Saving Sight in Latin America
Health care is evolving rapidly. Challenges and opportunities lie ahead, and the Hamilton Eye Institute is poised at the forefront of this evolution, paving the way for the future of ophthalmology. While our extraordinary education program prepares future ophthalmologists for the rapidly changing world of ophthalmic medicine, our vision research center works to discover new treatments and techniques, increasing our understanding of the eye and visual system. Our physicians use the most advanced diagnostic and surgical equipment, providing patients the highest quality care.

We also continually extend our reach through telehealth and outreach initiatives. Working together with the global ophthalmic community, we pursue a shared goal of preventing blindness worldwide. These programs depend on the extraordinary generosity of our donors. Our greatest strides have been made through their kind support, for which we are ever grateful.

Sincerely,

James C. Fleming, MD, FACS
Chair, Department of Ophthalmology
Philip M. Lewis Professor of Ophthalmology
Director, Hamilton Eye Institute Orbit Center
As one of the top eye centers in the nation, HEI attracts outstanding faculty and provides the most advanced facilities to prepare physicians for the ever-evolving world of modern ophthalmic medicine.

William R. Morris, MD, associate professor of Ophthalmology, directs HEI’s medical student education. “Dr. Morris is very good,” one medical student said. “He really cares about teaching students.” Our classroom includes a fully equipped ophthalmic examination lane that replicates an eye clinic exam room. This interactive classroom is networked for live video simulcast throughout the institute or online for weekly grand rounds, lectures and other educational purposes.

Our ophthalmology library is a valuable study and research resource containing thousands of books and 40 journal collections about the eye and visual system. These were donated by alumni, faculty and friends of the institute, to whom we are deeply grateful. Library donors include George M. Haik, MD, and the Haik family, Drs. F. Hampton Roy, Spencer Thornton, David Tse, Richard Baker, Thomas Currey, Joseph Googe, and John Montgomery.

HEI residents and fellows also benefit from the HEI Skills Transfer Center. There, faculty members including Ivan Marais, MD, and Elliott Kanner, MD, PhD, teach diagnostic and surgical skills through wet labs and our surgical and indirect ophthalmoscope simulators. In fact, due to the notoriety of our simulation technology program, two members of our faculty—James C. Fleming, MD, FACS, Philip M. Lewis Professor and chair of Ophthalmology, and Barrett G. Haik, MD, FACS, Hamilton Professor and HEI director—were recently invited by Robert A. Mazzoli, MD, director of Education, Training, Simulation and Readiness with the Department of Defense, to participate in their three-day conference, “Developing a Roadmap for Simulation in Eye Care.”
Edward Chaum, MD, PhD, Plough Foundation Professor of Ophthalmology at HEI, is working to create new microscopic tools for ocular surgery. Together with John Simpson, PhD, a member of the Engineering Science and Technology Division at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Dr. Chaum has developed surgical instruments using etched-glass technology that will be used to remove scar tissue from the eyes of patients with corneal or retinal diseases.

“We’re taking engineering concepts to clinical medicine,” Dr. Chaum said. The material offers eye surgeons greater flexibility when handling delicate ocular tissues. It has microscopic spikes that are 80 microns (0.08 mm) long. “It works like a bed of nails – like Velcro,” Dr. Chaum noted. “With forceps you must pinch, but small tissue cannot be pinched. This engages tissue in a truly novel way.” Dr. Chaum has applied to the UTHSC Institutional Review Board and is currently awaiting approval to begin clinical trials in patients with corneal disease.

HEI Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology Steve Charles, MD, FACS, has been inducted to the Board of Governors of the ARVO Foundation for Eye Research. Established in 2001 by the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO), this foundation provides support for innovative vision research and encourages development of new vision research scientists. As a member of the Board of Governors, Dr. Charles will help set the strategic direction for this important organization.

Dr. Charles also recently delivered the keynote address at ZeroTo510 Investor Day at the Memphis Bioworks Conference Center. This event helps medical device entrepreneurs navigate the start-up process, refine business models, and file for commercial deployment through the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s 510(k) clearance process. Dr. Charles’ lecture followed opening remarks by entrepreneur and longtime HEI supporter, Joseph R. “Pitt” Hyde III, founder of Autozone and chairman of the board of the Memphis Bioworks Foundation and GTx, Inc. As a world-renowned vitreoretinal surgeon, engineer, and ZeroTo510 board member, Dr. Charles is a highly prolific medical device developer himself, and the ideal choice to deliver the keynote lecture.
AOC Certification Exam Held at HEI

In October, the American Orthoptic Council (AOC) held its annual oral certification exam at HEI. This event is held in a different city each year and was last held at HEI in 2007. Orthoptics is an ophthalmic field dealing with the evaluation and treatment of patients with visual system disorders involving binocular vision and eye movements. After two years of course work, those pursuing orthoptist certification complete a written test and then attend this final examination.

HEI orthoptist Chantel Devould, CO, was one of three orthoptists who helped organize the exam, recruit volunteer patients, set up the exam rooms, and keep each phase of the exam on time. To evaluate each candidate’s performance, several orthoptists and ophthalmologists from around the country were on hand to proctor the examinations, including HEI Professor of Ophthalmology Natalie C. Kerr, MD, FACS, who is also president of the AOC. This year, an impressive 14 orthoptists received certification at the event, the highest number in recent years.

Southeast Eye Meeting 2012

The annual Southeast Eye Regional Meeting, co-sponsored by the Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee Academies of Ophthalmology, was held this year in Destin, Fla. The meeting was a resounding success, featuring internationally renowned speakers presenting on topics in all subspecialties of ophthalmology. Barrett G. Haik, MD, FACS, Hamilton Professor of Ophthalmology and director of the Hamilton Eye Institute, was a featured speaker at the event. He presented the 2012 Roger L. Hiatt, MD, Lecture, a comprehensive update on retinoblastoma.

The meeting was co-chaired by Richard M. Feist, MD, associate professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and Sarwat Salim, MD, associate professor of Ophthalmology and Glaucoma Service director at HEI. Drs. Feist and Salim are grateful to Sue Chasteen and Mike Merrill, executive directors of the Tennessee and Alabama Academies of Ophthalmology, respectively, for their exceptional organizing and dedication.
INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

Life-changing Mission for Panama Children

Strabismus is the medical term for crossed or misaligned eyes, and ptosis is the term for droopy eyelids. These conditions not only affect the visual system’s development, but can seriously damage a child’s self-esteem. Teasing and bullying can shatter confidence and lead to lifelong insecurities. However, ophthalmologists in the Republic of Panama have been working to eliminate these conditions through Niños Sanos, Niños Felices, (which means “Healthy Children, Happy Children”). This program of the Fundación Pro-Integración is led by Panamanian ophthalmologists Jorge Arrue, MD, Felix Ruiz, MD, and Ernesto A. Calvo L., MD, and coordinated by trustees Virginia Alvarado, Soraya Bhiku and J. Thomas Ford.

Every two years, pre-screened Panamanian children and their families are brought to the village of Chitré, where volunteer ophthalmic surgeons from Panama and the United States provide free eye surgery to correct strabismus and ptosis. HEI has participated in this wonderful program since 2004 and was invited again this year. Representing HEI were Hamilton Professor and HEI director Barrett G. Haik, MD, FACS, oculoplastic surgery instructor Margaret Phillips, MD, UTMG/HEI surgery center anesthesiologist DeRayne Boykins, MD, and HEI alumni Alan E. Oester, MD, and Adham Al-Hariri, MD.

This year, more than 140 surgeries were performed. Many were also screened for eye cancer, congenital cataracts and other conditions. In the post-operative recovery area, children previously ashamed of their appearance exhibited newfound confidence. “Most of these children are less than 10 years old,” said Ford. “They are at an age where they can get back their self-esteem. That’s just as important as recovering eyesight. We have changed their lives.”

Drs. Arrue, Ruiz, Haik, and world-renowned pediatric ophthalmologist Kenneth W. Wright, MD, were presented special presidential awards by the First Lady of the Republic of Panama, Marta Linares de Martinelli, in recognition of their ongoing, selfless work improving children’s lives in Panama.
In September, HEI faculty returned to Panama for the 7th annual Catarathon, at which clouded lenses in adults were surgically replaced in more than 100 Panamanians who would otherwise lack the financial means to undergo the procedures. All surgeries were performed jointly by ophthalmic surgeons from the United States and Panama. Dr. Haik was presented the Key to the City by Mayor Roxana Méndez of Panama City, Panama, for his humanitarian work there.

A. Dr. Haik accepts a special presidential award from First Lady of Panama, Marta Linares de Martinelli.
B. Brian Jerkins, MD, performs cataract surgery at the 7th annual Catarathon.
C. An eye cancer patient awaits his evaluation with his father.
D. A child smiles after surgical repair of his droopy eyelid.
E. Dr. Haik with some of the happy Panamanian children in the program.
Outstanding Summer for Vision Science at HEI

The HEI Center for Vision Research is making advances in vision science that will impact the future of ophthalmology. This summer was an extremely successful period, with numerous new grants awarded to HEI researchers.

Barrett G. Haik, MD, FACS, Hamilton Professor of Ophthalmology and director of HEI, was awarded a grant from Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB) to support research into the causes, treatment and prevention of blinding diseases.

Eldon E. Geisert, Jr., PhD, HEI director of research, received a Department of Defense grant to investigate genetic markers that may influence the effects and outcomes of blast injuries to the eyes. “Helping those injured in the defense of our country is a true privilege,” said Dr. Geisert.

Alessandro Iannaccone, MD, MS, received a 2012 Physician Scientist Award from Research to Prevent Blindness for his research into age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

Jena J. Steinle, PhD, associate professor in the Departments of Ophthalmology, and Anatomy and Neurobiology, has received an R01 grant from the National Eye Institute for her work developing and testing a compound that may prevent or even reverse damage caused by diabetic retinopathy. The Department of Defense also awarded her a grant to test this compound’s applications in reducing inflammatory processes and cell death in injuries caused by traumatic blasts.

Quihua Zhang, PhD, postdoctoral research trainee, was awarded a grant by the Knights Templar Eye Foundation to perfect a technique for delivering high concentrations of chemotherapy directly into the eye to treat extensive disease while minimizing system exposure. Previous techniques have been associated with complications, which Dr. Zhang seeks to eliminate.

The Hamilton Eye Institute congratulates its research faculty and staff for these remarkable accomplishments. The months and years ahead are sure to be exciting as these studies develop into new treatments and techniques, and advance our understanding of vision science.
Each year, HEI hosts many visiting lectureships. Among the most prestigious is the Sir Harold Ridley Distinguished Visiting Professorship for Creativity and Innovation in Medicine and Ophthalmology. This year, the lecture was delivered by Steve Charles, MD, FACS, founding director of the Charles Retina Institute and clinical professor of ophthalmology at UTHSC. His talk on the revolutionary and evolutionary aspects of surgical technology was enjoyed by all in attendance.

The annual meeting of the Memphis Eye Society and Tennessee Academy of Ophthalmology featured several guest speakers: Richard E. Braunstein, MD, Miranda Wong Tang Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology, Columbia Medical Center (specialty: anterior segment and refractive surgery); Stephen P. Christiansen, MD, professor and chair, Department of Ophthalmology, Boston University School of Medicine (specialty: strabismus and pediatric ophthalmology); Lynn K. Gordon, MD, PhD, professor of Ophthalmology, Jules Stein Eye Institute, UCLA (specialty: neuro-ophthalmology); William L. Rich III, MD, FACS, medical director of Health Policy, American Academy of Ophthalmology (specialty: health care policy); and Carla J. Siegfried, MD, professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Washington University School of Medicine (specialty: glaucoma).

This fall, HEI hosted the 15th Annual Williford Distinguished Visiting Professorship. This event featured a lecture by world-renowned glaucoma expert, M. Bruce Shields, MD, the Marvin L. Sears Professor and Chair Emeritus of Ophthalmology and Visual Science at the Yale School of Medicine. A very large crowd of physicians representing many medical specialties attended Dr. Shields’ lecture. His topic, “Glaucoma: Past, Present and Future,” was extremely well received.
Faculty Listing

Academic Faculty

James C. Fleming, MD, FACS
Orbital Disease & Oculoplastics
Professor and Chair of Ophthalmology
Director, Orbit Center

Barrett G. Haik, MD, FACS
Ophthalmic Oncology, Orbital Disease, & Oculoplastics
Hamilton Professor of Ophthalmology and
Director, Hamilton Eye Institute
Chief of Ophthalmology,
St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital

Ralph S. Hamilton, MD
Comprehensive Ophthalmology
Professor of Ophthalmology

Barrett G. Haik, MD, FACS
Ophthalmic Oncology, Orbital Disease, & Oculoplastics
Hamilton Professor of Ophthalmology and
Director, Hamilton Eye Institute
Chief of Ophthalmology,
St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital

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 Foundation Professor of Retinal Diseases

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
Professor of Ophthalmology

R. Christopher Walton, MD, MHA
Uveitis & Ocular Inflammatory Diseases
Baptist Memorial Health Care
Foundation Professor of Ophthalmology
Professor of Ophthalmology

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
Professor of Ophthalmology
Professor of Anatomy & Neurobiology

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
Associate Professor of Anatomy & Neurobiology

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

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

Alinda Guynes McGowin, MD
Comprehensive Ophthalmology
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology

Mark H. Myers, PhD
Ophthalmic Research
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology

Shiva Nobar, MD
Pediatric Ophthalmology
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology

Byron N. Wilkes, MD
Oculoplastic Surgery & Orbital Disease
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology

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

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

**Professors:**
Steven Charles, MD  
Jerre M. Freeman, MD  
Thomas C. Gettelfinger, MD  
Ivan Marais, MD  
Spencer Thornton, MD  
Audrey W. Tuberville, MD  
Ralph Wesley, MD  
Thomas O. Wood, MD

**Associate Professors:**
Howard L. Beale, MD  
Brian S. Biesman, MD  
Ernesto A. Calvo L., MD  
Fletcher Goode, MD  
Andrew Lawton, MD  
Peter A.D. Rubin, MD, FACS  
Richard E. Sievers, MD  
Ming Wang, MD, PhD

**Assistant Professors:**
Kathryn W. Byrd, MD  
Jorge I. Calzada, MD  
Thomas A. Currey, MD  
Roger L. Deshaies, 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. Reed, MD  
Alan R. Schaeffer, MD  
Jesse M. Wesberry, MD

**Director of Operations:**
Edwin S. Richter, RN, MBA

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**Instructors**

Brian T. Fowler, MD  
Ocular Oncology

Carolee Cutler Peck, MD  
Oculoplastic Surgery

Margaret E. Phillips, MD  
Second-Year Oculoplastic Surgery

John C. Randolph, MD  
Second-Year Vitreoretinal Surgery

Eric C. Sigler, MD  
Vitreoretinal Surgery

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**Ophthalmology Residents**

**Third Year:**
Lauren C. Ditta, MD  
Lauren L. Harris, MD  
Katie A. Mills, MD  
Brian C. Tse, MD

**Second Year:**
Julie K. Calderwood, MD  
Stephen Huddleston, MD  
Mark Kosko, MD  
Justin Wilkin, MD

**First Year:**
Austin Bell, MD  
Michael Hood, MD  
T. Amerson Pegram, MD  
Patrick Risch, MD

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**Joint-Appointed Faculty**

Michael A. Dyer, PhD  
Erno Lindner, PhD, DSc  
Eniko Pivnick, MD  
Anton J. Reiner, PhD
Come and see us:

The University of Tennessee
Health Science Center
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Adult Specialty Clinic, Suite 200
Pediatric Clinic & Orthoptics, Suite 400
Lions Low Vision Center, Suite 400
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Clinic of Ralph S. Hamilton, MD
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Clinical Research
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Events Calendar:

February 16, 2013
Annual Meeting of the Memphis Eye Society and
Tennessee Academy of Ophthalmology
Douglas Lazzaro, MD, professor and chair of Ophthalmology,
State University of New York-Health Science Center at Brooklyn, New York
(specialty: Cornea & External Disease)
Mildred Oliver, MD, clinical associate professor of Ophthalmology,
Midwestern University, Chicago, Ill. (specialty: Glaucoma)
Paul Sternberg, MD, professor and chair of Ophthalmology, Vanderbilt Eye Institute,
President, American Academy of Ophthalmology, Nashville, Tenn. (specialty: Retina)
Bruce Wallace, MD, clinical professor of Ophthalmology, Tulane and LSU Medical
Schools, New Orleans, La. (specialty: Cataract & Refractive Surgery)

March 1-3, 2013
Basic and Clinical Science Review Course
Lectures based on the AAO Basic and Clinical Science Series. Free to all residents
and fellows. Featuring guest speaker Kenneth W. Wright, MD, director, Wright
Center for Pediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus, Costa Mesa, Calif.

April 19-20, 2013
Lions Leaders Weekend
Open to anyone who has the desire to learn more about Mid-South Lions Sight
and Hearing Service. For more information, visit midsouthlions.org.

Future Events (More Information to Come)
12th Annual Ridley Distinguished Visiting Professorship
Orbital Dissection Course at Medical Education & Research Institute
Skills transfer instructors: James C. Fleming, MD, FACS, Barrett G. Haik, MD, FACS,
Matthew W. Wilson, MD, FACS, and Byron N. Wilkes, MD.

For event registration, programs and more, visit uthsc.edu/eye/events.php