FACULTY & STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Andrew Harrison, MD, (pictured middle with son, Jonah, right and medical student Ryan, left) participated in a glaucoma screening at the Minnesota State Fair, co-sponsored by the University of Minnesota Medical School Student Sight Savers and the Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology. Harrison also spoke to fairgoers on the University of Minnesota stage about eye anatomy, disease, and eye surgery on September 6.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Dr. Robert D. Letson, 88 years old, on September 13, 2015.

Dr. Letson will be remembered for his professionalism, kindness, humility, and compassion. He will be missed by the families for whom he provided care, his students, his colleagues, and many friends.

A memorial service for Dr. Letson will be held at the Mayflower Community Church in Minneapolis on September 29, 2015 at 10:30 AM.

Star Tribune Obituary and Guest Book - http://z.umn.edu/letsonobituary

MN LIONS VISION FOUNDATION

On behalf of the entire Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation (MLVF) board, Lion Dave Moen, Chair of the Board of MLVF, presented a $4 million dollar check to President Eric Kaler representing the Minnesota Lions commitment to build the Minnesota Lions Eye Surgery Center on campus at the University of Minnesota. This is a very significant development as it will allow us to teach a portion of cases with residents on campus. Lion Dave was joined by Lion Steve Knudsen, President of the Burnsville Lions Club, which made a $30,000 gift to kick off the multi-year pledge. Interim athletic director Beth Goetz and President Eric Kaler accepted the gift during the first quarter break of the September 3, 2015 season opener football game against Texas Christian University.

After serving as a general practitioner in Glenwood, MN for 10 years, he returned to the University of Minnesota for training in ophthalmology, followed by fellowships in pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus. Dr. Letson joined the faculty as the first fellowship-trained pediatric ophthalmologist in the state in 1967. He was known for his extraordinary teaching ability, both didactic and informal, with many residents reporting that he was the best teacher in their medical training. With his passion for children, he quickly became a favorite among parents, and their children were always rewarded with a Tootsie roll from the pocket of Dr. Letson’s white coat at the conclusion of the exam.

Dr. Letson and his wife, Pat, served on several mission trips and in 2002, Dr. Letson received the Humanitarian Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology. In 2012, he received the University of Minnesota Outstanding Alumni Award for his dedication and service to the University. Dr. Letson will be remembered for his professionalism, kindness, humility, and compassion. He will be missed by the families for whom he provided care, his students, his colleagues, and many friends.

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Monte Del Monte, MD, FAAO

(pictured, right), professor of pediatric ophthalmology and director of pediatric ophthalmology and adult strabismus at the University of Michigan, Kellogg Eye Center will serve as the 2015 Letson Visiting Professor.

Diagnosis and treatment of strabismus and amblyopia in adults and children, lacrimal disorders, glaucoma, cataracts, and inherited eye diseases in children form Del Monte’s specialty interests while his research focuses on tissue culture and cell biology of ocular tissue, retinal degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, ocular inborn errors in metabolism, biochemical genetics, surgical and nonsurgical therapy for strabismus, amblyopia, congenital cataract and pediatric glaucoma.

Vignettes in Pediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus

Saturday, October 10
7:30-11:00 am
McNamara Alumni Center
A.I. Johnson Great Room
200 SE Oak St.
Minneapolis, MN 55414

7:30 am  Registration & Breakfast
7:55 am  Welcome
8:00 am  Clinical Vignettes: An Ophthalmic Approach to Diagnosis and Management

Panel Discussion:
Jill Anderson, MD
Raymond Areaux, Jr, MD
Erick Bothun, MD
Monte Del Monte, MD, FAAO
C. Gail Summers, MD

10:15 am  Letson Lecture
Current Management of Sixth Nerve Palsy
Monte Del Monte, MD, FAAO

11:00 am  Adjourn

RSVP/Questions: Lori van der Merwe, 612-625-4618, vanderme@umn.edu

MINNESOTA RECEPTION AT AAO

Carmine’s Las Vegas located in the Forum Shops at Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The University of Minnesota, Department Ophthalmology & Visual Neurosciences and the Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology invite you to a reception at the 2015 American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Saturday, November 14, 2015
6:00-8:00 pm
Carmine’s Las Vegas
3500 S Las Vegas Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89109

RSVP Online at: http://goo.gl/forms/7ZFniGBsST

Questions: Lori van der Merwe, 612-625-4618 or vanderme@umn.edu

UPCOMING EVENT - SAVE THE DATE

Wirtshafter Visiting Professor
Peter Quiros, MD - Neuro-Ophthalmology
University of California, Los Angeles
James Garrity, MD - Oculoplastics
Mayo Clinic, Rochester
December 5, 2015

Please note: Event specifics will be shared closer to each event date.

SEPTEMBER AWARENESS

AMD Awareness
www.amd.ie