UVA OPHTHALMOLOGY

SUMMER 2010

DR. NETLAND TO LEAD DEPARTMENT

Peter A. Netland, MD, PhD was recently appointed DuPont Guerry III Professor and Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Virginia School of Medicine.

"I am excited about the opportunity to expand and strengthen the Department of Ophthalmology in its academic missions and to enhance its facilities to meet the growing need for patient care," Dr. Netland said. Dr. Netland assumed the Chair in November 2009, after being recruited from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, where he served as Vice Chair of Academic Affairs and as Professor of Ophthalmology in the University of Tennessee College of Medicine.

Steven T. DeKosky, MD, Vice President and Dean of the University of Virginia School of Medicine, was enthusiastic about Dr. Netland's recruitment: "Dr. Netland is an innovative clinician and distinguished educator, who has developed new protocols and treatments for glaucoma, has written five textbooks, and has 15 ongoing research studies," said Dr. DeKosky. "He has trained a diverse group of international physicians and scientists and we look for him to build the Ophthalmology graduate programs at UVA."

Dr. Netland is but the fifth Chair of Ophthalmology in the Department's hundred year history. He succeeded Brian P. Conway, MD, who directed the Department from 1978 to 2008.

"Dr. Conway has left a strong legacy in his leadership of the department. I look forward to the challenge of building upon the foundation he created to ensure we continue our mission to train outstanding new ophthalmologists, provide excellent patient care, and advance the science and treatment of patients through excellence in research," Dr. Netland said.

VOLUME I, NUMBER I

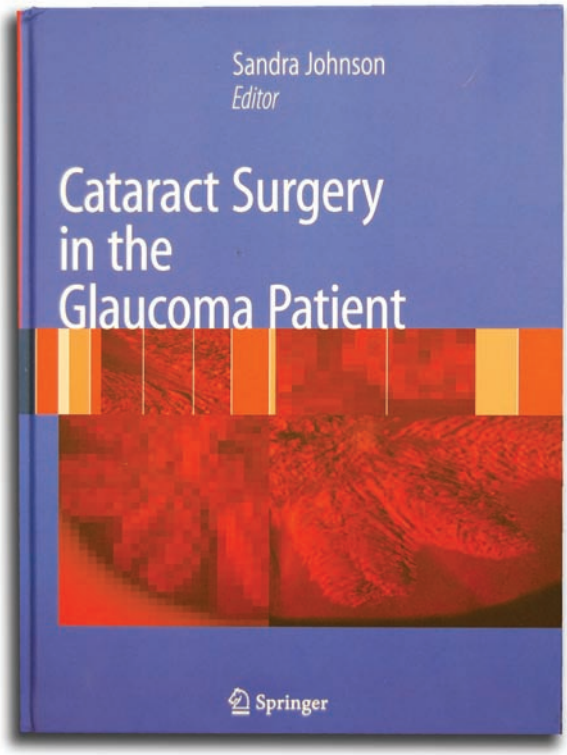
3 UVA OPHTHALMOLOGISTS NAMED AS "BEST DOCTORS"

Steven A. Newman, MD, Brian P. Conway, MD and Peter A. Netland, MD, PhD, all Professors of Ophthalmology, were named as three of the "Best Doctors in America" for 2009 - 2010 in a recent national listing.

Drs. Newman, Conway and Netland joined 183 of their fellow UVA physicians, 26 more than appeared on the previous list in 2007. The Best Doctors are chosen through a comprehensive peer-review survey of thousands of physicians, who are asked, "If you or a loved one needed a doctor in your specialty, to whom would you refer them?" Only 3 to 5 percent of US doctors in more than 40 medical subspecialties are selected for each Best Doctors list, which comes out every two years.

Congratulations to Drs. Newman, Conway and Netland for this recognition of their exceptional clinical expertise.

DR. JOHNSON PUBLISHES TEXT



Sandra M. Johnson, MD, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, has published *Cataract Surgery in the Glaucoma Patient* (New York: Springer; 2009). Dr. Johnson's book uses an evidence-based approach to direct cataract surgery in patients with glaucoma, to attain optimal visual results. The text will serve as an excellent resource for general ophthalmologists and residents as well as glaucoma fellows.

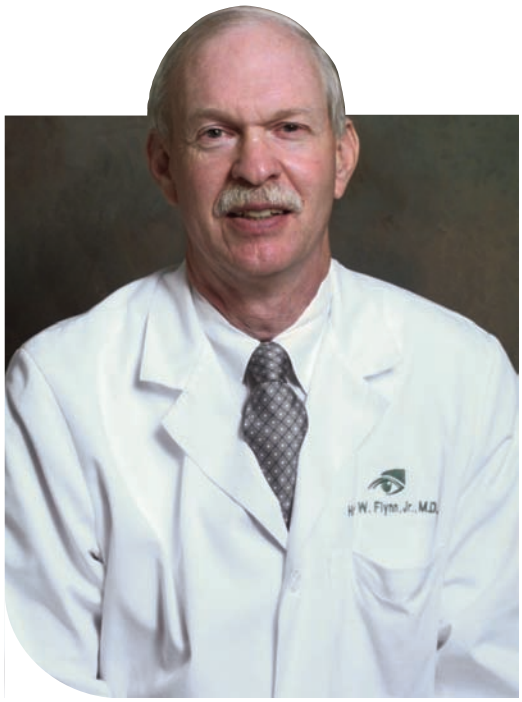
RESEARCH NEWS

Paul A. Yates, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Biomedical Engineering, received a K08 Clinician Scientist Award from the National Eye Institute/National Institutes of Health for the development of stem cell technologies in the treatment of diabetic retinopathy and development of light activated drugs for treatment of eye diseases. Dr. Yates will be awarded $991,000 over a 5 year period.

Steven A. Newman, MD is the Principal Investigator of a Phase III, double blind clinical trial sponsored by Teva Neuroscience evaluating an investigational drug (Copaxone) for Acute Optic Neuritis (AON). The goal of this study is to determine if treatment with Copaxone decreases the amount of damage to the optic nerve resulting from a first episode of AON.

ACCENT ON ALUMNI

This recurring column will focus on outstanding alumni of the Ophthalmology Residency and Fellowship Program, as well as medical school and undergraduate alumni who have chosen to practice ophthalmology



Harry W. Flynn, Jr., MD (MD 1971, Ophthalmology 1975) is currently the J. Donald M. Gass Distinguished Chair of Ophthalmology at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, University of Miami Health System in Miami, Florida. Dr. Flynn, an internationally renowned specialist in retinal disease, specifically diabetic retinopathy, recently spoke with *UVA Ophthalmology*, recalling his training experience at the University of Virginia.

"As a fourth-year medical student, I was on-call extern for ophthalmology, recording physicals and histories, and drawing blood. I met and was greatly impressed by Dr. Marion Humphries, the Chair, who maintained a "hot line" in his office for the residents to reach him immediately for advice and consultation". Accepted to the UVA ophthalmology residency training program, Dr. Flynn also met Dr. Edward Norton, founder of the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, when Dr. Norton was a Visiting Professor and an Advisor to UVA's efforts to create an endowment for a full-time faculty. A bond between the two ultimately resulted in Dr. Flynn's recruitment to Bascom Palmer, where he has been a valued faculty member since 1978.

In addition to the influence of Drs. Humphries and Norton, Dr. Flynn also recalls the enriching and enlightening interactions with other senior faculty members at the time, including Drs. George Spence, Clayborne Whitworth and Brad Marshall. His fondest memories are of the relationships with his fellow residents, most notably Dr. Nicholas Cole, currently of Fayetteville, Arkansas. Dr. Flynn has returned to UVA since his training, as a distinguished invited speaker at the Humphries Symposium, honoring the former Chair.

DR. OLSAKOVSKY NAMED VICE-CHAIR

Leslie A. Olsakovsky, MD, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, was appointed Clinical Vice-Chair of the Department in November 2009. Dr. Olsakovsky, who specializes in cornea and external disease, served as Interim Chair during the recent search.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE UVA DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

Support research, educational activities or clinical activities by donating to the UVA Department of Ophthalmology. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss ways your donation can help us advance our mission and achieve our goals.

To learn more about philanthropic opportunities please contact Dr. Peter Netland at 434-982-1086 or the Department of Ophthalmology's development officers Mike Terry (mterry@virginia.edu) or Maria Heil (mheil@virginia.edu) at the UVA Health Foundation, (800)297-0102.

OPHTHALMOLOGY MEDICAL RECORDS GOING ELECTRONIC

On September 28, 2010, the Department will "go live" with a new electronic medical record (EMR), as part of a medical center-wide initiative to adopt this new technology for improved patient care. EMRs increase efficiency through transportability, cost-reduction and error reduction, all important components of quality improvement.

Department Chair, Peter Netland, MD, PhD, met recently with members of the EMR team: Marshall Ruffin, MD, MPH, MBA, Chief Technology and Health Information Officer for the Medical Center, Joel Schectman, MD, and Renee Viette, RN, Medical Center manager for Ambulatory Operations, to discuss the timeline for workstation installation. The selected EMR system, EpicCare, is rated #1 in its category, and its image management system will be added to enhance performance of the EMR.

CLINIC FACILITIES AT OMS TO EXPAND

The clinic facilities at the Old Medical School will be expanded this year. Planning is underway for an additional eight examination lanes and diagnostic testing areas. Selected testing equipment currently housed in the existing clinic will be relocated to the new space to relieve crowding and improve patient flow. The expansion is designed to allow additional appointment opportunities and increase patient satisfaction. We will keep you updated as the planning and construction proceeds.

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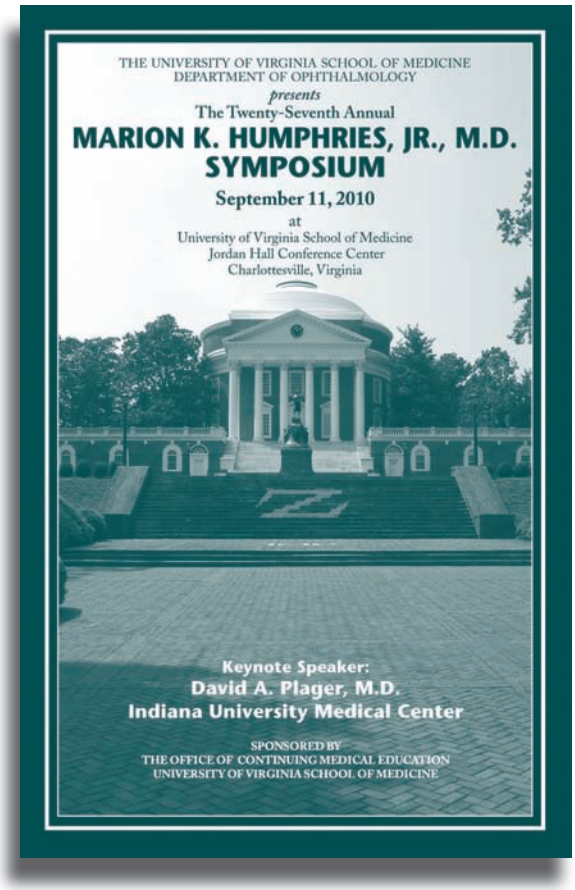
MARK YOUR CALENDAR



September 11, 2010

The 27th Annual Marion K. Humphries, Jr., MD Symposium

Jordan Hall Conference Center UVA School of Medicine
Charlottesville, Virginia

Featured Speaker:

David A. Plager, MD
Indiana University School of Medicine
Indianapolis, Indiana

For additional information contact Tammy Eberly in the UVA CME Office: 434-924-1657 or teberly@virginia.edu

October 17, 2010

UVA Department of Ophthalmology Alumni Reception
At the American Academy of Ophthalmology

Los Angeles Room
Chicago Marriott Downtown
Chicago, Illinois

For additional information, contact Jenny Hinebaugh at: 434-984-1941 or jah3ef@virginia.edu

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Comprehensive Ophthalmology

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Glaucoma

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Glaucoma

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Professor
Neuro-ophthalmology

Leslie A. Olsakovsky, MD
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Cornea and External Disease

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Glaucoma

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Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering
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Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus

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INAUGURAL ISSUE!

CHAIR'S WELCOME TO UVA OPHTHALMOLOGY

Welcome to our newest publication – UVA Ophthalmology. We created this periodic newsletter to keep you up-to-date with activities in the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Virginia. We welcome your comments and your contributions.

Peter A. Netland, MD, PhD
Dupont Guerry, III, MD
Professor and Chair

photo: Keerapat Bhiromekraibhak