GRADUATION & RESEARCH DAY AWARDS

Best Teaching Faculty Award – Dr. Alejandra Decanini
This award is given to the faculty member chosen by secret ballot of the second year residents as the best second year teacher.

Krachmer Surgical Teaching Award – Dr. Jill Anderson
The best surgical teaching award was established in 2011 in honor of Dr. Jay Harold Krachmer. Dr. Krachmer served as chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Minnesota from 1992 to 2011. He established an international reputation as an outstanding clinician, educator, and surgeon during his impressive career. The ophthalmology residents choose the recipient of this award.

Oculoplastics Award – Dr. Martin de la Presa
This award is given to the resident who has shown outstanding skills and aptitude in the areas of ophthalmic plastics and reconstructive surgery.

Harry Friedman Research Award – Dr. Caroline Halbach
The Friedman award was established by Dr. Friedman in 1992 to recognize the resident who presents the outstanding research project of the year.

Fellow Research Award – Dr. Mehdí Najafi
The Fellow Research Award was established in 2015 to recognize the fellow who presents the outstanding research project of the year.

Lee Best Resident Surgeon of the Year Award – Dr. Yao Wang
The Lee Best Resident Surgeon of the Year Award was established in 2017 by the generous gift of Tac Z. Lee, MD (Resident 1999-2002/Cornea Fellow 2002-2003) and Linglan Liu, MBA. This award is presented to the senior resident in the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Neurosciences at the University of Minnesota with the best surgical skills based on a majority vote by the core faculty.

Outstanding OKAP Award- Dr. Danny Mammo
The Outstanding OKAP award was established in 2015. The award is given to the resident with the highest OKAP score.

OKAP Award for resident(s) above the 75th Percentile
Drs. Danny Mammo, Michael Jordan, Brian Lee, Jordan Gross, Daniel Watson

FELLOWS & RESIDENT GRADUATES

Three fellows and four residents completed their respective programs on June 22.

Archana Gupta, MBBS, (fellow) Private Practice: Boca Raton, Fl.

Joel Nelson, DO, (fellow) Private Practice: St. Cloud Eye Clinic in St. Cloud, MN.

Krista Stewart, MD, (fellow) Fellowship: Mayo Clinic, Oculoplastics.

Jordon Gross, MD, (resident) Private Practice: Great River Medical Center in Burlington, IA.

Brandon McCafferty, MD, (resident) Private Practice: Great Falls Clinic in Great Falls, MT.

Yao Wang, MD (resident) Neuro Ophthalmology Fellowship, University of Minnesota.

Daniel Watson, MD, (resident) Private Practice: The Eye Center, St. Louis, MO.
SAVE THE DATE

After 33 years of service to our department, Dr. C. Gail Summers retired from our faculty this month. Many thanks to Dr. Summers from all of us for her years of leadership and friendship. During her tenure at UMN with joint appointments as Professor of Ophthalmology and Pediatrics, Dr. Summers served as the Division Director for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus. She pioneered the multidisciplinary genetic eye disease clinic and became known as an international expert in albinism. Among many awards, Dr. Summers was awarded the Senior Achievement Award by AAO and the Marshall Parks Bronze Medal by AAPOS. She served as president of AAPOS and authored more than 200 peer-reviewed publications, over 300 additional publications and presentations, and served on the editorial board of numerous ophthalmology journals. Dr. Summers trained 25 pediatric ophthalmology & strabismus fellows, all of our residents, and 23 orthoptists. We look forward to celebrating Dr. Summers' legacy when she returns as our 15th annual Letson Lecturer this fall. The Letson program will run from noon to 4:30 PM on Friday September 14th, and continue on Saturday September 15th from 7:30 - 11:00 AM, concluding with our named lecture by Dr. Summers. Mark your calendars! RSVP by emailing Lori van der Merwe at vanderme@umn.edu.

GRADUATION & RESEARCH DAY

Richard T. Olson Best Resident Teaching Award – Dr. Sarah Maki

The Richard T. Olson Best Teaching Resident award was established in 1982. Dr. Olson graduated from the University of Minnesota residency program in 1969. He was a tireless instructor for, and friend of, our department. His untimely death in 1982 was a great loss to the Ophthalmological community. The award is given to the resident chosen by the 3rd and 4th year medical students as the “best teacher” for that year.

Plotke Award - Dr. Caroline Halbach

Through the kindness and generosity of Mrs. Harry Plotke, an annual award has been established to honor Dr. Harry Plotke, who passed away in April of 1984. In honor of Dr. Plotke, the award is given to the second year resident who best exemplifies the clinical skills, compassion, and concern for the patient that made Dr. Plotke such a fine physician. He was a physician at St. Paul Ramsey Hospital and a clinical faculty member at the University of Minnesota.

The recipient of the Harry Plotke Award is determined by a secret vote of all employees who have contact with the second year residents.

Poland-Finke Chair Resident – Dr. Brian Lee

This named recognition is for a third year resident chosen from among their peers that excels clinically and academically during their ophthalmology residency at the University of Minnesota. This award was established in 2015.

Suturing Contest, The 1st years will close a straight incision, 2nd years will close a complex incision, 3rd years will close a “defect” with flaps. Winners are pictured below.

Pictured: Suturing contest winners, Drs. Celine Satija, Caroline Halbach, Yao Wang, Krista Stewart

FACULTY AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

Erik van Kuijk, MD, PhD, was inducted as a new member into the American Ophthalmological Society on May 17. He also was asked to serve a second term on the University Wide Senate Committee for Finance and Planning.

Sandra Montezuma, MD, received a promotion to Associate Professor.

Collin McCeland, MD, received a promotion to Associate Professor.

FACULTY RETIREMENTS

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