Issue 2: August 2020

Message from the Chair:

Recently, we celebrated the 61st commencement of graduating residents and fellows in ophthalmology at Yale, a tradition of excellence that extends for over 6 decades. This was our first virtual graduation in this COVID-19 world, different enough that perhaps we should have called this commencement 2.0, episode 1.

The good news is that this event allowed us to perform social distancing and celebrate our residents and fellows graduations with many alumni, faculty and family who otherwise would not have been able to attend. The bad news—well, let’s just say that we have all been inundated with bad news this year and that 2020 will always be a year to remember. I know we will remember the tremendous challenges in our society, starting with the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to dealing with the enormous challenges of the pandemic itself, the pandemic has taught us about ourselves, about the state of our health system, the state of our hospitals, and most importantly, the state of our trust in our institutions.

As we were reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic, we were then confronted with social unrest in our society that is distinctly different than anything we have seen in over a generation. The triggering event was the killing of George Floyd, which occurred shortly before the 5th anniversary of the Charleston church shooting, in which a white supremacist killed members of a bible study group. This pivotal event has reminded us of the state of race relations in our country, and internally has led to many discussions about where we are as a society, where we are as a university, and where we are as a department. Most importantly, this is not just about where we are, but where we need to go from here.

The last few weeks have marked the beginning of difficult and important conversations. For our department, George Floyd caused us to hit the pause button, and think about how we relate to each other, as a diverse faculty and staff who take care of a very diverse population of patients. George Floyd has caused us to hit the pause button and think about the what we can do as a department to help address injustice in our community. Our own departmental metrics notwithstanding, George Floyd has caused us to hit the pause button, and think about what we can do to address long standing under representation of minorities in our professional community. COVID-19 caused us to hit the pause button, since we were prevented from elective patient care for months, and sped our adoption of telehealth. COVID-19 caused us to stop and think about how we educate our residents and fellows, and led us to restructure our teaching experiences, and maybe will leave us in a better place with remote learning. On a personal level, COVID-19 has caused us to hit the pause button, and rethink our priorities, as we have spent more time with our families.

Let us not forget what we were doing in 2020, as we were dealing with social upheaval around us. In 2020, we were educating residents and fellows to care for our patients. In 2020, we were training doctors, and we were training them to care for the physical needs of our patients, to understand their basic humanity, and to care for them in a manner that respects members of a diverse and heterogeneous community. In 2020, we were teaching residents and fellows to understand science, and to use the scientific method to assess truth, and to separate truth from fiction—a skill set that is not always universally appreciated in modern times.

As we move further forward into 2020, we will still be dealing with the aftermath of COVID-19 and of George Floyd. As we send our graduates onto their journey from here, many challenges will remain. We have formally celebrated the accomplishments of our graduating residents this week. But let us not forget to celebrate our own accomplishments as well. Many members of our community have taken care of patients even when our own health was in jeopardy from COVID-19. We have stood with our colleagues who have overcome racism and bias to reach this point in their lives. And we ask our graduates, who have witnessed the painful manner in which COVID-19 has
stressed our health system, to move forward and play an important role in shaping our health system and shaping our society in the future.

**Lucian Del Priore, MD, PhD**
Robert R. Young Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Science; Robert R. Young Professor and Chair, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science, Yale University School of Medicine; Chief of Ophthalmology, Yale New Haven Hospital

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**Faculty Updates**

**Vicente Diaz, MD**

**Named Chief of Ophthalmology at Yale Health effective July 1, 2020.**

After interviewing many excellent applicants, it was determined that Dr. Diaz is ideally qualified. He is an excellent clinician and medical educator – and he has outstanding credentials. Dr. Diaz graduated from Brown University with a BA degree in Latin American Studies. Vicente attended Yale University School of Medicine and School of Management simultaneously earning an MD and MBA. He then completed his ophthalmology residency at Yale followed by a fellowship in Ocular Immunology and Infectious Disease at the New York Eye & Ear Infirmary.

Dr. Diaz joined the faculty of Yale School of Medicine, Department of Ophthalmology in 2018 as Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Science. He has expertise in uveitis and serves as the director of Ophthalmology at Bridgeport Hospital. His research interests include novel immunomodulatory therapies for the treatment of non-infectious inflammatory disease, management of Stevens-Johnson’s Syndrome, and innovative therapies in glaucoma. Dr. Diaz founded the La Unidad Latina Medical Guild and was the architect of their annual medical mission to the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and Honduras where he performs surgery, teaches residents, and cares for patients in need; the team created by Dr. Diaz sees between 3,000 – 5,000 patients abroad annually. Dr. Diaz is married with three children. Locally he is an active member of The New Haven Lawn Club, Saint Stanislaus Church, as well as service and fraternal organizations.

**Soshian Sarrafpour MD**

Dr. Sarrafpour completed a fellowship in Glaucoma at Yale University and completed his residency at New York University. He is a graduate of the Tufts University School of Medicine. He will be joining the Glaucoma section.

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**Faculty Honors**
Kristen Nwanyanwu, MD

Dr. Kristen Nwanyanwu recently earned Master of Health Science degree with Honors as a part of the Yale Junior Faculty Scholars Program. Dr. Nwanyanwu was one of few surgeons to be accepted to the program. She will apply her knowledge as the Principal Investigator of her NIH funded K23 Award, “Undiagnosed Diabetic Retinopathy: Using Participatory Science to Design an Intervention for Patients at High-Risk for Blindness.”

In-Jung Kim, MD

Our laboratory is interested in understanding how neural circuits form and function to elicit appropriate behavioral outcomes and how defective developmental wiring may lead to altered behavior observed in neurological diseases. With financial support from the NEI (R01 grant), we will be investigating molecular mechanisms that regulate formation of specific subcortical circuits underlying visually-driven defensive responses. Our findings should provide novel mechanistic insights into assembly of the neural circuits specifically conveying reactions to the visual threat. More generally, our results may help to better understand both functions and dysfunctions of the fear-related brain circuitry.

Our Graduated Residents & Fellows

Daniel Agarwal, MD

Daniel Agarwal, MD, completed his undergraduate studies at Duke University where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology. He earned his medical degree from Weill Cornell Medical College. Dr. Agarwal went on

Soshian Sarrafpour, MD

Soshian Sarrafpour, MD, completed his undergraduate training at Tufts University, graduating summa cum laude, with a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry. He received his medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine where he was a member of

Marez Megalla, MD

Marez Megalla, MD, received a Bachelor of Arts and Medical Degree through a combined seven-year program at the Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Jersey. After completing her residency in Ophthalmology at Yale, Dr. Megalla
Amanda Redfern, MD, received her Bachelor of Science degree in biochemistry with a minor in biology and biotechnology from Santa Clara University. She earned a Medical Degree from Oregon Health & Science University. After completing her residency in Ophthalmology at Yale, Dr. Redfern plans to complete a fellowship in Neuro-ophthalmology at the Moran Eye Center at the University of Utah.

Erol Verter, MD, completed his undergraduate studies at Brandeis University where he received a Bachelor of Science in Biology. He continued at Brandeis and earned a Master of Science in Molecular and Cellular Biology. After completing his residency in Ophthalmology at Yale, Dr. Verter will be joining the New England Eye Center practice for a Vitreoretinal Fellowship.

Benjamin Young, MD, is a graduate of the combined BA/MS four-year Vagelos Scholar Program at the University of Pennsylvania, where he received his Bachelor of Arts in Biochemistry and Master of Science in Chemistry. He then completed his medical studies at the Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University. Dr. Young was selected as Chief Resident during his Ophthalmology training at Yale. After graduation he will attend the University of Michigan for a Vitreoretinal Fellowship.

Luke Barnard earned his Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from the University of Kansas, during which he worked as an undergraduate research assistant in the chemistry department, and as a tutor in the athletic department. He received the American Chemistry Society Undergraduate Award in Analytical Chemistry in 2013. Before being accepted into medical school, he worked as an ophthalmic technician for a private retina practice in Overland Park, Kansas. Luke is an MD class of 2019 candidate at the University of Kansas School of Medicine.

Jacob Heng received his Bachelor of Science and medical degree from the University of Glasgow where he finished first in his class for both programs. He served as the president of the Ophthalmology University Society of Glasgow. He then spent two years in post-graduate clinical training in London which is the equivalent of a combined surgery/internal medicine internship. Jacob’s goal is to become a clinician scientist. He is currently
Andrew Jin
University of Florida College of Medicine

Andrew Jin was born in China and lived in Canada for twelve years before moving to the United States. He obtained a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering from Columbia University. Andrew volunteered with “Engineers without Borders” and helped to build infrastructure projects in Morocco. Andrew is a MD candidate at the University of Florida College of Medicine and will graduate in 2019. His academic achievements earned him the prestigious Medical Guild Merit Scholarship at UF. Andrew has a published manuscript and a couple of manuscripts in the works. He presented abstracts at the Annual Meeting of the American Neurological Association, American Academy of Pain Medicine and the American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine. Andrew is currently the Co-President of the Ophthalmology Interest group where he plans meetings, organizes events and coordinates research opportunities. Since 2015, he has worked with residents and attendings in the University of Florida Ophthalmology Equal Access Clinic to provide free ophthalmology care for underserved patients in the community. His current interests are in pediatrics, retina, and glaucoma. Andrew’s hobbies include cycling, playing the piano, arts and handcrafts and gardening. He is multilingual and currently studying medical Spanish.

Yan (Jane) Zhu
Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Yan (Jane) Zhu graduated summa cum laude from the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy with a Pharm.D. degree at Rutgers in 2015, and subsequently enrolled in Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and will graduate in May 2019. Jane has received numerous recognition and scholarship awards as both an undergraduate and medical student, including induction into Alpha Omega Alpha. She served as President of the Rutgers Chapter of the American Pharmacists Association and has remained active in community service through her role as Lab Committee Chair for Promise Clinic, a student-run health clinic for the underserved community of New Brunswick, NJ. She has used her pharmacy training to effectively undertake several research projects, resulting in three published peer-reviewed manuscripts and four abstract presentations. Upon pursuing the field of Ophthalmology, she wrote a case report on Crystalline Retinopathy Associated with Clindamycin Administration that combines both her interest in ocular pathology with her expertise in pharmacology. Jane is fluent in Mandarin. Her hobbies include fitness, yoga/pilates, hiking, and spending time with friends and family.
Ji Hyae Lee
Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine

Ji Hyae Lee moved to the United States from Korea at the age of 11. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Neuroscience from Dartmouth College. She is a fourth-year medical student at the Penn State College of Medicine. She has authored several presentations, posters and papers and continues to actively pursue research. Ji played a key role in a quality improvement project designed to review the refractive outcomes on nearly 1000 cataract surgeries and presented the results at a local research meeting. She also worked on a project comparing intracameral phenylephrine/ketorolac to epinephrine with respect to pupil size during cataract surgery. Ji’s hobbies include calligraphy and creative writing. She is fluent in Korean. Ji plays the flute, piano, harmonica, and sings with MedNotes, a student a cappella group at the College of Medicine.

Congratulations!

2020 Resident and Fellow Graduation Awards:

Susan Hall Forster Resident as Teacher Award
Benjamin Young, MD

Marvin L. Sears Award for Clinical Excellence
Benjamin Young, MD

Patrick Mathews Award
Erol Verter MD

Academic Achievement Awards
Amanda Redfern MD, Marez Megalla MD, Kyle Jones MD, Hetal Ray MD, Wendy Linderman MD

Research Awards
Benjamin Young MD and Michael Park MD (Resident Awards) and Linus Shen (Medical Student)

Full time Faculty Teaching Award
Ji Liu MD

Voluntary Faculty Teaching Award
Paul Gaudio MD

Betsy Winters House Staff Award:
Benjamin Young, MD

The graduating class and medical school class presidents announced Dr. Benjamin Young as the winner of the Betsy Winters House Staff Award during at the 2020 School of Medicine graduation. The Betsy Winters House Staff Award as recognition of outstanding contribution to the education of Yale medical students. Betsy Winters was the administrative assistant to Dr. Paul Beeson, the Chairman of Internal Medicine in the
Employee Spotlight: Eileen O'Hara

Eileen O’Hara has been a clinical receptionist at the Yale Eye Center for 3 years. She is not new to this role as she did similar work in private practices at Ophthalmic Surgeons of Greater Bridgeport and at the Women’s Health Center. Earlier in her adult life she worked at Sikorsky for several years. She notes that working at Yale is completely different from working in private practice, and she likes working at the University overall. She also acknowledges that Yale’s location in New Haven is a draw.

Eileen likes the fast pace at the Yale Eye Center where there is a much larger volume of patients being taken care of, and comments that “the day flies by”. Eileen also enjoys the variety of patients seen, due to the many services such as pediatrics, glaucoma, and retina. One factor that she credits with creating a positive work environment is the team work that is present on the job. She offers praise to Laura Alden by stating “I think the team work is much more in play right now because of our manager”.

In The News

Why Eye Protection Might Be A Necessary Precaution Against COVID-19

By: Dr. Ayodola Adigun
As evidence mounts that the virus that causes COVID-19 can be transmitted through your eyes, researchers suggest that people in high-risk categories should wear eye protection, in addition to practicing social distancing and wearing a mask.

People in high-risk categories, as indicated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, include older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions, in addition to frontline workers. The CDC has not issued formal guidance to the general public for eye protection wear, only for health care workers.

The agency website says that people should wear eye protection in "areas with moderate to substantial community transmission" but that in areas with little to no community transmission "eye protection is considered optional, unless otherwise indicated as part of standard precautions."

When it comes to coronavirus transmission through the eyes, it’s not just touching your eyes that is potentially dangerous. Research suggests that the virus can also possibly transmit through the eyes, mouth and nose, from direct exposure of a droplet from coughing, sneezing or even yelling.

A recent study published in Lancet reviewed the risk of viral transmission with social distancing, face covering and eye protection. Although not conclusive, this large study suggests that you are three times less likely to get COVID-19 if you wear eye protection.

Specifically, the study shows that face shields, goggles and glasses were associated with a lower risk of infection compared to no eye covering, with a reduction of risk to 6% from 16%.

Hospitals and health care settings have different policies in place to protect individuals from COVID-19 transmission through the eyes, according to Dr. Todd Ellerin, chief of infection prevention at South Shore Health.

"It is my recommendation that for our patients, our universal precautions should include wearing a mask, a face shield, and hand hygiene," he told ABC News.

But what about outside of the hospital, in everyday life?

According to some researchers, it might be a good idea for everyday people to don eye protection in addition to a mask - especially if you have an underlying medical condition or you work in a job with a lot of interface
with the public, such as at a grocery store.

"We know from feline and mouse models of other coronaviruses that infection through the eye is possible. However, given the above evidence, wearing eye protection in high-risk situations seems prudent," said Dr. Vincente Diaz, specialist in ocular immunology and infectious diseases and assistant professor of clinical ophthalmology at Yale University School of Medicine.

"If choosing between glasses and contacts, glasses can provide an additional protective barrier. If in a situation where one may come in contact with COVID positive patients, PPE with a shield can provide more protection."

We are still learning about COVID-19, but from what we do know, this highly contagious virus can introduce itself to the body through many entries. If worn, eye protection should be used with the other transmission-mitigating measures, including a face mask, social distancing and basic hand hygiene.

Ayodola Adigun, M.D., is a fellow in child and adolescent psychiatry at Yale University and contributor to the ABC News Medical Unit.

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Obituary: Dorothy V. Weiand

Dorothy V. Weiand, 96, passed away, attended by family, on June 8, 2020. Darcy, as she was known to family and friends, was born in Yonkers, New York, or, as Darcy preferred it, "backudda Bronx." She was raised in New Haven, Connecticut and attended Hillhouse High School and Southern Connecticut State College. During the Second World War, Darcy served in the U.S. Naval Reserve WAVES corps, working as a nurse at the Treasure Island hospital in San Francisco. She was an avid and knowledgeable classic jazz and classical music fan, as well as a Beatles fan, founding and managing the Tandem record shop, a leading record store in New Haven in the 1960s. Later, she worked as the business manager at the Yale School of Medicine’s Ophthalmology & Visual Science Department.

In retirement, she took to the road, driving a 5th-wheel trailer across every state in the Lower 48. Darcy was beloved by her nieces and nephews as a classic “fun aunt,” someone who took them camping, to the beach, to Yankees games, and so much more. She encouraged them in all their pursuits, from playing music to launching businesses. She had a tough demeanor sometimes, but it was all show. In fact, she was a generous soul and a soft touch. As a soft touch, she also was a devoted pet lover, caring for a wide range of stray dogs and cats. Two significant pets in her later years were her Jack Russell terrier mix, Jack, and her ginger tabby cat, Red - the latter always curled beside her when Darcy was in hospice care. She will be remembered as a supremely intelligent, trenchant-witted, warm, good-humored, opinionated, independent-minded woman. She always had something to say, and, thankfully, she would say it. Usually, it would make you laugh or would pull you up short, or, most often, both.

Upcoming Events

Clinical & General Faculty Meetings
General Faculty Meeting September 1st, 2020
Clinical Faculty Meeting September 8th, 2020
General Faculty Meeting September 15th, 2020
Clinical Faculty Meeting September 22nd, 2020
General Faculty Meeting September 29th, 2020
Clinical Faculty Meeting October 6th, 2020
General Faculty Meeting October 13th, 2020
Clinical Faculty Meeting October 20th, 2020
General Faculty Meeting October 27th, 2020
Clinical Faculty Meeting November 3rd, 2020
General Faculty Meeting November 10th, 2020
*Clinical Faculty Meeting Cancelled November 17th, 2020 – Cancelled - AAO
*General Faculty Meeting Cancelled November 24th, 2020 – Cancelled
Clinical Faculty Meeting December 1st, 2020
General Faculty Meeting December 8th, 2020
Clinical Faculty Meeting December 15th, 2020
General Faculty Meeting December 22nd, 2020

**Grand Rounds**

September 4: Putting the Pieces Together: The Prospect of Photoreceptor Transplantation (Zoom)
David M. Gamm, MD, PhD
Professor, Dept of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences
RRF Emmett A. Humble Distinguished Director, McPherson Eye Research Institute
Sandra Lemke Trout Chair in Eye Research
Waisman Center Stem Cell Research Program
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

October 16: Navigating the Ophthalmology Journal Publishing Process (Zoom)
Jason Winkler, MBA
Executive Publisher
Heather Luciano, MA, MBA
Publisher
Elsevier

October 23: Case Presentations (Zoom)
Gregory Fliney, MD and Hetal Ray, MD
PGY-3 Residents
Jacob Heng, MD, PhD and Jane Zhu, MD
PGY-2 Residents

November 6: Microaggressions - How Do They Impact the Academic Environment for Health Professional Trainees
(Zoom)
September 18: Giving Effective Feedback in the Clinical Setting (Zoom)
Dana Dunne, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine (Infectious Diseases)
Director, Internal Medicine Clerkship
Associate Chair for Education and Academic Affairs
Yale School of Medicine

September 25: TBA (Oculoplastics - Zoom)
Keith D. Carter, MD, FACS
Chair and Head, Department of Ophthalmology
Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Science
Professor of Otolaryngology
Carver College of Medicine, University of Iowa

October 2: The Future of Vision Chip Implants and Robotic Surgery (Zoom)
James Handa, MD
Chief of the Retina Division
Professor of Ophthalmology
Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins

October 9: Case Presentations (Zoom)
Isaiah Davies, MD and Michael Park, MD
PGY-4 Residents

October 16: Navigating the Ophthalmology Journal Publishing Process (Zoom)
Jason Winkler, MBA
Executive Publisher
Heather Luciano, MA, MBA
Publisher
Elsevier

November 13: AAO Las Vegas, NV

November 20: Case Presentations (Zoom)
Jessica Chen, MD and Kyle Jones, MD
PGY-4 Residents

November 27: Recess Day

December 4: TBA (Zoom)

Inginia Genao, MD
Associate Professor
Associate Chair for Diversity and Inclusion, Department of Medicine
GME Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Yale School of Medicine

December 11: Case Presentations (Zoom)
Nicholas Apostolopoulos, MD and Tahreem Mir, MD
PGY-3 Residents

December 18: TBA (Zoom)

Giampaolo Gini, MD
Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon
Ashford and St Peter’s NHS Trust London, UK
Nuffield Health Sussex, UK
Optegra Eye Hospitals Hampshire, UK
President European Vitreo Retinal Society (EVRS)
Board Member AIMO (Italian Association of Ophthalmologists)

December 25: Recess Day

January 1, 2021: Recess Day