Like so many things that have been put on hold or changed due to the pandemic, it’s been a while since we had an Ophthalmology Department “Newsletter”. The main issue was that social distancing and virtual events do not produce good photo opportunities! I am thankful to see some things, like the newsletter, coming back. However, I know every one of you has been changed and is still changing in response to the happenings of the past 18 months. One of our department members told me “I thought 2020 was bad, but 2021 has really been a doozy!” My heart goes out to those of you who have lost friends or family due to COVID-19. But even if you haven’t experienced a death, I am completely aware that we have all had “losses”. Many of you have lost your sense of community without regular church or social gatherings. Many have lost support systems for your children or families. Some of you have unfortunately lost trust in our healthcare systems. The amazing thing about doing the jobs we do and working in the medical field is even though it is ever changing (and it has changed a lot since March 2020) you are ALWAYS needed. Each and every one of you. Your reassuring voice on the phone makes a patient feel comfortable about coming into the clinic. Your smile (even behind the mask) at the front desk makes patients feel welcomed. Your gentle touch in the exam room makes patients feel safe. Your explanation about patients ophthalmic disease processes makes patients feel listened too. COVID did not make any ophthalmic diseases go away, it only worsened them by adding to the delayed patient presentation issues we already have had in our state. Our roles at UMMC Ophthalmology are unique and absolutely critical to the patients of Mississippi. And on top of fulfilling the patient care need, we get the added bonus of training students and residents for the future of eye care in our state! I am very thankful to each and every one of you for doing the job you do and doing it with a smile for our patients and residents!
Welcome to our new faculty members

Introducing our PGY-I interns/residents

Dr. HongVan Le
Dr. Manasa Gunturu
Dr. Clayton Patrick
Dr. Kevin Mays
Dr. Stuart McFarland
Dr. Adam Vandenlangenberg
Dr. Phillip Qu
Dr. Sarah Grace Sobiesk

PGY-II Residents

Dr. Caleb Senn
Dr. John Dehnel
Dr. Brian Bowden
Dr. Daniel McClung
Ophthalmology Resident Research Day, which was started by Dr. Ching J. Chen in 2001, and Samuel B. Johnson lecture was held on Friday June 18, 2021. Our residents and faculty attended it live with outside Ophthalmologists being invited to attend via WebEx. A former UMMC Ophthalmology resident graduate, Edgar Espana, M.D., Associate Professor and Eminent Scholar Chair in Ophthalmology at the University of South Florida, Department of Ophthalmology was our 21st speaker. Dr. Espana presented a lecture titled Corneal stroma: Collagens, keratocytes and scarring, at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, June 18th. Attendees earned up to 7.0 CME credits and learned about some of the latest ophthalmology research projects ongoing at UMMC.

Dr. Edgar Espana lecture

Dr. Espana presenting Dr. Kevin Mays, who is a PGY4 with the “Best Presentation” award for his research project.

Dr. Will Watkins presenting Dr. John Lippincott, who is a PGY3 with the HONOR AWARD for the resident with the highest score on the 2021 OKAP EXAM.

Dr. Lippincott’s has received the HONOR AWARD for the highest score on the OKAP EXAM two years in a row.
Establishment of Drs. Ching-Jygh and Lin Chen Endowed Chair for Excellence in Ophthalmology

The Ching Jygh and Lin Chen Chair for Excellence in Ophthalmology is being established to honor the dedication and contributions of Drs. C.J. and Lin Chen to the field of Ophthalmology. A native of Taiwan, Dr. Chen arrived at the Medical Center in 1979 as an assistant professor of surgery. Since that time, the department has been the beneficiary of his passion for research to improve treatment and patient outcomes, and his commitment to raising the bar of standards of care. His enthusiasm for education has been evident throughout his tenure at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. To honor Dr. C.J. and Dr. Lin Chen’s commitment to the Department of Ophthalmology and ophthalmological disease research, this professorship will be established to support advancing the field of Ophthalmology research and education.
Dr. Royce Chen honored UMMC Ophthalmology by lecturing at the Ching J. Chen, M.D. during the 2021 Ophthalmology Update.

UMMC Ophthalmology Professor and Chair, Dr. Kimberly Crowder thanks our very special guests, Dr. Ching J. Chen, Professor Emeritus and past Department Chair, and Dr. Royce Chen, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at Columbia University Irving Medical Center.

2021 Ophthalmology Update and the Ching J. Chen, M.D. Lecture
The Ophthalmology Residency Program is a great value to Mississippi.

Our residents learn from the best while in residency.

Everyone is “family”.

Dr. Kimberly Crowder, Dr. John Green, Dr. Albert Lin, and Residents went to the Capitol to explain the importance of training our Residents to perform eye surgery.

PGY4 group: Dr. Taylor Coleman, Dr. John Lippincott, Dr. Blake Matherne, and Dr. Kristina Stanfield. Our upcoming 2022 Graduates.

Residents learn from the faculty and each other during their time in the program.
FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Albert Lin, Assistant Professor was elected to the UMMC Faculty Senate in July, 2021. Dr. Lin is a valued leader in the Ophthalmology Department and the School of Medicine.

First row left to right (Faculty) : Dr. Le, Dr. Craddock, Dr. Mungan, Dr. Lin, Dr. Crowder (Ophthalmology Chair), Dr. Huang, Dr. Newman, Dr. Tieu, Dr. Attar. Second row from left-right: Dr. Bowden-PGY2, Dr. VanDenLangenberg-PGY1, Dr. McFarland-PGY1, Dr. Compton-PGY3, Dr. Petersen-2021 graduate, Dr. Matherne-PGY4, Dr. Carter-2021 graduate, Dr. Baxter-PGY3, Dr. Green-VA Faculty, Dr. Powell-PGY3, Dr. Stanfield-PGY4. Third row left to right: Dr. Sobiesk-PGY1, Dr. Dehnel-PGY2, Dr. Patrick-2021 graduate-now Faculty, Dr. Lippincott-PGY4, Dr. Mays-2021 graduate-now VA Faculty, Dr. Watkins-Faculty, Dr. Coleman-PGY4.
◊ **UPCOMING EVENTS**

◊ 10/4 - Diabetes Walk

◊ 11/5, 11/6, 12/4 - Residency Program Virtual interviews

◊ **11/25-11/26 - THANKSGIVING**

◊ 1/12/2022 - Rank list due

◊ **12/23 – 12/24 - CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY**

◊ 1/13-1/25, 2022 - Optional visits to UMMC Ophthalmology

◊ 1/17/2022 - **MARTIN LUTHER KING BIRTHDAY**

◊ 2/8/2022 - Match results emailed to Program & Applicant

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**FACULTY:**

Kimberly Crowder, M.D., Chair — Comprehensive and Residency Program Director

Ching-Jygh Chen, M.D. — Professor Emeritus

Roya Attar, O.D., MBA — Optometry

Jay Craddock, M.D. — Glaucoma

Manasa Gunturu, M.D. — Neuro-Ophthalmology

Bo Huang, M.D., Ph.D. — Cornea

HongVan Le, M.D. — Pediatric

Kyle Lewis, M.D. — Ocular-plastics

Albert Lin, M.D. — Retina

Nils Mungan, M.D. — Pediatric

Troy Newman, M.D. — Glaucoma

Clayton Patrick, M.D. — Comprehensive

Brian Tieu, M.D., Ph.D. — Retina / VA

William Watkins, M.D.* — Comprehensive

Rosanna Bahadur, M.D. — Cornea / VA

Federico Gonzalez-Fernandez, M.D. — Ocular Pathology / VA

John Green, M.D. — Comprehensive / VA

Kevin Kosek, M.D. — Comprehensive/VA

Kevin Mays, M.D. — Comprehensive/VA

Michael Palmer, M.D. — Comprehensive / VA

Larry Parker, M.D. — Neuro Ophthalmology / VA

Charles Sherwood, M.D. — Comprehensive / VA

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**RESIDENTS:**

Taylor Coleman — PGY4

Blake Matherne — PGY4

Cary Baxter — PGY3

Jonathan Glaze — PGY3

Brian Bowden — PGY2

Daniel McClung — PGY2

Stuart McFarland — PGY1

Sarah Grace Sobiesk — PGY1

Adam VanDenLangenberg — PGY1

John Lippincott — PGY4

Kristina Stanfield — PGY4

Alex Compton— PGY3

Asyvia Powell — PGY3

John Dehnel — PGY2

Caleb Senn — PGY2

Phillip Qu — PGY1

* William Watkins, M.D.— Retina Fellow

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**ADMINISTRATION:**

Scott Wesson — Department Business Administrator

Angela Dennis — Education Administrator

Morgan Ladner — Project Manager I

Joy Hite — Administrative Assistant IV

Bobbie Beard — Director of Ambulatory Operations