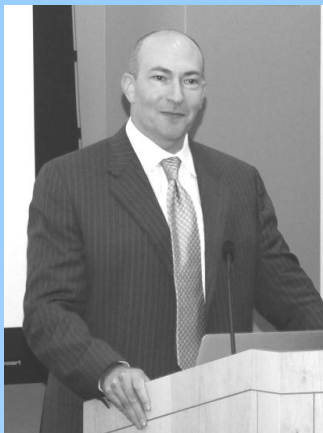


THE TUFTS EYE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
newsletter volume 3 number 1



Tufts Eye Alumni meeting

On June 24, 2011, we welcomed our newest alumni as well as longtime colleagues in a joint scientific and social gathering.

The academic program began Friday morning with research presentations from the residents and fellows. Mid-morning and mid-afternoon featured talks from distinguished alumni Sam Solish, TUSM '85 R'89, on "Ophthalmology and American Health Policy: Trends and Realities" and Melissa Kern, R '92, on "Glaucoma in the NICU."

The academic session culminated at 4:00 PM with the presentation of the 2011 W. Morton Grant Lecture, "Unlocking mysteries in measurements of the retinal nerve fiber layer" by David Greenfield, R '95. This was followed by the graduation ceremony.

New England Eye Center graduation



Left to right. Priti Batta, Daniel Hu, recipient of this year's teaching award presented by the graduating residents, Namrata Nandakumar, Linda Brenner Semela and Matt Lazzara.

Above, top to bottom:

2011 W. Morton Grant Professor David S. Greenfield, M.D.

Sam Solish, M.D.

Melissa Kern, M.D.

***The New England Eye Center and Tufts University
School of Medicine***

cordially invite you to a Reception

at the American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting

Sunday, October 23rd 7-10PM at the Hilton Orlando-Lake Highland Suite

601 Destination Parkway, Orlando, FL. RSVP to Stephanie at sdunn@tuftsmedicalcenter.org.

Esteemed alumni present at joint graduation / TEAA meeting

David S. Greenfield, MD, is professor of ophthalmology and director of the glaucoma fellowship program at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Palm Beach Gardens, FL. He earned his medical degree from the New York University School of Medicine in 1990 and completed his residency at the New England Eye Center, Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, in 1994. Dr. Greenfield completed a 1994-5 Heed Fellowship in glaucoma and a 1995 Heed-Knapp Fellowship in neuroophthalmology at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, University of Miami School of Medicine. He previously joined The New York Eye & Ear Infirmary in 1996 as clinical assistant professor of ophthalmology and neurology.

Dr. Greenfield is an Associate Editor of *Ophthalmic Surgery Lasers and Imaging* and is a member of the editorial boards of *American Journal of Ophthalmology*, *Journal of Glaucoma*, and *International Glaucoma Review*. Dr. Greenfield is the co-founder of The International Society for Imaging in the Eye (ISIE) and served as Secretary-Treasurer from 2002–2007, and is the President and co-founder of The Florida Glaucoma Society. He currently serves as chair of the American Glaucoma Society Scientific Program Committee and chair of the World Glaucoma Association Bylaws Committee, and has served as past Chair of the AGS Bylaws and Strategic Planning Committee, member of the AAO Glaucoma Subspecialty Day Committee, Technology Assessment Committee, and EyeCare America Glaucoma Education Committee. Dr. Greenfield was awarded the 2003 American Academy of Ophthalmology Achievement Award. His research interests include optic disc and retinal nerve fiber imaging. He is the recipient of a National Eye Institute consortium grant studying advanced imaging technology in glaucoma, and has received funding from the NIH since 1999. He has delivered numerous guest lectures and named lectures nationally and internationally, and has published over 225 original scientific papers, abstracts and book chapters. He has trained numerous clinical and research Fellows, many of whom hold distinguished academic positions worldwide.

Melissa Kern, MD, is clinical associate in ophthalmology at Howard University, and, until recently, was chief of ophthalmology and chief of surgery at Virginia Medical Center. After graduating from Harvard University in 1984 and Tulane University School of Medicine in 1988 she was resident in ophthalmology here at Tufts from 1989-1992. After that she completed a fellowship in pediatric ophthalmology at the University of Southern California. Dr. Kern has been in private practice in the D.C.

area and currently owns Arlington-Loudon Pediatric Ophthalmology. She has a special interest in pediatric glaucoma.

She met Bill Deegan, TUSM '88 R '92, during residency and she and Bill have a son, Matthew and a daughter, Molly.

Samuel P. Solish, MD, practices ophthalmology with a focus on glaucoma diagnosis and surgery at Eyecare Medical Group in Portland, Maine. He graduated from TUSM in 1985 and completed internship in internal medicine at the Boston VA Medical Center. Sam was a resident in ophthalmology at New England Medical Center from 1986-89. He completed a fellowship in glaucoma at Washington University in St. Louis 1989-90. After training he practiced in Los Angeles until 2000 when he moved back to New England and became a partner at Eyecare Medical Group.

Since medical school, Dr. Solish has been a representative to the American Medical Association, representing TUSM, California and now as an AAO delegate to the AMA and Chair of the Ophthalmology Section Council of AMA. He also serves on the legislative committee of the Maine Medical Association and the Advocacy and Government Relations Subcommittee of the American Glaucoma Society.

Graduate Residents Commence Fellowships

Priti Batta, MD
Cornea Fellowship
Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary, Chicago

Matthew Lazzara, MD
Glaucoma Fellowship
University Eye Specialists, Chicago, IL

Linda Brenner Semela, MD
Glaucoma Fellowship
University of Wisconsin Madison

Namrata Nandakumar, MD
Retina Fellowship
Retina Specialists, Cambridge, MA



Dr. Kavita Bhansar, Lauren Branchini, Drs. Caio Regateiri, Carlos Mendoza & Laurel Vuong



Drs. Kapadia, Ghafouri, and Heber

Graduating fellows head for careers

Samih Elchahal, MD Cornea, external disease & anterior segment

Houston Eye Associates

Daniel Wee, MD Cornea, external disease & anterior segment

Practice in Illinois

Marissa L. Albano, MD Glaucoma

Eye Consultants of Northern Virginia, P.C.

John Y. Chen, MD Glaucoma

Kaiser Permanente, Santa Clara Medical Office

Anjali Shah, MD Medical Retina

Private practice, Boston, MA

Carlos Mendoza, MD Neuro-Ophthalmology

University of Chile, Santiago

Roya Ghafouri, MD Oculoplastics

Boston University School of Medicine

Jeffrey Chang, MD Vitreoretinal Diseases and Surgery

Lahey Clinic Medical Center

Sumit P. Shah, MD Vitreoretinal Diseases and Surgery

New England Retina Associates

Lauren Branchini, Research Fellow in Ophthalmology – OCT

Returning to Boston University School of Medicine



Drs. Wee, Wu, Elchahal and Raizman



Drs. Mendoza, Hedges and Duker



Drs. Chang, Shah, Rogers, Duker and Reichel



Drs. Shingleton, Chen, Albano and Krishnan

Introducing the Incoming Residents at NEEC

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



Claudia E. Bartolini, MD

1st Year Resident

Medical School:

Tufts University
School of Medicine



Neil N. Shah, MD

1st Year Resident

Medical School:

Boston University
School of Medicine



Kevin R. Sitko, MD

1st Year Resident

Medical School:

University of North Carolina
School of Medicine



Avneet K. Sodhi, MD

1st Year Resident

Medical School:

George Washington University
School of Medicine

Second and Third Year Residents

2nd Year Residents:



Kavita V. Bhavsar, MD

3rd Year Residents:



Jill N. Carmody, MD



Michelle C. Liang, MD



Catherine A. Cox, MD



Laurel N. Vuong, MD



Jordana F. Goren, MD



Steven L. Williams, MD



Bryan K. Monson, MD

ALUMNI, PLEASE SHARE YOUR NEWS

Submit items and articles to aball@tuftsmedicalcenter.org

New fellows from diverse residencies pursue subspecialty training at NEEC



Hyung Cho, MD
1st Year Retina Fellow
Residency:
Montefiore Medical
Center/AECOM UCLA



Darin H. Goldman, MD
1st Year Retina Fellow
Residency: Jules Stein
Eye Institute, UCLA



Robin A. Vora, MD
Medical Retina Fellow
Residency: University of
California, San Francisco



Jeffrey L. Peckinpaugh, MD
Oculoplastics Fellow
Residency:
University of Washington



Naveen K. Rao, MD
Cornea Fellow
Residency: Casey Eye
Institute/OHSU



Amy T. Kelmenson, MD
Cornea Fellow
Residency: University of
Florida College of Medicine



Max C. Kim, MD
Glaucoma Fellow
Residency: St. Louis University



Juan M. Horta-Santini, MD
Glaucoma Fellow
Residency:
University of Puerto Rico

Second Year Fellows



Carolyn Chen, MD
2nd year retina fellow



J. Sonya Bryant, MD
2nd year retina fellow

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 and/or the Tufts affiliated ophthalmology teaching program. TEAA will organize educational and social activities for residents, fellows, medical students and alumni. Additionally it will serve 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 will strive to provide both financial and advisory leadership to support the educational and research missions of the Department of Ophthalmology. TEAA's initial efforts will be to 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.

TEAA will establish a fund and conduct an annual drive to help achieve its goals. It will develop a website, publish a bi-annual newsletter and host an annual reception at AAO. TEAA will organize educational forums and periodic reunions. An advisory board will be created to insure that the TEAA mission is achieved.

Identical twins with AMD: Why are they at different stages?

Genetic factors explain 46% to 71% of age-related macular degeneration (AMD) disease severity and environmental factors explain 19% to 37% as determined by Seddon et al. in a 2005 study.¹ Thus, “monozygotic twin pairs who have the same genetic makeup but have different stages of AMD provide a unique population to assess behavioral and nutritional risk factors associated with AMD.”² The research team led by Johanna M. Seddon, MD, ScM, R ’80, Director of the Epidemiology and Genetics Service, Tufts Medical Center, and Professor of Ophthalmology, Tufts University School of Medicine, applied this premise in their most recent study and confirmed the basis for ophthalmologists to advise their patients, “Eat a healthy diet with lots of fruits and vegetables, and that can make a difference – even if you have a genetic susceptibility to macular degeneration – and, of course, don’t smoke.”

The new research conducted by Tufts Medical Center scientists is reported in the July 2011 *Ophthalmology*.² Their latest of a number of published studies on the hereditary and environmental factors contributing to AMD risk is the first to look at large number of identical twin pairs in which one twin had early AMD, and the other had late stage AMD.

For this study of identical twins from the US World War II Twin Registry each twin completed a questionnaire about nutritional and health behaviors. It was found that twins whose macular degeneration was at the early stages tended to have consumed more vitamin D from dietary sources such as fish or milk than their brothers. Vitamin D may reduce the risk of macular degeneration because it has anti-inflammatory properties. It may also block the formation of new blood vessels that can grow under the macula. Similarly, Dr. Seddon’s research team also found that higher intakes of betaine, found in fish, grains and spinach, and methionine, found in poultry, fish and dairy foods, were linked to a slower progression of the disease. These nutrients have also been linked to epigenetic mechanisms. It was also found that the twin who was the heavier smoker tended to have the more severe case of macular degeneration.

1. Seddon JM, Cote J, Page WF, et al. The US twin study of age-related macular degeneration: relative roles of genetic and environmental influences. *Arch Ophthalmol*. 2005;123:321–327.

2. Seddon JM, Reynolds R, Shah HR, Rosner B. Smoking, dietary betaine, methionine, and vitamin D in monozygotic twins with discordant macular degeneration: Epigenetic implications. *Ophthalmology*. 2011;118:1386–1394.

New genetic clues to development of macular degeneration

Tufts eye researchers and collaborators from around the world have found two new genetic variants that influence the risk of developing advanced age-related macular degeneration. The variants were identified in the largest meta-analysis of genome-wide association studies ever conducted for the disease.¹

The principal investigator of the study, Johanna M. Seddon, MD, ScM, R ’80, Director of the Ophthalmic Epidemiology and Genetics Service at Tufts Medical Center and Professor of Ophthalmology at Tufts University School of Medicine, said this two-year multi-center effort “expands

our knowledge of the mechanisms underlying the disease and it may lead to new therapies based on these genetic pathways.”

Researchers found the variants in a pathway related to the formation of new blood vessels and in another one related to a type of collagen found in the part of the eye where macular degeneration develops.

1. Yu Y, Bhargava TR, Fagerness J et al. Common variants near FRK/COL10A1 and VEGFA are associated with advanced age-related macular degeneration. *Human Molecular Genetics*, 2011 1–11 doi:10.1093/hmg/ddr270

RPB awards \$100K research grant to New England Eye Center

The New England Eye Center (NEEC), the Ophthalmology Department at Tufts Medical Center and the principal ophthalmic teaching service for the Tufts University School of Medicine, has been awarded a \$100,000 grant to support research into the causes, treatment, and prevention of blinding diseases. The research will be directed by Jay S. Duker, M.D., Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology.

Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB) is the world’s leading voluntary organization supporting eye research. To date, the organization has awarded grants totaling \$3,193,697

to the Department of Ophthalmology at the Tufts University School of Medicine.

“RPB continues to be a leading partner with our research department with the mutual goal to finding cures for blinding diseases,” said New England Eye Center Director Jay S. Duker, M.D., who also is Professor and Chair of Ophthalmology, Tufts University School of Medicine. “RPB is an extremely important partner to New England Eye Center. We have some of the leading researchers in the country working full-time towards the treatment and prevention of blindness and are making great strides.”

New eye clinic part of Sharewood project

“When I first started participating in Sharewood in 2007,” relates senior medical student David Truong, “there was no dental team, nutrition team, or eye team. In 2009 a few students started doing vision screenings but that couldn’t be sustained, until we established an actual eye clinic. We are now able to provide comprehensive eye exams including refraction, tonometry, anterior segment slit lamp exam, and dilated fundus exam.”

Sharewood is a free health care organization run by medical students and physicians affiliated with Tufts University School of Medicine. Staffed by volunteer physicians, medical and other health professional students and translators, it offers unscheduled health care to the medically underserved and uninsured of greater Boston.

“As the clinic coordinator, I am responsible for recruiting and scheduling supervision, ensuring we have all the necessary equipment and supplies available to see patients, triaging eye patients, and recruiting and training students to see eye patients.”

Truong started attending Sharewood his second week of medical school after a classmate described her experience volunteering there during the summer. During his rotation at New England Eye Center he further observed the meaningful impact derived from compassionate and sometimes basic care. He and Dr. Thomas Hedges, TUSM ’75, Professor of Ophthalmology and Neurology at Tufts, discussed Truong’s proposal for an eye clinic as a collaboration among students, residents, and local ophthalmologists.

Setting up the eye clinic required a substantial time investment. “We frequently met with Dr. Hedges, the Sharewood board, and the optometrists and optometry students who were interested in collaborating, to walk through the design of the clinic. We wrote grants for funding and asked suppliers for discounted and donated equipment.”

The eye clinic is now offered on the second Tuesday of the month, a 3 hour session in which 6 to 12 patients are seen. Most patients are there for refraction or a general eye exam. Many are concerned about a family history of

glaucoma or other vision threatening conditions. Some patients are referred from the primary care clinic with eye complaints or for diabetic retinopathy screening.

Medical and optometry students currently staff the eye clinic on alternating weeks, along with New England Eye Center residents and an attending ophthalmologist. Tom Hsu and Chris Robinson have attended, but we need more volunteers from the ophthalmology community to help. In the last few months patients with cataracts have been diagnosed and scheduled for surgery.

The eye clinic is able to do more than eyeglass prescriptions. “We start each clinic with short educational talks geared towards primary care physicians on aspects such as screening recommendations for diabetes and glaucoma and describing the patients who should be referred to an ophthalmologist. We encourage students who refer their patients to the eye clinic to stay and participate in the ophthalmologic workup.

“In ophthalmology, it’s easy to be excited about the latest research and technology. However, after seeing



patients who had been without it, I better understand the importance and impact of routine care.” David recalls witnessing the impact of a simple refraction. A gentleman who had never seen well, who wore glasses he had found on the street, immediately benefited from care so basic.

“We would like to improve our exam with a better slit lamp.

Other equipment that might be useful to the entire clinic is a tonopen or Perkins tonometer.

“Sharewood brings together undergraduate and graduate students, medical, dental, optometry students, and physicians, with the common goal of improving the health of the community. I am certain these kinds of experiences result in compassionate physicians with a sense of service and camaraderie. The Sharewood project has helped balance my education.”

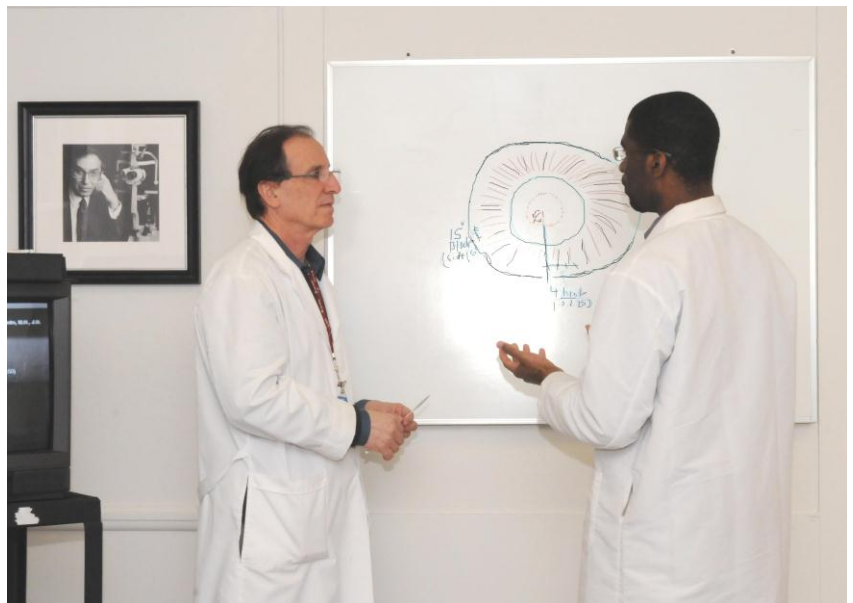
Please support Sharewood. Cash, supplies, equipment, and expertise are precious to this valuable community and educational enterprise. To volunteer, donate material resources, or to offer suggestions contact thedges@tuftsmedicalcenter.org.

Old buildings A progress report

If Tufts Medical School were a city, it would be a magnificent one, of modern facilities and offices, comfortable corners to take a quick bite and talk shop, and convenient to theater and a great community who count themselves as fortunate to have in their midst a world-class tertiary care center that serves also as neighborhood hospital.

In this city of Tufts, the 4th floor of the Boston Dispensary is the part of town yet awaiting urban renewal. But in the oldest yet-employed hospital building in Boston, on the ancient creaky top floor, dwells a future.

Recently, two old, warehoused rooms were rebuilt into one big new, highly useful room. This was done as a gift



Joel Reisman, MD, (left) and 2nd year resident Steven Williams, MD

In memory of David C. Reisman, PhD

In January we learned with shock and heavy heart the news of the untimely death, at age 41, of David C. Reisman, son of our own Joel Reisman. David C. Reisman, PhD, was Associate Professor of Arabic-Islamic Thought at the University of Illinois, Chicago. He was a scholar and author in the fields of classical Arabic philology, codicology and the history of ideas in the Islamic world (philosophy, science and literature). A world-recognized expert on the Islamic philosopher Avicenna, David was preparing a book-length study of the cognitive theories of Avicenna with attention to the physicalist and mentalist tendencies of his system.

Dr. Reisman was a graduate of Boston University (BA and MA) and of Yale University (PhD).

A sampling of candid student posts gleaned from the UIC website reveal a glimpse of David's soul on earth.

"Professor Reisman was a great man. He was very knowledgeable, but passed away recently. If you had him, you would know he was a fun, crazy teacher. I enjoyed his class. I'm so happy i had him for a semester. Thanks God. Rest in Peace Professor. Allah Yarhimak. From your students of RELS230. 1st semester of fall 2010. I hope to see you in heaven!"

"Supportive, dedicated and fascinating. Reisman creates a welcoming atmosphere that makes participation easy. His assignments are rewarding and he provides useful comments. It's a shame that some students drop him because of his high expectations—they're missing a rare chance to be taught a fascinating and overlooked subject by an admirable man."

"i thought this class was going to be very hard he trys to scare away his students in the beginning of the semester he challenges his students, isnt that what college is about? i admire him as a professor and respect his teaching style and philosophy on Islam his papers were hard and a bit confusing but hes entertaining!"

"Warning: Do not drop this class! Reisman spends the first week working hard to scare the hell out of anyone wanting to take his class. If you are looking for an easy class this is not it, but I assure you it is an extremely rewarding class if you work hard and respect him. It's truly an incredible course, and he is an amazing professor!"

from the Tufts Eye Alumni to the department, medical center, and, mainly, to the current and future ophthalmology students, residents and fellows who will be among those who make the next great discoveries in eye care.

Appropriately, this renovation was given in memory and honor of the founding Chair of the Tufts Department of Ophthalmology, Bernard Schwartz, MD, PhD.

The sparkling white and shining room will be used as a conference room in conjunction with the present teaching laboratory, to which it is adjacent, and which is considered one of the best wet labs in the country. The new teaching area will additionally complement the existing Moshe Lahav Library.

The money raised through the generosity of the alumni did not go as far as was hoped, but the Alumni certainly bought themselves a beautiful start. We celebrate this accomplishment and look forward to reporting the development of this vibrant facility which so well represents the connections and continuum in academic medicine.

Please continue to be part of this history by volunteering to help in the laboratory and supporting it with your kind donations.