FACULTY & STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Ray Areaux, Jr, MD, attended the second annual Eye Care Advisory Council meeting at Epic in Verona, WI where he and Joe Mathews, department Epic analyst, presented “Optimizing Kaleidoscope for Academic and Community Practices.” Areaux was also recognized with the Masonic Mission Award for his commitment to building meaningful long-term relationships with patients and their families. See the story: http://masons.umn.edu/masonic-mission-award/playful-and-positive-force.

Deborah Ferrington, PhD, was a featured speaker at the University of Wisconsin George Kambara Vision Science Symposium on April 7, in Madison, Wisconsin. Ferrington’s talk was titled, “Bioenergetic crisis in the retinal pigment epithelium: A potential link to age-related macular degeneration.”

Andrew Harrison, MD, gave a lecture to the Acoustic Neuroma Mpls/St. Paul support group on April 29 entitled, “An eyelid surgeon’s approach to facial paralysis rehabilitation.” Harrison also gave a talk at the Chinese Oculoplastic and Orbital Society on May 13 entitled, “Minimally Invasive CDCR with Jones Tube” in Guangzhou, China. He also operated in Shanghai, China at the Shanghai International Medical Center during the trip.

Laura May, CO, and Madison Kincade, 2nd year orthoptic student, presented a PowerPoint presentation called “Basics of Strabismus Testing” at the 40th Annual Continuing Education for Ophthalmic Medical Personnel Conference, in Bloomington, MN on May 19.

Linda McLoon, PhD, presented her research at a platform session at the annual meeting for the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) on May 9. Her talk was entitled: “Effects of Glial Derived Neurotrophic Factor on Contractile Properties of Extraocular Muscle.” McLoon also received AHC Seed Grant funding to work with Dr. Angela Panoskaltsis-Mortari on a project entitled “Bioengineering Extraocular Muscles Using 3-D Printing.”


Sandra Montezuma, MD, was interviewed by FOX 9 on retinal detachment. KMSP-TV

LIONS EYE INSTITUTE

On Saturday afternoon, April 23, in the Sanford Convention Center of beautiful Bemidji, Minnesota, the Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation (MLVF) formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Minnesota to establish the Lions Eye Institute at the University of Minnesota.

The memo was signed by MLVF Chair, Lion Lyle Goff (pictured below, seated at the table). The agreement documents the intent of the Lions to provide the naming gift of $21.5 million and proposes naming rights for a new, world-class Eye Institute on the University’s Twin Cities’ campus.

The purpose of the Lions Eye Institute is to bring clinicians and researchers together under one roof. By creating an optimal environment for clinical care and surgery, cutting-edge research, and clinical training, the Lions Eye Institute will generate a fundamental shift in the field of Ophthalmology and Visual Neurosciences. This will enhance the existing strengths of the Department, as well as expand the clinical space and research capacity and allow the University of Minnesota to rapidly accelerate the pace of discoveries and cures for vision loss.

The signed agreement will permit the commencement of a year-long Capital Project Planning process to determine the size and location of the new building.

Pictured, Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation Board and members.
SPRING LIONS TOUR

May 6 marked the annual Lions Tour, and more than 100 Lions club members visited the University of Minnesota to learn more about the sight and hearing programs they help support. Guests were treated to an ENT Department symposium, which included topics on audiology, the Lions Voice Clinic, the Temporal Bone Lab, and the children and adult clinics. Ophthalmology tour stops included macular degeneration, engineering in ophthalmology, the Lions Retinal Imaging Center, the Visual Rehabilitation Center and the new Lions Eye Institute.

Guests also heard stories of gratitude from the parents of a cochlear implant patient and a corneal recipient.

ARVO ANNUAL MEETING

The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) was held May 7-11, in Baltimore, Maryland. Many faculty, residents, and University of Minnesota medical students were in attendance, presenting posters and papers at platforms sessions. Faculty also attended the annual ARVO Foundation and Dowling Society Gala Awards and Dinner on May 6.

PUBLICATIONS


JUNE AWARENESS

- Fireworks Eye Safety
  [http://z.umn.edu/fireworkseyesafety](http://z.umn.edu/fireworkseyesafety)

- Cataract Awareness
  [http://z.umn.edu/cataract](http://z.umn.edu/cataract)