



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY

Eye Institute

2023 Year End Alumni Newsletter

“The physician who desires to be an acceptable co-worker with Christ will strive to become efficient in every feature of his work. He will study diligently, so that he may be well qualified for the responsibilities of his profession, and will constantly endeavor to reach a higher standard, seeking for increased knowledge, greater skill, and deeper discernment. Every physician should realize that he who does weak, inefficient work is not only doing injury to the sick but is also doing injustice to his fellow physicians. The physician who is satisfied with a low standard of skill and knowledge not only belittles the medical profession, but does dishonor to Christ, the Chief Physician.” MOH p116.

This paragraph from Ellen G. White’s *Ministry of Healing* jumped off the page to me while studying earlier this year. Efficiency, diligence, striving for excellence, and teamwork are all attributes deemed critical to the success of a physician. These virtues are embedded in the values of LLU. They will continue to be critical to the success of the Loma Linda University Eye Institute as we strive to be the center of excellence for eye care in the Inland Empire.

As Chair of the Loma Linda University Eye Institute (LLUEI), I am charged with guiding LLUEI at a time of increasing difficulties for clinical and surgical providers, fellows, residents, and staff. As you are well aware, the financial pressures within healthcare are real and growing. While Medicare reimbursement to Ophthalmology continues its downward trajectory, inflation continues to drive up the cost of rent, supplies, and ancillary staff. To make matters worse, the recent passage of California bill SB 525 into state law sets new minimum wage standards for healthcare workers beginning June 2024. This “unfunded mandate” will reduce ancillary staffing flexibility and drive-up costs even further. In addition to patient care, our academic missions of teaching and research must forge forward. As I noted in last year’s newsletter, we will need to work both harder and smarter in adaptation.

The good news is that LLUEI has regained OR efficiencies not seen since the beginning of the COVID pandemic. In March, the Loma Linda Surgical Institute (LLSI) opened its doors as a needed resource for outpatient surgery. This ambulatory center (ASC) is 50% owned by the LLU Faculty Medical Group, and many LLU surgeons are expanding their practices to this location. The LLSI operating suite includes 2 ORs on the second floor designed specifically for cataract surgery and other similar anterior segment procedures.

Surgeons can now routinely run both ORs, maximizing OR efficiency while reducing patient wait times. We are also allocating significant block time at LLSI for Oculoplastic Surgery, including cosmetic procedures. Surgical procedures in Cornea, Glaucoma, Peds/Adult strabismus, and Retina remain core LLUH Outpatient Surgery services. The ASC experience that LLSI provides our residents is needed in preparation for



work after graduation. The positive financial impact of LLSI cannot be understated and is a much-needed blessing.

It has been a stated goal of mine for the last several years to develop a CME program for alumni from our archived Grand Rounds presentations.

This dream is finally a reality, as the introduction of the EEDS on-line CME platform for continuing education events now facilitates the archival of previous Grand Rounds presentations. We can now offer our Alumni CME for both live and archival viewing!

Alumni can register as follows:

Should you wish to be added to our Grand Rounds mailing list, or to ask for more information, please email Patrick Telles at ptelles@llu.edu. To register for EEDS, please use the link below:

<https://www.eeds.com/cloud-based-tracker-for-cme/healthcare-professionals>

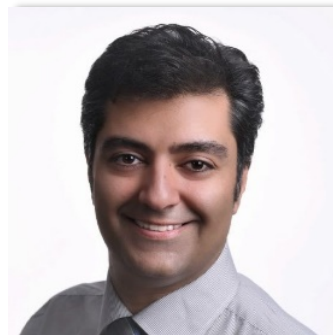
Provider changes

The year 2023 attending provider changes can be summarized as follows: significant loss in the Glaucoma division; significant growth in the Peds division. The departure of Dr. Howard Guan from our department this past summer brings us down to one Glaucoma fellowship trained provider (God bless Dr. Samantha Perea!); we are continuing recruitment for two additional glaucoma positions (one as Glaucoma Service Chief). Dr. Linda Vargas (Chair RUHS) and Dr. Moises Enghelberg (Vitreoretinal surgery) also departed us this past summer.

In the meantime, two experienced providers joined us and have already made major impacts. Dr. Jay Mattheis (LLUSM 1982/ LLU residency 1992) joined as a Comprehensive ophthalmologist, and soon stepped into the role of Chair of Ophthalmology at RUHS effective September 2023. Dr. Ali Mahdavi Fard (Cornea / Comprehensive) joined us after completing his Cornea fellowship at Jules Stein / Doheny. Both have integrated seamlessly into the faculty practice.



Dr. Jay Mattheis

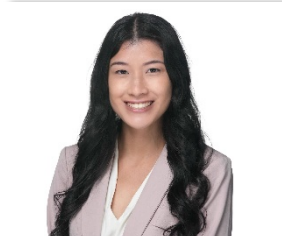


Dr. Ali Mahdavi Fard

Pediatric Ophthalmology and Optometry services have always been in high demand within the Inland Empire. When the opportunity arose to make significant provider additions, we added two Pediatric Optometrists (Hector Carrillo and Breanna Tran) and two Pediatric Ophthalmologists (Dr. Nicole Jody and Dr. Aaron Winter). Dr. Winter is scheduled to start in February 2024, and is dual fellowship trained in Peds and Neuro-ophthalmology.



Dr. Hector Carrillo



Dr. Breanna Tran



Dr. Nicole Jody



Dr. Aaron Winter

Mission Update

We have many alumni doing great work in the mission field. The LLU Global Health Institute (GHI) has eye clinics and hospitals in Zambia, Liberia, and soon Togo (Dr. Jason Kim LLUSM 2018 begins early 2024). We need a network that supports the work of alumni and embedded missionaries. In 2024 I would like to create a “mission committee” of faculty and alumni to provide oversight and coordinate assistance to our missionary brethren. If you would like to participate, please contact me.

In 2023 Dr. Jeffrey Ing continued his excellent work in Palau, Micronesia, having served on 2 mission trips. In March PGY-4 resident Richard Kim travelled to Ruby Nelson Memorial Hospital in Amritsar, India with Dr. Gerald Schultz to perform Microincision Cataract Surgery (MICS) procedures with a world expert in Dr. Jacob Prabhakar (Eyes for India). He also travelled to the EyeAdvance ophthalmology conference with Dr. Schultz right before the mission trip.

In December, PGY-4 residents Dr. Soungmin Cho and Dr. Apeksha Shah also travelled to India along with Dr. Schultz to work with Dr. Prabhakar. These were invaluable experiences for our residents.

A LLU Eye Institute trip to Navuru, Fiji, is planned for February 2024, led by Dr. Ing.

Residency Program

The residency remains strong, graduating five residents per year. The clinical training remains unparalleled and has been augmented by the integration of the new EYESI surgical simulator.

Here is where our senior residents went after graduation:

Alanna James- Glaucoma Fellowship - USC
 Richard Kim- Acuity Eye Group - Bakersfield, CA
 Parisa Moghaddampour- New Eyes - Las Vegas, NV
 Nirali Shah- Kaiser - San Francisco
 Kayla Unsell – Refractive Surgery Fellowship - Newsom Eye, Tampa, Florida

Research

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| <i>Affeldt, John MD</i> | <p><u>Presentations:</u></p> <p>October 2023. Ahmed, H, JC Affeldt, KV Chalam. Incidence of Neurotrophic Keratitis Post Vitrectomy. American Academy of Ophthalmology. San Francisco, CA.</p> <p>April 2023. Cho, S., Ahmed H., Affeldt, J. Acthar Gel and Limbal Stem Cell Deficiency. ARVO. New Orleans. LA</p> |
| <i>Chalam, K.V. MD</i> | <p>Successful Resolution of Subfoveal Hemorrhage with Subretinal delivery of Aflibercept in AMD and Idiopathic Polypoidal Choroidal Vasculopathy- A Case Series Kinza T. Ahmad MD, Suzie A. Gasparian MD, K.V. Chalam MD, Arch Clin Med Case Rep 2023; 7 (6): 455-462</p> <p>Efficacy and safety of ‘dropless vitrectomy surgery’ and comparison of outcomes to standard of care topical therapy. Chalam KV, Ahmed H. Front. Ophthalmol. 2023; 3:1215968.</p> <p>Recent Advances in Imaging Macular Atrophy for Late-Stage Age-Related Macular Degeneration. Cheng AM, Chalam KV, Brar VS, Yang DT, Bhatt J, Banoub RG, Gupta SK. Diagnostics 2023, 13(24), 3635;</p> <p>Anny M Cheng 1, 2, 3, Sunir Joshi 4, Raphael G Banoub 1, 2, Jackson Saddemi 1,2, Chalam KV 5. Faricimab Effectively Resolves Intraretinal Fluid and Preserves Vision in Refractory, Recalcitrant, and Nonresponsive Neovascular Age-Related</p> |

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| | <p>Macular Degeneration. Cureus. 2023 Jun 7;15(6):e40100. Doi: 10.7759/cureus.40100.eCollection 2023 Jun. PMID: 37425528</p> <p>Harris Ahmed 1, Sam Subramanian 1, KV Chalam 1. Opacification of a scleral-sutured Akreos A06o intraocular lens in the absence of concurrent or subsequent surgery: a case series. J Surg Case Rep. 2023 Apr 12;2023(4):rjad181.doi: 10.1093/jscr/rjad181 eCollection 2023 Apr. PMID: 37064057</p> <p>DRCR Retina Network. Four-Year Visual Outcomes in the Protocol W Randomized Trial of Intravitreal Aflibercept for Prevention of Vision-Threatening Complications of Diabetic Retinopathy. JAMA. 2023 Feb 7;329(5):376-385. doi: 10.1001/jama.2022.25029. PMID: 36749332</p> <p><u>Presentations:</u></p> <p>April 2023. Ahmed H., Chalam, K.V. Evaluation of a Single Use Disposable Miniaturized High-Resolution Wide Field Contact Lens for Vitreoretinal Surgery.</p> <p>July 2023. Ahmed, H, Chalam, K.V. Utility and Safety Profile of Goretex Sutures for Scleral Fixated Lenses. ASRS. Seattle, WA.</p> <p>July 2023. Subramanian, S., Ahmed H., Chalam, K.V., Outcomes of successful closure of extra large full-thickness macular holes with autologous retinal graft/amniotic membrane graft. Seattle, WA.</p> |
| <p>Engelberg, Moises DO</p> | <p>Jonathan Thomas 1, Harris Ahmed 2, Kathryn Halbritter 1, Moises Engelberg 3. Poor Visual Outcomes in Syphilitic Uveitis Associated with Methamphetamine Use: A Case Series. Retin Cases Brief Rep. 2023 Dec 11. doi: 10.1097/ICB.0000000000001524. Online ahead of print. PMID: 38100771.</p> <p>Dowd-Schoeman T, Subramanian S, Engelberg M. Findings on Swept Source OCTA Through Treatment Stages In Primary Vitreoretinal Lymphoma. Retina Cases & Brief Reports. <i>In Press.</i> 2023</p> <p>Engelberg M, Kaifee SA. Suspected Neratinib Maculopathy Presenting As Macular Telangiectasia Type 2. Cureus. <i>In Press.</i> 2023</p> <p><u>Presentations:</u></p> <p>July 2023. Ahmed, H., You, H., Megerdichian, A., Engelberg, M. Hispanic Patients and TRD Management. ASRS. Seattle, WA.</p> |
| <p>Hawy, Eman MD</p> | <p><u>Presentations:</u></p> |

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| | <p>NANOS 2023 Weston Young, Justin Youn, Eman Hawy 6th nerve palsy as the first manifestation of Giant Cell Arteritis</p> <p>Justin Youn, Weston Young, Eman Hawy The use of metabolic PETCT to help with the diagnosis of unexplained vision loss a case series.</p> <p>APC Meeting 2023 Wilson M, Hawy E; A case of AARON presenting as acute recurrent optic neuritis.</p> <p>APC Meeting 2023 Wilson M, Hawy E; Ptosis as the presentation of sarcoidosis.</p> |
| <p>Hwang, Frank MD</p> | <p>Patrice M Hicks 1, Karandeep Singh 2 3 4, N Venkatesh Prajna 5, Ming-Chen Lu 1, Leslie M Niziol 1, Miles F Greenwald 1, Angela Verkade 1, Guillermo Amescua 6, Sina Farsiu 7, Maria A Woodward 1 4; Corneal Ulcer Study Group. Quantifying Clinicians' Diagnostic Uncertainty When Making Initial Treatment Decisions for Microbial Keratitis. <i>Cornea</i>. 2023 Nov 1;42(11):1408-1413. doi: 10.1097/ICO.0000000000003159. Epub 2022 Oct 17. PMID: 36256441</p> <p>Hwang, Brian BS*; Jia, Jason MD†; Hwang, Frank MD†. Case Report of Candida Parapsilosis Keratitis After Cataract Surgery Leading to Corneal Perforation. <i>Cornea Open</i> 2(3):p e0013, September 2023. DOI: 10.1097/coa.0000000000000013</p> <p><u>Presentations:</u></p> <p>May 2023. American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery Annual Meeting. Soungmin Cho, Frank S. Hwang. Film 89487: IOL Rescue with Flange Scleral Fixation. https://ascrs.org/clinical-education/presentations-on-demand/meetings/2023-ascrs-annual-meeting/films/film-89487-iol-rescue-with-flange-scleral-fixation</p> <p>May 2023. American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery Annual Meeting. Bea Palileo, Frank S. Hwang. Film 92770: Traumatic Cataract Removal aided by an Automated Capsulotomy. Flanged Scleral Fixation of CTR, and Repair of Mydriasis with Iris Cerclage. https://ascrs.org/clinical-education/presentations-on-demand/meetings/2023-ascrs-annual-meeting/films/film-92770-traumatic-cataract-removal-aided-by-an-automated-capsulotomy-flanged</p> |
| <p>Jody, Nicole MD</p> | <p>Nicole Jody, Margarita Santana, Jolene Rudell. Pediatric cataract surgery: considerations and updates I diagnosis and management. <i>Curr Opin Ophthalmol</i>. 2023 Jan 1;34(1):58-63. Doi: 10.1097/ICU0000000000000918. Epub 2022 Nov 22.</p> |

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| <p>Khazaeni, Leila MD</p> | <p>Khazaeni B, Zeppieri M, Khazaeni L. Acute Angle-Closure Glaucoma. 2023 Nov 26. In: StatPearls (internet). Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2023 Jan-. PMID: 28613607.</p> <p>Ahmed H, Sierpina DI, Khazaeni L. 2023 Jul 16. In: StatPearls (internet). Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2023 Jan-. PMID: 35881734</p> <p>Ahmed H, Khazaeni L. Optic Disc Drusen. 2023 Jul 16. In: StatPearls (Internet). Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2023 Jan-. PMID: 35593854</p> <p>Feroze KB, Zeppieri M, Khazaeni L. Steroid-Induced Glaucoma. 2023 Jul 16. In: StatPearls (internet). Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2023 Jan-. PMID: 28613653.</p> |
| <p>Mahdavi Far, Ali MD</p> | <p>John A Irvine, Hugo Y Hsu, Ali Mahdavi Fard. Giant Conjunctival Nevus. Can J Ophthalmol. 2023 Dec;58(6):e244. Doi: 10.1016/j.jcjo.2023.05.013. Epub 2023 Jun 19.</p> <p>Diala FGI, Caleon RL, Fard AM, Heilweil G. Unilateral Roth spots as an initial presentation in Essential Thrombocythemia. Retin Cases Brief Rep. 2023 Aug 8. doi: 10.1097/ICB.0000000000001467. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37582335.</p> <p>Fard AM, Patel SP, Nader ND. The efficacy of 2 different phakic intraocular lens implant in keratoconus as an isolated procedure or combined with collagen crosslinking and intra-stromal corneal ring segments: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Int Ophthalmol. 2023 Nov;43(11):4383-4393. doi: 10.1007/s10792-023-02813-z. Epub 2023 Jul 20. PMID: 37470861.</p> |
| <p>Rauser, Michael M - Chairman</p> | <p>Randomized Controlled Trial. Cost-effectiveness of Aflibercept Monotherapy vs Bevacizumab First Followed by Aflibercept If Needed for Diabetic Macular Edema. JAMA Ophthalmol. 2023 Mar 1;141(3):268-274. Doi: 10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2022.6142.</p> |
| <p>Sierpina, David MD</p> | <p>Hutton DW, Glassman AR, Liu D, Sun JK; DRCR Retina Network. Cost-effectiveness of Aflibercept Monotherapy vs Bevacizumab First Followed by Aflibercept If Needed for Diabetic Macular Edema. <i>JAMA Ophthalmology</i>. (February 2023). 2:e226142. Doi: 10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2022.6142. Online ahead of print. PMID: 36729431.</p> |
| <p>Van Putten, Douglas MD</p> | <p>Keiko Inouye, Harris Ahmed, Soungmin Cho, Douglas Van Putten. Lens Material of the Eyelid Masquerading as Phakomatous Choristoma After Cataract Surgery.</p> |

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| | <p>Cureus. 2023 May 2024 May 8;15(5):e38718. Doi: 10.7759/cureus.38718. eCollection 2023 May.</p> <p><u>Presentations</u></p> <p>Palileo B, Patel R, Van Putten D. A Case of Orbital Hidrocystoma Presenting as Unilateral Proptosis and Diplopia. Poster presented at the Women in Ophthalmology Summer Symposium, August 2023.</p> |
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| White, Craig MD | <p>Cecilia Q Dong 1, Craig A White 1, Bilal Farhat 1, Dan Arreaza-Kaufman 1, R Jonathan Robitsek 2, Jonathan N Kruh 3. Improving Compliance to Follow-Up Care After Primary Emergency Department Ophthalmic Consultation. Am J Ophthalmol. 2023 Jan;245:37-43. Doi: 10.1016/j.ajo.2022.08.022. Epub 2022 Sep 7. PMID: 36084682</p> |
| | |
| Winter, Timothy DO | <p>Book Chapter June 2023: Fundamentals of Pediatric Neuro Ophthalmology. DOI 10.1007/978-3-031-16147-6. Chapter Title: Acute Acquired Comitant Esotropia: A Teenager with Acute-Onset Diplopia. ISBN 3031161467</p> <p>Patel A, Winter T, Jain A. A Rare Report of the Coexistence of Sickle Cell Disease, Neurofibromatosis Type 1, and Intracranial Hypertension in a Pediatric Patient. J Pediatr Hematol Oncol 2023 Apr 1;45(3):155-58. PMID 36898033</p> <p>Justin Youn, Adel Alset, Timothy W Winter. Microphthalmos with a myriad of anterior and posterior segment dysgenesis. Eye (Lond). 2023 Dec 19 doi: 10.1038/s41433-023-02883-4. Online ahead of print. PMID: 38114567</p> <p>DRCR Retina Network. Russel H Dinh 1, Edmund Tsui 2, Matthew S Wieder 3, Alexander Barash 3, Michael M Park 3, Ehsan Rahimy 4, Prithvi Mruthyunjaya 4, Louise J Lu 4, Suzanne M Michalak 4, Rohan J Shah 5, David Sierpina 6, Timothy W Winter 6, Ryan A Shields 7, Eduardo Uchiyama 7, Gregory D Lee 8, Rahul Komati 8, Eric Lee 9, Sundeep K Kasi 9, Brian K Do 10. Acute Macular Neuroretinopathy and Coronavirus Disease 2019. Ophthalmol Retina. 2023 Feb;7(2):198-200. Doi: 10.1016/j.oret.2022.09.005. Epub 2022 Oct 8. PMID: 36216223</p> |

Grateful Gifts

We express our sincere gratitude to our cherished alumni, patients, and friends whose steadfast support continues to fortify the mission and vision of LLUEI. Your prayers, mentorship, and financial contributions are indispensable to our ongoing success. Your generous financial assistance, be it through annual donations, participation in the phonathon, or legacy contributions through estate gifts, represents a multitude of impactful ways through which you can truly make a meaningful difference. Together, we forge a path towards excellence in education, patient care, and research.

In June we held our biennial phonathon to raise funds to support the residency program. Two years ago, phonathon funds were raised for a new surgical simulator, which is now integrated into the surgical training of our residents. The funds raised this year are earmarked for a “state of the art” wet lab to be built within the LLU Faculty Medical Clinic. Our fundraising goal is \$100K; we received donations of \$52K. If you have not donated as of yet to this project, it is not too late!

Your generous contributions exemplify the spirit of paying it forward and stand as a testament to the unwavering support many of you provide for our current residents in their training journeys. We are profoundly grateful for your dedication to advancing the training and education of the next generation in our department.

Healing Hands Program

Grateful patients work through the Healing Hands Program by recognizing caregivers who have provided excellent care. Grateful patients make a gift in honor of the care received, and caregivers are recognized within their departments. In 2023, Drs. Kinza Ahmad & Douglas Van Putten each received their first Healing Hands recognition. In total, the Department of Ophthalmology received 8 independent patient recognitions.

Congratulations to all who were recognized! We cannot express enough how thankful we are for our community, grateful patients, and alumni. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we strive to reach our future goals.

Department Needs

- LLUEI Special Projects Fund
- Dorothy McNeill Walker Ophthalmology Residency Fund

There are multiple ways that you can bless us with your support through giving:

- Cash Gifts
- Pledges
- Planned Gifts
- Charitable
Remainder Trusts
- Gifts-In-Kind
- IRA
- Annuities
- Stock
- Real Estate
- Life Insurance

If you would like to learn more about different ways to give or have any questions about how to support the Department of Ophthalmology, please contact **Jesse Jimenez** at jejimenez@llu.edu or **(909) 558-3071** in the Department of Philanthropy. You can also visit www.llulegacy.org.

Scan this code to give online.





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Closing

At the beginning of this newsletter, I quoted Ellen G. White from the Ministry of Healing. The next paragraph reads as follows:

“God’s purpose for us is that we shall ever move upward. The true medical missionary physician will be an increasingly skillful practitioner. Talented Christian physicians, having superior professional ability, should be sought out and encouraged to **engage in the service of God in places where they can educate and train others to become medical missionaries.**” P117 MOH (**bold added for emphasis**).

We train medical students, residents, and fellows for a life of medical ministry, and provide a depth and breadth of training that allows transition to academia, fellowship, or private practice. This is what it’s all about, and we need our physician alumni to assist in this endeavor. We ask for your continued prayers and support.

Blessings,



Michael E. Rauser, MD, Chairman

A Seventh-day Adventist Institution

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