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THE RETINA INSTITUTE
with 16 area locations

Illinois

Missouri

Hannibal
Clayton
Hazelwood
St. Peters
Chesterfield
Center for Advanced Medicine
St. Louis Eye & Surgery Center
South County
Shrewsbury
Farmington
Cape Girardeau

Offices where Fellows travel

Surgery Centers

Center for Advanced Medicine (CAM)
4921 Parkview Place,
St. Louis, MO 63110

St. Luke's Hospital
232 S. Woods Mill Road,
Chesterfield, MO 63017

St. Louis Eye Surgery & Laser Center
12990 Manchester Road
St. Louis, MO 63131

St. Mary's Hospital
1027 Bellevue Avenue
Richmond Heights, MO 63117
OUR LOCATIONS

The Retina Institute draws patients from a large referral network and the fellow’s education is greatly enhanced by the large number of patients seen. Fellows primarily participate in surgery at the West County office and St. Louis Eye Center. They generally attend clinic at the West, South, Clayton and CAM offices; however, they may be asked occasionally to travel to additional satellite offices if time permits.

Alton Office
Sure Vision Eye Center;
#1 Professional Dr.
Alton, IL 62002

From Interstate 270: Take 367 north into Illinois. Turn right at the end of the Clark Bridge and merge into the left hand lane, taking the Broadway exit. Turn right on Broadway to Washington and turn left. Continue on Washington to College and turn right. Proceed on College until you get to Rogers and turn left. Stay on Professional Drive, and the office is at the end of the street.

Cape Girardeau Office
56 Doctors Park
Cape Girardeau, MO 63901

From I-55: Take exit 96 toward Cape Girardeau/Gordonville. Turn left on William Street. Make a right on S. Mount Auburn Road. Take the second right toward Doctors Park. The office is on the right.

Center for Advanced Medicine (CAM)
4921 Parkview Place; Suite 12B
St. Louis, MO 63110

From Hwy. 40: Exit north at Kingshighway. Go three blocks then turn right on Parkview Place. Cross Euclid Avenue and enter the North Garage. Take the 3rd floor bridge into the CAM.

Clayton Office
17 The Boulevard
Richmond Heights, MO 63117

FROM I-64/40: Take the Hanley/Brentwood exit. Proceed north on Brentwood Blvd. The parking garage is east of The Boulevard and accessible from both the Galleria Parkway and Darst Ct.

Effingham Office
903 Medical Park Drive
Effingham, IL 62401

From St. Louis: Take I-70 to exit number 160 (IL-32/IL-33). Turn right onto IL-32/IL-33 (Keller Drive). Make a left turn on Temple Avenue. Turn left onto Medical Park Drive.

Farmington Office
7331 Watson Road
St. Louis, MO 63119


Glen Carbon Office
#5 Country Club Executive Park
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

From Interstate 270: Take IL-157 North towards Edwardsville. Follow IL-157 to the right for approximately two miles to the first stoplight. Turn right at the signal onto Auerbach Place (next to La Petite Academy). Make an immediate right.

Hannibal Office
3201 Highway 61; Suite B
Hannibal MO 63401

From St. Louis: Take US-40 west towards Wentzville. Exit on US-61 North follow to Hwy. 36. Make a left turn on Shinn Lane. Proceed to Hospital Drive and turn right. The office is located on the first floor of the Hannibal Clinic.

Mount Vernon Office
1009 42nd Street; Suite 3
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

From St. Louis: Take 64 E to Hwy. 15 E (Broadway). Turn right on South 42nd Street. The office is about 1 mile south of Broadway.

North Office
Sure Vision Eye Center; 7934 N. Lindbergh Blvd.
Hazelwood, MO 63042

From Interstate 270: Take the Lindbergh/US 67 North exit. Proceed approximately 1 mile. The office is on the right hand side of the road.

Quincy Office
1025 Maine Street
Quincy, IL 62301


South Office
12348 Old Tesson Road; Suite 280
St. Louis, MO 63128

FROM I-270: Exit southbound on Tesson Ferry Road/MO-21. Merge into the left lane. At the first stoplight, turn left onto Mattis Rd. Go one block and turn left onto Old Tesson Rd. The entrance to the St. John’s Medical building parking lot is immediately adjacent to the building.

Southwest Office
7331 Watson Road
St. Louis, MO 63119

From I-44: Exit on South Hampton Ave. Proceed to Chippewa and turn right. Chippewa turns into Watson Rd. The office is on the right.

St. Louis Eye Surgery & Laser Center
12990 Manchester Road; Suite 103
St. Louis, MO 63131 Peters, MO 63376

From I-70: Exit at Cave Springs & go south. Turn right onto Mexico Rd; proceed for 2 miles. Turn right in the second complex entrance past St. Peters Centre Blvd. The office & parking lot are in the rear of the building on the left.

West Office
226 S. Woods Mill Road; Suite 50W
Chesterfield, MO 63017

From Hwy. 40: Exit north at Woods Mill Road/141. Pass Conway Rd., turn on Ladue Farm Road. Take the second right into the West Garage.
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS

It is with pleasure that we, along with the physicians of The Retina Institute, welcome you to St. Louis and our practice. The Retina Institute has a long and storied history in terms of patient care, research, and teaching.

An integral part of the teaching mission for The Retina Institute is the training of retina fellows. Each of the attending physicians at The Retina Institute brings with them years of experience, and varied skills and techniques that are passed along to the fellows each year. Diversity of the training includes involvement in both the office and operating rooms in a private setting. The diversity of the patients encompasses the spectrum of retinal diseases allowing a complete and fulfilling experience for the fellows.

Besides learning about retinal diseases, the fellows obtain education with regards to the economics of a retinal practice and practicalities that apply to everyday clinical practice. We can assure you at The Retina Institute we are firmly committed to fellowship training and continue to strive to make the fellowship an enriching experience for all involved.

HISTORY OF THE RETINA INSTITUTE

Retinal surgery in St. Louis has a long and glorious history. It is the story of a clinical entity that became Retina Consultants, then Barnes Retina Institute and ultimately formed The Retina Institute.

Paul Cibis arrived in the mid-1950s and set the standard for innovative and dynamic surgical techniques in the early days by advancing scleral buckling techniques, introducing the use of silicone oil, and making widespread use of xenon arc photocoagulation. Ed Okun, in the early 60s joined Paul, who died much too young in 1965. Glen Johnston, Isaac Boniuk, Neva Arribas, Dean Burgess, Rich Escoffery and Gil Grand joined as Retina Consultants developed.

Ed made prodigious advances in photocoagulation treatment of diabetic retinopathy and the newer vitrectomy techniques. Retina Consultants contributed to advances in fluorescein angiography and the treatment of macular disease. The group was an active participant in several early national studies directed by the National Eye Institute.

Training of fellows continued, with the practice becoming widely known nationally and internationally. As instrumentation and lasers proliferated, the size of the group grew to nine with more and more clinical success.

Soon the group became involved in many prospective, randomized clinical trials studying diabetic retinopathy, cystoid macular edema from many causes, new vitrectomy instrumentation, and finally finding some help of a significant nature in the management of age-related macular degeneration.

The practice continues to make significant contributions and is recognized as one of the premier groups in the country. The names have changed, but with the consolidating efforts of Drs. Gil Grand, Gaurav Shah, Kevin Blinder, Dan Joseph, Nick Engelbrecht, Matt Thomas, Kim Kramencher, Brad Smith and Richard Rothman, The Retina Institute will continue to advance our understanding and management of vitreoretinal disease.

The Retina Institute has trained almost 100 fellows who are working in the field throughout the United States, Canada, and beyond. Most acknowledge that The Retina Institute is the best place for fellowship training. In concert with their mentors, the fellows trained at the The Retina Institute will make key contributions to vitreoretinal surgery for many years to come.

Nicholas E. Engelbrecht, MD
Gaurav K. Shah, MD
Co-Directors, Fellowship Program
October 2012
INTRODUCTION TO THE PHYSICIANS

Kevin J. Blinder, M.D., received his medical degree from the University of Missouri, Kansas City. He completed his ophthalmology residency at the University of Missouri, Kansas City. He completed his ophthalmology residency at the University of Missouri, Columbia, and a vitreoretinal fellowship at the Louisiana State University Eye Center, New Orleans.

Areas of Interest: Diabetic Retinopathy, Macular Surgery, Retinal Detachment, Vitreous Substitutes

Nicholas E. Engelbrecht, M.D., received his medical degree from University of Kansas School of Medicine. He completed his ophthalmology residency at Wake Forest University School of Medicine and a vitreoretinal fellowship at Emory University.

Areas of Interest: Diseases and Surgery of the Retina, Vitreous and Macula, Pediatric Retinal Diseases, Retinopathy of Prematurity, Ocular Trauma

M. Gilbert Grand, M.D., received his medical degree from Yale University. He completed his ophthalmology residency at Washington University School of Medicine, where he also completed a vitreoretinal fellowship.

Areas of Interest: Diabetic Retinopathy, Epiretinal Membranes, Macular Surgery, Macular Holes, Retinal Detachment

Daniel P. Joseph, M.D., Ph.D., received his medical degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine, and Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. He completed his ophthalmology residency at the Johns Hopkins University Wilmer Eye Institute and a vitreoretinal fellowship at Barnes Retina Institute.

Areas of Interest: Diabetic Retinopathy, Retinal Detachment, Macular Degeneration, Pediatric Retina, Retinopathy of Prematurity, Macular Holes, Macular Edema, Epiretinal Membranes

Thomas K. Krummenacher, M.D., received his medical degree from the St. Louis University School of Medicine. He interned at St. John’s Mercy Medical Center, completed his ophthalmology residency at St. Louis University and a fellowship in vitreoretinal surgery at the University of Iowa, Iowa City.

Areas of Interest: Diabetic Retinopathy, Epiretinal Membrane, Inherited Retinal Disease, Macular Hole, Macular Degeneration, Retinal Detachment, and Retinal Vascular Disease

Richard J. Rothman, M.D., received his undergraduate, Masters and Medical degrees from the Pennsylvania State University. He completed his ophthalmology residency at the University of Pittsburgh Eye and Ear Institute where he served as chief resident. Dr. Rothman was the Richard D. Irwin Retinal Fellow at Rush Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Medical Center and Ingalls Hospital in Chicago.

Areas of Interest: Medical and surgical management of adult diseases of the retina and vitreous, education of retinal specialists in training

Gaurav Shah, M.D., received his medical degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago. He completed his ophthalmology residency at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, and a vitreoretinal fellowship at Wills Eye Hospital, Philadelphia.

Areas of Interest: Endophthalmitis, Macular Disease/Surgery, Macular Degeneration, Retinal Vascular Disease, Retinal Detachment

Bradley T. Smith, MD received his medical degree from the University of Alabama School of Medicine, Birmingham. He completed his ophthalmology residency at the Wills Eye Institute and a vitreoretinal fellowship at the Barnes Retina Institute at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. Dr. Smith is an Instructor of Clinical Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences at the Washington University School of Medicine. He is certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology and is a member of the American Society of Retina Specialists.

Areas of Interest: Age-related Macular Degeneration, Diabetic Eye Disease, Retinal Detachment, Surgery for Macular Holes and Membranes, Retinal Vascular Diseases

Matthew A. Thomas, M.D., received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School. He completed his ophthalmology residency at the University of Miami Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, and a vitreoretinal fellowship at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Areas of Interest: Age-Related Macular Degeneration, Diabetic Retinopathy, Myopic Degeneration, Macular Holes, Neovascularization, Ocular Histoplasmosis, and Submacular Surgery

THE RETINA INSTITUTE - Fellowship Handbook
INTRODUCTION TO THE RETINA INSTITUTE

This handbook was created to help answer some of the questions you may have during your fellowship, particularly during your first few weeks at The Retina Institute. It is our intent to familiarize you with the procedures and protocols we have established in our office.

The Retina Institute
1600 South Brentwood Blvd.; Suite 800
St. Louis, MO 63144
314-367-1181
314-388-5500 (After Hours)
Appointment Desk Voice Mail Box
314-367-1278 ext. 2215
Surgery Scheduling Fax
314-962-3181
Website - www.theretinainstitute-stl.com

PERSONNEL

Throughout this handbook, there are several people mentioned who will assist you with licensing, manuscripts, presentations, benefits, etc. However, we pride ourselves on maintaining a congenial atmosphere and everyone is here to help. The following is a listing of the people by name and title:

Floyce Scherrer
Director of Clinical Operations
314-367-1278 ext. 2276

Bill Koch
Director of Billing and Collections
314-367-1278 ext. 2242

Kelly McKittrick
Fellowship/Retina Research & Development Foundation (RRDF) Coordinator
314-367-1278 ext. 2157

Stacy Deiss
Credentialing
314-367-1278 ext. 2267

Sue Geiger
Surgery Scheduling
314-367-1278 ext. 2256

David Yates
Photography/Graphics
314-367-1278 ext. 2255

Transcription
314-367-1278

PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY COVERAGE

Medical liability coverage is provided through The Retina Institute.

HOSPITAL PRIVILEGES

Once your licenses are obtained, hospital staff privileges will need to be obtained. All hospital privileges will be handled by the Credentialing Manager. You will be on staff at the following:

- Mercy Medical Center
- St. Louis Eye Center
- St. Luke’s Hospital
- St. Mary’s Hospital

Application fees and medical staff dues will be covered through The Retina Institute.

At the completion of your fellowship, you will receive your current license originals and a listing of the facilities where you have maintained privileges. You will need this information once you begin your practice. It is your responsibility to notify each licensing agency of your change of address.

LICENSING

The Retina Institute pays for your Missouri medical license, Missouri drug license (BNDD), and your DEA license. Please turn in applications to Stacy Deiss as soon as you receive them.

BY THE NUMBERS

The Retina Institute is one of the largest and most well-respected practices in the country. The ever-increasing number of patients seen in our offices reflects that reputation.

The Retina Institute (Annually)

- Total number of patient visits = 72,000
- Total number of surgeries = 3,600
- Total number of lasers = 3,000
- Total number of OCTs = 25,000
- Total number of FAs = 3,500
- Total number of injections = 9,500

SURGICAL NUMBERS FOR FELLOWS

- First year: 400-450 attending cases: 250-300 primary
- Second year: 400-450 attending cases: 350-400 primary
- Total: 600-700 primary cases and surgical knowledge of scleral buckling
GUIDELINES OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The specific responsibilities of fellows will be disseminated through Drs. Shah and Engelbrecht, as well as the senior fellows. Schedules of your Retina Institute responsibilities are made through the Directors of the program, and distributed through the Fellowship Coordinator.

The following information is a general description of your responsibilities. Your payroll, benefits, parking, reimbursements, etc. are handled through the practice. If you need assistance throughout your stay, please contact The Retina Institute Fellowship Coordinator for guidance.

The Retina Institute is currently in the process of establishing a clinic and surgical center that will be staffed by fellows for non-insured patients.

First Year

While participating in the fellowship program, each fellow will be assigned to work with 2-3 attendings for each rotation. This will allow the fellow to work closely with all of the individual attending over the course of each year. The fellow will be responsible for covering all surgical cases for the given attendings and spend the other days in the clinic, evaluating patients along with the attending. Each rotation will be 3 months with increasing clinical and surgical responsibility based upon the individual fellow's ability and progression.

During the first year, the fellow is expected to become facile with laser treatment and cryotherapy, including laser treatment of diabetic macular edema, proliferative diabetic retinopathy; laser photocoagulation and peripheral cryo surgery of peripheral retinal pathology. Diagnostic facilities available are fundus photography, fluorescein angiography, ICG, A- and B-scan ultrasonography, and electrophysiological testing. Opportunities are provided for ample experience in each of these areas.

The first year fellow is strongly encouraged to spend time in clinical and laboratory research. Although there is no block research time, opportunities exist for involvement with clinical research projects. Fellows are encouraged to produce several manuscripts during each year of the fellowship.

Specific responsibilities during the first year include but are not limited to: 1) proper systematic and ocular evaluation of all new patients referred to Retina Institute clinics; 2) appropriate decision making regarding the need for further ancillary testing, and appropriate referral to other subspecialties; 3) proper recommendation for therapy for the patient; 4) performing general pre-operative history and physicals for Retina Institute patients; 5) scheduling patients for surgery as needed; 6) assisting in surgery.

Second Year

In the second year of the fellowship, the primary responsibility is to manage the surgical cases from each of the previously described services. There will be expanded opportunities that allow for greater training and flexibility in managing complex medical and surgical cases. The second year fellow assumes more responsibility for the management and treatment of complex vitreoretinal pathology. The goal is to keep the senior fellow as primary surgeon to the extent of his or her ability. The fellow is also expected to continue research started during the first year, and to manuscript preparation for publication in peer review journals.

During the second half of the second year fellowship, fellows will be allowed to do a month-long elective rotation of their choice to enhance and augment their knowledge. The Retina Institute will pay their salary during this time and assist with the logistics in regards to the away location.

The first and second year fellows are also expected to participate in weekly surgical conferences. Weekly Surgical Conferences are held every Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. These are held at The Retina Institute Administrative Office, at 1600 S. Brentwood, Suite 800, St. Louis, MO 63144.
BENEFITS

Payroll and Benefits

Your stipend originates from The Retina Institute.

The Retina Institute requires each employee to complete Harassment, HIPAA and Compliance training upon hire. This training can be arranged through the Fellowship Coordinator and needs to be completed within the first month of your fellowship.

Vacation

First Year:

Maximum allowable time off is two weeks, accrued 30 days after your start date. This includes vacations, meetings (other than Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary Vitrectomy Course, AVTT and ARVO), religious holiday time, personal time, and sick time.

Second Year:

Maximum allowable time off is two weeks, accrued 30 days after your start date. This includes vacations, meetings (other than ASRS and AAO), religious holiday time, personal time, sick time, and interview dates.

Paid Company Holidays

- New Years Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Friday after Thanksgiving
- Christmas Day
- New Years Eve - 1/2 day

Meetings and Travel

First year Fellows attend the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary Vitrectomy Course, AVTT in Chicago and ARVO. Second year Fellows go to the annual Academy and ASRS meetings. Any other meetings, whether or not a presentation is made, will count against vacation time. Presentations may include a poster or a lecture. Fellows receive a stipend of $2,500 for travel and meeting reimbursements.

*NOTE: Reimbursements are for meeting days only.

Meetings Sponsored by RRDF

The Retina Research & Development Foundation was established in 1969 to provide a voluntary, nonprofit base of support for the training of retina specialists and for research and development in the field of retinal surgery. Meeting reimbursements are provided initially through the Retina Research & Development Foundation. Reimbursements are based on expenses for registration, round trip airfare, lodging, and ground transportation with a limit of $2,500.00 per year from RRDF. Expenses incurred at meetings other than AAO or ARVO will not be reimbursed unless approved by the Fellowship Director.

The Sesling Lecture is held yearly in the fall at the Eric P. Newman Education Center on the medical school campus.

PUBLICATION

Fellows are encouraged to prepare their own papers for publication. However, there is staff available to assist with this process. Please follow these guidelines:

All manuscript preparation and image production should be done through the Transcription and Photography Departments.

Journal Guidelines - Prepare papers according to guidelines for each journal/publication. Go to the journal website for instructions to authors. Use the check list provided by the journal to be sure all requirements are met.

Copyright Transfer - Each journal has a copyright transfer form - most must be signed by all co-authors.

Corresponding Author - Use The Retina Institute physician who is co-authoring the paper as the corresponding author so we can track the manuscript and submit to another publication if necessary.

References - References should be typed. Reference library software may be used as long as it disables prior to manuscript submission. Make a copy of the article you are referencing so we can produce it at the editor’s request.

Figures/Tables - David Yates in our Photography Department will prepare these according to the journal's standards. Call Dave at 367-1278 extension 2255 for assistance.

Assistance - Transcription will assist you in formatting and submitting your paper. Speak with someone in Transcription for help at 367-1278.

Please keep Transcription informed if you do anything on your own so we can update CVs and keep track of what is pending.

If you have questions or if there is any other way we can help, call Transcription at 367-1278.
RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Articles listed below are a representation of recent work by the physicians and fellows of The Retina Institute. Former fellows are underlined.


Davies JB, Shah GK, Blinder KB, Ryan EH. Permanent Severe Vision Loss After Combination Therapy for Wet Age-Related Macular Degeneration. In Submission.


Shetty S, Shah GK, Wee R, Blinder KJ. Combination Therapy for Choroidal Neovascularization in Age-Related Macular Degeneration After Two Years. In Submission.


Almony A, Dhalla MS, Shah GK. Macular Ocular Coherence Tomography Findings May Guide Treatment in Retinal Arterial Macromaneurysms. Accepted for publication in Ophthalmic Surgery, Lasers & Imaging.


Jonisch J, Shah GK. Diagnosis of Age-Related Macular Degeneration, Chapter 3: In Regillo C/D, Ho AC. Age-Related Macular Degeneration: Diagnosis and Treatment. New York: Springer, August 2011.


Shah GK, Hughes MS. Clinical Model of Exudative AMD. Letter to the Editor. Accepted for publication in Retina.


FORMER FELLOWS

William R. Kubitschek, MD (1959)
Northglenn, CO (Deceased)

Samuel A. Canaan, Jr., MD (1959-61)
Private Practice, St. Louis, MO

Franz Fankhauser, MD (1960-61)
Private Practice, Dessau, Germany

Glen P. Johnston, MD (1959-60)
Retina Consultants - Emeritus
Naples, FL

Edward Okun, MD (1961-62)
Retina Consultants - Emeritus
Tucson, NM

Albert Vaiser, MD (1964-65)
Group Practice, Dallas, TX

Stanley Schockey, MD (1964-65)
Group Practice, Owings Mills, MD

Isaac Boniuk, MD, (1965-66)
Retina Consultants - Emeritus
St. Louis, MO

Albert Vaiser, MD (1964-65)
Group Practice, Dallas, TX

Stanley Schockey, MD (1964-65)
Group Practice, Owings Mills, MD

Isaac Boniuk, MD, (1965-66)
Retina Consultants - Emeritus
St. Louis, MO

Neva Arribas (1965-67)
Retina Consultants - Emeritus
St. Louis, MO

Wayne Fung, (1967)
Group Practice, San Francisco, CA

Balder P. Gloor, MD (1967-68)
IFOS/ICO, Treasurer, International Fellowship, Zurich, Switzerland

C. L. Blahnik, MD (1968-69)
Emeritus, (Green Bay, WI)

Pierre Labelle, MD (1969-70)
Private Practice, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

F. Tempel Riedhof, MD, (1969-70)
Emeritus, Salt Lake City, UT

Constance R. Fitzgerald, MD (1970-71)
Gainesville, FL (Deceased)

George Blankenship, MD (1970-71)
Retina & Oculoplastic Consultants,
Camp Hill, PA

Ralph R. Nix, MD (1971-72)
Solo Practitioner, Marrero, LA

C. Kenneth Fischer, MD (1972-73)
Solo Practitioner, Evansville, IN

Gerald Cohen, MD (1972-73)
Group Practice, New Orleans, LA

Richard F. Escoffery, MD (1973-74)
Group Practice, Naples, FL

Dean Burgess, MD (1973-74)
Retina Consultants - Emeritus
St. Louis, MO

Wulf Schimmelpfenig, MD (1974-75)
Emeritus, Living in Europe

Edwin Boldrey, MD (1974-75)
Group Practice, San Jose, CA

Denis M. Carroll, MD (1974-75)
Emeritus, Tucson, AZ

M. Gilbert Grand, MD (1975-76)
The Retina Institute, St. Louis, MO

James H. Landers, MD (1975-76)
Solo Practitioner, Little Rock, AR

Charles C. Denton, MD (1975-76)
(Deceased)

Timothy Holekamp, MD (1976-77)
Group Practitioner, Columbia, MO

Theodore J. Stransky, MD (1976-77)
Solo Practitioner, Evansville, IN

Herbert L. Cantrill, MD (1977-78)
VitreoRetinal Surgery, PA.,
Minneapolis, MN

Paul Tornambe, MD (1977-78)
Group Practice, La Jolla, CA

Donald Renaldo, MD (1978-79)
Group Practice, Charlotte, NC

James Staman, MD (1978-79)
Group Practice, Jacksonville, FL

R. Joseph Olk, MD (1979-80)
The Retina Center, St. Louis, MO

Lawrence Schoch, MD (1979-80)
Eye Associates of Southern Indiana
Jeffersonville, IN

Morris Segall, MD (1979-80)
Group Practice, Miami, FL

Harindergit Singh, MD (1980-81)
Group Practice, Augusta, GA

Carole M. Boucher, MD (1980-81)
Group Practice, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Harry Engel, MD (1981-82)
Albert Einstein College of Medicine,
Bronx, NY

Matthew J. Lipman, MD (1981-82)
Midwest Eye Center, Cincinnati, OH

Stephen E. Grinde, MD (1982-83)
Group Practice, Nashville, TN

Gregory J. Minney, MD (1982-83)
Group Practice, Southern Pines, NC

Graham D. Avery, MD (1983-84)
Solo Practitioner, Beaumont, TX

Robert T. Wendel, MD (1983-84)
Retinal Consultants, Sacramento, CA

Bradley Jost, MD (1983-84)
Group Practice, Dallas, TX

Clement Chan, MD (1984-85)
Solo Practitioner, Palm Springs, CA

Michael Elman, MD, (1984-85)
Elman Retina Group, Baltimore, MD

Bruce Cohen, MD (1985-86)
Cohen Eye Associates, Ltd., St. Louis, MO

Linda M. Uniat, MD (1986-87)
Solo Practitioner, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Robert Roseman, MD (1986-87)
Group Practice, Gainesville, FL

Linda Margulis, MD (1986-87)
University of California, Davis Medical Center, Martinez, CA

Edwin H. Ryan, Jr., MD (1987-88)
Group Practice, Minneapolis, MN
FORMER FELLOWS (continued)

Alan R. Berger, MD (1988-89)
University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Neil Okun, MD (1988-89)
Solo Practitioner, Orlando, FL

Lawrence S. Halperin, MD (1989-90)
Group Practice, Boca Raton, FL

Carol M. Lee, MD (1989-91)
New York University School of Medicine
New York, NY

Samuel R. Pesin, MD (1990-91)
Retina Vitreous Association, Toledo, OH

Mandi Conway, MD (1991-92)
Tulane University School of Medicine
New Orleans, LA

Alan J. Ruby, MD (1991-03)
Associated Retina Consultants, Livonia, MI

Marc Lowe, MD (1992-93)
Solo Practitioner, Santa Barbara, CA

Ranjit S. Dhaliwal, MD (1992-93)
Southeast Retina Center, Augusta, GA

Hector E. Ibanez, MD (1992-94)
Private Practice, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico

John D. Dickinson, MD (1993-95)
Victoria General Hospital, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Nancy M. Holekamp, MD (1993-95)
Pepose Vision, St. Louis, MO

Levant Akdiman, MD (1994-96)
SLU Eye Institute, St. Louis, MO

Eric Mann, MD, PhD (1995-96)
The Retina Group, Ltd., St. Louis, MO

Neal H. Atebara, MD (1995-97)
Queens Physicians Office, Honolulu, HI

Adrienne Berman, MD (1995-97)
University of Illinois Eye & Ear Infirmary, Chicago, IL

Daniel P. Joseph, MD, PhD (1996-98)
The Retina Institute, St. Louis, MO

Scott Simpson, MD (1996-98)
Group Practice, Idaho Falls, ID

Shalesh Kaushal, MD (1997-99)
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Filiberto Altomare, MD (1998-99)
St. Michael's Health Center, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

G. Baker Hubbard, MD (1998-2000)
Emory University, Atlanta, GA

P. Kumar Rao, MD (1999-2001)
Washington University, St. Louis, MO

Steven R. Virata, MD (1999-2001)
Williamson Eye Institute, Lafayette, IN

Thomas Sheidow, MD (2000-01)
Ivey Eye Institute, London, Ontario, Canada

Miguel Busquets, MD (2000-02)
Associates in Ophthalmology, Pittsburgh, PA

Blake Cooper, MD, (2001-03)
Retina Associates, PA., Kansas City, MO

Richard Corey, MD (2001-03)
Pacific Retina Specialists, Seattle, WA

Brett Rosenblatt, MD (2002-04)
Retina Vitreous Consultants, Great Neck, NY

Michael Mills, MD (2003-04)
Retina/Vitreous Surgery, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Seenu M. Hariprasad, MD (2003-05)
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Henry Lee, MD (2003-05)
Retina Consultants - Western NY, Buffalo, NY

Len Feiner, MD (2004-06)
Retina Associates of New Jersey, P.A., Teaneck, NJ

Jason Wickens, MD (2005-06)
Retina Consultants of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV

Mandeep Dhalla, MD (2005-07)
Retina Group of Florida, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Asheesh Tewari, MD (2005-07)
Kresge Eye Institute, Detroit, MI

Ramin Shadlu, MD (2006-08)
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Bradley T. Smith, MD (2006-08)
The Retina Institute, St. Louis, MO

John B. Davies, MD (2007-09)
Vitreoretinal Surgery, P.A., Minneapolis, MN

David Fintak, MD (2007-09)
Kaiser Permanente, Dept. of Ophthalmology, Denver, CO

Aghavan Almony, MD (2008-10)
Carolina Eye Associates, PA, Southern Pines, NC

Ray Wee, MD (2008-10)
Retina Consultants of Hawaii, Aiea, HI

Jonathan Jonisch, MD (2009-11)
Retina Associates of New Jersey, Teaneck, NJ

Kamlesh Ramaiya, MD (2009-11)
Eye Associates of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

Mathew Aschnerer, MD (2010-12)
Eye Clinic of Wisconsin, Wausau, WI

Bryan Kim, MD (2010-12)
Midwest Retina Consultants, Chicago, IL
LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

September 2012

To my mentors at the Retina Institute,

I would like to thank all of you for the superb training that I received at the Retina Institute! I can still recall my first day of fellowship and wondering how I was ever going to learn everything I needed to know in two years. A short two years later, I can confidently say that you have prepared me well to handle even the most complicated medical and surgical cases that may come my way.

I believe that a major strength of the fellowship is the large and diverse group of attendings that we work with. As fellows, we are exposed to many different ways of approaching a variety of medical and surgical conditions, and it truly broadens our experience. As we learn about different ways to approach a problem, we have the luxury of being able to choose from several different approaches to pick what works best for us. Despite the many years of combined experience between the attendings, the fellows are all treated as friends and colleagues, creating a great environment to learn and work in.

I feel very fortunate to have been a fellow at the Retina Institute, and my transition into my practice has been very smooth. I have felt very comfortable in the clinic and O.R., and even capable with billing, which has pleasantly surprised my partners. Thank you!

Best regards,

Bryan M. Kim, MD
Midwest Retina Consultants, S.C.
Assistant Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology, University of Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary

September 2010

To my mentors at The Retina Institute:

Thank you very much for the kindness given to me while I was a fellow. The fellowship was wonderful. It had the perfect mix of medical vs. surgical, private patients vs. fellows’ patients. One of the strengths of the program is the diverse training backgrounds of the attending physicians. Everyone had a distinct way of handling surgical situations, and the fellows benefitted by learning all of the techniques.

As I reflect on my fellowship, I realize how fortunate I was to have been a fellow there. I find that I’m well prepared to thrive at my new job. I’m comfortable in the clinic as well as in the operating room. I’ve even been comfortable with coding, which has been a pleasant surprise to my employers.

I will always remember my training at The Retina Institute. The training I received there will serve as the foundation for all of my future activities in retina.

Thank you,

Ray Wee, MD
Retina Consultants of Hawaii

August 2009

Dear Doctors of The Retina Institute:

Hello from Minneapolis! As I embark on life after fellowship, I wanted to extend my sincere appreciation to you once again for a tremendous two years. What a privilege it was to be part of the The Retina Institute!

It is amazing for me to look back at myself and see how much I’ve grown both as a physician and a person during my time in St. Louis. There’s no question that I received superb training and the potential to handle the most complicated medical and surgical situations with confidence and care. It was a pleasure to work with each of the attendings in the program and I am grateful for their never-ending support and interest in my development. It was also incredibly meaningful for me to work with my co-fellows (Dave Fintak, Ray Wee, and Arghavan Almony) – we were a great team and I know that we delivered exceptional patient care. I learned a lot from them too (and we also had some fun along the way!)

My transition to practice has been seamless and I am looking forward to putting what you taught me to good use! Again, thank you!!!

All my best,

John B. Davies, MD
Vitreoretinal Surgery, PA

IN CLOSING

We thank you for visiting The Retina Institute, and hope your visit to St. Louis has been both enjoyable, informative, and educational.

At TRI, we are dedicated to patient care, education, research, and advancing the field of vitreoretinal surgery. We have a long tradition of training leaders in retinology and are proud of our fellowship. We look forward to working with you and having you as future colleagues in our specialty.