TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH
BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN RESEARCH AND PATIENT CARE
"There are many unknowns about the future of healthcare and our profession. One thing is certain; the quality of our endeavors will continue to be of eminent importance to the patients we care for and the individuals we train.

Whether it is direct clinical care, education, or in basic and translational research, our excellent staff, volunteers, faculty, residents, and fellows will allow us to meet our goals despite the many challenges that face us."

- Thomas Mauger, MD
  Department Chairman

EXPANDING ACCESS
One in three of us will get cancer in our lifetime. With the new James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute, part of OSU Medical Center’s $1 billion expansion project, more people than ever will have access to some of the world’s leading experts in cancer prevention, detection, treatment, and cure. Together, we’re creating a cancer-free world.

Caring for our patients and the environment certified under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-Green Building Rating System™ for its use of sustainable and eco-friendly material, technologies and building practices, the new building will use 20 percent less energy than standard buildings.

"The OSU Medical Center expansion is a unique opportunity to improve people’s lives," said Dr. Steven Gabbe, CEO of the OSU Medical Center. "Ohio State has the opportunity to do something no other university has done."

Fully equipped rooms will allow patients to receive nearly all of their treatment in the comfort of their own room, rather than visiting multiple locations. To facilitate family support in the healing process, every critical care patient room will have adjoining comfort zones where loved ones can stay, sleep, and shower.

The new Chlois G. Ingram Spirit of Women Park and the Phyllis G. Jones Legacy Park will offer beautiful green spaces where patients, visitors and staff can meet, rest, and reflect. Additionally, rooftop terraces on the new building will also be available to patients and visitors.

INTEGRATED RESEARCH
The new facility will be linked to research buildings, allowing investigators to translate their lab work to clinical trials, which may help patients heal more quickly. Every patient floor will also include spaces to support healthcare education, enabling teams of faculty and students to interact in patient care.

The expansion is a concrete example of Ohio State’s expansion in the area of Life Sciences. This new space will bring together areas of study and research that may not have collaborated before to find ways to prevent, treat and cure disease.

"We are a large university with a rich diversity of programs, especially in health sciences," said Dr. Gabbe. "This will bring all of that rich diversity in closer collaboration with the Medical Center. We will develop programs of care here that will become the standards for future health care in medical centers around the country and around the world."

EXPANSION IMPACT
The OSU Medical Center expansion will generate 5,000 new construction jobs and an additional 10,000 new full-time jobs upon completion, nearly doubling the Medical Center’s economic impact on central Ohio.

"This is precisely the right moment to leverage the strength and momentum of Ohio State’s Medical Center for the benefit of Ohio and our patients," said OSU President Dr. E. Gordon Gee. "The new configuration and technologically advanced facilities will ease collaborations among researchers, physicians, and patients, reshaping hands-on care and making possible transformational discoveries, therapies, and treatments."
INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS: HAITI

Haiti was already the poorest country in the in the western hemisphere, with most of its population living on less than $2 per day. Most citizens did not have access to running water or basic medical care. When the 7.1 magnitude earthquake hit in January of 2010, it left 316,000 dead, 300,000 injured, and over 1,000,000 homeless.

With the large number of fractures, amputations, and other earthquake-related injuries, the immediate need for trauma surgeons and doctors was evident. Most of the major buildings and hospitals were not functioning, but volunteers came from all over the world to treat patients anywhere they could in makeshift hospital tents.

Dr. Steven Katz, a neuro-ophthalmologist from OSU Havener Eye Institute, was at first hesitant to go, not really sure how he could be of assistance.

“I knew a number of people that had gone to Haiti to help out in the relief effort, one of whom was a former residency classmate of mine, Charlotte Agnone. She had been there twice and started to email me photographs of children and young adults with orbital tumors. She wanted me to come back with her to help with the surgery on these cases. They weren’t acute injuries, but patients who had been overlooked or considered too difficult. They weren’t acute injuries, but patients who had been overlooked or considered too difficult. When they were not performing surgery or seeing eye patients, they were assisting in the general medicine clinic. The group treated many patients, but Stephanie was the one patient Dr. Katz went specifically to see. They were able to successfully remove her tumor and her vision and eye movements improved dramatically. Since returning home, Dr. Katz received photographs of her laughing, smiling, and playing with the other kids in the orphanage.

“We were very impressed with the beauty and strength of the Haitian people, as well as the incredible sacrifices of many of the volunteers,” said Dr. Katz. “The small contribution that we made in four days was overshadowed by the volunteers who had been there for up to eight months.”

Dr. Katz has promised Stephanie to return to Haiti. He hopes to take a few ophthalmology residents and fellows with him to perform the additional eye muscle surgery she needs as well as to assist in the care of other patients.

For more info on supporting resident international missions call Barbara at (614) 293-8760 or visit eye.osu.edu/about/missions.

ANDREW SURGICAL SKILLS LAB
FAMILY CREATES A LASTING LEGACY

In the 1960s, Dr. Andrew joined a group of ophthalmologists who constructed a building on East Town Street that was conducive to practicing ophthalmology.

At that time, laser treatment for diabetic retinopathy was in its infancy and Dr. Andrew had a patient, the wife of a Nationwide Insur- ance executive, who was losing her sight due to diabetes. Dr. Christian Zweng of Stanford University, a classmate and friend of Dr. Andrew, was a pioneer for laser treatment for diabetes and was using a new technique utilizing an Argon laser. He invited Dr. Andrew and Dr. Frederick Davidoff, an OSU retina specialist, to observe the treatment firsthand.

A trip to California was no easy task in 1970, but Dr. Andrew, Dr. Davidoff, the patient, and her husband made the 2500 mile trip in a pop plane. They observed the new procedure and brought knowledge of the technique back to Ohio. No one in Ohio had an Argon laser because of the cost, but Dr. Andrew and Dr. Davidoff were able to convince the patient's husband to donate the first argon laser in Ohio to OSU.

Dr. Andrew never got the chance to retire. His life was cut short at age 66. In 1987, while making an ophthalmic presentation in South Africa, he experi-enced chest pains and had to be hospitalized. During his hospital stay, they found that he had pericardial fluid around his heart which they later analyzed and found to be cancer cells. He lived ten more months, but finally succumbed to his illness in July of 1988.

“I remember Jim as a long-time ophthalmolo-gist, resident teacher, and outdoorsman,” said Dr. Davidoff, a former student and colleague. “But most of all, I remember him as an inno- uctive surgeon which makes naming the surgical skills lab in his honor so appropriate.”

WILL KUHLMAN JOINS DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Now, Will is happy to call the Buckeye State home and is looking forward to settling in, watching some good football, and fundraising to ensure a brighter future in ophthalmic care.

The Havener Institute is known for its super- nior residency, treatment, and research pro- grams,” said Will. “Philanthropy will play an increasingly important role in maintaining and enhancing the excellence. I am pleased and honored to have the opportunity to help advance the Department any way that I can.”

Dr. Andrew

Thom Robinson

Dr. James & Elaine Andrew

Join us in welcoming Will Kuhlman, our new Development Officer. Will hails from Wash- ington State where he graduated with a Bach- elor of Arts Degree from Eastern Washington University in Communications & Journalism. Over the next two decades he built a solid reputation in fundraising working for Wash- ington State University, University of Idaho, Washington’s Pullman Memorial Hospital Foundation, and Anchorage, Alaska’s Provi- dence Health System.
TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Retinal detachment (a condition where the light sensitive tissue inside the eye becomes separated from the back of the eye) can be a potentially blinding condition. The worst outcomes are in those patients who develop scar tissue in the retina, called proliferative vitreoretinopathy (PVR).

“My research is focused on clinical problems,” said OSU’s Colleen Cebulla, MD, PhD. “As a retina surgeon, I see patients that are affected by retinal detachments. We want to help them regain their vision either by promoting regeneration of damaged retinal tissue or eliminating scar tissue formation.”

Retinal damage and scarring problem are not isolated to retinal detachment patients. Patients with macular degeneration, diabetes, ocular trauma, some infections, and other retinal conditions can also have scarring. Depending on where the scars form they can interfere with vision. By understanding how scarring develops, Dr. Cebulla hopes to be able to inhibit it in critical vision areas.

While there are many theories on PVR prevention, in practice the theories have not really held up. Not knowing the critical proteins that promote the scarring process and how to target them is a part of the problem. Dr. Cebulla believes that if we knew the target proteins, we could develop better medication to prevent or reduce the scarring as well as try to promote healing of damaged retinal tissue.

Her first step was to compare the proteins that are increased or involved in a PVR retina with a normal retina in animal models.

“I did what’s called iTRAQ labeling of the proteins,” explained Dr. Cebulla. “A tag is added to a protein so the mass spectrometer machine can recognize it. This can tell me if a protein has increased or decreased in a PVR retina sample compared to a normal retina sample. I found 567 extra proteins and am very interested in which are the most important targets to study and trying to develop therapeutics.”

Once the targets are identified in the animal model, Dr. Cebulla will conduct similar studies with human PVR retina. This will help identify the target proteins involved in scarring and regeneration. Medication that inhibits these proteins can then be tested and with success will lead to clinical trials.

“See problems every day that affect people,” said Dr. Cebulla. “It makes me want to go to the lab and find new treatments that will help my patients and patients everywhere.”

ASKING QUESTIONS

Anti-Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (anti-VEGF) medications such as Avastin® and Lucentis® inhibit the growth of new blood vessels. This is important for patients with several common retina conditions, but might have adverse effects on other parts of the body that are trying to heal.

“It’s a basic question. We give our patients anti-VEGF medication in the eye,” said John Christoforidis, MD. “How do we know that it stays in the eye?”

Dr. Christoforidis decided to do more than ask the pharmacokinetic (the study of what happens to a drug once it is administered) question. He met with other retina specialists to discuss strategies for tracking the dispersion of anti-VEGF medication once injected.

Dr. Christoforidis then consulted his brother, a radiologist, to discussed gadolinium, a dye used in imaging. He learned that gadolinium is not very useful for longterm imaging because after a few days it blends in with the surrounding tissue. Radiolabeling, a process using radioactive isotopes (a decaying chemical element that is easy to track) as tracers would be better.

“A secondary finding of his radiolabeling study was that Dr. Christoforidis obtained comparable results much faster than other more extensive, long-term pharmacokinetic studies. Also, he was also able to use a single animal subject multiple times, but the larger studies used many more animals to get the same results. This discovery is exciting in itself because it establishes a better method for tracking the pharmacokinetics of medications.”

“Let’s have a better understanding of where medication is going,” said Dr. Christoforidis, “and how your body reacts to it without waiting for basic research to work its way through the entire system. That’s the beauty of conducting translational research at The Ohio State University.”

DISCOVERIES INTO TREATMENT

With the immense research resources available at Ohio State and the willingness for collaboration between departments, clinical questions can be answered in the lab and start benefiting our patients in the clinic faster than ever before.

“We take questions from the clinic to the lab and bring the answers back to the clinic,” said Dr. Christoforidis. “We do it for the patients that we see every day.”

“There is something to be said for the thrill of discovery,” said Dr. Cebulla, “It’s always kind of exciting, like a puzzle that you work out. But, what really motivates me most, is the hope that a discovery we make today will be able to really help our patients.”

To learn how to support these important translational research projects, contact Barbara Landolfi at (614) 293-8760.
There was never a question of not participating." Betsy said. 

"I was never really scared," said Betsy. 

"The care is way beyond my expectations, way beyond," said Betsy. "I've never had a problem, either before during or after. I feel privileged."

Study participants often have the advantage of the latest innovations in care, some receive the study medication or procedures free of charge, and some are even compensated for their time. In addition, they are helping achieve breakthroughs in care that would not be possible any other way. 

"The conclusions that we make from clinical trials go such a long way towards helping thousands of patients who have lost their sight it is an idea that brings a lasting difference in the lives of others. By joining a research clinical trial, you help achieve breakthroughs in care that would not be possible any other way."

SEVERE HEADACHE PATIENTS

Do you often have severe headaches accompanied with vision changes, double vision, or a "white-out" sensation? These may be signs of idiopathic intracranial hypertension (or pseudotumor cerebri). Help us evaluate a new eye drop that may reduce ocular swelling after laser vision correction surgery.

SOME STUDIES OFFER:

• Free Medication
• Free Office Visits
• Free Dietary Counseling
• Time Compensation

Dr. Katz performed optic nerve surgery on an animal subject. Ultimately, Dr. Katz will use the successful animal trials to seek approval for implanting the device on human patients. Two sets of instruments will be manufactured, one for Columbus and one for Shanghai. Another trip to China is planned for late June, where the first device will be implanted in an animal subject. The device is a tiny electrode which translates images from a remote camera into electrical signals which travel through living fibers of the optic nerve to the brain. While it does not bring the vision back to normal, it can provide some level of visual perception. An optic nerve stimulation device bypasses the entire eye which makes it a good solution for ocular trauma patients.

"The problem is," said OSU researcher Dr. Cynthia Roberts, "most Chinese surgeons do not actually operate on the optic nerve. It is sort of a forbidden area for them." Because of this social stigma, Professor Ren approached Dr. Roberts and Dr. Steven Katz, an OSU neuro-ophtalmologist, to discuss an international collaboration for the China Eye Project. His interest stemmed from Dr. Roberts’ expertise in biomedical engineering and the large volume of optic nerve surgeries that Dr. Katz has performed.

"I understood anatomically what he wanted," said Dr. Katz. "I could also explain why some of the things they previously tried weren’t working and what I thought they should do to be successful.

Dr. Katz and Dr. Roberts traveled to China in January and gave presentations to the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Peking University in Beijing and the Department of Ophthalmology at the People’s Number One Hospital in Shanghai.

Dr. Katz spent time in the lab trying to demonstrate a minimally invasive approach to the optic nerve for the China Eye Project. This enabled him to demonstrate how to expose the optic nerve so the device could be attached without having to go through bone.
OSU ALUMNI LEGACY

BENJAMIN WHELERY, MD & ANDREW WHELERY, MD

When Andrew Wherley, MD graduated from the OSU ophthalmology residency program in 1968, he knew that he had some large shoes to fill. His father Benjamin, another OSU ophthalmology alumni, and his grand father Harold, an Eye, Ear, Nose, and Throat (EENT) specialist, were both legends in the small town of Dover, Ohio where he grew up. Thankfully, his training at OSU had readied him for the challenge.

“I feel the training I received at OSU was excellent and prepared me well for my practice,” said Andrew. “I had, and continue to have, the utmost respect for the attending physicians who gave of their time to train me and my fellow residents.”

Harold Wherley, MD was trained in Buf-falo, NY, back before ophthalmology and oto-laryngology were separate specialties. When he completed his ENT training he returned to his hometown of Coshocton, Ohio to start his practice. Two years later, he was called to duty for WW2 and spent some time in England at an Allied military base. When the war at an end, he returned Ohio. In 1951, he built the office building where he, his son, and then his grandson would practice ophthalmology. The building was in continuous use until 2010 when a new facility was constructed in its place.

Benjamin Wherley, MD studied at Heidel-berg University in Tiffin, OH and completed his medical degree at Buffalo State University of New York. He then came to Ohio State for his ophthalmology residency. “My training at Ohio State was absolutely wonderful,” said Benjamin. “I was very fortunate to get a residency position there.”

Benjamin graduated from the OSU Ophthal-mology Residency program in 1968, and like his father before him, served in the Army for several years before joining his father’s practice in Dover. He took over the ophthal-mology side of the practice so Dr. Harold Wherley could focus on ENT.

Between 1970 and 1980, Dr. Benjamin Wherley was the only ophthalmologist for Tuscarora County with a population of 90,000. He was very available to his patients. Before OSHA had a lot of safety regulations, patients would call routinely with foreign bodies in their eyes. He would get a call from a nearby factory and would put clothes on over his pajamas and meet them at his front door.

“He had a slit lamp built into a closet in the living room,” said Andrew. “Patients would call at 4:00 am and he would treat them right there in the living room.”

Andrew Wherley, MD went to college with an interest in soil and water conservation.

After a couple of years, he decided that he had a different calling: to help people.

“I went to med school thinking I would be a small town family doctor,” said Andrew. “During years when you rotate through the different clinical areas, I started with Psychia-try, General Surgery, and Pediatrics. None of them quite fit and by this time my wife was pretty worried.”

It was then that Andrew completed an oph-thalmology elective and knew instantly that was where he wanted to be.

“When he said he wanted to go into Ophthalmology,” said Benjamin, “I told him that was terrific, and when he said he was going to do it at Ohio State, I was thrilled.”

“I was drawn towards medicine by seeing how patients appreciated my dad and how he made a difference in their lives,” said Andrew.

Andrew frequently hears stories from his dad's patients who traveled to Cleveland or as far as Chicago to see an ophthalmologist. They would be asked “Why are you here when you have the best ophthalmologist around right in your hometown?”

“Patients still tell me how much they love my Dad,” said Andrew. “I know I’ll never live up to his legacy. Of course, that’s what my Dad would say about his father as well.”

What does his dad think?

“Well, when Andy came into town, I thought, ‘What am I doing here?’” said Benjamin. “He’s smarter than I am. He’s a better surgeon than I am. And from the feedback I get from everyone, I know they just love him. I couldn’t be more proud.”

Professor Military doctor. Electronics junkie. World traveler. Ophthalmologist. Photographer. Dad. How do you describe Holton Letson, MD who spent his entire life dedicated to helping people, whether with ophthalmic care or just being a good person?

Born in Red Cloud, Nebraska, a child of the dust bowl depression, Holton came from a very humble background. As a teenager, he worked in the Kansas wheat fields in the sum-mer. Although his family did not have much, they believed in education. That is a value that he passed down to his son Alan Letson, MD, OSU Ophthalmology Residency Director.

“I think that’s been the key concept for my fam-ily,” said Alan, “the importance of education.”

He was a National Merit Finalist which provided scholarship money for him to attend Doane College in Crete, Nebraska where he studied pre-medicine. At 18, he was drafted for WWII. There was a great need for Army doctors and he scored very high on the aptitude test. After boot camp, he was sent to Stanford. When he completed his under-graduate degree, he transferred to Nebraska Medical School. He finished his medical degree in time to see the end of WWII.

He interned in surgery at The Ohio State University Hospitals where he met Betty Mullinger, a nurse who was working in Uni-versity Hospitals. They were married in May 1949. He had finished two years of residency in Detroit at the Kresge Eye Institute when the Korean War began. He was called back into service and was stationed first in Panama then in Puerto Rico. When the war ended, he and Betty returned to Detroit so he could com-plete his residency.

“He was always grateful and thankful for his army experience,” said his son Alan. “He always felt fortunate and lucky.”

After residency, Dr. Letson started a practice in Zanesville, Ohio. He was a comprehensive ophthalmologist, which back then, meant that he did everything from retinal detachments and cataracts to glaucoma surgery and oph-thalmic plastics, all this in a pre-microscopic surgery and pre-laser era.

As one of only a few ophthalmologists be-tween Columbus and Pittsburgh at the time, Dr. Letson had a very busy, successful oph-thalmology surgical practice. He often went to work at 6:00 am and came home for family dinner at 8:00 pm. He worked 6 days a week and made rounds every Sunday after church.

“My patients loved him,” said Alan. “To this day I still see people who took care of years ago and they still tell me what a wonderful doctor he was. How he saved the sight of their child, their spouse, or themselves. I hear that all the time.”

Dr. Letson wanted to maintain some aca-demic ties to Ohio State and stay current with ophthalmology advances. In the early 1950s, he began staffing the resident clinic in Star-lings Living Hall. Every Monday for the next twenty years he would make the trip from Zanesville to Columbus to train the OSU residents. One of the most exciting times for him was the medical mission trip he and OSU residents took to Algeria for several months.

He also loved gadgets. Even in retirement, he was up-to-date with laptops and wireless routers and scanners. Throughout his life he was always playing with the newest technol-ogy, whether computers, ophthalmic equipment, music, cars, or airplanes.

He had a natural curiosity about people, places, and cultures. An avid world traveler all his life, he circumnavigated the globe at least three times and traveled to nearly every country on the planet.

In 1989, he and Betty moved to Hilton Head Island and in his retirement he worked for his church, St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, was active in Rotary, and volunteered as a reading tutor for children in the Hilton Head schools.

He was a very giving, kind person; and he was always happy. He was very humble; would never brag about his accomplishments or philanthropic work.

When his son, Alan, who shared his father’s love of eye care, began training ophthalmology residents full-time at OSU, Dr. Letson created a fund to support his efforts in education and research. He looked at it as a way to “pay forward” for the training that he had received.

He was very social and engaging. He could walk into a room of 50 strangers and would walk out two hours later with 25 new friends.

“He could connect and communicate with people,” recalled Alan. “He was kind and generous, a wonderful husband, father and grandfather, an outstanding physician, and a true gentleman with a delightful sense of hu-mor, which he retained even in his last days. In his mind, life’s glass was always 90% full.”

An article can barely scratch the surface of what an incredibly dedicated, productive, and thorough life Dr. Letson led. His son Alan said it best, “His life set a high standard for me to live up to.” And really, it’s a challenge for us all to live such a full life.
NEW DEPARTMENT FACULTY

SHELLY GUPTA, MD

In September of 2011, our new glaucoma specialist, Clinical Assistant Professor Shelly Gupta, MD, will be available for patient scheduling.

Dr. Gupta obtained a Bachelor of Science in Natural Sciences/Chemistry cum laude from the University of Akron. She went on to study medicine at Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine. Following graduation, she spent a year at the Good Samaritan Hospital, TriHealth for an Internal Medicine internship. After completing an ophthalmology residency at University of Alabama at Birmingham, she was chosen to complete a glaucoma fellowship at Wills Eye Institute in Philadelphia. Dr. Gupta is a caring, civic-minded physician who spends much of her time improving the lives of others by volunteering with Student Volunteers for Optometric Service to Humanity (SVOSH) to Nicaragua. She also participated in an optometric mission trip in Tanzania and is involved with Student Volunteers for Optometric Service to Humanity (SVOSH) to Nicaragua.

She has participated in humanitarian trips with Student Volunteers for Optometric Service to Humanity (SVOSH) to Nicaragua. She also participated in an optometric mission trip in Tanzania and is involved in educating the local community on the importance of eye health.

Dr. Gupta is a member of the American Optometric Association and Ohio Optometric Association. She is certified by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry in the treatment and management of ocular disease.

Dr. Gupta received her undergraduate education at The Ohio State University, receiving her Bachelor of Science. She continued her education at The Ohio State University College of Optometry, where she earned her Doctoral Degree. Upon graduation, she completed a residency at the Cincinnati Eye Institute focusing on the management of ocular disease.

She has participated in humanitarian trips with Student Volunteers for Optometric Service to Humanity (SVOSH) to Nicaragua. She also participated in an optometric mission trip in Tanzania and is involved in educating the local community on the importance of eye health.

Dr. Mundy is an ophthalmologist who specializes in low vision and contact lens fitting.

Dr. Mundy received her undergraduate education at The Ohio State University, receiving her Bachelor of Science. She continued her education at The Ohio State University College of Optometry, where she earned her Doctoral Degree. Upon graduation, she completed a residency at the Cincinnati Eye Institute focusing on the management of ocular disease.

She has participated in humanitarian trips with Student Volunteers for Optometric Service to Humanity (SVOSH) to Nicaragua. She also participated in an optometric mission trip in Tanzania and is involved in educating the local community on the importance of eye health.

Dr. Mundy is a member of the American Optometric Association and Ohio Optometric Association. She is certified by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry in the treatment and management of ocular disease.

CHANTELL MUNDY, OD

TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT CALL (614) 293-8116

MEET THE FELLows

SUNDAY OLATUNJI, MD

Medical School: Chicago Medical School

Residency: Kresge Eye Institute, Wayne State University

CERIC PRATT, DO

Medical Degree: University of North Texas Health Science Center

Residency: OSU Havener Eye Institute

ATIF COLLINS, MD

NEURO/PLASTICS

Medical Degree: Case Western Reserve University

Residency: Case Western Reserve University

WILLIAM SAWYER, DO

CORNEA

Medical Degree: University of North Texas Health Science Center

Residency: Grandview Hospital (Dayton, OH)

THE LIFE OF ELSON CRAIG, MD

NOVEMBER 27, 1932 - JANUARY 1, 2011

“Dr. Craig was a renaissance man,” said long-time friend and colleague Paul Weber, MD. “He did everything and did it well. Not just in ophthalmology, but in life. He rehabbed homes, was an excellent chef, a fantastic musician. As for ophthalmology, I still have patients that ask about him because of his high quality of care.”

Elson Craig grew up in Columbus, Ohio. He attended East High School and was active in the Science Club as well as several musical productions. He was elected by his senior classmates to be the “most likely to succeed.”

Dr. Craig enrolled at The Ohio State University with a major in biology and a minor in mathematics. While at Ohio State, he joined the ROTC and met his future wife, Joanne.

After graduation, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and was stationed in Germany, which allowed him to travel extensively throughout Europe. Dr. Craig received several citations for his service and was given a full-dress parade at the end of his tour of duty.

He returned to Ohio and obtained a position as a research assistant at OSU. He was given the opportunity to learn techniques in transmission electron microscopy from the physicist who co-developed this instrument.

Dr. Craig became one of two researchers in Ohio who were trained in this procedure for biological tissues. During this time, he obtained a masters degree in histopathology.

Dr. Craig entered medical school at OSU and was elected class president his junior year. He was the first African American to receive this honor. During medical school, he continued his work in pathology. His first introduction to ophthalmology was when he was asked to study ocular tissue by Ophthalmology Chair- man Dr. Torrence Makley who later became his mentor, colleague, and friend.

After completing his internship at Mount Carmel Hospital, he trained under Dr. Makley in the OSU Ophthalmology Residency Program and served as Chief Resident in 1970. Dr. Craig was awarded a Heed Fellowship in Ophthalmic Pathology at the University of California in San Francisco.

Dr. Craig returned to Ohio to start his practice at Ohio State in 1971. In 1973, he was asked to become the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. He served in this position for thirteen years and during his tenure obtained a one million dollar federal grant to recruit and retain minority students at Ohio State Medical Center.

During this time, Dr. Craig also established his patient practice which specialized in uveitis, retinal diseases, orbital tumor, and ophthalmic pathology.

“I spent my career with an office next to Elson,” said Dr. Frederick Davidorf, a former classmate and colleague. “He was a lot of fun to have around and one of the smartest people I have ever met. Whenever I didn’t know something, I’d ask Elson. He was like a textbook. He’d tell you the origin of the disease and all about it.”

Dr. Craig had a passion for education and spent over 40 years sharing the knowledge that he had amassed to residents, fellows, and medical students. To honor his legacy, the Elson Craig, MD Ophthalmic Pathology Fund (482867) has been created to support research and programs involving ophthalmic pathology.

MAKLEY-CRAIG SYMPOSIUM

A new educational event, the Makley-Craig Symposium, was held on January 8, 2011. It will serve as an annual tribute to Dr. Craig and Dr. Makley and their uniring commitment to education. The symposium will allow faculty to present their research and education initiatives in all areas of ophthalmology.
POSTGRADUATE MEETING

Comprehensive ophthalmology is a diverse area of medicine. It includes aspects of all subspecialty areas in ophthalmology, including cornea, external disease, cataract, glaucoma, retinal disease, neuro-ophthalmology, oculeoplastics, and pediatric ophthalmology.

The 54th Annual Postgraduate Symposium in Ophthalmology reviewed comprehensive ophthalmic problems and exposed the significant changes that have occurred in the last decade. Held in early March, Course Directors Julie Meier, MD and Amit Tandon, MD designed a program that covered changes in a practice patterns, new surgical techniques, and understanding the disease process.

Among the dynamic national and international speakers were Edward Buckley, MD (Duke University), David Duker, MD (Medical College of Wisconsin), Dennis Hau, MD (Medical College of Wisconsin), Gary Lelli Jr., MD (Weill Cornell Medical Center), Murtaza Qazi, MD (Pepose Vision Institute), Donald Tan, MD (Singapore National Eye Centre and Singapore Eye Research Institute), and Jonathan Trobe, MD (University of Michigan).

"It's great to be a part of a meeting that has drawn some of the greatest ophthalmology minds from all over the world," said Dr. Tandon. "Hopefully, we can all use their experience and knowledge to help our practices and help our patients."

SUPPORT OSU RESIDENTS

PUT THE TOOLS FOR SUCCESS IN THEIR HANDS

The postgraduate meeting also debuted the newest educational initiative from the Havener Eye Institute. The innovative EYESI Surgical Simulator provides cataract and vitreoretinal surgery practice for residents in a 3D, physics-based, virtual environment.

“This simulator is critical to training residents,” said Dr. Mauger. “It will give them realistic experience before they ever operate on a patient.”

Donations have already been made toward this simulator which is valued at $176,000, but we have not yet reached our goal. To make a donation, contact Barbara Landolfi at (614) 293-8760.

On October 4th, 2010 at 5:00pm, Joy Dawson was preparing to meet friends. She was still at work at Nationwide Insurance where she works as an IT specialist and stepped into the restroom for a moment. She does not remember anything about the next five weeks. Joy had an aneurysm in her brain which ruptured. The emergency squad was called. Joy’s daughter, Mireille Tusssing arrived in time to travel with her mother to the emergency room.

The next five weeks Mireille watched her mother undergo multiple tests, procedures, and surgeries. When doctors had successfully managed the aneurysm, and she was beyond the risk of seizures, she was transferred to the rehabilitation center at OSU’s Dodd Hall.

“I would say that that first week in Dodd was when I recognized that mom was finally coming back and starting to be herself again,” said Mireille. “The following Monday, I wheeled her down to her first rehab session. All of the other vision tests that she had previously failed, I had blamed on sedation. This time I realized, ‘She really can’t see.’

During her sessions, the rehabilitation specialist kept trying to have Joy stand up and walk with assistance, but Joy kept insisting “I don’t want to run into that wall,” or “I’ll hit that chair”. They could not convince Joy that there was no wall or chair in her way. She was seeing things that were not there. The “hallucinations” were caused by Joy's brain interpreting the blood as familiar shapes.

“I was describing things that didn’t exist,” said Joy, “and no one really argued with me because they assumed I had brain damage from the aneurysm.”

Mireille noticed that none of her other functions seemed disabled. Joy recognized familiar voices, had conversations with people, and demonstrated a good memory.

“To me it wasn’t consistent, everything seemed all there,” said Mireille. “That was when they brought someone to take a look at her eyes.”

Dr. Cedric Pratt, the ophthalmology fellow who examined Joy, found blood which had pooled in the back of her eyes. Dr. Colleen Cebulla, a retina specialist at the OSU Havener Eye Institute, confirmed the diagnosis: Terson’s Syndrome.

Terson’s Syndrome is a rare condition caused by intracranial bleeding due to intracranial bleeding and high intracranial pressures, most often resulting from a ruptured aneurysm of the brain. The "hallucinations" were caused by joy's brain interpreting the blood as familiar shapes.

This was the first bit of good news for Joy. It meant there was potential to improve her vision.

On October 4th, 2010 at 5:00pm, Joy Dawson was preparing to meet friends. She was still at work at Nationwide Insurance where she works as an IT specialist and stepped into the restroom for a moment. She does not remember anything about the next five weeks. Joy had an aneurysm in her brain which ruptured. The emergency squad was called. Joy’s daughter, Mireille Tusssing arrived in time to travel with her mother to the emergency room.

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This was the first bit of good news for Joy. It meant there was potential to improve her vision. Dr. Cebulla performed a vitrectomy, a surgery to remove the blood from her eye. With the eye clear of the hemorrhage, Dr. Cebulla was able to see to the back of the eye and examine the retina, and central vision area, the macula.

“We were very happy to find out that her macula looked good,” said Dr. Cebulla. “There was a subretinal hemorrhage, but it looked like it was not affecting her central vision.”

The day after the surgery Mireille brought her nine-year-old daughter Chloe in to see her grandmother. Chloe had been very worried about her Grandmother and had even said that all she wanted for Christmas was for “Gammie” to see her.

“I didn’t tell her that grandma had had surgery and I didn’t tell my mom I was bringing her. When my daughter walked in, Mom was in the middle of a conversation with one of the nurses. She stopped and said ‘Chloe’ and my daughter responded, ‘You saw me!’ It still brings tears to my eyes.”

A few weeks later, Dr. Cebulla was able to perform surgery on Joy’s other eye. Again, a very dense hemorrhage was removed from the vitreous. Unfortunately, she had a lot of hemorrhage under the retina in the macula. They were not sure how good the vision would be, but over time that sub-retinal hemorrhage improved. Her vision in both eyes had improved from light perception to almost 20/20.

“I am so thankful,” said Joy. “Without sight the physical therapy would have been nothing. I’m back to work now and live by myself. It’s almost as if nothing happened.”
JOIN US JUNE 6, 2011

Plan to attend the 6th Annual Havener Eye Institute BuckEYE Golf Classic to be held at the OSU Scarlet Golf Course. Proceeds from the BuckEYE Golf Classic benefit the OSU ophthalmology residency program.

Over the past five years, this event has provided ophthalmology residents with textbooks and equipment. This year, proceeds will go toward purchasing the innovative EYESI Surgical Simulator (valued at $176,000) which provides cataract and retinal surgery practice for residents in a 3D, physics-based, virtual environment.

SPECIAL GUEST: JACK HANNA

He is passionately dedicated to endangered animals. For more than 30 years, he has been the public face of zoos worldwide, bringing the conservation message to millions of people.

PLAYER PACKAGE - $250

- 18 holes of golf at Scarlet Golf Course
- Photo opportunity with Jack Hanna
- Challenge hole competitions
- Gift package & Ohio State polo shirt
- Lunch and dinner
- Prizes, awards, and trophy presentation

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit us online at www.eye.osu.edu/event/golf to view a brochure or contact Barbara Landolfi at (614) 293-8760.