

ENVISION

Reflections on 2020



A Message from the LSU Eye Center Director

LSU

New Orleans Department of Ophthalmology has continued to

provide excellence in ophthalmology care and education within the challenges of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Some of the changes have included telemedicine patient visits as well as masked face to masked face visits. Zoom Grand Rounds, lectures, and meetings have become routine.

Our May 2020 Residents' Research Day held by Zoom was very successful including an excellent remote lecture by Douglas A. Jabs, MBA, MD, MS, Chief, Division of the Ocular Immunology at Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. The American Academy of Ophthalmology recognized LSU New Orleans ophthalmology for our innovative drive by intraocular pressure check program and "how to make your own face shield" instructions during the height of the pandemic.

With the 2020 AAO annual meeting now virtual, we hope you and your families are safe and that we see you back in New Orleans for AAO 2021!

Jayne S. Weiss, MD Chair, Department of Ophthalmology



Adapting to Covid-19

"COVID-19 times call for unique ways to check eye pressure in glaucoma patients," says Lena Al-Dujaili, MD. "It's a good

alternative to having an in-office visit." The drive-through eye pressure checks are followed up either by a telehealth visit with their LSU Healthcare Network physicians or a telephone call, depending upon the patients' digital technology capabilities. Pictured left to right: **Lena Al-Dujaili, MD**, Clinical Assistant Professor, **Hathanh Nguyen**, (Certified Ophthalmic Assistant), **Cindy McKendall**, (Certified Ophthalmic Technician), **Monique Clark**, (Director of Operations), **Jessica Pfister**, (Office Manager), and **Natara Westerfield**, (Patient Service Representative).

Pictured to the right is an example of the thousands of masks that were donated to LSUHSC and distributed by the Eye Center to staff working on campus.



RESIDENT CORNER

2020-2021 Chief Residents



Maria Fernandez, MD



Christopher Or, MD



Kaushik Annam, MD
Warren Alpert Medical School of
Brown University, Providence, RI



Christopher Lasecki, MD
University of South Alabama
College of Medicine, Mobile, AL



Nathaniel "Banks" Rieveschi, MD
Case Western Reserve University
School of Medicine, Cleveland, OH



John "Jack" Morgan, MD
University of South Alabama
College of Medicine, Mobile, AL

Jonathan Williams, MD
Virginia Commonwealth University
School of Medicine, Richmond, VA



Luke Zhu, MD
University of Texas Southwestern
Medical Center, Dallas, TX



Matthew Williams, MD
Louisiana State University Health
Sciences Center, Shreveport, LA



John "Jack" Friend, MD



Armin Avdic, MD



Samuel Homra, MD



James Li, MD



Charles Reeder, MD



John Thompson, MD



From Residency to Fellowships



Stephen "Aaron" Ashe, MD Cornea Fellow at Hamilton Eye Institute UT Memphis, TN

James David, MD Retina Fellow at LSUHSC, New Orleans, LA



Robert "Taylor" Davis, MD Glaucoma Fellow at UT Southwestern, Dallas, TX

April Lao, MD Neuro/Plastics Fellow at Wills Eye Institute, Philadelphia, PA



Bonny Lee, MD Glaucoma Fellow at NYU, New York, NY

Cornelius "Neil" Regan, MD Retina Fellow at Charles Retina Institute, Germantown, TN

Jane "Reeves" Ellis Samaha, MD Pediatric Fellow at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

FELLOW CORNER



James David, MD
Vitreoretinal Fellow

Laura "Andrea" Torrado, MD

Resident Team Congratulations!

Maria Fernandez, MD and **Christopher Or, MD** were both selected to participate in the Heed Ophthalmic Residents' Annual Retreat.

Josh Pahng, MD, class of 2021, with faculty members **Jayne S Weiss, MD**, Chair, and **Maria Reinoso, MD**, Associate Professor and Residency Program Director, were awarded funding for their proposal "Effects of Alcohol Use Disorder on Retinal Vasculature Using Optical Coherence Tomography Angiography in Persons Living with HIV on Antiretroviral Therapy" by the Comprehensive Alcohol-HIV/AIDS Research Center supported by NIH.



The 2020 LSUHSC Annual Residents' Research Day awards were given to **James David, MD** for the *James M. Hill Award for Excellence in Ophthalmology Research*, and **Maria Fernandez, MD** for the *Outstanding Research Award*.



Joshua Groetsch, MD
Top Surgical Faculty



Joshua Butrick, Education Coordinator, was appointed to the AUPO (Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology) Inaugural Communications Committee, and **Maria Reinoso, MD** was selected to serve on the AUPO Resident and Fellow Research Forum Committee.



Dr. Groetsch and **Dr. Kirchner**, Assistant Professor, were honored with the annual resident awards.

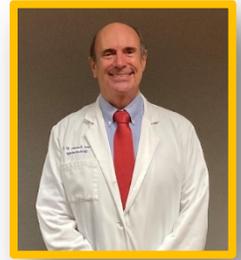


Kevin Kirchner, MD
Top Clinical Faculty

Faculty and Staff Congratulations!

Bruce Barron, MD, Professor, served as President of New Orleans Academy of Ophthalmology and presided over the 69th Annual Symposium 2020.

Dr. Jayne S Weiss, MD, was invited lecturer for University of California San Francisco, University Autonoma de Bucaramanga in Columbia, South America and European Cornea Annual Meeting.



Jeff Gidday, PhD, Professor, was awarded an LSU Research Enhancement Award.

Susan Dandridge, Department Coordinator, received the annual Ophthalmology award for contributions to the department.



LSU Ophthalmology on the Avenue



LSU Health Healthcare Network

Specializing in the treatment of cataracts, glaucoma, vitreoretinal disease, diabetic retinopathy, corneal diseases, ophthalmic plastics, neuro ophthalmology and uveitis.

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