

INVIEW

Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences Newsletter

A Word From Our Chair Joern B. Soltau, MD

“Real change, enduring change,
happens one step at a time”

Ruth Bader Ginsberg



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- A Word From Our Chair
- New Educational Endowment for Mission Work
- Faculty Feature - Dr. Doug Sigford
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- First Corneal Neurotization Surgery in Kentucky
- Community Outreach and Engagement
- Vision Research Update

Dear Friends of Our Department,

I want to thank you all for your unyielding support and dedication to our department, especially during this difficult year. Your tireless hard work, commitment to our faculty and staff, and devotion to our mission has been the key to our success.

We have made it through a long year of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, from uncertainty to a vaccination since our last update. Additionally, we capped off the year with our transition to our new EPIC electronic health system on the clinical side. With the leadership of our faculty and staff, we were able to get through this arduous process. We lost patients to COVID-19 and we have heard many stories from our patients about how they survived it, some after weeks of being on the ventilator. Some of us got sick and survived, but some of our loved ones sadly did not. We were lucky to be among the first to receive a vaccine, but how we conduct business has changed forever. We will probably wear masks and practice social distancing for the foreseeable future, but I pray we will one day return to some semblance of normality.

We have also had some great things happen in our department this year!

Dr. Bill and Mathieu Nunery established an endowment for resident and fellow education on mission trips abroad. Dr. Frank Burns, Dr. Brooke Nesmith, and Dr. Harpal Sandhu, all made generous donations to our mission, patient care, teaching, and research programs.

Dr. Harry Stephenson made a donation to our Visiting Professor Lecture Series named in his honor as well as a donation for the renovation of our conference center. Construction has already begun! We also have a wonderful line-up of speakers committed for our Lecture Series in the 2021-2022 academic year. We hope to have our new live-streaming capabilities available this August and the new lecture schedule published by the end of June. We plan to resume onsite lectures this fall. Please watch your inbox and join us this year.

I would also like to thank Dr. William and Marilyn Rowlett for their kind donation in support of our next mission trip to Haiti, and Dr. Lloyd “Skip” Taustine for his contribution to the Donald Taustine Research & Education Fund in Ophthalmology in support of *Kanski’s Clinical Ophthalmology* textbooks for our residents. Additionally, I would like to thank the Kentucky Lions Eye Bank for their \$10,000 donation in support of ophthalmic research.

Our department led the School of Medicine in the *Raise Some L* campaign, and I appreciate everyone who donated to this worthy cause. We also received a \$50,000 donation from the Downtown Lions Club as well as generous donations from Robert and Hunt Rounsavall toward the acquisition of our new CLARUS 700 fundus imaging system with fluorescein angiography. The financial contributions from organizations and individuals in our community are vital to the growth and mission of our department. Thank you so much to the Downtown Lions Club and Rounsavall family for their continued support!

We also saw the opening of the Laser Eye Center at Medical Center East. I want to thank Tom Miller, CEO of UofL Health, Dorie Shelburne at Medical Center East, Dr. Richard Eiferman, Dr. Frank Burns, Dr. Casey Johnson, and Butch Schulman for making this new service become a reality.

I am truly grateful for our faculty and staff and proud to be part of such a fantastic team! Our community outreach and engagement this year has been second to none.

Our department has a bright future and will continue to grow and prosper. We will defeat this coronavirus and we will eradicate systemic racism in our society. As the brilliant Justice Ginsberg said, just “one step at a time”.

Your Chair,

Joern B. Soltau, M.D.



OPHTHALMOLOGY HEROES

The Ophthalmology leadership team gave our faculty and staff “Ophthalmology Hero” T-shirts in appreciation of their dedicated service to our department and their devotion to our patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences Newsletter

New Educational Endowment for International Mission Work

Dr. Bill and Mathieu Nunery Establish International Mission Work Endowment for the Training of Ophthalmology Fellows and Residents

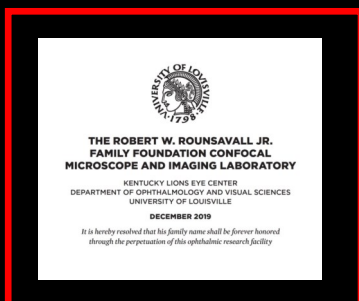
Dr. William Nunery, former Chief of our Oculoplastic Division, retired from the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences on June 30, 2020, and his wife, Mrs. Mathieu Nunery, former Manager of our Oculoplastic Service, retired from the University of Louisville Physicians in June of 2019. During their tenure with our department, Bill and Mathieu Nunery always emphasized the importance of taking our residents and fellows abroad on mission trips to further their education



by helping others with eye disease through medical and surgical intervention. Bill and Mathieu also believed it gave our residents and fellows the opportunity to experience different cultures, learn how to bring medical and surgical technology to disadvantaged communities, and engage with other ophthalmologists in diverse areas around the world. In order to continue their passion for mission work in our fellowship and residency programs, Bill and Mathieu created the **William Nunery, M.D. and Mathieu Nunery Endowment for Ophthalmic Missions and Resident Education**. Proceeds from this new endowment will benefit educational initiatives for ophthalmic mission work abroad by training our residents and fellows in both Third World countries and also with specific partnerships through the Order of St. John. The Order of St. John is a medical organization with a mission to combat blindness that operates hospitals in Soweto, South Africa and Jerusalem, Israel. This new endowment allows our Ophthalmology fellows and residents to rotate on mission trips around the world including planned visits to South Africa and Israel. Preference will be given to third-year residents and fellows with a higher level of training and maturity in the field. Dr. Chris Compton, our Vice Chair of Academic Affairs and Residency Program Director said, "Bill and Mathieu Nunery have always been an integral part of the education of our residents and fellows and now thanks to their generosity, their legacy and love of teaching will live on within our department." Alumni and friends of the department can also contribute to the perpetual funding of this endowment in honor or memory of a loved one or a special occasion. Donations to the William Nunery, M.D. and Mathieu Nunery Endowment for Ophthalmic Missions and Resident Education can be made by contacting Lauren Zachry-Reynolds, Senior Director of Development in the University of Louisville Advancement Office at (502) 852-0147 or (502) 714-4596.



The Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences would like to thank the Downtown Louisville Lions Club for their generous contribution of \$50,000 toward the acquisition of our new Zeiss CLARUS 700 fundus imaging system with fluorescein angiography. Through the financial support of our community partners like the Downtown Louisville Lions Club and other private philanthropic donors, our department is able to provide our patients with the latest technology available in the diagnosis and treatment of eye disease.



The Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences will present the Robert W. Rounsavall, Jr. Family Foundation with a "Look Book" as a token of our appreciation for their generous funding of our new confocal microscope and imaging laboratory. Inside this book are photos of our research faculty using the confocal microscope, images from the microscope that facilitate our various research initiatives, and activities that demonstrate the uses of the microscope for research projects in the laboratories of Dr. Maureen McCall, Dr. Hui Shao, Dr. Qingxian Lu, and Dr. Shigeo Tamiya. Our department is extremely grateful to the entire Rounsavall family for this gift.

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People Who Make a Difference

Our Featured Physician:

Douglas Sigford, MD

Dr. Doug Sigford currently serves as the Vice Chair of Clinical Affairs and the Director of the Retina Service for the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences. Doug is from a family of physicians. Both of his



parents went to Medical School later in life, so he lived in California through Sixth Grade while his mother completed her residency. Now retired to Arizona in the winters and Colorado in the summers, his father specialized in Allergy and Immunology and his mother specialized in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Doug also has an older sister who is a Pediatric Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation specialist. Doug's parents relocated to Minnesota where he played baseball and soccer in his youth and attended High School. He completed his Bachelor's degree in Physics from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota and his Master's degree in Physics from the University of Minnesota. He and his sister followed in their parents' footsteps, and Doug completed his MD degree from the University of Minnesota. Doug said his passion for physics led him to the field of ophthalmology. He matched at the University of Louisville for his residency program and then again for his retina fellowship program and he never looked back. Doug said he fell in love with Louisville and our department, so he decided to make Kentucky his home. During his tenure on our faculty, Doug has trained six retina fellows; two from Israel, one from Turkey, one who is on the faculty at Indiana University, one who is on the faculty at St. Louis University, and one who is in private practice here in Louisville. Doug is a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, American Society of Retina Specialists, Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, and the Kentucky Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons. He has won multiple awards for his work, including the 2015 Doctors' Choice Award at the Retina Film Festival of the American Society of Retina Specialists for his video entitled "The Birth of Twins" about a complicated intraocular lens rescue. He also won the Best Poster Award for his work entitled "Global Reported Endophthalmitis Risk Following Intra-vitreous Injection of Anti-Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor" at the 2014 American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting. Doug supervises our residents in the retina clinic at the Veteran's Administration Medical Center, and sees private patients at our Kentucky Lions Eye Center, Springs Medical Center, and Elizabethtown clinic locations. He said, "Ophthalmology is what makes me happy. People really value their eye sight, so if you can help save someone's vision, then you are truly helping them live life to its fullest." Doug also lives life to its fullest as well. He has a photo on his desk of his two beloved Greyhound dogs, and he enjoys skiing, playing tennis, and going camping and hiking in the mountains.

Kentucky Lions Eye Foundation Golf Scramble

From Left to Right: Faculty members Dr. Charles Barr, Dr. Chris Compton, Dr. Jeremy Clark, and Dr. Patrick Scott represented the department in the annual *Drive 4 Sight*, a charitable event that benefits 25,000 Kentuckians in need of vision care each year. In 2020, the event was held at the Old Bridge Golf Club in Danville, Kentucky.



Kentucky Derby—September 5, 2020



The Kentucky Derby was held in September of 2020 last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and so was our department's Annual Derby Hat Contest. Our Chair, Dr. Joern Soltau joined in the fun along with our Ophthalmology staff members. We held our Annual Derby Hat Contest again this year when the Run for the Roses returned to the first Saturday in May 2021. Stay tuned for our 2021 winner.



UofL Health Offers New Eye Care Services

New UofL Health Laser Eye Center at Medical Center East

A group of 29 area ophthalmologists who owned the former Suburban Excimer Laser Center donated their excimer and femtosecond lasers to UofL Health. The lasers were relocated to Medical Center East from the Suburban Medical Plaza in December of 2020 where they will be used by both employed and independent ophthalmologists to perform refractive surgeries, including LASIK and PRK procedures to treat nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism along with other disorders of the eye. UofL Health completed renovations at Medical Center East to create a spacious area for the new **UofL Health Laser Eye Center**. UofL Health also hired the experienced staff members who previously supported the laser center at its former location to provide ophthalmologists with a seamless transition for their patients. The opening of the UofL Health Laser Eye Center is the fulfillment of one of UofL Health's FY2021 strategic planning initiatives to continue to invest in its facilities to expand the scope of services offered to patients and physicians throughout the region. **Dr. Mark Cassol**, a Louisville ophthalmologist in private practice in St. Matthews and a University of Louisville Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences alumnus, performed the first case at the UofL Health Laser Eye Center in early January of 2021. The UofL Health Laser Eye Center formed a Steering Committee for clinical oversight and administrative guidance that consists of **Dr. Richard Eiferman**, **Dr. Frank Burns**, **Dr. Casey Johnson** (an ophthalmologist with Kentucky Eye Care), **Dr. Joern Soltau** (Chair, Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences), **Angelica Thompson** (Director of Surgical Services-Ambulatory), **Christopher Murphy** (Manager of Surgical Services at Medical Center East), **Harry "Butch" Schulman** (Vice Chair of Administrative Affairs, Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences), and **Dorie Shelburne** (Vice President of Operations/Chief Nursing Officer of Medical Center East). Through the leadership of Tom Miller (CEO of UofL Health), Dorie Shelburne, Dr. Joern Soltau, and Butch Schulman, the new UofL Health Laser Eye Center is now open and servicing physicians and their patients throughout our community.

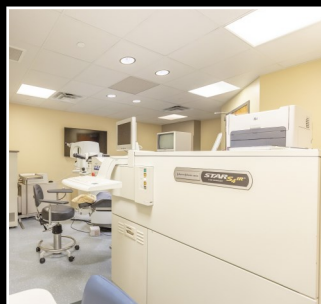
Resident Training & Certification

The new Laser Eye Center at Medical Center East is now the site for the training of residents from the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at both the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky. Begun in 2018, the UofL Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences is one of only three programs in the United States supported by Johnson & Johnson Vision in which residents are trained to perform LASIK and PRK procedures during their residency training. Physicians in the laser center train the residents to perform these procedures following required didactic and wet lab training by representatives from Johnson & Johnson Vision and UofL faculty. Residents perform surgeries under the direction of Richard Eiferman, M.D., professor of ophthalmology at the University of Louisville and the Director of the department's Cornea Service, and Frank Burns, M.D., a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences. Dr. Richard Eiferman first used an excimer laser in 1989 when they were still being tested, and he was an early conductor of clinical trials under FDA protocols. Dr. Frank Burns has been performing refractive surgery since 1995 and began performing PRK in 1997 and LASIK in 1999. The University of Louisville Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences residency program is now nationally recognized along with Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at the University of Miami as the three programs that certify residents in refractive surgery during their residency training. The University of Louisville residents boast a 95% success rate of patients measuring 20/20 or better. Residents also receive training in the therapeutic use of the laser such as treatment to remove scar tissue and calcium deposits. In addition to the excimer and femtosecond laser, residents receive training on the iDesign and Tracey analyzer which measure the minor optical errors of the eye. Glasses and contact lenses alone cannot correct minor optical errors of the eye which is why patients see better after laser vision correction. As certified trainers by Johnson & Johnson, Dr. Eiferman and Dr. Burns augment the residents' training with additional didactic lectures and wet lab modules. Residents perform surgical laser vision correction with patients under their supervision.

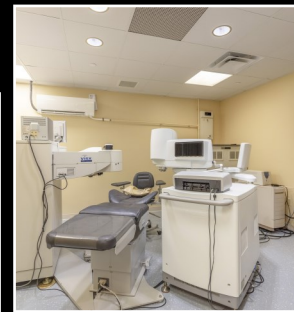
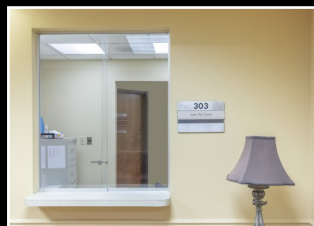


Ribbon Cutting Dedication

Left to right: Angelica Thompson, Dr. Joern Soltau, Dr. Richard Eiferman, Dr. Frank Burns, Dr. Casey Johnson, Dorie Shelburne, and Beth Dale



Medical Center East
Laser Center, Suite 303
502-259-6277



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Community Outreach & Engagement



Ophthalmology staff spent the afternoon wrapping gifts and packaging food for the families



Susan Sherrell prepares a box of wrapped gifts for delivery



Chief Resident, Dr. Rick Blodi, and First Year Resident, Dr. Alex Rider hold the certificates for eye exams

Heal the World Project

The Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences sponsored two families in need through St. Augustine Catholic Church this past holiday season. The first family was a single mother raising her three children while studying to become a nurse, and the second family was a grandmother raising her three grandchildren. Our faculty and staff donated food and Christmas gifts for all of the children, the mother, and the grandmother. Additionally, faculty and staff donated money toward the purchase of additional food and gifts. Our staff wrapped the gifts and packaged the food for each family. Both families also received a Christmas turkey. The Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences gave each parent and all of the children gift certificates for free eye exams. Our Executive Director and Vice Chair of Administrative Affairs, Harry "Butch" Schulman, made multiple trips to deliver the food and gifts in the back of his pick-up truck. Through our community outreach project in December of 2020, our faculty and staff began to heal the world one life and one family at a time.

Staff Appreciation



Santa (Dr. Soltau) & his Elf (Butch Schulman)

Our Chair, Dr. Joern Soltau and our Executive Director/Vice Chair of Administrative Affairs, Harry "Butch" Schulman dressed up for our 2020 Holiday Staff Appreciation event. The department gave frozen turkeys and hams, fruit baskets, and boxes of Christmas cookies to the staff and residents for their holiday gifts in December 2020.



Staff waited in line with proper social distancing to receive their frozen turkey or ham.



Our residents posed for a group picture with their holiday gifts.

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Special Faculty Honors & Recognition

Dr. Jeremy Clark and the Oculoplastics Team Performs First Procedure in Commonwealth

Corneal neurotization surgery is a procedure performed to treat corneal anesthesia (numbness of the transparent front part of the eye covering the pupil and iris). Corneal anesthesia may result in a debilitating and visually threatening condition called neurotrophic keratopathy (NK) where affected individuals may develop corneal ulcerations, infections, and are at risk of losing vision. Corneal anesthesia may result from multiple causes. Most common culprits include certain viral infections (i.e., herpetic eye infections) and brain tumors. It may also arise as a result of head trauma, complication of eye surgery, contact lens overuse, certain eye drops, or congenital defects.

Until recently no curative treatment existed for NK and many patients required multiple medical and surgical interventions to prevent further deterioration of the cornea. In the past many patients with this condition had to have their eye closed completely to prevent perforation of the cornea (developing a hole in the cornea). Recent surgical advancements made by Dr. Ilya Leyngold of Duke University has shown corneal neurotization surgery to achieve successful restoration of corneal sensibility, health, and improved vision.


Dr. Jeremy Clark and the Oculoplastic team at the University of Louisville treated the first patient in the commonwealth with this innovative minimally invasive corneal neurotization surgery.

After surgery, it takes several months for the nerves to grow into the cornea and restore its sensibility and healing capacity. During this time the eye may need to be protected in selected patients by closing the lids with a suture.

The swelling and bruising around the eye(s) from the surgery takes approximately 2-3 weeks to resolve. The eyelids of the affected eye may be temporarily sutured together to prevent corneal problems during the healing phase. If this is done, the suture is usually removed in 1-2 weeks after surgery. The numbness in the skin area from which the donor nerve is harvested may take several weeks to several months to improve, but generally returns to normal in most patients.



Left to right: UofL Health hospital staff, Dr. Clark (center) with our resident Dr. Cohen, second from right, and our fellow, Dr. Elpers, on the end right.



There are two new Cardinal red benches outside of the Kentucky Lions Eye Center for our patients and visitors. Special thanks to Butch Schulman, Executive Director/Vice Chair of Administrative Affairs and Eric Heil, our Facility Manager.



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Residents & Fellows

Surgical Olympics

Like most events in 2020, our annual Surgical Olympics were delayed and looked quite different than usual. Foregoing the traditional competitive aspects of this event, our Surgical Olympics focused on teaching the younger residents surgical and procedural skills. Faculty worked with the residents on their surgical technique and used this event as a teaching session rather than a competition. The residents appreciated this opportunity to learn as well as the support they received from Alcon since it had been difficult to obtain pig eyes for practice during the pandemic. In what was an unusual year, our department still moved forward in all aspects of our teaching program.



Dr. Mohay (above right) and Dr. Barr (left) assisted the residents with their surgical techniques.



Call **502-588-0550** to schedule an appointment or to get more information.

Refractive Eye Surgery Program



Procedures are offered at a more affordable rate ranging from \$495—\$795 per eye for custom LASIK

SAVE THE DATES

- **Kentucky Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons Spring Meeting** – May 7-8, 2021
- **Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences Resident Graduation** – Saturday, June 19, 2021
8:00 AM – Resident Presentations, Awards, Keynote Speaker (Hassan Shah, M.D., University of Chicago)
- **New Resident Orientation** – July 1-8, 2021

Welcome New Residents: Dr. Simra Ahmed (University of Louisville), Dr. Brennan Boyd (University of Arizona), Dr. Joshua Iltis (University of Texas), and Dr. Sina Rashidi Kikanloo (Albert Einstein College of Medicine),

Welcome New Retina Fellow: Dr. Melih Ustaoglu (Gazi University Medical School, Ankara, Turkey)
- **Annual Alumni Reception**, American Academy of Ophthalmology, New Orleans, Louisiana – Saturday, November 13, 2021

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Louisville’s Vision Research Center of Excellence



UofL research could eliminate dangerous side effects of gene therapy delivery

New research by the University of Louisville with colleagues at Harvard University could prevent dangerous and potentially life-threatening side effects the delivery mechanism for targeted gene therapies meant to slow everything from muscle atrophy to vision loss.

The work targets a leading delivery method for the therapies, adeno-associated virus (AAV), and recently was published in the journal *Science Translational Medicine* by UofL’s Maureen A.

McCall, Ph.D., (pictured above) and her colleagues from Harvard University and its Wyss Institute.

AAV is used in treating a number of conditions, including the retinal diseases McCall studies at UofL. However, it also has been known to cause serious side effects, such as elevated immune response and inflammation.

“It’s a real problem since there’s no real control,” said McCall, the Kentucky Lions Eye Research Endowed Chair and a professor in the Departments of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences and Anatomical Sciences and Neurobiology. “Even with the best-laid plans, you see some inflammatory retinal response, and the amount can vary widely, including dangerous levels.”

The new research focuses on the role of the viral capsid, a component in AAV that’s believed to cause this response. Parts of the viral capsid interact with a protein known as Toll-like receptor 9 (TLR9), which senses foreign DNA in the body. TLR9 triggers the immune response, which causes inflammation and can reduce or eliminate the therapy’s effects.

“So, the hypothesis was that if you could change that capsid code and mask it from the Toll-like receptor, that you could build a better delivery tool,” McCall said.

The idea is to “cloak” the deleterious part of the capsid with a series of synthetic DNA “inflammation-inhibiting oligonucleotide” sequences meant to stop TLR9’s reaction. In mouse models, the researchers saw a 95% reduction in inflammation.

In many cases, gene therapies for optical diseases are delivered through the retina since the blood-retina barrier helps to mitigate some of the immune response. Ying Kai Chan, Ph.D., a former postdoctoral fellow in George Church’s group at the Wyss Institute, reached out to McCall in 2018 to partner on this work because of her research expertise and the experience of her UofL colleagues with these injections, especially Wei Wang, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of ophthalmology.

McCall’s work at UofL specifically focuses on the use of gene therapies to treat retinal diseases, including retinitis pigmentosa and other conditions that eventually can cause blindness. For some of these conditions, there is no known cure and many therapies are still in development and clinical trials. McCall said eliminating side effects associated with AAV delivery gets researchers one step closer to successful treatment.

“Solving this key problem with delivery is huge,” she said. “These therapies show promise in significantly increasing people’s quality of life. My hope is that one day we can use these therapies to slow – or even stop – the progression of these diseases and restore sight.”

Staff Halloween Dress Up Contest 2020



First Place – Katie Ward as “Winnie” aka Winifred Sanderson, the witch from the movie, *Hocus Pocus*

Second Place – David Dunn as “Uncle Fester” from *The Addams Family*

Third Place – Chelsey Sartin as Cleopatra

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Research Funding and Publications

Grant Awards

Dr. Qingxian Lu, Associate Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences received a National Institutes of Health (NIH) R21 grant for his project entitled “*Novel function of beta-catenin in regulation of RPE basal membrane*”. This two year, \$429,000 grant award allows Dr. Lu to continue his research work. Retinal Pigment Epithelium (RPE) forms the outer blood retinal barrier in the eye and is responsible for the directional secretion of proteins, lipoprotein particles, and lipid bilayer-enclosed extracellular vesicles. RPE polarity and integrity are essential for retina tissue organization and visual function. Deletion of β -catenin from adult RPE disrupts RPE basal infolding and cell-matrix adhesions, causing RPE detachment from underlying basal lamina. This innovative work allows Dr. Lu to develop a model for further studying the etiology and pathogenic mechanisms for many types of RPE dysfunction related eye diseases.



The Kentucky Network for Innovation & Commercialization (KYNETIC) selected its first round of university-born health and medical technologies projects, and our own Dr. Hui Shao received an award. KYNETIC is a statewide program supported by \$6.6M in funding, including a \$4M Research Evaluation and Commercialization Hub (REACH) grant from the National Institutes of Health and matching funds. The goal is to advance the most promising biomedical research innovations, including pharmaceuticals, therapies and devices from the state’s eight public universities and the Kentucky Community & Technical College System. Dr. Shao, a professor in the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences along with her colleagues, Principal Investigator, Dr. Howard Donninger, and co-Principal Investigator, Dr. Kavitha Yaddanapudi, both in the Department of Medicine-Oncology, received funding from KYNETIC for their project entitled “*A novel anti-IL-6 inhibitor as a new immunotherapeutic for uveitis*”. Uveitis, an inflammatory disorder of the eye ranks as the fifth most common cause of blindness.



Congratulations to Dr. Wei Wang on her latest publication on work she did together with Dr. Doug Dean’s lab at the Brown Cancer Center.

JBC RESEARCH ARTICLE

Rod photoreceptor clearance due to misfolded rhodopsin is linked to a DAMP-immune checkpoint switch

Received for publication, September 14, 2020, and in revised form, November 13, 2020. Published, Papers in Press, November 19, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1074/jbc.RA120.016053>

Sang Joon Lee^{1,2,3}, Wei Wang^{1,4}, Lei Jin^{1,3}, Xiaoqin Lu^{1,4}, Lei Gao^{1,5}, Yao Chen^{1,6}, Tingting Liu^{1,3}, Douglas Emery^{1,4}, Eric Vukmanic^{1,5}, Yongqing Liu^{1,5}, Henry J. Kaplan¹, and Douglas C. Dean^{1,4}



Every October, our clinic staff participates in the department’s Annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest. Our patients vote on each pumpkin entered by number. The Grand Prize Winner in 2020 was ophthalmic technician, Svetlana loukhnel.

SAVE THE DATE

Vision Sciences Retreat - October 1, 2021

“An Unusual Form of Control: TRPV1 and TRPV4 Channels in the Eye.”
Nicholas A. Delamere, Ph.D.

Professor and Head, Department of Physiology
Professor, Department of Ophthalmology & Vision Science
University of Arizona

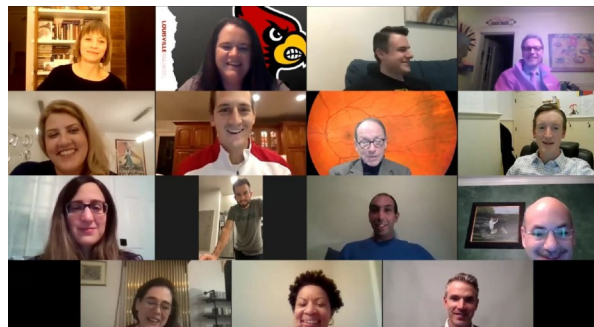
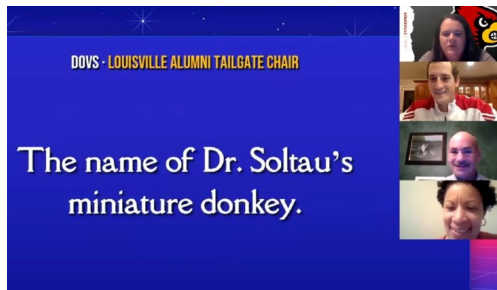
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DOVS Alumni

DOVS Hosts Virtual Alumni Reception

The Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences hosted our annual Alumni Reception virtually this year due to the current pandemic. The DOVS Alumni Reception is held every year contiguous to the annual American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting. This academic year, on November 13, 2020, the department sponsored a virtual program for our alumni. Dr. Joern Soltau gave our alumni an update on initiatives within the department. Dr. Chris Compton gave our alumni an update on our residency training program, and our Chief Resident, Dr. Rick Blodi gave our alumni an update on our current residents. Our Development Officer, Lauren Zachry-Reynolds gave our alumni an update on advancement endeavors within the department, and our Vice Chair of Administrative Affairs/Executive Director, Butch Schulman led a Jeopardy Trivia Game with all alumni and faculty participants. Mary Ann Vetter, Senior Director of Engagement awarded prizes from the University of Louisville Alumni Relations office to the winners of the Jeopardy Trivia Game. The only question our alumni could not answer was the name of Dr. Soltau's miniature donkey, "Hayden". The reception concluded with a toast to the future of our department. Our next annual Alumni Reception will be held at the American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana at the Marriot Warehouse Arts District this coming November of 2021.



Fundraising and How You Can Help



Lauren Zachry-Reynolds
Senior Director of Development

You can reach Lauren at:
lauren.zachry-reynolds@louisville.edu
or 502-852-0147

The Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences extends our heartfelt condolences to Cantor Marshall Portnoy, Julie Beth Portnoy Simon, and Michael Portnoy on the loss of their wife and mother, **Dr. Jane Portnoy**. Dr. Portnoy was an alumna of our department's residency program and was the first woman to become a board-certified ophthalmologist in Kentucky. Dr. Portnoy spent ten years in private practice in Louisville, Kentucky and the last 27 years in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where she was a professor of ophthalmology at the Scheie Eye Institute at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Portnoy was a compassionate humanitarian, and she is a great loss to our university community and the field of ophthalmology.