

# 50 YEARS OF OPHTHALMOLOGY RESIDENCY TRAINING

*Residents at SEI are medical school graduates who have chosen to specialize in ophthalmology. The Residency Program lasts for three years and four Residents begin training each July for a total of twelve.*

In 2021, we celebrated 50 years of training residents at UC San Diego Ophthalmology. The high-quality training and instruction encompassing the Residency Program are high in priority for the department and an essential part of the overall mission.

**Natalie A. Afshari, MD**, Vice Chair for Education for the Department believes, "The Shiley Eye Institute Residency Program is a top training program that offers close mentorship between faculty and residents, broad exposure to a variety of clinical and surgical experiences, and access to exceptional research opportunities. At our program we are committed to educating a diverse and passionate group of physicians and surgeons to provide the highest quality of patient care and avenues for scientific discovery. We strive to empower our

trainees to be leaders, innovators, and pioneers in the field of Ophthalmology."

Dr. Afshari continued, "The residents recruited to our program are enthusiastic, caring, passionate, and intelligent physicians who strive not only to promote the wellbeing of the many patients they touch, but also continually improve themselves and their community of colleagues. The UC San Diego ophthalmology resident is someone who entrenches themselves into curious pursuits of knowledge and innovation, into promoting an environment of enrichment and congeniality, and, most importantly, into caring for patients. Selecting prospective residents with such qualities can be challenging yet rewarding given the number of high caliber individuals who espouse these qualities, as reflected in their high



*On August 3, 2021, the Shiley Eye Institute and Viterbi Family Department of Ophthalmology welcomed our new class of residents and fellows at an outdoor event.*

academic performance, innovative research, and dedication to community service."

Currently, the Ophthalmology Residency Program emphasizes excellence, ethics and humanity while training residents to



*Jeffrey Lee, MD, Natalie A. Afshari, MD and Robyn Austin pictured with the residents.*

become exceptional ophthalmologists equipped to succeed in any aspect of ophthalmology, be it academics, research, or the private sector. The overarching goal is the acquisition of the knowledge, skills, clinical judgment, and attitudes necessary to provide skilled and compassionate care to patients.

Residency Program Director and alumni, **Jeffrey Lee, MD**, states, "I have been fortunate to have done my training here at Shiley and experienced what a world class organization is like at all levels, starting with residency then becoming faculty – I see the big picture. It is an amazing organization to be a part of."

Dr. Lee's goals for the Program are to create individualized educational plans for each Resident so they have clinical, surgical, elective and research opportunities with a flexible schedule, therefore optimizing each person's learning experiences. He went on to note, "We want every Resident to become the best version of themselves when they graduate from our Program."

Residents are provided with clinical exposure in multiple facilities to gain mastery of the ophthalmology knowledge and judgment needed while assuming increasing levels of responsibility for the medical and surgical management of patients

with a wide variety of acute and chronic ophthalmological diseases. Because we recognize that ophthalmology education continues beyond the residency training years, we emphasize the importance of self-directed study habits.

Four residents begin training each July for a total of twelve. While training at our multiple facilities, each resident is exposed to a diverse patient population with a wide variety of ophthalmic needs—all of this while being given increasing responsibilities in a one-on-one teaching environment with our clinical attending physicians.

Department Chair, **Robert N. Weinreb, MD** noted, "We are so proud of our residents. They have distinguished themselves in academic positions and also in their communities. As faculty, it is gratifying to mentor the leaders of tomorrow and watch them grow into clinical, surgical and research trailblazers."

Since 1971, the Department has graduated 137 residents. Many receive additional training and they enter academic or private practices throughout the country. The SEI faculty also collaborates with many of our graduates on multi-center research investigations.

# RESIDENTS

The UC San Diego ophthalmology residency training is a three-year program with 12 resident physicians (four per year of training).

Our highly selective residency program receives over 400 applications per year from throughout the country to fill four positions. The program is known for its outstanding clinical and surgical training, as well as the value placed on scholarly activity and compassionate patient care. Our residents are among the brightest and most motivated, and continue to be high achievers during and after their training.

As a result, graduating residents are regularly chosen for competitive post-

residency Fellowship training in various subspecialties of Ophthalmology, such as Cornea, Glaucoma, Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and Retina at the Shiley Eye Institute. Under the supervision of the renowned Shiley faculty, residents learn to care for patients, from common to very rare eye conditions.

With departmental support, residents also partake in the many cutting-edge research opportunities available in the UC San Diego Viterbi Family Department

of Ophthalmology and present their work at national meetings such as the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology. The UC San Diego Ophthalmology Residency Training Program was recently recognized by the national accrediting body, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, with a commendation on the excellence of the Residency Program and its faculty.

PGY-4 Residents



PGY-3 Residents



PGY-2 Residents



**PGY-4 Residents**

- Allison J. Chen, MD
- David Kuo, MD
- Adeleh Yarmohammadi, MD
- Kaileen Yeh, MD

**PGY-3 Residents**

- Aimee Chang, MD
- Liane Dallalzadeh, MD
- Lingling Huang, MD, PhD
- Mark C. C. Lin, MD

**PGY-2 Residents**

- Justin Arnett, MD
- Medi Eslani, MD
- Jenny Q. Hu, MD
- Maya Yamane, MD

