Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at Naples
Since opening its doors in 1962, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute has held true to its core mission of enhancing the quality of life by improving sight, preventing blindness, and advancing ophthalmic knowledge through compassionate patient care, innovative vision research, and education.
A world-renowned leader in ophthalmology, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute is committed to the protection and preservation of the precious gift of sight. • For more than 50 years we have been one of the world’s leading eye centers providing the finest ophthalmic care, conducting innovative research to treat vision disorders and prevent blindness, and educating tomorrow’s physicians and investigators. • Our clinical faculty specializes in every ophthalmic subspecialty and serves more than 250,000 patients annually. • Our research faculty investigates the causes of serious eye diseases, developing innovative treatment strategies. • We educate students specializing in vision care, postgraduate trainees, and practicing ophthalmologists in programs regarded as among the best in the world. Bascom Palmer Eye Institute has set a global standard for excellence and innovation in eye care—a standard we are pleased to continue to expand in Southwest Florida.
OUR FUTURE IN NAPLES

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the opening of Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at Naples. We are excited to celebrate that significant milestone by kicking off a capital campaign to build a freestanding eye center. The new state-of-the-art building will help us continue to provide superior patient care for decades to come.

Our goal is to raise $17 million for the construction of a 20,000-square-foot facility on 1.5 acres near downtown Naples. With an $8 million investment already made by Bascom Palmer’s Ophthalmology Research Foundation, this important $25 million project will be a collaborative investment in our Southwest Florida community. Bascom Palmer is a not-for-profit organization, and all donations are tax-deductible.

We’re expanding our presence in the region to enhance the quality of eye care for its residents. By 2025, the number of Americans with sight-threatening eye conditions, such as age-related macular degeneration, cataracts, and glaucoma, is expected to rise significantly. In fact, vision loss is currently the second greatest cause of disability in the United States. Within the last decade, patient visits in Naples have more than quadrupled, now exceeding 13,000 annually. That represents a nearly 20 percent increase since 2012.

We look forward to working in tandem with visionary and caring donors like you to help us open the doors to the future. Please join us in helping to change lives and bring the latest in ophthalmic advancements to you and your family, as well as neighbors and friends.

Eduardo C. Alfonso, M.D.
Chairman, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

Stephen G. Schwartz, M.D., M.B.A.
Medical Director, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at Naples
Bascom Palmer’s Vision for Southwest Florida

For a young Naples child with a rare and deadly type of eye cancer called retinoblastoma, a Bonita Springs mother facing blindness due to diabetic retinopathy, or a Marco Island retiree with age-related macular degeneration, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute serves as a priceless medical resource.

Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at Naples brings advanced vision-saving specialty and subspecialty services, along with access to clinical trials and new surgical procedures to a growing volume of patients in Southwest Florida. That’s a tremendous benefit at any age, but particularly for older adults who are enabled to continue to drive and maintain their independence, watch their grandchildren at play, or simply enjoy another stunning sunset over the Gulf.

Bascom Palmer at Naples currently offers care for vitreoretinal diseases, corneal diseases, and many other vision-threatening disorders. While services in each of these areas will continue at the new center, the six “pillars” of comprehensive treatments will be retina, cornea, glaucoma, pediatric ophthalmology, oculoplastics, and clinical research.

A premier leader in the latest advancements in ophthalmology, Bascom Palmer will bring to Naples previously unavailable options, including specialized treatments for conditions of the retina and cornea and greater access to related clinical trials as well as diagnostic imaging and a dedicated ambulatory surgery center. Bascom Palmer’s priority to conduct cutting-edge vision research will be carried out at this state-of-the-art facility. A fellowship program, designed to enhance ophthalmic training and education, is also being planned.

Part of Bascom Palmer’s mission is to lead the fight against visual loss and blindness using 21st-century resources such as human genomics, nanotechnology, cellular biology, molecular diagnostics, and advanced imaging. With a longstanding collaboration with the University of Miami’s Hussman Institute for Human Genomics, Bascom Palmer is helping to pave the way for advancements in each of these pioneering areas of research.
The Leader in Groundbreaking Ophthalmic Research

For the past 50 years, Bascom Palmer faculty members have contributed more to the field of ophthalmology than any other institute; this stems from its commitment to laboratory and clinical research programs. To that end, our research faculty work closely with other departments in the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, including the Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation Department of Human Genetics and the John P. Hussman Institute for Human Genomics, to translate laboratory findings into clinical care applications. Our physicians have laboratory facilities at the Interdisciplinary Stem Cell Institute at UM to advance this discipline in retinal stem cells and ocular surface stem cells. Our research portfolio also includes hereditary eye diseases and other blinding diseases.

The main research focus of Abigail Hackam, Ph.D., is to identify novel treatments that increase photoreceptor survival in patients with age-related macular degeneration and retinitis pigmentosa.

Under the direction of Eduardo C. Alfonso, M.D., Bascom Palmer opened a center for ophthalmic clinical research, designed to consolidate clinical trials and clinical outcomes research. The center creates “one-stop shopping” for implementing national clinical trials and conducting innovative vision research.

Philip J. Rosenfeld, M.D., Ph.D., changed the treatment options for patients with wet age-related macular degeneration by injecting directly into patient eyes a drug approved for treating colon cancer. Ophthalmologists around the world have put Dr. Rosenfeld’s findings into practice.
Growing Our Renowned Staff of Physicians

Upon the opening of our new Naples facility, more full-time physicians will be added to the faculty. Currently, Naples has three full-time physicians, and seven Bascom Palmer physicians from Miami visit monthly. The new center will grow to include six full-time ophthalmologists and 30 support staff. Gradually, other physicians will join the team to provide additional expertise in such areas as glaucoma, pediatric ophthalmology, and both refractive and oculoplastic surgeries. We plan to recruit a full-time glaucoma specialist and oculoplastic surgeon, a pediatric ophthalmologist, and a neuro-ophthalmologist. None of these specialties are presently covered on a full-time basis in Naples.

Extraordinary Faculty

Bascom Palmer Eye Institute’s faculty includes worldwide leaders in virtually every area of ophthalmology, providing an unsurpassed level of patient care and making enormous contributions to our understanding of vision and diseases of the eye. The outstanding physicians on staff at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at Naples exemplify our recognized excellence.

Stephen G. Schwartz, M.D., M.B.A.

Stephen G. Schwartz is an associate professor of clinical ophthalmology and has served as medical director for Bascom Palmer at Naples since its opening in 2004. His clinical specialties are macular diseases, vitreoretinal diseases and surgery, diabetic retinopathy, and macular degeneration. His research interest is ophthalmic pharmacogenomics. He previously served as assistant professor of ophthalmology at Virginia Commonwealth University.

He is a graduate of Cornell University, New York University School of Medicine, and Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management. Dr. Schwartz completed residency training at New York University and fellowship training in vitreoretinal surgery at Baylor College of Medicine.

George F. Corrent, M.D., Ph.D.

George F. Corrent, assistant professor of clinical ophthalmology, previously served as chief of ophthalmology at Cleveland Clinic Florida before joining Bascom Palmer in 2009. His clinical specialties are cataracts and intraocular lenses, corneal and external diseases, and corneal transplant surgery. His research interests are corneal infectious diseases and corneal healing.

He is a graduate of Duke University, University of Texas Medical School at Houston, and Rice University. He completed his residency training at Barnes Hospital/Washington University School of Medicine and fellowship training in corneal and external diseases at Bascom Palmer.

Jaclyn Kovach, M.D.

Jaclyn Kovach, assistant professor of clinical ophthalmology, has been with Bascom Palmer since 2007. Her clinical specialties are macular diseases, vitreoretinal diseases, diabetic retinopathy, retinal degeneration, macular degeneration, and related disorders. Her research interests are age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, retinal imaging, and genetic basis of age-related macular generation.

She is a graduate of Vanderbilt University, completed her residency training at the Vanderbilt Eye Institute at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, and served a medical retina fellowship at Bascom Palmer.
The building’s magnificent architectural design was inspired by the spirit of optic science, with an emphasis on transparency and natural light. The steel-and-glass exterior offers views of the tropical landscape from the first- and second-floor waiting areas. Emphasis on aesthetics, lighting, exterior views, seating, furnishings, regional artwork, indoor climate, and accessibility ensure a comfortable patient experience.
The new Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at Naples will be located on Tamiami Trail. The design of the facility incorporates basic principles of optics through a unique combination of metal and glass panels. Additionally, it will be a LEED-certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) building.

Our new building will be home to six pillar programs in ophthalmology care, representing a 100 percent increase in ophthalmology specialties we currently treat. These include retina, cornea, glaucoma, pediatric ophthalmology, oculoplastics, and clinical research. The building will also feature a state-of-the-art ambulatory surgery center. For convenience, a full-service optical shop will be on the premises.

Cutting-edge technology, an increased number of specialists, and the most distinguished, forward-thinking faculty will allow Bascom Palmer to continue closing the gap between medical discovery and treatment of eye diseases.

Comprehensive Diagnostic Services and Treatment

- Cataracts and Intraocular Lenses
- Diabetic Retinopathy
- Glaucoma
- Infectious Eye Disease
- Intraocular Tumors
- Macular Disease
- Neuro-Ophthalmology
- Ocular Surface and Tear Disorders
- Oculoplastics, Lacrimal and Orbital Disease
- Retinal Detachment and Vitreoretinal Disease
- Uveitis
- LASIK and Laser Vision Correction
Pillars of Our Progress

Innovative treatment options, research, education, and community outreach conducted by Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, as well as its fundraising efforts, serve one ultimate purpose: to produce a result that improves the quality of life.

Our new facility will enable us to double the number of specialties we currently treat. These expanded services will include comprehensive “pillar programs” in cornea, glaucoma, retina, pediatric ophthalmology, oculoplastics, and clinical research.

**Cornea**
- Ocular surface disease
- Corneal transplants
- Cataracts and intraocular lenses
- Refractive/LASIK surgery

The Corneal Program evaluates and treats diseases and disorders of the cornea and conjunctiva, including dystrophies, infections, corneal swelling, dry eyes, and injuries. Bascom Palmer offers special expertise in corneal transplantation, including high-risk keratoplasty, high-risk cataract-intraocular lens surgery, and diagnosis and management of corneal ulcers, scleritis, and ocular allergy.

Bascom Palmer has been at the forefront of refractive surgery since its earliest use in 1980. Each faculty member performing refractive surgery is a fellowship-trained cornea specialist, and all are nationally and internationally recognized in the field. A number of refractive surgeries, in addition to LASIK, are available to patients.

**Glaucoma**
- Adult
- Pediatric

The Glaucoma Program evaluates and treats all forms of the disorder. Treatment may consist of medical therapy alone or in combination with laser or incisional surgery. In addition, surgical management of cataracts in patients with glaucoma comprises an important part of the Glaucoma Program. Available diagnostic testing includes Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT), along with other state-of-the-art diagnostic exams.

The Pediatric Glaucoma specialists at Bascom Palmer treat all forms of glaucoma in children. A wide range of medical and surgical options are available to treat infants and children with these disorders.
Retina
- Diabetic Retinopathy
- Macular Degeneration
- Vitreoretinal Diseases and Surgery
- Retinal Detachment

The Retina and Vitreous Diseases Program is dedicated to treatment of medical and surgical diseases of the posterior segment of the eye. Our fully-equipped operating rooms feature the latest in posterior segment technology and treatment methodologies.

Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus
- Strabismus
- Amblyopia
- Pediatric Eye Diseases

The Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Program provides care for a wide range of ocular problems and visual impairments in children. Children receive short-term treatment of the immediate problem and long-term rehabilitative care and monitoring of their visual development. A full complement of diagnostic and therapeutic modalities is available.

Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Services
- Oculofacial Plastic Surgery
- Reconstructive Surgery
- Orbital Surgery

The Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Program provides evaluation and management of adult and pediatric patients with eyelid, tear drainage, and orbital conditions.

In addition, the program includes oculofacial, reconstructive plastic surgery of the eye, along with aesthetic and cosmetic treatments. These treatments and procedures are administered with care to not compromise the health of the eyes.

Clinical Research Program
Bascom Palmer’s clinical research effort includes programs led by individual investigators and multi-investigator programs with shared leadership. Patient-oriented research programs are a focus of our faculty and often result in clinical trials.

The Importance of Your Gift

Your support of this vital project will help expand world-class ophthalmic clinical care and research throughout Southwest Florida. It will enable collaborative and educational opportunities for local ophthalmologists and establish Naples as a national and international destination for the best and latest in ophthalmic care.

Major gifts made towards Bascom Palmer at Naples will be prominently recognized within the facility. There are multiple naming opportunities available to highlight donor generosity.

When considering a donation, please remember that the physicians and scientists of Bascom Palmer Eye Institute work each day to eradicate visual loss through unique laboratory and clinical research and by serving as premier leaders in the education of ophthalmologists around the world.
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute’s Ophthalmology Research Foundation, Inc.

In 1970 the Ophthalmology Research Foundation, Inc. (ORF) was incorporated with funds donated by Bascom Palmer Eye Institute’s faculty physicians. The ORF continues to this day, and it serves to receive and maintain funds that are used exclusively to support activities of Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, which serves as the Department of Ophthalmology for the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. For nearly 45 years, the ORF has funded the purchase of property, equipment, and services needed to provide the ultimate in patient care, physician training and education, and vision research.

Donations made in support of the new Naples facility should be directed to the Ophthalmology Research Foundation, Inc. (EIN 23-7081974). All donations are tax-deductible and payable over five years.

Ambulatory Surgery Center

The new Ambulatory Surgery Center is dedicated to providing patients with extraordinary care—team-based outpatient surgery in a relaxed, personal atmosphere within the Bascom Palmer facility. It will feature two state-of-the-art surgical suites, a minor procedures room, and a recovery bay to ensure complete patient satisfaction.

The new Ambulatory Surgery Center will enable Bascom Palmer physicians to perform a wide range of on-site outpatient procedures.
A History of Excellence

Founded in 1962 as the Department of Ophthalmology for the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute is recognized globally as a leading center for advanced patient care, innovative vision research, and ophthalmic education and training. Bascom Palmer is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, tax-exempt, charitable organization whose mission is to enhance the quality of life by improving sight, preventing blindness, and advancing ophthalmic knowledge through compassionate patient care and innovative vision research.

Bascom Palmer’s highly trained ophthalmologists provide full-service routine and sub-specialized care, including retina and vitreous surgery; treatment for glaucoma, corneal, and external diseases; laser vision correction; ophthalmic oncology; pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus; ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery; and neuro-ophthalmology. In addition to providing excellent care to more than 250,000 patients annually at patient care centers in Miami, Palm Beach Gardens, Plantation, and Naples, its faculty members conduct revolutionary biomedical research and present progressive academic programs to medical students, ophthalmologists, and other physicians worldwide.

Bascom Palmer’s government-sponsored laboratory research program received $13.8 million in 2012. The Evelyn F. and William L. McKnight Vision Research Center is the home of Bascom Palmer’s laboratory research. Located adjacent to Bascom Palmer’s eye hospital in Miami, it is a state-of-the-art, eight-story, 56,000-square-foot facility that includes wet and dry laboratory space. Great emphasis is placed on collaborative research, with major efforts regarding advancing cures for cancer, diabetes, and spinal cord injury. Additionally, Bascom Palmer has one of the strongest clinical vision-care programs in the world. Its exceptional residency, fellowship, and international medical observer training programs attract talented physicians from around the globe.
Realizing Our Vision

Ranked the No. 1 eye hospital in the nation for the past decade by U.S. News & World Report, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute has a global reputation of being the very best in ophthalmic research, educational training, clinical trials, diagnostics, and equipment innovation. And it is all right here, in our own backyard. How fortunate we are.

Playing a pivotal role in groundbreaking ophthalmic advancements and setting the ultimate standard in quality patient care makes Bascom Palmer “second to none.” Together, our world-renowned physicians, scientists, researchers, and support staff ensure that we are more than meeting the needs of all patients — from infants to the elderly. This special approach to care, coupled with our strong focus on the “six pillars,” clearly sets us apart from other ophthalmic hospitals and services.

Please take a few moments to consider the importance of Bascom Palmer’s life-changing and visionary work—and how you can participate in ensuring that it continues for generations to come.
Thank you for considering joining this important capital campaign to make Naples, Florida a landmark for exceptional ophthalmic care. Your generous support will touch thousands of lives and help preserve the precious gift of sight for individuals of all ages.

For more information or to make your gift, please contact:
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