# Table of Contents

A Note from the Chairman ................................................................. 3
Our Graduating Residents and Fellows ........................................ 4
In Grateful Recognition ................................................................. 4
Our Annual Alumni Reception ....................................................... 5
Our Continuing Education Program ............................................. 5
Welcome to our New Residents and Fellows ............................. 5-6
Full-Time Faculty ........................................................................... 7-9
Special Recognition ........................................................................ 10
Spotlight on Faculty Achievement ................................................ 10-11
Publications ................................................................................... 12-16
Alumni Association Event R.S.V.P. ............................................ 17
Our 47th residency graduation dinner this June afforded me the opportunity to announce the results of the residency review which was completed in February: our third consecutive five-year accreditation. We reflected on the reasons behind this success. Foremost were the ambitious and concerted efforts of our Residency Director, Rob Schultze, and of our able and hardworking Residency Coordinator, Deb Schultze. Working with our faculty and chief resident, John Pratt, they have transformed our evaluation and documentation processes to meet the changing requirements of the RRC, strengthening our educational efforts at all levels. In our conference rooms, operating rooms, clinics and private offices, we offer our residents one of the best training programs anywhere. The VA, under the able direction of Marty Farber, continues to represent the “heart and soul” of our program. But the entire faculty, both full-time and voluntary, have made essential contributions. As outlined in the following pages, they have brought national attention to our department. Our 11 full-time faculty have submitted or published 68 peer-reviewed publications during the past academic year. They regularly contribute to our professional associations and to educational programs nationally and internationally. Our three new residents, selected from an applicant pool of over 250, reflect the reputation we have achieved. We look forward to continuing our tradition of excellence in education, service, and research in coming years.

John W. Simon MD
Professor and Chairman
OUR GRADUATING RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS

John Pratt will be joining Gene Kilmore, a comprehensive ophthalmologist who completed his training in our department in 1977, in his private practice in the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania area.

Ayo-Lynn Richards will be joining Dr. Carol Kollarits, a comprehensive ophthalmologist in Toledo, Ohio. Ayo-Lynn will be glad to be back in the Midwest, close to her family.

Mike Szmodis plans to join two comprehensive ophthalmologists in Erie, Pennsylvania, who have satellite offices in Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio. He is looking forward to living closer to his family in Pennsylvania.

Mohit Dewan is joining Edina Eye Physicians and Surgeons, a private group of ophthalmologists in Minneapolis as the oculoplastic surgeon for the group. It is one of the largest ophthalmic practices in Minnesota, serving primarily the Twin Cities and surrounding suburbs.

Abe Sleem has taken a position on the full-time faculty of the NYU Medical Center Department of Ophthalmology at their affiliate Woodhull Hospital in Brooklyn, NY as the Clinical Director for the ophthalmology clinic. He will have the responsibility of teaching two NYU residents there. Abe plans to begin private practice part-time toward the end of the year.

IN GRATEFUL RECOGNITION

During the past year, the department has received educational and research support from Alcon Laboratories, Allergan, Merz, the Cetner family and participants in the annual John Cetner golf tournament, the estates of Marvin Posner and Robert Dodt, the Dubins family, the Sight Society of Northeastern New York, and countless Lions clubs and individual Lions. We gratefully acknowledge these contributions to our academic programs.
OUR ANNUAL ALUMNI RECEPTION AT THE ACADEMY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

At last year's Academy, our alumni gathered for an informal reception at the Venus Greek-Cypriot Restaurant in Chicago, where we had an opportunity to catch up with old friends, including former faculty and residents who were members of our department over the past four decades. This year's event will be held at Padrino's Cuban Bistro in Orlando on Saturday, October 22. Again this year, we will begin the festivities at 5:30pm, so those who have other dinner plans will be able to attend. There will be ample sustenance for those who have no further plans for dinner, and there will be no charge for this event. We'd like to know whether you're coming, so we can plan the food and drink. Please fill out and return the form on page 17. We hope to see you there!

OUR CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM

This year's Albany Ophthalmology Update, held April 7-8 at the Desmond, covered a wide range of topics in cornea and external disease, pediatric ophthalmology, and oculoplastics. Lawrence Tyschen delivered the Henry Dubins memorial lecture, entitled "Causing and Curing Congenital Esotropia: the Old and New Testaments". Other guest speakers included Charles Bouchard, Aaron Fay, Brian Forbes, Kenneth Greenberg, James Reidy, and Jeremiah Tao.

Next year's program is beginning to take shape. According to Dale Meyer, our CME director, topics will include glaucoma, retina, and ocular pathology. We are currently considering dates in June 2012.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS

David Auringer grew up in western New York State, where he worked as an ophthalmic technician and surgical assistant. He did his undergraduate work at Sienna, where he graduated magna cum laude. He completed medical school at Albany Medical College. As a medical student, David did research with John Simon, Gerry Barry, and Dale Meyer, publishing two papers and earning a "best of session" award at AAPOS. He was elected to AOA.

Nadia Hesham hails from the Capital District, where her father is a member of the faculty in nephrology at Albany Med. She played the clarinet in the Albany Symphony Orchestra. Nadia did her undergraduate work at RPI, where she was on the Dean's list all eight semesters, earned two merit scholarships, and graduated magna cum laude. As a medical student at the Albany Medical College, she was elected to AOA in her junior year. Nadia did research with Rob Schultze, Dale Meyer, and John Simon.
Nicole Lemanski grew up in Albany, where she won several national titles in figure skating, participating in the junior Olympics. Nicole’s mother, Mabel Cheng, is a member of the clinical faculty in ophthalmology at Albany Medical College. Nicole did her undergraduate work at Hamilton College, where she graduated cum laude and earned her BA with honors in art history. As a medical student at Albany Medical College, Nicole did peptide research and published several papers with Paul Beer and Michael Belin.

Sarah Darbandi, who began her year as fellow in cornea, external disease, and refractive surgery with Rob Schultze and Rob Eden in July, earned her undergraduate degree in biology at the University of Maryland. She completed her MD at West Virginia University School of Medicine and her internship in medicine at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh. She did her residency in ophthalmology at the West Virginia University Eye Institute. Sarah is developing her skills in watercolors and oil paints.

Bryant Carruth, who began his two-year fellowship in oculoplastics and orbital disease with Dale Meyer and Ted Wladis in July, did his undergraduate work at Dartmouth. He completed medical school at SUNY Upstate, where he was active on the admissions committee, as an advisor to junior students, and as a lobbyist for the NY State Ophthalmologic Society. Bryant published two papers, including a report on optic nerve sheath decompression. Bryant did his internship at St. Joseph’s in Syracuse and his ophthalmology residency at SUNY Upstate.

Benjamin Hale, who begins his two years as a fellow in retina and vitreous with Paul Beer, Naomi Falk, and Pawan Bhattacharyya, completed his undergraduate degree at Penn State, where he received a merit scholarship and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He was a medical student at Thomas Jefferson and then an intern in medicine and a resident in ophthalmology at Geisinger Medical Center. Benjamin did laser research as an undergraduate and has had two publications as a resident. He is a marathon runner and an amateur pilot.
FULL-TIME FACULTY

John W. Simon, MD
*Professor and Chairman*
Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus

Dale R. Meyer, MD
*Professor*
Oculoplastics and Orbital Surgery

Martha G. Farber, MD
*Professor*
Ophthalmic Pathology

Sai B. Gandham, MD
*Associate Professor*
Glaucoma
Jitka L. Zobal-Ratner, MD
Associate Professor
Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus

Edward Wladis, MD
Assistant Professor
Oculoplastics, Orbital Surgery, and Neuro-Ophthalmology

Robert L. Schultze, MD
Associate Professor
Cornea and Refractive Surgery

Robert Eden, MD
Assistant Professor
Cornea, External Disease, Refractive Surgery
Gerard P. Barry, MD
Assistant Professor
Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus

Amy B. Hahn, PhD
Assistant Professor
Ophthalmologic Research

David J. Hodgetts, CO
Assistant Professor
Orthoptics
SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The annual Robert D. Reinecke prize for research was awarded to Ayo-Lynn Richards, who completed her project with Rob Schultze. Her paper on combined DLEK and cataract surgery was presented at this year's Albany Ophthalmology update on April 7. At the same meeting, the faculty and residents presented the John Cerner Eye Resident Award to Mike Szmodis.

This year’s residency dinner was held at the Franklin Towers on June 9. On that occasion, our chief resident, John Pratt, presented this year’s Golden Apple award to Mohit Dewan. Congratulations to Drs. Richards, Szmodis, and Dewan on their achievements.

SPOTLIGHT ON FACULTY ACHIEVEMENT

John Simon, MD was elected last year to membership in Alpha Omega Alpha. He continued his service to the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus as chair of the Legislative Committee and as member of the Inter-organizational Committee. At the Academy, he completed 12 years of service on the EyeCare America Children’s Project Committee and continues to serve on the Ophthalmic Advocacy Leadership group. He was the recipient of the Academy’s Secretariat Award for advocacy last year. He is in his 17th year as associate examiner for the American Board of Ophthalmology and he continues to serve on the Periodic Ophthalmic Review Test and Demonstration of Ophthalmic Cognitive Test committees, charged with writing examination questions. John had a poster at last year’s Academy meeting. He led symposiums at AAPOS last year and again this year. He continues to serve on the editorial board of Evidence-Based Eye Care. John has been named one of the “Best Doctors in America” or equivalent by several groups.

Dale Meyer, MD continues his service to the Academy as member of the Ophthalmic Technology Assessment Committee and as chair of the Plastics Panel. At the American College of Surgeons, he is a member of the Applicants Committee. At the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, he completed his tenure on the Abstract Review panel but continues to sit on both the Fellowship Program Directors Committee and the Advocacy Committee. Dale is a member of the editorial board of Ocular Surgery News. He had three courses and a poster presentation at last year’s Academy meeting and will have two more courses this year. On the international front, he has served as advisor to hospitals in Hong Kong and Kenya. Dale served as visiting professor in Hackensack, NJ, in Cleveland, in Panama City, and in Richmond. He had presentations both last year and this year at ASOPRS. He was named one of the “Best Doctors in America” by several groups.
Robert Schultz, MD took charge as Residency Director in April, 2010. He continues his service as Medical Director of the Lions Eye Bank and member of the Board of Directors for the Northeastern Association for the Blind. At the Academy, Rob serves on the Committee on Eye Banks and on the Annual Program Committee. He continues his service as associate examiner for the American Board of Ophthalmology and sits on the Periodic Ophthalmic Review Test Committee. At the Eye Bank Association of America, he sits on both the Medical Review Subcommittee and the Research Committee. He had presentations at the EBAO and the Academy, as well as two presentations at ASCRS. Rob received research funding from Alcon for his work on dry eye in Sjogren’s syndrome.

Ted Wladis, MD was inducted into the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (ASOPRS) and moderated a session on orbital disorders at the 2011 meeting. Ted had two presentations at the this year’s meeting of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology and two presentations at the 2010 Academy meeting, one receiving an award for Best Presentation. Ted received a research award from the Lions Eye Foundation and was granted the Bartley J. Frueh, MD scholarship grant by ASOPRS. He also had two presentations at the ASOPRS meeting and taught a course at the AAO. Ted received a research grant from the National Rosacea Society to study the molecular biology of ocular rosacea.

Jitka Zobal-Ratner, MD was appointed chair of the Professional Education Committee at the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus and has had presentations at both AAPPOS and the Academy the past two years. At the American Board of Ophthalmology, she continues her service as associate examiner and will be a mentor examiner at this year’s Boards. She also serves as member of the Maintenance of Certification, Demonstration of Ophthalmic Cognitive Knowledge, and Periodic Ophthalmic Review committees. Jitka has been named one of the “Best Doctors in America.”

Rob Eden, MD had three presentations at the 2010 World Cornea Congress.

Sai Gandham, MD was visiting professor at the Sri Satya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences in Parthi, India.

Gerard Barry, MD had a poster presentation at last year’s American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus.

Amy B. Hahn, PhD is the current president of the American Board of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics and is president-elect of the American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics. She also serves on the board of directors of UNOS/OPTN and the editorial board of Human Immunology.
PUBLICATIONS

John W. Simon MD
11. Srinagesh V, Simon JW, Meyer DR. The association of refractive error and amblyopia with congenital ptosis of the eyelids. (Submitted)

Dale R. Meyer, MD


Edward L. Wladis, MD
2. Wladis EJ, Iglesias BV, and Gosselin EJ. Cytokine concentrations in cutaneous specimens of ocular rosacea. (Submitted).
7. Paul JD and Wladis EJ. A simplified technique for treatment of canalicular stenosis. (Submitted).

Gerard Barry, MD
Barry GP, Shields CL, Binenbaum G. A young child with sickle trait (AS), proliferative retinopathy and vitreous hemorrhage presenting as leukocoria. (Submitted).

Jitka Zobal-Ratner, MD

Robert Schultzke, MD
Sai Gandham, MD

Amy Hahn, PhD
Albany Medical College Ophthalmology Alumni Association

___ Yes, I would like to reserve ___ places at the annual alumni reception at Padrino’s Cuban Bistro in Orlando on Saturday, October 22 from 5:30-8:00 pm. There is no cost of admission for alumni and guests.

___ No, I cannot attend the alumni reception, but would like to contribute to the Ophthalmology Alumni Association. Enclosed is my tax deductible donation of $___.

Name/year ____________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________
Phone (home) __________________________ (office) ________
E-Mail ____________________________________________

Any news you’d like us to share with fellow alumni?

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

Please make checks payable to John W. Simon, MD and mail to:

Lions Eye Institute
1220 New Scotland Road, Suite 202
Slingerlands, NY 12159

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!