Wills Eye Residency
Program at Jefferson
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MESSAGE FROM THE OPHTHALMOLOGIST-IN-CHIEF

We hope you will find Wills Eye Hospital as engaging, inspiring, and warm a place to work and learn as we do.

Wills Eye is absolutely unique in all the world: a gift of the Quaker merchant James Wills to the City of Philadelphia in 1832. He gave the fortune he made from his grocery business, to build a hospital for the indigent blind – and thus Wills became the nation’s first eye hospital.

In 1839, the first physician to be trained in Ophthalmology as a specialty came to Wills for his residency. In our 186 years of existence we have trained the most ophthalmologists of any program in the country. Wills also started fellowship programs in the early days of eye subspecialties, so taking all our trainees together, we have the largest alumni body in the country. One of the special benefits of joining the “Wills Eye Family” is becoming part of this network which circles the globe, and gives back to Wills in many ways that impact on the quality of life of our residents while they are here, and on their future prospects.

Since 1972, Wills has served as the Department of Ophthalmology for Thomas Jefferson University’s medical school, now known as Sidney Kimmel Medical College and the 9th oldest medical school in the country. Jefferson Health is now the sixth largest medical system in the country, and its many professional schools, huge clinical volume, and academic and research breadth contribute tremendously to opportunities for our ophthalmology residents.

As you may know, we consider everyone we interview to be a great candidate for our residency – we are convinced by your record and the enthusiastic recommendations from your mentors that you would flourish at Wills. We look forward to getting to know you better during your visit and to following your career trajectories with admiration.

Warmest regards,

Julia A. Haller, MD
Ophthalmologist-in-Chief
#1

Ophthalmology Residency Program in the Nation.

WillsEye Hospital

Believing is Seeing
OVERVIEW OF THE WILLS RESIDENCY PROGRAM

The Wills Eye Residency Program at Jefferson has been renowned worldwide since its establishment in 1839 for the standard of excellence it sets in ophthalmic education. Our mission is to train future leaders in the field and to foster world-class excellence in clinical care, research, and education. Training of residents takes place with lectures, practical sessions and a diverse didactic program.

The residency consists of rotations in all the various subspecialties, under the supervision of the attending staff. Residents also serve in the Consult Service at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

What Sets Wills Apart

• The Wills Eye faculty, comprised of renowned clinician-scientists and educators, is dedicated to ensuring your mastery of skills and competencies needed to build a future in any subspecialty of ophthalmology.

• Our esprit-de-corps culture encourages professional curiosity, inspires new ideas, and supports personal growth, career development, collaboration, and life-long learning.

• Our diverse patient population and extensive referral networks around the world provide trainees with the experience and knowledge to treat not only routine, but also rare and complex diseases of the eye.

• Our global initiatives, such as the Wills International Resident Experience (WIRE), enable trainees to acquire knowledge and skill across physical, cultural, and national boundaries as we strive to prevent blindness worldwide.

• The Wills Eye Alumni Society supports education, research, and professional travel for our residents. After graduation, the Society promotes activities and networking opportunities to connect alumni through conferences, social events, newsletters, and more.

Tara A. Uhler, MD, Director of Resident Education
Christine A. Chung, MD, Assistant Director of Resident Education
Wills Eye Residency Program at Jefferson
WILLS EYE LEADERSHIP

Julia A. Haller, MD
Ophthalmologist-in-Chief, Wills Eye Hospital
William Tasman, MD Endowed Chair Professor and Chair of Ophthalmology
Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University

One of the world’s most renowned retina surgeons, Dr. Haller has been Ophthalmologist-in-Chief at Wills Eye Hospital since 2007.

A graduate of Princeton University and Harvard University Medical School, Dr. Haller trained at Johns Hopkins University’s Wilmer Eye Institute where she held the Katherine Graham and Robert Bond Welch professorships. She is past president of the American University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO), the Retina Society, and ASRS, and is a former trustee of Princeton University. She currently serves as chair of the Society of Heed Fellows, is president of the Women in Medicine Legacy Foundation, is Vice Chair-elect of the Board of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, and a director of Celgene Corporation.

Joseph P. Bilson
Chief Executive Officer

As Chief Executive Officer since 2007, Joseph P. Bilson has developed an impressive record of success. Mr. Bilson’s leadership has achieved clinical volume goals through aggressive program development and robust financial performance during some of the harshest global economic periods on record.

Mr. Bilson’s accomplishments have been many during his more than 30 years with Wills Eye. He strategically planned and developed a very successful network of multi-state ambulatory surgery centers. He implemented major projects, including “Wills On Wheels,” a mobile eye clinic for community outreach and education. He constructed a state-of-the-art Diagnostic Testing Center with advanced testing equipment not available elsewhere in the Eastern United States. He also launched the Wills Eye Knowledge Portal for online ophthalmic medical education.
From common eye problems to rare sight-threatening diseases, Wills Eye provides general eye care and comprehensive ophthalmic subspecialty services that attract patients throughout the Philadelphia metropolitan area, across the country, and around the world.

CATARACT & PRIMARY EYE CARE SERVICE

Director: Robert S. Bailey Jr. MD
Co-Director: Mark H. Blecher, MD

Sylvia Beck, MD  Janice Gault, MD  Sagun Pendse, MD
Robert Behar, MD  Edward Gerner, MD  David Pernelli, MD
Benjamin Bloom, MD  Susan Gordon, MD  Michele Piccone, MD
Leslie Brown, MD  Colleen Halfpenny, MD  Joel Porter, MD
Jay Calesnick, MD  Walter Harris, MD  Michael Posner, MD
Drew Chronister, MD  Alessandra Intili, MD  Mark Pyfer, MD
Christine A. Chung, MD  Suzanne Jadico, MD  Peter Racciato, MD
Carolyn Cutney, MD  Daniel Kane, MD  Allen Richmond, MD
Karen Dante, MD  Steven Kanoff, MD  Ralph Sando, Jr., MD
Elizabeth Derham, MD  Michael Kay, MD  Katie Schrack, MD
John Destafeno, MD  Lawrence Kenney, MD  Chirag Shah, MD
Kristin DiDomenico, MD  Stephen Lee, MD  Melissa Sieber, MD
John Dugan, MD  Robert Lehman, MD  John Siliquini, MD
Eric Dunn, MD  Sebastian Lesniak, MD  Bruce Stark, MD
Dion Ehrlich, MD  Stephen Lichtenstein, MD  William Sun, MD
John Epstein, MD  Ahila Lingappan, MD  Janine Tabas, MD
Brad Feldman, MD  Stephen Luminais, MD  Richard Tipperman, MD
Joanna Fisher, MD  Jennifer Lynn, MD  Sydney Tyson, MD
Alan Forman, MD  Bruce Markovitz, MD  Amy Weber, MD
Jeffrey Forman, MD  Christina McGowan, MD  Brett Weinstock, MD
Michael Fung, MD  Michael Negrey, MD  Christopher Williams, MD
David Galiani, MD  Steven Nissman, MD  Douglas Wisner, MD
Samuel Galib, MD  Raymond Pekala, MD  John Witherell, MD
CORNEA & EXTERNAL DISEASE SERVICE

Director: Christopher J. Rapuano, MD

Medical Staff

Brandon Ayres, MD
Kristin Hammersmith, MD
Sadeer Hannush, MD
Beeran Meghpara, MD
Parveen Nagra, MD
Ravi Patel, MD
Nataliya Pokeza, MD
Irving Raber, MD
Melvin Roat, MD
Zeba A. Syed, MD
GLAUCOMA SERVICE
Director: Jonathan S. Myers, MD
Director Emeritus: L. Jay Katz, MD

Medical Staff
Mary Jude Cox, MD
Elizabeth Dale, MD
Scott Fudemberg, MD
Natasha Kolomeyer, MD
   Daniel Lee, MD
Anand Mantravadi, MD
Marlene Moster, MD
Rachel Niknam, MD
M. Reza Razeghinejad, MD
Jody Piltz-Seymour, MD
   Michael Pro, MD
Jesse Richman, MD
Courtland Schmidt, MD
Geoffrey Schwartz, MD
Monisa Vora, MD
NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY SERVICE
Director: Robert C. Sergott, MD

Medical Staff
Adam DeBusk, DO
Mark Moster, MD
OCULAR ONCOLOGY SERVICE
Director: Carol L. Shields, MD

Medical Staff
Sara Lally, MD
Arman Mashayekhi, MD
Jerry Shields, MD
Prashant Yadav, MBBS
OCULAR PATHOLOGY SERVICE

Director: Ralph C. Eagle Jr., MD

Medical Staff

Tatyana Milman, MD
OCULOPLASTIC & ORBITAL SURGERY SERVICE

Director: Robert B. Penne, MD

Medical Staff

Blair Armstrong, MD
E. Ned Bedrossian, MD
Jurij Bilyk, MD
Jacqueline Carrasco, MD
Joseph Giacometti, MD
Scott Goldstein, MD
Kenneth Morgenstern, MD
Ann Murchison, MD
Thaddeus Nowinski, MD
Michael Rabinowitz, MD
Sathyadeepak Ramesh, MD
Mary Stefanyszyn, MD
PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY & OCULAR GENETICS SERVICE

Director: Alex V. Levin, MD, MHSc, FRCSC
Co-Director: Donelson R. Manley, MD
Co-Director: Leonard B. Nelson, MD

Medical Staff

Cynthia Alley, MD
Colleen Christian, MD
Caroline DeBenedictis, MD
J. Mark Engel, MD
Kammi Gunton, MD
Dorothy Hendricks, MD
Harold Koller, MD
Jing Jin, MD
Judith Lavrich, MD
Sharon Lehman, MD
Julia Reid, MD
Sepideh Rousta, MD
Jonathan Salvin, MD
Bruce Schnall, MD
Barry Wasserman, MD
**RETINA SERVICE**

Director: Carl D. Regillo, MD, FACS  
Co-Director: David H. Fisher, MD  
Co-Director: Arunan Sivalingam, MD

### Medical Staff

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<tr>
<th>Jonathan Belmont, MD</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gary Brown, MD</td>
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<td>Marc Spirn, MD</td>
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<td>Julia A. Haller, MD</td>
<td>Maxwell Stem, MD</td>
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<td>Allen Ho, MD</td>
<td>James Vander, MD</td>
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<td>Jason Hsu, MD</td>
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EYE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Director: Ann P. Murchison, MD, MPH

IN-PATIENT CONSULTS

Director: Christine A. Chung, MD
RESIDENT CURRICULUM

The Wills Eye Hospital curriculum prepares you to pursue any career in ophthalmology, whether it is high volume private practice or the rewards of academia. We pride ourselves on our clinical volume and the diversity of pathology that passes through our doors, each and every day. Will Eye Hospital has specialists on staff in every ophthalmic subspecialty including ocular pathology, oncology, uveitis, medical and surgical retina, glaucoma, low vision, contact lens, refractive surgery, cataracts, oculoplastics, cornea, neuro-ophthalmology, pediatrics, genetics, and biostatistics. Below is a summary of the curriculum by year.

PGY2

Pre-Residency Course (3 weeks) – During this course, which takes place during your first three weeks at Wills, you will focus on learning introductory ophthalmology through both lectures and skills sessions, including a microsurgery course. We start with the assumption that you have little ophthalmic knowledge and build from there.

Wills ER Days (9 weeks) – Here you will routinely see a variety of ophthalmic pathologies, including acute, vision-threatening conditions such as ocular trauma endophthalmitis, retinal detachments, and optic neuritis. You will see a high clinical volume to the point where these relatively rare pathologies become routine care. You have 24/7 support from upper level residents, on-call fellows, ophthalmic nursing, front desk staff, and security.

Cataract and Primary Eye Care (8 weeks) – This is our general clinic where we spend most of our time. Visits include well-vision exams, routine glaucoma management, cataract evaluations, ER follow ups, and more. Important points to take home here:

• Full tech staff and you get your very own, recently renovated room
• The Academic Global Ophthalmology Fellow is your very own private mentor and will see and staff every patient with you
• Huge variety of rotating teaching attendings in addition to Wills staff physicians to diversify your education.

Cornea (5 weeks) – Here you will see a wide variety of anterior segment pathology including infectious and non-infectious ulcers, hereditary dystrophies, viral keratitis, complex surgical sign-ups, and more. You will participate in our multidisciplinary Pemphigoid Clinic (Cornea, Uveitis, and Oculoplastics) where we evaluate, diagnose, and treat some of ophthalmology’s most challenging cases of ocular surface disease. You will perform in-office procedures including corneal cultures, epithelial keratectomy with diamond burr, stromal micropuncture, and EDTA chelation.
**Glaucoma** *(5 weeks)* – At Wills, routine glaucoma is managed in our CPEC Clinic and patients are referred to Glaucoma if acute or surgical intervention is required. You will become adept at reading and interpreting OCTs and visual fields to monitor progression of glaucoma. On Fridays, you will have laser clinic where you perform anywhere from 8-14 Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT) or Laser Peripheral Iridotomies (LPIs).

**Neuro-Ophthalmology** *(6 weeks)* – You will spend a significant amount of time learning the finer aspects of neuro-ophthalmology including learning how to perform a detailed neuro-ophthalmic exam, and interpreting OCT and visual fields.

**Oculoplastics** *(5 weeks)* – Here you will see patients with external ocular disease, including orbital tumors, ptosis, ectropion, thyroid eye disease and more. You will learn to evaluate orbital imaging. In the OR, you work closely with Dr. Carrasco and the ASOPRS fellow doing lid based procedures weekly. In addition to acting as the surgeon on many OR cases, you will also have the opportunity to do some in office procedures including injections, chalazion I+D’s, temporary and permanent tarsorrhaphies.

**Pediatric Ophthalmology & Ocular Genetics** *(6 weeks)* – In clinic, you will see a wide variety of pediatric pathology, from routine well exams to complex strabismus to rare genetic syndromes. Dr. Levin sees congenital cataracts, pediatric uveitis, congenital and juvenile glaucoma on Tuesdays. He also runs an ocular genetics clinic on Thursdays. You will be in the operating room doing strabismus surgery one to two days a week.

**Ocular Oncology** *(1 week)* – In oncology, you will spend time shadowing Dr. Carol Shields and the oncology team. This is the highest volume ocular oncology center in the world, and you will routinely see melanoma, nevus, metastasis, hemangioma, retinoblastoma, astrocytoma, lymphoma, squamous and basal cell carcinoma.

**Ocular Pathology** *(3 weeks)* – Half of a day on an entire rotation is dedicated to learning ophthalmic pathology with Drs. Ralph C. Eagle Jr. and Tatyana Milman. You will see the majority of cases that come through Wills during that 3 week period and start building your pathology knowledge base. This experience is a highlight!

**Retina** *(3 weeks)* – Initially you will start with didactic teaching rounds with Dr. William Benson, discussing retinal imaging and challenging cases to build your knowledge base. Later you will begin seeing private patients with the Retina attendings.
PGY3

Your second year as an ophthalmology resident is seen as a time to perfect your clinical skills, gain efficiency, and solidify your knowledge base.

Wills ER Days (6 weeks) – It’s your time to shine and run the show in the Wills Eye ER! You are in charge of two first year residents, two or three ophthalmic nurses, and the day-to-day and moment-to-moment management of one of our busiest clinical environments.

Wills ER Night Float (1 week blocks, ~6 weeks total) – Time for you to exercise your experience and tackle some tough cases on your own. Never fear, you have 24/7 consult service from every subspecialty.

In-Patient Ophthalmology Service and Consults (6 weeks) – A throwback to intern year! You will see consults at TJUH from all services, and work with the on-call fellows from each subspecialty to provide care to these complex and systemically ill patients. Diagnoses can include: trauma, orbital fracture, CMV retinitis, orbital and facial tumors, panuveitis, endophthalmitis and more.

Cataract Surgery – It is here. It’s what you’ve been waiting for. As a second-year resident, you perform between 12-16 primary cataract surgeries from incision to case close.

Other Clinical Rotations: As a second year resident, you return to subspecialty clinics, but this time with upper year expertise. You are fine-tuning your knowledge and bridging the gaps from your basic introduction last year, to the finer nuances and management considerations of a more seasoned ophthalmologist. Rotations include:

- CPEC (6 weeks)
- Glaucoma (6 weeks)
- Cornea (6 weeks)
- Retina (3 weeks)
- Oculoplastics (6 weeks)
- Oculoplastic Surgery
- Pediatric Ophthalmology (6 weeks)
- Strabismus Surgery
PGY4

PGY4 year is the time where the majority of surgical training occurs, the foundation of which was laid in years 1 and 2. At Wills, third-year residents have complete protection over their surgical patient population. Fellows and residents do not compete for cases which leads to both happy residents and fellows and promotes healthy mentorship with our incredibly talented fellows.

Cataracts (24 weeks) – Senior residents graduate with 180-200 cataracts, including white cataracts, patients with pseudoexfoliation, or phacodonesis. At Wills, the resident is the primary surgeon from start to finish, including the use of cutting-edge techniques, sutured Ahmed segments, capsular tension ring, Yamane technique, and much more. The quality and access to surgical techniques is unparalleled, including approaches to uveitic cataracts and other complex cataract cases. This surgical rotation features access to the latest technology from surgical sign-up to post-op care:

Preparation
- IOL Master 700
- iTrace
- Corneal Topography
- Visante
- Ultrasound biomicroscopy

Intraoperatively
- Widefield fundus imaging
- SD-OCT
- Intraoperative biometry
- Femtosecond laser
- ORA intraoperative biometry

Glaucoma Surgery (6 weeks)
- MIGS – iStent, Xen
- Goniotomy
- Trabeculectomy
- Tube shunts
- Cyclophotocoagulation/MP3
Cornea/Anterior Segment Surgery (6 weeks)
- Full thickness corneal transplants
- Descemet Stripping Endothelial Keratoplasty
- Descemet Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty
- Core vitrectomies
- Panretinal photocoagulation
- Laser Indirect ophthalmoscopy
- Intravitreal injections
- Corneal Biopsies
- Pterygiums
- Lens exchange
- Scleral fixation of IOLs: Goretex suture and Yamane techniques

Oculoplastic Surgery (6 weeks)
- Cosmetic and Functional
- Blepharoplasty
- Ptosis repair
- Entropion/ectropion repair
- Canthoplasty
- Skin grafts

Retina (6 weeks)
- Core vitrectomies
- Panretinal photocoagulation
- Laser Indirect ophthalmoscopy
- Intravitreal injections

Refractive Surgery (Elective)
- Elective, Saturday Appointments
- PRK and LASIK
- 10 cases at discounted cost to the patient
- More than 90 patients on our waiting list
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A WILLS RESIDENT

Morning Lecture (0730 – 0830): Wills attendings give 1-hour lectures structured upon material from the BCSC series. Continental breakfast is provided daily.

AM Clinics/ORs (0830 – 1230)
Lunch (1230 – 1330)
PM Clinics/ORs (1330 – 1730)

Chiefs Rounds (Friday 0700-0800): Residents present mystery cases and pose questions to attendings to elucidate their thought process and management preferences, so everyone can learn from some of the fields most experienced faculty members. No resident questioning involved! The cases are live streamed and recorded.

Visiting Professor Rounds (1x/month, 1400-1800): Clinics close for the afternoon when world-renowned faculty are invited to discuss hot topics within their field. The VP lectures for 3 hours followed by Grand Rounds, when tables are turned and residents present challenging cases to the visiting professor and Wills faculty. The day includes lunch and dinner with the VP, providing a great opportunity to engage with leaders in the field on a more personal level.

Elective Educational Activities
• Monday AM: Oncology Rounds
• Wednesday AM: Retina Imaging
• Wednesday Lunch: Monthly Neuro-ophthalmology Rounds
• Thursday AM: Retina Surgical
• Friday Lunch: Monthly Glaucoma Rounds
CURRENT RESIDENTS - CLASS OF 2019

John C. Anhalt, MD
Post-Graduate: Academic Global Ophthalmology Fellowship
Medical School: University of Texas at San Antonio
Internship: University of Texas at Austin, Dell Medical School
Undergraduate: Trinity University

Lucas Bonafede, MD
Post-Graduate: Pediatric Ophthalmology Fellowship
Medical School: Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania
Internship: St. John Hospital and Medical Center
Undergraduate: Cornell University

Jordan D. Deaner, MD
Post-Graduate: Uveitis/Surgical Retina Fellowship
Medical School: Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University
Internship: Crozer-Chester Medical Center
Undergraduate: University of Pittsburgh

Jason S. Flamendorf, MD
Post-Graduate: Glaucoma Fellowship
Medical School: Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai
Internship: Mt. Sinai Beth Israel
Undergraduate: New York University
CURRENT RESIDENTS - CLASS OF 2019

Aditya Kanesa-thasan, MD
Post-Graduate: Cornea Fellowship
Medical School: Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University
Internship: Presence St. Francis Hospital
Undergraduate: Northwestern University

Phoebe L. Mellen, MD
Post-Graduate: Uveitis/Surgical Retina Fellowship
Medical School: Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University
Internship: Brigham & Women's Hospital
Undergraduate: University of Notre Dame

Daniel J. Ozzello, MD
Post-Graduate: ASOPRS Oculoplastics Fellowship
Medical School: University of Colorado School of Medicine, Aurora, CO
Internship: St. Joseph Hospital, Denver, CO
Undergraduate: Colorado State University

Martha E. Ryan, MD
Post-Graduate: Comprehensive/Private Practice
Medical School: Emory University School of Medicine
Internship: Pennsylvania Hospital
Undergraduate: Carnegie Mellon University
CURRENT RESIDENTS - CLASS OF 2020

Michael D. Abendroth, MD
Medical School: Penn State College of Medicine
Internship: MacNeal Hospital
Undergraduate: Dartmouth College

Michele D. Markovitz, MD
Medical School: Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University
Internship: Crozer-Chester Medical Center
Undergraduate: Washington University

Douglas R. Matsunaga, MD
Medical School: Keck School of Medicine of University of Southern California
Internship: St. Mary Medical Center
Undergraduate: University of California Berkeley

Austin R. Meeker, MD
Medical School: SUNY Upstate Medical University
Internship: Hahnemann University Hospital
Undergraduate: St. Lawrence University
CURRENT RESIDENTS - CLASS OF 2020

Erin E. Nichols, MD
Medical School: Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
Internship: Pennsylvania Hospital
Undergraduate: University of Pittsburgh

Samir N. Patel, MD
Medical School: Weill Cornell Medical College
Internship: Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Undergraduate: Penn State University

Rebecca R. Soares, MD
Medical School: Emory University School of Medicine
Internship: Brigham & Women's Hospital
Undergraduate: Yale University

Joshua H. Uhr, MD
Medical School: Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Internship: Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Undergraduate: Cornell University
CURRENT RESIDENTS - CLASS OF 2021

Joseph A. Anaya, MD
Medical School: Harvard Medical School
Internship: Brigham & Women's Hospital
Undergraduate: Princeton University

Cherie A. Fathy, MD
Medical School: Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
Internship: Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Undergraduate: Vanderbilt University

Kalla A. Gervasio, MD
Medical School: Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Internship: Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Undergraduate: University of Pennsylvania

Kyle B. McKey, MD
Medical School: Wake Forest School of Medicine
Internship: Presbyterian St. Luke's Hospital
Undergraduate: Hope College
CURRENT RESIDENTS - CLASS OF 2021

Travis J. Peck, MD  
Medical School: University of Virginia School of Medicine  
Internship: Reading Hospital  
Undergraduate: University of Delaware

Ranjodh Singh, MD  
Medical School: Weill Cornell Medical College  
Internship: Montefiore New Rochelle Hospital  
Undergraduate: University of Pittsburgh

Meera D. Sivalingam, MD  
Medical School: Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University  
Internship: Crozer-Chester Medical Center  
Undergraduate: Williams College

Connie M. Wu, MD  
Medical School: Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University  
Internship: Santa Clara Medical Center  
Undergraduate: Brown University
RECENT GRADUATES

Class of 2018

Tim A. Arlow, MD
Comprehensive Ophthalmology
Ophthalmic Associates
Johnstown, PA

Ayan Chatterjee, MD
Glaucoma Fellowship
Duke Eye Center
Durham, NC

Thomas Jenkins, MD
Retina Fellowship
Wills Eye Hospital
Philadelphia, PA

Jeffrey F. McMahon, MD
Comprehensive Ophthalmology
Weill Cornell Medical College
Department of Ophthalmology
New York, NY

Melissa Sieber, MD
Comprehensive Ophthalmology
Ophthalmic Associates
Lansdale, PA

J. David Stephens, MD
Cornea & External Disease Fellowship
Vance Thompson Vision
Sioux Falls, SD

Brett M. Weinstock, MD
Comprehensive Ophthalmology
Friedberg Eye Associates
Woodbury, NJ

Cindy Zheng, MD
Glaucoma Fellowship
Wills Eye Hospital
Philadelphia, PA

Class of 2017

Faheem Ahmed, MD
Comprehensive Ophthalmology
Eye Physicians of Virginia
Reston, VA

Nathan Cutler, MD
Surgical Retina & Vitreous Fellowship
Cole Eye Institute
Cleveland, OH

Brenton Finklea, MD
Cornea Fellowship
Duke Eye Center
Durham, NC

Alison Huggins, MD
Oculoplastics Fellowship
TOC Eye and Face,
Texas Oculoplastics Consultants
Austin, TX

Michelle Latting, MD
Oculoplastics Fellowship
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute
Miami, FL

Marta McKeague, MD
Cornea, Cataract & Refractive
Ophthalmic Consultants of Long Island
Long Island, NY

Jinali Patel Diora, MD
Pediatric Ophthalmology and Adult
Strabismus Specialist
Northern Virginia Ophthalmology Assoc.
Falls Church, VA

Priya Sharma MD
Surgical Retina & Vitreous Fellowship
Tufts/Ophthalmic Consultants of Boston
Boston, MA
RESIDENT LIFE

“When You’re Wills, You’re Family”
NEW SURGICAL INNOVATION LAB

This cutting-edge lab, a complete revision and rethinking of the traditional wet lab, will enable our residents, fellows, and medical staff to hone their skills in a realistic surgical simulation environment that includes multiple high-tech workstations, and advanced video-streaming capabilities. Funded through competitive grants and the generosity of the Wills Eye Alumni Society.

The Innovation Lab will feature:

• 8 fully-outfitted individual workstations and a teaching station
• Three phacoemulsification machines
• Dedicated instruments for each resident
• Part-time staff to maintain instruments and lab
• Regularly stocked tissues (porcine)
• Kitaro Simulator eyes
• Two EyeSi simulators

Structured wet labs throughout the year - plus many ad hoc wet labs - include:

1st Year Residents
• Strabismus muscle suture course
• Glaucoma laser course
• Retina laser course

2nd Year Residents
• Strabismus muscle suture course
• Phacoemulsification wet lab
• Glaucoma laser course
• Retina laser course

3rd Year Residents
• Phacoemulsification wet lab
• MSICS wet lab
• Tube shunt wet lab
• iStent wet lab
• Xen wet lab
LIVING IN PHILADELPHIA

Philadelphia is renowned as the birthplace of the United States, filled with history and world-class institutions which seamlessly integrate with modern food, theater, art, film, music, outdoors, and nightlife.

- Livable and walkable city with reasonable rent
- Great public transit when you need to get somewhere fast
- Famous sights and events:
  - Winterfest on the Delaware
  - Boat House Row
  - Spruce Street Harbor
  - Oktoberfest
  - Philadelphia Orchestra
  - Philadelphia Flower Show
  - PA Academy of Fine Arts
  - International Film Festival
  - Reading Terminal Market
  - Liberty Bell
  - Philadelphia Zoo
  - Hot restaurant scene
  - Schuylkill River Trail
  - Top Sports Teams: Super Bowl Champion Eagles, Phillies, 76ers, Flyers
  - More than 130 colleges and universities
- Within 3 hours of:
  - New York City
  - Baltimore-Washington, D.C.
  - Jersey Shore
  - Delaware Beaches
  - Chesapeake Bay
  - Pocono Mountains
  - Catskills
  - Adirondacks

And so much more! Want to know what it’s like to live in Philly? Ask the residents!
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Wills Eye provides residents with numerous opportunities to hone their skills and pursue their career goals:

- Independence, self-governance, and empowerment of residents throughout three years
- Mentorship and support by faculty who are leading figures in the field of ophthalmology and vision research
- Podium experience and presentation training
- Attendance, networking, and travel grants for conferences such as:
  - American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting
  - Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology
  - Harvard Medical School Intensive Cataract Surgical Training Course (open to 2nd year residents only)
- MSICS courses
- Strabismus seminars, Pemphigoid Clinic, Surgical Wet Lab
- Research mentorship
- Biostatistical and protocol development support
WILLS INTERNATIONAL RESIDENT EXPERIENCE (WIRE)

Wills Eye has long been a global leader in the prevention and treatment of blindness. Now, through the creation of the Wills Eye Center for Academic Global Ophthalmology (CAGO), we are sharpening our focus on the pressing needs of the millions of people lacking access to quality eye care around the world.

In 2012, Wills Eye Hospital initiated an ambitious program to provide a structured introduction to global ophthalmology to our senior residents. After creating strong partnerships in the developing world, we created the Wills Eye International Resident Experience (WIRE), which placed our residents at partner sites for up to two weeks to learn, teach and serve in high-need settings.

These immersive experiences in Haiti, Belize, Rwanda, and Kenya have been both inspirational and instructive. Over the course of their time, Wills residents perform manual small incision cataract surgery, encounter different presentations and types of disease, participate in charity clinics and screenings, and are exposed to novel models of health care delivery. These opportunities empower the residents to incorporate global ophthalmology into their budding careers, thus spreading the Wills Eye model of skill with compassion beyond our borders and into the world.
My trip to Kenya was an amazing educational experience. I spent two weeks in Bomet, Kenya at Tenwek Eye Hospital learning Manual Small Incision Cataract Surgery (MSICS) as well as participating in skills transfer to local Kenyan eye physicians. In contrast to how cataract surgery is performed in the US, this type of cataract surgery is common in third world countries where resources are limited. Before this experience, I was not sure if I had the skillset to take surgical trips in the future, but Dr. Ben Roberts and the Tenwek team helped me gain a competency that will allow me to continue international work as an ongoing part of my career. I was very proud to participate and in a very small way, help those less fortunate regain their sight.

The ultimate goal of these experiences is to help local ophthalmologists assume management and care of their communities. To this end, part of the trip involved educational sessions with local doctors, ophthalmic officers, and nurses. Having the opportunity to teach medical management of glaucoma and suturing under a microscope was truly rewarding. I hope it will lead to the next generation of first class ophthalmic care at Tenwek Hospital.

Brett Weinstock, MD - Class of 2018
My WIRE trip to Haiti was easily the highlight of my entire residency experience. During my time there I made lifelong friends and had the opportunity to learn from some of the best when it comes to delivering quality eye care in high needs, under-resourced areas. Haiti is a beautiful country filled with amazing people, and I hope that I will be able to return one day and contribute in a meaningful way to Dr. Dupuy’s community, using the skills that he so graciously passed on to me and countless other residents before me!

Ayan Chatterjee, MD - Class of 2018

Dr. G.N. Rao, founder of LV Prasad Eye Hospital in India, visited Wills Eye in 2017 to share his experiences running one of the world’s largest and most successful eye hospitals and community care networks. Pictured are (l-r): Alessandra Intili, MD (’15), Dr. Rao, WIRE Director Brad Feldman, MD, and Brent Finklea (’17).
RESEARCH

The Vickie and Jack Farber Vision Research Center at Wills Eye
An Overview

Mission
Research at Wills Eye is in a period of great expansion! Building upon the outstanding clinical and training environment at Wills Eye, the high level of thought leadership in ophthalmology across the clinical spectrum and ties with the Sidney Kimmel Medical Center at Jefferson, the Vickie and Jack Farber Vision Research Center at Wills Eye was established thanks to a generous $5 million gift from the Farbers. This new Center will leverage clinical and technological advances in health delivery systems, data analytics, artificial intelligence, genetics and precision medicine to drive breakthroughs through collaboration and innovation that empower lives by preserving vision through preventing, treating and curing eye disease. Our research mission is to promote vibrant, collaborative, intellectually stimulating and sustainable vision research and to position Wills as a leader in vision research nationally and internationally. Achieving our mission is high priority for Wills and includes fostering a research culture that is integrated into the clinical and training programs across Wills.

Core Services
As the hub of research at Wills Eye, the Vision Research Center provides a centralized resource that coordinates, facilitates and supports research activities
throughout Wills Eye. The Center incorporates research mentoring and training, including resident lectures on study methodology and biostatistics and one-on-one consultations for developing new research proposals and offers core resources in study design, biostatistics, standard research processes and procedures and grant preparation. The Biostatistics Consulting Core (BCC) was established in Fall, 2017 to ensure that the research conducted in the Vision Research Center is sound and of high quality and integrity. Based in the Vision Research Center, the BCC is a centralized resource for consultation and collaboration with the clinical services and the educational programs at Wills Eye. BCC services include but are not limited to research design, study implementation, data management, data analysis, interpretation of results and report generation. BCC consultation services are provided at no cost for residents working on unfunded projects.

Research Opportunities
Capitalizing on our considerable strengths at Wills in ophthalmology, epidemiology and biostatistics and our experience in telehealth and community based eye care programs, coupled with the expertise in clinical and basic neuroscience and data analytics at Jefferson, our efforts are focused initially on three major areas to advance scientific knowledge in vision care. These areas are Ophthalmology Informatics, Teleophthalmology with an emphasis on screening and vision care in underserved communities, and Clinical Trials. Wills has been selected by the American Academy of Ophthalmology as one of five Data Analytic Teams to have full access to the IRIS© (Intelligent Research in Sight) Registry, a database of electronic medical records from over 200 million patients across the U.S. This rich resource will launch our Ophthalmology Informatics Program, offering opportunities to generate new information that can inform practice patterns, treatment outcomes and policy proposals. Training in data analytics is also planned. Full access to the data is planned for Spring, 2019. Other innovative research projects include conducting an FDA-approved early feasibility study in collaboration with Retina Implant, a German based company, to evaluate the safety and preliminary effectiveness of a new retina implant device in restoring functional vision in patients who are blind from retinitis pigmentosa. Wills is the only institution in the United States with approval to test this device and, if successful, will be the only center with approval to implant it in patients. Recruitment for this study began in late 2018.

The Vickie and Jack Farber Vision Research Center is ushering in an exciting, transformative era for research at Wills. Research at Wills is expanding and evolving with many opportunities and support for resident involvement.
ABOUT WILLS EYE

WILLS EYE HOSPITAL

Wills Eye was established in 1832 through a bequest of Quaker merchant James Wills to the City of Philadelphia. We are a non-profit specialty hospital whose clinical expertise and sophisticated diagnostic and treatment procedures make us a worldwide referral center.

Before Wills Eye was founded in 1832, the care of eye diseases was just one of many general surgical responsibilities. By establishing Wills Eye as a specialty hospital from its inception, we developed momentum early as a pioneer in the prevention and treatment of eye disease and played a vital role in establishing ophthalmology as a separate branch of medicine in the United States.

Since the beginning of its “Best Hospitals” survey in 1990, U.S. News & World Report has ranked Wills Eye Hospital each year as one of the top three eye hospitals nationwide. Wills Eye provides a full range of primary and subspecialty eye care including cataract, cornea, retina, diagnostic imaging, emergency care, glaucoma, ocular oncology, oculoplastics, pathology, pediatric ophthalmology and ocular genetics and refractive surgery. Wills Eye also has seven multi-specialty ambulatory surgical centers throughout the region.

Wills Eye Hospital is an independent affiliate of Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and serves as the Department of Ophthalmology for both Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and Sidney Kimmel Medical College.

THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY

Thomas Jefferson University (TJU) has a long and distinguished history in Philadelphia. Founded in 1824 as Jefferson Medical College, now the Sidney Kimmel Medical College (SKMC), Jefferson has gained regional and national recognition for its leadership in medical education and for research breakthroughs that have had a positive impact on the lives and health of countless people. SKMC has awarded more than 31,000 medical degrees and has more living graduates than any other private medical school in the nation.

TJU has a three-fold mission: educate professionals in a variety of disciplines who will form and lead the integrated healthcare delivery teams of tomorrow; set the standard for quality, compassionate, and efficient patient care for our community and for the nation; and, discover new knowledge that will define the future of clinical care.
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