

## Making the roads safer

Vision researchers partner with simulation experts to study how vision impacts driving safety

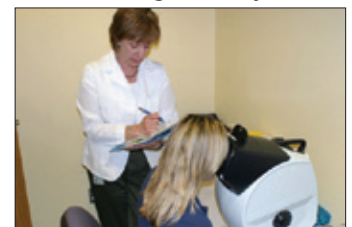


Images courtesy of NADS.

Aging populations often note that the continued ability to drive is a key element to maintaining their quality of life and good vision is fundamental to safe motor vehicle operation.

Doctors and researchers in the UI Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences are exploring vision loss and the impact it has on driving in order to improve driver and vehicle safety. They have partnered with experts at the National Advanced Driving Simulator (NADS) located at the University of Iowa to develop and conduct simulation testing that involves visual function.

NADS is a research facility that specializes in conducting driving simulation research for government and industry sponsors. The facility houses several simulators including NADS-1 which is the largest, highest fidelity, and most advanced ground vehicle research simulator in the United States. NADS-1 is able to simulate different types of vehicles, road conditions, day and night-time, and visibility conditions.



### Did you know?

Visual acuity and visual field requirements for licensure vary from state to state.

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### IN THIS ISSUE:

## Iowa KidSight celebrates milestone



A quarter of a million children have been provided a vision screening through the Iowa KidSight program since it started in May 2000! The Tipton Lions Club screening team happened upon number 250,000 in late September 2012. A celebration to commemorate this special milestone was held at the Tipton Elementary Pre-School where preschooler Braydon Calonder (center of picture in orange) received the screening that marked the milestone.

Of the 250,000 vision screenings conducted, 11,590 children have required referral to an eye care professional. Iowa KidSight has made a life-long difference for Iowa children by catching vision problems that can lead to amblyopia early enough in development for treatment to be successful. Congratulations Iowa KidSight crew on reaching this remarkable milestone!

Read more at <http://now.uiowa.edu/2013/04/iowa-kidsight-makes-young-eyes-priority>

## Oculoplastics service adds new surgeon



**Erin M. Shriver, MD, FACS ('06R)** joins the department as assistant professor of ophthalmology. Dr. Shriver received her medical degree from Stanford University School of Medicine and residency training at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. She received a fellowship in Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery / Orbital

Oncology at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, Florida, where she was also a faculty member.

Dr. Shriver specializes in oculofacial plastic surgery, ocular oncology / intraocular tumors, reconstructive surgery, orbital surgery, aesthetic and cosmetic treatments. Her research interests include advances of current oculoplastic techniques, orbital tumors, and thyroid eye disease.



The University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences is well-represented in the 2013 list of Best Doctors in America. This year's list includes:

- **Wallace L. M. Alward, MD**, Glaucoma
- **H. Culver Boldt, MD**, Medical Retinal Diseases, Ocular Oncology, Vitreo-Retinal Surgery
- **Keith Carter, MD**, Oculoplastic and Orbital Surgery
- **Arlene Drack, MD**, Ophthalmic Genetics, Pediatric Ophthalmology
- **James Folk, MD**, Vitreo-Retinal Surgery
- **Karen Gehrs, MD**, Vitreo-Retinal Surgery
- **Kenneth Goins, MD**, Corneal Diseases and Transplantation, General Ophthalmology
- **A. Tim Johnson, MD, PhD**, General Ophthalmology, Anterior Segment-Cataract Surgery
- **Randy Kardon, MD, PhD**, Neuro-Ophthalmology
- **Patricia Kirby, MRCPATH**, Neuropathology
- **Anna Kitzmann, MD**, Corneal Diseases and Transplantation
- **Young Kwon, MD, PhD**, Glaucoma, General Ophthalmology
- **Vinit Mahajan, MD, PhD**, Vitreo-Retinal Surgery
- **Thomas Oetting, MD**, General Ophthalmology, Anterior Segment-Cataract Surgery
- **Stephen Russell, MD**, Vitreo-Retinal Surgery
- **Steven Stasheff, PhD, MD**, Neuro-Ophthalmology
- **Edwin Stone, MD, PhD**, Medical Retinal Diseases, Ophthalmic Genetics
- **Michael Wall, MD**, Neuro-Ophthalmology

Two of our adjunct faculty members were named as well:

- **Christopher F. Blodi, MD**, Vitreo-Retinal Surgery
- **John F. Stamler, MD, PhD**, Corneal Diseases and Transplantation



# Clinical services combine expertise to better serve young patients

Vision and hearing are two of the most important senses that we have. Imagine losing both at the same time though? Such a difficult scenario is common for patients seen at the Eye and Ear Genetics Clinic at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.



Left to right: Richard Smith, MD, professor of otolaryngology, and Arlene Drack, MD, associate professor of ophthalmology, discuss a complex patient case with resident physician Seiji Shibata, MD, and medical student Christina Sloan.

Physicians, counselors, and staff from the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences and Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery have combined forces to provide a clinic that specializes in rare inherited eye and ear diseases affecting children. Families with children experiencing vision and hearing loss and balance disorders from across Iowa and the country come to access multiple specialists in a single clinic visit.

The clinic uses genetic testing, visual field testing, electroretinography, and fundus and diagnostic photographs to diagnose difficult to identify hereditary diseases like retinitis pigmentosa, Usher syndrome, and Pendred syndrome. In addition, patients receive a basic

ear, nose, and throat exam and an OtoSCOPE® Genetic Test, a single test used to determine the cause of their hearing loss.

Individual patients and their family members contribute to scientific research that may lead to cures for their diseases by providing blood draws and skin biopsies for use in genetic screening and analysis. Testing for genetic mutations is handled by the UI's Carver Nonprofit Genetic Testing Laboratory, Molecular Ophthalmology Laboratory, and Molecular Otolaryngology and Renal Research Laboratories. The extensive level of testing allows physicians to provide a diagnosis that can lead to earlier treatment - something that families typically cannot find elsewhere.

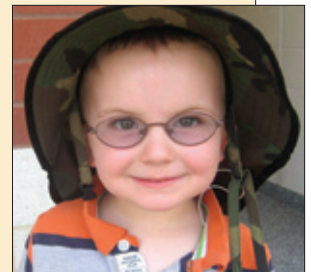
Direct access and interaction between physicians and researchers also means patients benefit from receiving the latest information on scientific advancements and progress toward cures. This includes updates on clinical studies and trials that may impact their future care. Such information provides a measure of hope

to individuals who might not otherwise know where to turn for answers to their child's unique vision and hearing problems.

**For more information:**  
**Pediatric Ophthalmology –**  
[www.uichildrens.org/eye](http://www.uichildrens.org/eye)

**Research –** [www.carverlab.org](http://www.carverlab.org) and  
[www.healthcare.uiowa.edu/labs/morl](http://www.healthcare.uiowa.edu/labs/morl)

Young Andrew Needham experienced hearing loss before displaying balance problems with his early walking. Cochlear implants and physical therapy helped address these conditions but then he began to experience vision loss at 2 ½ years old. His parents, Sara and Charles Needham of Bellevue, Neb., have no family history of Usher syndrome so they knew nothing about the genetic disorder that was affecting their son.



The Needhams visited several local physicians including a neurosensory genetics group that clinically diagnosed Andrew as having Usher syndrome, a condition that affects both hearing and vision. Physicians arranged an OtoSCOPE genetic test with **Richard Smith, MD**, professor of otolaryngology – head and neck surgery at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, which confirmed the cause of hearing loss and type of Usher syndrome that Andrew had.

The family was referred to **Arlene Drack, MD**, a pediatric ophthalmologist specializing in genetic disorders who determined that Andrew's vision issues are due to retinitis pigmentosa associated with Usher syndrome. While at UIHC, Andrew was also evaluated by vision rehabilitation expert **Mark Wilkinson, OD**, who helped the family identify resources and strategies to help young Andrew adapt to his situation and maximize his remaining vision.

"It meant a lot to have a diagnosis and explain how the puzzle fits together. We realized there are others out there dealing with this condition and that we are not alone," comments Sara. "It's great to have a joint clinic where all the experts are working together and to be treated at a place that is up on the latest research."

# Cornea recipient continues circle of donation

When Rebecca Koltveit received a cornea transplant nearly six years ago at the age of 16, she immediately realized the importance of donor designation. Little did she know that one day she too would continue the circle of donation.

Koltveit's sight was threatened by a serious corneal infection in her right eye until a cornea transplant performed by **Kenneth Goins, MD**, clinical professor of ophthalmology and medical director of the Iowa Lions Eye Bank, saved her vision. The successful transplant was the result of a cornea donation by Ryan Otte, a generous young man who died in a tragic accident in July 2007.

A grateful proponent of the transformative power of organ, eye and tissue donation, Koltveit strived to raise awareness and funds for causes related to saving vision. She often participated in running races to benefit a variety of causes which included the Bausch + Lomb™ Run for Vision 5K run/walk last November in Chicago.

While there, she met three members of her cornea donor's family for the first time and the group ran together in honor of Ryan. The gathering marked the first time the Iowa Lions Eye Bank has facilitated a meeting between a donor family and the recipient of the donor's gift.

"Because my cornea donor always helped others, I wish to follow in his footsteps. The Run for Vision 5K supports cornea donation and I am running to honor my donor, Ryan. My message to everyone is to sign up to be a donor today," stated Koltveit.

Her message of the importance of organ, eye and tissue donation took on even greater meaning in March of this year when she died in an automobile accident. Despite the heartbreaking end to her young life, Koltveit's interest in helping others through donation was realized as she became a donor herself. The cornea in her left eye and other tissues will be used to improve quality of life for others.

**To become an organ, eye and tissue donor, visit [www.donatelife.net](http://www.donatelife.net)**

**Learn about the preservation and restoration of vision by the Iowa Lions Eye Bank at [www.iowalionseyebank.org](http://www.iowalionseyebank.org)**

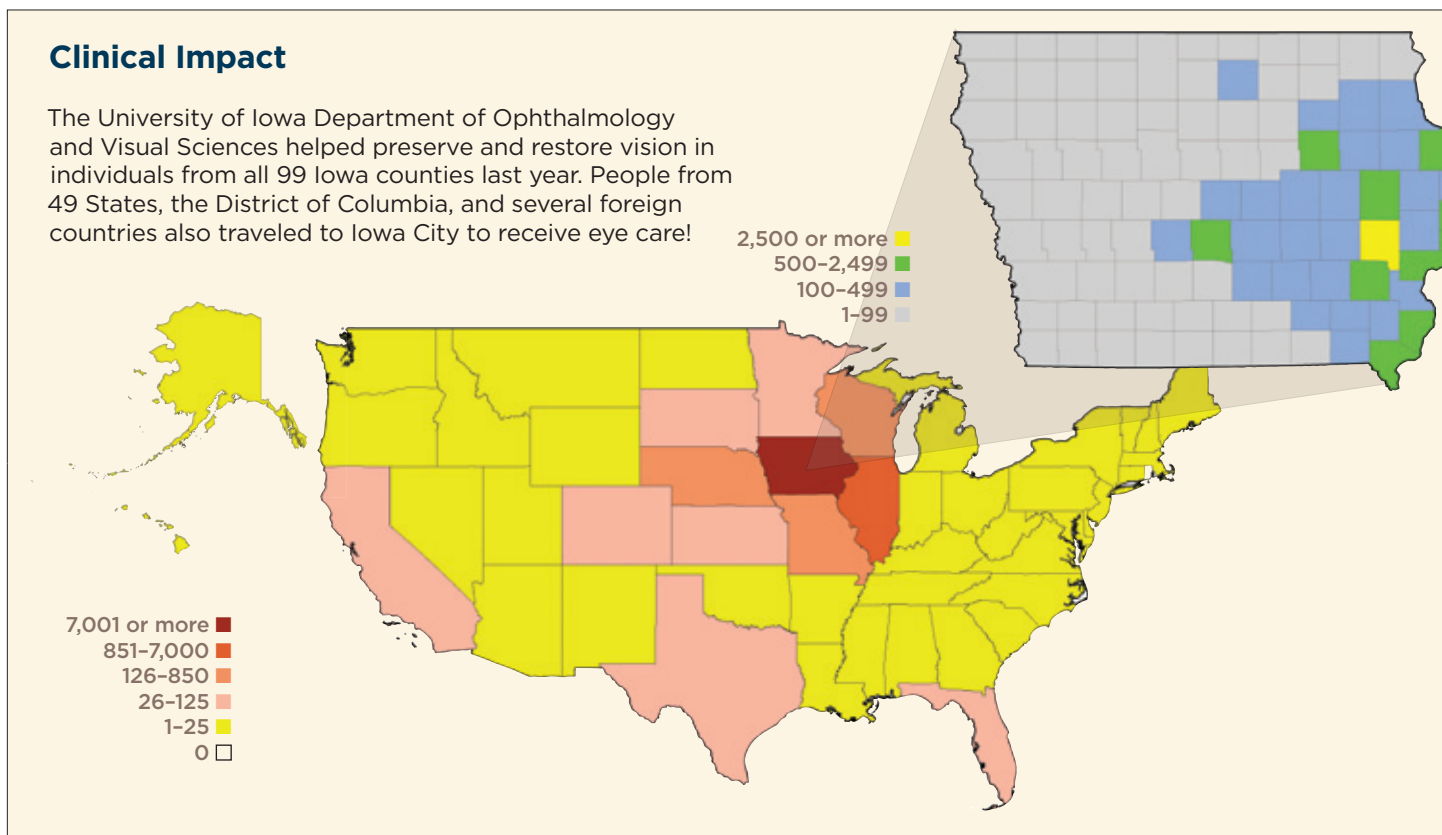
**Watch stories about cornea donation at [www.youtube.com/user/IowaLionsEyeBank1](http://www.youtube.com/user/IowaLionsEyeBank1)**

## Clinical Impact

The University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences helped preserve and restore vision in individuals from all 99 Iowa counties last year. People from 49 States, the District of Columbia, and several foreign countries also traveled to Iowa City to receive eye care!

2,500 or more  
500-2,499  
100-499  
1-99

7,001 or more  
851-7,000  
126-850  
26-125  
1-25  
0



## Exploring novel strategies to improve early diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma



A team of researchers led by **Todd Scheetz, MS, PhD**, associate professor of ophthalmology and biomedical engineering, was awarded a three-year grant of \$1.1M from the National Eye Institute/National Institutes of Health to explore the genetic determinants of optic nerve head structure. Research addresses the progressive loss of the optic nerve, which is a hallmark of glaucoma - a leading cause of irreversible vision loss.

Using computational methods, researchers will attempt to identify biomarkers and/or genetic risk factors that accurately predict changes in the optic nerve head (ONH) structure and development of irreversible glaucomatous optic nerve damage before it occurs. Scheetz and his colleagues believe their research ultimately will help clinicians determine the proportion of ONH structure change that is damage from the disease, as opposed to normal variations in primary ONH structure. In turn, this will improve early diagnosis and effective treatment of glaucoma before vision is lost.

Co-investigators include **Michael Abramoff, MD, PhD**, and **John Fingert, MD, PhD**, from the UI Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, as well as several other collaborators from the University of Iowa, Washington University in St. Louis, UNC-Chapel Hill, and UC-San Diego. **For more information about Dr. Scheetz's research, visit [www.engineering.uiowa.edu/bme/faculty-staff/todd-scheetz](http://www.engineering.uiowa.edu/bme/faculty-staff/todd-scheetz)**

## Fingert and Tucker awarded grant for stem cell research

**John Fingert, MD, PhD**, associate professor of ophthalmology, and co-investigator **Budd Tucker, PhD**, assistant professor of ophthalmology, were awarded a National Glaucoma Research grant of \$100,000 from BrightFocus™ Foundation (formerly American Health Assistance Foundation) for their research project: *Stem Cell Approaches to Glaucoma*.

The project will study the causes of glaucoma using stem cell biology to engineer eye tissues from patient skin samples. Goals of the project include:

- To convert glaucoma patient skin cells into stem cells and optic nerve cells using induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC) methods; and
- To investigate how defects in specific genes (i.e. TBK1 gene) cause these optic nerve cells to die and patients to get glaucoma.



## Faculty recognized for glaucoma research

The Glaucoma Research Foundation selected **John Fingert, MD, PhD**, associate professor of ophthalmology, to receive one of their 2013 Shaffer Grants. These grants allow researchers to explore novel or promising ideas in the area of glaucoma. Dr. Fingert's research involves the "Molecular Genetic Study of Normal-Tension Using Transgenic Mice."



**Arlene Drack, MD**, associate professor of ophthalmology and Ronald V. Keech associate professor of ophthalmic genetics, received an award for a collaborative project with Dr. Fingert to use adeno-associated virus injections to make a mouse model of glaucoma.

## UI receives grant for vision research

Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB) has awarded a grant of \$110,000 to the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine to support research into the causes, treatment, and prevention of blinding eye diseases. The research will be directed by **Keith Carter, MD**, chair of UI's Department of Ophthalmology.

"Funding from RPB is vital for our research involving the understanding of macular diseases, stem cell based treatments for Best disease, and the clinical features of optic disc progression in patients with ocular hypertension and early glaucoma. We appreciate their support and look forward to the research's impact for patients facing blinding eye diseases," comments Dr. Carter.



RPB is the world's leading voluntary organization supporting eye research. To date, the organization has awarded more than \$4.2 million in grant support to UI investigators.

**For information on RPB, go to [www.rpbusa.org](http://www.rpbusa.org)**





## “Making roads safer” continues from page 1

The environment provides a safe means of collecting safety relevant measures of visual performance such as hazard detection and collision avoidance without placing the subject or staff in danger. Research is not limited to vehicle systems as studies also focus on visual acuity and vision impairment’s impact on driver performance. Factors such as ambient light levels, traffic, and glare from other vehicles can play a significant role on how an individual performs while driving.

“Simulation testing allows us to evaluate a person’s visual acuity, contrast sensitivity and visual fields to determine their role in allowing a person to identify highway signs, road hazards and low contrast objects. It also offers insight into ways that people adjust for changes in vision,” states Chris Johnson, PhD, DSc, professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences.

Numerous vision-related studies are being conducted to assess driver performance due to visual factors. A contact lens study examined the effectiveness of two different contact lens designs on nighttime driving performance. Results of the sponsored research identified performance differences between two lenses tested for guide sign recognition and the angular size of an incurring car when the driver responded.

Another study evaluated the visual performance of different intraocular lenses, or IOLs. The lenses are used to restore vision in cataract surgery, a common surgical procedure for more than 1.5 million people each year. Driving simulation studies provided a safe and controlled environment in which to compare different types of IOLs before clinical use of the lenses.

Other activities include Food and Drug Administration validation studies which assessed differences in standard clinical measures of vision and visual performance. Another study funded by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration observed the overall performance of drivers with and without peripheral visual field loss.

“We can truly test a person’s ability to compensate for their visual acuity or field loss in that environment. You can’t safely do it anywhere else,” says Mark Wilkinson, OD, clinical professor of ophthalmology and director of the Vision Rehabilitation Service.

This type of driving simulation research impacts the quality of life individuals enjoy and offers considerable promise. It is also vital to informing public policy regarding safety and transportation systems.

“We see lots of people with various eye problems. One of the most important things we do is to help our patients be as independent and functional as possible. The research done at NADS provides valuable information as we do our advocacy to assist capable people to keep driving and to also know when it is time to encourage others to ‘retire from driving’,” adds Dr. Wilkinson.

**Learn more about the National Advanced Driving Simulator at [www.nads-sc.uiowa.edu/](http://www.nads-sc.uiowa.edu/)**

**Watch an Iowa Magazine segment about NADS at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=RNHoaoWYq1k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RNHoaoWYq1k)**

## Identifying early signs of eye disease in veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Research and Development has awarded **Michael Abramoff, MD, PhD**, professor of ophthalmology, with a two-year grant of nearly \$184,000. The grant supports research at the Iowa City VA Medical Center that will help determine the potential use of retinal vessel derived biomarkers from color fundus photographs as a non-invasive independent risk factor for diabetic retinopathy and hypertension in veterans.

# Running so others may see

Though not a distance runner, Brian Stueve of Maplewood, Minn. gladly took on the challenge of running his first marathon. The motivation: retinal eye disease and the impacts of vision loss.

Stueve's family has a history of eye disease. They were referred by their doctor, Dr. Polly Quiram, to University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. The Stueves traveled to Iowa City to meet with **Vinit Mahajan, MD, PhD**, assistant professor of ophthalmology, who specializes in the surgical and medical care of vitreoretinal diseases such as macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, uveitis, and inherited retinal dystrophies. During the visit, they toured Dr. Mahajan's laboratory to learn more about his research and the University of Iowa Institute for Vision Research's mission to cure blinding eye diseases.

Mahajan's laboratory focuses on the phenomics, genomics, and proteomics of eye disease. He and others at UI have established scalable, high-throughput DNA sequencing and phenotyping methods for characterizing human and mouse eye diseases. The technology is used to identify risk factors for eye diseases and help map inherited eye diseases. It also aids in discovering the genes that cause eye disease in the families that Mahajan and other UI ophthalmologists care for.

The lab is using proteomics to discover biomarkers, therapeutic targets, and molecular pathways involved in several eye diseases where diagnosis is difficult and current treatment is inadequate. States Mahajan, "These Omics technologies present new and interesting scientific challenges with incredible opportunities for advancing the treatment of human disease." He and his colleagues believe advances in molecular biology and genetics are the key to curing many forms of blindness.

## Fundraising team adds new member



The UI Foundation hired **Sean Matthys** as assistant director of development for the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences and Institute for Vision Research. Sean comes to the University of Iowa from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Boston, Mass. He's originally from Eldridge, Iowa and received his bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa.

**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.**

"I was astounded by the spirit of the researchers and their mission," remarked Stueve after the visit. His inspiration turned to action as he and wife brainstormed on ways they could help advance the research effort. The couple brought together extended family members and friends to participate in various running races, including the Twin Cities Marathon, as a way to raise awareness of the challenges of vision loss. Three years later, the group has collected over \$10,000 in donations toward retina disease research at UI's Institute for Vision Research.

"Grant funding we receive is important but unrestricted funding from individuals is so beneficial to riskier projects with true breakthrough potential," explains Mahajan.

"I am so inspired by the mental attitude of individuals dealing with low vision/blindness and the team of doctors and researchers who are doing their best to fight eye disease. I am grateful to be part of an amazing team, supporting doctors in their pursuit of eradicating blindness."

*Brian Stueve*

**Learn more about Dr. Mahajan's research, visit [www.mahajanlab.org](http://www.mahajanlab.org)**

**To support vision saving research, go to [www.givetoioowa.org/eye](http://www.givetoioowa.org/eye)**



## The University of Iowa Foundation

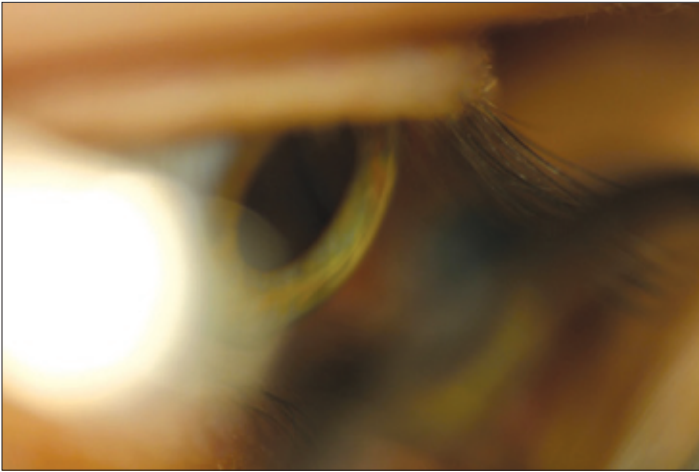
To learn more about how philanthropic support helps advance the work of the UI Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences and Institute for Vision Research, please contact:

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The University of Iowa Foundation  
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 Iowa City, IA 52244-4550  
 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://givetoioowa.org/eye>

## Iowa Eye Annual Meeting, Iowa City June 14-15, 2013



Join us to learn about the latest treatments and research involving a range of eye disease and ophthalmic conditions. This one-and-a-half day meeting is designed to update ophthalmologists on new treatments for eye disease and provide practical suggestions on how to incorporate these treatments into clinical practice. In addition to presentations by leading experts, there will be interactive workshops and case presentations on cataract surgery/comprehensive, neuro-ophthalmology, and oculoplastics for the general ophthalmologist. Social activities will allow you to network with colleagues and reconnect with faculty and friends.

If you are an Iowa alumnus and have retired, received an award of distinction, or reached a professional milestone this past year, let us know so we can acknowledge your accomplishment during the meeting banquet. Send details to [joe-schmidt@uiowa.edu](mailto:joe-schmidt@uiowa.edu)

**For information and to register, visit**  
[www.medicine.uiowa.edu/eye/iowa-eye-2013/](http://www.medicine.uiowa.edu/eye/iowa-eye-2013/)

## Career insights



Resident and Fellow physicians explored career options and broadened their perspectives during recent “Alumni Roundtable” discussions. UI professor of ophthalmology **Randy Kardon, MD, PhD** (‘82MD/PhD, ‘87R, ‘89F), shared his views on working and practicing at an academic medical center which combines clinical practice, research, and teaching. **Reed Bouchey, MD** (‘90R) (pictured), and his spouse, Sandy, from Bouchey Eye Surgery, shared the challenges and benefits of operating a solo physician practice.

## Alumni reception a big hit!

Thank you to all who were able to join us at the Iowa Eye Alumni Reception in Chicago! We had a fantastic turnout and are glad so many of you were able to be there. **See who was there and enjoy photographs from the event at <http://iowaeyealumni.shutterfly.com/>**

Click on the “Pictures & Videos” tab near the top left corner and view our event album titled “Iowa Reception\_AAO 2012”.

Stay tuned for details about the Iowa Reception at the AAO 2013 Annual Meeting in New Orleans later this year!



## NANOS research award to Wings



**Kimberly Wings, MD**, Neuro-ophthalmology fellow, received the award for Best Fellow Research Study presented at the 2013 North American Neuro-ophthalmology Society (NANOS) meeting. The study was entitled, “The Ganglion Cell Layer Across the Vertical Meridian in Hemianopsia: I Get No Respect!” by Kimberly Wings MD, Brennan Gantner PhD, and Randy Kardon MD, PhD.



## Program director receives award for excellence in resident education

**Thomas A. Oetting, MD**, professor of clinical ophthalmology and director of the residency program in the University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, is the tenth recipient of the Straatsma Award for Excellence in Resident Education. The award recognizes his commitment to residency training in ophthalmology and was presented at the American Academy of Ophthalmology 2012 Annual Meeting.

Acknowledging the award, Dr. Oetting said, "I think this award is for all of us in the department and reflects our long-standing tradition of great resident teaching." He added, "I love being around our residents and watching them develop and grow. As program director I have more access to our residents, which just brings me closer to the epicenter of action here in the department. I really enjoy the continued relationship I have with our alumni and feel that I have little brothers and sisters all over the country which makes traveling and meetings more fun."

The Straatsma Award for Excellence in Resident Education was established through the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology and private funds, and is given to a program director dedicated to the principles and significance of residency education.



Left to right: Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD; Ruth D. Williams, MD; Randall J. Olson, MD; Bartly J. Mondino, MD; and Tom Oetting, MD, at the 2012 AAO Meeting.

For more information visit [www.aao.org/about/awards/straatsma.cfm](http://www.aao.org/about/awards/straatsma.cfm)

### ALUMNICORNER

- ❖ **Melvin L. Rubin, MD ('61R)**, received the University of California San Francisco 2012 Alumnus of the Year Award.
- ❖ **Kathleen B. Digre, MD ('81MD, '85R, '87F)**, received the Rosenblatt Prize for Excellence at the University of Utah.
- ❖ **Brian K. Privett, MD ('11R)**, was selected for the American Academy of Ophthalmology's Leadership Development Program Class of 2013.
- ❖ **Edward H. Hu, MD, PhD ('08R)**, was selected to serve on the Young Ophthalmology group for the American Academy of Ophthalmology. Dr. Hu was also elected Secretary-Treasurer for the Rock Island County Medical Society.

The American Academy of Ophthalmology honored several University of Iowa alumni as Life Members for their membership in the Academy for 35 consecutive years:

- ❖ **Richard L. Anderson, MD, FACS ('71MD, '75R)**
- ❖ **Bruce E. Herron, MD ('74R)**
- ❖ **Oscar B. Jackson Jr., MD ('76F)**
- ❖ **Everett C. Madson, MD, FACS ('75R)**
- ❖ **Sheldon J. Nankin, MD ('76R)**
- ❖ **H. John Shammass, MD ('77F)**
- ❖ **Thomas A. Weingeist, MD, PhD ('72MD, '75R, '76F)**

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



Thank you to the alumni and Iowa ophthalmologists who have renewed their Iowa Eye Association membership! If you are interested in supporting our educational mission through renewal of 2013 dues, please contact [joe-schmidt@uiowa.edu](mailto:joe-schmidt@uiowa.edu)

The impact of genetics in today's society

The screenshot shows the 'INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS' website for The University of Iowa. It features a navigation bar with 'GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT', 'GET INVOLVED', 'WHO YOU ARE', and 'WHO WE ARE'. The main content area is titled 'Classroom & Community Programs' and highlights 'WorldCanvass'. A sidebar on the left lists various programs like 'Live Stream', 'International Classroom Journey', and 'Global Village'. The main text describes 'WorldCanvass and WorldCanvass Studio' as a series hosted by Joan Kjaer, exploring global issues. It mentions that programs are recorded by UI TV and broadcast on Iowa Public Radio and KRUI-FM. An 'Upcoming Program' section lists 'Remaking the Body: Identity and Body Modification' for May 3, 2013. There is also an iTunes logo and a 'Watching and Listening' section with a video player icon.

Ophthalmology faculty were featured among a panel of experts during a recent University of Iowa program discussing genetics and the research world we live in today. **Drs. Val Sheffield** and **Tom Casavant** participated in a recent UI International Programs World Canvass® seminar entitled “Genetics and New Technologies.”

Audio streaming at <http://international.uiowa.edu/worldcanvass>. The program is also available for download from iTunes.

The block contains three small photographs showing faculty members performing at a piano and singing into a microphone on a stage. The text to the right describes the event as a local fundraiser for the UI Children's Hospital.

**Faculty perform at children's benefit**

Several physicians from the UI Hospitals and Clinics shared their musical talents at a local fundraiser to benefit the UI Children's Hospital. The “Doctors in Concert” event raised nearly \$10,000 in donations and featured performances by Department of Ophthalmology faculty members (top to bottom) **Richard Olson, MD** (and his wife, Marilyn), **Elliot Sohn, MD**, and **Chris Johnson, PhD**.

Join us at ARVO



Alumni from the University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences who are attending ARVO 2013 are invited to join faculty and colleagues at our Iowa Alumni Reception.

**Monday, May 6, 2013**  
 7:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.  
 The Tap House Grill  
 1506 Sixth Avenue, Seattle

Please RSVP if you plan to join us by calling 319-384-8529 or emailing [joe-schmidt@uiowa.edu](mailto:joe-schmidt@uiowa.edu)

Research events

Check out these opportunities to learn more about exciting research taking place at the University of Iowa.

**Ophthalmology Resident and Fellow Research Day**  
**May 16-17, 2013**

Presentations and posters showcasing vision research, as well as selection of the P.J. Leinfelder Awards for best performance.

[www.medicine.uiowa.edu/eye/Research-Day-2013/](http://www.medicine.uiowa.edu/eye/Research-Day-2013/)

**Midwest Eye Research Symposium 2013**  
**August 2, 2013**

A regional forum for scientists in vision related fields to present their findings and explore research opportunities.

<http://webeye.opthth.uiowa.edu/eig/MERS.html>

## Distinguished faculty member celebrates forty years in department



**Dr. Sohan Singh Hayreh**, emeritus professor of ophthalmology, recently celebrated 40 years with the department. Recruited from the University of Edinburgh by Dr. Fred Blodi, past-chair of the department, Hayreh came to Iowa City in January 1973. He joined a department that has undergone considerable growth and change during his tenure.

Throughout his impressive career, Dr. Hayreh pursued key areas of research and become a world-renowned expert in ocular and optic nerve circulation; vascular disorders of the retina, choroid, optic nerve, and anterior segment of the eye; fluorescein angiography; disorders of the optic disc; and rheumatologic diseases of the eye.

“Dr. Hayreh’s contributions to the study of vascular diseases of the eye and optic nerve have been immeasurable. For the past 40 years he has been a pillar in this department and a well-respected colleague. He continues to extend his field of expertise and provide the best care for his patients, many of whom travel from around the world for his care,” says **Dr. Keith Carter**, department head.

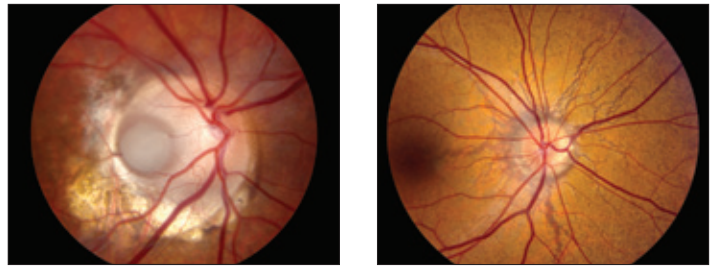
Hayreh retired as an emeritus professor in 1999 but continues to see patients, publish, and pursue research.

## Macula Society award



**Michael Abramoff, MD, PhD** (on right), professor of ophthalmology, was the recipient of the 2013 Young Investigator Award from The Macula Society. The Award recognizes the individual or group of individuals under the age of 50 years whose work shows great promise of notable advance in the clinical treatment of disorders of the eye. Abramoff joins a distinguished group of retina specialists who have received the award, including UI colleague Dr. Edwin Stone. He received the award at the 36th Annual Macula Society meeting earlier this spring.

## UI photographers recognized



Fundus Photography award-winning images include Optic Nerve Coloboma (Critser) and Angiod Streaks and Optic Nerve Head Drusen (Montague).

Diagnostic imaging plays an important role in the diagnosis of eye disease and documentation of the progression of disease. Photographers from University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics were recognized for their work at the American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting last fall.

**Brice Critser, CRA**, and **Cindy Montague, CRA**, received awards and honorable mentions for their imaging work by the Ophthalmic Photographers Society.

## IOWA VISION

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

### Editor-in-Chief

Keith D. Carter, MD

### Managing Editor

Joe Schmidt

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Brice Critser, Carol Chan, Stefani Karakas, Cindy Montague, Toni Venckus, Randy Verdick, Susan McClellan

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Benson & Hepker Design

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If you are interested in receiving future editions of this publication electronically or if you wish to be removed from the mailing list, please send an email specifying your request to [iowaeyecare@uiowa.edu](mailto:iowaeyecare@uiowa.edu)



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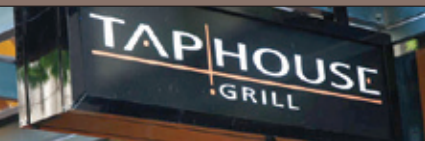
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eye/education

Department news, events and  
information may be found at  
www.medicine.uiowa.edu/eye



Department of Ophthalmology  
and Visual Sciences

200 Hawkins Drive, 11136 PFP  
Iowa City, IA 52242



## Attending ARVO this year?

Make plans to join Iowa  
colleagues and alumni at our  
social gathering.

## Monday, May 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Tap House Grill in downtown  
Seattle

## To RSVP, contact

joe-schmidt@uiowa.edu

## IOWA VISION EVENTS

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

**Sep 13, 2013**

**Cataract / Comprehensive** — Sonia H. Yoo, MD, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

**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*

**May 3, 2013**

**15th Annual Iowa Optometric Conference**, Iowa City

**May 5-9, 2013**

**ARVO 2013 Annual Meeting**, Seattle

**May 6, 2013**

**Iowa Alumni Reception at ARVO**, Tap House Grill, Seattle

**May 16-17, 2013**

**Resident and Fellow Research Day** Iowa City

**June 7-8, 2013**

**UI Carver College of Medicine Alumni Reunion**

(Classes of '43, '48, '53, '58, '63, '68, and '73), Iowa City

**June 14, 2013**

**Ophthalmic Nurse and Technician Conference**, Iowa City

**June 14-15, 2013**

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

**June 27, 2013**

**Resident and Fellow Graduation**, Iowa City

**Aug 2, 2013**

**Midwest Eye Research Symposium**, Iowa City

## The Iowa Eye Association Annual Meeting

Join us in Iowa City this  
summer on **June 14-15**.

More information at

[www.medicine.uiowa.edu/  
eye/calendar](http://www.medicine.uiowa.edu/eye/calendar)

To register or for  
questions, contact

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