

From Our Leaders



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Greetings and welcome to the Fall 2022 issue of *Eye Level*. As we turn the page to September, we have much to be excited about here at Wills Eye Hospital. With the new academic year in full swing, we are filled with pride in our nearly 200-year mission—to innovate and lead in education, research, and patient care.

We have enhanced and fine-tuned our academic offerings, expanded our reach with the addition of offices in the Philadelphia suburbs, and grown our medical staff with remarkable and talented new faculty, residents, and fellows. Our world-class physicians, researchers, technicians, and support staff work collaboratively in state-of-the-art facilities that have become increasingly accessible throughout the Philadelphia region, the nation, and beyond.

This issue's cover story (pages 2 and 3) will introduce you to four new attending physicians. Each of these bright, dedicated faculty members brings a unique set of skills and expertise, not to mention groundbreaking research. We are so impressed with the breadth and depth of their backgrounds and feel so fortunate that they have joined our ranks.

Speaking of talent and research, on page 1, you'll meet Kammi B. Gunton, MD, our new Chief of Pediatric Ophthalmology. Dr. Gunton, a member of the pediatric service since 2003, shares her observations, goals, and findings of her nationally recognized research on the ophthalmic impact of virtual schooling on children.

Our long-standing Wills Eye Ball tradition returned on June 25 at The Union League of Philadelphia (page 4). Our first in-person gala since 2019 (due to the pandemic), there were over 300 people in attendance as we honored renowned

surgeons Robert S. Bailey Jr., MD, Mark H. Blecher, MD, and the Cataract and Primary Eye Care Service.

And Thomas Brown II (story on page 5), was thrilled to relay his life-changing experience as a patient of Dr. Bailey's. The Philadelphia-based musician/church organist is so grateful for the care provided by Dr. Bailey and the Wills Eye staff, he is spreading the word throughout his community about the value of medical intervention in preserving vision.

As an academic institution, we look at endings and beginnings. This past June, we celebrated the graduation of

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our Resident and Fellowship Class of 2022 (photos on page 5). We are proud to witness these dedicated young physicians take their Wills experience onto their next chapter. We are confident that the education and training they received at Wills has prepared them for their new careers in ophthalmology. We wish them all the very best and much success!

Yet, as we bid farewell to our graduates, we also welcome the Resident Class of 2025. These eight impressive physicians began their Wills training in July. We are also proud to welcome the Class of 2026, who will begin their Post Graduate Year 1 at Jefferson.

We are very excited to see what this next academic year holds and wish you and your family a wonderful Fall! 🍂

Eye Level

NEWS & VIEWS FROM
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On the Cover (Clockwise, from top left): Lauren E. Hock, MD; Jordan D. Deaner, MD; Girard College students with Ralph C. Eagle Jr., MD; Sarah Michelson, MD; Wills Eye Ball honorees Mark H. Blecher, MD, and Robert S. Bailey Jr., MD, with Julia A. Haller, MD, and Douglas M. Wisner, MD; Jeffrey F. McMahon, MD.