

INVIEW

Department of Ophthalmology Newsletter

In this issue:

- Meet our Acting Chair
- Meet our Leadership Team
- Our Featured Physician
- Resident Update
- Research Update
- Philanthropy

Welcome Joern B. Soltau, MD as our Acting Chair



Meet our Leadership Team

Maureen McCall, PhD **Vice Chair of Research Affairs**

Dr. Maureen McCall joined the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences faculty in 2007. She had previously been a member of the faculty in the Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences at the University of Louisville. Prior to joining the University of Louisville, Dr. McCall had been a Research Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin, Madison and had received her Ph.D. from the University at Albany in Neurobiology. The research in Dr. McCall's laboratory has two arms: 1) Her research assesses the ability to use gene therapy to treat blinding and other eye diseases. Currently, the lab is evaluating the outcome of gene therapy for retinitis pigmentosa and in collaboration with her husband, Dr. Ronald Gregg (Dept of Biochemistry & Molecular Genetics) for complete congenital night blindness, 2) Her research assesses the role of retinal inhibition in shaping the visual responses of the retina that serve as the backbone for all subsequent visual processing. Dr. McCall holds numerous federal grants as well as contracts that support both areas of her research. Dr. McCall enjoys cooking and is an avid yoga and palates enthusiast.

Christopher Compton, MD **Vice Chair of Academic Affairs**

Dr. Chris Compton joined the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences faculty in 2015 after completing his fellowship in Oculofacial Plastic and Orbital Surgery with Dr. William Nunery in Louisville and Indianapolis. He has been the ophthalmology residency program director for two years. Dr. Compton is originally from South Alabama and received his undergraduate degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Tulane University in New Orleans. He then completed medical school and ophthalmology residency at University of Alabama - Birmingham. Dr. Compton and his wife, Dr. Sonia Compton, have enjoyed making Louisville home with their two young children, Cyrus (4) and Ava (2).

Douglas Sigford, MD **Vice Chair of Clinical Affairs**

Dr. Sigford was born in Minnesota, where he spent most of his life until graduating from the University of Minnesota Medical School in 2008. He then came to Kentucky to pursue a specialization in ophthalmology through the University of Louisville. After completing his ophthalmology residency in 2012 and his vitreoretinal surgery fellowship in 2014, he decided to remain with University of Louisville as faculty member and currently serves as an Assistant Professor. His research interests include retinal imaging, diabetic retinopathy, and the surgical treatment of retinal disease. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time with family and friends and participating in outdoor activities such as hiking and tennis.

Harry Schulman **Vice Chair of Administration**

Harry H. "Butch" Schulman just celebrated his fifteenth year at the University of Louisville with the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences. He serves as our Vice Chair of Administration and Executive Director. Butch is an alumnus of the University of Louisville where he swam on a four-year athletic scholarship. He received his graduate degree from George Washington University. Butch is a retired Lieutenant Colonel from the United States Air Force Reserves. He is also a licensed Dog Show Judge with the American Kennel Club. Butch is learning how to play golf and enjoys reading American history. He is an ardent Miami Dolphins football fan and loves to handicap thoroughbred horse racing. Butch and his wife Robin have four grown children, Benjamin (32), Halle (26), Matthew (23), and Emily (21).

Although no stranger to the community or to our department we welcome Dr. Joern B. Soltau as our Acting Chair.

Dr. Soltau received his medical degree from Ruprecht-Karls-University in Heidelberg, Germany. His clinical training for Ophthalmology Residency was at Washington University in St. Louis, MO and he completed his Glaucoma Fellowship at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at the University of Miami, Miami, FL. Dr. Soltau has held faculty positions at Washington University in St. Louis, MO from 1996-1997 and then fortunately came to us 1998.

After 21 years of service at the University, Dr. Soltau stepped into the role of Acting Chair in November 2018 and he also remains Director of the Glaucoma Service.

Dr. Soltau has a great passion for Ophthalmology as a physician, for our department as a leader and his family as a husband, father and grandfather.

On a fun personal note, Dr. Soltau enjoys bringing a little cheer to the department everyday with his many ties for every occasion!

We look forward to seeing what outstanding things he does with our department. Please join us in welcoming him to this new role.



(left) Harry Schulman, Drs. Joern Soltau, Maureen McCall, Chris Compton, Doug Sigford

INVIEW

Department of Ophthalmology Newsletter

Our Featured
Physician:
Harpal Sandhu,
MD



Dr. Sandhu is originally from Canada. He grew up in Vancouver, British Columbia, a hotbed of hockey and outdoor activities.

He studied chemistry as an undergraduate at Harvard College and received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School. From there he proceeded to do his residency in ophthalmology at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, followed by a fellowship in vitreo-retinal diseases and surgery at the Scheie Eye Institute of the University of Pennsylvania, where he was heavily involved in clinical trials for uveitis and gene therapy of inherited retinal degenerations.

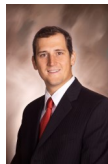
His research focuses on new therapies for uveitis, applications of ocular immunology to retinal disease, and machine learning for automated diagnosis. He is a member of the National Eye Institute's MUST Study Group and the principal investigator of the Macular Edema Ranibizumab versus Intravitreal Anti-Inflammatory Therapy (MERIT) trial for patients with uveitic macular edema, and co-PI in several other studies. He is currently co-authoring and editing a book on uveitis entitled "Clinical Cases in Uveitis: Differential Diagnosis and Management."



Congratulations for making it to the 2019 Louisville Magazine Top Docs!!



Christopher Compton, MD
Oculoplastics and Orbital Surgery



Jeremy Clark, MD
Oculoplastics and Orbital Surgery

Refractive Eye Surgery Program



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

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.

INVIEW

Department of Ophthalmology Newsletter

Resident Update

Best Wishes to Our Graduating Residents & Fellows

Mehreen Adhi, MBBS
LSU Retina Fellowship

Niloofar Piri, MD
UofL Retina Fellowship

Sidharth Puri, MD
UC Irvine Retina Fellowship

Austin Gerber, MD
Midwest Eye Institute in Ft Wayne
& South Bend, Indiana

Efrat Fleissig, MD
UofL Uveitis Fellowship



Welcome to Our New Residents and Fellows



Brian Besch, MD
Birthplace: Manitowoc, Wisconsin
Received M.D. from the University of Utah
Transitional Year Internship at West Virginia University



Ali Cohen, M.D.
Birthplace: Trenton, New Jersey
Received M.D. from the University of Iowa
Preliminary year in Internal Medicine at the University of Louisville



Fiona Kim, M.D.
Birthplace: Seoul, Korea
Received M.D. from the University of Southern California
Preliminary year in Internal Medicine at UCLA



Christopher Langlo, M.D., Ph.D.
Birthplace: Niles, IL
Received M.D. from Medical College of Wisconsin
Transitional Year Internship at the Medical College of Wisconsin, St. Joseph Hospital



Efrat Fleissig, M.D.
Uveitis Fellow
Birthplace: Tel Aviv, Israel.
Received M.D. at Haddasah Medical School
Completed residency training at the Division of Ophthalmology, Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center
International Retina Fellowship at the University of Louisville (2019)



Niloofar Piri, M.D.
Retina Fellow
Birthplace: Orumieh, Iran
Received M.D. from Tehran University of Medical Sciences
Transitional Year Internship at the University of Louisville
Ophthalmology Residency at the University of Louisville (2019)

Awards Presented at Residents Day June 22, 2019

Patrick R. O’Conner Faculty Teaching Award presented to William R. Nunery, MD, FACS



Charles T. Moran Volunteer Teaching Award presented to Frank R. Burns, MD



INVIEW

Department of Ophthalmology Newsletter

What's New is Research?

Grant Awards

Maureen McCall, PhD

Principle Investigator (multi PI with R.G. Gregg)

National Institutes of Health/
National Eye Institute
R01EY029719

"Glycine Subunit Specific Inhibition and Ganglion Cell Visual Responses"

3/19/19—5-Year Grant

Annual Direct Costs:
\$355,572



Hui Shao, MD, PhD

Principle Investigator (multi PI with Zhao-Hui Song, PhD)

National Institutes of Health/
National Eye Institute
R21EY030186

"The Effect of Cannabidiol and the Role of GPR3 in Experimental Autoimmune Uveitis"

Award Date: 3/21/19

Annual Direct Costs:
\$150,000



Vision Sciences Retreat

September 27, 2019

Guest Lecturer:

Artur V. Cideciyan, PhD

University of Pennsylvania

Fundraising and How You Can Help

Meet Lauren Zachry-Reynolds
Senior Director of Development



Lauren Zachry-Reynolds has over ten years of major gift fundraising experience, including two years at the University of Louisville as Director of Development for the School of Music. It is her sincere pleasure to help realize gifts of immediate and enduring benefit for the University while simultaneously fulfilling the philanthropic goals of donors. She looks forward to working with all prospective donors to advance research, resident education, patient care, and community outreach for the UofL Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences. In her spare time, Lauren enjoys playing violin, choral singing, freshwater fishing, and long-distance running.

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

Thank You



for the slit lamp with teaching scope donation!