LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
Eye Institute

2024 Year End Alumni Newsletter

Introduction:

In the first half of 2024 we worked under the foreboding shadow of SB525, a minimum wage standard for ancillary staff implemented by California state legislation for large healthcare institutions. Extensive preparations were made. Budgets were trimmed "to the bone". A negative budgetary impact of one million dollars within a 20-million-dollar budget was the worst-case scenario. Finally, implementation day arrived on July 1st. We were ready.

Creating additional clinic and OR efficiencies has been necessary to offset the "unfunded mandate" of SB525 and the continued downward spiral of Medicare reimbursement. Fortunately, our OR case volumes continue to grow at the Loma Linda Surgical Institute (LLSI), the ambulatory surgical center which opened in March 2023 and is 50% owned by the LLU Faculty Medical Group. By fall of 2024, we were averaging 180 cases per month within our total monthly case volume of 330. With two ORs with designed specifically for cataract surgery, our experienced surgeons can now routinely perform 20+ cases per day. At LLSI we have the tools to perform premium IOL and complex cataract cases in a safe, efficient manner, utilizing MiLoop, Zeptolink and the Alcon Ora imaging system. In early 2025 the NGenuity 3D Visualization system will be added. We have integrated both residents and medical students into the LLSI workflow, providing invaluable experience that mimics "private practice". Oculoplastic Surgery, including cosmetic procedures, have also grown at LLSI. Surgical procedures in Cornea, Glaucoma, Adult Strabismus, and Retina remain core LLUH Outpatient Surgery service. All pediatric surgeries have moved to the LLU Children's Hospital. Because of the collaborative effort of our providers, residents, and ancillary staff, I am happy to report that we are finishing 2024 in a strong financial position and poised for future growth.

The major department and residency initiatives and summaries for 2024 are highlighted below.

The Impact of LLU Alumni:

I finished the 2023 Alumni Newsletter with the following statement from Ellen G. White in Ministry of Healing (MOH):

"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

The support of alumni is critical to the success of our department's mission. In recent years I have been more explicit in my appeals to alumni to "listen for the calling" to return to LLU and respond accordingly. In the recent past, Dr. Jeffrey Ing (LLUSM 1992/ LLU residency 1996), Dr. Douglas Van Putten (LLUSM 1985/ LLU residency 1989), and most recently Dr. Jay Mattheis (LLUSM 1988/ LLU residency 1992) have responded to the call and returned to LLU, each making their own major impact.

Dr. Jeffrey Ing joined LLU in early 2020 and assumed the role of Global Heath Director, bringing his expertise in Cornea & Comprehensive ophthalmology and a wealth of experience in overseas mission trips. Dr. Ing is currently serving at the Guam SDA clinic but remains engaged in leading the department's mission work. In addition to his yearly trips to Palau, Micronesia, Dr. Ing led the department's 2nd trip to Fiji in Feb 2024, detailed below.

Dr. Van Putten joined LLU in 2021, immediately infusing the department with a wealth of oculoplastic experience, including cosmetic surgery. A formal Oculoplastic fellowship was created under his guidance, and Dr. Eman Hawy, LLUEI Neuro-ophthalmologist, completed her fellowship training in the fall of 2023. Dr Hawy now practices a blend of oculoplastics and neuro-ophthalmology within the department. Under Dr. Van Putten's guidance, the oculoplastics training of our residents has shifted from a "relative weakness" to a "definite strength" of the residency program!

Dr. Jay Mattheis joined LLU in the spring of 2023 and soon afterwards was presented with the opportunity to serve as Ophthalmology Chair at RUHS. Dr. Mattheis accepted this challenge with zeal and confidence and has made significant improvements during his short tenure as Chief. I asked Dr. Mattheis to share his experience of returning to LLU:

Answering the Call:

"About this time two years ago, I was reading this type of letter from Dr. Rauser, our chairman. As an alum of the medical school and ophthalmology residency program at LLU, I enjoyed reading about the new and exciting things taking place in the department. Also, I was interested in reading about the developments within the residency program. However, as I read that letter, something was different. Rather than just enjoying the information, I began to "hear" the "still, small voice" speaking to me. For the first time, in a very long time, I began feeling the call to give back, not only monetarily, but of myself. As I reflected on how many opportunities LLU had provided me since completion of my training, I knew what I was being called to do, despite being happy with my then present circumstances. As a result, I reached out to Dr. Rauser to inquire about my returning to LLU, and the department, as a full-time faculty member, teacher, and mentor. He greeted me with a warm welcoming spirit, but so many self-imposed hurdles seemed to be standing in the way of my return. But I continued the process by faith, despite my Thomas-like skepticism. Just as I seemed to arrive at what I thought was an insurmountable obstacle, the obstacle would vanish. That happened time and again. As a result, I was blessed to return to LLU, answering that call. I think Dr. Zane would be happy. What a full circle moment. I had finally returned to where I started

my career, and likely, will finish my career many years from now. While I thought this may be a sacrifice it turned out to be completely opposite. In retrospect, I have never felt so lead to do anything in my entire life. So many things had to happen and did. I have never been so fulfilled, not only professionally, but personally as well. Working with our residents and helping to shape their future is one of my greatest rewards. My regret is that I did not heed that call much sooner in my career, but nonetheless, best career move I have ever made. My humble plea is this. If any part of Dr. Rauser's letter speaks to you the way it did me, please do not hesitate to contact him. Taking that leap of faith will, no doubt, be rewarded in ways you cannot imagine."

Jay K. Mattheis, MD, MSPH, FACS

Basic Science Research:

In the summer of 2024, the largest gift in the history of the LLU Eye Institute was received from Dennis and Carol Troesh to establish a new Basic Science lab under the guidance of Dr. KV Chalam. I asked Dr. Chalam to detail the plans for this new lab:

"A significant philanthropic donation (4.5 million dollars over three years) by Mr. & Mrs. Troesh has enabled the establishment of a cutting-edge stem cell research laboratory under the directorship of Dr. Chalam to develop retinal transplant therapies for age-related macular degeneration (AMD). AMD is the leading cause of central vision loss in individuals over 50 years of age, with limited treatment options for advanced disease. Stem cell-based therapies hold promise for regenerating damaged retinal tissue, particularly through the development of induced pluripotent retinal pigment epithelial (IPSRPE) cells, which are critical to retinal function.

The new facility will focus on differentiating induced pluripotent stem cells into RPE cells and developing protocols for their transplantation into the subretinal space. Efforts will prioritize ensuring safety, reproducibility, and efficacy through preclinical studies, with the aim of initiating early-phase clinical trials to evaluate treatment safety and visual function improvements. The research team brings together experts in ophthalmology, stem cell biology, and regenerative medicine.

The donation will also support the recruitment and training of future scientists to sustain long-term advancements in ocular stem cell therapies. A key focus of the donation is to provide opportunities for residents and fellows to receive specialized training, enabling them to develop into clinician-scientists and contribute to long-term advancements in ocular stem cell therapies.

Key challenges the lab will address include immune rejection, long-term graft survival, and scalable manufacturing processes for clinical-grade RPE cells. The ultimate goal is to develop cost-effective, widely accessible therapies to treat AMD and other retinal degenerative diseases.

This lab represents a transformative advancement in regenerative medicine and ophthalmology, bridging basic science and clinical application. By focusing on innovative cell-based treatments, it aims to restore vision and significantly improve quality of life for patients affected by AMD."

K.V. Chalam, MD, PhD, MBA

Innovation: The Shen Binocular Indirect Ophthalmoscope:

"Over the last 2 years, three members of Loma Linda University have developed a new medical device for ophthalmologists to examine the retina. Using research funding from the Department of Ophthalmology, Weston Young (medical student), Brian Hwang (ophthalmology resident), and Bailey Shen (Assistant Professor) invented the first spectacle-style binocular indirect ophthalmoscope with the battery incorporated into the ophthalmoscope itself. The device has the advantages of being extremely light and portable, and is currently being used by Loma Linda attendings, fellows, and residents for clinic work, surgery, and mission trips. The Department of Ophthalmology has generously subsidized these devices for its trainees. Loma Linda University is currently pursuing a patent on the device, and is licensing the device to eyeMobil, a small device company based in Indiana, for mass production.

The inspiration for the indirect came from clinic: I usually do an indirect exam for every patient. It was a bit cumbersome to keep putting on and taking off the headband-style indirect for every patient, so I used my LLU CME funds to purchase a Keeler Spectra Iris indirect, which is a spectacle-style indirect I had seen the retina folk at UIC use. The Keeler Spectra Iris worked OK, but the battery clip and battery cord broke several times. I called up Keeler and asked why they couldn't just incorporate the battery for the Spectra Iris into the frame itself instead of using an external battery pack, but Keeler was not interested. I posted a potential research project on building a spectacle-style indirect with the battery built into the frame on the LLU ophthalmology research project database, and Brian Hwang and Weston Young both were interested. None of us had formal training in engineering, but we taught ourselves the basics of how an indirect works. Brian and Weston taught themselves computer-aided design and 3D printing. Over 2 years, we met at Weston's house many times after work and went through many prototypes. We also taught ourselves how ANSI ocular light safety testing works and hired us a light safety consultant (Charlie Campbell from ANSI). In order to actually perform the light safety testing, we borrowed Dr. Christopher Perry's (Basic Science Professor at LLU) spectrometer and used it at home. We are proud to say we have a useful device, which I personally have used over the last 1 year in my clinic."

Bailey Shen, MD

Grand Rounds CME for Alumni:

Last year we were able to integrate our Bi-monthly Grand Rounds presentations into the EEDS on-line CME platform for continuing education events. 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 2024 attending provider changes can be summarized as follows: Dr. Nicole Jody (Pediatrics) and Dr. Craig White (Cornea / Comprehensive) departed us this past spring. Dr. Hector Carrillo (Pediatric Optometry) departed this past fall.

In the meantime, Dr. Aaron Winter (Comprehensive/ Neuro-ophthalmology/Peds) joined us in march and Dr. William May, Comprehensive / Refractive Surgery) joined us in december. Dr. Marib Akanda (Uveitis/ Surgical Retina) will be joining the faculty practice in July 2025 after completing his Vitreoretinal fellowship with us. We are actively recruiting for two glaucoma positions (one as Glaucoma Service Chief), one Cornea/ Comprehensive, and one Pediatric Optometrist. We anticipate “near future” needs in Pediatric Ophthalmology and Neuro-ophthalmology.

Aaron Winter, MD

Marib Akanda, MD

William May, MD

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 Togo (Dr. Jason Kim LLUSM 2018 began early 2024). We need a network that supports the work of alumni and embedded missionaries. 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.

Majaro, Marshall Islands and Navuru, Fiji:

"From January 24 to February 1st, Dr. Jeffrey Ing and his wife Helen (who served as a nurse at the Loma Linda outpatient surgery) travel to Majuro, Marshall Islands and engaged on mission trip with Dr. David Gano (LLUSM 1993, LLU residency 1997) and Canvasback missions. Dr. Ing had an opportunity to perform corneal transparent surgery, including an endothelial keratoplasty.

Leaving the Marshall Islands on February 1, Jeff and his wife traveled to Loma Linda, where they joined a team going to Fiji. Residents Dr. Chris Bardan and Dr. Bea Palileo assisted in organizing the trip. Faculty who traveled with us included Dr. David Sierpina (LLU Residency 2015), Dr. KV Chalam, and Dr. John Pyun (LLU residency 2021), as well as support staff and Terry Merrick, administrator of the LLU Eye Institute. The team traveled to Vanua Levu and served at the Mission at Natuvu Creek founded by Dr. Tom Tooma (LLUSM 1979/ LLU residency 1983). 132 patients were seen, with 54 cataract surgeries, 3 pterygium surgeries, one intraocular lens removal, and one nucleus drop retrieval. A total of 25 total lasers (16 Yag; 9 focal macular) were performed. We were blessed to use the "Drs. Tom and Marta Tooma Endowed Fund." to support the Fiji mission trip."

Dr. Jeffrey Ing and Terry Merrick

Palau, Micronesia: Palau Adventist Wellness Center.

“Thank you and the LLU department for your support of our mission trip to Palau this past 8/11/24-8/22/24. 3 missionary ophthalmologists, Dr. Jeffery Ing, Dr. Kim Firn PGY-4, and I performed a combined 44 cataract surgeries, 1 sutured intraocular lens, 1 anterior chamber washout, 6 pterygium surgeries, 1 EDTA chelation, 1 chalazion removal, 13 YAG capsulotomy, and two intravitreal injections.

Though we were not able to perform the full 60 cataract surgeries and pterygiums we had hoped for due to a lower volume of patients than anticipated, we were able to provide a wide range of vision-saving therapy to many people in Palau. Most of our patient population was associated with the local Adventist church in Koror. We saw a big part of our trip as a way to help those who were daily ministering to the people in Palau. We also broadcasted on their national radio station that we would provide eye exams and surgeries. A handful of patients came to our clinic because of the radio station broadcast.

Overall, it was an amazing experience. I learned how to request inventory for intraocular surgeries and scrub for surgeries. This has made me a more competent "leader" in the operating room.”

Dr. Jason Jia PGY-4

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:

- Dr. Harris Ahmed- Vitreoretinal Fellowship Cornell University, NY
- Dr. Christian Bardan – Corneal Fellowship – Jules Stein Institute UCLA, CA
- Dr. Soungmin Cho - Private practice- Delta Eye Group, Lodi, CA
- Dr. Bea Palileo- Private practice – Riverside Medical Clinic, Riverside, CA
- Dr. Apeksha Shah- Arrowhead Regional Medical Center / Private Practice, Colton, CA

The residency is transitioning to an “integrated” program effective July 2025. This means that residency applicants who match with our program will automatically begin their PGY-1 year at Loma Linda University, with this PGY-1 under the management of the department of Ophthalmology. PGY-1 residents will continue to have 3 months of Ophthalmology electives during the 12 months of training, with a preference for subspecialty rotations applicable for future ophthalmologists (Infectious disease, Rheumatology).

Research

Affeldt, John MD	**PRESENTATIONS** October 2023. Ahmed, H, **JC Affeldt**, KV Chalam. Incidence of Neurotrophic Keratitis Post Vitrectomy. American Academy of Ophthalmology. San Francisco, CA. April 2023. Cho, S., Ahmed H., **Affeldt, J**. Acthar Gel and Limbal Stem Cell Deficiency. ARVO. New Orleans. LA
Akanda, Marib MD VR Fellow	Chalam KV, **Akanda M**, Subramanian M. Successful closure of a refractory giant (15 sq mm) macular hole with amniotic membrane graft. J Surg Case Rep. 2024 Jan 30;2024(1):rjae013. Doi: 10.1093/jscr/rjae013. eCollection 2024 Jan. PMID: 38304310
Chalam, K.V. MD	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 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. 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; 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 Macular Degeneration. Cureus. 2023 Jun 7;15(6):e40100. Doi: 10.7759/cureus.40100.eCollection 2023 Jun. PMID: 37425528 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 **DRCR Retina Network**. Four-Year Visual Outcomes in the Protocol W Randomized Trial of Intravitreous Aflibercept for Prevention of Vision-Threatening Complications of Diabetic Retinopathy. JAMA. 2023 Feb 7;329(5):376-385. doi: 10.1001/jama.2022.25029. **PRESENTATIONS** April 2023. Ahmed H., **Chalam, K.V**. Evaluation of a Single Use Disposable Miniaturized High-Resolution Wide Field Contact Lens for Vitreoretinal Surgery. July 2023. Ahmed, H, **KV Chalam**. Utility and Safety Profile of Goretex Sutures for Scleral Fixated Lenses. ASRS. Seattle, WA.

	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
Enghelberg, Moises DO	Jonathan Thomas 1, Harris Ahmed 2, Kathryn Halbritter 1, **Moises Enghelberg** 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. Dowd-Schoeman T, Subramanian S, **Enghelberg M.** Findings on Swept Source OCTA Through Treatment Stages In Primary Vitreoretinal Lymphoma. Retina Cases & Brief Reports. *In Press. 2023* **Enghelberg M**, Kaifee SA. Suspected Neratinib Maculopathy Presenting As Macular Telangiectasia Type 2. Cureus 2023 Ja 19;15(1):e33964. Doi: 10.7759/cureus.33964. eCollection 2023 Jan.
Hawy, Eman MD	Posters and Abstracts 2024 Lee E, Rauser S, **Hawy E**; Successful Treatment of Chiari Idiopathic Intracranial Hypertension Syndrome with Dural Venous Sinus Stent after Ventriculoperitoneal shunt: A Case Report. NANOS 2024 and and Western Medical Research Conference 2023 Youn J, Van Putten D, **Hawy E**; Teprotumumab induced Adrenal Insufficiency: A Case Report NANOS 2024 Published articles Schafer G. **Hawy E**. A Case of the Initial Presentation of Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis as Acute Unilateral Vision Loss Cureus 16(11): e73820. doi:10.7759/cureus.73820
Hui, Jennifer MD	Rong, AJ, **Hui, JI**, Tse DT. Chapter 10: Surgical Techniques. Clinical Ophthalmic Oncology, 4th ed by Singh AD. Slack (Cleveland), 2018;95-108. Submitted 11/13/23. **Hui JI**, Tse DT. Chapter 32: Eyelid Reconstruction After Mohs Micrographic Surgery. Mohs Micrographic Surgery, ed. Nouri K. London, England: Springer; 2012; 395-404. Summer 2023 **Hui JI**, Tse DT. Chapter 33: Lid Malformations, Malpositions, and Lesions. In: Wright KW, Strube YJ, eds. Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus, 3rd ed. New York, NY: Oxford University Press; 2012; 585-604. Summer 2023 **Hui JI**, Tse DT. Chapter 34: Lacrimal System. In: Wright KW, Strube YJ, eds. Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus, 3rd ed. New York, NY: Oxford University Press; 2012; 605-613. Summer 2023
Khazaeni, Leila MD	Khazaeni B, Zeppieri M, **Khazaeni L**. Acute Angle-Closure Glaucoma. 202 Nov 26. In: StatPearls (internet). Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2023 Jan-. PMID: 28613607.

	Ahmed H, Sierpina DI, **Khazaeni L**. Retinal Pattern Dystrophy. 2023 Jul 16. In: StatPearls (internet). Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2023 Jan-. PMID: 35881734 Ahmed H, **Khazaeni L**. Optic Disc Drusen. 2023 Jul 16. In: StatPearls (Internet). Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2023 Jan-. PMID: 35593854 Feroze KB, Zeppieri M, **Khazaeni L**. Steroid-Induced Glaucoma. 2023 Jul 16. In: StatPearls (internet). Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2023 Jan-. PMID: 28613653.
Mahdavi Fard, Ali MD	John A Irvine 1, Hugo Y Hsu 1, **Ali Mahdavi Fard 2**. Giant conjunctival nevus. Can J Ophthalmol. 2023 Dec;58(6):e244. doi: 10.1016/j.jcjo.2023.05.013. Epub 2023 Jun 19.PMID: 37348840. DOI:10.1016/j.jcjo.2023.05.013 Seoyoung Han 1, Christian Mueller 1, Caitlin Wuebbolt 1, Sean Kilcullen 1, Varinda Nayyar 2 3, Brayan Calle Gonzalez 1, **Ali Mahdavi Fard 3**, Jamie C Floss 1, Michael J Morales 4, Sangita P Patel 5 6 7 . Selective effects of estradiol on human corneal endothelial cells. PMID: 37714879. PMCID: PMC10504266. DOI: 10.1038/s41598-023-42290-z. Sci Rep. 2023 Sep 15;13(1):15279. doi: 10.1038/s41598-023-42290-z.
Rauser, Michael MD - Chairman	DRCR Retina Network. Four-Year Visual Outcomes in the Protocol W Randomized Trial of Intravitreous Aflibercept for Prevention of Vision-Threatening Complications of Diabetic Retinopathy. JAMA. 2023 Feb 7;329(5):376-385. doi: 10.1001/jama.2022.25029. 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. Presentations: A Retrospective Study Examining the Safety and Efficacy of Nd:YAG Vitreolysis for Symptomatic Floaters in Clinical Practice Matthew Wilson MA; David Gano, MD; **Michael Rauser**, MD Loma Linda University Annual Postgraduate Convention March 3rd, 2024. Retrospective Review of Management of Open-Globe Injuries Before and After Implementation of Standardized Harvard Protocol and Order-Set ; Brian Hwang, Jonathan Thomas, MD, **Michael Rauser**, MD ARVO Seattle, WA - May 7, 2024 Using Machine Learning to Predict Six-Month Visual Outcomes in Open-Globe Injuries, Jonathan Thomas, MD, Brian Hwang; **Michael Rauser**, MD ARVO Seattle, WA- May 7, 2024
Subramanian, Meenakshisundaram DO ***VR Fellow***	Chalam KV, Akanda M, **Subramanian M**. Successful closure of a refractory giant (15 sq mm) macular hole with amniotic membrane graft. J Surg Case Rep. 2024 Jan 30;2024(1):rjae013. Doi: 10.1093/jscr/rjae013. eCollection 2024 Jan. PMID: 38304310 Dowd-Schoeman T, **Subramanian S**, Enghelberg M. Findings on Swept Source OCTA Through Treatment Stages In Primary Vitreoretinal Lymphoma. Retina Cases & Brief Reports. *In Press. 2023*

Shen, Bailey MD	PRESENTATIONS: Young WC, Hwang BT, **Shen BY**. Low-cost 3D printed binocular indirect ophthalmoscope. Annual Meeting, Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, Seattle, WA, 2024. Poster presentation.
Sierpina, David MD	PUBLICATIONS: Dinh RH, Tsui E, Wider MS, Barash A, Park MM, Rahimy E, Mruthyunjaya P, Lu LJ, Michalak SM, Shah RJ, **Sierpina D**, Winter TW, Shields RA, Uchiyama E, Lee GD, Komati R, Lee E, Kasi SK, Do BK. Acute Macular Neuroretinopathy and COVID-19 Infection. Ophthalmology Retina. (February 2023); 7(2):198-200. PMID: 36216223. PRESENTATIONS: Using Long-read Adaptive Nanopore Sequencing to Decipher a Novel Pathogenic Duplication in the PRPH2 Gene in Patients with Macular Dystrophy. Abstract to be presented at the European Vision and Eye Research Conference in Valencia, Spain, November 3-5, 2024.
Van Putten, Douglas MD	Keiko Inouye, Harris Ahmed, Soungmin Cho, **Douglas Van Putten**. Lens Material of the Eyelid Masquerading as Phakomatous Choristoma After Cataract Surgery. Cureus. 2023 May 2024 May 8;15(5):e38718. eCollection 2023 May. PMC10246729 DOI: 10.7759/cureus.38718 Presentations Palileo B, Patel R, Van Putten D. A Case of Orbital Hidrocystoma Presenitng as Unilateral Proptosis and Diplopia. Poster presented at the Women in Ophthalmology Summer Symposium, August 2023
Winter, Aaron MD	Amir Abbasnejad, Oren Tomkins-Netzer, **Aaron Winter**, Alon Friedman, Alan Cruess, Yonathan Serlin, Jaime Levy. A Fluroescein Angiography-based Computer-aided Algorithm for Assessing the Retinal Vasculature in Diabetic Retinopathy. Eye (Lond). 2023 May;37(7):1293-1301. Doi: 10.1038/s41433-02120-4. Epub 2022 May 28. PMID: 35643792
Winter, Timothy DO	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 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. 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 Dinh RH, Tsui E, Wider MS, Barash A, Park MM, Rahimy E, Mruthyunjaya P, Lu LJ, Michalak SM, Shah RJ, Sierpina D, **Winter TW**, Shields RA, Uchiyama E, Lee GD, Komati R, Lee E, Kasi SK, Do BK. Acute Macular Neuroretinopathy and COVID-19 Infection. Ophthalmology Retina. (February 2023); 7(2):198-200. PMID: 36216223. PRESENTATIONS: Primary brain tumors and Diamox; Dr. Firn at NANOS March 2024

Grateful Gifts

To our alumni, patients, and friends: your unwavering support continues to help us realize the mission and vision of LLUEI. Your support through prayers, guidance, and financial contributions is vital to our continued success. Your generous gifts—whether through annual donations, involvement in our phonathon, or estate contributions—offer numerous impactful opportunities for you to make a real difference. Together, we are shaping a future of excellence in education, patient care, and research. Thank you for being such an essential part of our community.

Our department is committed to patient care, teaching, and advancing research. With the generous $4.5 million gift from Dennis and Carol Troesh, we have been able to establish the Dennis & Carol Troesh Ophthalmology Research Fund to support and develop a robust basic science research program in our department. This fund is particularly focused on macular degeneration, a leading cause of vision loss. We are deeply grateful for the Troesh family's continued support in our efforts to preserve and protect the gift of sight through groundbreaking research. Contributions have been made to various funds that support education, special projects, scholarships for residents and fellows, and research. These gifts will significantly enhance our educational initiatives and research efforts. This support empowers us to advance our work and improve patient care, reflecting a deep commitment to the field of ophthalmology. Thank you for making such a meaningful impact on our efforts and the lives of those we serve.

Your generous contributions embody the essence of giving back and reflect the steadfast support that many of you offer to our current residents as they navigate their training journeys. We are incredibly thankful for your commitment to enhancing the education and development of the next generation in ophthalmology.

Healing Hands Program

All staff members at LLUEI provide the highest quality care for our patients. The Healing Hands program offers a way for patients to acknowledge caregivers for their exceptional service. Through this program, appreciative patients can make a gift in honor of the care they've received, and caregivers are celebrated within their departments.

This year, Dr. Michael Rauser achieved an impressive milestone, receiving his 50th Healing Hands recognition—the most awarded to any physician or employee at LLUH. In total, the Department of Ophthalmology received 23 independent patient recognitions in 2024.

Congratulations to all who were recognized! We truly appreciate our wonderful community, appreciative patients, and alumni. Your support means the world to us. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we work towards our future goals.

Department Needs

- Endowed Chairs to support academic positions within the LLU Eye Institute
- 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 **Jessica 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.

LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
Eye Institute

Closing

It is the mission of the LLU Eye Institute is to train medical students, residents, and fellows for a life of medical ministry, providing a depth and breadth of training that allows transition to academia, fellowship, or private practice. Collaboration with our alumni remains critical to our success. We ask for your continued prayers and support.

Blessings,

Michael E. Rauser, MD, Chairman

A Seventh-day Adventist Institution