In this edition, I will highlight the significant growth in our clinical operations and the research division. Much of this has been made possible by the generous support of our senior leadership at the medical center who have seen the achievements and the dedication of the departmental faculty and allowed us to expand. Without such support, a department cannot thrive and remains limited in scope.

Our faculty practice now includes three major sites and four minor sites. Our expansion into Manhattan has been noteworthy. Our volume has shown steady growth and we believe that trend will continue. The state of the art office located in the Wall Street area offers general and sub-specialty care, and many oculoplastic procedures can be performed in-office. We also expanded into the heart of Brooklyn Heights with our newest location on Montague Street in the middle of a bustling urban area. These sites should remain busy as our referral bases extend further throughout the borough as we offer very advanced diagnostic and treatment possibilities for a complicated set of disease entities.

The research division has also expanded and we now have an excellent group of three PhD scientists performing primate physiology work in addition to other broader areas of interest. We now have a very advanced animal imaging center to look at blood flow in not only ophthalmologic diseases but neurologic ones as well. More on this work will be seen in the research section that follows.

Our Empire Innovation Program (EIP) grant 2013-2016 of 2,000,000 allowed us to recruit two high level mid career scientists that will now be performing their work at SUNY Downstate. The two individuals are currently setting up their labs as they begin work on current and upcoming newly funded grants. We believe we will add to the scientific literature in significant ways.

Finally, our community outreach continues to be strong. We have been a leader in glaucoma screenings for over a decade and we participate in many health fairs throughout the borough. Our residents and medical students work alongside a faculty member to screen for blinding diseases that may not have otherwise been diagnosed due to access problems. We believe we have a moral responsibility to continue this program despite limited resources. In this annual publication, we will touch on numerous aspects of the department's work.
Dr. Stephen Kaufman
Cornell Medical Center, University of Iowa, Columbia Annual Review Course; AGS: Development of Bioengineered human trabecular meshwork; Co-Chair-AGS Session Sclera Gaucoma and Neurodegeneration and neurorescue. Participant Glaucoma Thinktank.

Dr. Christopher Fecarotta
Served as an invited lecturer to ophthalmologists in China as part of the Lifeline Express Visiting Consultants program.

Dr. John Danias
NY Times Super Doctor 2014, INVITED LECTURES: Cornell Medical Center, University of Iowa, Columbia Annual Review Course; AGS: Development of Bioengineered human trabecular meshwork; Co-Chair-AGS Session Sclera Gaucoma and Neurodegeneration and neurorescue. Participant Glaucoma Thinktank.

Dr. Christopher Fecarotta
SUNY Downstate Department of Ophthalmology  |  2015 -2016

Dr. Douglass Lazzaro

Dr. Stephen Kaufman

Dr. Douglass Lazzaro

Dr. Stephen Macknik

Dr. Druska Martinez-Condé

Dr. Roman Shinder
Glaucoma is usually related to elevation of intraocular pressure (IOP) and results in RGC loss. Despite recent advances in identifying genes related to glaucoma, our understanding of the pathophysiology of the disease is still limited. In addition, our current therapeutic interventions are all aimed at decreasing IOP in an effort to slow down progressive damage. We currently lack the ability to reverse any RGC losses.

Dr. Danias’s research has as a long-term objective to find a cure for glaucoma. To achieve this goal his research efforts are focused in the following areas:

1. Improving our understanding of the disease pathophysiology: To better understand the disease process, Dr. Danias uses animal models of glaucoma. Using both spontaneous (DBA/2J) and induced (microbead-induced IOP elevation) models of glaucoma he has uncovered that peripheral inflammation (outside of the eye) affects the disease process. He is now using these models to understand how complement (an innate immune mechanism) is affecting this process.

2. Dr. Danias is also involved in a collaborative project to determine the gene expression changes that lead to IOP elevation using mouse and sheep models of glaucoma. This work has already resulted in identification of a novel therapeutic approach to treating patients with steroid-induced IOP elevation using tissue plasminogen activator. Dr. Danias continues studies that will elucidate the role of this important enzyme in steroid-induced glaucoma.

3. Surgical control of glaucoma relies on creating fistulas that allow outflow of the aqueous humor from the eye. Long-term success of such operations depend on the healing response. Collaboratively with other SUNY investigators, Dr. Danias is developing novel approaches (including an artificial trabecular meshwork) that can be used for pharmacologic testing and potentially therapeutic purposes.

4. Understanding the role of the environment in the development and progression of glaucoma and specifically how environmental factors affect the disease. This project includes collection of specimens from patients with glaucoma and correlation of genetic information obtained from these specimens with environmental data. The long term hope is that certain potentially modifiable environmental factors will be identified that can affect specific genetic variants of the disease. This effort has already generated data that suggest that oral bacterial loads and oral health are related to human glaucoma.

(see PLOS One 9(9): e104416)
Stephen L. Macknik received his PhD at Harvard University, and he was a postdoctoral fellow with the Nobel Laureate Prof. David Hubel at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Macknik led his first laboratory at University College London. He was then an Associate Professor of Neurosurgery and Neurobiology at the Barrow Neurological Institute, before recently joining the faculty at SUNY Downstate as an Empire Innovator Scholar and Professor of Ophthalmology.

Dr. Macknik’s laboratory research spans basic scientific questions from the basis of visual perception and consciousness to the mechanistic pathways by which microscopic blood flow problems in the brain lead to clinical cell death in age-related macular degeneration and epilepsy patients. His laboratory is a leader in integrating cutting-edge methods such as single-neuron electrophysiology in the awake brain in epilepsy patients. His laboratory is a leader in integrating cutting-edge methods such as single-neuron electrophysiology in the awake brain in epilepsy patients. His laboratory is a leader in integrating cutting-edge methods such as single-neuron electrophysiology in the awake brain in epilepsy patients. His laboratory is a leader in integrating cutting-edge methods such as single-neuron electrophysiology in the awake brain in epilepsy patients.

Dr. Macknik is among the premier science communicators in the United States and has appeared in dozens of television and radio appearances around the world including Discovery Channel’s Head Games and Daily Planet shows, NOVA:scienceNow, CBS Sunday Morning, NPR’s Science Friday, and PRI’s The World. He is a columnist for Scientific American Mind, the world’s premier lay magazine of mind and brain.


Scientific American Mind
187 Illusions
Scientific American Special Edition, Fall 2013
by Dr. Stephen L. Macknik & Dr. Susana Martinez-Conde

SLEIGHTS OF MIND
What the Neuroscience of Magic Reveals about Our Everyday Deceptions
by Dr. Stephen L. Macknik & Dr. Susana Martinez-Conde

Dr. Macknik’s research bridges visual, oculomotor, and cognitive neuroscience. Her work combines neurophysiological recordings with behavioral and eye tracking experiments, and related computational simulations and algorithm development. Her laboratory is recognized as a world leader in the physiological and perceptual study of the small eye movements produced during the attempt to fix one’s gaze. She has characterized the oculomotor behavior of several patient populations, including those suffering from Parkinson’s disease, Progressive Supranuclear Palsy and other movement disorders, and Alzheimer’s disease. Her research was honored recently with the EyeTrack Award, a global science prize given annually to a single cutting-edge publication in eye movement research.

Dr. Martinez-Conde has published her academic contributions in Nature, Nature Neuroscience, Nature Reviews Neuroscience, and the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, among other high-impact journals. She serves on the NIH’s Cognition and Perception Study Section and in numerous editorial and advisory boards. She also writes frequently for Scientific American and has a regular column in Scientific American: MIND on the neuroscience of illusions. She is the 2014 recipient of the Science Educator Award, a distinction given by the Society for Neuroscience to an outstanding neuroscientist who has made significant contributions to educating the public about neuroscience.

Stephen L. Macknik received his PhD at Harvard University, and he was a postdoctoral fellow with the Nobel Laureate Prof. David Hubel at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Macknik led his first laboratory at University College London. He was then an Associate Professor of Neurosurgery and Neurobiology at the Barrow Neurological Institute, before recently joining the faculty at SUNY Downstate as an Empire Innovator Scholar and Professor of Ophthalmology.

Scientific American Mind
187 Illusions
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SLEIGHTS OF MIND
What the Neuroscience of Magic Reveals about Our Everyday Deceptions
by Dr. Stephen L. Macknik & Dr. Susana Martinez-Conde

Dr. Susana Martinez-Conde received a BS in Experimental Psychology from Universidad Complutense de Madrid and a PhD in Medicine and Surgery from the Universidad de Santiago de Compostela in Spain. She was a postdoctoral fellow with the late Nobel Laureate Prof. David Hubel, and then an Instructor in Neurobiology, at Harvard Medical School. Before coming to Downstate as an Empire Innovator Scholar, Dr. Martinez-Conde led laboratories at University College London in the UK and at the Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix, Arizona.

Dr. Martinez-Conde’s research bridges visual, oculomotor, and cognitive neuroscience. Her work combines neurophysiological recordings with behavioral and eye tracking experiments, and related computational simulations and algorithm development. Her laboratory is recognized as a world leader in the physiological and perceptual study of the small eye movements produced during the attempt to fix one’s gaze. She has characterized the oculomotor behavior of several patient populations, including those suffering from Parkinson’s disease, Progressive Supranuclear Palsy and other movement disorders, and Alzheimer’s disease. Her research was honored recently with the EyeTrack Award, a global science prize given annually to a single cutting-edge publication in eye movement research.

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SUNY Downstate Medical Center Department of Ophthalmology Presents

43rd Annual Ophthalmology Alumni Meeting

JUNE 11, 2015 8:00 AM - 4:10 PM

SUNY Downstate Medical Center Alumni Auditorium 395 Lenox Road Brooklyn, NY 11203

Course Director / Douglas R. Lazzaro, MD, FACS   Sponsored by the Office of Continuing Medical Education

For Registration: Call Beatrice PierreFrancoeur (718) 245-5460

PROGRAM

8:00 AM Breakfast and Registration
8:55 AM Welcome Dr. Douglas Lazzaro
9:00 AM Cases in Ocular Oncology Dr. David H. Abramson
9:15 AM IOL Formulas in Complicated Cases: Short Eyes/Long Eyes - What to Use Dr. Douglas D. Koch
9:30 AM The Management of Dislocated IOL’s Dr. Stanley Chang
9:50 AM Controversies in the Management of Ocular Surface Tumors Dr. Kathryn Colby
10:10 AM Optic Nerve Imaging in Glaucoma Dr. Nathan Radcliffe
10:30 AM The Richard C. Troutman, MD 14th Annual Lecture: Complicated Cataract Videos Dr. Douglas D. Koch
10:55 AM BREAK / EXHIBITS
11:35 AM The Austin Fink, MD Lecture - How has Retinoblastoma Changed Since Your Residency? Dr. David H. Abramson
12:00 PM Resident Case Presentations / Q & A
12:15 PM LUNCH / EXHIBITS
1:40 PM Toric and Multifocal IOL Selection Dr. Douglas D. Koch
1:55 PM Intra-arterial Chemosurgery and Intravitreal Chemotherapy for Retinoblastoma: 2015 Dr. David H. Abramson
2:10 PM OCT Changes after Macular Surgery Dr. Stanley Chang
2:30 PM Management of Corneal Disease in Children Dr. Kathryn Colby
2:50 PM Evaluation of Optic Disc Edema Dr. Valerie Elmalem
3:05 PM What’s New with Cyclophotocoagulation? Dr. Nathan Radcliffe
3:25 PM Resident Case Presentations / Q & A
3:45 PM MEETING ADJOURNED

Dr. Gelman is a board certified ophthalmologist who specializes in the medical and surgical management of vitreoretinal diseases. After completing his ophthalmology residency and a medical retina fellowship in inherited retinal degenerations through a Foundation Fighting Blindness Clinical/Research Fellowship Career Development Award, both at the Harkness Eye Institute of Columbia University, Dr. Gelman completed further medical and surgical vitreoretinal fellowship training at the University of Southern California.

He specializes in the diagnosis of age-related macular degeneration (AMD), inherited retinal degenerations and dystrophies, diabetic retinopathy, vascular diseases of the retina, and retinal detachments.

His research interests include: hereditary retinal degenerations, retinal imaging, biomedical informatics, telemedicine, retinopathy of prematurity.

Dr. Gelman is trained in hereditary diseases of the retina in addition to all common medical and surgical vitreoretinal disorders.
The SUNY Downstate Department of Ophthalmology is proud to present our two annual series of lectures:

The Visiting Speaker Clinical Lecture Series and the Vision Science Seminar Series of Research Lectures — a forum for renowned clinicians and researchers to present their latest findings.

These lectures highlight advances in many areas of clinical ophthalmology and ophthalmic research, and are presented by noted ophthalmologists and clinical and basic scientists from throughout the United States and abroad. Ample opportunity is provided for questions and answers.

Most programs are held in Classroom 1A at SUNY Downstate Medical Center. For your convenience, there is valet parking at the main entrance of University Hospital of Brooklyn, 445 Lenox Road.

Please join us for these insights into the latest, most current topics in ophthalmology. No registration is required.

Douglas R. Lazzaro, MD, FACS, FAAO
Chair, Department of Ophthalmology
The Richard C. Troutman, M.D. Distinguished Chair in Ophthalmology and Ophthalmic Microsurgery, Comprehensive Ophthalmology and Cornea

John Danias, MD, PhD
Professor of Ophthalmology and Cell Biology
Vice-Chair of Research and Director of Glaucoma

Course Co-Directors

The entire CME lecture series can be viewed on our website

www.downstate.edu/ophthalmology
RESIDENCY STATISTICS

3 MAIN OPD CLINIC NUMBERS

WHERE RESIDENT SERVES AS PRIMARY CAREGIVER

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*Hurricane Sandy Closure 3 months

RRC SURGICAL

NUMBERS COMPARING SUNY DOWNSTATE (SUNY) RESIDENT AVERAGES TO NATIONAL AVERAGES

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<td>14</td>
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<td>Globe Trauma</td>
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<td>12</td>
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(8 residents per year 2012-2013, 7 residents per year 2010-2011, 6 residents per year 2009-2010, 6 residents per year 2011-2012)

GRADUATING CLASS FELLOWSHIPS

- Dr. Matthew Gorski: Cornea, Northshore MEETH
- Dr. Jason Moss: Retina, Institute of California LA
- Dr. Renelle Pointdujour: Shields Oncology, Wills Eye Institute
- Dr. Allison Rizzuti: Cornea, SUNY Downstate
- Dr. Jordan Spindle: Retina, ASOPRS Oculoplastics, University of Alabama
- Dr. Jordan Spindle: Cornea, University of Alabama
- Dr. Adam Thode: Cornea, NY Eye and Ear
- Dr. Frank Tsai: Retina, UC San Diego
Christopher R. Adam, MD

Dr. Christopher R. Adam was born and raised in Long Island. NY. He attended Stony Brook University receiving his undergraduate degree majoring in economics with a minor in business management. After working for a short period in finance he later went on to a career as a radiologic technologist while earning his post-baccalaureate premedical degree at Stony Brook University. He then attended SUNY Downstate Medical Center where he received his medical degree. Dr. Adam was extensively involved with the Downstate ophthalmology student interest group he was the president of president, a group which coordinated and volunteered at various eye glass drives and glaucoma screening to the local Brooklyn community. As a first year medical student he was awarded the Alumni Summer Research Fellowship where his work focusing on visual dysfunction in Parkinson Disease went on for publication and was presented at a national meeting. He additionally was involved in numerous other research projects that resulted in first author publications focusing on vitreoretinal diseases with a specific interest in OCT imaging. He was awarded the Excellence in Ophthalmology award presented by the department of Ophthalmology. 

After medical school Dr. Adam completed his preliminary internal medicine internship at John T. Mather Memorial Hospital in Port Jefferson, NY. His current research which is studying the etiology and visual implication of dailled superior ophtalmic veins will be presented at this years upcoming ASORPS 2014 fall scientific symposium.

Prateek Luthra, MD

Dr. Prateek Luthra was born in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and immigrated to Pennsylvania when he was seven years old. He matriculated from Radnor High School and went to college at Johns Hopkins University where he majored in Neuroscience with a focus on sensory systems. Following graduation, he returned home to Pennsylvania to participate in research concerning interventions to prevent depression in patients with age related macular degeneration.

Dr. Luthra then attended Drexel University College of Medicine. While at medical school, he continued his research efforts at Wills Eye Hospital with the Shields Ophthalmology department on projects concerning outcome based genetic analysis of uveal melanoma patients as well as long term trauma outcomes on monocular patients. Following graduation, Dr. Luthra is currently enrolled in an internal medicine internship at Hahnemann University Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is excited for the opportunity to continue his ophthalmological research and learn from the vast clinical experience at SUNY Downstate.

Charles McCanna, MD

Dr. Charles McCanna was born and raised in Madison, Wisconsin and attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison for his undergraduate education in Biology and French. Throughout these studies, he worked measuring retinal vessels with computer software at the Fundus Photograph Reading Center. Following graduation, he went on to teach high school biology in the Bronx, NY at Harry S. Truman High School. During this time he received a Master’s Degree in Science Education from CUNY-Leruhn College. He returned to Madison for his medical education at the University of Wisconsin. There, he completed research with the Department of Ophthalmology, authoring a paper entitled “Variability of Measurement of Retinal Vessel Diameters” in Ophthalmic Epidemiology. Dr. McCanna also presented a poster at the 2014 American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus meeting analyzing long-term outcomes of autogenous fascia lata frontalis suspension for patients with congenital ptosis. In medical school, he represented his class on the school’s Educational Policy Council and received the University League Endowed Scholarship for leadership roles. Dr. McCanna is thrilled to be returning to New York to complete his Ophthalmology training at SUNY Downstate.

Christopher Orr, MD

Dr. Christopher Orr was raised in New York and graduated from the combined BS-MD program at Drexel University. He pursued a major in Biological Sciences as an undergraduate in the College of Arts and Sciences and graduated Magna Cum Laude. Dr. Orr then attended the Drexel University College of Medicine where he helped organize an annual Flu Vaccination Clinic that aided an underserved population in South Philadelphia. In addition, he served as president of the Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association and volunteered at the Chinatown Clinic.

In medical school, Dr. Orr performed research in the field of Open Globe Injuries under the supervision of Dr. Neelakshi Bhagat at the Institute of Ophthalmology and Visual Science of Rutgers- New Jersey Medical School. The abstract and poster were accepted for the Association for Research and Vision in Ophthalmology meeting in 2014. Following graduation from medical school, Dr. Orr is performing an internship in Internal Medicine at Winthrop University Hospital in Mineola, NY. He is excited to join the Downstate family and begin a career in Ophthalmology.

Shaily Shah, MD

Dr. Shaily Shah was born and raised in Northern California. She attended UCLA where she majored in Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology and graduated Cum Laude as part of the University Honors Program. In 2009, she left California to pursue her medical degree at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

During her time at Mount Sinai, in addition to exploring New York City, Dr. Shah particularly enjoyed being involved in the East Harlem Health Outreach Partnership (EHHOP), Mount Sinai’s student-run free clinic. Together with a colleague, she founded EHHOP’s Ophthalmology clinic, where she first discovered her love for Ophthalmology. She went on to take a dedicated research year at SUNY Downstate, studying the role of steroids in the obstruction of aqueous humor outflow in mice. Under the mentorship of Dr. John Daniels, Dr. Shah’s work was published in IOVS, and her further research on the role of TPA in steroid-induced outflow obstruction was published in PLOS One.

Currently, Dr. Shah is completing her intern year in Internal Medicine at St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Hospital. She is thrilled to be joining the Downstate Ophthalmology family in 2015, where she plans to continue combining her love for clinical medicine and community outreach with research in Ophthalmology.

Neha Shaik, MD

Dr. Neha Shaik was born and raised in Andhra Pradesh, India. After completing her high school studies with honors, she moved with her family to United States when she was 17 years old. She graduated from Brooklyn College with Summa Cum Laude earning a B.S degree in Biological Sciences. She received several accolades and awards during her time at college including, the Arnold and Ruth T. Kaufman Memorial Undergraduate Chemistry Research Award (2007) and the Abraham Kolbin Award (2008), as well as the Libby Kohl Banks (2008) and the Carl and Miltton Blonder (2009) scholarships. She was also a member of Golden Key International Honour Society.

She then attended SUNY Downstate Medical Center, where she earned her Medical Degree with Cum Laude. She was one of the proud eight recipients of the Jonac E. Sale Scholarship award in 2010, the Dean’s Merit Scholarship and the McGraw-Hill Lange Medical Student Awards for Academic Excellence. While in medical school, she was involved in Brooklyn Free Clinic and counseled diabetic patients on annual eye screenings. She also participated in research with the Department of Ophthalmology with Dr. E. C. Lazzaro focusing on glaucoma and its association with congestive heart failure. She was also an active part of academic learning center, providing tutorials on anatomy courses to medical students. Currently, she is pursuing her preliminary year of internal medicine at Downstate Medical Center. Dr. Neha is fluent in Hindi, Urdu, Telugu and English.

Ben Whigham, MD

Dr. Ben Whigham was born and raised in Atlanta, GA. He attended Davidson College where he majored in Chemistry with a concentration in Genetics. He then attended medical school at Duke University. There he held the Dean’s Merit Scholarship, was elected as his class’s honor council representative, and performed genetics research into glaucoma. He later completed a preliminary year in Internal Medicine at the Vidant Medical Center in Greenville, NC.

Dr. Whigham is currently conducting clinical research under Dr. Kelly Mirt at the Durham Veterans Affairs Medical Center. His current focus is how glaucoma is influenced by oral statin therapy. He is investigating patterns of glaucoma progression in a retrospective cohort study. In addition to this work, Dr. Whigham is also interested in how genetic variations influence the risk of exfoliation glaucoma and primary open-angle glaucoma, on which he has published several papers.

Incoming Residents PL1 Class 2015-2016

Christopher R. Adam, MD

Shaily Shah, MD

Neha Shaik, MD

Christopher Orr, MD

Ben Whigham, MD

Charles McCanna, MD

Prateek Luthra, MD


Cotton-Top applicator tip extraction technique for controlled intravitreal injection. Shrier EM. Retina. 2014 Jun;34(6):1244-6

Hierarchy of hue maps in the primate visual cortex. Xiao Y. J Ophthalmic Vis Res. 2014 Jan;9(1):144-7


Processing of the S-cone signals in the early visual cortex of primates. Xiao Y. Vis Neurosci. 2014 Mar;31(2):189-95


538 - A0174
Analysis of Factors Affecting Nonadherence in Glaucoma Medication Utilization.
Morgan L. Pansegrau; Matthew Petrolì; Inci Dersu

711 - C0254
Laminin β 2 and γ 3 Chains Regulate Retinal Progenitor Cell Division Polarity.
Christina Nuenberg; Sabrina V. Klein; Norbert Kosco; Anna Karina E. Maier; Nadine Rösch; William J. Brunken

1202 - C0230
Role of netrin-4 in a Mouse Model of Choroidal Neovascularization.
Terry Kim, MD; Richard C. Troutman MD; Douglas Koch, MD; Neil Miller, MD; Arthur H. Wolintz, MD; Jonathan Trobe, MD; Mark Blumenkranz, MD; Austin Fink, MD; David Abramson, MD

5654 - D0147
Bioengineered 3D HTM is physiologically responsive to glucocorticoid.
Karen Y. Tomrjio; Adam Goodcoff; Cula Dautriche; Magnus Bergkvist; Yubing Xie; Susan Sharbato; John Danias

5657 - D0150
Decreased PLAT expression and PLAT Promoter Activity after Steroid Treatment.
Alina Genis; Sandeep Kumar; John Danias

2053 - C0072
Regulation of Corneal Endothelial Cell Behavior through Manipulation of Cellular Microenvironment.
William J. Brunken; Jeremiah Martino; Dmitri Serjanov; Sarah Sui; Elizabeth T.; Viuta; Douglas R. Lazzaro; Dale D. Hunter; Magnus Bergkvist; Galina Bachay

2432 - B0131
C1q ablation protects Retinal Ganglion Cells in glaucoma.
Ruma Kumar; Alina Genis; Konstantin Asaturyan; Hai M. Targ; John Danias

3018
Laminin β 2 and γ 3 chains regulate microglial activation and the downstream effects of microglia on retinal vascular development.
Saptarshi Biswas; Julianne Chu; Galina Bachay; Dale D. Hunter; William J. Brunken

3556
Control of physiological and pathological angiogenesis in the retina by the matricellular protein CCN2.
Brahim Chaqour; Maria Grant; Jinog Choi; Izabella Krupska; Lulu Yan; Hemabindu Chintala

5375 - D0007
Response of Human Retinal Endothelial Cells (HRECs) to Small Interfering RNA (siRNA) Silencing of Notch-1, Delta-Like Ligand 4 (Dl4), and Jagged-1 During Hyperoxia with Intermittent Hypoxia (IH).
Kay D. Beharry; Charles L. Ca; Taikum Ahmad; Gloria B. Valencia; Douglas R. Lazzaro; Jacob V. Aranda

5443 - A0017
IgG4 immunostaining in Patients with Orbital Sarcoidosis: A Pilot Study.
Kalaki Vinod; Jordan Spindle; Tatyana Milman; Roman Shinder
Dr. Martinez-Conde invited to be part of a small group of scientists discussing potential US-Spain collaborations hosted at the UN.

(DR) Dr. Martinez-Conde and Macknik can be seen sitting next to the King in this small group.

(TOP) Drs. Martinez-Conde and Macknik can be seen at meeting to discuss US-Spain educational collaboration.

(RIGHT) Dr. Martinez-Conde can be seen sitting next to the King in this small group.
Omar Ahmad, M.D.

was first introduced to the field of ophthalmology in depth during his undergraduate studies at The Johns Hopkins University. There, he worked in several labs at the Wilmer Eye Institute where he published early work on the eximer laser. After this experience and training, he continued to pursue his interest in ophthalmology while at The Medical University of South Carolina where he was able to continue research and gain more experience at the Storm Eye Institute. Following medical school, Dr. Ahmad completed his residency training at State University of New York, Downstate. At SUNY Downstate, Dr. Ahmad trained in ophthalmology and eye surgery in a world class setting providing him access to a diversity of distinguished attending and notable hospitals. He was appointed chief resident in his third year, which allowed him to perform challenging surgeries and quickly became a mentor to other residents. Dr. Ahmad then went on to complete a surgical retina fellowship at the prestigious Scheepers Retina Associates at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. He published in peer reviewed journals and was able to further his training with surgeons that were pioneers and leaders in retinal care. After completing his training, Dr. Ahmad founded Chesapeake Retina Centers. This group is dedicated to providing exemplary patient care, surgical technique and restoration of sight. They are involved with resident education through Georgetown University Hospital and clinical trials in the latest developments in ophthalmology. Dr. Ahmad has used his experience at some of the finest institutions in ophthalmology to create state of the art centers and bring rigorous academic ideals into a private setting.

Regina Del Rosario, M.D.

is a board certified ophthalmologist. After graduating from her residency at SUNY Downstate Ophthalmology in 2008, she went on to complete a fellowship in Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus at Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, DC and subsequently, became a Costenbader Fellow. In 2009, Dr. Del Rosario joined Pediatric Eye MD, the first and only dedicated pediatric ophthalmology and adult strabismus practice in Queens, New York full time. Dr. Del Rosario also taught ophthalmology residents in their pediatric rotation at New York Eye and Ear Hospital. In addition, she has done medical missions to Santiago, Dominican Republic seeing over 100 pediatric patients a day and operating on over 40 strabismus patients a day with the pediatric ophthalmology team. Currently, Dr. Del Rosario works part-time at Pediatric Eye MD so that she can spend more time with her 2 young children.

Nisha Faustina, M.D., FACS,

graduated of the Downstate Ophthalmology residency program in 2002 is retiring from private practice in Phoenix, Arizona and has accepted a full time faculty position at her alma mater, Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. She will serve in the School of Medicine Department of Integrated Didactics as well as the Department of Surgery.

Robert Feig, M.D.

received his B.A. from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in 1997, and then attended medical school at SUNY Downstate, graduating in 2001. He also completed his ophthalmology residency at Downstate, and was chief resident in 2005. After completing a vitreo-retinal surgery fellowship at the University of Texas, Southwestmed Medical Center in 2007, Robert returned to Springfield, IL as their VitreoRetinal Surgeon. My wife and I have been enjoying Springfield and we are blessed to have two children, Arjun who is now 3 years old and Arjali who is 8 months. We have been enjoying traveling and had a great time at the Downstate Alumni reception at the AAO in October.

Mohammed Hajee, M.D.

completed his residency in ophthalmology at State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY where he was elected as the chief resident in 2007. He stayed at SUNY Downstate to complete his fellowship training in Neuro-ophthalmology (2008) and Vitreo-Retinal Surgery (2010). Dr. Hajee is Board Certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and a member of American Society of Retina Specialists. Having grown up in New Jersey, Dr. Hajee returned back and joined Ocean County Retina in 2009 where he is now a managing partner. Dr. Hajee has researched, lectured on various topics at national meetings and published in peer-reviewed journals. He serves on the Board of Governors of the New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmology and is a reviewer of prestigious journals including Ophthalmology and Journal of Ocular Biology. Dr. Hajee is a father of three and enjoys motorsports, watersports, and collecting vintage watches.

Ramanath Bhandari, M.D.

After graduating from the Downstate Ophthalmology residency in 2011, I completed my retina fellowship at University of Colorado in 2013 and have joined the Springfield Clinic in Springfield, IL as their VitreoRetinal Surgeon. My wife and I have been enjoying Springfield and we are blessed to have two children, Arjun who is now 3 years old and Arjali who is 8 months. We have been enjoying traveling and had a great time at the Downstate Alumni reception at the AAO in October.

Sara Ferri, M.D.

is a graduate of the University at Buffalo School of Medicine. She trained as an intern in internal medicine at Unity Hospital in Rochester, NY and then went on to complete an arduous ophthalmology residency at SUNY Downstate in 2012 where she performed close to eight hundred eye procedures ranging from cataract surgery to retina laser procedures. She went on to specialize in Cornea and External Disease at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore Maryland. There, she was exposed to a broad range of medical and surgical conditions of the anterior segment and performed surgical procedures involving anterior segment reconstructive surgery, endothelial transplantsations and corneal refractive surgery. She also became involved in the research of the proteomics of the cornea in which she is still actively involved. She then returned to her native roots in Rochester, New York where she joined a private practice in July of 2013. She practices as a comprehensive ophthalmologist with specialty in cornea and refractive surgery. She also teaches cataract surgery to residents of the Flaum Eye Institute of the University of Rochester. She is a board certified ophthalmologist and a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

MANY THANKS

Drs. Troutman and Veronneau purchased the VERION image guiding system and LENSTAR system to complement the LenSx system they purchased last year for the department. This will allow us to perform extremely precise measurements that input directly into the femto second cataract machine.

Dr. Mayling Chin-Chu, residency graduate and Dr. Steven Chu donated 50,000 in form of unrestricted grant to the department.
Current Concepts of Ophthalmology 2015

JANUARY 9 - 11, 2015
BORGATA Atlantic City, NJ

Full Details on www.eyecurrentconcepts.org

43rd Annual Ophthalmology Alumni Meeting

JUNE 11, 2015  8:00 AM – 4:10 PM
SUNY Downstate Medical Center Alumni Auditorium
395 Lenox Road Brooklyn, NY 11203

2015 Visiting Speaker

CLINICAL LECTURE SERIES

2015 Vision Science Seminar Series

RESEARCH LECTURE SERIES

The entire CME lecture series can be viewed on our website
www.downstate.edu/ophthalmology

No registration is required