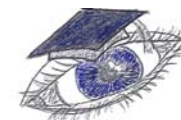


The Tufts Eye Alumni Association

Tufts
UNIVERSITY

Eye care specialists who share a Tufts University heritage



TEAA NEWSLETTER

volume 1 number 1

Spring, 2009

Tufts Eye Alumni Association Founded

This past year we took the initial steps to organize the Tufts Eye Alumni Association (**TEAA**). TEAA's primary mission is to enable alumni of all Tufts-affiliated programs who are now engaged in eye-related professions to stay connected to Tufts and with each other. TEAA sponsored activities will include educational programs, reunions in Boston and at major ophthalmologic meetings across the country, and an alumni website. Additionally, TEAA will publish periodic newsletters updating alumni on alumni news and current activities at the New England Eye Center (NEEC). Alumni are encouraged to join us at Grand Rounds and our Wednesday

Evening Lecture series. We will be emailing you the schedules for these lectures as well as



Join Joel Reisman as a teacher in the wet lab.

other useful information. Please make sure we have your updated email address by contacting us at eyealumni@tufts.edu.

A special program for TEAA alumni has been initiated to give you access to our state of the art wet lab facility. NEEC has created a vibrant and well-used surgical wet lab on the 4th floor of the Boston Dispensary. This effort has been guided by Joel Reisman, M.D. We encourage alumni to join Joel in the wet lab. Please contact him at 617-510-0953 to make an appointment to use the lab or to assist in resident teaching.

In the future we look forward to setting up a mentorship *to p. 2*

Memorial for Bernard Schwartz held during 2008 resident graduation



On June 13, 2008, the New England Eye Center resident graduation ceremony included a memorial for Bernard Schwartz, who died in November, 2007. Claes Dohlman, Jules Baum, Arnold Kroll and Robert Ritch were the invited speakers to honor Dr. Schwartz.

In 1968, Dr. Schwartz was appointed as the founding Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at Tufts University School of Medicine and the New England Medical Center. He served as Chairman until 1990. During his tenure at Tufts, Dr. Schwartz was instrumental in building the department as well as establishing the residency and fellowship programs.

The memorial ceremony for Dr. Schwartz was attended by many of his colleagues and former residents and fellows. Several of his colleagues spoke about Bernie's long time contributions to eye care and to Tufts. It was a heartfelt ceremony. Below are excerpts from several of the speeches.

continued on p. 5

TUFTS EYE ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD

Brad Baker
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Joe Levy
Brendan McCarthy
Joel Reisman
Johanna Seddon
Ernie Sutcliffe
Howard Weiss

Association founded

from p. 1

program for alumni to advise residents and medical students on careers in ophthalmology. We are also developing an alumni-assisted community eye screening program. We hope that these programs will allow alumni a meaningful way to connect with Tufts as well as give back to the Tufts community.

TEAA's inaugural event is set for Saturday,

June 20th, in conjunction with the NEEC graduation that will be held on Friday, June 19th, 2009. The program will include featured talks by alumni and there will be ample time for folks to get together and reestablish relationships. All alumni are invited to attend both the graduation and the alumni day. Details are delineated on pages 3 and 8 of this newsletter.

To accomplish our mission it will require effective fundraising. The most straightforward and appropriate method of raising the necessary money is to encourage alumni to donate money on a regular—annual—basis. We prefer not to impose obligatory dues but request your attention toward supporting your organization voluntarily. Please respond to the appeal on page 8 of this newsletter.

This past year we were able to raise over \$30,000 for our educational fund in memory of Bernard Schwartz and we hope to continue to raise additional funds.

For future planning, an advisory board has been established and we invite alumni to join the board.

Bernard Schwartz eye education lab dedicated

Over the last several years, primarily through the efforts of Joel Reisman, M.D., a comprehensive ophthalmologist on the staff of the New England

Let's build it

Eye Center, a wet lab for teaching surgery has been active on the fourth floor of the Boston Dispensary. This laboratory has modern equipment, including excellent microscopes. The lab has been instrumental in the training of residents allowing them an easily accessible wet lab to practice surgery.

However, the area desperately needs additional renovation. Through the generosity of many alumni, funds have already been donated that will allow for renovation of the hallway and two small rooms to form a classroom that will be used for ophthalmic pathology teaching as well as small group seminars. This will be adjacent to the wet lab so that courses can be conducted in ophthalmic surgery utilizing the wet lab as well. In addition, the Moshe Lahav Library will be expanded to include many of Dr. Lahav's volumes as well as many volumes generously donated by Dr. Schwartz's wife, Marcia. We are most grateful for the generous

initial contribution of \$10,000 by Dr. Frank D'Ambrosio Sr., who has been extremely supportive over the years of the teaching programs here at NEEC. His donation will get our project started but it is not enough to cover the whole renovation. We hope that TEAA alumni will contribute additional funds to ensure the



continued development of this state of the art educational facility.

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 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.

Come to the 1st Annual Tufts Eye Alumni Day

On Saturday morning, June 20, 2009, the day following our resident and fellow graduation program, you are invited to Tufts Eye Alumni Day. We expect to establish this as a valued tradition.

This year, presentations by three alumni will be the center of the celebration of our new organization, TEAA. We are also looking forward to Alumni Day as an opportunity to meet with old friends and renew contact with colleagues of years past.

Program

Continental breakfast

William Deegan H'83, M'88, R'92

“Ongoing Challenges in the Management of Retinoblastoma”

Sarkis Soukiasian H'79, M'83, R'89

“Demystifying the Uveitis Workup”






Maura Santangelo R'80

“Ophthalmology as a Development Tool: Adventures in the Himalayas”

Buffet luncheon

Please contact Stephanie Dunn at sdunn@tuftsmedicalcenter.org for more information or to RSVP

~UPCOMING EVENTS~

-  **Saturday, April 4, 2009**—reception honoring **Frank D'Ambrosio, Sr., M.D.**, 6:00 PM at the Springhill Suites Marriott, Devens, Mass.
-  **Friday, June 19, 2009**— New England Eye Center Graduation Case Presentations and Ceremonies. W. Morton Grant Lecturer **Norman Medow, M.D.**, Professor and Chief of Pediatric Ophthalmology, Manhattan Eye & Ear Infirmary
-  **Saturday morning, June 20**— Alumni Day. ***New this year!***
-  **Saturday, September 26, 2009**—ARMD and Retinal Vascular Diseases 2009: An Intensive Review. Please contact Stephanie Dunn at sdunn@tuftsmedicalcenter.org for more details.
-  **Annual TEAA/NEEC AAO reception at the 2009 Academy meeting, San Francisco.** All alumni are invited.

Frank D'Ambrosio, Sr., M.D. retires from ophthalmic practice

Dr. Frank D'Ambrosio, Sr., TUSM '45, retired in January, 2009, after more than 60 years of ophthalmology practice. Through the years, “Doc” has been a great friend and supporter of both his medical *alma mater* as well as this department of ophthalmology. His family as well as the New England Eye Center and Tufts University School of Medicine will be having a reception honoring him and his years of dedicated patient care.

This event will be held Saturday, April 4th at 6:00 P.M. at the Springhill Suites Marriott in Devens, Massachusetts. Tickets for the event are \$40.00 per person.

Please join us. If you are interested in attending, please contact Dolores Granato at 978-371-1909 or Dolores.granato@verizon.net.

BERNARD SCHWARTZ *in memoriam*

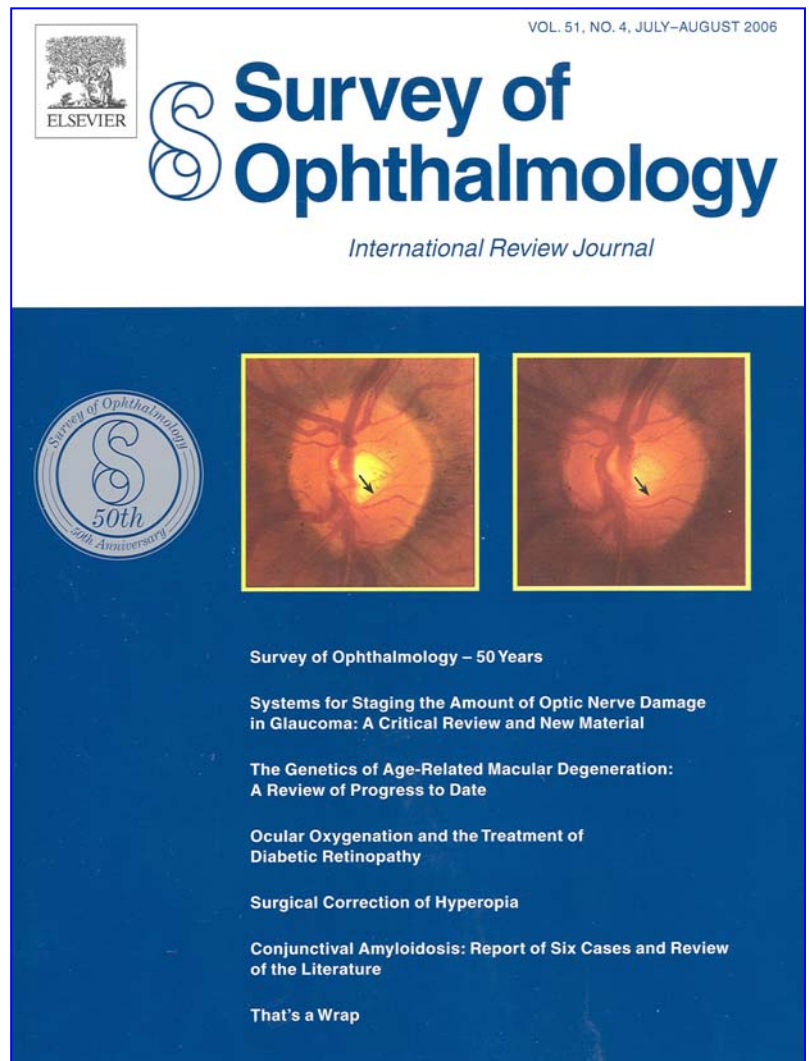
Bernard Schwartz, MD, PhD, founding chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at the New England Medical Center, was 79 when he passed away on November 10, 2007. He was born in Toronto and received his medical degree from the University of Toronto in 1951. He undertook postgraduate training at the University of Iowa, where he completed his ophthalmology residency in 1955 and earned his PhD in physiology in 1959. From 1960 to 1968, he conducted research and clinical practice at SUNY Downstate in New York.

In 1968, he joined the faculty and staff of the New England Medical Center and Tufts University School of Medicine, where he established and chaired the Department of Ophthalmology until 1990. During his tenure, Dr. Schwartz supervised the training of over 80 residents. In addition, he established a glaucoma fellowship program, which included fellows from several countries, many of whom went on to assume academic positions. In his teaching, Dr. Schwartz always emphasized basic science and the history of medicine.

As a clinician and a scientist, Dr. Schwartz maintained two principles above others: evaluating the patient as a whole, not just the eye and gathering quantitative, rather than simply qualitative, information. He always insisted on a strong consultation service closely integrated within the hospital, and his research interests were primarily directed toward the influence of systemic disease on the eye. Early on, he studied lens metabolism and was the first to show the relationship between decreased life expectancy and cataract. Later, he became interested in endocrinologic aspects of ophthalmology, including the influence of melatonin and corticosteroids on the eye. He was one of the first to show the relationship between systemic steroids and increased intraocular pressure. Among his multiple publications Dr. Schwartz described ways to measure blood flow in optic nerves affected by glaucoma, and he was a pioneer in evaluating glaucomatous optic nerve damage using

a variety of novel quantitative techniques.

Dr. Schwartz was active in many ophthalmology organizations, particularly the National Institutes of Health as a consultant and as a member of the study section. He was a trustee of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology and founder of the glaucoma section. He was an active member of the Association of University Professors of



“Unfortunately, with the abundance of the present literature, many original research papers are published without the editors and reviewers realizing what had gone beforehand.”

Ophthalmology, the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, and the International Perimetric Society. He participated in organizing courses at the meetings of the

American Academy of Ophthalmology, particularly basic science courses in pharmacology. In March of 2007, he received the Presidential Award from the American Glaucoma Society.

Dr. Schwartz was founding Editor-in-Chief of *Survey of Ophthalmology* from 1968 until just before he passed away. This journal continues to reflect many of his beliefs: scholarship with a critical view of the literature, teaching especially of young doctors, maintenance of an historical perspective, and the importance of basic science in understanding clinical ophthalmology as an integral part of medicine.

Thomas R. Hedges III, M.D.

Memorial for Bernard Schwartz held during 2008 resident and fellow graduation *from page one*

Claes H. Dohlman, M.D., Professor and Emeritus Chairman of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School, was the first to speak about Dr. Schwartz. It was Dr. Dohlman who, in 1967, was asked to find the right person to chair the new department of ophthalmology at Tufts, and Bernie Schwartz was Dr. Dohlman's nominee. Dr. Dohlman recounted his meeting Dr. Schwartz at the University of Iowa and his pleasure at Dr. Schwartz's acceptance of the invitation to start a full-time eye department at Tufts and the New England Medical Center. Dr. Dohlman recalled how much he respected Dr. Schwartz's intellect and skill in developing the Department of Ophthalmology at Tufts.



Joel Reisman, Marcia Schwartz, and Tom Hedges

Jules Baum, M.D., Ph.D., was next to honor Dr. Schwartz. Soon after the arrival of Dr. Schwartz at Tufts, Dr. Baum joined him and remained on the staff for many years. Dr. Baum recounted the early years, particularly the struggles involved in creating the teaching program, which was then based both at the Boston Veterans Hospital and the New England Medical Center. Dr. Baum highlighted Dr. Schwartz's dedication and fortitude in getting through these struggles and establishing a vibrant teaching program at Tufts.

Arnold Kroll, M.D., spoke next. Over the years the department developed to the point where Dr. Schwartz was able to recruit full-time staff from all sub-specialties in ophthalmology. Additionally, Dr. Schwartz was able to support part-time ophthalmologists like Arnold Kroll who were able to contribute significantly to the teaching of residents. Dr. Kroll shared many personal memories and sentiments regarding his relationship with Dr. Schwartz.

Robert Ritch, M.D., a close colleague of Dr. Schwartz, was invited to give the Morton Grant lecture at the recommendation of Dr. Schwartz's wife, Marcia. Dr. Ritch presented a dynamic lecture entitled "Exfoliation Syndrome; Beyond Glaucoma," and during the memorial not only shared many of his recollections regarding the work Dr. Schwartz had done in the field of glaucoma, but also added several personal comments.

At the end of the ceremony, Dr. Schwartz's wife, Marcia, presented the department with the portrait of Dr. Schwartz that will be permanently installed in the Bernard Schwartz Teaching Laboratory incorporating the surgical wet lab and the Moshe Lahav Library.

ARMD and Retinal Vascular Diseases 2009:

An Intensive Review

Saturday, September 26, 2009

Please contact Stephanie Dunn at

sdunn@tuftsmedicalcenter.org

for more details



(left)
 During his tenure
 Dr. Schwartz
 presented
 graduating residents
 with this
 "diploma."

"I have always
 believed that
 clinical sciences
 can only progress
 if they maintain a
 strong relationship
 with the basic
 sciences."

"First, in an academic career, one should be oriented towards the university and the medical school. An academic career connotes adding significantly to our knowledge by research and teaching in association with the university."

"Bernie was a wonderful chief. His first concerns were the education of his residents and fellows. I was his second fellow and first resident at Tufts. I will always be indebted to his teaching and concerns." Michael A. Golden F'70,R'73

Looking Ahead

We plan to publish a print newsletter semiannually as well as maintain a frequently updated website. Future publications in print and/or on the web will feature

- The History of the Tufts University School of Medicine Department of Ophthalmology
- The Recent "Rebranding" of the Tufts Medical Center
- The Story of Jumbo, ancient mascot of Tufts University
- New Alumni, introducing recent fellowship and residency graduates and new staff
- Alumni news reports from the members
- In each issue, "Presenting the Class of ___", in which a past year's graduates' accomplishments and present activities will be highlighted.

If you have an item or idea for an article or regular feature, please send it in for consideration.

Key to graduates' affiliation status: "H" – graduate of Tufts College (the Hill); "M" – graduate of Tufts University School of Medicine (TUSM); "R" – a graduate ophthalmology resident; "F" – a graduate clinical or research fellow in ophthalmology

2008 Resident Graduates

Isabel Maria Balderas, M.D. (with Jay S. Duker, M.D., Chairman, Dept. of Ophthalmology) was graduated from Harvard Medical School in 2004. She is now a glaucoma fellow with Ophthalmic Consultants of Boston/Tufts-New England Eye Center. Prior to residency, Dr. Balderas completed an internship at Cambridge Health Alliance.

Isabel grew up in Wichita, Kansas, and is a 1995 graduate of Bishop Mark K. Carroll High School. She received an undergraduate degree from Saint Louis University in 1999. Isabel would like to remain in New England, near Boston if possible, and practice glaucoma and comprehensive ophthalmology in a small group practice. She also plans on treating glaucoma and cataracts in underserved areas of the world. "I hope to devote some time in my career to serving those in the international community who do not have access to the ophthalmic care we take for granted in the U.S." Other academic interests include philosophy, and art history. Isabel plays flute and piano, and enjoys snow skiing, golf, tennis, as well as landscape photography.

Tom C. Hsu, M.D. (with Cathy Hsu and Heather Hudson, right) is a 2004 graduate of the medical school at the University of California, Davis. Dr. Hsu is currently a clinical fellow in glaucoma at the New England Eye Center. Before residency, Dr. Hsu completed an internship at UC Davis Medical Center.

Tom was born in Taipei, Taiwan, and grew up in Davis, California. He is a graduate of Davis High School, class of '93, and of Harvard College, class of '97. Tom plans to stay in the Boston area in glaucoma practice. He has a research interest in acquired optic nerve pits.

Tom used to play hockey, now loves to ski, cook and pursue photography. He is married to Cathy Hsu, a physical therapist at Tufts Medical Center.

Michael K. Yoon, M.D. (with Dr. Duker) received his medical degree from Albany Medical College in 2004. Prior to residency Dr. Yoon completed an internship at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. He is currently a fellow in neuro-ophthalmology at the University of California, San Francisco and will subsequently enroll in a fellowship in ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery also at UCSF.

Michael grew up in nearby Easton, Mass., and is a 1997 graduate of Oliver Ames High School. A *magna cum laude* graduate of Union College '01, he majored in both Spanish and biology. His interests include golf and he is an avid New England Patriots fan. Following fellowship, he will pursue an academic position or private practice in a teaching capacity.

Lindsay Smithen, M.D. (with director of residency training Dru Krishnan R'04 F'05) is a 2003 graduate of Cornell / Weill Medical School. Dr. Smithen completed an internship at New York Hospital, Queens, prior to her residency. She accepted a position as a medical retina fellow at the New England Eye Center following residency.

Lindsay grew up in Chappaqua, New York, and is a 1994 graduate of Horace Greeley High School. She was graduated from Princeton University in 1998. She is still developing her career plans following completion of her fellowship here, but plans to live in the Washington, DC, area.

Lindsay started a women's wine club here in Boston, and is interested in food, cooking, personal fitness and travel. She is married to Jeremy Kirsch, head of Sales and Business Development for Positive Energy USA in Washington, DC.



Please send us your e-mail!

Please make certain that the TEAA office has your up-to-date contact information by sending us an email... do it now while you are thinking about it... Please tell us, "Let's build it."

eyalumni@tufts.edu

FUTURE EVENTS AND PLANS FOR THE TUFTS EYE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Resident graduation: June 19, 2009. As we have done in past years, there will be presentations of research activities by the residents and fellows in the afternoon. This will be followed by the W. Morton Grant Lecture. This year's speaker will be **Norman Medow, M.D.**, of the Manhattan Eye and Ear Infirmary. A dinner and the resident presentations will follow.

Tufts Eye Alumni Day: June 20, 2009. In the morning following graduation please join us in the first Annual Tufts Eye Alumni Day. We look forward to hearing from Bill Deegan H'83,M'88,R'92 on retinoblastoma, Sarkis Soukiasian H'79,M'83,R'89 on demystifying the uveitis workup and Maura Santangelo R'80 on ophthalmic adventures in the Himalayas. There will be a continental breakfast, and a buffet luncheon following the talks. Contact Stephanie Dunn at 617-636-4677 or sdunn@tuftsmedicalcenter.org for more information. Reserve your seat NOW!

As we have done in the past, a cocktail party will be held at the upcoming American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting. We hope that many alumni will be able to attend this as well.

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS *CRITICAL*; BUILD YOUR *TEAA*

We have lost contact with too many graduates. Please send us updated contact information, by sending us an email. Also, please contact your fellow alumni and ask them to send us an email that states, "Let's build it..." eyalumni@tufts.edu. Redundancy will merely amplify the buzz.

We are planning to provide an expanded newsletter online and to update it frequently. We will be contacting the entire alumni by email shortly to solicit contributions for inclusion on the website. We expect to provide alumni profiles, class notes, and news of general interest. We will offer biographical, research and practice information on various staff members of the New England Eye Center that may be of use and enjoyment to alumni. We will have links to the New England Eye Center website, to TUSK at the medical school and to our grand rounds and other educational materials. We hope to be able to provide links to your various practice websites for alumni throughout the country and around the world as well as a service to help you locate your former colleagues who may be temporarily lost to contact.

Let's build it. Please contribute to the Tufts Eye Alumni Association. We prefer to avoid membership dues and rely on your voluntary and generous donations as you are able and see fit. Reading of this newsletter will reveal to you our extensive (and expensive) goals. Funds are needed to build the Bernard Schwartz Teaching Laboratory and the Moshe Lahav Library. Contributions will also be used to sponsor the Tufts Eye Alumni Day every year, and we also hope to expand support for additional educational activities, such as travel grants to help residents to attend meetings including the Academy and ARVO.

Please make out a check now, for \$100, \$250, \$1000 or whatever amount you are able to contribute, payable to the **Trustees of Tufts College**.

Please mail c/o

Thomas Hedges, M.D., 800 Washington Street, Box 450, Boston, MA 02111

If you are considering a larger gift perhaps dedicated to a special purpose, we would be most pleased to discuss this with you.

thedges@tuftsmedicalcenter.org ; jduker@tuftsmedicalcenter.org.

On the web

With the participation of the entire alumni, we are planning an outstanding eye alumni website. It is our goal that this website will be of interest and value to our own alumni and the entire ophthalmology community.

Ernie Sutcliffe, Resident '81, has volunteered to coordinate the website development. Please contact Ernie (doctor@sutlink.com) with your suggestions.