Thank you for supporting the University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology and The Stephen A. Wynn Institute for Vision Research.
We are here today to recognize the establishment of the Beulah and Florence Usher Chair in Cornea/External Disease and Refractive Surgery, presented to Michael Wagoner, M.D., Ph.D., and the William E. Scott Professorship in Pediatric Ophthalmology, named in honor of William E. Scott, M.D., and presented to Scott A. Larson.

We also recognize the generosity of Rodolfo and Margaret Perez for the establishment of the Rodolfo N. Perez, Jr., M.D., and Margaret Perez Professorship in Ophthalmology Education, and the appointment of Thomas A. Oetting, M.D. to this position.

Dr. Oetting, M.D., is a Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology and the Residency Program Director. He serves as Chief of Ophthalmology and Deputy Director for Surgery at the Iowa City VAMC.

Dr. Oetting grew up in Montgomery Alabama where his mother still lives. His father was an education expert retiring from the Air Force (AF) and was very active in continuing medical education (CME) for the Alabama and American Medical Associations.

Dr. Oetting studied electrical engineering on an Air Force ROTC scholarship and then served on active duty and in the AF reserves for several years. Dr. Oetting received a MS in engineering and his MD at Duke University. He did his ophthalmology residency at the University of Iowa. He spent a brief time in private practice before returning to the faculty at the University of Iowa.

Dr. Oetting is currently an at large member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Board of Trustees. He has served on several Academy committees including chair of the CME Committee, chair of the Practicing Ophthalmology Curriculum (POC) for anterior segment, chair of the Preferred Practice Pattern (PPP) Review for Cataract, editor of the morning rounds section of the AAO Eye Net magazine, and executive editor of the Basic Principles of Ophthalmic Surgery. He is currently Co-chair of the AUPO/AAO residency committee and president of the AUPO Program Directors Council.

Dr. Oetting won the Resident Teaching Award at the University of Iowa 5 times and has staffed over 10,000 resident cataract cases. He won the Dr. Charles Phelps award from the Iowa Department of Ophthalmology. He has received the Achievement, Senior Achievement, and Secretariat awards from the AAO. He won the Academy and AUPO Straatsma Award for residency education. He has given numerous named and invited lectures. He helped found and now serves on the editorial board for EyeRounds and facebook.com/cataractsurgery. He writes and gives lectures in the area of cataract surgery and medical education.
Scott A. Larson serves as the director of fellowship programs for the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences and the director of the Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus fellowship. He is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Departments of Ophthalmology and Pediatrics. He currently serves as the President-elect of the Iowa Academy of Ophthalmology.

Dr. Larson received his medical degree from Loma Linda University in 1998. He completed his residency (2002) and fellowship in Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (2003) at the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics. He spent nearly a decade as a faculty member at the John A. Moran Eye Center, University of Utah before returning to join the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Iowa in 2012.

Dr. Larson has been an advocate for education in pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus at the local, regional, national, and international levels. Through his involvement in the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (AAPOS) Program and Online Media committees, he has helped organize educational meetings not only in the US but also in Mexico, Singapore, China, and India. He has developed online resources to aid practicing physicians, residents and fellows in the form of webinars, web sites, wiki sites, and surgical videos. He won the Department of Ophthalmology Faculty Teacher of the Year award in 2014.

Dr. Larson’s research interests have the primary goal of improving the treatment of strabismus in children and adults. He is the University of Iowa’s Principle Investigator for the Pediatric Eye Disease Investigator Group (PEDIG) and is active in multiple protocols relating to clinical research for pediatric eye disease and strabismus. He has developed extensive databases of clinical outcomes stretching back more than 40 years for such conditions as Brown syndrome and Congenital Esotropia.
Rodolfo (Rudy) and Margaret Perez live in Boulder, Colorado. After thirty-seven years in medicine, Rudy retired in 2010 from a group ophthalmology practice in the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas. Rudy grew up in a small town along the Texas-Mexican border and is descended from a Spanish land grant family who came to the New World in 1515. He attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Texas. In St. Louis, he received his medical degree from Washington University School of Medicine, and completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. Following military service in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, he completed a residency in ophthalmology at the University of Iowa under Dr. Frederick Blodi and a fellowship in retina under Dr. Robert Watzke.

Margaret was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia and graduated from Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia with a degree in philosophy. She did graduate studies in philosophy at Washington University St. Louis and received a Masters degree in counseling from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. She taught Language Arts and English as a second language in middle school and later served as a counselor.

Rudy and Margaret settled in Weslaco, Texas close to where he grew up. He joined two general ophthalmologists later to be joined by two other Iowa ophthalmology graduates, Dr. William Gillum in Plastics and Dr. Cristina Johnson in Pediatric Ophthalmology. The practice expanded to serve four communities with patients from Mexico as well as Texas.

Margaret and Rudy are the proud parents of four children: David, Ileana, Emily, and Edward, and grandparents of seven children. David and Edward are both Harvard graduates, and Ileana and Emily are Stanford graduates. They all have earned graduate degrees. David and Ileana are MBA graduates and Edward and Emily are MFA graduates.

Michael D. Wagoner, M.D., Ph.D., is a Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences and is the Beulah and Florence Usher Chair in Cornea and External Disease and Refractive Surgery at the UI Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine.

Dr. Wagoner received his MD from Baylor College of Medicine and his PhD in ophthalmology from Stellenbosch University. At Harvard Medical School, he completed an ophthalmology residency, an ophthalmic pathology fellowship, and a cornea and external disease fellowship.

Following completion of his clinical training, Dr. Wagoner has served as a staff ophthalmologist at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, King Khaled Eye Specialist Hospital, the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, and Iowa City Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Administratively, he served as the chief of the Cornea and Refractive Surgery Service at MEEI (the major eye care facility of Harvard Medical School) and as the medical director of KKESH (the national eye hospital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia). In conjunction with providing patient care in the cornea and refractive surgical clinics at these facilities, he has directly participated in the education of 270 ophthalmology residents and 103 cornea fellows. He has received several awards related to his clinical care and teaching, including selection to Best Doctors in America and the Honor Award, Senior Honor Award, and Secretariat Award of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

Dr. Wagoner was appointed assistant professor of ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School in 1985, and remained there at this rank until his recruitment to the University of Iowa at the rank of full professor in 1999. He has held research positions at Massachusetts General Hospital, Schepens Eye Research Institute, and the University of Iowa Stephen A. Wynn Institute for Vision Research. He has authored more than 200 scholarly publications, including 126 peer-reviewed articles in indexed journals, 24 textbook chapters, and two textbooks. The topics of his research include corneal transplantation and refractive surgical outcomes, corneal infections and inflammation, and ocular surface disease.
The Beulah and Florence Usher endowment established in 2005 was made possible by an estate gift that provides support, and promotes research and education in the area of Cornea/External Disease and Refractive Surgery. The Usher sisters are also honored by a chair to enhance research and education dealing with cornea and external disease. UI Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences recognizes the extraordinary contribution provided by Miss Beulah Usher and Miss Florence Usher of Cedar Rapids.

Sisters and lifelong partners, Beulah and Florence were two of the department’s most generous benefactors. The gift from their estate will be used to provide support and promote research in the area of cornea and external disease.

Beulah and Florence Usher were born after the turn of the 20th century in their family home. Although the sisters were rarely apart, they pursued different careers. Beulah graduated in 1925 from St. Luke’s School of Nursing in Cedar Rapids and spent 36 years in health care at St. Luke’s Hospital. Florence pursued a successful career in millinery, marketing, and sales for Killian’s Department Store of Cedar Rapids.

The Usher sisters never married and lived together until Beulah’s death in 1994 at the age of 91. Florence passed away in 2003 at the age of 98. They lived modestly and were very grateful for the care they received from the faculty and staff in the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. It is with deep and heartfelt appreciation that the Department of Ophthalmology recognizes the profound impact that this generosity will provide. Beulah and Florence Usher will long be remembered for their hard work, good humor, love of family, and passionate desire to serve others.

Both Margaret and Rodolfo have been active in their communities in Texas and Colorado. Margaret was a member of Friends of the Library and assisted young children with reading. Rudy served on the school board and also the regional board for Teach for America. He has held offices in hospital medical boards and the Texas Ophthalmology Association. Rudy is a founding member of the Valley Symphony Association and Margaret a founding member of the Valley Youth Orchestra.

Currently, Rudy is Vice President of the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra Board, studies classical piano, and is learning guitar and mandolin. He attends lectures in physics and astronomy. Both he and Margaret enjoy chamber and symphonic music, opera, jazz and drama. They continue to explore and learn about the natural beauty of Colorado.
Membership in Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society was the first in a long string of honors, awards and recognitions that Dr. Scott has accumulated. The Iowa Medical Society recognized him in 2015 with the Physician Community Service Award for his work with Iowa KidSight, a vision screening program for pre-school children, which he founded in 2000. Other honors include the JCAHPO Faculty Award for Distinguished Service, American Academy of Ophthalmology’s Distinguished Service Award, and the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Senior Honor Award.

Teaching has been an important role in Dr. Scott’s career. He has trained 55 fellows and countless ophthalmology residents. For many years he taught in the Basic Science Courses for residents in training at Stanford University and in Houston. As a result of attending these courses, many trainees have chosen The University of Iowa as a place to continue their ophthalmology training.

Both nationally and internationally, Dr. Scott is known for his contributions to research and clinical practice in ophthalmology. He has published more than 250 articles, chapters, or books on amblyopia, surgical techniques, vision screening and other topics in pediatric ophthalmology and adult strabismus.

Dr. Scott has delivered over 325 invited lectures and presentations. Named lectures he has delivered include the Frank D. Costenbader Lecture, the 24th Annual Richard G. Scobee Memorial Lecture, The A.J. Jampolsky Lecture, The Alson E. Braley Lecture, the Marshall M. Parks Lecture, The Gunter K. Von Noorden visiting professorship lecture, and the Louis A. Young-Thomas Memorial Lecture.