VISIONARY
RALPH S. HAMILTON, MD
Welcome to the spring 2016 issue of *Hamilton Eyelights*. This is our biggest issue yet, because we have so many exciting and meaningful stories to share.

Foremost, this issue is dedicated wholeheartedly to Dr. Ralph Hamilton, whose indelible faith and persistence set the foundation for this institute.

We also welcomed several excellent visiting professors recently, including the annual John L. Montgomery, Sr., MD, and I. Lee Arnold, MD, Distinguished Visiting Professorships. The Ridley lecture is just around the corner, so please see the back cover for upcoming events and mark your calendar.

Two members of our research faculty have received significant new funding, continuing to advance our understanding of the mechanisms behind diseases of the retina and macula, bringing us one step closer to new treatments for the leading causes of vision loss.

You’ll also read about our Surgery Center, which is celebrating nine years of unparalleled success. And we have several heartwarming success stories from our partnerships with the Mid-South Lions, Harrah’s Hope Lodge, and Mid-South Eye Bank.

Finally, we have some great news to share from several of our treasured alumni, who are achieving tremendous strides in the preservation of healthy vision throughout the world.

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**FROM THE CHAIR**

James C. Fleming, MD, FACS
Chair and Philip M. Lewis Professor of Ophthalmology
When Dr. Ralph Hamilton conceived of an eye institute for Memphis, he saw the enormous opportunity that existed not only for the city itself, but for the world, and for future generations.

While Memphis is an affluent city that is home to numerous major corporate headquarters, the Mid-South is also an also is also a regional epicenter for several eye diseases, including diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma. However, we are also fortunate to have several world-class hospital systems, including Baptist Memorial Healthcare, Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, the Regional One trauma center, and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. These, combined with the outstanding physicians and scientists at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, provided an existing infrastructure in which Dr. Hamilton recognized the tremendous potential.

When he set out to achieve his vision, Dr. Hamilton inspired his colleagues, including former UTHSC Chair of Ophthalmology Dr. Roger L. Hiatt, Dr. Richard Drewry, Dr. Jerre M. Freeman, Abe Plough, and many other university and community leaders who worked together to try and make the institute a reality.

With time, as the right conditions fell into place, and with the generosity and cooperation of countless individuals, organizations and foundations, his dream was achieved and became something that is, in his words, “beyond anything we could have imagined.”

HEI Faculty Make Headlines

Recently, two of our faculty were featured in the news. Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology Aaron N. Waite, MD, director of cornea, cataract and refractive surgery at HEI, was featured in the Memphis Medical News “Physician Spotlight,” and Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology Brian T. Fowler, MD, was the front-page headline of the March 2016 issue of The Best Times.

In addition to some biographical background on Dr. Waite’s early life and education, the Memphis Medical News article also focuses on his role as a leading proponent of Descemet Membrane Epithelial Keratoplasty, a brand-new, extremely successful cornea surgery.

Dr. Fowler’s article in The Best Times is a “news you can use” type of article for seniors, describing how the surgical repair of saggy eyelids may be covered by health insurance if they significantly obscure vision.

Read Dr. Waite’s article at http://goo.gl/S4yVPc.
Read Dr. Fowler’s article at https://goo.gl/nUKR9B.
March 18 marked the second annual joint meeting of the Hamilton Eye Institute (HEI) and the Southern College of Optometry (SCO). We welcomed the John L. Montgomery, Sr., MD, Distinguished Visiting Professor, Daniel S. Durrie, MD, clinical professor and director of refractive surgery services, University of Kansas Medical Center; and the Cochran Distinguished Visiting Professor, Jeffrey J. Walline, OD, PhD, associate professor and associate dean for research, Ohio State University College of Optometry.

Dr. Durrie presented “AcuFocus KAMRA® Corneal Inlay for Presbyopia” and “Dysfunctional Lens Syndrome: Breakthrough in Patient Education.” Dr. Walline’s topic was “Myopia Control.” Faculty members from HEI and SCO also presented additional topics on refractive surgery.

On April 8-9, HEI held the annual Clinical Update Meeting in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Memphis Eye Society. In addition to presentations by members of our faculty, we welcomed three outstanding visiting lecturers. The 15th Annual I. Lee Arnold, MD, Distinguished Visiting Professorship Lecture was presented by Donald J. D’Amico, MD, chair and John Milton McLean Professor of Ophthalmology at Weill Cornell Medical College, and ophthalmologist-in-chief at New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

Many other lectures were presented by Dr. D’Amico and our guests, cataract and refractive surgeon Anita Nevyas-Wallace, MD, from Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania, and Marc N. Garber, JD, defense attorney specializing in health care and false claims, from Marietta, Georgia.

Memphis Eye Society President James Freeman, MD, and UTHSC Chair of Ophthalmology James C. Fleming, MD, FACS, presided over the event.
Retinal Disease Study Grant

HEI’s acting director of research and Plough Foundation Professor of Retinal Diseases, Edward Chaum, MD, PhD, has been awarded a large grant from the Shulsky Foundation of New York to develop methods for understanding and treating specific types of mutations that contribute to retinal disease. The goal is to model and modulate how specific protein-coding genes cause disease in the retina. The study will determine how these genes affect the health of the retinal pigment epithelium (RPE), the layer of the retina essential to nourishing photoreceptor cells.

The knowledge gained in this study may reveal how healthy RPE cells can be derived from patients with genetic mutations affecting the retina and transplanted, providing potential new treatments for degenerative retinal diseases.

Macular Degeneration Study Continues

The Owens Foundation recently awarded a second research grant to Monica M. Jablonski, PhD, FARVO, professor of Ophthalmology, Anatomy and Neurobiology, and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and associate dean of Postdoctoral Affairs at UTHSC.

The research being funded is an extension of a study that the foundation originally funded in 2014. In the previous award, Dr. Jablonski and her co-investigators used a rat model to demonstrate that retinal structure and function can be preserved by administering a complex glycan to the eyes. In this new grant, her team is beginning to define the mechanism responsible for this neuroprotection.

The information gained from this research may help with future development of therapy and delivery systems for treating age-related macular degeneration (AMD), a leading cause of vision loss among people age 50 and older, affecting more than 10 million Americans. AMD causes central vision loss through damage to the macula, an oval-shaped spot near the center of the retina that is crucial for sharp, central vision.
The Hamilton Eye Institute’s Surgery Center is a 9,281-square-foot center of excellence that has been delivering expert surgical care for nearly 10 years in an operating space focused solely on the eye. The center includes three surgical suites and three laser treatment rooms, as well as pre- and post-operative treatment areas. About 30,000 patients have been seen there. It is a unique and important addition to the Hamilton Eye Institute because it provides a single place where patients throughout the region can go for the most advanced care and most specialized service.

A decade ago, eye surgeons in Memphis were operating in half a dozen different hospitals throughout the region. But now, with the help of Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation and Methodist Le Bonheur Health Care, HEI has centralized those patients to a singular center of excellence. While some ophthalmic surgery is still done elsewhere in Memphis, such as treatment of eye cancer at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, emergency eye surgeries at the Regional One trauma center, and pediatric eye surgeries at Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, the majority of non-emergent, adult eye surgery in Memphis has been consolidated to the HEI Surgery Center.

When the center opened, Baptist COO David Hogan said his hospital system invested in the project because “eyes are important, and this center will make sure that everyone who needs it has access to care. There is not a duplication of this anywhere in the city.” The center is staffed and managed by Solus Management Services, the management arm of the Methodist Hospital system. It has also been supported in part by the Lions Club.

Hamilton Professor and HEI Director Barrett G. Haik, MD, FACS, said that several major advantages come from having a surgery center focused solely on ophthalmic disorders: “Because no other medical specialties perform surgery there, it’s a pristine, uniquely sterile environment with no cross-contamination. Also, since every member of the surgical team focuses only on eyes, you have specialists who can care for patients in a very efficient fashion. The doctors, nurses and assistants are all superbly trained and work extremely well together.”

Another advantage of being dedicated exclusively to eye surgery is that the best and most specialized ophthalmic surgical instrumentation is on hand, and everyone is familiar with it. “When a surgeon moves around doing sur-
surgery at different area hospitals, there may be different models of surgical machinery at each hospital," Dr. Haik added. "It also saves a great deal of time in that ophthalmologists can focus all their efforts in one major center."

The surgery center not only provides outstanding surgical care, but also unique teaching opportunities. In addition to providing the usual hands-on surgical training opportunities for residents and fellows, our surgery center is equipped with a 3-D video system that can record or stream what the surgeon is viewing through the operating microscope to our Freeman Auditorium, which has 3-D projection technology. This affords an audience of up to 100 people the unique opportunity to witness full, stereoscopic depth during eye surgery, which would otherwise only be possible by being in the operating room. (The patient's identity is protected, since only the eye and orbit are visible through the microscope.) The surgery center also features a state-of-the-art femtosecond laser for laser-assisted cataract and cornea procedures, offering precision surgical options for patients and a rare training opportunity for residents.

Surgery Center staff members Vickie Smith, RN, and Mary Beth Caldwell, RN, expressed their pride in the center. "It makes you feel good to work at a place with such a reputation that people will come from all over the world to have surgery here," Vickie said. "If I needed any kind of eye surgery, this is definitely where I would come."

"I've been here since day one," said Mary Beth. "It's a small group. We're like family. Other places are so large, you don't interact as much. Here, the majority of the doctors have a sense of ownership. This is where they want to bring their patients. They're always asking for our input to make things work better and more efficiently for everyone. They want it to prosper and grow."

The numbers are impressive, as well. Department Chair James C. Fleming, MD, FACS, who led the initiative to establish the Surgery Center in 2007, said the center has grown to see more than 5,000 patients per year. Over the past nine years, more than 40,000 surgical procedures have been performed there. More than 100 medical students have rotated through the surgery center, and members of our faculty have trained 35 fellows and more than 40 residents there. Visiting physicians from across the nation and internationally renowned surgeons from 18 different countries have performed surgery at the HEI Surgery Center, and it has been featured on the Discovery Channel show *Monsters Inside Me*. Its patients have included celebrities and politicians who have traveled across the country to receive the best care possible.
“Y ou can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make it drink,” goes the old adage. But what if you could inspire it to drink?

Vision is the business of every ophthalmologist. But, for someone like Ralph S. Hamilton, MD, vision isn’t just literally seeing what’s in front of one’s nose — it’s the ability to see and imagine beyond the here-and-now. Visionaries filter out what matters and connect the dots.

Envisioning the future isn’t enough to make it happen, though. The horse cannot be forced to drink; it must want to drink. Inspiring others to join in the pursuit of a dream takes not just a visionary, but a visionary leader with the ability to energize others with their own conviction and enthusiasm to fulfill that vision.
Dr. Hamilton’s 70-year career in ophthalmology began at age 15, when he would assist his father by shining a light into the eyes of his cataract surgery patients. He graduated high school at 16 and earned his medical degree from UTHSC at the remarkable age of 23. After a rotating internship at John Gaston Hospital, he went to the University of Pennsylvania for a fellowship and residency at Wills Eye Hospital, the nation’s first dedicated eye institute. Dr. Hamilton recognized what a huge advantage it was to have a center dedicated to the preservation and restoration of sight at all levels: vision research, medical education and patient care. When he returned to UTHSC in 1959, he saw the potential for creating such a center in Memphis and undertook a quest to fulfill that vision that would span four decades.

Under the leadership of successive department chairmen Philip M. Lewis, MD, and Roger L. Hitatt, MD, Dr. Hamilton rose through the ranks in the Department of Ophthalmology, achieving the rank of full clinical professor in 1979. He ran a busy practice and dedicated significant time and energy to the education of students and residents. He served as president of the Memphis Eye Society and Tennessee Academy of Ophthalmology, and became a member of the prestigious American Ophthalmological Society, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, and many other professional societies. All along the way, he continually inspired colleagues, university officials and community leaders who worked with him to help pursue his vision.

“\textit{He has impacted countless people through a lifetime dedicated to caring for the vision and health of his patients, and providing education, inspiration and mentorship for the next generation of ophthalmologists.”}"

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When Dr. Hiatt retired in 1994, Dr. Hamilton and Dr. Drewry sought to recruit Barrett G. Haik, MD, FACS, as the next chair of Ophthalmology at UTHSC. “I was in my home town of New Orleans at Tulane University, where I had a wonderful endowed professorship with a very busy practice,” said Dr. Haik, who now holds the titles Hamilton Professor of Ophthalmology and director of the Hamilton Eye Institute. “When I received the offer to come to Memphis, I initially declined. After further coaxing, though, I finally came for a visit. I met Ralph, and by the time I left, I was so inspired by him and had so much faith, I was ready to uproot my family and move to a new city to fulfill his remarkable vision.”

The Hamilton Eye Institute is not only a testament to Dr. Hamilton’s unswerving vision, faith, leadership and tenacity, but a hidden testament to his humility, as well: Dr. Hamilton felt that having his name on the building would be “overdone.” However, Dr. Haik insisted there could be no institute without the Hamilton name.

Dr. Hamilton and his wife, Barbara, contributed significantly to the capital campaign that launched the institute in 2004. The Memphis Business Journal awarded Dr. Hamilton a Health Care Heroes Lifetime Achievement Award in 1999, and he and Barbara have each received the Methodist Healthcare Foundation Living Award for the profound impact they have made to health care locally, nationally and globally.

The number of lives that have been changed by Dr. Hamilton since those days working by his father’s side is incalculable. And now he has two sons in ophthalmology and a grandson in medicine — four generations of Hamiltons carrying on the legacy.

“He was raised in a humble home and worked hard for all that he achieved,” said Tracy Speake, a longtime friend of Dr. Hamilton and HEI. “He has always had great humility, compassion and respect for his patients, regardless of their income level or background. His professionalism is extraordinary.”
HEI Surgery Center nurse Vickie Smith, RN, added, “Whenever he had a patient who needed surgery, he’d be in here by their side to check on them. It didn’t matter who they were or what they did for a living. He’s always there for them, and his patients love him for that.”

“The institute is just the tip of the iceberg,” said James C. Fleming, MD, FACS, the Philip M. Lewis Professor and chair of UTHSC Ophthalmology. “Ralph’s legacy runs much deeper. He has impacted countless people through a lifetime dedicated to caring for the vision and health of his patients, and providing the highest echelons of education, inspiration and mentorship for the next generation of ophthalmologists.”
Sidney Kriger, MD (1987):

Throughout each operation, Dr. Hamilton always commented frequently, explaining what was going right or wrong. You could learn so much from Dr. Hamilton just by watching his hands, though. He was so precise. Between cases, he would share stories about riding his horse, King, or about his latest tennis victory against some poor resident. He also recalled fondly the days when he accompanied his ophthalmologist father in a horse-drawn buggy to perform eye surgery in the patient’s home. After being in private practice almost 30 years, the fundamental lessons I learned from Dr. Hamilton during my residency still apply. He truly cared about his patients and always strived for perfection in the operating room. He inspired me to become the ophthalmologist I am today.

Edward L. Curran, MD (1996):

Some of my earliest ophthalmic experiences were working alongside Dr. Hamilton. As a new resident, it was quite an honor being allowed to block his private patients before he arrived, realizing how much trust he placed in us, and to gradually be given the privilege of starting cases with him. As his wary trust was earned, he would allow us to proceed a little further into each case. Not wanting to let him down was a potent motivating force, not because he was ever harsh, but because our respect for him was so great. His demonstration of the value of slow and steady perseverance has ever since been fixed in my mind.

Michael P. Schneider, MD (1988):

When I was in my third year of medical school, one day I called Dr. Hamilton out of the blue — he didn’t know who I was — and I said I’d like to observe him in cataract surgery. He couldn’t have been more gracious. He said, “Absolutely. We would love to have you,” and made arrangements. When I watched him in surgery, I could tell he had a passion for cataract surgery. He loved taking care of his patients and talking to his patients. He was always a gentleman. His interactions with his patients inspired me to do the same in my own practice.

Daniel K. Bennett, MD (2012):

Dr. Hamilton is the perfect example of how to live a life. He is universally loved, showing humility and compassion to everyone he encounters. More importantly, he takes time with everyone, something all too often lost nowadays. Meeting him as a first-year resident, I remember feeling the gush of emotions typically reserved for royalty. Over the next few years we shared countless conversations at lunch, on the tennis court or on horseback. He relies heavily on his faith and always treats everyone like a member of his family. Spend one afternoon with Dr. Hamilton, and you’ll walk away forever changed in the best of ways. I carry his example every day as I try to be the best ophthalmologist, husband, father and friend I can be.
Dr. Fowler Joins Vascular Anomalies Team

HEI Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology Brian T. Fowler, MD, has been selected to join the Vascular Anomalies team at Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, the only program in the region providing coordinated care for children with blood vessel malformations.

Because vascular anomalies are unique to each child and can develop anywhere in the body, Le Bonheur has created this multidisciplinary team of specialists, which meets once a month to discuss each child’s needs and provide customized care. The team includes specialists in cardiology, dermatology, neurosurgery, neonatology, neurointerventional surgery, otolaryngology, pediatric surgery, radiology, plastic and reconstructive surgery, and oculoplastic surgery.

As an oculoplastic surgeon, Dr. Fowler consults on cases where vision is threatened, such as capillary hemangiomas, lymphatic venous malformations and other such blood vessel lesions of the eyelid or orbit.

“Vascular lesions are treated most optimally by a team approach,” Dr. Fowler said. “This group of doctors and surgeons works together to treat these lesions and achieve the best outcomes for the patients.”

HEI joint faculty member Asim Choudhri, MD, assistant professor of Radiology and Neurosurgery at UTHSC, is also a member of the Le Bonheur Vascular Anomalies team.

Two Exemplary Staff Members Retire

Two valued members of our staff retired this spring. Shirley Smith provided administrative support for our academic offices for more than 25 years. She managed the academic affairs for six busy faculty members and served as a key point of contact for the entire department.

Vanessa Phillips was an accounting assistant who helped maintain the flow of our day-to-day business operations. Though she was with us for less than a year, she served the UTHSC Department of Finance and Operations for more than 22 years.

At their retirement celebration, they were each presented framed lithographs of the UTHSC campus that were signed by many of our faculty and staff. We wish them both a wonderful retirement.
HEI and Lions: Restoring Vision, Saving Families

In a major metropolitan city with a diverse population, access to medical care can be very difficult to obtain for some. Those who experience vision problems may not seek help until their vision loss is very advanced. “The hardest thing to fix as a doctor... is poverty,” said retina surgeon Stephen Huddleston, MD, an instructor at HEI. “Which is where the Lions Club comes in.”

Since 1942, the UTHSC Ophthalmology Department has been partnered with the Mid-South Lions in the shared goal of fighting blindness. Their simple motto, “We serve,” belies a vast network of services and programs through which the Lions help those in need. One of those services is providing access to sight-saving surgery for those who lack the means to obtain it without assistance.

“I had been without sight for almost two years,” said Diane Cattledge, one recent beneficiary of the Lions/HEI partnership. She had two detached retinas and no insurance. Her doctor recommended the Lions, who sent her to the Hamilton Eye Institute for treatment. “And I’ve been seeing ever since,” she said gratefully.

The Mid-South Lions rely on support, donations and volunteer efforts of people and businesses throughout the region. Those wishing to support Mid-South Lions, please visit http://midsouthlions.org/16. To learn more about this story, please visit https://goo.gl/eHnC9C.

Orbital Compartment Syndrome and Dissection Course at MERI

HEI recently conducted an orbital dissection course at the Medical Education and Research Institute (MERI) center, which was led by assistant professor Brian T. Fowler, MD, clinical instructor Alan Oester, MD, and oculoplastic surgery instructor James Chelnis, MD.

The unique environment enabled the course instructors to lead participants in lifelike operating room simulations managing cases of orbital compartment syndrome with real-time computerized tomography (CT). Complex orbital anatomy was also studied by the participants, who were led through a very detailed ocular, orbital and skull base dissection. This course provided an increased understanding of orbital compartment syndrome and its treatment modalities.
HEI Adult Eye Cancer Patients Have a Home Away from Home

The American Cancer Society Harrah’s Hope Lodge is a three-story, 40-room facility that provides free rooms for adult cancer patients living more than 40 miles from Memphis. Since it opened in 2010, it has welcomed more than 2,800 cancer patients, including many patients of HEI Professor of Ophthalmology and St. Jude Chair of Pediatric Ophthalmology, Matthew W. Wilson, MD, FACS.

“We are thankful to have HEI and Dr. Wilson using the Hope Lodge as a resource,” said Harrah’s Hope Lodge Director Amanda Johnson. “To have people from all over the country coming here to see him speaks to what an outstanding doctor he is.”

Dr. Wilson’s patient, Max Hammett, and his wife, Tina, have been recurring guests of the Hope Lodge since 2012. “We come every six months now. In the beginning, it was more often,” Tina said.

“We love the facilities at the Hope Lodge,” she added. “We’ve met wonderful friends who we still keep in touch with, and we make new friends every time. You can’t understand until you’ve been in this situation what that support system is like. It’s not like staying at a hotel. This is a totally different atmosphere. As soon as you walk in that door, you have something in common with everyone there.”

“It’s been a blessing, no doubt,” added Max. “Everyone there is so positive, and they encourage each other. It’s just like a family there. We’ve become family.”

To learn more about the Hope Lodge, visit http://goo.gl/nDfgmS.

Mid-South Eye Bank Celebrates Life, Honors Donors

Sunday, October 11, the Mid-South Transplant Foundation (MSTF) and Mid-South Eye Bank (MSEB) co-hosted the Celebration of Life Family Gathering at the Memphis Botanic Garden. This annual private event welcomes the families of those who have donated eyes or tissues to the MSTF or MSEB to celebrate the lives and memories of their loved ones.

In addition, a very special event occurred at this year’s celebration. One donor’s family got to meet the recipient of his cornea, who thanked them for her restored sight and independence. It was a very emotional moment.

“The difference a donor can make in the life of a recipient is substantial,” said HEI’s director of Cornea, Cataract and Refractive Surgery, Dr. Aaron N. Waite, who is medical director of the Eye Bank. “This event gives recipients the opportunity to express their gratitude directly to the families of the donor who helped them, bringing comfort to the loved ones of these heroic donors.”

The family of Brian Hale, whose donated corneal tissue restored the vision of a grateful patient
Dr. Lovelace Saves Vision in Ivory Coast

HEI alumnus Kim Lovelace, MD, has been traveling to Ivory Coast, West Africa, once or twice a year since 2013 to provide clinical and surgical eye care to underserved individuals there. Surgeries usually include cataracts, pterygia, eviscerations and strabismus.

"I am trying the spread the word because the needs are great, and I need help," said Dr. Lovelace. "There is a local doctor whose training consists of general medical education plus about 6 weeks of training to remove cataracts. However, the price of cataract surgery is too high for most Ivorians, since it costs about eight months' wages." Dr. Lovelace says many people have their cataracts treated by the local witch doctor through couching, a very rudimentary method of pushing the cataract out of the field of vision with a needle inserted in the eye. It was practiced as long ago as 800 B.C. and has much poorer outcomes and complications.

"My husband has been teaching in the Ivory Coast for more than 10 years," she said. "During his trips, he became aware of the poor access to eye care and worked to find a location and a means for me to provide surgical care for the people." Dr. Lovelace's work in the Ivory Coast is funded through Surgical Eye Expeditions (SEE), Alcon, and Global Church Planting Partners (GCPP), a company founded by Dr. Lovelace's husband to help fund missionaries.

Dr. Schneider Donates to HEI

Michael P. Schneider, MD, FAAO, presented a very generous donation to the Hamilton Eye Institute during his visit to our Annual Clinical Update and Memphis Eye Society Meeting this April.

Dr. Schneider earned his Doctorate of Medicine from UTHSC in 1984. Then, following a transitional internship in Pittsburgh, he completed his residency with us in 1988.

Dr. Schneider joined North Park Ophthalmology in Pittsburgh in 1990, where he practices comprehensive ophthalmology with special interests in cataract surgery, glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy. He is former chair of the Head and Neck Department at Passavant Hospital.

We are deeply grateful to Dr. Schneider for his wonderful generosity and collegiality.
Dr. Dotson Makes Strides Against AMD

Robert S. Dotson, Jr., MD, a 1979 graduate of our residency program, is co-founder of LumiThera, a company with something significant to offer ophthalmology patients.

“My mentors at UT, including Drs. Roger Hiatt, Ralph Hamilton, Jerre Freeman, Tom Wood and Richard Drewry, encouraged this young eccentric to pursue his dreams more than 35 years ago,” Dr. Dotson said. “LumiThera and a new approach for treating dry age-related macular degeneration (AMD) have been the outcome of that.”

LumiThera is a developmental-stage medical device company focused on treating those affected by dry age-related macular degeneration, a leading cause of vision loss in people over age 50. The company was co-founded by a team of physicians, scientists and engineers with backgrounds in the use of photobiomodulation, using non-invasive light emitting diodes and lasers to treat ocular diseases and disorders. They have developed a new instrument that uses this technology to treat dry AMD.

In September, LumiThera received grants from the National Institutes of Health and National Eye Institute to support further research as well as a pilot human clinical trial for treating dry AMD. Early clinical data is very promising. In a study of 42 eyes in 24 dry AMD patients, three weeks of treatment resulted in a statistically significant improvement in visual acuity and a reduction in drusen on the retina, a hallmark sign of dry AMD. This February, LumiThera was awarded Most Significant New Technology of 2016 at the Medical Design & Manufacturing West meeting. They plan to seek FDA approval next year.

Dr. Calhoun Retires from West Georgia Eye Care

Alumnus Dr. Charles Calhoun graduated from the UTHSC College of Medicine in 1967. After serving as a flight surgeon with the U.S. Navy, he then completed his residency here in 1976. He joined a practice in Columbus, Georgia, which became the West Georgia Eye Care Center. After 39 years there, he now retires.

Following a European vacation with his wife, Ginger, Dr. Calhoun returned to Columbus to begin volunteering his services part-time at MercyMed of Columbus, a clinic that cares for the underserved, regardless of insurance.

“I was inspired to be an ophthalmologist by mentors in Memphis that I looked up to and respected very much,” Dr. Calhoun said. “They made me want to be like them because of their outstanding history and what they had done.”

Congratulations

Lauren C. Ditta, MD, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, and Asim F. Choudhri, MD, Associate Professor of Radiology, on the birth of baby boy Hilo, born February 2, 2016.
For more information about these and other HEI faculty members, please visit uthsc.edu/eye/faculty
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Brian T. Fowler, MD

COMPREHENSIVE OPHTHALMOLOGY
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PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY
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Lauren C. Ditta, MD

RETINAL DISEASES
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UVEITIS, INFLAMMATORY DISEASES
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VITREORETINAL SURGERY
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Stephen Huddleston, MD (2nd year)
Michael Hood, MD (1st year)

RESIDENTS

THIRD YEAR
Rebecca S. Epstein, MD
Kourtney H. Houser, MD
Jordan S. Masters, MD
Shilpa G. 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
Hamilton Eye Institute
930 Madison Avenue, Suite 200
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Locations

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

Events Calendar

Mid-South Lions Annual Membership Meeting
Saturday, June 4, 2016 - 8:00 a.m.
For information, agenda and registration, please call (888) 546-6042.

The 14th Sir Harold Ridley Distinguished Visiting Professorship
for Creativity and Innovation in Medicine and Ophthalmology
Friday, July 22, 2016 - 10:30 a.m.
At Southeast Eye Annual Regional Meeting, July 21-23, 2016
Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort, Destin, Florida
Featuring James P. Gills, MD
Founder, St. Luke’s Cataract & Laser Institute, Tarpon Springs, Florida
Lecture title: “Enhanced Listening for Creativity”
For further information, please contact the HEI Publications Office at
heiacademic@uthsc.edu or (901) 448-5883

The World Cataract Foundation 12th Annual Sight Night
Wednesday, August 31, 2016 - 6:00 p.m.
Theater Memphis, 630 Perkins Extended, Memphis, Tennessee 38117
Featuring cocktail reception at 6:00 p.m., presentation of the Freeman Vision Award to Ivan Marais, MD, at 7:00 p.m., and family favorite Beauty and the Beast live onstage at 7:30 p.m.
To purchase tickets or learn more, please contact the World Cataract Foundation at worldcatacact@comcast.net or (901) 379-0405

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