



University of Illinois
Eye and Ear Infirmary

Among the Top 20
Eye Departments in the US
and a leader in Ophthalmology
and Visual Sciences for
150 years.

For over 150 years, our department has used the most innovative methods available to diagnose, treat and understand eye diseases. From the formation of one of the first glaucoma clinics in 1937 to today's research to develop an artificial retina and achieve whole eye transplantation, our scientists and physicians continue to break new ground in the development and application of biotechnology breakthroughs.

Selected every year as America's Best® and Top® Doctors, our physicians are consulted by referring ophthalmologists across the country for their expertise in the diagnosis, treatment and management of the most difficult and complex cases. Our trademark pursuit of excellence has helped to build a leading Cornea Service in which each of the full-time attendings has been named one of America's Best Doctors®. Our Retina Service, which conducts clinical trials for the most

recent treatments for age-related macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy, is quickly becoming known as the best in the Midwest. Our new Comprehensive Ophthalmology Service offers the expertise of Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary specialists in a convenient setting, designed for busy, working people.

Our vision research program is rich and clinically integrated, with one-third of our full-time ophthalmology faculty holding PhDs in the basic sciences. With 14 research grants funded by the National Institutes of Health, we are well positioned for strategic expansion of our research program to include translational research in retinal diseases, glaucoma and drug delivery systems.

Innovation in the area of ophthalmologic education is underway at every level, from education of residents and fellows to faculty development. Our continuing medical education program includes the acclaimed Illinois

Eye Review, an ophthalmology review and continuing education program unlike any other. Our resident exchange program with Keio University in Japan widens perspective on ophthalmologic care delivery for residents from both countries.

The need to prevent blindness confronts countless patients, physicians and scientists around the world. Through our leadership in vision science and ophthalmologic patient care and education, we are dedicated to bringing the most effective diagnostic tools and treatments to eye patients at UIC and beyond.



Dimitri Azar, M.D.
B.A. Field Chair of Ophthalmologic Research
Professor and Department Head

Education

The Department of Ophthalmology accepts six residents to its program each year, making it one of nation's largest ophthalmology residency programs. We are also one of the most competitive with well over 600 applicants annually, of whom 72 are granted interviews. Our selection standards are among the highest. GPA's are typically 4.0 (out of possible 4.0) and board scores are rarely lower than the 96th percentile. Most applicants have research experience. In recent years our residents have gone on to prestigious fellowships at Northwestern, University of Iowa, Bascom Palmer, Duke, Wilmer Eye Institute, and UCLA. Our tradition of excellence in ophthalmologic education is reflected in the leadership positions held by our alumni, who serve as chairs of ophthalmology departments, the dean of a leading

medical school, and the director of the National Eye Institute. Our fellowship programs in six subspecialties are also highly sought after. We continue to train the best and the brightest to become leaders in ophthalmology.

Our annual schedule of continuing medical education courses for practicing ophthalmologists focuses on the treatment of difficult and complex cases. Our annual Illinois Eye Review is a week-long, learner-centered program providing participants with factual, conceptual and applied courses taught by faculty selected for their outstanding contributions to ophthalmologic research and practice. The Illinois Eye Review stands apart from other comprehensive ophthalmology reviews by offering a menu of courses that allows participants to build a program around their individual needs and learning styles.



Research

Basic science provides the foundation for the clinical and educational activities of the department. Our research program includes investigations conducted by the 11 PhDs in basic science and 18 MDs with primary appointments in our Department, as well as collaborations with a group of 16 NIH-funded investigators from departments and colleges throughout UIC and beyond. Our Vision Science Research Community fosters multidisciplinary and innovative research. Over 30 ongoing investigations contribute to greater understanding of visual processes and underlying causes of blinding eye diseases. Studies range from the examination of single molecules and their role in the visual process to investigations on the impact of eye disease on the quality of life. In addition to our NIH-funded research programs, there are also at least a dozen clinical trials enrolling patients at any given time, as well as four NEI multi-centered clinical studies in which UIC is a participating center.

Patient Care

The Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary, the patient care and teaching center of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, sees 55,000 patients each year on the UIC Medical Center Campus and at the Millennium Park Eye Center. Our patient care is enriched by ongoing collaboration and exchange of ideas between our physicians and researchers. The core attending staff for the Infirmary's General Eye Clinic and nine subspecialties comprises 35 full and part-time physicians and is augmented by 40 volunteer community ophthalmologists. Our physicians are named Top Doctors® and Best Doctors in America® each year.



Our Future

Our physicians and scientists are leading the search for innovative solutions to the most complex ophthalmologic problems. While our physicians deliver state-of-the-art care to our patients today, our scientists are working to discover new ways to prevent and cure blindness. Together, they are teaching the future generation of leaders in ophthalmology and vision science.