Scheie Sponsors Vision Walk

By Katelyn Gordon

Hundreds of participants walked in the 8th annual Philadelphia VisionWalk 5K on the blustery morning of Saturday, October 11th at Independence National Historic Park. Philadelphia’s walk is one of many around the country that have raised over $30 million for the Foundation Fighting Blindness. Among the crowd of walkers, the Scheie Eye Institute team made a significant contribution to the Walk’s impressive $196,120 total. Scheie was also proud to act as the community sponsor for the Vision Walk.

“We are happy to give back to an organization that has given so much support to Scheie,” said Anne Berman, Director of Operations at Scheie. Berman organized the Scheie Eye Institute team.

Lisa Sanchez was Scheie’s top fundraiser for the Vision Walk. She was one of the many participants walking for a family member. Sanchez’s mother, Isabellia Sanders, is affected by retinitis pigmentosa, a degenerative eye disease that leads to blindness. Both Sanchez and her mother, guided by her seeing-eye dog Emma, have walked in the Vision Walk several times in the past.

“Although my mother may not benefit from the research currently underway, I hope that other patients like her will be cured by the work the Vision Walk funds,” she said. Sanchez has already begun planning for next year’s walk.

Kellen Kiew and also chose to raise funds in honor of a loved one. Dressed in bright orange, the group was largely composed of the young friends of Kellen Guy, a boy born with Leber’s Congenital Amaurosis, a genetic form of blindness. Although Kellen cannot see, his parents are hopeful. The support provided to them by friends and family at the Vision Walk is reason enough to smile.

“Smiles are a precious gift, which Kellen gives us every day and yet has never seen one,” said his mother, Becky Guy.

Scheie will continue to support the Vision Walk in the future, with the hope of finding cures for blindness for patients such as Isabellia and Kellen.

Inside this Edition

Chair’s Corner........................................ page 2
Vision Research......................................... page 2
Welcome to Scheie Eye.................................. page 3
Scheie Academy Event............................... page 4
Ocular Pathology Research......................... page 4
2014/15 Fellows....................................... page 4
2014/15 Residents................................. page 5
Alumni President...................................... page 6
Grand Rounds........................................ page 6
Alumni Spotlight................................. page 7
Save the Date........................................ page 7
Aravind Physician Visits........................... page 7
About Scheie........................................ page 8

20 Years of Biostatistics
with Dr. Maureen Maguire

By Laura O’Keefe

“I have the best job at Scheie!” says Dr. Maureen Maguire, when asked what everyone at Scheie should know about her. Dr. Maguire is the Director of the Center for Preventive Ophthalmology and Biostatistics (CPOB) at the University of Pennsylvania and has worked at Scheie for 20 years.

Dr. Maguire attended college at Rider University, where she received her Bachelor’s degree in mathematics. She spent the summer before her senior year at the Provident Mutual Life Insurance Company, where she worked in the actuarial department.

Dr. Maguire soon realized that the business aspect of actuarial work did not interest her very much. She was fascinated, however, by the way that insurance companies used factors such as sex or age to accurately predict the quality of someone’s health.

When returning to school for the fall, Dr. Maguire realized that the field of biostatistics offered the perfect combination of her interests in mathematics and public health. She entered the Master’s program at Johns Hopkins University and went on to complete her PhD in Biostatistics. Dr. Maguire subsequently joined the faculty of the Department of Ophthalmology at Johns Hopkins.

In July 1994, Dr. Maguire moved to Philadelphia in order to found the CPOB at Penn. Under Dr. Maguire’s leadership, the CPOB has contributed an incredible body of knowledge to the field of ophthalmology.

When Dr. Maguire first established the CPOB, little could be done to prevent or halt the progression of age-related macular degeneration (AMD) —AMD is the leading cause of irreversible blindness in the US. In just the past two decades, Dr. Maguire’s research has contributed to the treatment, prevention, and reversal of damage due to AMD. Currently, she is working on a follow-up study to evaluate patients who were successfully treated in a prior study to determine if the effect of treatment is still apparent after five years.

Currently, Dr. Maguire, Dr. Mima Massara, and others are also pursuing a study evaluating the effectiveness of fish oil supplements in alleviating dry eye symptoms. It is the first study of its kind to monitor dry eye patients over a long period of time, which is important because many seasonal factors, such as indoor heating, can influence dry eye symptoms.

Dr. Maguire also spends much time training the future leaders of research at Scheie.

“I do my best to remove the ‘black box’ aspect of data analysis. I make sure everyone knows why and how a particular statistical test was used, rather than just taking the data and handing it back,” Dr. Maguire said.

Dr. Maguire’s visionary leadership of the CPOB has led to treatments and cures for blindness and the mentorship of the next generation of experts in ophthalmology research. We are looking forward to the advancements of the next 20 years and agree that Dr. Maguire might just have the best job at Scheie!”
Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed the holiday season with your loved ones.

This time of year always reminds me how grateful I am for all of you. Each one of you has contributed in some way to the community we have built at the Scheie Eye Institute. Perhaps you are a referring ophthalmologist, entrusting us with one of your patients. Maybe you are a physician here, putting in long hours each week in the clinic. You could be a donor, someone who supports and sustains the groundbreaking research that occurs within these walls. Perhaps you are an alumna, someone who uses their education from Scheie to touch the lives of patients and students all over the world. Or maybe you are a patient yourself – the backbone of this institution. No matter who you are, I hope you know how grateful I am for your continual support and hard work.

This time of year also reminds me of the importance of giving back to our local community. At Scheie, we know that our work has little meaning if it does not positively impact our Philadelphia community. No matter how many patients we see each year, we know that there are still many others who do not have access to treatment or are unaware that they have an eye disease. This past year, we have focused on reaching out to these members of the community. For example, we now offer a mobile eye clinic to the most at-risk and underserved areas of Philadelphia, offering free glaucoma screenings, blood pressure screenings, and diabetic eye screenings. We can also diagnose diseases with ocular manifestations at these screenings, such as hypertension and diabetes. Our goal is to ensure that underserved residents of Philadelphia have access to health care services.

Thank you so much for your continued support this year. I hope all of you enjoy the beginning of this new year!

All my best wishes,
Jean O'Brien

---

VISION RESEARCH THRIVES AT UPENN

By Rebecca Salove

An Ophthalmology Department is not complete without vision scientists. Vision research drives progress in the field, leading to a better understanding of the eye and ocular diseases. The innovative research of basic vision scientists allows ophthalmologists to offer state-of-the-art care to patients with severe eye disease and injury.

At Penn, vision researches are led by David Brainard, PhD. Dr. Brainard serves as the RRI Professor of Psychology and the Director of the Vision Research Center at Penn. The Vision Research Center administers the Core Grant from the National Eye Institute, which provides services to support all vision researchers at Penn. These researchers come from a variety of backgrounds.

"The Vision Research Center is made up of more than 50 investigators," Dr. Brainard explained. "These investigators come from many different departments, ranging from Psychology, Neuroscience, the Veterinary School, the Dental School, Bioengineering, and more."

Dr. Brainard's research focuses specifically on vision and color image processing. He works on several collaborations with Ophthalmology faculty, while also conducting his own research projects.

One project, a collaboration with Geoffrey Aguirre in Neurology, has made extraordinary progress recently. Drs. Brainard and Aguirre's research centers around "melanopsin containing ganglion cells," which are believed to be a new class of light-sensing cells.

"The basic cells that have long been known to sense light in the eye are the rods and the cones," explained Dr. Brainard. "It was discovered about 15 years ago that some of the retinal ganglion cells, which process the signals from the rods and cones and send them to the brain, are also capable of detecting light. So this was a total shock to everyone – completely unknown and unexpected. There is one more class of light-sensing cells."

However, the image produced by melanopsin containing ganglion cells is out of focus. Thus the question arises: what is the purpose of these cells?

Researchers believe that these cells control our circadian clock and cause the familiar constriction of the pupil to bright light. Using this logic, melanopsin may be involved in a number of disorders that involve seeing too much or too little light, such as seasonal affective disorder or migraines.

Drs. Brainard and Aguirre's recent research succeeded in isolating and studying the properties of melanopsin, separate from cones cells – something that was previously not possible. To accomplish this, the Penn team developed a special class of visual stimuli: a flickering light that stimulates melanopsin but is invisible to cones, and a second following light that stimulates cones but is invisible to melanopsin. Curiously, the light targeted at the short-wavelength sensing cones made the pupil enlarge, while the light targeted at melanopsin resulted in the familiar constriction of the pupil to increase light in. Now that melanopsin and cone responses to light are teased apart, Dr. Brainard and colleagues can study what "we see" with melanopsin and how this affects light-related disorders.

"Migraine will be our first target," said Dr. Brainard. "We think that melanopsin might normally control how strongly the cones send signals. This is our working hypothesis. Perhaps this isn't working quite right and you get too much light response. That may be why you want to be away from light when you have a migraine."

Other conditions of interest include seasonal affective disorder, which involves receiving less light, and concussion. In the future, Dr. Brainard hopes to expand findings on melanopsin to populations as a whole. Discovering that certain populations have hyper- or hypo-reactivity of the melanopsin system would motivate studies of genetic variations that lead to these differences.

This study is just one example of how collaborations across departments lead to high-impact research.

No single faculty member can know everything," said Dr. Brainard. "Collaboration is a way that scientists have leveraged their specialized expertise in the areas where they couldn't really venture by themselves."

Dr. Brainard especially values his relationship with ophthalmologists at the Scheie Eye Institute.

"I can't say that I distinguish between Scheie and the rest of campus," he said. "We have a little bit of physical distance to Scheie, but Dr. O'Brien is great about increasing the incidental contact. She recently hosted a Vision Scientists dinner at Scheie, for example. This allows collaborations to develop in many ways, because you run into people in a slightly less formal setting and can chat about what you do."

A prime example of a successful collaboration between Dr. Brainard and Ophthalmology faculty is his work on color in calibrated images.

"I work with Drs. Maureen Maguire, Richard Stover, Yatinee Burga, Yina Massaro, and James Gee on a couple of different projects that involve using calibrated images to track progression of eye diseases and quantitatively evaluate the severity of disease," Dr. Brainard explained. "I got involved in this project because of the need to calibrate the images and make the colors reliable. For example, how red is it? Having a computer program process the image, as opposed to human judgment, allows us to figure out the severity of the symptom."

Most recently, Dr. Brainard received a Research to Prevent Blindness Stein Innovation Award to support his collaboration with Dr. Jessica Morgan. Dr. Morgan uses adaptive optics to measure very high-resolution images of the living eye. She observes the structural changes that occur during disease progression and how these changes are (or are not) reversed during gene therapy. Dr. Brainard will work with her to probe whether someone can use very fine spots, which helps the investigators understand how structural changes in the eye affect the ability to see. Interaction with opthalmologists is very rewarding to Dr. Brainard.

"For basic scientists, who have structured their careers around obtaining knowledge that doesn't have immediate applicability, it's very satisfying to know you are helping people."
DR. TOMASALEMAN
By Nish Patel

The Scheie Eye Institute is delighted to welcome back Tomas S. Alemán, MD to our faculty, which he formally rejoined this past July as a Clinical Assistant Professor. Dr. Alemán is an ophthalmologist and a fellowship-trained retinal degeneration specialist.

After graduating with honors from the University of Arizona School of Medicine in 2003, Dr. Alemán worked as a volunteer general physician in the Central African Republic of Zaire for two years. He was intrigued by human physiology. The eye provided a natural field of study to fulfill his interests, and after returning home to Phoenix, Dr. Alemán joined an ophthalmology residency program that provided exposure to genetic eye conditions.

The need to explore the unknown in this group of complex, untreatable diseases continually intrigued him.

From his first residency onwards, Dr. Alemán has remained focused on inherited retinal degenerations. After graduating from his residency in Phoenix, he moved to the United States and completed a two-year fellowship in hereditary retinal degenerations at the Center for Hereditary Retinal Degenerations at the Scheie Eye Institute under the mentorship of Samuel G. Jacobson, MD, PhD. Dr. Alemán was awarded a Foundation Fighting Blindness Career Development Award, which supported him to grow as a scientist and become an integral part of this world-renowned group.

Soon after, Dr. Alemán was promoted to Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology in the research track. He also participated, first hand, in all-pre-clinical and clinical transitional work for the first gene therapy trial for degenerative retinal disease in the US, which at the time was one of only three trials worldwide. For his scientific contributions he has been the recipient of several awards, including three Hope of Vision Awards and a Foundation Fighting Blindness Board of Directors Award.

To obtain the credentials needed to function independently as clinician-scientist, Dr. Alemán re-trained, first as an intern in Internal Medicine at Brockdale University Hospital in New York, and later as a resident in the Ophthalmology Residency Program at Scheie Eye Institute. He completed this second residency, re-joined our faculty, and now practices at the Ophthalmology Service of the Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine.

Dr. Alemán’s research focuses on the detailed characterization of animal models and patients with hereditary retinal degenerations using electrophysiological and psychological tests, as well as retinal imaging, such as optical coherence tomography and fundus auto-fluorescence. He sees patients with medical conditions of the retina. He also continues to be engaged in teaching our residents and fellows and is responsible for the state-of-the-art retinal diagnostic suite at the Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine.

The faculty and staff of Scheie are thrilled to continue working with Dr. Alemán and look forward to the future.

DR. AMANDA LEHMAN
By Anna Sagera

The Scheie Eye Institute is pleased to welcome Amanda Lehman, MD, who joined the faculty this past summer as an Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology. Dr. Lehman is a glaucoma and cataract specialist, who balances patient care with research and mentorship opportunities.

She works on the Primary Open-Angle African-American Glaucoma Genes (PAGAG) study and leads outreach efforts in underserved neighborhoods in Philadelphia.

Dr. Lehman grew up in Hershey, Pennsylvania and attended Swarthmore College, where she received her BA in Sociology and Anthropology. She went on to receive a Master's degree in Anthropology & Developmental Studies from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences. Dr. Lehman was inspired to pursue medicine after serving in the Peace Corps in Gabon, where Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. Albert Schweitzer had set up leprosy clinics.

"People often thought that I, too, must be a doctor, and they would bring me their sick relatives," Dr. Lehman explained. "Being mistaken for a doctor I saw problems that I did not know how to name, much less solve."

It was at this point that she became determined to find the answers. Dr. Lehman entered Bryn Mawr’s post-baccalaureate program, and later went on to receive her medical degree from Thomas Jefferson University. She became interested in ophthalmology while traveling through a remote region of Bhutan, where she met an ophthalmologist on a mission trip. Rotations through Wills Eye as a medical student confirmed this interest.

Today, as a fellowship-trained glaucoma specialist, Dr. Lehman still draws from her anthropology training when treating patients.

"Having a background in anthropology helps me identify which patient values, fears and beliefs," she said. "A patient who doesn’t understand their disease will not stick with the treatment. A doctor who doesn’t understand their patients will not be able to help them avoid blindness."

Before arriving at Scheie this past summer, Dr. Lehman served as the Chief of Glaucoma Services at Drexel, operating at Hahnemann hospital since 2012. At Drexel, Dr. Lehman saw many patients who were severely affected by glaucoma.

"Since moving back to Philadelphia, I was struck by the severity of glaucoma in the community," she said. "No matter how many patients were added to my schedule, there was always more waiting to be seen, often with one eye already blind."

Because of this experience, Dr. Lehman was very passionate about joining a team at Scheie investigating the genetic architecture of glaucoma in African-Americans, who are five times more affected by the disease. She now works collaboratively on this research with Chairman Dr. Jean O'Brien and glaucoma specialists, Dr. Eydile Miller-Ellis and Dr. Pittinis Sarkan.

So far Dr. Lehman has enjoyed being part of what has been dubbed the "Scheie Family". She has already kicked off community outreach efforts this past summer, when she brings free glaucoma screenings to nearby communities and identifies individuals with glaucoma and other health problems.

"Our hope is to prevent blindness through earlier diagnosis and treatment, linking patients into the health care systems to help preserve their vision, and identifying systemic conditions that patients may be unaware of," she explained.

Dr. Lehman has also greatly enjoyed being a mentor here at Scheie.

"Dr. O'Brien has put together an amazing team of physicians, scientists, students and support staff. I am thrived by the intellectual atmosphere here at Penn, and the open exchange of ideas between colleagues and between departments," she said. "With so many people committed to the same goal, I feel certain that our work here will have a lasting impact in the fight against blindness."
SCHIEIE ACADEMY EVENT
GATHERS ALUMNI

By Rebecca Margulis and Anna Sagarer

Scheie alumni gathered for the annual Scheie Academy Event to enjoy an evening of reunions and celebration on Saturday, October 18, 2014. The dinner took place during the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) conference, which was in Chicago this year.

Eighty-five alumni attendees from a wide range of institutions stopped by for some portion of the evening to share memories and laughs, along with great food and drinks. Past residents and fellows and current faculty were all invited to the dinner, which was the perfect informal environment for reminiscing about good times at Schieie.

“For the past few years, there has been a very positive atmosphere at the alumni party,” pointed out Dr. Stephen Olin. “People came and went and I would classify it as a huge success.”

Dr. Pritvi Sanikar greatly enjoyed catching up with so many Scheie alumni at the event: “Often at meetings we can only chat for a few minutes, but this event allowed for a very relaxed environment where all of us could catch up and share info about our professional and personal lives.”

Additionally, Dr. Joan O’Brien expressed her appreciation for Les Danninick and Karen Capo-Sanzaro for organizing such a successful event. “The meticulous attention to detail truly results in a lovely event for all,” she shared.

Dr. Lee Leads Ocular Pathology Research

By Melissa Homter

Ocular surface disease is a leading cause of vision loss worldwide. A variety of diseases comprise this category, such as cornel albinos, trachoma, and conjunctival diseases, but vision loss ultimately results from opacification of the ocular surface. Once vision loss from ocular surface disease occurs, there are few options other than surgery to correct it.

In many cases, vision loss from ocular surface diseases originates from superficial wounds, which later develop into deeper wounds that scar. Dr. Vivian Lee, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at U Penn, seeks to develop treatments that enhance the healing of superficial wounds, which recover without scarring.

As an ophthalmologist and ocular pathologist, Dr. Lee investigates pathophysiological mechanisms of diseases. On a daily basis, she treats patients with severe ocular surface disease. Despite aggressive treatment, many develop vision loss due to the resulting opacification. Dr. Lee joined the Seyfer laboratory in the Department of Dermatology at U Penn to understand molecular pathways that can be targeted to enhance ocular surface wound healing.

Dr. Lee examines the significance of the Src-family kinase (SFK) and a Src-activating and signal molecule (Grazam) in corneal epithelial wound healing. SFKs are a family of proteins involved in critical cellular functions, including cell proliferation and migration. Grazam is a novel, negative regulator of SFK activity. The Seyfer laboratory has conducted extensive research that shows SFKs and Grazam regulate cutaneous wound healing. Dr. Lee is hoping to expand that knowledge of SFKs and Grazam in cutaneous epithelial biology to corneal epithelial biology.

“If we can understand a specific pathway that regulates epithelial wound healing,” explained Dr. Lee, “then we can develop potential therapies that can enhance wound healing and prevent the development of severe wounds that lead to vision loss.”

Preliminary results have been promising. Using corneal epithelial cells from mice models that express various levels of Fyn, a member of the SFK family, and Grazam, Dr. Lee has shown that corneal wound healing can be modulated by varying the SFK:Grazam ratio in an in vitro model of corneal wound healing.

“We can make corneal epithelial wounds heal faster in this model by increasing SFK activity or by decreasing Grazam levels,” Dr. Lee said. “This is a really promising finding.”

Developing a treatment from this finding would be monumental for third-world countries in particular. “In areas with limited access to healthcare, surgical expertise, and resources, something easy like a drop to treat early corneal damage could be a game changer. Vision loss negatively affects quality of life, and an inexpensive preventative strategy could really make a profound impact on someone’s life.”

Dr. Lee believes that the key to future research is to make connections across disciplines. Her collaboration with Dr. Seyfer in the Department of Dermatology has led to numerous cross pollination of ideas and techniques between the two departments. In addition, her clinical expertise in ophthalmology and ocular pathology combined with her basic science research has helped her bridge numerous aspects of a disease. By integrating these disciplines and understanding how they interact, tangible results can be obtained.

“All of us understand how important it is to correlate clinical findings with our understanding of cellular and molecular pathways and to identify interventions or therapies that would benefit our patients the most. At places like Scheie Eye Institute and University of Pennsylvania, we can accomplish that and really create the future of medicine.”

2014-2015 FELLOWS

Dina Y. Dewaily, MD, MS
Retina

Maryam Nazemzadeh, MD
Oculoplastics (CHOP)

Shannon J. Beres, MD
Neuro-Ophthalmology

Pavel Dronoldovacki, MD
Neuro-Ophthalmology

Megan M. Geloneck, MD
Pediatrics (CHOP)

Harpal S. Sandhu, MD
Retina

Shivani Sehbi, MD
Pediatrics (CHOP)

Monisha M. Vora, MD
Glaucoma
2014-2015 RESIDENTS & their favorite quotes about medicine

First Year Residents

Christiana E. Fitzgerald, MD
"You live it forward, but
understand it backward."
— Abraham Verghese

Nicole M. Fuersi, MD
"There are those who look at
things the way they are, and
ask why... I dream of things
that never were, and ask
why not?"
— Robert Kennedy

Marisa K. Lau, MD
"Learn from yesterday, live for
today, hope for tomorrow. The
important thing is to not
stop questioning."
— Albert Einstein

Daniel H. Sarensky, MD
"Either write something worth
reading or do something worth
writing."
— Benjamin Franklin

Katharine E. Uyhazi, MD, PhD
"It's not what you look at
that matters, it's what you
see."
— Henry David Thoreau

Second Year Residents

Aida Boumane, MD
"Put your heart, mind, and
soul into even your smallest
acts. This is the secret of
success."
— Swami Sivananda

Anne K. Jensen, MD
"We can't help everyone,
but everyone can help
someone."
— Ronald Reagan

Anita A. Kohli, MD
"The practice of medicine
will be very much as you make
it - to one a worry, a care, a
perpetual annoyance; to
another, a daily joy and a
life of as much happiness
and usefulness..."
— William Osler

Purak C. Parikh, MD
"The art of medicine consists
in amusing the patient while
nature cures the disease."
— Voltaire

Neepa Shah, MD
"If you think you are too
small to make a difference,
try sleeping with a
mosquito."
— Dalai Lama

Third Year Residents

Mausam R. Damaal, MD
"Wherever the art of medicine
is loved, there is also a love of
humanity."
— Hippocrates

Claro Kellihor, MD
"What's for you won't pass you."
— Lillian Breed

Nicolle A. Langholt, MD
"The good physician treats
the disease; the great physician
treats the patient who has the
disease."
— William Osler

Karen E. Revere, MD
"Let food be thy medicine
and medicine be thy food."
— Hippocrates

Jessica S. Watson, MD
"If you find a fork in the
road, take it."
— Yogi Berra

*Coordinated by Asishah Rquiaib
Words from Scheie Alumni President

Well, another year is in full swing. It was great seeing old friends in Chicago at the AAO meeting. The Penn Alumni office noted a true esprit de corps among the Scheie alumni that is unique to our department. I would completely agree! I always enjoy catching up with classmates and colleagues and spending time reflecting on my six years at Scheie as a resident, fellow, and attending physician. One journey in particular stands out as the trip of a lifetime.

In 2001, as a fellow of James Katzowitz, I had the opportunity to spend two weeks in Kenya at Nkuyo Eye Hospital with James Katzowitz and Bill Katzowe, Scheie residency ’05. This was arranged by Asil Shahin, Scheie residency ’02, who had family in Nairobi. We spent time in the clinic and the operating theater helping a variety of patients and teaching the local doctors various ocular plastic techniques. By the end, these doctors were facile in doing eyelid, lacrimal, and basic orbital surgery.

Hakuna matata and Tikoan clan are two phrases from different cultures in different parts of the world, but whose lessons may not be as distant as one thinks. Hakuna matata, well known from the Lion King, is truly a Swahili phrase meaning no worries. The Kenyans we helped were cordial, patient, and grateful. They didn’t mind waiting seven hours in line to be seen in the clinic. They had few worries and simply appreciated the help they received.

Tikoan clan is a Hebrew phrase meaning to repair the world. This is both a figurative and literal expression that generally means by helping the people around you, you help the world. Dedication to a cause, big or small, ultimately helps others and makes the world a better place. This mission trip not only helped the dozens of people we saw, but continues to make an impact today through the skills we passed on to the accomplished Kenyan doctors.

This is just one way that Penn Medicine is shining its light around the world. I encourage everyone to get involved locally, nationally, or internationally in a cause. There is much to be learned as Penn Alumni can offer as we lead by example, Hakuna Matata!

Scott L. Goldstein, MD
Pediatrics & Adult Oculoplastic Surgeon
Tri-County Eye & Wills Eye Institute

September 4, 2014
Pedram Hamrahi, MD
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology,
Harvard Medical School

September 11, 2014
Faculty Meeting

September 18, 2014
Joan W. Miller, MD
Berger Lecture, Professor of Ophthalmology, Chief and Chair of Ophthalmology, Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary

September 25, 2014
Balsa Mihajlovic, MD
Consultant, Uwills Service, Aravind Eye Hospital, Puducherry, India

October 9, 2014
Alex V. Lewis, MD, MPH
Chief, Pediatric Ophthalmology and Ocular Genetics, Wills Eye Institute

October 23, 2014
AAO-Subspecialty Day

October 16, 2014
Billing Compliance Session

October 30, 2013
Mark Moser, MD & Marlene Moser, MD
Professor, Department of Neurology, Jefferson Medical College & Professor of Ophthalmology, Jefferson Medical College

November 6, 2014
Elias Reichel, MD
Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Ophthalmology, Tufts University School of Medicine

November 13, 2014
John A. Dari, PhD
Director, Markey Institute for Neuroscience, Peniel School of Medicine

November 30, 2014
Faculty Meeting

November 27, 2014
Thanksgiving

December 4, 2014
Edwin M. Stone, MD, PhD
Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine

December 11, 2014
David P. Minn, PhD
S.R. Pelzack Professor; Chair, Department of Bioengineering, University of Pennsylvania

December 18, 2014
Ardi Sasaie Shahira, MD, PhD
Uwills Candidate

December 25, 2014
Christmas

January 1, 2015
New Year’s Day

January 6, 2015
Steven E. Arnold, MD
Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology, Penn School of Medicine

January 15, 2015
Faculty Meeting

February 5, 2015
Penny A. Ashbell, MD
Professor of Ophthalmology, Mount Sinai School of Medicine

March 5, 2015
David Brainard, PhD & James Giv, MS, PhD
Professor of Psychology & Associate Professor of Radiologic Science in Radiology

March 12, 2015
Peter A. Merkel, MD, MPH
Chief, Division of Rheumatology, Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology, University of Pennsylvania

April 9, 2015
Milton B. Rosman, MD
Pulmonary Medicine, Professor of Medicine, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

May 21, 2015
Faculty Meeting

May 28, 2015
Garret A. FitzGerald, MD
Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology, Peniel School of Medicine

June 4, 2015
Lisa Smith, MD, PhD
Professor of Ophthalmology, Harvard Medical School
Donald Budenz, MD, MPH, Scheie alumnus and Chairman of the UNCG Chapel Hill Department of Ophthalmology, was recently awarded the 2014 Outstanding Humanitarian Service Award.

The American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) presented Dr. Budenz with this award at the 2014 AAO Annual Meeting in Chicago. Coincidentally, another Scheie alumnus, Dr. Alan Crandall, was also awarded the 2014 Outstanding Humanitarian Service Award. The AAO consists of over 22,000 US and 9,000 international members, making the award an enormous honor for both physicians.

Dr. Budenz’s visit to Ghana inspired his receipt of this humanitarian award. Ever since he completed his glaucoma fellowship at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in 1995, Dr. Budenz has traveled to Ghana twice a year for humanitarian work. On these visits, he performs ocular surgeries on hundreds of patients, for one to three weeks. He visits clinics in the cities of Tamale and Cape Coast, helping these clinics become self-sustaining.

“We started out doing glaucoma and cataract surgery in clinics that didn’t have surgeons or specialists,” Dr. Budenz said. “At that time there were only a dozen ophthalmic surgeons for nearly 20 million people in the country.”

In addition to performing surgeries, Dr. Budenz gives core lectures to local ophthalmologists on ocular surgeries and sub-specialty care. He has also trained Ghanaian ophthalmologists to perform surgery and manage glaucoma patients.

“The lack of sub-specialty training is the biggest barrier to eye care in Ghana,” explained Dr. Budenz. “People go to government hospitals and have to wait too long for specialty care, often for months, or they would have to pay a lot of money.”

In addition to providing core care and education, Dr. Budenz conducts epidemiological research on various ocular issues including primary open-angle glaucoma (POAG). Glaucoma affect 7% of people over age 40 in Ghana and is the third leading cause of visual impairment and blindness (after cataract and refractive error). By studying a sample of 3,000 people from Tamau, Dr. Budenz and his team found that the prevalence of POAG in West Africa is among the highest in the world. West Africans also have a younger age of onset overall.

Recognizing the lack of infrastructure and technology in Ghanaian eye clinics, Dr. Budenz set out to create a regional glaucoma center 45 kilometers from Accra, the capital of Ghana. He is working with Right to Sight (REST) non-profit to obtain corporate funding to build this infrastructure for glaucoma training, diagnoses, and surgery.

“We are trying to create something sustainable for glaucoma training and care by building a regional center of glaucoma surgery in West Africa,” he explained.

Scheie is proud to call Dr. Budenz part of the Scheie family. He is a shining example of someone who uses his ophthalmology training to touch lives around the world.

---

SAVE THE DATE

2015 Scheie Eye Institute Alumni Association CME Accredited Conference

April 24, 2015
7:30am – 4:30pm
Scheie auditorium, breakfast and lunch served
7pm Dinner & Dancing at Rittenhouse Hotel

April 25, 2015
7:30am – 12:30pm
Scheie auditorium, breakfast and lunch served

Aravind Physician Visits Scheie

By Rebecca Sawove

This past October, the Scheie Eye Institute hosted Dr. Bala Murugan, who works at Aravind Eye Hospital in Southern India. The Aravind Eye Hospital is a world leader in preventing and treating preventable blindness in Southern India and globally.

A consultant in ophthalmology services at Aravind, Dr. Murugan heard very positive remarks about Scheie from his mentor and decided to visit for one week. He spent the majority of his days at Scheie observing the clinical work of Dr. Kempen, meeting faculty members, and participating in Grand Rounds.

“I learned how to approach a complex problem like uveitis, said Dr. Murugan. “I observed Dr. Kempen’s great humility and willingness to share his vast knowledge. What is so nice on the cake was Dr. Kempen’s open-minded approach towards everyone, whether a patient, attendant, student, or visitor like me.”

He also greatly enjoyed the feeling of community at Scheie: “What surprised me most was the magnitude of love that everyone at Scheie puts into their work. The lunch we had with the Chairman was also memorable!”

Dr. Murugan noted several key differences between Aravind and Scheie.

“At Aravind, we have residents helping us to handle volumes of patients, whether outpatients, surgery, or outreach work,” he explained. “Here at Scheie, residents try to spend quality time with each patient and have electronic medical records, which we are also planning to implement.”

In the future, Dr. Murugan hopes to develop his specialty clinic at Aravind and participate in multicenter clinical trials with physicians at Scheie. Scheie wishes the very best to Dr. Murugan in all his future plans.
About the Scheie Eye Institute

The Scheie Eye Institute, founded by Harold G. Scheie in 1972, is a leader in the field of ophthalmological research, education, and patient care.

Our physician-scientists focus on translational research, ranging from age-related macular degeneration to glaucoma to retinitis pigmentosa. The Scheie Eye Institute is consistently among the top three recipients of National Eye Institute funding.

Our full-time residency and fellowship program is devoted to training 15 residents and 8 fellows to become leaders in the future of ophthalmology. In fact, Scheie is now the first institute to receive a training grant in Ocular Genetics and Bioinformatics from the National Institute of Health. This will enable us to train scientists and ophthalmologists to interpret the huge amount of genetic information which will become available to us within the next five years as whole genome sequencing becomes widely affordable.

The Scheie Eye Institute employs 80 physicians and researchers to consult and treat eye problems of every kind. Last year alone, Scheie had 100,000 patient visits. For more information on the Scheie Eye Institute, look us up online at http://www.pennmedicine.org/ophthalmology/ or call us at 215.662.8415.

Giving to Scheie

Private contributions have helped to propel the Scheie Eye Institute to the forefront of research and patient care. Many of our greatest breakthroughs have been made possible through donations from individuals and organizations. Your gifts benefit ongoing vision therapy for those in our community and people around the world. If you would like to make a donation to the Scheie Eye Institute, please visit us online at http://www.pennmedicine.org/ophthalmology/ or send a check to the Scheie Eye Institute, Attn: Lila Lapides, 51 N. 39th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

If you would like to permanently remove this message from the mailing list, please reply with a blank message to emailmarketing@pennmedicine.org.