The Medical School Promotion and Tenure Committee met recently to consider Sandra Montezuma, MD, and Collin McClelland, MD, for promotion to associate professor on the clinical scholar track in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Neurosciences. In both cases, the committee voted unanimously in favor for recommending promotion to associate professor. The committee’s recommendation will now be forwarded to Dean Tolar and the Board of Regents for their approval.

Andrew Harrison, MD, (pictured, below) was an invited lecturer at the 2017 Oculoplastic and Orbital Surgery Meeting at Fudan University Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital in Shanghai, China on October 21. He gave a talk entitled “Oculoplastic Management of Facial Paralysis.”

Collin McClelland, MD, delivered a 50-minute presentation entitled “Myasthenia Gravis: An Illustrative Tutorial of a Disease with Many Faces” at the Minnesota Optometric Association (MOA) 2017 Fall Meeting on September 29, 2017. He was also recognized with an “Achievement Award” by the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) for cumulative career contributions to the AAO.

Message from Jakub Tolar, Dean of Medical School

Dear Colleagues,

When Dean Jackson decided to pursue a new opportunity in Iowa, I was asked to move into the position of Dean of the Medical School. Assuming this level of responsibility is very humbling, and I am acutely aware of the magnitude of the task.

Times of transition help us take a fresh look at how we do things and seek out new voices, but they are also times to rely on the wisdom of the past (history) and present (faculty and staff) of the Medical School. It is through the strength of this body of expertise and experience that I hope to develop a cohesive and coherent future.

The story of the Medical School is filled with illustrious giants of discovery, innovation and compassion. In this spirit, I intend to honor the vision of the founders and the commitments made by Dean Jackson. I also plan to ensure alignment of the Medical School with the expectations of President Kaler and the state legislature.

I believe that access to healthcare is a fundamental human right, and that is why being a physician, medical scientist, nurse or other medical staff is still a noble calling. It is the Medical School’s great and wonderful responsibility to meet the needs of our patients, cultivate a new and compassionate generation of medical providers, and to advance the science and practice of medicine.

I look forward to being a part of this future and to working with all the people who will contribute to it.

Sincerely,
Jakub Tolar, M.D., Ph.D.
Dean of the Medical School
Interim Vice President of the Health Sciences

REMINDER TO RSVP - AAO RECEPTION

AAO Reception
Saturday, November 11, 2017
6:00-9:00 pm
The Little Gem Saloon
445 S Rampart Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

RSVP: https://goo.gl/forms/UQyllbykz1DFS9r2
Greetings,

October was on eventful month in that the Medical School went through a leadership transition as President Eric Kaler appointed Jakub Tolar, MD, PhD, as the next Dean of the Medical School. Dr. Tolar is a very accomplished physician scientist who has been at the University of Minnesota for 25 years and has served as Executive Vice Dean under Dr. Brooks Jackson. Dr. Tolar reviewed his vision for the Medical School with over 400 benefactors at the University of Minnesota Foundation’s Discovery Showcase on Wednesday, October 25, and received an extended applause from the audience. The Star Tribune newspaper also recently reported on Tolar’s ability to infuse new energy into the Medical School. Going forward, we look forward to working with Dr. Tolar who has expressed his support for the Lions Eye Institute.

This month we also completed resident interviews. Under the leadership of Residency program Director Mike Lee, we attracted 42 outstanding candidates with various backgrounds from all over the country; a very diverse group of talented individuals. We look forward to reporting back on the results of the match in January 2018.

We hope to see you at the AAO in New Orleans, specifically the alumni reception at The Little Gem Saloon on Saturday, November 11 at 6:00 pm.

Warm Regards,

Erik

RECENT EVENTS

Wirtschafter Visiting Professors

Pictured l-r: Collin McClelland, MD, Michael Lee, MD, Visiting Professors, Prem Subramanian, MD, PhD, and Johnathan Holds, MD, FACS, with Andrew Harrison, MD, and Ali Mokhtarzadeh, MD.

Phillips Neighborhood Clinic

On Monday, September 18, 2017, residents Danny Mammo, MD, Brian Lee, MD, and Caroline Halbach, MD, with faculty Ali Mokhtarzadeh, MD, saw 18 patients at the Phillips Neighborhood Clinic. The Phillips Neighborhood Clinic (PNC) is a free clinic operated by University of Minnesota health professional students. Patients requiring glasses were fitted and provided with free glasses courtesy of optician Robert McBeath.

Project Pillowcase

Project Pillowcase is an effort that the Cologne Lions Club has organized to provide fun pillowcases for pediatric patients at the Lions Children’s Eye Clinic and Lions Hearing Center. These pillowcases will be included in care packages for children to take home as a source of comfort after undergoing surgical procedures.

You can help!

- Donate money (cases cost about $8 each to make)
- Donate fabric (request guidelines)*
- Sew pillowcases of your own (request instructions)*

*Those interested in donating fabric or sewing pillowcases, please contact Lion Jennifer Marshall (mader005@umn.edu) or Lion Deb Stevens (dstevens10@umphysicians.umn.edu) for guidelines and instructions.

Visit: http://lionsprojectpillowcase.webs.com or contact Lion Jennifer or Lion Deb with questions.

SUPPORT MLVF WITH AMAZON SMILE

Are you interested in supporting the Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation via your Amazon purchases? The Amazon Smile program allows you to support a charity of your choice with nearly every Amazon purchase you make. Rather than shopping via www.amazon.com simply navigate to: smile.amazon.com.

Your login information and prices you pay will all remain the same. After you have selected your charity of choice Amazon will donate 0.5% of subsequent eligible purchases you make to this charity as long as you navigate to: smile.amazon.com.

This is a great opportunity to support a charity of your choice - of course, we hope you will support the Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation and their efforts to build our new Lions Eye Institute. Simply type Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation in the search box and MLVF will be the only charity listed.