

# BUCKEYE OPHTHALMOLOGY

Welcoming a New Chair: Sayoko Moroi, MD, PhD



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

## Sayoko Moroi, MD, PhD

Chair, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science

"One of my goals is to prevent glaucoma-related blindness. While we may not cure glaucoma in my lifetime, if we can take small steps toward preventing glaucoma-related blindness, that is huge progress for patients with glaucoma."



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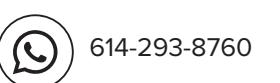
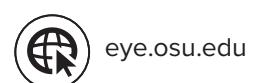
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## Welcoming a New Chair: Sayoko Moroi, MD, PhD

Sayoko (Sy) Moroi, MD, PhD was recently named the chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science at The Ohio State University College of Medicine, and the William H. Havener, MD Chair in Ophthalmology Research.

As she prepares for her new role, Dr. Moroi is concentrating on her goals for the department, which includes building upon the existing teleophthalmology program, expanding research, and meeting the growing Columbus population needs. She will join Ohio State in January 2020.

Inspired by her father's own battle with glaucoma, Dr. Moroi has dedicated much of her career to preventing glaucoma-related blindness. She will be bringing a National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded grant that she has received to study physiologic factors that influence eye pressure variation and treatment response in glaucoma patients. With new faculty colleague, Raymond Gao, PhD, Dr. Moroi plans to launch a study to develop genetic risk profiles that will improve

“ As we advance our understanding of eye pressure variation and drug response variation, my dream is that patients can be profiled for risk of blindness using a combination of standard glaucoma tests and genetic tests.”

glaucoma outcomes by replacing trial-and-error glaucoma treatments with precision medicine-based treatments based on individual patient characteristics.

“One of my goals is to prevent glaucoma-related blindness,” Dr. Moroi says. “While we may not cure glaucoma in my lifetime, if we can take small steps toward preventing glaucoma-related blindness, that is huge progress for patients with glaucoma.”

Dr. Moroi hopes to investigate different factors that may cause eye pressure variation, such as fluid production, fluid drainage and venous pressure in the eye. The study will also look at whether these physiologic factors account for variations in treatment response to commonly used glaucoma eye drops.

“When we prescribe medical therapy to treat glaucoma, it is trial-and-error to start typically with a certain drug class,” Dr. Moroi says. “Then patients come back several times to see whether or not their eye pressure is responding to treatment. Clearly with this approach, even with new effective medicines, there are some patients who progress to blindness.”

Dr. Moroi and Dr. Gao’s study will examine the genetics of glaucoma and glaucoma risk factors. The research will focus on identifying which patients may be more likely to have significant pressure fluctuations, or who may be more likely to respond to a certain treatment. She hopes the study will lead to more personalized, precision treatment plans for glaucoma patients.

Dr. Moroi is optimistic that more precision medicine-based treatments will be successfully developed and launched in ophthalmology.

“We can learn from the successes from our cancer colleagues,” she explains. “After fundamental research in cancer genetics and cell biology, there are several cancers that can be cured. Furthermore, the research has been applied to improve several cancer treatments that have drastically improved survivor rates. We want to use that same tactic to improve glaucoma outcomes in order to prevent blindness.”

Dr. Moroi has been involved in 40 different research projects that span patient outcomes, glaucoma pharmacology, genetics, intraocular pressure variability and population health. She has served as principal investigator, site principal investigator or co-investigator on more than 30 funded studies from either industry or the National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation.

“As we advance our understanding of eye pressure variation and drug response variation, my dream is that patients can be profiled for risk of blindness using a combination of standard

glaucoma tests and genetic tests,” Dr. Moroi says. “Then, we can combine the clinic+genetic risk score with other data to move quickly and prevent the disease from progressing.”

Dr. Moroi plans to build upon Dr. Matthew Ohr’s teleophthalmology program.

“Teleophthalmology is an exciting field,” she says. “It will help us develop better strategies in preventing diabetes-related eye complications by giving us tools for early detection. I think the teleophthalmology will help patients be more aware of the consequences of uncontrolled diabetes and better motivate them to take healthier actions.”

“Dr. Moroi is a nationally recognized academic clinician, physician-scientist and leader. We are delighted to welcome her back to Ohio State.”

—K. Craig Kent, MD, dean of The Ohio State University College of Medicine

Dr. Moroi is joining The Ohio State University from the University of Michigan, where she has grown the number of faculty across sub-specialties to transform their care model to a collaborative co-management system. She has received multiple awards and invited lectureships, including the 2018 Robert N. Shaffer Lecture, which the American Academy of Ophthalmology awards to only one individual each year.

Dr. Moroi earned her MD and PhD at The Ohio State University in 1989. She completed an internal medicine internship at Duke University, an ophthalmology residency at the Duke University Eye Center, a research fellowship at Duke and a clinical fellowship in glaucoma at the Kellogg Eye Center at the University of Michigan. At the University of Michigan, she is the Jerome Jacobson Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, chief of the Division of Glaucoma and director of the Glaucoma Fellowship.

“Dr. Moroi is a nationally recognized academic clinician, physician-scientist and leader,” says K. Craig Kent, MD, dean of The Ohio State University College of Medicine. “She focuses on precision medicine, an individualized approach toward prevention and treatment of glaucoma, and we are delighted to welcome her back to Ohio State.”

The Ohio State University Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science is thrilled to welcome Dr. Sy Moroi back to Ohio State. She is an innovative leader and a talented researcher who will grow our ophthalmology program to be one of the top in the country.

# Xiaoyi Raymond Gao, PhD

Xiaoyi Raymond Gao, PhD joined The Ohio State University Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science as an Associate Professor in January 2019.



**"Having a way to predict who might have glaucoma before the symptoms appear would be extremely beneficial for patients."**

"One of my areas of interest is glaucoma-related genetics research," Dr. Gao says. "I find genetic markers associated with glaucoma and its quantitative traits such as intraocular pressure, vertical cup-to-disc ratio, and central corneal thickness. I also use genetic data and machine learning to try to predict glaucoma."

"My hope is that my research leads to better understanding and earlier detection of glaucoma," Dr. Gao explains. "I find information that guides and helps to build models that better predict the onset of glaucoma before it causes ocular damage in patients."

Glaucoma currently has no effective cure, making early detection critically important.

"Having a way to predict who might have glaucoma before the symptoms appear would be extremely

beneficial for patients," Dr. Gao says. "About 50% of patients with glaucoma are unaware they have this eye disease because typically there are no early symptoms."

"My favorite part of my research is the possibility of identifying something that has never been reported before, or building a useful prediction model that can help clinicians predict the onset of disease," he says.

Dr. Gao feels a tremendous reward not only in helping patients, but also by being part of a research community.

"Research is not easy. You must have persistence and perseverance," Dr. Gao explains. "Sometimes there are ups and downs. When I think about all the researchers who work on similar topics or in similar fields, I feel like I'm a member of a bigger pool; a synergistic community."



Dr. Gao's lab is located in Tzagournis Medical Research Facility on The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center campus.

# Teleophthalmology Program Grows

Diabetic patients have increased access to ocular imaging.

The Ohio State University Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science has found a way to examine the eyes of diabetic patients who wouldn't otherwise get a yearly exam. The method is a new teleophthalmology program, made possible by an Upper Payment Limit (UPL) grant from The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.

Because people with diabetes are prone to retina problems, it is widely recommended that diabetic patients see an ophthalmologist for a yearly eye exam. The Department of Ophthalmology's teleophthalmology project, led by Program Manager Greg Schwitzgable, aims to increase access to yearly diabetic eye exams for patients who otherwise weren't receiving them.

"People might not come in yearly for a variety of reasons, whether it be an issue with transportation, time, cost, or lack of knowledge about the importance of doing so," Schwitzgable explains. Many patients don't schedule a yearly appointment because they don't have noticeable vision changes.

"The project helps us detect otherwise undetected changes," says Will Bloom, clinical research coordinator. "The key is that there are treatments available for diabetic retinopathy, but it's easier to treat it if you know about it earlier."

Through the program, patients' retinas are photographed with advanced ophthalmic imaging equipment at their primary care physician's office during a regular checkup. The images are sent to Matthew Ohr, MD at the Ohio State Department of Ophthalmology. He provides an assessment to the primary care physician, who then advises the patients whether to schedule an in-person eye exam.

The teleophthalmology program is not meant to be a replacement for in-person appointments. Rather, its goal is to examine diabetic patients' eyes that otherwise wouldn't be.

The process is simple and does not require eye dilation, eye drops or prep work. The equipment has been available to patients at the Family Medicine clinic at Ohio State Outpatient Care East since May 2019 and was used to image the 100th patient in August.



Gregory Schwitzgable, project manager of the Ohio State University Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science Teleophthalmology program.

**"There are treatments available for diabetic retinopathy, but it's easier to treat it if you know about it earlier."**

# Team Approach Provides Optimal Results

When it comes to surgery plans, one size doesn't always fit all.

Special education teacher and dance studio owner Neda M. is a longtime patient of Andrew Hendershot, MD, but it wasn't until September 2019 that she needed cataract surgery.

"My life got really limited as my cataracts worsened," Neda explains. "I'm a really busy person. It got to the point where I couldn't go back and forth to my evening job, or stay late at my day job without someone having to pick me up and drive me where I needed to go."

Neda has Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, which was a factor in planning her cataract surgery.

"Because I have Ehlers-Danlos I frequently get misdiagnosed, or sometimes people miss important information that they should be paying attention to. Dr. Hendershot is always very conscientious. The team is very conscientious. They paid attention to every detail," Neda says.

Dr. Hendershot worked with Neda and Ohio State anesthesiologists to provide a surgery plan that she was most comfortable with.

"Neda was concerned about the bright lights, being awake, and being able to hold still for fear that her other medical conditions could cause trouble," Dr. Hendershot says. "So we started talking about general anesthesia, which isn't an option at many places. The

**"Now I can drive at night just fine... It really does feel like I got my freedom back."**

anesthesiologists decided it would be safest to do general anesthesia at the main hospital, where, if there were any surprises, her care could be escalated quickly and easily."

The Ohio State University Department of Ophthalmology is becoming one of the only eye clinics in the area that can provide a hospital option for surgery.

"A lot of patients need more care than a surgery center can provide, so we end up doing many surgeries like this," Dr. Hendershot says. Now, about a month after her surgery, Neda is enjoying life again.

"I can see everything very clearly now," she says. "The cataracts made everything look cloudy, and now that is completely gone. The big thing I noticed is that lights don't hurt my eyes anymore, which is what really limited my driving. Now I can drive at night just fine and it doesn't bother me. It really does feel like I got my freedom back."



Dr. Hendershot (back): "Part of one of the many teams that make it possible to provide excellent care to our patients. Ohio State Ophthalmology and The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center are full of excellent teams and amazing people."



## Raymond I. Cho, MD, FACS

Dr. Ray Cho can help solve complex cases in patient-tailored ways as part of OSUCCC's Skull Base Program.

Zhen "Rick" Situ hasn't always had the best luck with his left eye. After several ptosis repair surgeries at another eye clinic, something still wasn't right with his eye, and it wasn't improving. He was referred to Martha Morehouse Outpatient Care for a CT scan, which showed a mass behind his eye.

"I immediately assumed the worst. I was scared it was cancer," Rick says. The tumor turned out to be a benign cavernous hemangioma, but it still needed to be removed as it was pressing on the optic nerve and causing vision loss. That's when Rick came to the Ohio State Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science to see Raymond I. Cho, MD, FACS.

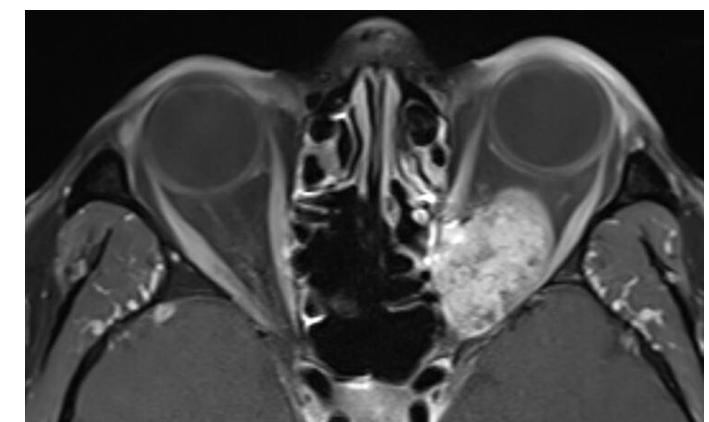
"Most orbital tumors can be removed through an incision in or behind the eyelids," Dr. Cho explains. "But this one was very large, and it was stuck to the optic nerve and other critical structures of the orbit."

Dr. Cho is part of The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center (OSUCCC)'s Skull Base Program. The team is comprised of multidisciplinary physicians to offer a wide variety of tailored treatments to patients affected by benign and malignant tumors of the skull base.

"There was a definite risk of vision loss. That was our biggest concern," Dr. Cho says. "That's why we took the all-in approach to get all the different specialties involved."

In April 2019, Dr. Cho, along with Dr. Ricardo Carrau from the otolaryngology (ENT) department and Dr. Douglas Hardesty from the neurosurgery department, removed the tumor from Rick's orbit.

"We did a combined lateral, inferior and medial orbitotomy along with an endoscopic endonasal approach," Dr. Cho explains. "ENT went through the nose and removed the medial wall to free the posterior portion of the tumor. I went in through the orbit to free up the rest of the tumor and remove it in one piece."



**"There was a definite risk of vision loss. That was our biggest concern. That's why we took the all-in approach to get all the different specialties involved."**

After surgery, Rick's optic nerve function improved significantly, but his double vision persisted and his eye appeared sunken. In August 2019, Dr. Cho operated again by reconstructing the bony walls that had been removed during the first surgery.

"My double vision is almost gone. It will take time, but I am really happy," Rick says. "I might do one more surgery before the end of the year to further correct my eyelid. Most of all, I'm happy the tumor is gone."



View Surgery



## Robinson Advanced Imaging Center

Julie Racine, PhD leads staff training on the new equipment.



Officially opened in May 2019, the Robinson Advanced Imaging Center is preparing for patient care.

Recently, Julie Racine, PhD, director of the Visual Electrophysiology Clinic at Nationwide Children's Hospital, began training ophthalmic staff to operate the new equipment.

"I am excited about giving onsite access to visual electrophysiology testing for Ohio State ophthalmology patients," Racine says. "I'm looking forward to many years of collaboration."

The Imaging Center will soon offer Ohio State Ophthalmology patients the most advanced imaging technology available. The equipment will help our ophthalmologists better understand retinal, macular and retino-cortical pathway functions in patients with visual deficits.

Donors Thomas and Patricia Robinson joined department faculty for a ribbon cutting event in May 2019. Their donation will help patients for years to come.

**"I am excited about giving onsite access to visual electrophysiology testing for Ohio State ophthalmology patients. I'm looking forward to many years of collaboration."**



Thomas Robinson, Frederick Kapetansky, MD, Patricia Robinson, Matthew Ohr, MD, and Julie Racine, PhD unveil the Imaging Center.



## Why Join a Clinical Trial?

"Medicine wouldn't be where it is today if it wasn't for people willing to participate in clinical trials."

With her upbeat, easygoing personality and occasional baked treats for faculty and staff, clinical trial patient Mary Ann Orlinski has become a warmly-welcomed familiar face at the Department of Ophthalmology.

Mary Ann has been a patient of Dr. Matthew Ohr for macular degeneration in one eye for the past two years. When her other eye began showing signs, Dr. Ohr asked if she would be interested in participating in a clinical trial.

"I'd never done anything like this before, but a friend of mine who happens to be a former neurosurgeon told me that medicine wouldn't be where it is today if it wasn't for people willing to participate in clinical trials," Mary Ann says.

"I'd imagine that it's a little tough at first for doctors to explain to patients how they're going to treat macular degeneration: 'Oh, P.S., we're going to stick a needle in your eye,'" she says. "But they numb you up and you hardly feel a thing—just a bit of pressure."

Another reason Mary Ann decided to get involved was because her mother had macular degeneration, too.

"I sat through years' worth of appointments with my mom," Mary Ann explains. "The needle was scary at first, but I thought if my mom can do it at 95, I can do it. The most surprising part has been that it doesn't hurt!"

Mary Ann is receiving monthly treatments for the two-year duration of the study. Staff has arranged for her transportation each way because her eyes are dilated after each appointment.

Dr. Ohr isn't looking for improvements in Mary Ann's vision. Rather, he is making sure it doesn't get worse.

"According to Dr. Ohr, I'm clinically stable," she says. "If someone is considering doing a clinical trial, I think they should do it. If it wasn't for clinical trials, medicine couldn't have made all the progress that it has."

## Recruiting Clinical Trials

614-293-5287  
research@osumc.edu

### Geographic Atrophy

**Derby.** Evaluating a drug called APL-2 for patients with geographic atrophy (GA), a form of dry age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

Inclusion Criteria:

- At least 60 years of age with BCVA of at least 20/320

Exclusion Criteria:

- Any history or active choroidal neovascularization
- Intravitreal therapies in either eye

**Gallego.** Evaluating the safety, tolerability, and efficacy of intravitreal injections of FHTR2163 administered every 4 weeks or every 8 weeks in patients with geographic atrophy compared with sham control.

Inclusion Criteria:

- At least 60 years of age with BCVA of at least 20/320

Exclusion Criteria:

- Absence of any hyperfluorescence pattern adjacent to GA area in the study eye
- Intraocular surgery in the study eye within three months prior to day 1

### Diabetic Retinopathy

**Kingfisher.** Evaluating the efficacy and safety of brolucizumab dosed every 4 weeks versus aflibercept dosed every 4 weeks in the treatment of patients with visual impairment due to DME.

Inclusion Criteria:

- At least 18 years of age with type 1 or 2 diabetes mellitus and HbA1c  $\leq 12\%$  at screening
- Visual impairment of study eye due to DME with:
  - 20/40 to 20/320 approximate Snellen equivalent
  - Central Macular thickening secondary to DME with CSFT  $\geq 320 \mu\text{m}$  on SD-OCT

Exclusion Criteria:

- High-risk PDR in the study eye
- IVT anti-VEGF treatment during the 3-month period prior to baseline
- Intraocular surgery or laser photocoagulation (macular or panretinal) during the 3-month period prior to baseline

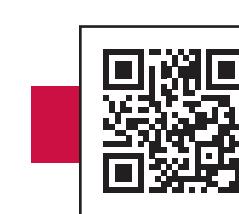
**Pagoda.** Evaluating the efficacy, safety, and pharmacokinetics of the Port Delivery System in patients with DME when treated every 24 weeks compared with intravitreal ranibizumab 0.5 mg every 4 weeks.

Inclusion Criteria:

- Age  $\geq 18$  years with HbA1c level of  $\leq 10\%$
- BCVA of  $\geq 25$  letters (20/320 approximate Snellen equivalent or better)

Exclusion Criteria:

- Currently untreated diabetes mellitus or previously untreated patients who initiated oral anti-diabetic medication or insulin within 3 months prior to randomization



For more on clinical trials, visit [eye.osu.edu/research](http://eye.osu.edu/research)

# Dr. Alan Letson ('81) Gives Back

Why Alan Letson, MD supports the Paul A. Weber, MD Endowed Chair Fund.



**"The best way I can help is not just to thank them for what's in the past, but to help move things forward."**

"In June of 1976, on the last day of my away rotation at Ohio State as I was leaving to go back to medical school at Case Western Reserve, [former chair] Dr. William Havener came running down the hall, grabbed me by the arm and said, 'Do you want to be one of my residents for the class of 1981?' I said, 'Sure!'"

This is how Dr. Alan Letson's ophthalmology career and relationship with Ohio State began. Dr. Paul Weber was a PGY-2 (first year of residency after internship) at the time. When Dr. Letson's residency began, Dr. Weber was a new attending physician and quickly became the "go-to" attending for the new resident class. This was the start of Letson's professional and personal friendship with Dr. Weber.

Dr. Letson has had an incredibly dynamic career. After completing his residency and retina fellowship at Ohio State, he was recruited by Drs. Havener and Weber to join the Ohio State faculty. However, because of a lack of physical space in the department and community demand, Dr. Letson created what became a booming retina-only practice downtown at Grant Eye and Ear Hospital, while still participating in the educational and clinical program at Ohio State.

"I spent every Tuesday here staffing the residents," Dr. Letson says. "Lectures at 7 a.m., then clinic starting at 8 a.m.. We saw about 40 patients in the morning clinic. In the afternoon we would staff the operating room. I also took call to staff the residents. I love teaching and I've always felt that if I teach, I learn. Teaching was very important to me."

In 2005, former chair Dr. Thomas Mauger recruited Dr. Letson to join Ohio State full-time.

"After enjoying private practice with the privilege of being involved with the program at Ohio State, I moved on to a different phase of my career and joined the university full-time in 2005," Dr. Letson explains. "Next thing I knew, I was the residency program director, retina fellowship director, Ophthalmology clerkship director, Ophthalmology education leader, and retina division director." In 2007 he was appointed to the William H. Havener Chair in Ophthalmology.

After 10 years, Dr. Letson turned over the reins of his leadership roles and became Professor Emeritus, now in his 41st year of service to Ohio State.

"Paul Weber is a lifelong friend—One of my best, closest friends," Dr. Letson says. "He has given so much to the department with his service, his years, his expertise, his care and compassion. He's a great guy. When they wanted to create the endowed chair fund for him, I couldn't not help but support it."

"As I look at my relationship with Ohio State, I feel that I have so many people to be thankful to. I'm thankful to Bill Havener for recruiting me in the first place. Fred Davidorf was instrumental in my early career, interest in retina and mentor in my fellowship. And of course, Paul Weber was instrumental in my development as an ophthalmologist. I can thank these people, and the thankfulness is good for them but it doesn't do anything going forward. The best way I can help is not just to thank them for what's in the past, but to help move things forward."



Dr. Bob Wang (second right) with fellow Ohio State alumni atop Mount Kilimanjaro in 2009.

## Dr. Bob Wang ('00) Supports Buckeye Students

Student scholarships are made possible through a generous donation.

"What I always liked about Ohio State was that it always seemed to be resident teaching-focused," says Bob Wang, MD, residency class of 2000. "It seemed like everyone was interested in you learning. It was an environment where they wanted you to succeed."

Dr. Wang, who also completed his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry at Ohio State, went on to do a Uveitis fellowship at the Doheny Eye Institute and subsequent Vitreoretinal fellowship at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary.

"It was Dr. Mitchel Oprenca who got me interested in both retina and uveitis," Dr. Wang says. "I remember at Grand Rounds it always seemed like he was the one trying to figure out the fascinomas. I also remember having a patient with Dr. Fred Davidorf that I couldn't figure out and thinking, maybe I need to learn about retina and uveitis a little bit more."

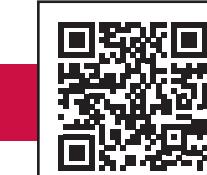
After completing his fellowships, Dr. Wang joined Texas Retina Associates in Dallas. 19 years later, his connection with Ohio State is strong.

In 2018, Dr. Wang created the George and Shirley Wang Fund for Student Excellence in Arts and Sciences and the Robert Wang Fund in Medicine with a generous donation of \$125k. The fund supports at least one undergraduate research award in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, and at least one scholarship for students in Ophthalmology.

"I feel lucky to have gone to Ohio State, and I'm at a point in my life where I feel it is nice to give back," Dr. Wang says. "I also feel lucky to be where I am today. Maybe the scholarships will give others a break to start the ball rolling on their career and life."



**"I feel lucky to have gone to Ohio State, and I'm at a point in my life where I feel it is nice to give back."**



For ways to give, visit [go.osu.edu/OphthalmologyGiving](http://go.osu.edu/OphthalmologyGiving)



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Dr. Amit Tandon (second from right) with a Haitian doctor, a patient, and Dr. Matt Thompson from Tower Clock Eye Center in Wisconsin.

## Setting Our Sights Abroad

Amit Tandon, MD restores sight and hope to Haiti communities.

Out of Haiti's estimated one million blind population, there are only 55 ophthalmologists. The need for eye care is urgent. Every January for the past six years, Amit Tandon, MD has traveled to Croix-des-Bouquets to help.

**"People who were previously relying on their family or neighbors are now not only independent, but can continue working and contributing."**

It is almost part of Haitian culture to accept blindness with age, Tandon says, but a large portion of this blindness is due to correctable cataracts.

"We see people who are a burden to their community because they're older and they're completely blind," he says.

"You do the surgery and not only do you fix them so they can see again, but you allow them to be able to contribute to their communities again. People who were previously relying on their family or neighbors are now not only independent, but can continue working and contributing."

Dr. Tandon is joined on each trip by former colleague Matt Thompson, MD from Tower Clock Eye Center in Wisconsin. The pair tries to bring a new ophthalmologist each year with the hope that they will want to return.

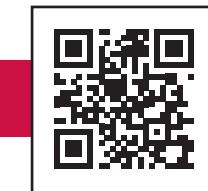
"Now we have 12 doctors involved, so every two months there are two doctors who go to Haiti," Dr. Tandon explains. "It's great because if we see someone who needs a follow-up, there will be two ophthalmologists back in two months."

One of the most memorable cases Dr. Tandon has seen was an 8-year-old boy who had developed cataracts that led to blindness in both eyes.

"I was especially touched by his situation because my daughter is the same age. I don't typically do surgery on children, but since there was no one else there who could do it, I had to try," he says. "The next day when he came back for a follow-up he had a book with him and was reading."

"When you leave, you feel like you really accomplished something—like you really made a difference. When you're there you're sometimes a little stressed out, but for me, on the plane home it hits me that I really made a difference."

*Data source: SEE International*



For more on our global impact, visit [eye.osu.edu/outreach](http://eye.osu.edu/outreach)

## Welcoming New Physicians

### Joshua Evans, MD • Glaucoma

*"My goal is to ensure that patients understand their conditions and can take an active role in their healthcare."*



**Medical School:** Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine  
**Internship:** Riverside Methodist Hospital  
**Residency:** University of Kentucky  
**Glaucoma Fellowship:** Indiana University

### Carla Ford, MD • Comprehensive

*"I strive to get to know each of my patients in order to recommend the best treatment for their lifestyle."*



**Medical School:** The Ohio State University College of Medicine  
**Internship:** Riverside Methodist Hospital  
**Residency:** The Ohio State University



### Ana Suelves, MD, PhD • Retina

*"I practice evidence-based medicine with a patient-centered approach. When patients take an active role in bringing their concerns into their healthcare, it makes the patient-doctor relationship very special."*

**Medical School:** University of Valencia, Spain  
**PhD:** University of Valencia, Spain  
**Internship and Residency:** New York Medical College  
**Vitreoretinal Surgery Fellowship:** Midwest Retina  
**Uveitis and Ocular immunology Fellowship:** Massachusetts Eye Research and Surgery Institution

## Upcoming Events

**2nd Annual Ohio Ocular Oncology Symposium**  
September 12, 2020  
Eye and Ear Institute

**Postgraduate Symposium in Ophthalmology**  
March 13–14, 2020  
Crowne Plaza Downtown Columbus

**Graduate Research Day**  
June 12, 2020  
Eye and Ear Institute

**Jacob Moses, MD Lectureship**  
April 9, 2020  
Eye and Ear Institute

**3rd Annual Retina Case Forum**  
August 21, 2020  
Eye and Ear Institute

**AAO Alumni Reception**  
November 14, 2020  
Las Vegas

# Education Events: A Year in Review



## 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Postgraduate Symposium in Ophthalmology

Innovations and Insights: A Comprehensive Look at Ophthalmology

March 8–9, 2019

Guest Speakers:

**Shu-Hong (Holly) Chang, MD, FACS**  
Associate Professor, University of Washington

**Lanning Kline, MD**  
Professor, University of Alabama at Birmingham

**Teresa Chen, MD**  
Associate Professor, Harvard University

**Omar Punjabi, MD**  
Charlotte Eye, Ear, Nose & Throat Associates, PA



## Jacob Moses, MD Lectureship

April 11, 2019

Guest Speaker:

**Douglas J. Rhee, MD (far left)**  
Chairman of the UH Cleveland Medical Center Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences

“Conquering Intraocular Pressure: Traditional and New Pharmacologic, Laser, and Surgical Approaches”

“Clinical and Laboratory Science Overview”

Left to right: Douglas Rhee, MD, Mark Dellinger, MD, Megan Moses, James Moses, MD, Mark Slabaugh, MD



## Grand Rounds • Thursdays

August 1, 2019

The Ohio State University President and glaucoma specialist **Dr. Michael V. Drake** joined department faculty for Grand Rounds.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Retina Case Forum

August 16, 2019

Guest Speaker:

**Christopher D. Riemann, MD (far right)**  
Director, Vitreoretinal Fellowship  
Member, Board of Directors  
Cincinnati Eye Institute  
Volunteer Professor, University of Cincinnati, Department of Ophthalmology

Ohio State retina specialists **Frederick Davidorf, MD**, **Colleen Cebulla, MD, PhD**, **Fatoumata Yanoga, MD** and **Matthew Ohr, MD** with Dr. Christopher Riemann.



For more information, visit [eye.osu.edu/events](http://eye.osu.edu/events)

# Buckeyes at National Meetings

## Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Annual Meeting

Vancouver, BC • April 28 – May 2, 2019



Ohio State University Department of Ophthalmology Presenters:

Mohamed Abdel-Rahman, MD, PhD  
Colleen Cebulla, MD, PhD  
Raymond Gao, PhD  
Frederick Kapetansky, MD

Jack Li, MD (Resident)  
Jun Liu, PhD  
Matthew Ohr, MD  
Matthew Reilly, PhD

Cynthia Roberts, PhD  
Jessica Scott, MD (Resident)  
Katelyn Swindle-Reilly, PhD

## American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting

San Francisco • October 12–15, 2019



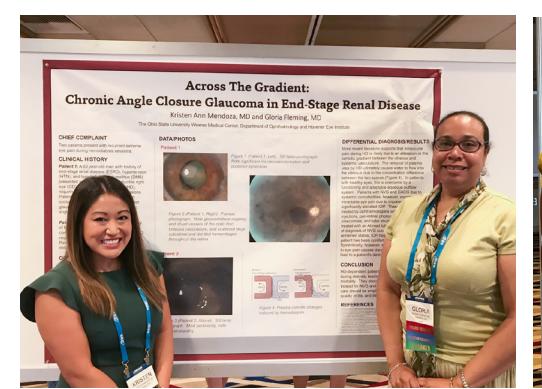
Alumni and friends reconnect at Ohio State Ophthalmology's annual AAO reception at The Box SF. New chair Dr. Sayoko Moroi was introduced to the department and traded in her Michigan gear for some Scarlet and Gray.



## Cynthia Roberts, PhD Receives Lans Distinguished Lecturer Award

Cynthia Roberts, PhD received the 2019 Lans Distinguished Lecturer Award during the International Society of Refractive Surgery (ISRS) at the annual American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) conference.

The award was presented by incoming president of ISRS Renato Ambrosio, MD from Brazil, and current ISRS president John Chang, MD from Hong Kong.



## Women in Ophthalmology

Coeur D'Alene, ID • August 22–25, 2019

Left: PGY-4 resident Dr. Kristen Ann Mendoza and Dr. Gloria Fleming.

Right: PGY-4 residents Dr. Jessica Scott, Dr. Kristen Ann Mendoza and Dr. Katia Chavez.

# Class of 2019: The Adventure Continues



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## Ophthalmology Residents

Zachary Mikolaj, MD  
Glaucoma Fellowship,  
The Ohio State University

Hersh Varma, MD  
Pediatric Fellowship,  
University of Cincinnati

Christine Martinez, MD  
Cornea Fellowship,  
Washington University, St.  
Louis

Eddie Washington, MD  
Glaucoma Fellowship,  
Louisiana State University

Justin Kuiper, MD  
Ophthalmology Associates &  
LASIK Center, Mankato, MN

## Fellows



Adnan Malick, MD  
Surgical Retina  
RetinaCare Consultants  
Latham, NY

Kelly Krespan, MD  
Cornea & External Disease  
Jahne Eye Associates  
Havertown, PA

William Stevenson, MD  
Surgical Retina  
Retina Associates  
Tucson, AZ

## Optometry Resident



Marcus Noyes, OD  
Clinical Assistant Professor  
University of Iowa Department of  
Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences

## 2019 Graduation and Annual Awards

**Top:** Resident Research Award mentors Cynthia Roberts, PhD and Matthew Ohr, MD, winners Jessica Scott, MD (second place) and Anastasia Alex, MD (third place), mentor Dave Rogers, MD, and winner Hersh Varma, MD (first place).



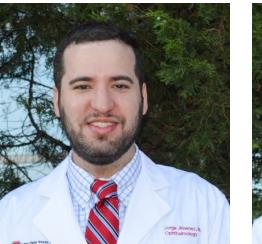
**Bottom:** Makley-Battles Teaching Award winner Abbe Craven, MD with Chief Resident and presenter Kristen Ann Mendoza, MD.

Dr. Paul A. Weber Humanism Award resident winner Christine Martinez, MD, Dr. Kristen Ann Mendoza, and faculty winner Mona Adeli, MD.

Fellow Teaching Award winner Kelly Krespan, MD with Dr. Kristen Ann Mendoza.

# A Welcome to Our New Residents and Fellows

## Fellows



Jorge Jiménez, MD  
Surgical Retina



Matthew Karl, MD  
Surgical Retina



Irina Livshitz, MD  
Surgical Retina

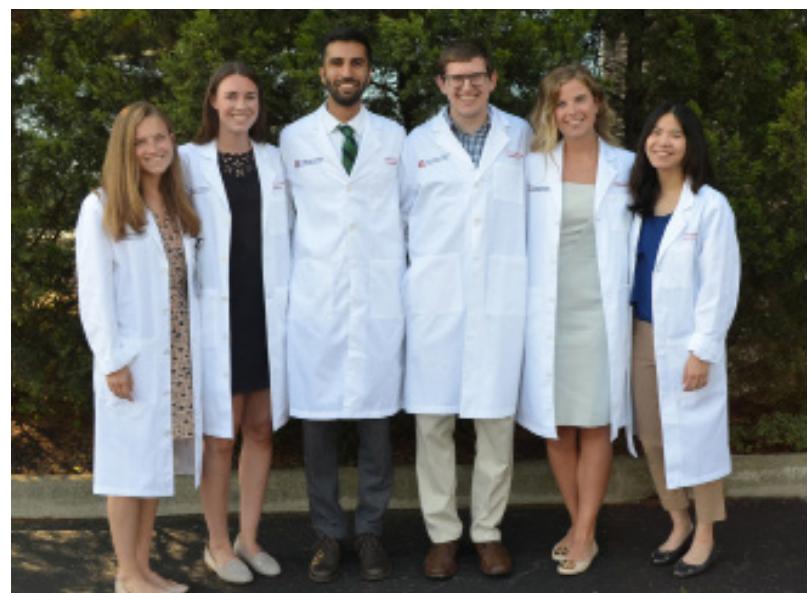


Zachary Mikolaj, MD  
Glaucoma



Nishika Reddy, MD  
Cornea & External Disease

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## First Year Residents (PGY-2)

*Left to right:*  
Alyssa Darrah, MD  
Georgetown University School of Medicine

Maggie Casey, MD  
Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine

Imran Khatri, MD  
Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine

Mitchel Romito, MD  
The Ohio State University College of Medicine

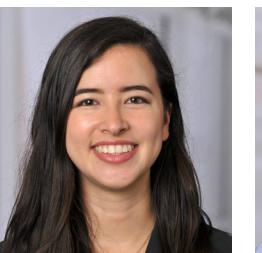
Jessica Crawford, MD  
University of Kentucky College of Medicine

Tiffany Huang, MD  
Case Western Reserve School of Medicine

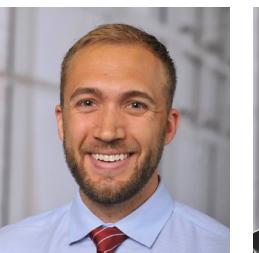
## Joint Internship Program

Residents who match in ophthalmology at Ohio State are required to complete their intern year at Ohio State, in partnership with Ohio State's Internal Medicine Program. The interns spend three months of their internship in the Department of Ophthalmology.

## Ophthalmology Joint Interns (PGY-1)



Tara Cayton, MD  
Pennsylvania State  
University College of  
Medicine



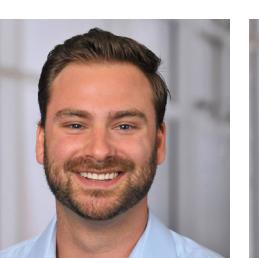
Kyle Cotten, DO  
Texas College of  
Medicine



Nayasha Madhan, MD  
University of Iowa Carver  
College of Medicine



Marlee Silverstein, MD  
Sidney Kimmel Medical  
College

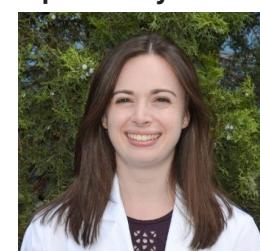


Adam Van Horn, MD  
Michigan State  
University College of  
Human Medicine



Matthew Winkels, MD  
University of North  
Dakota School of  
Medicine

## Optometry Resident



Jacqueline Benoit, OD  
SUNY College of Optometry



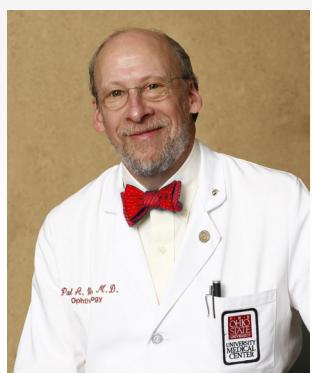
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY AND VISUAL SCIENCE  
915 OLENTANGY RIVER RD STE 5000  
COLUMBUS OH 43212-3154

25400.500765.61801

## Support the Dr. Paul A. Weber Endowed Chair Fund



The **Dr. Paul A. Weber Endowed Chair Fund in Ophthalmology (#483317)** was created to honor Dr. Paul Weber for his long time commitment and stellar legacy in ophthalmology. It will support an endowed chair position for nationally or internationally recognized physician faculty member specializing in ophthalmology. While Dr. Weber no longer sees patients, he continues to pursue the department mission to prevent and cure blinding eye disease and improve the quality of vision through research and education.

[go.osu.edu/OphthalmologyGiving](http://go.osu.edu/OphthalmologyGiving)

