The first annual Tufts Eye Alumni Association (TEAA) reunion was held on Saturday, June 20th, the day following the 2009 New England Eye Center (NEEC) resident and fellow graduation ceremonies. The reunion was a great success! Attendees had an opportunity to not only reconnect with other Tufts alumni but also were able to listen to three excellent clinical talks given by former Tufts ophthalmology residents, Bill Deegan, Sarkis Soukiasian and Maura Santangelo.

The day began with breakfast followed by brief comments from Jay Duker, Professor and Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology, regarding the current state of the department, and Tom Hedges, Director of Neuro-ophthalmology, highlighting the history of the Tufts Department of Ophthalmology.

These remarks were followed by talks from the three former residents. The first talk, entitled “Ongoing Challenges in the Management of Retinoblastoma,” was given by Bill Deegan. Bill graduated from Tufts College (1983), Tufts Medical School (1988), and the Tufts Ophthalmology Residency program (1992).

On Saturday, April 4, 2009, at the Spring Hill Suites Marriott, Devens, Massachusetts, a retirement party was given for Frank D’Ambrosio who has been an outstanding figure, especially as an active member of the Tufts Alumni Association and the eye department. Frank was a member of the great class of 1945 at Tufts Medical School and has been an inspiration for all of us with regard to generating alumni support. During the last 15 years, Frank has been a devoted member of the eye department providing opportunities for many of the faculty to practice in his office in Leominster. Frank is among the most generous founding members of the Tufts Eye Alumni Association.

Frank D’Ambrosio Sr., M.D., retires
The Tufts Eye Alumni Association (TEAA)
—Mission—

The mission of the Tufts Eye Alumni Association (TEAA) is to foster a sense of community among eye care professionals who are graduates of Tufts schools and/or the Tufts ophthalmology teaching program. TEAA will organize educational and social activities for residents, fellows, medical students and alumni. Additionally it will serve as a clearinghouse to keep alumni informed about activities/achievements of other alumni and updates on the New England Eye Center and the Tufts Department of Ophthalmology. TEAA will strive to provide both financial and advisory leadership to support the educational and research missions of the Department of Ophthalmology. TEAA’s initial efforts will be to establish an endowed professorship for the Director of Ophthalmic Education in order to insure that future residents and fellows benefit from the highest standard of mentorship.

TEAA will establish a fund and conduct an annual drive to help achieve its goals. It will develop a website, publish a bi-annual newsletter and host an annual reception at AAO. TEAA will organize educational forums and periodic reunions. An advisory board will be created to insure that the TEAA mission is achieved.

~UPCOMING EVENTS~

**Annual TEAA/NEEC AAO reception at the 2009 Academy meeting, San Francisco. All alumni are invited.**

The Tufts Eye Alumni Party will be held at the W Hotel in San Francisco on Sunday, October 25th from 7-10 pm during this year’s American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting in San Francisco. All alumni are invited, and we hope to see you there. Please RSVP to Stephanie Dunn at 617-636-4677, sdunn@tuftsmedicalcenter.org

Frank D’Ambrosio Sr., M.D., retires at 88

*continued from page 1*

Frank’s illustrious career began in the U.S. Army Air Corps after graduating from Tufts Medical School. He practiced in Boston before establishing offices in Concord and Leominster. He also served as the army’s ophthalmology consultant for the east coast and as the consultant for the Mass. Commission for the Blind, which last year honored him for his years of service. Frank has received other honors and awards from many civic organizations, including the Lions Club and Tufts University, for distinguished service. He also serves as chaplain for the Mass. State Police.

Last December, after 60 years in practice, Frank retired to spend more time with his family. At his retirement party, he spoke of being with his wife of 66 years, Jennie, and their 9 children, 31 grandchildren, and more than 20 great-grandchildren. He and Jennie have been travelling to Las Vegas and Italy when not relaxing in their Concord home. Additionally, Frank serves as an ordained Catholic deacon in Holy Family Parish in Concord.

Come to the 2nd Annual Tufts Eye Alumni Day
-Save the date-

Next Tufts Eye Alumni reunion to be held Saturday, April 24, 2010

This year, we thought it might be worthwhile to have the Tufts Eye Alumni Reunion during the Tufts Medical School Reunion. We hope that this might be more convenient for many members, since the month of June is a very busy time for many individuals and their families. This will also give alumni an opportunity to experience the exciting changes that have been made in the Medical School, as well as at the New England Eye Center. This year, we again plan to invite three alumni speakers. Anyone who wishes to participate in alumni reunions should feel free to contact Tom Hedges or Jay Duker.
First Tufts Eye Alumni reunion a success

He completed fellowships in Vitreoretinal Diseases and Surgery, at Washington Hospital Center (1994) and Ocular Oncology/Pediatric Retinal Diseases and Surgery, at Doheny Eye Institute, Children's Hospital, USC School of Medicine, Los Angeles (1995). Bill has a thriving practice in Washington D.C. where he specializes in retinal tumors. He sees patients from all over the world. Bill Deegan is associate clinical professor at Georgetown University School of Medicine.

Next on the podium was Sarkis Soukiasian, also a graduate of Tufts College (1979), Tufts Medical School (1983) and the Tufts Ophthalmology Residency Program (1989). After fellowships at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary/Harvard Medical School (Ocular Immunology and Uveitis, 1990, and Corneal and External Diseases, 1991), Sarkis developed a very successful practice in complex cataracts, laser vision correction, corneal diseases, and uveitis at the Lahey Clinic in Burlington, Massachusetts. He is Assistant Clinical Professor, Tufts University School of Medicine and a well-respected teacher within the residency program. Sarkis gave a talk entitled “Demystifying the Uveitis Workup,” which he gives annually at the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

Maura Santangelo. Maura showed amazing photographs to describe her experiences. Maura graduated from Brown University and the Tufts Ophthalmology Residency Program (1980). After a fellowship at Ophthal\mick Consultants of Boston, Maura went into practice in Binghamton, New York, and is clinical assistant professor at Upstate Medical University, Clinical Campus Binghamton. In addition to building her practice and raising a family, much of Maura’s energy has been devoted to international ophthalmology. She has traveled to many different countries and has been most engaged in providing ophthalmic care in the Himalayas. She is Chair Elect, Ophthalmologist and Medical Advisor to Seva Tibet Sight Program. Working in nine countries in addition to the United States, Seva Foundation supports projects in the area of health and wellness, community development, environmental protection and cultural preservation.

This reunion was a great opportunity for Tufts alums who had not seen each other for a number of years to reunite. A sense of community among the graduates of the ophthalmology program at Tufts was reestablished. Many who were there indicated that this was a great experience and promised to attend our next alumni reunion. By the way, the food was fantastic. Our sincere thanks go to Christine Yardley and Stephanie Dunn who were indispensable in making this happen.
Attending the first Tufts Eye Alumni Association reunion were

Milhim Aswad  Katrinka Heher  Jennifer Mullon
Brad Baker  Joseph Ho  David Reese
Isabel Balderas  Mitesh Kapadia  Elias Reichel
Caroline Baumal  Jean Keamy  Norman Reinach
Amita Bhatt  Peter Kelly  Joel Reisman
Jeffrey Chang  Melissa Kern  Chris Robinson
Vivek Chaturvedi  Dru Krishnan  Isaac Rudloe
Vicki Chen  Dan Landmann  Maura Santangelo
Paul Cotter  Caroline Marten-Ellis  Johanna Seddon
Bill Deegan  Cynthia Mattox  Sarkis Soukiasian
Jay Duker  Frank McCabe  Dom Strazzulla
Andrew Gillies  Brendan McCarthy  Mitch Strominger
Michael Goldstein  Deb McCoy  Ernie Sutcliffe
Varant Hagopian  Dave McMahon  Lloyd Wilcox
Tom Hedges

Back in the day
Former residents (l to r) Maura Santangelo, Sarkis Soukiasian, and Bill Deegan, *circa* 1980, ’89, ’92, respectively.

The Tufts Eye Alumni Association Website can be currently found by going to [http://medical.alumni.tufts.edu](http://medical.alumni.tufts.edu). We will provide information regarding all of the activities sponsored by the Tufts Eye Alumni Association. We welcome any news or ideas which could be put on the site.
Renovations for the wetlab are underway

With the support of the Tufts Eye Alumni Association contributions, we now have enough money to begin renovations on the fourth floor of the Boston Dispensary, which includes the Bernard Schwartz Teaching Laboratory, the Ophthalmology Pathology Teaching Laboratory, and the Moshe Lahav Library. While these changes will make the area more comfortable and pleasing to the eye, the goal of the reconfiguration is to increase the usefulness of the space for residents, fellows, medical students and alumni.

Our wetlab is available at various times but is most active on Fridays when most instruction is scheduled. With the help of NEEC researcher Siobhan Cashman, we have been manufacturing our own viscoelastic to augment our donated supplies. Dr. Reisman has been experimenting with creating cataracts in pig eyes. A mixture of alcohol and formaldehyde is injected into the lens through the pars plana, and the eye is then microwaved for approximately 5 seconds. The precise volume of solution to inject and duration of microwave radiation exposure are critical to prevent adhesion of the anterior capsule to the cataract. Practice is needed to achieve the desired result. Since cataractous lenses provide the learning surgeon with a more realistic model than the clear lenses of pig eyes as delivered to the lab, the ability to readily make a cataract is of benefit in the teaching laboratory.

We are trying to obtain two additional phaco machines from Alcon and Bausch and Lomb. The grant proposals have been written and submitted, and now we are awaiting the companies’ replies. We are also in need of two additional operating microscopes. If anyone is upgrading an operating microscope and would like to donate the older microscope to our laboratory, please contact Joel Reisman at (617) 510-0953.

Alumni who have volunteered have found that the wetlab has excellent equipment for both teaching and learning new techniques.

“I was very impressed with the wetlab facilities. I would suspect that the NEEC wetlab is one of the best equipped in the country! It represents a tremendous resource for the residents and fellows,” remarked Carolyn Anderson, MD, after spending a day in the wetlab.

Dr. Dan Chu elaborated on his recent teaching experience. “The wetlab at the New England Eye Center is a wonderful resource for the residents to begin learning the surgical skills they will need. Everyone who has been a resident remembers the anxiety of sitting down at the surgical microscope for their first cataract case, and repeating the progression of steps in their mind from paracentesis to suturing the wound. Guidance, repetition, spatial awareness, and familiarity with instruments all help to foster and improve microsurgical skills and prepare the residents for the operating room. Joel Reisman, MD, and David Schultz have set up an amazing multi-station wetlab with several phacoemulsification units,
teaching scopes, video monitoring, and all the instrumentation needed to get familiar with basic surgical skills. Joel has made it easy to come in and add to the foundation he has established with the new residents. It was really a pleasure to work one on one with the residents in this environment and answer any questions they had regarding the skill they were practicing. I look forward to seeing the progress they are making in the wetlab translate into the operating room.”

We hope that many more alumni will volunteer in the wetlab in the future. Please contact Joel Reisman at ireismanmd@hotmail.com or education coordinator Elizabeth Cook ecook@tuftsmedicalcenter.org to arrange your visit.

Special thanks are due to New England Eye Center photographer and technician David Schultz for his invaluable assistance in managing the laboratory with Dr. Reisman.

Sharewood Clinic provides teaching opportunity for Tufts Eye Alumni

We also are developing an ophthalmology service at the Sharewood Clinic in Malden Center. Sharewood (www.sharewood.info) is a free clinic that is operated by medical students and provides care for anyone who desires it regularly on Tuesday evenings. Through the energy and inspiration of Emily Waisbren, currently a fourth-year medical student at Tufts, we now are providing eye screening on a monthly basis and plan to expand this so that eye care may be provided. The residents have been helpful in overseeing the medical students, and we hope also in the near future to have experienced practicing ophthalmologists get involved. This is an excellent volunteer activity that could be shared among several ophthalmologists who would have an opportunity to mentor residents, as well as medical students. For those who are interested in this type of activity, please contact Dru Krishnan, Director of Residency Training at ckrishnan@tuftsmedicalcenter.org, or Tom Hedges at thedges@tuftsmedicalcenter.org.

Recent New England Eye Center publications


Ishikawa H. Kim J. Friberg TR. Wollstein G. Kagemann L. Gabriele ML. Townsend KA. Sung KR. Duker JS. Fujimoto JG. Schuman JS. Three-dimensional optical coherence tomography (3D-OCT) image enhancement with


Dilks DD. Baker CI. Peli E. Kanwisher N. Reorganization of visual processing in macular degeneration is not specific to the "preferred retinal locus". J Neuroscience. 2009;29(9):2768-73.


**Donations for Teaching Fund & TEAA activities needed**

Last year, after the memorial for Bernard Schwartz, a significant number of donations were given by alumni in his memory to the Tufts Eye Alumni Teaching Fund. With these funds, renovations for the teaching laboratory on the fourth floor of the Boston Dispensary have begun. However, we still need considerably more funding to complete the project. We also look forward to continuing to have various events, especially the reunion just for alumni next spring. However, this does require donations from alumni, and we hope that the initial success of our Tufts Eye Alumni activities will motivate others to contribute and for those who have already contributed to continue to be as generous as they can. Donations should be sent to New England Eye Center, c/o Thomas Hedges or Jay Duker. Checks should be made out to the Trustees of Tufts College, and designated for the Tufts Eye Alumni Teaching Fund.
Resident and fellow graduation held June 19, 2009

This year, as in the past, on Friday afternoon before graduation ceremonies, our residents and fellows presented a fascinating review of the many research projects they have completed, many of which have been or will be presented at ARVO and the Academy and most of which will be published. The quality of presentations was superb and generated a considerable amount of discussion. This was followed by the Morton Grant lecture, “On the Shoulders of Giants: The Evolution of Ophthalmology,” given by Norman Medow, M.D., Professor and Chief of Pediatric Ophthalmology, Manhattan Eye & Ear Infirmary. Following Dr. Medow’s talk, the traditional awarding of the diplomas to graduating residents and fellows took place. After this, cocktails followed by an excellent dinner were offered at the Marriot Courtyard Hotel during which the residents provided some of the best video skits ever.

Graduating resident Jeffrey Chang attended Drexel University and Thomas Jefferson University School of Medicine in Philadelphia. Jeff is currently a surgical retina fellow at the combined New England Eye Center/Ophthalmic Consultants of Boston training program.

Vivek Chaturvedi did his undergraduate training at Washington University in St. Louis and went to medical school at the University of Oklahoma. Vivek is currently a surgical retina fellow at Illinois Retina Associates / Rush University.

Dan Landmann completed undergraduate studies at Tufts University School of Engineering and went to medical school at Tufts University. Dan is continuing his training as an oculoplastics fellow here at the New England Eye Center.

Steve Yoon graduated from Johns Hopkins University and went to medical school at the University of Virginia. Steve is currently doing a one year oculoplastics fellowship at the University of California – Irvine.

We at the New England Eye Center were very fortunate to have Jeff, Vivek, Steve and Dan as residents. We know that they will be very successful practitioners of ophthalmology, and we are proud to count them among our graduates.

The graduating fellows were Maayan E. Keshet and Michelle S. Ying, Cornea, External Disease & Anterior Segment; Isabel M. Balderas and Tom C. Hsu, Glaucoma; Janet J. Chieh and David S. Liao, Vitreoretinal Diseases and Surgery; Lindsay M. Smithen, Medical Retina, and Joseph Ho, OCT Research. Fellows of their caliber enhance the New England Eye Center and we look forward to hearing of their future success.