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From the Chair

The eyes are our windows to the world. When they are impaired by disease or injury, our connection to the world is deeply affected. The UT Hamilton Eye Institute continually advances the frontier of ophthalmic medicine to make a positive difference in people’s lives.

None of this would be possible without your support. Our most significant strides are made through the generosity of private donors. The return on a philanthropic investment is seen in the vast number of people whose vision is restored or improved, the lives that are saved, and the cases of eye diseases and disorders that will never occur due to advances in the science of prevention.

We invite you now to enjoy this issue of Hamilton Eyelights, where you will learn about some of our most recent advances in ophthalmic research, patient care, and academic excellence. As always, if you would like to know more about anything in this publication, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Warmest regards,

Barrett G. Haik, MD, FACS
Hamilton Professor and Chair
UT Health Science Center
Department of Ophthalmology
Director, UT Hamilton Eye Institute
The UT Hamilton Eye Institute was honored by a visit from L.D. Britt, MD, MPH, FACS, FCCM, FRCS, Brickhouse Professor and chair of the Department of Surgery at East Virginia University in Norfolk, Virginia. Dr. Britt is president of both the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma. He has previously held many other national and international leadership positions, including president of the Society of Surgical Chairs, member of the Executive Committee of the ACS Board of Regents, chairman of the ACGME Residency Review Committee for Surgery, and many others. From 2008 to 2009, Dr. Britt was the elected chair of the Board of Regents of the American College of Surgeons (ACS). He has held many other national and international leadership positions, including president of the Society of Surgical Chairs and past chairman of the ACGME Residency Review Committee for Surgery. Dr. Britt was the first African-American in the country to have an endowed chair in surgery. He is the author of over 200 scientific publications and serves on numerous journal editorial boards. Dr. Britt has also received the nation’s highest teaching award in medicine, the Robert J. Glaser Distinguished Teaching Award.

The Alpha Omega Alpha (AΩA) Honor Medical Society at the University of Tennessee selected Dr. Britt to present “Health Policy and Subspecialties” at the UT Hamilton Eye Institute Freeman Auditorium. Dr. Britt presented, “Health Policy and the Subspecialties,” in which he discussed new models and paradigms for reforming physician and surgeon training. “Dr. Britt is an inspirational leader and represents the ideal physician and surgeon,” said Barrett G. Haik, MD, FACS, Hamilton Professor and chair of Ophthalmology. “He is brilliant, ethical, a master surgeon and innovator, and always focused on the patient’s well being.”

ACS Board of Regents News

Barrett G. Haik, MD, FACS, Hamilton Professor and chair of Ophthalmology, has been elected by the American College of Surgeons to a third consecutive term on their Board of Regents. He was elected to his first three-year term in 2004, and was re-elected in 2007 and 2010. He was also re-elected for a second term as chair of the ACS Committee on Emerging Surgical Technology and Education, which studies the implications of new surgical technologies and suggests education and integration methods while protecting patient welfare.
In September, Tennessee Alumnus magazine published a feature about some of our private donors, including Jim McGehee, businessman and philanthropist. Through a generous gift, McGehee made it possible for the Hamilton Eye Institute to purchase a virtual reality surgical simulator, which allows students to gain surgical experience ranging from routine techniques to serious complications.

“No one wants to be a surgeon’s first patient,” said Barrett Haik, MD, FACS, Hamilton Professor and chair of Ophthalmology and director of the institute. “The slightest nick can cause irreversible damage.” The surgical simulator removes that risk, while also scoring the user and providing feedback for improving technique. “Fifty years ago, the complication rate for a new surgeon ran about 30% for the first hundred cases,” Dr. Haik said. Today, for UT graduates, it is less than 1%, thanks in part to state-of-the-art equipment provided by generous donors.

Recently, McGehee visited the institute and spent some time in the HEI skills transfer lab with second-year medical student William Gordon, who has been using the simulator for several months. Gordon demonstrated the expertise he has acquired with it, and then he invited McGehee to experience the simulator himself. Gordon thanked the donor for giving him and so many other students and residents an outstanding head start in their surgical skills through the simulator.

Medical Student Shares Surgical Simulator Experience

At the annual clinical update meeting in December, distinguished visiting speakers and UT HEI faculty shared the latest discoveries, techniques, and scientific data from their areas of specialty with an audience of local and regional ophthalmologists. Program chair Matthew M. Wilson, MD, FACS, was honored to introduce the Ira Lee Arnold Distinguished Visiting Professor, Geoffrey Broocker, MD, FACS, Walthour-DeLaPerriere Professor of Ophthalmology, Emory University School of Medicine, Emory Eye Center, Atlanta, Georgia. He also proudly welcomed visiting speaker Quang H. Nguyen, MD, director, Glaucoma Service, Scripps Clinic, Division of Ophthalmology, La Jolla, California.

14th Annual Clinical Update
Residency News

Basic and Clinical Science Review Course

The Hamilton Eye Institute holds a course every February that is free for ophthalmology residents and fellows. This review course covers topics in most major subspecialties of ophthalmology: optics, uveitis, oculoplastics, retina and vitreous, glaucoma, cornea and external disease, ocular oncology and pathology, pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus, neuro-ophthalmology, and refractive surgery.

Residents and fellows representing nine universities attended this year’s course. The three-day course was comprised of presentations by HEI faculty and guest lecturers Robert W. Enzenauer, MD, chief of Pediatric Ophthalmology at the University of Colorado Children’s Hospital and Brigadier General (O-7) in the Colorado Army National Guard; Rachel Wang Kuchtey, MD, PhD, assistant professor of Ophthalmology at Vanderbilt Eye Institute in Nashville; and Hugo Y. Hsu, MD, formerly of St. Louis University and currently in private practice in California.

Residents Attend AUPO/UCLA Course

In March, residents from the UT Hamilton Eye Institute attended a three-day course in Los Angeles co-sponsored by the Jules Stein Eye Institute at UCLA and the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO). The course, which was attended by residents from 18 institutions nationwide, covered topics related to clinical investigation, including research methods, study design, statistical analysis, and regulations governing research.

“For an ophthalmology resident, starting a research project can be daunting,” said Daniel K. Bennett, MD, second-year HEI resident. “This course helped us gain a better appreciation of the steps required to see a project through from the creation of the initial hypothesis to successful publication in a journal.” First-year HEI resident Lauren C. Ditta, MD, was awarded a travel grant to the event — one of only 13 residents nationwide to receive this honor.
Children’s Foundation of Memphis Pediatric Eye Center Saves Children’s Sight

Children can explore a colorful galaxy of stars and planets at the Hamilton Eye Institute — no spacesuit required. The Children’s Foundation of Memphis Pediatric Eye Center is a beautiful vista of sparkling fiber-optic stars and vividly decorated worlds hanging in their bright, silvery orbits. The centerpiece of the waiting room, an enormous sun covered in swirls of gold and red, conceals a TV room inside for little ones to watch cartoons while waiting to see the doctor. Each examination room is named after a different planet, whose enormous image covers a full wall within each room.

Generously funded by the Children’s Foundation of Memphis, this pediatric ophthalmology center offers the most advanced technology and health care services available to preserve healthy eyesight and prevent blindness in children. Our pediatric ophthalmologists provide comprehensive care, including diagnosis and treatment of congenital cataracts, glaucoma, strabismus, neurological diseases and disorders, and injuries, as well as providing orthoptics services and routine eye exams. The center is also home to the Lions Low Vision Center, where visually impaired children and adults alike can learn to use their remaining vision more effectively.

The pediatric eye center also leads the way to a brighter future through research. For example, pediatric ophthalmologist Natalie C. Kerr, MD, FACS, is currently studying the safety and effectiveness of two different medications for treating inflammation following pediatric cataract surgery. In another study, pediatric ophthalmologist Mary Ellen Hoehn, MD, has been working with Dr. Kerr to examine signals received by the brain in response to visual stimuli, which may help identify the cause of glaucoma. Finally, Sarwat Salim, MD, FACS, director of Glaucoma Service at HEI, is investigating the connection between pediatric glaucoma and thinning of the retinal nerve fiber layer. These are just a few of the ongoing research efforts that are underway in the Pediatric Eye Center at the Hamilton Eye Institute, which would not be possible without the vision, faith, and support of our friends at the Children’s Foundation of Memphis.
On March 31, 2011, the Hamilton Eye Institute celebrated a milestone event: the Tenth Annual Sir Harold Ridley Distinguished Visiting Professorship for Creativity and Innovation in Medicine and Ophthalmology. Jerre M. Freeman, MD, clinical professor of Ophthalmology, created the Ridley Lecture to celebrate the careers of people who have led the way in changing the face of American medicine. In celebration of the tenth anniversary of this lectureship, the selection committee and previous participants asked Dr. Freeman himself to deliver this year’s lecture.

Jerre Minor Freeman, MD

An internationally acclaimed eye surgeon, inventor and philanthropist, Dr. Freeman has been in private practice in Memphis for nearly 40 years, specializing in cataract surgery, microsurgery of the anterior segment of the eye, intraocular lens implants, and laser refractive surgery.

He is founder and chairman of the Memphis Eye and Cataract Associates outpatient surgical center as well as the World Cataract Foundation, a charitable nonprofit organization that has been working to prevent cataract blindness in developing countries worldwide since 1978. As past president of both the Memphis Medical Society and the American Board of Eye Surgery, Dr. Freeman has also served on boards of numerous medical and eye organizations and journals. He has also developed and patented over 20 lens implants and surgical instruments.

Dr. Freeman has demonstrated extraordinary expertise as an ophthalmologist, academician, teacher, and inspired leader. His work has impacted countless patients, and he has inspired innumerable physicians and others to care for their fellow citizens across the world.

Past Ridley Professors
TOP TO BOTTOM: Spencer P. Thornton, MD, FACS (2001); David J. Apple, MD (2002); Charles D. Kelman, MD (2004); Manus C. Kraff, MD (2005); Randall J. Olson, MD (2006)
Sir Harold Ridley

Working with Royal Air Force casualties during World War II, Harold Ridley noticed that when splinters of plastic from aircraft cockpit canopies were lodged in the eyes of wounded pilots, they did not trigger rejection. This led him to propose the use of artificial lenses in the eye to correct cataracts. He had a lens manufactured using the same material, and in November 1949 at St. Thomas’ Hospital, he achieved the first implant of an intraocular lens.

Ridley went on to develop comprehensive programs for cataract surgery with intraocular implants and pioneered this treatment in the face of prolonged strong opposition from the medical community.

He worked hard to overcome complications, and refined the technique by the late 1960s. In time, he achieved worldwide support for the technique, and cataract extraction surgery with intraocular lens implantation is now the most common type of eye surgery.

Ridley retired from hospital service in 1971 and received numerous awards over the next 29 years. In February 2000, he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in London. Sir Harold Ridley resided in the United Kingdom until his death in 2001.

The Ridley Medal

Conceived by Dr. Jerre Freeman, the Ridley Medal was designed by Lisa Tackeberry of Denker Awards Company, the oldest awards company in Memphis. Denker worked closely with Dr. Freeman to translate his concept into a design for Medalcraft Mint of Green Bay, Wisconsin, who cast the medal. Medalcraft’s artists and craftsmen create commemoratives for both private and government organizations.

The sculptor responsible for the Ridley Medal also created the Inaugural Medal for President George W. Bush and the medallion celebrating NATO’s 50th anniversary. Denker and Medalcraft have also collaborated on commemoratives for the 150th Anniversary of Rhodes College.

The Ridley Medal is solid nickel silver, three inches in diameter. The antique finish, which enhances the portrait of Sir Harold on the face, was achieved by hand polishing. “Creativity, innovation, perseverance and productivity,” the attributes of the Ridley Professor, are listed on the reverse.

Past Ridley Professors
TOP TO BOTTOM: Robert C. Steggman, MD (2007); Danièle S. Aron-Rosa, MD (2008); Claes H. Dohlman, MD (2009); D. Jackson Coleman, MD (2010)
HEI Patients & Physicians Help Establish Cancer Lodge

In July 2007, UT Hamilton Eye Institute patient Susan Clark read a story in The Commercial Appeal about plans for an American Cancer Society Harrah’s Hope Lodge (ACSHHL). The facility, located at 718 Union Avenue, would provide housing for adult patients traveling to Memphis for cancer treatment. The project had already received major gifts from Harrah’s Entertainment, the UT Health Science Center, the Assisi Foundation of Memphis, and the Plough Foundation, but more funds were still needed. Ms. Clark’s battle with metastatic disease from malignant melanoma had made her aware of the need for extended-stay facilities for cancer patients receiving treatments away from home. She brought the project to the attention of Matthew M. Wilson, MD, FACS, UTHSC professor of Ophthalmology and St. Jude Chair of Pediatric Oncology, who began working with her to devise a fundraising strategy.

Partnering with Terrapin Racing Triathlon Team (TRTT) in Memphis, Clark and Dr. Wilson raised funds and increased awareness about the project through the Janus Charity Challenge (JCC) as part of the 2008 Ironman Lake Placid event. Major contributions to the JCC included Ralph S. Hamilton, MD, and Mrs. Barbara H. Hamilton, who contributed $100,000; and grateful HEI cancer patient Billy Powell, a FedEx pilot, who secured a $100,000 gift from FedEx with the aid of Judy Edge, FedEx VP of Human Resources. The UT Health Science Center provided the land on which the Hope Lodge was built. Dr. Wilson, Clark, and the TRTT also canvassed the community, collectively securing an additional $120,000 in gifts. Subsequently, Dr. Wilson was awarded the ACSHHL Distinguished Service Award, a patient suite was named in Clark’s honor, and the fitness room at the facility was named for Terrapin Racing in honor of Dr. Wilson. The ACSHHL grand opening ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Thursday, November 18, 2010, at 2:00 p.m.
Third Annual Memphis VisionWalk a Success

With 17 teams and 550 people in attendance, the third Memphis VisionWalk benefiting the Foundation Fighting Blindness was the biggest and best VisionWalk to date. Hosted by the Foundation’s Mid-South Chapter of Memphis, the event took place October 23 at Overton Park. The UT Hamilton Eye Institute team, iWalk4iSight, was led by HEI’s Retinal Degeneration & Ophthalmic Genetics Service director, Alessandro Iannaccone, MD, MS. Among those participating were patients and their families, as well as faculty, residents, and medical students. The team raised over $10,000, the single-largest amount raised by any individual team in the history of the Memphis VisionWalk. Since its inception in spring 2006, the Foundation Fighting Blindness national VisionWalk program has raised over $13 million to fund sight-saving research. Event chair Tim Smeltser opened the event. Then, Dr. Iannaccone, as chapter co-president and VP of fundraising, introduced the honorary chair, Congressman Steve Cohen. Emphasizing the importance of eyesight, Congressman Cohen expressed gratitude to HEI vice-chair James C. Fleming, MD, FACS, and clinical professor Steve Charles, MD, for saving his vision.

Organizers for the 2011 Memphis VisionWalk will begin planning next year’s event soon. If you would like to know more or become involved in future walks, please visit the Memphis VisionWalk web site: www.eye.uthsc.edu/visionwalk2010
AAO and ASOPRS Meetings

In October, faculty and residents of the University of Tennessee Hamilton Eye Institute (UTHEI) traveled to Chicago to participate in the annual meetings of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) and the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (ASOPRS). Over 25,000 physicians and health professionals attend these meetings each year to present new research, transfer skills, and share knowledge. This year’s AAO meeting was also their first joint meeting with the Middle East Africa Council of Ophthalmology.

Faculty members, residents, and research staff representing the UTHEI attended these events, collectively participating in 18 invited lectures and instructional courses, and presenting five scientific posters. Several faculty members also served on special committees and moderated events at both meetings. We congratulate our faculty, residents, and research staff on their successful participation and high level of involvement in this year’s AAO and ASOPRS meetings.

On June 4, Steve Charles, MD, clinical professor of Ophthalmology, will host “Retinal Essentials for Comprehensive Ophthalmologists” at the 2011 Kiawah Eye Convention, sharing an in-depth look at the latest advancements and treatments in retinal medicine.

Dr. Charles was named one of the “34 Best Ophthalmologists in America” by Becker’s ASC Review in 2010. He also recently appeared on “Monsters Inside Me,” a documentary-style television show on the Animal Planet network. In the episode, Dr. Charles performed surgery to remove a parasite from a child’s right eye and saved his vision.
UT Medical Students Welcomed for Annual ‘Student Day’ Event

Every year, the UT Hamilton Eye Institute opens its clinics to the entire second-year class of UT medical students. This year’s “Student Day” took place on January 31. The event is organized annually by William R. Morris, MD, associate professor of Ophthalmology. It serves as part of “Doctoring: Recognizing Signs and Symptoms,” a course by Stephanie Connelly, MD, MPH.

Following an introductory lecture, students separated into groups of four or five each, joining ophthalmologists in examination rooms to receive instruction in ophthalmic evaluation technologies and techniques. Many UT and regional, private ophthalmologists provided instruction for HEI Student Day, as well as several ophthalmology residents. More than 165 students participated in this year’s event.

Drs. Gettelfinger, Hoehn, O’Donnell, Schaeffer, Salim, Flinn, Marais, Fleming, Goode, Freeman, Grizzard, Drewry, Wood, and Morris were among the many ophthalmologists participating in this year’s Student Day.
At a ceremony and reception held recently in the HEI lobby, the Lions Club International presented the Hamilton Eye Institute with a deeply appreciated check for $150,000 to support the Lions Low Vision Center. Lions Club International donated $100,000 of this amount, and the remaining $50,000 was contributed by the Mid-South Lions Sight & Hearing Service and the 930 Friends Foundation. The donation is the second installment from the Lions Club. The Lions Low Vision Center was established at the HEI with the group’s initial 2007 donation of $150,000. This additional aid will extend services to a waiting list of 170 visually disadvantaged patients.

“We are grateful for the Lions’ support and will continue working together to increase the number of indigent patients served,” said James C. Fleming, MD, FACS, Philip M. Lewis Professor, vice chair of Ophthalmology, and director of the HEI Orbit Center.

Other community leaders participating in the event included Brad Baker, CEO of the Mid-South Lions Sight & Hearing Service; Howard Jenkins, president of the Mid-South Lions and past director of Lions Club International; Steve Schwab, MD, chancellor of UTHSC; Kennard D. Brown, JD, MPA, PhD, executive vice chancellor and chief operations officer of UTHSC; and Keith Carver, PhD, interim vice chancellor for UTHSC Development & Alumni Affairs. Legislative officials along with a number of major donors, patients and supporters of both HEI and the Lions organization were also present. “Because of HEI’s amazing clinicians, sight is being restored to many in need,” stated Baker, “Mid-South Lions members are committed to exploring future projects with the institute’s leadership.”

Earlier this year, Barrett G. Haik, MD, FACS, Hamilton Professor and chair of Ophthalmology at UT Health Science Center and director of HEI, was inducted into the L. B. Baker Hall of Fame, the highest honor awarded by the Mid-South Lions. Dr. Haik earned this honor for what the Lions describe as “his untiring efforts to improve the lives of patients with sight problems.”
Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare has officially opened its new Center of Excellence in Faith & Health, a collaborative center of research, innovation, and training. This newly renovated space at Methodist University Hospital contains a family care center, education library, consultation space, and a state-of-the-art studio area for training and teleconferencing.

HEI professor of Ophthalmology, Dr. Ralph S. Hamilton, and his wife Barbara Hamilton, a dedicated volunteer with Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare for the past 41 years, generously donated the initial funds for construction of the center. At the grand opening ceremony, a dedication plaque was unveiled honoring the Hamiltons for their gift. Many health care and community leaders attended the event, including Barrett G. Haik, MD, FACS, Hamilton Professor and chair of Ophthalmology and director of the UT Hamilton Eye Institute, and James C. Fleming, MD, FACS, professor and vice-chair of Ophthalmology at UTHEI, who both congratulated the Hamiltons on the honor they received for their outstanding generosity.

The inscription on the dedication plaque reads, “Methodist Healthcare recognizes the generous lives of Dr. Ralph and Barbara Hamilton who exemplify the enduring virtues of integrity, compassion, creativity and faithfulness. The Center of Excellence in Faith and Health is a testament to their lifetime of spiritual development. May all who come to this space to learn, teach or receive care further their legacy.”

LEFT: After the dedication plaque is unveiled, Dr. Hamilton expresses his gratitude to the audience.

ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT: Dr. Gary Gunderson, Dr. Ralph and Mrs. Barbara Hamilton, Paula Jacobson, Dr. Susan Murrmann, and Gary S. Shorb at the dedication ceremony.

Vice-Chair Receives Outstanding Alumni Award

James C. Fleming, MD, FACS, the Philip M. Lewis Professor of Ophthalmology, vice-chair of the Department of Ophthalmology, and director of the HEI Orbit Center, was awarded the 2010 Outstanding Alumni Award at the UT College of Medicine Alumni Weekend. The UT Alumni Council presents this award in special recognition of University of Tennessee graduates who have distinguished themselves in their medical practices, their professions, and their communities.

Dr. Fleming receives the award from Dr. Jim Morris, past president of the Medicine Alumni Council.
Outreach Programs

HEI Telemedicine Program Featured in Bulletin of American College of Surgeons

The monthly bulletin of the American College of Surgeons recently featured a nine-page article written by HEI director, Hamilton Professor and chair, Barrett G. Haik, MD, FACS. The article discusses the history and impact of the Hamilton Eye Institute’s telemedicine program, particularly highlighting our retinoblastoma international outreach program.

Over the past eight years, the UT Hamilton Eye Institute and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital have been working together with ORBIS International to develop centers of excellence in Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Jordan, Morocco, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Vietnam. There, we have been able to aid physicians by providing surgical technology and oncologic training to enhance their ability to diagnose and treat retinoblastoma (a childhood eye cancer) and other ophthalmic diseases. Part of this technology includes telecommunications tools that enable physicians at those sites to engage in weekly consults with ophthalmologists and oncologists at St. Jude and HEI to discuss diagnoses, treatments, and collaborative research. Our telemedicine program transfers the progress achieved in treatment of childhood cancer in developed countries to those with limited resources.

Later this year, our telemedicine program will also be featured in a chapter written by Dr. Haik for a book by Kanagasingam Yogesan, MD, director of research for the Australian e-Health Research Centre and an internationally renowned researcher into the development of technologies designed to prevent blindness.
Dr. Rex Receives Career Development Award

Tonia Rex, PhD, is a recipient of the Research to Prevent Blindness Career Development Award, a prestigious and competitive award that provides funding over four years. The grant will be used to help equip Dr. Rex’s laboratory and finance her research efforts.

Among our faculty, past recipients of the RPB Career Development Award also include Alessandro Iannaccone, MD, who received the award in 2002, and Michael Dyer, PhD, who received the award in 2004 and again in 2006, which led to his identification of the cell that gives rise to the eye cancer retinoblastoma, disproving a long-standing misconception of nerve growth and development.

Dr. Chaum Presents at UT Research Foundation Event

Edward Chaum MD, PhD, Plough Professor of Ophthalmology at HEI, gave a presentation at the UT Research Foundation’s Innovation Awards luncheon ceremony November 16. The event is a celebration of scientific achievements at the Memphis campus and a call to action for future research. At this year’s event, Dr. Chaum presented his work over the past six years in partnership between HEI and Oak Ridge National Laboratories — a collaboration that led to the development of the Telemedical Retinal Analysis and Diagnosis (TRIAD) system and the founding of Automated Medical Diagnostics (now renamed Hubble Telemedical). Dr. Chaum and his research assistant, Yaqin Li, PhD, were recognized at the ceremony as licensees for the algorithm they designed, which diagnoses eye disease through automated comparison of image content with an archive of diagnosed human patient data.

Dr. Rex, PhD, with graduate student Timothy Sullivan
Faculty Listing

Academic & Research Faculty

Barrett G. Haik, MD, FACS
Ophthalmic Oncology, Orbital Disease, & Oculoplastics
Hamilton Professor & Chair, Department of Ophthalmology
Director, Hamilton Eye Institute

James C. Fleming, MD, FACS
Orbital Disease & Oculoplastics
Philip M. Lewis Professor of Ophthalmology
Vice-Chair, Department of Ophthalmology

Ralph S. Hamilton, MD
Comprehensive Ophthalmology
Professor of Ophthalmology

Richard D. Drewry Jr., MD, FACS
Neuro-Ophthalmology
Professor Emeritus

Roger L. Hiatt, MD
Pediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus
Professor Emeritus

Edward Chaum, MD, PhD
Vitreoretinal Diseases
Plough Professor of Ophthalmology

Eldon E. Geisert, PhD
Ophthalmic Research
Professor of Ophthalmology
Professor of Anatomy & Neurobiology
Director, Center for Vision Research

Dianna A. Johnson, PhD
Ophthalmic Research
Professor of Anatomy & Neurobiology
Professor of Ophthalmology

Natalie C. Kerr, MD, FACS
Strabismus, Developmental Ophthalmology,
& Pediatric Cataracts
Hiatt Professor of Ophthalmology
Director, Residency Program

R. Christopher Walton, MD, MHA
Uveitis & Ocular Inflammatory Diseases
Professor of Ophthalmology
Assistant Dean of Graduate Medical Education and
Continuing Medical Education

Matthew W. Wilson MD, FACS
Ophthalmic Oncology, Orbital Disease,
Oculoplastic Surgery, & Ophthalmic Pathology
St. Jude Chair of Pediatric Ophthalmology
Professor of Ophthalmology

Alessandro Iannaccone, MD, MS
Hereditary Retinal Disease & Retinal Electrophysiology
Associate Professor of Ophthalmology

Monica M. Jablonski, PhD
Ophthalmic Research
Associate Professor of Ophthalmology

William R. Morris, MD
Comprehensive Ophthalmology & Ophthalmic Pathology
Associate Professor of Ophthalmology

Sarwat Salim, MD, FACS
Glaucoma
Associate Professor of Ophthalmology
Director, Glaucoma Service

Jena J. Steinle, PhD
Ophthalmic Research
Associate Professor of Ophthalmology

Mary Ellen Hoehn, MD
Pediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
Director, Special Projects

Elliott M. Kanner, MD, PhD
Glaucoma
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology

Thomas O’Donnell, MD
Neuro-Ophthalmology
& Low Vision Rehabilitation
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
Director, Low Vision Services

Andreea E. Partal, MD
Cornea, External Disease, & Refractive Surgery
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology

Tonia S. Rex, PhD
Ophthalmic Research
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
Assistant Professor of Anatomy & Neurobiology

John M. Freeman, MD
Cornea & External Disease, Comprehensive
Ophthalmology
Instructor of Ophthalmology
Clinical & Affiliated Faculty

Howard Beale, MD
Brian Biesman MD
Kathryn Byrd, MD
Ernesto A. Calvo L., MD
Jorge I. Calzada, MD
Steve Charles, MD
Thomas Currey, MD
Roger Deshaies, MD
James Freeman, MD
Jerre M. Freeman, MD
Thomas Gettelfinger, MD
Fletcher Goode, MD
Lawrence Gordon, MD
Thomas Grizzard, MD
Ralph F. Hamilton, MD
James C. Hart, MD
Faramarz Hidaji, MD
Zeynel Karcigolu, MD
Sydney Kriger, MD
Andrew Lawton, MD
Gary Passons, MD
Rashmi Pandya-Lipman, MD
Melvin Litch, MD
Ivan Marais, MD
William B. Priester, MD
Kathryn Reed, MD
Peter Rubin, MD
Alan R. Schaeffer, MD
Richard E. Sievers, MD
Spencer Thornton, MD
Audrey W. Tuberville, MD
Ming Wang, MD, PhD
Jesse M. Wesberry, Jr., MD
Ralph Wesley, MD
Thomas O. Wood, MD

Joint-Appointed Faculty

Michael A. Dyer, PhD
Erno Lindner, PhD, DSc
Anton J. Reiner, PhD
Stephen X. Skapek, MD
Eniko K. Pivnick, MD

Fellows/Instructors

Sumalee Boonyaleephan, MD
Glaucoma Fellow
Brendan P. Girschek, MD
Vitreoretinal Fellow
John D. Hyatt, MD
Vitreoretinal Fellow
David F. Jones, MD
Orbital/Oculoplastics Fellow
Alan E. Oester, MD
Orbital/Oculoplastics Fellow

Ophthalmology Residents

Third Year:
Julie L. Foreman, MD
Thomas L. Nix, MD
Siva S. R. Iyer, MD
Emily C. Taylor, MD

Second Year:
Daniel K. Bennett, MD
Brian T. Fowler, MD
Brian M. Jerkins, MD
Alinda Guynes McGowin, MD

First Year:
Lauren C. Ditta, MD
Lauren L. Harris, MD
Katie A. Mills, MD
Brian C. Tse, MD
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
(901) 448-6650

Clinic of Ralph S. Hamilton, MD
930 Madison Avenue, Suite 230
Memphis, TN 38136
(901) 448-1664

Wolf River Medical Building
7945 Wolf River Boulevard, Suite 240
Germantown, TN 38128
(901) 347-8240

Hamilton Eye Institute Surgery Center
930 Madison Avenue, Suite 370
Memphis, TN 38163
(901) 448-3900
www.eye.uthsc.edu/heisurgery

Clinical Research
Jessica Knowlton, MS, CRA
Ph: (901) 448-1201 • Fax: (901) 448-1299
jknowlto@uthsc.edu

Or visit us online:
www.eye.uthsc.edu

Events Calendar

HEI GRAND ROUNDS WORLDWIDE WEBCASTS
First and Third Monday of the month, 1:00 p.m. central time
Visit www.eye.uthsc.edu/mediasite for more information.

MEMPHIS EYE SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETINGS
Second Wednesday of every month at 6:00 p.m.
For latest meeting location, contact Lori Jennings at (901) 683-4600.

June 17
40th Annual Alumni-Residents’ Day
Featuring the 21st Annual Kambara Distinguished Visiting Professor,
R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, James P. Luton Professor of Ophthalmology,
Vice Chair for Academic Affairs, Dean McGee Eye Institute,
University of Oklahoma • Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

October 22-25
Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology
Orange County Convention Center • Orlando, Florida
For more information, visit: www.aao.org/meetings/annual_meeting

October 23
American Academy of Ophthalmology UTHEI Alumni Reception
(5:30 - 7:00 p.m.) Columbia Room, Peabody Hotel • Orlando, Florida

December 10
15th Annual Clinical Update for the Comprehensive Ophthalmologist
(8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) Featuring the I. Lee Arnold Distinguished Visiting
Professor, Peter A. Netland, MD, FACS, Dupont Guerry III Professor & Chair,
Department of Ophthalmology, University of Virginia School of Medicine

Congratulations to the following HEI faculty and staff:

Dr. Brian T. Fowler, second-year resident, on the birth of his daughter,
Grace Abigail, born December 29, 2010

Lee A. Thompson, publication specialist, on his marriage to
April E. Houser on January 15, 2011

Dr. Tonia S. Rex, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, on the birth
of her daughter, Olivia Lien Nguyen, born January 12, 2011