



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**CHICAGO**  
**UChicago Medicine**

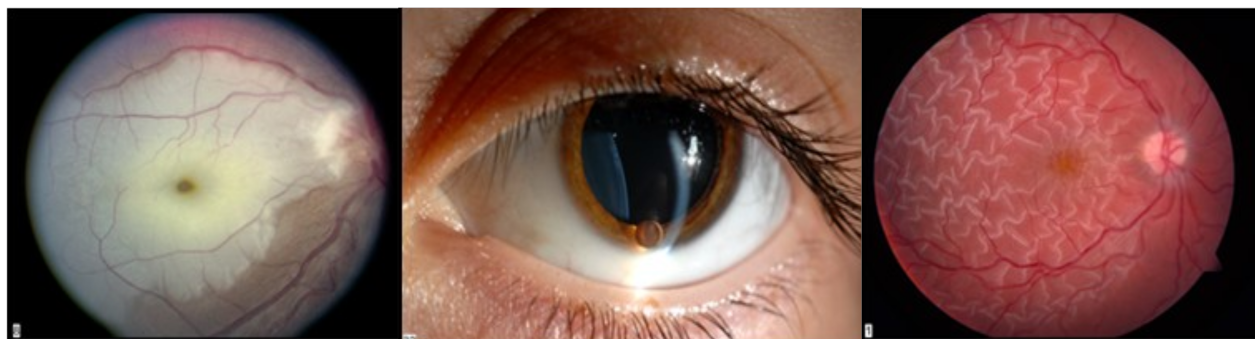
Department of  
Ophthalmology  
and Visual Science

## **The University of Chicago Vitreoretinal Service**

Fellowship in the Diseases and Surgery of the Retina, Macula and Vitreous



# Fellowship in the Diseases and Surgery of the Retina, Macula, and Vitreous



It is with great pleasure that my partners and I welcome you to the University of Chicago's Retina Service. Since 2005, we have been training exceptionally skilled vitreoretinal surgeons. Our Vitreoretinal Service has a long track record of offering state of the art vitreoretinal surgery, providing exceptional patient care, and conducting clinical research. Furthermore, we are involved in numerous educational efforts at the local and national level.

We are very passionate about training the future generation of vitreoretinal fellows. All of our attending physicians bring with them years of experience, allowing them to pass skills and techniques onto our fellows each year. The diversity of training includes both university and private practice settings in several locations. This varied exposure leads to an educational, fulfilling experience for the fellows. Along with obtaining excellent clinical and surgical skills, our fellows learn how to balance a busy clinic and OR schedule in an efficient and economically sensible fashion. Furthermore, our Service strongly encourages fellow participation in clinical research and FDA registration trials.

We are also proud of the AUPO and ASRS accreditation of our vitreoretinal fellowship program. My partners and I are committed to fellowship training and will continue to strive to make our fellowship a great experience that yields excellent vitreoretinal surgeons for years to come.



**Seenu M. Hariprasad, MD**

Shui-Chin Lee Endowed Professor

Ophthalmologist-in-Chief and Chair

Director, Fellowship in the Diseases and Surgery of the Retina, Macula, and Vitreous



# Benefactors



**John Snyder**

## The Snyder Family Fellowship Endowment Fund

Established in 2014, the Snyder Family Fellowship Fund was used by the University to establish and endow the *Snyder Family Fellowship in the Diseases, and Surgery of the Retina, Macula and Vitreous*. This Fellowship supports postgraduate Fellows undergoing specialized training in Vitreoretinal Surgery in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science under the direction of Seenu M. Hariprasad, MD.

Mr. John Snyder's desire to give to the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science stems from personal experience; his father and uncle lost their eyesight from macular degeneration. "When people begin losing their eyesight at an advanced age, it is harder for them to adapt through learning Braille or using assistive technologies," Snyder notes.

"My father started losing his ability to read, and since he was a lawyer, books were his life," Snyder says. "He eventually had to use a magnifying glass and was hardly able to see the television. It affected his mental outlook, and he declined very rapidly."

Snyder wants to help other future patients – including his children, who are genetically predisposed to macular degeneration – to avoid his father's fate. Snyder is optimistic that Dr. Hariprasad and the University of Chicago medicine's vitreoretinal service, with assistance from generous donations, will be able to train more doctors and scholars on how to better prevent and treat diseases of the retina.



**Shui-Chin Lee**  
李水清

## The Shui-Chin Lee Fellowship Endowment Fund

Established in 2014, the Shui-Chin Lee Fellowship Endowment Fund was used by the University to establish and endow the *Shui-Chin Lee Fellowship in the Diseases and Surgery of the Retina, Macula, and Vitreous*. The Fellowship supports postgraduate Fellows undergoing specialized training in Vitreoretinal Surgery in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science under the direction of Seenu M. Hariprasad, MD.

Perhaps the most important idea that Mr. Shui-Chin Lee taught his children was that while acquiring knowledge was imperative, the way knowledge and information were internally processed and organized mattered more. To that end, he encouraged them to immerse themselves in math, science and technology. This allowed his children to cultivate their ability in dialectic analysis, a philosophical tool that emphasizes reason and deduction in order to verify and probe for the highest of all concepts: truth. It is the pursuit of this truth that ultimately drives academics and its sciences; it is the impetus of the research we perform in our Vitreoretinal Service, to seek answers to questions that impact vision and, therefore, human life.



**Seenu M. Hariprasad, MD**

## The Seenu M. Hariprasad, M.D. Vitreoretinal Surgical Fellows Family Fund

This award was created in 2022 by previous retina fellows in honor of Dr. Seenu M. Hariprasad, M.D., to serve as a legacy for his extraordinary leadership and guidance in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science at the University of Chicago. The funds from this endowment allow for an annual guest speaker as well as an award to the resident who demonstrates strong skills in the area of retinal disease.

## Non-endowment Fellowship Support

Several, generous philanthropic donors have provided the additional, ongoing support necessary for sustaining our fellowship training program.

Mr. Stephen Brenner

Mrs. Kathryn Earley and Mr. Robert Earley

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hill

Mrs. Rosa O'Connor

Mr. and Mrs. John Paleczny

Dr. Robert W. Ridley

Mr. George R. and Mrs. Sally Rieger

Mrs. Ruth Ultmann

Mr. Ray A. Wiora

Dr. Daniel Kiernan and Mrs. Kristi Carpenter-Kiernan

Drs. Veeral and Monica Sheth

Mrs. Michele and Mr. Noel Moore

Mrs. Cindy and Mr. Richard Strup

Mr. Greg Boecker

Ms. Helen Oros

Mrs. Mignon and Mr. John Snyder, Jr.

# Vitreoretinal Fellowship

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The Department of Ophthalmology offers a two-year vitreoretinal fellowship that is both AUPO and ASRS compliant. The focus of this fellowship is to evaluate, diagnose, and medically or surgically manage vitreoretinal diseases. The retina fellows work very closely with the retina faculty and retina resident as part of the “retina team” to run the service. Dr. Hariprasad is deeply involved in education of fellows both years.

## **The First Year:**

The first year of the fellowship is primarily devoted to the diagnosis and treatment of vitreoretinal disease and ROP. The first year fellow gets extensive hands-on experience in the operating room. Rotations in this year consist of retina clinics at the University of Chicago along with the private practice retina service headed by Dr. Shaun Ittiara and Dr. Paul Chiranand. Additionally, the first year fellow spends time under the tutelage of Dr. Alexis Warren, Dr. Ellie Zhou, Dr. Michael Blair and Dr. Sarah Rodriguez, learning the diagnosis and management of complex pediatric vitreoretinal pathology such as ROP.

During the first year, the fellow is expected to become facile with retina laser treatment for a wide breadth of vitreoretinal pathology. Intravitreal injections, cryopexy of peripheral retinal pathology and other basic procedures are mastered. Additionally, the first year fellow will have ample opportunity to learn vitrectomy, endolaser, and retinal detachment repair techniques. Diagnostic and treatment modalities available include fundus photography, fluorescein angiography, new generation OCT (OCT-A and intraoperative OCT), ICG, A-and B-scan ultrasonography, electrophysiological testing, PASCAL, and micropulse lasers. Opportunities are provided for ample experience in each of these areas.

The first year fellow is strongly encouraged to spend time in clinical research. Opportunities exist for involvement in clinical research projects and travel to national meetings. Fellows are encouraged to produce several manuscripts during each year of the fellowship. Additionally, fellows are listed as sub-investigators on clinical trials.

## **The Second Year:**

During the second year of the fellowship, in addition to the activities outlined above, the fellow has the opportunity to assume primary responsibility for the management and treatment of complex vitreoretinal pathology in the clinic and OR. The fellows are expected to continue research started during the first year, present data at national meetings, and submit research for publication.





# We Asked Current and Graduated Fellows:

## "What are 15 Vitreoretinal Fellowship Attraction Points?"

- Dr. Hariprasad – The program director's training at Wash U / Barnes and teaching fellows the "Barnes way".
- Exposure to cutting-edge diagnostic technologies such as OCT-A and intraoperative OCT.
- High volume of vitreoretinal procedures and cases.
- Top notch surgical equipment (Constellation Vitrectomy System + New Leica Microscope w/ HD Video and Monitors + True Vision 3D System).
- Strong emphasis on learning the business aspects of retina and how to efficiently run a retina clinic and OR.
- ROP and pediatric retina experience with Dr. Blair, Dr. Rodriguez, Dr. Zhou, and Dr. Warren.
- Exposure to different Chicago hospital systems.
- Fellows are sub-investigators on all clinical trials, which is of tremendous value after graduation since the trials may be brought to the fellows' respective practices/institutions.
- The U of C network of fellows, which continues to grow and spans the entire country geographically (New York to California). EXCELLENT job placement after graduation (both academic and private institutions) with tremendous faculty support to get your dream job.
- Clinical research - Fellows are exposed to and take part in several studies. Also, the program provides several individual research opportunities. Fellows are encouraged to apply for various research awards.
- The opportunity to attend major retina meetings and investigator meetings for clinical trials (ASRS, Retina Society, ARVO, Vit Buckle Society, etc.).
- Very reasonable call schedule - Able to enjoy weekends without excessive calls. Much resident support for call coverage.
- Camaraderie of the fellowship program – The program director and other attending's treat fellows like family. The program also fosters much camaraderie among fellows, residents, and medical students.
- Reputation of the University of Chicago as well as excellent support staff, facilities, and happy work environment.
- The city of Chicago is the "FOVEA of the United States" – Given citywide Rabb Retina Society Meetings, internationally recognized retina faculty throughout the city, AVTT Retina Fellows' Meeting, Retina Fellows' Mid-Year Forum, AAO, quarterly dinner events for Chicago retina fellows, etc.



# Meet the Faculty

## SEENU M. HARIPRASAD, MD

**Shui-Chin Lee Endowed Professor**

**Ophthalmologist-in-Chief and Chair**

**Director, Fellowship in the Diseases and Surgery of the Retina, Macula, and Vitreous**

Effective July 1, 2023, Dr. Seenu M. Hariprasad, MD, the Shui-Chin Lee Professor of Ophthalmology, was appointed Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science. Dr. Hariprasad served as Interim Chair from 2020 -2023.

Dr. Hariprasad is an internationally recognized vitreoretinal surgeon who originally joined the University of Chicago in 2005. Over the course of his career, he has developed a strong track record as a clinician, surgeon, researcher, educator, and leader in his department. He is a leading specialist in various vitreoretinal disorders, including macular degeneration, diabetic eye disease, intraocular infection, and retinal vein occlusions. He has implemented more effective and efficient sutureless microincisional vitrectomy techniques at the medical center, and his clinical research has contributed to the understanding and use of new medications to combat a wide variety of vitreoretinal disorders.

Dr. Hariprasad has served as an investigator in more than 45 national and international retina clinical trials evaluating various medications, sustained drug-delivery devices, and surgical innovations. His work has led to over 300 peer-reviewed publications, meeting abstracts and textbook chapters, including *Management of Retinal Vein Occlusion: Current Concepts*, one of only a small number of textbooks dedicated to this disease.

In addition to his clinical and research activities, Dr. Hariprasad has been an active contributor to his field, serving as an Executive Editor of the *American Journal of Ophthalmology*. He has received numerous honors, including the American Academy of Ophthalmology Achievement Award, the American Society of Retina Specialists Senior Honor Achievement and Crystal Apple Awards, the J. Donald Gass, MD, Beacon of Sight Award, the Baylor College of Medicine James Key Award, Becker's 135 Leading Ophthalmologists in America, and the Retina Congress of India Gold Medal. *Ophthalmology Retina*, an American Academy of Ophthalmology journal, listed his research as one of the "100 Most Cited Articles on Vitrectomy from 1971 to 2018." He is also included in the Retina Hall of Fame and has been named consistently as a top doctor in publications such as *US News & World Report* and *Chicago* magazine.



### Clinical Interests

- Age-related macular degeneration
- Diabetic eye diseases
- Retinal vein occlusions
- Epiretinal membrane
- Endophthalmitis
- Vitreous hemorrhage
- Retinal detachment



# Meet the Faculty

## DIMITRA SKONDRA, MD, PhD

**Professor in Ophthalmology & Visual Science**

**Director of the Terry Ernest Ocular Imaging Center**

Dimitra Skondra, an internationally renowned vitreoretinal surgeon and physician scientist, is an Associate Professor Ophthalmology & Visual Science and the Director of J. Terry Ernest Ocular Imaging Center. She is also the founder and leader of UChicago Retinal Microbiome and UChicago Retina Big Data/Bioinformatics team. She completed her ophthalmology residency at Weill Cornell Medical College/New York Presbyterian Hospital and her PhD/postdoctoral fellowship and vitreoretinal surgery fellowship at Harvard Medical School.

Her team focuses on the role of gut microbiome in retinal disorders in particular AMD and ROP. She is considered one of the international leaders and pioneers in this newly emerged field of retinal research using specialized gnotobiotic animal models she has developed and cutting-edge multi-omics approach to delineate the gut-retina axis interactions. Her team, using Big-Data and computational bioinformatics approach is also studying repurposing of known medications for AMD and other retinal and ocular disorders and her work has shown that metformin, a common anti-diabetic medication is protective for AMD and could represent a new therapeutic strategy for AMD.

She is an elected member of the prestigious Macula Society, Retina Society and Club Jules Gonin that include selected leaders of the retinal field internationally. She has received numerous honors and awards including ARVO Early Career Clinician Scientist, Retina Society Margherio Award, Club Jules Gonin Retina Research Foundation award, ISPB AMD award and has given multiple invited lectures nationally and internationally. She is an invited founding member of International Ocular Circulation Society and the Microbiome Medicine Program, on editorial board of IOVS and Nature's Scientific Reports and has been elected in retinal section of ARVO Program Committee and Retina's Society Socioeconomic Committee.



### Clinical Interests

- Age-related macular degeneration
- Diabetic eye diseases
- Retinal vein occlusions
- Macular hole, trauma
- Epiretinal membrane
- Proliferative vitreoretinopathy
- Complex diabetic retinal detachment
- Intraocular infection
- Microbiome

# Meet the Faculty

## ALEXIS WARREN, MD

Assistant Professor in Ophthalmology & Visual Science

Vice-Chair of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Wellness Director

Alexis K. Warren, MD is the newest appointed Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Science at The University of Chicago and also serves as the first Vice-Chair for Diversity Equity and Inclusion/Wellness Director for the department. She most recently completed her training at one of the busiest medical centers in the city of Chicago during which time she was privileged enough to train under world renown retinal surgeons to develop her skills and expertise in complex retinal detachment repairs, diabetic eye disease, age-related macular degeneration, macular holes, epiretinal membranes, retinopathy of prematurity and posterior uveitis.

Throughout her training she was also able to get involved with clinical trials, new techniques for surgical innovation and research on a wide variety of topics from artificial intelligence to health care disparities. Dr. Warren is active in the various ophthalmologic subspecialty societies and devotes much of her time outside of her clinical practice to physician advocacy, mentorship and teaching. She continues to be recognized for her efforts and was most recently chosen by *Retina Today* as a Rising Star in Retina Honoree, an award chosen by leaders in the field to highlight the top retina fellows in the country.

Dr. Warren is very committed to advancing the field of ophthalmology and specifically to retinal specialists and as such served as the appointed chair of the Fellows in Training Section for the *American Society of Retinal Specialists* during which time she helped to organize and moderate surgical grand rounds, debates, and career discussions for other trainees across the country. She was also invited to join the American Academy of Ophthalmology's Task Force to address disparities in eyecare resulting in authorship in the *Ophthalmology* journal.

Dr. Warren received her medical degree from the University of Kansas in her hometown of Kansas City. She then completed her residency at one of the top institutions in the country at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. She most recently completed her two-year vitreoretinal fellowship at the University of Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary.



### Clinical Interests

- Age-related macular degeneration
- Diabetic eye disease
- Epiretinal Membrane
- Macular hole
- Retinal vein occlusion
- Vitreous Hemorrhage



# Meet the Faculty

## XIAO YI ZHOU, MD

**Assistant Professor in Ophthalmology & Visual Science**

**Assistant Professor in Pathology**

Ellie (Xiao Yi) Zhou, MD is a newly appointed Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Science at The University of Chicago with a secondary appointment in the Department of Pathology. She brings a wealth of expertise in both adult and pediatric retina, having completed her vitreoretinal surgery fellowship at the prestigious Duke University Eye Center in Durham, North Carolina. During fellowship, she trained under some of the most highly regarded retinal surgeons in the field and was involved in several clinical trials, including gene therapy trials for macular degeneration, and studied foveal development in preterm infants using OCT imaging. Her work earned her the ARVO Retina Research Foundation/Joseph M. and Eula C. Lawrence travel grant for her contributions to understanding foveal development in preterm infants.

Dr. Zhou's passion and dedication to medical education has been widely recognized. She served as Academic Chief Resident during her residency at Case Western Reserve University and received Exemplary Resident Award. While at Duke University, she was awarded fellowship teaching Golden Apple award for her outstanding contribution to medical student education. Recently named a Rising Star in Retina by Retina Today, Dr. Zhou is recognized as an emerging leader in her field.

Dr. Zhou completed an ocular pathology fellowship at the world-renowned Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. She continues to be actively involved in ocular pathology education, bringing her dual expertise in surgical retina and pathology to her academic role.

A Chicago native, Dr. Zhou graduated from Boston University and completed medical school at Wayne State University. She has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications and frequently presents her research at national and international conferences. Dr. Zhou is an active member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Society of Retina Specialists and Women in Ophthalmology.



### Clinical Interests

- Age-related macular degeneration
- Pediatric retinal diseases
- Retinal detachment
- Diabetic eye disease
- Macular holes and puckers
- Retinal vascular occlusions

# Meet the Faculty

## MICHAEL P. BLAIR, MD

**Clinical Associate Professor**

**Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Science**

**Practice Locations**

- University of Chicago Medicine  
5758 S. Maryland Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60637
- Retina Consultants Ltd.  
2454 E. Dempster St., Suite 400  
Des Plaines, IL 60016



**Clinical Interests**

- Vitreoretinal Surgery, Trauma
- Pediatric Retina
- Retinopathy of Prematurity

## SHAUN ITTIARA, MD

**Clinical Associate Professor**

**Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Science**

**Practice Location**

- University of Chicago Medicine  
5758 S. Maryland Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60637
- Retinal Vitreal Consultants  
2600 S Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60616



**Clinical Interests**

- Vitreoretinal surgery
- Diabetic retinopathy
- Secondary IOL placement



# Meet the Faculty

## PAULPOJ CHIRANAND, MD

### Clinical Associate Professor

#### Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Science

##### Practice Locations

- Retinal Vitreal Consultants  
2600 S Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60616
- Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital  
5000 5th Ave,  
Hines, IL 60141
- University of Chicago Medicine  
5758 S. Maryland Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60637



##### Clinical Interests

- Vitreoretinal surgery
- Age-related Macular Degeneration
- Diabetic retinopathy

## SARAH RODRIGUEZ, MD, MPH

### Associate Professor

#### Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Science

##### Practice Locations

- University of Chicago Medicine  
5758 S. Maryland Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60637



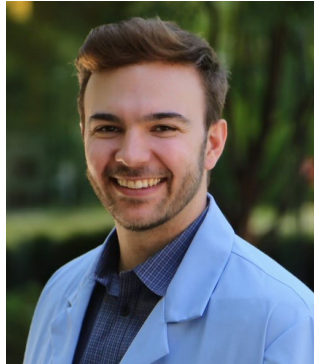
##### Clinical Interests

- Amblyopia
- Pediatric & adult strabismus
- Pediatric cataracts
- Retinopathy of prematurity

# Current Fellows (2025-2026)

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## 1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR VITREORETINAL SURGERY FELLOW



**John Zahour, MD**

Residency: Loyola University/ Hines VA Hospital

## 2<sup>ND</sup> YEAR VITREORETINAL SURGERY FELLOW



**Khalid Al-kirwi, MD**

Medical Retina Fellowship: Bascom Pallmer Eye Institute at Palm Beach Gardens,  
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

## 1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR COMBINED RETINA SURGERY FELLOW



**Omar Saeed, DO**

Residency: Kettering Health Network  
Dayton, Ohio



# Fellowship Alumni

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**Joseph Benevento, MD**  
**(2005-2007)**

Oschner Medical Center  
New Orleans, LA



**Richard Lin, MD**  
**(2006-2008)**

Scripps Memorial Hospital  
La Jolla, CA



**Theodore Lin, MD**  
**(2007-2009)**

Inland Valley Retina, Inc.  
Corona, CA



**Veeral Sheth, MD, FACS**  
**(2008-2010)**

Director of Clinical Research  
University Retina and Macula Associates  
Oak Forest, IL

Clinical Assistant Professor  
University of Illinois at Chicago



**Paulpoj Chiranand, MD**  
**(2009-2011)**

Retinal Vitreal Consultants, Ltd.  
Chicago, IL

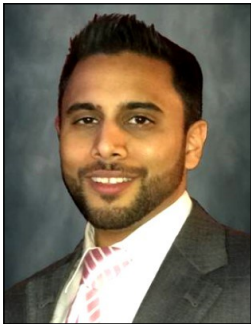


**Ravi D. Patel, MD**  
**(2010-2012)**

Keystone Eye Associates  
Philadelphia, PA



# Fellowship Alumni



**Shaun Ittiara, MD**  
(2011-2013)  
Retinal Vitreal Consultants, Ltd.  
Chicago, IL



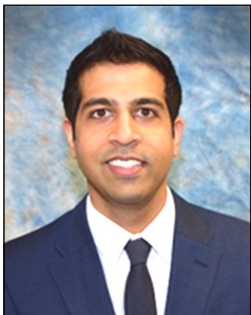
**Jose Garcia-Gonzalez, MD**  
(2012-2014)  
Puerto Rico



**Shawn Lewis, MD**  
(2013-2015)  
Retina Associates of Cleveland  
Cleveland, OH



**Ankur Shah, MD**  
(2014-2016)  
Midwest Eye Institute  
Indianapolis, IN



**Raj N. Patel, MD**  
(2015-2017)  
Carolina Ophthalmology, P.A.  
Asheville, NC



**Liliya Golas, MD**  
(2016-2018)  
Martel Eye Medical Group  
Sacramento, CA



**Sidney Schechet, MD**  
(2017-2019)  
Elman Retina Group  
Baltimore, MD

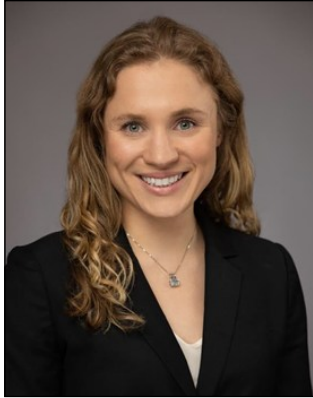


**Rahul Komati, MD**  
(2018-2020)  
Georgia Retina  
Atlanta, GA





# Fellowship Alumni



**Anna Mackin, MD**  
**(2019-2021)**

Vistar Eye Center  
Roanoke, VA



**David Dao, MD**  
**(2020-2022)**

Elman Retina Group  
Baltimore, MD



**Lincoln Shaw, MD**  
**(2021-2023)**

Retina & Vitreous Consultants  
of Wisconsin  
Milwaukee, WI



**Reem Gonnah, MD**  
**(2022-2024)**

Assistant Professor  
Saint Louis University  
Saint Louis, MO



**Madeleine Yehia, MD**  
**(2023-2025)**

Florida Retina Institute  
Orlando, FL



# Honors & Awards



Dr. Schechet presenting his finalist video at the 2019 Vit Buckle Society Fellows Foray



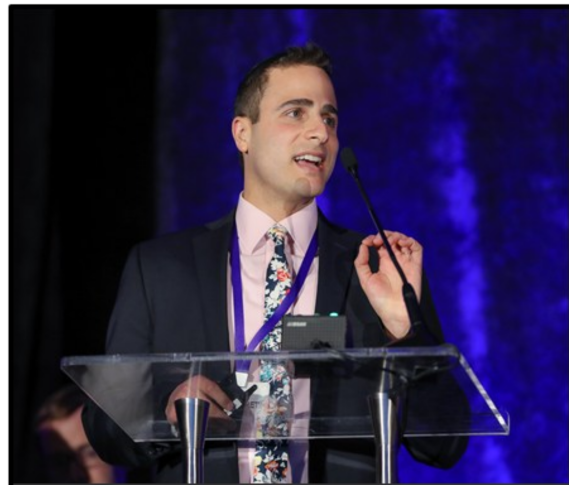
Dr. Mackin presenting her research as a finalist at the 2019 Ophthalmology Times Research Scholar Program



The Crystal Apple award for excellence in teaching and mentorship, presented to Dr. Hariprasad at the ASRS 2019 Meeting



Dr. Hariprasad posing with Dr. Komati and his 1st place "Fellow Games" trophy from the 2020 Retina Fellows Forum



Dr. Schechet receiving the AAO 2018 Young Ophthalmologist award for his video on wine glass injury with a "toast"



# Honors & Awards



## Anna Mackin, MD

Anna Mackin, MD, is a vitreoretinal surgeon at Vistar Eye Center, a multispecialty ophthalmology practice in Roanoke, Virginia. She cares for urban and rural communities within a large geographic area. Vistar Eye Center is affiliated with Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and of Medicine and frequently has medical students rotate in the clinic and OR.

### WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

As a child, Dr. Mackin was captivated by her parents' clinical and research work—her father is an orthopedic surgeon, and her mother is a clinical pathologist. She was determined to one day be a physician, too. She received a bachelor's degree with distinction in biochemistry and integrative physiology and attended medical school at the University of Colorado. Several of Dr. Mackin's core clinical rotations took place in underserved rural counties in south-central Colorado, which gave her a great appreciation for the desperate need for care among rural communities.

### HER PATH TO RETINA

Dr. Mackin quickly realized that ophthalmology was her career aspiration during medical school clinical rotations. She remembers the feeling of curiosity and awe when examining the eye in search of the answer to the patient's symptoms; she still feels this way when examining a patient. She helped to research novel therapeutic approaches to AMD with her mentor, Jeffrey Olson, MD. This was only the beginning of her discovery that exciting therapies and diagnostic techniques play an integral role in the everyday practice of vitreoretinal surgery. Once in residency at the University of Colorado, Dr. Mackin was drawn to the complex and diverse pathology of retinal diseases. Residency at UCHHealth Sue Anschutz-Rodgers Eye Center exposed her to the full gamut of vitreoretinal pathologies, including inherited retinal disease, pediatrics, ocular oncology, and uveitis, confirming her decision to dedicate her career to the field of retina.

Dr. Mackin matched at her number one program, **the Snyder Family Endowed Fellowship** in vitreoretinal surgery at the University of Chicago.

### SUPPORT ALONG THE WAY

Dr. Mackin is forever grateful to her residency and fellowship mentors for teaching her invaluable clinical and surgical skills and providing guidance and support on her professional journey. She would like to extend a special thank you to her fellowship director, Seenu M. Hariprasad, MD, for teaching the medical side of patient care and emphasizing efficiency and cost-consciousness. Every time Dr. Mackin is in the OR, she hears Dr. Hariprasad's voice, urging her to make every second of the surgery count. Dr. Hariprasad also taught her the importance of industry collaboration. Working closely with industry allows clinicians to bring the interests of patients to the forefront of clinical discovery and ensures that everyday clinical experiences can lead to safer and more effective therapies for the community at large.

### AN EXPERIENCE TO REMEMBER

During Dr. Mackin's first night of attending call, she took care of a monocular patient with an acute retinal detachment in his good eye. The surgery went well, and the patient regained his sight and independence. She was honored to use her skills to make such a difference and provide sight-saving care at that time and every day since. Many of her patients travel more than an hour to see a retina specialist, and it is rewarding to care for a community in need.

# Fellowship Bibliography

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