


Byron L. Lam, M.D.

Robert Z. & Nancy J. Greene Chair in Ophthalmology



 **BYRON L. LAM, M.D.**, has been a productive clinical scientist for over 20 years. His broad background in neuro-ophthalmology and hereditary retinal degenerations has enabled him to collaborate with basic and clinical scientists resulting in many successful translational projects. In January 2015, Lam was awarded the Robert Z. & Nancy J. Greene Chair in Ophthalmology for the support of ophthalmic research.

Lam's early work on visual function tests led him to realize the importance of understanding disease mechanisms and testing of potential therapies of difficult-to-treat conditions. Lam's many neuro-ophthalmology interests include idiopathic intracranial hypertension, hereditary optic neuropathies, and anterior ischemic optic neuropathy. He has conducted research studies, such as the Leber Hereditary Optic Neuropathy Gene Therapy Trial with Bascom Palmer professor, John Guy, M.D., and cerebrospinal fluid dynamic studies with Noam Alperin Ph.D., a University of Miami professor of radiology.

Lam has established a 17-year database of hereditary retinal degeneration patients. His vast experience includes research into the identification of physiologic biomarkers associated in retinal degenerations with Bascom Palmer research professor,

“We are fortunate to be in an exciting era where novel diagnostic techniques and innovative therapies, including gene therapy and stem cell therapy, are being tested and will ultimately be implemented for previously untreatable conditions.”

Rong Wen, M.D., Ph.D. In addition to phenotypic-genotypic correlation studies, Lam participates in several clinical trials, including retinal pigmentary epithelium stem cell for Stargardt maculopathy, and gene therapy studies in achromatopsia. Most recently, Lam has been involved with the novel treatment of the Argus® II Retinal Prosthesis System.

Lam's ability to effectively integrate clinical and basic science and to make important connections between them is demonstrated by the textbook he wrote in 2005: “Electrophysiology of Vision; Clinical Testing and Applications.” The book is among the most popular text in its field and is used by students, physicians-in-training, researchers and clinicians. Lam has also been involved in ocular epidemiologic research on how visual impairment increases mortality through indirect pathways such as its effect on the activities of daily living and well-being, with David Lee Ph.D., a University of Miami professor of epidemiology.

In addition to his clinical practice, Lam is medical director of neuro-ophthalmology and scientific co-director of Adrienne Arsht Hope for Vision Retinal Degeneration Laboratory. Lam received the Senior Achievement Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology. He is on the editorial board of *Journal of Neuro-Ophthalmology* and is a member of the Visual Impairment/ Intracranial Pressure Research and Clinical Advisory Panel at NASA.