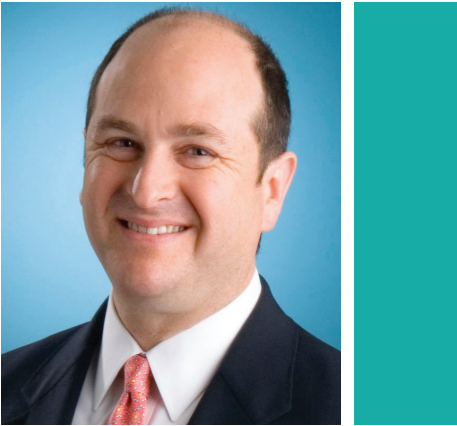




# ANNUAL REPORT

## A YEAR IN REVIEW FROM THE CHAIRS

**Dr. Joel Schuman, Chairman of Ophthalmology**



**This was a very good year for UPMC Eye Center.** We have added new programs, expanded existing ones and increased our clinical volumes. The resident match went well and we added new faculty. Several faculty received new National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants and have renewed existing grants. Finally, faculty members were recognized for their research and outreach accomplishments.

Despite our success in obtaining NIH funding, the reduction in government allocations to the NIH and the sequester increased the difficulty of obtaining grants. While scientists are receiving excellent scores, scores that would have been funded in past years, the lack of funds available at the NIH means that many outstanding grants go unfunded. Support from philanthropic individuals and from the Eye & Ear Foundation is more important than ever in the current funding environment. It is only through this sort of support that we will identify new cures for eye disease. Such support is needed to prevent promising research programs having to close down. This support also enables the initiation of creative new research projects that are the most difficult to fund through any other source, especially through the NIH.

I would like to highlight a couple of successes this year. One is the work of James L. Funderburgh, PhD, who discovered a corneal stromal stem cell approximately 10 years ago. His work, a fundamental scientific insight, led to a number of basic science studies. Over the past two years, Jim Funderburgh has been collaborating with LV Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad, India. A clinician scientist from LV Prasad Eye Institute spent a year in the Funderburgh laboratory. This scientist decided to spend time learning from Professor Funderburgh and has now returned to India to conduct clinical trials using the stem cells that Professor Funderburgh discovered. This is an example of translational science at its purest. A basic scientist in our department made a fundamental discovery, continued research in that area increasing

scientific knowledge related to the discovery, and then his work was picked-up by a clinician scientist who was trained by that basic scientist and now has taken that fundamental discovery into the clinical realm with the hope of improving the health of the population. This stem cell clears corneal scars and opacities in mice. The question being addressed in India is whether or not it will do the same in people.

Another faculty member I wish to highlight is Evan "Jake" Waxman, MD, PhD, who won accolades from multiple sources as well as awards for his work and outreach in the Pittsburgh area. Jake's efforts on behalf of the underserved in Pittsburgh are being recognized by the community, and his teaching passion and skill is being applauded as well. And rightfully so! Jake is an outstanding educator as well as a compassionate and thoughtful physician. This year Jake Waxman was chosen as the 2013 Jefferson Award winner for his work with the Guerilla Eye Service, was awarded the Kenneth E. Schuit Award (which recognized the Dean's Master Educators), was elected into the Charles G. Watson Chapter of the Arnold P. Gold Humanism Honor Society and was the 2013 recipient of the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine faculty award presented by the Arnold Gold Foundation.

As always I wish you the very best for the holidays, and sign off in the knowledge that the UPMC Eye Center continues to grow, and that we continue to do the good work that we have pledged to perform.

**Dr. Jonas T. Johnson, Chairman of Otolaryngology**



**The faculty members of the Department of Otolaryngology have enjoyed a productive year and have seen our efforts to translate scientific discoveries from our laboratories to impact patient care reach a new high.**

Dr. Doyle and his colleagues at Children's Hospital successfully renewed their NIH funded program to study "middle ear pressure regulation in health and disease." Physicians and investigators in our department have been leaders in the field of eustachian tube function and how dysfunction of this membranous tube connecting the middle ear to the back of the nose contributes to infections of the middle ear (known as otitis media). This is a large program that supports a number of projects and core studies dedicated to characterizing regulatory mechanisms of middle ear aeration in patients and control populations. Their important efforts will allow us to more effectively prevent and treat infections of the middle ear, which remain a major public health problem, particularly in pediatric populations.

Dr. Maria Rubio, a member of our auditory science research group received funding for her new NIH grant to study "anatomical and functional properties of auditory nerve synapses." This important work represents collaboration with other members of the group to improve our understanding of hearing with the ultimate goal of preventing and treating hearing loss. In our balance disorders (vestibular sciences) group, Dr. McCall, a young physician scientist received funding to study "the influence of dynamic limb movement on activity within the vestibular nuclei". Meanwhile, Dr. Gandhi was awarded NIH R01 funding for his work on the "neuronal

basis of saccade preparation." Both of these research projects are aimed at increasing our understanding of dizziness and imbalance, conditions which afflict a large number of patients in our region.

Our head and neck cancer team continues its efforts to prevent and treat this lethal malignancy. Dr. Ferris and colleagues are working to better understand the tumor microenvironment with an emphasis on assessing the efficacy of new immunotherapies, which are leading to remarkable clinical responses in other cancers. Drs. Kim, Duvvuri, Egloff, and Grandis are developing innovative strategies to target novel signaling pathways and integrating these new approaches with our increased understanding of the heterogeneous genetic underpinnings of this cancer.

Our young trainees have had enormous success this year receiving support from the Howard Hughes Medical Research Institute, the American Head and Neck Society and the NIH to support their important projects in otolaryngology related diseases.

The Department of Otolaryngology would like to thank you for your support and interest in our research. We wish you a happy and healthy New Year.

## GIVING TO A CAUSE

As an organization which supports research and education, the Eye & Ear Foundation supports many of our physicians/scientists and their projects directly through their own EEF funds. When contributing to the Foundation, our donors have the unique opportunity to direct their gift to a specific area of research. Due to your kind generosity, the following EEF funds received donations during fiscal year 2013:

Muse Prize Award & Lecture  
Horne Trust  
Unrestricted Funds

### OTOLARYNGOLOGY FUNDS

Skull Base Surgery Fund  
Tinnitus Research  
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Fine Family Scholarship Fund  
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Macular Degeneration Research  
Retinal Regeneration - FCVR  
Salvitti Ophthalmology Chair  
Wiegand Ophthalmology Fellowship Fund

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

There are many ways to help the Eye & Ear Foundation make a difference in the lives of others. All donations made through the Eye & Ear Foundation are used to fund education and research within in the fields of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology (ENT) at the University of Pittsburgh.

Online credit card donations are accepted at our website, [eyeandear.org](http://eyeandear.org)

Checks made payable to the Eye & Ear Foundation can be mailed to:



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

The attached envelope can be used for cash, check, and credit card donations. Should you wish to contribute to a particular cause or fund, please indicate as such on the envelope, check, or the online form. You also have the opportunity to honor your Ophthalmologist or ENT physician, as well as memorialize a deceased loved one through a tribute gift. You only need to indicate as such on the envelope or online form.

A planned gift made through your will, trust, or annuity, is another way to provide your support.

You also have until December 31, 2013 for IRA Charitable rollovers. The Eye & Ear Foundation can now accept direct IRA rollovers, which will allow your dispensation to remain tax free as a qualified charitable distribution. The IRA Charitable Rollover enables individuals age 70½ and older to make direct transfers totaling up to \$100,000 per year to 501(c)(3) organizations, without having to count the transfers as income for federal income tax purposes.

Should you need any assistance in making your donations, please call 412-864-1300. It will be our pleasure to assist you.

All major credit cards are accepted.

July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

# EYE AND EAR SUPPORTERS

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 2013, our philanthropic support reached \$2,208,596 in raised dollars, with 960 individual donors. With your support, we are making a global impact. We graciously thank you!

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## THE SCIENCE & SOLUTIONS SOCIETY

In 2010, the Eye & Ear Foundation established the Science & Solutions Society, to recognize those individuals who have made a commitment to the Foundation through a planned estate gift.

At this time, we would like to honor and recognize the following members of our Science & Solutions Society (through fiscal year 2013). Thanks to their generosity, they are ensuring that the Eye & Ear Foundation continues to provide the support needed to advance the research and academic efforts of the University of Pittsburgh's Departments of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology.

Dr. Berrylin J. Ferguson  
Mr. Clarence Klaus  
Dr. Paul E. Rafail  
Mr. Glenwood C. Scott  
Mr. Ralph Tartar  
Mr. David B. Wagner  
Dr. Joseph F. Novak & Mrs. Eve Novak

Should you wish to add the Eye & Ear Foundation to your estate plans, please contact us for more information. We would love to welcome as a new member to the Science & Solutions Society.

## MEMORIAL DONATIONS

DURING OUR FISCAL YEAR 2013, THE EYE & EAR FOUNDATION RECEIVED DONATIONS HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE FOLLOWING:

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(412) 647-2200**

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If you no longer wish to receive our newsletter, please submit requests to our mailing address, or email [optout@eyeandear.org](mailto:optout@eyeandear.org)

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.

**eyeandear.org**  
203 Lothrop Street  
Suite 251 EEI  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
412-864-1300 O  
412-864-1305 F

Letter from the Executive Director



Lawton Snyder

Imagine living in a world without sight or sound, a world where you cannot see your first grandchild, or hear your family members sing you happy birthday. Every day, people with conditions such as these must go about their lives, in the wake of such debilitation. These life-changing conditions push researchers in the departments of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology at the University of Pittsburgh, to making strides everyday to improve the quality of life of those affected by diseases and disorders of the eye, ear, nose, throat, head, and neck.

At The Eye & Ear Foundation, we are consistently astonished with the stories of some patients, by the determined confidence shown by someone who lost their vision, or the defiant optimism of a sufferer of nasal cancer. Through the advancement of the research and education efforts of the scientists, your donations have helped develop some world-class care and cutting edge research – from the revolutionary Glaucoma therapies, to potential treatment for tinnitus, the development of eye transplant techniques, and the expansion of minimally invasive Robotic Surgery– new science and new solutions are found every year.

In 2013, the donors to the Eye & Ear Foundation of Pittsburgh provided the highest level of support on record for new dollars to support research. Your donations have provided direct support to the only organization in this region that is focused on returning sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, a voice to the voiceless, and balance to those that feel unsteady. Thank you for making 2013 a year that will have a lasting impact for all these conditions for people in this region and around the world.

**Lawton Snyder**

Executive Director

The Eye & Ear Foundation of Pittsburgh