Who knew that the word ‘disruptive’ would come to represent a compliment for something, such as services delivered differently? The Pacific Vision Foundation’s plans for an Eye Institute will be just that, a change in the way certain specialty eye care is provided to poor and non-paying patients.

The goal is to provide the same quality services to California Pacific Medical Center/Lions Eye Clinic patients that have been the hallmark of the ophthalmology department for over 100 years, yet to increase access for financially disadvantaged clients. This model of providing high volume, low cost, high quality medical care to all patients, regardless of ability to pay, has few if any precedents in the United States.

The Eye Institute will be housed at 711 Van Ness Avenue, a five-story building with 88,000 square feet that was purchased in 2011, a bold investment by the Board of Trustees that has already doubled in value.

The new Eye Institute, based on 50-year partnership of the Pacific Vision Foundation (PVF), CPMC, and the Lions Eye Foundation of Northern California and Nevada, is planned as both... (continued on page 3)
Dear Bruce,

The Milestone Celebration demonstrated the program continuity and broad support that the Pacific Vision Foundation is receiving. More precisely, the Milestone Celebration illustrated the commendable ongoing construction currently underway to enhance the Eye Institute as an ophthalmology training and patient care center. In support of this activity, it is a distinct pleasure to donate to the Pacific Vision Foundation for support of the Eye Institute on Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco.

Bradley R. Straatsma, M.D., J.D.
Jules Stein Eye Institute
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

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Dear Ravi and Thulsi,

You would have enjoyed today’s celebration of the active construction of the Pacific Vision Foundation eye institute in San Francisco. Under Bruce’s steady hand, the vision, plan, and now facilities are moving forward. Many well-wishers participated in the event including Dr. B. Straatsma. This was a big day.

Suzanne Gilbert, PhD, MPH
Senior Director, Innovation and Sight Program
SEVA Foundation
Berkeley, CA

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Thanks Suzanne for the updates with photos. Good to see the progress.

With Warm Regards,
Ravi
Dr. R. D. Ravindran, MS, DO
Chairman, Aravind Eye Care System
Tamil Nadu, India

Thanks Suzanne, for sharing these images.
The work seems to be in progress in full swing.

With Warm Regards,
Thulsi
R. D. Thulasiraj
Director, Operations
Aravind Eye Care System
Tamil Nadu, India

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Dr. Brad Straatsma, founder of the Jules Stein Eye Institute in Los Angeles and donor to PVF’s Eye Institute, seen here with long-time colleague, Dr. Bruce Spivey, and members of their families. (Left to right): granddaughter Sheridan Spivey; daughter Greer Straatsma; Dr. Straatsma, Bruce’s wife Amanda Spivey; Dr. Spivey; and granddaughter Austin Spivey.

Suzanne Gilbert of the SEVA Foundation in Berkeley with Dr. Marc Lieberman, CPMC Chief of Glaucoma
Current and Former Chiefs, CPMC Ophthalmology Department, in attendance at the Construction Milestone Event (left to right): Kevin Denny MD, 2014-present; Susan Day MD, 2000-2014; Bruce Spivey MD, 1971-1986; Arthur Jampolsky MD, Chief 1966-1971

(continued from page 1) a continuation of the organizations’ missions, and a pioneering expansion.

To celebrate progress on renovations in the building, some 95 individuals gathered recently for a hard hat tour of the third floor. It was clear that participants were excited by the tangible progress, very much enjoyed connecting with colleagues from around the country, and hearing from a few presenters. Those current and former Chairs of the CPMC Ophthalmology Department offered a good-natured challenge: “Lions pledged $1.5 million toward the cost of building an Ambulatory Surgical Center. Now the community needs to respond and also contribute!”

The conversion and leasing of this space, destined to be offices for a full spectrum of general and subspecialty ophthalmologists affiliated with CPMC, is a significant milestone. It illustrates the demand and desirability of increased efficiencies with private practice, clinical care, teaching, and research all under one roof. The doctors that have made an early commitment to open offices in the Eye Institute building are the following: Dr. Dilys J. Bart; Dr. Kevin J. Denny, Dr. Donald C. Fletcher, Dr. Marc F. Lieberman, Dr. Margaret P. Liu, Dr. Taliva D. Martin, Dr. Lee K. Schwartz, Dr. George H. Tanaka, Dr. Patricia C. Wong, and Dr. Rona Z. Silkiss.

The close connection between the new facility and CPMC’s Ophthalmology Department is apparent. Of those listed above, Dr. Denny is the Chair of the department and Chief of Cataract; Dr. Martin is the Director of the Residency Program; Dr. Silkiss is Chief of Oculoplastics; Dr. Lieberman is Chief of Glaucoma; Dr. Liu is Chief of Cornea; and Dr. Fletcher is Chief of Low Vision Services.

The scope of work that will be completed in this $9.8 million phase includes improved handicap accessibility; architectural upgrades in the lobby, restrooms, an Education Center and PVF offices; updated electrical, plumbing, and HVAC systems; and the addition of spaces in the parking garage. The renovations to create medical offices on the third floor are scheduled to be completed in time for a mid-summer move-in.

CPMC will be renovating much of the second floor for the Ophthalmic Diagnostic Center, Lions Eye Clinic, and Department of Ophthalmology Residency Offices. It is hoped that the relocation into these spaces will be completed in the fall, at which time a Grand Opening will be celebrated.
WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO GIVE?
An Interview with Dr. Joel Porter

Dr. Joel Porter has traveled annually since 2009 from his home in New Jersey to volunteer for a month in the CPMC Lions Eye Clinic. He is also a donor to the Pacific Vision Foundation, so PVF asked him about his motivation to volunteer and to contribute financially.

PVF: Would you please tell me about your career and explain your connection to CPMC?

DR. PORTER: Having graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School in 1966, I came out to San Francisco to intern at what was then known as the Presbyterian Medical Center. Dr. Arthur Jampolsky was the Chair of the Ophthalmology Department, and, as it happens, two of the eye residents that I came to know are now on the Pacific Vision Foundation board: Dr. Wayne Fung and Dr. Robert Webster.

“...infuse me with inspiration. It’s a privilege to be able to do this; I can’t imagine not!”

In 1970, I completed my Ophthalmology residency at Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia. After a year as an instructor at the affiliated Temple University Hospital, I decided to return to California. I answered an advertisement from Kaiser Permanente (they had to advertise back then!), which got me back to South San Francisco. I became an active participant in the eye department at CPMC, starting at the same time as Dr. Bruce Spivey.

I set up private practice in 1974, sharing office space with a member of the CPMC eye department, Dr. William Miller. I was actively involved in the teaching program and, interestingly, I had the privilege of mentoring Dr. Susan Day and Dr. Bill Stewart as they came through the training program. I attended every Monday morning Grand Rounds. I loved it, but when our second child was born, my wife Roberta and I found we were traveling back and forth to the east coast a lot to share our babies with family. If it weren’t for family in the east, I would never have left the Bay Area and CPMC. I still have the plaque that Bruce Spivey presented to me in thanks for my nine years of active participation at CPMC.

I started a comprehensive ophthalmology practice from scratch in Marlton, New Jersey, which I refer to as the East Bay of Philadelphia. I also became very involved in teaching the residents at the Wills Eye Hospital, both in the clinic and the operating room.

PVF: Why do you now volunteer at the CPMC Lions Eye Clinic?

DR. PORTER: I retired from practice in 2006, so I have time, and it’s very satisfying. At home, I volunteer as an attending for the Wills Eye Hospital teaching program. I come here for a month every year because it’s a very special place. The heritage, the ghosts of great people who came before... all... the people involved today... all infuse me with inspiration. It’s a privilege to be able to do this; I can’t imagine not!

“The heritage, the ghosts of great people who came before, and those people involved today... all infuse me with inspiration. It’s a privilege to be able to do this; I can’t imagine not!”
I live for the first-year students! They are malleable, and they need coaching, unlike the third year students who, appropriately, don’t need me so much anymore. The size of the program means it’s often a one-on-one exchange, with one resident and one attending physician, so it’s a luxury to have the time to teach.

**PVF: How did you get into the field of ophthalmology in the first place?**

**DR. PORTER:** When I was in college, not knowing what I wanted to do, and needing to work in the summers, I went to the placement bureau at Temple University to see what jobs might be available. I accepted a position at the front desk of the Wills Eye Hospital, filling in for receptionists away on vacation. I got to do a lot of different things, including having direct interaction with the patients as I was tasked with interviewing them upon arrival to learn about their conditions. And I got to personally interact with all of the ophthalmologists, especially in the adjacent 24-hour emergency room a few feet from my work area.

Wills had an annual conference, attended by doctors from all over the country. The clinic was closed, and the conference was set up in the large lobby of the hospital. While I was on the job at the front desk, I got to see surgeries from the 4th floor operating room projected on a big, pull-down screen via closed-circuit TV. I was fascinated right then and there! It was love at first sight (pun intended.) I knew I wanted to go into the field of Ophthalmology.

**PVF: You’ve been a donor to the Pacific Vision Foundation since 1980. What motivated you to substantially increase your year-end gift?**

**DR. PORTER:** When I received the appeal, asking for gifts in honor of Bruce Spivey, it was a no-brainer, I just did it. Bruce called to tell me he was appreciative of the gift, but, really, who is more appreciative? I have a lot of respect for Bruce, and his many contributions to CPMC and to the ophthalmology world. It felt right to send a five-figure gift to honor him. That’s my high-five.

**PVF: Any other thoughts you would like to share?**

**DR. PORTER:** Bruce was a good steward of the culture of collaboration and education in CPMC’s ophthalmology department. It was well described in Dr. Jerry Bettman’s 1973 *A History of the Eye Department; the First 100 Years*. Dr. Kevin Denny continues that tradition today. It is a tone of kindness and of mutual respect. Unlike some places I have worked, there is no one-upmanship or politics. You can breathe more easily, and enjoy a free exchange of ideas. I come back to volunteer because I am happy here, and I feel welcome.

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**Herpes Causes Corneal Blindness**

by Dr. Margaret P. Liu

Did you know that Herpes Simplex is the most frequent cause of corneal blindness in developed countries? Ocular herpes is caused by both HSV-1 and HSV-2 strains of the virus and is estimated to affect over 500,000 people in the United States. Primary infection occurs by direct contact of infected secretions to the mucous membranes of the host. The virus can then enter sensory nerve endings and lay dormant in a sensory ganglion. Recurrent ocular herpes can occur if the virus is reactivated by certain triggers such as stress. The symptoms of ocular herpes include light sensitivity, pain, redness, tearing and blurring of vision, and a diagnosis is often based on clinical findings. Treatment with topical or oral anti-viral therapy, sometimes in combination with topical corticosteroids, is effective but ocular herpes can present in many different forms and careful treatment guided by an Ophthalmologist is important.
Martin Roher has known since he was a boy that eyesight cannot be taken for granted, and, as a professional securities analyst for 44 years, he knows how to assess a good investment. These are the reasons that he and his wife Anne choose to make an annual contribution of $50,000 to support the launch of an Eye Institute by the Pacific Vision Foundation.

Martin (known as Marty to his friends), grew up in a middle-class family on Long Island, New York. Athletics were a regular part of his boyhood, that is, until he was sixteen years old and was in a car accident as a passenger. Both of his legs were broken, the right side of his face was smashed, and he lost his right eye. It was, of course, a devastating set-back to his family, yet he remembers being grateful to have lived. He underwent six surgeries, received an artificial eye, and had to be homeschooled for the balance of that year.

Prior to his accident, he had a newspaper delivery route, and one of his customers was a lady who lived down the street. He barely knew her, only saw her once a week when he collected payment, and, yet, she contacted her friend Sammy Davis, Jr. While Marty was still recuperating, he received a hand-written letter from the well-known performer who had also been in a car accident and lost an eye. The note provided encouragement about leading a normal life, and effectively said, “Look what I have been able to accomplish in my life!”

When Marty and Anne moved to San Francisco, he started seeing Dr. William B. Stewart for his regular eye care. When his artificial eye needed to be replaced, Dr. Stewart referred him to Dr. Steven R. Young. Independently they told him about a visionary colleague named Dr. Bruce E. Spivey. About five years ago, when Marty was attending a meeting of Helen Keller International, yet another person told him about Dr. Spivey, serving on that international board since 1999. He decided that with three different, highly-respected individuals telling him about this man and his idea to found an Eye Institute, it must mean something. As he put it, “It was a groundswell of good people that got me focused on helping to get this thing off the ground.”

After meeting Dr. Spivey, and having an opportunity to hear about The Aravind Institute during a talk by R. D. (Thulsi) Thulasiraj, a Director at the Aravind Eye Care System in India, he was impressed by the fact that Bruce was willing to take on the challenge of establishing an eye institute based on the same model. He explained, “I have long been conscious of the fact that if I had lost all my vision, I would not have been able to have the life that I have been fortunate to have. The more I read about people whose vision is gone, the more I want to support organizations helping to address that. My family always taught me that if you’re lucky enough to be successful, then you need to give back. This organization is a good opportunity to do that.”

As part of his work in the investment business, including MSR Capital Management, the money management firm he founded in 1986, Mr. Roher has been involved in private real estate investments. With that background, he went on to say, “The 711 Van Ness building was a very smart real estate investment. It was a bold move on the part of the Board to buy an asset at an attractive price in a neighborhood that is going through such a positive transition. You don’t often find a charitable organization that both serves a good cause and accomplishes a good business investment.” (continued on page 12)
THE EYE INSTITUTE

Accomplishments and Goals
Celebrated at the Construction Milestone Event

STAGE I  2007-11
• Feasibility Studies, funded by
  Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJ):
  $580,963
• PVF Board commits to being a catalyst
  in establishing an Eye Institute
• Building at 711 Van Ness Avenue Purchased:
  $19 million

STAGE II  2012-14
• Engaged planners and architects
  • Obtained permit allowing for Medical Facility use
  • Secured Program-Related Investment of $10 million
  from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

STAGE III  2015-16  $9.8 million
• Architectural upgrades:
  Lobby, restrooms on floors 2 & 3,
  Increased parking in garage with
  Improved handicap access,
  Elevator interior upgrades
• Infrastructure upgrades:
  electrical, plumbing, HVAC
• Third floor physicians’ offices
• Education Center
• Pediatric Clinic
• Frank Stein and Paul S. May Center
  for Low Vision Rehabilitation
• Pacific Vision Foundation offices

CPMC/Sutter Health Commitment
Department of Ophthalmology Relocation
• Lions Eye Clinic
• Ophthalmic Diagnostic Center
• Ophthalmology Residency
  Program Offices

STAGE IV  Future  $1.5 million
• Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC)
  Lions Eye Foundation lead pledge:
• Expansion of Physicians’ Offices and
  Research Facilities
• Increase support to Department of
  Ophthalmology and Residency Program
PVF WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER

Rona Z. Silkiss, MD, FACS

Academic and surgical excellence, dedication to the CPMC Ophthalmology Residency Program and strong belief in the future of the PVF Eye Institute, are just a few of the qualifications that Dr. Rona Silkiss brings to her role as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Pacific Vision Foundation. Dr. Silkiss, a highly regarded oculoplastic surgeon in private practice throughout the Bay Area and the current Chief of the Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive and Orbital Surgery Division at CPMC was elected to the board in September, 2015.

Dr. Silkiss was raised in New York City, and attended the Bronx High School of Science. She attended Northwestern University in Chicago for a combined six-year program to obtain her B.S. and M.D degrees. After graduating at the top of her class with honors, Dr. Silkiss completed her pediatric training at Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles and The New York Hospital. She subsequently completed her ophthalmology residency at The Jules Stein Eye Institute, followed by a fellowship there in Ophthalmic Plastic, Reconstructive, and Orbital Surgery.

When asked how she chose her subspecialty, Dr. Silkiss replied, “Choosing a specialty is an evolution; there’s rarely an ‘aha’ moment. I started my career as a Board Certified Pediatrician, but was drawn to the precision and technology of Ophthalmology. While completing my residency at The Jules Stein Eye Institute, I was inspired by my professors, particularly in the field of ophthalmic plastic surgery. This subspecialty is the nexus of artistry and technicality in ophthalmology. Oculoplastic surgery is my life’s work. It is challenging, fulfilling and a wonderful blend of science, art, technology, and humanity.”

After completing her training in 1987, Dr. Silkiss chose to start her private practice in San Francisco. It was challenging as a newcomer—and as a woman—but she worked hard, volunteered at hospitals (a lot), and expanded her practice with the referrals from her peers. She now has multiple offices throughout the Bay Area and is recognized by her colleagues as a leader and contributor to her profession. Dr. Silkiss was recently inducted as a member of the American Ophthalmological Society, a prestigious honor. Her acceptance thesis was based on research
funded by PVF. Dr. Silkiss has received two merit awards from the American Academy of Ophthalmology, and serves on numerous committees for the American Academy of Ophthalmology, American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery and the California Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons. Dr. Silkiss is on the editorial board of several peer reviewed journals. Although she is in private practice, her list of publications and lectures are as extensive as a full time academic. Dr Silkiss is very proud to have mentored Dr. Ako Takakura, the first woman to take the research prize (twice!) in the history of the Barkan Society!

Knowing she wanted to teach and be attached to an academic community, Dr. Silkiss chose to affiliate with CPMC’s Ophthalmology Residency Program nearly thirty years ago. The faculty all share a love of teaching but it’s a demanding schedule: Dr. Silkiss and others each volunteer as much as 1,000 hours a year, which in this age of medicine is not sustainable. One of her goals on the PVF Board is to solidify the funding for teaching and education to ensure the future of the department and the training of the next generation of ophthalmologists.

Dr. Silkiss was the first doctor to open an office in the 711 Van Ness building which is destined to be the future home of the PVF Eye Institute. Asked how she made that decision, Dr. Silkiss replied, “The Eye Institute will be a Center of Excellence for the community with the residency program, faculty practices, operating rooms, and research all under one roof. We will be able to provide excellent and efficient patient-centric care, and collaborate on research and innovation.” She continued, “The Eye Institute is composed of a terrific group of incredibly smart people, all pulling in the same direction. The Institute will unify our collective energy, intellect, and enthusiasm. This is an exciting time for our department.”

Rona lives in San Francisco with her husband, Neil Jacobstein.

Dr. Ruth D. Williams

Ruth D. Williams, M.D. is the new Chief Medical Editor of EyeNet, a monthly publication of the American Academy of Ophthalmologists. Her first column, titled, The Making of an “Opinionator,” was published in the March 2016 issue.

Dr. Williams received a B.S. degree in Biology from Wheaton College and her M.D. degree from Rush Medical College in Chicago. Following an internship at West Suburban Hospital Medical Center in Oak Park, Illinois, Dr. Williams completed her residency in ophthalmology at California Pacific Medical Center and a fellowship in glaucoma at the University of California in San Francisco.

Dr. Williams is President of Wheaton Eye Clinic, in Wheaton, IL. Like her fellow graduates of the PVF-supported CPMC Residency Program, Dr. Richard L. Abbott and Dr. Susan H. Day, she is also a past President of the American Academy of Ophthalmology which has over 30,000 members. Her television and radio interviews include local, regional and national shows and she has been featured in such magazines as Women’s Day, Women’s Health, Good Housekeeping and the AARP Magazine. Dr. Williams has been recognized by the American Academy of Ophthalmology with the Senior Achievement Award and chosen by her peers for the prestigious "Top Doctors” Award in Chicago.
Pacific Vision Foundation annually raises funds to support the ophthalmology residency program at California Pacific Medical Center, and to support innovative ophthalmic research. Additionally, capital gifts are raised for the founding of the PVF Eye Institute. The giving levels below recognize our 2015 donors’ cumulative gifts and/or pledges to one or both of these areas of focus. Pledges received and recognized prior to 2015 do not appear in this list.

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Martin Roher Discusses His Commitment to The Eye Institute.

(continued from page 6) “Another thing that impresses me,” Marty went on to say, “is that there is a genuine commitment in doctors to care for their patients and to make the world a better place. I see Bill Stewart, Steve Young, Bruce Spivey really trying to renovate the eye care delivery model in the Bay Area. The goal of providing high quality eye care to everyone, despite their ability to pay, is inspiring. It’s what motivates me to give. Other donors should find it appealing because, unlike at big, established organizations, every dollar given to the Eye Institute has a significant impact. It’s an innovative organization with great doctors.”

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