



# Viewpoint

Spring/Summer 2005

## Seeing the Future of Vision Research

**Herbert Irving is a wise man.** He shares Dr. Stanley Chang's desire to accelerate vision care and treatment through translational research, and is putting his faith and resources into making that vision possible.

The New York City philanthropist is the retired co-founder and Vice Chairman of SYSCO Corporation, the largest marketer and distributor of foodservice products in the United States. Mr. Irving and his wife Florence serve on the Department of Ophthalmology's Board of Advisors and are honorary chairs of Columbia University Medical Center's *Defining the Future* campaign. They are among CUMC's leading benefactors, having provided funding for construction and ongoing research at

*con't. page 4*



C. Manley

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Irving

## Burch Professorship to Focus on AMD

"An incomparable team of physicians and scientists—teaching staff and clinical researchers—lies at the heart of an exceptional eye institute," opines Robert L. Burch, speaking about his commitment to endow the new ophthalmology professorship that bears his name.

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# View From the Chair

*Dear Friends,*

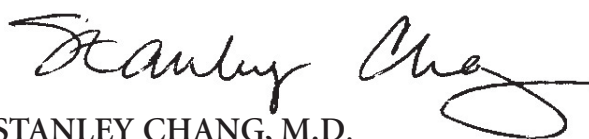
Like bulbs planted in the fall, efforts began months ago are now beginning to bloom. In this issue of *Viewpoint*, I am delighted to share news of some of the most exciting recent developments in the Department of Ophthalmology.

Thanks to the generosity of **Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Irving** and **Mr. Robert L. Burch III**, we are primed to launch a major initiative in translational vision research. The Irvings have committed substantial support to create the **Florence and Herbert Irving Translational Vision Research Laboratory** in the research annex on the fourth floor of the Harkness Eye Institute. Translational research connects scientific discovery in the laboratory to practical clinical problems encountered in the office. Equally important is Mr. Burch's endowment of the **Robert L. Burch III Professorship of Ophthalmology**. Recruitment is now underway to engage a renowned clinician-scientist for this professorship to lead the Department's translational research efforts and continue Columbia's long tradition of groundbreaking clinical research in ophthalmology.

Other bright flowers in our garden include an endowed professorship honoring **Dr. John Wilson Espy** given by his daughter and son-in-law, **Burwell and Paul C. Schorr IV**, as well as the recent announcement that **Dr. Stephen Tsang** has been awarded a very prestigious three-year career grant from the **Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology**.

As always, we are deeply grateful to each of you for your support of our Annual Fund. Your gifts make possible our tremendous successes in research, education and patient care, and we are deeply grateful for your belief in our efforts and our vision. Thank you!

With all good wishes to you and yours,



STANLEY CHANG, M.D.

K.K. Tse and Ku Teh Ying Professor  
Edward S. Harkness Professor  
Chairman, Department of Ophthalmology



Stanley Chang, M.D.

## Burch Professorship to Focus on AMD *(con't. from page 1)*

"I consider it a privilege to provide this support to ensure that the Department of Ophthalmology will continue to attract the very best people."

Recruitment efforts are now underway to select an eminent physician-scientist to occupy the prestigious Robert L. Burch III Professorship of Ophthalmology. This individual will direct research at the new Florence and Herbert Irving Translational Vision Research Laboratory (see page 1). Research in the new facility will focus on refining and applying cutting-edge treatments for age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and diabetic retinopathy. In fact, it is AMD that first brought Robert Burch and Dr. Stanley Chang together.

"Stanley Chang is patient-oriented to the 'nth' degree," notes Mr. Burch. "He has an extraordinary sense of integrity when it comes



C. Manley

*con't. page 6* Robert L. Burch III

## Laser Pioneer to Deliver Dunnington Lecture



C. Manley

Francis L'Esperance, Jr., M.D.

**"Dr. Dunnington gave me my first laser,"** explains Francis L'Esperance, Jr., M.D., speaking of his mentor with emotion in his voice. "It all started at Columbia. Ninety percent of all medical applications for lasers started right here, in the Department of Ophthalmology."

Dr. L'Esperance has been selected to deliver this year's prestigious Dunnington Lecture at the Columbia-Cornell combined Alumni Meeting in May. Dr. L'Esperance will speak about diabetic retinopathy, the disease that led him to first explore laser technology. The lecture itself is named for Dr. John H. Dunnington, the Director of the Edward S. Harkness Eye Institute and Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology from 1945 until his retirement in 1959.

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## Seeing the Future of Vision Research *(con't. from page 1)*

CUMC's Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Care Center. Columbia University Medical Center has provided Mr. Irving with excellent care over the years, and he is especially grateful to Drs. Stanley Chang and Richard Braunstein for the care he is now receiving through the Department of Ophthalmology.



Stanley Chang, M.D. and  
Richard Braunstein, M.D.

"We have been very fortunate, and we believe that it is so important to give back," asserts Mr. Irving, speaking about the significant commitment he and Mrs. Irving have made to the Department of

Ophthalmology. "Simply put, I am a satisfied customer. I have a great deal of appreciation for what Dr. Chang and Dr. Braunstein have done for me and many other patients, and a tremendous amount of respect for all their endeavors."

A major portion of the Irvings' gift to Ophthalmology is earmarked for renovating the research annex of the fourth floor of the Harkness Eye Institute to create the state-of-the-art Florence and Herbert Irving Translational Vision Research Laboratory. The remainder of the gift will support the development of programs in translational research, which transforms basic science research findings into new treatments for patients.

"This is an extremely important program that will have direct impact on people suffering from age-related macular degeneration. AMD is the leading cause of blindness among the elderly," notes Dr. Stanley Chang, Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology and Edward S. Harkness Professor. "We are deeply indebted to the Irvings for making possible this state-of-the-art facility. It will enable us to bring innovative treatments from development to application more quickly, giving new hope to those suffering from vision loss from both AMD and diabetic retinopathy."

Research will focus on angiogenesis—the abnormal growth of blood vessels in the retina that leads to vision loss. The goal is to perfect treatments that target the abnormal growth while leaving healthy blood vessels intact. Research in the new lab will be conducted under the direction of the individual named to the Robert L. Burch III Professorship of Ophthalmology (see page 1).

The remainder of the Irving gift will be invested in additional fellowship support, and to expand corneal and cataract research projects, led by Dr. Richard E. Braunstein, Director of Refractive Surgery and Laser Vision Correction and the Miranda Wong Tang Associate Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology.

Dr. Braunstein appreciates the Irvings' broad approach. "Their gift is of enormous significance to the field of ophthalmology, and especially to vision research here at the Harkness Eye Institute. We are extremely grateful for their support."

## Gift of a Lifetime

**When John Wilson Espy, M.D.** arrived at the home of his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Paul C. Schorr IV, for Christmas Eve dinner, he never expected the tremendous gift he was about to receive.

In honor of Dr. Espy's distinguished career as a clinician and educator in the field of ophthalmology, the Schorrs have established the John Wilson Espy, M.D. Professorship of Ophthalmology. The Espy Professorship will attract a leading ophthalmologist with exceptional clinical skills, professionalism and integrity, and a commitment to research and teaching in the field of ophthalmology and vision science as epitomized by Dr. Espy.

"The news took me by complete surprise, and brought tears to my eyes," recalls Dr. Espy. "I feel very humbled by this honor, and am so touched that Burwell and Chip chose to support the Department of Ophthalmology in such a meaningful way."

Dr. Espy's medical career began in 1960 with his residency in the Department of Ophthalmology. With particular expertise in the anterior segment of the eye, external disease, cataracts and contact lenses, Dr. Espy directed the Harkness Eye Institute's contact lens clinic for 25 years, from its inception in 1963 until 1988. Today he continues to teach and see patients, and also serves as the Chairman of the faculty committee for the

Department's capital campaign, encouraging his colleagues to join in providing the financial support so critical to educational and research activities.

Dr. Stanley Chang deeply values Dr. Espy's historical perspective and clinical expertise.

"The Schorrs' endowment of this professorship is a fitting tribute to Dr. Espy's lifetime commitment to excellence, compassion and the use of technology in vision research and care. His contributions to Columbia and to the field of ophthalmology remain invaluable. He is a wonderful role model for young physicians."

For Mr. and Mrs. Schorr, the decision to endow the chair was an easy one. "Once we heard about the campaign, we knew we wanted to

honor him in this way. My father has dedicated his life to treating his patients and teaching at Columbia," explains Burwell Schorr. "In this day and age, it is so unusual for someone to remain devoted to one institution for 45 years. That kind of loyalty is truly something to be celebrated!"

Mrs. Schorr speaks to Dr. Espy's commitment to the human side of his work. "I remember so clearly sitting in his office as a young child, waiting for him to finish up on Fridays," she adds. "Even at the tender age of five, I was impressed by the compassion and



C. Manley

Burwell Schorr with her father,  
John Wilson Espy, M.D.

## Burch Professorship to Focus on AMD *(con't. from page 3)*

to doing what is in the best interest of the patient. He is doing his utmost to save my sight, and this new program will yield groundbreaking new treatments for AMD."


Dr. Chang echoes Mr. Burch's belief that attracting and keeping the very best people lies at the heart of the Department's work. "The highest caliber of scientists and clinical faculty are necessary for the implementation of clinical trials for cutting-edge treatments," he explains. "Strong retinal specialists are needed for treatment of AMD and diabetic retinopathy—and a strong intellectual community is a must, to delve further into areas of basic science and then apply those findings to ophthalmology."

"The endowment of the professorship is an essential component of the program, and we are delighted to have Bob Burch's generous support," continues Dr. Chang. "The Burch Professorship, combined with the new Irving Translational Vision Research Laboratory,

comprises a package that will attract the top physician-scientists in the United States."

Mr. Burch has great admiration for Dr. Chang's abilities and far-reaching ambitions, saying, "With his superior surgical skill, leadership and commitment to building a premier clinical research facility, Dr. Chang has positioned the Department of Ophthalmology as one of the best in the world. The respect and gratitude I have for Dr. Chang and his team compels me to do all I can to keep them at the forefront of vision research and treatment."


"I am humbled and honored by Mr. Burch's commitment to the professorship," says Dr. Chang. "This position is critical to making our translational vision research program a reality."

Mr. Burch is modest about his contribution. "After all," he says simply, "New York is a world-class city, so it must continue to have a world-class eye institute." 

## Gift of a Lifetime *(con't. from page 5)*

care with which my father treated his patients, and how much that meant to them."

Mrs. Schorr's sentiments are echoed by her husband. "It just seemed to be the right thing to do. Columbia is such a big part of my father-in-law's life—second only to his family," noted Chip Schorr. "Teaching is paramount for him, and endowing the professorship is a way to honor both the man and the value he places on education."

Thanks to the insight of a justifiably proud daughter and son-in-law, Dr. Espy is the recipient of a gift truly befitting his commitment to the field of ophthalmology. Further, the Schorrs have given a tremendous gift to countless patients and future ophthalmologists by honoring Dr. Espy with this generous tribute, ensuring the academic mission of the Department of Ophthalmology. 

# Reading the Living Sphere

"Can we really reproduce the human ability to visualize a three-dimensional image and process the information it provides?" Dr. R. Theodore "Ted" Smith asks, not quite rhetorically. "How can a computer mimic the perceptiveness and reasoning of a human being, who relies on his or her own eyes to evaluate images of other eyes?"

Upon entering Dr. Smith's office in the Harkness Eye Institute, one immediately notices the round mirror on the wall behind his desk. Dr. Smith, an Associate Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, studied mathematics and the differential geometry of spheres at Rice University prior to attending medical school. His particular interest in the eye—a living sphere—led him to ophthalmology. "The symbolism is interesting," admits Dr. Smith with a chuckle.

Dr. Smith's fascination with geometry carries through to his current work in digital image analysis. Dr. Smith and several Columbia ophthalmology and biomedical engineering faculty have developed proprietary computer software that is capable of evaluating digital

images of living eyes to screen more quickly and efficiently for signs of age-related macular degeneration (AMD), the leading cause of blindness among people over the age of 60. Based on a geometric algorithm, the software boasts an accuracy rate that rivals evaluations performed by retinal specialists.

Until now, AMD screenings (and other retinal analyses) have been performed manually by retinal specialists who evaluate photographs of the fundus of the eye. By viewing these photographs in stereo pairs, retinal specialists can visu-

alize a three-dimensional approximation of the retina, but must then subjectively determine the size and shape of the affected area of the retina and create manual drawings that correspond with their view of the two images together.

Dr. Smith's team has encountered several challenges and variables in creating the automated grading parameters of the software. The team's methodology includes an analytic model for normalizing the amount of light reflected from the macula (which can affect



R. Theodore "Ted" Smith, M.D.

## Laser Pioneer to Deliver Dunnington Lecture *(con't. from page 3)*

Dr. L'Esperance, whose own distinguished career at Columbia is in its forty-fifth year, describes Dr. Dunnington as a remarkable man who profoundly affected his career and life.

"From the first day I arrived at Columbia in 1960 until the time of his death in 1977, Dr. Dunnington was a mentor to me," recalls Dr. L'Esperance. Dr. Dunnington is best known for his research on corneal wound healing, which formed the basis for successful cataract surgery during the second half of the twentieth century. "He really was the most influential person in my professional life, and not a day goes by that I don't think of something that I learned from him."


It was in 1963 that Dr. Dunnington provided Dr. L'Esperance with a commercially available ruby laser to treat patients with diabetic retinopathy. Dr. L'Esperance eventually determined that the eye did not absorb the red light of the ruby laser quickly enough, and theorized that a blue-green laser would yield better results. Almost immediately thereafter, he learned from a patient that her brother-in-law, a physicist at Bell Labs in New Jersey, had just developed an argon (blue) laser.



John H. Dunnington, M.D.  
1894-1977

"This was a 'Eureka!' moment for me—I could not believe my ears. Within the hour I was on the phone to Bell Labs," Dr. L'Esperance notes. Physicists there collaborated with him to develop a method to deliver the energy of the argon laser safely to the eye and to design an argon laser for use at the Harkness Eye Institute. After further refinement and experimentation, Dr. L'Esperance began using the argon laser to treat his diabetic retinopathy patients in 1968.

In fact, Dr. L'Esperance's use of laser technology to treat the eye was the first application of the laser in the entire medical field. "It is so fitting," reflects Dr. L'Esperance, "that treatment of the eye—the 'organ of light'—was the first medical application of the laser. The laser 'enlightened' the entire field of medicine."

According to Dr. Stanley Chang, "Dr. L'Esperance is the embodiment of all that Dr. Dunnington stood for, and is a natural choice to serve as keynote speaker this year." He continues, "Laser technology has revolutionized the treatment of eye disease over the last four decades, and we are proud to honor Dr. L'Esperance's tremendous and pioneering contributions to the field of ophthalmology." 



## Saving Sight in Harlem

"**Columbia's glaucoma screening** program at Harlem Hospital outperforms every other glaucoma screening center in the country," declares Eleanor Beers, Regional Director of the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation. The Foundation, which funds glaucoma screenings throughout the United States, is the active arm of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus. The Caucus was founded in 1999 by members of Congress including Charles Rangel (D-Manhattan) and Ed Towns (D-Brooklyn) of New York, with the mission of helping Americans prevent glaucoma and other eye diseases.

Studies have shown that African-American, Hispanic and elderly individuals have the highest risk of developing glaucoma. Other major risk factors include family history, diabetes and hypertension. In 2004, with seed funding from the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation, Harlem Hospital (an affiliate division of CUMC) reached over 1,000 individuals in the surrounding community with free glaucoma screening and subsequent treatment through the pilot Save Sight program.

Dr. R. Linsy Farris, Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology at CUMC and Chief of Ophthalmology at Harlem Hospital Medical Center, explains. "With the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation's first grant, we launched an aggressive glaucoma screening effort. We began with a marathon screening during Black History Month and saw 250 people in one day. We now perform

glaucoma screening at the hospital monthly, and bring our equipment out in the community for screenings two to three times a month." The program is much needed—some 50% of those screened at Harlem Hospital are referred to the Harkness Eye Institute or other providers for further testing. Nationwide, the percentage of those screening positive for glaucoma is about 32%.

Based on the impressive results of the pilot program, the Foundation has awarded the Department of Ophthalmology a second, significantly larger grant for glaucoma screenings at Harlem Hospital. Dr. Farris is grateful. "These additional funds will accelerate our efforts and also allow us to track those to whom we have provided referrals to ensure the necessary treatment has been obtained."

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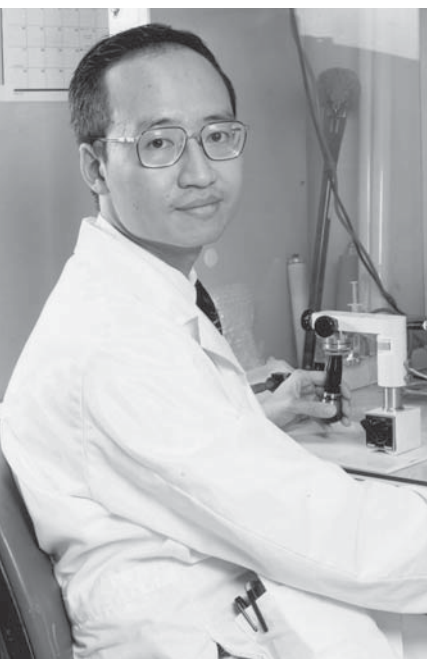


C. Manley

L to R: Rajendra Bansal, M.D.; James C. Tsai, M.D.; Eleanor Beers; R. Linsy Farris, M.D.; Alma Rangel; Max Forbes, M.D.; Milton Delerme, M.D.

## Tsang Awarded AUPO Grant

**Stephen Tsang, M.D., Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology and Hoffman Scholar with CUMC's Ophthalmology Department, has been selected to receive the second **Becker/RPB/AUPO Physician-Scientist Award**. Established and funded by the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology, with support from Bernard Becker, M.D. and Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc., this coveted award is given to an outstanding clinician research scientist in ophthalmology and visual science. Dr. Tsang will receive \$100,000 each year for three years to support supervised research integrating didactic studies with laboratory or clinically-based research.



C. Martin, JSEI

Dr. Tsang has studied at Columbia University, Johns Hopkins, and the Jules Stein Eye Institute at University of California at Los Angeles.

Dr. Becker, Professor and Chair Emeritus in Washington University School of Medicine's Department of

Stephen Tsang, M.D., Ph.D.

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# Visionary Lum

## Faculty News

**Rando Allikmets, Ph.D.** and **Janet Sparrow, Ph.D.** are conducting basic research in age-related macular degeneration through generous gifts to the Department of Ophthalmology from the **Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Foundation**, the **Jehiel R. Elyachar Foundation** and the **Kaplan Foundation**. Dr. Allikmets is the Research Director of the Harkness Eye Institute, Director of the Molecular Genetics Laboratory and the William and Donna Acquavella Associate Professor of Ophthalmic Science (in Ophthalmology and Pathology & Cell Biology). Dr. Sparrow is Director of the Retinal Cell Biology Laboratory and Professor of Ophthalmic Science (in Ophthalmology and Pathology & Cell Biology).

**James Drake Auran, M.D.**, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, has joined Columbia Ophthalmology Consultants, the faculty practice of the Department of Oph-

# Series & Seminaries



Rando Allikmets, Ph.D.



Janet Sparrow, Ph.D.

thalmology at CUMC. A 1983 graduate of Cornell University Medical College with a B.A. in Biology from Harvard College, Dr. Auran has been associated with the Department of Ophthalmology since 1988.

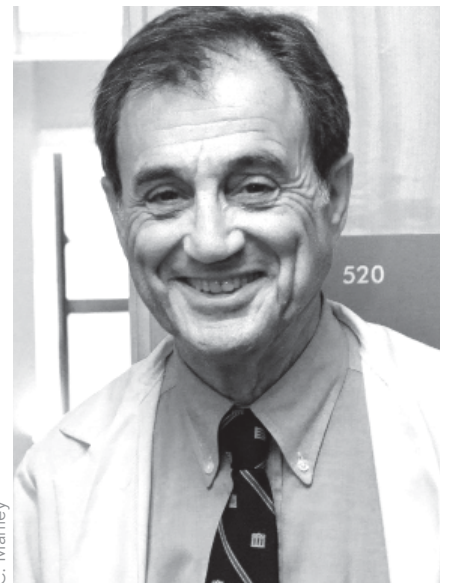
**Stanley Chang, M.D.**, Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology and Director of the Edward S. Harkness Eye Institute, Edward S. Harkness Professor and K.K. Tse and Ku Teh Ying Professor, led a well-

attended February conference on "Clinical Application of Optical Coherence Tomography," with assistance from Kevin Langton, C.R.A, Director of Ophthalmic Imaging. **Joel S. Schuman, M.D.** of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center was a guest presenter.

**Stephen Lewis Trokel, M.D.**, Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology, Vice Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology and Director of Columbia Vision Correction, was honored at the joint meeting of the **American Academy of Ophthalmology** and the **European Society of Ophthalmology** in October. Dr. Trokel, along with **Jan Worst, M.D.**, of The Netherlands, participated in a special symposium on refractive surgery in honor of the late Jose Barraquer, M.D., a pioneer in the development of refractive surgery. At the symposium, Dr. Trokel and Dr.

Worst were recognized for their continued development of this technique. Dr. Trokel is widely regarded as one of the twentieth century's most influential ophthalmologists—

he was the first ophthalmologist to recognize the significance of the excimer laser for use in corneal refractive surgery.

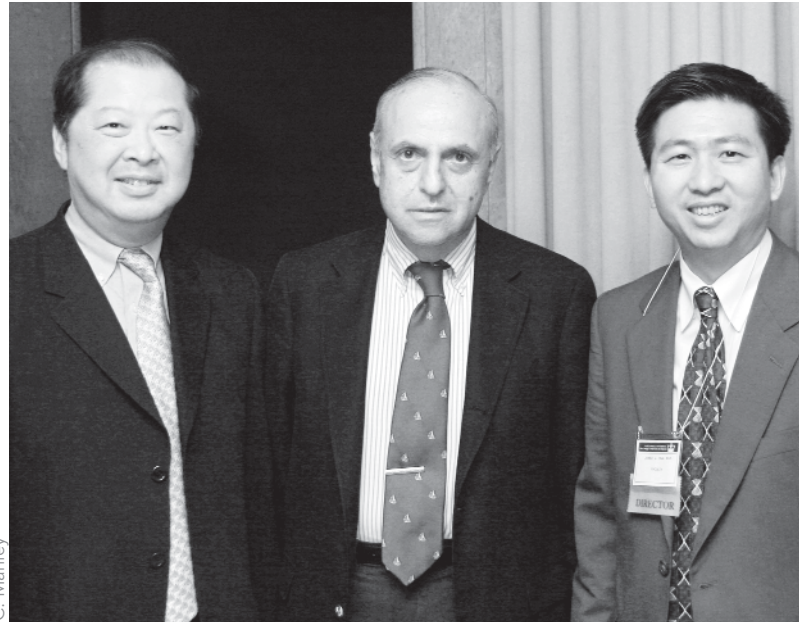


Stephen Lewis Trokel, M.D.

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## Faculty News *(con't. from page 11)*

**James C. Tsai, M.D.**, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, Homer McK. Rees Scholar in Glaucoma Research and Director of the Glaucoma Division, is organizing Columbia's second annual "**New Frontiers in Clinical Glaucoma**" conference, scheduled for November 11-12, 2005 at the New York Academy of Medicine. **Douglas R. Anderson, M.D.**, a Professor at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at the University of Miami, will deliver the **Second Annual Max Forbes Lectureship in Glaucoma**. The lecture is named in honor of Max Forbes, M.D., Emeritus Professor of Ophthalmology and Clinical Lecturer at CUMC, who led the Glaucoma Division for more than thirty years and was a co-founder of the American Glaucoma Society.



C. Manley

Stanley Chang, M.D., Max Forbes, M.D., and James C. Tsai, M.D. at the inaugural "New Frontiers" conference in 2004.



C. Manley

Lynda Kleiman, M.D.

**Lynda Kleiman, M.D.**, currently a Fellow in Cornea and External Disease working with Dr. Richard Braunstein and Dr. George Florakis, will also join Columbia Ophthalmology Consultants upon completion of her Fellowship this summer.

Dr. Kleiman completed her undergraduate studies at Emory University, a post-baccalaureate premedical program at New York University and earned her M.D. from Tulane University School of Medicine. After interning in internal medicine at Cabrini Medical Center in New York, she served as a resident in ophthalmology at Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital.



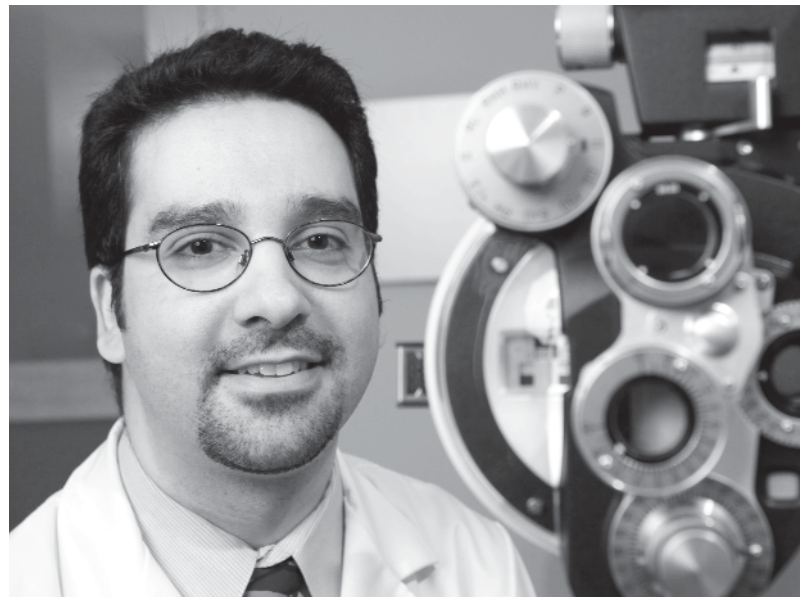
## New Flanzer Fellow

**Reza Iranmanesh, M.D.** is a Post Doctoral Clinical Fellow in Vitreoretinal Surgery and an Assistant in Clinical Ophthalmology at the Eye Institute. A native of Iran who grew up in California, he earned a B.S. in Psychobiology from the University of California at Los Angeles and his M.D. from St. Louis University School of Medicine.

Dr. Iranmanesh completed an internship in the Transitional Residency Program at the University of Hawaii, followed by three years as a Resident in Ophthalmology at the Rocky Mountain Eye Institute at the University of Colorado Medical Center. At Columbia, Dr. Iranmanesh is working under the direction of Drs. Chang, DelPriore, Barile and Schiff on research and treatment of retinal disorders.

In addition to his work at CUMC, Dr. Iranmanesh is an Assistant Attending in Ophthalmology at the LuEsther T. Mertz Retinal Research Center of Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital and a Visiting Fellow in Ophthalmology at St. Luke's/Roosevelt Hospital Center.

"It is truly a privilege to have the opportunity to be at Columbia, working with people who are both incredible physicians and compassionate human beings. They treat each patient with the same care and concern they would manifest while treating a family member," asserts Dr. Iranmanesh. "This is one of the best fellowships in the country, and will be the foundation for the rest of my career."



Reza Iranmanesh, M.D.

### AUPO Grant *(con't. from page 10)*

Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, extended his personal congratulations to Dr. Tsang. Dr. Tsang notes, "I feel particularly honored to receive this award, which is a tribute to Professor Becker. He is an inspira-

tion to all of us as we endeavor to close the gap between the laboratory and the clinic. This award represents a significant endorsement of our work here."




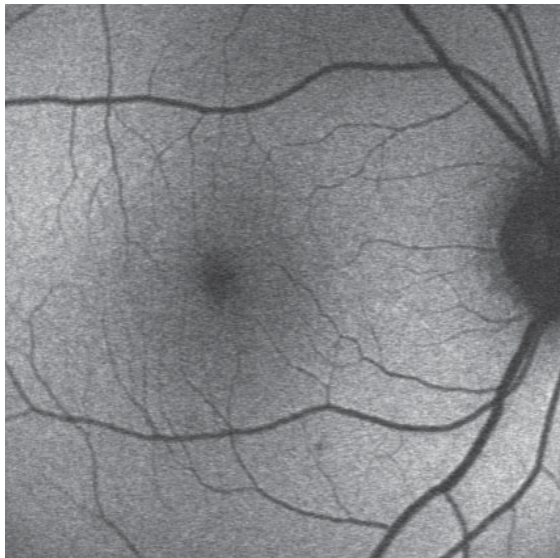
## Reading the Living Sphere *(con't. from page 7)*

the accuracy of the evaluation). The consistency of the computerized grading is still being tweaked, but its accuracy level is no less consistent—and possibly more precise—than is possible with the inherent subjectivity and variability in human grading.

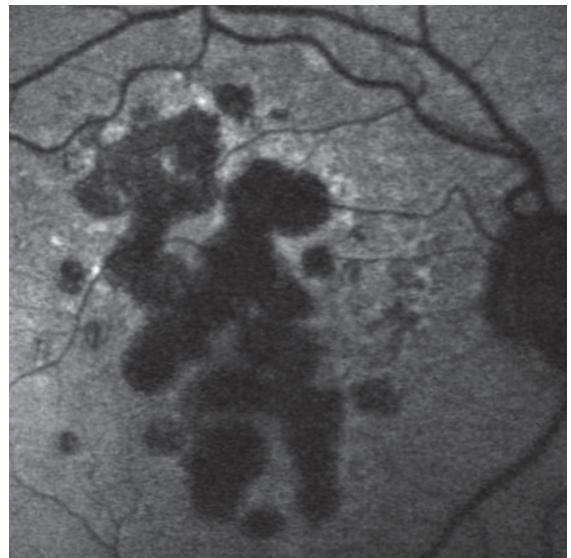
This software is so revolutionary that the research study results were featured in a report that appeared in the February issue of the *Archives of Ophthalmology*. A patent for the technology is in progress, with the goal to

make cost-effective image analysis available to potential AMD patients everywhere, even those who do not have access to a major eye institute with a team of trained specialists.

"We have come full circle," observes Dr. Smith. "While we have come very close to mimicking the brain's ability to interpret the meaning of the images, I never cease to be amazed by the magnificence of the living eye—it is our window to the world." 



**Normal retina:** The optic nerve is on the right and the retinal vessels surrounding the normal macula are in the center. The optic nerve and retinal vessels are normally dark. The background is generally uniform and becomes gradually darker in the center of the macula due to normally increased pigment. The vision is 20/20.



**Retina of a patient with AMD:** The optic nerve is on the right. In this photo, the macular area is obscured by abnormal large black areas where cell death is occurring, surrounded by brighter areas containing excessive lipofuscin deposits. The vision is 20/200 (legally blind).

## Saving Sight in Harlem *(con't. from page 9)*

Stanley "Bud" Grant, President of the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation, notes, "The program at Harlem Hospital took off like a skyrocket with our first grant. The need there is substantial, and the staff works tirelessly to identify those most at risk for glaucoma and offer them the care they need with compassion and reassurance."

Ms. Beers agrees. "I cannot say enough good things about Dr. Linsy Farris, Dr. Milton Delorme and their colleagues. The love and care they demonstrate to the patients is remarkable. They work hours on end to ensure that these screenings benefit as many people as possible." Ms. Beers continues, "It's hard to imagine how devastating it can be to learn that you may be in danger of losing your eyesight. The Harlem Hospital team treats people with the utmost degree of professionalism, dignity and care. There is always a doctor on hand to reassure people as they go through the process. It truly is a model program."

Congressman Rangel also expresses his deep commitment to Columbia's Save Sight glaucoma screening efforts for at-risk populations in his district. He affirms, "I am extremely appreciative to Bud Grant, President and CEO of the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation, and Eleanor Beers for their unwavering commit-

ment, and for making this grant available to Harlem Hospital. This generous grant to the Department of Ophthalmology will support the Department's excellent glaucoma outreach program of screenings, early detection and treatment, and expand the important work being done under the leadership of Dr. Linsy Farris, Dr. Milton Delorme, Sylvia White and the entire ophthalmology team at Harlem Hospital. I applaud the tremendous job that they are doing to preserve sight and improve the quality of life for so many individuals and families, who might otherwise be blinded and devastated by glaucoma."

Ms. Beers concludes, "Witnessing a screening at the Ronald Brown Building [at Harlem Hospital] is a very moving experience. Congressman Rangel's wife, Alma Rangel, attended a screening in December to formally present the new grant. Friends who accompanied her to the event were so impressed that they now serve as intake volunteers! It's very rewarding work."

Of the accolades for the Save Sight program and his caring team at Harlem Hospital, Dr. Farris humbly remarks, "Here, everyone counts. As a staff, we work as a team, with everyone on the same level. We have one purpose—to provide the best care possible to every patient."



Bud Grant with  
Congressman Charles Rangel

# Viewpoint

*The Department of Ophthalmology & The Edward S. Harkness Eye Institute at*  
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