

## Wynn makes visionary gift for eye research

Gift will advance the Institute's mission to prevent and cure blinding eye diseases



Dr. Ed Stone examines a patient with an age-related degenerative eye disease. Photo courtesy of UI Stephen A. Wynn Institute for Vision Research.

“Philanthropic support is very important to all aspects of academic medicine, but it is absolutely essential for developing treatments for ‘orphan’ disorders that occur in a few hundred people or less in the entire country.”

*Edwin Stone, MD, PhD*

A \$25 million gift commitment from Stephen A. Wynn to support vision research and treatments at the University of Iowa will help accelerate progress toward cures for rare, inherited retinal diseases, according to university leaders who announced the gift in August.

The 71-year-old Wynn, the chairman and CEO of Wynn Resorts, Limited, was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa in his late 20s and lauded the work of UI scientists and clinicians in uncovering causes for eye diseases and laying the groundwork for treatments involving genetic testing, gene therapy, and patient-

derived cell replacement therapies. He is confident that many forms of heritable blindness will become treatable over the next decade.

“I never dreamed that I would witness such breakthroughs in my lifetime, but the breakthroughs are now at hand,” Wynn said in a statement.

Wynn’s gift is essential for developing treatments for “orphan” eye disorders that occur in several hundred individuals or fewer, noted **Edwin Stone, MD, PhD** (’89R, ’90F, ’92F), the Seamans-Hauser Chair of

“Wynn Institute” continues on page 8

### IN THIS ISSUE:

**U.S. News lists UI Hospitals and Clinics among the best**



Several specialties within University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics appear again on “The Best Hospitals in America” listing compiled annually by *U.S. News & World Report*. The Department of Ophthalmology was ranked the best in Iowa and #6 in in the nation.

For information about the rankings, check out <http://www.uihealthcare.org/news/2013/the-states-highest-ranking/>

**Ergonomics for ophthalmologists**

Work-related musculoskeletal pain is more prevalent among eye care providers compared with family medicine physicians, according to results of a survey carried out by researchers at UI Hospitals and Clinics and the Mayo Clinic. The study surveyed 94 ophthalmologists and optometrists and 92 family medicine physicians from both institutions.



The researchers found significant differences in the proportions of respondents who reported pain in three areas of the body (see graphic above). The study identified these contributing factors: performing the same task repeatedly, working in awkward/cramped positions, bending/twisting the back, and working in the same position for long periods of time.

Results of this study suggest that changes in the design of ophthalmology equipment—or even the redesign of the ophthalmic lane and operating rooms—might be needed to reduce the prevalence of musculoskeletal disorders in eye care providers.

Study details at [www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0161642011006130](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0161642011006130)

**Supplements don't slow AMD progression**

Some dietary supplements once thought to slow the progression of age-related macular degeneration have been proven to either show no effect or may even be harmful to some segments of the population.

The Age-Related Eye Disease Study (AREDS), led by the National Institutes of Health’s National Eye Institute, concluded in 2001 that daily high doses of vitamins C and E, along with beta-carotene and the minerals zinc and copper—called the AREDS formulation—can help slow the pace toward advanced macular degeneration.

A follow up five-year study (AREDS2), which ended in 2012, tested whether the original formulation of supplements could be improved by adding omega-3 fatty acids, adding a lutein/zeaxanthin combination, removing beta-carotene, or reducing the zinc.

Researchers at 82 sites across the country conducted research for the AREDS2 study including **James Folk, MD**, professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences, who was the principal investigator at the University of Iowa.

Read more about Iowa’s participation in the study at <http://now.uiowa.edu/2013/06/supplements-dont-slow-amd-progression-nei-study>

**New drug could help AMD sufferers**

A team of UI ophthalmologists has shown that another drug besides Avastin and Lucentis can ease symptoms for sufferers of age-related macular degeneration, especially those in the advanced, “wet” stage of the disease, when blood vessels in the eye become swollen and leak fluids in the eye.

In a pilot study involving 31 AMD patients at UI Hospitals and Clinics, researchers reported that half of the eyes treated with a new drug, Eylea, had reduced fluid after three monthly injections. Moreover, in some cases subsequent bimonthly injections of Eylea were deemed as effective as monthly injections of Avastin and Lucentis over a similar time period, meaning fewer visits by patients and less cost.

Further studies are needed to fully evaluate the new drug’s efficacy as compared to existing drug treatments but Eylea may turn out to be another option for AMD sufferers.

Read more at <http://now.uiowa.edu/2013/05/new-drug-could-help-amd-sufferers>

# Improving treatment options for patients with cornea swelling

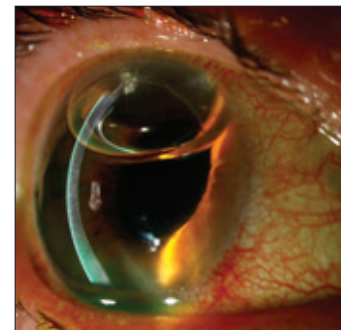
Full thickness corneal transplantation, or penetrating keratoplasty, was the standard of care for treating disorders of endothelium lining the inner cornea until the turn of this century when partial thickness transplant techniques were developed. These techniques, called endothelial keratoplasty, are same-day outpatient surgeries that take 1 to 1.5 hours and require patients to position lying flat for a few days after surgery while an air bubble keeps the transplant in place. Now, techniques that transplant only the inner lining of the cornea are at the forefront of endothelial keratoplasty, including Descemet membrane endothelial keratoplasty, or DMEK.

DMEK surgery is a treatment option for patients with swelling in the cornea, including Fuchs' endothelial dystrophy and swelling after other eye surgeries. In this procedure only the thin layer of endothelial cells are transplanted, along with Descemet's membrane which supports the cells. DMEK offers a lower rate of transplant rejection and quicker visual recovery than other keratoplasty techniques with a greater portion of patients able to achieve 20/20 vision after surgery.

While DMEK surgery offers excellent outcomes for patients, the operation has been challenging for surgeons technically. Corneal surgeons at University of Iowa Hospitals and

Clinics have been working to improve the DMEK technique so patients have fewer complications and more surgeons will be able to perform this surgery.

As with other partial thickness transplant techniques, detachment of the transplant is the most common complication of DMEK, and often requires a repeat injection of air to keep the transplant in the proper position. UI doctors have been able to reduce the number of re-bubble procedures and maintain healthy grafts by using a mixture of sulfur hexafluoride gas and air at the time of surgery. Additionally, we have been working collaboratively with colleagues at Devers Eye Institute to develop a tissue injector that is less damaging to the fragile transplant tissue. This may lead to even better transplant survival.



Typical appearance of a patient 6 days after Descemet membrane endothelial keratoplasty (DMEK). The transplant is only one cell layer thick, and the corneal clarity is nearly restored.

## CLINICAL RESEARCH AT UI

**The University of Iowa is an active participant in clinical research with potential impact on patients in our Eye Clinic and beyond. Clinical studies include:**

### **Medical Research Study for Individuals with Thyroid Eye Disease (Graves' Orbitopathy)**

Purpose is to evaluate the efficacy, safety, and tolerability of an investigational medication that may help to alleviate the symptoms of thyroid eye disease in adults, 18 to 75 years of age.

Principal Investigator: Erin Shriver, MD  
WIRB# 20130386

**For more information, visit [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov) and search keyword "NCT01868997" or go to [www.graveseyediseasestudy.com](http://www.graveseyediseasestudy.com). Study contact 319-353-7823 or [christine-sinkey@uiowa.edu](mailto:christine-sinkey@uiowa.edu)**

Research studies are designed to answer important questions about eye disease by testing their safety and effectiveness in patients. Before new medicines, devices, or diagnostic tests can be approved for public use, they are all tested in these types of clinical trials.

### **A Safety and Efficacy Study in Subjects with Leber Congenital Amaurosis**

This study is a Phase 3, open-label, randomized controlled trial of gene therapy intervention by subretinal administration of AAV2-hRPE65v2. At least 24 subjects, 3 years of age or older, will be recruited. The intervention group will receive AAV2-hRPE65v2 vector at either The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia or University of Iowa to determine if it improves visual and retinal function in individuals with LCA2.

Principal Investigator: Stephen R. Russell, MD  
HawkIRB# 200911776

**For more information, go to [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov) and search keyword "NCT00999609". Study contact Jean Walshire at [jean-walshire@uiowa.edu](mailto:jean-walshire@uiowa.edu)**

## Graduation 2013

For the first time in Iowa program history, all graduating residents stayed to pursue fellowship training.



Class of 2013 residents pictured left to right:

- John J. Chen, MD, PhD** – Neuro-ophthalmology
- Amanda C. Maltry, MD** – Ocular Pathology
- Jordan J. Rixen, MD** – Cornea and External Disease
- Meredith A. Baker, MD** – Oculoplastics
- John J. Brinkley, MD** – Neuro-ophthalmology

## Graduating Fellows with new location



**Benjamin Bakall, MD, PhD**  
– Associated Retina Consultants, Phoenix, Ariz.



**Matt Cunningham, MD** – Florida Retina Institute, Lake Mary, Fla.



**Meagan Seay, MD** – Neurology residency, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio



**Rachel Sobel, MD** – Boston Medical Center, Boston, Mass.



**Shandiz Tehrani, MD**  
– Casey Eye Institute, Portland, Ore.



**Paul Tlucek, MD** – Retina Northwest, Portland, Ore.



**Matt Ward, MD ('12R)** – Private practice, Provo, Utah



**Kimberly Winges, MD** – Portland VA Medical Center, Portland, Ore.



**Timothy Winter, DO** – University of New Mexico, Department of Surgery, Division of Ophthalmology, Albuquerque, NM

## Orthoptic Program

**Cheyenne Lester, CO**, joins Medical Associates in Dubuque, Iowa

**Micaela (Johnson) Quebbemann, CO**, joins the University of Illinois Eye & Ear Infirmary in Chicago

## New fellows



**David R. P. Almeida, BSc (Hon.), MD, MBA, PhD, FRCSC – Retina**  
PhD, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Drug Research, University of Szeged Institute of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Szeged, Hungary  
MD, Queen's University School of Medicine, Kingston, Ontario, Canada  
MBA, George Washington University School of Business, Washington, D.C  
Residency, Queen's University School of Medicine Department of Ophthalmology



**Elisabeth P. Aponte, MD – Glaucoma**  
MD, Mayo Clinic School of Medicine, Rochester, Minn. Residency, Cole Eye Institute, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio

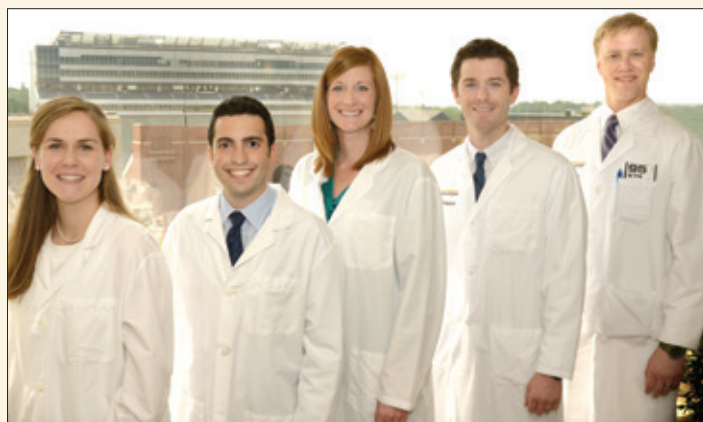


**Eric K. Chin, MD – Retina**  
MD, Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science/Chicago Medical School; Residency, University of California at Davis Eye Center, Sacramento, Calif.



**Kevin R. Gertsch, MD – Pediatric Ophthalmology**  
MD, Saint Louis University School of Medicine; Residency, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C.

## Class of 2016 First-year residents



Pictured left to right:

**Johanna M. Dijkstal, MD**  
BA, Carleton College, Northfield, Minn.  
MD, University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis

**Philip I. Niles, MBA, MD**  
BS and MBA, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio  
MD, Case Western Reserve University, School of Medicine

**P. Christi Carter, MD**  
BS, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas  
MD, University of Texas Medical School, Houston, Texas

**Christopher A. Kirkpatrick, MD**  
BS, Eastern Washington University, Cheney, Wash.  
MD, University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine

**David L. Phillips, MD**  
BS, Quincy University, Quincy, Ill.  
MD, University of Missouri School of Medicine, Columbia, Mo.



**Lorna W. Grant, MD**  
**- Medical Retina**  
 MD, University of Vermont College of Medicine, Burlington, Vt.; Residency, University of Arizona College of Medicine, South Campus, Tucson, Ariz.



**Parinaz Shams, MBBS, MRCP, MRCOphth, FRCOphth - Oculoplastics**  
 MBBS, United Medical and Dental Schools of Guys and St. Thomas' Hospital, University of London; MRCP, Royal College of Physicians, London; MRCOphth and FRCOphth, Royal College of Ophthalmologists, London



**Leinfelder Award winners**

Fellow and resident winners of this year's P.J. Leinfelder Awards for best research are Matthew Cunningham, MD ('13F-Retina) (left) and Justin Risma, MD ('14R) (right). Michael Wagoner, MD, PhD, director of Research Day, is pictured in the middle.

**Chen selected for Heed Fellowship**

Neuro-ophthalmology fellow, **John Chen, MD, PhD ('13R)**, was selected to receive a Heed Ophthalmic Foundation fellowship for 2013-2014. The Society of Heed Fellows is a public charitable and educational foundation that provides merit-based funding for post graduate studies in ophthalmology and the ophthalmic sciences.



**ALUMNICORNER**

- ❖ **Brian Privett, MD ('11R)**, was elected to Iowa Medical Society Board
- ❖ **Christopher Robinson, MD ('07R)**, was named Mount Auburn Hospital's chief of ophthalmology (Cambridge, Mass.)
- ❖ **Jason Brinton, MD ('11R)**, Received "Best Paper" honors at the ASCRS annual meeting

The American Academy of Ophthalmology recognizes several University of Iowa alumni for their contributions to the academy and specialty. 2013 Awards include:

- ❖ **Guest of Honor Award**
  - **William B. Snyder, MD ('61R, '66F, former faculty)**
- ❖ **Life Achievement Award**
  - **Henry J. Kaplan, MD ('78R)**
- ❖ **Senior Achievement Award**
  - **Jane C. Edmond, MD ('90F)**
  - **Byron L. Lam, MD ('90R)**
  - **Gustavo E. Tamayo, MD ('86F)**

**If you receive a special award or distinction, let us know. Email us at [iowaeyecare@uiowa.edu](mailto:iowaeyecare@uiowa.edu)**

- ❖ **Achievement Award**
  - **Richard C. Allen, MD, PhD ('99R, '00F, '06F, current faculty)**
  - **Rahul Bhola, MD ('06F)**
  - **John W. Kitchens, MD ('03R)**
  - **Anil D. Patel, MD ('98F)**
- ❖ **Secretariat Award**
  - **Lisa B. Arbisser, MD ('83R)**
  - **Edwin M. Stone, MD, PhD ('89R, '92F, current faculty)**
  - **Michael V. Boland, MD, PhD ('05R)**
  - **Laurie Gray Barber, MD ('84MD)**

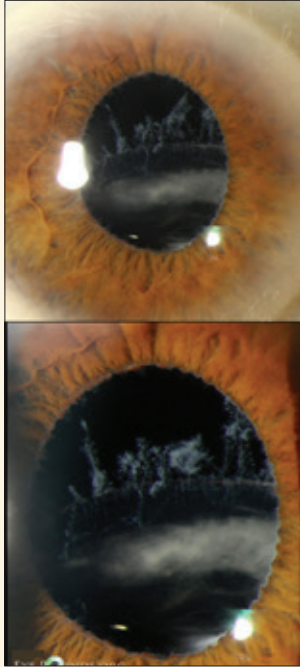
Congratulations to each of our alumni and colleagues for their hard work and dedication on behalf of the field of ophthalmology!

**REMEMBRANCES**

- ❖ **David C. Boyce, MD ('50R)** passed away March 5, 2013 in Grand Rapids, Mich.
- ❖ **Ruth Fisher**, first director of the Iowa Lions Eye Bank, passed away May 27, 2013 in Kalona, Iowa.
- ❖ **Kevin D. Brady, MD ('86F-Retina)** passed away September 4, 2013 in Denver, Col.



**Thank you to the alumni and Iowa ophthalmologists who have renewed their Iowa Eye Association membership. We appreciate your support of our training and continuing education activities through association dues!**



**Winning photos**

Editorial Board members of EyeRounds.org, the educational website for ophthalmologists, selected winners of the website’s first-ever, “Best Picture of the Year” contest. Over 70 photographs were submitted with the winning image coming from by **Jordan Rixen, MD**, and photographer **Brice Critser, CRA**.

Runners-up include:

- Pseudoexfoliation Syndrome (pictured above)
- Blood in Schlemm’s canal, Dilated episcleral vessels, ocular hypertension
- Weiss Ring

**The winning photo (Large Intraocular Foreign Body) is posted online at [www.eyerounds.org/atlas/contest-win-2013.htm](http://www.eyerounds.org/atlas/contest-win-2013.htm)**



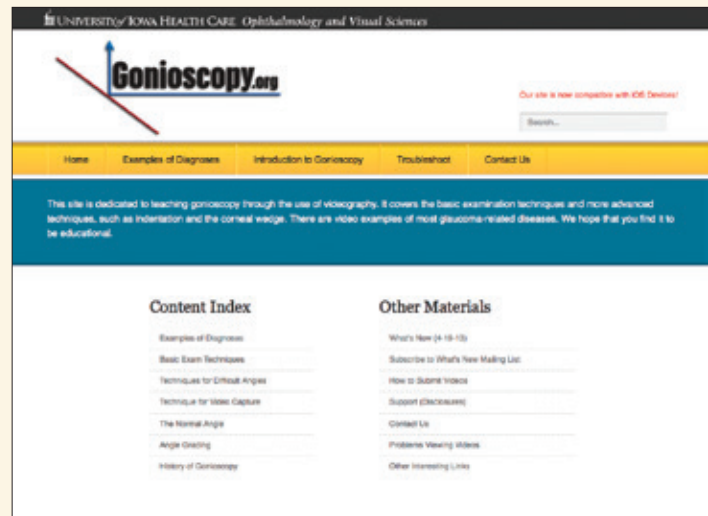
**Teaching new suture techniques**

Leo Maguire, MD, associate professor of ophthalmology at Mayo Clinic, visited the University of Iowa to demonstrate new suture techniques used in eye surgery. Residents participated in teaching sessions that were video recorded for use in a variety of teaching projects. Chris Kirkpatrick, MD (‘12MD, ‘16R), was the resident filmed during the training with Maguire lending a hand.

**Gonioscopy website redesigned and updated**

Great news for smart phone, tablet, iPad, iPod, and iPhone users: Gonioscopy.org has been redesigned to play on mobile devices.

The website is dedicated to teaching gonioscopy through the use of videography. It covers the basic examination techniques and more advanced techniques, such as indentation and the corneal wedge. Several new video examples have been added recently so be sure to check it out!



# Researcher Profile: Elliott H. Sohn, MD

Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
Retina and Vitreous Service



In addition to maintaining a full clinical practice, Dr. Sohn spends a significant portion of his time in the laboratory working on models for cell replacement and gene therapy as treatments for retinal degeneration.

## What are your research interests?

“My laboratory research focuses on optimizing the conditions to safely and effectively replace the retinal cells lost in diseases such as age-related macular degeneration (AMD), retinitis pigmentosa, Best and Stargardt disease. I also have the privilege of doing clinical research on relatively rare, inherited retinal diseases to common diseases like AMD and diabetic retinopathy.”

## What do you hope to learn from your research?

“We have chosen the large animal pig model as the platform for this challenging task which includes a combination of stem cell application with tissue engineering, immunology, and new instrument design, since what we’re attempting has not been successfully accomplished before. We hope to find a way around immune rejection before introduction into humans.”

## Why is this line of research important to you?

“Retinal diseases account for the majority of blindness in adults living in the western world, thus finding a cure could impact millions of people.”

## What is next for your lab?

“I’m fortunate to work with a stellar group of collaborating scientists at the Wynn Institute for Vision Research and we have experience with ‘wild-type’ (i.e. non-diseased) animals. Our next step is to attempt cell replacement and gene therapy in pigs that have the same retinal degenerations I see in my clinic patients.”

“Wynn Institute” continues from page 1



Molly, 11, has a rare inherited eye disorder. Childhood onset inherited eye disorders such as Molly's are a focus of attention at the Stephen A. Wynn Institute for Vision Research.

Ophthalmology at the UI and director of the renamed Stephen A. Wynn Institute for Vision Research.

“Mr. Wynn's generous gift will help us maintain the very valuable collaborative relationships we have developed with other vision scientists around the world,” Stone said.

**Jean E. Robillard, MD**, vice president for medical affairs at University of Iowa Health Care added, “Stephen Wynn's extraordinary support to establish this institute offers tremendous hope for significant advances in treating and preventing blinding eye disease. His transformative gift will help accelerate breakthrough efforts to eradicate blindness, making the future brighter for everyone who suffers from these debilitating diseases.”

The mission of the Wynn Institute—which supports and coordinates the work of 29 UI faculty members from eight different departments and four colleges across the university—is to develop effective treatments for all forms of genetic blindness, from common conditions like age-related macular degeneration to individually rare but collectively common disorders like retinitis pigmentosa.

“My support is given on behalf of the millions of people worldwide who awaken every day to a dark world,” Wynn added. “I am convinced that through people like my colleague Steven Dezii (executive director of the Stephen A. Wynn Foundation) and institute scientists like Ed Stone and (UI ophthalmology researcher) Budd Tucker, we can find the light again. None of us will rest until the lights are back on for everyone.”

## Institute Profile:

The University of Iowa Stephen A. Wynn Institute for Vision Research was created to accelerate the eradication of heritable human blindness through interdisciplinary research, education, and clinical care. The Institute's mission is to develop effective treatments for all forms of genetic blindness, ranging from very common conditions like age-related macular degeneration and glaucoma that affect millions of people worldwide, to individually rare but collectively common disorders like retinitis pigmentosa, Stargardt disease, Best disease, Usher syndrome, and Leber congenital amaurosis.

The path to this ambitious goal will take advantage of the intrinsic interchangeability of biological systems to create a series of “reusable parts” that can be combined in a wide variety of ways to engineer effective treatments for every phase of even

New Institute signage was added to the Medical Education and Research Facility (MERF). The MERF building houses nearly 40,000 square feet of laboratory space for interdisciplinary vision research.



## ONLINE EXTRA

### Gene therapy offers hope

Dr. Ed Stone, director of the WIVR, comments on the promising research involving inherited retinal diseases in a recent issue of *Ophthalmology Times*.

Visit <http://bit.ly/15TjJBM>



the rarest genetic eye diseases. Philanthropic support will be especially important to help scientists work across departmental, collegiate, and institutional boundaries to develop these reusable tools as rapidly as possible.

Using a targeted research approach, and with sufficient resources, institute scientists are confident that many forms of heritable blindness will become treatable within the next 10 years, and that many patients who have lost vision from one of these disorders will be able to get some of it back. The Institute's pursuit of these ambitious goals are divided into three major efforts: genetic testing, gene therapy, and patient-derived stem cell research.

**For more information about the Wynn Institute, visit [www.wivr.uiowa.edu](http://www.wivr.uiowa.edu)**



## Vision researcher receives Doris Duke career award

A 2013 Doris Duke Clinical Scientist Development Award has been granted to **Vinit B. Mahajan, MD, PhD**, assistant professor in the department of ophthalmology and visual sciences and a clinician-scientist at the University of Iowa.

Given to only 16 scientists nationwide, the award helps facilitate the transition of junior physician-scientists to independent clinical research careers.

A grant of \$486,000 from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation will support Mahajan's project entitled, "Molecular Genetic Mechanisms of Calpain-5 Autoimmunity". The project aims to determine the underlying molecular mechanisms of mutations in CAPN5-associated autoimmune uveitis. Findings will help determine therapeutic approaches for uveitis and other common eye diseases with photoreceptor degeneration and retinal neovascularization.



## NIH funds study of retinal degeneration in Bardet-Biedl Syndrome

**Seongjin Seo, PhD**, assistant professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences, was awarded a four-year grant of \$1.6 million from the National Institutes for Health to explore the molecular pathophysiology of retinal degeneration in Bardet-Biedl syndrome (BBS).

Inherited retinal degenerations such as Leber congenital amaurosis (LCA) and retinitis pigmentosa (RP) cause early-onset severe blindness. Studies have found that defects in protein trafficking to primary cilia and photoreceptor outer segments account for a major part of these genetic diseases. BBS is one of those human genetic disorders involving photoreceptor degeneration and defective ciliary trafficking.

Using biochemical, cell biological, genetic, and proteomic approaches, Seo and his colleagues seek to elucidate the molecular basis of photoreceptor degeneration caused by defective ciliary trafficking. Successful completion of this project will provide valuable insight into the molecular functions of BBS proteins in the photoreceptor cells and underlying disease mechanisms, as well as into the pathophysiology of other cilia-related photoreceptor degenerations. The novel information obtained from the research will also be useful for clinical management of BBS patients and for development of mechanism-based therapies.

## Research Day highlights

An important date in the academic year includes the Resident and Fellow Research Day held each spring. Highlights from this year's meeting include:

Guest Faculty and Distinguished Judges:

- **Randall Olson, MD**, Chairman and John A. Moran Presidential Chair of Ophthalmology at the University of Utah School of Medicine
- **Jeffrey Nerad, MD** ('84F), Cincinnati Eye Institute
- **Edward Hu, MD, PhD** ('08R), Illinois Eye Center

## Vision research on display

The 2013 Midwest Eye Research Symposium took place this summer at the University of Iowa. The meeting has continued to grow and this year recorded a record attendance of over 120 participants from Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, Illinois, Nebraska, and California! Over 50 posters were shown and 15 oral presentations were delivered, followed by the keynote address by David Beebe, PhD, from Washington University in St. Louis.

The symposium continues to fulfill its purpose to foster collaboration among researchers and highlight the outstanding quality of research at the University of Iowa and other Midwestern institutions.

Learn more at <http://webeye.ophth.uiowa.edu/EIG/MERS.html>



## ARVO recap

Faculty, residents, fellows, and researchers from the University of Iowa were busy at this year's Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) meeting in Seattle. The group presented 59 posters and 14 papers, as well as led or participated in 16 educational sessions.

In between several days of stimulating presentations and meetings, the Iowa researchers gathered with alumni and friends at our ARVO reception at the Tap House Grill. Watch for our gathering in Orlando in 2014!



# Teeing off for vision research

Egypt Valley Country Club in Grand Rapids, Mich. was the site for this summer's first-ever, "Sam's Scramble for Sight", a fundraiser for vision research and services supporting the blind and visually impaired.

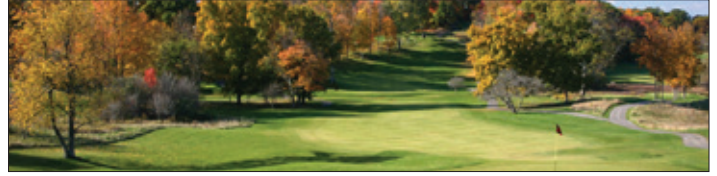
Namesake of the event is Sam Walker, son of Brian and Colleen Walker. Sam was recently diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa (RP), a degenerative eye disease that destroys photoreceptor cells in the retina, leading to blindness.

"We found out our son had an inherited eye disease known as retinitis pigmentosa, and as we dealt with the diagnosis of his condition we found ourselves at Iowa at the Institute for Vision Research," states Brian.

"After traveling out to Iowa and meeting the folks, I came back with a sort of driving need to say, 'we've got to do something'. To be frank, I had to do something personally, but even as a family, we said 'how do we get involved because these diseases being rare, we know they won't be solved in the commercial sense so they're going to have to be solved with philanthropy and through people with passion'."

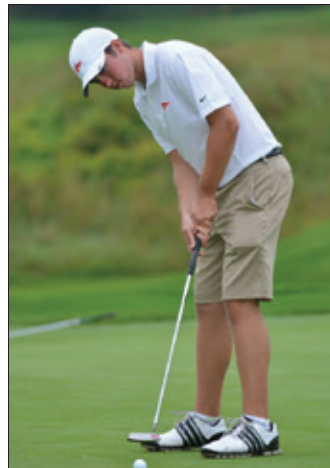
The Walkers considered what they could do to support the research. Since Sam is an avid golfer, they decided on a golf tournament with local community members, businesses, and family members. "We decided to name the event 'Sam's Scramble for Sight'. The name has a sort of duality in meaning. Partly it is a scramble of a golf outing in format, but also we know that moving quickly is really important in these diseases," states Brian.

A great day of golf was capped with a wonderful dinner and an exciting live auction to benefit the University of Iowa Stephen A. Wynn Institute for Vision Research and the local chapter of the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired. The incredibly successful event generated over \$500,000 in philanthropic support!



"We became convinced as a family that we're headed to a cure — not in a long time but within our lifetime, and certainly within a timeframe that we believe can not only maintain Sam's sight today, but help a lot of other folks who have lost their sight regain their sight."

*Brian Walker, President and CEO of Herman Miller, Inc. and WIVR Advisory Board member*



Sam Walker lines up for short putt (left). Walker family members gather for a group photo (below). Images courtesy of the Walker family.



## Local company supports children's vision

Friends, family members, colleagues, and employees of the Whirlpool Corporation in Amana, Iowa raised over \$33,000 in support of the Iowa KidSight program and University of Iowa Children's Hospital. KidSight provides public education and statewide vision screening for children ages 6 months through 48 months. Proceeds from the company's annual golf tournament at the Brown Deer Golf Course will allow over 3,800 children to be screened for vision impairments.

Company representatives Tim White (far left), Chuck Knapp and Andrew Binell (far right) join Iowa KidSight's Wanda Pfiefer (center) and Lori Short (center right) to present a check in the UI Pediatric Ophthalmology clinic. They stopped by for a demonstration of the screening cameras and an explanation of how Iowa KidSight identifies vision conditions to prevent vision loss.



### Campaign news

**Stephen Russell, MD**, provides an update on vision research at a philanthropic campaign kick-off for the University of Iowa.

*For Iowa. Forever More: The Campaign for the University of Iowa* seeks to raise \$1.7 billion for strategic priorities that include breakthrough research and life-changing health care at the University of Iowa.

Russell holds the Dina J. Schrage Professorship in Macular Degeneration Research.



### The University of Iowa Foundation

To learn more about how philanthropic support helps advance the work of the UI Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences and Wynn Institute for Vision Research, please contact:

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 319-335-3305 or 800-648-6973

The UI acknowledges the UI Foundation as the preferred channel for private contributions that benefit all areas of the university. For more information or to make a donation in support of the Eye Program, visit the UI Foundation's secure website at <http://givetoiowa.org/eye>

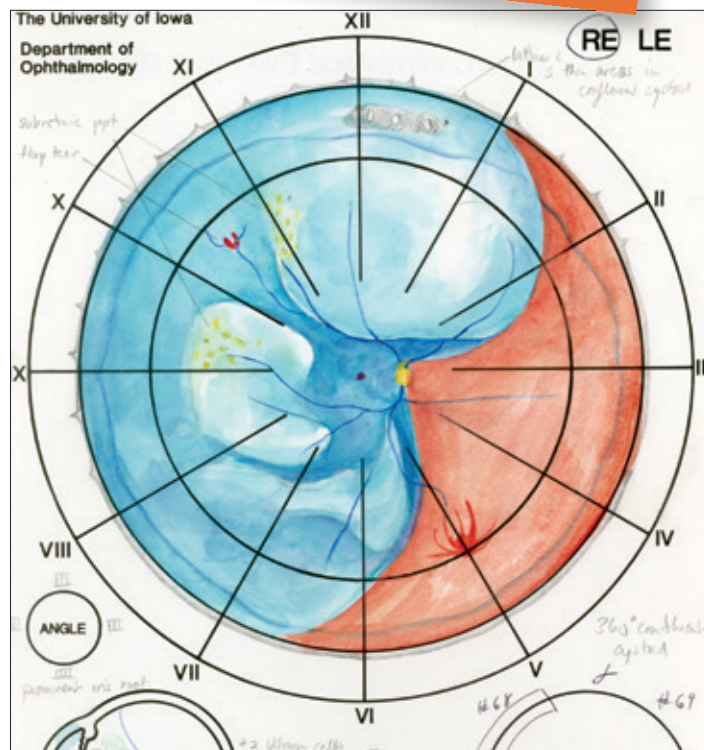
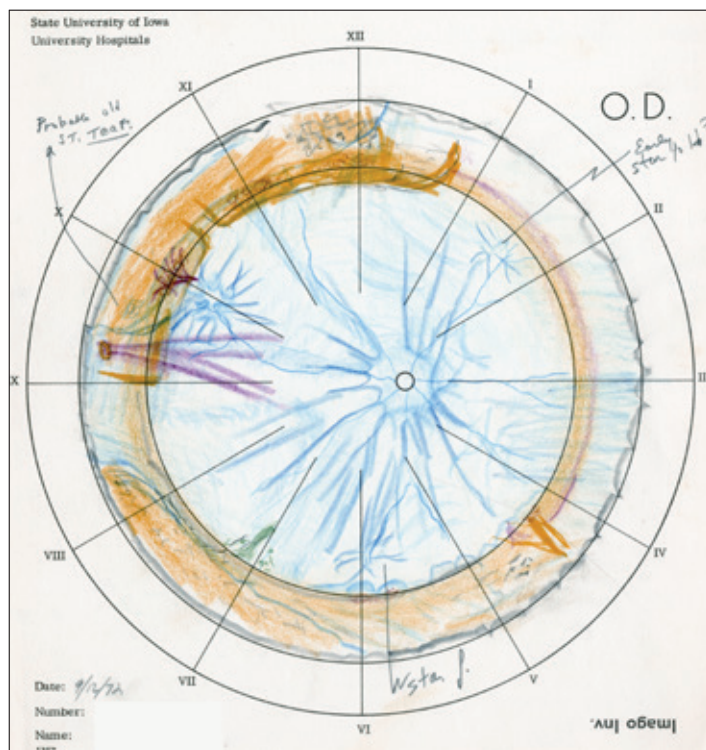
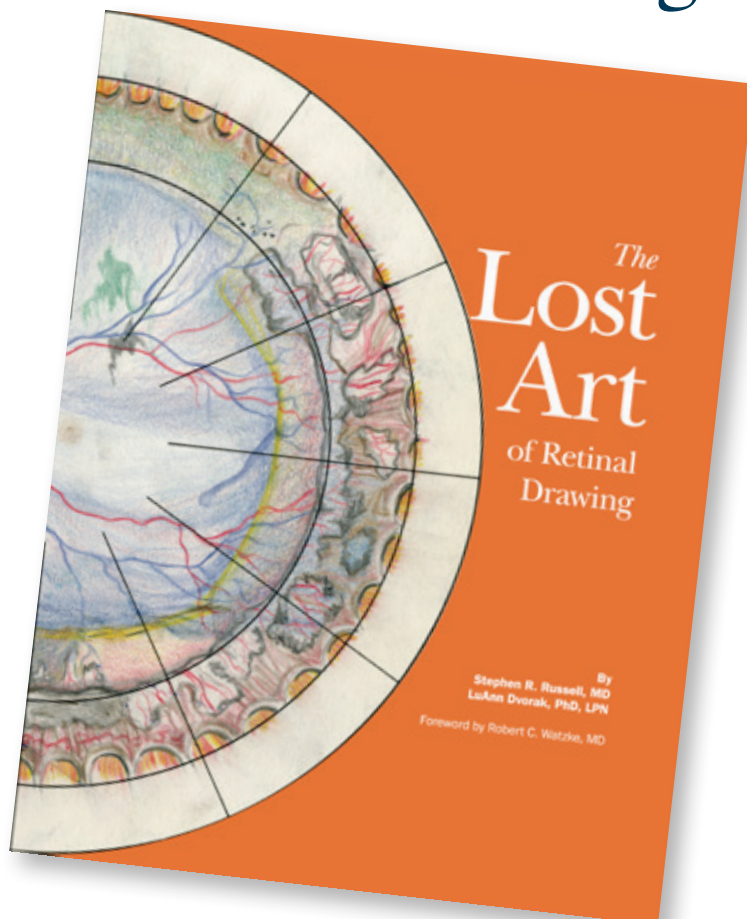
**Philanthropic donations support our mission to prevent and treat blinding eye diseases. If you are grateful for the compassionate care you have received, the advanced research taking place, or the medical training that has advanced your career, please consider making a donation today.**

# Celebrating the art of retinal drawing

Drawings of the ocular fundus were once a necessary part of diagnosis and treatment for retinal detachments and training for ophthalmologists throughout the three decades (1958-1988) covered in the book, *The Lost Art of Retinal Drawing*. Each drawing took up to three hours to complete, depending on the skill of the examiner and the cooperation of the patient. A dilated pupil, the bright light of an indirect ophthalmoscope shining into it, a hand-held lens, and a set of colored pencils were necessary components of the process.

Written by **Stephen Russell, MD**, and **LuAnn Dvorak, PhD, LPN**, the book includes sometimes touching and often humorous remembrances from the physician artists (many of whom are alumni of the department) who did the drawings, discusses the drawing process and history, and makes the case that these medical illustrations are art.

Softcover copies are available for purchase at Amazon.com or by contacting [iowaeyecare@uiowa.edu](mailto:iowaeyecare@uiowa.edu). Hardcover copies are available from the UI Department of Ophthalmology.



Sample drawings by Stanley B. Altman, MD ('67MD, '74R) and Steven V. Vermillion, MD ('75MD, '80R).

**Faculty changes**



**Matthew M. Harper, PhD**, joined as an assistant professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences and research scientist in the VA Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Visual Loss. He received his BS in biology from Iowa State University where he also received his PhD in neuroscience. His research

interests include the characterization of new models of traumatic brain injury.



**Beth Kutzbach Repp, MD ('05MD)** left our Comprehensive Service to join her fellowship-bound spouse and pursue a private practice position in Washington State. We wish her all the best.

**Short selected to serve on National Association of Vision Professionals**

**Lori Short**, program manager for Iowa KidSight, has been invited to serve on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Vision Professionals (NAVVP). Short begins a two-year term as vice president.

The National Association of Vision Professionals was established in May 1978 as an organization concerned with prevention, detection, and follow-up of vision services for pre-school and school-aged children and adults.



**Grout elected to CLSA Board**

**Trudy Grout, FCLSA**, was elected to a three-year term on the Contact Lens Society of America (CLSA) Board of Directors where she also serves on the CLSA fellow committee.



**Kuehn receives Phelps Award**

**Markus H. Kuehn, PhD**, associate professor of ophthalmology and researcher in the Iowa Glaucoma Center, received the Charles D. Phelps Memorial Award. The award supports research and educational

opportunities while honoring Dr. Phelps, a former faculty member and chair of the department (1971-1985).

**Fingert elected to join physician-scientist group**

**John H. Fingert, MD, PhD**, associate professor of ophthalmology, was among the clinical researchers to be elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI).

Established in 1908, is ASCI is one of the nation's oldest and most respected medical honor societies. The organization comprises more than 3,000 physician-scientists from all medical specialties who are elected to the society for their outstanding records of scholarly achievement in biomedical research.

**Franceschetti Award**



**Edwin M. Stone, MD, PhD**, professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences, received the Franceschetti Award from the International Society for Genetic Eye Diseases & Retinoblastoma (ISGEDR) for his research and efforts regarding inherited eye diseases. He received the award and presented the Franceschetti Lecture at the ISGEDR Meeting in Ghent, Belgium this past August.

**Women in Ophthalmology**

Congratulations to the Iowa Chapter for becoming the newest chapter of Women in Ophthalmology (WIO). Founding members include UI faculty members Nasreen Syed and Erin Shriver, as well as private practice ophthalmologists Linda Lehman ('91MD), Lisa Arbisser ('83R), and Tracy Kangas. The UI Department of Ophthalmology is the first academic center to support all of its female residents becoming WIO members.



WIO members include: (bottom row, left to right) Nasreen Syed, MD; Keith Carter, MD; Thomas Oetting, MD; and Erin Shriver, MD. (Top row, left to right) Amanda Maltry, MD; Elizabeth Gauger, MD; Pavlina Kemp, MD; Angela McAllister, MD; and Meredith Saylor, MD.



## Iowa KidSight partners with Isabel Bloom

Handcrafted sculpture designer Isabel Bloom has partnered with Iowa KidSight to raise awareness on the importance of early detection and treatment of vision problems in young children.

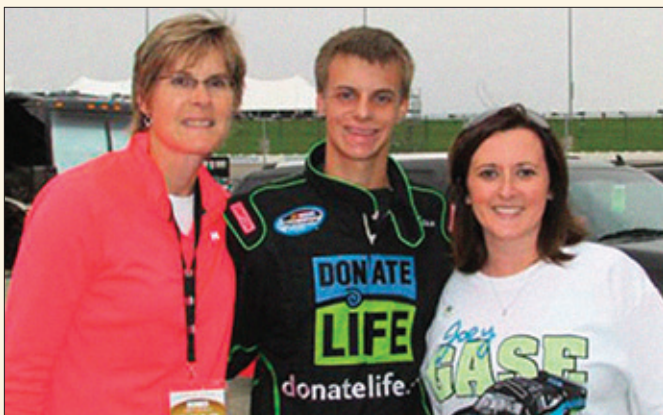
“Seymour the Bear” was created as a benefit for the Iowa KidSight vision-screening program. A portion of sales will be donated to the program, which provides vision screenings for young children across Iowa.

A limited edition version is available through Iowa KidSight while supplies last.

**Starting this fall you may purchase Seymour where Isabel Bloom sculptures are sold or at [www.ibloom.com](http://www.ibloom.com). Contact 319-353-7616 or [kidsight@uiowa.edu](mailto:kidsight@uiowa.edu) to find out more.**

## Iowa Lions Eye Bank hits the track with NASCAR

Iowa native Joey Gase of Go Green Racing drives the NASCAR “Donate Life” car and raises awareness for organ, eye, and tissue donation. Gase’s mother was an organ and tissue donor when she passed away suddenly. Since then Gase and his family have honored her and other donors by spreading the word about the need for donation at every race.



In June, Chris Rath (left) of the Cornea Clinic and Monica Freiburger (right) from the Iowa Lions Eye Bank caught up with Joey Gase and his crew at the Iowa Speedway in Newton.

## Iowa Eye annual meeting



The 2013 Iowa Eye Association annual meeting featured two days of presentations and case discussions including Lawrence Singerman, MD, FACS, FICS (pictured left), from Retina Associates of Cleveland (Alson E. Braley Lecturer) and Dr. Bonnie An Henderson from Boston Eye Surgery & Laser Center (Wolfe Foundation Lecturer).

The meeting also featured several social events allowing alumni and guests to have some fun outside of the meeting with faculty, residents, fellows, and staff. Mark the date for next year’s Iowa Eye Association Annual Meeting on June 20-21, 2014.

**Photos from the 2013 meeting and past alumni events may be found at <https://iowaeyealumni.shutterfly.com/>**

## IOWA VISION

*IOWA VISION* is published for alumni, colleagues, and friends of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Iowa.

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## Join us in "The Big Easy"

Alumni who are attending  
AAO 2013 meeting in New  
Orleans are invited to join  
faculty and colleagues at our  
Iowa Eye Alumni Reception.

**Sunday, November 17 at  
6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.**

The InterContinental Hotel  
New Orleans, LA

To RSVP, please contact  
joe-schmidt@uiowa.edu or  
call 319-384-8529



## IOWA VISION EVENTS

### *The 2013-2014 Clinical Conference Series*

**Oct 11, 2013**

**Glaucoma** — Mansour F. Armaly Lecture - David S. Greenfield, MD, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

**Dec 6, 2013**

**Neuro-Ophthalmology** — Neil R. Miller, MD, Wilmer Eye Institute

**Feb 7, 2014**

**Retina** — Dean Elliott, MD, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary

**Mar 7, 2014**

**Cornea** — John E. Sutphin, MD, KU Eye Center

**Apr 18, 2014**

**Oculoplastics** — Jill A. Foster, MD, FACS, Ophthalmic Surgeons and Consultants of Ohio

### *Other Events*

**Apr 25, 2014**

**16th Annual Iowa Optometric Conference**, Iowa City

**Apr 25-26, 2014**

**Department of Ophthalmology Annual Research Day**, Iowa City

**May 4-8, 2014**

**ARVO 2014 Annual Meeting and Iowa Reception**, Orlando, Fla.

**June 6-7, 2014**

**UI Carver College of Medicine Alumni Reunion**  
(Classes of '44, '49, '54, '59, '64, '69, and '74), Iowa City

**June 20-21, 2014**

**Iowa Eye Association Annual Meeting**, Iowa City