New UNC Kittner Eye Center Opens August 21, 2013

On Wednesday, August 21, 2013, UNC Eye Care Center will provide care to our first patients in our brand new 26,000 square foot off-campus facility, located at 2226 Nelson Highway, in Chapel Hill, NC. This new location will be home to the Kittner Eye Center, UNC Optical Shop, and UNC Hospitals Macular Treatment Center. UNC Eye Care Center will be located on the second and third floor of the building, while UNC Ear, Nose, & Throat and UNC Hospitals Hearing & Voice Center will remain on the first floor after taking occupancy in October 2012.

Our final day of providing patient services and care at the Kittner Eye Center located in the UNC Ambulatory Care Center (ACC) and at the UNC Eye Care Center - Chapel Hill North locations will be August 16th. With this move, we are effectively doubling the space we have available to provide care to our patients. The ACC has 9,600 sq. feet of space and Chapel Hill North has 3,200 sq. feet of space.

This new facility, which is about 5 miles from the ACC on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is the latest addition to the UNC Healthway. The UNC Healthway consists of 8 convenient UNC Health Care outpatient locations along Highway 54 in Chapel Hill, NC. For more information about the UNC Healthway, visit www.unchealthcare.org/site/aboutus/unc-healthway.

Our new location will be much more convenient for our patients since they will not have to contend with the typical traffic and parking challenges of locations that are situated on the main campus.

After our relocation is complete, our patients will experience a myriad of improvements. In our Comprehensive Eye Care services group, Dr. Kathleen Gordon will continue to see patients for comprehensive Ophthalmology services and medical management. Dr. Bruce Baldwin will be located in proximity to Dr. Gordon and will provide routine eye exams and contact lens fittings and care. Our goal is to provide our routine eye care patients with a complete exam in about one hour, then have a contact lens fitting afterwards, if needed.

(continued on page 3)
Chairs Corner

In this special edition of the UNC Newsletter, we are excited to let you know about the opening of our new UNC Eye Care Center and the North Carolina Eye Bank Microsurgical Skills Laboratory at UNC. These amazing new facilities will greatly enhance our clinical care and educational missions.

UNC Eye has grown tremendously in the past 20 years, from three faculty physicians seeing patients to nearly twenty. The increase in patient volumes means we have grown out of the Ambulatory Care Center’s Kittner Eye Center and Chapel Hill North, the satellite office that was opened to accommodate growth in patient volumes. We will be consolidating these two facilities and doubling the space to see patients in the new UNC Eye Care Center at the junction of I-40 and state road 54. This convenient state-of-the-art center will eventually have fifty examination lanes, two surgical procedure rooms, and expanded optical and contact lens services.

The real winners in this new venture are our patients, who will have easier access to our clinical services due to the location of the new clinic. This central location will allow us to care for patients as far east and west as Raleigh and Greensboro and as far north and south as Roxboro and Siler City. The new UNC Eye Care Center will still have the Kittner Eye Center within its walls but also house the UNC Hospitals Macular Treatment Center and the UNC Optical Shop. This combined facility will serve all our patients’ needs in an efficient, modern environment.

The second exciting feature in this newsletter is the opening of the new NC Eye Bank Microsurgical Skills Laboratory at UNC. UNC Eye trains 3 (soon to be 4) ophthalmology residents each year and a critically important part of their education is in the technical aspects of eye surgery. Through a collaborative effort between the UNC Eye, ENT, and Neurosurgery Departments and a generous $1 million grant from the North Carolina Eye Bank, we are able to train our residents in the most technologically advanced microsurgical lab in the world.

Our residents spend two hours every week doing practice surgery in the new lab and we are hosting our second cataract training course for all North Carolina eye residents this summer! We plan to hold surgical training labs for practicing ophthalmologists in new eye surgical techniques starting in 2014. There are only 3 or 4 other facilities like this in the US and none as technologically advanced as this one. This project is a wonderful example of the collaborative spirit that is UNC Chapel Hill and demonstrates the commitment that we have to training the next generation of eye surgeons.

I hope you enjoy this special edition of the UNC Eye Newsletter. Thank you for your continued support of our mission to prevent and cure blindness in North Carolina and beyond.

Donald L. Budenz, MD, MPH
Kittner Family Distinguished Professor and Chairman
UNC Eye Care Center

Kittner Eye Center Faculty

**BY AREA OF SPECIALTY**

- **Comprehensive**
  - Ocular Oncology
  - Jonathan Dutton, MD
  - Travis A. Meredith, MD
  - John D. Wright, Jr., MD

- **Ophthalmology**
  - Pediatric Ophthalmology & Adult Strabismus
  - Michelle Cabrerda, MD
  - John D. Wright, Jr., MD

- **Contact Lens / Optometrics**
  - Travis A. Meredith, MD
  - Mauricio B. Landers, III, MD

- **Corneal Disease**
  - Veesis
  - Travis A. Meredith, MD
  - Mauricio B. Landers, III, MD

- **Glaucoma**
  - Vitreo-Retinal Surgery
  - Sas H. Chavala, MD
  - Odette M. Houghton, MD
  - J. Niklas Ulrich, MD

- **Research**
  - Terete Borras, PhD
  - Donald L. Budenz, MD, MPH
  - Sas H. Chavala, MD
  - Richard M. Davis, MD
  - Seema Garg, MD, PhD

- **Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery**
  - Watson Eye Associates
  - Amy M. Fowler, MD

- **Pediatric Ophthalmology**
  - Pediatric Ophthalmology & Adult Strabismus
  - Michelle Cabrerda, MD
  - John D. Wright, Jr., MD

- **Research**
  - Odette Houghton, MD

- **Contact Lens / Optometrics**
  - Amy Fowler, MD

- **Comprehensive**
  - Ocular Oncology
  - Jonathan Dutton, MD
  - Travis A. Meredith, MD
  - John D. Wright, Jr., MD

- **Pediatric Ophthalmology & Adult Strabismus**
  - Michelle Cabrerda, MD
  - John D. Wright, Jr., MD

- **Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery**
  - Watson Eye Associates
  - Amy M. Fowler, MD

**Locations and how to reach us:**

- **Kittner Eye Center**
  - All Services Provided
  - UNC Optical Shop
  - Eyewear
  - Located in the Ambulatory Care Center (ACC) until August 16, 2013
  - 102 Mason Farm Rd
  - Chapel Hill, NC 27599
  - Kittner Eye Center Phone: 919-966-2061 / Fax: 919-966-6482
  - Optical Shop Phone: 919-843-3937 / Fax: 919-966-1908
  - Contact Lens Phone: 919-966-2067
  - Appointments: 919-966-5509

- **Kittner Eye Center & UNC Optical Shop**
  - Will relocate to the following new address, effective August 21, 2013
  - 2226 Nelson Highway, Suite 200
  - Chapel Hill, NC 27517
  - Phone numbers remain the same as above

- **UNC Eye at Chapel Hill North**
  - Cornea, Glaucoma, Ophthalmology, Oculoplastics
  - 1828 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
  - Suite 14-B
  - Chapel Hill, NC 27514
  - Phone: 919-945-0393
  - Fax: 919-945-0399
  - Appointments: 919-966-5509

- **UNC Eye at Roxboro**
  - Retina Services
  - 3324 Wellness Blvd
  - New Bern, NC 28563-5290
  - Phone: 252-636-3937
  - Appointments: 919-966-5509

- **UNC Surgical Services at Chatham Hospital**
  - Catarract, Glaucoma, Retina
  - 163 Medical Park Dr Suite 110
  - Siler City, NC 27344
  - Phone: 919-799-4050
  - Fax: 919-799-4051
  - Appointments: 919-799-4050

- **UNC Eye at Siler City**
  - Catarract
  - 1016 Kirkpatrick Rd
  - Siler City, NC 27344
  - Phone: 919-966-5296
  - Fax: 919-799-4051
  - Appointments: 919-799-4050

**Main Administrative Offices**
- 5151 Bioinformatics Bldg CB #7040
  - Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7040
  - Phone: 919-966-5296
  - Fax: 919-966-1908
  - Appointments: 919-966-5509

**Services also provided at the following:**
- Watson Eye Associates

**Services also provided at the following:**
- Watson Eye Associates
  - Retina Services
  - N.C. Medical Arts Mall
  - Rocky Mount, NC 27804
  - Phone: 919-945-0399
  - Fax: 919-966-1908
  - Appointments: 919-966-5509
Facility Comparison

### By the Numbers:

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Ambulatory Care Center</th>
<th>Chapel Hill North</th>
<th>Carolina Crossing</th>
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<tr>
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<td>3,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam Lanes</td>
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### Services:

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<th>Carolina Crossing</th>
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<tr>
<td>Laser Vision Correction Surgery</td>
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</tbody>
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UNC Eye Associate Chair Ricky Bass, MBA, MHA discusses floor plans with construction staff (Photo by Sarah Moyer)

(New UNC Kittner Eye Center, continued from page 1)

By the Numbers:

The UNC Optical Shop will be adjacent to this area. Patients will have the opportunity to purchase an expanded array of eyeglasses, sunglasses, and accessories here. We are working to offer patients one-hour service for routine eyeglasses by the end of 2013.

Our Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery services will relocate from Chapel Hill North, with an expanded offering of aesthetic services, as well as LASIK on the horizon in 2014.

We are very excited to have this opportunity to provide the same great care that our patients expect from UNC Eye in this wonderful new facility and can’t wait for you to see our vision for the future of eye care.

Facility Comparison

(clockwise from left) Carolina Crossing view from Route 54, Ambulatory Care Center (ACC), Chapel Hill North (Photos by Sarah Moyer)
Million Dollar Gift Establishes Multidisciplinary Surgical Skills Lab

The University of North Carolina School of Medicine received a $1 million gift from The North Carolina Eye Bank (NCEB) to establish a unique and innovative multidisciplinary surgical skills lab. The gift to the Department of Ophthalmology will be shared among three neurosciences departments: Ophthalmology, Neurosurgery, and Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery. The newly created laboratory, the only one of its kind in the region, provides state-of-the-art surgical training opportunities to residents, fellows and physicians across the state.

"Training future generations of eye surgeons to serve the people of North Carolina is one of our top priorities at UNC Eye," said Donald L. Budenz, MD, Kittner Family Distinguished Professor and Chair of Ophthalmology. "The new surgical training center will greatly enhance our educational mission by providing our residents with a state of the art facility where they can practice and learn from our world-class surgeons."

The three departments celebrated the opening of the lab and $1 million gift from The North Carolina Eye Bank (NECB) with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, January 16th in the lab.
UNC Hosts Tri-Residency Cataract Course

Newly Opened NC Eye Bank Surgical Skills Lab at UNC hosts UNC, Duke, & Wake Forest faculty and residents who converge to learn cataract surgery

UNC Eye recently hosted the first-ever Tri-Residency Cataract Course, in which faculty and residents from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University, and Wake Forest University gathered together for lectures and a surgical wetlab on cataract treatments. Faculty from each institution gave lectures on cataract surgery and then residents had the opportunity to practice under supervision in the newly opened NC Eye Bank Surgical Skills Lab at UNC.

UNC Eye Department Chair Donald L. Budenz, MD, MPH said, “The ability to teach microsurgery to residents in a state-of-the-art laboratory is a huge advance in residency training. In addition to weekly training in cataract surgery, we will be holding courses in every subspecialty monthly to teach surgical techniques to treat glaucoma, corneal disease, retinal disease, oculoplastics, and strabismus surgery. This will be excellent preparation for our trainees before they begin operating on real patients.”

Dr. Budenz continued, “In addition, we are in the process of organizing weekend training courses in the implantation of newly approved implants for the management of glaucoma. These courses will be open to practicing ophthalmologists who may not have received training in the implantation of devices that have become available since they finished their training.”

The cross-University participation was greatly appreciated. UNC Eye Professor Kenneth L. Cohen, MD said, “To me, the exciting part of our first phacoemulsification training course was the educational experience received by ophthalmology residents from not only UNC, but Duke and Wake Forest. As state-of-the-art as our facility is, our successful course could not have happened without expert participation by faculty from Duke and Wake Forest, industry, teaching by our very own third year residents, and support from our department.”

UNC Eye Residents are very excited to have this new resource at their disposal. Chief Resident, Kevin Gertsch said, “The Surgical Skills Lab is an amazing new addition to our residency program. This first-class facility demonstrates the clear focus on education at UNC. The Surgical Skills Lab allows us to master the skills necessary to become excellent surgeons. Residents can learn and be observed through monitors at individual stations to provide one-on-one instruction. This training is invaluable for both the residents and their patients enabling residents to become proficient and confident with procedures prior to going to the operating room. We currently have access to the lab for both large group instruction as well as individual practice time. This allows for a variety of learning opportunities.”

UNC Eye Professor Kenneth L. Cohen oversees training in the Surgical Skills Lab

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Dr. Budenz continued, “Our recent tri-residency cataract course was a success for all who attended. Residents from UNC, Duke, and Wake Forest were able to be instructed by faculty from all three residency programs and then put the new principles learned into action in the wet lab. Using pig eyes and artificial eyes from the KITARO wet lab system, first year residents practiced the multiple steps of cataract surgery under the supervision of faculty experts and upper-level residents.

The cataract course for first-year residents reflects the strong tradition at UNC to begin learning surgical skills early in residency training to encourage a more in-depth and comprehensive understanding of the principles of ophthalmic surgery.

UNC Eye Receives Prestigious Research to Prevent Blindness Unrestricted Grant

Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB) has awarded a grant of $110,000 to UNC Eye Care Center to support research into the causes, treatment, and prevention of blinding diseases. The research will be directed by Donald L. Budenz, MD, MPH, Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine. This grant is structured to be automatically renewed annually in the amount of $110,000, then subject to periodic review by RPB starting in 2016.

RPB is the world’s leading voluntary organization supporting eye research. To date, the organization has awarded grants totaling $1,630,500 to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine.

“Research to Prevent Blindness provides unrestricted research funding to the top research departments of ophthalmology in the US,” Dr. Budenz said. “UNC Eye’s program to prevent and cure blindness through gene therapy and stem cell research will benefit greatly from this generous grant.”

Since it was founded in 1960, RPB has channeled hundreds of millions of dollars to medical institutions throughout the United States for research into all blinding eye diseases. For information on RPB, RPB-funded research, eye disorders and the RPB Grants Program, go to www.rpbusa.org.
Construction of Carolina Crossing

UNC Eye Department Chair Donald Budenz, MD, MPH, was one of only ten Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health alumni selected to the Alpha Chapter of Delta Omega, the most prestigious society in Public Health.

“Dr. Budenz has been a leader in the fields of glaucoma and public health and it is terrific that he has been chosen to receive this well deserved honor by his peers in the public health community” said Kuldev Singh, MD, MPH, Professor of Ophthalmology, Director of the Glaucoma Service at Stanford University and current President of the American Glaucoma Society.

Budenz, who graduated with his MPH from Johns Hopkins in 2004, was nominated and selected for his ongoing contributions to research in ophthalmology, including the medical testing of glaucoma, epidemiology of eye disease in West Africa, and clinical trial leadership.

Since the establishment at Johns Hopkins of the Alpha Chapter, the Society has expanded nationally to 59 local chapters with about 6,000 members, including the Theta Chapter at UNC Chapel Hill’s Gillings School of Public Health.

Faculty News

Budenz Elected to Prestigious Public Health Society
Faculty News

Baldwin Elected President of Scleral Lens Education Society

UNC Eye faculty member, Dr. Bruce Baldwin, Ophthalmologist, PhD, was elected President of the Scleral Lens Education Society (SLS). The SLS is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization committed to teaching eye care practitioners and patients about the benefits and availability of ocular prosthetic devices known as scleral contact lenses.

These devices are used to treat and manage severe eye conditions related to disease, trauma, or surgery. The rigid, gas permeable lenses can be very large, up to the size of a quarter, and fit over the entire front portion of the eyeball. “It is extremely gratifying for me and often life changing for a patient to be fit with a scleral lens. I have treated people who were legally blind who have obtained a driver license, or who have had eye pain for years and are nearly pain free while wearing these devices,” said Dr Baldwin.

Example of large diameter rigid gas permeable scleral lens

Garg Earns Funding from Duke Endowment for NC Telemedicine Program

The Duke Endowment recently funded a grant for Telemedicine health services led by Associate Professor Seema Garg, MD, PhD. “Telemedicine for Diabetic Retinopathy evaluation establishes a logical partnership between primary care physicians and retina specialists by facilitating the identification of patients who are at high risk of vision loss from diabetes and who may not be able to get the recommended annual evaluation by an ophthalmologist,” Dr. Garg said. The funded telemedicine program is in collaboration with 4 Area Health Education Centers (AHEC’s) throughout the state of North Carolina.

Chairman Emeritus Meredith Honored as Distinguished Alumnus by Johns Hopkins’ Wilmer Eye Institute

UNC Eye Chairman Emeritus, Travis Meredith, MD was recently named the 1973 Distinguished Alumnus by Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins Hospital. Dr. Meredith addressed the 72nd annual meeting of the Wilmer Residents Association, one of the oldest residents’ associations in the country, giving a presentation on retinal vasculitis and tracing his time at Wilmer—almost at the halfway mark in its distinguished 88-year history. Dr. Meredith was a medical student at Johns Hopkins, graduating in 1969 and a resident at Wilmer from 1970 to 1975, with a three-year hiatus to serve as a Lieutenant Commander in the US Navy from 1971–1973.

“We had a technologic explosion. The diseases we treat are still the same, but now we just have so much more we can do. We’ve adopted clinical trials methodology as a way of proving new therapies,” said Dr. Meredith.

“There was also a trend toward subspecialization within ophthalmology. About that time, sections were developed devoted solely to one subspecialty, such as retina, pediatrics, glaucoma or cornea. The young faculty there at the time built their careers on that.”

Example of large diameter rigid gas permeable scleral lens

Chairman Emeritus Meredith Honored as Distinguished Alumnus by Johns Hopkins’ Wilmer Eye Institute

UNC Eye invites you to join us as we participate in the American Academy of Ophthalmology 2013 Calendar of Monthly Observances

July
Fireworks Safety Month

August
Cataract Awareness Month

September
Children’s Eye Health & Safety Month

October
Eye Injury Prevention Month

November
Diabetic Eye Disease Awareness Month

December
Safe Toys & Celebrations Month

Look for more information each month at www.unceye.org.
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UNCEYE.ORG

Directions to UNC Eye Care Center at Carolina Crossing

From West (Greensboro area):
• Drive east on Interstate 40 and take exit 273 for U.S. Highway 54 West.
• Turn right onto Highway 54 West.
• Turn right onto Huntingridge Rd at the second stoplight.
• Take an immediate right onto Nelson Highway.
• The Carolina Crossing building is two blocks up on the left.

From East (Raleigh area):
• Drive west on Interstate 40 and take exit 273A for U.S. Highway 54 West.
• Turn right onto Huntingridge Rd at the third stoplight.
• Take an immediate right onto Nelson Highway.
• The Carolina Crossing building is two blocks up on the left.

Directions from South (Pittsboro area):
• Drive north on U.S. Highway 15-501.
• Bear right on to U.S. Highway 54 east/15-501 north (towards Durham).
• Take the exit for U.S. Highway 54 East (also known as Raleigh Road).
• Before reaching Interstate 40 and Farrington Rd, turn left on Huntingridge Rd at the stoplight.
• Take immediate right onto Nelson Highway.
• The Carolina Crossing building is two blocks up on the left.