Dr. Peter Netland Named Siegal Professor

Peter A. Netland, M.D., Ph.D. was invested as the Gail S. and Richard D. Siegal Professor of Ophthalmology on December 4, 2001. The investiture took place at the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis, and the president of the Community Foundation, Mr. Gid Smith, welcomed faculty, staff, laypersons, and medical community leaders to the ceremony. Mr. William Rice, Vice President for Medical Affairs and Chancellor of the Health Science Center, and Dr. Henry Herrod, Dean of the Medical School, addressed the assembly on the significance of this endowed Professorship to the Department and the University. The honored speaker was Dr. Ronald Burde, the Branna and Irving Sisenwein Professor of Ophthalmology and Emeritus Professor of Ophthalmology, Neurology, and Neurological Surgery at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, New York, who presented "Improved Understanding of the Visual System: Positron Emission Tomography (PET).” Dr. Barrett G. Haik, Hamilton Professor and Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology, introduced Dr. Burde and acknowledged the extraordinary philanthropic contributions of Mr. and Mrs. Siegal, the donors of the Professorship.

Gail and Richard Siegal established the Professorship to improve the lives of patients with glaucoma. They have a long-standing interest in ophthalmic research and have supported major laboratories throughout the United States. The Siegals have greatly advanced the research efforts of scientists within the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Tennessee studying both thyroid ophthalmopathy and glaucoma. They have endowed this Professorship to recognize Dr. Peter Netland’s past accomplishments as a clinician and scientific investigator and to foster his future potential for elucidating the mechanisms of glaucomatous visual loss.

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Dr. Holland to be Kambara Professor at Annual Alumni-Residents' Day

Edward J. Holland, M.D., Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Cincinnati and Director of Corneal Services at the Cincinnati Eye Institute, will be the eleventh Kambara Distinguished Visiting Professor at the department’s annual Alumni-Residents’ Day on Friday, April 26, 2002. Dr. Holland will lecture on "Management of Ocular Surface Disease."

The annual convention of the Memphis Eye Society will take place the following day, Saturday, April 27, 2002, at the Fogelman Executive Conference Center. Dr. Holland will be joined on the program by Dr. David K. Dueker of the Cole Eye Institute at the Cleveland Clinic; Dr. Michael Wagoner from the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City, Iowa; and Dr. Michael R. Redmond, President-Elect of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, from Pensacola, Florida.

Both the Annual Alumni-Residents Day and the Memphis Eye Society Convention promise to be exciting and educational meetings. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Friday, April 26: Alumni-Residents' Day Meeting
Saturday, April 27: Memphis Eye Society Convention

“...Siegal Professor,” continued from previous page

Presenting Dr. Netland’s training and career was Dr. Richard Drewry, Professor and Vice-Chair of Ophthalmology, who spoke of Dr. Netland’s remarkable accomplishments in clinical care, teaching, and research. In his acceptance remarks, Dr. Netland described his current efforts and future goals for improving the plight of patients afflicted with glaucoma. He thanked not only the Siegals for their support of his activity, but also his family, mentors, and colleagues.

The Siegal Professorship of Ophthalmology marks the fourth endowed professorship in the Department. Dr. and Mrs. Richard Baker of Knoxville, Tennessee are currently funding a fifth Professorship.
The Department is very fortunate to participate in one of the 35 fellowships approved by the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (ASOPRS). ASOPRS was founded in 1969 to establish a qualified body of surgeons who have training and experience in this highly specialized field. The mission of this society is to advance training, education, research, and the quality of clinical practice in the fields of aesthetic, plastic, and reconstructive surgery specializing in the face, eyelids, orbits, and lacrimal system. The society has over four hundred national and international members, and it sponsors several scientific meetings each year. The highly competitive fellowships accredited by the society train postgraduate physicians who have completed an accredited ophthalmology residency.

Oculoplastic and orbital fellowship is a two-year training program in which one year is spent in Memphis and one in Nashville. The physician staff of the Orbit Center in Memphis (Drs. James C. Fleming, Barrett G. Haik, Matthew W. Wilson and James S. Linder) share the training responsibilities with their counterparts in Nashville (Drs. Ralph E. Wesley, Kimberly A. Klippenstein, and Brian S. Biesman).

Dr. Wesley received his M.D. from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, also completing his internship there. A graduate of the ophthalmology residency program at the University of Kentucky, he undertook his subspecialty training in ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery at Emory University in Atlanta. He is a Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center and a Founding Director of the Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Service. Dr. Wesley is also Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at UT.

Dr. Klippenstein is a Clinical Instructor in Ophthalmology at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. Her undergraduate, medical school, residency, and subspecialty training were all undertaken at Vanderbilt, and she joined Dr. Wesley in practice upon completion of her ophthalmic plastic and orbital fellowship.

Dr. Biesman joined Drs. Wesley and Klippenstein in 1998. He received his undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Michigan and completed his residency in ophthalmology at the University of Illinois in Chicago. Under the direction of Dr. Albert Hornblass, Dr. Biesman’s fellowship in oculoplastic, orbital, and reconstructive surgery was spent at Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital in New York. He was Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at Tufts University School of Medicine and Director of the Eye Plastics and Orbital Service at the New England Eye Center in Boston before moving to Nashville. Dr. Biesman is a Clinical Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at UT.

The expertise and experience of the oculoplastic and orbital subspecialists in both Memphis and Nashville create an exceptional training opportunity for the fellows. The year in Memphis provides extraordinary exposure to patients with complicated traumatic injuries, and craniofacial abnormalities, as well as all aspects of ophthalmic oncology, particularly the care of patients at St. Jude Children’s Hospital. Dr. Laquis joined the faculty of the Orbit Center in 2002.
Department faculty very active at 105th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology in New Orleans


Dr. Peter Netland presented "Effect of travoprost on IOP in black and non-black patient with ocular hypertension and open-angle glaucoma in a twelve-month study" in the Glaucoma Free Paper section of the Scientific Session. He presented the merits of non-penetrating glaucoma surgery in an Academy Ophthalmic Technology Assessment seminar, and was also Senior Instructor in "Developmental Glaucomas: Diagnosis and Management 2001" with co-instructors Drs. Anil Mandel and Johan Zwaan. Dr. Netland was presented the Achievement Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

Dr. Matthew Wilson was Senior Instructor in "A team approach to the management of retinoblastoma," with co-instructors Drs. Haik, Pratt, Merchant, and Kaste. Dr. Wilson was also senior author on a scientific poster: "Enhanced peripheral visualization of the retina in patient with retinoblastoma" and co-author of two other scientific posters with UT and St. Jude faculty: "Treatment of extrachoroidal and metastatic retinoblastoma" and "Adjuvant chemotherapy for intermediate-risk retinoblastoma."

Research Hospital. The second year in Nashville trains the fellows in the highly sophisticated and rapidly evolving techniques of reconstructive and aesthetic surgery.

Dr. Stephen Laquis is currently completing his second year of fellowship training in Nashville. He speaks enthusiastically of his experience: "The opportunity to work with world-renowned physicians such as Drs. Wesley, Biesman, and Klippenstein here in Nashville as well as Drs. Haik and Fleming in Memphis is exceptional. The vast array of surgical pathologies makes this program an ideal fellowship experience. I believe it to be among the best in the country."

Dr. Roderick Hargrove, currently completing his ophthalmology residency at the State University of New York at Downstate, will begin his training with Drs. Fleming, Haik, Wilson, and Linder in Memphis this July.
Faculty members also presented lectures and instructional courses at the meetings of affiliated ophthalmic societies.

**Dr. Barrett Haik** was a keynote speaker at the 2001 Fall Scientific Symposium of the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Dr. Haik spoke on "Pediatric orbital tumors." He was introduced by Dr. James C. Fleming and was presented with a certificate of appreciation by the Program Chair, Dr. Jill Foster.

At the Annual Educational Meeting of the Joint Commission of Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology, Senior Instructors in courses were **Dr. Kerr** ("Understanding strabismus: terminology to clinical evaluation"), **Dr. Linder** ("Evaluating and managing common eyelid malpositions"), **Dr. Walton** ("Immunologic diseases of the anterior segment"), and **Ms. Mary Smith** ("Diagnostic Imaging of the Eye and Orbit: Ultrasonography, Computed Tomography and Magnetic Resonance") with Drs. Netland and Fleming, and Ms. Peggy Kearney. At the American Association of Certified Orthoptists Meeting, Dr. Kerr was also Senior Instructor of “Strabismus and Diplopia in Thyroid Eye Disease.”
Dr. Richard K. Parrish Presents First Arnold Lecture at Fifth Annual Update Meeting

Richard K. Parrish, M.D., Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Miami, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, was the first I. Lee Arnold, M.D. Distinguished Visiting Professor on December 1, 2001. Dr. Parrish presented "Mechanisms of Angle Closure Glaucoma: Why Pilocarpine Doesn’t Always Work" as the Arnold Lecture. Dr. Arnold and his family attended the inaugural Professorship, which was held in conjunction with the Fifth Annual Clinical Update Meeting for the Comprehensive Ophthalmologist, sponsored by the Department of Ophthalmology and held at the Peabody Hotel. Dr. Barrett Haik introduced Dr. Arnold and enumerated his many outstanding contributions to the department and to ophthalmology training in Tennessee. Dr. Haik read testimonials from former students of Dr. Arnold, many now respected ophthalmic clinicians and teachers themselves, as part of the introduction.

Dr. Parrish also spoke during the course of the Update Meeting on "Management of Problem Blebs." Dr. Antonio Capone of Associated Retinal Consultants in Royal Oak, Michigan was also an invited speaker at the meeting and lectured on "Telemedicine in the Management of Posterior Segment Disease" and "Endophthalmitis Update."

Dr. Haik reported on Departmental activities, particularly the progress of the Eye Institute, to those attending the meeting, and Dr. Dianna Johnson summarized research advances by Departmental faculty. Dr. Haik cited notable contributions to Department development, and contributors were recognized with University commemoratives.

How to Help UT Ophthalmology Achieve Its Goals

Without the continuing generosity of the alumni and friends of the Department, it would be impossible for us to complete our current educational and research objectives or undertake additional projects. You can help by contributing to existing funding initiatives, by underwriting a project of particular interest to you or your family, or by lending unrestricted support with a gift to the Ophthalmology Support Fund.

For additional information on charitable donations to the Department of Ophthalmology at UT Health Science Center in Memphis, please contact Bettye Speake CFRE, Director of Development for the College of Medicine, 62 South Dunlap, Suite 500, Memphis, TN, 38163, phone 901-448-6532 or 1-800-733-0482, or you may call our Department offices at 901-448-5883.
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Dianna A. Johnson, Ph.D., Hiatt Professor of Ophthalmology and Professor of Neuroanatomy, has been named the Director of the Faculty Resource Center (FRC) within the College of Medicine. In announcing Dr. Johnson’s appointment, Dr. Richard Peppler, Associate Dean for Academic and Faculty Affairs, said, "Dr. Johnson’s long and distinguished career has established her not only as a leader in research in retinal development and degeneration, but also as an effective administrator in developing broad research initiatives and in establishing programs for faculty development."

Dr. Johnson will focus on programs to provide mentoring and leadership opportunities for faculty and assist in the college’s ongoing faculty salary analysis. In her new role she will be responsible for faculty development and broad-based research initiatives while continuing as a leader in her specific research interest, examining retinal development and degeneration. Dr. Johnson’s initial strategy will be to clarify faculty needs and to seek both intramural and extramural funding to enhance faculty development for the college.

Addressing this new challenge, Dr. Johnson spoke with enthusiasm: “Because of new resources available through the Centers of Excellence and new recruitment in existing departments, the medical school is preparing to hire twenty to thirty new faculty within the next two years. This is an exciting opportunity for our campus and deserving of a major effort to support its successful completion. It is my main goal as Director of the center to enhance the faculty support structure and to help assure that we recruit, develop, and retain outstanding faculty.”

The creation of the Faculty Resources Center is in response to the college’s need to invest more in faculty development. The Department of Ophthalmology strongly supports the college’s initiative and Dr. Johnson’s instrumental role.