



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

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EDWARD S. HARKNESS EYE INSTITUTE

2023 / 2024 FACT SHEET

OUR MISSION

The Department of Ophthalmology, Edward S. Harkness Eye Institute, at Columbia University Irving Medical Center is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in clinical care, research, and education within the field of ophthalmology and vision science. Our mission is ***to be the leading international center for innovative clinical care of eye disorders, to advance medical knowledge through cutting-edge research, and to train the leaders of tomorrow in ophthalmology and vision science.***

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

The Department of Ophthalmology is a leading international center for the management of sight-threatening diseases and disorders and scientific exploration to elucidate disease mechanisms and discover novel treatments. These aspirations are realized through seamless collaboration between our outstanding physicians and talented scientists. We also train ophthalmologists and scientists to be the future leaders in the field.

For more than 150 years, the Department has maintained its position at the forefront of advances in vision care. Departmental faculty members, both physicians and researchers, have worked together on pioneering projects to identify new treatments for eye diseases. Some of our major contributions include:

- first successful corneal transplant in the U.S.
- first use of lasers in medicine and retinal surgery
- development of the excimer laser for correction of nearsightedness and astigmatism
- development of perfluorocarbon liquids and surgical techniques for complicated retinal detachments
- introduction of Xalatan, an eye drop widely prescribed for the treatment of glaucoma
- discovery of Factors H and B, two significant genes associated with age-related macular degeneration.

DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

53



Full-Time Clinical and Research Faculty

300+



Faculty and Staff

16



Ophthalmology Residents

8



Clinical Fellows

10



Postdoctoral Fellows and Scientists

100,000+



Annual Patient Visits

5,000+



Surgeries Performed Annually

15



Principal Investigators

40+



Clinical Trials

\$63 Million



Annual Budget

\$12 Million



Federal Research Funding

Top 10 NIH



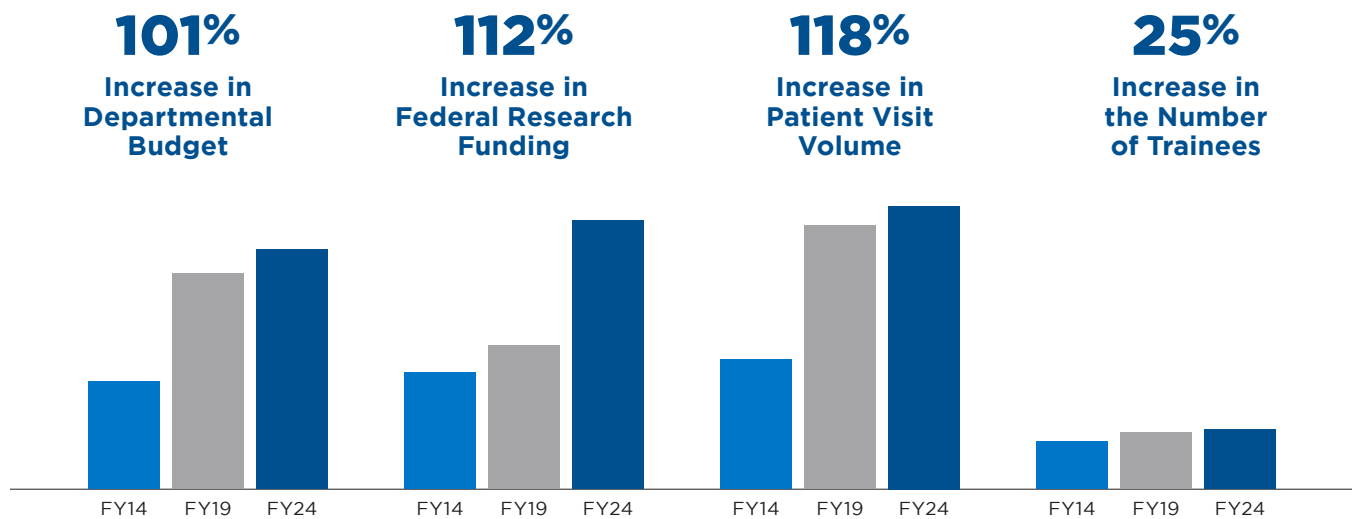
#4-8 in NIH Funding in Vision Science (FY2019-2023)

PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

The Department of Ophthalmology is grateful for the philanthropic contributions that have funded our progress. We currently have **18 endowed Professorships & Directorships, 5 Named Scholars, 4 Endowed Fellowships, and 13 Named Lectureships**, all of which enable us to continue advancing our academic and clinical activities.”

10 YEAR GROWTH

Over the past decade, the Department of Ophthalmology has witnessed remarkable growth, reflective of our commitment to excellence. Key achievements include:



CLINICAL SUB-SPECIALTIES

Our faculty practice covers the full range of subspecialties within ophthalmology, including

- Comprehensive Ophthalmology
- Cornea and Cataract Disorders
- Retina, Vitreous and Macular Disorders
- Glaucoma
- Oculoplastics and Reconstructive Surgery
- Neuro-Ophthalmology
- Optometry
- Ophthalmic Oncology
- Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus
- Refractive Surgery and Laser Vision Correction
- Ophthalmic Genetics
- Uveitis
- Specialized Imaging and Diagnostics

CLINICAL LOCATIONS

Our clinical reach extends across six strategically located centers:

- **Flanzer Eye Center:** Harkness Eye Institute, 635 West 165th Street
- **East Side | Gloria and Louis Flanzer Eye Center:** 880 Third Avenue at 53rd Street
- **West Side | Burch Family Eye Center:** 250 West 64th Street
- **Stephen Ross Pediatric Eye Center:** Children's Hospital of New York, 1965 Broadway
- **Westchester:** 110 Brook Street, Scarsdale, NY
- **Harlem Hospital:** Ronald Brown Pavilion, 46 West 137th Street

RESEARCH

Basic science provides the foundation for the clinical and educational activities of the Department. Our research group encompasses both the research and clinical faculty, and is comprised of basic scientists and clinician-scientists who are actively engaged in research and clinical trials. This strong research team is directed by **15 Principal Investigators who are working in various areas such as genetics, molecular biology, cellular biology, stem cell research, and organic chemistry**, and taking different approaches to understanding and treating such vision diseases as retinal dystrophies and glaucoma. Our researchers and clinicians work closely in a collaborative effort. Focus is placed on research that can be applied directly to help patients “from bench to bedside.” We have consistently ranked in the top 10 NIH-funded department in the nation for the past 5 years

EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

An integral part of our mission is the training of the next generation of clinical ophthalmologists and research scientists. We have established strong training programs for students, residents, fellows, scientists and faculty. We offer research fellowships to young PhDs who are starting out in their careers. **Our four-year ophthalmology residency program was recently ranked the #1 ophthalmology residency program in NYC by *Doximity*** and attracts over 600 applicants each year for the four positions. In 2016, with a closer affiliation with Harlem Hospital in northern Manhattan, our residency program expanded from 12 residents to 16 residents. The presence of residents in that location gives our trainees exposure to a wider array of vision problems. The Department also recruits outstanding individuals for our clinical fellowships in retina, cornea, glaucoma, orbital and ophthalmic surgery, neuro-ophthalmology, and pediatric ophthalmology.