



2014

ANNUAL REPORT

A YEAR IN REVIEW FROM OUR DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN



Jonas T. Johnson, MD, FACS,
Chairman of Otolaryngology,
University of Pittsburgh

Cancer of the head and neck is a painful, disfiguring disease affecting thousands of people each year. Current treatment with irradiation therapy and chemotherapy are not gene-specific for cancer cells and unfortunately, can produce many serious side effects. However, our Department continues to excel with exciting advances in biology

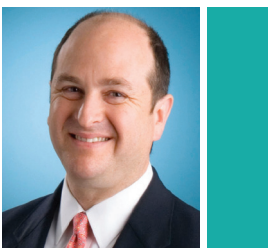
that have identified the genetic properties permitting cancer cells to grow, thereby providing an opportunity to have a more precise personalized approach to treatment. With this in mind, and with thanks to the extraordinary generosity of Steven and Marian Mosites and the Mosites family, the Marian Mosites Initiative for Personalized Head and Neck Cancer Research has been established. With this effort, we hope to identify unique changes in cancer cells and leverage this knowledge to the benefit of the patient with

more efficient and effective treatment plans. This effort, led by Robert L. Ferris, MD, PhD, will be supplemented by work being done by Steve Kim, MD, and Uma Duvvuri, MD, PhD, both of whom have received notification of new grants in head and neck oncology.

The Department of Otolaryngology is happy to welcome Srivatsun Sadagopan, PhD, a new member of our team studying hearing. This team under the direction of Karl Kandler, PhD, seeks to understand the mechanisms for hearing loss and tinnitus. This knowledge will better help understand both the treatment and preventive strategies. We are also proud to recognize new grants, funded by the National Institutes of Health, received by Maria Rubio, MD, PhD, and Thanos Tzounopoulos, PhD.

The Stout Family made a gift this year to the research efforts of the Department of Otolaryngology in memory of Philip Stout. This research will help support initiatives directed towards the diagnosis and treatment of swallowing

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Joel S. Schuman, MD, FACS,
Chairman of Ophthalmology,
University of Pittsburgh

We are very excited to once again be among the top departments of ophthalmology in the U.S. While we have been extremely busy clinically at our 10 locations, research at the University of Pittsburgh Department of Ophthalmology has been very active in many areas. This year we saw the publication of 130 peer-

reviewed scientific journal articles, and many presentations at national and international meetings. We have been successful in obtaining grant funding from the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense.

Our research program is both broad and deep. We have active programs in the immunology of the eye, especially with regard to herpes virus infection, like shingles and cold sores in the eye. In addition, infection of the eye by bacteria and other bugs is an important area of research in

our Charles T. Campbell Laboratory for Ocular Microbiology. We have intensive research programs in imaging of the eye, critical for early diagnosis of disease and disease progression. This applies to illnesses like macular degeneration and glaucoma, as well as many others.

The Louis J. Fox Center for Vision Restoration of UPMC and the University of Pittsburgh, a major aspect of the Department of Ophthalmology, in collaboration with the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine, has been terrifically active. In a Department of Defense call for application for vision restoration proposals, the University of Pittsburgh's Fox Center won 13% of all funds awarded. Stem cell work in retinal regeneration, glaucoma, cornea and optic nerve all saw advances. Efforts with small molecules for optic nerve regeneration and rescue are underway, through collaborations between researchers in the Fox Center and in the McGowan Institute.

Perhaps our most audacious work has been pursuing a goal many consider unattainable; yet we already have achieved

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LIFETIME GIVING SOCIETY

This society represents the highest level of individual giving to the Eye & Ear Foundation and the University of Pittsburgh. In appreciation to those who have stayed dedicated to the Foundation's mission, we thank you.

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† Deceased

July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

Eye & 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 2014, our philanthropic support reached \$2,070,075 in raised dollars, with 1,048 total gifts.

Thank you! Your support makes all the difference.

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In Memoriam



Alice Beckwith, a dear friend to the Eye & Ear Foundation, sadly passed away on August 2, 2014. Her late husband, Jim, was a member of the Eye & Ear Foundation board of directors for more than 20 years, while son-in-law, B. Gordon Nelson, III, currently serves on our board. In addition to their service, the Beckwith Family made significant donations to create the Beckwith Fund to support

research within our Departments of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology at the University of Pittsburgh.

Alice served as past president of the Alumnae Association for the Ellis School, as well as the Board of Trustees.

The lower Ellis School building is named in her honor.

As an officer of the Beckwith Family Foundation, Alice was instrumental in directing gifts to charitable organizations whose outreach touched and enhanced many lives.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

The Eye & Ear Foundation of Pittsburgh received donations in memory of the following individual in fiscal year 2014:

Michael R. Bucci	Virginia K. Katz
Mary T. Butler	Joseph F. Novak
Lois M. Condie	Richard Polcsak
Nancy Freyvogel	Samuel A. Prizant
Edward A. Grine	Isamu Sando
	Joseph Soffer

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 2014). 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. Glenwood C. Scott
Louis and Dorothy Fox	Mr. Ralph Tartar
Mr. Clarence Klaus	Mr. David B. Wagner
Dr. Paul E. Rafail	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.

GIVING TO A CAUSE

The Eye & Ear Foundation of Pittsburgh is an independent 501(c)(3) organization, founded in 1985 with the goal of fostering support for the Departments of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology at the University of Pittsburgh.

Through the generous donations of individuals, organizations, and foundations, the Eye & Ear Foundation has established numerous funds to support the research and educational efforts for many of our physicians/scientists. When contributing to the Eye & Ear Foundation (EEF), 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 2014:

OTOLARYNGOLOGY FUNDS

- Audiology Fund
- Balance Disorder Fund
- Fine Family Scholarship Fund
- Head/Neck Oncology Fund
- Muse Prize in Otolaryngology
- Otolaryngology Discretionary Chair
- Otolaryngology Residents Education Fund
- Otology Fund
- Robotic Surgery Research
- Siciliano Lectureship
- Skull Base Surgery Fund
- Tinnitus Research
- Voice Center Fund
- Zini Innovative Technology Fund

OPHTHALMOLOGY FUNDS

- The Dr. Albert W. Biglan Lectureship
- Dhaliwal Ophthalmology Fund
- Dorothy Christie Scott Award
- Louis J. Fox Center for Vision Restoration
- Louis J. Fox Center for Retinal Regeneration
- Louis J. Fox Center for Whole Eye Transplant Research
- Glaucoma Research Fund
- Guerilla Eye Service
- Joseph Novak Ophthalmology Chair
- Macular Degeneration Research
- Muse Prize in Ophthalmology
- Ophthalmology Discretionary Chair
- Ophthalmology Residents Education Fund
- Pediatric Ophthalmology Fund
- Wiegand Ophthalmology Fellowship Fund

Continued from front cover

Jonas T. Johnson, MD, FACS
A Year in Review

disorders. When swallowing is compromised, patients develop aspiration and sometimes pneumonia. This problem is especially troublesome for aging patients and those who have been treated for throat cancer.

The Zini family has made another contribution to a fund at the Eye & Ear Foundation to support innovations in otolaryngology, such as robotics and other surgical/research opportunities.

Our Auditory division, under the leadership of Dr. Catherine Palmer, has developed an interventional program funded by the Hearst Foundation dedicated to providing hearing assistance to residents of assisted living facilities employing a communication assistant. This offers the opportunity

for more affordable care with improved quality of life. Improved hearing can decrease depression and social isolation and reduce caregiver burden.

Philanthropic contributions are crucial to our continued success. Our Department is incredibly grateful for the support we have received from these generous families and individuals, with which extraordinary scientific advances have been made possible.

We are proud to announce that Andrew McCall, MD, has received an NIH grant; he continues his research in vestibular physiology, seeking to better understand the causes of and therapy for dizziness and falling.

Our scientists, working in laboratories, are collaborating with doctors caring for patients in many areas affecting the ears, nose, and throat. These translational efforts will add to our ability to solve numerous human health problems.

Continued from front cover

Joel S. Schuman, MD, FACS
A Year in Review

the first steps, with development of an animal model for this work. What is this project? *Whole Eye Transplantation*. Collaborating with experts in hand and face transplantation, an animal model for whole eye transplantation now exists. Transplanted eyes in these animals (rats) survive, although their optic nerves do not. There is a great deal of work to do, likely 10-20 years of intense research before this procedure becomes a clinical reality, yet the simple pursuit of this goal is tremendously important. Our "moon shot" will likely yield many new innovations, similar to the space program 50 years ago.

One of the major themes of our Fox Center work is "Team

Science." The concept of the lone scientist toiling away in the lab is no longer the model of success. Rather, people working together with disparate skill sets that mesh to achieve new scientific advances is the model we pursue.

We have created a broad collaboration between multiple institutions globally in our work towards whole eye transplantation, at Whole Eye Transplant Consortium. We are working together with researchers at the University of California, San Diego, Harvard University, the Institute for Vision in Paris, and several other venerable institutions. This is an exciting, nearly impossible, and perhaps our most important goal. We are pursuing it, as JFK once said regarding the moon shot, not because it is easy, but because it is hard. We do it because it matters, and because there is nothing more important to us than to restore vision to those who cannot see.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

There are many ways to help the Eye & Ear Foundation of Pittsburgh make a difference in the lives of others.

All donations made through the Eye & Ear Foundation are used to fund research and educational efforts within in the fields of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology at the University of Pittsburgh.

Online credit card donations are accepted at our website, eyeandear.org. All major credit cards are accepted. 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 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.

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

eyeandear.org

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The official registration and financial information
of the Eye & Ear Foundation may be obtained
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Lawton Snyder, Executive Director
lawtons@eyeandear.org
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Each year, I look forward to providing this report to our donors, especially when we have had the kind of year like we had in 2014. The mission of the Eye & Ear Foundation of Pittsburgh is to support research into new treatments and cures for the debilitating conditions which affect the eye, ear, nose, throat, head, and neck. This year, we have seen great progress in several areas, which we can directly attribute to the support provided by the Eye & Ear Foundation. I will site a few examples:

- Just a few years ago, we received a significant gift from the Western Pennsylvania Medical Eye Bank Foundation to support Dr.

Funderburgh's research in the Louis J. Fox Center for Vision Restoration to use stem cells to clear clouded corneas. Thanks to this support the first human trials are now underway and we all anticipate good things to follow.

- An anonymous donor approached us, wanting to support the tinnitus (ringing in the ears) research being conducted by Dr. Karl Kandler and Dr. Thanos Tzounopoulos. Thanks to this support, Dr. Tzounopoulos has reported success in developing a drug that may someday eliminate the tinnitus symptoms.
- We were all excited by Dr. Amy Nau's work with the BrainPort device, which uses visual sensory input on the tongue to provide blinded individuals a way to visualize the world. These devices were extensively used by adults with amazing results. Thanks to the support of the Jack Buncher Foundation, Dr. Ellen Mitchell will now study the use of the BrainPort in children. We are anticipating even more exciting results.

- Thanks to the Mosites Family, the Department of Otolaryngology will be rolling out a new initiative for personalized medicine in head and neck cancer, titled the Marian Mosites Initiative for Personalized Head and Neck Cancer Research. This is a project that holds great potential to significantly impact the lives of so many people who suffer the disfiguring and life threatening risks of head and neck cancers.

There are numerous research advances within the departments of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology, and it is impossible for us to share all the accomplishments in the limited space of our Annual Report or *Sight + Sound* newsletter. I encourage everyone who receives this publication to contact us to arrange a visit and tour or just to ask us about the research that the Eye & Ear Foundation of Pittsburgh supports. We are all very excited to be part of this organization and to work with the dedicated scientists and clinicians in these two departments. Thank you for your continued support, as you have read, the results are well worth the investment.