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for their long-time and major funding of ophthalmology research at UC Davis.

Vision
Our vision is to be the world’s transformational leader in collaborative vision research and in the development of cures for blinding eye disease from cornea to cortex.

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We will realize our vision through pioneering collaborative vision research, providing state-of-the-art, world-class eye care, and training superbly prepared ophthalmologists and vision scientists.

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The UC Davis Eye Center—Reaching Beyond our Borders

The week that I wrote this message, I was in Brazil at a meeting of the Federal University of Sao Paulo, an institution from which a significant number of ophthalmology fellows have come to UCD for advanced training. Watching these graduates of the UC Davis Eye Center growing into leadership positions in Brazilian ophthalmology gave me huge satisfaction. Hence this brief message:

The mission of an academic department of ophthalmology is complex, encompassing high-level patient care, original research that will have an impact on our well-being as a society, and the training of the next generation of ophthalmic physicians. Accordingly, the Eye Center serves first and foremost as a referral center for our city and region. But above and beyond patient care, we invest and re-invest our resources in research that we feel will translate into better patient care, and we work hard training the next generation of ophthalmologists.

While our immediate clinical mission is to serve our own regional community, increasingly UCD has expanded its outreach by training many fellows from other countries, developing strong research collaborations abroad, and sending our faculty the world over to teach and participate in international meetings. Such international outreach has important implications for what we do here at home. First and foremost, it gives us new perspectives and a fresh look at how and why we do what we do. Many of the countries with which we have ties have much to teach us in both clinical medicine and research. Likewise, our international collaborations bring our own expertise to countries that are still developing contemporary approaches to patient care. Finally, we train and send out the finest young international physicians who carry with them and translate what they have learned at UCD to the benefit of their countrymen.

In this issue of enVision, we look at our international outreach, ranging from participation in medical missions to foreign trainees at the Eye Center, to our own trainees serving in the U.S military abroad. I watch with satisfaction the expertise that ripples out across the world from the UC Davis Eye Center, and when the frustrations of state funding and diminishing resources trouble my sleep, I am very encouraged that what we are accomplishing is much more far reaching than we can ever imagine.
Every day the world gets a little smaller, and UC Davis Eye Center moves closer and closer to becoming one of the world’s premier centers for eye care and vision research. This emerging role for the Eye Center is developing because of a convergence of training, communication and outreach opportunities at UC Davis that even ten years ago would have been scarcely imaginable.

New technologies are driving this ascendancy, and as the world shrinks, UC Davis Eye Center is expanding its participation on the world stage.

The People

UC Davis Eye Center faculty members have been deeply involved for decades with numerous international organizations as both participants and leaders. Those organizations include the International Neuro-Ophthalmology Society (Dr. John L. Keltner, Fellow), the Pan American Ophthalmological Association (Dr. Mark J. Mannis, President-elect), the International Society of Geographical Ophthalmologists (Dr. Ivan R. Schwab), World Ophthalmology Congress, Hong Kong, People’s Republic of China - June, 2008 (Dr. Lawrence S. Morse), World Ophthalmology Congress, Berlin, Germany - June, 2010 (Dr. Susanna S. Park), REI Medical Outreach/Pediatric Surgical Issues, Vietnam - March, 2008 (Dr. David G. Telander), and ORBIS International — saving sight worldwide (Dr. Annie K. Baik, Dr. James D. Brandt, Dr. Mark J. Mannis, Dr. Mary A. O’Hara, Dr. Susanna S. Park).

At the forefront in training ophthalmologists and researchers from around the world, the UC Davis Eye Center fellows program has attracted physicians from foreign countries including Brazil,
It’s a small world…and getting smaller

Mexico, Japan, Israel, Australia, and Canada. At this time, Alta and Clyde Hammond Glaucoma Fellow, Dr. Hideki Mochizuki of Hiroshima University, Japan, is finishing his fellowship work and will return to his home in Summer 2011. He will resume his duties as a faculty member, and he will be involved in passing on his knowledge gained at UC Davis to the next generation of Japanese physicians and researchers.

Distinguished fellows, including Vinicius Coral Ghanem, M.D. of Sao Paulo, Brazil, have returned to their countries and are now taking leading roles in expanding and improving vision care for their countrymen. Almost 10% of all UC Davis Eye Center alumni currently in practice came to the program from home countries outside of the United States.

The Places

Individually, Eye Center faculty members are deeply committed to sharing knowledge about ocular diseases and cures with colleagues and patients around the world. Faculty members have participated as faculty and physicians with ORBIS International with their flying clinic program in Vietnam, Nepal, and other locations in South America and Africa. Dr. Brandt will be with ORBIS in Nepal in June 2011.

Other faculty members are involved with other international organizations that provide patient care. Dr. David Telander was recently in Vietnam, accompanying his father, a pediatrician, for Resource Exchange International where they saw clinic patients, performed surgeries, taught local surgeons and presented 10 lectures. Dr. Telander and Dr. Ivan Schwab have been consultants for the World Health Organization for Primary Eye Care in Africa.

The role of an academic medical center is to serve as a place where new knowledge is discovered and communicated to the local community and around the world. A graphic presentation of that role will be installed in the Berg Foyer in Spring 2011 as the Eye Center’s International Wall Display. Our readers are encouraged to look for the display (it will be very hard to miss) in the Berg Foyer main waiting room area.

The Programs

Grand Rounds is a forum for physicians, residents and students to present medical cases, papers and ideas for the professional benefit of the participants. The Eye Center has hosted an internet-based grand rounds program between UC Davis and the Federal University of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Twice a year since 2006, the interactive link has been set up, the participants assembled, and lively exchanges of information, questions, and opinions have been conducted. Just in the last year, a second site at the Hospital de Olhos de Pernambuco (H.O.P.E), Recife, Brazil, was added. The next program will include a link to the Altino Ventura Foundation, Recife, Brazil.

New programs are being planned, dependent largely on the availability of communication technology. The demand for the kind of information and expertise available at UC Davis Eye
Center seems to be almost limitless, and there are projects moving forward that will facilitate responding to that demand.

The Future

With the advent of new communication technologies, the distribution of knowledge and information around the world is increasing dramatically. UC Davis is making a huge contribution to that activity with the California Telehealth Resource Center that is currently under construction next to the Sacramento Campus’ Education Building. The four-story, $36 million building is designed to enhance and complement UC Davis’ long history and wide range of expertise in the field of telehealth, the use of high-speed telecommunications for medical consultations, distance education, critical care and emergency services, as well as health-care training.

The Eye Center plan is to take advantage of this new facility by expanding grand rounds opportunities to any country of the Americas. Current technology will allow a faculty member in Sacramento to “be there electronically” for surgeries and trainings in most major cities of the Western Hemisphere, and in the future, there will be opportunities for such interactive situations in small cities and rural areas in both North and South America.

The pace of innovation and change in all medical specialties is quickening with the availability of so much more information. UC Davis Eye Center is on the leading edge of information technology, and we are seeing great benefits for the ophthalmology profession, our faculty and our patients.
**Susanna Park, M.D., Ph.D.**
2010  Senior Honor Award, American Society of Retinal Specialists
2010  Resident Surgical Teaching Award, UC Davis Ophthalmology
2011  Best Doctors in America, Best Doctors Inc.
2011  The Joan Oetinger Memorial Award by the UC Davis Committee on Research Affairs

**David G. Telander, M.D., Ph.D.**
2010  R01 Award (NIH) - co-principal investigator
2010  Foundation Fighting Blindness Career Development Award
2010  American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Achievement Award
2010  ALTA Ophthalmic Society - President
2010  VisionWalk - Honorary Chair
2010  Patient Choice Award - American Registry

**Marie E. Burns, Ph.D.**
2010  Susquehanna University Alumni Achievement Award
2010  National Eye Institute Co-chair Retinal Disease Program Panel
2010  National Institutes of Health - BPPE (Biology and Disease of the Posterior Eye) study section, 6-year term last 2 years received accolades for serving as scientific chair
2011  National Institutes of Health - Member of peer review for the Center for Scientific Review

**Francisco J. Garcia- Ferrer, M.D.**
2010  President of the Association of Veterans Affairs Ophthalmologists (AVAO)

**John L. Keltner, M.D.**
2011  North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society Distinguished Service Award
2011  Ohio Wesleyan University Distinguished Alumni Award
UC Davis Eye Team

Professor and Chair
Mark J. Mannis, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Director, Cornea Service.
Research Interests: Corneal Transplant Technology, Eye & Skin Diseases, & Artificial Corneas.

Ophthalmologists

Duva J. Appleman, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Glaucoma, Veterans Administration, Mather.

Annie K. Baik, M.D.
Assistant Clinical Professor, Glaucoma Service.
Research Interests: Emerging glaucoma surgical techniques, patient education.

James D. Brandt, M.D.
Professor, Glaucoma, Director, Glaucoma Service.
Research Interests: Nanotechnology for innovation in glaucoma treatments.

Jeffrey J. Caspar, M.D.
Clinical Professor, Comprehensive Ophthalmology and Refractive Surgery, Residency Program Director.
Research Interests: Improvement of techniques in cataract surgery.
Francisco J. Garcia-Ferrer, M.D.
Associate Professor, Cornea, External Disease and Refractive Surgery, Veterans Administration, Mather.
Research Interests: New technology for refractive surgery.

Esther S. Kim, M.D.
Associate Clinical Professor, Comprehensive Ophthalmology, Director, Optometric Services.
Research Interests: Improvement of technology in cataract surgery.

Lily Koo Lin, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Oculoplastic Surgery.
Research Interests: Improvement of aging eyelids.

John L. Keltner, M.D.
Professor, Chair Emeritus Neuro-Ophthalmology, Research Director.
Research Interests: The effects of multiple sclerosis (MS) and cancer on vision.

Michele C. Lim, M.D.
Associate Professor, Glaucoma, Vice-Chair, Medical Director.
Research Interests: Drug delivery in glaucoma drops and patient compliance.

Linda J. Margulies, M.D.
Clinical Professor, Vitreoretinal Disease, Veterans Administration, Martinez.
Research Interests: New treatment for age-related macular degeneration.

Lawrence S. Morse, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor, Vitreoretinal Surgery and Uveitis, Director, Retina Service.
Research Interests: Treatments for diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration and retinal degeneration.

Mary A. O’Hara, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.C.A.P.
Professor, Pediatric Ophthalmology.
Research Interests: Development of new technology in pediatric strabismus.
Brooke S. Chang, O.D.
Senior Optometrist

Thomas B. Barnes, O.D., M.S., F.A.A.O.
Senior Optometrist

Larissa Johnson-Tong, O.D., F.A.A.O.
Senior Optometrist

Hai Tong, O.D., F.A.A.O.
Senior Optometrist

Kaaryn Pederson-Vanbuskirk, O.D., F.A.A.O.
Senior Optometrist

Susanna S. Park, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor, Vitreoretinal Surgery.
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Ivan R. Schwab, M.D., F.A.C.S.
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Research Interests: Limbal stem cell transplants and comparative anatomy.

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Professor Emeritus, Ophthalmic Pathology.

David G. Telander, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Vitreoretinal Surgery.
Research Interests: Stem cell for age-related macular degeneration, VEGF immunology of retinal degeneration.

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Professor Emeritus, Ophthalmic Pathology.

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Research Interests: Limbal stem cell transplants and comparative anatomy.

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Research Interests: Stem cell for age-related macular degeneration, VEGF immunology of retinal degeneration.

Optometrists
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Professor, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.
Director, Center for Visual Sciences.
Research Interests: Physiology.

Paul FitzGerald, Ph.D.
Professor, Cell Biology and Human Anatomy.
Research Interests: The role of intermediate filaments in the biology of the ocular lens.
http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cellbio/faculty/fitzgerald

Mark S. Goldman, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Neurobiology, Physiology & Behavior.
Research Interests: Computer models of eye movement.
http://neuroscience.ucdavis.edu/user/172

Leonard M. Hjelmeland, Ph.D.
Professor, Biochemistry.
Research Interests: Epigenetics of age-related macular degeneration.
http://biosci3.ucdavis.edu/FacultyAndResearch/FacultyProfile.aspx?Researcherid=1339

Andrew T. Ishida, Ph.D.
Professor, Retinal electrophysiology.
Research Interests: Light adaptation, ganglion cell excitability, ion channel modulation, retinal immunohistochemistry.
http://neuroscience.ucdavis.edu/user/26

Christopher J. Murphy, D.V.M., Ph.D.
Professor, Comparative Ophthalmology.
Research Interests: Bio-physical cueing and modulation of cell behaviors.

Charles E. Thirkill, Ph.D.
Adjunct Professor Emeritus, Immunology & Biology.
Research Interests: Ocular immunology, retinal and optic nerve imaging techniques.

John S. Werner, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor, Visual Psychophysics.
Research Interests: Color and spatial vision, normal aging and age-related disease, retinal and optic nerve imaging.
http://vsri.ucdavis.edu
Residents

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Research Interests: Retinal and
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Professor, Dermatology.
Research Interests: The role of
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stimulate cell migration, corneal
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Ashley G. Lesley, M.D.
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Baylor College of Medicine

David A. Paine, M.D.
Clinical Cornea Fellow
SUNY-Buffalo School of Medicine

Hideki Mochizuki, M.D., Ph.D.
Alta and Clyde Hammond
Glaucoma Fellow
Hiroshima University School of Medicine

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James Terry Wilkinson
New Volunteer Group to Help Eye Center Fundraising Efforts

Just as “an army travels on its stomach”, so an academic eye center moves forward by the energy and commitment of its donors and volunteers. Long one of our community’s best-kept secrets, the internationally recognized UC Davis Health System Eye Center has formed the new Eye Center Council. Composed of a group of people who are both donors and volunteers, Council members will provide assistance and support to the Eye Center’s ongoing efforts to identify new sources of support, introduce new prospective donors to the Eye Center’s achievements and programs, and provide advice and assistance to the Eye Center Chair, Mark J. Mannis, M.D.

The members of the new UC Davis Eye Center Council are:

Barbara Fingerut  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hammer  
Ann Kerr  
Jim and Lyn Livingston  
Michael Schermer, M.D.  
Jim and Mary Jo Streng  
Jerry and Helen Suran  
Joseph Zeiter, M.D.

Council members are slated to become active in the Eye Center’s efforts to inform donors and the interested public about the Eye Center and to promote upcoming informational events. Those events include Dr. John S. Werner’s three-part lecture series at the Crocker Art Museum in spring 2011 entitled, “Color Transformations in Impressionism: In the Eye, On the Canvas, Across the Lifespan.”
“Our department is now ready to take the next step”
Any medical student who has sat across the table from Frank Sousa, M.D. in a one-on-one instructional session will tell you what an experience it is: challenging, high energy, enthusiastic, practical… just plain fun! Frank Sousa infuses his teaching style in ophthalmology with a love of all that is medical, and this enthusiasm beams through his exchange with his students.

Frank is a native of our region. Born and raised in Hayward, CA, he was the younger of two children. His first connection with Davis was at age 14, when the family relocated to the university town from the bay area. Frank attended high school there and was a UCD undergrad for three years before starting medical school at Davis. He graduated from the UCD School of Medicine in 1974 followed by a year at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where he completed an internship in internal medicine. Davis once again became his lodestone, and in 1976, Jerry Portney—the first full-time academic chair of the newly formed Department of Ophthalmology—spirited Frank back to the residency class of 1979. So began his career as an ophthalmologist.

After completing his residency, Dr. Sousa started working at the Sacramento Veteran’s Administration (VA) located at Stockton and Broadway, completely devoting himself to general ophthalmology outpatient care. At that time, all UC Davis students rotated through the service, and Frank discovered his love of teaching the wonders of our specialty to medical students. His teaching skills were rewarded by his receiving the Kaiser Excellence in Teaching Award twice, the UC Davis School of Medicine Outstanding Volunteer Clinical Faculty Award three times, and being inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society as Outstanding Teacher and Mentor.

Two decades at the VA, first at Stockton and Broadway and then after 1992 at the Mather VA site, fine-tuned Frank’s pedagogic skills. But a bout of severe endocarditis led him through that invisible curtain that separates physician from patient, and in 1999 he underwent an aortic valve replacement, only a month after retiring from the VA.

But Frank is an optimist, and he saw the silver lining in his illness—a life change that allowed him to spend 5 years of quality time with his family. A father of five, Frank used this time to teach his children how to build houses, a skill that he learned as a youngster from his father. More importantly, his children learned to appreciate every day as a gift and enhanced their love of family, learning, and how precious each day is.

The time with his family was an irreplaceable treasure, but Frank began hankering again for involvement in medicine. He had, happily, kept up his licensure and his UC Davis School of Medicine faculty appointment. He began volunteering in the UC Davis student-run clinics and the Communicare Clinic. He continued with his ongoing commitment...
to the medical school admissions committee and has been pursuing his love of mentoring students, residents, and former residents. He recognized immediately that “the juices were flowing to teach again.”

Two years ago, we asked Frank to return to the Volunteer Clinical Faculty at the Eye Center with the assignment of teaching our students the basic eye examination. But others have also recognized his strengths as a teacher and mentor tapping him as a mentor in the post-baccalaureate program for undergraduates at Davis, an instructor in the Doctoring Series, and drafting him into a more intensive role in a variety of positions on the medical school admissions committee.

Frank is devoted to his wife Laurel and to his five children who range in age from 21 - 30 and who have a remarkable range of professional paths.

Why ophthalmology? Frank was strongly influenced by Michael Schermer—one of our earliest alumni and a dedicated supporter of the Eye Center. Mike transmitted his enthusiasm for ophthalmology to Sousa over lunch breaks during Frank’s rotation on ophthalmology at Davis. He became involved with helping Jerry Portney with a book that he was writing and, as he puts it, “I discovered a new world through the slit lamp.”

At the time he entered residency, the UCD program was still a fledgling training program staffed largely by dedicated community doctors, including Bill Bryant and William Kohl. The dedication and spirit of volunteerism exemplified by the community ophthalmologists rendered the atmosphere in the residency very positive and energetic. This dedication to ophthalmic medicine was further emphasized by his mentor at the VA, the late Henry Ricci, who taught many classes of our residents at the Martinez VA until his death.

When not actively engaged in teaching, mentoring, admissions and student development, Frank Sousa is an enthusiastic traveler having spent considerable time with Laurel exploring the U.S. national parks, Europe, and Central America. He is also an avid reader, particularly enjoying the writings of John Steinbeck, Joseph Campbell, and poet, T.S. Eliot. Gardening is a passion that brings him balance and tranquility.

As for the Eye Center today, Sousa says, “Our department is now ready to take the next step, to become recognized as the world-class department that it is.”

“This, of course, will take resources,” he points out, and he and Laurel have stepped up and translated their respect for and loyalty to UCD with their financial support. So, now, more than ever, Frank Sousa continues to give to the Eye Center in many different ways: By teaching students and instilling in them his passion and persistent sense of wonder at the miracle of vision and vision medicine; by actively working to ensure that we admit and develop the very best future physicians to become a part of the UC Davis School of Medicine community; and by his personal support of the Eye Center’s aspirations. We thank him.
A Teacher for all Times cont...
“The personal relationship that I developed with my mentors, other faculty, and technicians at UC Davis was the most rewarding aspect of my education.”
Defenders of the Nation

We are proud of all those whom we train here at the Eye Center. But there is a special satisfaction from equipping members of the United States Armed Forces with clinical skills that will restore the health of our soldiers and their families. The past decade has been one of conflict around the world, but regardless of one’s political stance, there is no question that our soldiers have been dedicated and brave, laying their lives on the line so that we can enjoy this country’s freedoms. The young military ophthalmologists trained at UC Davis care not only for our own soldiers but for the people of the countries in which they serve as well. Here at the Eye Center, we have trained several remarkable young men and women of the military, a few of whom we will profile here.

Lieutenant Colonel Charles D. Reilly, M.D.

Lieutenant Colonel Charles D. (Chaz) Reilly, trained at UC Davis as a fellow in Cornea, External Eye Disease, and Refractive Surgery in 2003-2004. Born into a military family with a father who saw active duty in Korea and Vietnam, Chaz knew early that he was destined for a life in the military. He completed his medical education at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences and discovered his love for ophthalmology while rotating on the eye service at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD. Ultimately, he chose to join the United States Air Force. After completing his medical training, Chaz chose to do his fellowship training at UC Davis, which he saw as an unparalleled opportunity to train as an exceptional surgeon and clinician.

After completing his year of fellowship, Dr. Reilly returned to Wilford Hall Air Force Medical Center in San Antonio, TX, which is the largest department of ophthalmology in the Air Force and is the Department of Defense’s Clinical Center of Excellence in Eye Care. Recently promoted to department chair, Dr. Reilly supervises 16 faculty and 18 residents. He also serves as Chief Consultant to the Air Force Surgeon General for Refractive Surgery, managing six laser centers across the country with over 200 employees and responsible for policy, training, and quality control of refractive surgery in the Air Force. In addition, he is Director of the Joint Warfighter Refractive Surgery Center at Lackland Air Force Base, where over 30,000 refractive surgeries have been performed to date.
In addition to caring for active duty men and women, Chaz also cares for the large military retiree population in San Antonio, dealing with the full range of corneal and external diseases of the eye. He served as the sole ophthalmologist in the Coalition Forces during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, treating soldiers from the U.S., United Kingdom, Canada, Spain, Korea and elsewhere with both routine eye care as well as management of severe war-related injuries. In addition, Chaz was able to provide significant humanitarian eye care to the local Afghani population.

His humanitarian work has continued through the military command by organizing eye care missions in Honduras, Panama, and Peru.

“The traits that UC Davis reinforces in ophthalmologists—dedication, kindness, compassion, respect for those around you—are the same traits that make a good Air Force officer”

Happily married to his wife of 22 years, Suzie, Dr. Reilly plans to continue to provide high-level care to the military and to train the next generation of Air Force ophthalmologists.

Major Abraham Suhr is Director of the Glaucoma Service at Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC). He completed his fellowship in glaucoma under the mentorship of James Brandt and Michele Lim here at UC Davis in 2007. A native of San Luis Obispo, California, he settled on ophthalmology as a career in the 6th grade! Later, when considering medical schools, he was impressed with the collegiality of the students at the Uniformed Services University School of Medicine and joined the Armed Services. He chose UC Davis for fellowship training because he wanted “mentors who would be interested in me and my education”.

As a full-time academic ophthalmologist, Dr. Reilly has experienced a steep trajectory of responsibility. Only two years after completing his UC Davis fellowship, he was named Consultant to the Air Force Surgeon General, and only five years after his fellowship, he was named Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at Wilford Hall. Dr. Reilly points out that his experience at UC Davis had an enormous impact on his personal and professional life, preparing him to function in virtually any environment without hesitation.
Serving as the Director of Glaucoma Services in the residency program at Brooke Army Medical Center, Abe participates in the training of 12 Air Force physicians and six Army physicians each year. When at home in Texas, Dr. Suhr treats primarily a population of glaucoma patients along with the trauma and burn patients seen at BAMC, which serves as a major trauma center. At the front in Iraq serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn until April 2011, he deals with massively injured eyes and other wartime injuries.

“working at UC Davis has allowed me to understand similarities and differences in the delivery of care.”

Abe is happily married to his wife Eunice and plans to raise a family in San Antonio. Currently serving as the Medical Student Ophthalmology Director and the Assistant Ophthalmology Residency Director, San Antonio Uniformed Armed Services Health Education Consortium, Dr. Suhr looks forward to increased responsibility in graduate medical education.

Ashley Lesley, Navy Flight Surgeon.

Ashley Lesley wanted to be a doctor for as long as she can remember early in her childhood in Clayton, Georgia. But she was first exposed to ophthalmology as a medical specialty when she was a Navy flight surgeon and changed her course from neurosurgery, which was her original aspiration. Ashley’s original decision to join the Armed Services stemmed from her contact with a Navy recruiter when she was a senior in college. The enticement of a scholarship, the promise of adventure, and continuing the tradition of her father, who had been in the Navy, led her to accept a Health Professions Scholarship. Dr. Lesley pursued residency training at UC Davis because she was attracted to the spirit of camaraderie in the Department. She chose a civilian residency to stay close to her husband, an F/A 18 Hornet pilot, whom she met while stationed near Fresno.

Lieutenant Commander Ashley Lesley, M.D.
Ashley with her husband, pilot Patrick O’Mara.
While in the military, Ashley practiced general aviation medicine and worked with enlisted personnel assigned to aviation units but primarily with designated naval aviators, an exacting assignment of medical management to ensure top performance. During her residency, she capitalized on her connections with the Navy by conducting collaborative research on the effects of refractive surgery on the landing grades of naval aviators—research that she presented this year at the meeting of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery.

Married to Patrick O’Mara, a Topgun and a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and the U.S. Navy Fighter Weapons School, Ashley looks forward to an academic position some day in the future.

Next year, she will serve as a glaucoma consultant in a practice in Visalia, CA.

“I will always be grateful for the encouragement and guidance that I have received from the glaucoma specialists at UC Davis.”

Currently completing her fellowship at UCD, Ashley is a Lieutenant Commander and, although not serving the troops at present, she continues to serve in the Medical Corps of the United States Navy.

UC Davis has extended its expertise to our nation’s defenders and military healers. We are proud of this legacy, which we provide to our country through these talented young men and women—our alumni.
Carrying the Clinical and Academic Legacy of UC Davis to the Americas

Over 15 years ago, the UC Davis Department of Ophthalmology & Vision Science accepted its first Latin American Fellow, Luciene Barbosa de Sousa, who was then training at the Federal University of Sao Paulo. Now, an internationally renowned expert in corneal surgery and Medical Director of the busiest eye bank in the world in Sorocaba, Brazil, Dr. Barbosa has carried the clinical and academic legacy of UC Davis to Latin America.

Dr. Barbosa’s experience at UC Davis began a chain of associations between UCD and several high quality educational institutions in South America, and over the past decade, UC Davis has hosted fellows in training from Brazil, Peru, and Mexico. Graduates of the UC Davis training program have gone on to complete PhD theses based on work done here. Several have assumed professorial positions and have combined busy clinical practices with teaching responsibilities.

Many continue research collaborations with mentors at UC Davis, and for several, a second generation of UC Davis fellows in training has now completed work here, encouraged by their experience with mentors in Sacramento and Davis.

The highway to Latin America has been a two-way road. Several of our faculty members have made trips to Central and South America as visiting professors or on surgical missions. Drs. James Brandt, Susanna Park, and Annie Baik have traveled with ORBIS International to Peru to teach local physicians complex surgical procedures through the flying eye hospital.

Dr. Mannis has made annual trips to Brazil where he now holds an appointment as
Legacy of UC Davis to the Americas

Permanent Visiting Professor at the Federal University of Sao Paulo. And Drs. John Keltner and Mark Mannis, with several of our volunteer clinical faculty, have participated regularly in organized surgical missions to the Baja California peninsula of Mexico.

Several years ago, UC Davis initiated a Telemedicine Grand Rounds program with universities in Brazil. Twice yearly, this event is conducted with real time exchange of clinical cases with our university counterparts in Sao Paulo. The next program will involve groups at the Federal University of Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil, the Hospital de Olhos de Pernambuco, Recife, Brazil, and the Altino Ventura Foundation, Recife, Brazil. This innovative program has set the stage for a significant expansion of educational and scientific collaborative exchange of information throughout the Americas. In the coming months and years, plans are afoot to expand activities with Latin America, including tele-consultations, lecture series, joint publications, expansion of fellowship training opportunities, and new scientific collaborations. While UCD reaches out to places all over the world, its connection to its neighbors to the south is a strong, vibrant, and creative link providing quality training to all the participants as well as innovative science for the field of ophthalmology.

Dr. Mannis is completing his term as President of the Pan-American Association of Eye Banks and has taught eye banking in Colombia to physicians and technicians from all over Latin America for several years. In July 2011, Mannis will be installed as the President of the Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology, the largest supra-national eye organization in the world with members from 23 countries of the Americas. He has also been recognized for his contributions to the training of young Latin American ophthalmologists by receiving the Moacyr Alvaro Gold Medallion in Brazil and an honorary doctorate (Doctor Honoris Causa) at the University of San Marcos in Peru.

Dr. Mannis awarded Doctor Honoris Causa at the University of San Marcos in Lima, Peru. To the right is his former fellow, Dr. Luis Izquierdo, Jr.

Dr. Mannis conducts Grand Rounds between UC Davis and the Federal University of Sao Paulo via telemedicine.
Use your IRA to help the UC Davis Eye Center!

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Individuals aged 70 ½ or older can make outright charitable gifts to the UC Davis Health System Eye Center of up to $100,000 through direct transfers from their IRAs—without having to pay income tax on the IRA distribution!

You can make a direct transfer if:

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• You transfer funds directly from an IRA.

• You transfer the gift outright to one or more qualified charities.

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• You can make a gift for 2011 anytime between now and Dec. 31. It’s simple to do.

Just contact Mark. E. Schaal, M.B.A., at (916) 734-9310 or Planned.Giving@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu. Mark will answer any questions and provide you the appropriate language for making your request to your IRA custodian.
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