

LVC Welcomes New Research Fellow



Dr. Pamela Jeter

Dr. Pamela Jeter joined the Lions Vision Center in January as a post-doctoral fellow with Dr. Gislin Dagnelie and Dr. Ava Bittner. She completed her doctorate in experimental psychology at the University of California in Irvine, where her research focused on visual perceptual learning in healthy adults. Perceptual learning addresses the ability to improve performance with practice in a perceptual task, such as discriminating motion direction. In the future, her background may help play a role in the development of training protocols for retinal prostheses patients. So, with The Wilmer Eye Institute having the largest US cohort of retinal prosthesis patients, the LVC is an ideal setting for her long-term goal to develop future research proposals involving RP subjects.

At present, Dr. Jeter is pursuing an integrated approach for research and alternative therapies, such as yoga, that can have an immediate and comprehensive impact on individuals with visual impairments. Yes, yoga! Dr. Jeter has practiced yoga for many years, has completed teacher training, and has taught blind individuals at the Braille Institute in Los Angeles. Yoga is an integrated system of postures, movement, breath and meditation and is easily implemented regardless of age or level of experience. In collaboration with Drs. Bittner and Dagnelie, this project will increase an understanding of symptoms associated with blindness (e.g. sleep disturbances, mood, and balance) and additionally develop strategies to minimize the impact of visual impairments on quality of life. This places Dr. Jeter's research on the cutting edge of complimentary and alternative therapies for patients with vision loss; and the LVC is pleased to have attracted her attention.

"When it rains...at the LVC"

If you have been following the Lions Vision Center for a few years, then you know that the faculty spends quite a bit of time writing proposals for new research. And that getting those grant proposals funded sometimes feels like playing the lottery, even if the science is good and the plan is solid. Yet even with grant funding the saying "When it rains, it pours" apparently holds, from time to time.

Last year, Dr. Gislin Dagnelie submitted 4 grant applications. Three of these were with companies. With Second Sight Medical Products, the maker of the Argus™ II retinal implant, he applied for a Stimulus Grant, aimed at bringing the retinal implant closer to clinical use by developing evaluation and rehabilitation tools so clinicians can determine how well the device works and help patients put it to the best possible use; you won't be surprised that Drs. Massof, Geruschat, and Goldstein will play important roles in the proposed project. A second proposal, with Dr. Ava Bittner and led by the Results Group in Connecticut, continues the development of a self test system for macular degeneration patients, so they will more quickly discover if there is a "wet" complication and go visit the retina specialist right away. A third proposal, with Advanced Medical Electronics in Minneapolis, aims to develop a touch screen computer that will bring precise vision testing and self-report questionnaires into community settings. The objective of the 4th proposal, directly to the National Eye Institute, is to measure the tiny electrical responses in the retina when a blind patient receives stimulation from a retinal implant.

Over the past 4 months, Dr. Dagnelie received the happy news that all 4 proposals will be funded. After recovering from the shock, he did get a little worried that he might not be able to carry out all the work within the allotted time. But rather than cloning himself (which might be too much of a good thing) he got lucky again: He has found a talented young scientist from the Netherlands (yes, double-Dutch will be spoken at times) to be a postdoctoral fellow for 2 years and his student, Mike Barry who has participated in the retinal implant project for well over a year, will enter the PhD program in Biomedical Engineering at Johns Hopkins and stay involved in the same research. Several other students have also expressed an interest in joining the research teams.

Meanwhile Dr. Dagnelie and his colleagues hope the rain won't stop falling: Dr. Dagnelie has another proposal in the pipeline, submitted to the National Eye Institute in February. And Drs. Massof, Geruschat, Goldstein, Grover, and Jeter have all submitted proposals recently, or will do so shortly. So keep checking the LVC weather report for ongoing precipitation.

WIN A SPLIT SIDE OF ANGUS BEEF

Cut out the ticket below and mail the stub with your name, address and phone number, plus your check for 5.00 payable to the LVRF, and you may win a split side of beef, already wrapped and frozen. Mail the stub to PDG Dalton Mann, 22944 Lyn Oaks Drive, Preston, MD 21655 by May 7. You may also drop your entry at the LVRF exhibit booth at the MD-22 Convention in Dover, DE by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 20. The drawing will be at the Victory Luncheon on Friday, May 21.

Many thanks to Lion Bob Bullock for making this LVRF fundraiser possible.

No: 3200	Name _____	Lions Vision Research Foundation, Inc. Raffle Split Side of Angus Beef, Wrapped and Frozen 4 Winners Drawings: May 21, 2010 Benefit: Lions Vision Research Foundation, Inc. Donation \$5.00	No: 3200
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	Phone _____		



The Multiple District 22
Lions Vision Research Foundation, Inc.
at the Wilmer Eye Institute, the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions
P.O. Box 1714 Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1714

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NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE MULTIPLE DISTRICT 22 LIONS, LIONESSE, AND LEO CLUBS Spring 2010

Chairman's Message

Robert Muchow, PDG, Chairman
LIONS VISION RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Blindness and Low Vision Education Project

The Lions Blindness and Low Vision Education Project LCIF grant will be completed later this year. With our remaining funds in the grant, we will develop an upgraded LVRF website, update the Blindness and Low Vision Education Project video, produce Lions Low Vision folders and inserts for promotion and information, and develop a training program to help Lions interact with low vision and blind patients. We have entered into a contract with Delaware Net to develop the new website.

Continuing activity is the presentation of the Blindness and Low Vision Education Project video to organizations in our communities. To facilitate this, additional audio/visual equipment has been purchased for loan to Lions clubs. Clubs can contact their district LVRF Blindness and Low Vision Education coordinators or an LVRF Trustee to arrange for borrowing the equipment and video.

Extending Low Vision Services Throughout Multiple District 22

The LVRF Executive Committee is continuing to meet periodically with Wilmer professionals about providing low vision services in areas that are far away from Baltimore. The professionals at Wilmer will be developing relationships with eye care professionals who will provide low vision care.

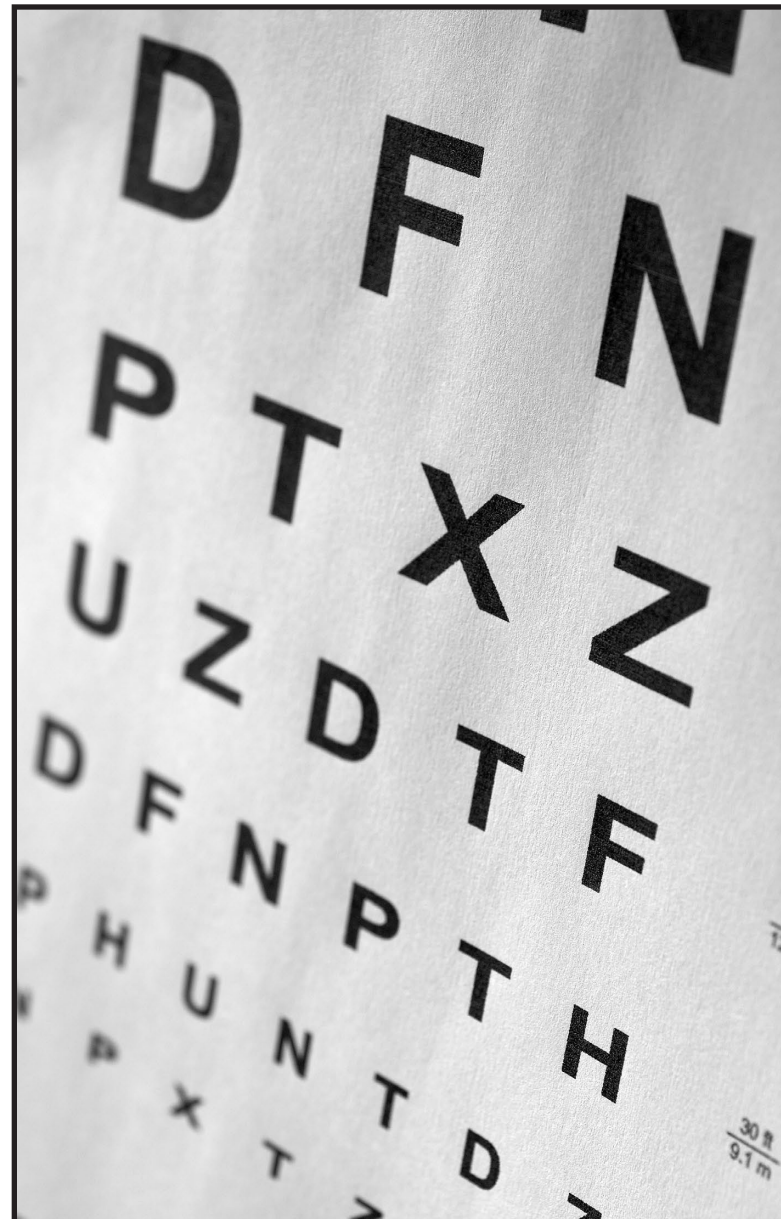
Change in LVRF Executive Committee

Although elections of LVRF officers are held in May each year, it has been a tradition that the Chairman and Vice Chairman serve for two years. June 2010 will complete the latest two-year period. PCC John Lawrence will be the Chairman of LVRF for the next two years. I have appreciated your support the last two years. Please give incoming Chairman John and the foundation your continued support.



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In Memory of Dr. Arnall Patz

Arnall Patz was born in Elberton Georgia on June 14, 1920, the youngest of seven children. He died in his sleep at his home in Pikesville, MD on March 11, 2010. He was 89.

He graduated from Emory University, served three years in the Army, and received his MD from Emory University School of Medicine in 1945. He joined the eye clinic at Walter Reed Army Hospital and then began his residency in ophthalmology at the District of Columbia General Hospital. In was there he suspected that excessive oxygen given to premature infants caused abnormal growth of blood vessels in the eye that caused irreparable damage to the optic nerve. He was initially denied funding for his pilot experiments to explore this idea, and funded the first tests with money borrowed from his brother, Louis. Subsequent studies in collaboration with Everett Kinsey, a physician and famed biochemist, confirmed Patz's theory.

Dr. Patz served as a part-time faculty member of Johns Hopkins for 15 years, starting in 1955. The Seeing Eye Foundation awarded him a research fellowship at Wilmer in 1970. He joined the faculty full time as founder of Johns Hopkins' Retinal Vascular Center and later served as Director of the Wilmer Eye Institute from 1979 until taking emeritus professor status in 1989.

In 1956, Helen Keller presented the Albert Lasker Clinical Medical Research Award to Dr. Patz and Dr. Everett Kinsey. At that time she told Dr. Patz, "Never tell a patient there is nothing more to be done. Rehabilitation is always an option." He repeated this many times in his lectures at Johns Hopkins.

In 1968, Dr. Patz began working with colleagues from the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory to develop one of the early argon laser photocoagulators. He was the first to use the argon laser to treat diabetic retinopathy and other retinal conditions.



Dr. Arnall Patz receiving
the 2005 Lions Clubs
International (LCI)
Humanitarian award from LCI
Immediate Past International
President Clement Kusiak

Dr. Patz authored more than 250 scientific publications and four textbooks.

In recognition of his outstanding achievements, Dr. Patz received many prestigious awards, among them:

- Friedenwald Research Award in 1980
- The first award of the Isaac C. Michaelson Medal in 1986
- The first award of the Helen Keller prize for Vision Research in 1994
- The Pisart International Vision Award from the Lighthouse International in 2001
- The Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2004
- The Lions Clubs International Humanitarian Award in 2005

He also received honorary degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, Emory University, Thomas Jefferson University, Johns Hopkins University. At the age of 78 he went back to Johns Hopkins and earned a master of liberal arts degree.

In 2004, when President George W. Bush awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award. President Bush said of Dr. Patz, "He is the man who has given to uncounted men, women and children the gift of sight."

In addition to his daughter, Susan, of Baltimore, Dr. Patz is survived by his wife, the former Ellen Levy; three sons, William, of Seattle, Washington; David of Grand Junction, Colorado; Jonathan, of Madison, Wisconsin; and eight grandchildren. After his brother, Louis, and his wife died in a plane crash, Dr. Patz raised their children: Samuel, of Boston; Harry, of Acme, Washington; and Sarah Anne, of St. Louis, Missouri.

Memories:

The Beginning

By PID Darley Travers

I met Dr. Patz in 1987 when I was District Governor of 22-B and Council Chairman. Dr. Patz had been talking to several Lions in regard to forming a relationship with the Wilmer Eye Institute. At that time, many Lions Clubs donated to the Wilmer Eye Institute. Our Council of Governors agreed to meet, and ultimately, after several meetings and discussions, our Council voted to establish the MD-22 Lions Vision Research Foundation, Inc. at Wilmer Eye Institute and was taken to our MD22 Convention, where the Resolution was passed by the Delegates.

Dr. Patz was a very easy individual to work with. He was always congratulating the Lions for their work at the Foundation. He was always thinking how we could make the Foundation better and more successful. Needless to say, everyone liked him. I think the unusual aspect to me was that Dr. Patz was a brilliant individual, yet he was very easy to communicate with, which made you feel at ease. All of us in MD22 will certainly miss him.

The Wilmer Foursome

By Dr. Robert Massof

The Wilmer foursome at the Lions Swing for Sight golf tournament consisted of Dr. Peter McDonnell, Milton Greenbaum (Wilmer's Chief Financial Officer), Dr. Patz, and myself. Dr. Patz was our "ringer." After the three youngest golfers on the team teed off (literally and figuratively since one ball would be lost on the right side of the fairway, one would be lost on the left side of the fairway, and the third, after being topped, would be resting somewhere near the women's tee), Dr. Patz strolled up to the senior's tee box, picked up the ball near the women's tee, and then hit a drive 150 yards straight down the middle of the fairway.

Since it is a "best ball" tournament, our foursome would almost always take the next shot off Dr. Patz's lie. Because drives for the rest of our team were purely statistical phenomena, occasionally one would outperform Dr. Patz's drive, but those were anomalies. Dr. Patz was always very humble and modest and known for his generous praise. He was the same way on the golf course, but it was with a twinkle in his eye when he admired my game. After returning the ball he picked up on the women's tee, he praised me, because unlike my teammates, I was very wise to hit the ball where it could easily be found.

Informal Meeting

BY PDG Gene Hoffmaster

I was at the Wilmer Institute one day and happened to be walking by Dr. Patz's office. He saw me there, quickly came out, and invited me in like an old friend. He showed me a picture of Helen Keller on his wall and reminisced about his meeting her. He said that, even though she was blind, her eyes were clear as crystal. As he said it, I think I detected a tear in his eye. He was so kind and gentle, and so brilliant an ophthalmologist. I feel lucky to have known him.

Impression

By PDG Ted Reiver

While I have no personal anecdotes to recount, Dr. Patz and his wife Ellen are two of the most humble and gracious human beings to ever inhabit this Earth. It amazes me that a person of Dr. Patz's small stature could leave such a huge void in the hearts of the people who knew him. He was a MENSCH.

The Lions of District 22C Walk for Sight to benefit the Lions Vision Research Foundation was held in Beltsville on the morning of Saturday, April 10. Dr. Robert Massof, Director of the Lions Low Vision Center at the Wilmer Eye Institute was guest speaker and addressed the subject of low vision and how the Lions of MD-22 have supported the Low Vision Center since it was formed in 1988. In this photo, Dr. Massof is 4th from the left, standing behind his wife, Pat. PDG Gene Hoffmaster, far right, served as chairman for the walk, and PDG Ken Watson, 6th from the right in the cap, introduced Dr. Massof to the participants. The walk yielded exactly \$4,000 for the LVRF.

