

# INVIEW

## Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences Newsletter

### A Word From Our Chair Joern B. Soltau, MD

We are not living in fear.  
We are living in hope.



#### In This Issue:

- A Word From Our Chair
- Welcome to Our New Faculty
- Faculty Recognition
- People Who Make a Difference
- Research Center of Excellence
- Research Funding
- Virtual Graduation
- In the News

Dear Friends of Our Department,

It has been quite some time since our last departmental newsletter, and a lot has happened since then. The COVID-19 pandemic has upended all our lives, not just at work, but also at home, at school, in the grocery store, and everywhere we go. It has interrupted our social gatherings, ruined our spring and summer vacation plans, and impacted almost everything we do. Our entire society has made adjustments for this dreadful disease and our department is no exception.

We had to change the way we do things in the office. Although some in the department still work remotely from home, everyone is now back from the university mandated furlough. All of our educational conferences are now held virtually online. Only one person at a time is allowed in the elevator. We check everyone's temperature. Our patients have to answer an array of screening questions. Our waiting rooms look bare since most of the chairs are gone. Plexiglass screens have gone up. Everyone wears a mask and we clean, clean and clean constantly.


But, even with all that going on, I still feel hopeful. We never closed down our clinics. Our Research Division has slowed down, but never stopped. Patients, that needed to be seen, were either seen onsite or via Telehealth. Surgeries, that had to be done, were done. The staff stayed healthy. Everyone pulled up their shirt sleeves and worked together. I feel blessed to be harmoniously working with such a wonderful team in our department. Our faculty and staff are second to none!

Since our last newsletter, Dr. Hossein Asghari left our department. He and his wife, graduating Retina Fellow Dr. Niloofar Piri, both took faculty positions at St. Louis University. Dr. Bill Nunery retired after building our Oculoplastic Division from the ground up many years ago and he is now a Professor Emeritus. Dr. Richard Eiferman joined the department full-time on July 1<sup>st</sup> to spearhead our Cornea and Refractive Surgery Division, and Dr. Edward Washington joined the Glaucoma Division on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Our exceptional Dr. Harry C. Stephenson Lecture Series kicked off another academic year of prominent speakers and visiting faculty on August 7<sup>th</sup>. Please watch for further information and guidance on how to attend these lectures virtually. Everyone is welcome.

Thank You, Gracias, Vielen Dank

**Patient-Focused Care.  
Expert New Providers.  
That's the Power of U.**

**Introducing Richard A. Eiferman, M.D., F.A.C.S.**  
Eye Specialists – Cornea and Refractive Surgery




Dr. Eiferman has been in private practice in Louisville for 42 years, and has now transitioned his entire practice to UofL Physicians - Eye Specialists. Dr. Eiferman sees patients in need of full and partial corneal transplants, complex anterior segment reconstruction, conjunctival, corneal, and anterior segment tumors, and complex immunologic eye diseases including pemphigoid and atopy. Additionally, Dr. Eiferman is a nationally-renowned refractive surgery specialist, seeing patients in need of LASIK, PRK and PTK procedures. He also serves as the medical director of the Kentucky Lions Eye Bank.

**Join Us in  
Welcoming Our  
New Faculty  
Members**



**Patient-Focused Care.  
Expert New Providers.  
That's the Power of U.**

**Introducing Edward T. Washington, Jr., M.D.**  
Eye Specialists – Glaucoma & Cataract Surgery



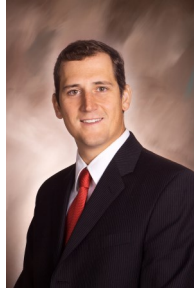
Dr. Washington specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of all forms of glaucoma. He performs traditional glaucoma surgery including trabeculectomy and drainage device implants, as well as minimally invasive glaucoma surgery, laser treatments and complex cataract surgery. Dr. Washington has a special interest in neovascular glaucoma research and treatment modalities.

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Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences Newsletter

## Special Faculty Honors & Recognition

### Dr. Jeremy Clark Selected to University of Louisville Athletic Association Board



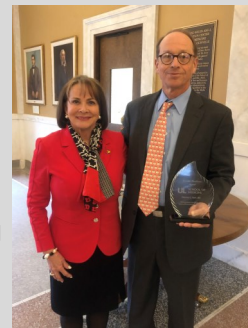
Dr. Jeremy Clark has been selected to the University of Louisville Athletic Association (ULAA) Board of Directors. Dr. Clark was chosen as the Health Sciences Campus nominee through a peer ballot within the School of Medicine and then elected through a campus wide vote to serve on the Board. Dr. Clark played on the Louisville Cardinal Tennis Team during college. He said, "UofL has a great historical athletic reputation in our community and nationwide. As a past UofL athlete I am very honored to serve on the ULAA Board and very humbled to be chosen by my peers for this service." Dr. Clark recently expanded his Oculoplastic practice in Madison, Indiana where he has seen patients since 2018. He travels to Madison twice a month and performs surgeries at King's Daughters' Hospital.



New Sign in Madison

### Dr. Charles Barr Selected as Recipient of School of Medicine Distinguished Service to the National and International Community Award

Dr. Charles C. Barr was presented the School of Medicine Distinguished Service to the National and International Community Award by Dean Toni Ganzel. Dr. Barr is a highly acclaimed vitreo-retinal surgeon, has been a member of our faculty for the past 35 years, and holds the Drs. Arthur & Virginia Keeney Chair of Resident Education and Ethics in Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences. He lectures throughout the United States and around the globe, and serves as a scientific reviewer for multiple journals as well as on the executive committees for numerous clinical trials and editorial boards. Dr. Barr has also served as an examiner for the American Board of Ophthalmology and the Director of the Nantucket Retina Society and Vail Vitrectomy Conference. The Kentucky Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons named their annual teaching award in his honor. Most notably, Dr. Barr constantly gives of his time to serve many local and national organizations. He has been the National President of The Retina Society, an Executive Committee member of The Macula Society, on the Board of Directors for the American Printing House for the Blind, Chairman of the Board for the JB Speed Art Museum, and on the Board of Trustees for the Kentucky Opera. Dr. Barr has led numerous mission trips to heal the world and to help improve eyesight and restore vision in countries like Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Peru, India, Moldova, Bolivia, and Mexico. Our department is extremely proud of Dr. Barr's service to the Louisville community as well as nationally and abroad. Congratulations, Charlie for this well-deserved honor!



### 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

# INVIEW

## Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences Newsletter

### People Who Make a Difference

#### Our Featured Physician: Judith Mohay, MD

Dr. Judith Mohay has been an Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology in our department since 2000. She specializes in cataracts and glaucoma, and



serves as the Chief of Ophthalmology at University of Louisville Hospital and the Medical Director for our Resident Teaching Clinics. Dr. Mohay has won the Patrick O'Connor Faculty Teaching Award three times and the Frank B. Miller Award for Excellence in Precepting. She has a passion for training ophthalmic surgeons to a standard above, spending individual time helping young surgeons understand how to safely and precisely remove cataracts and treat glaucoma. She graduated summa cum laude from the Albert Szent-Gyorgyi University School of Medicine in Szeged, Hungary where she also completed her ophthalmology residency. She was a Research Associate at the INSERM U 86 service d'ophtalmologie in Paris, France. She completed an internship and second residency in ophthalmology at the University of Louisville as well as a fellowship in glaucoma. Dr. Mohay is married to Dr. Gabor Ambrus, a pathologist with Lab Corps. Their son, Dr. Daniel Ambrus, is completing a cardiology fellowship at Dartmouth University. Judith enjoys traveling with her husband and spending time with her Wire Hair Fox Terrier. She has trained hundreds of residents over the years and is simply adored by all who know her.



*Dr. Casey O'Shea, Third Year Resident*

"Dr. Mohay is an amazing clinician and educator. She always provides excellent care to her patients while simultaneously providing top notch instruction to residents in the clinic and OR setting. We are lucky to have her and she is an absolute asset to our program!"



*Dr. Christopher Langlo, Second Year Resident*

"Dr. Mohay has an impressive level of clinical knowledge and the residents are fortunate to learn from her. She also sets an excellent example by always dedicating herself 100% to her patients."



*Dr. Fiona Kim, Second Year Resident*

"Dr. Mohay is a truly exemplary mentor; her passion for ophthalmology is admirable, her expertise and clinical knowledge is impressive, and her unwavering dedication to her patients is infectious. We are so blessed to have her on the faculty in our department and I feel very fortunate to learn from her!"

### *Medical Student Dr. Simra Ahmed Receives the First "Louisville Academy of Ophthalmology Award"*



The Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences and the Louisville Academy of Ophthalmology created a new award for Senior Medical School graduates called the Louisville Academy of Ophthalmology Excellence Award. Dr. Simra Fatima Ahmed was the first recipient of this award given at the School of Medicine Senior Honors Convocation held virtually this past May. Dr. Ahmed is now completing her internship at the University of Louisville and will become a first year Ophthalmology Resident with our department in the summer of 2021. Dr. Soltau said, "We are extremely grateful to the Louisville Academy of Ophthalmology for the sponsorship of this special award."

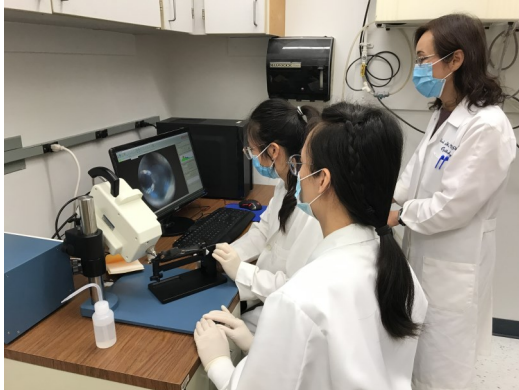


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Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences Newsletter

## Louisville’s Vision Research Center of Excellence

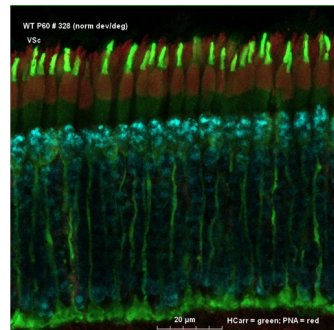
### Research Faculty Shares New Phoenix Micron IV Retinal Imaging



**Dr. Hui Shao (standing) studies the autoimmune disease, uveitis, in her research laboratory. Seated are her Visiting Scholar from China, Dr. Jun Wu (left), and MD/PhD student, Ms. Nu Chen (right)**

The department purchased a new imaging system for the fundus of the rodent eye. The fundus is the tissue at the back of the eye that is crucial to vision. In many blinding eye diseases, the fundus is affected and imaging the fundus can track the progression of disease and determine the effectiveness of treatments. Fundus images are a routine part of patient health care. Researchers in the department study eye diseases using rodent models. With this new equipment, our faculty and postdocs can now more accurately determine how closely diseases of the rodent eye match the human eye. When the rodent model is similar to human disease, they can be used to discover new therapies to prevent or slow disease progression in patients.

### Ophthalmology Receives Confocal Microscope and Imaging Laboratory from the Robert W. Rounsavall, Jr. Family Foundation



**Postdoctoral Associates, Dr. Jennifer Noel (left) and Dr. Archana Jalligampala (right), discuss a confocal image in the Robert W. Rounsavall, Jr. Family Foundation Imaging Laboratory**

The Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences research faculty can now view images of pig retinal sections that show the cones of the retina in red and green through a generous gift from the Robert W. Rounsavall, Jr. Family Foundation. The imaging of this section (shown in the photograph on the right) and other similar images from swine models of the human blinding eye disease, Retinitis Pigmentosa, was produced on the new confocal microscope, an Olympus FV3000. This philanthropic gift also provided the department with funding for an imaging laboratory used to house the confocal microscope. The department plans to honor the Robert W. Rounsavall, Jr. Family Foundation with a plaque outside of this imaging laboratory and a dedication reception once the COVID-19 pandemic subsides. In the interim, the department has prepared a keepsake booklet of images for the Robert W. Rounsavall, Jr. Family Foundation that may lead to new discoveries in the treatment, prevention, and eradication of Retinitis Pigmentosa and other ophthalmic diseases. The department is extremely grateful to the Robert W. Rounsavall, Jr. Family Foundation for this wonderful gift.

Annual Fall Optometry Update - Virtual

Save the Date

Sunday, October 4th - 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

CE Credit Available

Additional Information to Follow

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Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences Newsletter

## Research Funding Moves Department Forward

### Grant Awards

#### Dr. Shigeo Tamiya Received Five-Year NIH R01 Award



Dr. Shigeo Tamiya received a \$1.9 million grant for “The Role of MRTF Signaling in Proliferative Vitreoretinopathy”. As a trained cell biologist with expertise in ocular fibrotic complications, Dr. Tamiya’s current NIH R01 grant involves studying signaling mechanisms involving both cells and the fibrotic extracellular matrix that creates a positive feedback loop that results in proliferative vitreoretinopathy (PVR), which is a fibrotic complication that causes retinal folds and/or traction retinal detachment resulting in loss of visual acuity and, in severe cases, blindness.

Dr. Tamiya completed undergraduate and graduate studies in Engineering/Chemistry at Seikei University in Tokyo, Japan in 1997. He completed a Ph.D. in Cell Biology in July 2001 at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK. After completing two post-doctoral fellowships (first in 2002 at the University of East Anglia; and a second fellowship in 2005 at the University of Louisville, Department of Physiology), Dr. Tamiya joined the faculty in our department where he has served as an Assistant Professor since 2007. Congratulations to Dr. Shigeo Tamiya on receiving this prestigious NIH R01 Award!

#### Dr. Maureen McCall Receives Non-Rodent Large Animal Award from Foundation for Fighting Blindness



Dr. Maureen McCall received a new grant from the Foundation for Fighting Blindness. Dr. McCall’s research laboratory will use the funds from this grant, along with her collaborators, Dr. Jose Sahel, Chair of Ophthalmology at the University of Pittsburgh and Drs. K. Wells, R. Prather and K. Whitworth from the National Swine Research & Resource Center to create and study a large animal model of Stargardt Disease, an inherited retinal disease. Stargardt Disease is a macular degeneration and there is currently no available large animal model to study the onset and progression of this disease. Dr. McCall and her collaborators believe that this pig model will also be used to study gene and other therapies to delay or arrest the development of this blinding eye disease that affects both children and adults.

Dr. Maureen McCall is currently the Vice Chair for Research Affairs in the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences and the Kentucky Lions Eye Foundation Endowed Chair. She received her Bachelor of Science and Masters of Science degrees from the University of Maryland in Visual Psychophysics. She received her Ph.D. in Neurobiology from the State University of New York at Albany, and completed her Postdoctoral studies at the University of Wisconsin. Dr. McCall serves as a reviewer for multiple prestigious journals and served as the Associate Editor and on the Editorial Board of *Visual Neuroscience* and *Translational Vision Science & Technology*. She is an internationally renowned research scientist in vision research. Her research goals are to characterize and compare elements of the normal retinal circuit and its output with those same elements in diseased retinas. She studies wild type animals and compares them to mutant animals that are models for human retinal disease including retinitis pigmentosa and congenital stationary night blindness. Dr. McCall is a member of the Society for Neuroscience, the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, and the University of Louisville Center for Genetics and Molecular Medicine.



Our Chairman, the repairman, Dr. Joern Soltau fixed the oculars for the Wet Lab microscope at his kitchen table after breakfast

A huge Thank You to Butch Schulman, our Executive Director & Vice Chair of Administrative Affairs (left) and Nancy Tierney, Associate Vice President of Health Sciences Campus Facilities (right) on securing the funding for our new sliding glass door entrance to the Rounsavall Clinic in the Kentucky Lions Eye Center. This new sliding glass door improves patient safety and provides easier accessibility for our physically disabled and elderly patients.



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## Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences Newsletter

### 2020 Residents & Fellows Graduation

### 2020 Residents Day Held Virtually



**Dr. Christopher Compton**  
Recipient of the  
Patrick O'Connor, M.D.  
Teaching Award for Fulltime Faculty



**Dr. Susan Berberich**  
Recipient of the  
Thomas Moran, M.D.  
Teaching Award for Gratis Faculty



**Dr. Kevin Lowder**  
Recipient of the  
Melvyn Koby, M.D.  
Educational Excellence Award



**Dr. Frederick Blodi**  
New Chief Resident 2020-2021

This year, the annual Residents and Fellows Graduation was held virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions. The residents' presentations were given in the morning and the ceremony began promptly at 12:00 noon. Dr. Frederick Blodi, the new Chief Resident received an award for the Best Residents' Day Presentation. Our former Retina Fellow and beloved former faculty member, Dr. Shlomit Schaal, now the Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Massachusetts, was the keynote speaker and gave the Charles Dwight Townes, M.D. Memorial Lecture. Dr. Christopher Compton received the Patrick O'Connor, M.D. Teaching Award for Fulltime Faculty, and Dr. Susan Berberich received the Thomas Moran, M.D. Teaching Award for Gratis Faculty. We bid farewell to our five graduating Residents: Dr. Patrick Burchell, Dr. Julia Elpers, Dr. Joshua Gross, Dr. Jason Noble, and Dr. Kevin Lowder. Dr. Lowder received the Melvyn M. Koby, M.D. Educational Excellence Award. This award is given to the senior Resident who demonstrates superior clinical skills in direct patient care and knowledge within didactic curriculum, interacts in a kind and compassionate manner with patients and families, and shows strong clinical judgment in managing an array of ophthalmic diseases in both the office and surgical settings. Our department also said goodbye to our three graduating Fellows. Our Retina Fellow, Dr. Niloofar Piri has joined the fulltime faculty at the St. Louis University Department of Ophthalmology. Our Uveitis Fellow, Dr. Efrat Fleissig returned to her hometown of Rehovot, Israel where she will practice vitreo-retinal surgery. Our Oculoplastic Fellow, Dr. Kevin Tomasko has joined a private practice in Charlotte, North Carolina. Our faculty and staff wish all of our Residents and Fellows the best of success!

### Dr. Nunery and Dr. Stephenson Honored



Dr. Bill Nunery

Dr. William Nunery, Professor and oculoplastic surgeon retired from the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences effective June 30, 2020. Dr. Nunery joined our department in 2006 and practiced oculo-facial, plastic, and orbital surgery for 40 years. Dr. Nunery is a world-renowned leader in the treatment of ophthalmic Graves' Disease. He remained on the faculty part-time this past year to proctor our Resident clinics and manage our Oculoplastic Fellowship program. Bill and his wife Mathieu will reside in the Louisville area where they restore historic homes and are active at Southeast Christian Church. Bill is an avid reader of American history and WWII. During the recent Residents & Fellows Graduation, our faculty and staff presented him with a University of Louisville rocking chair and a rare original, signed two volume set of President Ulysses S. Grant's personal memoirs. Dr. Nunery has been appointed as a Professor Emeritus with our department.



Dr. Harry Stephenson

Dr. Harry Stephenson is a Professor Emeritus with the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences. Dr. Stephenson retired from the University of Louisville as a comprehensive ophthalmologist and cataract surgeon in 2017. He practiced ophthalmology for 48 years after a four-year stint in the U.S. Army during the Viet Nam War. Dr. Stephenson performed the first intraocular lens implant in Louisville in 1974. He became a gratis faculty member of the department in 1972, and joined our department as a fulltime faculty member in 2013 after he closed his private practice. He established the Harry C. Stephenson, M.D. Visiting Professor Lecture Series in 2015. Harry and his wife Cathy reside in the Louisville area. They spend summers in Vail, Colorado where he enjoys amateur photography in the Gore Range and Rocky Mountain region. Harry also collects and restores antique cars. During the recent Residents & Fellows Graduation, as a token of appreciation for his commitment to academic excellence, generous donation, and continuous support of our nationally acclaimed lecture series named in his honor, the department awarded Harry with a miniature replica of a 1953 Mercedes-Benz W186 Model 300 automobile. This vehicle was the first car redesigned by Mercedes-Benz after WWII. It was nicknamed the Adenauer Mercedes after Chancellor Konrad Adenauer of the Federal Republic of Germany.



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## Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences Newsletter

### In the News - Dr. Patrick Scott and Dr. Christopher Compton

Dr. Patrick Scott was featured on the WLKY News to discuss the effects of increased exposure to computer screens while working from home due to the COVID-19 outbreak. He said, "Seventy percent of adults do report some sort of computer vision strain nowadays, and its overtaken carpal tunnel syndrome as one of the main computer-related syndromes that's occurring. We are now treating one to two people per day with issues related to screen time use. We're using our iPads, our tablets, our laptops, and our light bulbs more frequently so we're constantly hit with this high energy visible light." Dr. Scott highly recommends limiting screen time for children. Dr. Scott and his wife Andrea, a Quality & Patient Safety nurse at UL Health are the proud parents of son, Sully, age 15 months.



Dr. Chris Compton and his wife, Dr. Sonia Compton, a pulmonologist, were featured in the "Physician Couples in Medicine" edition of the Louisville Medicine magazine. Dr. Compton talked about his transition to Louisville and our department. He said, "When I came here for my interview, it felt good, and the preceptor, my mentor, my teacher, Dr. Bill Nunery and his wife Mathieu, were immediately like a mom and dad. They took us in, even rented us one of their rental homes. If there was ever an issue, they would come over and help us out." Dr. Compton discussed balancing professional careers and family in the article. Dr. Chris and Dr. Sonia Compton are the proud parents of son Cyrus, age 5, and daughter Ava, age 3.

Both articles can be viewed in their entirety on our website:  
<https://louisvilleeyedocs.com/patient-care/hot-topics/>

## Dr. Soltau Goes to Washington



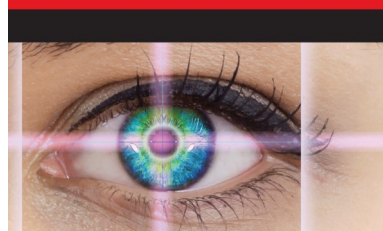
Dr. Joern Soltau attended the Advocacy Day contiguous to the American Glaucoma Society Conference in Washington, D.C. In addition to the multiple presentations on advancements in the treatment of Glaucoma, he attended the Annual Bascom Palmer Glaucoma Fellow Dinner honoring his colleague, Dr. Richard Parrish, the Associate Dean for Graduate

Medical Education at the University of Miami School of Medicine. During the Advocacy Day, Dr. Soltau met with Congressman John Yarmuth as well as senior staff members from the offices of Senator Mitch McConnell and Senator Rand Paul. Dr. Soltau and Glaucoma specialists nationwide were able to openly discuss various topics related to ophthalmology including increased access to healthcare for the American public, the need to decrease costs for prescription medications, and funding for research, especially vision research via the National Institutes of Health and the National Eye Institute.



Dr. Joern Soltau (left) with Congressman John Yarmuth

### Refractive Eye Surgery Program



#### About the new Refractive Eye Surgery Program:

- Cases staffed by Richard Eiferman, M.D., Frank Burns, M.D., and Mark Cassol, M.D., who have performed thousands of refractive procedures.
- Procedures are offered at a more affordable rate, ranging from \$495-\$795 per eye for custom LASIK.

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