

# Wills Eye Ball Honors CPEC Leaders

## RAISES FUNDS FOR CPEC & RESIDENT EDUCATION

More than 300 guests enjoyed an evening of glitz and glamour at the Wills Eye Ball on June 25th at The Union League of Philadelphia. The first in-person gala since 2019 (due to the pandemic), the event celebrated the Cataract and Primary Eye Care (CPEC) Service and honored two of its long-time leaders and renowned surgeons Robert S. Bailey Jr., MD, and Mark H. Blecher, MD. Funds raised will benefit the CPEC Service and the Wills resident education program. ■■



▲ Robert S. Bailey Jr., MD, (third from right) and Mark H. Blecher, MD (fourth from right), are presented with Wills Eye Bowls. (With them, from left): Joseph P. Bilson, CEO; Janine G. Tabas, MD, Co-Director, CPEC; Christina McGowan, MD, Co-Director and Medical Director, CPEC; Julia A. Haller, MD, Ophthalmologist-in-Chief; Douglas M. Wisner, MD, Chief, CPEC.



▲ Emcee Stephanie Stahl, CBS3 and The CW Philly's Emmy award-winning health reporter.



▲ From left: Samir N. Patel, MD; Anthony Obeid, MD, MPH; Dilru Amarasekera, MD; Charles Brodowski, MD; Matthew Pieters, MD; Shaza Al-Holou, MD; Lindsay Machen, MD; Michael Abendroth, MD, MBA.



▲ From left: Board of Directors of City Trusts members Dominic A. Sabatini, Wills Eye Committee Chair; Bernard W. Smalley, Esq., President; Charles M. Gibbs, Esq.; Hon. Mark F. Squilla; Joseph P. Bilson, Wills CEO.

## George L. Spaeth, MD, Glaucoma Service Director Emeritus, Inducted into ASCRS Hall of Fame

In April 2022, George L. Spaeth, MD, was inducted into the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS) Hall of Fame. He also received the annual *EnergEYES Award*, presented by the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) to the person that most energizes young, rising ophthalmologists. Well-deserved honors!!



George L. Spaeth, MD

## Melanoma-Eye Plaque Program with Jefferson Reaches Milestone

The world-renowned Wills Eye plaque radiotherapy program that treats ocular melanoma, a rare form of cancer, has been in place for over 50 years and is the gold standard of care. The program's partnership with Jefferson, established in 2019, recently reached a 500-procedure milestone.

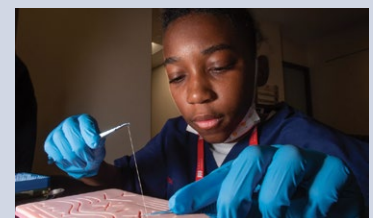
### Congratulations to:

**Ajay E. Kuriyan, MD**, of the Retina Service and Mid Atlantic Retina, on receiving two highly competitive research grants: the Alcon Research Institute's Young Investor Award and the Macula Society's Mills and Margaret Cox Research Award.

**Sonia Mehta, MD**, and **Jason Hsu, MD**, of the Retina Service and Mid Atlantic Retina, on being named to the incoming class of the American Academy of Ophthalmology's (AAO) Leadership Development Program.

**Natasha Nayak Kolomeyer, MD**, of the Glaucoma Service, who was selected as an emerging leader in the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Women's Leadership Development Program.

## Planting Seeds for the Future



On the evening of April 25, Wills Eye physicians introduced the 7th-grade class from Philadelphia's Girard College to the field of ophthalmology. The program builds on the Fall 2022 *Planting Seeds* outreach initiative held at the hospital. After listening to the career journeys of Julia A. Haller, MD, and Leslie Brown, MD, students donned personalized scrubs and proceeded to the William Maul Measey Ophthalmic Surgical Training (MOST) Lab. Hands-on activities included suturing artificial skin, performing ultrasonography and slit lamp exams, and inserting artificial lenses in training eyes to simulate cataract surgery.

A new pathology rotation was introduced by renowned ocular pathologist Ralph C. Eagle Jr., MD. He taught eye anatomy and microscopy and worked with the students to diagnose tumors and eye cancers.

Wills Eye hopes to see many of these young people as future colleagues.