



# ENVISION

2019 A Year In Review

**LSU Health**  
NEW ORLEANS

School of Medicine  
Department of Ophthalmology

## Message from the LSU Eye Center Director



LSU ophthalmologists and researchers continue to be recognized for their expertise locally, nationally, and internationally. We are proud to share their accomplishments with you.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season from the LSU faculty, residents, and fellows.

Jayne S Weiss MD  
Chair, LSU Department of Ophthalmology

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# #GivingTuesday

LSU HEALTH NEW ORLEANS

**We have a day for giving thanks, and now we have a day for giving back.**

To all of our family and friends of LSU Health New Orleans. We have a day for giving thanks and now we have a day for giving back. Today, on Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, we recognize #GivingTuesday, a special day set aside for us each year to celebrate the season of giving. The LSU Health Foundation and the Department of Ophthalmology support LSU Health New Orleans and its fourfold mission of patient care, education, research, and community. While LSU Health New Orleans continues to discover, teach, heal, and serve, we strive to support those pillars and better the LSU Health, New Orleans, and worldwide communities every day.

This Giving Tuesday, our goal is to raise enough money to purchase a UBM ultrasound for ocular tumor diagnosis. Please help us by simply clicking on the graphic and selecting Ophthalmology-Resident Education Fund. Thank you!



[give.lsuhealthfoundation.org/givingtuesday](http://give.lsuhealthfoundation.org/givingtuesday)

## LSU Around the World



**Aravinda Rao, MD**, Associate Professor, Retina Fellowship Program Director, was selected to present her lecture "Current Trends in Endophthalmitis Management" at the Retina Symposium and 17<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Ophthalmology of the Armenian EyeCare Project in Yerevan, Armenia in July.

**Mallika Doss, MD**, Assistant Professor, was selected to present her lecture “Endogenous Endophthalmitis: Empiric Antibacterial and Antifungal Management” at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Scientific Program of the Retina Society in London, England in September.



**Jayne S. Weiss, MD**, Associate Dean and Ophthalmology Chair, was selected to present the keynote lecture, “Two Rare Hereditary Corneal Epithelial Diseases-EREDS and Fabrys-Diagnosis and More,” at The International Society of Cornea, Stem Cells and Ocular Surface in Turin, Italy in June.

**Jarrold Harman**, Research Associate III, was selected for the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology’s 2019 Science Communication Training Fellowship in Vancouver in April.



## Faculty Honors

**Maria Reinoso, MD**, Associate Professor, Residency Program Director, was selected to participate in the 22<sup>nd</sup> class of the American Academy of Ophthalmology’s Leadership Development Program. The purpose of the Leadership Development Program is to provide both orientation and skill development to future leaders of state, subspecialty, and specialized interest societies. Only 20 participants are selected to attend.



**Jayne S. Weiss, MD**, was selected as the recipient of the 2020 Castroviejo Award. The award is given annually by the Cornea Society to “the most outstanding individual in the field of cornea and anterior segment.” This is the Society’s highest award and is given in recognition of exceptional contributions in support of the Society’s mission: to promote knowledge, research and understanding in cornea, external disease and refractive surgery.

**Dr. Weiss** also accepted the position of Chief Medical Officer of the LSU Healthcare Network this year. In her new role as CMO, she will facilitate the multispecialty practice in developing and maintaining practice standards in multiple areas.

**Jeff Gidday, PhD**, Professor, was recognized by the ARVO Board of Trustees as an ARVO Silver Fellow for his individual accomplishments, leadership, and contributions to the Association.

## Research Updates



**Jennifer J. Lentz, PhD**, Associate Professor at LSU Health New Orleans Neuroscience Center of Excellence and Departments of Otorhinolaryngology, Genetics and Ophthalmology, as Principle Investigator and **Maria Reinoso, MD**, as Co-Investigator have been awarded a \$1.74 million USD grant to advance research on Usher syndrome, a rare disease characterized by concurrent hearing and vision loss.

**Dr. Lentz**, also received a \$25,000 donation from the Ush One See Foundation to support her research to develop a new therapy for the treatment of vision loss associated with Usher syndrome. Her lab focuses on Usher syndrome type 1C which affects the Acadian populations of south Louisiana and Canada.

**Jeff Gidday, PhD**, was awarded a \$20,000 grant on “DNA Methylation and the Trans-Generational Epigenetic Inheritance of Adaptive Traits” from the Eppley Foundation which supports advanced, novel, scientific research by PhDs or MDs with an established record of publication in their specialties.

**Maria Reinoso, MD**, and coauthors published the article entitled "Gender Differences in Case Volume Among Ophthalmology Residents" in the July issue of *JAMA Ophthalmology*.

**Jayne S. Weiss, MD**, and coauthor Walter Lisch, MD, published the article “Genetics of Corneal Dystrophies” in *Experimental Eye Research* in July.





**Krystal Belmonte**, Graduate Assistant and doctoral student in Jeff Giddy, PhD's lab, won the Trainee Research Recognition Award for her presentation "Cerebral Methylome Analysis in a Model of Intergenerational Adaptive Epigenetics," at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Physiological OMICS Group Research Conference Program in Orlando, Florida in April. She also published this work in *Physiological Genomics* in November.

**Krystal** was also awarded a national American Heart Association Pre-Doctoral Fellowship for her project entitled "DNA Methylation as an Epigenetic Regulator of CNS Protection."

**Jarrold Harman** and **Krystal Belmonte** were awarded 2 of the 3 top poster projects out of 68 entries at the annual LSU Graduate Research Day Symposium.

## In the News

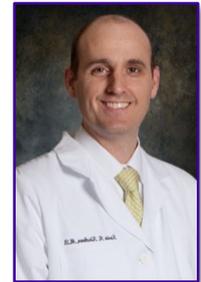
**Lena Al-Dujaili, MD**, and **Kevin Kirchner, MD**, Assistant Professors, are members of the program committee and helped organize the New Orleans Academy of Ophthalmology's 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium held in February.



**Dr. Al-Dujaili** appeared on Fox 8 news in April news about women's eye health and why more women have eye problems like cataracts and glaucoma.

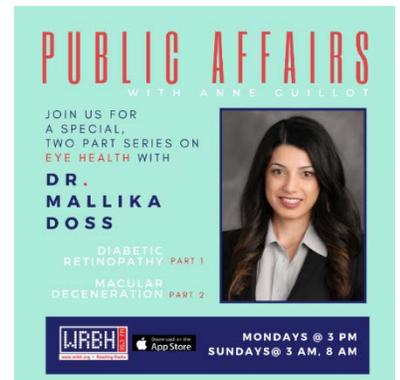
**Jayne S. Weiss, MD** appeared on Fox 8 news in November speaking about LASIK complications.

**Mallika Doss, MD**, spoke on WRBH Reading Radio with Anne Guillot, Development Director, for a two-part series on [Diabetic Retinopathy](#) and [Macular](#)



### [Degeneration.](#)

Representatives from the faculty also participated in WRBH's A Blind Taste in September. All proceeds from A Blind Taste are used to support programming on WRBH, which is the United States only full-time reading radio service to operate on the FM dial. WRBH's goal for the New Orleans community and beyond is to engage, energize, and empower its listeners through access to information and entertainment.

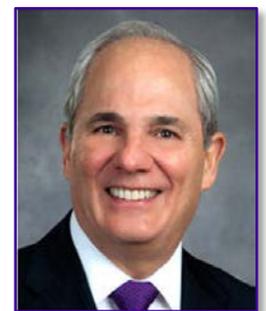


## Visiting Lecturers



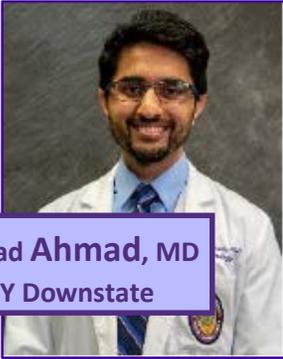
**Wendy W. Lee, MD**, Associate Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology and Dermatology at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at the University of Miami, presented the Henry J. L. Van Dyk, MD, Memorial Lecture "Expect the Unexpected" at the Annual Residents' Research Day in May.

**Joseph F. Rizzo, III, MD**, David Glendenning Cogan Professor of Ophthalmology in the field of Neuro-Ophthalmology and Co-Director of the Mobility Enhancement and Vision Rehabilitation Center of Excellence at Harvard Medical School, presented the George S. Ellis Sr., MD, Endowed Lectureship in Ophthalmology "Unraveling the Enigma of Non-Arteritic Anterior Ischemic Optic Neuropathy" in October.



## Resident News

### Welcome Class of 2022



Jawad Ahmad, MD  
SUNY Downstate



Marlene Azar, MD  
Wayne State SOM



Zachary Davis, MD  
FIU Wertheim COM



Martine Domangue, MD  
LSU New Orleans



Benjamin Lee, MD  
Meharry Medical SOM



Nicole Legare, MD  
Univ Central FL COM



Kush Patel, MD  
Georgetown SOM



Mehreen I. Adhi, MD  
New England Eye Center  
Tufts Medical Center SOM

### And the new Fellows

Akintomide Aparo, MD  
UCSD Shirley Eye Institute





On the left, **residents and faculty** take a minute to have some fun at a mid-year social at Rock 'N' Bowl. On the right, the residents aka **The Macular Degenerates** show off their Bronze Pin Trophy at this year's Strikes for Sight Blindfolded Bowling Fundraiser in support of the Southern Eye Bank. This non-profit provides eye tissue for transplant, research, and education in Louisiana, the rest of the United States, and throughout the world. In addition to community service and donor awareness projects, Southern Eye Bank has assisted more than 40,000 people with receiving the Gift of Sight.

## Best Wishes to the Class of 2019



**Christine Connolly, MD,  
Associate Residency Director**

Pictured above are Meredith Hartman, MD, Rachel Fuerst, MD, Jeff Vinet, MD, Jayne S. Weiss, MD, Jennifer Gallagher, MD, Maria Reinoso, MD, Asghar Haider, MD, Ronak Patel, MD, and Matthew Bolton, MD after graduation in June.

## On the Social Side

Be sure to follow LSU Ophthalmology!



**LSU Ophthalmology Alumni** at the Annual Alumni Event at the American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting in San Francisco in October.



**Mallika Doss, MD**, and her fiancé, **Priya Sahu, MD**, represented the department at this year's Purple and Gold Gala in November.



**Jarrod Harman**, **Susan Dandridge**, Department Coordinator, **Kelli Gerkin**, Business Manager, and her husband **Trey**, **Minghao Jin, PhD**, Associate Professor of Neuroscience and Ophthalmology, as seen at the Spirit of Charity Dinner honoring **Steve Nelson, MD**, Dean of the School of Medicine, in October.

## Upcoming Events

December 7, 2019    SEC Championship Game LSU Tigers vs Georgia Bulldogs

May 5, 2020



May 9, 2020    **Annual Residents' Research Day** with **Douglas A. Jabs, MD**, Director of the Center for Clinical Trials and Evidence Synthesis and Professor at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, will be presenting the Henry J. L. Van Dyk, MD, Memorial Lecture on the systematic treatment of the uveitides.



June 13, 2020 Resident Graduation



October 23, 2020 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual George S. Ellis Sr., MD Endowed Lectureship with Kathryn A. Colby, MD, PhD, Louis Block Professor of Ophthalmology, Chair of Department Ophthalmology and Visual Science at the University of Chicago.

November 14, 2020 LSU Alumni Event @ AAO in Las Vegas



**Future Alumni**



Halema Amena Mohiuddin born 7lbs 12oz to Dr. Al-Dujaili.



Timothy Baynard Bristol Legare II born on August 15<sup>th</sup> to Dr. Legare.



Visiting 4<sup>th</sup> graders from St. Peter Claver School in New Orleans learning about careers in STEM with Krystal Belmonte.

