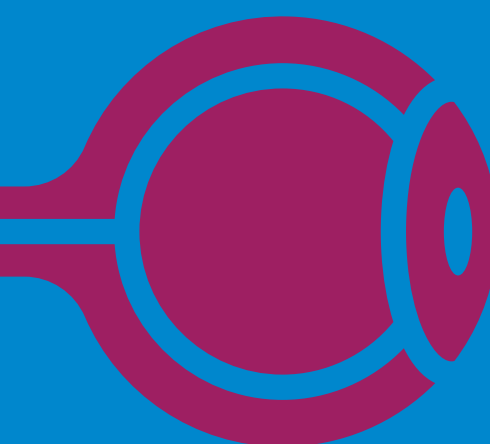




Jules Stein Eye Institute

# Highlights

July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024



UCLA

Stein Eye Institute



DOHENY  
EYE INSTITUTE



Dear Friends,

I am pleased to share with you highlights from our 2023–24 academic year, which serve to further strengthen the Jules Stein Eye Institute’s mission to preserve sight and restore vision.

The work we do today at the Institute and in the broader field of ophthalmology worldwide is made possible by the giants upon whose shoulders we stand. And this year, we have lost one of those giants, Dr. Allan Kreiger, the founding chief of the Retina Division of the Jules Stein Eye Institute. Dr. Kreiger was beloved by patients, colleagues, and all those he trained. He had a tremendous impact on our field and on those of us who had the privilege to know him.

**This academic year, many noteworthy events were celebrated in the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, including:**

- ▶ Dr. Srinivas Sadda assuming the presidency of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) for the 2024–25 fiscal year. Dr. Sophie Deng was announced as ARVO President-Elect, and Dr. Joseph Demer was named ARVO Vice President-Elect. ARVO is the largest international organization dedicated to advancing vision research.
- ▶ Faculty, fellows, and residents attending the American Academy of Ophthalmology Mid-Year Forum in Washington, D.C., where they met with members of Congress to advocate for the eye health of patients.
- ▶ Five new clinical faculty members bringing their subspecialty expertise to our team.
- ▶ The Department being awarded \$50,000 in recognition of an exemplary job in advancing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, specifically in our planning and execution of initiatives focused on people.
- ▶ Department vision scientists receiving 52 R01 and other major competitive vision-science research grants totaling \$14,291,990 in support of innovative investigations.
- ▶ The Jules Stein Eye Institute receiving 52 clinical research awards totaling \$7,751,711.

Thank you for your interest in learning about our activities and accomplishments this academic year. As we celebrate these achievements in ophthalmology, we reaffirm our shared commitment to ending avoidable blindness. This dedication of our ophthalmic community to advancing both research and education is a testament to our collective goal of improving vision health worldwide. Together—through innovation, collaboration, and a relentless pursuit of knowledge—we strive to make a future where everyone can have the gift of sight.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne L. Coleman MD, PhD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the letters "MD, PhD" written in a slightly larger, more distinct font at the end.

**Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD**

Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology  
Chair, UCLA Department of Ophthalmology  
Director, Jules Stein Eye Institute  
Affiliation Chair, Doheny Eye Institute

# Patient Care

## Excellence is Our First Priority

	2022-23	2023-24
<b>FACULTY CONSULTATION SERVICE</b>		
Patient visits	177,851	178,782
<b>INPATIENT CONSULTATION SERVICE</b>		
Patient evaluations	1,224	1,432
<b>CLINICAL LABORATORIES</b>		
Procedures	116,972	118,565
<b>SURGERY SERVICES</b>		
Number of procedures (includes lasers)	25,751	26,849
Intravitreal Injections	16,172	16,837
<b>UCLA MOBILE EYE CLINIC</b>		
Number of patients	4,379	5,716
Ocular abnormalities	18%	15%
Number of trips	305	366



**FOR OVER 40 YEARS**, the UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic has been providing free eye care services and glasses for medically under-resourced communities in Los Angeles County.

**UCLA** Stein Eye Institute

# Mobile Eye Clinic



Making a difference in our community

JULY 1, 2023–JUNE 30, 2024

## NUMBER OF PATIENTS SCREENED/EXAMINED

# 5,716

**ADULTS**  
(Community Centers or  
Homeless Outreach  
Centers)

**626**

**PRESCHOOLS**

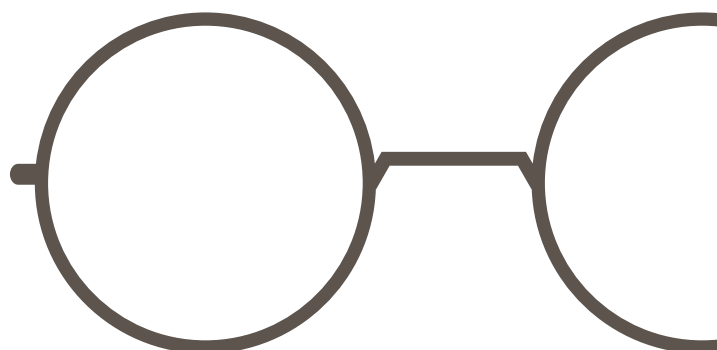
**4,032**

**ELEMENTARY/  
HIGH SCHOOLS**

**815**

**HEALTH FAIRS**

**243**



WE HAVE SERVED OVER

# 400,000

PATIENTS

SINCE THE PROGRAM WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1975.



# 2,370

NUMBER OF HOURS PROVIDING VISION CARE TO UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

# 1,374

PAIRS OF EYEGLASSES DISTRIBUTED



**ADULTS**  
(Community Centers or Homeless Outreach Centers)  
**672**



**PRESCHOOLS**  
**513**



**ELEMENTARY/  
HIGH SCHOOLS**  
**178**



**HEALTH FAIRS**  
**11**



## NUMBER OF SITES VISITED

Community Centers **20**

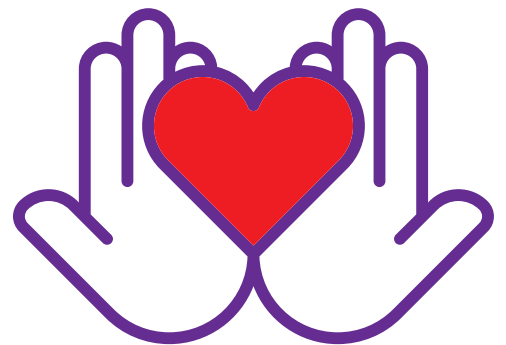
Homeless Outreach Centers **5**

Health Fairs **11**

Elementary Schools **7**

High Schools **7**

Preschools **149**

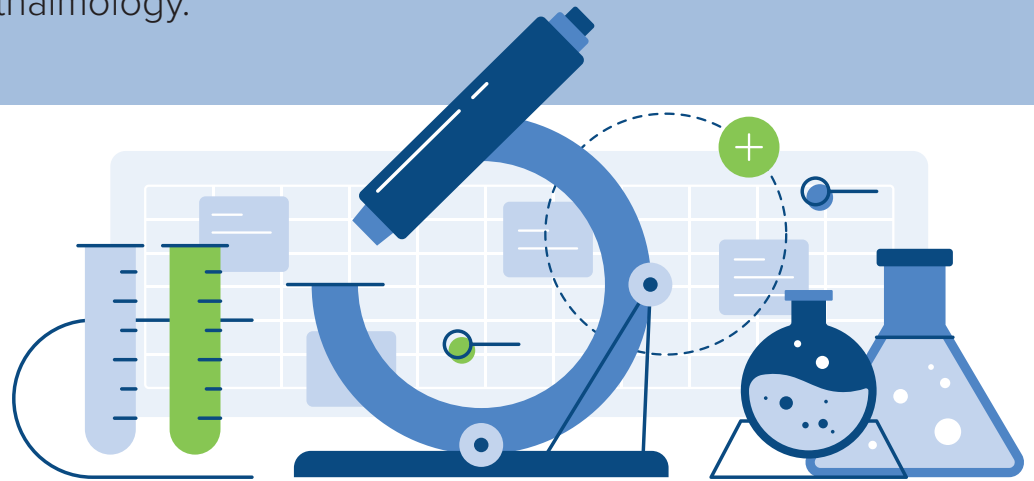


Ophthalmologists, residents, medical students, and undergraduate students contributed

# 877

VOLUNTEER HOURS

**BENCH-TO-BEDSIDE** harmony of clinical studies being investigated in collaboration with laboratory-based research has driven the Institute's research mission since our inception, creating a spectrum of discovery in specialties across ophthalmology.



**CLINICAL RESEARCH  
ACTIVE FUNDING**  
Administered by **UCLA**

**52** TOTAL NUMBER OF  
**CLINICAL RESEARCH  
AWARDS**

**\$7,751,711** TOTAL DOLLARS

# Research

JULY 1, 2023–JUNE 30, 2024

**VISION-SCIENCE RESEARCH  
ACTIVE FUNDING**  
Administered by  
**DOHENY EYE INSTITUTE**

**19** TOTAL NUMBER OF  
**VISION-SCIENCE RESEARCH  
GRANTS**

**\$2,511,200** NIH/NEI

**\$314,618** OTHER

**\$2,825,818** TOTAL DOLLARS

**VISION-SCIENCE RESEARCH  
ACTIVE FUNDING**  
Administered by  
**JULES STEIN EYE INSTITUTE**

**33** TOTAL NUMBER OF  
**VISION-SCIENCE RESEARCH  
GRANTS**

**\$5,318,672** NIH/NEI

**\$6,147,500** OTHER

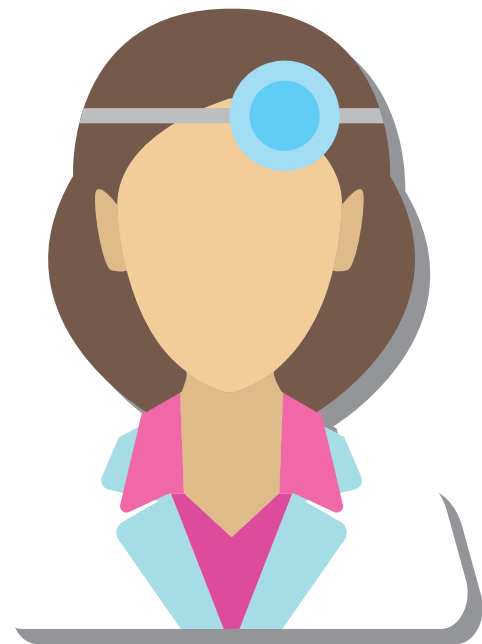
**\$11,466,172** TOTAL DOLLARS

40

CLINICAL TRIALS

19 Clinical Trials Recruiting

21 Clinical Trials NOT Recruiting



71

CLINICAL STUDIES

200  
PUBLICATIONS



# Philanthropy



For more than 50 years, the Jules Stein Eye Institute has been unwavering in its commitment to find innovative ways to prevent blindness and preserve vision. Equally dedicated to our mission are our donors, who have generously provided philanthropic support that has paved the way for breakthroughs in research, clinical care, physician education, and community outreach. Our shared purpose has led to milestones that have transformed the way we diagnose and treat eye diseases—and we are only just beginning. As we continue to pursue excellence, your philanthropy is a source of inspiration and hope.

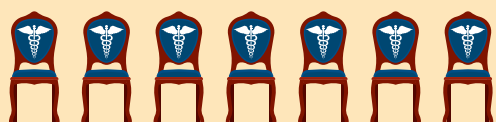
Receiving an endowed chair is the highest accolade for faculty—a tradition dating back to Sir Isaac Newton. It demonstrates UCLA’s utmost respect for their thought leadership and entails financial support to the chair holder. Endowed chairs provide extra incentive to recruit and retain top faculty and are vital to the Department of Ophthalmology’s continued preeminence.

**Number of Endowed Chairs**

SUPPORTING

**Doheny Eye Faculty**

7

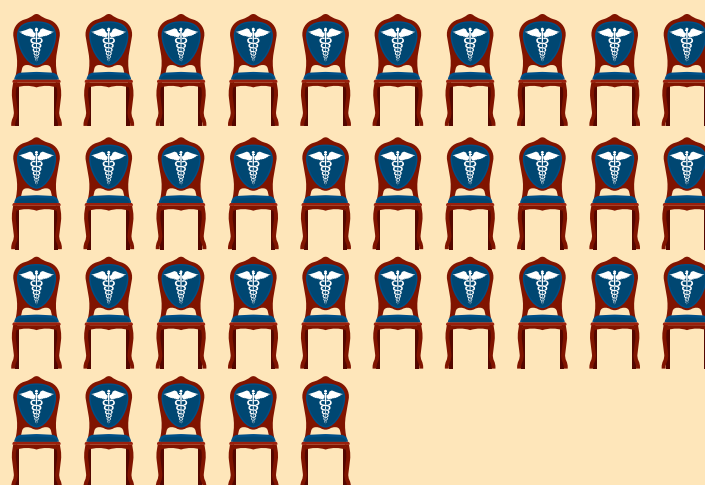


**Number of Endowed Chairs**

SUPPORTING

**Stein Eye Faculty**

35











## Giving Amounts by Record Type

### Primary Donors—No Grants



	Pledge	\$1,800,000.00
	Planned Gift	\$324,366.02
	Gift	\$1,591,998.63
	Pledge Payment	\$712,500.00
	Recurring Gift/Recurring Payment	\$2,700.00
	Matching Gift	\$850.00



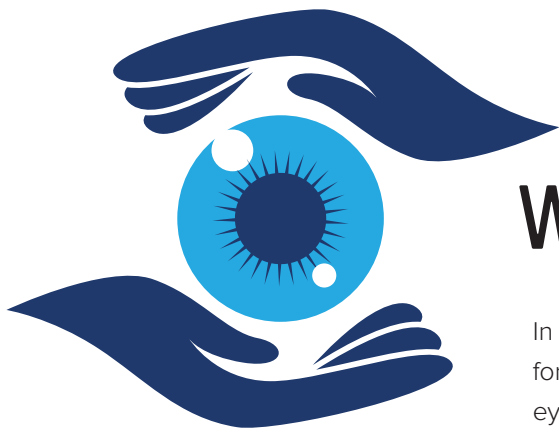
24

NUMBER OF JULES STEIN EYE INSTITUTE  
**FELLOWSHIP FUNDS AND ENDOWMENTS**

65

NUMBER OF JULES STEIN EYE INSTITUTE **ENDOWMENTS** FOR:  
**RESEARCH,  
EDUCATION  
AND  
PATIENT CARE**





# With Deep Appreciation

In reflecting on the past year at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, we are grateful for our dedicated philanthropic partners who have contributed to advance eye research, enhance patient care, train future eye specialists, and increase our community engagement. Your support has been instrumental in our mission to prevent blindness and preserve vision. We sincerely thank you for your invaluable support and collaboration.

## Donations July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024

### Major Gifts \$25,000 and Above:

American Society of Gene and Cell Therapy  
Brain Research Foundation  
Bruce Ford and Anne Smith Bundy Foundation  
California Health Care Foundation  
Carol and Timothy W. Hannemann  
Esther A. and Joseph Klingenstein Fund  
Fox Family Foundation  
Glenn and Ruthanne Wever  
Hongbin Peng  
Kuen Lau Research Foundation  
Laura Glaser and Leonard Loventhal  
Lizbeth Douglas Trust  
Maralea and Joseph Binz  
Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc.  
Richard B. Shapiro  
The Arthur & Patricia Price Foundation  
The Douglas Foundation  
The Gross Family Trust  
The Simms/Mann Family Foundation  
Theo and Wendy Kolokotronis  
Wilbur May Foundation

### Individuals Recognized with a Tribute Gift

#### IN HONOR OF:

Allan E. Kreiger, MD  
Bartly J. Mondino, MD  
Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD  
Cassie Forbes  
Cindy Beatty  
Colin A. McCannel, MD  
Jill Ettinger  
Joan Kramer  
Joellyn M. Hardin  
John D. Bartlett, MD  
Joseph Caprioli, MD  
Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD  
Kevin M. Miller, MD  
Pradeep S. Prasad, MD, MBA  
Romy Reed-Juhas  
Simon K. Law, MD, PharmD  
Tara A. McCannel, MD, PhD

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Alfred Herbert Cook  
Diane Lowitz  
Gary R. Gust, PhD  
Howard D. Felsher  
Jean Stein  
Jerrold C. Bocci, MD  
Michael Klion  
Reginald Clarke Sprague  
Roger P. Gray and Katherine L. Gray  
Roland Cesarini  
Theodore Doke

# Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion

The UCLA Department of Ophthalmology  
was honored with a

## \$50,000 PRIZE

**FROM THE DAVID GEFFEN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**  
(DGSOM) in furtherance of 2024 Eye-JEDI initiatives—the  
highest amount of JEDI funding given to any of the 24  
DGSOM departments. The financial award was on top of  
the Department being recognized by DGSOM for its 2023  
achievements in advancing justice, equity, diversity, and  
inclusion (JEDI), specifically in its planning and execution of  
initiatives focused on people.



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## EyeJEDI Programs

Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion are central to the fulfillment of the Stein Eye Institute's mission. The EyeJEDI Committee of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology is advancing initiatives that are creating a more diverse and inclusive Department and ensuring that all patients have access to the highest quality eye care. Programs include:

- ▶ Building a pipeline to eliminate health disparities in ophthalmology.
  - ▶ Incorporating a holistic ophthalmology residency selection process.
  - ▶ Providing scholarships that support an elective rotation or summer research for visiting medical students and undergraduate students who have demonstrated a commitment to reducing health disparities in ophthalmology.
- ▶ Creating an inclusive and nurturing environment for all trainees and junior faculty to grow.
- ▶ Increasing representation in Departmental leadership.
- ▶ Developing a structured curriculum to educate trainees, faculty, and staff on topics related to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- ▶ Expanding research on gender, race, and ethnicity disparities in eye care and ophthalmology training.
- ▶ Continuing eye health engagement and outreach activities for underserved members of our community.
- ▶ Using technology to further improve eye care delivery to non-English-speaking patients.

# Awards and Honors

## Grants

### AAO 2023 Award Recipients

Individuals from the Jules Stein Eye Institute and Doheny Eye Institute contributed more than 100 lectures, presentations, and exhibits at the November 2023 American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California.

In addition to their educational contributions, faculty and alumni from Stein and Doheny were honored for their service to ophthalmology:

#### Life Achievement Award Recipient

**Brian A. Francis, MD, MS** (faculty)

#### Senior Achievement Award Recipients

**Uday Devgan, MD** (SEI alumnus)

**Amani Fawzi, MD** (SEI alumna)

**David Rex Hamilton, MD**  
(past SEI faculty and SEI alumnus)

**Tsontcho Ianchulev, MD** (DEI alumnus)

#### Achievement Award Recipients

**Jean-Pierre Hubschman, MD**  
(faculty and SEI alumnus)

**Victoria L. Tseng, MD, PhD** (faculty)

**Irena Tsui, MD** (faculty)

**N. Grace Lee, MD** (DEI alumna)

**Ghazala A. Dattoo O'Keefe, MD**  
(DEI alumna)

**Sandy X. Zhang-Nunes, MD**  
(SEI alumna)

#### Secretariat Award Recipients

**Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD** (faculty)

**Colin A. McCannel, MD** (faculty)

**Stacy L. Pineles, MD** (faculty)

**Jesse L. Berry, MD** (DEI alumna)

**Paul P. Lee, MD, JD** (past DEI faculty)

**Allen Chiang, MD** (SEI alumnus)

# AAO

### Vision Scientists Receive Major Grant Funding

Creating new knowledge is foundational to our quest to protect vision and end blindness, and large grants help to propel that journey. Researchers from the Jules Stein Eye Institute and the Doheny Eye Institute are proud recipients of National Institutes of Health (NIH) Research Project Grants, known as R01 grants, and other major competitive grants supporting innovative research. Congratulations to these grant recipients:

**Anthony J. Aldave, MD**, Bartly J. Mondino, MD, Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology, received a 30-month California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) award in the amount of \$4,338,166 for his research project: AAV Gene Therapy for Treating Biallelic SLC4A11 Mutations Associated Congenital Hereditary Endothelial Dystrophy.

**Steven A. Barnes, PhD**, professor of ophthalmology and neurobiology, received a five-year R01 federal grant for his research on retinal ganglion cell signaling regulated by intrinsic reactive oxygen species.

**Ava Bittner, OD, PhD**, Smotrich Family Optometric Clinician-Scientist Chair, received a five-year R01 Grant, which will help support her investigation of beacon sensors and telerehabilitation to assess and improve the use of devices for low vision.

**Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD**, Arthur L. Rosenbaum, MD, Chair in Pediatric Ophthalmology, received a five-year R01 grant renewal for his research on biomechanical analysis in strabismus surgery.

**Sophie X. Deng, MD, PhD**, Walton Li Chair in Cornea and Uveitis, received a four-year California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) award in the amount of \$5,779,276 for her research project: Extracellular Vesicle Based Therapy for Corneal Scars.

**Yi-Rong Peng, PhD**, assistant professor of ophthalmology and neurobiology, received a five-year R01 grant in support of her research project: Transcriptional Control of Neuronal Position and Connection in the Retina.

**SriniVas R. Sadda, MD**, Professor of Ophthalmology, received a four-year R01 grant funding his research project: In Vivo Imaging of the Human Retina at the Molecular Level.

Dr. Sadda also received the 2023 Retina Research Foundation Merit Award in recognition of outstanding research in retinal visual science. The Award provides a \$50K grant for research.

**Alapakkam P. Sampath, PhD**, Grace and Walter Lantz Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology, received a four-year R01 grant as co-principal investigator for his research project: Molecular Basis of Photoreceptor Wiring.

**Irena Tsui, MD**, associate professor of ophthalmology, received a five-year R01 grant for her research project: Neonatal Optical Coherence Tomography Angiography to Assess the Effects of Postnatal Exposures on Retinal Development and Predict Neurodevelopmental Outcomes.

Dr. JoAnn Giaconi joins S. Rodman Irvine Prize honoree Dr. Gary Holland, who received his prestigious award during the Department's Annual Seminar on June 7, 2024.



## Faculty Honors

**Anthony J. Aldave, MD**, professor of ophthalmology, was appointed the Bartly J. Mondino, MD, Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology, effective July 1, 2023. The administrative chair was established in 2022 and supports Dr. Aldave's role as Vice Chair of Academic Affairs in the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology.

**Anthony C. Arnold, MD**, Mary Oakley Foundation Chair in Neurodegenerative Diseases, presented the keynote lecture, "Imaging the Microvasculature of the Optic Nerve Head with Ischemic and Nonischemic Edema," at the Neuro-Ophthalmology Society of Australia Annual Meeting in Adelaide, Australia, on September 22, 2023.

**Ava K. Bittner, OD, PhD**, Smotrich Family Optometric Clinician-Scientist Chair, was honored as a Gold Fellow at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology annual meeting in Seattle, Washington, May 5–9, 2024, for her individual accomplishments, leadership, and contributions to the Association.

**Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD**, chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, director of the Jules Stein Eye Institute, and affiliation chair of the Doheny Eye Institute, received the California Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons Distinguished Service Award for her contributions to accessing eye care and educating the public about eye health. The award was presented December 20, 2023, at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute.

**Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD**, Arthur L. Rosenbaum, MD, Chair in Pediatric Ophthalmology, presented the keynote lecture of the Arthur Jampolsky Fellows Society, "Treating Strabismus Caused by Pathology of the Orbital Pulley System," May 20, 2024, at the Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute, in San Francisco, California.

Dr. Demer was also the keynote speaker at the Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center Strabismus and Optometry Forum on May 25, 2024, where he presented, "Masquerading Superior Oblique Palsy" (virtual).

Dr. Demer also gave the keynote lecture of the 80th annual meeting of the Japanese Association for Strabismus and Amblyopia on June 15, 2024, in Hamamatsu, Japan.

**Sophie X. Deng, MD, PhD**, Walton Li Chair in Cornea and Uveitis, was honored as a Silver Fellow at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology annual meeting in Seattle, Washington, May 5–9, 2024, for her individual accomplishments, leadership, and contributions to the Association.

Dr. Deng presented the 2023–24 Kimura MD Lecture on May 30, 2024, at UC San Francisco.

**Deborah A. Ferrington, PhD**, Stephen J. Ryan-Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation Endowed Presidential Chair, presented the inaugural M. Cristina Kenney, MD, PhD, Memorial Lecture, "Mitochondria: The Retina's Achilles' Heel in Age-related Macular Degeneration," on June 1, 2024, at the University of California, Irvine, Gavin Herbert Eye Institute.

**JoAnn A. Giaconi, MD**, health sciences clinical professor of ophthalmology, and Gary N. Holland, MD, distinguished professor of ophthalmology, were named Faculty Advisors to Medical Students. As Faculty Advisors, Drs. Giaconi and Holland are responsible for mentoring and providing career guidance to David Geffen School of Medicine medical students as they navigate the UCLA Stein Eye Institute.

Dr. Giaconi was also named the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Secretary for Communications, where she will be involved in the development and management of Academy activities and services. Dr. Giaconi was also named chief medical editor of the AAO's Academy Express, a clinical newsletter emailed to over 75,500 ophthalmologists worldwide.



**Gary N. Holland, MD**, Jack H. Skirball Chair in Ocular Inflammatory Diseases, was awarded the S. Rodman Irvine Prize at the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Annual Seminar on June 7, 2024. The Irvine Prize recognizes excellence in a Department of Ophthalmology faculty member whose relationships with patients and students are exemplary; whose professional actions illustrate the finest traditions of the medical profession and the vision-science community, and whose teaching demonstrates a dedication to transmission of knowledge to future generations.

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The September 2023 issue of the journal *Applied Magnetic Resonance* was devoted to the achievements of **Wayne L. Hubbell, PhD**, distinguished professor of ophthalmology. Titled, “Wayne Hubbell—on the Occasion of His 80th Birthday,” the journal recognized the many contributions of Dr. Hubbell to electron spin/paramagnetic resonance (ESR/EPR) spectroscopy, which was pioneered in the Hubbell laboratory at the Stein Eye Institute.

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**Monica R. Khitri, MD**, assistant clinical professor of ophthalmology, received the UCLA Exceptional Physician Award on May 8, 2024. UCLA Health System recognizes up to three exceptional physicians at the Annual Honors and Awards Celebration. Award recipients are chosen for their demonstration of UCLA values: Compassion, Respect, Excellence, Discovery, Integrity, and Teamwork.

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**Shawn R. Lin, MD**, health sciences assistant clinical professor of ophthalmology, was the recipient of the UCLA Stein Eye Institute’s 1st Annual Golden Eye Award. The Award recognizes tremendous surgical capabilities, as well as the ability to collaborate exceptionally with the operating room (OR) team. The award voting committee is comprised of OR nurses, scrub techs, and staff.

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**Dr. Kevin Miller**, chief of the Cataract and Refractive Surgery Division, penned the guest editorial in the April 2024 special refractive cataract surgery edition of *Ophthalmology Management* and **Drs. John D. Bartlett, Shawn Lin, and Mitra Nejad** contributed articles to the special issue.

Dr. Miller also served as an expert source for the article, “Cataract Surgery: What It Is and How Much It Costs,” in the June 21, 2024, edition of *U.S. News & World Report*.

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**Stacy L. Pineles, MD**, professor of ophthalmology, presented the Claud Worth Lecture on October 5, 2023, at the British and Irish Paediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Association meeting in London, England.

Dr. Pineles also presented the Gunter von Noorden Lecture, “Functional and Systemic Effects of Strabismus and Serious Pediatric Eye Disease,” on January 20, 2024, at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas.

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**Peter A. Quiros, MD**, clinical professor of ophthalmology, presented the Melvin L. Rubin, MD, Award Lecture, “Optic Neuritis: New Diagnostic and Treatment Strategies,” on Saturday, June 22, 2024, at the Florida Society of Ophthalmology Masters in Ophthalmology Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida. The award is given in recognition of lifetime achievement in ophthalmic education.

Dr. Quiros was also named president-elect of the North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society for the 2024–26 term.

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**Srinivas R. Sadda, MD**, professor of ophthalmology, presented the Charles L. Schepens Lecture, on October 12, 2023, at the Retina Society’s 56th Annual Scientific Meeting in New York.

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**Victoria L. Tseng, MD, PhD**, assistant professor of ophthalmology, was appointed the Jerome and Joan Snyder Chair in Ophthalmology. The chair supports the distinguished faculty member who directs the ophthalmology residency program, ensuring that UCLA’s accredited program continues to offer rigorous and comprehensive instruction for individuals of the highest caliber.

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**Edmund Tsui, MD, MS**, assistant professor of ophthalmology, gave the keynote lecture, “OCT Biomarkers of Intraocular Inflammation” at the Carolyn Smith Uveitis Symposium on March 22, 2024, at the Vanderbilt Eye Institute in Nashville, Tennessee.

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**Federico G. Velez, MD**, Leonard Apt Endowed Chair in Pediatric Ophthalmology, was the keynote speaker at the Mexican Society of Ophthalmology meeting in Acapulco, Mexico, on June 8, 2024.

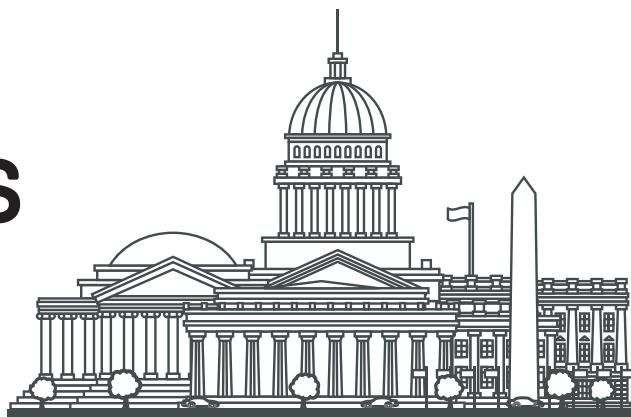
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**Jie J. Zheng, PhD**, professor of ophthalmology, was presented with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award from the UCLA Molecular Biology Institute on September 14, 2023, in recognition of his outstanding commitment to leadership, outreach, and service.

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# Faculty Honors

# Institute News



## Department Takes Leadership Role Advancing Vision Research Worldwide

**SriniVas R. Sadda, MD**, was welcomed as president of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) for the 2024–25 fiscal year. ARVO is the largest international organization dedicated to advancing vision research. **Sophie X. Deng, MD, PhD**, was announced as the ARVO President-Elect and **Joseph L. Demer, MD, PhD**, was named ARVO Vice President-Elect.



Jules Stein Eye Institute and Doheny Eye Institute took center stage at ARVO with an impressive 140 presentations. Other events at the meeting included a Doheny–UCLA forum on unrecognized determinants of retinopathy moderated by **Kaustabh Ghosh, PhD**. In addition, approximately 200 guests attended a combined Jules Stein Eye Institute and Doheny Eye Institute Alumni Reception.

## Advocating for Patients in Washington D.C.

Faculty, fellows, and residents of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology attended the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Mid-Year Forum in Washington, D.C. on April 17–20, 2024, where they met with members of Congress and their staff to advocate for patients and learn about health policy changes.

Attending were UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Residents **Leila Chew, MD, Kendall Goodyear, MD, Elise Ma, MD, PhD, Sagar Rambhia, MD, and Junru Yan, MD**, who were accepted into the AAO Ambassador Program; Fellows **Jiwei Sheng, MD, and Alexander Engelmann, MD**, who attended as Advocacy Ambassadors; and Faculty Members **Simon Fung, MD, JoAnn Giaconi, MD, Peter Quiros, MD, and Victoria Tseng, MD, PhD**, who participated in their national society leadership roles.

## Kendal Thomas New Clinic Director



As the new clinic director of the UCLA Stein Eye Institute, Kendal oversees clinical operations, ensures compliance with regulatory requirements, maintains high standards of patient satisfaction, safety, and quality, and supervises staff in accordance with UCLA health policies and procedures.

Kendal has an extensive background in health care management, public health, and leading ambulatory healthcare facilities. He earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Morehouse College and a Master of Public Health degree from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Health Policy and Systems Management.

## Susan Lee DeRemer to Lead Development Efforts

Susan Lee DeRemer, CFRE, joined the Jules Stein Eye Institute as director of Development. Susan was previously director of leadership gifts at the PKD Foundation. She was vice president of the Discovery Eye Foundation and served as director of development, director of major gifts, and events coordinator (Western Region and the Los Angeles) for Foundation Fighting Blindness.

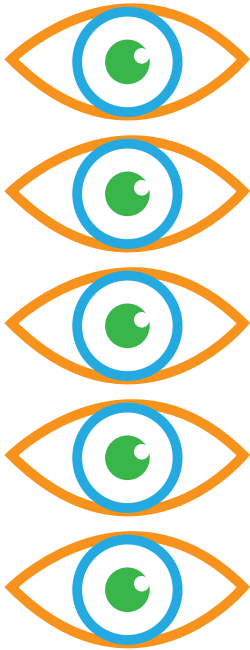


Susan received her BA at UCLA and her certificate in Fundraising and Institutional Development. “It’s wonderful to be back at UCLA,” says Susan. “I am excited to be supporting the unparalleled excellence of the Jules Stein Eye Institute and its vital mission to preserve and restore vision.”

You can reach Susan by emailing [giving@jsei.ucla.edu](mailto:giving@jsei.ucla.edu), calling the Development Office at (310) 825-3381, or by texting/calling (424) 325-9076.

5

NEW FACULTY APPOINTMENTS



L to r: Charles “Tom” Foscue, chair of the Doheny Eye Institute Board of Directors; Marissa Goldberg, chief executive officer, Doheny Eye Institute; Dr. Anne Coleman, chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, director of the Jules Stein Eye Institute, and affiliation chair of the Doheny Eye Institute; and Ronald Olson, board member, Doheny Eye Institute.

## Opening 2025: Doheny Eye Center UCLA–Pasadena

A state-of-the-art Doheny Eye Center UCLA clinical center is being built on the vision-science campus of the Doheny Eye Institute in Pasadena. The Doheny Eye Center UCLA, located at 150 N. Orange Grove Blvd., will be staffed by UCLA Department of Ophthalmology physicians providing the highest quality of vision care through the detection, diagnosis, and treatment of all ocular diseases.

## Dr. Gabriel Travis Wins Prestigious Award for Contributions to Vision Science

As a UCLA Department of Ophthalmology vision scientist, Gabriel H. Travis, MD, investigates basic questions that, in many cases, have unknown relevance to specific human diseases. Among the most fundamental: How are we able to see in daylight? His group has discovered several processes that are substantially stimulated by visible light and has continued to study how natural light exposure affects the dynamics of visual retinoids.



But in elucidating the biochemical pathways involved in visual cycles, Dr. Travis’ group has identified proteins that are highly relevant to certain inherited visual disorders. This includes Leber congenital amaurosis, a disease that is responsible for 20 percent of childhood blindness; and Stargardt macular degeneration, which causes loss of central vision and sensitivity to light. “Once you start learning about specific proteins that are involved in visual processes, you may discover that the genes for those proteins, when mutated, can lead to a blinding disease or some other visual problem,” says Dr. Travis, Charles Kenneth Feldman Chair in Ophthalmology at the Jules Stein Eye Institute.

Dr. Travis’ contributions to vision science earned him the 2024 Endre A. Balazs Prize from the International Society for Eye Research—given “to honor a distinguished scientist whose outstanding contributions provide significant progress in the field of experimental eye research.” The Balazs Prize is one of only four awards bestowed every two years by the organization at its biennial meeting. Dr. Travis will accept the award and deliver a plenary lecture at the 2024 meeting in Buenos Aires, October 20–24. “To be recognized by such an important society for the work we’ve done over the years is a great honor,” he says.



# THE LOSS OF A Towering Figure in Ophthalmology

Dr. Allan E. Kreiger  
1935–2024



Allan E. Kreiger, MD, professor of ophthalmology emeritus and founding chief of the Retina Division in the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and the Jules Stein Eye Institute (1976–2001) lost his battle with cancer on June 30, 2024.

“Dr. Kreiger was beloved by his patients, trainees, and colleagues for his exceptional skill, unwavering dedication, and compassionate care,” says **Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD**, chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, director of the Jules Stein Eye Institute, and affiliation chair of the Doheny Eye Institute. “His impact extended far beyond his professional achievements; he was a mentor and friend to many, always willing to share his knowledge and lend a helping hand. His dedication to his profession and the compassionate care he provided will have a lasting impact on generations to come.”

Born in San Pedro, California, in 1935, Dr. Kreiger received his MD from the UCLA School of Medicine in 1963 and conducted both his internship (1964) and residency in ophthalmology (1967) at UCLA. Dr. Kreiger joined the Department in 1967 as a clinical instructor in surgery. He became assistant professor in 1969 and associate professor in 1971. He rose to the position of professor of ophthalmology in 1977 and became professor of ophthalmology emeritus in 2006. Dr. Kreiger was associate chief of ophthalmology at Harbor–UCLA Medical Center from 1967 to 1968, and its chief from 1969 to 1972.

“As founding chief of the Retina Division in the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology and the Jules Stein Eye Institute (1976–2001), Dr. Kreiger led an outstanding retinal disease and surgery research, training, and patient care program by leading vitreoretinal education programs, conducting substantial research, and steadily advancing patient care activities,” says **Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD**, founding chair of the Department and founding director of the Institute. “He substantially advanced the academic activity of our Department.”

“Dr. Kreiger personified the highest standards in patient care, education, and mentorship,” says **Bartly J. Mondino, MD**, former Department chair and Institute director. “He was beloved by faculty, trainees, and patients alike. He was an expert at diagnosing and treating complex forms of retinal diseases and contributed instrumentation and techniques to the profession and published studies that added to the world’s literature.”

When asked his most important professional contribution, Dr. Kreiger said it was educating residents and fellows saying, “Training the next generation of ophthalmologists and retinal specialists is where you can contribute the most to alleviating human pain and suffering.”

# Education

OUR EDUCATIONAL EVENTS PROVIDE ONGOING TRAINING FOR RESIDENTS, FELLOWS, AND OPHTHALMOLOGISTS WORLDWIDE.



## COURSES TAUGHT 2023–24

- ▶ 5th Annual Doheny-UCLA International Glaucoma Symposium
- ▶ Annual Cataract Surgery Essentials Course
- ▶ 2nd Annual Doheny-UCLA International Retina Symposium
- ▶ 27th Annual Department of Ophthalmology Vision Science Conference
- ▶ Boston Keratoprosthesis Skill Transfer Workshop in Bangkok, Thailand
- ▶ 10th Annual Pacific Retina Club and International Retinal Imaging Society (IntrIS) meeting
- ▶ Zeiss Vision Advanced Cataract Surgery Course
- ▶ Annual Comprehensive Ophthalmology Review Course
- ▶ 53rd Doheny Eye Institute Annual Continuing Medical Education Conference
- ▶ 14th Annual Ryan Initiative for Macular Research

## UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Annual Seminar

### KEYNOTE LECTURERS

54th Doheny Memorial Lecturer  
Joseph F. Rizzo III, MD

54th Jules Stein Lecturer  
Russell N. Van Gelder, MD, PhD

21st Bradley R. Straatsma Lecturer  
Tamara R. Fountain, MD

21st Thomas H. Pettit Lecturer  
Kenneth J. Hoffer, MD



The 2024 graduating class of residents.



The 2024 graduating class of fellows.

# How You Can Make a Difference

Imagine a world where you cannot see the sunrise, where the faces of loved ones are blurred, or the simple joy of reading is a struggle. For many, it is a daily reality. But with your support, we can continue to change lives through the groundbreaking work at the Jules Stein Eye Institute.

Our team of dedicated vision scientists has made incredible strides. We've pushed the boundaries of what's possible, bringing hope to those affected by vision loss, and we are training the next generation of leaders in ophthalmology to continue our vision. And your generosity is the cornerstone of these transformative achievements.

To continue this groundbreaking research, world-class patient care, and the education of tomorrow's leaders in ophthalmology, here are ways you can donate to the Jules Stein Eye Institute:

**Checks/Credit Cards:** Traditional and straightforward, cash donations are always welcome and put to immediate use.

**Appreciated Securities:** Donating stocks or bonds can be tax-smart, potentially offering you more significant tax benefits than a cash gift.

**Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs):** Recommending a grant from your DAF to the Jules Stein Eye Institute is an efficient and tax-effective way to support blindness prevention.

**Retirement Assets:** If you are 70½ years old or older, consider donating from your IRA directly to the Jules Stein Eye Institute. This distribution can also count towards your required minimum distribution (RMD) and is excluded from a donor's taxable income.

**Charitable Gift Annuity:** Donate cash, securities, or other assets in trust to the Jules Stein Eye Institute, and in return, receive lifetime payments to you and up to one additional person. This may qualify for a partial tax deduction, and the Institute ultimately receives the trust.

**Wills and Bequests:** Leave a lasting legacy by including the Jules Stein Eye Institute in your will or estate plans.

**There are several options to help guide your donation:**

**General Donation:** Unrestricted donations provide flexibility to meet immediate needs.

**Tribute:** Contributions made in memory, honor, or celebration of a loved one or a doctor who had an impact on your life.

**Pledge:** Gifts made in installments over a set period, allowing you to defer the bulk of your donation. Typically, pledges include an initial installment and provide consistent, reliable funding, often enabling donors to contribute more than initially anticipated.

**Endowment:** Donations are invested as a permanent fund, using the annual investment income to support clinical, educational, and scientific initiatives. Any remaining investment yield is returned to the principal. Thus, over the years, an endowment provides steady, reliable funding.

Please consider making a generous donation to the Jules Stein Eye Institute today and join us in our commitment to preserve and restore vision.

**Together, we can ensure no one misses life's most beautiful moments.**

For information about making a gift or incorporating the Jules Stein Eye Institute into your estate and retirement planning, please contact:

**Susan Lee DeRemer, CFRE**  
Director of Development  
Jules Stein Eye Institute  
Development Office  
100 Stein Plaza, Room 3-138  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-7000  
Phone: (310) 825-3381  
Cell/Text: (424) 325-9076  
giving@jsei.ucla.edu

See UCLA and the UCLA Foundation's Disclosure Statements for Prospective Donors at: <http://www.uclafoundation.org/disclosures>

**Consult your tax advisor to determine the best way to support the Institute's vital work.**

# Jules Stein Eye Institute

Find detailed information about our activities in the 2023–24 Annual Report at:



## Jules Stein Eye Institute July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024

### DIRECTOR

Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD

### MANAGING EDITOR

Tina-Marie Gauthier  
c/o Stein Eye Institute  
100 Stein Plaza, UCLA  
Los Angeles, California 90095–7000  
Tina@EyeCiteEditing.com

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Rich Schmitt

### DESIGN

Robin Weisz/Graphic Design

For more information about the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, see: [www.uclahealth.org/eye/](http://www.uclahealth.org/eye/).

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UCLA DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY  
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Stein Eye Institute



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