TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Chair ............................................. 1
Fifteen years after JEI dream realized, Shock steps down .............. 2
Emerging leader .................................................. 4
Teaching .............................................................. 6
Awards ................................................................. 10
Searching ............................................................. 14
Outreach ............................................................... 16
Supporting ............................................................. 19

Mission: To provide, teach, discover, promote and inspire patient-first, cost-effective eye care.

Vision: To establish an environment for patient care, education, research and community service that inspires teamwork, innovation and collaboration; and create a workplace that values the caregivers and their teams.

JEI ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:

Dick Williams, President
Bryn Wood Bagwell, Vice President
Leon Helms, Treasurer
Rick Adkins
Pat Blass
Lee Bodenhamer
Sam Bracy
Richard Butler
John Chambers
Margaret Clark
Barbara Dale Craffon
Dr. J.B. Cross
Mandy Dillard
Gloria Duckworth
Carrie Eggart
Byron Eiseman
Johnelle Hunt
Angela Moody
Walter Nunnelly
Elizabeth Pruett
Becky Tucker, Capital Campaign Chair
Jane Wilson
Craig Wood
Ed Dell Wortz

Vision 2010
Vision is published annually for the Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute by the Office of Communications & Marketing at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, 4301 W. Markham St. # 523, Little Rock, AR 72205. For permission to reprint any portion of this magazine, call Shannon Hughen-Giger at (501) 686-8638.

Graphic Designer
Melinda Stout

Photographs
Shannon Hughen-Giger
John Paul Jones

Contributors
Cynthia Bond
Elizabeth Caldwell
Donna Hill
Nate Hinkel
Shannon Hughen-Giger
Cozetta Jones
Donna Mattingly

Office of Communications & Marketing
Pat Torvestad
Vice Chancellor

Leslie Taylor
Associate Vice Chancellor

Tim Irby
Assistant Vice Chancellor
Dear Friends,

Dec. 31, 2009, after 30 years of service, I stepped down as Chair of the Ophthalmology Department and Director of the Jones Eye Institute. I remain on the faculty and continue to see patients and perform other duties as requested by the new chair. My wife, Nancy, and I agree that it has been a wonderful 30 years. We have seen substantial growth of the Ophthalmology Department as well as the building of the Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute and the addition of the Pat Walker Tower. I am thankful for all the people who have made phenomenal contributions to the transformation of the Ophthalmology Department. We have truly been blessed by a loyal and dedicated team of physicians, support staff, donors and College of Medicine and campus leaders.

There is still much more to do to help prevent and restore vision loss and strengthen our programs. To lead this work, UAMS is very fortunate to have a strong and seasoned leader in Christopher Westfall, M.D., who began his new duties Jan. 1. Chris has been on our faculty for 12 years and has served as vice chair for nine years. He has played key roles through the years as chief of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, chief of service at Arkansas Children’s Hospital, medical director and co-founder of the Ophthalmic Medical Technology Program and practice director at Jones Eye Institute, to name a few. Most of all, he sets high standards for integrity, work ethic and unselfish service.

In closing, I simply want to say a very sincere “thank you” to all of those who have supported Nancy and me and the department. It has been an unbelievable experience and journey.

Sincerely yours,

John P. Shock
When John Shock, M.D., arrived at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) in 1979, he’d trek from his office in an old chemistry lab through the weeds and on broken sidewalks to reach the first eye clinic far across campus.

One of two ophthalmologists, Shock came with the dream to improve eye care at UAMS and to develop an entity that would provide cutting-edge services, research and a world-class education program.

Last fall, 30 years later and 15 years after his dream became reality in the Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute he’s credited with constructing, Shock decided to step down as chair and director and pass the torch to the Institute’s second leader. Christopher Westfall, M.D., took over the position Jan. 1.

“There comes a time when everyone needs to move on,” Shock said. “We had somebody who is extremely capable, qualified and ready to step in and it feels like a very natural progression, which is a good way to go out.”

But stepping down is one thing, Shock said. Leaving it altogether is quite another.

“I’m still going to have a couple clinic days and I’ll continue to help raise funds and support our new chair in any way I can,” he said.

Vision for the Future
Things have changed dramatically in the 30 years since Shock arrived at UAMS after retiring as chief of ophthalmology at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, with the rank of full colonel.

“You have to understand what it was like back then,” Shock said. “Nobody ever thought about UAMS being a place where private-paying patients would come, but I thought otherwise.”

Shock had become used to progressive thought after spending nearly a decade teaching an innovative technique of cataract removal he developed at Letterman Army Medical Center in San Francisco, and later as Chief of Ophthalmology at the Brooke Army Medical Center.

“After spending time at other institutions before coming to UAMS in 1979, I felt there were things we could do here that I had seen elsewhere,” Shock said. “I saw the direction we needed to go and made the decision to methodically go about accomplishing it.”

Former UAMS Chancellor Harry Ward, M.D., arrived about the same time Shock did and was open to many of the ideas he presented to begin the evolution of eye care and research at UAMS.

“We first moved from Shuffield Hall to the Ambulatory Care Center and with time doubled our clinic space there. Our administrative space also moved several times before we got the gifts to build the first phase of the Jones Eye Institute,” Shock said.

Gifts for Growth
Shock is credited with securing the original $5.5 million gift from Bernice Jones to build the freestanding JEI, which opened in 1994.

He subsequently secured a $15 million gift from longtime UAMS supporter Pat Walker for the five-floor addition to JEI that provided more space for patient care, education and research.

The Pat Walker Tower at the JEI, named for the Springdale philanthropist whose gift to UAMS made the expansion possible, doubled the 12-year-old original facility’s size when it opened in 2006.

“Obviously philanthropy was key to our success and I feel very lucky to have had an opportunity that helped transform the Ophthalmology Department,” Shock said. “Our long-term relationships with wonderful philanthropists with the same goal are what made the difference.”

During Shock’s time at UAMS, he has raised more than $50 million, which includes seven endowed chairs, a facility primed for growth and a growing faculty of clinicians and researchers. He also served as dean of the UAMS College of Medicine from 2000 to 2002.
fifteen years after
JEI DREAM REALIZED,
Shock steps down

by Nate Hinkel

Executive vice chancellor of UAMS from 2002-2009, and has held nearly every leadership position on campus.

“I feel very blessed to have served at UAMS,” he said.

Clinic is Key

Shock’s most significant contribution was to the field of cataract surgery, where he was one of the first to develop the ultrasonic cataract machine. For more than four years he taught courses at the University of California, San Francisco on the uses of the technique to surgeons from around the world.

Though he’s maintained clinic days throughout his time at UAMS, Shock said his primary focus has been the continued growth of JEI and helping to improve UAMS.

Taking over where Shock left off is Westfall, who Shock says is a seasoned ophthalmologist and leader who has been at UAMS for 12 years.

“It is an exciting time to move into this role and I look forward to leading JEI as Dr. Shock’s legacy achieves new heights,” Westfall said.

Shock agrees that JEI has positioned itself for growth both in the clinical and research areas of eye care.

“The future is very bright for JEI,” Shock said. “I look forward to my transition back into more of a clinical and support role and watching Dr. Westfall lead us into the future.”
For the past 12 years, Christopher T. Westfall, M.D., has been an integral part of the Jones Eye Institute – performing surgery, teaching future eye care professionals and developing new programs to provide better medical care to Arkansans. He has played a vital role in molding the Department of Ophthalmology into what it is today.

On Jan. 1, Westfall took another step – this time to lead the institute and department to which he has devoted so much of himself. As the institute celebrates the completion of its first 15 years, Westfall is primed to lead JEI well into the future.

Westfall joined the JEI faculty after being recommended to then-director John Shock, M.D., by John Shore, M.D., of the Texas Oculoplastic Consultants in Austin. Westfall became a fellow in training under Shore when the two were at Harvard University. Shock said Shore told him, “If you can recruit him, you will never be sorry.” Shock said, “I can’t tell you what an understatement that was.”

Before becoming director of the Jones Eye Institute and the chair of the Department of Ophthalmology, Westfall was department vice chairman for nine years. He is a West Point graduate, obtained his medical degree at Ohio State University and completed two residencies – one in general surgery and one in ophthalmology. He spent 26 years in the military, with his last tour of duty as the chair of Ophthalmology at Wilford Hall Air Force Medical Center and a senior consultant to the Air Force Surgeon General.

Westfall has provided key and necessary leadership in many areas, including serving as chief of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, chief of service at Arkansas Children's Hospital, medical director and co-founder of the Ophthalmic Medical Technology Program and practice director at Jones Eye Institute.
Westfall received the Pat Walker Chair in Ophthalmology in October 2008. The chair was established by gifts from the Pat and Willard Walker Foundation to reduce vision loss through research, education and patient care. A chair is established by donations of $1 million or more and is the highest honor a faculty member can receive.

Attentiveness Makes the Difference

As a mortgage specialist, Becky Estes is not one to have her head in the clouds. So when she began experiencing cloudy vision, she sought medical attention.

An eye specialist diagnosed her with Fuchs’ Dystrophy in both eyes. Fuchs’ Dystrophy is a rare disease that affects the cornea and causes the endothelium, the surface at the back of the cornea, to slowly deteriorate and die. She would need a cornea transplant in her right eye.

Following her cornea transplant, her vision had not improved. Estes turned to UAMS and Bhairavi Kharod, M.D. “I felt like I was her only patient. Dr. Kharod gave me all of her attention,” said Estes.

Within two weeks of her first visit, she was fitted with corrective contact lenses. Estes felt the attention she received made a tremendous impact on her care. “The first day after receiving my new contacts, I looked out the window and, for the first time, I could finally see the shape of the leaves on the trees.”

JEI’s contact specialist Brenda Duhamel, C.O.A., has continued to work with Estes to get her vision to its optimum level. “I often think about people who have not been as fortunate as I have,” said Estes. “I feel so blessed to be able to see my sweet grandson’s face and precious smile.”
Residency Training Program

JEI is responsible for the Ophthalmology Residency Training Program and the Ophthalmic Medical Technology Program, along with providing ophthalmic education for medical students and interns.

In 2009, JEI residents scored the highest of the past 10 years on the nationally administered in-service exam. The residency program continues to see increasing numbers of applicants for the three available first-year residency slots. In 2009, more than 250 applied to the program.

In April, Richard Harper, M.D., the Residency Training Program director, will become president of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO) Program Directors Council. He was among the original group of people that established the council eight years ago. The AUPO guides the implementation of educational processes regarding the best practices to enhance ophthalmic resident education. As council president, he will organize and
moderate both the annual Educating the Educators Conference for all ophthalmology program directors and the annual Teaching and Learning Conference at the American Academy of Ophthalmology annual meeting.

Associate Residency Training Program director Michael Wiggins, M.D., is medical director of the Ophthalmic Medical Technology program and gives presentations each year at the technologists annual meeting. He was voted best grand rounds speaker at the October 2009 meeting.

Resident Stephen Davis, M.D., won outstanding resident presentation for a presentation about macular degeneration at the 2009 fall regional Ophthalmology Society meeting that covers Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma.

Ophthalmic education at Arkansas Children’s Hospital and the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System are also essential elements of the residency program education experience. Ophthalmology residents receive a broad and extensive clinical and surgical experience with a wide range of diseases. In addition, residents have a structured program of lectures and discussion of journal articles pertaining to the patients they evaluate.

OPHTHALMIC MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Ophthalmic medical technology is one of the fastest-growing professions in the country. For more than a decade, there has been a national shortage of ophthalmic medical personnel. The Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO) estimates the need for an additional 6,000 in the United States.

In August 2000, JEI’s Ophthalmic Medical Technology Program accepted the first class of students into the two-year, full-time program. The program, which leads to a Bachelor of Science degree, is a collaboration of the UAMS College of Health Related Professions, the Department of Ophthalmology and JEI. Students receive an intensive combination of classroom education and about 1,900 hours of clinical training in direct patient care at JEI, Arkansas Children’s Hospital, the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System, and private ophthalmology offices in Arkansas. JEI has one of only four formal ophthalmic medical technology educational programs in the United States.

The program under the direction of Suzanne Hansen has graduated seven classes for a total of 27 graduates. Upon completion of the program, graduates are eligible to take the national test to earn the highest level of certification administered by JCAHPO known as the Certified Ophthalmic Medical Technologist (COMT). While only 5 percent of the 15,000 ophthalmic personnel in the United States are certified as COMTs, nearly 30 percent – eight of the 27 – of UAMS OMT graduates have earned their COMT credentials.

Due to the unique skills that have evolved in caring for eye patients, the U.S. Department of Labor recently announced that ophthalmic personnel (assistants, technicians and technologists) would be recognized as a separate occupational classification in the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification system.

The OMT program supports continuing education activities for ophthalmic personnel and medical student education by conducting small workshops throughout the year. In September 2009, as they have since 2006, the OMT students assisted with the back-to-school vision screenings for the UAMS Head Start program. The UAMS Head Start program has more than 1,000 three- to four-year-old children enrolled to help prepare them for elementary school.
Tayyeba Ali, M.D., joined the Department of Ophthalmology residency program in November 2009. She received her medical degree in May 2007 from Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta. Following medical school, she completed her preliminary year in internal medicine at UAMS in June 2009.

She received the National Eye Institute ARVO Travel Award (2007); Esther Bleich Medical Scholarship (2004-2005); Medical Student Summer Research Grant (2003); magna cum laude Bachelor in Arts (2003); Amy Chappell Medical Scholarship (2002-2004); Mary Angela Herbin McLennan Medical Fellow, four-time recipient (2002-2006); Agnes Scott Study Abroad Travel Grant (2001); and Summer Undergraduate Research Program Grant (2000). She also was selected for Mortar Board (2001-present); the National Society of Collegiate Scholars (2000); Georgia Governor’s Scholar (1998-2002); HOPE Scholar, State of Georgia (1998-2002); Agnes Scott Merit Scholar (1998-2002); and Westinghouse Scholar (1998).

Ali was active as the operations director, Humanity First USA; vice president of Respectable; conflict resolution facilitator for Soliya; overseas ophthalmology outreach, Arequipa; Peru with Carefree Foundation, volunteer; Unite for Sight, Emory School of Medicine, volunteer; Central Night Shelter; Health and Fitness Fair; Physicians for Human Rights Workshop; Pregnancy Partnership Program; East Lake Elementary School; and Best Buddies.

Fuson Fowler, M.D., joined the Department of Ophthalmology residency program in March 2009. She received her medical degree from the University Istanbul School of Medicine in Turkey. Following medical school, she entered into a residency program in Turkey and completed two fellowships. She completed a one-year international fellowship through ORBIS International, Flying Eye Hospital and another one-year cornea fellowship at UT Southwestern, Dallas, Texas. Fowler finished her preliminary year of internal medicine at the Riverside Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

Fowler received a Clinical Education Scholarship at the Istanbul School of Medicine (1991); ranked 6th out of 10,000 physicians in Turkish Medical Licensing Examination (1992); and became the first Turkish Ophthalmologist to be selected to work on the ORBIS DC-10 Flying Eye Hospital (1996).

She served as staff ophthalmologist, ORBIS DC-10 Flying Eye Hospital (1996-1997); member, Lions International (2001-present); and member, Global Village of Humanity (1999-present).

Establish Arkansas Lions Eye Bank and Laboratory
Approximately 3,500 transplants in Arkansas in 24 years

Establishment of the Arkansas Center for Eye Research (ACER)
Justin Lieblong, M.D., joined the Department of Ophthalmology residency program in July 2009. He received his medical degree from UAMS in May 2008. Following graduation, he finished his preliminary year in internal medicine at UAMS.


He received the Pope County Medical Society Scholarship at UAMS (2007); Barton Scholarship for 4.0 GPA at UAMS (2005); magna cum laude Honors Graduate, the University of Central Arkansas (2003); and the Presidential Scholar, the University of Central Arkansas (1999-2003). He was on the Dean’s List at the University of Central Arkansas (1999-2003), is a lifetime member of the Alpha Chi Collegiate Honor Society, and was in the Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society (2000-2003).

Doctor Listings

Adult Strabismus
Paul H. Phillips, M.D.
A. Henry Thomas, M.D.

Comprehensive
Jennifer Anderson, M.D.
Laurie Gray Barber, M.D.
Thomas Cannon, M.D.
Joseph G. Chacko, M.D.
Romona Davis, M.D.
Inci Irak Dersu, M.D.
Richard A. Harper, M.D.
Bhairavi Kharod, M.D.
Nicola M. Kim, M.D.
John P. Shock, M.D.

Comprehensive
Deepa Thayi, M.D.
A. Henry Thomas, M.D.
Michael N. Wiggins, M.D.

Cornea
Bhairavi Kharod, M.D.

External Disease
Michael F. Brown, M.D.

Glaucoma
Inci Irak Dersu, M.D.
Gissur Petursson, M.D.

Low Vision
Jennifer Anderson, M.D.
Richard A. Harper, M.D.

Neuro-ophthalmology
Joseph G. Chacko, M.D.
Paul H. Phillips, M.D.

Oculoplastics and Orbit
Christopher T. Westfall, M.D.

Ophthalmic Pathology
Harry H. Brown, M.D.
Thomas C. Cannon, M.D.

Pediatric Ophthalmology
R. Scott Lowery, M.D.
Paul H. Phillips, M.D.
A. Henry Thomas, M.D.
Christopher T. Westfall, M.D.

Refractive (Cataract) Surgery
Bhairavi Kharod, M.D.
Michael Wiggins, M.D.

Retina
John P. Shock, M.D.
Sami Uwaydat, M.D.

Research Faculty
Nalini Bora, Ph.D., Director
Puran Bora, Ph.D.
Valeriy V. Lyzogubov, Ph.D.
Purushottam Jha, Ph.D.
Five JEI faculty members received endowed chairs in 2008 and 2009, the highest honor UAMS can bestow on a faculty member. This brings the number of endowed chairs at JEI to six, the first being John P. Shock, M.D., holder of the John P. Shock, M.D., Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology since 1995.

A seventh chair - the John W. Nutt Chair in Ophthalmology - is expected to be fully funded by 2011.

The endowed chair recognizes the holder’s professional achievements and enables UAMS to attract and retain renowned scholars and their research and teaching programs. The endowment is funded by $1 million or more in donations and the donor may name the chair in honor or memory of someone.

The recipients of the JEI endowed chairs are: the Pat Walker Chair, received in 2008 by Christopher T. Westfall, M.D.; the Bernice Young Jones Chair, received in 2008 by Nalini Bora, Ph.D.; the Martha Wood Bentley Chair, recipient to be named; the Stella Boyle Smith/Gissur Petursson, M.D. Chair, received in 2009 by Paul H. Phillips, M.D.; and the Sally McSpadden Boreham Chair, received in 2009 by Richard Harper, M.D.
Bora Named Vice Chair for Research in Department of Ophthalmology

Nalini Bora, Ph.D., has been appointed vice chair for research in the Department of Ophthalmology. She is also director of the Pat & Willard Walker Eye Research Center and holder of the Bernice Young Jones Chair in Ophthalmology. Bora, along with Puran Bora, Ph.D., received a second NIH RO1 with her research team. The team presented seven posters at the recent Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology meeting. The team’s willingness to mentor and share their talents with JEI faculty and residents has significantly enhanced basic research productivity.

Joseph Chacko, M.D., received the College of Medicine Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award in June 2009. This award is sponsored by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation and presented at more than 85 medical schools in the nation to the graduating student and faculty member who best demonstrate the Foundation’s ideals of outstanding compassion in the delivery of care; respect for patients, their families and health care colleagues; and clinical excellence. A selection committee of previous winners chooses the recipients, who are awarded a certificate and $1,000.

Arkansas Times Best Doctors 2009

These JEI physicians were recognized by the Arkansas Times readers’ poll as being among the best doctors in Arkansas: Laurie Barber, M.D.; Richard Harper, M.D.; Nicola Kim, M.D.; Paul Phillips, M.D.; and John Shock, M.D.
**Faculty Appointments**

- **Deepa Thayi, M.D.**, promoted to clinical assistant professor, July 1, 2009
- **Valeriy Lyzogubov, Ph.D.**, promoted to instructor, January 1, 2009
- **Peter M. Daut, M.D.**, (volunteer faculty) promoted to clinical instructor, February 1, 2009

Also, the Promotion and Tenure Committee has recommended **Inci Irak Dersu, M.D.**, and **Joseph Chacko, M.D.** for promotion from assistant professor to associate professor effective July 1, 2010.

---

**Shock Chosen Guest of Honor by the American Academy of Ophthalmology**

The American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) honored John P. Shock, M.D., at its 113th Annual Joint Meeting in October in San Francisco.

Shock was a Guest of Honor at the event and was chosen in tribute of his significant contributions to research and academic ophthalmology, and his devotion to the profession as a scholar, a teacher and a clinician.

“This was a tremendous honor for me to be recognized at a gathering of the country’s most respected ophthalmologists,” Shock said.

Each year, the AAO president selects individuals to receive the Guest of Honor award. The AAO Board of Trustees then votes to approve the president’s selection and the Guest of Honor attends the annual meeting to be formally presented the award.

The 2009 AAO President, Michael W. Brennan, M.D., who came to admire Shock for his character and class while a medical student at the Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, selected Shock for the honor.

Shock continued to be involved at the national level in furthering ophthalmology educational goals through the Association of University Professors in Ophthalmology. He served as president from 2002-2003.

---

**Dean’s Outpatient All Stars**

In the third quarter of 2009, four of the seven physicians selected for the College of Medicine dean’s Outpatient All Stars were JEI faculty. To be listed, physicians had to be recognized at least seven times on patient surveys submitted during the quarter. The four JEI “All Stars” for July – September 2009 were: **Romona Davis, M.D.; Bhairavi Kharod, M.D.; Nicola Kim, M.D.; and Michael Wiggins, M.D.**
Resident and Alumni Day 2009

In June 2009, 150 faculty, staff, alumni and ophthalmologists from across the state gathered in the Bowen Auditorium of Jones Eye Institute for the 29th annual Resident and Alumni Day. The event included 21 presentations from physicians and researchers and a dinner honoring those who completed their residency. Moderators for the all-day sessions were Jennifer Anderson, M.D. and Sami Uwaydat, M.D.

The annual Raymond C. Cook, M.D., Distinguished Lecture was presented by David L. Guyton, M.D. from the Wilmer Eye Institute located at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Guyton’s presentations were “Strabismus Complications from Local Anesthetics” and “Optical Tricks and Traps in Ophthalmology.”

Julie Shelton, M.D., served as master of ceremonies honoring Jonathan Casciano, M.D., David Warner, M.D., and Sayeda Nazir, M.D., upon the completion of their residency. Other awards announced that evening included Casciano selected Resident of the Year and Warner receiving the Academic Achievement Award. The Raymond and Mary Morris Award winner was Stephen Davis, M.D. Second place was awarded to Casciano and third place to Shelton. Michael Brown, M.D., was named faculty of the year. The staff award went to Angie Brown.

2008 Establishment of Seven Endowed Chairs

2009 Chair and Director, John P. Shock, M.D., steps down after 30 years
Clinical Research

JEI faculty members continue to search for clues in the fight against eye disease. Thanks to the support from the National Eye Institute (NEI) and other support, JEI faculty members Jennifer Anderson, M.D.; Laurie Barber, M.D.; Nalini Bora, Ph.D.; Puran Bora, Ph.D.; Joseph Chacko, M.D.; Romona Davis, M.D.; Inci Dersu, M.D.; Richard Harper, M.D.; Bhairavi Kharod, M.D.; Nicola Kim, M.D.; Paul H. Phillips, M.D.; Sami Uwaydat, M.D., and Michael N. Wiggins, M.D., are dedicated to improving ways to enhance a patient’s quality of life and continue to explore new treatment options.

JEI clinical studies include age-related macular degeneration, anterior uveitis, blepharitis, diabetic macular edema, dry eye disease, glaucoma and Nonarteric Anterior Ischemic Optic Neuropathy.

Also, in collaboration with other UAMS College of Medicine departments, JEI faculty members are studying disorders and diseases possibly caused by medication side effects. These studies include cardiovascular risk in diabetes, cocaine dependency, hematologic cancer, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson’s disease and thyroid cancer.

Since 1997, clinical research studies at the JEI have had an enormous clinical impact in improving ways to enhance a patient’s quality of life through the discovery of new drugs, medical devices and surgical techniques.

The number of clinical trials and study patients increase each year. The Arkansas Eye Bank and Laboratory provided new equipment to be used in a designated eye research examination room. This new equipment will allow for quicker screening times and better comfort levels for patients. “It is wonderful that we have service organizations like the Lions that support the advancement of eye care,” said clinical trial director Shirley Hankins. “The new equipment will allow our data to be more consistent, which is essential in research validity.”

A Look Forward

Christopher T. Westfall, M.D., appointed chairman and director

The Jones Eye Institute (JEI) has been on the forefront of providing patient-centered and team-oriented care that emphasizes quality, safety and outstanding service. For the past several years, JEI has taken a team approach with the
Researchers at the Walker Eye Research Center, led by Nalini S. Bora, Ph.D., are exploring the potential of various complement inhibitors in the treatment of uveitis and age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

In May 2009, Nalini Bora, Ph.D., became an ARVO inaugural fellow (Silver Level).

The research group also published two articles in peer-review journals and made 15 presentations at national and international meetings. Nalini Bora received funding from NIH for her new RO1. Purushottam Jha, Ph.D., was promoted to assistant professor (tenure track), while Valeriy Lyzogubov, Ph.D., was promoted to instructor. Nalini and Puran Bora, Ph.D., are involved in research conducted by Jason Chang, Ph.D., an adjunct faculty member.

Brockway was diagnosed with dry eye in November 2006. Chronic dry eye disease occurs when there is not enough moisture in the eye causing it to feel dry, sandy and gritty. “It hurts to open your eyes; it hurts to close your eyes,” said Brockway. Dry eye even prevented him from reading a simple text message or the words across the bottom of a television screen during a football game.

When he received the dry eye diagnosis, he was taking high doses of immunosuppressant steroids for an unrelated condition. The steroids eventually caused the formation of cataracts that progressed quickly. Brockway had cataract surgery in the fall of 2008, his left eye in November and his right eye the following month.

Brockway said he received excellent care from the Jones Eye team during this difficult time. “They didn’t hide anything from me,” said Brockway. “They made me very aware of what was going on with my treatment.”

He appreciates the extra effort the doctors made. “They made me feel special. When you run into people who take the time … it matters,” he said, with overwhelming emotion. He also recalled a time when Bhairavi Kharod, M.D., came running into the room out of breath after running up the stairs, just to be on time for his appointment. “Not many doctors would do that,” said Brockway. “As a patient you feel respected, not just a number.”

hospital to ensure that patient-centered care is of the highest priority. This is reflected by a private practice that grows an average rate of 7 percent each year. JEI will continue to monitor progress through patient satisfaction surveys, as well as the clinical scorecard. JEI has also improved patient communication and education by adding an eNewsletter, “Outlook,” new patient letter and updated map, new UAMSHealth.com Web site and monthly patient education lunch-and-learns.
Drs. Joseph Chacko and Paula Grigorian traveled to Guatemala in May 2009 on a surgical mission trip organized by Pulaski Heights Methodist Church of Little Rock. They treated 96 eye patients and performed 16 sight-restoring surgeries at the Salud y Paz clinic, located three hours from Guatemala City.

As a student, Leora Hansberry was instrumental in the Adopt-A-Classroom for UAMS Head Start. The program allows donors to provide Christmas gifts and toys for children from low-income families. Hansberry is influential in assuring that OMT students and clinical employees have the opportunity to participate in this annual event.

The Student Sight Savers Program has provided 1,000 glaucoma screenings since 2005 to low-income families at the River City Ministry Ophthalmology Clinic. JEI ophthalmologists, UAMS medical students, OMT students and other health professionals take part in these monthly screenings. Patients are provided free prescription eyeglasses and a dilated eye exam. Follow-up care is arranged for patients diagnosed with glaucoma. Other glaucoma screenings are held at community health fairs and outreach programs throughout Arkansas.
Approximately 1,000 glaucoma screenings have been provided to the community through the Sightsavers program since inception

More than 6,000 patients screened in overseas missions by JEI ophthalmologists

Participated in more than 100 local health fairs

Distributed more than 500 pairs of donated glasses

LUNCH & LEARN EVENTS
In August 2009, JEI hosted a Lunch & Learn to educate the community about eye diseases. Planned in conjunction with Cataract Awareness Month, the event included a panel discussion by Michael Wiggins, M.D.; Nicola Kim, M.D.; Romona Davis, M.D.; Bhairavi Kharod, M.D.; and Jennifer Anderson, M.D.

OMT students participated in eye screenings in September for preschool students in the UAMS Head Start program. OMT students Natalie Etheridge, Jeremy Lemmons, Aubrey Collachi and Jessica Kelsey assisted at the screening held for Southwest Head Start at the Geyer Springs Road Greater 2nd Baptist Church in Little Rock. OMT students Sharon Oliver, Alicia Rogers, Leanne Robideaux, Kelly To and Lynsey Tolleson attended the event at King Head Start.
Cycle for Sight was held in May 2009 to raise awareness of the importance of eye health. More than 150 cyclists participated and about 30 volunteers helped at the event.

Special thanks to our sponsors:
- Dan Carman
- Image One
- Kavanaugh Eye Center
- Panera Bread
- Chick-fil-A
- Whole Foods Market
- Marchon Eyewear
- Clear Mountain Water
- Sara Lee
- Brave New Restaurant
- Kroger - Hillcrest
- Sonny Williams
  - Steak Room
- Community Bicyclist
- Kroger - Heights
- Wal-mart Super Center - Maumelle
- Kroger - Hwy 10

Cycle for Sight 2008 Committee:
- Jim Britt
- Karen Call
- Coreen Fraiser
- Shannon Hughen-Giger
- Stacia Grimes
- Holly Johnson
- Jeffrey Snodgres
- Barbara Southerland
- Claibanne J. Williamson

Volunteers:
- HAM Radio operators
- Yelmeda Aldridge
- Cynthia Bond
- Shannon Brewington
- Angie Brown
- Daniela Buhayevska
- Kim Carman
- Amanda Dozier
- Natalie Etheridge
- Steve Giger
- Kim Glaze
- Pat Howell
- Brenda Hull
- Jennifer Johnson
- Marsha Johnson
- Cheryl Jones
- Anna Latta
- Emil Mackey
- Shelli Madison
- Holli North
- Rhonda Robertson
- Alicia Rogers
- Georgia Seward
- Deborah Terry
- Willa Williams

Next Cycle for Sight to be held on Saturday, May 15, 2010; NLR River Front
**Fort Smith Donor Luncheon**

In July 2009, Jones Eye hosted a luncheon at Goodsons Restaurant in Fort Smith in honor of the recently established chairs in ophthalmology, which are named after two wonderful Fort Smith philanthropists: **Sally McSpadden Boreham** and **Martha Wood Bentley**. Boreham’s two daughters **Debbie Vicharelli** and **Kate Maurras** were in attendance. John Shock, M.D., gave tribute to Sally and Martha as well as **Pat Walker** and **Ed Dell Wortz** at the luncheon.

---

**JEI Welcomes Rahn, Celebrates 15 Years at Dinner**

New UAMS Chancellor **Dan Rahn, M.D.**, was introduced to the Jones Eye Institute Board of Advisors and faculty at an autumn-themed party held at the home of **Laurie** and **Jeff Barber, M.D.**

More than 50 guests attended the Nov. 19 dinner, including several JEI Board members and many other faculty and friends. Rahn became chancellor Nov. 1.

“It was a great night in helping welcome Dr. Rahn to campus and helping to familiarize him with the Jones Eye Institute,” said John Shock, M.D. “We were also celebrating the 15th anniversary of JEI.”

Shock also spoke about stepping down Jan. 1, 2010, as JEI founding director and turning over his position to Christopher Westfall, M.D.
JEI Welcomes Rahn, Celebrates 15 Years at Dinner