

HONORARY LECTURES

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key subject in a gene therapy trial.” Dr. Stone said. “It is time for all ophthalmologists to be part of the genetic revolution.” —L.B.S.

PARKER HEATH LECTURE

Paul P. Lee, MD, JD, will present *Providing Eye Care in the Early 21st Century: Implications of Demographic Changes and Health Care Trends* (3:27 to 3:42 p.m.) during the Sunday symposium titled *Trends and Demographics in Ophthalmology 2007–2037* (2:15 to 3:45 p.m.). This combined meeting with the AMA Ophthalmology Section Council takes place in Room 294.

ABOUT THE LECTURE. “Traditional theories about how health is maintained and how health care is delivered are evolving as we question, challenge and reframe these assumptions in response to emerging technologies and an improved understanding of the process,” said Dr. Lee, who will discuss what the future holds as changes and improvements in technology affect the U.S. health care delivery system. “Not only can the quality of patient care be improved, but there is an opportunity for physicians to play leadership roles in enhancing the way our system works, making it much more satisfying and rewarding to be a physician,” he said.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER. In addition to an extensive background in glaucoma treatment, Dr. Lee’s research focuses on exploring alternative methods for delivering health care services that are designed to meet the needs of our expanding aging population. He is a professor of ophthalmology at Duke University, where he is a senior fellow at the Duke Center on Aging and Human Development, senior fellow at the Duke Center for Clinical Health Policy Research and vice chairman at Duke University Eye Center. He focuses on evaluating and improving both the technical quality of care and provider competencies, on understanding patient-centered factors that affect care use, and on assessing the impact of financial and structural features on care. By using scientific evidence to guide care practices, Dr. Lee and his research collaborators seek to improve the delivery of health care.

CHALLENGES AHEAD. Much of the blindness and low vision that exists in the United States could have been prevented if it was not for gaps in access and use of eye care services. “We have laid out the case for what the challenges are,” said Dr. Lee. “Now we need to ascertain the potential solutions, or elements that can be incorporated into solutions. The underlying

theme is that we are not going to uncover the solutions with one person or group of people. The implicit genius of our society is that numerous individuals and organizations will contribute a diverse range of ideas and approaches. Over time we’ll find out which ones work best.” —L.B.P.

WHITNEY G. SAMPSON LECTURE

Zoraida Fiol-Silva, MD, will present *Personal Reflections on Contact Lens Safety: Clinical Experience from the Practicing Ophthalmologist’s Perspective* (4:50 to 5:15 p.m.) during the Sunday symposium titled *Safety of Contact Lenses and Their Solutions: Is There a Solution?* (3:45 to 5:15 p.m.) This combined meeting with the Contact Lens Association of Ophthalmologists takes place in La Nouvelle Orleans Ballroom C.



There is massive confusion concerning the different contact lenses, says Dr. Fiol-Silva.

ABOUT THE LECTURE. The recent recall of Bausch & Lomb’s ReNu with MoistureLoc due to reported cases of *Fusarium* keratitis vividly reflects issues challenging the contact lens solutions industry. “There are many arms to this octopus,” noted Dr. Fiol-Silva. “These include patient compliance, safety and efficacy of the cleaning systems available, and the need for more intense physician and patient education.”

She pointed to industry’s tendency to “give patients what they want, not what they should have.” An example is the use of multipurpose solutions that have gained popularity because “patients don’t want to bother with properly cleaning their lenses.” Yet these “no rub,” heavily preserved solutions are taking a toll on patients’ eyes, with individuals developing conditions ranging from small allergic reactions to frank toxic problems.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER. Contact lens safety and efficacy issues have been a top priority throughout her 25 years of practice. She completed her undergraduate medical training at the University of Puerto Rico, and did her internship at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia. Following a glaucoma fellowship with George L. Spaeth, MD, at Wills Eye Hospital, she became director of the contact lens department. She is a past president of the Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology and the Contact Lens Association of Ophthalmologists.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES. “There is a desperate need to conduct bona fide clinical research on efficacious contact lens solutions and safe wear of contact lenses,” Dr. Fiol-Silva said. “Since the advent of disposable lenses, the industry has been in a shambles. There is massive confusion concerning the different lenses and the various ways to care for them. And, people

now obtain their lenses from different venues—from stores and vendors to professional offices. All of these factors need to be studied in a comprehensive, coordinated fashion.” —L.B.S.

ROBERT N. SHAFER LECTURE

Robert Ritch, MD, FACS, will present *Glaucoma as an Ocular Manifestation of Systemic Disease* (4:50 to 5:15 p.m.) during the Sunday symposium titled *Recognition of Glaucomatous Progression* (3:45 to 5:15 p.m.). This combined meeting with Prevent Blindness America takes place in Room 244.

ABOUT THE LECTURE. “Systemic abnormalities—clinical abnormalities, risk factors and biomarkers—are found in conjunction with many types of glaucoma. This includes not only inflammatory and hereditary glaucomas, but also glaucoma that occurs in exfoliation syndrome, pigment dispersion syndrome and primary open-angle glaucoma,” said Dr. Ritch. He will be discussing non-pressure-dependent risk factors for glaucoma, a phrase he believes better encapsulates the presentation of what is commonly referred to as normal-pressure glaucoma or low-tension glaucoma. “Glaucoma used to be considered a disease that centered around high pressure in the eye. We now know that about one-third of glaucoma damage occurs at normal intraocular pressures,” he said.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER. Dr. Ritch, professor of clinical ophthalmology at New York Medical College and chief of the glaucoma service and surgeon director at the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, has initiated or cofounded numerous organizations, including the Glaucoma Foundation, New York Glaucoma Research Institute and the Lindberg Society. He is a recipient of the Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Ophthalmologist of the Year Award, the Louis Rudin Award for research in ophthalmology and the Albion O. Bernstein, MD, Award for outstanding contributions to medicine, and he was appointed to the Advisory Committee of the International Council of Ophthalmology.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES. Genomics and proteomics may hold the keys to unlocking some of the mysteries of glaucoma. “The recent discovery of genes associated with type 2 diabetes and coronary artery disease offer hope,” said Dr. Ritch, who looks forward to crossing similar milestones within ophthalmology: “Identifying the genes associated with non-pressure-dependent risk factors for glaucoma may offer tremendous benefits. Improving current technologies to establish treatments for reversing blindness and the development of artificial retinal

chips are both prospects on the horizon. Eventually, stem cell research, regenerative medicine and nanotechnology will provide exciting new options.” —L.B.P.

STRAATSMAL LECTURE

James P. Dunn Jr., MD, will present *The Process of Medical Students Becoming Ophthalmology Residents* (3:08 to 3:28 p.m.) during the Sunday symposium titled *Preparing the Ophthalmology Resident for Live Ophthalmic Surgery* (2 to 3:30 p.m.). This combined meeting with the Association for University Professors in Ophthalmology takes place in Hall D Session Room.

ABOUT THE LECTURE. Dr. Dunn vividly remembers the week that changed his life. He was attending New Jersey Medical School during a bitterly cold winter, had just broken up with his girlfriend, and found himself enduring several condescending residents. Despite these challenges, his rotation through the ophthalmology service captured his passion—so



Dr. Dunn asks how ophthalmology can attract the best students.

much so that he left behind interests in sports medicine and child psychiatry to pursue ophthalmology at New York University. Now he worries that these golden opportunities to attract medical students may become a thing of the past. With schools eliminating the ophthalmology rotation, it is crucial to focus on the process of recruiting medical students.

“I want to talk about what attracts them to the field,” Dr. Dunn said. “I will discuss our roles as teachers of medical students as well as teachers of residents, focusing on the importance of a mentorship model.”

ABOUT THE SPEAKER. Dr. Dunn joined the Wilmer Eye Institute in 1991 and has been residency program director since 1998. In addition, he is an associate professor of ophthalmology and director in the division of ocular immunology. He became interested in academic medicine during his cornea-external ocular disease fellowship at UCLA’s Jules Stein Eye Institute, and his fellowship in cornea and uveitis at the Proctor Foundation for Research in Ophthalmology at the University of California, San Francisco.

CHALLENGES AHEAD. “The biggest challenge in academic ophthalmology is the pressure of generating clinical revenue and maintaining financial stability while not losing track of how we go about recruiting and teaching students,” Dr. Dunn said. “We need to make teaching a top priority, exposing students and residents to knowledgeable faculty mentors in order to obtain the valuable clinical experience that can only come from a strong academic program.” —L.B.S.



Doctors can play a leadership role in enhancing the health care system, says Dr. Lee.



Dr. Ritch says that systemic abnormalities are found in conjunction with many glaucomas.