DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

Weill Cornell Medical College
NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital
Although it comprises just three percent of medical practice, Ophthalmology is certainly a remarkable specialty. Its well-defined concentration on the exquisitely beautiful eye and the eye’s surrounding tissues and related neurological functions has given rise to some difficulty placing it in relation to other medical specialties. It is grouped most frequently, by shared history and proximate anatomy, with Otorhinolaryngology. Other pairings include: Neurosurgery, by virtue of rarified surgical sophistication; Radiology and Radiation Oncology, by use of highly complicated instrumentation; and Dermatology, by the performance of laser surgery. Yet, in contrast to many specialties, Ophthalmology is not exotic. An eye examination is a certain and repeated occurrence in the life of every person due to many common conditions such as presbyopia, cataracts, refractive errors requiring glasses or contact lenses, conjunctivitis, etc. In this regard, it actually shares a great deal with Primary Care Medicine. The recognition of this unique combination of characteristics — common disorders, highly sophisticated equipment, and specialized surgical techniques — undoubtedly led to the creation in 1916 of the American Board of Ophthalmology as the first medical specialty board in America.

The Department of Ophthalmology at Weill Cornell Medical College/NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital has a long and distinguished history. Even a partial list of faculty associated with the Department — John Milton McLean, Edward W. D. Norton, Victor T. Curtin, Harvey A. Lincoff, D. Jackson Coleman, Robert M. Ellsworth, Edward A. Dunlap, Frederick A. Jakobiec, Stanley Chang, David H. Abramson — places it in the company of a few select cradles of innovative leaders.
in our field. First, however, there is a need to clarify the changing names of the Department’s home institutions. What began in 1898 as Cornell University Medical College was renamed in 1998 as Joan and Sanford I. Weill Medical College of Cornell University, and still later as Weill Cornell Medical College. The other parent institution for the Department, The New York Hospital—chartered by King George III in 1771, and the second oldest hospital in the United States—merged in 1998 with the Presbyterian Hospital (long affiliated with Columbia University) to form the New York-Presbyterian Hospital. It is one of the largest hospitals in the United States, and the only one with a separate medical school at each of its major campuses. However, the “New York” in New York-Presbyterian Hospital is often mistaken for a geographical adjective and not a specific institutional reference. Given the additional fact that the undergraduate campus of Cornell is in Ithaca, NY, it is quite understandable that Cornell University’s longstanding medical college in Manhattan—Weill Cornell Medical College—has experienced some degree of name, and even location, confusion.

Recounting the history of the Department is a most worthy subject but is far beyond the scope of this slim volume, which offers an interim report since the most recent chair transition in November 2006. This interim period has been highly active, and we are delighted to offer a summary of our recent activities. Nevertheless, we will benefit from being mindful of our origins, and so we begin with a personal remembrance of an early and seminal leader of the Department, Dr. John Milton McLean. We are fortunate to have this portrait of Dr. McLean through the recollections of Dr. Edward A. Dunlap in the Fifth McLean Medal lecture delivered May 17, 1985. Dr. Dunlap was the first resident in Ophthalmology under Dr. McLean, who was himself the youngest chief of an Ophthalmology department (then a division). Apart from military service occasioned by the attack on Pearl Harbor, Dr. Dunlap remained on staff in the Department for his entire professional life. He was a most respected and highly talented ophthalmologist, strabismus specialist, and surgical innovator, and he warmly remembers his mentor Dr. McLean, whose vision, skills, and efforts enable, and ennoble, our present activities in the Department of Ophthalmology.

Donald J. D’Amico, MD
Professor and Chairman
Department of Ophthalmology
Betty Neuwirth Lee and Chilly Professor in Stem Cell Research
Weill Cornell Medical College; Ophthalmologist-in-Chief
New York-Presbyterian Hospital
John Milton McLean came here July 1, 1941, six months after I had arrived for the then one year residency. The department head was Bernard Samuels, an internationally recognized figure in ophthalmic pathology. He had little interest in Cornell except for lecturing to the Medical School Juniors. His heart and soul were at the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. He rarely operated here. His attending staff numbered eight, none full-time. Clinic was open only in the afternoons. We were allotted two half-days a week in the Operating Room. We shared G-8's 29 beds with E.N.T. The Eye and E.N.T. residents actually shared Emergency Room and week-end calls. There were no rounds, no teaching and no salary.

This scene greeted John on his arrival to assume the professorship. He had just finished seven years at Wilmer: five as resident, one as a Mellon Fellow and one as a staff member. Late in the residency there he was known as “The King.” He already had a somewhat formidable reputation, partly based on his ability on Rounds to quote the literature, naming author, journal, date and often page number, and partly from his already well-known corneoscleral suture. He was the youngest person in contemporary ophthalmology to become instant Professor and Department Head. He was 32 years old.

I never saw him smile once in the next six months, let alone laugh. He instituted immediate changes: clinic was opened full time, gloves were worn during surgery, rounds were instituted and the resident was ordered to operate on his own once John felt he was qualified.

It is impossible to condense 27 years of close relationship with reflections upon it into 20 minutes but I hope to give you a picture of him. First, John’s involvement in our specialty was ecumenical. He was interested and active in every aspect of eye. He wrote 110 papers. He wrote two surgical textbooks, one on cataracts and one on glaucoma. He contributed to five other textbooks. A facet of his writing was that he wrote the original drafts in longhand, made a few alterations and handed the paper to his secretary. No prolonged, laborious polishing for John McLean. He was on the Committee for Tonometer Standardization. He devised a new gonioscope. There was his suture. He helped found the Verhoeff Society and was a president. Something few people know is that he conceived of and established the first Eye Bank in this country here at Cornell. It was shortly thereafter moved to Manhattan Eye and Ear.

**JOHN’S INVOLVEMENT IN OUR SPECIALTY WAS ECUMENICAL.**

**HE WAS INTERESTED AND ACTIVE IN EVERY ASPECT OF EYE.**

**HE WROTE 110 PAPERS. HE WROTE TWO SURGICAL TEXTBOOKS, ONE ON CATARACTS AND ONE ON GLAUCOMA. HE CONTRIBUTED TO FIVE OTHER TEXTBOOKS.**

He was on the Board of the American Board of Ophthalmology, an officer and Council Member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology, a Chairman of the Section on Ophthalmology of the American Medical Association, a Trustee of the American Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology, a President of the New York Ophthalmological Society and a President of the PanAmerican Association of Ophthalmology. He was a member of 20 eye organizations and held honorary membership in 10 more. He delivered nine Memorial Lectures. He received the Gold Medal of the National Society for Prevention of Blindness. Stevens
Institute awarded him an honorary degree in Engineering. And on and on. He was even granted honorary membership in the Cornell Eye Residents Alumni Association. All this was accomplished in the span of 27 years before his death in 1968 at age 58. This truly remarkable record is indicative of his abilities and their recognition by others.

An additional major accomplishment was his 48 residents. The training he gave has borne fruit in abundance. His ripples are still spreading. Over 50 percent of his men hold or held medical school appointments. More prestigious, six of his men have become members of the American Ophthalmological Society, a percentage of 12.5; no other training center in this country in this century can match this figure.

A close look at his personality is both relevant and revealing. Most people who knew him casually considered him cold, aloof, arrogant, harsh, sarcastic. But to those who came to know him well he was revealed as warm, friendly, even compassionate. His projected mien of severity was a facade to hide an extreme reserve or, as many believe, an actual shyness. It took all of us some time to realize this. He had a poor bedside manner in the ordinary context of the term and relatively few patients warmed to him, his reserve acting to prevent this. But for his residents he had unending patience and kindness. If a man was doing his best, John always gave total support. In turn, he expected the utmost at all times from them. He would neither abide nor accept sloppy thinking, slovenly performance or flimsy excuse. Heading all his personal traits was a total integrity of self and total intellectual honesty.

He could be short, rough and on occasion even cruel. His most famous remark was to a surgeon busily excising himself for vitreous loss during a lens extraction. John drily commented, “Vitreous does not run uphill.” In another incident, while scrubbed in with a junior resident, he watched him do a full corneal section which caught iris, lens capsule and corneoscleral suture in one fell swoop. No remark was forthcoming until after completion of surgery when he turned to the man and asked, “How did you get those gloves on your feet?”

John dearly loved to party, perhaps because then, with the help of liberal ethanol intake, he could overcome his habitual reserve. At house staff parties and the annual summer party up at our farm a standard and established goal was to get him high. We knew this level was reached when he, alone or with companions would start singing “Le Marseillaise.” At that point we knew John had arrived and we all relaxed. On one occasion there was a large party on Howards Hill’s boat up in Maine. After dinner John took a large sterling silver tray piled with lobster shells over to the side of the boat and ceremoniously dropped everything overboard in 10 feet of water. The next morning at 7 a.m. he was up and diving to recover the tray, which of course he did.

His father, William McLean was Chief of Ophthalmology in his own right at Flower Fifth Avenue—New York Medical College. It was he who had designed the McLean tonometer. He was a strict Scot in family life, and I am sure John’s personality was strongly influenced and molded by his father.

John was a superb surgeon, always working with deliberate and meticulous precision; never rushing, never dallying. I never saw him flustered. He was wholly ambidextrous at the operating table. Duke-Elder once told Derrick Vail, “John McLean was the best ophthalmic surgeon I have ever seen.” Along with
his reputation as a surgeon he became a widely sought consultant. He was a national arbiter of complicated problems, be they diagnostic or therapeutic.

But no one is perfect and I must tell you that John had a little clay in his feet. He manifested one trait not in keeping with the rest of his character. He was not a fighter. In the administrative hierarchy of the Center, he leaned far backward to avoid confrontation and unpleasantness. He accepted Center administrative actions without question or complaint. Other than their training, he often seemed to do more for his men outside the hospital than inside. He never fought for departmental recognition and at his death Eye was still a subdepartment of Surgery, although due to his late efforts we attained full departmental status shortly after his death. He avoided disciplinary action when it was indicated. He could be too soft-hearted and at times was. Another incident verges on the ludicrous. When Ed Norton came on the staff as the fourth full-time man, the question of his office space arose. Ed suggested and requested that he be given a 10’ x 12’ space carved out of the Clinic waiting room. Hospital administration refused, John did not demand increased space for him and the upshot was that Ed Norton left. Well, we all know the serendipitous result of that! It is an interesting tidbit of eye history that the denial of 120 square feet at Cornell evolved into 308,000 square feet in Miami plus five acres of adjoining undeveloped land, plus the leading training Center in the country!

The 1968 Cornell Eye Residents Alumni Association Meeting closed one day before John died on May 2. There was lengthy discussion as to a suitable memorial to the Chief. I cannot recall who first made the suggestion of endowing a Chair. Administration informed us that $750,000 would be required. We decided to go ahead and an 18 month drive was launched with $145,000 seed money pledged by the alumni and eye staff. Administration provided much help and by hard work and good fortune the goal was met actually within hours of the drive closing-time. You should know this is the second chair in ophthalmology to be established in this country.

And now the sadness. John’s illness was drawn out, painful and tragic. During a late, very brief partial remission a testimonial dinner was quickly arranged. While of course sad, it was a memorable evening. Thirty-five of his 48 men were there. Walsh and Maumenee came up from Wilmer. Many tributes were paid. When John was called on to close, with his typical Scot manner and courage he said it was not given to many people to be able to attend their own wakes. He told me privately that night that it was the greatest night of his life. Ten weeks later he was gone. During his entire illness I never heard him complain once of his misfortune or his pain, or to rail at Fate or to indulge in self-pity. He faced his long downhill course with its foregone conclusion with calm acceptance, stoicism and total courage. He pursued excellence to the end.

I hope those of you who never knew him now know him as a truly remarkable individual, a giant in ophthalmology in his day, and a man who by his lifelong pursuit of excellence in what he did pointed the way to his residents.
The patient care area of Weill Cornell Eye Associates in the Department of Ophthalmology occupies 25,000 square feet in the award-winning Weill Greenberg Center at 1305 York Avenue at East 70th Street. This beautiful new facility, constructed by Weill Cornell Medical College with major support from the Dyson Foundation, has been designed to provide exceptional patient care in a most welcoming and attractive environment. The clinical suite is state-of-the-art throughout and includes 28 newly-equipped rooms for individual patient examinations and consultations as well as a specially-designed area for pediatric patients. The facility contains the most advanced diagnostic, therapeutic, and laser technologies available, permitting diagnosis and treatment of the full spectrum of ophthalmic conditions using the finest and most effective instruments and techniques in the rapidly changing field of eye care.
Dyson Foundation Secretary John FitzSimons, Dean Antonio M. Gotto, Jr., Dyson Foundation President Robert R. Dyson, and Ophthalmology Chairman Donald J. D’Amico dedicate the Dyson Family Floor in Ophthalmology on June 24, 2008.
DONALD J. D’AMICO, MD

Professor and Chairman, Department of Ophthalmology
Betty Neuwirth Lee and Chilly Professor in Stem Cell Research, Weill Cornell Medical College
Ophthalmologist-in-Chief, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital

FELLOWSHIP
Vitreoretinal Diseases, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, University of Miami

RESIDENCY
Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Harvard Medical School

MEDICAL SCHOOL
University of Illinois College of Medicine

Dr. D’Amico is President of the prestigious international retinal specialist Club Jules Gonin and the Immediate Past President of the Retina Society. He has published over 175 articles on vitreoretinal diseases and has co-edited two books covering comprehensive retinal themes. He has participated as a principal investigator or co-investigator in many clinical trials and laboratory investigations. He is a distinguished national and international lecturer, including over twenty named lectures, and is the recipient of many honors, including the Honor Award and the Senior Achievement Award of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. He twice won the coveted Teaching Award given by the residents of the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. He serves on the board of four major journals, and is highly active in professional societies.

Dr. D’Amico’s clinical interests include vitreoretinal diseases and surgery, with particular emphasis on diabetic retinopathy, retinal detachment, age-related macular degeneration, macular disorders, and retinal vascular occlusions. He is particularly known for his expertise in complicated vitreoretinal surgery, and has recently developed new techniques in association with his anterior segment colleagues for restoration of vision in eyes by means of permanent keratoprosthesis. He has a longstanding clinical interest in endophthalmitis and other inflammatory and infectious conditions of the eye. His research interests include the development of new technologies and lasers for vitreoretinal surgery, studies on models of diabetic retinopathy and retinal detachment, and gene and stem cell therapies for retinal diseases.

Selected recent publications


R.V. PAUL CHAN, MD, MSC, FACS

Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
St. Giles Assistant Professor of Pediatric Retina
Director, Vitreoretinal Fellowship; Director, Retina Service

FELLOWSHIP
Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Harvard Medical School

RESIDENCY
Weill Cornell Medical College, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Temple University School of Medicine

Dr. Chan is the St. Giles Assistant Professor of Pediatric Retina, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at Weill Cornell Medical College, and Division Chief of Ophthalmology at New York Downtown Hospital.

Dr. Chan’s primary research interests focus on the pathogenesis and management of retinopathy of prematurity (ROP). He received an NIH K30 Clinical Research Curriculum Award from Weill Cornell Medical College and works with numerous investigators worldwide to address the growing burden of ROP.

Dr. Chan has committed himself to global health initiatives, having established clinical, teaching, and research collaborations in Southeast Asia, Latin America, and Africa. He is currently working with his collaborators on developing ROP educational programs in developing countries, with the goal of providing better access to care for children with this blinding condition. For his efforts and commitment to pediatric retina and ROP, Dr. Chan was awarded an endowed chair by Weill Cornell Medical College.

Dr. Chan is an assistant editor for RETINA and serves on the editorial board for Ocular Surgery News and the Journal of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus. He also serves as a reviewer to several major journals.

Selected recent publications


JESSICA B. CIRALSKY, MD

Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
Director, Medical Student Clerkships

FELLOWSHIP
Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Harvard Medical School, Cornea Fellowship

RESIDENCY
Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Harvard Medical School

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

Dr. Ciralsky is a cornea and refractive surgeon and comprehensive ophthalmologist. Her practice interests include corneal diseases, corneal surgery (including penetrating keratoplasty, Descemet’s stripping endothelial keratoplasty, deep anterior lamellar keratoplasty, and keratoprosthesis), advanced cataract surgery, laser vision correction, pediatric corneal diseases, and comprehensive ophthalmology.

Dr. Ciralsky is actively involved in resident and medical student teaching: She serves as the director of the medical student clerkships and is also one of the primary instructors of resident cataract surgery. She is also involved in several research endeavors. Her research interests include advancements in corneal transplantation, keratoprosthesis surgery, and autoimmune diseases (Stevens-Johnson syndrome and ocular cicatricial pemphigoid).

HONORS/AWARDS
- Anne Crosby Emery Fellowship (an award given to two graduating seniors for scholarly ability and excellence of character)
- Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Fellowship
- Chief Clinical Fellow of the Cornea Service
- Fellow of the Year (an award given by the residents of Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary for dedication and contribution to resident education)

ACADEMIC SERVICE
- Boston Foundation for Sight Ophthalmology Liaison
- Course Director for Keratoprosthesis Update Course
- Course faculty and lecturer at Harvard Medical School Intensive Cataract Surgery Training Course

Selected recent publications


D. JACKSON COLEMAN, MD

The John Milton McLean Professor of Ophthalmology
Weill Cornell Medical College

RESIDENCY
Columbia University Medical Center

MEDICAL SCHOOL
University of Buffalo School of Medicine

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Dr. D. Jackson Coleman is the John Milton McLean Professor of Ophthalmology and Chairman Emeritus of the Department of Ophthalmology at Weill Cornell Medical College. Dr. Coleman is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and is a vitreoretinal surgeon with an interest in ocular oncology, trauma, and all aspects of vitreoretinal disease.

Dr. Coleman has been an officer of every major ultrasound medical society throughout the world, including the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine, the Societas Internationalis de Diagnostic Ultrasonica in Ophthalmologia, and the World Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology, Inc. He is past President of the American Retina Society and Past President of Club Jules Gonin, the International Retina Society. Dr. Coleman has authored over 200 peer-reviewed articles and numerous chapters in ophthalmology textbooks. He has recently published the second edition of his seminal text, Ultrasonography of the Eye and Orbit.

Dr. Coleman has committed his eminent career to vitreoretinal surgery, imaging research, and physiologic mechanisms of the eye. Most notable is his theory of accommodation. He has been a pioneer in surgical techniques, having been involved with the first vitreoretinal surgery performed in New York and, using the ultrasound that he developed, demonstrated that operating at an earlier stage in ocular trauma could vastly improve the patient's prognosis for recovery. For his research, he has received many prestigious awards including the Mildred Weisenfeld Award for Excellence in Ophthalmology from the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, the Herman Wacker Award of Club Jules Gonin, the Award of Merit in Retinal Research from the Retina Society, and an honorary degree from the University of Ferrara in Ferrara, Italy. Dr. Coleman was also the 2001 recipient of the Greenberg Award of New York-Presbyterian Hospital-Weill Medical College of Cornell University.

With a generous gift from Charles and Margaret Dyson, Dr. Coleman established the Margaret M. Dyson Vision Research Institute, one of the major retinal research programs in the world. The Dyson Institute continues research on the causes and possible therapies for age-related macular degeneration and other debilitating eye diseases.

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Selected recent publications


ANNA-MARIA DEMETRIADES, MD

Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
Glaucoma Service

FELLOWSHIP
Glaucoma, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, U. Miami

RESIDENCY
The Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins Hospital

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Oxford University Medical School, England

Dr. Demetriades is a glaucoma specialist and her expertise encompasses the medical and surgical management of glaucoma. She performs glaucoma drainage implant surgery, trabeculectomy, glaucoma laser therapy (iridotomy, trabeculoplasty, iridoplasty, diode cyclophotocoagulation), and cataract surgery.

Dr. Demetriades also leads a team of scientists at the Dyson Vision Research Institute. The primary focus of her laboratory is to develop novel treatments for glaucoma. Glaucoma is the leading cause of irreversible blindness worldwide, and investigations aimed at gaining a better understanding of the pathogenesis of glaucoma are currently underway. The purpose of these studies is to establish new targets aimed at delaying and preventing progression of glaucomatous visual loss.

As a clinician-scientist, Dr. Demetriades’ goal is to help patients manage their glaucoma and maintain vision throughout their lives.

HONORS/AWARDS

- W. Richard Green House Staff Teaching Award
- American Diabetes Association Transatlantic Fellowship
- Knights Templar Eye Foundation Research Grant Award
- British Medical Association Research Grant Award

Selected recent publications


Dr. Dinkin specializes in treating patients with vision problems originating from the nervous system, such as optic neuritis, ischemic optic neuropathy, optic disc edema, brain tumors, strokes, idiopathic intracranial hypertension, double vision, and nystagmus. He has published numerous research articles in peer-reviewed journals and chapters and frequently presents abstracts at national conferences. He has been an invited lecturer at the Lancaster Course in Ophthalmology, the Greater New York Ophthalmology Clinical Lecture Series, and the New England Ophthalmological Society and has been awarded numerous awards for teaching and clinical care as well as the Rabkin Fellowship in Medical Education at Harvard Medical School. He has served as a peer-reviewer for Neurology, The Journal of Neuro-Ophthalmology, and the New England Journal of Medicine.

Dr. Dinkin’s research interests include neuromyelitis optica, the management of idiopathic intracranial hypertension, and the use of Flicker chronoscopy to document venous pulsations in the optic nerve. He is also a medical illustrator and has composed a series of educational songs to be used by medical students in their neurology clerkship.

SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS
- Rabkin Medical Education Fellowship 2008-09
- House Staff Teaching Award 2006
- Class of 1952 Resident Physician Prize 2006
- Distinguished House Staff Award 2005
- Alpha Omega Alpha & Junior Alpha Omega Alpha 2001
- John Metcalf Polk Prize 2002

Selected recent publications


SZILÁRD KISS, MD

Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
Director of Clinical Research

FELLOWSHIP
Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Harvard Medical School

RESIDENCY
Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Harvard Medical School

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons

Dr. Kiss is a board certified ophthalmologist with a primary focus on the medical and surgical management of adult and pediatric disorders of the retina and vitreous. He strives for excellence in patient care, medical education, and ophthalmic research.

Dr. Kiss’s clinical interests include vitreoretinal surgery (e.g., retinal detachment repair, epiretinal membrane pealing, macular hole repair, retained lens fragment removal) and surgical and medical treatment of age-related macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy.

Dr. Kiss has participated as an investigator in numerous clinical trials and laboratory investigations. He has presented the findings of his research at local, national, and international scientific meetings. Dr. Kiss is also highly active in professional societies and serves as a scientific reviewer to major journals.

As part of his commitment to future generations of ophthalmologists, Dr. Kiss provides direct supervision and instruction to medical students, ophthalmology residents, clinical vitreoretinal fellows, and research fellows.

Dr. Kiss’s clinical and translational research focuses on three broad areas: retinal imaging, ocular gene therapy, and genetic markers for retinal disease.

Dr. Kiss has developed a fully-immersive, totally interactive, virtual-reality, high-resolution optical coherence tomography for better visualization of retinal diseases as well as for pre-surgical planning (above right) as seen on CBS and Fox News.

His current work with ocular gene therapy involves both gene replacement (right) and gene addition (with anti-vascular endothelial growth factor for the long-term treatment of diabetes and macular degeneration). It is hoped that the need for repeated intraocular injections may be alleviated by means of this ocular gene therapy.

In conjunction with the Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, Dr. Kiss is working to better understand the genetic basis of retinal disorders such as diabetic retinopathy and age-related macular degeneration.

Selected recent publications

Dr. Kiss has published over three dozen articles, including publications on innovative surgical techniques and novel treatment paradigms for retinal disorders. A full list of Dr. Kiss’s publications can be found on www.PubMed.com.
EDWARD C. LAI, MD

Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
Cornea, Cataract, and Refractive Surgery
Director, Comprehensive Ophthalmology

FELLOWSHIP
Weill Cornell Medical Center

RESIDENCY
Manhattan Eye, Ear & Throat Hospital, New York University

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Tufts University School of Medicine

Dr. Lai is a board certified ophthalmologist and an accomplished ocular surgeon. He is committed to excellence in the provision of a complete range of ophthalmic care and serves as the Director of Comprehensive Ophthalmology. His practice interests include cataract surgery, LASIK and PRK surgery, corneal transplantation, and the treatment of various corneal diseases.

In conjunction with his role of active practitioner, Dr. Lai is also a valued and gifted educator: He was the recipient of the WCMC Ophthalmology Teacher of the Year Award in 2010 and is an invited instructor at the Intensive Cataract Surgery Course at Harvard University. Aside from his dedication to patient care, one of Dr. Lai’s primary concerns is training WCMC’s ophthalmology residents in both clinical and surgical care as well as playing an integral role in the education of WCMC medical students and ophthalmology fellows. Additionally, Dr. Lai is a member of various professional societies and has actively contributed to ophthalmic literature.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND ACTIVITIES
- Peer reviewer for Current Eye Research, Journal of Medical Case Reports
- Serves on the Weill Cornell Resident Selection Committee

Selected recent publications


GARY J. LELLI, JR., MD

Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
Director of Ophthalmic Plastic, Reconstructive, and Orbital Surgery

FELLOWSHIP
Columbia University, Manhattan Eye, Ear & Throat Hospital,
New York Eye & Ear Infirmary, New York University

RESIDENCY
University of Michigan, W.K. Kellogg Eye Center

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Mount Sinai School of Medicine

Dr. Lelli is a member of the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (ASOPRS), and he specializes in conditions affecting the eyelids, orbit, and lacrimal system. He also treats complex disorders requiring the multispecialty care of dermatology, neurosurgery, radiology, otolaryngology, and endocrinology.

Dr. Lelli’s research interests involve investigating canalicular anatomy in cadaveric prosections, the role of orbital volumetric analysis in trauma and tumors, and reanimation options in facial nerve palsy.

Selected recent publications


D r. Levine is a board certified ophthalmologist with specialty training in ophthalmic plastic surgery. He provides comprehensive eye care as a member of Weill Cornell Eye Associates. His practice interests include cataract surgery, eyelid abnormalities, tearing, and general ophthalmology.

Dr. Levine serves as the Director of the Ophthalmology Inpatient Consult Service at the NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center and the Hospital for Special Surgery. In this role, he is responsible for overseeing the care of a wide range of ophthalmic pathology associated with systemic disease, as well as leading daily hospital teaching rounds for the residents.

Selected recent publications

RICHARD LEVY, MD

Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
Director, Pediatric Ophthalmology and Adult Strabismus

FELLOWSHIP
Neuro-Ophthalmology, Johns Hopkins University
Pediatric Ophthalmology, Children’s Hospital Boston, Harvard University

RESIDENCY
Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, New York University

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Harvard Medical School

Dr. Levy is dual trained in neuro-ophthalmology and pediatric ophthalmology, and his clinical focus is on children with eye disease, children with neurologic disease affecting the eyes and visual system, and adults with strabismus. He is a member of the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (AAPOS) and the North American Neuro-Ophthalmic Society (NANOS).

Dr. Levy’s training and experience allow him to diagnose and treat complex visual disorders in children and adults through the utilization of both medical and surgical treatments for the eyes. Patients under his care benefit from his collaboration with neurologists, neurosurgeons, and other related pediatric specialists. He is interested in the impact of neurologic disease on the developing visual system and the surgical treatment of strabismus in both children and adults. He also enjoys teaching residents and medical students in the clinic and operating room.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- Peer reviewer for the Journal of AAPOS, and Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science (IOVS)
- Lecturer, pediatric grand rounds at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital and the greater metropolitan New York area
- Panelist, AAPOS and American Academy of Ophthalmology Subspecialty Day
- Komansky Pediatric Surgical Specialty Committee
- Weill Cornell Physicians Organization Practice Operations Committee

Selected recent publications


NATHAN RADCLIFFE, MD

Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
Director of Glaucoma Service

FELLOWSHIP
New York Eye and Ear Infirmary/NYU

RESIDENCY
NYU/Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Temple University School of Medicine

Dr. Radcliffe is a board certified ophthalmologist and glaucoma specialist who manages the spectrum of pathologic states from suspected glaucoma to advanced disease requiring complex surgical intervention. Dr. Radcliffe is proud to be part of an integrated team of specialists at Weill Cornell, where patients with glaucoma and corneal, retinal, or neuro-ophthalmic disease are managed in a cooperative manner.

Dr. Radcliffe’s research interests include disc hemorrhage and parapapillary atrophy and glaucoma, use of imaging modalities (fundus photography, optical coherence tomography, and flicker chronoscopy) in the evaluation of glaucomatous optic neuropathy and corneal biomechanical properties in glaucoma. Dr. Radcliffe is a recipient of the 2009 Mentoring for Advancement of Physician Scientists (MAPS) Award from the American Glaucoma Society.

Selected recent publications


Radcliffe NM, Musch, DC, Niziol, LM, Liebmann, JM, Ritch, R. The Effect of Trabeculectomy on Intraocular Pressure of the Untreated Fellow Eye in the Collaborative Initial Glaucoma Treatment Study. Ophthalmology 2010;117:2055-60.


**LEILA RAFLA-DEMETRIOUS, MD**

Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology  
Glaucoma  
General Eye Diseases

**FELLOWSHIP**  
Glaucoma, Weill Cornell Medical Center/New York-Presbyterian Hospital

**RESIDENCY**  
Weill-Cornell Medical Center/New York-Presbyterian Hospital

**MEDICAL SCHOOL**  
State University of New York, Brooklyn, NY

Dr. Rafla-Demetrious is a board certified ophthalmologist. She is fellowship-trained in the medical and surgical treatment of glaucoma, a potentially blinding disease. She also sees and treats general ophthalmologic medical and surgical conditions. Dr. Rafla-Demetrious performs cataract surgery as well as other anterior segment procedures. She has been a proud part of the Weill Cornell Ophthalmology service for over ten years.

**HONORS/AWARDS**
- AOA, SUNY Brooklyn, NY
- American Medical Women’s Association, Inc. Janet M. Glasgow Memorial Achievement Citation

**ACADEMIC SERVICE**
Dr. Rafla-Demetrious has served as a full-time attending physician at Weill Cornell Ophthalmology since 2000. She has helped to oversee resident training both clinically and surgically, and now focuses on treating glaucoma and general ophthalmologic problems in her daily practice.

*Visual field loss in glaucoma*
ENRIQUE RODRIGUEZ-BOULAN, MD

Charles & Margaret Dyson Professor of Ophthalmic Research
Professor of Neurosciences, Cell Biology and Physiology
Director, Tri-Institutional Training Program in Vision Research

MEDICAL SCHOOL
University of Buenos Aires Medical School

POSTDOCTORAL TRAINING
New York University, Department of Cell Biology
(Fogarty International Fellowship from NIH)

Dr. Rodriguez-Boulan has published over 180 peer-reviewed articles, many of them on fundamental aspects of the function and pathology of the retina. His research focuses on understanding the interaction between the retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) and the photoreceptors, which is key for normal vision. His laboratory has made many discoveries in this area, including a major receptor in RPE involved in the phagocytosis of rod outer segments (Finnemann et al, PNAS, 1999) and a new pathogenetic mechanism for age-related macular degeneration (AMD) (Lakkaraju et al. 2007). Recently, this research has led to potential new therapies for AMD, which affects over 30% of our senior population. His research also focuses on understanding basic aspects of the organization of epithelial cells. The model system that he developed for this purpose and introduced in 1978 has launched a new field with over 5,000 publications, as shown by a recent PUBMED search.

HONORS/AWARDS
- MD with Honors. UBA 1970
- Fogarty International Fellow (NIH) 1974-76
- Chair, Biological Sciences Section, New York Academy of Sciences 1982-83
- Established Investigator Award, American Heart Association 1985-90
- Bensley Award, Outstanding Cell Biologist, American Society of Anatomists 1986
- Joseph Hinsey Professor of Cell Biology 1989-96
- Jules and Doris Stein Professor of Cell Biology in Ophthalmology, Research to Prevent Blindness Foundation 1996-03
- C & M Dyson Professor 2003
- Co-founder, International Society of Ocular Cell Biology

ACADEMIC SERVICE
- Member of several NIH & NSF study sections, including Vis Sciences C (2002-5)
- Member of several International Advisory Boards including Harvard GI Diseases Center, Institut Monod (Paris), Leloir Institute (Buenos Aires), etc.

Selected recent publications


Dr. Rosenblatt is a board certified ophthalmologist with subspecialty training in cornea and refractive surgery. He provides an array of surgical services including cataract, corneal, and refractive surgery, in addition to the medical treatment of patients with ocular surface and corneal disease.

Dr. Rosenblatt is an NIH funded clinician-scientist with active research programs investigating ocular regenerative medicine for corneal disease. Primary research areas within his lab include: 1) identifying new ways to couple corneal stem cells and novel biomaterials to restore vision after corneal injury and 2) developing new technology to promote the regeneration of corneal sensation after corneal wounding.

Selected recent publications


KIMBERLY C. SIPPEL, MD

Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
Director, Cornea and External Disease Service
Co-Director, Cornea Fellowship Program

FELLOWSHIP
Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Harvard Medical School

RESIDENCY
Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Harvard Medical School

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Columbia College of Physicians & Surgeons

Dr. Kimberly Sippel is a board certified ophthalmologist with specialty training in cornea and external disease and refractive surgery. Her clinical interests include corneal disease, corneal transplantation surgery (including Descemet’s stripping endothelial keratoplasty or DSEK), cataract surgery, and laser vision correction.

Selected recent publications

Honors/Awards
- Alpha Omega Alpha
- Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Fellowship Award
- American Ophthalmological Society Knapp Foundation Fellowship Award

Patient with acute Stevens-Johnson syndrome before (left) and after (right) application of amniotic membrane (a biological dressing) to the ocular surface. Normal visual function was restored.

Amniotic membrane being applied to the eyelids and ocular surface of a patient with Stevens-Johnson syndrome.
Dr. Starr is a board certified ophthalmologist specializing in corneal and external diseases of the eye and advanced cataract, cornea, and laser vision correction surgery. In addition to his busy practice, he is actively involved in clinical research. As primary investigator, he has completed several multicenter clinical trials at Weill Cornell and is currently enrolling others. He has recently pioneered a novel technique for supracapsular cataract surgery (Pop & Prechop), which has proven to be a safe and effective alternative to traditional techniques. As a fellow at Johns Hopkins, he was awarded a research prize for his work on treating corneal dystrophies.

Dr. Starr is also a committed educator, both locally and nationally. In 2006, he was honored by the residents at New York University with the Teacher of the Year Award. At Weill Cornell, he directs both the residency program and cornea fellowship and sits on several subcommittees of the Graduate Medical Education Committee of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. He is invited to lecture widely, most recently delivering talks on keratoprostheses at the ASCRS Cornea Subspecialty Day, on corneal transplant rejection at the ASCRS Cornea Clinical Committee Symposium, and teaching advanced cataract surgery courses at the AAO, ASCRS, and Harvard meetings.

Dr. Starr is an active member of many ophthalmic professional societies. He currently sits on the medical advisory board of the Eyebank for Sight Restoration and recently served a term as the Manhattan district representative to the New York State Ophthalmological Society. He is an editor, advisory board member, and contributor to the journals Advanced Ocular Care and Refractive Eyecare. In 2010, Dr. Starr was named to Best Doctors in America.

Selected recent publications


GRACE SUN, MD

Clinical Instructor of Ophthalmology
Associate Residency Program Director
Director, Ophthalmology Clinical Practice at New York Downtown Hospital

CHIEF RESIDENT
Weill Cornell Medical College, New York-Presbyterian Hospital

RESIDENCY
Weill Cornell Medical College, New York-Presbyterian Hospital

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Weill Cornell Medical College

Dr. Sun serves as Associate Residency Program Director and Co-Course Director of the Ophthalmology Grand Rounds Program at Weill Cornell Medical College. She is a gifted and talented educator, dedicated to teaching Ophthalmology at Weill Cornell Medical College and around the world.

Dr. Sun is the Director of Clinical Practice at New York Downtown Hospital (NYDh), providing comprehensive ophthalmic services to the community of lower Manhattan. Fluent in both Mandarin Chinese and Spanish, Dr. Sun serves an internationally diverse patient population at NYDh.

Dr. Sun’s academic interests are focused on global health and education. She served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Nicaragua from 1999-2001 and, more recently, as an associate staff ophthalmologist with ORBIS International in Nairobi, Kenya. Dr. Sun was also a recipient of the 2009 Paul Kayser International Scholar award, which allowed her to dedicate time at the Instituto Regional de Oftalmología in Trujillo, Peru.

Currently, Dr. Sun serves on the American Academy of Ophthalmology Young Ophthalmologist’s International subcommittee, promoting international involvement among young ophthalmologists. At Weill Cornell Medical College, she is establishing clinical, teaching, and research collaborations in Africa at Weill Bugando Medical College in Mwanza, Tanzania.

Dr. Sun as an Associate Ophthalmologist on Project ORBIS

Dr. Sun teaching basic eye examination techniques to medicine residents at Weill Bugando Medical Center (Tanzania)

Dr. Sun examining patients in Nairobi, Kenya
CHING-HWA SUNG, PhD

Professor of Ophthalmology
Professor of Cell and Developmental Biology

FELLOWSHIP
Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Johns Hopkins Medical School

DOCTORATE
National Yang-Ming University, Taiwan

Professor Sung’s research interests concern the molecular and cellular pathways underlying several blindness conditions including retinitis pigmentosa (RP), aged-related macular degeneration (AMD), and retinal detachment. Her lab uses a combination of genetics, biochemistry, mouse models, and several state-of-the-art techniques to tackle these biologically interesting and clinically important questions. Her ultimate research goal is to help develop new therapeutic strategies to preserve and/or restore patients’ sight.

HONORS/AWARDS
- Cornell Scholar, Weill Cornell Medical College
- Career Development Award, RPB
- Dolly Green Scholar Award, RPB
- Lew R. Wasserman Merit Award, RPB
- Keith Porter Fellow for Cell Biology Research Award
- Ruth and Milton Steinbach Macular Degeneration Award
- Irma T. Hrschl Trust Career Award
- Tri-Institutional Starr Foundation Stem Cell Grant
- Empire State Stem Cell Research Grant
- Distinguished Alumni of National Yang-Ming University
- Senior Investigator Award, RPB

ACADEMIC SERVICE
- Member of several NIH & NSF study sections, including Vis Sciences C (2002-5)
- Member of several International Advisory Boards including Harvard GI Diseases Center, Institut Monod (Paris), Leloir Institute (Buenos Aires), etc.
- Ad hoc member of Foundation Fighting Blindness, NIH, NSF

Selected recent publications


Senior Professional Staff

Department Administrator

Danielle Johnson, MHA, FACHE

Ms. Johnson completed her Master of Healthcare Administration and is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. She has worked in academic healthcare management for over 7 years in New York City. She joined Ophthalmology in February of 2009 and has led the department through significant growth in the last two years.

Managers

Standing, left to right: Waverlyn Alexander, CPC, Billing Manager; Melissa Kalil, MHA, Practice Administrator and Clinical Budget Coordinator; Karin Mora, Practice Administrator and Marketing Coordinator; and Gyongyver (Gwen) Szabo, Grants Administrator

Seated, left to right: Susan Herder, PA-C Clinical Research Coordinator (left) and Danielle Johnson, MHA, FACHE, Department Administrator

Team Leaders

Left to right: Diana Iglesias-Rivera, Lead Technician; Yajaira Hernandez, Practice Specialist; Lourdes Charon, Call Center; and Anthony Castellanos, Front Desk
Faculty with Voluntary, Affiliated Institution and Adjunct Appointments

Weill Cornell Medical College Campus
Aronian, Dianne D.
Belgorod, Barry M.
Brazzo, Brian G.
Brodie, Scott E.
Cole, Charles A.
Conway, Joseph L.
Cozzarelli, Laura E.
Cusumano, Andrea
Fisher, Yale L.
Haight, David H.
Harmon, Gregory K.
Harris, Laurence S.
Hollander, Charles S.
Iwamoto, Takeo
Kahanowicz, Ronit
Kahanowicz, Yaffa
Karlin, David B.
Kreissig, Ingrid
Laino, Peter
Liggett, Peter E.
Lincoff, Harvey A.
Magramm, Irene
Mango, Charles W.
Marks, Rosemarie F.
Mazzeo, Vincenzina
McLaughlin, Patricia A.
McNally, Lois M.
Medow, Norman B.
Melton, R. Christine
Movshovich, Alexander
Muchnick, Richard S.
Nissen, Michael
Odell, Peter M.
Pearce, David B.
Poole, Thomas A.
Roberts, Calvin W.
Rosberger, Daniel F.
Serdarevic, Olivia N.
Starr, Michael B.
Tindel-Kahn, Lori Jo
Troutman, Richard C.
Veronneau-Troutman, Suzanne
Winterkorn, Jacqueline S.
Zweifach, Eric
Zweifach, Philip H.

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
Abramson, David H.
Heinemann, Murk-Hein
Marr, Brian P.

New York Hospital Queens
Brittis, Mariel
Cooper, William C.
Goldberg, Robert T.
Kauffman, Cheryl S.
Lee, Sangwoo
Sarkar, Jayati S.

The Methodist Hospital, Houston
Beaver, Hilary A.
Brown, David M.
Chen, Eric
Chevez-Barrios, Patricia
Coburn, Amy G.
Diaz-Rohena, Roberto
Fish, Richard H.
Foster, William J.
Holz, Eric R.
Key, James E.
Kim, Rosa Y.
Lambert, H. Michael
Lee, Andrew G.

Dr. Norman B. Medow (foreground left) and Ellsworth Lecturer Frederick A. Jakobiec (adjacent) with Faculty and guests
Left to right: Dr. Edward C. Lai, Dr. Maha Alshafei, Dr. Donald J. D’Amico, and Dr. Szilárd Kiss
Drs. Jacqueline W. Muller, Kimberly C. Sippel, Mark I. Rosenblatt, and Jessica B. Ciralsky
Drs. Donald J. D’Amico, Alexander Movshovich, and Yale L. Fisher
Dr. Richard S. Muchnick performing strabismus surgery with resident Ryan St. Clair
Dr. Wayne G. Whitmore
Dr. Peter M. Odell and his wife Claire attending NYP gala

Li, Helen K.
Major, Jr., James C.
Pandit, Rahul T.
Soparkar, Charles N.S.
Willis, Arthur W., Jr.
Wong, Tien Pei
Yalamanchari, S.S.

Weill Cornell Medical College, Qatar
Alshafei, Maha
Aman-Ullah, Muhammad
Pai, Anant
Parakkatt, Shakeel
Community Programs

The physicians of Weill Cornell Eye Associates are privileged to be part of the remarkable patient community fostered by NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital and Weill Cornell Medical College. As active members of the patient education community, our specialists have participated in many educational programs in conjunction with our partners, including Lighthouse International, The Myra Mahon Patient Resource Center of Weill Cornell Medical College, The Greenberg Academy for Successful Aging at the Hospital for Special Surgery, and The New York City Glaucoma Support and Education Group. The NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital's Street Fair is an annual opportunity for our ophthalmologists to get outside of the office and to reach out to New Yorkers who may not be aware of the services we offer.

In our efforts to improve glaucoma awareness and in support of World Glaucoma Day/Week (http://wgday.org), our glaucoma service has provided educational resources and run several free community screenings. This event allows members in the community who have been delaying glaucoma care to get re-connected with an eye doctor by simply walking into our office. With educational information and free lectures, we have sought to inform those in our community about the need to have their eyes examined in order to guard against glaucoma, the sneak thief of sight. Many patients who have presented to our physicians during this yearly screening event have spared themselves unnecessary vision loss by getting much needed treatment.
Education Programs

Residency
Among the top priorities of the Weill Cornell Medical Department of Ophthalmology is the education and training of the future generation of ophthalmologists. In conjunction with the New York-Presbyterian Hospital, the three-year ophthalmology residency program is founded on a dedication to teaching, innovative research and excellence in patient care. Currently, there are three residents per year chosen from over 400 applicants.

Didactics
Our commitment to academic excellence is demonstrated by a robust didactic program comprised of:

- Daily teaching conferences by our own distinguished faculty
- Wet labs in cataract, cornea, glaucoma and retinal surgery
- Interdisciplinary rounds with neuroradiology, otolaryngology, and neurology
- Weekly Grand Rounds by renowned leaders in ophthalmology
- Pathology teleconferences with Dr. Robert Folberg, Oakland University, William Beaumont
- Greater New York Lecture Series at Manhattan Eye, Ear & Throat Institute
- New York Eye & Ear Infirmary’s Board and OKAP Review Course
- Columbia Basic Science Course in Ophthalmology
- Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary’s Intensive Cataract Surgery Course

Clinical Rotations

First year
During the first year of training, residents master the basic techniques of ocular diagnosis and medical management of a variety of ocular diseases on the comprehensive eye service and the cornea service.

In addition, our first year residents spend time with:

- Dr. David Abramson at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Hospital, which is an unparalleled experience in ocular oncology
- The world-renowned Lighthouse International for their low vision rotation

Second year
As second year residents, emphasis is placed on the ophthalmic subspecialties of glaucoma, neuro-ophthalmology, pediatric ophthalmology, oculoplastics and retina. The residents obtain significant experience in the diagnosis, medical and surgical management on complex eye diseases. They also develop skills and expertise on the inpatient consultation service at New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

Third year
In their third year of training, the residents develop mastery over their medical and surgical skills. They spend a third of the year at three institutions — The New York-Presbyterian Hospital, New York Hospital Queens and New York Downtown Hospital offering them a varied clinical and patient care experience. In this last year of training, residents develop a newfound sense of leadership and autonomy as the chief resident at each of the three hospitals where they rotate. They teach the junior residents and take administrative responsibility for clinics and conferences at each institution, preparing them for future leadership roles in ophthalmology.
Research During Residency Training

Research training is an integral part of the residency program. We encourage our trainees to participate in a variety of ongoing studies of new advances for the diagnosis and treatment of ophthalmologic diseases. This can take the form of bench-side basic research in the Margaret M. Dyson Vision Research Institute in the study of cell biologic issues related to ocular disease. There are also vast opportunities for clinical research experiences within the Clinical Trials Unit of Weill Cornell Eye Associates. The residents present their work annually at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology meeting as well other national meetings. At the culmination of their training, our residents and fellows have publications in the leading ophthalmic peer-reviewed journals.

Graduates

The majority of our graduating residents apply for subspecialty fellowships. In recent years our residents have matched at Harvard/MEEI, UCLA, USC, Duke, Wilmer, Cornell, Pittsburgh, Columbia and UCSF for fellowships in neuro-ophthalmology, retina, cornea, glaucoma and pediatrics. Our graduates continue to be leaders in clinical and academic ophthalmology. They serve in our local communities as clinicians and patient advocates, advance our knowledge of vision disorders through teaching and research and are involved in the global effort to reduce visually debilitating disease.

Drs. D’Amico (left) and Rosenblatt with resident Dimitra Skondra who received the 2011 Association of University Professors in Ophthalmology research award
The cornea, cataract & refractive surgery fellowship of the Weill Cornell Medical Center was established in 2007, and has since graduated 5 outstanding cornea specialists. The busy and growing service provides its 2 fellows with a robust clinical and surgical experience in cornea, cataract and refractive surgery as well as in complex ocular surface and external diseases. Additionally, the extensive and varied research activities of the faculty provide many opportunities for clinical and basic science research and other academic endeavors.

At our tertiary referral center the fellows gain a significant experience in treating complex corneal and external diseases. The NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital has one of the busiest burn centers in the country and often cares for patients with severe ocular burns, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, and toxic epidermal necrolysis. These patients require immediate and aggressive treatment in order to prevent corneal blindness. Memorial Sloan-Kettering Hospital is another referral source of patients with severe anterior segment diseases including Sjogren’s syndrome, graft versus host disease and other cancer-related pathologies. The fellows gain proficiency in caring for these critical patients as well as others with ocular emergencies, infections and traumatic corneal injuries.

Unlike many cornea fellowships, our fellows gain a significant firsthand experience in advanced cataract surgery. They gain proficiency in complex cataract surgery as well as phacorefractive cataract surgery with premium IOL’s (multifocal, accommodating, toric) and limbal relaxing incisions. Through a fee-reduction program the fellows also gain experience performing laser vision correction surgery. Our onsite state-of-the-art laser center houses a VISX S4 eximer laser with Wavescan and iris registration as well as a 60hz Intralase femtosecond laser.

The fellows receive a substantive experience in corneal transplantation surgery by performing many penetrating keratoplasties (PK), lamellar keratoplasties (DSAEK), and keratoprosthesis (Kpro). The cornea service at Weill Cornell has become a recognized regional center of excellence for complex keratoprosthesis surgery and is highly sought out by patients and referring doctors alike. The cornea service and the department of ophthalmology sponsored the first New York CME symposium on keratoprosthesis surgery in the fall of 2010.
The vitreoretinal fellowship at Weill Cornell Medical College is a 2-year AUPO certified fellowship that encompasses both medical and surgical training. The fellowship has a proud history of excellence, and is completely integrated into the vibrant activities of the Department with outstanding supervision and teaching.

The program has graduated numerous leaders in academic departments and in the community. In 2007, the fellowship grew to three fellows over the two-year training period with a renewed emphasis on research, and additional faculty recruitments and fellowship expansion are planned.

The fellowship provides a comprehensive experience in the surgical and medical management of adult and pediatric diseases of the retina, vitreous and the choroid. Our fellows gain exposure to a variety of different surgical techniques as our faculty are fellowship trained from such programs as the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Jules Stein Eye Institute, and Weill Cornell Medical College. Upon graduation, the fellows are skilled in the management and treatment of the most complex vitreoretinal diseases. The intensive clinical experience allows our fellows to develop mastery of a wide range of vitreoretinal pathology, including age-related macular degeneration, complicated retinal detachment repair, advanced proliferative diabetic retinopathy, retinopathy of prematurity, ocular trauma, and posterior inflammatory disease. Particular strengths of the program include an in depth exposure to advanced techniques for complicated retinal detachment repair, innovative imaging modalities for macular and other retinal diseases, and the evaluation and management of retinopathy of prematurity. In addition, vitreoretinal consultations within the New York-Presbyterian Hospital provide teaching exposure to a patient population unmatched in size, complexity, and medical diversity.

In addition to their clinical training, the fellows pursue clinical, basic science, or translational research projects in association with the attending faculty utilizing our superbly equipped clinical and laboratory facilities. The retina service is currently involved in a number of major clinical trials and has numerous national/international research collaborations. As a result of their research, our fellows have published their work in major peer review journals and presented their research at local, national, and international meetings including the Retina Society, ASRS, ARVO, and AAPOS.

Our goal is to provide our vitreoretinal fellows with the experience and necessary tools to flourish in the world of academic medicine or private practice. We are committed to providing them with unparalleled training and the support necessary to succeed both during and after their fellowship training.
Queens Eye Center

The Queens Eye Center serves as the main outpatient site for the Ophthalmology Department at New York Hospital Queens. The New York Hospital Queens is in the heart of Flushing, NY. Flushing is home to one of the most socio-economically and ethnically diverse communities in the United States. The ophthalmic sub-specialties provided at the Queens Eye Center are General Ophthalmology, Vitreoretinal Diseases and Surgery, Glaucoma, Cornea/Anterior Segment and Oculoplastics. One senior resident from the Weill Cornell Ophthalmology Residency rotates full time at the New York Hospital Queens. Approximately 10,000 outpatient visits are projected for the 2011 fiscal year.

The New York Hospital Queens/Queens Eye Center has hired Dr. Jayati Sarkar to the staff as of November 1, 2009. She will provide a much needed anterior segment and cornea service to the Ophthalmology Department at NYHQ. The operating hours for the Queens Eye Center will be expanding to include evenings hours as well as Saturday morning hours due to the high demand and current long waiting times for patient visits.

Staff Members

Sangwoo Lee, MD
(Director of Ophthalmology, NYHQ)
Vitreoretinal Diseases and Surgery

William C. Cooper, MD
Oculoplastics

Jayati Sarkar, MD
Cornea/Anterior Segment

Charles Cole, MD
Glaucoma/Anterior Segment

New York Downtown Hospital

New York Downtown Hospital is a community based affiliate of the NewYork-Presbyterian Healthcare system. It is the only hospital in lower Manhattan whose mission is to serve the over 600,000 people who comprise the diverse business and residential communities of Wall Street, Chinatown, SoHo, TriBeCa, Battery Park City and the Lower East Side. Each year, the Hospital has more than 35,000 emergency visits, 146,000 outpatient visits, 10,000 inpatients, 7,600 surgeries and 2,400 new babies born. It is the acute care facility closest to the Financial District, to the City government, and to many of New York’s most popular tourist attractions. It is the first responder to medical emergencies in the area, and serves as a leader in the field of emergency preparedness and disaster management.

New York Downtown Hospital also has a long history of providing medical services to an underserved population, including many patients who are non-English speaking immigrants, as well as elderly and low-income residents. Health literacy issues, compromised mobility and the lack of adequate health insurance are often significant factors affecting their acquisition of healthcare services. These patients typically present with more advanced pathology, which may alter their medical and surgical treatment plan. This hospital’s proximity to Manhattan’s Chinatown provides service to an ethnic community with a higher rate of particular ocular pathologies such as narrow-angle glaucoma as well as acute and chronic angle-closure glaucoma.

In July 2009, the collaboration between the Weill Cornell Medical College Ophthalmology Department and New York Downtown Hospital commenced. This effort, led by Dr. Grace Sun, who is fluent in Mandarin Chinese and Spanish, has provided the lower Manhattan community with access to comprehensive and emergency ophthalmic services. In addition, this partnership ensures that patients who require further subspecialty ophthalmic care have direct access to the most advanced diagnostic, therapeutic, and laser technologies available.
International Ophthalmology Initiatives

Ophthalmologists from the Weill Cornell Medical College (WCMC) Department of Ophthalmology have taken part in medical missions, research collaborations and educational programs throughout the world. With medical colleges in Tanzania and Qatar, WCMC and its ophthalmologists have a commitment to the international community. Over the past several years, WCMC ophthalmologists have worked in: Peru, Tanzania, Qatar, Mexico, Thailand, Austria, the Dominican Republic, Mauritius, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Kenya.

Weill Bugando University College of Health Sciences (Weill Bugando) at the Bugando Medical Centre (BMC) in Mwanza, Tanzania

The mission of collaboration between Weill Cornell Medical College and Weill Bugando is to strengthen medical education and training to expand and improve Tanzania’s health care force. Currently, Tanzania has 1 physician per 50,000 patients — among the lowest ratios in the world. Bugando Medical Centre and Weill Bugando are located in Mwanza, the second most populated city of Tanzania, along the shores of Lake Victoria. BMC is a 900-bed tertiary care center serving nearly one-third of the country’s total population of about 40 million people. Bugando Medical Centre has one ophthalmologist.

In November 2008, Dr. R.V. Paul Chan and Dr. Grace Sun were the first team of WCMC ophthalmologists to visit Weill Bugando. Since then, a number of residents and faculty have visited Weill Bugando Medical College. Our faculty have participated in active exchange of knowledge and ideas in the field of ophthalmology and collaborated with Weill Bugando faculty to provide the highest quality of patient care in an area with limited resources. Lectures in basic ophthalmology were coupled with practical clinical sessions, teaching fundamental exam skills to evaluate ocular disease. This partnership has proved to be mutually beneficial. The experience in Tanzania has augmented the skills of our Weill Cornell physicians who were presented with unique pathology, while the students of Weill Bugando expanded their knowledge and skill set in ophthalmology.

Ophthalmology is one of many Weill Cornell departments that have been working in Tanzania. For more information on Weill Cornell Medical College’s program in Mwanza, Tanzania please visit: http://weill.cornell.edu/globalhealth/

The Salzburg Medical Seminars in Salzburg, Austria

Since 1993, the Salzburg Medical Seminars have been connecting physicians from leading American hospitals with physicians practicing in Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the former Soviet Union and other countries in transition. Administered and funded by the American Austrian Foundation, the Soros Foundation Open Society Institute, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research and other donors, these seminars foster the participants’ growth as teachers and health care leaders in their prospective countries by providing free, up-to-date information and training.

Most recently, the Salzburg Weill Cornell Seminar in Ophthalmology was held from April 10-16, 2011 in Salzburg, Austria and involved nine faculty members.
International Initiatives
continued

from the Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City, The Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Retinology and Biomicroscopic Laser Surgery in Vienna, The Rudolph Foundation Hospital in Vienna, Privathospital Wehrle in Salzburg and the Paracelsus Privat Medical University in Salzburg. The course was directed by Dr. Mark I. Rosenblatt from Weill Cornell and Dr. Susanne Binder from the Rudolph Foundation Clinic. Thirty-five ophthalmologists from 16 countries in Europe and Asia attended the course.

Weill Cornell Medical College in Doha, Qatar, U.A.E.

In January 2001, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q) was established in Doha by Cornell University in partnership with Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development. WCMC-Q shares the same mission as Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City and as such, the Department of Ophthalmology has taken an active role in supporting medical education, providing health care and conducting cutting-edge research in collaboration with the Doha campus. Members of our department give live and video lectures to medical students and ophthalmology faculty in Qatar on a range of ophthalmology related topics. WCMC-Q medical students rotate in our department in New York City during their clinical elective time. Department members act as mentors to students in Qatar who are interested in pursuing careers in ophthalmology. With privileges at Hamad Hospital in Doha, Drs. Kiss and D’Amico have worked closely with Department Chair, Dr. Fatima Al Mansouri and her colleagues in the ophthalmology clinics as well as in the operating room. In partnership with WCMC-Q and Hamad Hospital, Dr. Kiss has fostered clinical and translational research collaborations with colleagues examining a range of ophthalmic disorders with a particular focus on the pathogenesis and treatment of diabetic retinopathy.

Named Lectures

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<th>John M. McLean Medal Lecturers</th>
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<td>Edward W.D. Norton, MD</td>
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<td>A. Edward Maumenee, MD</td>
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<td>A. Gerald DeVoe, MD</td>
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<td>David G. Cogan, MD</td>
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<td>John T. Flynn, MD</td>
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<td>Richard Troutman, MD</td>
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<td>Victor T. Curtin, MD</td>
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<td>David Guyton, MD</td>
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<td>Philip Zweifach, MD</td>
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<td>David K. Berler, MD</td>
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<td>Stuart I. Brown, MD</td>
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<td>Joan W. Miller, MD</td>
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<td>Mario Strife, MD</td>
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<td>Richard Muchnick, MD</td>
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<td>Donald J. D’Amico, MD</td>
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<td>Carmen A. Puliafito, MD, MBA</td>
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<td>C. Stephen Foster, MD</td>
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<td>George L. Speth, MD</td>
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<th>D. Jackson Coleman Lecturers</th>
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<td>William Simcooe, MD</td>
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<td>J. Donald M. Gass, MD</td>
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<td>Frederick C. Blodi, MD</td>
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<td>William C. Cooper, MD</td>
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<td>David Parke, MD</td>
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<td>David L. Guyton, MD</td>
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<td>William Tasman, MD</td>
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<td>Thomas M. Aaberg, MD</td>
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<td>Charles Patton Wilkinson, MD</td>
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<td>Ronald H. Silverman, MD</td>
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<td>Peter MacLeish, PhD</td>
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<td>Dan Reinstein, MD</td>
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<th>Robert M. Elsworth Lecturers</th>
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<td>Barrett G. Haik, MD</td>
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<td>David H. Abramson, MD</td>
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<td>Evangelos S. Gragoudas, MD</td>
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<td>Brenda L. Galie, MD</td>
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<td>Linn Murphy, MD</td>
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<td>Thomas C. Lee, MD</td>
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<td>Fredrick A. Jakobiec, MD</td>
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<td>Carol L. Shields, MD</td>
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<td>Joan M. O’Brien, MD</td>
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<td>Mark S. Blumenkrantz, MD</td>
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<td>Ingrid Kreissig, MD</td>
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<td>Lawrence A. Yannuzzi, MD</td>
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<td>D. Jackson Coleman, MD</td>
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<td>William Freeman, MD</td>
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<td>Norah S. Lincoff, MD</td>
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<td>Gisbert Richard, MD</td>
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<td>Douglas A. Jabs, MD, MBA</td>
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<td>Stanley Chang, MD</td>
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Research

The Margaret M. Dyson Vision Research Institute was established within the Department of Ophthalmology in 1989 with a gift of $6 million from the Dyson Foundation. The mission of the Institute is fostered in two interactive ways. First, the Institute strives to maintain strong and competitive basic science programs in vision research and encourages active collaboration with scientists at Weill Medical College of Cornell University and its neighboring institutions, The Rockefeller University and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Second, the scientists at the Dyson Institute work with clinician-scientists and clinicians in the Department of Ophthalmology to identify translational research areas of common interest that may expedite the transfer of information from the laboratory bench to the bedside or clinic. Since its inception, the Dyson Institute has had an unbroken record of superb research, influential scientific publications, in-depth training for biological scientists across multiple disciplines, and exemplary extramural funding.

Current Facilities
The 10,000-square-foot Dyson Vision Institute occupies the entire third floor of the William and Mildred Lasdon Biomedical Research Center at Weill Medical College of Cornell University. The Institute is organized around the open laboratory concept designed to encourage collaboration and communication among the investigators. Accordingly, all laboratory bench space is centrally located in a 1,500-square-foot area. Core facilities are provided for tissue culture, computing, molecular biology, light microscopy, confocal, microscopy, animal surgery, and photography. Private office space is provided for faculty and semi-private space for fellows and students.

Laboratory Expansion
A 3,100-square-foot expansion of the Institute will open in December of 2010. The newly-renovated laboratory space will double the current bench space of the Institute and triple the current space available for the development of animal models of ocular disease. The new facilities will allow for the recruitment of new vision scientists as well as the expansion of the research programs of current Institute investigators. A special emphasis on translational research will be applied to the new Institute resources.

Principal Investigators
Mark I. Rosenblatt, MD, PhD, Director
Associate Professor of Ophthalmology
Anna-Maria Demetriades, MD
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
Enrique Rodriguez-Boulan, MD
Charles and Margaret Dyson Professor of Ophthalmology Research
Ching-Hwa Sung, PhD
Professor of Cell Biology in Ophthalmology

Research Faculty
Jen-Zen Chuang, PhD, Research Associate Professor
Marcelo Nociari, PhD, Assistant Research Professor
Diego Gravotta, PhD, Assistant Research Professor
Victor Guaiquil, PhD, Instructor
Research

Funding

National Institutes of Health
- Clinical and Genetic Analysis of Retinopathy of Prematurity – Chan
- Longitudinal Study of the Complications of AIDS – Heinemann
- Retina: Reversed Membrane Polarity and Morphogenesis of RPE – Rodriguez-Boulan
- Tri-Institutional Training Program in Vision Research – Rodriguez-Boulan
- Microscopy and Cell Culture Cores for Vision Research – Rodriguez-Boulan
- Sorting of Plasma Membrane Proteins in Epithelial Cells – Rodriguez-Boulan
- New Biomaterials for Ocular Surface Reconstruction – Rosenblatt
- Mechanisms of Corneal Nerve Repair – Rosenblatt
- Cytoskeleton's Role in RPE's Structure and Function – Sung
- Molecular Basis of Protein Transport in Photoreceptors – Sung

National Science Foundation
- Regenerating Ocular Surface Wounds with Novel Biomaterial – Rosenblatt

Research to Prevent Blindness
- RPB Challenge Grant – D’Amico
- Career Development Award – Rosenblatt

Department of Defense
- Preventing Vision Loss from Blast Injuries with Regenerative Biomaterial – Rosenblatt

NY State Stem Cell Science
- Harnessing Keratinocyte Stem Cell Growth for Regenerative Medicine – Rosenblatt

Hickey Foundation
- Development for Quantitative Methods for Retinopathy of Prematurity Diagnosis – Chan/Rosenblatt

Beckman Foundation
- Molecular Basis of Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) – Rodriguez-Boulan

Clinical and Translational Science Center
- Nano-Structured Silk Biomaterials for Ocular Surface Regenerative Medicine – Rosenblatt

Qatar National Research Fund National Priorities Research Program
- Genetics of Risk for Retinopathy Among Qataris with Type 2 Diabetes – Kiss/D’Amico

Clinical Trials

The physicians of Weill Cornell Medical College Department of Ophthalmology conduct clinical research in NIH, foundation, industry, and internally funded studies encompassing oculoplastics, anterior segment, glaucoma, retina, and neuro-ophthalmology subspecialties, with 42 clinical trials currently active. In addition, the investigators enjoy collaborative research projects with other clinical services within the WCMC community. Szilárd Kiss, MD, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, serves as Director of Clinical Research, and Susan Herder, PA-C, a physician assistant with 11 years of clinical ophthalmic experience, serves as the department’s full-time clinical research coordinator. In addition, the clinical trials unit maintains a fully-certified ETDRS examination room for standardized visual acuity assessments and other testing.

Research Fellowships

A substantial number of visiting physicians and scientists participate in research fellowships in the Department each year. These fellowships cover every aspect of clinical and laboratory research in Ophthalmology, and are arranged on an individual basis. Applicants with interests in an extended research experience are encouraged to contact the Department for information.
Alumni Association

The Weill Cornell Medical College Department of Ophthalmology has had a strong tradition of training future ophthalmologists and vision researchers. Previous faculty and trainees have gone on to be academic leaders and prominent clinician-scientists.

The Weill Cornell Medical College Department of Ophthalmology Alumni Association was developed to connect alumni to the Department and to each other.

Its mission is to support the Department’s commitment to teaching, research, clinical care, and public service. All alumni are encouraged to remain involved as the Alumni Association consists of all WCMC Department of Ophthalmology faculty and graduates of the residency and fellowship (research and clinical) programs.

The Alumni Association steering committee consists of current faculty and previous graduates of the program who continue to be actively involved with resident and fellow education. Throughout the year, alumni will be notified by email or mail of the grand rounds schedule, special lectures, Alumni Day annual events, fellow and resident graduation invitations, and departmental updates. All alumni are encouraged to be involved in the Alumni Association and are most welcome to support the department through involvement with continuing education programs as well as via philanthropic support for residency, fellowship, and alumni activities.

Please visit our website at www.weillcornelleye.org if you would like to be added to our listserve.

Dr. Claes H. Dohlman (center left) and Dr. James Aquavella (center right) with faculty at Keratoprosthesis Course

Retina Fellow Cristiano G. Pieroni, MD, with (from left) Drs. Lee, Coleman, Chan, D’Amico and Mango

Ellsworth Lecturer Frederick A. Jakobiec (center) with Drs. Norman B. Medow (left) and Richard S. Muchnick

Visiting expert, Dr. Stella Kim (left), with Drs. Kimberly C. Sippel and Jessica B. Ciralsky

Dr. Jennis Pae (center) receives diploma from Drs. Charles A. Cole and Christopher E. Starr
It is an exciting time for Weill Cornell Ophthalmology. Led by Chairman Donald J. D’Amico, MD, Betty Neuworth Lee and Chilly Professor in Stem Cell Research, this rapidly expanding Department is on a trajectory of success, having already been ranked among the top Ophthalmology Departments in the 2010-2011 U.S. News and World Report.

Philanthropic support is vital to maintaining our momentum and enabling even further growth in the areas of education, research, and patient care.

ENDOWMENT OPPORTUNITIES
Endowed gifts help sustain us as a premier center of learning and allow us to attract and retain outstanding faculty members, fellows, and students. They provide crucial financial aid and support key departmental resources. Endowment possibilities include:

- A Full Professorship
- A Clinical Scholar, Research Scholar, or Education Scholar Award for junior faculty
- Post-Doctoral Fellowships
- Scholarships for exceptional medical students

FUNDING FOR RESEARCH AND CLINICAL PROGRAMS
The Department of Ophthalmology is involved in several cutting-edge research projects and clinical trials; giving opportunities in this area are abundant. Philanthropic support affords us the ability to explore these important endeavors and propel our findings from bench to bedside as quickly as possible.

Additionally, we seek to keep our facility up to date with the most advanced diagnostic, therapeutic, and laser technologies available in this rapidly changing field. We welcome donor contributions for the purchase of the finest and most effective instruments and equipment for the treatment of ophthalmic conditions.

PLANNED GIVING
Planned gifts such as bequests, life income gifts, charitable trusts, and insurance policies play a vital role in ensuring the Medical College’s continued leadership in the field of Ophthalmology.

For more information about how you can support Weill Cornell Medical College’s Department of Ophthalmology, please contact our development officer, Adrienne Rose, at (646) 317-7353 or adr2005@med.cornell.edu.
WEILL CORNELL EYE ASSOCIATES

Information for Patients and Physicians

Weill Cornell Eye Associates is the group practice in Ophthalmology for the Physician’s Organization of Weill Cornell Medical College and the New York-Presbyterian Hospital. We offer the full range of ophthalmic examinations and services in the award-winning Weill Greenberg Center at 1305 York Avenue (at East 70th Street) in Manhattan. As a group practice, we affirm our commitment to the highest excellence in patient care, and we have outstanding subspecialists within our group to diagnose and treat any aspect of vision loss or discomfort, from the simple need for appropriate eyeglasses to the successful performance of complex ocular surgery.

We invite you to visit our website at www.weillcornelleye.org for in-depth information regarding our physicians and services, or to call our department at 646-962-2020 for assistance and appointments. We are fully available to you for any concerns regarding the marvelous gift of sight.