

*Southern California
Lions Eye Institute*



*at
Saint John's Health Center*

*Robert S. Sherins, M.D.
Santa Monica, California, April 30, 2010*

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Foreword



Editor's Message

Publication of this monograph about the history of the Southern California Lions Eye Institute (SCLEI) at Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica, California, is based upon my earnest desire to preserve the history of this magnificent institution of ophthalmic care. Lions Club members have excelled in their charitable concerns for their communities throughout the world. However, the Santa Monica Lions Club took this concept further. By combining the efforts of 220 of the Lions Clubs in Southern California, the development of an eye-care institute became a reality. In past times, Lions dedicated their efforts to sight and hearing preservation. They supported scientific research, as well as providing for the medical and surgical care of the medically indigent patients. The concept underlying the establishment of the SCLEI at Saint John's Health Center was focused upon acquiring the most advanced ophthalmic technology, attracting the highest skilled medical and surgical staff at a health care facility where excellence would be pre-eminent. By providing for the upgrading of new technologies and facilities, the SCLEI set the standard of excellent in eye-care at a community hospital.

Acknowledgements

I wish to express my personal gratitude for the assistance, historical documents and photographs provided by the following individuals. Over time, so many letters, documents and pictures have been misplaced or lost. It would not have been possible to publish this article without the help of my colleagues and members of the SCLEI team.

Marlene J. Sherins
Sister Maureen Craig, S.C.L.
Sister Kathleen Mary Connelly, S.C.L.
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Mrs. Betty Petermann
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Thomas A. Hanscom, M.D.
Jay Patel, M.D.
Teresa Davanzo
Mariana Davanzo
Mary Poll Gesicki
Larry Wilson
Paul Paquette
William Watson
Andy Trilling

Introduction

Chicago businessman, Melvin Jones, created the *Lions Clubs International* in 1917 as a non-governmental public service organization of highly successful entrepreneurs, who would be motivated to use their skills for the betterment of their communities. By 1920, the organization included women members. As the Lions's efforts became increasingly successful, the ensuing charitable contributions were organized by over a million members in 203 countries and embodied the highest ethical standards that led to their direct interest in the matters of public concern, and the civic, social and moral welfare of their communities.

Lion's Clubs raised the necessary money to fund projects and became interested in channeling funds into medical welfare projects locally, nationally and internationally. By 1925, Lions International became committed to many projects that drew world attention to both hearing and sight conservation. Also in 1925, Helen Keller spoke at the Lions International convention that was held in Ohio and convinced the members of the Lions Clubs to undertake funding projects to prevent blindness. Eventually, Lions projects were devoted to research in the prevention of the loss of sight and hearing, diagnosis of ocular and hearing disorders, and treatments of those afflicted worldwide.

In 1945 following the end of World War II, Lions International assisted the new United Nations organization in drafting appropriate measures in their Charter after its inception in San Francisco. Local Lions Clubs were encouraged to support sight-saving programs for children and youths, diabetics, and to provide for medical support in the treatment of those conditions, including aid in the care of low-vision diseases.



The Logo of the Lions International Service Organization soon became very well recognized worldwide.

Origin of the Santa Monica Lions Club

In 1923, five years after the Lions Club International service organization was formed in Chicago, the Santa Monica Lions Club was created and was designated as part of the District 4L3. The membership immediately committed themselves to serve the public interest of their community. The new club was among the first several Lions Clubs in California, the first of which was formed on February 17, 1917 in Oakland and the second, California Lions Club, was established in Los Angeles on September 8, 1918.

Early History of the Southern California Lions Eye

On a rare occasion the amalgam of the right people in the right place and at the right time brings out the best of everyone. So it was by 1958, when officers of the Santa Monica Lions Club - District 4L3. Bruce H. Parr; Robert Campbell; Roger P. Johnson; Jack Hageny; Robert Smithson, MD, a Santa Monica based ophthalmologist; and Howard Rhodes were appointed as the original board of directors of the newly incorporated, Southern California Lions Eye Institute (SCLEI).” The Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws were filed with the Secretary of State of California. Another young local ophthalmologist named Robert M. Sinskey, M.D., a member of the Santa Monica Lions Club, recommended that the Lions’ members support a project to upgrade the eye services equipment at Saint John’s Hospital, which would be used to provide medical eye care, treatments and surgery to the medically underserved in the community.

Sister Mildred Irwin, Sister of Charity of Leavenworth and Administrator of Saint John’s Hospital in Santa Monica, California, joined together with the Lions and Dr. Sinskey, director of the Ophthalmology Section of the Department of

Surgery at Saint John's, to form the joint-venture of the SCLEI. They worked together to provide the best eye-care possible for the community. Private physician ophthalmologists from the Saint John's staff volunteered to examine and treat the clinic patients.

Roger P. Johnson, who served as "Sight Conservation" chairman of the Santa Monica Lions Club during the term of office from 1959-1960, composed the historical information about the origin of the concept of a Lions Eye Institute sponsored by the Santa Monica Lions Club in superb detail. There was only a single surviving copy of Roger Johnson's article, which was located recently and offered to Dr. Robert Sherins by Alan Parr, a current Lion's member of the Santa Monica club.¹ The article now has been digitized and made a permanent archive.

¹ Excerpted by Robert S. Sherins, M.D. from the original article by Roger P. Johnson. Permission to reprint the historical article, Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of SCLEI, in whole or in part, were granted by Alan Parr and the Santa Monica Lions Club, 4-L3.

Excerpted from the original article by Roger P. Johnson...
“THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LIONS EYE INSTITUTE
1966 to 1973

Prepared by the Founder President
Roger P. Johnson
November 6, 1992, Version 4

Santa Monica Lions Club, 1952-71
West Torrance Lions Club, 1971-73

I. THE ORIGINS OF SCLEI

The genesis of SCLEI dates back to the 1959-60 term of Bruce H. Parr, deceased president of the Santa Monica Lions Club. Bruce wanted the Santa Monica club to create something significant and permanent, in its own name, as its symbolic record of charitable activities since its founding in 1923. Influenced by a few past presidents, for 36 years it had anonymously supported charitable projects in the community of Santa Monica. After Bruce's term was up and he had returned to being Secretary of the club, various possibilities were investigated for several years. Roger Johnson, RPJ, who had been sight conservation chairman since Bruce's term, agreed that the most promising prospect was to assume the sponsorship of the existing eye clinic at Saint Johns' hospital in Santa Monica. The Hospital Administrator, Sister Mary Aloys, agreed to change the name to the Santa Monica Lions Eye Clinic, which began to function in a trailer on the north lawn, while the new hospital wing was under construction at Santa Monica Blvd and 23rd street. The staff ophthalmologist assigned to operate the clinic, was the 1963 "junior man" on the eye department staff, Robert M. Sinskey, MD. RPJ, while 1st VP of the Santa Monica Lions, sponsored Dr. Sinskey into the Santa Monica Lions Club in May 1965. Annual financial support, for new equipment, donated by the Santa Monica club, gradually increased over the years to about \$3500/yr, during 1965-66 when RPJ was President of that club.

The next step in the upward development came about during 1966-67, as Zone Chairman, RPJ worked on district committees, with the District Governors to make the Club project, a District 4-L3 project. Obtaining agreement of the Santa Monica Lions board of directors to share their four year old project with District 4-L3, was harder, than to get SCLEI incorporated in the state of California. The Santa Monica Club paid the fees. The constitution and bylaws were written in 1967 by Lion

Howard Rhodes, who handled incorporation details, and who donated his legal services.

The Santa Monica Lions board of directors appointed the incorporating board members as: Roger P. Johnson (4); Jack Hageny (5), Robert A. Smithson, MD (3); Robert E. Campbell (2); and, Howard Rhodes (1). The terms, beginning in 1967, were determined by lot, and ranged from 1 to 5 years to insure some continuity of the philosophy of the founding Santa Monica club.

This led to annual elections under the by-laws and the thinning of the ranks of the original board. Howard Rhodes did not seek re-appointment when his term expired, for personal reasons. That created the first opportunity to represent other new Member Clubs within District 4-L3. At that time a new practice was begun of inviting the incumbent District 4-L3 Governor to sit in, such as Carl Peterson of 1967-68, Bob Anderson of 1968-69, John Peterman of 1968-69, and Bob Saunders of 1969-70. Carl Peterson may have replaced -Howard Rhodes. Until expansion took place later, there were no other opportunities to include PDG's. Bob Campbell, as treasurer, survived the second election, in 1969. Dr. Robert Smithson was re-elected in 1970. Roger Johnson, as founding president, was re-elected to a five-year term in 1971. Jack Hageny was defeated in 1972, by proxy votes telephoned into the annual meeting. PDG 67-68, Bob Anderson of 4-L3, was elected from the floor that year. Dr. Sinskey, as Medical Director, had refused board membership at all times, as a potential conflict of interest.

There was a special Saturday tour of facilities in the new wing during 1967, and a meeting at Saint Johns Hospital, arranged by RPJ for the president of the Northern California Eye Foundation, before SCLEI became final. PID Maury Perstein just did not want to see this new Southern California project get off the ground. The fundamental differences between the two efforts were philosophical: the control of development; and the eleemosynary activities by the Southern group of Lions as they worked to support the needy in eye care. The Northern group was using the publicity and contributing financially to the support of the University of the Pacific medical school's eye department. Whereas SCLEI was a group of Lions, developing a medical program of directly helping the needy of the ever-expanding areas of the communities served by the member clubs. As

SCLEI grew in coverage and support by District 4-L3 and approached Districts of 4L-2 and 4-A2. This last ditch effort of Northern California to retain control of such Multiple District 4 efforts did not succeed, in spite of the visit and tour by the president of that program. The SM Lions board did reluctantly reimburse him for his PSA airline fare and one-day car rental, as their last transitional expense.

As the program developed there was an obvious need to expand the Board of Directors to include representatives of the additional participating clubs and districts. Donald E. Banker, as deputy district governor for O. G. "Bob" Saunders,

District Governor, 1969-70, and a past president of the West Torrance Lions Club, became the sixth member of the expanded Board of Directors. PIP Banker's fellow District Governor in 1970-71 from Glendale in 4-L2, PDG 70-71 Bob Deal, was the second new member added during 1970-71, to the Board of Directors. Bob Deal was enthusiastic and was effective in expanding the list of member clubs. George Perozzi of Lompoc and PDG 70-71 of District 4-A3 was the spark-plug in that area, as was Art Danner, PDG 70-71 District 4-LA in Riverside County. After the number of participating clubs reached 20, a policy had been adopted to add one additional director for each additional 20 new clubs, basically to represent the clubs of the newly involved districts. O. G. Saunders, PDG 69-70, District 4-L3, who had been working hard for SCLEI over the years, was added at the end of his term in 1970. John Petermann, PDG 68-69 of 4-L3, was appointed during this period of rapid expansion. District 4-L2, which was becoming very involved, earned a second seat on the board, to which Donald Fogerson was appointed. These appointments were as decisions of a corporate board, by then fully independent of the founding Santa Monica Lions Club, but fully aware of their intentions. Long time opposition within the founding club to the detested "District Politics" was the motivation behind the original board appointments and the idealistic purposes to serve as an eleemosynary, non-political group. The wisdom of those "old timers" was not apparent, then...

II. MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT

Besides teaching at UCLA, running a practice, and donating one afternoon per week to run his specialty clinic, Dr. R. M. Sinskey convinced new ophthalmic staff members at St. John's Hospital, to each donate one afternoon per week for additional specialty clinics. As the member clubs referred needy and semi-needy patients to SCLEI, it was necessary to have a full range of clinics, performing whatever

examination, treatment and surgery were required, to meet the patients' needs.

After completion of the new south wing of St. Johns Hospital in 1965, the clinic moved into its suite of five examination and treatment rooms on the ground floor... Vince Sheehan, hospital manager, had been sponsored into the Santa Monica club by RPJ in the spring of 1966.

A whole new world was introduced to SCLEI, by Dr. Sinskey in October 1972, with the first training program for practicing ophthalmologists in the new procedure, phaco-emulsification of the lenses of the eyes of patients with cataracts. Thus began the arrangements for special Lions Club badges to be made and engraved for the attending ophthalmologists from all over the USA. Established medical professionals flew in for the three-day non-profit, course of training by Dr. Sinskey and his small staff, in this new technique.

There were many such groups trained under the Foundation for Ophthalmic Education, which was incorporated by Dr. Sinskey to avoid the complications of mixed accounting with two very different businesses, but with only one set of books. The substantial fees paid for the courses and the expenses for the graduation dinner, etc. were not appropriate to the nit-picking of the debating group, the then-SCLEI Board of Directors. They were fascinated with making policy and financial decisions, but allergic to performing any tasks, involving outside, personal time. The four members, presenting slide programs on SCLEI and soliciting new member clubs were exceptional workers.

III. MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

The relatively modest requests to the Santa Monica Lions Eye Clinic period, such as slit lamps, gave way to requests, such as the argon laser for treatment of diabetic retinopathy and the phaco-emulsifier for removal of cataracts. Now there were major financial goals to work for and equipment and operations to photograph for the slide presentations to potential new member clubs.

While the campaign to seek new member clubs was in high gear, there were five sets of slides, projectors and portable screens for presentations, in use. Roger Johnson owned his own personal equipment and the SCLEI bought four additional sets of slide projection hardware for Art Danner, Don Banker, George Perozzi and Bob Deal.

IV. EXPANSION AND FUND-RAISING

The Santa Monica Lions board of directors had appointed the incorporating board members as: Roger P. Johnson, Jack Hageny, Robert A. Smithson, MD, and Robert. E. Campbell, and Charles W. Davis. The expansion of the board was given under "Origins" on Section 1, above. The founding Santa Monica club wanted to insure continuity of its idealistic, basic philosophy in the volunteers of the new non-profit corporation.

The hard work of PDG's Bob Deal in then 4-L2, Art Danner in 4-L4, George Perozzi in 4-A2, and Don Banker in 4-L3, along with the many programs put on by RPJ and narrated by Dr. Sinskey, as distant as Rossmoor in San Diego county, where George Broadbent, retired from Culver City, and in Temecula as arranged by PDG Art Danner. PIP Banker and RPJ drove some long evenings to reach Lyman Thiel, formerly Culver City, in Tehachapi. Another time it was on to Wrightwood. A whole weekend was spent at San Luis Obispo for the District 4-A3 convention in 1972. It was all hard work for years to extend the Member Clubs to 135 and finally on to 220, right on the estimated limit value of RPJ's study report.

Dr. R.J. McWherter, DVM, and PDG of 4-L3 in the mid-50's, of the Hollywood Club, donated a gasoline station property in Orange County, upon his demise in November 1972. He had become a supporter of SCLEI, following personal discussions with RPJ, during a 4-L3 convention in Catalina, in 1966. Doc and his wife, Nan, visited the clinic facilities regularly, when he came into Saint John's for radiation treatments during 1971-72. His estate was contested and it was years after his death in November 1972, before SCLEI received the funds from his bequest. That experience was but a forerunner to the major funding subsequently realized from other donors. This larger funding base was necessary to make real progress, beyond the \$100 Club membership fee and \$1 per member year dues that began the program in 1967.

An effort was made to formalize the requests for, and to acknowledge the receipt of, donations and small memorial bequests from individual Lions and outside donors. Special "thank you" cards were printed in the blue and gold motif, and mailed for contributions of funds and a similar, but separately worded card was sent out for memorial donations in the name of deceased Lions or their relatives. The white stationery of the clinic was replaced with the blue and gold motif of SCLEI, once the dependence on the founding club's treasury was relieved.

There were two annual fund-raising basketball games at the Los Angeles Sports Arena in June of 1971 and again in June of 1972. The amateurish, low-budget 1971 efforts had the support of the coaches, who sent most of the players up to the hospital for the luncheon, tour and some pictures. The Board of Directors

and school coaches helped sell tickets. Overall, these efforts produced a net of about \$3000 in 1971. However, the 1972 Chairman had large ambitions. This resulted in a paid publicist, an unauthorized purchase of about \$2000 in uniforms that were "promised" to the players. There were the usual expenses of the rent and other necessary expenses, which reduced the net to about \$1000 in 1972. That year, the PDG board members were "on vacation" at the International Convention in Miami, the coaches sat on their hands, few players showed up for the tour, and just a few of the board worked very hard for those dismal results. Vern Davis, 4-U PDG 72-73, donated his professional services for studio photographs of the players, some of whom showed up.

V. TOURS

Tours of SCLEI were arranged for each group of 12 invited Lions. At first, just twice and later as often as eight times per year. The steak luncheon was hosted, and personally attended by the Hospital Administrator, at no cost to SCLEI.

These tours were scheduled and coordinated internally, within the hospital and with the targeted group or district that was to arrive, on time, with no less and no more than the quota of attendees. Organizing and conducting these tours was but one of the many items that accounted for the 1000 and 1200 hours of RPJ's unpaid volunteer time during his last two years in SCLEI.

The several medical departments to be toured were coordinated internally, for the times and date, in radiology, ultra-sound, cat scanning, genetics, microbiology and the final stop, surgery. The attending guests exchanged clothing in the doctors' locker room, for surgical suits, paper hats, shoes and masks before entering the sterile surgical area for Dr. Sinskey's demonstrations of equipment and microsurgery procedures. One of the prized photographs was of International Vice-President, Harry Asian putting on his pants, one leg at a time. PIP Harry was a true friend of SCLEI, but ties to his home club in Fresno and home District prevented him from more openly showing his support for the SCLEI. He recognized and admired Lions in action, as he desired for all Lions Clubs.

VI. PUBLICATIONS

One sign of early maturity was starting the bulletin of the Santa Monica Lions Club Eye Clinic as a literal paste-up for printing and distribution at the District

4-L3, 1966 convention in Catalina. The quality of the first issue, prepared without assistance or equipment, and distributed at the 4-L3 convention, was deservedly criticized, but it did serve a purpose in "freeing up" funds to turn out a better product. After distribution in May, it was professionally prepared, re-printed and shipped to the International Convention in New York for late June of 1966, where thousands of copies were dispensed at the top of an escalator in Madison Square Garden by RPJ and incoming Santa Monica president, Chuck Davis. Lion Bill Jordan, Santa Monica President in 1967-68, did that rush printing job at below cost to his business and had it shipped, on time, for distribution there.

The former bulletin of the Santa Monica Lions Eye Clinic was readily adapted to its new role for SCLEI. The purse strings of SCLEI were tight, but it was still possible to get a professionally designed logo, secretarial assistance, and print-shop costs approved. However, this did not lead to assistance in getting the copy ready. As always, the Board of Directors was quite happy to attend meetings, debate, and reluctantly make minor spending decisions...

Somewhere about 1971, when things were really expanding, RPJ did one of his financial analyses that included the historical growth and the future projection of the club memberships, and the income to be generated. This was related to the needs for hospital services, all against the background of hospital capacity and revenues generated by the several "complaining" departments. The Administrator was really pleased with those income projections. She knew that she had been correct, all along, in supporting the eye clinics. The ophthalmic patients had the shortest stays and with the same front-end charges, and thus generated the highest average income per day for the hospital..."



SCLEI - Saint John's Health Center Partnership

In 1956, Robert M. Sinskey, M.D. joined the Saint John's Hospital medical staff. He was shown a rudimentary eye clinic that was made available principally for screening patients for visual defects and measurements of ocular pressure for the detection of glaucoma. Dr. Sinskey approached the hospital's ophthalmology staff to donate eye equipment that was available from their offices in order to provide the clinic with a basic set of instruments and equipment for diagnosing, treating patients. Additional surgical hand-instruments were also needed in the operating room. Ophthalmologists volunteered to serve in the eye clinic, as well as to provide coverage for emergency calls. The setup was basic, but provided the means for excellent patient care.

During the 1960's, research in the realm of the more advanced optical technologies and innovations began to be directed towards ophthalmic instrumentation. The American Optical Company, Bausch & Lomb, and Haag-Streit (Bern, Switzerland), among others, produced newer and more advanced slit-lamp microscopes, operating-room microscopes, the indirect ophthalmoscope, and other advanced-designed optical lens products. It had been only one hundred years since American Optical had produced their most precise Trial Lens Sets with individual free lenses that could be placed into a lens holder on the patient's face for a more accurate refraction. The set included both plus and minus cylinder sets of lenses thereby enabling the choice of measuring and creating prescriptions for astigmatic lenses in either curvature. By the 1920's, lensometers were being produced, which had the capacity to accurately measure and neutralize lenses and made it possible to analyze the prescription of lenses from a patient's older pair of glasses. Other optical hand instruments became available for diagnostic examinations, such as the electrical illuminated direct retinal ophthalmoscopes and retinoscopes, and later on the indirect ophthalmoscopes (after Dr. Charles L. Schepens) for the more accurate examination of the peripheral retina. Highly magnified hand-lenses became available that were aspheric (without distortion) and were produced for the detailed and highly magnified retinal examination by the indirect ophthalmoscope, as well as for contact lenses that were applied directly onto the cornea for examination of both the anterior and posterior structures within the eye. Some of the contact lenses contained angled mirrors that provided an amazing view of internal ocular structures, which could not be viewed straight on. During the 1940's, a hand-held instrument, the Schiottz tonometer, which was applied directly onto the anesthetized cornea for measuring the intraocular pressure. The Schiottz tonometer made it possible for rapid screening of patient's pressure in the general

public. It was one of the first free services first offered at Eye Clinic at Saint John's Hospital.

Eye charts that hung on the wall were the normal means for screening patients for visual defects during the first half of the 20th century, but they were largely replaced by illuminated charts that were projected. In the operating room, one of the most significant developments was the production of atraumatic curved and extremely fine ophthalmic needles that were fused onto suture materials that were finer than a human hair.

By 1968, the construction of the new south wing of Saint John's Health Center had been completed. An active member of the Santa Monica Lions Club, Dr. Sinskey had requested that his fellow members consider supporting the eye clinic at Saint Johns. As a result, a new Eye Clinic was opened on the ground floor, which thereafter was the known as the Southern California Lions Eye Institute Clinic. In 1958, officers of the Santa Monica Lions Club - District 4L3. Bruce H. Parr; Robert Campbell; Roger P. Johnson; Jack Hageny; Robert Smithson, MD, a Santa Monica based ophthalmologist; and Howard Rhodes had been appointed as the original board of directors of the newly incorporated, Southern California Lions Eye Institute (SCLEI)." The clinic was thoughtfully planned. Included in the design were two 20-foot examination lanes, which were fully equipped with reclining exam chairs, trial frame with free lenses, as well as the American Optical refractors. Swiss-made (Bern) Haag-Streit slitlamp microscopes were attached to the consoles that also included the newer Goldman applination tonometers for more accurate intraocular pressure measurements to detect glaucoma, retinoscopes for estimating refractive errors, hand-lights and direct ophthalmoscopes for easily examining the retina. The indirect ophthalmoscopes were conveniently placed nearby for peripheral retinal examination using aspheric free hand lenses. The proximate instrument cabinets held the remainder of the other specialty instruments, including such items as: gonioscopic contact lenses for detailed and highly magnified inspection of the corneal-iris angle, the macula and retina; books of HRR color plates for testing of color blindness; stereoscopic plates for measuring binocular vision, etc.

A critically important gift from the SCLEI to the Ophthalmology surgery Section of the Department of Surgery at Saint John's Hospital was the Zeiss' Binocular Operating Microscope. This floor-mounted microscope provided for much improved intraocular microsurgery. Under the direction of Dr. Sinskey, many new ophthalmologists including sub-specialty trained doctors were brought onto the staff. The new staff provided the expertise for the next phase of the development

of the SCLEI at Saint John's, which included the establishment of eye clinic services and surgeries for the specialties of glaucoma evaluation and treatment, vitreo-retinal diseases, fluorescein retinal angiography, oculo-plastic surgery, neuro-ophthalmology, diagnostic ultrasonography, strabismus and orthoptic treatments for ocular muscle disorders, and corneo-scleral eye-banking for transplantation surgery.

When the SCLEI Board of Directors first met in Santa Monica, donations for new equipment in the eye clinic or surgery were made as separate gifts, funded by individual campaigns for each instrument to be purchased and given to Saint John's. In addition, funds were donated to pay for the treatment/surgical costs of individual patients that were determined by the clinic ophthalmologists to require medical treatments, surgery, or glasses.

From the inception of Lions Clubs International in 1917, the Lions members devoted themselves to improving medical conditions and health in their communities. It was no surprise that Santa Monica Lions Club was successful in its determination to bring excellence in eye care to the underserved in the West Los Angeles region surrounding the city of Santa Monica. Soon, other local Lions Clubs joined the Santa Monica club in donating to the cause of eye care at Saint John's hospital. At the zenith of their efforts, there were over 200 clubs in Southern California participating in the program. Members donated \$ 0.50 per month to SCLEI and the Board of Directors determined how the funds should be applied for eye care to the patients. Individual clubs selected the patients in need for eye care and referred them to Saint John's for evaluation, treatment plans and surgery if required. Volunteer ophthalmologist, who served the clinic, performed the diagnostic, treatments and surgeries at no cost. SCLEI paid Saint Johns directly on a per patient basis for the treatment costs.

By 1980, SCLEI recognized that funding on an individual basis had become more costly each year, making it more difficult to raise the funds through separate campaigns. Negotiations were conducted with the Administrative Staff of Saint John's Health Center, as the hospital was then known. The resultant policy was adopted that SCLEI would continue to donate large sums for new technology and facilities, which the hospital received as leased equipment for the sum of \$1.00 per year. For the massive donations for new technology were placed at Saint John's, the hospital charged only a minimal fee to cover the surgical supplies that were required, such as cataract surgical packs and intraocular implants; the anesthesiologists charged a minimal fee; ophthalmologists operated without

charging. However, the entire ophthalmology staff had access to the newest technological equipment and services at the clinic and surgery, whether they were volunteers at the SCLEI clinic or not. The plan was elegant and quite simple; the latest technology was supplied by SCLEI and in turn basically free care was given to the underserved patients, while maintaining state-of-the-art services for the entire hospital staff.

Within a couple of years, the eye clinic caseload approached 4,500-5,000 patient visits annually and the surgical capacity required two dedicated and fully equipped operating rooms. Nurses were selected who became specialized in the detailed procedures of the ophthalmic O.R. A highly successful specialty-team approach to ocular surgery was established. They managed the details and supervised the supplies, equipment, and training of new personnel.

With unexpected private donations by individuals supplementing the funds supported by SCLEI, the operating rooms and clinic were again upgraded in the 1980's. Microscopes were ceiling mounted and more stable at a cost of \$ 100,000 per room. Live video cameras were mounted to each microscope and 3/4-inch video taping was displayed on live monitors so that the entire team in each O.R. could note the details of each surgery and be prepared for their part of the procedures. Upgraded equipment was installed for the phakoemulsification of cataracts and intraocular implants, vitrectomy, retinal detachments, oculo-plastic procedures, etc.

In the eye clinic, innovative equipment was purchased or upgraded. Those instruments and procedures included: Octopus automated, computerized, and quantitative visual fields; Heidelberg optic nerve computerized photography, fluorescein retinal angiography and digital angiography; A-scan ultrasound measurements for intraocular lens-power calculations, B-scan ultrasound for two-dimensional measurements of ocular structural lesions and tumors, and corneal ultrasound pachymetry to determine corneal thickness; photography for corneal endothelial cell counts was available for measurements in cases of corneal dystrophies. A corneo-scleral eye bank was established, which could provide freshly prepared human tissue for transplants, or preserved tissues for emergency surgeries.

The SCLEI Team

The SCLEI team was comprised of closely networking Lions members, their Board of Directors, the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, the Administrative staff of Saint John's Health Center, and the Ophthalmology staff of physicians, nurses, and the certified ophthalmic technologists, orthoptists, and ophthalmic photographers, who served in so many varied capacities.

An intensive effort was made to obtain photographs and documents about the SCLEI officers, Lions' members, Saint John's Administrative staff and the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, as well as the dedicated physicians, nurses, and ophthalmology staff of the hospital. Some important contributions of the staff are omitted due to the unavailability of the documents.

SCLEI BOARD OF DIRECTORS



SCLEI directors:

Roger Johnson, Vince Sheehan, Bob Nittinger, Robert M. Sinskey, M.D., and John Petermann.



SCLEI Officers:

Roger Johnson, John Petermann, Donald E. Banker, and Christopher Tasulis, O.D. -
1968



SCLEI Officers Reviewing Building Plans
 Bruce H. Parr, Robert M. Sinskey, MD and Roger Johnson - 1966



Sister Rita Louise Cunningham, Administrator of Saint John's Hospital,
 Reviews SCLEI Building Plans – circa 1966



SCLEI Board of Directors, circa 1982

Alan Parr, Santa Monica Lions Club; Vince Sheehan, Senior VP, SJHC; Dot Galvin, President Santa Monica Lions Club; Howard Cohen, MD, President Medical Staff SJHC;

Sister Lynne Casey, S.C.L., SJHC; Dan Duross, District Governor Lions 4L3; Donald E. Banker, President SCLEI - West Torrance Lions Club

History of the Early Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Creation of Saint John's Health Center²

In 1940, Mother General Mary Francesca O'Shea, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth (Kansas), accepted the offer of Cardinal John J. Cantwell, Archbishop of Los Angeles, to come west to California and build a Catholic Hospital in Santa Monica. Because of wartime, building materials were restricted and very expensive, but they were made available for Saint John's construction by the timely exemption signed by the Governor of California, Cullen Olson, October 15, 1942.



Mother General Mary Francesca O'Shea, S.C.L. - 1945

Mary Francesca O'Shea, Mother General-Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth

² Craig, Sister Maureen, S.C.L., *The Golden Promise 1942-1992*, Saint John's Health Center, Santa Monica, California, 1992. Reprinted with permission of the Sister of Charity of Leavenworth.



Cardinal John Cantwell, Archbishop of Los Angeles
Offering Blessing at Saint John's Hospital Opening Ceremony, 1942

Commencing during the first decade of operation, the Sisters authorized free clinics to be provided for the medically underserved of the community. The clinics were staffed by some of the private physicians, who served the hospital. There were general and specialty clinics in medicine, surgery, obstetrics and pediatrics. Among them, an eye clinic was opened to screen patients for poor vision and especially to detect glaucoma.

When Dr. Robert Sinskey joined the Saint John's medical staff in 1956, he recognized that the eye services of the hospital and clinic would require upgrading of both specialty equipment and personnel. Dr. Sinskey was a member of the Santa Monica Lions Club, so he approached the officers to discuss the feasibility of donating sufficient funds to Saint John's Hospital to upgrade the eye services section of the Department of Surgery.

In the initial years, SCLEI funds were paid directly to the hospital and the specific physicians, who had been involved in managing the care of any particular patient. Member clubs, who participated in supporting the SCLEI, were able to directly refer a patient from their community to Saint John's Hospital for eye care. The geographic region of participating Lions Clubs in Southern California were widely

spread from the California-Mexican border to San Luis Obispo, and from the Pacific Ocean communities to the California-Nevada border. In all, over 200 member clubs were involved.

Saint John's Administrators Serving Saint John's Health Center and SCLEI³

Sister Mildred Irwin, S.C.L. (formerly Sister Mary David) – served as Administrator from 1951–1964 and again from 1966-1967.



Working closely with Sister Ann Raymond gave Sister Mildred Irwin (formerly known as Sister Mary David) a unique awareness of the hospital and those it served. Coming to Saint John's in 1943 as laboratory supervisor, Sister was appointed administrator in 1951. During her terms in office (1951-64 and 1966-67), much

³ Sister Maureen Craig, S.C.L., *The Golden Promise 1942-1992*, Saint John's Hospital and Health Center, Santa Monica California, 1992. Excerpted with permission to reprint by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth.

building took place, both in structures and in influence. Born on a farm outside Chanute, Kansas, Mildred Irwin brought with her to the community a deep dedication to the poor and a profound faith in the goodness of people.

These traits have served both the community and Saint John's well. Her faith in people's willingness to serve proved itself well founded when the fund raising drive for the north wing was completed. The Hope Guild began during this era, and Sister Mildred encouraged the growth of the clinics. The rapid population rise in the area made her aware of the need for expansion, and she entered into fund raising with a cheerful spirit and a profound sensitivity to others. As one of the administrators who worked with her stated, "Sister Mildred had a great capacity for change, and a gift of newness in her opened doors closed by routine or fear. She saw change as an opportunity for scientific and technological advancement, which enhanced the quality of care, enriched by compassion and loving concern for the patients."

Sister Mildred began the tradition of Saint John's administrators becoming leaders in the larger civic community, as well as in their own institutions. Her realization of the need for cooperation among health care groups brought her leadership qualities to many organizations, both in California and on the national level. In 1967 Sister Mildred was elected Director of Health Care Services for all the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth hospitals. She left Saint John's as its administrator, but her new role kept her in close contact with the hospital. In recognition of her service to the Health Center, her portrait, a gift from the medical staff presented by the medical director of the Health Center, Robert Fredericks, M.D., was mounted near the main lobby during the institution's fortieth anniversary celebration.

Nineteen eighty-four found Sister Mildred back at Saint John's in a new position: working as a liaison between the Health Center and Westside agencies devoted to the needs of the area's poor. On the Board of Directors of the Venice Family Clinic, Sister also volunteered at the clinic. She continued to assist Sister Marie Madeleine in directing the Health Center's concern for the poor and disenfranchised, setting up and working with the Outreach to the Homeless Mentally Ill program. In 1988, Sister's concern took on a global dimension; she joined the foreign missions that the Sisters of Charity operate in Peru. Following her stay there, Sister returned to the Mother House, where she now works at the community's low-cost family clinic in Leavenworth.

Sister's influence, compassion, and administrative skills built a splendid spirit and expanded an excellent facility. No matter how complex health care problems became, Sister Mildred brought to them the intelligence and the warm friendliness that shined from her eyes in her portrait.

Sister Rita Louise Cunningham, S.C.L. served as Administrator from 1964-1966



Sister Rita Louise Cunningham spent only two years as administrator of Saint John's, from 1964 to 1966, but her calm and steady spirit brought much to the Health Center during the busy building years, while the south wing was growing. A native of Meriden, Kansas, and a member of a large and loving family, Mildred Cunningham entered the Sisters of Charity in 1933. She began a career of nursing and administration that took her from Kansas to California. She frequently served as director of nursing and her nurses remember her keen sense of justice and her deep concern for all aspects of patient care.

One of her former nursing students credits the training Sister Rita Louise gave her for the principles that helped her get through a national tragedy years later. The nurse was living in Beirut, Lebanon, when a devastating earthquake destroyed much of the surrounding area. "It was terrible," the nurse recalled. "I had never seen such pain, such incredible suffering. I didn't think that I could make myself get out and nurse. I just kept thinking of Sister Rita Louise and how she would say, 'your comfort is not the issue; the patient's needs are the issue. You are a nurse' - somehow, I was able to help." This devotion to patients was evident in Sister's life; she visited each patient in the hospital daily.



Sister Rita Louise Cunningham, S.C.L.
Gift of \$50,000 donated from the Southern California Lions Eye Institute to Saint John's – 1967
District Governor of Santa Monica Lions; Sister Rita Louise; & SCLEI Director, Robert Sinskey, MD

Sister Mary Aloys, S.C.L. – Served as Administrator from 1967-1972



Twice a day, the Union Pacific train bound for Los Angeles sped through the little town of St. Mary's, Kansas. When, as a small child, Mary Powell waved at the engineer, she never dreamed that one day she would be riding that train to a new mission as a Sister of Charity of Leavenworth, bound for Saint John's Hospital in Santa Monica. Growing up in the little town was a happy time for her; she got to know the sisters who taught her in grade and high school and, liking what she saw, she followed them to Leavenworth.

After being professed as a Sister of Charity and completing her nursing education, Sister Mary Aloys was missioned to hospitals in Montana and Colorado.

She loved Leadville, Colorado, a colorful mining town, and the warmth of a small hospital. At Saint John's from 1953 to 1957, she rotated as night supervisor and obstetrics supervisor. Then, after graduate work in administration at St. Louis University, she became administrator in Grand Junction, Colorado, before coming to serve as administrator to Saint John's.

The south wing was nearing completion when Sister Mary Aloys arrived in 1967. She oversaw the opening of the Coronary Care Unit and the growth of Mental Health Services. The hospital could state that more than ten thousand surgical procedures were done in 1972. The growth of the institution and the radical changes in health care that lay ahead showed the need for a balanced, objective view of health services. With this in mind, Saint John's, along with other Sisters of Charity institutions, began a comprehensive study of health care as given in the community's hospitals. Sister commissioned another study, designed to establish needs and goals for hospital information systems. Her eyes were focused squarely on the future.

Sister Mary Aloys's warmth and friendliness added to her abilities as an administrator. Her genuine concern for others inspired those with whom she came in contact. An example of her sensitivity to others was her reaction to a major earthquake that hit the area in 1971. The Sisters were at Mass when the building began to shake; long threatened, a major quake had obviously begun. Accompanied by her Assistant Administrator, Sister made a rapid tour of the building, checking on patients, employees, and the structure. All survived well. On her way, Sister noticed, however, the agitation of the new mothers, anxious about their infants. With her customary insight into human feelings, she had all the newborns brought to their mothers for the day - a small thing, but a move that showed instinctive compassion.

When recalling Sister Mary Aloys, the employees tend to use the word "warm" a lot. Sister's unique combination of warmth, technical proficiency, and faith endeared her to Saint John's and its constituents. She left the Health Center in 1973 for her beloved Colorado. Having served there as administrator of St. Mary's in Grand Junction, Colorado, she is now administrator at St. John's Hospital in Leavenworth, Kansas.

Sister Marie Madeleine Shonka, SCL - Served as Administrator from 1972-2010



Chappell, Nebraska, sits almost on the western edge of the state, the type of town that drivers rush through on their way to somewhere else. But, the people of Chappell are worth stopping to meet. Friendships forged here run deep; children here grow up knowing who they are and what they believe in. Sister Marie Madeleine, a native of Chappell, reflects the virtues of growing up in a town where no one is a stranger.

One of a family of two boys and two girls, Joan Shonka entered training at St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing in Denver, and transferred to another Sisters of Charity Hospital, Providence, to complete her education, which was located in Kansas City, Kansas. The sisters she met in both institutions helped strengthen her desire to really contribute to God's work on earth with her life.

Following graduation she entered the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. After she completed her novitiate training, Sister began to serve in a career in the community's hospitals. Her capable leadership and keen mind brought her to a career in nursing education.

For eight years, Sister served as director of the School of Nursing at St. Vincent's Hospital in Billings, Montana. Then, after completing her graduate work in administration at St. Louis University, Sister Marie Madeleine was appointed

associate administrator of Saint John's in 1969. Since 1973, her position has been that of president of Saint John's Hospital and Health Center.

The achievements of Sister's leadership cannot be expressed in a recitation of facts. Her vision, combined as it is with a sure grasp of present reality, has brought Saint John's to the forefront of health care. The Heart Institute, the Ambulatory Care Center, and the new merger of the John Wayne Cancer Institute with Saint John's Cancer Center have all resulted from the confluence in her of astute intelligence, the creative ability to envision the future, and a deep faith in Providence.

Prominent in health care forums locally and nationally, Sister Marie Madeleine has made contributions to human welfare that have brought many honors, bestowed upon her by organizations both within and outside of the health care community. Some of these include an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters awarded by Loyola Marymount University in 1981; the Muses' Woman of the Year Award in 1984; the Maurice and Lois Schwartz Humanitarian Award in 1985; the title Humanitarian of the Year, bestowed by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in 1988... and the list goes on.

Awards, however, do not sum up the woman. Sister's keen interest in the employees, her sense of challenge, her orientation to the future, these are the qualities that enhance her leadership at the Health Center.

The program for the awards ceremony hosted by B'nai B'rith states: "As a keen observer of the health care scene, Sister Marie Madeleine has remained sharply attuned to the currents sweeping across that industry." As a result, Saint John's has not only weathered the upheavals that have buffeted other health care deliverers, it has been steadfastly responsive to the massive changes in health care delivery and access. Through her initiatives in strategic planning Saint John's has retained its technological and operational edge as one of the leading institutions in the region. Those who work with her and for Saint John's gain confidence from just these characteristically provident actions.

In 1989, Sister received the Walker Fellowship Award presented by the California Association of Hospitals and Health Systems and the Hospital Educational Foundation of California. The fellowship provides hospital executives with the opportunity to study organization and delivery of health care in other countries. Accompanied by her senior assistant, Sister Alice Marie Schwieder, Sister Marie

Madeleine studied systems in Canada, England, France, and the Netherlands.

The genuine friendliness, the directness, and the honesty with which she conducts her life make Sister habitually available to patients, employees, and medical staff. Her excellence as an administrator and her sense of what lies ahead have enabled her to gather a group of distinguished leaders, the Saint John's Hospital and Health Center Foundation, who give continuing personal and financial support to Saint John's

Alex Lampone, M.D., medical director of Emergency Services, summed up the thoughts of many when he said, "Sister Marie Madeleine has the ability to keep the good of the past and the vision to constantly improve for the future.

Small-town backgrounds and religious vocations are not the only similar elements in the lives of the six Sisters of Charity who have guided Saint John's for fifty years. They have all functioned with a deep and abiding faith in God and in His providential love. A faith that, as St. Paul puts it, is a personal and communal source of strength, for we, like St. Paul, are certain that God "who has begun this work in you will carry it through to completion, right up to the day of Christ Jesus" (Epistle to the Philippians).

Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth (Kansas) at Saint John's Health Center,
Santa Monica, California



Front row: Sr. Mary Harrington, Unknown, Sr. Agnes Seline Dooley, Sr. Jean Stewart,
Sr. Marie Madeleine.

Middle row: Sr. Mary Kamperschrer, Sr. Alice Marie Schwieder, Sr. Mary Kevin Hollow, Sister Ann Raymond Downey, Sr. Gariella Connell.

Back row: Sr. Lucy Walter, Sr. Ann Loretta, Sr. Rose Orchard, Sr. Mary DeSalles DeLange, Sr. Bernice Himmelberg, Sr. Rose Carmel McKenna.



Front row: Sr. Mary Kevin Hollow, Sr. Mary Serena Stefani,
Sr. Bernadette Helfert.

Back row: Sr. Macrina Ryan, Sr. Rosalie Mahony, Sr. Gabriella Connell,
Sr. Alice Marie Schwieder, Sr. Mary Julie Casey, Sr. Marie Madeleine.

SCLEI Ophthalmic Surgeons

- Louis Bernstein, M.D.



Undergraduate: University of Denver; College of Agriculture and
Mechanics; and University College, Denver, Colorado
Medical School: University of Colorado, Denver, Colorado
Internship: Hospital of the Good Samaritan, Phoenix, Arizona
Residency: UCLA School of Medicine, Westwood, California
Academic: Associate Professor of Ophthalmology,
UCLA Jules Stein Eye Institute, Westwood, California
Board Certified, American Academy of Ophthalmology

- Kenneth Diddie, M.D.



Undergraduate: Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Indiana
Medical School: University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
Internship: University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
Residency: University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
Fellowship: Vitreo-Retinal Diseases and Surgery, USC Estelle Doheny
Foundation, Los Angeles, California
Board Certified, American Academy of Ophthalmology

- Steven Dresner, M.D.



Undergraduate: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Medical School: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Internship: UCSF, San Francisco, California

Residency: Ophthalmology, Louisiana State University, New Orleans, Louisiana

Fellowship: a) Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California

b) Oculoplastic & Reconstructive Surgery, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

c) Neuro-Ophthalmic & Orbital Diseases & Surgery, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Academic: Associate Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, UCLA Jules Stein Eye Institute, Westwood, California

Board Certified, American Academy of Ophthalmology

- J. Lawrence Garwood, M.D.



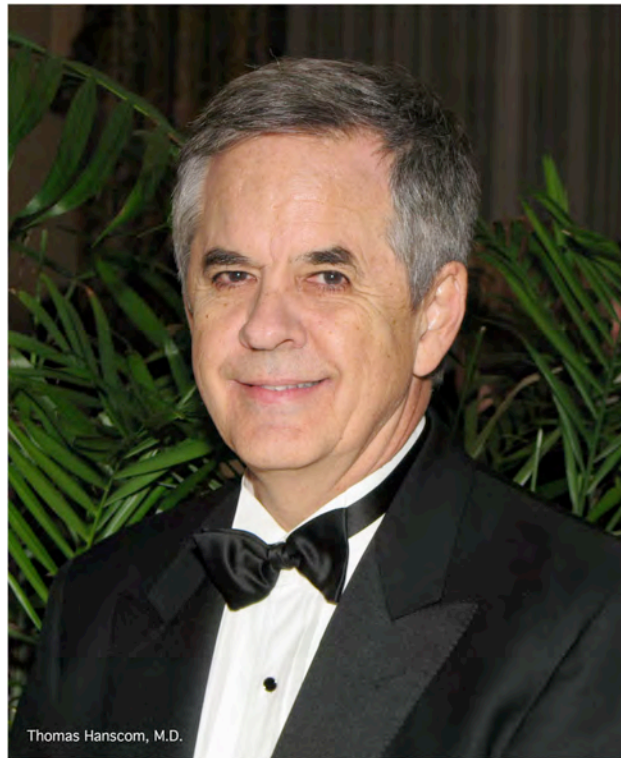
Undergraduate: University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada
Medical School: University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada
Internship: Victoria Hospital, London, Ontario, Canada
Residency: Ophthalmology, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada
Fellowship: a) Ophthalmic Pathology, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada
b) Anterior Segment Surgery, Sinskey Eye Institute, Santa Monica, California
Board Certified, American Academy of Ophthalmology

- Harvey Gutman, M.D. – Anesthesia



Undergraduate: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Medical School: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Internship: Wayne County General Hospital, Eloise, Michigan
Residency: Anesthesiology, UCLA, Westwood, California
Board Certified, American Academy of Anesthesiology

- Thomas A. Hanscom, M.D.



Undergraduate: University of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois

Medical School: University of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois

Internship: Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center, Los Angeles, California

Residency: Ophthalmology, UCLA Jules Stein Eye Institute, Westwood, California

Fellowship: a) UCLA Jules Stein Eye Institute, Westwood, California

b) Vitreo-retinal Diseases, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina

Academic: Associate Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, UCLA Jules Stein Eye Institute, Westwood, California

Board Certified, American Academy of Ophthalmology

- Edwin P. Hill, M.D.



Undergraduate: McMurray College, Abilene, Texas

Medical School: Southwestern Medical School, University of Texas, Dallas, Texas

Internship: Wadsworth Veterans Hospital, West Los Angeles, California

Residency: Ophthalmology, Wadsworth Veterans Hospital, West Los Angeles, California

Academic: Associate Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, UCLA Jules Stein Eye Institute, Westwood, California

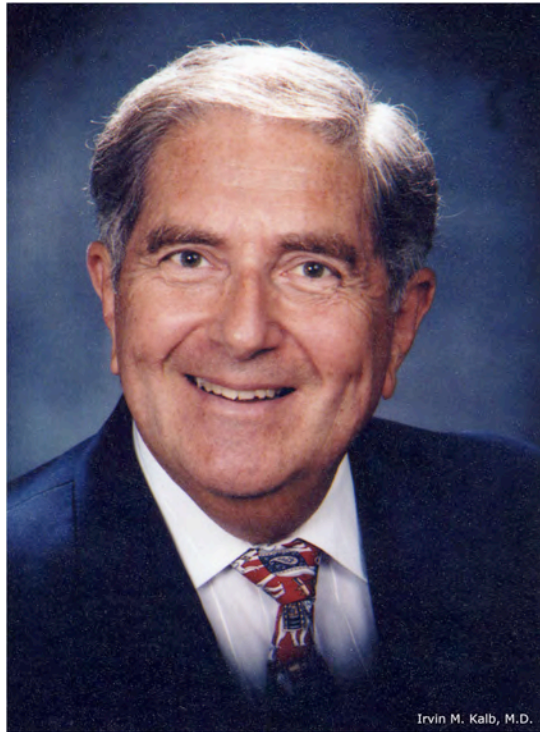
Board Certified, American Academy of Ophthalmology

- C. Richard Hulquist, M.D.



Undergraduate: Wesleyan University, Lincoln, Nebraska
Medical School: University of Nebraska College of Medicine
Internship: Harbor General Hospital, Carson, California
Residency: Manhattan Eye Ear Nose and Throat Hospital, New York
Fellowship: a) University of Vienna, Allgemeines Krankenhaus, Vienna, Austria
b) Institute of Ophthalmology, London, U.K.
Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, UCLA Jules Stein Eye Institute, Westwood, California
Board Certified, American Academy of Ophthalmology

- Irv Kalb, M.D.



Undergraduate: Duke University, Durham, North Carolina
Medical School: University of Tennessee, Memphis, Tennessee
Internship: Cedars of Lebanon Medical Center, Los Angeles, California
Residency: USC-Los Angeles County Hospital, Los Angeles, California

Fellowship: USC-Los Angeles County Hospital, Los Angeles, and Kaiser
Hospital, San Francisco, California
Board Certified, American Academy of Ophthalmology

- Harold Katzman, M.D.



Undergraduate: Brandeis University, Waldham, Massachusetts

Master's Degree: Genetics, UCLA, Westwood, California

Medical School: Chicago Medical School

Internship: Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, California

U.S. Air Force: School of Aerospace Medicine, San Antonio, Texas

Residency: Ophthalmology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Board Certified, American Academy of Ophthalmology

- Howard Krauss, M.D.



Undergraduate: Cooper Union College, Manhattan, New York

Master's Degree Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Watertown, Massachusetts

Medical School: New York Medical School, Manhattan, New York

Internship: UCLA Harbor General Hospital, Carson, California

Residency: UCLA Jules Stein Eye Institute, Westwood, California

Fellowship: Neuro-Ophthalmology, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh,
Pennsylvania

Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology and Neurosurgery, UCLA and Jules
Stein Eye Institute, Westwood, California

Board Certified, American Academy of Ophthalmology

John Lee, M.D.



Undergraduate: University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Medical School: University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Internship: Johannesburg General Hospital, Johannesburg, South Africa

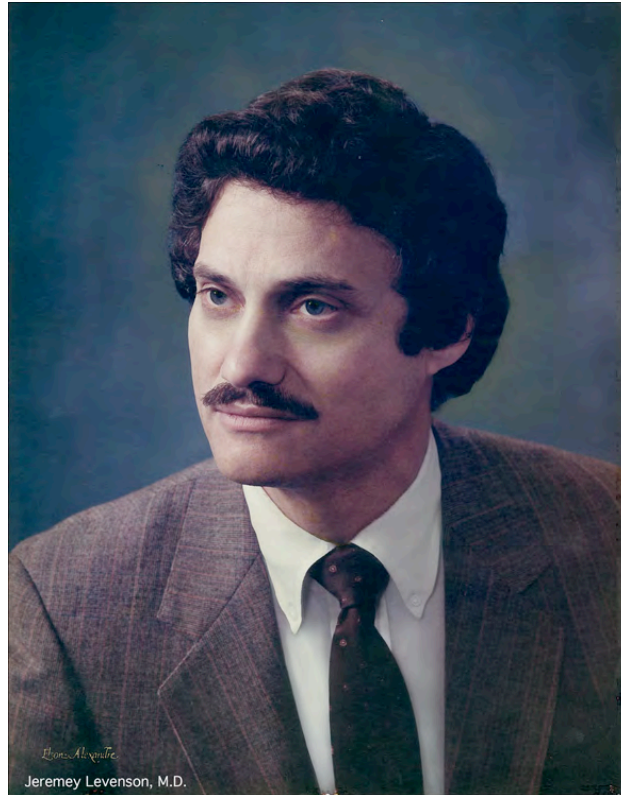
Residency: University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Denver, Colorado

Fellowship: Cornea & External Eye Diseases, USC Estelle Doheny Eye Foundation, Los Angeles, California

Academic: Clinical Instructor, USC Estelle Doheny Eye Foundation, Los Angeles, California

Board Certified, American Academy of Ophthalmology

- Jeremy Levenson, M.D.



Undergraduate: UCLA, Westwood, California

Medical School: UCSF, San Francisco, California

Internship: Wadsworth Veterans Hospital, West Los Angeles, California

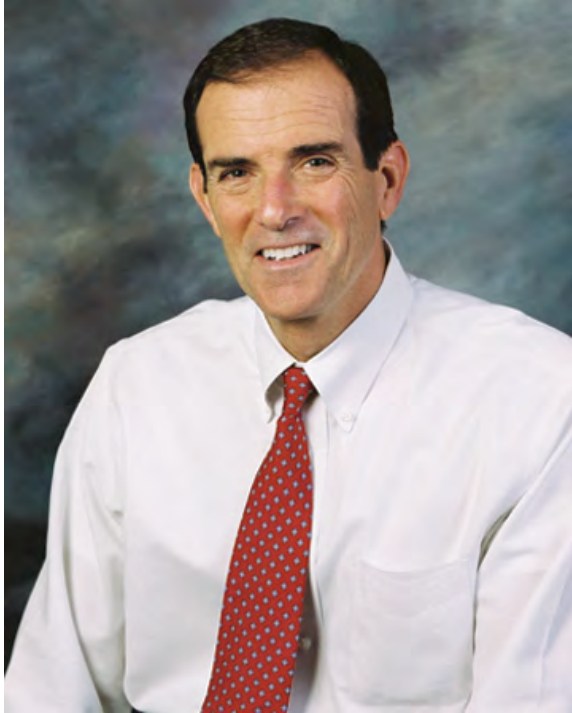
Residency: Ophthalmology, UCLA Jules Stein Eye Institute, Westwood, California

Fellowship: Corneal Diseases and Surgery, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

Academic: Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, UCLA Jules Stein Eye Institute, Westwood, California

Board Certified, American Academy of Ophthalmology

- Bob Lingua, M.D.



Undergraduate: St. Francis College, Brooklyn, New York
Medical School: USC Medical School, Los Angeles, California
Internship: USC-Los Angeles County General Hospital, LA, California
Residency:
Ophthalmology, College of Medicine and Dentistry, Newark, New Jersey
Fellowship: Children's Hospital, Los Angeles, California
Board Certified, American Academy of Ophthalmology

- Jay Patel, M.D.



Undergraduate: University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada

Medical School: University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Internship: University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada

Residency: Ophthalmology, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada

Fellowship: Anterior Segment Surgery, Sinskey Eye Institute, Santa Monica, California

Board Certified, American Academy of Ophthalmology

- Jerry C. Pierce, M.D.



Undergraduate: Baylor University, Waco, Texas

Medical School: University of Memphis, Memphis, Tennessee

Internship: City of Memphis Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee

Residency: Ophthalmology, Wadsworth Veterans Hospital, West Los Angeles, California

Board Certified, American Academy of Ophthalmology

- Sally Schutz, M.D.



Undergraduate:

Medical School: Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, New York

Internship:

Residency: Ophthalmology

Board Certified, American Academy of Ophthalmology

- Robert S. Sherins, M.D.



Undergraduate: UCLA, Los Angeles, California

Medical School: UCSF, San Francisco, California

Internship: Wadsworth Veterans Hospital, West Los Angeles, California

U.S. Air Force: School of Aerospace Medicine, San Antonio, Texas

Residency: Ophthalmology, Wadsworth Veterans Hospital, West LA, California

Academic: Clinical Instructor: UCLA, Jules Stein Eye Institute, Westwood, California

Board Certified, American Academy of Ophthalmology

- Robert M. Sinskey, M.D.



Undergraduate: Washington & Lee University, Lexington, Virginia
Medical School: Duke University, Durham, North Carolina
Internship: Maryland General Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland
Residency: Ophthalmology, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina
Fellowship: Atomic Energy Commission, Duke University
Academic: Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, UCLA, Jules Stein Eye Institute
Board Certified, American Academy of Ophthalmology
ASCRS Ophthalmology Hall of Fame, 2005

- Roger Sorensen, M.D.



Undergraduate: University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota

Medical School: University of Illinois Medical School, Chicago, Illinois

Internship: Mt. Zion Hospital, San Francisco, California

Residency: Ophthalmology, Letterman Army General Hospital, San Francisco, California

Academic: Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, UCLA Jules Stein Eye Institute

Board Certified, American Academy of Ophthalmology

- Sharon Spooner, M.D.



Undergraduate: San Jose State University, San Jose, California
Graduate School: Stanford University, Neurologic Pathology
Medical School: UCLA School of Medicine, Westwood, California
Internship: Hospital of the Good Samaritan, Los Angeles, California
Residency: Ophthalmology, UCLA Jules Stein Eye Institute, Westwood, California
Fellowship: Pediatric Ophthalmology, UCLA Jules Stein Eye Institute, Westwood, California
Board Certified, American Academy of Ophthalmology

Ophthalmology Section of the Department of Surgery
Medical and Surgical Staff
Saint John's Health Center, from 1942 – 2010

1. Leonard Apt, MD
2. Kerry K. Assil, MD
3. Gavin G. Bahadur, MD
4. Robert E. Bartlett, MD
5. Frank Basich, MD
6. Louis Bernstein, MD
7. Edward Bierman, MD
8. Cynthia A. Boxrud, MD
9. Raymond A. Berger, MD
10. Robert E. Christiansen, MD
11. Peter J. Cornell, MD
12. Louise Cooley Davis, MD
13. Glenn B. Dayton, MD
14. Uday Devgan, MD
15. Donald E. Dickerson, MD
16. Kenneth R. Diddie, MD
17. Julian Dow, MD
18. Steven C. Dresner, MD
19. C. Richard Elander, MD
20. Troy R. Elander, MD
21. David R. Fett, MD
22. Laura E. Fox, MD
23. Michael R. Frisch, MD
24. Kathryn M. Gardner, MD
25. John Gilmore, MD
26. Joseph Gindi, MD
27. John Goff, MD
28. Kenneth L. Gordon, MD
29. Lynne Gordon, MD
30. Jay Gross, MD
31. Michael J. Groth, MD
32. Thomas A. Hanscom, MD
33. Robert Hare, MD
34. Delaware F. Harris, MD

35. Robert Hepler, MD
36. John D. Hofbauer, MD
37. Kenneth J. Hoffer, MD
38. Richard Holmes, MD
39. C. Richard Hulquist, MD
40. S. Rodman Irvine, MD
41. Irvin Kalb, MD
42. Louise E. Kaldis-Davis, MD
43. Harold J. Katzman, MD
44. Barry M. Kerman, MD
45. Jerome R. Klein, MD
46. Howard R. Krauss, MD
47. Fred K. Kurata, MD
48. Ben (Bronislav M. Lazich, MD
49. Jeremy E. Levenson, MD
50. John Lordan, MD
51. Joanne E. Low, MD
52. Guy Massry, MD
53. Lydia Matkovich, MD
54. Joan E. McFarland, MD
55. Roger Novak, MD
56. J. Brent Oldenburg, MD
57. David Parks, MD
58. Jayantkumar Patel, MD
59. James H. Peace, MD
60. Thomas Pettit, MD
61. Michael D. Rabkin, MD
62. Michael Reynard, MD
63. Mark R. Sawusch, MD
64. Alan Shabo, MD
65. Robert S. Sherins, MD
66. Sally Shutz, MD
67. Joseph Sidikaro, MD
68. Eliot Siegel, MD
69. Robert M. Sinskey, MD
70. Robert Smithson, MD
71. Sharon Spooner, MD
72. Bradley R. Straatsma, MD

- 73. Gilbert C. Struble, MD
- 74. Marvin J. Teitelbaum, MD
- 75. Nancy S. Wang, MD
- 76. Maury Waksberg, MD

SCLEI Outpatient Clinic
Saint John's Health Center, Santa Monica, California 1959 - 2000

SCLEI Clinic Staff:

- Gloria Rodriguez, Unit Manager



- Jeanine Bercier, SCLEI Unit Manager



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- Florence Almarez, SCLEI Unit Secretary (Seated)



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- Barbara Wasilewski, SCLEI Unit Secretary



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- Teresa Davanzo, Certified Ophthalmic Technician



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- Mariana Davanzo, Certified Ophthalmic Technician



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- Billie Turner, RN



Mary Poll, Certified Orthoptist,
Orthoptic Evaluation and Treatment



Mary Poll, Orthoptist

SCLEI - Clinic Diagnostic Tests Offered

- Vision Assessments – Snellen, P.A.M., Illiterate-“E”
- Pediatric Visual Screening
- Refraction
- Color Defects: HRR and Farnsworth 100-Hue tests
- Stereo-binocularity
- Dark Adaptation
- Contrast Sensitivity
- Electro-Oculography
- Electro-Retinography
- Opticokinetic Nystagmus Testing
- Strabismus Evaluation
- Orthoptics Testing and Treatment
- Glaucoma Screening
- A-Scan Ultrasonography
- B-Scan Ultrasonography
- Intra-Ocular Lens Calculation and Assessments by A-Scan Ultrasonography/Formulary
- Corneal Topography (Ultrasound)
- Corneal Pachymetry (Ultrasound)
- Corneal Keratometric measurements
- Endothelial Cell Counts and Morphology (photographic)
- Tangent Screen Visual Field Testing
- Octopus Quantitative Visual Field and Threshold Testing
- Photography, External Features
- Photography, Anterior Segment and Stereoscopic
- Photography, Retinal
- Photography, Retinal Fluorescein Angiography
- Photography, Digital Fluorescein Angiography
- Humphrey Stereoscopic Cup/Disc Ratio and Sequential Photographic and Volumetric measurements

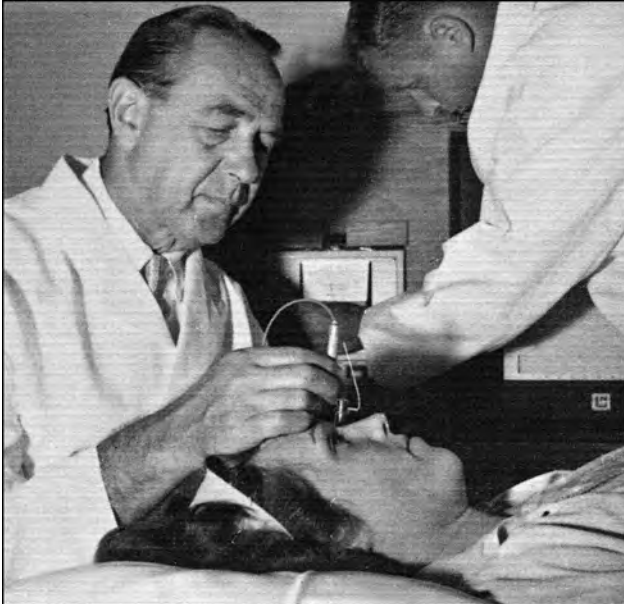
SCLEI Gallery

First Clinic Examination Room



Robert M. Sinskey, M.D.

Schiotz Tonography – Glaucoma Testing - 1960



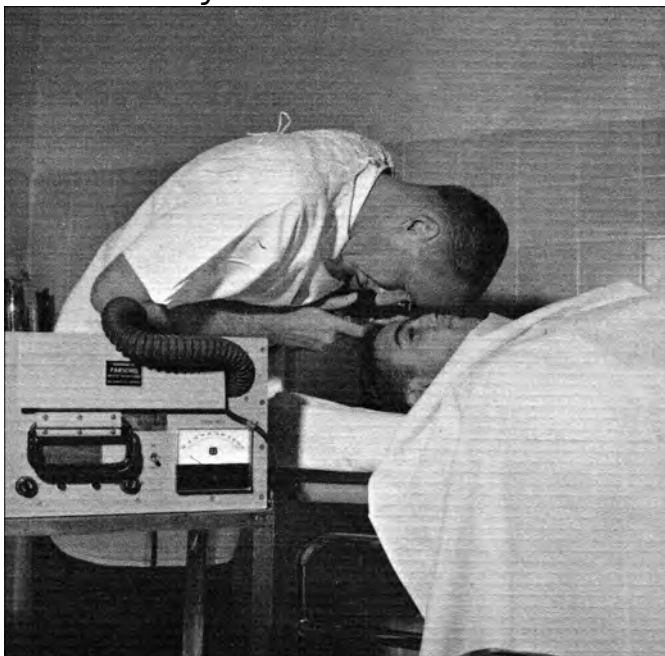
Robert Hare, M.D.

Slitlamp Bio-Microscopic Examination:



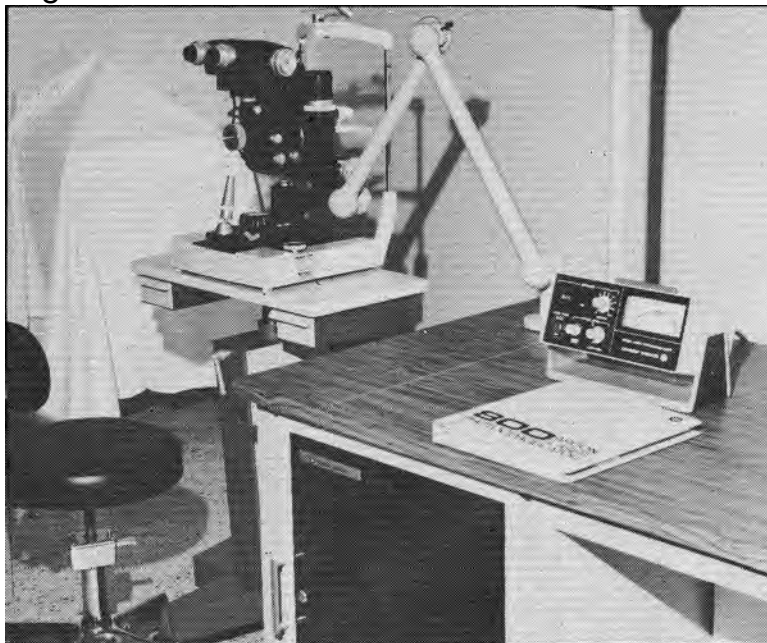
Edwin P. Hill, M.D.

Portable Ruby Laser - 1968

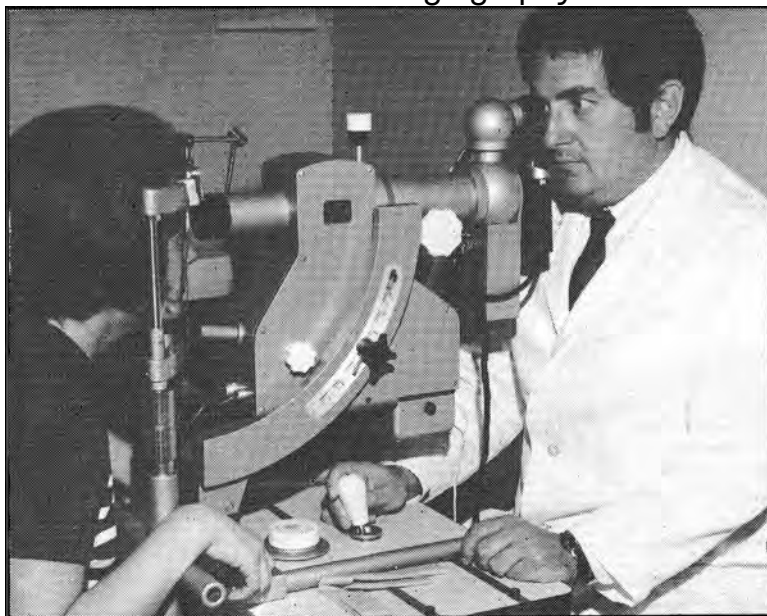


Robert M. Sinskey, M.D.

Argon Laser - 1972



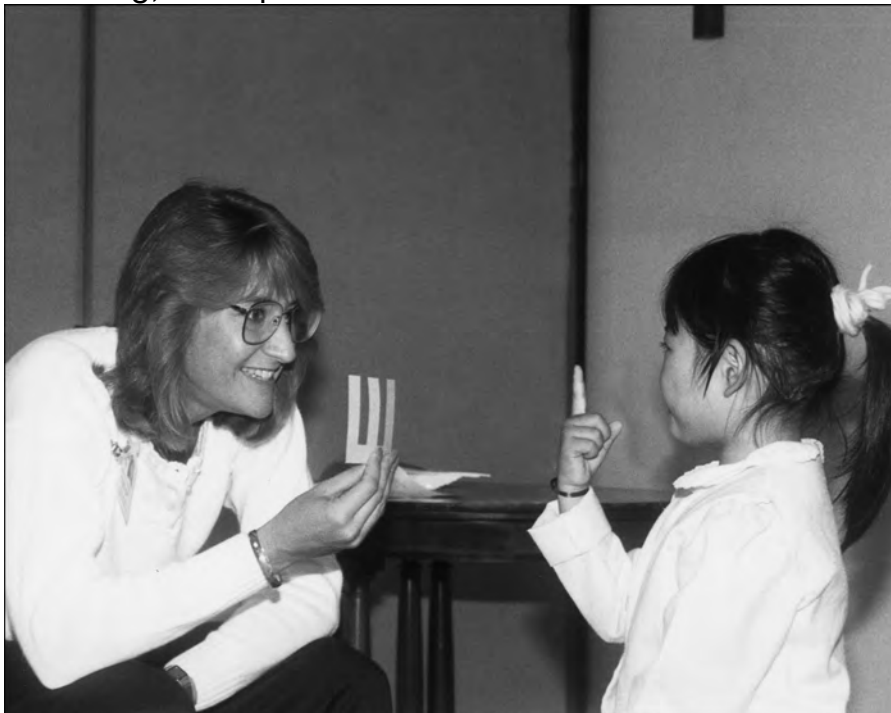
First Flourescein Retinal Angiography - 1972



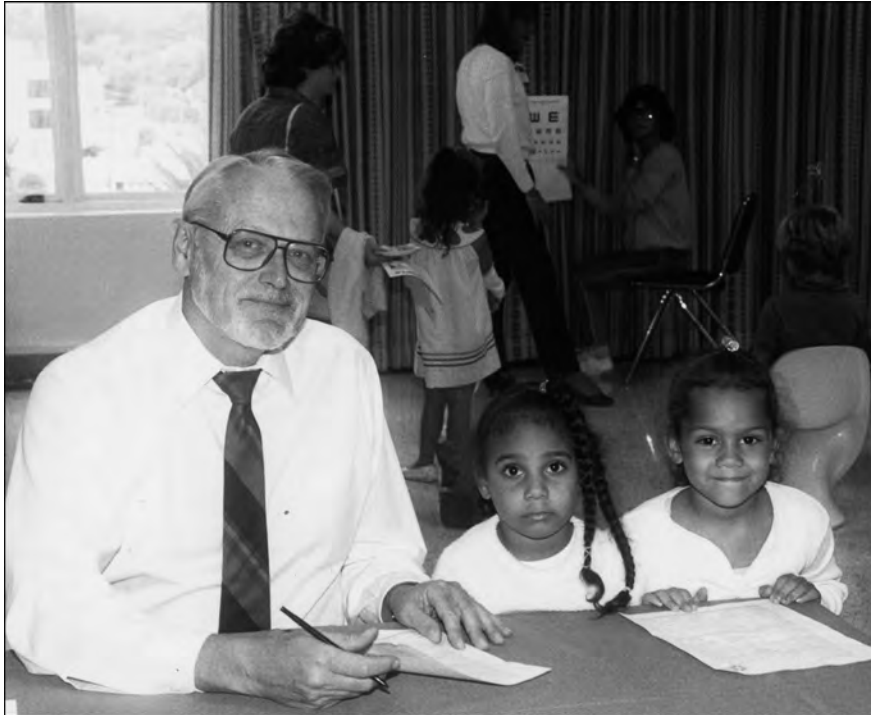
Mary Poll, Orthoptic Evaluation and Treatment
Vision Screening With “Illiterate E” Charts



Pam Berg, Orthoptic Evaluation and Treatment



Roger Sorensen, M.D., Pediatric Ophthalmology



Roger Sorensen, M.D., Pediatric Ophthalmology



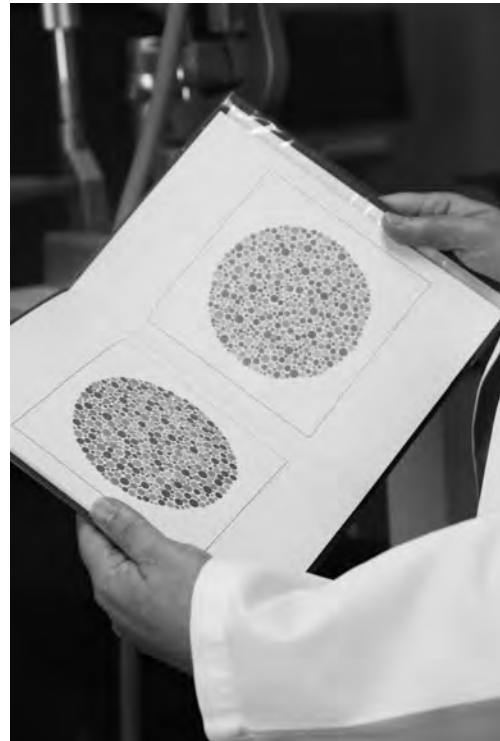
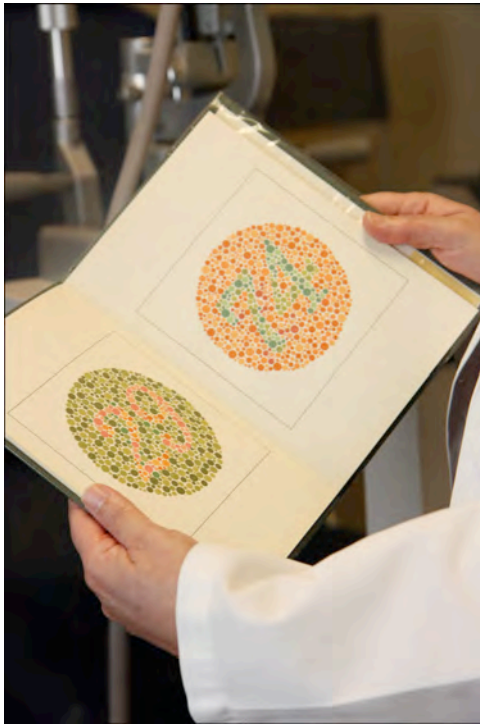
Stereo-Binocular Vision Testing "Stereo-Fly" & Targets



Stereo-Binocular Testing



HRR Color Plates For Testing Color-Blindness



Pediatrics and Botulinum Treatment
Robert Lingua, M.D.



Electro-Oculography

(E.O.G.)



Cornea-Eye Bank



Sally Schutz, M.D.

Heidelberg Stereo Optic Nerve Disc Camera



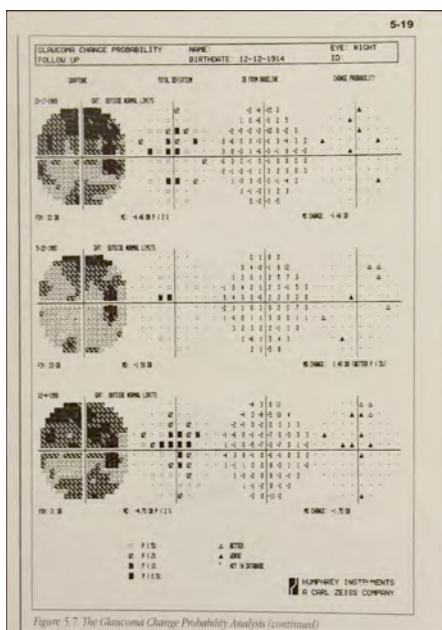
Marianna Davanzo



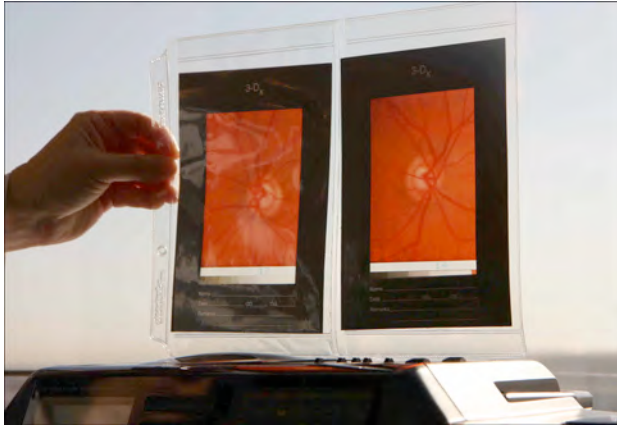
Mariana Davanzo -Octopus Quantitative Visual Fields



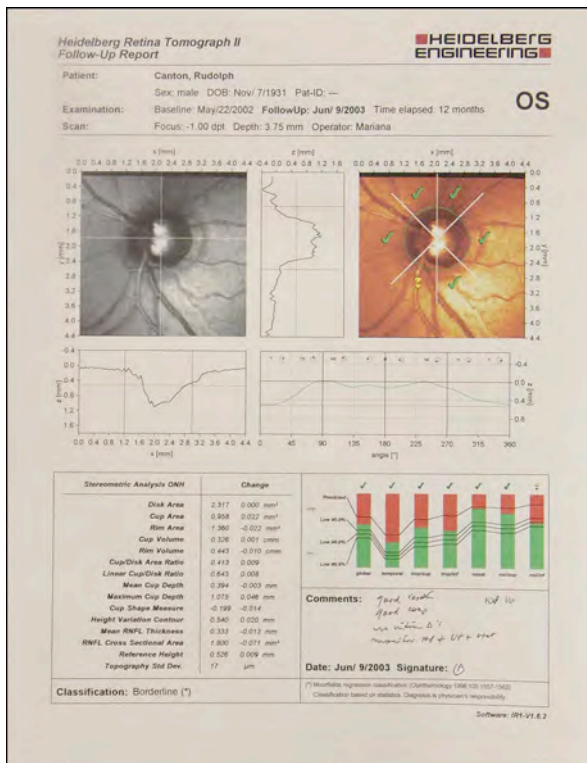
Visual Field Report



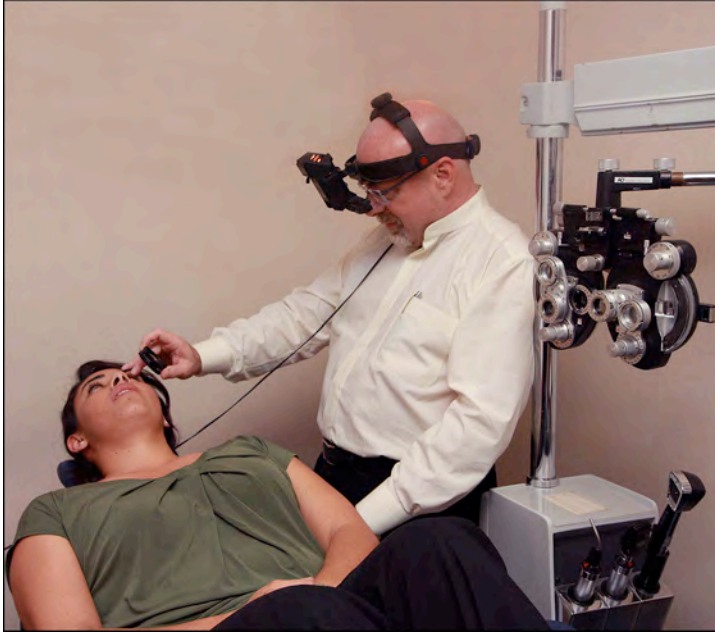
3-D Color Retinal-Disc Photographs



Heidelberg 3-D Disc Photo Report



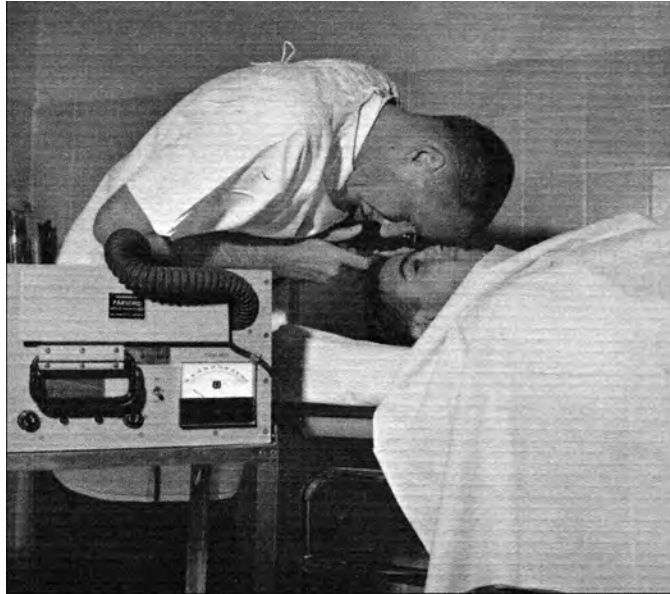
Indirect Retinal Examination



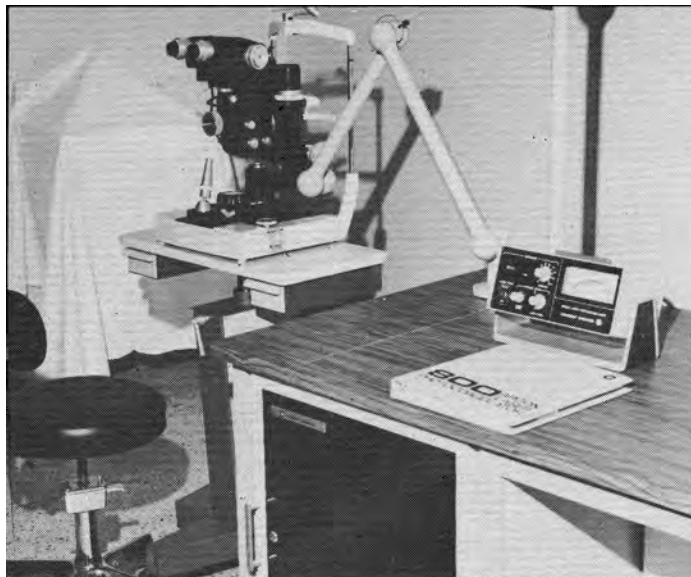
J. Lawrence Garwood, M.D.

Ophthalmic Laser Technology

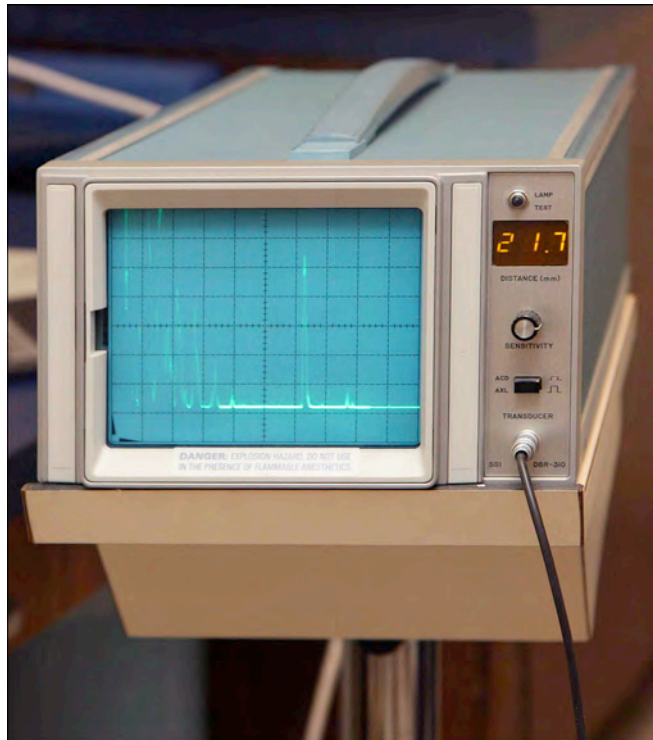
Portable Ruby Laser - 1968



Argon Laser: Microscope and Console - 1972

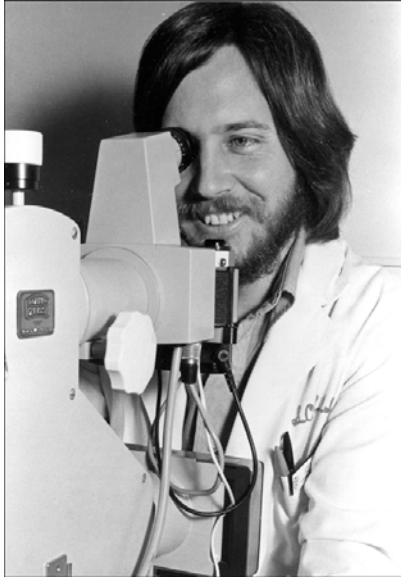


A-Scan Ultrasonography



SCLEI – Ophthalmic Photography

- Ophthalmic Photographers:
 - Larry Wilson



- Kathy Jewel



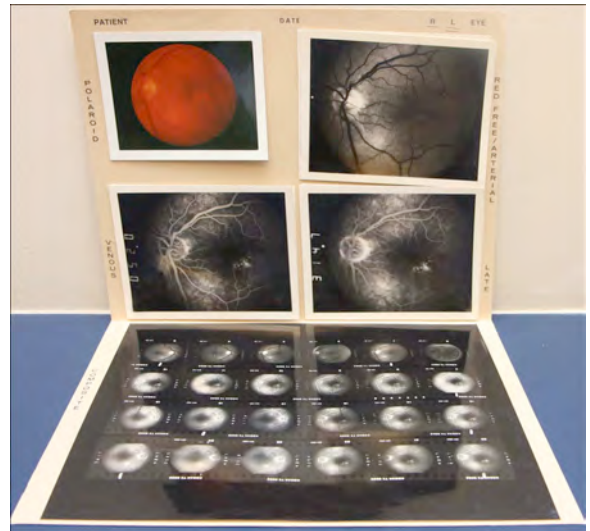
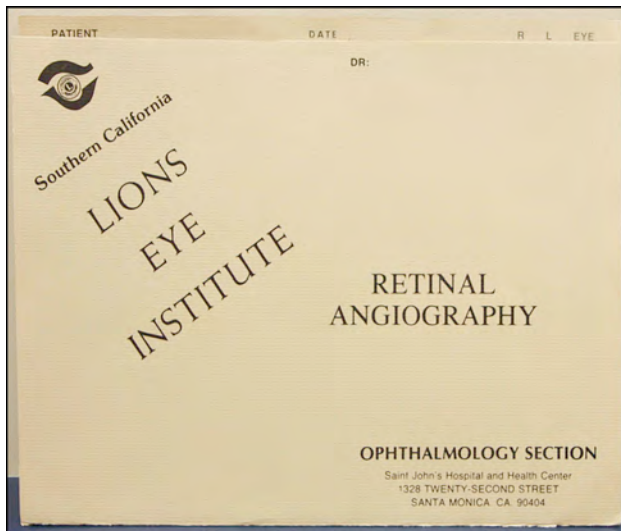
- Paul Paquette



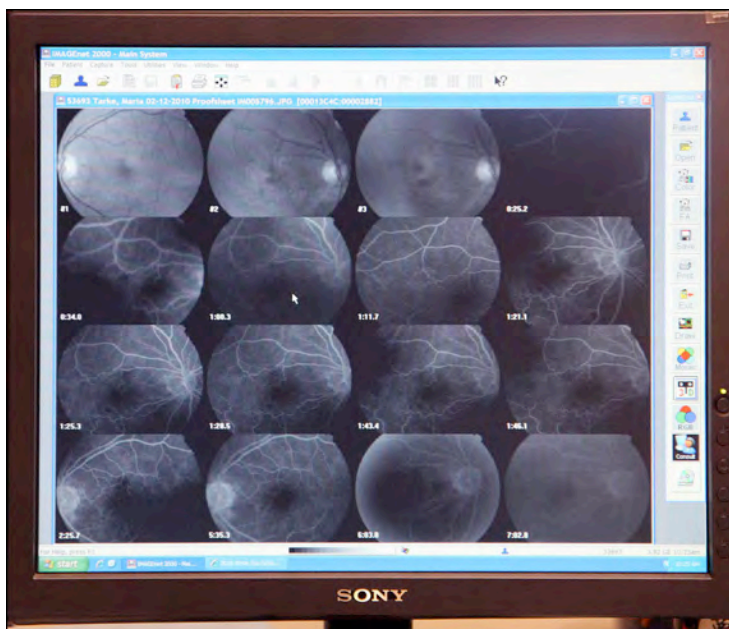
Michael Heneghan



Printed Fluorescein Angiography Report Folder



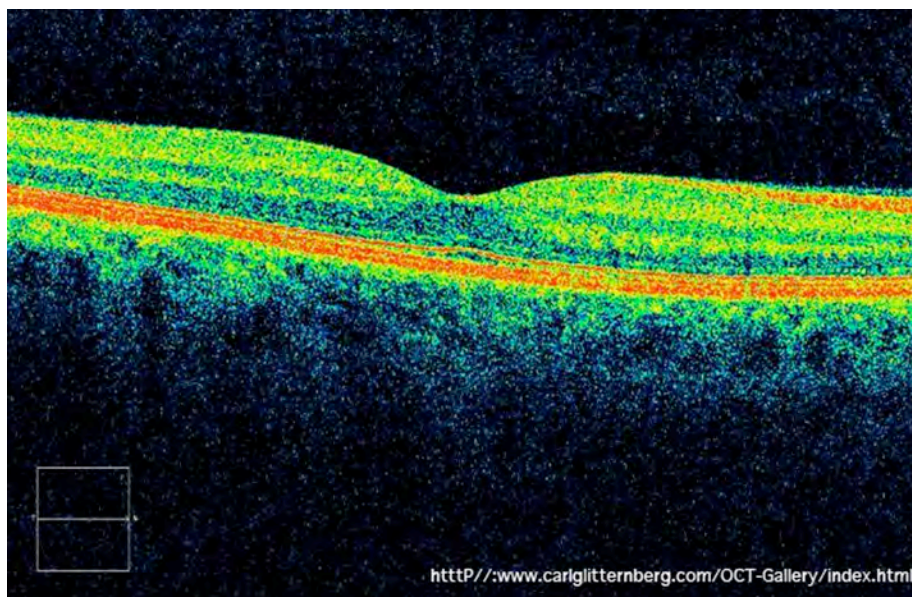
Digital Retinal Fluorescein Angiography



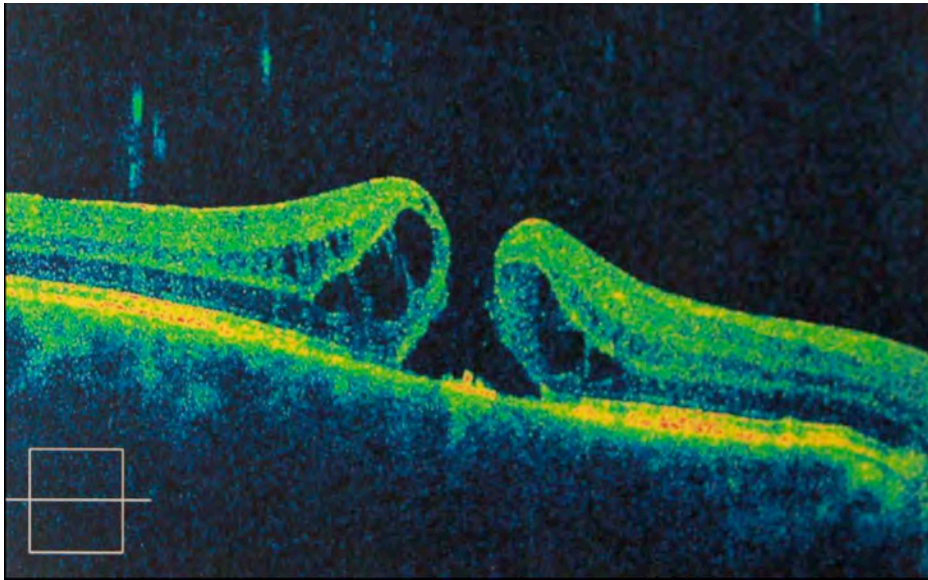
“OCR” – Optical Coherence Tomography
Carl Zeiss Meditec



Normal Macula



OCR – Macular Hole



Ophthalmic Surgery-Saint John's Health Center

Surgical Procedures

- Cataract Phakoemulsification Surgery with Intra-Ocular Lens Implantation
- Glaucoma Trabeculoplasty (Open Angle)
- Glaucoma YAG-Laser Iridotomy (Narrow Angle)
- Glaucoma Ciliary Body Cryotherapy
- Preserved Ocular Cornea and Sclera Bank
- Corneal and Scleral Transplantation
- Retinal Cryotherapy
- Laser Photocoagulation, Argon Dye Adjustable Frequencies
- YAG-Laser
- Radio-active P-32 Testing for Ocular Melanoma
- Retinal Tear Photocoagulation
- Diabetic Retinopathy Laser Photocoagulation
- YAG-Laser Capsulotomy for After-Cataracts or fibrous scarring
- Argon Laser/YAG-Laser Iridectomy for Angle Closure Glaucoma
- Retinal Tear Laser Photocoagulation Treatment
- Intra-vitreous expansive gas injection

- Suturing and wound care
- Corneo-scleral transplantation
- Strabismus Surgery
- Oculoplastic Surgery of lids and adnexa, including fractures of the orbital walls, with or without insertion of alloplastic implants
- Enucleation with implant
- Ocular Prosthetics



Robert M. Sinskey, M.D. & Robert S. Sherins, M.D. (Assistant)



Anne Chenshakri, R.N.



Robert S. Sherins, M.D.



Harvey Gutman, M.D.



Tina Buck, R.N. and Robert S. Sherins, M.D.



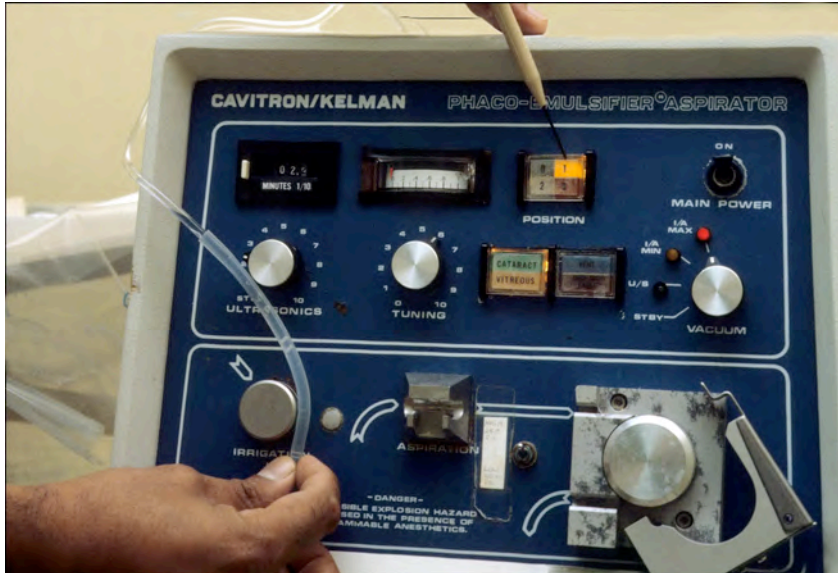
Herman Borden, M.D. and Harvey Gutman, M.D.



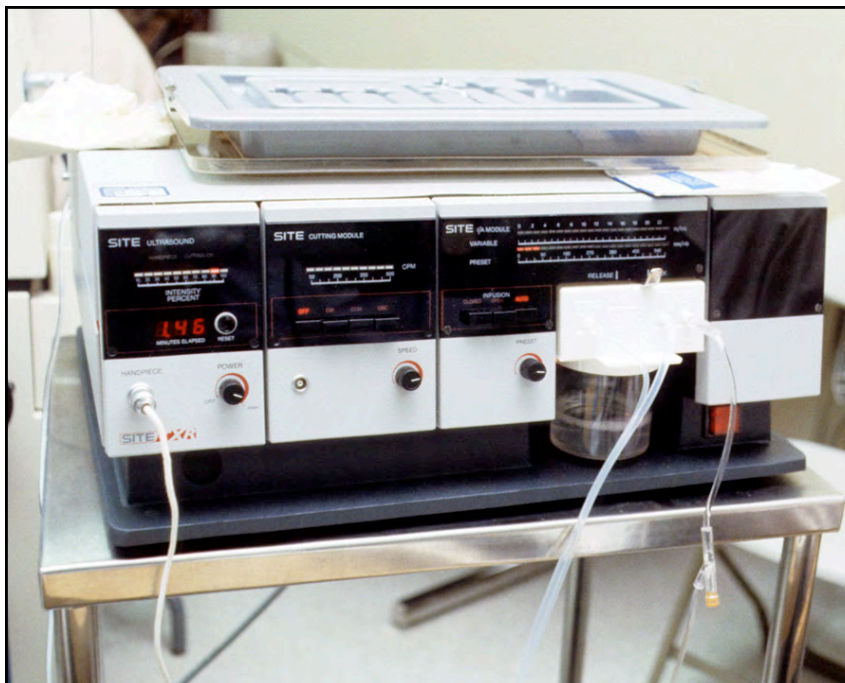
C. Richard Hulquist, M.D.



Cavitron/Kelman Phakoemulsification Unit



SITE Vitrectomy Unit



YAG Laser Mounted to a Slitlamp Microscope



FOUNDATION FOR OPHTHALMIC EDUCATION
Under the Auspices of SCLEI
at
SAINT JOHN'S HEALTH CENTER

As described above, the reputation of the Southern California Lions Eye Institute continued to expand. A decision was made to institute a plan whereby a joint venture with Saint John's Health Center was initiated. Instead of supporting the costs for individual patient treatments, SCLEI agreed to purchase the updated equipment and invest in the most advanced technologies for both the operating room and clinic. Funding of the newly purchased equipment would be paid by monthly donations from every member of the participating Lions Clubs in Southern California (over 200 clubs). That equipment would then be leased to Saint John's for \$ 1.00 per year. SCLEI facilities and services would be made available to all Saint John's ophthalmologists for the care of their private patients. Those ophthalmologists who volunteered to provide services for the referred "LIONS" patients would perform their services without fees. Only the hospital and anesthesiologists would receive a minimal fee for their necessary supplies, which required payments to third party suppliers, i.e. phaco surgical packs, lens implants, etc.

A separate program was initiated for academic and training purposes, in which the SCLEI staff would participate in conferences and classes that were made available to the entire Saint John's eye staff; later on, the courses were expanded to include other practicing ophthalmologists. A Board of Directors was established to supervise and manage this educational arm of SCLEI, which was named the Foundation for Ophthalmic Education, Under the Auspices of the Southern California Eye Institute at Saint John's Health Center. The Board of Directors was composed of the following founding officers:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| • President | Robert M. Sinskey, M.D. |
| • Vice-President | Irvin M. Kalb, M.D. |
| • Treasurer | Robert S. Sherins, M.D. |
| • Secretary | Edwin P. Hill, M.D. |
| • Director | Louis Bernstein, M.D. |

The first programs were developed for in-house education of the ophthalmology staff. The new state-of-the-art procedures would be augmented by the educational courses that would be provided by F.O.E. at no cost to the medical staff. Renowned guest lecturers were invited to provide their expertise and experience. Additional help was provided by the manufactures, which offered technical assistance at the courses. Because of the exceptionally high costs of the surgical laboratory courses and the subsequently presented International Symposia, a reasonable registration fee was charged to the attendees.

Among the earliest lecturers were:

- Professor Koichi Shimzu, M.D.:
 - Tokyo, Japan - Retinal Fluorescein Angiography
- Professor Emanuel Rosen, M.D.:
 - Manchester, England -Retinal Fluorescein Angiography.
- Professor H. Christian Zweng, M.D.:
 - Palo Alto, California - Argon-Laser Photocoagulation for Diabetic Retinopathy
- Cataract Phakoemulsification and Intraocular Lens Implantation:
 - Professor Robert M. Sinsky, M.D.: UCLA Jules Stein Institute and Saint John's Health Center, Santa Monica, California
- Charles Kelman, M.D., Manhattan, New York
- Richard Kratz, M.D.: USC School of Medicine, Los Angeles; Private Practice in Van Nuys, California
- James Little, M.D. - Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- James Arnott, M.D. - London, England
- Professor Mikhail Krasnov, M.D.:
 - Moscow Medical School Faculty, Hospital #1, USSR
- Professor Svyatyslav Fyedorov, M.D.: Moscow Medical School, Faculty Hospital #2, USSR
- Steven Trokel, M.D., Manhattan, New York

Later on, the Surgical Courses in Cataract Phakoemulsification and Intraocular Lens Implantation were offered to international participants. Anesthetized rabbits and cats were provided for the phaco-implant surgeries. Each participant was provided with an independent operating microscope, Cavitron/Kelman Phakoemulsification Unit and the necessary hand instruments, intraocular lenses, etc. The veterinarian from the UCLA

Medical School closely supervised anesthesia and proper care of the animals.

Robert M. Sinskey, M.D. directed the classes and laboratory sessions. Several ophthalmologists from the staff at Saint John's Health Center assisted him. Internationally renowned ophthalmic surgeons also were invited to participate in the courses, which included the following experts:

Course Staffing:

- Director, Robert M. Sinskey, MD
 - Larry Garwood, MD
 - Harvey Gutman, MD
 - Edwin P. Hill, MD
 - C. Richard Hulquist, MD
 - Jay Patel, MD
 - Jerry Pierce, MD
- Visiting Staff:
 - James Arnott, MD (London, United Kingdom)
 - Robert Drews, MD (Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri)
 - Professor, Svayyslav Fyedorov, MD (Moscow, USSR)
 - Charles D. Kelman, MD (New York)
 - Buel Heslin, MD (New York)
 - Richard Kratz, MD (Encino, CA)
 - Steven Johnson, MD Encino, California
 - Professor, Mikail Krasnov, MD (Moscow, USSR)
 - Larry Leiske, MD (Glendale, California)
 - James Little, MD (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma)
 - Thomas Mazzocco, MD (Los Angeles, California)
 - Steve Shearing, MD (Las Vegas, NV)
 - John Sheets, MD (Odessa, Texas)
 - Steve Trokel, MD (New York YAG-Laser)
 - William Vollotin, MD (University of South Carolina)
 - Professor, Jan Worst, MD (Groningen, Netherlands)

List of SCLEI Sponsored Conferences:

- Humphreys Automated Quantitative Visual Field Assessment, Sequential Analyses
- Retinal Fluorescein Angiography
- Corneal Endothelial Cell Calculation and Morphology
- Argon and Argon Variable-Dye Lasers
- YAG-Laser
- Strabismus Treatment with Botulinum
- Corneo-Scleral Eye Bank
- Ocular Melanoma Assessment
- Ultrasonography:
 - A-Scan, Linear
 - Intraocular Implant Power Calculations and Formulae
 - B-Scan, Two-Dimensional
 - Corneal Topography
 - Corneal Pachymetry
- Monitored Local Anesthesia in Ocular Surgery (Harvey Gutman, M.D.)

SCLEI Subsidized Trips for National and International Educational Conferences for the SCLEI Staff Ophthalmologists:

- Eric Arnott, MD – London, England: International Symposium for Intraocular Lens Implantation, underwritten fully by F.O.E.
- Cornelius Binkhorst, MD - Bruges, Belgium: Intraocular Lens Implantation.
-
- Jackson Coleman, MD – Columbia University, New York: Ocular Ultrasonography.
- Svaytyslav Fyedorov, MD - Moscow, Hospital #2, USSR: Keratoplasty and Intraocular Lens Implantation.
- Jan Worst, MD – Netherlands. Intraocular Lens Implantation.

- F.O.E. Exhibits Displayed at the American Academy of Ophthalmology International Conferences:
 - 1st AIOIS Conference, Beverly Hills, California, 1975 – American Intraocular Lens & Implant Society)
 - Chicago, Illinois (American Academy of Ophthalmology)
 - Dallas, Texas (American Academy of Ophthalmology)
 - Las Vegas, Nevada (American Academy of Ophthalmology)

SCLEI Surgical Courses Gallery of Ophthalmologists:



Richard Kratz, M.D. – Van Nuys, California
Robert M. Sinskey, M.D. – Santa Monica, California



Emanuel Rosen, M.D.
Manchester, England



Thomas Mazzocco, M.D.
Van Nuys, California



Mikhail Krasnow, M.D.
Hospital #1, Moscow, U.S.S.R.



Richard Kratz, M.D.
Van Nuys, California



Eric Arnott, M.D. – London, England
James Little, M.D. – Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

**Cataract-Lens Implantation Course
Moscow, U.S.S.R. - 1974**

**Svaytyslav Federov, M.D.
Moscow, U.S.S.R.**



Svyatoslav Nikolaevich Federov,





S.N. Federov, M.D. Operating; R. Sinskey, M.D. Assisting, Cataract Implant Surgery in Moscow



Helen Reid, RN with Russian Surgical Nursing Team - Moscow



Edwin P. Hill, M.D. - Moscow



Edwin P. Hill, MD, Robert Sinskey, MD at Slitlamp Examining Surgical Patient; and Dr. Boucherov - Moscow



Dr. Boucherov Toasting Dr. Robert Sinskey - Moscow



Helen Reid, RN is toasted by Dr. Boucherov - Moscow



Doctors Edwin P. Hill and Robert Sinskey with the Krasnov Ophthalmology Team - Moscow

Professor Mikhail Krasnov, M.D.; Robert Sinskey, MD; and Edwin P. Hill, MD



Helen Reid, RN and Edwin P. Hill, M.D. - Moscow

Edwin P. Hill, MD and Helen Reid, RN



Dr. Krasnov, Chief of Ophthalmology - Moscow



Michail Krasnow, M.D., Chief of Ophthalmology, Moscow

**Professor Mikhail Krasnov, M.D., Chief of Ophthalmology Staff
Moscow Hospital #1, U.S.S.R.**

Visits Lions Eye Clinic
Saint John's Health Center – 1974

Professor Krasnov Reviews the Ocular Photography Department



Larry Wilson, Photographer; Robert Sinskey, MD SCLEI Director;
Professor Mikhail Krasnov; and Robert Sherins, MD, Angiography Director

Professor Krasnov Reviews Retinal Angiogram



Professor Krasnov; Robert Sherins, MD; and Sister Marie Madeleine, SCL



F.O.E. Demonstration of Video Monitor Used As Visual Aide for the Partly Sighted
Post-Graduate Assembly, Conference of Diabetes - 1974
Dr. Robert Sherins, Dr. Steven Polin, and Dr. Richard Corlin

Dr. Sinskey demonstrates ocular surgery facilities to “LIONS”

