

USC EYE INSTITUTE

# UP CLOSE

JANUARY 2015



## FOCUS ON PEOPLE

Meet the clinician-scientists who make USC unique among eye institutes.



USC Eye Institute  
Keck Medicine of USC

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

At the USC Eye Institute, each year brings exciting new developments. In 2014, we added 12 additional highly accomplished faculty members and would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to them. We also will reacquaint you with long-time faculty and our talented cohorts of fellows and residents. It is this extraordinary team of clinician-scientists that keeps us at the forefront of preserving and restoring vision.

In 2015, we will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of the USC Department of Ophthalmology. Over the years, our faculty has pioneered many advancements in clinical care and vision science that have benefitted children and adults worldwide.

We invite you to meet our faculty members and see how they share their vast knowledge and deep experience to help each patient.

According to the National Eye Institute, more than 65 percent of Americans 40 years or older suffer from some sort of vision impairment. As the population ages, the number of patients requiring treatment will dramatically increase. The USC Eye Institute will be ready with highly specialized care.



**Rohit Varma, MD, MPH**  
Grace and Emery Beardsley  
Professor Chair,  
Department of Ophthalmology  
Director, USC Eye Institute



**Tom Jackiewicz, MPH**  
Senior Vice President and  
Chief Executive Officer for  
Keck Medicine of USC

About The Cover: The image shows retinal tissue produced from human embryonic stem cells *in vitro*. After 35 days of differentiation CHX10 (red) and PAX6 (green) co-staining identifies retinal progenitor cells, while cells stained only by PAX6 are retinal ganglion cells. All cells are DAPI (blue) stained.

Image courtesy of Thomas Lee, Victor Liao and Jennifer Aparicio, USC Eye Institute



*Because the incidence of eye disease is more prevalent with age, USC is ready with highly specialized care.*

## USC EYE INSTITUTE 2014 RECRUITS

**50/50**  
MALE:FEMALE

**9**  
SPECIALTIES

**12** FROM TOP 10 PROGRAMS

## ONE DOZEN NEW FACULTY WELCOMED IN 2014

**USC Eye Institute recruited 12 physician-scientists from some of the world's leading institutions.**

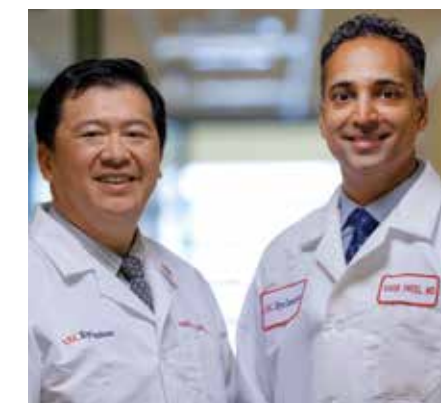
Each new faculty member contributes expertise in a unique area of specialization, expanding the depth and breadth of services offered at the USC Eye Institute, including ocular oncology, glaucoma, orbit and oculo-facial reconstructive surgery, cornea and external diseases, refractive surgery, neuro-ophthalmology, pediatric ophthalmology, adult strabismus and retinal diseases.

# A CULTURALLY PERSONALIZED APPROACH TO PATIENT CARE

USC Eye Institute leads major research studies to advance understanding of the differences in the prevalence and presentation of eye disease among various populations. This knowledge improves care, informs health policy and guides research. It is also a core value for how we practice ophthalmology.

## Expanding Faculty

Our new group of recruits for 2014-2015 boasts a multi-cultural pedigree, further adding to the broad cultural and gender diversity of our faculty. Our goal is to relate to our patients in a very personal way by addressing eliminating cultural and language barriers. "Los Angeles patients represent a diverse, multicultural population and require more than a 'one-size-fits-all' health-care approach," said Tom Jackiewicz, senior vice president and CEO of USC Health. "At Keck Medicine of USC, we are proud to hire specialists who mirror that diversity."



**Jonathan Song, MD, Director, Cornea and External Disease, and Vivek R. Patel, MD, Director, Neuro-ophthalmology and Adult Strabismus, are among the new faculty that joined in 2014.**



**Myopic retinal degeneration, including retinal holes and retinal detachment, are more common among Asian-Americans, a major component of Arcadia's population.**

## Expanding Facilities

Our culturally personalized approach is evident as USC recently relocated and expanded its ophthalmology clinic in Arcadia, CA.

Because the city of Arcadia is predominantly Asian, its population is more susceptible to myopia, narrow angle glaucoma, cataracts, dry eye, diabetic retinopathy and age-related macular degeneration.

Our team of specialists and subspecialists in Arcadia reflects the residents' specific eye-care needs. They also can address patients fluently in Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Korean, Hindi, Spanish and German.

To make it easier for patients to see eye specialists and keep their appointments, the new clinic is located adjacent to a soon-to-be-built Metro station.

Effective, personalized eye care is based on welcoming patients, meeting their needs and removing barriers to care.



**Linda Lam, MD, Associate Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology, celebrates the opening of another outpatient location with Bibiana Reiser, MD, Assistant Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology.**

# Meet USC Eye Institute's



**Hossein Ameri, MD**

Assistant Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology as of July 2015.  
(\*Current Fellow)

**Education:** MD – Tehran University Medical School  
**Internship:** General Surgery – Cedars-Sinai Medical Center  
**Residency:** Ophthalmology – University of Texas Medical Branch Hospitals  
**Fellowship:** Vitreoretinal Surgery – USC Eye Institute, LAC+USC Medical Center



**Jesse L. Berry, MD**

Assistant Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology

**Education:** BA – Harvard College, Biochemical Sciences; MD – Harvard Medical School  
**Internship:** Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center  
**Residency:** USC Eye Institute, LAC+USC Medical Center  
**Fellowship:** Ocular Oncology – Children's Hospital Los Angeles, USC



**Charles W. Flowers Jr., MD**

Associate Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology

**Education:** MD – Weill Cornell Medical College  
**Internship:** UCLA/Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science  
**Residency:** UCLA/Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science  
**Fellowship:** Cornea and External Disease/Refractive Surgery – USC Eye Institute, LAC+USC Medical Center

# Newest Faculty Recruits



**Vivek Patel, MD**

Associate Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology, Residency Program Director

**Education:** BS – University of Saskatchewan, Canada; MD – University of Saskatchewan, Canada  
**Internship:** Internal Medicine – McGill University Health Centre  
**Residency:** Ophthalmology – McGill University  
**Fellowship:** Neuro-ophthalmology – USC Eye Institute, LAC+USC Medical Center



**Alena Reznik, MD**

Assistant Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology

**Education:** BS – University of California Los Angeles; MD – Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine  
**Internships:** Internal Medicine and Ophthalmology – University of California Davis Medical Center  
**Residency:** Internal Medicine and Ophthalmology – University of California Davis Medical Center  
**Fellowship:** Glaucoma – Jules Stein Eye Institute/University of California Los Angeles



**Grace M. Richter, MD, MPH**

Assistant Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology as of August 2015.

**Education:** MD – Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons; MPH, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health  
**Internship:** St. Mary's Medical Center, Long Beach, CA  
**Residency:** USC Eye Institute, LAC+USC Medical Center  
**Fellowship:** Glaucoma – Jules Stein Eye Institute/University of California Los Angeles



**Veronica L. Iozaki, OD**

Assistant Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology

**Education:** BS – University of California Los Angeles, Psychobiology; DO – Southern California College of Optometry  
**Internship:** Optometry – Eye Care Center at Southern California College of Optometry, Optometry National Naval Medical Center  
**Residency:** Cornea and Contact Lenses – SUNY College of Optometry, New York Eye and Ear Infirmary



**Andrew A. Moshfeghi, MD, MBA**

Associate Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology Director, Clinical Trials Unit

**Education:** MD – Tulane University School of Medicine; MBA – University of Miami Graduate School of Business Administration  
**Internship:** MetroWest Medical Center/Harvard Medical School Residency North Shore University Hospital-Long Island Jewish Health System  
**Residency:** North Shore University Hospital-Long Island Jewish Health System/NYU School of Medicine  
**Fellowships:** Medical Retina – Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, University of Miami; Vitreoretinal Surgery – Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, University of Miami



**Arlanna N. Moshfeghi, MD, MPH**

Assistant Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology Assistant Dean for Faculty Diversity

**Education:** MD – Louisiana State University School of Medicine; MPH – Harvard University School of Public Health  
**Internship:** North Shore University Hospital-Long Island Jewish Health System  
**Residency:** St. Vincent's Catholic Medical Centers, New York Medical College  
**Fellowship:** Pediatric Ophthalmology & Adult Strabismus – Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, University of Miami



**Damien C. Rodger, MD, PhD**

Assistant Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology as of August 2015.  
(\*Current Fellow)

**Education:** MD – University of Southern California, Keck School of Medicine of USC; PhD – California Institute of Technology  
**Internship:** University of Chicago (North Shore)  
**Residency:** USC Eye Institute, LAC+USC Medical Center  
**Fellowship:** Vitreoretinal Surgery – USC Eye Institute, LAC+USC Medical Center



**Jonathan C. Song, MD**

Associate Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology

**Education:** BS – California Institute of Technology; MD – University of California San Francisco  
**Internship:** Harbor/UCLA Medical Center, Transitional Medicine  
**Residency:** Ophthalmology – USC Eye Institute, LAC+USC Medical Center  
**Fellowships:** Pediatric Ophthalmology – Children's Hospital Los Angeles; Cornea/Refractive Surgery – USC Eye Institute



**Sandy Zhang-Nunes, MD**

Assistant Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology

**Education:** BS – Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Brain and Cognitive Sciences; MD – Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine  
**Internship:** Transitional Year Internship – Intermountain Medical Center, Salt Lake City, UT  
**Residency:** Jules Stein Eye Institute/University of California Los Angeles  
**Fellowship:** Oculofacial Plastics Surgery – Ophthalmic Surgeons & Consultants of Ohio

## EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

USC Eye Institute provides medical school, residency and fellowship training experiences unlike any other. Our priority is on training, mentoring and inspiring future leaders in four diverse and highly acute clinical and surgical settings:

- USC Eye Institute at Keck Medical Center of USC, ranked as a top 10 program by *U.S. News and World Report* for 20 years.
- Children's Hospital Los Angeles, ranked among the top five children's hospitals in the U.S.
- Los Angeles County (LAC) + USC Medical Center, one of the largest public hospitals in the nation.
- VA Downtown Los Angeles Medical Center, serving the needs of generations of veterans.



## RESEARCH FACULTY

Fundamental research at USC Eye Institute is a catalyst for advancing vision science and driving translational research. The leading-edge scientists listed below, in a wide variety of disciplines, have primary or secondary appointments to the USC Department of Ophthalmology. They collaborate closely with clinicians to develop new treatments.

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|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jeannie Chen, PhD</b><br/>Cell and Neurobiology</li> <li>• <b>David E. Cobrinik, MD, PhD*</b><br/>Pediatric Oncology</li> <li>• <b>Joseph Cocozza, PhD</b><br/>Bioengineering</li> <li>• <b>Cheryl Craft, PhD</b><br/>Neurogenetics</li> <li>• <b>Elizabeth Fini, PhD</b><br/>Genetic Medicine</li> <li>• <b>Henry Fong, PhD</b><br/>Molecular Biology</li> <li>• <b>Carlo Lastra Gonzalez, MD</b><br/>Epidemiology</li> <li>• <b>Sarah Hamm-Alvarez, PhD</b><br/>Pharmacology</li> <li>• <b>Shikun He, MD</b><br/>Molecular Biology</li> <li>• <b>David Hinton, MD, PhD</b><br/>Stem Cell Therapy</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Florence Hofman, PhD</b><br/>Pathology</li> <li>• <b>Shinwu Jeong, PhD</b><br/>Genetic Medicine</li> <li>• <b>Xuejuan Jiang, PhD*</b><br/>Epidemiology</li> <li>• <b>Austin Mircheff, PhD</b><br/>Physiology/Biophysics</li> <li>• <b>Debbie Mitra, PhD</b><br/>Chemistry/Tissue Engineering</li> <li>• <b>Maria Sibug-Saber, MD</b><br/>Ophthalmic Pathology</li> <li>• <b>Joel Schechter, PhD</b><br/>Cell and Neurobiology</li> <li>• <b>Huizhong Tao, PhD</b><br/>Cell and Neurobiology</li> <li>• <b>Biju Thomas, PhD</b><br/>Retinal Transplantation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Paul Thompson, PhD</b><br/>Human Connectome</li> <li>• <b>Arthur Toga, PhD</b><br/>Human Connectome</li> <li>• <b>Dandan Wang, MD*</b><br/>Epidemiology</li> <li>• <b>James Weiland, PhD</b><br/>Biomedical Engineering</li> <li>• <b>Andrew Weitz, PhD*</b><br/>Biomedical Engineering</li> <li>• <b>John Whalen, PhD*</b><br/>Biomedical Engineering</li> </ul> |
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\* **NEW RESEARCH FACULTY FOR 2014-15**

## CLINICAL INSTRUCTORS/ FELLOWS

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|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hossein Ameri, MD</b><br/>Retina</li> <li>• <b>Meena George, MD</b><br/>Surgical</li> <li>• <b>Daniel Greene, MD</b><br/>Cornea &amp; External Disease</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Luxme Hariharan, MD, MPH</b><br/>Pediatric Ophthalmology</li> <li>• <b>Hossein Nazari, MD</b><br/>Medical Retina</li> <li>• <b>Damien Rodger, MD, PhD</b><br/>Vitreoretinal Surgery</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Namita Sagar, MD</b><br/>Glaucoma</li> <li>• <b>Hangxiu Xu, MD, PhD</b><br/>Neuro-ophthalmology</li> </ul> |
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## RESIDENTS 2014-15

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|---|---|---|
| <b>Third Year</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lloyd Cuzzo</b><br/>Co-Chief Resident</li> <li>• <b>Tova Mannis</b><br/>Co-Chief Resident</li> <li>• <b>Sahar Bedrood</b></li> <li>• <b>Andrew Browne</b></li> <li>• <b>Yohko Murakami</b></li> <li>• <b>Salomeh Saati</b></li> </ul> | <b>Second Year</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mica Bergman</b></li> <li>• <b>Lilangi Ediriwickrema</b></li> <li>• <b>Esther Lee Kim</b></li> <li>• <b>Sun Young Lee</b></li> <li>• <b>Benjamin Xu</b></li> <li>• <b>Dagny Zhu</b></li> </ul> | <b>First Year</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jiun L. Do</b></li> <li>• <b>Stavros Moysidis</b></li> <li>• <b>Billy Pan</b></li> <li>• <b>Kelly Rue</b></li> <li>• <b>Grace Shih</b></li> <li>• <b>Philip Storey</b></li> </ul> |
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# USC Eye Institute Clinical Faculty



Hossein Ameri



Jesse L. Berry



Mark Borchert



Angela Buffenn



Gloria Chiu



Charles W. Flowers Jr.



Veronica L. Isozaki



J. Martin Heur



Mark S. Humayun



Amir H. Kashani



Jonathan Kim



Linda Lam



Thomas Lee



Andrew Moshfeghi



Arlanna Moshfeghi



Linn A. Murphree



Lisa C. Olmos De Koo



Vivek Patel



Carmen A. Puliafito



Narsing A. Rao



Bibiana J. Reiser



Alena Reznik



Grace Richter



Damien C. Rodger



Neda Shamie



Jonathan Song



Rohit Varma



Sandy Zhang-Nunes

### FACULTY BY SPECIALITY

#### CORNEA/CATARACT/ REFRACTIVE SURGERY

- Charles W. Flowers Jr., MD
- J. Martin Heur, MD, PhD
- Bibiana J. Reiser, MD
- Neda Shamie, MD
- Jonathan C. Song, MD

#### GLAUCOMA/CATARACT SURGERY

- Alena Reznik, MD
- Grace Richter, MD
- As of August 17, 2015
- Rohit Varma, MD, MPH

#### NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY

- Vivek Patel, MD

#### OCULAR ONCOLOGY

- Jesse L. Berry, MD
- Jonathan Kim, MD

#### OCULO-FACIAL PLASTICS

- Jonathan Kim, MD
- Sandy Zhang-Nunes, MD

#### OPTOMETRY

- Gloria Chiu, OD, FFAO
- Veronica L. Isozaki, OD

#### PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY

- Jesse Berry, MD
- Mark Borchert, MD
- Angela Buffenn, MD
- Jonathan Kim, MD
- Thomas Lee, MD
- Arlanna Moshfeghi, MD
- Linn A. Murphree, MD
- Bibiana Reiser, MD
- Jonathan Song, MD

#### RETINA

- Hossein Ameri, MD (*Current Fellow*), As of July 2015
- Mark S. Humayun, MD, PhD
- Amir H. Kashani, MD, PhD
- Linda Lam, MD
- Andrew Moshfeghi, MD, MBA
- Lisa C. Olmos De Koo, MD, MBA
- Carmen A. Puliafito, MD, MBA
- Damien C. Rodger, MD, PhD (*Current Fellow*), As of August 2015

#### UVEITIS

- Narsing A. Rao, MD
- Damien C. Rodger, MD, PhD (*Current Fellow*), As of August 2015