Deepening our Global Connections
Chairman’s Perspective

Greetings! I hope you found our last newsletter informative and the CEI affiliation both exciting and promising. Thanks to all of you who provided positive feedback. In this issue we highlight our Department’s extensive international outreach, activities, and future plans. As Director of Education for the International Council of Ophthalmology, I have interacted with more than a thousand ophthalmology residency training program directors from all over the world. The variability of training is remarkable, even within a country. There are a number of countries where ophthalmology residents do no surgery during their training! The countries in which this occurs might surprise you. My goal is to improve residency education globally by teaching ophthalmologists to be better educators, creating better resident assessment and teaching tools, and providing training program accreditation guidelines to establish standards for ophthalmology programs around the world. As you will see in this newsletter, our Department is very involved in many global initiatives. Read on for all the details!

Our next newsletter will highlight some of our Department’s Alumni achievements and activities.

I encourage comments and feedback regarding our new look newsletter. Please send Michele Wyan (wyanme@ucmail.uc.edu) relevant information for inclusion in our upcoming issues. Also, please feel free to contact me directly either at 513-558-5151 or golnikkarl@gmail.com. We are looking forward to hearing from alumni and friends!

KARL C. GOLNIK, MD
Interim Chairman

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 14, 2015
39th Annual Taylor Asbury Lecture
5–8 p.m., Kingsgate Marriott Hotel, 151 Goodman Street, Cincinnati, OH 45219
(in conjunction with a Cincinnati Society of Ophthalmology Meeting)

Guest Lecturer:
Anthony C. Arnold, MD, Professor and Chief, Neuro-Ophthalmology Division, Jules Stein Eye Institute, UCLA

Evening Grand Rounds Lecture:
Neuro-Ophthalmology Imaging

Asbury Lecture:
The Spectrum of Optic Disc Ischemia in Patients Under Age 50 Years

November 14, 2015
UC Department of Ophthalmology Annual Alumni Reception
at the American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting
6–8 p.m., The Venetian Hotel, Hospitality Parlor PS6 3rd Floor, Room 705
3355 S. Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89109
Please RSVP for this reception to michele.wyan@uc.edu.
The University of Cincinnati Department of Ophthalmology held its 20th annual Ophthalmology Conference and Research Symposium this year on Saturday, April 11, 2015 at the Rieveschl Auditorium in the Vontz Center for Molecular Studies.

A forum for the faculty, fellows, and residents in the department and its affiliated institutions to share their research and recent clinical innovations with ophthalmologists and researchers in the Cincinnati and Tri-State medical community, the meeting boasted 24 basic science and clinical research presentations and was accredited for 6.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits.

Alan Zalta, MD, Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology, has directed this meeting for 11 years and was particularly gratified to welcome a former resident and fellow alumnus, Sam Dahr, MD, as the featured speaker. Dr. Dahr has worked as a consultant for the Ophthalmic Device Division of the U. S. Food and Drug Administration for seven years and has received a special commendation for this public service.

The department was most grateful for the generous support of the Cincinnati Eye Institute Foundation; its unrestricted educational grant made a strong and positive impact on this program and its attendees.

A reception was held at the Queen City Club in downtown Cincinnati on March 24, 2015 to celebrate the Dr. Taylor Asbury Endowed Chair in Comprehensive Ophthalmology. The chair was first established in 2012, and fundraising concluded in 2015. Over 100 donors contributed a combined $2 million to the fund.

Dr. Asbury is a long-time faculty member of the UC College of Medicine’s Department of Ophthalmology. He served as chairman for 11 years and, prior to that, served as the director of the department’s residency training program. Dr. Asbury also co-authored one of the most widely read ophthalmology textbooks in existence, “General Ophthalmology.” In addition, he helped establish the Cincinnati Eye Bank for Sight Restoration and served as its medical director for 50 years. He was also the first area eye surgeon to perform corneal transplants.

More than 100 donors and friends gathered at the event to honor Dr. Asbury. The Dr. Taylor Asbury Endowed Chair in Comprehensive Ophthalmology will allow for sustainable faculty development, enhance recruitment and retention efforts for talented clinical teachers, and acknowledge faculty excellence.

Taylor Asbury, MD
• Long-time UC faculty member
• Served as chairman for 11 years
• Served as director of the residency training program
• Co-authored one of the most widely read textbooks in the field, “General Ophthalmology”
• Helped establish the Cincinnati Eye Bank for Sight Restoration
• Served as the Eye Bank’s medical director for 50 years
• First area eye surgeon to perform corneal transplants

Back row, left to right: Lisa Newman (Dr. Asbury’s granddaughter), Christopher Pogue (Dr. Asbury’s grandson), Dr. Michael Gaynier (Ophthalmology faculty member), Bob Newman (Dr. Asbury’s son-in-law), and Chris Rowe (Dr. Asbury’s son-in-law). Middle row, left to right: Mary Asbury (Dr. Asbury’s daughter), Ann Asbury (Dr. Asbury’s daughter), Dr. Taylor Asbury, Helen Asbury (Dr. Asbury’s daughter), and Michael Pogue (Dr. Asbury’s son-in-law). Front row: Connie Asbury (Dr. Taylor Asbury’s wife)
The University of Cincinnati Department of Ophthalmology participates in international collaborations involving more than 40 different countries. Our faculty give international presentations, collaborate on international research projects, engage in foreign medical mission trips, and are active in international Ophthalmology organizations. In the following pages, we present an overview and introduction to some of the international aspects of our department.

**INTERNATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: In Education**

Department of Ophthalmology faculty also engage in international teaching activities. Below are some of our many globe-spanning educational activities.

**International Collaboration Agreements Held by the UC Department of Ophthalmology**
- Activity Agreement for Student Exchange with the Eye Institute of Xiamen University in Xiamen, China
- Activity Agreement for Scholarly Exchange and Collaboration with the Industrial Technology Research Institute, Taipei, Taiwan
- Institutional Collaboration Agreement with the National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan
- Institutional Collaboration Agreement for student exchange and research collaboration with the University de Sao Paulo Ribeirão Preto College of Medicine in Brazil

**International Courses Taught**
- Constance E. West, MD, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, teaches the Curso Basico de Oftalmologia “Dr. Guillermo Pico Santiago” at the Universidad de Puerto Rico, Escuela de Medicina, Recinto de Ciencias Medicas. She also teaches the Lancaster course in Ophthalmology at Colby College in Waterville, Maine.

**Visiting International Fellows**
- James J. Augsburger, MD, Professor of Ophthalmology, and Zélia M. Corrêa, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology have hosted two research fellows from Brazil with a third one, Dr. Rafaela Faraj, in 2015-2016.
- Zélia M. Corrêa, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, hosted a visiting Ocular Oncology and Oculoplastics fellow from Portugal. Other physicians with whom this fellow rotated include James J. Augsburger, MD, Professor of Ophthalmology; Ginger Henson, MD, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology; Dwight Kulwin, MD, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology; and Jeffrey A. Nerad, MD, Professor of Ophthalmology.
- Christopher Riemann, MD, Volunteer Assistant Professor, hosted Dr. Okan Toygar, a research fellow from Turkey, who has been working on multiple projects with Dr. Riemann and other Cincinnati Eye Institute faculty for the past six months.
- Robert A. Sisk, MD, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, hosted a visiting research fellow from the American University of Beirut.

**Visiting International Medical Students**
- Zélia M. Corrêa, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, hosted a visiting medical student from the Universidade Federa do Ceará in Brazil.
- Mike Gaynier, DO, Medical Director of the UC Medical Center Eye Clinic, and Lisa Kelly, MD, Director of Medical Student Education, hosted three visiting medical students from Japan.
- While he was a fourth year UC medical student, Eric Niespodzany spent one month on a visiting student rotation at the Universidade de Sao Paulo in Ribeirão Preto, Brazil for an Ophthalmology Elective.

**Visiting International Observers**
- Dr. Mohammed Rajabi completed a four-week observership in oculoplastics with Jeffrey A. Nerad, MD, Professor of Ophthalmology.
- Dr. Seyhumus Ari from Dicle University in Diyarbaki, Turkey, completed a three-month observership in oculoplastics with Jeffrey A. Nerad, MD, Professor of Ophthalmology.
- Dr. Ceyhun Arici from Istanbul University, Cerrahpasa School of Medicine in Istanbul, Turkey, has completed a three-week observership in oculoplastics with Dwight R. Kulwin, MD, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology.

**Countries with which—by educational, research, or clinical mission activities—UC Ophthalmology faculty have connected:**
- Australia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Cuba
- Curacao
- El Salvador
- England
- Germany
- Grenada
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- India
- Iran
- Israel
- Italy
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kenya
- Lebanon
- Mexico
- Pakistan
- Peru
- Portugal
- Puerto Rico
- Russia
- Saudi Arabia
- Scotland
- South Africa
- South Korea
- Spain
- St. Lucia, West Indies
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Taiwan
- Turkey
- Venezuela
- Viet Nam
- Wales
International Highlights: In Education
Working Globally for Effective Ophthalmic Education, Assessment and Standards

Karl C. Golnik, MD, MEd, Interim Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology, is very involved with improving educational effectiveness of ophthalmic educators around the world. He has worked with the International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) for the past 10 years as a committee Chair and became the ICO’s Director for Education three years ago. In this role, he oversees ICO committees on innovative educational technologies, team training, curriculum, continuing professional development, and teaching the teachers. These committees are comprised of hundreds of international ophthalmologists interested in education.

He also chairs the Accreditation and Certification Committee. Recently the committee completed new International Accreditation Guidelines for ophthalmology training programs (available at www.ICOPH.org). The Guidelines present a set of standards that can be adapted for use by regions or countries to stimulate, facilitate, and improve the accreditation process worldwide. The ICO’s hope is that, with these Guidelines, accreditation of eye care training programs will become a routine, ubiquitous process, with the ultimate benefit to patients and society.

Dr. Golnik has also developed, planned, and participated in over 40 one- and two-day ICO conferences designed to improve educational effectiveness of residency program directors and other ophthalmic educators. These meetings include topics such as curriculum development, teaching methods, and resident, faculty, and program assessment. Over 1,200 residency program directors from around the world have participated. Last year’s meetings occurred in Moscow, Guangzhou, Vienna, Pamplona, Tehran, Lahore, Ulan Bator, and Madurai.

Dr. Golnik’s particular interest is in resident assessment, which has led to internationally created and validated surgical assessment tools known as the ICO-Ophthalmic Surgical Competency Assessment Rubrics or ICO-OSCARs (available at www.Educators.icoph.org). Five of these have been published (ECCE, SICS, Phaco, strabismus surgery, and lateral tarsal strip surgery), and panels of international authors are working on an additional 10 OSCARs to create a toolbox for commonly performed ophthalmic procedures.

In addition, as Chairman of the Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology’s Resident Education Committee, Dr. Golnik works to create and provide tools for ophthalmic educators in Latin America to improve the way they train ophthalmology residents. He and a colleague, Dr. Peter Quiros (UCLA), have produced a narrated comprehensive series of neuro-ophthalmology lectures for the PAAO to use as a resource for their training programs.

Finally, Dr. Golnik is a consultant for Orbis International and currently is working on projects to create modern subspecialty training programs in China and Vietnam. Model programs in pediatric subspecialty training are being developed to ultimately be modeled for other subspecialty areas. Another project in conjunction with Orbis and the Chinese Ophthalmology Society involves creating a curriculum and school for increasing competencies of county-level ophthalmologists in China.

Dr. Golnik organized this International Council of Ophthalmology Program Directors Course in Changsha, China.
INTERNATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: Research Collaborations

Zélia M. Corrêa, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, has given multiple international presentations in recent years including two in 2015.


• XXV “Jornadas Internacionais de Oftalmologia” – International Meetings of Ophthalmology – June 19 and 20, 2015, University of Coimbra, Portugal.

Dr. Corrêa is a member of multiple international organizations:

• Club Jules Gonin, Switzerland

• Brazilian Council of Ophthalmology

• Brazilian Society of Retina and Vitreous

• Brazilian Society of Ocular Oncology

• Pan American Association of Ophthalmology

Vivien Coulson-Thomas, PhD, Assistant Professor of Research, has a 15-year collaboration with Professor Helena Nader at the Federal University of Sao Paulo on many projects including the role of proteoglycans in cancer. Dr. Coulson-Thomas is also collaborating with Stacy Littlechild and Andrew Quan tock at the University of Cardiff UK to help structurally characterize glycosaminoglycan structure. She has been collaborating for 10 years with Hugo Alexandre Rocha at the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil isolating and characterizing new therapeutic components in aquatic species off the coast of Brazil. In addition, she has collaborated with Bruce Cameron at University of Cardiff, UK for over 10 years on many projects. She also works with Ron Dixon and Yvette May Coulson-Thomas at the University of Lincoln in the UK characterizing GAGs in fossils and with Professor James Fawcett at the University of Cambridge characterizing binding partners for the chondroitin sulfate in PNNs.

Mindy Call Fox, PhD, Associate Professor, is collaborating with the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg in Germany (the laboratories of Dr. Friedrich E. Kruse and Dr. Ursula Schlötzer-Schrehardt) to study the role of PPAR-gamma in cornea epithelial homeostasis.

Winston Kao, PhD, Professor, collaborated with the Chang Gung Memorial Hospital at Chung Gung University in Taipei, Taiwan, on his project Role of Lumikine (peptides of Lumican) on Skin Wound Healing of Diabetic Patients. Dr. Kao also collaborated with the Industrial Technology Research Institute in Taipei, Taiwan, for his project Use of Mesenchymal Stem Cells in Treating Congenital and Acquired Corneal Diseases. In addition, Dr. Kao is going on a sabbatical leave in the fall to visit Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan to attempt to induce umbilical mesenchymal stem cells to become corneal endothelial cells for possible therapeutic efficacy in treating corneal endothelium dystrophy.

Dr. Kao has given multiple international presentations in the past year. Recent talks include:


Jeffrey A. Nerad, MD, Professor of Ophthalmology, will be the keynote speaker at the South African Oculoplastics (SASOPS) Meeting in Capetown, South Africa this September.

Robert H. Osher, MD, Professor of Ophthalmology, has collaborated with Dr. Boris Malyugin from Moscow to develop a popular device which surgeons routinely use for managing small pupils during cataract surgery. He is also working with Dr. Claudio Trindade from Brazil in the development of an innovative small aperture intraocular lens.

Dr. Osher will be delivering upcoming international presentations. He will chair a portion of the European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery meeting in Barcelona, Spain in September and deliver the keynote address at the Update Course in Ocular Surface, Refractive Surgery and Cataract at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile in Santiago, Chile in October. He will also give the annual OPTIC Lecture to the Royal Society in London next April.

In addition, Dr. Osher gave the keynote lecture to the Australasian Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons (AUSCRS), the Asia-Pacific Association of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons (APACRS) in Jaipur, India, and the Peruvian Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery. His Video Journal of Cataract and Refractive Surgery has been viewed in more than 200 countries across the globe, and his annual meeting Cataract Surgery: Telling It Like It Is attracts attendees from around the world. Last year, Dr. Osher’s videos won First Prize at the Brazilian Film Festival in Sao Paolo and at the European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery meeting in London.

Christopher Riemann, MD, Volunteer Assistant Professor, and Michael E. Snyder, MD, Volunteer Assistant Professor, consult with Haag-Streit Surgical, Research and Development, in Wedel, Germany and Haag-Streit Holdings in Koeniz, Switzerland.

Michael E. Snyder, MD, Volunteer Assistant Professor, consults with Humanoptics AG in Erlangen, Germany. He is collaborating on several papers with Dr. Mauricio Perez, who is originally from Peru, but currently in Toronto, Canada. He recently published a review paper with Satish Srinivasin of Glasgow, Scotland. Dr. Snyder spoke at the German Ophthalmological Congress in Leipzig, Germany, in June on Artificial Iris: the American Experience.
INTERNATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: Clinical Mission Trips

Our faculty and residents span the globe in their medical missions outreach, bringing ophthalmic care to Africa, Asia, Central America, and more.

INDIA, GUATEMALA, MEXICO AND CUBA

Daniel Love, MD, Volunteer Assistant Professor, recently returned from a 12-day trip to India doing “Eye Camps” in five different villages near Badlapur, India. Dr. Love states, “This is the second trip to India I’ve made with Crestwood, Kentucky Baptist Church. We saw 900 patients over five days and hauled around 5,000 pairs of glasses from the Lions Club. We started with an auto or manual refraction and used a cool computer program that matches their refraction with our inventory. My job is to quickly examine the patients to see which eye has the best visual potential since advanced cataracts, previous aphakia, and epipterygia are the norm. I also spent a week in Guatemala with Caring Partners International in December doing the same type of trip and took my family to help with the camps. We saw 1,000 patients in four days in Guatemala.”

Dr. Love also helped obtain the equipment and set up an eye exam lane in the medical and dental clinic of Mason, Ohio-based Back2Back Ministries in Monterrey, Mexico. This clinic supports numerous orphanages in Monterrey, and is staffed primarily by local providers. Dr. Love and his family have traveled to Monterrey on multiple trips.

Lastly, Dr. Love has traveled twice to Cuba with Caring Partners International where he was privileged to double the number of argon lasers in the country by bringing a donated Coherent diode laser to General Galixto Garcia teaching hospital in Havana. On his two visits to Cuba, he lectured in hospitals and medical schools on conditions treatable with the argon laser, as well as pediatric topics at Matanzas Children’s Hospital. Dr. Richard Kerstine donated a pair of operating loupes that were gratefully accepted by the pediatric ophthalmologist there. The Cincinnati ophthalmic community generously contributed to a fund to purchase a YAG laser for Cuba, but customs problems resulted in it being redirected to a much appreciated home in a clinic in Honduras.

Dr. Love and his family always feel they gain far more than they give on these mission trips. “I think the main gift we bring, though, is encouragement to those in the third world that there are Americans who care about them,” Dr. Love says. He also states that “the third world is desperate for teaching and treating physicians, so consider joining one of our trips: www.caringpartners.org.”

KENYA

At the end of 2013, Dr. Michael Gaynier, Medical Director of the University of Cincinnati Medical Center Eye Clinic, joined a small team of medical care providers in a short-term “pioneering” mission trip to west Kenya at the edge of the jungle. Over 300 patients received care. Even though the conditions were primitive, the patients were thankful for what was given. Spiritual care was provided by Bible teaching. This was the second year for Dr. Gaynier and the team to go. The organizers hope to have a small hospital and medical compound developed over the next 20 years. Dr. Gaynier is making plans to go back to Africa over the next year, either back to Kenya or to Zambia. For further information about Dr. Gaynier’s trips, he can be contacted at gayniem@ucphysicians.com or at 513-558-5151.
INTERNATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: Clinical Mission Trips (Continued from previous page)

VIETNAM
Jeffrey A. Nerad, Professor of Ophthalmology, operated and lectured for Orbis International in June in Hanoi, North Vietnam. Orbis International is a non-profit organization committed to providing quality eye care around the world. Patients seen by Dr. Nerad on this trip included both adults and children, and the conditions seen were mostly trauma, congenital deformities, and tumors.

EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS
Cincinnati ophthalmologist Dr. Michael Sifri has been participating in mission work to Central America since 2002. With the help of optometry, the mission usually screens from 3,000-4,000 people and typically performs approximately 200 operations over a nine-day period including cataract, pterygium, strabismus, ptosis, and tumor resection surgery. It is a wonderful opportunity for the University of Cincinnati Department of Ophthalmology residents to encounter advanced and unusual pathology. Dr. Robert Sisk (class of 2007) was the first resident to go with Dr. Sifri in 2006, but the resident participation has grown to three residents per year with Dr. Aaron Weber (class of 2014), Dr. Luke Lindsell (class of 2014) and Dr. Deepam Rusia (class of 2015) participating last year in El Salvador. In February, 2015, Dr. Deepam Rusia (class of 2015), Dr. Joe Armenia (class of 2016), and Dr. Tara Osterholzer (class of 2016) accompanied Dr. Sifri to Honduras. Other former residents including Dr. Ryan Smith (class of 2008), Dr. Faiz Khaja (class of 2010), and Dr. Hisham Arar (class of 1999) have returned as attending surgeons to help.

Dr. Sifri has started a new non-profit organization called Restore Sight which he hopes will increase the funding needed for these trips. The organization’s website, restoresight.net, features photos as well as a video that was produced by Anna Arar, daughter of Dr. Hisham Arar, Volunteer Professor. Anna has accompanied Dr. Sifri’s team on their mission trips the past two years. The photos and the video on the Restore Sight website show the residents and attendings at work during their mission trips. Last year Dr. Sifri’s team returned to Honduras. “Dr. Arar arranged for a baby we had screened there to be flown to the U.S. for further evaluation and treatment, and for possible retinoblastoma,” Dr. Sifri relates. “The mother and baby stayed with Dr. Arar for nearly a month. Through the generosity of Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center and Dr. James J. Augsburger and Dr. Zélia M. Corrêa, who volunteered their time and skills to treat the baby here at no cost, this infant has received first class care.”

ST. LUCIA, WEST INDIES
Terry Schwartz, MD, Professor of Ophthalmology, has traveled to St. Lucia in the West Indies annually for the past 14 years with Kids Insight. The group provides medical and surgical services (Ophthalmology) in partnership with the Lions and with the St. Lucia Blind Welfare Association. “From November, 2014 through February, 2015,” Dr. Schwartz says, “we performed 128 pediatric eye examinations plus 15 postoperative examinations. We also performed 13 adult eye examinations and seven postoperative examinations. We performed strabismus surgeries on 12 children (19 eyes) and one adult (two eyes) as well as eight other surgeries.”

GRENADA
Michael Gray, MD, Assistant Professor and pediatric ophthalmologist at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC), went on a mission trip to Grenada this past March. He went there to see children who have limited access to ophthalmology care. This is the second year Dr. Gray has visited Grenada. He went with Kathleen Myers, a perioperative coordinator from CCHMC, and Jill Simmons, an ophthalmic technician from CCHMC. The trip was sponsored by St. George’s University on the island. “This year we saw a total of 105 patients and performed 11 surgeries, which included strabismus and pediatric cataract cases,” says Dr. Gray.
The Division of Pediatric Ophthalmology at Cincinnati Children's Hospital (CCHMC) has a history of cooperating with the international community in areas of clinical care, teaching, and research. CCHMC has a strong program in global health and works with a number of embassies representing countries from the Middle East to coordinate care for pediatric patients who need its specialized services, including ophthalmology. Some of our former pediatric ophthalmology fellows developed their careers outside of the United States. Arif O. Khan, MD, CCHMC (1997-98), was born and educated in the United States and is currently the Senior Academic Consultant in Pediatric Ophthalmology at King Khaled Eye Specialist Hospital in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Susan Carden, MD, who trained in Australia and returned there after her fellowship at CCHMC (1996-97), is now Senior Lecturer in the Department of Ophthalmology at Royal Children’s Hospital in Melbourne, Australia.

Several faculty members serve abroad in medical missions work or education. Annually, Terry Schwartz, MD, travels to St. Lucia and Michael Gray, MD, travels to St. George’s University in Grenada (see ‘Mission Trips’ article in this issue) to provide pediatric ophthalmic care for those in need. In addition, Constance West, MD, travels yearly to Mexico City and Puerto Rico to instruct residents from Central and South America on optics and refraction.

Finally, several faculty members have formed research collaborations with international colleagues. Dr. Furushka Hamada has teamed up with Drs. Ralf Stanewsky (United Kingdom) and Nobuaki Tanaka (Japan) to evaluate the role of ambient temperature on the circadian rhythm of Drosophila. Richard Lang, PhD, and I are collaborating with Dr. Lois Smith (Boston Children’s Hospital) and Dr. Ann Hellstrom (Sweden) on retinopathy of prematurity research. Drs. Walker Motley and Karl Golnik have led a group of international pediatric ophthalmologists in the development of a strabismus surgical skill assessment tool that has been accepted as the standard by the International Council of Ophthalmology.

In summary, CCHMC ophthalmology faculty members have not only had an impact internationally through their clinical, educational, and research efforts, but have also benefited from the infusion of ideas and perspectives brought about by those collaborations. We look forward to strengthening our existing relationships and seeking out new opportunities for cooperative work abroad.

This year, resident ophthalmologists Erika Osterholzer, Joe Armenia, and Deepam Rusia traveled to Comayagua, Honduras to join a mission trip coordinated by Dr. Michael Sifri. Other attending ophthalmologists on the trip were Drs. Hisham Arar, Ryan Smith, and Eric Purdy. Sponsors for this trip included the Lions Club, Alcon and Bio-tissue. Residents were able to participate in exams and surgeries. All three residents felt that they were able to significantly contribute to the care of the patients. Current Chief Residents Erika Osterholzer and Joe Armenia (below) are shown excising a pterygium under the direction of Dr. Eric Purdy.

Four new residents have joined the Department of Ophthalmology for 2015-2016. Dr. Matt Byun comes to UC from the Wright State University College of Medicine. Dr. Alex Kuley comes to UC from the Ohio State University College of Medicine. Dr. Julia Schneider comes to UC from the Boston University School of Medicine. Dr. Samantha Schockman is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine.
On Sunday, June 14, 2015, the UC Department of Ophthalmology hosted its annual graduation celebration dinner at the Terrace Park Country Club in Milford, Ohio. This event honored our graduating chief residents and fellows.

The careers of our four chief residents continue forward. Zegary J. Allen, MD, PhD, is going into private practice in North Carolina. Eileen M. Myers, MD, is going into private practice in Oregon. Laura L. Hanson, MD, will be starting a Neuro-Ophthalmology fellowship at John A. Moran Eye Center in Utah, and Deepam Rusia, MD, will be starting a Retina fellowship at the University of California at Irvine.

Other honorees at the event included the five graduating fellows. Dema Atoum, MD, graduating pediatric ophthalmology fellow, is returning to her home country of Jordan to enter private practice. Adam Moss, MD, graduating cornea fellow, is going into private practice in Minnesota. Jessica Schrieber, MD, graduating glaucoma fellow, is going into private practice in Wisconsin. Brian Toussaint, MD, graduating vitreoretinal fellow, is going into private practice in Delaware. Okan Toygar, MD, graduating research fellow, is returning to his home country of Turkey to enter private practice. Matthew Guess, MD, received a certificate in Medical Retina for completing the first year of his two-year vitreoretinal fellowship. Dr. Guess will complete his fellowship in June of 2016.
JAMES J. AUGSBURGER, MD, Professor of Ophthalmology, received a Career Excellence Award from Heidelberg University, Tiffin, Ohio (his undergraduate university) on 6/27/2015. The award recognized Dr. Augsburger’s outstanding record of achievements as a clinician, teacher, researcher, administrator, author and lecturer in ophthalmology and ocular oncology in the years following his graduation from Heidelberg University in 1970.

ZÉLIA M. CORRÉA, MD, PHD, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, the Dr. Mary Knight Asbury Chair of Ophthalmic Pathology and Ocular Oncology, and Clinical Associate in the Ocular Oncology and Diagnostic Ocular Ultrasonography Service at UC, has been selected to receive the 2015 Benjamin F. Boyd Humanitarian Award at the XXXI Pan-American Congress of Ophthalmology in Bogotá, Colombia. She received her medal at the Opening Ceremony on August 5, 2015. Established in 1987, the Benjamin F. Boyd Humanitarian Award recognizes Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology (PAAO) members and other significant individuals for their participation in charitable activities, indigent care, community service and other humanitarian activities through a program of public service. Dr. Corrêa is being recognized for her work with the PAAO, particularly her work in the development and maintenance of the organization’s Curso de Liderazgo (leadership course) program.

VIVIEN COULSON-THOMAS, PHD, Assistant Professor of Research, will receive the Young Investigator Award from the British Society for Matrix Biology (BSMB) at their annual meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland, in September. This prestigious award recognizes early career researchers who have made a significant contribution to matrix biology and excelled in the early stages of their research careers. The winner of the Young Investigator Award receives a check for £1000 and delivers the “John Scott Lecture” at one of the biannual meetings of the BSMB, typically at the autumn meeting.

ROBERT GOULET, MD, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, received one of the two Full-Time Faculty Teacher of the Year Awards at the graduation celebration dinner at Terrace Park Country Club in Milford on June 14, 2015. This award is bestowed by the chief residents to honor full-time faculty members for their teaching and mentoring. Dr. Goulet supervises resident glaucoma clinics at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center (UCMC) Eye Clinic in the Hoxworth Blood Center Building as well as resident glaucoma surgeries at UCMC.

FUMIKA HAMADA, PHD, Assistant Professor, has been named one of the 2015 Charlotte R. Schmidlapp Women Scholars and has received a $50,000 grant from this program. The Fifth Third Bank/Charlotte R. Schmidlapp Women Scholars Program supports the career development of female faculty members at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC) who have demonstrated academic potential and leadership skills and who hold the rank of Assistant or Associate Professor. Dr. Hamada has also received a Research Innovation/Pilot grant in the amount of $75,000 from CCHMC.

MICHAEL HATER, MD, Volunteer Instructor, received the Volunteer Faculty Teacher of the Year Award at the graduation celebration dinner at Terrace Park Country Club in Milford on June 14, 2015. This award is bestowed by the chief residents to honor volunteer faculty members for their teaching and mentoring. Dr. Hater supervises resident cataract surgeries at the Cincinnati VA and at Holmes Hospital.

DANIELE SALTARELLI, OD, Assistant Professor and pediatric optometrist at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC), presented a lecture entitled Contact Lens for Infant Aphakia: Tips for Successful Management at the Spring Seminar of the Eyes of America Optometric Seminars. This event occurred on April 19, 2015 at the Sharonville Convention Center.

TERRY SCHWARTZ, MD, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, received one of the two Full-Time Faculty Teacher of the Year Awards at the graduation celebration dinner at Terrace Park Country Club in Milford on June 14, 2015. This award is bestowed by the chief residents to honor full-time faculty members for their teaching and mentoring. Dr. Schwartz supervises resident pediatric ophthalmology clinics and surgeries at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center.

ROBERT A. SISK, MD, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, has been selected as an initiate for the American College of Surgeons (ACS). He will achieve full ACS Fellow status in the fall.

VIRGINIA UTZ, MD, Assistant Professor and pediatric ophthalmologist at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC), served as a panel member for the Uveitis case presentation at the Difficult Problems – Non Strabismus Workshop during the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus annual meeting in New Orleans on March 25, 2015.
Faculty Publications


