The Edward S. Harkness Eye Institute & The Department of Ophthalmology at

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

Viewpoint

Holiday Season 2003

Celebrating Excellence and Caring

Cecilia Tse Ying and James Ying appreciate their good vision. Long-time patients of Dr. Stanley Chang, they turned to Dr. Chang when Mrs. Ying's elderly parents needed specialized vision care during their final years.

To commemorate their fond and loving memories of Cecilia Tse Ying's parents, and in appreciation of Dr. Chang's caring treatment for their entire family, Mr. and Mrs. Ying have established the K.K. Tse and Ku Teh Ying Professorship in Ophthalmology

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Gerald Fischbach, Executive Vice President for Health & Biomedical Sciences and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine (far left); James Ying (center) with daughter Charlene Ying Wade and son John Ying; Dr. Stanley Chang (far right), Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology.

Mission Possible:
Advancing Glaucoma Diagnosis and Prevention

Glaucoma is the leading cause of blindness worldwide — the National Glaucoma Research program of the American Health Assistance Foundation (AHAF) estimates that 6.7 million people have lost their vision to glaucoma, while an additional 66.8 million people experience glaucoma-related visual impairment.

In the United States, glaucoma is the second leading cause of blindness. According to the National Eye Institute of the National Institutes of Health, over 2.2 million Americans have glaucoma, and 120,000 of those individuals are now blind. Perhaps more alarming is that another two million adults may have undetected

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Writing & Design by
Kathleen Boyd, Articulate Solutions

Views from the Chair

Dear Friends:


Stanley Chang, M.D.

As we approach the holidays, I am overwhelmed with deep personal gratitude for the friendships that have developed with so many patients and colleagues over the years. It is one of the most rewarding aspects of my work with the Department of Ophthalmology and at the Edward S. Harkness Eye Institute.

It is also my pleasure to share this *Viewpoint* with you. You will learn about the new and exciting research into possible causes and treatments for glaucoma that are taking place within our laboratories. You will read about some of our brightest and most talented researchers and doctors, as well as recent and planned renovations to our facilities. It is humbling to realize how many of these efforts are made possible by the altruism of thoughtful patients and dear friends of the Department of Ophthalmology, including our steadfast Board of Advisors.

In this season of thankfulness and giving, I extend my sincere appreciation to each of you for your commitment and generosity. Your interest and support nourish many of our most promising programs. We are honored and grateful that you share our dedication to advances in ophthalmology and to making excellent vision care for all a high priority.

With all good wishes to you and yours,

STANLEY CHANG, M.D.
K.K. Tse and Ku Teh Ying Professor
Edward S. Harkness Professor
Chairman, Department of Ophthalmology

A Gift to Celebrate... (con't.)

through the James and Cecilia Tse Ying Foundation. Now retired from successful business careers, James and Cecilia Ying are dedicated philanthropists with a profound interest in educational initiatives and other endeavors here and in the Far East. They are honoring Dr. Chang as the inaugural appointee of the prestigious Ying Professorship in Ophthalmology.

James and Cecilia Tse Ying

The Ying Professorship will fund new research initiatives in ophthalmology by an established ophthalmologist and investigator, in addition to medical and teaching collaborations between the Department of Ophthalmology and appropriate medical institutions in China.

Mr. and Mrs. K.K. Tse

"We are deeply honored by the Ying family's generous endorsement of our work. Their outstanding support will help the Department of Ophthalmology continue to attract gifted eye care specialists with a strong record of clinical care and research accomplishments," said Dr. Chang. He continued, "I feel privileged to have enjoyed the friendship of James and Cecilia Ying, their parents and their lovely children, John and Charlene, over the years. I am very deeply moved by their graciousness and tremendous faith and trust in our research capabilities."

Mr. Koong-Kai Tse, known as "K.K." to his friends, was synonymous with the American International Group (AIG) for some 70 years, having joined the company in Shanghai in 1927. He was instrumental in assisting AIG's founder, Mr. Cornelius Vander Starr, in building the company into a global insurance and financial services powerhouse. For many years, their desks faced one another, and they grew to become close colleagues, as well as life-long family friends.

Mr. Tse was particularly proud of AIG's success in creating positive business relations between the United States and China. As the only Fortune 50 company founded in China, AIG has deep roots in the global insurance and financial services market — in the United States, in China and throughout Asia. In fact, for many years, AIG was the only foreign insurance company allowed to operate in China, thanks to Mr. Tse's skill and diplomacy in government relations.

During his long and illustrious career, Mr. Tse held many senior positions within AIG including Honorary Director of American International Group, Inc., Honorary Director of American International Reinsurance Company, Inc., Director of C.V. Starr and Company, Inc., Director and President of Starr International Company, Chairman of American International Underwriters, Ltd., Chairman of Underwriters Bank (Overseas) Ltd., Chairman of Nan Shan Life Insurance Company and Director of American International Assurance Company. He was also the Chairman of

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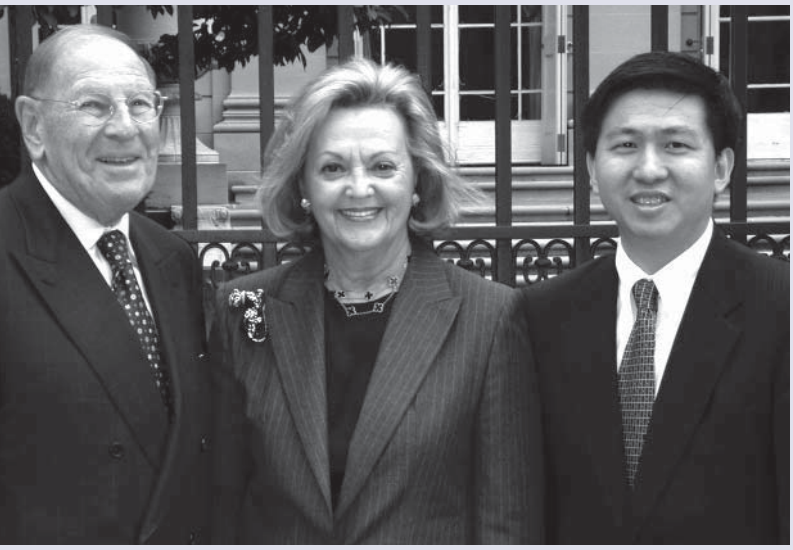
Making Wishes Come True

Ask Shirlee Brown why she and her husband Bernard decided to fund the new Brown Glaucoma Laboratory in the Department of Ophthalmology at Columbia University and she will tell you about their overwhelmingly positive experiences as glaucoma patients at the Harkness Eye Institute.



Bernard Brown, Shirlee Brown and Dr. James Tsai

"As patients of Dr. Chang and Dr. Tsai, we are personally interested in this research. The average patient who is diagnosed with glaucoma may not receive treatment information beyond being told to put some drops in their eyes. The education process stops right there," noted Mrs. Brown. "Dr. Chang and Dr. Tsai provided us with so much more information. They helped us to understand glaucoma as a disease of the eye, how it can be diagnosed and treated, and the many treatment avenues that are being explored through research."

About four years ago, Dr. Chang performed a successful surgical procedure for Mrs. Brown's glaucoma. Mr. and Mrs. Brown were so impressed with Dr. Chang's expertise, skill and caring attention that she asked Dr. Chang if he had a "wish list" for advancing ophthalmology research at Columbia.

"Bernie and I decided to take the step of establishing a two-year fellowship in retinal research," Mrs. Brown explained. "My husband and I feel very fortunate to be able to give back to the community at this point in our lives." The Browns, who reside in Vineland, New Jersey, and Palm Beach, Florida, own and operate National Freight, a leading family of distribution centers, transportation logistics, contract manufacturing and real estate companies, and Sun National Bank.

In 2002, Mrs. Brown was invited to join the Department of Ophthalmology's Advisory Board. From there, she became increasingly knowledgeable about the research activities of the Department. Dr. Chang introduced Dr. Jim Tsai, Director of Glaucoma Research, at an Advisory Board meeting and they outlined their plans for a novel research laboratory that would encourage collaboration among three principal investigators and their staff while simultaneously accelerating the development of new glaucoma therapies through immediate integration of scientific research with real-time clinical information and care.

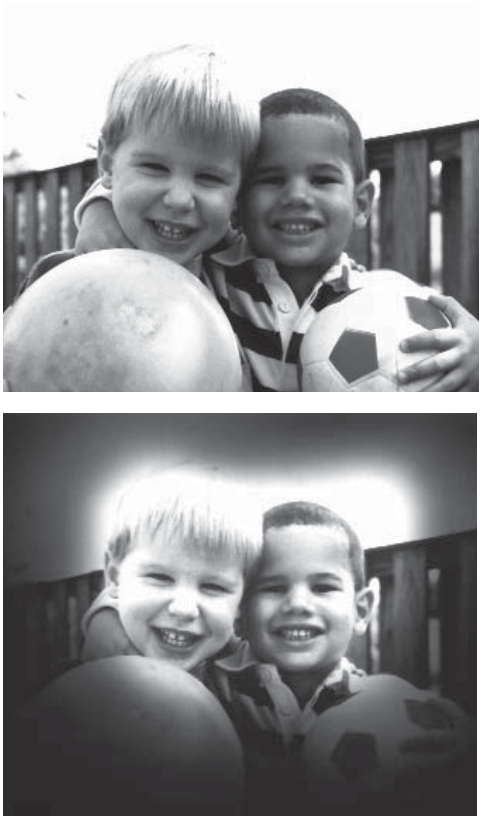
"From the first moment of introduction, we had the strong feeling that we wanted to

con't. p.15

Mission Possible (con't.)

glaucoma, as noticeable vision impairment may not occur until the glaucoma has caused irreversible damage.

A degenerative disease of the eye, the most common form of glaucoma involves impaired fluid drainage from the inside to the outside of the eye. The resulting pressure causes damage to the optic nerve, the part of the eye responsible for transmitting to the brain the visual information gathered by the retina.



Example of normal vision (top) and glaucoma vision (bottom). Courtesy of National Eye Institute, National Institutes of Health.

One could compare the eye's optic nerve to a residential cable television line. The cable line brings the television signal in from the outside and connects to the television, which then converts the signal into a picture on the screen that is clear and recognizable. If the cable line is damaged, the television picture may be fuzzy, distorted or even blank. The optic nerve works similarly. Glaucoma damages the optic nerve, compromising the signal that reaches the brain. Untreated glaucoma results in irreversible damage to the peripheral field of vision, eventually leading to complete blindness.

However, it is also possible to have glaucoma without the typical elevated intraocular pressure. That possibility reaches epidemic proportions with the primary risk factors of aging, heredity, myopia and inadequate health care access. Currently there is no known cure for glaucoma, although early detection and treatment can slow the progression of the disease.

No Time to Waste

Dr. Stanley Chang, Chairman of Columbia University's Department of Ophthalmology, and his staff of talented doctors and scientists, are working tirelessly to discover the causes of glaucoma and develop new diagnostic methods and innovative treatments based on that knowledge.

"It is our mission to educate, inform and provide the highest quality comprehensive clinical care for our patients," Dr. Chang explained. "We must also pursue the research activities that will yield the most significant outcomes in diagnosing and treating our patients today, while maintaining a strong concentration on new developments and their implications for future technologies and treatments."

Dr. James Tsai, Director of the Glaucoma Research Division and the first Homer McK. Rees Scholar in Glaucoma Research, believes that it is reasonable to expect

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Mission Possible (con't.)

breakthroughs in glaucoma detection and treatment in the next few decades, but agrees that it is a race against time. He explained the genesis of the concept for the Brown Glaucoma Laboratory.

"Dr. Chang, Dr. Forbes and I recognized the critical need for integration between clinical care and basic science research to accelerate progress toward a better understanding of the true causes of glaucoma," Dr. Tsai remarked. "The concept behind the Brown Glaucoma Laboratory [see "Making Wishes Come True"] is a truly innovative approach. With three principal investigators working collaboratively in a renovated laboratory equipped with state-of-the-art technology, we are creating a bridge between clinical observations and laboratory work that will hasten the discovery process."

"...this work has global implications. The time is now."

Dr. Max Forbes, from whom Dr. Tsai inherited the Glaucoma Research Division, agreed and emphasized the urgency.

"In the early 1960s, when I first started in practice, people in their eighties were a very small percentage of the population. Now, as people are living longer, we are seeing so many more. The incidence of glaucoma rises with age," Dr. Forbes noted. "Visual acuity is critical to one's quality of life. Without good eyesight, options for independence and involvement in the community decline dramatically, especially with age. Given all that we know about glaucoma, it becomes obvious that this work has global implications. The time is now."

Innovations in Diagnoses and Treatments

Clinical studies with patients have shown that reducing the pressure in the eye is the only proven way to prevent vision loss from glaucoma. High pressure glaucoma is usually treated with prescription eye drops. In fact, one of the primary glaucoma management therapies is latanaprost (also known as Xalatan), a therapy developed in the 1990s at Columbia by Dr. Laszlo Bito. Latanaprost reduces intraocular pressure by increasing the eye's natural outflow of fluid.

In 1998, researchers involved in a breakthrough study funded by the National Eye Institute identified a gene linked to primary open-angle glaucoma. This and other recent breakthroughs are exciting advances in future diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma.

Columbia University's Department of Ophthalmology is leading the genetic exploration. Dr. Chyuan-Sheng "Victor" Lin is a geneticist with a Ph.D. from Columbia who most recently directed the Transgenic Mouse Facility at Columbia's Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Lin has joined the Department of Ophthalmology as the new Homer McK. Rees Scholar, succeeding Dr. Tsai, the first recipient of the prestigious fellowship.

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Making the World a Better Place

"I believe there are two moral imperatives that exist — first, treat others as you like to be treated. Second, do whatever you can, no matter how slight, to leave the world a better place."

Homer McK. Rees

This is the philosophy behind Homer McK. Rees' incredible gifts to the Department of Ophthalmology, the most recent of which is renewed funding for the Homer McK. Rees Scholar in Glaucoma Research. Mr. Rees first established the fellowship in 2001 with Dr. James Tsai as the inaugural appointee.

"As a clinician, scientist and teacher, Jim Tsai was the ideal candidate to be the first Scholar," Mr. Rees expressed. "He is such an enormously bright and energetic fellow, it was gratifying to see all that he could accomplish, although he was stretched thin trying to be all three simultaneously."

Mr. Rees, a retired Wall Street financier and former Chairman of Prudential Capital Corporation, is focused on helping Dr. Stanley Chang gather the staff, facilities and resources necessary to conquer the glaucoma that has steadily claimed fragments of his vision over the last 25 years. Mr. Rees remains thankful — both for his eyesight and for the treatment he has received at Columbia University, first from Dr. John Espy and Dr. Max Forbes, and currently with Dr. Jim Tsai. Now he is ready to see progress for the millions of people who live with glaucoma, especially for those who are undiagnosed or not fortunate enough to have had such excellent care.

"When the Browns decided to fund the renovations to the Glaucoma Lab, it became obvious that Stanley and Jim would need researchers to staff it. Victor Lin was the obvious choice — his credentials and skills are top-notch, and his ideas are about as interesting and cutting edge as the work gets," explained Mr. Rees with admiration. "While Dr. Tsai is treating people with glaucoma in the clinic, Dr. Lin is looking at preventing and curing the disease. Under Stanley Chang's leadership, their team is a formidable combination."

"We are deeply grateful to Homer Rees for his ongoing support of the Glaucoma Program," noted Dr. Stanley Chang. "The Rees Scholar has made it possible for Columbia University to attract some of the most talented scientists in the field of ophthalmology by providing them with the time, facilities and funding to concentrate exclusively on research. This is an investment that will enable better treatments for patients suffering from this silent disease."

Despite glaucoma, Homer Rees continues to serve as an elected representa-

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Allikmets Named Acquavella Assistant Professor

Rando Allikmets, Ph.D., the new Director of Research for the Department of Ophthalmology, has also been selected as the William and Donna Acquavella Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology.

Rando Allikmets, Ph.D.

"Dr. Allikmets has made a leading contribution to ophthalmology through the discovery of the gene for Stargardt's disease," noted Dr. Chang. "We need to work aggressively with brilliant scientists like Dr. Allikmets to find the genes that cause age-related macular degeneration."

Dr. Allikmets, a native of Estonia who completed his Ph.D. in molecular biology in Moscow, has held post-doctoral fellowships in neurobiology and tumor biology at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden, and in molecular biology and genetics at the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health. Widely recognized, respected and published, Dr. Allikmets holds five gene-related patents. His current work includes study of genetic variation in age-related macular degeneration and ABCR gene therapy. At Columbia, he teaches the basic science course.

William Acquavella, a New York art gallery owner who has received vision care through the Department, is pleased with Dr. Allikmets' appointment to the Acquavella Assistant Professorship.

"I've been involved with the Department of Ophthalmology over the years through the Advisory Board, and it is clear that the work here is something special and worth supporting," noted William Acquavella with approval. "Stanley Chang has built a first-rate ophthalmology department, and Rando Allikmets is no exception. I'm pleased to be involved."

William Acquavella

Shapiro Named Stein Professor by RPB

Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB) has awarded Lawrence Shapiro, PhD. its premier Jules and Doris Stein Professorship. At Columbia University, Dr. Shapiro holds two appointments — as an Associate Professor in the Department of Ophthal-

ries & naries

mology and in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics. He also directs the structural and cell biology laboratory. Dr. Shapiro's work involves the study of genetic mutations in nerve cells that cause retinitis pigmentosa, a potentially blinding disease of the retina's photoreceptor cells affecting more than one million people in the U.S.

Research to Prevent Blindness was founded in 1960 by Dr. Jules Stein, a practicing ophthalmologist early in life who later gave up his practice to launch MCA (now known as Universal Studios). Dr. Stein, with a handful of distinguished corporate leaders and other philanthropists, established RPB with the intent of addressing three major barriers to eye research in America — inadequate laboratory facilities, insufficient staffing and scarce funding for promising research that might lead to the eradication of blindness and other diseases of the eye.

At Columbia, RPB funds are supporting the renovation of the Russ and Angelica Berrie Diabetic Retinopathy Research Laboratory, as well as providing much needed unrestricted support.

"The founding fathers of Research to Prevent Blindness were committed to supporting departments of ophthalmology, not just ophthalmology divisions," explained Dr. Harold Spalter, a Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology at Columbia who has been closely involved with RPB since its inception. "In the early years, RPB played a critical role in providing the research funding, credibility and advocacy necessary to convince medical academic institutions to place more emphasis on research and treatments for diseases of the eye."

Indeed, RPB was instrumental in convincing Congress in 1968 to establish the National Eye Institute within the National Institutes of Health. RPB created the prestigious Stein Professorship to attract exceptional basic scientists to conduct research with clinical relevance in respected ophthalmology departments nationwide. Over the years, RPB has channeled more than $202 million into eye research, and more than $53 million for the construction of modern eye research centers across the United States. Since its founding, RPB has been identified with virtually every major scientific advance in eye research, and provides information on diseases of the eye free of charge to the public.

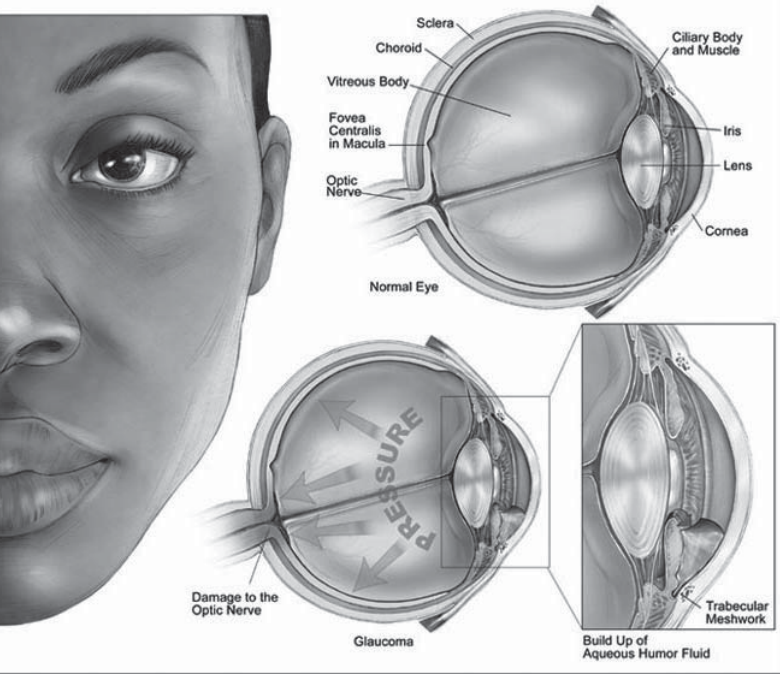
Lawrence Shapiro, Ph.D.

Are You at Risk for Glaucoma?

Glaucoma risk factors are broad and often ambiguous, and can only be assessed accurately by a trained eye professional during the course of a comprehensive eye exam with dilated pupils and tonometry. Some risk factors include:

Age: Research suggests that with the aging of the baby boomer generation, as many as 2% of those over age 40 will develop glaucoma. At age 80 and older, one in 10 adults is expected to develop the disease. The risk of developing glaucoma increases with age. As people live longer, their individual risk increases.

Intraocular pressure: Elevated eye pressure, detected by tonometry (the "air puff" test) is one of the strongest indicators of "high pressure" glaucoma, although it is possible to have elevated pressure or "incident ocular hypertension" without the typical defects in the visual field that signal the presence of nerve damage due to glaucoma and nerve damage.



Representation of how the build-up of aqueous humor can damage the optic nerve. Courtesy of AHAF's National Glaucoma Research program.

Perhaps more alarming, it is also possible to have "normal tension glaucoma" — which is glaucoma without the tell-tale elevated eye pressure. This is perhaps the most insidious form because it silently and irreversibly damages the optic nerve.

Genetics and heredity: A family history of glaucoma increases an individual's risk dramatically. If a first-degree relative (mother, father or sibling) has glaucoma, the risk increases exponentially — with that statistic, as many as 30-50 million Americans could be at risk for developing glaucoma at some point during their lives. Glaucoma is five times more likely to occur in African Americans than in whites and about four times more likely to cause blindness in African Americans.

Refractive error: Recent research reported in the clinical journal *Ophthalmology* determined that nearsighted patients aged 43 to 84 were 60% more likely to have glaucoma. More surprisingly, farsighted patients were found to have a 40% greater likelihood of ocular hypertension (elevated pressure without glaucoma symptoms).

Inadequate health care access: Another study of glaucoma in Mexican Americans, funded by the National Eye Institute and reported in 2001 in the

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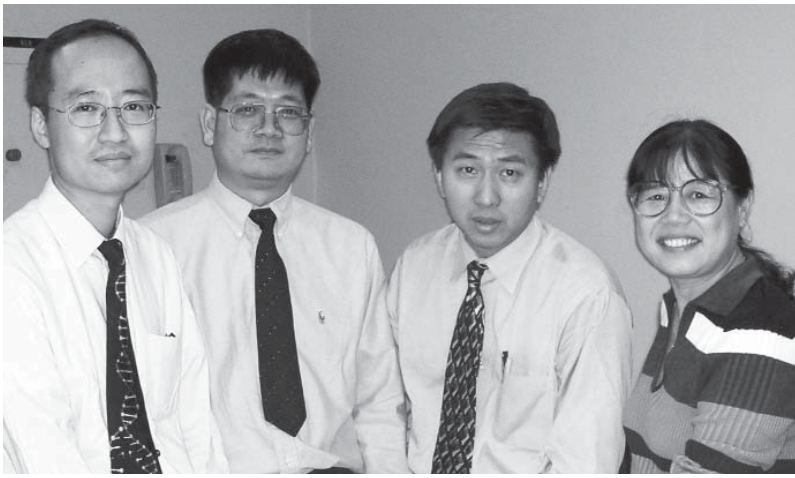
Mission Possible (con't.)

"Our current research focuses on three genes: Optineurin, Neuroglobin and Erythropoietin Receptor," explains Dr. Lin. "We believe these might play important roles in the causes or progression of glaucoma and retinopathy. Using the modern molecular genetic approaches which combine molecular biology, embryonic stem cell and transgenic technologies, we are creating various human disease models in mice that will allow us to study the causes and progression of these diseases."

Optineurin gene mutations have been linked to primary open-angle glaucoma. Again, by creating the same human mutations in mice, it is possible to study the etiology of primary open-angle glaucoma. Dr. Lin also has generated a Neuroglobin-deficient mouse model to study its effects in retina neuronal cells. Neuroglobin is a protein specifically expressed to provide a supply of oxygen to meet the needs of neuronal cells. Neuroglobin deficiency essentially asphyxiates the neuronal cells (a condition known as "hypoxia"), resulting in death of the retinal ganglion nerve — the optic nerve.

Perhaps the most surprising information comes from the Erythropoietin Receptor (EpoR), a cell surface molecule originally linked to the development of red blood cells. The primary role of EpoR is to accept the signal of Erythropoietin (Epo) to produce more red blood cells under low oxygen conditions. Recent studies have shown that Epo not only induces red blood cell production in the bone marrow, it also prevents neuronal cells in the retina from "apoptosis" — programmed cell death.



L to R: Dr. Stephen Tsang, Dr. Chyuan-Sheng "Victor" Lin, Dr. James Tsai and Dr. Li Wu.

"We have identified a unique expression pattern of EpoR in the retina which indicates a possible role of Epo/EpoR signaling in the retina," Dr. Lin described with enthusiasm. "We are studying the possible neuroprotective function of the signaling that occurs between Epo and EpoR in the retina, especially in retinal ganglion cells. We are in the process of generating mouse models with inactive EpoR genes in the retina, which will help us as we explore the efficacy of using Epo or other similarly acting molecules as a treatment for retinal degeneration diseases."

Dr. Tsai's team is also pursuing improved methods for glaucoma diagnosis. Currently, glaucoma patients undergo a series of highly subjective and tedious tests of the visual field, which can make it difficult to accurately track the progression of the disease. Ideally, to properly measure the progression of glaucoma, one must monitor the cell

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Mission Possible (con't.)

death of some 1.2 million individual nerve fibers in the optic nerve. Sophisticated new technology, such as the Optical Coherence Tomography unit at the Harkness Eye Institute, generously donated by Homer McK. Rees, offers a more objective method for doctors to detect and monitor the progression of glaucoma.

Under Dr. Chang's leadership, Dr. Tsai and his team also are collaborating with a neurophysiologist from the Rockefeller Institute to explore a promising method to measure and track the electrical stimulus that occurs through a specific neural pathway believed to exist between the optic nerve and the brain. If this system proves to be effective, it will afford scientists the ability to quickly evaluate potential neuroprotective agents for new glaucoma treatment therapies, as well as provide physicians with a sophisticated tool to use in the diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma.

World-Class Research & Facilities

Dr. Tsai is grateful to those who have made this vision a reality.

"It is exhilarating to work in this environment. I feel so privileged to be able to work with Dr. Chang. His leadership has allowed us to establish the concept and create a Glaucoma Research Division with clinician/scientists. We have the capability to have an impact so much more quickly," Dr. Tsai voiced with emotion. "We are so grateful to the Browns, to Homer Rees, and to all of our donors for making this possible. Thanks to their generosity, we are creating a world-class facility with world-class physicians and scientists. This is the ideal environment in which to pursue causes and cures."

Dr. Lin echoed his sentiments. "I am very grateful to Dr. Chang, Mr. Rees and to Mr. and Mrs. Brown. The meaning underlying their generosity is profound."

A Gift to Celebrate... (con't.)

Chekiang First Bank of Hong Kong and Chairman of Continental Illinois Bank of Chicago.

"K.K Tse was the consummate businessman. His leadership skills were unparalleled," remarked James Ying about his father-in-law.

"Everyone always talks about my grandfather's business accomplishments, but I like to talk about his personal side. Ever since I was a child, I have looked up to my grandfather," said John Ying, a Wharton and MIT alumnus and a managing director and founding member of a technology-related Hong Kong venture capital firm. He recalled his grandfather's profound influence with obvious passion. "My grandfather believed in hard work and pursuing goals with persistence and determination, but he always emphasized the importance of integrity and professionalism. He also taught us that the most enduring and

A Gift to Celebrate...

(con't. from previous page)

important traits to cultivate are love and kindness. His family was everything to him. We are all very close."

Charlene Ying Wade, a Wellesley and Harvard graduate with a family and an architecture career, reflected upon her grandmother's resourcefulness and kindness. "My grandmother was a true Renaissance woman. She cared for everyone — her husband, children, grandchildren and the entire community," Charlene Ying Wade explained. "In anticipation of the Japanese occupation, she had the foresight to stockpile the staples of their daily lives. For example, she filled courtyards with wood and coal, and rooms with soap and rice. She was always happy to share these necessities with people in need."

Mrs. Wade continued. "My grandmother enjoyed gourmet cooking, needlepoint, embroidery and singing Chinese opera. Her domestic abilities were superceded only by her business acumen. She traded successfully in the commodity and stock markets. As respected and revered as my grandfather was, he still sought his wife's wise counsel. He often told us that he knew, the moment he saw her, that she was the woman he would marry."

Mr. Tse passed away on March 9, 1998 at the age of 91. Mrs. Tse died on January 10, 1999, also at age 91. During their 69-year marriage, they served as role models of civic, professional and personal responsibility for their children and grandchildren, and taught them altruism and compassion. Cecilia Tse Ying is thankful for the way in which her

con't. p.15

Are You at Risk? (con't.)

inadequate health care access was one of several important factors in determining why 62% of the study population did not know they had glaucoma (compared to 50% undiagnosed in other populations).

In 2002, the Federal Government added a new screening benefit for Medicare beneficiaries defined as at high-risk for glaucoma, including those with diabetes; those with a family history of glaucoma; and African Americans aged 50 and older.

Other causes: A British study noted an increase in ocular pressure in men who wore their neckties tied very tightly. Apparently, the increased pressure on the jugular vein created additional pressure in the trabecular meshwork, resulting in a decreased outflow of fluid from the eye. When the necktie was loosened, intraocular pressure returned to its previous state.

Early detection is critical. Have a comprehensive eye examination with your ophthalmologist at the Harkness Eye Institute at least once a year if you think you may be at risk of developing glaucoma or if you notice a change in your vision. And men, remember to keep those neckties loose.

Development Expert Joins Ophthalmology Department

Jane Heffner joined the professional staff of the Department of Ophthalmology this year as its first Development Officer. Ms. Heffner works closely with donors and prospective donors, faculty, staff and the Advisory Board to fund the extraordinary vision care, disease treatment and research programs for which the Department of Ophthalmology at Columbia University is known.

Jane E. Heffner

A philanthropic management professional with degrees from Bryn Mawr and Harvard, Ms. Heffner brings to Columbia University a wealth of experience with New York's most prestigious institutions and expertise both as a grant maker and a resource development officer. Starting in the mid-1980s, Ms. Heffner pioneered corporate giving in the securities industry at Salomon Brothers and later at Salomon Smith Barney as First Vice President and Director of Corporate Philanthropy. During her 17-year tenure, she donated several million dollars annually on behalf of the corporation in domestic and international grants. Her leadership and vision resulted in increased visibility for the corporation in the New York community and other major markets.

Prior to her work in the financial services industry, Ms. Heffner served as Director of Development at the Whitney Museum of American Art. She was the first Development Director at the Guggenheim Museum and an Administrative Officer at the Ford Foundation involved with grant activities for women. In addition to her current work at Columbia, Ms. Heffner has lectured extensively on fundraising at several universities and conducted seminars on private philanthropy. She serves on the boards of University Settlement and Best Practices in Education, and on the advisory board of Studio in a School.

Please contact Ms. Heffner directly for more information about exciting opportunities to support the important clinical and research programs conducted by the Department of Ophthalmology's distinguished and respected faculty. Your support today is critical — and will make possible the research and clinical education necessary to ensure current and future progress in detecting and treating diseases of the eye.

Ms. Heffner can be reached by email at JH2236@COLUMBIA.EDU or telephoned at (212) 305-7827.

A Better Place (con't.)

tive for one of 12 local districts in the Representative Town Meeting (RTM) of his hometown of Greenwich, Connecticut, and is involved in its budget and other committees.

"The RTM is a non-partisan form of local government, as there is no Republican or Democratic way to get snow off the streets," Mr. Rees quips. When he is not involved with the RTM or the Department of Ophthalmology, he is working with the finance committee of the Bruce Museum of Arts and Sciences, also in Greenwich.

"I tell Dr. Tsai that I only need him to make my vision last one day longer than whatever eventually claims my body," Mr. Rees jokes, but then becomes decidedly more serious. "I have been very fortunate to have been blessed with good health for all of my 73 years."

It is clear that Homer McK. Rees also has been blessed with a good heart.

Wishes Come True (con't.)

be involved with Dr. Tsai's glaucoma research. His diagnostic ability is remarkable and his enthusiasm is contagious. It is clear that he is extremely creative and dedicated to finding causes and cures for glaucoma," Mrs. Brown expressed with equal enthusiasm. "We were so impressed with Dr. Chang's leadership and Dr. Tsai's dedication that when we learned about plans to renovate the glaucoma lab, it felt like a natural match with our personal and philanthropic interests."

"We are proud and eager to be associated with Dr. Chang and the Department of Ophthalmology because of the tremendous work of Drs. Chang and Tsai. We hold Dr. Chang in the highest regard for creating a world-class institution. His leadership ability and visionary approach have created the environment necessary to attract the most creative and skilled doctors and scientists to conduct truly innovative research."

A Gift to Celebrate... (conclusion)

parents, Koong-Kai and Ku Teh Ying Tse, lovingly raised their family.

"My father and mother were the epitome of unconditional love and caring," Mrs. Ying noted with affection. "As loving parents and successful and respected community members, they shared a work ethic that was firmly rooted in pursuing and attaining excellence in all endeavors."

Cecilia Ying shares her parents' empathy for and desire to help those in need. "This professorship at Columbia University allows us to honor my parents' ideals of excellence and caring while providing Dr. Chang with the resources necessary to pursue the research and collaboration in ophthalmology that will bear fruit many times over."

Viewpoint

The Department of Ophthalmology & The Edward S. Harkness Eye Institute at
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER
635 West 165th Street
New York, NY 10032-3797

GIVING
Planned Giving for Columbia Health Sciences Well

Creating a Bequest for Ophthalmology at Columbia

- Support important research
- Reduce estate taxes
- Memorialize a loved one

Through a gift in your will, you can support important vision research, create a teaching endowment or fellowship, or establish a named professorship. Typically, you can reduce estate taxes without reducing the assets transferred to your heirs. Your bequest may also be designed to provide annual income to an heir.

Bequests to benefit ophthalmology at Columbia should specifically name "Columbia University in the City of New York," and be directed to the Department of Ophthalmology. For example:

I give and bequeath to the Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York, for its Department of Ophthalmology, the (amount of $ _____) (% of my estate or trust), to support (research) or (education) or (fellowships, etc.) in honor of _____.

Contact Jane Heffner at (212) 305-7827 to work with you and your advisors to help plan your gift.