Department Benefits Immensely from Support of RPB

Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc. (RPB), based in New York, is the world’s leading voluntary organization in support of eye research. At more than 50 medical institutions nationwide, RPB is supporting investigations into all blinding eye diseases, including macular degeneration, cataract, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, corneal disease, retinitis pigmentosa, amblyopia, strabismus, and uveitis.

RPB is unique among funding agencies in that it does not seek or accept funds from any governmental source, relying upon the contributions of individuals, corporations, and private foundations. It is renowned for its scientific integrity, directed by a Scientific Advisory Board of eminent and accomplished leaders in the visual sciences, and respected for its economic and efficient operation.

The ongoing support of RPB has been integral to the growth and development of the Department of Ophthalmology at UT. In 1997, Dr. Barrett G. Haik received a challenge grant, which allowed further recruitment of basic scientists and essential funding to establish their laboratories. In 1998, Dianna Johnson, PhD received a Senior Scientist Award and Monica Jablonski, PhD received the William and Mary Greve Scholar Award. In 2001, an unrestricted grant to support ophthalmic research was awarded to Dr. Haik. RBP support has been invaluable in creating exceptional laboratory facilities, recruiting trained manpower, and providing funds for potentially productive pilot projects.

The 2002 award of an RPB Career Development Award to Alessandro Iannaccone, MD, MS is a source of great pride for the department. Dr. Iannaccone, a specialist in retinal electrophysiology and inherited retinal degenerative diseases, will receive $200,000 over four years from this...
Steve Charles, MD, Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, was awarded the prestigious Hermann Wacker Prize at the twenty-third meeting of the Club Jules Gonin in Montreux, Switzerland, in September 2002. As the recipient, he was the featured guest speaker at the conference.

The Club Jules Gonin is an international group of specialists in diseases of the retina and vitreous. Its membership is limited to outstanding clinicians and scientists in this field. It was founded in 1959 by leading practitioners from the major European eye clinics and named in honor of Jules Gonin, a pioneering retinal surgeon of the early 1900s. The Wacker Prize is awarded every two years to honor outstanding and innovative contributions to the field of ophthalmology worldwide, and Dr. Charles's selection acknowledges his status as one of the world's leading eye surgeons, specializing in retina, macula, laser, and vitreous surgery.

An undergraduate engineering major, Doctor Charles graduated from the University of Miami School of Medicine and completed his residency at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. Following his residency, Doctor Charles completed a two-year fellowship at the National Eye Institute.

Throughout his career, Doctor Charles has been a pioneer and innovator in vitreoretinal surgery. Many of his surgical developments—such as internal fluid-gas exchange, internal drainage of subretinal fluid, endophotoagulation, and epiretinal membrane delamination—have become routine aspects of vitreoretinal surgery. He has used his engineering skills to continually refine and improve vitreoretinal surgical instrumentation.

Dr. Charles has presented over 800 lectures and papers nationally and internationally, published over 100 papers, and written three textbooks. In addition to his surgical work, Dr. Charles is both an electrical and mechanical engineer. He is the CEO and Founder of MicroDexterity Systems and holds 15 patents for his work in robotics and instrumentation.
Clinical Assistant Professor A. Robert Bellows, MD of the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary of Harvard Medical School was the thirteenth Kambara Distinguished Visiting Professor during the department's Thirty-Second Annual Alumni-Residents Day on April 25, 2003. Dr. Bellows presented "Complications of glaucoma filtration surgery" as the Kambara Lecture and presided over patient presentations by the residents and glaucoma fellows of the department. Clinical research projects by the residents and updates in clinical and basic science by department faculty and alumni completed this instructive day.

Dr. Peter Netland, Program Chair for the meeting, presented a tribute to Dr. George Kambara, recounting his remarkable experiences running an eye, ear, nose, and throat clinic while interned as a Japanese American during World War II. Dr. Kambara’s career shows triumph of spirit over discrimination. His gratitude to those who supported him in his training resulted in the generous endowment that supports this Distinguished Visiting Professorship.

Dr. Barrett Haik and Dr. William Nevins of Searcy, Arkansas
Oscar A. Cruz, MD, Professor and Chair at St. Louis University Eye Institute in Missouri, and William H. Quayle, MD, Clinical Professor at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, joined Dr. Bellows as invited speakers at the Annual Convention of the Memphis Eye Society the following day, April 26, 2003.

Dr. Bellows continued his discussion on glaucoma, presenting "The management of leaking filtering blebs" and "Prominent episcleral vessels with and without glaucoma." Dr. Cruz, a pediatric ophthalmologist and strabismologist, updated the assembly with presentations on "Strabismus surgery in dysthyroid ophthalmopathy," "High hyperopia in children and its association with strabismus and amblyopia," and "Preliminary results of the amblyopia treatment studies." Dr. Quayle’s presentations on "Basic phaco pearls," "How to reduce complications from phako," and "Dealing with challenging cataract surgery" demonstrated his experience and expertise in cataract surgery and were enthusiastically received by the audience.
It was a special pleasure for the Department of Ophthalmology to host a dinner in honor of the former Chair of the Department, Dr. Roger L. Hiatt, on the occasion of his retirement from ophthalmology. Dr. Hiatt served as Professor and Chair from 1969 to 1994. He undertook a mission to the Philippines for three years, returning in 1997 to serve as Professor Emeritus, teacher, and advisor.

Dr. Hiatt’s accomplishments and contributions to the University of Tennessee were outlined and acknowledged by Acting Chancellor Dr. Jim Gibb Johnson, and Dr. Ralph S. Hamilton, a colleague and contemporary of Dr. Hiatt’s, presented personal reminiscences. As a memento of the occasion, Dr. Richard Drewry presented Dr. Hiatt with a scrapbook of photographs taken during his tenure and letters of appreciation from those who completed their ophthalmology residency under his tutelage. In presenting the scrapbook, Dr. Drewry noted Dr. Hiatt’s accomplishments and quoted Henry Adams, who said, “A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.”

Guests of honor for the evening were Dr. Hiatt’s spouse, Mrs. Nancy Hiatt; their son, Dr. Roger L. Hiatt, Jr. and his wife, Cary; and their daughters and sons-in-law, Miriam and Michael Fearnley and Annita and David Watson. Dr. Hiatt’s grandchildren, Shelby, Terry, and Samuel, were also in attendance for this tribute to an outstanding physician, teacher, and family man.
The Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, the Departments of Ophthalmology and Hematology & Oncology at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and the members of the Memphis Eye Society were all beneficiaries of a visit by David H. Abramson, MD, Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology and Director of the Ophthalmic Oncology Center at New York Presbyterian Hospital’s Weill-Cornell Division in New York.

During a three-day visit in March 2003, Dr. Abramson presented "Retinoblastoma 2003 Update" to UT Ophthalmology residents, "Second malignant neoplasms in retinoblastoma survivors" at Hematology-Oncology Grand Rounds, and "PGD: Pre-implantation genetic diagnosis for retinoblastoma" and "Sub-conjunctival carboplatin" to the Retinoblastoma Working Group at St. Jude. As the invited speaker for the March meeting of the Memphis Eye Society, he presented "Leukocoria" to the membership and invited guests. Dr. Abramson's talks were extraordinarily valuable and appreciated by all in attendance.

Alumnus Hampton Roy, MD
Authors New Textbook Editions

Department alumnus F. Hampton Roy, MD (College of Medicine, 1961, Ophthalmology, 1966) has authored the third edition of Ocular Syndromes and Systemic Diseases and the seventh edition of Ocular Differential Diagnosis. Both texts were published this year by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

Ocular Syndromes and Systemic Diseases satisfies three goals: 1) to aid the busy ophthalmologist in identifying all ocular manifestations of a given syndrome, disease, or inherited disorder; 2) to provide references for locating for additional information; and 3) to promote greater observation of the characteristics of ocular syndromes, systemic diseases, and inherited disorders.

The second book by Dr. Roy, Ocular Differential Diagnosis, provides comprehensive lists of causes for symptoms or findings. The first edition of Ocular Differential Diagnosis was published in 1972, and various editions have been translated into Spanish, Turkish, Chinese, Portuguese, and Italian. "These corresponding texts will assist novice and veteran eye care practitioners," states Dr. Roy.
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 Sue Harpole, Vice Chancellor for Development, 62 South Dunlap, Suite 500, Memphis, TN, 38163, phone 901-448-5516 or 1-800-733-0482, or you may call our Department offices at 901-448-5883.
Mr. Brad Baker, Executive Director of the Mid-South Lions Sight and Hearing Service, and Mr. Lee Williams, President of the Downtown Lions Club of Memphis, presented a check for $150,000 to Dr. Barrett Haik for the Ophthalmic Oncology Center in the Hamilton Eye Institute. The grant, made possible by matching funds from the Lions International Foundation, will be used to equip examination rooms dedicated to the highly specialized methodologies utilized to diagnose and treat ocular tumors. The presentation was made during a meeting of the Memphis Eye Society and attended by UT faculty and residents, members of the regional ophthalmic community, and representatives of the Lions.