Welcome Spring!!

I know we are all happy to see longer days and sunnier weather. For a busy ophthalmology practice, however, spring will also bring many unfortunate eye injuries. I try to never miss an opportunity to educate, so if you are reading this, don’t forget to remind patients and our friends and family members to “Always Wear Eye Protection!” This is especially true with all of the spring time yard work duties and outside projects we are all taking on.

I am excited to report with all of the new buds and blooms outside, the ophthalmology department can also claim a new ophthalmic surgical procedure thanks to Dr. Huang. Congratulations to Bo Huang, MD, for performing the first DMEK surgery in Mississippi! (more included in this issue) And of course we know it takes a team in order to provide good patient care, so a big thank you to everyone who helped to make this a success – from the ones who scheduled the appointment, to the front desk staff who welcomed the patient, to the ophthalmic techs and surgery techs who cared for the patient, to the residents who made sure all went smoothly, to our coding and billing team, who hopefully got appropriate reimbursement for the procedure! See, you didn’t know you were all going to be part of history did you?? It is so important that we treat every patient as if he/she is there for some new, first, exciting procedure, even though most are not. If we keep the attitude that we may be making history with every patient, then we have very satisfied patients. Thank you for all your efforts with this.

Congratulations are in order to the residents as well for taking their OKAP exams and Mock Oral exams. We have a very bright group of residents. They got to celebrate with a crawfish boil at Dr. Burnham’s house (see picture). Now on to finalizing Resident Research Day projects! Everyone mark your calendars for our annual Resident Graduation dinner. It will be Friday, June 15th at 6:30 pm at River Hills Club. Please come to eat a delicious dinner and formally say good bye to our 4 graduating seniors; Dr. David Kilpatrick, Dr. Ben Pace, Dr. Corey Parish, and Dr. Devin Tran, and very sadly our retina fellow, Dr. Jordan Burnham, who has been here for 6 years!

Thank you to everyone in the department for all of your bright spring smiles and warm and sunny dispositions! Enjoy this time of year and be safe! Thank you for making our department the place where patients feel welcomed.
On February 13th, 2018, Dr. Bo Huang performed the first Descemets Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty (DMEK) in Mississippi. Since 2005 Dr. Huang has performed thousands of Descemet’s stripping automated endothelial keratoplasty (DSEK) surgeries to treat corneal endothelial diseases. DSEK and DMEK are partial thickness corneal transplants which replace primarily the endothelium(innermost portion of the cornea) rather than the full thickness of the cornea (as in standard corneal transplants). DMEK is very similar to DSAEK, except that the donor tissue implanted does not include any stromal tissue. It is a pure replacement of endothelium. As a result, DMEK gives patients better visual results and a quicker recovery.

One day DMEK post-operative eye
Dr. Ching-Jygh Chen hosted Christina Weng, MD, Assistant Professor from Baylor College of Medicine-Cullen Eye Institute for our Ophthalmology Grand Rounds in February.

Dr. Weng’s topic was “The Global Epidemic of Diabetic Retinopathy: Where We Are & Where We Are Going”.

Many thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Chen for ending the day by graciously hosting dinner and the residents’ recital.
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

JANUARY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Litorya Fleming
Medical Office Assistant

Why fit in when you were born to stand out?
Dr. Seuss

FEBRUARY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Dee Phymes
Ophthalmic Surgical Tech

New Ophthalmology Employees

Welcome To The Team!!

Stephanie Fields
Medical Office Assistant

Kaylen "KK" Moore
Ophthalmic Surgical Tech

Stephanie Johnson
Ophthalmic Surgical Tech

Kaitlin Logan
Ophthalmic Surgical Tech
EPIC DOUBLE UPGRADE LISTENING SESSION

From left to right: Jonathan Feng, MD; Erin Peterson, MD; Jonathan Carrere, MD; Kevin Mays, MD; Albert Lin, MD; Sean Carter, MD; Devin Tran, MD; Clayton Patrick, MD; Lee Jones, MD; Jordan Burnham, MD; William Watkins, MD; John Bulllock, MD; Ben Pace, MD; Corey Parish, MD; Sneh Dhannawat, MD; David Kilpatrick, MD; and John Green, MD.

ANNUAL RESIDENTS’ CRAWFISH BOIL 2018

From left to right: Bobbie Beard, AOD; Terri Walker, Access Training Manager; Dominique Butler, Medical Office Assistant; Demetrius “MeMe” Smith, Ophthalmic Surgical Tech; Kimberly Burley, Epic Optimization Manager.
KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR NEXT QUARTER’S EVENTS

April:
- ASCRS: 4/13-4/17
- AAO Mid Year Forum: 4/18-4/21
- CFAS Spring meeting
- ARVO: 4/29-5/2

May:
- Honors Day: 5/4
- Commencement: 5/25
- Memorial Day: 5/28

June:
- Residents’ Research Day: 6/15
- Residents’ Graduation Dinner: 6/15

FACULTY:
Kimberly Crowder, M.D., Chair — Comprehensive
Ching-Jygh Chen, M.D. — Retina
Federico Gonzalez-Fernandez, M.D. — Ocular Pathology / VA
Bo Huang, M.D., Ph.D. — Cornea
Nils Mungan, M.D. — Pediatric
Rosanna Bahadur, M.D. — Cornea / VA
Lola Idowu, M.D. — Glaucoma
Kyle Lewis, M.D. — Ocular-plastics
Rajesh Sharma, M.D. — Neuro Ophthalmology
Jay Craddock, M.D. — Glaucoma
Albert Lin, M.D. — Retina
Michael Palmer, M.D. — Comprehensive / VA
Brian Tieu, M.D., Ph.D. — Retina / VA
William Watkins, M.D. — Comprehensive
John Green, M.D. — Comprehensive / VA
Larry Parker, M.D. — Neuro Ophthalmology / VA
Charles Sherwood, M.D. — Comprehensive / VA
Kevin Kosek, M.D. — Comprehensive / VA
John Burnham, M.D. — Instructor/Retina Fellow

RESIDENTS:
David Kilpatrick — PGY4
Ben Pace — PGY4
Corey Parish — PGY4
Devin Tran — PGY4
Jack Bullock — PGY3
Jonathan Carrere — PGY3
Jorge Jimenez — PGY3
Sneh Dhannawat — PGY2
Jonathan Feng — PGY2
Lee Jones — PGY2
Jeffrey St. John — PGY2
Sean Carter — PGY1
Kevin Mays — PGY1
Clayton Patrick — PGY1
Erin Petersen — PGY1

ADMINISTRATION:
Terry Ables — Department Business Administrator
Fay Beach — Education Administrator
Bobbie Beard — Director of Ambulatory Operations
Joy Hite — Administrative Assistant III