In this issue of Hamilton Eyelights, we highlight the career of one of our senior faculty members, Natalie C. Kerr, MD, FACS, the Roger L. Hiatt Professor of Ophthalmology, who has directed our residency program for the last 14 years.

As the new academic year begins, we also welcome a new class of residents and instructors, and congratulate those who have graduated as they move to the next phase of their ophthalmic careers.

We are also proud to share the news of some outstanding lecturers who visited us this spring, including the Arnold and Kambara Distinguished Visiting Professorships, as well as several guests who presented at the Clinical Update and Memphis Eye Society annual meeting. The 18th annual Williford Lecture is coming up next on September 24, so please mark your calendars.

This spring, numerous national research symposia and annual meetings of ophthalmic societies took place. Our faculty, residents, students and research staff were very active presenting, teaching and participating at those events.

We were pleased to welcome an international visitor from Port au Prince, Haiti, this summer. Under sponsorship from the World Cataract Foundation, this observership provided a mutually beneficial skills-transfer opportunity. One of our residents also participated in international outreach on a volunteer mission to Vietnam with ORBIS International.

We hope you enjoy these and other stories in this issue, and look forward to sharing more exciting news with you in the fall!
The Hamilton Eye Institute offers one of the finest education programs in the art and science of ophthalmic medicine. No one knows this better than our alumni, whose awareness and involvement in our programs are very important to our ongoing mission.

We strive to maintain a close relationship with alumni through mailing lists, webcasts of our weekly grand rounds, invitations to department events, and an alumni reception at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. We offer many opportunities for our alumni to continue their lifelong medical education through frequent visiting lectureships featuring world-renowned ophthalmologists.

Likewise, many of our alumni keep in close touch with us, remaining staunch supporters of the institute. Their dedication and generosity make a profound difference in the quality of our programs, enabling us to recruit the best faculty and provide the most advanced educational, clinical and research facilities available.

It is our pleasure to thank our alumni for their continued friendship, collegiality and commitment to our mission. With their partnership, the Hamilton Eye Institute will continue to thrive in the years ahead as a leader in ophthalmic education, eye care and vision research.

Barrett G. Haik, MD, FACS
Hamilton Professor of Ophthalmology
Director, UT Hamilton Eye Institute

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Shelby Farms Park a Community Treasure

On the far east edge of Memphis lies Shelby Farms Park. At 4,500 acres, it is the largest urban park in the United States.

It includes more than 40 miles of unpaved hiking and biking trails, paved trails for walking, running, biking or roller-blading, horseback riding, a lake suitable for non-motorized boating, an off-leash dog park of more than 100 acres, laser tag and paintball, an international-award-winning playground, an 18-hole disc golf course, a BMX race track, and a brand new treetop adventure course featuring more than 40 obstacles including rope ladders, net bridges, Tarzan swings and six zip lines.

The park is also the starting point for the Shelby Farms Greenline, a 6.5-mile trail that runs from Shelby Farms Park to the Binghampton neighborhood near midtown. It is the longest continuous urban trail in the Memphis area.

A new phase of development set to debut in 2016, “Heart of the Park,” promises further enhancements ahead: an ecological restoration and recreational re-imagining of the park’s largest lake, which will expand to nearly 80 acres, new visitor and event centers, a farm-to-table restaurant, an event stage, new cycling and walking paths, a water playground/splash pad, and rentable picnic pavilions on the lake’s edge. To learn more, visit shelbyfarmspark.org.
44th Annual Ophthalmology Alumni/Residents’ Day

June 26, 2015, marked the “silver anniversary” of the George K. Kambara, MD, Distinguished Visiting Professorship, the centerpiece of our annual Alumni/Residents’ Day. This program provides a forum for our residents to present clinical cases and research projects, and our faculty to present clinical and basic science research, as well as updates on current practice.

We were privileged to welcome the 25th Kambara Professor, pediatric ophthalmologist Terri L. Young, MD, MBA, Peter A. Duehr Professor and chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health in Madison, Wisconsin. Dr. Young delivered an outstanding lecture on the topic of congenital glaucoma.

Lecturing faculty members included Robert W. Williams, PhD, UTHSC chair of Genetics, Genomics and Informatics, Vanessa M. Morales-Tirado, PhD, assistant professor of Ophthalmology, and Julie K. Calderwood, MD, instructor in Pediatric Ophthalmology. The event was directed by Hiatt Professor of Ophthalmology and HEI Residency Program Director Natalie C. Kerr, MD, FACS, and organized by Associate Professor and HEI Special Events Director Mary Ellen Hoehn, MD.

Alumni/Residents’ Day culminates with a celebration of our graduates. Mentors presented certificates to those completing their subspecialty fellowships, while Dr. Kerr conferred diplomas to residents matriculating to the next phase of their medical careers: Austin Bell, MD, begins a glaucoma fellowship at the University of Oklahoma, Michael Hood, MD, will remain in Memphis for a fellowship at the Charles Retina Institute, T. Amerson Pegram, MD, begins an oculoplastics fellowship in San Antonio, and Patrick Risch, MD, will practice ophthalmology in northwest Arkansas.
Drs. Ivan Marais (left) and Brian T. Fowler received the Lewis and Hiatt Teaching Awards (respectively) from the graduating residents for their outstanding mentorship.

The graduating residents present a special “Toby Award” to William R. Morris, MD, (center) for his outstanding mentorship during their residency.
Incoming Instructors

Michael Hood, MD
Vitreoretinal Fellowship
Residency: Hamilton Eye Institute

Tara M. Goecks, MD
1st-Year Oculoplastic Fellowship
Residency: Storm Eye Institute

James Chelnis, MD
2nd-Year Oculoplastic Fellowship
Residency: SUNY Buffalo

Incoming Residents

Clockwise from top left:

Sarah Duhon, MD
University of Mississippi Medical Center

Devin West, MD
St. Louis University School of Medicine

Cody Richardson, MD
The University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine

Elizabeth Rosenberger, MD
East Tennessee State University

Rocío I. Díaz Sanjur, MD
University of Panama
Clinical Update and Memphis Eye Society Annual Meeting

In May, the Hamilton Eye Institute welcomed several esteemed lecturers for HEI’s annual Clinical Update and Memphis Eye Society meeting. Pediatric ophthalmologist Norman B. Medow, MD, FACS, delivered the 14th I. Lee Arnold, MD, Distinguished Visiting Professorship Lecture. Dr. Medow is director of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus at Montefiore Hospital Medical Center in New York.

We were also proud to welcome glaucoma specialist Steven R. Sarkisian, Jr., MD, and cornea, cataract and anterior segment surgeon P. Dee Stephenson, MD, FACS. Dr. Sarkisian is an alumnus of HEI’s glaucoma fellowship program, and now serves as clinical professor and glaucoma fellowship director at the University of Oklahoma’s Dean McGee Eye Institute. Dr. Stephenson is president of the American College of Eye Surgeons, associate professor of Ophthalmology at the University of South Florida, and founder of Stephenson Eye Associates in Venice, Florida.

The program also included numerous lectures by members of our own faculty. The event was organized by HEI Special Events Director Mary Ellen Hoehn, MD, and led by UTHSC Chair of Ophthalmology James C. Fleming, MD, FACS, and Memphis Eye Society President James F. D. Freeman, MD.
Hailing from West Palm Beach, Florida, Dr. Natalie C. Kerr received her medical degree and residency training at the University of Florida. She then completed a pediatric ophthalmology fellowship under the mentorship of Roger L. Hiatt, MD, at UTHSC.

Dr. Kerr has spent the past 21 years in a very distinguished career at UTHSC, where she is Hiatt Professor of Ophthalmology with a joint appointment in Pediatrics. She is also an adjunct faculty member at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and division consultant for Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital.

For 14 years, Dr. Kerr has directed HEI’s Residency Program and mentored several fellowships in Pediatric Ophthalmology. “Training with Dr. Kerr has been a pleasure and a great privilege,” says Julie K. Calderwood, MD, instructor in Pediatric Ophthalmology at HEI. “She is an expert at effectively training residents and fellows.”

Through her involvement with numerous societies and committees, Dr. Kerr influences ophthalmic education on a national level. She is immediate past president of both the American Orthoptic Council and the Program Directors’ Council of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology. She is on the Residency Review Committee of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, a member of the prestigious American Ophthalmological Society, and an examiner for the American Board of Ophthalmology.

“Dr. Kerr cares sincerely for her patients,” says Lauren Ditta, MD, assistant professor of Ophthalmology at HEI. “In addition to her service to the children of the Mid-South, I have had the privilege to work with her on international mission trips and have seen firsthand her dedication to preserving and restoring sight to young children.”

Dr. Kerr has received the Senior Achievement Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the Honor Award from the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus, and has consistently appeared in Best Doctors®, a nationally recognized list of the finest physicians in the United States, since 2001.
Dr. Kerr Highly Active Participant and Mentor at National Meetings

As president of the Program Directors’ Council for the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO), Dr. Natalie Kerr was responsible for developing and executing the Residency Program Symposium at the January 2015 AUPO meeting, as well as an AUPO Teaching and Learning Symposium for the upcoming American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting. She was also invited to present a lecture at the AUPO Residency Program Coordinators’ adjunct meeting.

Dr. Kerr has been an outstanding mentor to UTHSC students who accompanied her at recent annual meetings. Tara Tae and Josh Barnett joined Dr. Kerr at the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (AAPOS) meeting, where she also moderated an orthoptic workshop in her capacity as immediate past president of the American Orthoptic Council. Tara was selected to present a paper, and Josh, who presented a poster on which he had collaborated with Dr. Alessandro Iannaccone, was awarded Best Poster. Dr. Kerr also took student Craig Thiessen to the annual American Ophthalmological Society meeting to present a poster.

Dr. Kerr has also recently produced six manuscripts for journal publication in collaboration with HEI faculty, residents, and UTHSC students Tara Tae, Josh Little and Rutviben Patel, and alumni Drs. Emily Bratton, Monica Lynch Bratton, Scott Barb and Kyle Cox.

HEI Faculty Published in Best Times

The June 2015 issue of The Best Times magazine features two articles from HEI. The first is a feature on cataracts written by Aaron N. Waite, MD, director of HEI’s Cornea, Cataract and Refractive Surgery Program. The second spotlights a recent grant awarded to Edward Chaum, MD, PhD, Plough Professor of Retinal Diseases and interim director of the HEI Center for Vision Research. The target audience of this periodical is active Mid-Southerners ages 50 and over. It can be viewed online at thebesttimes.com or picked up for free from magazine racks in more than 200 public locations throughout Shelby, Tipton and DeSoto Counties.
Faculty and Alumni Participation at National Conferences

This spring, HEI faculty and alumni participated in several annual meetings of national ophthalmic societies.

At the 2015 meeting of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS), HEI faculty and alumni took part in teaching two courses: faculty member Dr. James F. D. Freeman and alumni Drs. James C. Loden and Emily T. Graves taught in an advanced phacoemulsification workshop, while faculty member Dr. Aaron N. Waite taught in a cornea surgery course.

At the annual meeting of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, several faculty members presented research posters, including Drs. Matthew W. Wilson, Vanessa M. Morales-Tirado, Monica M. Jablonksi, Rajashekar Gangaraju and affiliated faculty member Dr. Anton J. Reiner.

Representing HEI at the spring symposium of the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery were HEI faculty member Dr. Brian T. Fowler, and alumnus Dr. David F. Jones.

The American Academy of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (AAPOS) meeting included posters and papers presented by HEI faculty Drs. Natalie C. Kerr, Mary Ellen Hoehn, Lauren C. Ditta and Julie K. Calderwood, orthoptist Chantel Devould, and several UTHSC medical students. Please see page 9 for more on Dr. Kerr’s activities at this and other meetings.
HEI Resident in Vietnam

In May, the ORBIS Flying Eye Hospital spent two weeks in Hanoi, Vietnam, providing sight-saving surgeries and transfer of medical skills and techniques. HEI resident Shilpa Reddy, MD, volunteered with them for the first week of this mission.

Working primarily with the oculoplastics team, Dr. Reddy screened patients, photographed surgeries, heard lectures and performed post-operative exams. She sought this opportunity following the examples of UTHSC Chair of Ophthalmology James C. Fleming, MD, FACS, and Clinical Professor Steve Charles, MD, FACS, who have both often volunteered with ORBIS.

Dr. Reddy says, “Rather than doing a ton of surgeries, they focus on carefully selecting a diverse array of cases that provide local trainees the opportunity to learn a number of new skills that they can then use and teach to others.”

She believes strongly in the importance of education and community outreach, both globally and in underserved areas locally. “I didn’t do anything special to deserve the good fortune of being born into the family or country I was born into,” Dr. Reddy says. “So I feel it’s like a social responsibility to spread the wealth and knowledge.”

WCF Invites Haitian Physician to HEI

In June, we welcomed visiting physician Carl Emmaed Dumas, MD. This third-year chief ophthalmology resident from the Hôpital de l’Université d’Etat in Port au Prince, Haiti, was selected by the Medical Personnel Exchange Program of the World Cataract Foundation (WCF) to spend four weeks in Memphis — two at HEI and two at MECA Eye & Laser Center — for an exchange of skills and techniques. HEI faculty including Elliott M. Kanner, MD, PhD, and Ivan Marais, MD, mentored Dr. Dumas, who was very enthusiastic and learned many new techniques, particularly in the area of glaucoma surgery, to improve patient care and fight preventable blindness in Haiti.

Under the mentorship of instructor Ivan Marais, MD, (left) Dr. Dumas performs simulated cataract surgery in the Jim and Virginia McGehee Skills Transfer Center.
New Signage Dedicates HEI Ophthalmic Education Center

This year, several areas of the Hamilton Eye Institute received new signage, and many were dedicated with new names honoring the exceptional people and organizations who helped establish them.

Associate Professor of Ophthalmology William R. Morris, MD, director of medical student education at HEI, has taught ophthalmology to countless medical students for more than 40 years. For the past 10 years, his classes have been held in the interactive, high-tech classroom on HEI’s third floor. This spring, his decades of tireless mentorship were honored with new signage placed outside that classroom naming it the William R. Morris, MD, Ophthalmic Education Center.

The classroom features a high-definition projector and podium with touch-screen room controls, hardware for live webcasting, a digital whiteboard, virtual reality indirect ophthalmoscope simulator, and a reproduction of a real eye clinic exam room complete with slit lamp, exam chair and phoropter. But the most essential educational resource in the center is Dr. Morris himself.

Lions Leaders Weekend at HEI

HEI recently welcomed more than 90 Lions Club members from four states for Lions Leaders Weekend. Hosted by Mid-South Lions CEO Brad Baker, this yearly gathering shares with members throughout the region the latest advances in ophthalmic medicine, research and education.

Following lectures in the Freeman Auditorium, the Lions toured the institute, including its clinics, surgery center and research facilities. They were especially impressed with the Jim and Virginia McGehee Skills Transfer Center, where they enjoyed some hands-on experience with our virtual reality training simulators. Tours were conducted by HEI faculty members Elliott M. Kanner, MD, PhD, and Vanessa M. Morales-Tirado, MS, PhD, and HEI resident Rebecca Epstein, MD.
Dr. Ditta Provides New Ophthalmic Service at Le Bonheur

As Memphis’ only pediatric neuro-ophthalmologist, Lauren C. Ditta, MD, assistant professor of Ophthalmology at HEI, is a unique asset to any hospital with which she is affiliated. This summer, she initiates a new pediatric neuro-ophthalmology service at Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital’s Neuroscience Institute.

“Many of our patients have neurological disorders that affect vision. Accurately diagnosing this problem and treating it greatly improves the patient’s quality of life. We are excited to have a pediatric neuro-ophthalmologist able to assist us in providing state-of-art care to these children,” says James Wheless, MD, co-director of the Neuroscience Institute.

Dr. Ditta, who completed her residency and fellowships in neuro-ophthalmology and pediatric ophthalmology at HEI, looks forward to joining the Le Bonheur team. “Patients travel from all over the country and the world to be treated by specialists at the Neuroscience Institute,” she says. “So many of these patients have unique ocular findings that may have a significant impact on their quality of life and visual development. The pediatric neuro-ophthalmology service will be integrated into the Neuroscience Institute, where subspecialists can communicate effectively to establish a new standard of excellence in patient care. Coordinated clinical care affords the best opportunity for patients to receive optimal treatment, all under one roof.”

Optometrist Joins Faculty

We are pleased to announce the addition of optometrist Robert C. Binkley, OD, to our faculty. Dr. Binkley graduated from the Southern College of Optometry in 2013. He then completed a one-year residency at the Memphis Veteran’s Affairs Medical Center. Dr. Binkley will serve HEI in a comprehensive capacity to help expand care options and better serve our patients.
For more information about these and other HEI faculty members, please visit uthsc.edu/eye/faculty
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Jerre M. Freeman, MD
Thomas C. Gettellinger, MD
Audrey W. Tuberville, MD
Thomas O. Wood, MD

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS
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Howard L. Beale, MD
Andrew Lawton, MD
Richard E. Sievers, MD

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS
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Thomas A. Currey, MD
James Freeman, MD
Lawrence W. Gordon, MD
Henry T. Grizzard, MD
Ralph F. Hamilton, MD
James C. Hart, MD, MPH
J. Charles Henry, MD
Faramarz (Fred) Hidaji, MD
Tawan (Sunny) Khamapirad, MD
Sidney Kriger, MD
Melvin Litch, MD
Gary Passons, MD
William Bradford Priester, MD
Kathryn L. Patterson, MD
Alan R. Schaeffer, MD
Jesse M. Wesberry, MD, FACS

OPERATIONS
Virginia Bailey, DNP, MBA, BS, RN (Director)
Monique Dailey, MA (Assistant Director)

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Ralph Wesley, MD

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David J. Harris, Jr., MD, FACS
Peter A.D. Rubin, MD, FACS

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS
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INSTRUCTORS
Michael S. Galloway, MD
Alan E. Oester, Jr., MD
Steven Sterling, MD

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Eniko Pivnick, MD
Anton J. Reiner, PhD
C. Ryan Yates, PhD

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS
Eno Lindner, PhD, DSc
Asim F. Choudhri, MD

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS
Rachel C. Brennan, MD

INSTRUCTORS

OCULOPLASTIC SURGERY
James Chelnis, MD (2nd year)
Tara Goecks, MD (1st year)

VITREORETINAL SURGERY
Adam AudefHeide, MD (2nd year)
Stephen Huddleston, MD (2nd year)
Michael Hood, MD (1st year)

RESIDENTS

THIRD YEAR
Rebecca Epstein, MD
Kourtney Houser, MD
Jordan Masters, MS
Shilpa Reddy, MD

SECOND YEAR
Juliet Kim, MD
Benjamin King, MD
Andrew Meador, MD
Emily Prouet, MD
Hank Wynn, MD

FIRST YEAR
Rocio I. Diaz Sanjur, MD
Sarah Duhon, MD
Cody Richardson, MD
Elizabeth Rosenberger, MD
Devin West, MD

PRACTICING PHYSICIANS AT HEI BY OPHTHALMIC SUBSPECIALTY

COMPREHENSIVE OPHTHALMOLOGY
William R. Morris, MD

CORNEA, EXTERNAL DISEASE, CATARACT & REFRACTIVE SURGERY
Aaron N. Waite, MD
Andreea E. Partal, MD
Jesse M. Wesberry, MD, FACS

GLAUCOMA
Elliott M. Kanner, MD

NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY
Thomas J. O’Donnell, MD
Lauren C. Ditta, MD

OCULAR ONCOLOGY
Barrett G. Haik, MD, FACS
Matthew W. Wilson, MD, FACS

OCULOPLASTICS, ORBITAL DISEASE
James C. Fleming, MD, FACS
Barrett G. Haik, MD, FACS
Brian T. Fowler, MD

PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY
Natalie C. Kerr, MD, FACS
Mary Ellen Hoehn, MD
Shiva Bohn, MD
Lauren C. Ditta, MD

RETINAL DISEASES
Edward Chaum, MD, PhD
Jorge I. Calzada, MD
Alessandro Iannacone, MD, MS

UVEITIS, INFLAMMATORY DISEASES
R. Christopher Walton, MD, MHA

LOW VISION REHABILITATION
Thomas J. O’Donnell, MD
Orli M. Weissner-Pike, OTR/L, CLVT, SCLV

OPTOMETRY
Robert C. Binkley, OD

ORTHOPTICS
Chantel DeBoulde, CO, COA
Come and see us

The University of Tennessee
Health Science Center
Hamilton Eye Institute
Adult Specialty Clinic, Suite 200
Pediatric Clinic & Orthoptics, Suite 400
Lions Low Vision Center, Suite 400
930 Madison Avenue
Memphis, TN 38163
Ph: (901) 448-6650

Cordova Location
8001 Centerview Parkway, Suite 101
Cordova, TN 38018
Ph: (901) 448-6650

HEI Ambulatory Surgery Center
930 Madison Avenue, Suite 370
Memphis, TN 38163
Ph: (901) 448-3900
www.hamiltoneyesurgery.com

Clinical Research
Ph: (901) 448-1201  •  Fax: (901) 448-1299

Events Calendar

Friday, August 28, 2015
World Cataract Foundation Sight Night
6:00 p.m. at the University of Memphis Holiday Inn, 3700 Central Ave.
Featuring silent auction, award presentation and live entertainment.
For more information, please visit worldcataract.org/#!sightnight/cht
or email worldcataract@comcast.net.

Thursday, September 24, 2015
18th William N. Williford, MD, Distinguished Visiting Professorship
7:00 p.m. at the Hamilton Eye Institute, Third Floor, Freeman Auditorium
Featuring Philip L. Custer, MD, Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual
Sciences, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri
For more information, please visit uthsc.edu/eye or call the HEI
Publications & Multimedia Office at (901) 448-1326.

October 10, 2015
8th Annual Memphis VisionWalk
Shelby Farms Park, 6489 Mullins Station Rd. Registration and fun begins
at 9:00 a.m. Walk begins at 10:30 a.m. For more information or to register,
contact Steve Sroka at 847-680-0100 or SSroka@FightBlindness.org.

November 12-13, 2015
ASOPRS 46th Annual Fall Scientific Symposium
Caesar’s Palace, Las Vegas, Nevada

November 14-17, 2015
American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting
Sands Expo/Venetian, Las Vegas, Nevada
HEI Alumni Reception, November 15, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
The Venetian Hotel, Hospitality Parlor PS 5

Learn more about these and other events at uthsc.edu/eye/events.php