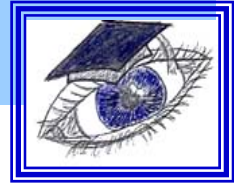


THE TUFTS EYE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
newsletter volume 2 number 1



Tufts Eye Alumni Reunion 2010



This year our alumni reunion was held in conjunction with the Tufts Medical School reunion on the 24th of April, 2010. We met for breakfast in the medical school and then heard from Jay Duker regarding the state of the department. Tom Hedges introduced the three guest speakers, Nina Berrocal, Lisa Lystad, and Glen Wing, all of whom are graduates of both TUSM and the NEEC residency program at Tufts.

Audina (Nina) Berrocal, (*above*), spoke on current approaches to retinopathy in prematurity. Nina is currently Associate Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, University of Miami. She received her Bachelor's degree at Princeton University, after which she graduated from Tufts University School of Medicine in 2000. She was a resident in ophthalmology at Tufts and graduated in 2004. She then went to Bascom Palmer for a vitreoretinal fellowship and

has since remained active in the field of pediatric retina. Nina gave an amazing talk regarding the management of retinopathy of prematurity including how she now has to deal with babies as small as 500 grams or less .

Lisa Lystad (*below*) also graduated from Tufts University School of Medicine, in 1987, as well as the residency program, in 1991. However, she first attended the Cordon Bleu School of Cooking in Paris, of which she is quite proud. She was an undergraduate at Johns Hopkins. After she finished her residency at Tufts, she went on to do a neuro-ophthalmology fellowship at the University Hospitals of Cleveland. After several years of private practice in neuro-ophthalmology, Lisa joined the Cleveland Clinic faculty where she has been practicing and teaching for the last several years. Lisa gave a talk on ischemic optic neuropathy that was clear and informative.



Glen Wing also attended Tufts Medical School, graduating in the class of 1975 with Tom Hedges. Both he and Tom were also interns at Mount Auburn Hospital. Glen finished his residency at Tufts in 1979, after which he did a fellowship in vitreoretinal disorders with Charles Schepens at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. Along with Joseph Walker he founded Retina Consultants of South Florida. Glen described the development of what has now become the most prestigious and successful retina practice in southwest Florida. This was done with humor and insight which should be an inspiration to some of the younger members of our community.

After the talks, we had a very nice lunch in the medical school. Many alumni were able to reconnect during this morning session.

You are cordially invited to the NEW ENGLAND EYE CENTER RECEPTION
AAO Chicago 2010 ~ Sunday, October 17, 2010 ~ 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm
InterContinental Chicago Hotel ~ Empire Ballroom 505 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL
RSVP to Stephanie Dunn sdunn@tuftsmedicalcenter.org



The State of the Department - Fall 2010

Alumni at the 2010 meeting

Jay S. Duker, M.D., Chair

The New England Eye Center, the ophthalmology department of Tufts Medical Center and the teaching service of Tufts University School of Medicine, is thriving. We now comprise 23 full time ophthalmologists, 6 part time ophthalmologists, 8 optometrists, 12 residents, and 8 fellows working out of 7 offices. In the upcoming months we are adding one additional full time ophthalmologist, one part time neuro-ophthalmologist (in collaboration with the Lahey Clinic) and we are actively recruiting 3 more full time sub-specialists. Our physicians participate in over 85,000 patient visits per year and perform about 3500 surgical procedures in the operating room. We are the second busiest out-patient department at Tufts Medical Center and the third busiest surgical service.

Our residency remains highly coveted with nearly 500 applicants for our four spots per year. Resident satisfaction with the program remains high with the trainees' favorite rotations including their 3-month block at the University of New Mexico as well as the third year rotation at St. Elizabeth's Hospital under the direction of Cindy Mattox. In a large part due to our state-of-the-art wet lab and our faculty's commitment to teaching, our residents' cataract volume has doubled over the past six years.

The Department continues to perform cutting edge research. Each of the four full time researchers in the department are funded with RO1 grants from the National Eye Institute. In addition, the Department was recently awarded the prestigious Research to Prevent Blindness

Unrestricted Grant. Our research endeavors center on clinical applications of optical coherence tomography, gene therapy for retinal disease, the genetic basis of macular degeneration, glycoproteins in ocular disease and the genetic basis of retinitis pigmentosa.

Our department's commitment to excellence in patient care, the highest level of medical student and house officer training, and to clinically-focused research remains strong.

Tufts Eye Alumni Association Annual Reunion 2011

This year we plan to combine the Alumni Association reunion with the resident graduation in June. Again, we will invite former alumni to present papers, this time on Friday morning before the resident and fellow presentations. This will be followed by the Morton Grant Lecture and dinner.

Introducing:

"On a personal note"

We plan to launch a column to provide a personal glimpse of TEAA members. We will be relying on your letting us know what's going on... please communicate with your fellow alumni via this newsletter.

Send your news to the newsletter managing editor, aball@tuftsmedicalcenter.org.

Illustrious *alumna* returns to pursue goals at Tufts

The research program of the Tufts University School of Medicine Vision Research Laboratories has grown progressively since the founding of the Department of Ophthalmology in the 1960's. Its influence gained a qualitative leap forward in 2007 with the establishment of the Ophthalmic Epidemiology and Genetics Service at New England Eye Center, Tufts Medical Center, by Professor Johanna M. Seddon, MD, ScM.

Dr. Seddon completed her eye residency training at Tufts University Dept. of Ophthalmology in 1980 after obtaining a degree in epidemiology. From there, she undertook pathology and retina fellowships at Harvard and then founded the Epidemiology Unit at the Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary for the study of frequency and determinants of common eye diseases. She directed this unit from 1985-2007, during which period she became a world renowned macular degeneration clinician, researcher, and author, as well as genetic-epidemiologist. She transformed patient care for one of the leading causes of blindness, age-related macular degeneration.

Having contributed critical insights into the biology and mechanisms related to AMD through her work at MEEI, Johanna returned to Tufts in 2007 to establish a major component of both our own department of ophthalmology as well as the world-wide effort to prevent and cure macular degeneration.

Dr. Seddon has pioneered research into the genetics of AMD. Her research team made seminal discoveries including discovery of four genetic variants associated with macular degeneration, and three of these were discovered while at Tufts. In fact her research has accelerated while at Tufts: some of the firsts include the association of genes with progression of AMD and the development of a comprehensive risk prediction model for use in health surveillance and clinical trials. Dr. Seddon is a pioneer and national leader of landmark studies of age-related macular degeneration with seminal findings about smoking, fat intake, obesity, abdominal adiposity, omega-3 fatty acids as well as biochemical biomarkers including dietary antioxidants lutein and zeaxanthin, inflammatory factors including C- reactive protein, and plasma complement components and activation fragments. Her research laid the foundation for improved management of patients and likely saved



Johanna Seddon, MD, ScM, R '80

and restored vision for thousands of individuals worldwide.

Johanna was the first ophthalmologist to have been awarded a graduate degree in Epidemiology at Harvard School of Public Health and thereafter developed the first course on ophthalmic epidemiology at HSPH. In ophthalmology, she has trained students and fellows who now have leadership positions.

Dr. Seddon is the leader of multidisciplinary, collaborative NEI-NIH grants (1985-present) to study genetic and epidemiologic factors associated with macular degeneration. She was principal investigator of studies which established the relative genetic and environmental factors in AMD in a twin study, found familial aggregation and linkage of AMD to several chromosomes in a family study, and discovered new genetic variants independently associated with AMD in genome-wide association studies.

Johanna maintains a clinical practice in retina at the New England Eye Center. She serves on scientific advisory boards for macular degeneration research foundations and editorial boards for ophthalmic journals, and lectures internationally. She has served as Vice-President and trustee (elected by the Epidemiology and Clinical Research section) of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO), 1992-1997.

Dr. Seddon has authored and published 178 peer-reviewed articles and numerous book chapters and reviews. She is the recipient of the Inaugural Gold Fellow Award and Special Recognition Award from ARVO, the Senior Achievement Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the Lew R. Wasserman Merit Award from Research to Prevent Blindness, and the first Maurice F. Rabb, Jr., MD, Award from Prevent Blindness America, for pioneering research on prevention and treatment of age-related macular degeneration.

Dr. Seddon is currently enrolling individuals with macular dystrophies and macular degeneration as well as their families, to identify new genetic and modifiable causes.

Dr. Seddon is optimistic that "Given the tremendous progress we have made over the last 20 years, new treatments and causes will be found relatively soon to save vision for current and future generations."

Tufts Department of Ophthalmology reaches out to the world

by Roland E. Houle, M.D.

“No Person Should Be Needlessly Blind.” That is the mission of Restoring Sight International (RSI), a charitable and educational organization founded and headquartered in Boston through the leadership of Felipe I. Tolentino, MD. Dr. Tolentino is currently a consultant in vitreoretinal surgery at Tufts Medical Center in the Department of Ophthalmology. He is also Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School. In 1996, with a group of friends, he established RSI to gain financial support for ophthalmic missions to restore sight to indigent blind individuals in the United States and throughout the world.

In order to elevate the quality of eye health care in developing countries where the need is greatest, Dr. Tolentino saw the need to train outstanding young doctors in fellowship programs in the USA. A partnership between RSI and the Tufts New England Eye Center was established in 2008 when two young ophthalmologists from Brazil were presented as candidates for subsidy in the Roland E. Houle, MD International Research Fellowship program of RSI. A review of their impressive credentials and their express intention to return to their native land and donate pro bono services to the poor qualified both to be recipients of the Fellowship award. Leonardo Castro concentrated on vitreoretinal surgery while his wife, Dinorah, pursued studies in glaucoma.

After the successful completion of their fellowships the young couple returned to Brazil, where they have established their private practices while fulfilling their commitment to care for the underprivileged.

Tufts Medical Center and RSI are proud of these talented and generous physicians. They are among other RSI Fellows from the Philippines, Chile, and Israel, who are now working in their respective countries. All serve as ambassadors of good will and are exemplars of excellence in ophthalmology. A side benefit of this practical concern for the poor is reflected in the words of Mother Theresa of Calcutta who said: “All works of love are works of peace.” Let us encourage one another to love and care for the less fortunate among us.



Drs. Leonardo and Dinorah Castro

The Tufts Eye Alumni Association (TEAA)

—Mission—

The mission of the Tufts Eye Alumni Association (TEAA) is to foster a sense of community among eye care professionals who are graduates of Tufts schools or the Tufts affiliated ophthalmology teaching program. TEAA organizes educational and social activities for residents, fellows, medical students and alumni. Additionally it serves as a clearinghouse to keep alumni informed about activities/achievements of other alumni and updates on the New England Eye Center and the Tufts Department of Ophthalmology. TEAA strives to provide both financial and advisory leadership to support the educational and research missions of the Department of Ophthalmology. In addition, TEAA will establish an endowed professorship for the Director of Ophthalmic Education in order to insure that future residents and fellows benefit from the highest standard of mentorship.

The TEAA fund depends on annual contributions to help achieve its goals. It maintains a website, publishes a semi-annual newsletter and hosts an annual reception at AAO. TEAA organizes educational forums and periodic reunions. An advisory board insures that the TEAA mission is achieved.

Obituary

Frank D'Ambrosio Sr.

Frank D'Ambrosio Sr., one of great supporters of Tufts Medical School and Tufts Eye Alumni Association, died at 89 years of age, on January 11, 2010. He is survived by his beloved wife Jennie, with whom he shared over 66 years of marriage, 5 daughters, 3 sons, 31 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren. Frank was born



in the North End of Boston, October 19, 1920 and moved to Concord, MA in 1952 where he was the first ophthalmologist there. He practiced initially in Boston as well as several other locations and remained in Concord and Leominster for over sixty years, retiring on January 1, 2009. He was consultant to the US Army at Ft. Devens, consultant to the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind for 58 years, and chaplain for the Massachusetts State Police. He was a member of the 3rd Order of St. Francis, the Lions Club, and Knights of Columbus. He was ordained a Roman Catholic Deacon at the Cathedral of The Holy Cross in May 1977. He ministered at St. Bernard/Holy Family Parish in Concord for 32 years and had the honor of celebrating Mass at the Vatican with Pope John Paul II in 1983. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps from 1945-1948 and was awarded the World War II Victory Medal. He received the Tufts Distinguished Service Award in 1991. In 1996 Frank

joined his practice with the New England Eye Center in which he became an important and dedicated member. Frank's greatest accomplishment in life, according to him, was his family, and he considered Tufts Medical School and The New England Eye Center as part of his family. We are all grateful to him for this and will miss him dearly.

Donations needed!

By tacit policy, we have no dues. Therefore, we depend on you, the alumni, to support the programs sponsored by TEAA, including this newsletter, the wet lab for residents and students, as well as the reunions. Please give generously to the Tufts Eye Alumni Association.

Update on Wet Lab

The Wet Lab continues to be a productive aspect of our teaching program for residents and fellows as well as medical students. Many of the students see this as a highlight of their rotation in the eye department. The renovations are taking more time than predicted, but the final plan has been approved. Of course more funding would be appreciated, especially from alumni. However, just as important is participation by alumni during the teaching sessions. Ernie Sutcliffe and recently David Kelly have been regular attendees at the sessions, and been very helpful to Joel Reisman, who continues to carry most of the teaching load. So, if any of you are interested, please contact Joel Reisman jreismanmd@hotmail.com to sign up to help with the wet lab.

Nadia Waheed, M.D., to join NEEC Retina Service

Nadia Waheed, M.D. has accepted a position with the retina service of the New England Eye Center, effective February 1, 2011. Dr. Waheed is a graduate of the Aga Khan Medical School in Pakistan, and has a Master's degree in Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health. She completed both her residency in ophthalmology and her retina fellowship at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. She worked for several years at the Cole Eye Institute at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation prior to returning to Pakistan in 2009 due to a family illness. For the past year, she has been Assistant Professor in Ophthalmology and Director of Clinical Research at the Shifa College of Medicine in Islamabad, Pakistan. Dr. Waheed is looking forward to returning to Boston, and we welcome her warmly.

Introducing the incoming residents at NEEC

Once again, we are most fortunate to welcome four superbly talented physicians into our residency training program:

Steven Williams (right) comes to us from Columbia University. Originally from Miami, Steven is familiar with Boston, having done his undergraduate studies at Harvard University as well as his internship at Newton-Wellesley Hospital.



Kavita Bhavsar (left) is originally from the midwest, but has been in Boston for several years, having attended Boston University School of Medicine after graduating from the University of Michigan. Kavita did her internship at the Carney Hospital.

Laurel Vuong (right) has been around the Tufts ophthalmology department as long (if not longer) than many of the faculty. Her family lives in the Boston area, she went to Tufts Medical school (after graduating from MIT), and she spent a very productive year doing the OCT fellowship offered by the Tufts ophthalmology department. Laurel also did her internship at Newton-Wellesley.



Michelle Liang (left) attended medical school at SUNY-Buffalo, after graduating from John Hopkins University. Along with Laurel and Steven, Michelle did her internship year at Newton-Wellesley Hospital.

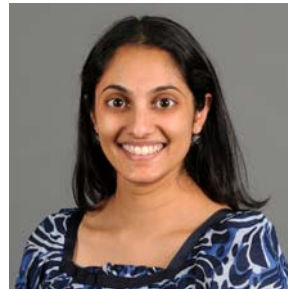
New clinical fellows graduates of a variety of residency programs



John Y. Chen, glaucoma fellow, completed his residency at the New England Eye Center



J. Sonya Bryant, 1st year retina fellow, completed her residency at the University of California, San Francisco



Anjali Shah, medical retina fellow, completed her residency at Baylor College of Medicine



Carolyn Chen, 1st year retina fellow, completed her residency at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center



Daniel Wee, cornea fellow, completed his residency at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine



Marissa L. Albano, glaucoma fellow, completed her residency at Georgetown University



Roya H. Ghafouri, oculoplastics fellow, completed her residency at Boston University School of Medicine



Samih Elchahal, cornea fellow, completed his residency at the UMDNJ-New Jersey School of Medicine



Above. **Glaucoma fellow E. Bo Yang, MD** has joined **Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates** in Boston and Medford, MA (left to right, **Brianna, Drs. Yang and Mattox**).

Right. **Retina fellow Grant Janzen, MD** is joining a practice in Charleston, SC and retina fellow **Gregory Fenton, MD** will be practicing at **Wheaton Eye Clinic, Wheaton, IL** (left to right, **Drs. Janzen, Duker, Fenton and Rogers**).



Above. **Glaucoma fellow Carla Bourne, MD** has joined the faculty at the **University of South Florida** (left to right, **Drs. Bourne, Mattox and Hung**).

Below. **Dr. Duker** with **graduating OCT research fellow Varsha Manjunath**, who has returned to medical school having completed her research year.



2010

Graduating Fellows



Left. **Medical retina fellow Heeral Shah, MD** joins the **New England Eye Center Faculty** (left to right, **Drs. Shah, Reichel, Duker and Rogers**).



Above. **Oculoplastics fellow Dan S. Landmann, MD** (left to right, **Drs. Heher, Landmann, and Kapadia**).



Above. **Cornea fellow Sunil Thadani, MD** is now in practice at **Bergman Eye Center, Hagerstown, MD** and cornea fellow **Josh Yu, MD** is in practice at **Staten Island Ophthalmology, New York NY** (left to right, **Drs. Wu, Thadani, Raizman, and Yu**).

2010 New England Eye Center Resident and Fellow Graduation

The Tufts Eye Alumni Association welcomes new alumni on June 18, 2010

Roger F. Steinert, M.D., was the W. Morton Grant Lecturer and spoke on “The Pursuit of Perfect Vision: Ophthalmology’s Holy Grail.” Dr. Steinert described the development of ophthalmology in terms of this historical drama. In the best tradition of the Grant Lectures, his talk enthralled ophthalmologists, trainees, as well as family and support staff in attendance. The lecture as well as the ceremonial proceedings were dynamic with wisdom and humor. Interesting and pragmatic gifts were presented to the graduates and honored guests.

Our 2010 residency graduates enter the culminating phase of their career training. John Chen will be doing a one year glaucoma fellowship at Tufts/Ophthalmic Consultants of Boston. Several graduates have recently chosen to do this fellowship, most recently Tom Hsu and Isabel Balderas (class of 2008). Mark Patron matched at the two year fellowship with the Retina Group of Washington, where Tufts ophthalmology alums Bill Deegan (residency) and Vinay Desai (fellowship) will be among his mentors.

Matt Swanic will be pursuing a one year cornea fellowship at UCLA. He is the second Tufts graduate in the past four years to match at UCLA for cornea, following in the footsteps of Myhanh Nguyen (class of 2007). Andre Witkin will be doing a two year retina



2010 W. Morton Grant Visiting Professor Roger F. Steinert, M.D.

fellowship at Wills Eye Hospital. He is the second Tufts graduate in the past four years to match at Wills for retina, following David Rhee (class of 2007).



Left to right, Drs. Swanic, Patron, Chen, Witkin, and Arlene Bagga, M.D., recipient of this year’s teaching award presented by the graduating residents. Dr. Bagga, who completed her residency at New England Eye Center in 2005, is now Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of New Mexico, where she directs the residency rotation. NEEC senior residents, as well as a similar group from the University of Pittsburgh, participate for 3 months each in the UNM rotation, as part of their training, gaining rich experience in an extramural milieu.

TEAA: Eye care specialists who share a Tufts University heritage