### **Department of Ophthalmology**

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Summer 2013

Newsletter

# 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.

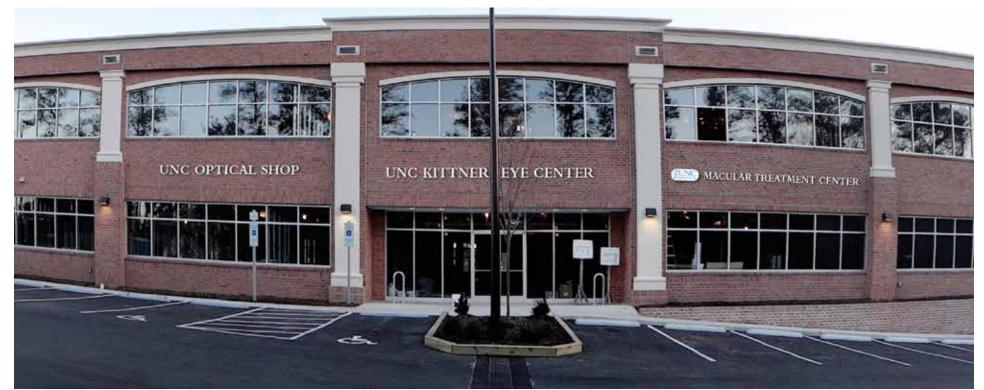
This new facility, which is about 5 miles from the ACC on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is the latest addition

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)

UNC Eye Care Center at Carolina Crossing—Main Entrance (Photo by Sarah Moyer)



# Chair's Corner



Donald L. Budenz, MD, MPH Kittner Family Distinguished Professor and Chairman

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 **Ophthalmology** Kathleen Gordon, MD

Contact Lens / **Optometrics** J. Bruce Baldwin, OD, PhD

**Corneal Disease** 

Kenneth Cohen, MD Richard M. Davis, MD

Glaucoma Donald L. Budenz, MD, MPH Scott D. Lawrence, MD

**Medical Retina** Seema Garg, MD, PhD Maurice B. Landers, III, MD Travis A. Meredith, MD

**Neuro-Ophthalmology** David A. Chesnutt, MD

**Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery** Jonathan Dutton, MD Amy M. Fowler, MD

### **Ocular Oncology**

Jonathan Dutton, MD Travis A. Meredith, MD John D. Wright, Jr., MD

Pediatric Ophthalmology & Adult Strabismus Michelle Cabrera, MD

John D. Wright, Jr. MD

**Uveitis** 

Travis A. Meredith, MD Maurice B. Landers, III, MD

**Vitreo-Retinal Surgery** Sai H. Chavala, MD

Odette M. Houghton, MD J. Niklas Ulrich, MD

### Research

Terete Borras, PhD Donald L. Budenz, MD, MPH Sai H. Chavala, MD Richard M. Davis, MD Seema Garg, MD, PhD Odette M. Houghton, MD Josh Grieger, PhD Steven Gray, PhD Matt Hirsch, PhD Jean-Claude Mwanza, MD, MPH, PhD

# 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

**UNC Eye at Chapel Hill North** 

Cornea, Glaucoma, Pediatrics, Retina, 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 Services provided at this location

will relocate to the new Kittner Eye Center, effective August 19, 2013

**UNC Eye at New Bern** 

Retina Services 3324 Wellons Blvd New Bern, NC 28563-5290 Phone: 252-636-3937 Appointments: 919-966-5509 **UNC Surgical Services at Chatham** 

Cataract, Glaucoma, Retina 163 Medical Park Dr Suite 110 Siler City, NC 27344 Phone: 919-799-4050 Fax: 919-799-4051 Appointments: 919-709-4050

**UNC Eye at Roxboro** 

Cataract **Garrett Optometrics** 1000 N Madison Blvd. Roxboro, NC 27573

Phone / Appointments: 336-597-2020

### **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:

**Alamance Eye Center** 

Plastics & Reconstruction 1016 Kirkpatrick Rd Burlington, NC 27215 Amy Fowler, MD Phone: 919-304-3937 Appointments: 336-228-0254 or 1-800-858-7905 (toll free)

**Watson Eye Associates** Retina Services 400 Nash Medical Arts Mall Rocky Mount, NC 27804 Odette Houghton, MD Reece Landers, MD Phone / Appointments: 252-443-1006 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)

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**

	Ambulatory Care Center	Chapel Hill North	Carolina Crossing
By the Numbers:			
Square Footage	9,600	3,200	26,000
Exam Lanes	26	6	50
Services:			
Comprehensive Ophthalmology	✓	✓	✓
Corneal Disease	✓	✓	✓
Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery	✓	✓	✓
Uveitis	✓	✓	✓
Vitreo-Retinal Surgery	✓	✓	✓
Neuro-Ophthalmology	✓	✓	✓
Contact Lens	✓	✓	✓
Glaucoma	✓	✓	✓
Diabetic Retinopathy	✓	✓	✓
Macular Degeneration	✓	✓	✓
Optical Shop	✓	X	✓
Aesthetics Surgery	Х	✓	✓
Laser Vision Correction Surgery	Х	X	✓

(clockwise from left) Carolina Crossing view from Route 54, Ambulatory Care Center (ACC), Chapel Hill North (Photos by Sarah Moyer)





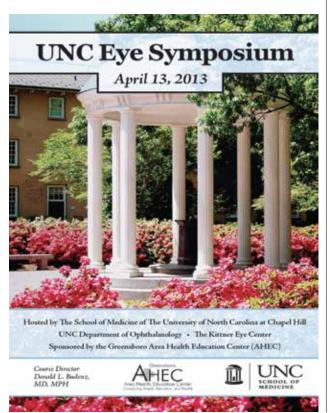


# **UNC Eye Hosts 2013 Spring Symposium**

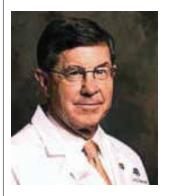
UNC Eye hosted the 2013 Spring Symposium on Saturday, April 13th at the Rizzo Conference Center in Chapel Hill. Visiting Professors and UNC Faculty presented the latest in the areas of:

- Retina
- Neuro-ophthalmology
- Glaucoma
- Pediatrics
- Cornea
- Plastics

Participants were able to claim 8.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Continuing Medical Education credit(s).



### Featured speakers included Visiting Professors:



John G. Clarkson, MD

Keynote Speaker

American Board of Scho
Ophthalmology

University of Miami Miller
School of Medicine

Bascom Palmer
Eye Institute



Oscar A. Cruz, MD
St. Louis University
School of Medicine
St. Louis University
Eye Institute



Philip J. Rosenfeld, MD, PhD
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute



Steven E. Feldon, MD, MBA University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry Flaum Eye Institute



Eduardo Alfonso, MD
University of Miami Miller
School of Medicine
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute



Craig M. Greven, MD Wake Forest University Wake Forest University Eye Center



M. Bruce Shields, MD
Yale University School
of Medicine
Yale Eye Center



**Douglas J. Rhee, MD** Harvard Medical School

### 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, MPH, 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.



Ribbon Cutting (left to right-UNC School of Medicine Dean William Roper, UNC Eye Chair Don Budenz, Neurosurgery Chair Matt Ewend, ENT Chair Rick Pillsbury, UNC Eye Faculty Craig Fowler, and NC Eye Bank Board Chairman Bailey Liipfert & Executive Director Dean Vavra (Photos by Tom Fuldner)



UNC Eye Residents Bradley King, MD and Rob van der Vaart, MD



Resident Demonstration in Surgical Skills Lab

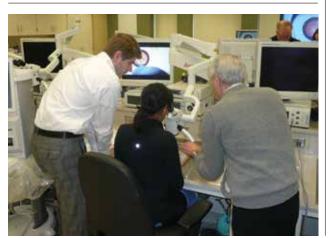
### **UNC Hosts Tri-Residency Cataract Course**

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."



Dr. Cohen provides instruction and leadership (Photos by Kenneth Cohen, MD)

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 oneon-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."



First-year resident Bradley King, MD



Dr. Ken Cohen oversees training in the Surgical Skills Lab

Dr. Gertsch 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.



Residents and Fellows in Surgical Skills Lab

# 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

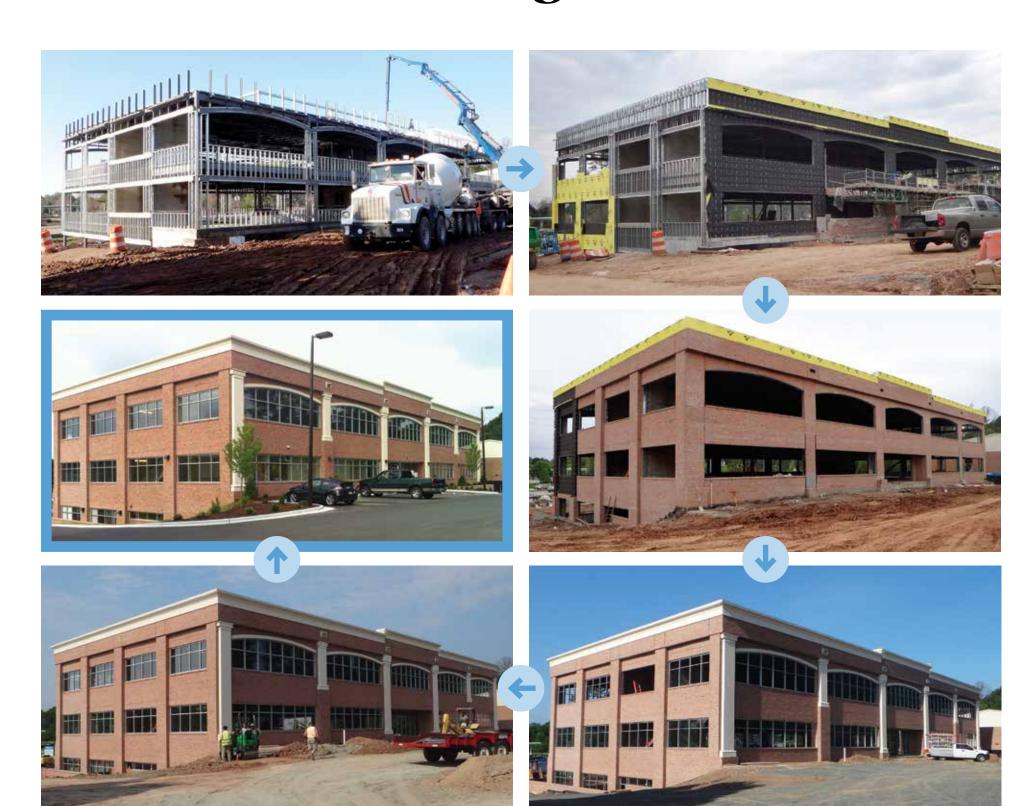
North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine. This grant is structured to be automatically renewed annually in the amount of \$110,000, then subject to periodic review by RPB starting in 2016.

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 RBP Grants Program, go to www.rpbusa.org.



(clockwise from top left) 2/28/2012, 3/6/2012, 4/5/2012, 5/31/2012, 6/22/2012, 7/10/2013 (Photos by Sarah Moyer and James Harris)

# **Faculty News**

### **Budenz Elected to Prestigious Public Health Society**

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 Ophthalmolgy, 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.



UNC Eye Chair Donald L. Budenz, MD, MPH is inducted into the Alpha Chapter of Delta Omega Public Health Honor Society by Michael J. Klag, MD, MPH, Dean of Johns Hopkins School of Public Health

# **Faculty News**

### **Baldwin Elected President of Scleral Lens Education Society**

UNC Eye faculty member, Dr. Bruce Baldwin, Optometrist, 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

Dr. Baldwin, Assistant Professor of Ophthal-mology, manages the Contact Lens Clinic at UNC and sees patients Monday—Friday. Referring doctors can arrange an appointment through the UNC Department of Ophthalmology website (www.unceye.org). Patients can make an appointment through the Ophthalmology appointment system at 919-966-5509.

More information on scleral lenses is found at the SLS website www.sclerallens.org.



Dr. Bruce Baldwin at the Global Specialty Lens Symposium, January 2013.

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.

# 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 Emeritis 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."



THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA at CHAPEL HILL

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**UNCEYE.ORG** 

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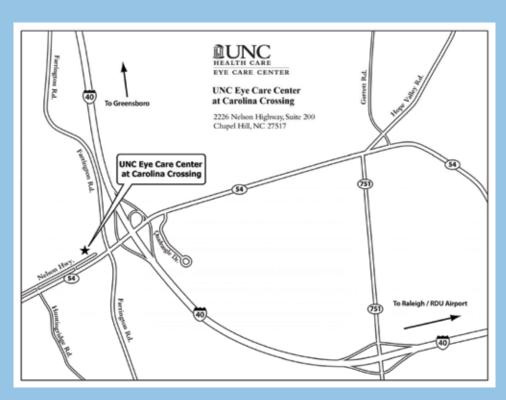
Sandy Scarlett, MA, MBA, CFRE

### **Photography**

Tom Fuldner

Sarah Moyer

# **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.