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Danette Gottch has just joined us on our academic side as Administrative Assistant to Dr. Charles Bouchard, our Chairman. Danette brings a wealth of experience as well as a boatload of recommendations and positive comments from all levels of staff. More than one person has said, “you won’t have any trouble, now that you have Danette”. Thank goodness!

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Until next time, Carol Braxton, Practice Director, Loyola Ophthalmology
Dr. Julia Fu
Dr. Fu attended Northwestern undergraduate institution and then medical school at Ohio State University and completed her transitional year at Resurrection Hospital

Dr. Shivani Kamat
Dr. Kimat attended University of Florida undergraduate institution and then medical school at the University of Florida and completed her internship at the University of Florida

Dr. Christine Mata
Dr. Mata attended University Wisconsin-Madison undergraduate institution and then medical school at Rosalind Franklin University and completed her transitional year at MacNeal Hospital

Dr. Hajirah Saeed
Dr. Saeed attended Benedictine University undergraduate institution and then medical school at Loyola and completed her transitional year at Resurrection Hospital

Dr. Maylon Hsu
I will be starting a fellowship in cornea and refractive surgery at the Moran Eye Center in Salt Lake City, Utah after graduation in June. With two great mentors, Drs. Bouchard and Lin, and interesting research projects involving our burn unit, I got great exposure to diversity of cornea pathology. I am also thankful for the wonderful attendings, especially Drs. Khanna and Perlman, who have guided me through my three years both surgically and clinically. I’m looking forward to the new opportunities and experiences in the years to come.

Dr. Matt Welch
At the end of June my wife, Katie and I will be moving to Phoenix, Arizona, where I will be completing a vitreo-retinal Surgery Fellowship with the Associated Retina Consultants practice in the Phoenix area. With family in the Phoenix-Tucson area, we are both excited as we are expecting our first child, a son, in August and family support will be a great help. Though a 2-year fellowship is both a long and short period of time, I am looking forward to hopefully finding an initial position post-fellowship that will allow me to practice in the private sector while seeking the opportunity to remain involved with either resident or fellow education. Having been influenced during residency by so many faculty from private practice I would like to be able to eventually provide the same benefit to future residents wherever I my end up.

Dr. Allison Landes
Seven years ago, a good family friend performed my LASIK eye surgery. He told me I should go into ophthalmology and come back and work for him someday. The first time I watched him perform cataract surgery, I said to myself, “I could be happy doing this the rest of my life.” Three years of medical school, the match, 4 years of residency, and one signed contract later, I am about to start my dream job. After enjoying a month off after graduation, I’ll be starting August 1st at the Davis Eye Center with locations near my home town in Cuyahoga Falls and Akron, Ohio. I’ll be practicing comprehensive ophthalmology with special interest in cataract surgery, refractive surgery, eyelid surgery, and facial rejuvenation. I am so thankful that I was able to complete my residency at Loyola. I am confident in and proud of the training we have received. The clinical and surgical experience especially at the VA has been invaluable. Thank you to the attending who have truly cared about us and to those who with patience and great investment have taught us to be surgeons. I am leaving residency with some very dear friends and memories that are so special. I hate goodbyes, so it’s a good thing I will be in town 3 days a week while my husband Marc completes optometry school here in Chicago.

Dr. Omar Krad
Who doesn’t love good weather, the warm sun, and the outdoors? That’s why I am thrilled to be moving to Southern California this summer to join the Eye Associates of Orange County. With friends and family on the west coast, I’m very excited to begin my career! With the strong and well-rounded educational foundation provided to me at Loyola, I plan to practice comprehensive ophthalmology with a special emphasis on cataract surgery, laser refractive surgery, eyelid positional surgery, and the treatment of medical retinal diseases. As happy as I am to be celebrating my completion of residency, Loyola has been a big part of my life, and I will forever be grateful to all of my mentors!"
New Faculty Members

The Department of Ophthalmology at Edward Hines VAH and Loyola University Chicago is pleased to announce the addition of four new faculty members: Varun Malhotra, MD, Shivan Tekwani, MD, Daniel Owens, MD and Nehali (Nikki) Saraiya, MD.

**Dr. Saraiya** is a fellowship trained specialist in Uveitis at the University of Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary. She will be working three days a week at Loyola and one-half day at Hines VAH. Her medical school training was at Medical College of Georgia. Her clinical interests include comprehensive general ophthalmology and diagnosis and treatment of ocular inflammatory conditions as well as cataract surgery, including uveitic cataracts. She has a strong interest in teaching residents both clinical and surgical skills, and supervising residents with research projects.

**Dr. Tekwani** is a fellowship trained specialist in Medical Retina at the University of Kentucky and the Retina Associates of Kentucky in Lexington, Kentucky. He is returning to the Chicago area to work with a group private practice. He will also spend a half day each at Edward Hines VAH and the Loyola Burr Ridge satellite office. Dr. Tekwani obtained his BS in Biological Sciences at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California. His medical school training was at Rush Medical College in Chicago. He will be involved in resident education at both institutions. Shivan will also be involved in the teleretinal imaging program at Hines and the new program at Loyola.

**Dr. Malhotra** has recently completed a fellowship in Glaucoma at the University of Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary. Prior to that, he did his medical school and ophthalmology residency training at New York University. Dr. Malhotra will have a half time appointment at Hines VAH as well as joining a private practice in the area. He will join several other glaucoma specialists in the department who are involved in care of glaucoma patients, as well as, teaching the residents the fundamentals of surgical and clinical glaucoma.

**Dr. Owens** has recently completed a fellowship in surgical retina at Northwestern McGaw Medical Center and will be joining Hines VAH one-half day a week to assist in the medical and surgical care of our retina patients. The rest of his time will be spent as part of a private retina practice in the area. He attended his medical school at the University of Michigan.

Alumni Dinner Series

With the help of Alumni Director Michael Cassidy (class of 1996), Richard Gieser and Charles Bouchard have paired up to organize a series of Alumni dinners with James McDonald. The first dinner took place in November 2010, with the alumni from 1977-1984. The dinner consisted of Drs. Cathy Cronin (1982), Kathleen Blake (1986), James McDonald, and Charles Bouchard. In March, members of the classes of 1982-1984 spent time with Dr. McDonald, Cathleen Cronin, Michael Glavin and Irene Bakos. Finally, members of the classes of 1982-86 Kathleen Blake and Cathleen Cronin spent time with McDonald and friends in June (see photo). More recently, Chris and Wood, Joseph and Sonya Kappil joined Charles Bouchard, James McDonald and Richard Gieser as well as James McDonnell and Michael Cassidy on June 24th at Maya del Sol in Oak Park (see photo). There was an alumni/resident reception at the same location on July 19th. (See photo). Plans are in order to continue this tradition with small groups of alumni from the last 20 years. Please contact Michael Cassidy (mccassidy9@aol.com) for further information or if you would like to join one of the dinner meetings.
Embark on a journey through the world of ophthalmology as we explore the initiatives and events that are shaping the future of our field.

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