



ANNUAL REPORT

A YEAR IN REVIEW FROM THE CHAIRS

Dr. Jonas T. Johnson, Chairman of Otolaryngology



The Department of Otolaryngology is pleased to report continued advances being made in our efforts to improve health care in our region and worldwide.

For instance, the auditory science team has uncovered a possible mechanism for tinnitus. Tinnitus is that troublesome phantom noise which develops in the ear after trauma to the ear, such as loud noises or explosions. Tinnitus is also associated with age-related hearing loss. The research team has made some interesting and important discoveries. We are working hard towards identifying potential therapies that can be evaluated in a clinical trial in the near future.

The interest in traumatic brain injury has been accelerated with the return of veterans from the Middle East who have been exposed to terrible explosions. These injuries may not cause immediate physical damage, but tend to result in long term troublesome symptoms such as loss of hearing, tinnitus, loss of memory and balance, and even visual loss. Traumatic brain injury can also be a result of reoccurring concussions in civilians engaged in sporting activities, such as football or soccer. Under any circumstances, better understanding of the mechanism of injury will allow the opportunity for both improved prevention and treatment.

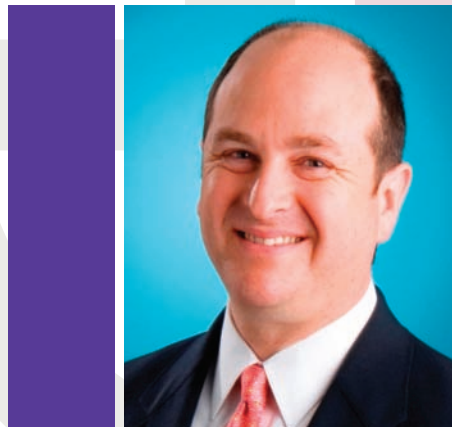
Our team of physician-scientists engaged in the care of patients with cancer continues to identify new avenues which will result in enhanced tumor control with reduced toxicities. Treatment through endoscopic endonasal approaches, minimally invasive

video-assisted incisions, and robotic assisted therapies is also enhancing our opportunity to successfully treat patients while simultaneously limiting treatment-related side effects.

Some patients who undergo radiation therapy or radiation with chemotherapy have serious side effects. New research is getting off the ground to study how patients differ in their response to treatment. If we understand these differences, selective treatment directed at prevention of treatment-related toxicities and enhancement of early recovery would be the next step.

Many of you are aware that infection with the human papilloma virus can cause cancer in some people. The treatment of this cancer is effective and the availability of an effective vaccine makes protection of children possible. Robert L. Ferris, M.D., Ph.D., is leading an effort to find a method to identify and treatment of people who were infected with HPV in the past before a cancer develops.

Dr. Joel S. Schuman, Chairman of Ophthalmology



The Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Pittsburgh and UPMC Eye Center has had an exciting and productive year.

We are very pleased with the new faculty we've brought aboard, the advances we've made in research, and the strides forward we've made in patient care.

This year, we hired Dr. Nils Loewen, from Yale University, who is Director of the Glaucoma Service,

and is investigating some very exciting new potential treatments for glaucoma; and as you may have heard, Dr. Igor Nasonkin, from the NIH in Baltimore, who is the E. Ron Salvitti Chair in Ophthalmology Research, and co-directs our Louis J. Fox Center for Vision Restoration and heads our brand new Retinal Regeneration Research Lab, while studying new ways to repair and regrow the retina through the use of stem cell therapies and novel epigenetics techniques.

Meanwhile, Dr. Kip Kinchington has been working on ways to better assuage the pain associated with shingles, especially in face and eye. New developments from his lab have proven that when using specific antiviral strains, the hypersensitivity to touch resulting from shingles can be reduced. This research is very exciting for those who know the pain of shingles, and the effect it can have on a person's quality of life.

Our department is also leading the way in imaging technology that helps ophthalmologists diagnose and track eye diseases. Using a technology called OCT (Optical Coherence Tomography), our department is leading the way to identify the earliest changes in glaucoma, macular degeneration, and other diseases, in order to find the best and most effectively treat them. I, along with four collaborators, recently won the coveted Champaulimaud Award. The award was presented to us by the president of Portugal at a ceremony this autumn in Lisbon. The 2012 Champaulimaud Award recognized the impact of the OCT on ophthalmology.

Dr. Jake Waxman and I received Carnegie Science Awards this year. Jake received the Carnegie Science Award for his efforts with the Guerilla Eye Service – a free service that he created and operates in underserved areas by providing free eye screenings and follow up care to those facing barriers to traditional ophthalmic care. My Carnegie Science Award was in Life Sciences, again for OCT.

Finally, our Louis J. Fox Center for Vision Restoration is making new strides daily in regenerative medicine for the eye that will help treat many ocular conditions, including corneal blindness, glaucoma, macular degeneration, and diabetic retinopathy. Keep looking for more updates in future editions of *Sight + Sound* of all of the great work our physician, and scientists are accomplishing, and how we are constantly striving to provide the highest quality care for our patients while pushing the envelope of medical knowledge and technology.

Just like there are many different ways to give to the Eye & Ear Foundation, there are many different projects to give to! As an organization that supports research and education, the Foundation supports many of our physicians and projects directly through their own funds, as requested by our contributors.

Visit our website for a list of new projects and research endeavors that we are supporting at www.eyear.org/New_Projects.html, which includes research in the retina, hearing loss and tinnitus, glaucoma, balance disorders, and many more! If you have a specific interest or physician you would like to make sure your contribution goes towards please contact us at (412) 864-1300 for more information.

DIFFERENT WAYS TO GIVE

There are many ways to make a difference at the Eye & Ear Foundation. All donations are used to fund education and research in the fields of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology. The easiest way to give is through our website, eyear.org. Donations can also be mailed to:



The Eye & Ear Foundation
203 Lothrop Street
Eye and Ear Institute
Suite 251
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

A planned gift made through your will, trust, or annuity, is another way to provide your support. Please call with any questions, 412-864-1300, we will be happy to assist you.

All major credit cards are accepted, as well as Paypal.

[July 2011 - June 2012]

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of the Eye & Ear Foundation

The Eye & Ear Foundation gratefully recognizes the individuals, organizations, and foundations whose generosity allows us to bring new science and new solutions to people with diseases and disorders of the eye, ear, nose, throat, head and neck. In Fiscal Year 2012, our philanthropic support reached \$1,370,373 in raised dollars, with 980 individual donors. Thank You. Your support makes all the difference.

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As the Eye & Ear Foundation grows and develops friendships within the community, some exceptionally generous people have taken to including us in their estate plans, promising what we call a planned gift. In order to thank those individuals, we have created a new "Science & Solutions Society," to honor their gifts. The Science & Solutions Society recognizes friends who have made a commitment to The Eye & Ear Foundation through planned or deferred gifts. If you have the Eye & Ear Foundation in your estate plans, please let us know if you like to be a part of our Science & Solutions Society.

THE MEMBERS, STARTING IN FISCAL YEAR 2010 AND THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2012 ARE:

**Dr. Paul E. Rafail
Dr. Joseph F. Novak & Mrs. Eve Novak
Dr. Berrylin J. Ferguson
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(412) 647-2100**

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The official registration and financial information of the Eye & Ear Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, **1-800-732-0999**. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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Letter from the Executive Director



Lawton Snyder

I started this position as Executive Director of the Eye & Ear Foundation (EEF) three years ago in December of 2009. There was a lot going on in my life at that time. I had just lost my mother one month prior and my father the previous year. It is because of my parents that I feel such a strong connection to the mission of the EEF. My mother had severe macular degeneration before she passed, she could not read a menu or see the TV. She lost her ability to drive and with that her independence years earlier. My father had good vision and hearing but for another reason was under the outstanding care of our ENT department.

My whole family was so impressed by my father's care and appreciated that the advanced procedures he needed were right here in Pittsburgh. So before I signed on to my position with the EEF I knew how my families' lives were affected by diseases and disorders of the eye, ears, nose and throat. I was also aware no family is immune to these conditions and that the EEF has the opportunity to make a significant difference for so many.

Here are just a few examples of how outstanding support from our donors the EEF has made an impact in the past year to advance science to find solutions and improve the health of our community.

- With help of significant donations from Charles and Luella Snyder and others we have a new Retinal Regeneration Lab that will research ways to restore damage from macular degeneration,

retinitis pigmentosa, and other degenerative retinal diseases, as part of the Louis J. Fox Center for Vision Restoration.

- Thanks to support from an anonymous donor the Auditory Sciences Group has advanced their research in Tinnitus.
- Dr. Duvvuri performs first of its kind robotic surgery procedure made possible by a gift from PNC Foundation.
- Significant advancements have been made to use stem cells to repair damaged cornea thanks to help and support from the Western Pennsylvania Medical Eye Bank Foundation.
- Support for research in head and neck cancer provided resources to learn about the different ways these cancers respond to agents which will provide new therapies
- With help from local foundations, the Guerilla Eye Service has established five cameras in underserved areas of the Pittsburgh community, screening over 250 patients at risk for vision loss.

Thank you for your continued support. Let's continue to make an even bigger impact in 2013.

Lawton Snyder
Executive Director
The Eye & Ear Foundation of Pittsburgh