

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

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I am excited to be joining WVU Medicine as Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology. The health care challenges in today's world are numerous and need new and innovative approaches to solve them. In West Virginia, WVU is leading the way in bringing current cutting edge treatments for eye disease to the citizens of this wild and wonderful state.

My family connections include grandparents along the Ohio River area near Huntington and in Pittsburgh, where my grandfather worked for many years in the steel mills. Throughout my childhood, I enjoyed many visits to these areas from my hometown of Columbus, Ohio.

I completed my OD and MS degrees in the Optometry College at The Ohio State University. Afterwards, I embarked on medical school and I received an MD from the OSU College of Medicine and entered ophthalmology residency at OSU. Following residency, I remained at OSU for a corneal fellowship and was then invited to become a faculty member in the department. I was on faculty at Ohio State for 29 years, and spent the last 14 years was honored to serve as Chair of the Department and Director of the Havener Eye Institute.

At the end of the day, I believe that family is the foundation of our lives; and, more importantly, that this foundation can influence our patient care in the most inspiring ways. I often tell new residents and faculty that if they treat every patient exactly as they would want their own family members to be treated, they will always do the right thing. When I arrived at the WVU Eye Institute, I felt the kindness and generosity of all the people working here immediately. I knew I had arrived at my new home and had, in a way, gained a new family.

I am thrilled to move to the mountains of West Virginia and look forward to many new opportunities as a Mountaineer. My goal is to build on the excellent eye care that the faculty and staff of the Eye Institute provide in order to meet the growing needs of the people of West Virginia. I want to enhance the already strong educational and research components of the WVU Eye Institute, and bring in additional talent to meet the increasing need for eye care both in our community, and in the state as a whole. But most of all, I want us all to continue striving to improve the lives of all of our patients.

Thomas Mauger, MD  
Professor and Chairman  
WVU Eye Institute Department of Ophthalmology

## NEWS FROM THE WVU EYE INSTITUTE

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### WVU Eye Institute expands, names prominent cornea specialist as director

[West Virginia University](#) has named Thomas Mauger, M.D., to lead the [WVU Eye Institute](#) and serve as chair for the [Department of Ophthalmology](#). He will also serve as associate dean for practice plan integration.

[Read more...](#)



### Dr. Allison Bardes joins the WVU Eye Institute

Allison Bardes, M.D., joined the [WVU Eye Institute](#) on June 29. Her primary focus will be on comprehensive ophthalmology with a specific focus on cataract surgery and LASIK.

[Read more...](#)



### Dr. David Hinkle appointed as newest member of clinical faculty

The Department of Ophthalmology is pleased to announce the appointment of David Hinkle, MD, as the newest member of clinical faculty.

[View faculty profile...](#)



### WVU Day of Giving to be held on Nov. 14

One day to give back. Your support is critical to help WVU move the state forward in the areas of education, healthcare, and prosperity.

[Read more about how you can make a difference on Nov. 14...](#)



### **Dr. Ezequiel Salido receives KTEF grant**

Dr. Ezequiel Salido, second-year post-doctoral fellow received a starter career grant entitled “Interphotoreceptor Matrix and Visual Impairments” from the Knights Templar Eye Foundations (KTEF), Inc. for his study on the matrix that surrounds the photoreceptors cells, rods, and cones.

Dr. Salido was awarded \$65,000 to study the matrix between the photoreceptor and the retinal pigment epithelial cells (RPE) at the back of the eye. This matrix is an extracellular mesh and is the main conduit between these cells that nourishes the photoreceptors. The integrity of this mesh is important for vision health and mutations and/or changes in the proteins in this matrix cause progressive visual deficits.

Little is known about the mechanism and the molecules that participate in the generation and maintenance of the matrix. Dr. Salido will use the KTEF funding to better understand the role of the Interphotoreceptor Matrix in vision, design therapies against matrix related diseases and improve 3-D retinal culture models. The finding from the study will also have a significant influence on ongoing therapies that aim to cure multiple blinding diseases.

“I am delighted to receive the Knight Templar Eye Foundation starter career grant” “The goal of my research is to understand the need for the specialized environment that surrounds the photoreceptors cells, rods, and cones”, said Dr. Salido.

*Photo: L to R: Ronald Jones, Past Board Commander. James Golladay with the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Dr. Salido, Dr. V. Ramamurthy, Dr. Ronald Gross, and Dr. S. Kolandaivelu*



### **WVU Eye Institute announces new technology for refractive eye surgery, faculty and staff receive discount**

The West Virginia University Eye Institute is proud to announce the latest technology in laser eye surgery. With the WaveLight EX500 Refractive Suite and Pentacam diagnostic testing device, our highly skilled team offers a fast, accurate refractive laser

treatment.

WVU Eye Institute is the first center in West Virginia to use the state-of-the-art WaveLight Laser Suite for refractive surgery. The suite consists of fast and accurate lasers in order to achieve maximum results.

Dr. Lee Wiley with over 25 years experience in excimer refractive surgery, will head the Lasik team along with Dr. Allison Bardes who is returning to the Eye Institute after two years practicing in Los Angeles, California and Dr. Lingo Lai who has been practicing at the Eye Institute since 2015.

“We are pleased to offer our patients the very latest in refractive surgery technology” said Dr. Wiley.

Faculty and staff members of WVU Medicine and University Health Associates also receive a discount on refractive eye surgery. Faculty and staff have the ability to receive the surgery for \$1,600.00 per eye, \$500.00 less than the average cost.



### **Department of Ophthalmology hosts Lions Club**

The West Virginia University School of Medicine Department of Ophthalmology hosted the West Virginia Lions Clubs to a day at the WVU Eye Institute.

Since the time when Helen Kellar called the Lions to become “knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness”, the West Virginia Lions have been instrumental in the development of the Eye Institute and the programs it provides. Their donations also help the research done here at the Eye Institute.

Lions Day is a way for the clubs to see exactly how their donations are being used. They tour the facility, watch demonstrations on how the equipment they buy is being used, and also participate in a “Blind Cafe”. A special presentation concerning Diabetic Retinopathy was presenting by Madeline who was diagnosis with wet AMD. She presented her journey and how she is coping and how people can be aware of being proactive in their overall eye healthcare. The 2018 Lions Day was a success and let the West Virginia Lions know how much their help is appreciated.

*Photo: Dr. Bradford discussing Pediatric Cancer to Lions*

## AWARDS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Members of Eye Institute honored at BRAVO! Awards Ceremony

A few members of the WVU Eye Institute were honored during the annual BRAVO! Awards Ceremony. Starting with a reception and dinner and ending with an awards presentation, members were recognized for special contributions they have made to

patients and their care.

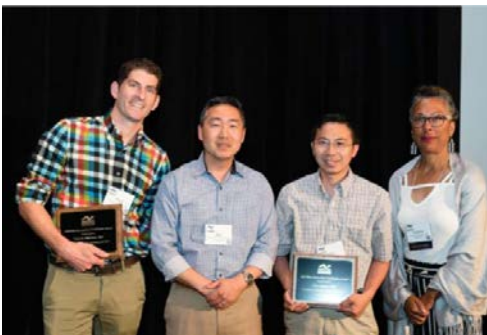
Those honored were:

Rob Smith – Unsung Hero Award

Craig Campbell, Kim Ebert and Dr. Ronald Gross – Performance Improvement Team Award

Dr. Geoff Bradford and Dr. Ghassan Ghorayeb – Clinician and Group Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CG CAHPS) Survey Top Provider Award

*Photo: (L-R) Rob Smith, Dr. Bradford, Erica Batton, Kim Ebert, Dr. Ghorayeb*



### Dr. John Nguyen receives ASOPRS award

The American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery (ASOPRS) presented John Nguyen, M.D., associate professor of the West Virginia University Department of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology, with its Outstanding

Contribution Award at the 2018 Spring Scientific Symposium in Austin, Texas on June 2, 2018. This award is given annually to an individual or individuals who make a legendary single, or longstanding multiple, contributions to the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, and Dr. Nguyen was recognized for the development and evolution of the coder used by ASOPRS fellows. He has also co-founded the ASOPRS Forum, an open forum for ASOPRS members to exchange of ideas and expertise with Dr. Aaron Fay, his mentor and collaborator at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Nguyen is director of the ophthalmic plastic & reconstructive surgery at the WVU Eye Institute and also director of the ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery fellowship. He

publishes extensively in peer-reviewed journals and authors many book chapters. He credits his success to many mentors, trainees and ASOPRS colleagues.

For more information on the ASOPRS, see [www.asoprs.org](http://www.asoprs.org)

## **RESIDENT AND FELLOW ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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### **WVU Eye Institute welcomes five new residents and fellow**

The WVU Eye Institute is excited to welcome new residents and fellows: Beau Froebel, MD, Chang Sup Lee, MD, Andrew Miller, MD, Jason Nguyen, MD, and Evan Berger, MD (Fellow).

### **WVU Eye Institute says goodbye to graduating residents**

Each year as summer approaches, WVU Eye Institute says goodbye to the graduating residents. This year was no different. The 2018 ophthalmology graduates were an exceptional bunch who left their mark with faculty and staff alike.

During a reception at the WVU Alumni Center, each one was recognized for their contributions and achievements during their tenure at the Eye Institute.

We congratulate Dr. Masih Ahmed, Dr. Ben Stephens, Dr. Bea Rommel, Dr. Eva Devience and Dr. Daniel Kim as they go forth and conquer the world of ophthalmology at different places.

## **SUPPORTING THE WVU EYE INSTITUTE**

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The West Virginia University Eye Institute is dedicated to providing excellent patient care, and educating the healthcare professionals of tomorrow to ensure the vision of outstanding care will continue on for generations. Your generous donation demonstrates your unwavering Mountaineer spirit and commitment to improving the lives of others.

Funds for the WVU Eye Institute support investments in clinical care, innovations, education and research. You can impact tomorrow by making your donation today.

To support the WVU Eye Institute, visit <https://give.wvu.edu/wvumedicine-eyeinstitute> or contact:

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