

# Accomplished, Award-Winning, Laser-Focused

## Wills Eye Welcomes New Attendings

### Jordan D. Deaner, MD

In early September, Jordan D. Deaner, MD, joined the Wills Eye Retina Service and Mid Atlantic Retina, where he'll rotate between offices in Bala Cynwyd, Bethlehem and East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, and Sewell, New Jersey. Two days a week, he'll be at Wills Eye Hospital where he will be teaching residents and fellows.

"I feel like things have come full circle," said Dr. Deaner, who attended Sidney Kimmel Medical College and completed his residency at Wills, serving as Co-Chief Resident in 2019. "Wills was the first place to recognize my potential as an ophthalmologist, a physician and a surgeon," he said. "Wills has always felt like home." Dr. Deaner plans to "pay it forward" by growing the uveitis and vitreoretinal surgery subspecialties and helping to co-create a uveitis fellowship.

Dr. Deaner, who grew up in the small town of Stoystown, Pennsylvania, completed fellowship training in uveitis at the Cole Eye Institute of the Cleveland Clinic and in vitreoretinal surgery at the Duke University Eye Center. In 2021, he received the Ronald G. Michels Fellowship Foundation Award. He is recognized as one of the preeminent vitreoretinal fellows in the nation.



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"Vitreoretinal surgery (for example: the repair of retinal detachments and macular holes) is a more mature diagnostic field," explained Dr. Deaner. "We've come to a point where we are very good at making efficient diagnoses. Whereas with uveitis—the treatment of intraocular inflammation and infections—we have more room to grow.

"My passion is the diagnosis and management of intraocular infectious and inflammatory disease—medically, surgically, and through innovative research. A lot of uveitis cases are formidable puzzles. I thrive on solving complex cases, putting the pieces together to unlock a challenging condition. There's nothing quite like a good uveitis diagnostic win."

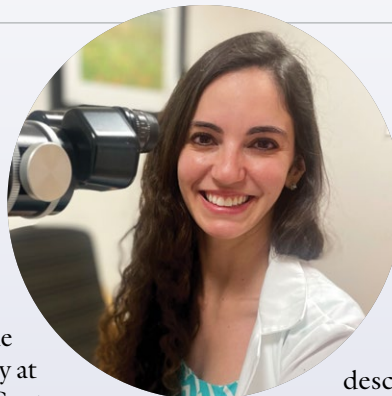
### Sarah Michelson, MD

Sarah Michelson, MD, is elated to be named an attending physician at Wills Eye Hospital. Her appointment also represents a homecoming. A native of the Philadelphia region, Dr. Michelson obtained her undergraduate degree at Drexel University. She attended the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and completed an ophthalmology residency at the University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center. She joined the faculty at Kellogg after graduation.

Over the past year, Dr. Michelson served as the Graduate Chief Resident. "In this position, I had a strong focus on education and residency administration," explained Dr. Michelson, a recipient of the Terry J. Bergstrom Faculty Teaching Award.

As a comprehensive ophthalmologist, Dr. Michelson is trained extensively in cataract surgery as well as routine and urgent eye care. In August, she joined Wills Eye Physicians – King of Prussia. She will also be staffing residents in the Cataract and Primary Eye Care (CPEC) clinic.

Dr. Michelson hopes to bring creative ideas to what she



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described as an already impressive residency program at Wills Eye. She's particularly excited to work with residents in the William Maul Measey Ophthalmic Surgical Training (MOST) Lab.

Initially, Dr. Michelson thought she would pursue internal or emergency medicine. That path took a dramatic shift when she rotated through ophthalmology during medical school. "I found it incredibly fascinating," she recalled. "I really enjoy the mix of medicine and surgery, working with my hands, and restoring vision."

Dr. Michelson is looking forward to learning from new mentors. "Wills is a fantastic environment in which to work," she said. "There are so many high-powered, accomplished individuals in the field."

“As Wills Eye continues to innovate with groundbreaking research and cutting-edge treatments, we are incredibly optimistic that the best days for the field of ophthalmology are yet to come. Each one of these bright, dedicated physicians brings a unique set of skills and expertise. They represent the future and the next extraordinary chapter in Wills Eye care.”

—Julia A. Haller, MD, Ophthalmologist-in-Chief

## Lauren E. Hock, MD

Lauren E. Hock, MD, is honored to be a new attending on the Glaucoma Service, following a one-year glaucoma fellowship at Wills Eye. “This is a dream opportunity,” said Dr. Hock. “Wills has a very strong tradition of training and teaching. One of the things I really enjoyed about the fellowship was the opportunity to work as a surgeon-clinician as well as an educator.”

Dr. Hock attended Rush Medical College and completed her ophthalmology residency at the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics. She is passionate about education and collaboration with her mentors clinically, as well as taking part in improving patient flow during the Service’s current renovation. Her goals include the development of new glaucoma treatment approaches and enhancing clinical and surgical skills training for Wills residents and glaucoma fellows.

During her residency, Dr. Hock was the Principal Investigator on an American Medical Association-funded project to teach medical trainees tools for responding to patient-initiated harassment. “The project initially focused on gender-based harassment but was expanded because of verbal harassment that my co-residents and I had experienced,” she said.



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—Lauren E. Hock, MD

A native of the Chicago suburbs, Dr. Hock enjoys the culture in Philadelphia. She is also fluent in Spanish. Prior to medical school, she spent a year in Ecuador teaching English as a Fulbright grantee.

Dr. Hock chose glaucoma as her specialty because of the ability to develop long-term relationships with patients and individually tailor surgical plans. “During medical training, I found that the interactions ophthalmologists had with patients were some of the most rewarding,” she said. “One of my mentors followed the same family for 30 years. In addition to glaucoma care, he had the opportunity to see them through life milestones.”

Currently, the Glaucoma Service has several clinical trials in place. “Many patients coming to Wills have already tried standard treatments,” said Dr. Hock. “Efforts are under way to improve surgical and medical interventions. Glaucoma is an exciting field to be in in 2022.”

## Jeffrey F. McMahon, MD

Jeffrey F. McMahon, MD, always knew he wanted to work with his hands in some type of humanitarian cause. Although he has a natural talent for sketching and painting, medicine is where he found his calling.

Dr. McMahon attended Jefferson Medical College, completed his residency at Wills Eye Hospital and served as Co-Chief Resident during the 2017-2018 academic year. After several years as an Assistant Professor at New York’s Weill Cornell Medical College, he is thrilled to return to Philadelphia. “Wills is family in more ways than one,” said Dr. McMahon, who met his wife, Lea Moukarzel, MD, a gynecologic oncologist, while they were medical students. “It feels a lot like coming home.”

A comprehensive ophthalmologist with a specialty in cataract and refractive surgery, Dr. McMahon joins the practice of Wills Eye Physicians Bailey Weber Wisner in Plymouth Meeting. “One of the highlights of training at Wills was that I had the opportunity to work with such amazing mentors,” he said. “Now I’m lucky to be working with them as colleagues.”

The recipient of Weill Cornell’s Donald J. D’Amico Teaching Award, he’s passionate about education and the opportunity to introduce new techniques and improve curriculum. Dr. McMahon’s research has focused on expanding the use of simulators to better prepare residents



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for surgeries. He’d also like to shed light on the evolving field of surgical psychology.

What led to a path in ophthalmology? As a medical student, he was shadowing a friend’s father during a cataract surgery. “It was one of those light bulb moments,” recalled Dr. McMahon. “It was a beautiful, elegant procedure and I knew that I would be very happy to pursue that path.” The thought that a 10-to-15-minute procedure can have such a dramatic impact on someone’s life continues to fuel Dr. McMahon.

“Cataracts are the leading, worldwide cause of reversible blindness,” he said. One highlight of Dr. McMahon’s residency was when he traveled to Kenya as part of the Wills Global Ophthalmology program. There they performed numerous cataract surgeries.

“I love what I do,” said Dr. McMahon. ■■■