rogelio G. Flores
 Helen Franzone
 Bob Gardenshire
 C.B. Goff
 James L. Gray
 Roberta L. Hamburger
 David A. Hamil
 Angel Hang
 Kristen Hayes
 Cynthia M. Heng
 Marlon E. Henry
 Apolinar Mata Hernandez
 Audrey Hill
 Jennifer A. Hooper
 Vernon Hotella
 Don Huelle
 Frances Hutchinson
 Debra and Lee Jackson
 Shirley A. Johnson
 Jody Kallsen
 Patricia Kerley

Pamela A. Kingsley and Ronald M.
 Kingsley, MD
 Doug and Dawna Kitchens
 Carolyn E. Kloek, MD and Ian F.
 Dunn, MD
 Khanh Lam
 Lance Ruffel Oil and Gas Corp.
 Linda and Randy Landis
 James Fox Lightfoot
 Mary K. Lingreen
 Juana and Baltazar Lopez
 Cortez J. Madison
 Fred W. and Mary K. Marvel
 Pam McDermott
 Linda McFadden
 Jeanne G. McKenty
 Charles O. Meeks
 Geneva Meeks
 Gail D. Meltzner
 Sinia B. Miller
 Sandy Mills
 Paul H. Moore
 Wayne D. Moore
 Ms. Lynda Nolen
 Gerald R. Olds
 Lewis Owens
 Stacy L. and Earl R. Palmer
 Brenda B. Pavey
 Daniel E. Pendleton
 Leon Spinner Platt
 Wanda J. Plummer
 Joanne Rackley
 Range Resources
 Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon M. Resnik
 Kamran M. Riaz, MD and Sanaa A.
 Hameed, MD
 Sarah Rooker
 Joseph Shirley
 Nancy A. and Jerry J. Stewart
 Louis F. Strickland
 Abiha and Syed M. Taha
 Dollie and Ronald Testerman
 Mrs. Diana Trammel
 Alice M. Troy
 John P. Tulp
 Kim and Jerry Wagner
 LaDonna and Bob Wallis
 Karen S. Weddle
 Gina and Brent L. Wendling, PhD
 Weststar Oil & Gas
 Billy G. Williamson
 Lily Wong, PhD
 Garry Zachary

G. RAINEY WILLIAMS JR. RETIRES from DMEI Board of Directors and DMEI Foundation Board of Directors



Pictured (left to right): G. Rainey Williams Jr. and R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA, DMEI's chief executive officer and chair of the OU Department of Ophthalmology. Dr. Siatkowski presented Mr. Williams with an "End of the Trail" bronze statue for his dedication to DMEI and the DMEI Foundation.

IN OCTOBER 2024, G. RAINEY WILLIAMS JR., ANNOUNCED HIS RETIREMENT from the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) Board of Directors after nine years of service spanning from 2015 to 2024 and also from the DMEI Foundation (DMEIF) Board of Directors after 12 years (2012 to 2024) on that Board. Mr. Williams served as chair of the Foundation Board from December 2012 to November 2020. He was recognized at the joint DMEI

and DMEIF Board of Directors meeting on Wednesday, October 9.

The Board and Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski, DMEI's chief executive officer and Edward L. Gaylord professor and chair of the University of Oklahoma (OU) Department of Ophthalmology, commended Mr. Williams for his dedication to the Institute and for his active role in the community and with a number of organizations in Oklahoma City and around the state.

Mr. Williams and Casey, his wife of 35 years, have three adult children, Rainey III, Sam, and Grace.

Mr. Williams, who holds a bachelor's degree in finance from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, and a law degree from OU (Norman), is president of Marco Capital Group and also serves as chair of the University Hospitals Authority and Trust, the OU Health Board of Directors, and the Investment Committee of the Presbyterian Health Foundation. He received the Dean's Award for Distinguished Community Service from the OU College of Medicine Alumni Association in March 2022. ■

Grant from Inasmuch Foundation Awarded to DMEI to Address Ophthalmic Workforce in Oklahoma

THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) WAS AWARDED A \$750,000 GRANT FROM INASMUCH FOUNDATION

in October 2024 to address the ophthalmic workforce in Oklahoma. This generous grant includes funds for (1) simulation devices for medical students and residents, (2) recruitment of top clinical and research talent, and (3) training of new ophthalmic technicians. This grant represents a tremendous asset as the Institute prepares for the future in all of these areas.

Inasmuch Foundation, which plays a vital, influential role in Oklahoma City and statewide, has awarded a total of \$4,024,200 to the Institute over the past 21 years. This includes \$3 million in gifts to the capital campaign for the DMEI facility expansion dedicated in 2011, for which the atrium at DMEI was named the Inasmuch Foundation Atrium.

“DMEI and all who are associated with the Institute are deeply grateful for Inasmuch Foundation’s continued support of our people

and programs, which helps advance the DMEI mission of providing excellence and leadership in patient care, education, and vision research to all Oklahomans and the global community,” stated Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski, DMEI’s chief executive officer (CEO) and Edward L. Gaylord professor and chair of the University of Oklahoma Department of Ophthalmology.

“Inasmuch Foundation’s grant to Dean McGee will equip the workforce at the Eye Institute with the tools and training necessary to provide exceptional care and foster groundbreaking research. This grant is an investment in the health and well-being of Oklahomans today and for generations to come,” stated Bob Ross, Inasmuch Foundation Chairman and CEO. ■





NOBLE FOUNDATION AWARDS DMEI \$50,000 FOR VISION RESEARCH

THE SAMUEL ROBERTS NOBLE FOUNDATION, BASED IN ARDMORE, OKLAHOMA, RECENTLY GRANTED THE DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE (DMEI) \$50,000 for the purchase of new equipment to enhance researchers' ability to more efficiently study the health and function of retinal cells in the eye to combat the devastating effects of retinal degenerative diseases (RDDs). Such disorders are a leading cause of vision loss and blindness. Globally, an estimated 200 million people suffer from RDDs, including age-related macular degeneration, which slowly rob them of their vision and can severely affect their quality of life. These grant funds will be used to purchase a highly sensitive laser injector and a device to measure cell electrical resistance and monitor cell barriers, which together allow researchers to better understand the process of vision loss at the cellular and tissue level.

The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, which has broadly impacted the state of Oklahoma since its founding in 1945, has awarded a total of \$3,352,000 to the Institute over the past 50 years. The Foundation provided \$100,000 in 1974 towards the construction of DMEI's original building. It also donated \$1.7 million to the capital campaign for the DMEI facility expansion dedicated in 2011, for which the

fourth-floor research conference room in DMEI's David W. Parke II, MD Pavilion was named The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation Conference Room.

"It is especially gratifying to receive this grant from such a prestigious Oklahoma institution," stated Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski, DMEI's chief executive officer and Edward L. Gaylord professor and chair of the University of Oklahoma Department of Ophthalmology. "DMEI is committed to preparing the next generation of vision scientists and ophthalmologists and discovering new treatments or cures for blinding diseases as we care for our fellow Oklahomans."

"The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation deeply appreciates the unwavering commitment of the Dean McGee Eye Institute in providing exceptional patient care, education, and leadership in vision research to both the local and global communities," said Stacy Newman, director of philanthropy for The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation. "DMEI stands as one of the most respected centers for medical and surgical eye care, and through funding critical projects like this, the Noble Foundation is proud to support its impactful contributions to Oklahomans." ■



Michelle C. Callegan, PhD, FARVO
Director of Vision Research

Research Seminar Series

The **OU Vision Club*** is proud to host visits and seminars by local, national, and international experts in vision research. The Vision Club Seminar Series is held at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) and is sponsored by DMEI and the Department of Ophthalmology at University of Oklahoma Health Sciences (OUHS).

The **OUHS Department of Biochemistry and Physiology,**** chaired by internationally renowned vision scientist Dr. Julia Busik, also hosts and sponsors several vision researchers as part of its departmental seminar program.

Recent Events:



AUGUST 22, 2024

Daniel Hass, PhD*

Postdoctoral Scholar – Fellow
James Bryant Hurley Laboratory
Department of Biochemistry
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

“Metabolic Waste from Photoreceptors as Energetic Fuel for the Retinal Pigment Epithelium”



JANUARY 9, 2025

Orson Moritz, PhD*

Professor
Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

“Mechanisms of Sector Retinitis Pigmentosa Modeled in Amphibian Eyes”



OCTOBER 10, 2024

Philippe P. Monnier, PhD*

Senior Scientist
Krembil Research Institute
Professor
University of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

“New Roles for Repulsive Guidance Molecule Proteins in the Developing Eye”



JANUARY 23, 2025

Katarzyna Zyla-Jackson, PhD*

Postdoctoral T32 Vision Training Grant Fellow
Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation

“Mechanisms of Ketogenic Diet-Mediated Neuroprotection in an Animal Model of Autoimmune Optic Neuritis”



DECEMBER 5, 2024

Fiona Costello, MD, FRCPC**

Professor, Departments of Clinical Neurosciences and Surgery (Ophthalmology)
Associate Dean of Research, Chairs, and Professorships
Cumming School of Medicine
University of Calgary Health Region
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

“Brain – Eye Connection – The View to Multiple Sclerosis”

New Vision Research Grants



Martin-Paul Agbaga, PhD
Associate Professor

PRESBYTERIAN HEALTH FOUNDATION

- Total Support: \$15,000
- Title: Delineating the Role of ELOVL4 and VLC-FAs in Skin Function
- Date: July 2024 - June 2025



Michelle C. Callegan, PhD, FARVO
Professor

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA, NORMAN

- Total Support: \$49,317
- Title: Chromosome Packing Inhibitors for the Treatment of Eye Infections
- Date: September 2024 - August 2025
- Subaward on grant awarded to external PI, Valentin V. Rybenkov, PhD, University of Oklahoma



Yan Chen, PhD
Associate Professor

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES

- Total Support: \$65,250
- Title: Dysregulation of PPARα in RPE Degeneration
- Date: March 2024 - January 2025
- Subaward on grant awarded to external PI, Jian-Xing Ma, PhD, Wake Forest University School of Medicine

RESEARCH FACULTY— DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

Martin-Paul Agbaga, PhD
Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD*
Lea D. Bennett, PhD
Michelle C. Callegan, PhD, FARVO

Daniel J.J. Carr, PhD, FARVO*
Yan Chen, PhD
Ana J. Chucair-Elliott, PhD
Phillip S. Coburn, PhD

Michael H. Elliott, PhD, FARVO
Feng Li, MD, MPH, MS
Raju V.S. Rajala, PhD

** Professor Emeritus*

Awarded



Michael H. Elliott, PhD, FARVO
Professor

OKLAHOMA MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

- Total Support: \$12,071
- Title: Retinal Pigmented Epithelium Epigenome Dysregulation with Aging and Modulation by Diet
- Date: March 2024 - January 2025



Raju V.S. Rajala, PhD
Professor

PRESBYTERIAN HEALTH FOUNDATION

- Total Support: \$75,000
- Title: Investigating the Impact of Phosphoinositides on Retinal Health and Disease Progression
- Date: July 2024 - June 2025



R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA
Professor and Chair

RESEARCH TO PREVENT BLINDNESS, INC.

- Total Support: \$115,000
- Title: Research to Prevent Blindness Unrestricted Grant
- Date: July 2024 – June 2025

SAVE THE DATE



9th Annual Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD Lecture
Thursday, October 2, 2025

18th Annual OU Vision Workshop
Wednesday/Thursday/Friday, October 1 - 3, 2025

Tullos O. Coston, MD Lecture Hall, Dean McGee Eye Institute, Acers Pavilion, Fifth Floor

John S. Penn, PhD

Knights Templar Eye Foundation Endowed Director
Professor of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences
Professor of Cell & Developmental Biology
Professor of Molecular Physiology & Biophysics

Professor of Medical Education & Administration
Vanderbilt Eye Institute
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, Tennessee

17th Annual OU Vision Workshop an



Reza Dana, MD, MSc, MPH
2024 Anderson Lecturer

THE 17TH ANNUAL UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA (OU) VISION WORKSHOP

was held September 12-13, 2024, in the Tullos O. Coston, MD Lecture Hall at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI). The keynote speaker and Eighth Annual Robert

E. Anderson, MD, PhD Lecturer was Reza Dana, MD, MSc, MPH. His September 12 Anderson Lecture was entitled, “New Ways of Doing Old Things: Translational Investigations in Management of Common Corneal and Ocular Surface Disorders.”

Dr. Dana is an ophthalmologist who conducts cutting-edge research into the molecular mechanisms driving inflammation at the ocular surface and associated disorders. He received his medical degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and conducted further graduate studies at Johns Hopkins (MPH) and Harvard University (MSc, Healthcare Management).

He completed his ophthalmology residency at the University of Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary in Chicago and fellowships at the Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia (cornea and external disease), Massachusetts Eye and Ear in Boston (ocular immunology and uveitis), and Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass Eye and Ear (ocular and transplantation immunology research).

Dr. Dana is Director of the Cornea and Refractive Surgery Service, Associate Chief of Academic Programs, and a W. Clement Stone Clinical Research Scholar at Massachusetts Eye and Ear. His group at the Schepens Eye Research Institute has developed models of corneal transplantation and dry eye disease that have revolutionized our ability to study molecular processes in each of these contexts. The Dana laboratory’s examination of the behavior of antigen-presenting cells within the corneal tissue under different pathological conditions has provided novel insight into disease development as well as basic corneal biology. To date, Dr. Dana has more than 200 peer-reviewed publications and an h-index of 108. (The h-index is a metric that measures the productivity and impact of a scientist or scholar. As an h-index of 60 or higher is considered remarkable, an h-index of 108 is exceptionally high.)

Beyond the bench, Dr. Dana devotes a large portion of his time to education. He is the Claes H. Dohlman Professor and Vice Chair



Pictured (left to right): Yan Chen, PhD, associate professor, R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA, DMEI’s chief executive officer and OU department chair, Reza Dana, MD, MSc, MPH, 2024 Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD Lecturer, and Michelle C. Callegan, PhD, FARVO, DMEI/OU’s director of vision research.

8th Annual Anderson Lectureship

of Academic Programs in the Department of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School. He has served as a mentor to more than 95 clinical fellows and more than 140 students and postdoctoral fellows from diverse backgrounds. In 2014, Dr. Dana was the recipient of the Harvard Medical School A. Clifford Barger Excellence in Mentoring Award. He served as an editor for the American Academy of Ophthalmology *Basic and Clinical Science Course*, which is used as the primary educational tool for US and Canadian residents in ophthalmology. Dr. Dana is also the Director of the Harvard-Vision Clinical Scientist Development Program, a National Institutes of Health-funded program aimed at recruiting and training physician-scientists to conduct critical research at Harvard Ophthalmology.

A Gold Fellow of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO), Dr. Dana received ARVO's Cogan Award in 2003 and the Friedenwald Award in 2018. In 2016, he earned the International Society for Eye Research's Endre A. Balazs Prize. Dr. Dana has also been awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor (2019) and the Stein Innovation Award from Research to Prevent Blindness (2018). He has presented more than 250 invited and named lectureships across the globe and serves as editor-in-chief of the scientific journal *Cornea*.

More on the OU Vision Workshop

Fifteen vision research trainees presented their work in oral presentations all day on September 13. Before the trainee presentations, Dr. Reza delivered a two-part career development lecture

at the workshop entitled, "How to Work with People You Don't Like" and "The Dos and Don'ts of Giving Scientific Talks."



Award winners Dr. Eric Ma (far left), Dr. Katarzyna Zyla-Jackson (third from left), and Becca Wells (far right) are pictured with Drs. Raju V.S. Rajala (second from left), Michelle Callegan (third from right), DMEI/OU's director of vision research, and Yan Chen (second from right). Drs. Chen, Rajala, and Callegan co-chaired the program for the OU Vision Workshop.

To cap the two-day event, a celebratory awards dinner was held at The Lume in downtown Oklahoma City. Graduate student Becca Wells from Dr. Kevin Fuller's laboratory at University of Oklahoma Health Sciences (OUHS) won the Anderson Award for Best Presentation, while Dr. Eric Ma, a postdoctoral fellow from Dr. Courtney Griffin's laboratory at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation (OMRF), won the Dr. Wei Cao Innovation Award, and Dr. Katarzyna Zyla-Jackson, a postdoctoral fellow and T32 Vision Training Grant trainee from Dr. Scott Plafker's laboratory at OMRF, won the DMEI Promising Research Award. Dr. Ma also won the abstract book cover photo competition, while Eniola Adewunmi, a graduate student from Dr. Martin-Paul Agbaga's laboratory at OUHS, won the Junior Vision Research Club Leadership Award. ■

THE 32ND ANNUAL WALTER J. STARK MEMORIAL LECTURESHIP

THE 32ND ANNUAL WALTER J. STARK, SR. MEMORIAL LECTURE WAS DELIVERED

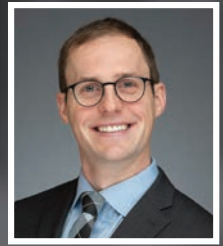
by Steven E. Feldon, MD, MBA, in the Tullos O. Coston, MD Lecture Hall at the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) on October 7, 2024. His presentation was entitled “Managing Thyroid Eye Disease.”

Dr. Feldon is a neuro-ophthalmologist and orbital surgeon who currently serves as the president of the National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research/Alliance for Eye and Vision Research and completed a 10-year term as executive vice president of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO) at the end of 2024.

A graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles (bachelor of arts, psychology) and Albert Einstein College of Medicine (doctor of medicine, Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society) in New York City, Dr. Feldon completed his residency in ophthalmology at Massachusetts Eye and Ear/Harvard Medical School in Boston and his neuro-ophthalmology fellowship with Dr. William F. Hoyt at the University of California, San Francisco.

Prior to serving as chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Rochester (New York) School of Medicine and Dentistry and founding director of the David and Ilene Flaum Eye Institute from 2001 to 2019, Dr. Feldon was associate chair and professor of ophthalmology and neurological surgery at the University of Southern California (USC)/Doheny Eye Institute in Los Angeles. He also earned his master of business administration (MBA) degree from USC’s Marshall School of Business. After his tenure as department chair in Rochester, he served as associate vice president of the University of Rochester Medical Center and director of the Office of Biomedical Research Development.

Dr. Feldon has served as president of the North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society (NANOS) and AUPO, and also has authored more than 150 peer-reviewed scientific publications. As the holder of ten patents, Dr. Feldon’s inventions include the Tonopen®, the most commonly used portable device for measurement of intraocular pressure. He also pioneered electronic medical records with the introduction of the OcuChart™ in 1993. His



Andrew T. Melson, MD
Residency Program Director



Dr. Steven E. Feldon (center) pictured with DMEI residents, Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski (far right), DMEI chief executive officer and OU department chair, and Dr. Andrew T. Melson (back left), DMEI/OU residency program director, during the reception following the 32nd Annual Walter J. Stark Memorial Lecture.

research focuses on thyroid eye disease and idiopathic intracranial hypertension.

Dr. Feldon has received NANOS' Distinguished Service Award and the American Academy of Ophthalmology's Life Achievement Honor Award. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Doheny Eye Institute, Excell Partners, an early round venture capital group affiliated with the University of Rochester, and the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. He also serves on the

Scientific Advisory Board of Empire Discovery Institute, a New York State - sponsored organization promoting drug discovery for Western New York.

He and his wife Diane have two sons, a daughter, and seven grandsons.

It was an honor for the Dean McGee Eye Institute to welcome Dr. Steven E. Feldon as the 32nd Walter J. Stark Memorial Lecturer! ■



SAVE THE DATE: Monday, September 29, 2025
THE 33RD ANNUAL WALTER J. STARK MEMORIAL LECTURESHIP
8:30 am–9:30 am • Tullos O. Coston, MD Lecture Hall

Christopher J. Rapuano, MD

President-Elect, American Academy of Ophthalmology
Past President, Cornea Society
Chief, Cornea Service
Peter and Ruth Laibson Cornea Service Chief Endowed Chair
Wills Eye Hospital
Professor of Ophthalmology
Sidney Kimmel Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

DMEI HOSTS CONTINUING EDUCATION OPTOMETRY SYMPOSIUM

ON FEBRUARY 15, IN THE TULLOS O. COSTON, MD LECTURE HALL, the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) along with the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Academy of Optometry hosted the 2025 Optometry Symposium. Attendees included the host optometrists from DMEI and colleagues from throughout the state. Lectures were provided by DMEI ophthalmologists Jeremy F. Tan, MD; R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA; Matthew S. Chorost, MD; Juliana C. Bryant, MD (co-chief resident); Mostafa “Moses” Khattab, DO (resident); Jila Noori, MD; Scott A. Vadala, MD; and Maria E. Lim, MD.

Sixty-eight optometrists earned eight continuing education credits. The day also included lunch and time for networking with colleagues. ■

IN OCTOBER 2024, Rachel M. Caywood, OD, FAAO, traveled to Charlotte, North Carolina, to serve on the Council for part two of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO). The Council consists of seven optometrists from across the country who review the content of the Patient Assessment and Management (PAM) section of the national board examination. To date, Dr. Caywood has served on NBEO for 14 years. ■



SAVE THE DATE! DMEI Ophthalmology Symposium 2025 49th Annual OU Resident and Alumni Meeting Friday/Saturday, May 30 – 31, 2025

45th Annual Tullos O. Coston, MD Lecture (May 31)

Michael X. Repka, MD, MBA

President, American Academy of Ophthalmology

Past President, American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus

David L. Guyton, MD and Feduniak Family Professor of Ophthalmology

Vice Chair for Clinical Practice

Division Director of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Adult Strabismus

Wilmer Eye Institute

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Baltimore, Maryland



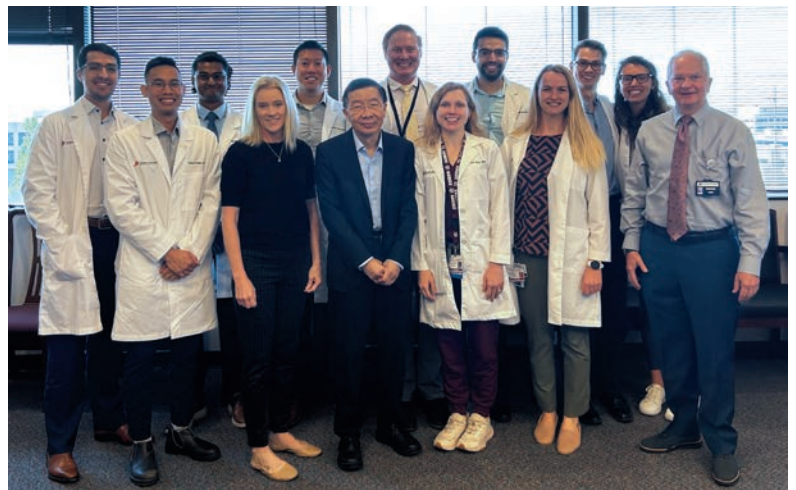
MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION OF OKLAHOMA DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

Byron L. Lam, MD

Professor of Ophthalmology
Dr. Mark J. Daily Chair in Ophthalmology
Director, Dr. Mark J. Daily Inherited Retinal Disease
Research Center
Medical Director, Neuro-Ophthalmology Service
Medical Director, Clinical Research
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
Miami, Florida

**PRESENTATION: “Leber Hereditary
Optic Neuropathy and Inherited
Retinal Diseases: Treatment Update
and New Frontiers”**



Dr. Byron L. Lam (center) with DMEI residents, Lea D. Bennett, PhD (left of Dr. Lam) and Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski (far right).

FEBRUARY 24, 2025

Helga F. Pizio, MD, FACS

Founder, New Eyes
Las Vegas, Nevada

**PRESENTATION: “Cataract Surgery -
State of the Union 2025”**



Dr. Helga F. Pizio (front, third from left) with DMEI residents, Dr. Tammy L. Yanovitch (far left), Dr. Andrew T. Melson (back left), and Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski (far right).

Eye Care With a Southern Flair — Oculoplastics Specialist & DMEI Alumnus Dr. Providing Exceptional Care to Georgia's Eye Pa

BY STACI ELDER HENSLEY

GROWING UP IN LAKE LAND, FLORIDA, STERLING CANNON, MD, developed a love of music, enrolling in the Harrison Center for the Visual and Performing Arts and dreaming of a career as a percussionist.

At the same time, however, he had also spent his childhood in and out of doctors' offices being treated for respiratory infections. In second grade, he suffered a ruptured appendix and a complicated recovery.

"I was definitely no stranger to the doctor's office," he said. "So, the seed that led to me going into medicine was definitely planted."

As a high school junior, Dr. Cannon qualified for early admission to Loyola University in New Orleans. He started out as a music major, but his love of the sciences won out, and he switched to pre-med.

After graduating from Loyola with a degree in chemistry, Dr. Cannon was accepted to the University of Miami School of Medicine, earning his medical degree in 2000 and then completing

a one-year internship at Columbus Regional Medical Center in Columbus, Georgia.

Dr. Cannon said he initially got the idea to apply to ophthalmology and, ultimately, Dean McGee's residency program during his third year of medical school at — of all things — an overnight lock-in for his church's youth program. While at the event, he spoke with one of his fellow chaperones, lamenting that he hadn't yet been able to decide on a specialty.

"It turned out that he was a resident at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, and he invited me to visit the resident clinic and the operating

room to see if I enjoyed it," Dr. Cannon said.

"Well, I did. It was amazing, and I realized why the medical school didn't rotate us through ophthalmology. It was because everyone would want to specialize in it! I really wish I could remember that guy's name, so I could thank him."

During the interview session, I felt an intense connection to the Dean McGee program that wasn't present at any other institution...

In addition to this conversation, Dr. Cannon said he also met some fantastic ophthalmologists

Sterling Cannon tients

Dr. Sterling Cannon in clinic at West Georgia Eye Care Center.



while still in medical school. Some were moving to Dean McGee and suggested he interview there. Among them was the Dean McGee Eye Institute's (DMEI's) current chief executive officer and department chair, Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski, whom he met through their mutual membership in the Christian Medical and Dental Association.

"During the interview session, I felt an intense connection to the Dean McGee program that wasn't present at any other institution, even Bascom Palmer," Dr. Cannon said. "I was able to match at the Institute and have never regretted that decision."

"There was a genuine sincere caring that the faculty had for us and our education," he added. "They were tough, because they didn't want you to be overconfident and underinformed, but they really wanted you to succeed and learn, not just as a clinician but as a person."

"The character of the people who mentored us is hard to describe," he added. "For a group that had every right to have enormous egos, they didn't show it. We all worked hard, but everyone

around you cared deeply about what they were doing, and you could really feel that."

Dr. Cannon said that it was hard to determine who was the most impactful among his many mentors during residency (2001-2004). "I was there when Dr. Parke was chief executive officer and department chair, and he made everything run like a top," Dr. Cannon said. "He made you want to be better. I don't know how he did it, but just being around him made you want to be a better clinician, person, diplomat, and speaker."

While at DMEI, Dr. Cannon became part of the Institute's first sponsored residency program trips to China. "That was an incredible experience," he said. "I was able to give a lecture in a remote clinic. I performed cataract surgery in the back of a truck. We met with diplomats and leaders, hopefully building bridges. It made me appreciate what we have in the United States."

He also volunteered closer to home, providing free medical care to patients in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area through the Ministries of Jesus Clinic. He has continued his dedication to

...continued on next page...

helping others, taking part in medical missions to China and Ecuador.

After completing his fellowship training in oculoplastics in 2005 (also at DMEI), Dr. Cannon ended up joining the specialist team at West Georgia Eye Care Center, also located in Columbus, Georgia. He has been an integral part of their clinical care team for the past almost 20 years, focusing on cosmetic and reconstructive eyelid surgery and comprehensive ophthalmology.

I truly believe in how the Institute trains ophthalmologists and what it stands for.

“I had gotten to know the practice during my internship year there and had kept in touch,” he said. “My wife’s family was in Columbus, and they didn’t have an oculoplastics specialist in the area when I was finishing my fellowship training, so it was a natural fit. I have enjoyed being able to practice here, and it’s been a great place to raise my family.”

Together Dr. Cannon and his wife, Heather, have four children, two dogs, 11 chickens, and two rabbits. The couple have been very active in the Young-Life Ministry, and despite his busy schedule, he played in a local physician band called “DNR.” Heather volunteers on the Young-Life Board of Directors, teaches Christ-centered yoga, and owns a busy swim lesson school during the early spring.

Dr. Cannon said he makes a point of staying in communication with his former Dean McGee colleagues.

“I truly believe in how the Institute trains ophthalmologists and what it stands for,” he said. “It’s great to see Dean McGee continue to grow, and I believe that it’s a testament to the impact it has had on people’s lives, including my own.” ■



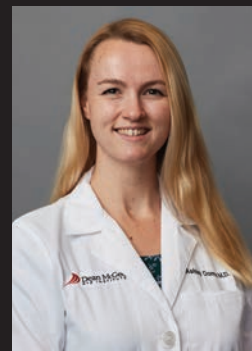
Pictured (left to right): Lane (son), Dr. Cannon, Wylie (son), Heather (wife), Isa (daughter), and (front) Remi (daughter).

Three of the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI)/ University of Oklahoma's (OU's) five PGY-4 residents will be continuing with ophthalmology subspecialty training as fellows during the 2025-2026 academic year. Congratulations to Drs. Ahmad Abdel-Aty and Ashley A. Ooms, who will enter fellowships in New York City and Durham, North Carolina, respectively, and to Dr. Adam R. Bleeker, who will continue his training at DMEI as a neuro-ophthalmology fellow.

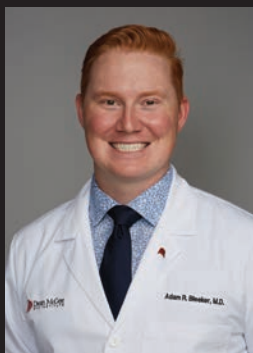
DMEI's cornea fellow in the upcoming year will be Aishwarya "Aish" Ramamurthi, MD, currently a resident at the University of Texas-Southwestern in Dallas.



Ahmad Abdel-Aty, MD
Cornea, External Disease, and
Refractive Surgery Fellowship
New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of
Mount Sinai
New York, New York



Ashley A. Ooms, MD
Pediatric Ophthalmology Fellowship
Duke Eye Center
Duke University School of Medicine
Durham, North Carolina



Adam R. Bleeker, MD
Neuro-Ophthalmology Fellowship
Dean McGee Eye Institute
University of Oklahoma College of
Medicine
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



Aishwarya "Aish" Ramamurthi, MD
Cornea, External Disease, and Refractive
Surgery Fellowship
Dean McGee Eye Institute
University of Oklahoma College of Medicine
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Residency: University of Texas-Southwestern
Dallas, Texas

Shadow Student Observes Surgery AT MCGEE EYE SURGERY CENTER

IN LATE SUMMER 2024, shadow student Ethan Lam observed surgery at the McGee Eye Surgery Center (MESC) with Kamran M. Riaz, MD, and co-chief resident, Juliana C. Bryant, MD. Lam was involved in the Summer Health Science Camp Volunteens Program at OU Health and first attended the Eye Ball 101 lecture at the Dean McGee Eye Institute with his fellow program peers. Lam is currently a junior at Piedmont High School.



Pictured (left to right) at MESC are Dr. Juliana C. Bryant, Ethan Lam, and Dr. Kamran M. Riaz.

More on the program...

This experiential learning opportunity takes place across various areas of University of Oklahoma Health Sciences. Once the interview process is completed, 21 high school students are selected for each of the two summer sessions. To fulfill scheduled lab and daily volunteer duties, participants must attend Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 3 pm, throughout the three-week session. ■

DMEI Provides Vision Screening for Oklahoma City Thunder Corporate Office

IN SEPTEMBER 2024, Dr. Anil D. Patel, a Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) neuro-ophthalmologist and the lead ophthalmologist for the OKC Thunder, two DMEI opticians (Beulah Garcia and Elaina Cozad-Torres), and five members of the University of Oklahoma (OU) Ophthalmology Interest Group (Karanpreet Multani, fourth-year medical student; Noah Barber, second-year medical student; Charmaine Lopez-Davis, first-year medical student; Katherine Schoeffler, second-year medical student; and Nitin Rangu, second-year medical student) conducted vision screenings for Thunder employees during their Benefits and Wellness Fair in Oklahoma City. Special thanks to Melody Marcum, DMEI's director of external relations and development, for handling the logistics and for her onsite presence. ■

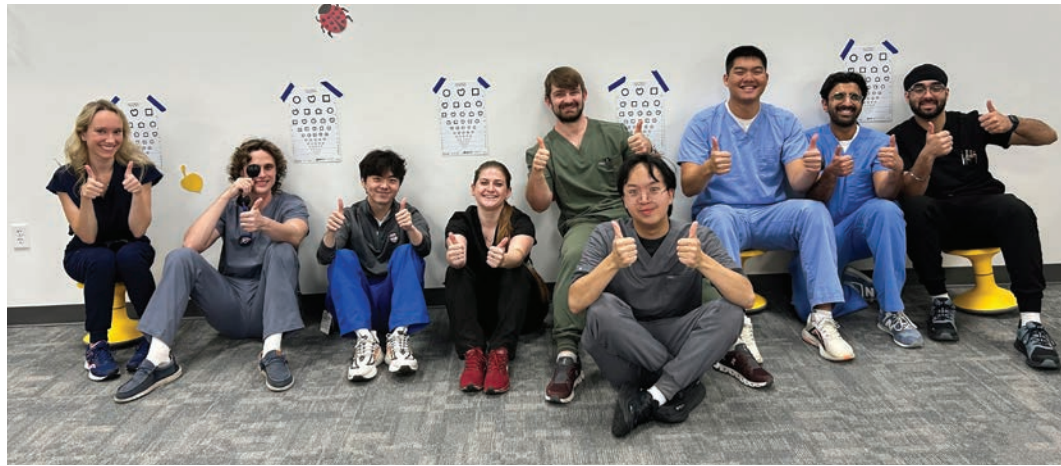


Pictured with Dr. Anil Patel (third from right) during the vision screening outreach are (left to right) OU medical students Karanpreet Multani, Nitin Rangu, Charmaine Lopez-Davis, Noah Barber, and Katherine Schoeffler.

DMEI Provides Vision Screening for Harding Schools

IN OCTOBER 2024, Dr. Tammy L. Yanovitch, a Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) pediatric ophthalmologist and director of medical student education, Laura Ransom, former medical student education coordinator, and nine members of the University of Oklahoma (OU) Ophthalmology Interest Group conducted vision screenings for students at Harding Charter Preparatory Elementary School, Harding Charter Preparatory Middle School, and Harding Charter Preparatory High School, all in Oklahoma City. ■

Pictured during the vision screening outreach at the three Harding Charter Preparatory Schools in Oklahoma City are OU medical students (left to right) Katherine Schoeffler, Cameron Nixon, Linus Park, Jaime Ahpeatone, Noah Barber (back), Matthew Nguyen (front), Sang Nguyen, Ishan Bhanot, and Karanpreet Multani.



DMEI PROVIDES VISION SCREENING FOR VARIETY CARE

IN NOVEMBER 2024, a team of 16, including Tammy L. Yanovitch, MD, MHSc, a Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) pediatric ophthalmologist and director of medical student education (front right), Laura Ransom, former medical student education coordinator (front, third from left), Michelle Garrison, current medical student education coordinator (far left), DMEI residents Drs. Samuel Huang (back center) and Tyler Pfister (far right), and 11 members of the University of Oklahoma Ophthalmology Interest Group (OIG) conducted vision screenings for Variety Care at DMEI. Participating members of OIG in alphabetical order are as follows: Jaime Ahpeatone, Ishan Bhanot, Michael Cheng, Rachel Dolan, Rishika Garg, Melissa Huerta, Monica Huerta, Anthony Hui, Haley Jackson, Nitin Rangu, and David Seo.



Free glasses prescriptions were provided to all patients who needed them, and two pairs of free glasses were also distributed. ■

A Vision of Better Eye Care

DMEI CELEBRATES A HALF-CENTURY OF EXCEPTIONAL PATIENT CARE, TEACHING, AND RESEARCH

BY STACI ELDER HENSLEY

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first of a two-part article outlining the Dean McGee Eye Institute's (DMEI's) historic development over the past 50 years, and focusing on its early-day history, growth, leadership, and community impact across Oklahoma. Part two will include an in-depth examination of DMEI's national and international influence in teaching, research, and professional leadership, and will be highlighted in *InVision's* Summer 2025 issue.

1975 - 2025



ACHIEVING ITS 50-YEAR ANNIVERSARY IS A TREMENDOUS HALLMARK OF SUCCESS FOR ANY ORGANIZATION, AND THAT HOLDS ESPECIALLY TRUE FOR THE OKLAHOMA CITY-BASED DEAN MCGEE EYE INSTITUTE.

Thanks to strong community support and outstanding leadership over the decades, the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) now consistently ranks as one of the top eye care centers in the nation. That reflects a sharp contrast to the years prior to its creation, when Oklahomans with complicated eye conditions were usually forced to leave the state for cutting-edge care.

“Today we’re by far the largest group of ophthalmologists in the state of Oklahoma,” said Dr. R. Michael Siatkowski, DMEI’s current chief executive officer (CEO) and Edward L. Gaylord professor and chair of the University of Oklahoma’s (OU’s) Department of Ophthalmology. “We have the largest capability with respect to surgical and medical treatments. We also have the state’s largest array of diagnostic and therapeutic equipment. Because of all these factors, many people can now come to Dean McGee without having to go out of state to get that level of care.”

Help for All Oklahomans

With its initial building completed in 1975, over the years DMEI has expanded its primary facility at OU Health Sciences’ Oklahoma City campus to incorporate the McGee Eye Surgery Center and additional patient care, research, and educational spaces. The Institute also maintains three independent clinics in Edmond, Lawton, and Northwest Oklahoma City and cares for patients at the Children’s Hospital of Oklahoma and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. What



The original DMEI building completed and dedicated in 1975.

this boils down to is that wherever you live in Oklahoma, if you have a vision problem, care is within reach.

“Another factor that’s very important for our state’s public health is that we never turn away anyone if they are unable to afford care,” Dr. Siatkowski said. “We accept all comers, and everyone gets the same level of care regardless of ability to pay. Our clinicians provided more than 210,000 patient visits in 2024 with almost \$1.5 million in uncompensated care. That’s pretty typical.”

Treating Oklahoma’s Tribes

A key example of Dean McGee’s dedication to Oklahomans is its ongoing collaboration with several of the state’s Native American tribes. It was a natural extension of patient care services, given that these groups experience higher levels of diabetic retinopathy and other vision problems than the general population.

In 1991, Dr. Stephen R. Fransen, backed by support from then-CEO and Chairman Dr. Thomas E. Acers, set about developing a clinical partnership with the Chickasaw Nation's Carl Albert Indian Health Facility in Ada. Over time and under the leadership of Dr. Acers' successor, David W. Parke II, MD, these relationships expanded to include other tribes as well as other faculty members. Dr. Fransen and other colleagues traveled around the state, providing patient care and ongoing training for tribal optometrists. Those relationships are still thriving and now include partnerships with the Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Pawnee Nations.

A Foundational Approach

The spark that would lead to the creation of DMEI was lit in the mid-1960s, when a small group of prominent Oklahoma City professionals, led by ophthalmologist Richard A. Clay, MD, founded the Oklahoma Eye Foundation, with the goal of creating an eye Institute to train ophthalmologists and provide outstanding eye care for all Oklahomans.



Drs. Thomas E. Acers (left) and Richard A. Clay (right) played key roles in establishing the Dean McGee Eye Institute.

It would begin in earnest in 1971, when businessman Dean A. McGee, president of the Kerr-McGee Energy Corporation, experienced a retinal detachment and was subsequently treated by Dr. Acers and his colleague and mentor, Dr. Tullos O. Coston, who served as the part-time chair of the OU Department of Ophthalmology from 1962 to 1972. (Dr. Acers subsequently became the first full-time chair of the Department in 1972.) After undergoing successful surgical treatment, Mr. McGee began to use his own resources and considerable influence to raise funds to make the Institute a reality.

Unique Organizational Structure = Stronger Support

The structure of DMEI is unique. While most eye institutes are fully within an ophthalmology department in a college of medicine and an academic medical center, DMEI is a distinct entity that actually houses and operates the OU Department of Ophthalmology through an affiliation agreement with OU, which was established at the inception of the Eye Institute. Through this arrangement, DMEI/OU has created one of the top ophthalmology residency programs in the country. (The Institute's educational component will be discussed further in part two of this series.)

Furthermore, as an independent nonprofit organization separate from OU, DMEI has its own governing Board of Directors and its own foundation overseen by the DMEI Foundation Board of Directors. Board members from both boards are highly dedicated to the mission and have been critical to the Institute's growth, Dr. Siatkowski said.

Over the years, board members have helped to raise funds that have been used for endowed professorships, new equipment, the new

DMEI MISSION STATEMENT:

“The Dean McGee Eye Institute is dedicated to serving all Oklahomans and the global community through excellence and leadership in patient care, education and vision research.”

building and additional building expansions, covering treatment costs for patients who are unable to pay, and other emergency expenses as they arise, said current Foundation Board Chair Chris Fleming.

“One of the most important things we do is to create and fund endowed chairs and have everything set up to transcend time, where it’s securely in place for future generations,” Fleming said. “That means we’re able to make sure we continue to have top talent at every level and in every area.”

He added, “Dean McGee is held in such high regard nationally. We as a community should be proud, and our work is to make sure we keep it world class. It’s a treasure to have it in our own back yard.”

On the Shoulders of Ophthalmic Giants

It would literally take a book to mention everyone involved in DMEI’s success over the past half-century, but among the most influential was Dr. Acers, who was the founding CEO of the Institute and served as the first full-time chair of the OU Department of Ophthalmology from 1972 to 1991. Under his leadership, the current site of the Institute, at the intersection of Stanton L. Young Boulevard and Lincoln Boulevard in Oklahoma City, was chosen and the first building dedicated on December 4, 1975.

After retiring from his leadership role, Dr. Acers authored a book entitled “A Story of Vision,”

which reviewed the years leading to the creation of the Institute (1965 to 1975) and the Institute’s first 20 years (1975 to 1995). His legacy is honored today by the Institute’s Acers Society, which was formed by DMEI alumni in 2004 to support resident and fellow education initiatives. Thanks to the generosity of Dr. Rebecca K. Morgan, the Thomas E. Acers, MD Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology was established in 2001.

Today, Dr. Acers’ daughter, Ann Acers-Warn, MD, MBA, is an ophthalmologist practicing at DMEI’s Lawton clinic. She said she vividly remembers her childhood, when architectural models for the proposed new Institute building were all over the house.

“It was just part of life growing up,” she said. “My dad was so excited about bringing this

Institute to life, and his focus was always on the patients and helping others. It was also very important to him to recognize that creating the Institute was such a group effort. I think his original vision of providing eye care for everyone, doing research to improve care, and training future ophthalmologists has been very successful. For me personally, I have tried to continue that for my patients in southwestern Oklahoma. If you walk through the door, we will help you.”

“Tom created an environment where focus on the patient was the highest priority, and he was also very passionate about the importance of education,” Dr. Gregory L. Skuta said. “He established a culture in which there is a close relationship among our ophthalmology residents,

The commitment to leadership and service has been a very strong element of our culture for many years, really for decades.

fellows, and faculty that's very effective, but relaxed and informal in many ways," Dr. Skuta continued. "He helped create an organization with a strong sense of collegiality that has been maintained for five decades."

In the years following Dr. Acers' retirement in 1991, DMEI would be fortunate to have outstanding leadership that steadily built upon its successes in the three key areas of patient care, teaching, and research. As the second DMEI CEO and department chair, Dr. Parke established one of the nation's premier vision research programs, established the McGee Eye Surgery Center and satellite clinics in Edmond, Northwest Oklahoma City, and Lawton, and initiated construction and renovation projects that would double the size of the Institute's facilities. He was followed by Dr. Skuta, who took the reins in 2009 and greatly expanded the clinical and academic programs. During his tenure, he also oversaw the final stages of an ongoing \$47 million capital campaign, which resulted in the completion of DMEI's new building, dedicated on September 30, 2011. In 2014, to honor the Institute's first two leaders, the original building was named the Thomas E. Acers, MD Pavilion, and the second building was named the David W. Parke II, MD Pavilion.

"Over the years the leadership of the Institute has consistently emphasized the importance of giving back to the profession and giving back to society," Dr. Skuta said. "The commitment to leadership and service has been a very strong



Drs. David W. Parke II (left) and Gregory L. Skuta (right) served as the second (1992 to 2009) and third (2009 – 2021) DMEI CEOs respectively.

element of our culture for many years, really for decades. Dr. Acers established that foundation, Dr. Parke built on it, and both Dr. Siatkowski (who took the helm upon Dr. Skuta's retirement as CEO and chair in 2021) and I have done our very best to sustain that aspect of our mission."

As its current commander-in-chief, Dr. Siatkowski continues to oversee expansion of all three of DMEI's critical areas and is focused on boosting public awareness of all that DMEI offers at the local as well as national levels. He also noted that Dean McGee does far more than just highly complex care.

"We do a tremendous amount for Oklahoma City and the state, and sometimes people aren't always aware of what they have in their own back yard," he said. "We want Oklahomans to be aware that we are more than a place where you go when you have a need for managing a difficult illness or injury. We also provide basic eye care, and we're training future ophthalmologists and scientists, and taking care of people who don't have an (economic) safety net. And then beyond that, we're conducting groundbreaking vision research. That's a very important message for us." ■

DMEI BY THE NUMBERS IN 2024:

**28 MDs
and 7 ODs**

are on the DMEI clinical staff as of February 2025.

**210,000+ total
patient visits per year**

are handled by the team using the latest technologies available.

**7,000+ surgical
procedures**

are performed annually in the Institute's Eye Surgery Center with close to 9,000 system wide.

last look

A silhouette of a young boy in a white t-shirt and dark pants, standing in a field of tall grass. He is holding a model airplane with both hands, extending his arms upwards. The background is a warm, golden sunset sky. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Dean McGee 50
EYE INSTITUTE

Honoring a legacy of visionary care.

608 Stanton L. Young Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73104

*Please notify us at 405.271.1611 if you
wish to be removed from our mailing list.*

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OKLA. CITY, OK
PERMIT NO. 853

*The Dean McGee Eye Institute is dedicated to serving all
Oklahomans and the global community through excellence
and leadership in patient care, education, and vision research.*

• DMEI • inVision

inside this issue:

DMEI's Number of Endowed Positions Surges Thanks
to Visionary Donors p. 24

New Vision Research Grants Awarded p. 34

Eye Care With a Southern Flair: DMEI Alumnus Story p. 42