
From **Our Leaders**



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Greetings and welcome to the Winter 2022/2023 issue of *Eye Level*. We want to wish everyone a very happy, healthy New Year!

This is also an opportune time to express gratitude to our Wills Eye family for all you do to make possible everything achieved over the past year. We would not be where we are today without our entire medical team, administrative staff, friends, and supporters. Together, we ensure that Wills continues to be the world's premier eye hospital, providing our patients with extraordinary care and the latest advances in treatment.

We never lose sight of the hospital's nearly 200-year mission: to care for those in need and improve the quality of life in the Philadelphia community and beyond.

Our 13th annual Give Kids Sight Day (GKSD), held at the hospital on October 15, in partnership with OneSight EssilorLuxottica Vision Foundation, Thomas Jefferson University, and the School District of Philadelphia, is a prime example of our unwavering commitment to our community. We provided free vision screenings to more than 195 uninsured and underinsured children, ages 6 to 17. In early December, 155 children returned to Wills Eye to pick up their two free pairs of prescription glasses. Many have appointments for follow-up care with our specialists.

This issue's cover story (pages 2 and 3) takes you behind the scenes with Leslie G. Hyman, PhD, Vice Chair of Research and Director of the Vickie and Jack Farber Vision Research Center at Wills Eye, and her work with the American Academy of Ophthalmology's IRIS® Registry. Wills is one of just four institutions chosen to be part of this collaborative consortium. Dr. Hyman and her research team have already completed several studies, laying the "big data" building blocks to advance this novel field of ophthalmology.

On page 1, meet Ajay E. Kuriyan, MD, of the Wills Eye Retina Service and Mid Atlantic Retina. He is the recipient of three highly competitive research grants and was one of the big clan of Wills honorees named to the "40 Under 40" by *Ophthalmology Management*.

Our courageous patient, Kristy Lafferty (page 4), shares her inspiring story of coming to Wills Eye and Drs. Haller and Reza after years of struggling with diabetic retinopathy.

And on page 5, you'll learn about the generosity of Dr. Peter and Ruth Laibson, in the form of a newly established

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endowed lecture, inaugurated this past October during our “Controversies in Cornea” Saturday Update.

We are filled with pride over the commitment and caliber of our staff, including the addition in 2022 of four new attending physicians and an amazing class of both residents and fellows. Wills Eye continues to attract the best and the brightest!

In addition to record-breaking clinical successes, in the last fiscal year, our faculty published more than 180 research papers, dozens of book chapters, and hundreds of abstracts.

Looking ahead to the coming year, we anticipate groundbreaking research advances, and innovations in diagnostic and surgical technologies. Wills Eye continues to lead the world in the fight to enhance and preserve sight.

Wishing you the very best of health in 2023! ■■■