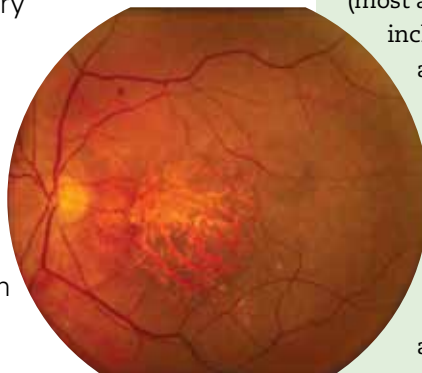


Clinical Trial Offers New Hope

Three years ago, John McNamara, 73, was diagnosed with age-related macular degeneration (AMD), the most common cause of blindness in older adults in the United States. Fortunately, he qualified for a clinical trial at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute led by Philip J. Rosenfeld, M.D., Ph.D., professor of ophthalmology and one of the world's leading experts on this blinding disease.

The Bascom Palmer surgical team implanted embryonic stem cells into John's left eye. "Since then, my macular degeneration has not progressed at all," he says. His experience is particularly significant since he has the underlying "dry" form of AMD. Most patients with dry AMD lose their vision slowly over several years.

"Today, we have excellent treatments for wet AMD," said Dr. Rosenfeld, whose research has resulted in several important breakthroughs. "However, patients with dry AMD still go on to lose a significant amount of vision and may become legally blind." AMD typically causes the loss of central vision in both eyes, and usually affects people age 50 and above. The symptoms often resemble cataracts, and some patients may have both conditions.



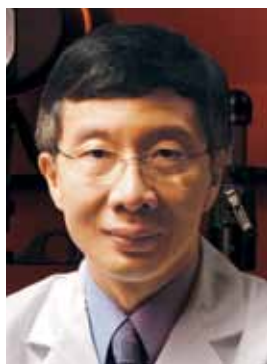
Left eye of a patient with late dry AMD where the drusen have degenerated into geographic atrophy and loss of central vision

What is a Clinical Trial?

Clinical trials (also known as interventional studies) apply scientific method to human health, measuring the outcomes of treatments or other interventions assigned to volunteer participants.

Almost 40 clinical trials, clinical outcomes, and epidemiology studies are now ongoing at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute (most are national multi-center projects), including studies on cataracts, corneal and external diseases, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, LASIK and laser vision correction, Leber's hereditary optic neuropathy, macular degeneration, macular telangiectasia, neuro-ophthalmology, strabismus and pediatric ophthalmology and uveitis.

Pioneering Gene Therapy Targets Rare Cause of Blindness



A Bascom Palmer research team led by Byron L. Lam, M.D., has performed gene therapy on 6 patients as part of a clinical trial to treat Choroideremia (CHM), a rare inherited cause of blindness. A promising treatment for CHM had been elusive until the advent of gene therapy. The transfer of new genes into the dysfunctional cells has the potential to restore the

health and function of these cells.

Symptoms of CHM begin with a gradual loss of night and peripheral vision. Overtime, CHM leads to complete loss

of central sight. CHM affects one in 50,000 people, and the vast majority of those affected are young men.

The approach used in this clinical trial was to inject a large number of harmless viruses, modified to carry copies of the normal gene, into the space under the retina of the eye to correct the genetic defect. The goal of the treatment is to maintain or even improve visual function in CHM patients.

"We are extremely excited and optimistic about the success of this gene therapy trial," says Dr. Lam. "We hope the knowledge gained will help patients with other retinal diseases." Lam added that this clinical trial was self-funded by Bascom Palmer and donors interested in retinal research.

From the Chairman

Dear Friends,

With your support, Bascom Palmer Eye



Institute physicians, scientists and other professionals transform lives.

Our researchers continue to make progress in understanding glaucoma, age-related macular

degeneration and diseases of the optic nerve and retina. It typically takes many years of extensive laboratory studies to develop new therapies; yet breakthrough research continues to inform new treatments. You can read about recent clinical trials using new knowledge of stem cells and gene therapy in this Report.

I am especially proud of the many Bascom Palmer professionals who volunteer to help underserved communities around the globe, from Haiti and the Galapagos Islands to Mongolia and Nigeria. We also respond quickly to natural disasters like earthquakes and hurricanes to provide emergency vision care to victims and first responders.

Next year, Bascom Palmer will be opening its first international eye center, a 113,000-square-foot facility with more than 40 eye examination rooms and an ambulatory surgery center in the United Arab Emirates, providing a foundation to expand our medical education and collaborative research initiatives in the region.

Bascom Palmer is dedicated to preventing blindness, improving eyesight and restoring lost vision for children and adults in our local community, throughout the nation, and around the world. Thank you for your ongoing support of our physicians and scientists, our values and our mission.

Sincerely,

Eduardo C. Alfonso, M.D.
Kathleen and Stanley J. Glaser
Chair in Ophthalmology
Chairman, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

Faculty Expands

Bascom Palmer Eye Institute is pleased to announce the appointment of five new outstanding faculty members.



MOHAMED ABOU SHOUSHA, M.D., FRCS, Ph.D. a cornea specialist, joins the faculty as an assistant professor of clinical ophthalmology. He received a bachelor's degree in medicine and surgery and a master degree in ophthalmology from Alexandria University, Egypt. He received a doctoral degree of ophthalmology from the Supreme Council of Universities – Egypt. Dr. Abou Shousha completed an ophthalmic residency at Saint Louis University Eye Institute; a fellowship at the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Glasgow University, United Kingdom; and both research and clinical fellowships in corneal and external diseases at Bascom Palmer. Dr. Abou Shousha is available for consultation in Miami and Plantation on corneal and external diseases, including cataracts and intraocular lens, infectious diseases and keratoconus.



ALLISTER G. GIBBONS, M.D., joins the faculty as an assistant professor of clinical ophthalmology, A corneal and external disease specialist, he completed his undergraduate training and earned a doctor of medicine degree from the Universidad de los Andes, Santiago, Chile. He completed an ophthalmology residency and a fellowship in anterior segment and refractive surgery at the Fundacion Oftalmologica Los Andes. After four years of practice, he pursued an ocular surface fellowship at Bascom Palmer. Dr. Gibbons is available for consultation at Bascom Palmer in Naples on cataracts and intraocular lens surgery, corneal transplants, and dry eye.



BRADFORD W. LEE, M.D., M.Sc., an oculoplastic and reconstructive surgeon, joins the faculty as an assistant professor of clinical ophthalmology. He received a bachelor's degree, magna cum laude in biochemical sciences from Harvard University; a master of science degree with honors and distinctions in health policy, planning and financing from the London School of Economics & London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine; and a doctor of medicine degree at Stanford University School of Medicine. He then completed an ophthalmology residency at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute and an oculofacial plastic and reconstructive surgery fellowship at Shiley Eye Institute at the University of California San Diego School of Medicine. Dr. Lee is available for consultation in Palm Beach Gardens on aesthetic and cosmetic treatments, oculofacial plastic surgery, eyelid and orbital reconstructive surgery, and thyroid eye disease.



VICTOR M. VILLEGAS, M.D., a retinal specialist, received his bachelor of science degree at the University of Florida. He completed his medical degree and residency in ophthalmology at the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine prior to completing a pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus fellowship at Bascom Palmer. He also completed additional fellowship training in ocular oncology and vitreoretinal diseases and surgery. He has joined Bascom Palmer as an assistant professor of clinical ophthalmology and holds a faculty appointment at the University of Puerto Rico. Dr. Villegas is available for consultation in Naples.



BRIAN GOLDHAGEN, M.D., joins the vitreoretinal service at Bascom Palmer as an assistant professor of clinical ophthalmology. He received a bachelor's of science degree from the University of Rochester and a doctor of medicine degree from Duke University School of Medicine where he also completed an ophthalmology residency. He then completed a medical retina fellowship at Bascom Palmer. Dr. Goldhagen is available for consultation in Miami.

Partners on the Journey of Scientific Discovery



Dr. Eduardo Alfonso, Dr. David Tse, UM President Julio Frenk, Dr. Nasser Ibrahim Al-Rashid, Fahad Al-Rashid, Ibrahim Al-Rashid, Ron Stone and Dean Pascal Goldschmidt

The Dr. Nasser Ibrahim Al-Rashid Orbital Vision Research Center was formally dedicated this March. It is the first cure-based, orbital research laboratory in the world where basic science will be translated into clinical cures to transform the lives of patients with eye disease.

The new research center at Bascom Palmer is the culmination of a bond, nearly three decades in the making, between Dr. Nasser Ibrahim Al-Rashid and David T. Tse, M.D., the director of the Center.

“The dedication of this magnificent orbital research center is the result of a fortuitous chance encounter, fortified by years of friendship and trust,” said Dr. Tse, who holds the Dr. Nasser Ibrahim Al-Rashid Chair in Ophthalmic Plastic, Orbital Surgery, and Oncology. “Dr. Al-Rashid’s commitment to partner with Bascom Palmer on a journey of progress and scientific discovery not only will yield academic excellence and research breakthroughs, but will also have a profound global effect on the quality of life for future generations of patients with orbital diseases.”

The center’s laboratories and facility, located in the Evelyn F. and William L. McKnight Vision Research Center, were made possible by a transformative \$10 million gift from the Al-Rashid family to support the work of Dr. Tse, whom Dr. Al-Rashid first met 27 years ago.

Dr. Al-Rashid said his commitment stems from his passion for research and exceptional clinical care. He traveled from Dubai for the dedication, accompanied by his sons, Fahad and Ibrahim.

“Dr. Al-Rashid, you are loved and revered here,” said Dr. Tse. “You are a partner with us on the journey of scientific discovery.”

Vision Restored for Blind Artist

A 41-year-old blind and deaf artist from Trinidad is ready to take his creative career to a new level following sight-restoring surgery at Bascom Palmer. Selris James was born blind and deaf. He gained some sight in his left eye after childhood surgery in Trinidad, and taught himself the letters of the alphabet. He began drawing cartoon-like art when he was 5. He is a gifted artist who has faced an uphill struggle all his life.

Selris was rejected by both a school for the blind and a school for the deaf because of his double disability. That’s when Beth Harry helped Selris enroll in a school she had opened, in memory of her daughter, for children with disabilities. Selris stayed there until he was 21. Earlier this year, Ms. Harry launched a fundraising effort to bring Selris to Miami to see if his vision and communication skills could be improved.

Bascom Palmer ophthalmologist Richard Lee, M.D., evaluated Selris and found that a cataract in his right eye had not been fully removed during childhood surgery. Guillermo Amescua, M.D., a cornea specialist, removed the cataract, which had turned into a powder-like substance that inflamed the retina.



“Because of the damage to his eye, we fitted Selris with a new pair of high powered glasses, giving him central vision of around 20-50,” said Dr. Amescua. “It was very gratifying to see his big smile when he put on the lenses and could finally see.”

Communication specialists at the University of Miami Mailman Center for Child Development evaluated Selris and began working on his sign language skills. He is also learning to read and to speak through an application on an iPad.

Throughout his stay in Miami, Selris created new artwork. “Two days after his eye surgery, he drew a pictorial narrative of his vision from birth to now,” said Ms. Harry. “My heartfelt thanks to all whose kindness made this possible.”

Inaugural Gala Raises \$700,000 for Bascom Palmer Naples



Bascom Palmer hosted its inaugural gala “Evening of Vision – Under the Stars” this past January at its new, landmark eye center in Naples.

After a stormy day, clouds parted and stars illuminated the sky for a sold-out crowd of 250 people. With the sound of the Stamps Jazz Quintet of the University Of Miami Frost School of Music in the background, guests toured the

center and enjoyed a lovely dinner under a brilliant full moon. Entertainment continued with a special performance by Glenn Basham, professor emeritus at the Frost School and an exciting auction that raised \$700,000 for Bascom Palmer’s ambulatory surgical center.

The surgical center will open later this year, but the building fundraising campaign continues. For more information on naming opportunities in the building, please contact the development department at 239-659-3986.



Barney and Monnie Donnelley with Dr. Eduardo Alfonso

Seeing is Believing at Medical Forum

Bascom Palmer Eye Institute’s annual Medical Forum and Luncheon took place on Thursday, January 14 in Palm Beach. With the first luncheon held in 1988, the medical forum has become a much appreciated Palm Beach tradition. Bascom Palmer’s Chairman, Eduardo C. Alfonso, M.D., welcomed more than 150 guests and shared the Institute’s latest developments in vision research and eye care. He then acknowledged and thanked Monnie Donnelley, luncheon chairwoman and a longtime Bascom Palmer supporter. The forum featured three informative presentations by Bascom Palmer ophthalmologists, Dr. Thomas Albini, Dr. Sara Wester and Dr. Krishna Kishor.

Bascom Palmer Shines at its Palm Beach Evening of Vision

More than 220 friends and supporters of Bascom Palmer Eye Institute gathered to celebrate the 35th annual Evening of Vision gala held at The Mara-Lago Club on Saturday, March 5. The outstanding event was chaired by Marietta and Dale McNulty. Raysa and Alfonso Fanjul were Honorary Chairmen and Hermé de Wyman Miro served as International Honorary Chairwoman.



Dr. Eduardo and Molly Alfonso with Marietta and Dale McNulty

Bringing Vision Into Focus



Tiffany Cloutier, Dr. Terrence O'Brien, Erin McGould

Tiffany Cloutier and Erin McGould hosted a ladies luncheon, “For Your Eyes Only,” on behalf of Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. More than 60 ladies attended the luncheon in February, which took place in Palm Beach, and featured an informative presentation by Terrence P. O’Brien, M.D., professor of ophthalmology at Bascom Palmer. O’Brien spoke about presbyopia and vision changes that take place over time.



Dr. Thomas Albini, Dr. Sara Wester and Dr. Krishna Kishor

How you can help today

Please consider a generous gift to support breakthrough research and excellent patient care by mailing your check payable to **UM Bascom Palmer Eye Institute** in the envelope provided. You may also give online by visiting us at bascompalmer.org/giving, or by leaving Bascom Palmer in your estate plans.

For more information, please contact Bascom Palmer’s development office at 305-326-6190 or email bpeidevelopment@med.miami.edu.

The mission of Bascom Palmer Eye Institute is to enhance the quality of life by improving sight, preventing blindness and advancing knowledge through compassionate patient care and innovative research.

bascompalmer.org

