Department of Surgery Sections

Ophthalmology

Under the leadership of Dr Donald Miller, our Refractive Surgery Program was established and will be expanded. Our refractive patients will continue to receive their initial ophthalmic evaluations at Dartmouth under Dr Miller's supervision. Dr Miller performs pre- and post-operative care at DHMC. He and his patients travel to the Clear Advantage Laser Center in Portsmouth, NH, for their surgery, performed by Dr Miller. Nancy Patterson was appointed clinic coordinator for the refractive surgery program. We're pleased with the growing popularity of this service and hope to offer on-site laser surgery at DHMC in the future.

Dr Sandra M Johnson, our newest faculty member, a glaucoma specialist, inaugurated our new ophthalmology clinical service at DHMC-Manchester. She provides monthly comprehensive ophthalmology, cataract, and glaucoma services there.

Dr Alexandra Elliott, our new pediatric ophthalmologist, will continue to expand her children's practice into the new CHaD facility. We will add specialized ophthalmic testing equipment for children to her service as that facility is completed.

Barbara Schneekloth, a nationally recognized orthoptist, has joined the program and will provide orthoptist-related consultation. Dr Elliott is fellowship-trained in adult motility and orbital diseases and oculoplastic surgery. We also anticipate the opening of specialty clinics in pediatric neuro-ophthalmology and pediatric optometry within CHaD. Dr Susan Pepin will add expertise in pediatric neuro-ophthalmology and Dr Christopher Fields in optometry. Dr Christopher Soares (Dartmouth-Randolph) also provides pediatric consultation as part of our pediatric ophthalmology and motility service.

Dr Susan Pepin, a fellowship trained neuro-ophthalmologist, completed a sabbatical year with additional expertise at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary (Harvard Medical School). She provides comprehensive diagnostic and therapeutic management for complex neuro-ophthalmic problems as well as interdisciplinary management with the Section of Neurology.

The Section's new OCT-3 instrument has been used successfully and we're very excited about adding OCT optic nerve and macular imagery to our diagnostic armamentarium. We
expect the OCT to be most helpful in following the clinical course of our glaucoma patients and for clinical studies. Additionally, it will help us evaluate and monitor our patients with diabetic macular edema and macular degeneration more accurately and less invasively.

Faculty Research
Dr Susan Pepin published a paper, “Adelbert Ames and the Dartmouth Eye Institute,” in the Journal of Neuro-Ophthalmology. Additionally, a paper on intermittent esotropia as the initial presentation of juvenile nasopharyngeal angiofibroma has been accepted and is in press for the Journal of the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus. Dr Pepin was also appointed as a Harmes Scholar in the Department of Surgery.

Dr Michael Zegans, an NIH investigator and RO1 Grant recipient, has completed research and publications in the science of biofilm formation. He also secured NIH funding for the newly initiated Steroids and Corneal Ulcer Treatment trial. Dr Zegans and Chapman sponsored the first Dartmouth Eye Research Meeting in October 2005. Dr Zegans also serves as a uveitis consultant for the American Board of Ophthalmology.

Drs Christopher Chapman and Rosalind Stevens completed their recruitment of patients for the TTT (transpupillary thermotherapy trial for age-related macular degeneration) and the two-year study results will soon be established. Drs Chapman and Stevens are primarily responsible for treatment of high-risk infants with retinopathy of prematurity. Dr Chapman is currently establishing an ophthalmology research laboratory for basic science and surgical research. Plans are underway to establish comprehensive electro-physiologic testing at DHMC.

Dr Rosalind Stevens, an expert in international ophthalmology, continues as director for Project Orbis and will be an invited speaker at Peking University and Arvind University in India this year. She received a highest distinction honor from the American Academy of Ophthalmology for her teaching course on Ocular Trauma. Dr Stevens was an invited speaker at the Pan American Ophthalmology Meeting in Santiago, Chile. She initiated and completed the first phases of establishing an Ophthalmology Residency Program at Dartmouth. She was invited to continue as a member of the admissions committee at Dartmouth Medical School and to supervise the medical student education.

Grand Rounds and Hosted Meetings
Our monthly Grand Rounds, held at the Hanover Inn or DHMC, continue to be well attended by our referring ophthalmologists. We continue with great success to secure nationally and internationally recognized experts in ophthalmology. Dr Douglas Jabs from The Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins Medical School will be this year’s invited Curts Lecturer in November. Dr Sandra Johnson is the Section’s coordinator for Grand Rounds. Monthly Journal Club continues as well; we expect to expand our morbidity and mortality conference to the entire eye care faculty this year.

The Future
The Section’s plans for developing a three-year residency training program in Ophthalmology are underway and we are committed to launch the highest quality training program possible.