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Referring doctors can call the Henry Ford Referring Physician Office at 1-877-434-7470.

For assistance with scheduling an appointment, patients can call 1-800-363-7575.

For our optometry partners, Henry Ford OptimEyes, please call 1-800-EYE-CARE.

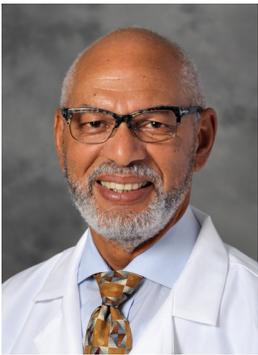
*Photo credit: John Grybas & Henry Ford Creative Services*

# OPHTHALMOLOGY NEWS

Department of Ophthalmology Newsletter - Spring 2019



## CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE



Paul Edwards, M.D.

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Department Newsletter! As the year progresses, our department continues to grow and we are pleased to welcome three new senior members to our staff.

Susan Gormezano, O.D., a low vision specialist, has begun working at the Low Vision Centers in Livonia and

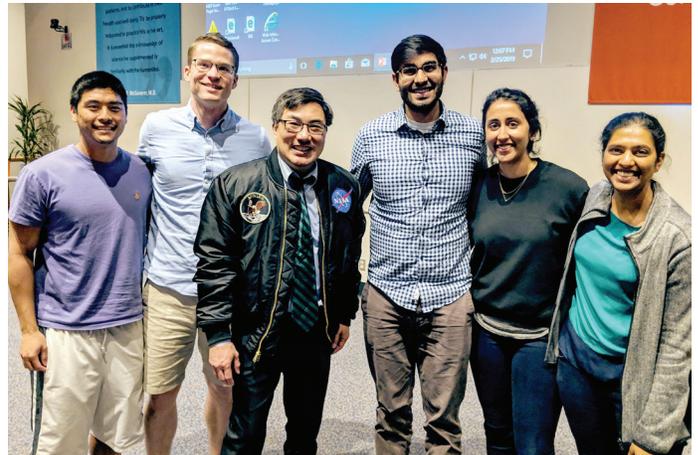
Southfield. Allan Rinke, M.D., a comprehensive ophthalmologist, is working at the Lake Orion and Lakeside locations. Joining us in August after completing his fellowship at Retina and Vitreous of Texas in Houston will be Abdualrahman Hamad, M.D., a retina specialist.

While we're excited about the new physicians joining the department, we unfortunately must say goodbye to two of our highly-regarded physicians:

Dr. Xiaoxi Qiao and Dr. Hua Gao. Dr. Qiao left at the end of December to move to San Jose, California and her husband Dr. Gao will be joining her and their family in July. We will miss them both and wish them all the best.

I am thrilled to announce that we had a highly-successful resident match this year. The following students will be joining our program in 2019: Sina Rezaei, M.D., Baylor College of Medicine; Alixandra VanBelkum Riddering, M.D., University of Michigan; David Lu, M.D., Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Cameron Anderson, M.D., Michigan State University College of Medicine; and Pedro Monsalve, M.D., University of Cuenca/Bascom Palmer.

Our first-year residents recently returned from the UTHealth Basic Science Course in Houston, Texas. This program, supported by our Alumni Endowment Fund, is part of the foundation for which the remainder of their residency is built upon. I'm confident they are armed with new knowledge and skills from this educational experience.



First year residents in Houston with instructor Dr. Andy Lee. (L to R) Andre Aung, M.D., Kevin Leikert, M.D., Andy Lee, M.D., Sachin Gandhi, M.D., Shravani Mikkilineni, M.D. and Anjali Badami, M.D.

Please save the date for several upcoming events, including our 41st Annual Alumni Education Day, "Updates in Ophthalmology", to be held on Saturday, June 15, 2019 in the Buerki Auditorium at Henry Ford Hospital. The Detroit Institute of Ophthalmology will be hosting Vision Honored, a black tie celebration on Friday, June 14th in addition to the 32nd Annual EyesOn Design Car Show which benefits low vision support groups, research and education. For more details, see page 11.

All the Best,  
Paul A. Edwards, M.D.

## DIRECTOR'S UPDATE



Steve Horger

2018 was a stellar year for our department and our strong start to 2019 demonstrates we are on track for another outstanding year. Last year, we made great strides with patient access and we are making advancements with our partners in Primary Care with projects in virtual care and diabetic screening. We continue to grow new markets like our partnership at the Lake Orion OptimEyes location and a new Eye Care Center in Bloomfield Township, due to open toward the end of this year.

Our work with Advantage Consulting is helping us understand our strengths, where we have opportunities and how we should be strategizing for the future. We are excited about the areas of improvement we have identified and will be tapping into our internal and external resources to work on implementing plans for the second half of the year. Stay tuned for more details! I am eagerly looking forward to what we can and will do in the future as a department and health system. I can't express how happy I am to be a part of this outstanding team.

Best Regards,  
Steve

Department Statistics	2018	2017
Patient Visits	139,863	124,187
Surgical Cases	6,583	6,279



Leaders at the 2019 All Leadership meeting at Cobo Hall.

## PATIENT STORIES

*Dr. Van Laere has cleared up an eye problem that was one of great concern to me. At each visit, she supplies me with print-out instructions that help me remember my follow up procedures. She is absolutely WONDERFUL!!!*

*Sincerely,  
Grateful Patient*

*I appreciate how personable Dr. Uday Desai is. Dr. Desai is a great doctor and very professional and really knows his job. I could tell based on the information he was telling me about my eye and all the things that had been going on with my eye that he was great and very knowledgeable.*

*Sincerely,  
Grateful Patient*

*The staff was very good on letting me know about Dr. Levine's delay with an emergency.*

*Sincerely,  
Grateful Patient*

*Dr. Vemuri's nurse was exceptional. She answered my questions so clearly and was very reassuring. She was an excellent choice for dealing with my questions so that when I saw the doctor I could be clearer in what I needed to know and my concerns. Her nurse also assists in her surgeries and is very capable and helps the patient feel comfortable. Dr. Vemuri herself is an excellent communicator and very clear in describing the procedure I was going to have performed. She used pictures on the computer to help me understand the surgery. She instills confidence.*

*Sincerely,  
Grateful Patient*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The Henry Ford Department of  
Ophthalmology presents:

### ***Updates in Ophthalmology 41st Annual Alumni Day***

**Saturday, June 15, 2019**

Buerki Auditorium / Henry Ford Hospital  
Detroit Campus

Continuing Medical Education highlights include:

**Jack S. Guyton Lectureship**

*Warren E. Hill, M.D., FACS*

**H.Saul Sugar Lectureship**

*Donald Budenz, M.D.*

**Philip C. Hessburg Lectureship**

*Anne Nachazel, M.D.*

**Distinguished Alumni Award**

*Ronald Cole, M.D.*

Click here to register

<https://hfhs.eventsair.com/HenryFordCEPortal/hfhs/cmereg/Coursedetail/21228>

The Henry Ford Department of  
Ophthalmology and Detroit Institute of  
Ophthalmology presents:

### ***2019 The Eye and The Chip 11th Annual Research Congress***

**November 10-12, 2019**

The Henry Hotel  
300 Town Center Drive  
Dearborn, Michigan

**Relationship between Neurobiology and  
Nano-Electronics Focusing on Artificial Vision**

Click here to register

<https://hfhs.eventsair.com/HenryFordCEPortal/hfhs/cmereg/Coursedetail/21226>

### ASCRS-ASOA Annual Meeting

What: **Annual Meeting**

Who: Anterior segment surgeons, practice managers,  
ophthalmic technicians and nurses.

When: May 3-7, 2019

Where: San Diego Convention Center  
111 West Harbor Drive  
San Diego, CA 92101

<https://annualmeeting.ascrs.org/>

### EyesOn Design Car Show 2019

What: **Private Eyes Brunch**

When: June 16, 2019, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Where: Edsel & Eleanor Ford House Front Lawn,  
Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan

More information: [eyesondesign.org/carshow/](http://eyesondesign.org/carshow/)

What: **The 31st Annual EyesOn Design Automotive  
Design Exhibition highlighting “Design  
Around the World”**

When: June 16, 2019, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Where: Edsel and Eleanor Ford House,  
Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan

More information: [eyesondesign.org/carshow/](http://eyesondesign.org/carshow/)

## TEAM MEMBER PROFILES



**Tiffany Roberts** is our Patient Access Liaison (PAL) for the Department of Ophthalmology. Prior to working at Henry Ford Health System, Tiffany was a credit manager at an Art Van Furniture store in Taylor, MI. Having been with HFHS for 12 years, she started at the Contact Center answering for Orthopedics and moved into the role of Quality Assurance Analyst for the Contact Center. It was there that Tiffany became more familiar with Ophthalmology. Tiffany says she was interested in the PAL role and feels fortunate the position she applied for was in Ophthalmology. Tiffany loves her co-workers and feels fortunate to be part of a great team. “If you don’t have a good working relationship with your co-workers, it puts a lot of unnecessary stress on your job and day,” she said. “I’m thankful to be part of a team where that is not the case.” The biggest daily challenge Tiffany faces in her job is accommodating the at times challenging appointment requests from patients. Regardless, Tiffany always makes every effort possible to accommodate each request.

She is excited to see the new things going on at Henry Ford and says the Health System “seems to be growing every day.” Tiffany really likes the direction that the system is heading and looks forward to seeing what the future holds. One suggestion she has for improving Henry Ford is to put a walk-in clinic closer to downriver. Perhaps one in Taylor, Woodhaven, or Brownstown... “any of those will do”, she says. For her family, having a walk-in clinic closer to home would be ideal. Outside of work, Tiffany is a true animal lover! Her dream is to one day have a farmhouse with a wrap-around porch and a barn full of animals.



**Susan Gormezano, O.D., FAAO** Returning to the Henry Ford Health System, Department of Ophthalmology, Center for Vision and Neuro-Rehabilitation and Research is Dr. Gormezano after many years in private practice in Southfield. She holds a Doctor of Optometry degree from Indiana University and Diplomat status through the American Academy of Optometry Low Vision Section. She provides low vision services for people of all ages with a wide variety of diagnoses. She has special interest in pediatric low vision and specialty contact lens services for people with keratoconus. She works closely with state and private agencies serving the blind and visually impaired, including Michigan Bureau of Services for Blind Persons, Michigan Rehabilitation Service and many intermediate school district departments with special education and vision impairment divisions.

In the early 1990s, Dr. Gormezano brought low vision rehabilitation services to Henry Ford Department of Ophthalmology at main campus. Along with her father, Phillip Raznik O.D., who at 92 is pleased that she is merging their practice with HFHS. She credits and fondly remembers former Department Chair Cornelius McCole, M.D. and the late, David Carey, M.D. who served among her mentors and who helped shape her career in low vision rehabilitation.

Dr. Gormezano enjoys spending time with her husband Larry, their daughters and grandchildren.

# DONOR HIGHLIGHT

## Thank You to Our Generous Donors

We are honored to recognize our 2018 Henry Ford Health System Department of Ophthalmology donors.

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Estate of Mr. John Unti and Mrs. Katherine Unti

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## NEWS AND NOTES

### Latest Updates in Ophthalmology Subspecialty Conference 2019 in Barbados

Dr. Ryan Jaber and Dr. Brian Florek attended the 9th annual Latest Updates in Ophthalmology Subspecialty Conference, February 21-23, 2019 in Barbados. This conference was organized and hosted by Dr. Kim Jebodhsingh, an HFHS Alumnus.



*Dr. Ryan Jaber presenting at the Latest Updates in Ophthalmology Subspecialty Conference.*

The first day included a wet lab which Dr. Florek participated in and Dr. Jaber helped proctor. The last two days were lectures from local and international speakers. Dr. Florek presented a lecture on the history of corneal surgery and gave three case reports. Dr. Jaber presented four lectures on DMEK, SMILE, OSSN and cross-linking. The cross-linking lecture was attended by a patient support group called Keratoconus Barbados.

[Click here to see more photos](#)

## RESIDENTS

### Class of 2023 Ophthalmology Residents

The Department of Ophthalmology welcomes new residents who will begin their Ophthalmology journey in July 2020.



**Cameron Anderson, M.D.**  
Undergraduate Studies,  
Michigan State University,  
College of Medicine



**David Lu, M.D.**  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine



**Pedro Monsalve, M.D.**  
University of Cuenca/Bascom Palmer



**Sina Rezaei, M.D.**  
Baylor College of Medicine



**Alixandra VanBelkum  
Riddering, M.D.**  
University of Michigan

# NEWS AND NOTES

## 2019 EyesOn Design Awards at the North American International Auto Show



Celebrating its 13th year, the EyesOn Design Awards benefiting the Detroit Institute of Ophthalmology, is a major source of revenue for the DIO's research, education and support group programs for the visually impaired. More than 30 judges comprised of some of the best designers and academics in the auto industry, selected the winners

from the first reveals at the 2019 North American International Auto Show.



2019 EyesOn Design Awards

The winning vehicles will be invited to display at the 32nd annual EyesOn Design Automotive Design Exhibition, which takes place annually on Father's Day at the historical Edsel & Eleanor Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan.



[Click here to view videos and see more from the North American Auto Show](#)

## 2019 EyesOn Design Award Winners

**Best Concept Vehicle**  
*Infiniti QX Inspiration*

**Best Production Vehicle**  
*Ford Mustang Shelby GT 500*

**Best Designed Interior**  
*Infiniti QX Inspiration*

**Best Designed Exterior Lighting**  
*Lexus LC convertible*

**Innovative Use of Color, Graphics, or Materials**  
*Infiniti QX Inspiration*

[Click here to view images from EyesOn Design Awards](#)

## 2018 Henry Ford Health System Ophthalmology Alumni Reception at American Academy of Ophthalmology



(L to R) Paul Edwards, M.D., Jim Schumer, M.D., Seth Kaplin, M.D. and Matt Yeomans, M.D.

The 2018 AAO Alumni Reception held in Chicago this past fall was a magnificent success. If you were unable to attend this year, we hope you will join us this October at the 2019 AAO in San Francisco.

Follow the link to see more photos from 2018.

<https://hfhsophthalmology.smugmug.com/2018-HFHS-Ophthalmology-Alumni-Reception-at-AAO/n5mCvx/>

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