



Eyewitness

FALL/WINTER 2010 #15

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Conflict of Interest: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

In previous issues we discussed change and author Malcolm Gladwell's concept of a "tipping point," the moment when an idea accrues enough momentum to move it to the fore of our societal consciousness. Concerns about conflict of interest (COI) between medical practitioners and researchers and the pharmaceutical/medical device industry have now reached this point. Rules are being promulgated at all levels,



Joan W. Miller, MD
Chief and Chair

from institutions up to NIH. Are they effective, worth it, enforceable? How will they affect us? Will they constrain scientific advancement or ensure impartiality and honesty in research?

As we try to sort through COI and the relationship between industry and academe, we want to do what is in the best interest of our patients and the public good. We can probably recognize behavior that we think is bad. We don't want doctors being bribed to administer a particular medication. We don't want pharmaceutical companies controlling

the educational content of our training programs or our continuing education courses. However, many innovations

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Highlights from the 2010 Graduation and Annual/Alumni Meeting

The 2010 Graduation began with the unveiling of our most recent portrait of an ophthalmology giant: Dr. Evangelos S. Gragoudas. Anthony P. Adamis, MD, former Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and Director of Residency Training, was on hand to recap Dr. Gragoudas' long list of accomplishments, including proton beam therapy for ocular malignancies, early work on PDT and anti-angiogenesis drug development and testing, as well as the dozens of clinicians he has trained and mentored over the years. HMS alumnus Dimitri T. Azar, MD, currently BA Field Professor of Ophthalmologic Research and Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago, gave the Frederick A. Jakobiec Lecture. Dr. Azar spoke on "Do Something of Value and Hold on to Your Values." The Teacher of the Year Award was presented to Mark C. Kuperwaser, MD, Instructor in Ophthalmology, based at Beth Israel/Deaconess Medical Center. Sandra Rocio Montezuma, MD received the Fellow of the Year Award. Joan W. Miller, MD, was recognized for



2010 Frederick A. Jakobiec and Mariana Mead Lecturer, Dimitri Azar, MD, Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago (U), Deborah Langston, MD, FACS and Kathryn Colby, MD, PhD

having received the 2010 Joseph B. Martin Dean's Leadership Award for the Advancement of Women.

Dr. Azar was featured the following day as he delivered the Mariana Mead Lecture at the 2010 "Update on Ophthalmology" didactic program. His lecture, "Theoretical and

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Anne B. Fulton, MD, Promoted to Professor of Ophthalmology



Anne B. Fulton, MD

Dr. Anne B. Fulton, MD, is one of the members of the Department of Ophthalmology to be promoted most recently to Professor of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Fulton is a graduate of Tufts University School of Medicine. She completed an internship at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta and a residency at Yale School of Medicine.

Dr. Fulton is a world authority in pediatric retinal and visual development, with a focus in retinal degenerations and genetic disorders. Her clinical practice and research laboratory are based at Children’s Hospital Boston, where she has been on staff since completing her residency at Yale

in 1976. Her work has provided a solid foundation for discovering the molecular and cellular bases for a wide range of disorders that afflict pediatric patients.

Her work seeks to elucidate the development of fundamental processes in infants’ retinal photoreceptors and post-receptor retina. Funded by the National Institute of Health, her recent research in Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) has explored the hypothesis that the growing photoreceptors’ escalating demands for energy and oxygen contribute to the retinal hypoxia that leads to clinical ROP. Additionally, the photoreceptors are damaged if their oxygen needs are not met. Using non-invasive assessment techniques such as electroretinography (ERG) in babies with or without ROP, Dr. Fulton showed that rod sensitivity could predict vascular outcome at a later age. These observations were confirmed in animal models of ROP, and suggest that rod dysfunction may have a causative role in the vascular problems of ROP. These studies establish the immature photoreceptors as potential pharmacological targets, and offer promise of very early intervention in the treatment of ROP.

“Dr. Fulton’s work in understanding retinal physiology in children is unparalleled in the world, and the level of clinical expertise she and her team offer her patients is equally peerless.”

—Dr. David G. Hunter, MD, PhD

In honor of her promotion, Dr. David G. Hunter, MD, PhD, Ophthalmologist-in-Chief at Children’s Hospital Boston and Vice Chair for Ophthalmology Promotions and Reappointments at HMS, lauded Dr. Fulton’s outstanding contributions to advancing retinal science and vision care in the pediatric arena. “Dr. Fulton’s work in understanding retinal physiology in children is unparalleled in the world, and the level of clinical expertise she and her team offer her patients is equally peerless.”

The Pediatric Retinal Degeneration Service in the Department of Ophthalmology at Children’s Hospital Boston was established nearly 30 years ago under the leadership of Dr. Fulton. Today, the Service offers unique depth of expertise and attracts patients from around the world. Equipped with advanced pediatric electrophysiology and psychophysical capability, the service provides comprehensive assessment and management of retinal and visual disorders in infants and children. We look forward to Dr. Fulton’s continuing contributions and extend warmest congratulations to her on recognition well-earned. ■

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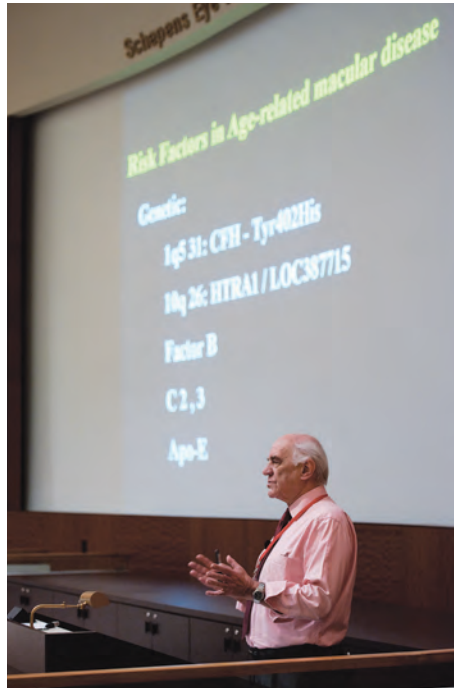
Take a look at the Mass Eye and Ear website

where you’ll find a newly designed and structured powerhouse of information right at your fingertips. Visitors are encouraged to peruse the site and let us know about items or information they would like to see included. Check out www.masseyeandear.org and let us know what you think.

www.masseyeandear.org

First Biennial AMD Symposium Spurs Lively Discussion, Debate

A diverse and distinguished group of clinicians and researchers from around the world enjoyed a stimulating two days of active discussion at the first international AMD symposium hosted by the HMS Department of Ophthalmology. The symposium, which also included leaders from related disciplines outside ophthalmology, featured an interactive format to discuss current areas and future avenues in AMD research. Topics included genetics, RPE/Bruch's membrane/choriocapillaris, inflammation, stem cells and tissue engineering, imaging, animal models, and neurodegenerative disease. Discussion panels were purposefully long, and the audience truly engaged faculty in stimulating discussion.



Alan Bird, MD emeritus professor at London University and honorary consultant at Moorfields Eye Hospital, London, lectures at the AMD Symposium on the "Pathogenesis of AMD." Dr. Bird is a leading expert on the treatment of retinal vascular disease and genetic and degenerative retinal disorders.



Bruce Ksander, PhD, HMS Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, Schepens Eye Research Institute, at the AMD symposium.

a wealth of knowledge on the excellent research taking place in this area. Also, I was very pleased that we had ample time for extended group discussions of the different contributions presented. The meeting was a major success thanks to the committee's efforts and thoughtfulness."

"This meeting was a great platform to engage colleagues from all over the U.S. and abroad, and an opportunity to collaborate with some of the best minds in AMD research," noted famed angiogenesis scientist, Dr. Anthony P. Adamis. "Having speakers on hand from related disciplines added to the depth of discussions and gave this meeting a very unique flavor. In every respect, it was a great experience."

We look forward to organizing another exciting event in 2012. ■

Organizing Committee Co-Chairs for the inaugural event were Patricia A. D'Amore, PhD, Professor of Ophthalmology and Pathology; Ivana K. Kim, MD, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology; and Joan W. Miller, MD, Henry Willard Williams Professor of Ophthalmology and Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology.

Ophthalmology in the News

The Mass. Eye and Ear Infirmary ranked 4th in Ophthalmology among the nation's 4,852 hospitals in the 2010-11 *U.S. News and World Report* magazine's "America's Best Hospitals" annual survey.

In the 2010 *Ophthalmology Times'* peer-rated survey, MEEI/Harvard University's ranking for overall "Best Programs" climbed a notch to 5th place and retained the number 3 spot for "Best Research Programs."

Make your voice heard in *Ophthalmology Times'* next survey (summer, 2011). Just 328 physician subscribers completed the on-line survey that determined this year's rankings. If you don't subscribe to *Ophthalmology Times*, then consider signing up at their website: www.modernmedicine.com/modernmedicine/Ophthalmology/home/40207. If you're already a subscriber, your vote can make a difference!

The HMS Department of Ophthalmology's residency training program, led by **John I. Loewenstein, MD**, residency program director and **Carolyn E. Kloek, MD**, Associate Program Director, was prominently featured in the *Ophthalmology Times'* September 1st, 2010 issue. The article emphasizes the Department's "fundamental commitment ... to develop residents into first-class clinicians and well-rounded academicians." The article highlights several key factors that contribute to the depth and breadth of the program, including: MEE's dedicated, 24-hour emergency eye facility offering residents unprecedented "on-the-job" training; a new and improved, hands-on learning curriculum; and advanced, computer-based simulation training tools.



Clockwise from above left: Joan Miller, MD and Anthony Adamis, MD (r), watch as Dr. Gragoudas officially unveils his portrait. ■ 2010 HMS Distinguished Alumnus, Stanley Chang, MD, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons (l) and Joseph Rizzo, III, MD, HMS Conference Co-Chair. ■ Carolyn Kloek, MD (l), Nicole Benitah, MD graduating clinical fellow (retina), John Loewenstein, MD, and Joan Miller, MD. ■ 2010 HMS Department of Ophthalmology residents and fellow graduates pose with faculty.

Practical Applications of Corneal Asphericity Optimization and Wavefront-Guided Excimer Laser Surgery,” drew a large and enthusiastic crowd.

Stanley Chang, MD, presented the first “Distinguished Alumni” lecture on “OCT Management in the Management of Vitreoretinal Interface Disorders.” Dr. Chang was a resident in ophthalmology at Mass. Eye and Ear from 1976-78. Following retinal fellowship training at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Miami, he joined the faculty at Cornell University Medical College where he was appointed professor in 1994. Since 1996, Dr. Chang has served as the Edward Harkness Professor of Ophthalmology and Chair of Ophthalmology at Columbia University Medical Center. He has made contributions in the field of Vitreoretinal surgery through the introduction of perfluoropropane gas, perfluorocarbon liquids, and panoramic viewing systems. He first recognized the occurrence of open angle glaucoma following vitrectomy.

Our second 2010 Distinguished Alumnus was Paul P. Lee, MD, JD, James Pitzer Gills III, MD and Joy Gills Professor of Ophthalmology at Duke University School of Medicine and Vice-Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology. Dr. Lee received his medical degree from University of Michigan, completed residency at Johns Hopkins’ Wilmer Eye Institute, and a glaucoma fellowship at Mass Eye and Ear. He also holds a law degree from Columbia University. Dr. Lee is a member of

the American Board of Ophthalmology and a board member of Prevent Blindness America. His research is designed to enhance understanding of the delivery of effective healthcare, from the laboratory to patients’ homes, and to improve the care that patients receive, including new methods of accessing care by interested parties. A key focus is to understand policy and financial factors that influence how care is provided. Dr. Lee presented a lecture on “Asking Questions—or Learning to See the Forest Amidst all the Trees.”

Winners of the awards for best Clinical Poster were HMS ophthalmology residents, Anthony B. Daniels, MD for his poster titled “Genotype-Phenotype Correlations in the Bardet-Biedl Syndrome,” and Rebecca C. Stacy, MD, PhD, with a poster on “Histopathological Characterization of Retro-Keratoprosthesis Membranes in the Boston Type 1 Keratoprosthesis.” Winners of the awards for best Research Poster were Bharathi Govindarajan, PhD, Schepens Eye Research Institute, for her poster titled: “Purification of a Protein Secreted by Non-encapsulated Streptococcus Pneumoniae that Induces MUC16 Shedding in Human Corneal Epithelial Cells,” and Xiao-Hong Wen, PhD, Howe Laboratory, Mass Eye and Ear for his poster on, “A Role for Guanylyl Cyclase Activating Protein 1 in Setting the Size of the Single Photon Response.” ■

ALUMNI GIVING SOCIETY

OF HMS OPHTHALMOLOGY @ MASS EYE AND EAR

Our alumni know first-hand that supporting the vital work of our students and faculty in the HMS Department of Ophthalmology helps drive continued achievement across all areas of education, research and patient care. Since we launched the Alumni Giving Society last December, nearly 100 generous alumni have joined the Society which recognizes individuals who make annual gifts of \$1,000 or more within the fiscal year (October 1–September 30). You may designate your gift in any way you choose or support one of our numerous programs. Members are invited to Department events throughout the year and are recognized in this newsletter and Mass. Eye and Ear publications.

Your philanthropy does matter. Help us continue a culture of excellence by planting the seeds of possibility today. To learn more about the Alumni Giving Society and the programs supported, please contact Melissa Paul at melissa_paul@meei.harvard.edu or call 617-573-4168. Gifts are tax-deductible. Our sincerest thanks to the following Society members:

Visionary – Gifts of \$10,000 or more

Mark B. Abelson, M.D.
Shelby R. Wilkes, M.D., MBA and
Jettie M. Burnett, M.D.
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Innovator – Gifts of \$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous
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Dimitri Azar, M.D. and Nathalie Azar, M.D.
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Demetrios Vavvas, M.D.
Stuart R. Winthrop, M.D.

New Report Aims to “Tell the Story” of HMS Department of Ophthalmology

The HMS Department of Ophthalmology is preparing a comprehensive report on the department's numerous accomplishments, key milestones and extraordinary growth during the past several years. *Frontiers in Vision Science* is meant to inform, educate and engage a variety of audiences on the outstanding work we do in our three-fold mission of clinical care, medical education, and research. The report showcases the efforts of our renowned faculty and their field-defining contributions to ophthalmology and vision science, and spotlights how our growing collaborations with affiliates and partners across the global ophthalmic community are positioning us to fight blinding eye disease on a more robust scale. Targeted publication date of *Frontiers in Vision Science* is January, 2011. The report will be distributed to a national audience, and will be available in PDF format on the MEEI website.

have come about through effective collaborations between academia and industry, and we don't want to lose those opportunities. Dr. Judah Folkman was a pioneer in this area, collaborating with numerous pharmaceutical companies in the US and beyond, including Abbott, Entremed, Genentech and others. Although some questioned this approach, it is impossible to deny the positive outcomes of these collaborations, including the development of numerous anti-angiogenic drugs and the funding of a broad range of research at Children's Hospital's Vascular Biology Laboratories.

Within ophthalmology, industry/academia collaboration was an important factor in the development of new treatments for macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy, including photodynamic therapy (Visudyne)[®] and the anti-VEGF drugs Macugen[®], Lucentis[®] and Avastin[®]. Federal funding agencies were not supportive of this work, and most pharmaceutical companies had not recognized ophthalmology, especially retinal disease, as a market worth developing. It was really only through the passion and persistence of the Harvard angiogenesis researchers, including Drs. Tony Adamis, Evan Gragoudas, Patricia D'Amore, Lloyd Aiello and myself, that these avenues were pursued and resulted in new treatments and vision improvement for patients.

A 2009 report from the Institute of Medicine of the U.S. National Academies¹ lays out many of the concerns about potential conflict of interest between medicine and both pharmacia and the medical devices industry. The report defines conflict of interest as "circumstances that create a risk that professional judgments or actions regarding a primary interest will be unduly influenced by a secondary interest." The report goes on to note that the "central goal of COI policies in medicine is to protect the integrity of professional judgment and to preserve public trust." Note that this is a proactive goal—to encourage ethical behavior and preclude conflict rather than to try to remediate bias or mistrust after it occurs. Examples of COI may include:

- Physicians failing to disclose substantial payments from drug companies.
- Investigators not publishing negative results from industry-sponsored clinical trials or delaying publication for a significant time.
- Academic researchers being listed on publications, even though they were not involved in data collection/analysis and after early drafts are written by individuals employed by industry.
- Professional societies that develop clinical practice guidelines choosing not to disclose their industry funding or reveal COI of experts who draft such guidelines.

As COI has come into the spotlight, studies reveal that attitudes among medical professionals about COI may not yet be in synch with the growing societal/political concern.

As COI has come into the spotlight, studies reveal that attitudes among medical professionals about COI may not yet be in synch with the growing societal/political concern. Korenstein and colleagues² explored attitudes of physicians from all specialties toward gifts from and interactions with pharmacy and medical device companies. They found that physicians "continue to hold positive attitudes toward marketing-oriented activities..." and suggest that "Changes in medical culture and physician education focused on surgeons and trainees

may align physician attitudes with current policy trends." Physicians tend to believe that their practice patterns are not influenced by marketing activities and gifts. However data has shown otherwise, and companies pursue these strategies because they are effective. In addition, the whole patient-physician relationship is built on trust, and if concern over inappropriate influence by pharmaceutical and device companies erodes that trust, then patient care is compromised. Zinner et al³ surveyed scientists and

administrators at NIH and found that the Institute's 2005 ethics rules did what they were supposed to do—limited relationships with industry while maintaining NIH researchers' associations with external scientific and professional organizations. However, the rules negatively affected personnel morale and the perceived progress of research.

The influence on trainees is of particular concern to many. While there has been some preliminary work in ophthalmology programs to assess the behavior and attitudes towards pharmaceutical promotions, the field is more advanced in other specialties. Sah and Loewenstein⁴ surveyed residents in pediatrics and in family medicine to determine whether reminding residents of the sacrifices they made to become physicians influenced their attitudes regarding gifts from industry. Hardships experienced by physicians in training results in the expectation of delayed gratification that may or may not be realized in terms of compensation. Training involves grueling hours during long years of training, stressful work life; pressures on home/family life and often leaves new physicians with substantial debt from their education. These factors seem to influence newly trained physicians' willingness to accept gifts. Sah and Loewenstein tested this hypothesis by measuring responses with and without reminders of the "sacrifices" and found that reminders influenced respondents' willingness to accept gifts from industry by providing them a rationale and justification. Indeed, reminding trainees of their sacrifices resulted in gifts from industry being evaluated as more acceptable. Wang and Adelman⁵ surveyed ophthalmology residents to evaluate their behavior and attitudes toward pharmaceutical promotions. Prescribing practices appeared to

be influenced by receiving information or drug samples; and although half of the respondents acknowledged knowing about guidelines or policies, only 28% reported having received COI training. On a more positive note, an April, 2010 article in *Archives of Internal Medicine* revealed broad support within the health care community, including trainees, for transparency in relationships with industry and full disclosure of same.⁶

In April, 2010 the Council of Medical Specialty Societies, which includes the AAO among its members, released its own Code for Interactions with Companies.⁷ It sets forth 10 principles in four key areas, a) conflict of interest, b) financial disclosures, c) independent program development, and d) independent leadership. New policies at Harvard Medical School, with implementation beginning in January 2011, restrict research interaction with pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers. Among the provisions is a ban on faculty accepting personal gifts; a cap of \$10K for compensation provided to an individual researcher for work on technology owned or licensed by a given company; and a prohibition on speakers' bureaus or speaking engagements where faculty are paid to give a speech prepared by a company in advance. Harvard has a history of strict policies regarding interactions with industry and conflict of interest, although the new policy goes somewhat further. At Harvard, the challenge comes with implementation, since Harvard Medical School has approximately 8000 full time faculty, with most employed by the affiliated hospitals and institutions, and over 3000 part-time faculty, many of whom are in private practice. Physicians and researchers at Harvard and beyond, face the challenge of understanding the policies and determining how they apply, since in most cases there will be overlap between hospital, medical school, professional society, state and federal policies.

State and federal governments are passing legislation to increase disclosure requirements and transparency. In Massachusetts the Office of Health and Human Services implemented a Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Manufacturers Code of Conduct and its disclosure requirements (www.mass.gov/dph/pharmamed). This regulation requires manufacturers, beginning July 1, 2010, to disclose payments made to "covered recipients," defined as any person authorized to prescribe, dispense or purchase prescription drugs, biologics, or medical devices. The disclosed information will be posted

Policies on conflict of interest are a fact whose time has come; the old paradigm no longer holds. Far better for medical professionals ourselves to take an active part in devising COI policies and procedures than to have them handed down to us by politicians, theorists, and other policy makers.

on a searchable, publicly available website on the DPH portal beginning sometime in 2011. Meanwhile, the Physician Payments Sunshine Provisions in the new federal health care reform law will give the US Department of Health and Human Services authority to establish, starting in 2013, a national system for reporting payment and other "transfers of value" to physicians and teaching hospitals from manufacturers of drugs, devices, biological, or medical supplies.⁸

Our professional societies, regulating agencies, grantors, even the industries themselves are promulgating policies designed to modify conduct to avoid COI. Right now, many professionals don't like it. What should our attitude be? First, read up on the issue and proposed regulations from your institution, employer and professional societies like the AAO. Second, get involved. Policies on conflict of interest are a fact whose time has come; the old paradigm no longer holds. Far better for medical professionals ourselves to take an active part in devising COI policies and procedures than to have them handed down to us by politicians, theorists, and other policy makers. We want to maintain the positive

advantages of collaboration and philanthropy, especially in educational grants and research, while holding ourselves free from possible bias. We must treasure and ensure the public's trust. No one can do it better than we can. ■

¹ Conflict of Interest in Medical Research, Education, and Practice. Lo, Bernard and Marilyn J. Field, Eds. The National Academies Press, Washington, DC.

² Korenstein D, Keyhani S, Ross JS. Physician attitudes toward industry: a view across the specialties. *Arch Surg*. 2010 Jun;145(6):577.

³ Zinner DE, Desroches CM, Bristol SJ, Clarridge B, Campbell EG. Tightening Conflict-of-Interest Policies: The Impact of 2005 Rules at the NIH. *Acad Med* 2010 Sep 16 [Epub ahead of print].

⁴ Sah, S and G Loewenstein. Effect of reminders of personal sacrifice and suggested rationalizations on residents' self-reported willingness to accept gifts: a randomized trial. *JAMA*. 2010 Sep 15;304(11):1233-5.

⁵ Wang Y and RA Adelman. A study of interactions between pharmaceutical representatives and ophthalmology trainees. *Am J Ophthalmol*. 2009 Oct;148:(4):619-622.e3. Epub 2009 Jul 1.

⁶ Campbell EG. Public disclosure of conflict of interest: moving the debate forward. *Arch Int Med* 2010 Apr 26;170(8):667.

⁷ Available at: www.cmss.org/coseforinteractions.aspx.

⁸ Harris S. New Conflict of Interest Rules Help Spur Financial Disclosures Online. *AAMC Reporter*: June 2010. www.aamc.org/newsroom/reporter/june10/conflict.htm

The opinions in this article are solely those of the author and do not reflect any HMS or Mass Eye and Ear institutional policy. To comment, write to ophthalmology@meei.harvard.edu.

Ophthalmology Grand Rounds

Academic Year '10-11

Grand Rounds are held every Thursday from 8:00-9:00 AM in Meltzer Auditorium, 3rd Floor, MEE. Continuing Medical Education credit is available. A monthly list is posted on the MEE website at www.masseyeandear.org.

Special Grand Rounds Speakers

December 2, 2010: Neuroscience Grand Rounds (MGH Etherdome): John I. Loewenstein, MD

January 20, 2011: Ivana K. Kim, MD

March 10, 2011: Joseph F. Rizzo, III MD

March 31, 2011: Reza Dana, MD, MSc, MPH

June 9, 2011: Dean Elliott, MD (Joins HMS Ophthalmology faculty at MEE in late 2010)

Upcoming Events

The Department of Ophthalmology at Mass. Eye and Ear sponsors a range of special lectures and courses. For further information, please consult the Ophthalmology Education section at www.masseyeandear.org.

December 8, 2010: Pediatric Ophthalmology Visiting Professor Lecture Series, Children's Hospital Boston, William V. Good, MD, Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute

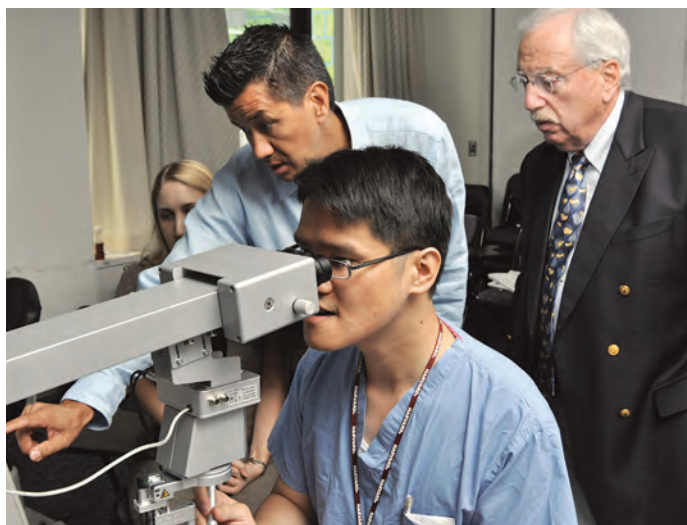
December 17-18, 2010: Paul A. Chandler Visiting Professorship: Resident Case Presentations, Monte D. Mills, MD, University of Pennsylvania

February 3-4, 2011: Cornea Service Visiting Professors, Jayne S. Weiss, MD, Detroit Medical Center

February 23, 2011: Ephraim Friedman Lecture, Frank G. Holz, MD University Eye Hospital, Bonn, Germany

February 25, 2011: Harvard Visiting Professorship and Residents' Course, Topic: Advances in Detection and Treatment of Ocular Infections, Todd P. Margolis, MD, PhD, UCSF Medical Center

March 10-11, 2011: Cornea Service Visiting Professors, Penny A. Asbell, MD, The Mount Sinai Medical Center



Gil Grand, MD, Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at Washington University School of Medicine supervises retina fellow, Dr. David Pan, as he practices surgical techniques using an Eyesi virtual reality simulator. Observing is Marshall Dial, VP of Sales from VR Magic, the company that developed Eyesi. Training took place during MEE's new Vitreoretinal Course for first-year retina fellows.

March 14, 2011: Boston Ophthalmic Pathology Lecture Series, Retina, Tatyana Milman, MD, New Jersey Medical School

May 7-8, 2011: Annual Harvard Intensive Cataract Surgical Training Course for Second-Year Residents

May 16, 2011: Boston Ophthalmic Pathology Lecture Series, Phakomatoses and Optic Nerve, Hans E. Grossniklaus, MD, Emory Medical School

June 16, 2011: Department of Ophthalmology Residents and Fellows Graduation

June 17, 2011: Department of Ophthalmology 2011 Annual and Alumni Meeting

July 22-23, 2011: Annual Harvard Medical School Department of Ophthalmology Fellows' Course in Vitreoretinal Surgery

Awards, Grants & Other Honors

Joan W. Miller, MD, Ophthalmology Department Chief and Chair, won the 2010 Suzanne Verroneau-Troutman Award from Women in Ophthalmology. The award was presented during the AAO meeting in Chicago, October, 2010.

Lloyd P. Aiello, MD, PhD, Professor of Ophthalmology, was granted a Lew R. Wasserman Merit Award from Research to Prevent Blindness.

Eliot L. Berson, MD, William F. Chatlos Professor of Ophthalmology and Director of the Berman-Gund Laboratory for the Study of Retinal Degenerations at Mass. Eye and Ear, was named the 2010 recipient of The Award of Merit in Retina Research from The Retina Society.

Pedram Hamrah, MD, Assistant Professor in Ophthalmology was awarded nearly \$230K from Alcon Research, Ltd for a Confocal Microscopy project. He also won a \$20,000 grant from Fight for Sight for his Imaging Alloimmunity project.

Ivana K. Kim, MD, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, received a new 2-year R21 (exploratory/developmental research) award totaling almost \$226,000 from the National Cancer Institute to study "Oncogene Mutation Profiling in Uveal Melanoma."

Four HMS Ophthalmology faculty are the recipients of the latest round of Harvard Catalyst Grants. **Lucy Q. Shen, MD** and **Louis R. Pasquale, MD** of the Glaucoma service received a grant for clinical research on OCT and glaucoma, in collaboration with radiologist Andy Tsai, MD, from Children's Hospital Boston. **Dean M. Cestari, MD**, Neuro-Ophthalmology service is collaborating with **Dong Feng Chen, MD, PhD, SERI** to work on in vivo imaging in a mouse model of optic nerve and retinal injury.

MEE's Retina and Cornea services, under the guidance of Fellowship Directors Mukai Shizuo, MD and James Chodosh, MD, MPH, have won Allergan Horizon Grants to support

the research work of their fellows. The awards fund clinical research in the diagnostic or pharmacological treatment of glaucoma, corneal and retinal diseases.

Roberto Pineda, II, MD, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, received a \$15,000 grant from Alcon Research, Ltd for the Aberrometers Study Project.

Houman David Hemmati, MD, PhD, clinical fellow in the Cornea Service, has been selected the 2010-11 Alcon Research Scholar.

Napoleone Ferrara, MD, PhD, has been awarded one of the most prestigious recognitions that a biomedical scientist can achieve: the 2010 Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award. Dr. Ferrara was a collaborator in the vital angiogenesis research undertaken at HMS in the last two decades, leading to the anti-VEGF therapies that have revolutionized care of wet AMD. We extend to him our heartiest congratulations.

Ula V. Jurkunas, MD, has received approval from PACT (Production Assistance for Cellular Therapies) for support in the manufacture of cultivated corneal and oral epithelial stem cells for corneal transplantation. Dr. Jurkunas, in conjunction with Reza Dana, MD, PhD, MPH is collaborating with researchers from Harvard's Immune Disease Institute and the Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

Ilene K. Gipson, PhD, FARVO, is the newest Leadership Committee member of ARVO's Women in Eye and Vision Research (WEAVR). WEAVR was established to further develop and strengthen the career path of women in eye and vision research. Dr. Gipson is the founding chair of Women's Eye Health.org, an advocacy and outreach organization aimed at preventing/reducing eye disease in women and their families.

HMS faculty **Bonnie A. Henderson, MD**, **Deborah S. Jacobs, MD** and **Louis R. Pasquale, MD** were presented with Secretariat Awards from the American Academy of Ophthalmology at the Academy's 2010 Joint Meeting in Chicago in October. The awards recognize "significant contributions" to the Academy and to the profession of Ophthalmology.

Staff Updates

Congratulations to the following staff on their HMS promotions/appointments:

Lloyd P. Aiello, MD, PhD, Beetham Eye Institute/Joslin, Professor of Ophthalmology

Dong Feng Chen, MD, PhD, Schepens Eye Research Institute, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology

Michael S. Gilmore, PhD, Professor of Ophthalmology, Mass Eye and Ear, was formally named as the first incumbent of the Sir William Osler Professor of Ophthalmology at HMS

Evangelos S. Gragoudas, MD, Professor of Ophthalmology, Mass Eye and Ear, was formally named as the first incumbent of the Charles Edward Whitten Professor of Ophthalmology at HMS

David G. Hunter, MD, PhD, Children's Hospital Boston, Professor of Ophthalmology

Richard H. Masland, PhD, Professor of Ophthalmology, Mass Eye and Ear, was formally named the David Glendenning Cogan Professor of Ophthalmology at HMS

Demetrios G. Vavvas, MD, PhD, Mass Eye and Ear, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology

Personnel Changes

Kip Connor, PhD, Instructor in Ophthalmology and **Mien Hoang, PhD**, Instructor in Ophthalmology, both joined the Angiogenesis Lab in the Howe Laboratory at Mass Eye and Ear.

Leo T. Chylack, Jr., MD, Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, retired on August 1, 2010. Dr. Chylack received his MD from Harvard Medical School in 1964, and completed a fellowship in lens biochemistry in 1970 at the Howe Laboratory of Ophthalmology, where he was mentored by Jin H. Kinoshita, PhD and David G. Cogan, MD, both pioneers in lens research. He went on to complete his residency in Ophthalmology at the Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary in 1971. From 1971-1997, he served as Chief, Division of Ophthalmology at Brigham & Women's Hospital and, since 1993, Director, Center for Ophthalmic Research, Brigham and Women's Hospital. Dr. Chylak has been a wonderful asset to the Department and HMS. We wish him the best.

Ali Hafezi-Moghadam, MD, PhD, left Mass Eye and Ear this summer for other opportunities.

Margaret M. DeAngelis, PhD, left Mass Eye and Ear this summer for a position at University of Utah.



Reaching out to the community: MEEI Glaucoma Service Manager and Ophthalmic Technician, Carolyn Shea (I), conducts tests of visual acuity during a vision screening at Camp Harbor View on Long Island in Boston. MEEI staff Leslie Dennis and Tiffany Tran assist.



Dr. Danielle Ledoux, MD, Children's Hospital Boston (l) performs strabismus surgery on a pediatric patient during a mission trip to Guatemala in 2010. Surgical technician, Rita Robillard, assists.

Service

Lucy Q. Shen, MD, Instructor in Ophthalmology, and **David S. Walton, MD**, Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, both recently presented public information lectures sponsored by the New England chapter of the Glaucoma Foundation. On Saturday, October 23, the foundation sponsored **Tatjana Jakobs, PhD**, Instructor in Ophthalmology, who lectured on current research in glaucoma.

Assistant Professor **Roberto Pineda, II, MD**, flew on an ORBIS mission to Malaysia this past summer. Dr. Pineda is also one of six new members to join the International Advisory Committee of Tissue Banks International (TBI). The committee assists in providing strategic oversight for TBI's international programs, such as identifying areas of the world that could most benefit from TBI eye and tissue banking programs.

For the fifth year in a row, pediatric ophthalmologist **Danielle M. Ledoux, MD**, participated as part of a surgical mission trip to Hermano Pedro Hospital in Antigua, Guatemala.

Mass. Eye and Ear and Children's Hospital Ophthalmology Foundation teamed up recently to provide pediatric vision screenings to more than 100 children at the **Neighborhood House Charter School** in Dorchester. The school is home to 400 children of diverse backgrounds.

Education Updates

A new and innovative educational event designed exclusively for first-year Vitreoretinal fellows debuted in July with the first annual HMS/MEEI Vitreoretinal Course for First-Year Retina Fellows. Developed and directed by Residency Program Director, **John I. Loewenstein, MD** and **Demetrios G. Vavvas, MD, PhD**, this unique and comprehensive one-day workshop, modeled after MEEI's nationally-renowned cataract surgery course, covers the theory and practice of Vitreoretinal surgery. Participants joined a distinguished group of faculty in lectures, video, wet labs and a surgical simulation laboratory outfitted with five EyeSi simulators. The intensive, one-day workshop drew 40 first-year Vitreoretinal fellows from across the US and provided a low 2:1 student-teacher ratio. Dr. Loewenstein describes this newest educational venue as "...simply an amazing opportunity for participants to learn directly from some of the most eminent faculty in the world and, in a short time, add immeasurably to their fund of knowledge and surgical skills." Next year's course is scheduled for July 22-23 and will host an even larger cohort.

A highly successful repeat of the biennial Neuro-Ophthalmology Fall Festival was held in October and drew an enthusiastic audience of more than 100 neurologists and ophthalmologists from around the country. Through a mix of lectures, case presentations and Q&A, the one-and-a-half day program provided a comprehensive overview on the diagnosis and management

of common and important neuro-ophthalmic disorders. Course Director **Joseph F. Rizzo, III MD**, describes the program's unique format as "traditional medicine played out in front of a live audience." Cases were presented to a distinguished panel of six senior neuro-ophthalmologists who discussed and diagnosed them in real time.

Clinical, Assessment and Intervention Updates in Neurorehabilitation, November 19th-20th, 8:00am to 6:00pm, The Inn at Longwood, Fenway Room, Boston, MA. Please join faculty and researchers from Harvard University and around the world for a two-day course on novel technologies in Neurorehabilitation. The course is designed for rehabilitation professionals (physiatrists, neurologists, psychiatrists, PTs, OTs, and neuroscientists) who wish to learn more about the technology applied in Neurorehabilitation research. Online participation is offered. Course Directors: **Felipe Fregni, MD, PhD, MPH**, Director, Laboratory of Neuromodulation, Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, Assistant Professor of Neurology, Harvard Medical School, and **Lotfi B. Merabet, OD, PhD, FFAO**, Associate Director, Vision Rehabilitation Service, Mass. Eye and Ear Infirmary, Assistant Professor in Ophthalmology, Harvard Medical School. For more information, please contact Jennifer Schadler at 617-573-2195, or jschadler@partners.org. Or visit www.neuromodulationlab.org and click on courses/events for details.

The Tear Film & Ocular Surface Society (TFOS) is a non-profit organization created to advance the research, literacy, and educational aspects of the scientific field of the tear film and ocular surface. Recently, under the direction of Co-founder and President, **David A. Sullivan, PhD** (Schepens Eye Research Institute), TFOS hosted its 6th International Conference on the Tear Film and Ocular Surface: Basic Science and Clinical Relevance (September 2010; Florence, Italy; 600+ participants), sponsored a Regulatory Experts' Meeting entitled "Global Treatments for Dry Eye Syndrome: An Unmet Need (September 2010; Florence, 210 attendees), organized International Workshops on

Meibomian Gland Dysfunction and Dry Eye Syndromes, which have generated major reports and a worldwide consensus on the definition, diagnosis and treatment of these diseases, and oversaw the awarding of numerous Young Investigator Travel Awards. TFOS has also sponsored, and promoted the growth and recognition of the peer-reviewed journal, *The Ocular Surface*, which now has the 3rd highest impact factor of all ophthalmic journals. TFOS has approximately 600 members, and another ~3,400 interested basic scientists, clinicians and industry representatives from over 80 countries. For information about TFOS, please visit www.tearfilm.org.

Mass Eye and Ear Space Renovations

Construction is underway for a new oculoplastics clinic on the tenth floor of the main building, including 5 examination rooms, two procedure rooms and administrative offices for the faculty, with estimated completion in April, 2011. Once the move is complete, major renovations will ensue on the first floor clinic area, with a net result of approximately 15 additional ophthalmology examination rooms. Also planned for 2011 is a renovation and expansion of Neuro Ophthalmology's space on the ninth floor of the main building.

Alumni News

Nicholas J. Volpe, MD, HMS Resident in Ophthalmology 1988-1991, Chief Resident, 1992-1993, and MEE Neuro-ophthalmology Fellow, 1991-1992 has been appointed the Tarry Professor and Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and Northwestern Memorial Hospital, together known as Northwestern Medicine.

David J. Palmer, MD, Mass Eye and Ear Glaucoma Fellow, 1984-85, Clinical Assistant Professor, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, is participating in a national initiative to target greater eye health in the Hispanic population, which has a high prevalence of potentially correctible vision-related



Dr. Steve Charles, renowned Vitreoretinal surgeon and Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, was among the distinguished faculty participating in the HMS/MEEI first annual Vitreoretinal Course held in July.

problems. This work was published in an article by Medill Reports, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL entitled, "Screenings Target Undetected Vision Problems that Could Lead to Blindness." Dr. Palmer is in private practice in Chicago and Glenview, IL.

During its 60th anniversary celebration in October, Schepens Eye Research Institute honored **Tatsuo Hirose, MD** with its 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award. Dr. Hirose, a Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at HMS, came to the US in 1969 where he completed a fellowship in electrophysiology at Cornell Medical Center; a Vitreoretinal fellowship at the Schepens Eye Research Institute (at the time the Retina Foundation); and a clinical fellowship in the Retina Service at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. Dr. Hirose is world renowned for his expertise in the human retina, and especially for his treatment of advanced Retinopathy of Prematurity, complicated retinal detachments and Stickler Syndrome.

Harry E. Braconier, MD (HMS residency alumnus 1943-45) passed away at his home in Weston, MA in August, 2010, at age 100. Dr. Braconier's ophthalmology practice spanned six decades; he saw his last patient in 2003 at the age of 93. A committed and enduring friend of the Boston ophthalmology community, he enjoyed his HMS teaching opportunities and was involved with the planning of the Mass Eye and Ear tower from 1969-73. He contributed generously and was a member of the Reynolds Society for many years. He was also active in the New England Ophthalmological Society and served as its president in

1972-73. Dr. Braconier is survived by his wife, Virginia Strauss Braconier, two children and three grandchildren.

HMS alumnus, **William R. Green, MD**, a world-renowned pathologist—ophthalmologist and former head of the eye pathology laboratory of the Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins Hospital, died July 5 at his Ruxton, MD home. He was 76. In the early 60's, Dr. Green worked at MEEI's Howe Laboratory and was a research fellow at The Retina Foundation (later renamed the Schepens Eye Research Institute). During his career, he authored more than 700 medical papers and received numerous national awards, including the Greatest Living Ophthalmologist Millennium Award and the American Academy of Ophthalmology's Lifetime Achievement Award. He is survived by two sons, a sister and three granddaughters.

Correction:

The Eyewitness staff extends its most sincere apologies to **Lotfi Merabet, OD, PhD, FAAO**, whose name we misspelled in the Staff Updates section of our last newsletter, #14.

Have a program or course to publicize? We would be happy to list it in the newsletter and at the department's web page site on eCommons. Contact us at ophthalmology@meei.harvard.edu.



Eyewitness



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HARVARD DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

SPECIAL LECTURES

December 17-18, 2010

Paul A. Chandler Visiting Professorship: Resident Case Presentations

Monte D. Mills, MD
Associate Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology
University of Pennsylvania

February 23, 2011

Ephraim Friedman Lecture

Frank G. Holz, MD
Chairman and Professor of the Department of Ophthalmology
University of Bonn, Germany

February 25, 2011

Harvard Visiting Professorship and Residents' Course

Topic: Advances in Detection and Treatment of Ocular Infections
Todd P. Margolis, MD, PhD
Professor of Ophthalmology
University of California, San Francisco