

# Vision *for the* Future

**EXTRA!**  
SPECIAL EDITION

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VOLUME VII, ISSUE iv

University of Rochester  
Flaum Eye Institute  
newsletter

**OUR MISSION**

*The mission of the Eye Institute is to develop and apply advanced technologies for the preservation, enhancement, and restoration of vision through a partnership of academic medicine, private industry, and the community we serve.*

**DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**



## Remarkable Gifts from Two Remarkable Families

In this special edition of *Vision for the Future* is great news from the University of Rochester. To acknowledge the exceptional support of **David and Ilene Flaum**, we have named the Eye Institute in their honor. The **Flaum Eye Institute (FEI)** will continue to relentlessly pursue excellence in its missions of research, education, patient care, and technology transfer. Along with our new name, we also announce a \$6 million estate gift from grateful patients **Jack and Adeline Lutz**. To recognize their generosity, the nearly 80,000 sq. ft. building on the campus of the University of Rochester Medical Center will be dedicated as the **Adeline P. Lutz Pavilion**. Separately these events are indeed cause for celebration. Together they mark a most significant milestone in our history and serve as a catalyst for our next phase of growth.

The stories of these two remarkable families are very different and indicative of the broad level of support in Rochester and the region for prevention of blindness and treatment of eye disease. **These and**

similar philanthropic efforts from grateful patients, foundations, corporations and individuals will enable us to fulfill our promise as a world leader in ophthalmology and vision research.

Sincerely,

Steven E. Feldon, M.D., M.B.A.

*Director of the David and Ilene Flaum Eye Institute  
Chair, Department of Ophthalmology  
University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry*



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## Eye Institute Renaming Celebrates Special Relationship

Rochester businessman and philanthropist **David M. Flaum** and his family have been champions of the University of Rochester Eye Institute for years. In recognition of their ongoing leadership, advocacy and support, University President **Joel Seligman** announced that the center will be renamed the **David and Ilene Flaum Eye Institute**.

“David and Ilene Flaum have been unyielding in their commitment to the University of Rochester on many levels,” said Seligman. “In addition to their significant and ongoing charitable contributions, David has played a pivotal role in building awareness of the Eye Institute and identifying and securing funding opportunities. This naming is a fitting and enduring way to honor their steadfast support. Thanks to their advocacy and

generosity, the Institute is on its way to becoming one of the top vision care and research centers in the nation.”

In eight years, the Eye Institute has grown from eight faculty to a team of 31 ophthalmologists, subspecialists, and researchers offering highly specialized diagnostic services, advanced surgical interventions, and management of the most complex eye conditions and diseases. Research space has tripled, and newly completed ground-floor renovations add 3,000 sq. ft. and provide for an expanded optical shop, additional exam rooms, and space for clinical trials. The Eye Institute, which is on track for an increase of 10 to 12 percent in patient volume in 2009, has performed about 1,800 surgeries and has grown to 34,000 patient visits this year.

“The Eye Institute has become the premier facility in the region for eye research, education and patient care,” said **Mark Taubman, M.D.**, acting CEO of the University of Rochester Medical Center. “As a resource for people in the Rochester area and beyond, it is unmatched. I have every confidence that as the David and Ilene Flaum Eye Institute it will continue to thrive.”

The Flaums’ involvement with the local business community and their interest in charitable endeavors has led them to support many worthwhile area causes. But David Flaum took special interest in the Eye Institute soon after its opening.

“During the early days of the Eye Institute, David expressed to me that he thought we had a wonderful future and he wanted to be involved,” said **Steven E. Feldon, M.D., M.B.A.**, chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and director of the David and Ilene Flaum Eye Institute. “He saw great potential and envisioned the opportunities the Institute could provide for Rochester and the Medical Center. He’s been instrumental in fostering its growth.”

Flaum’s commitment to the Institute’s mission has been driven not only by his own struggle with vision problems through the years, said Flaum, but also by his conviction that under Dr. Feldon’s management, the Institute could become a top-ranked facility and an engine for economic development and job creation.

“I’d always been interested in the science of vision and know personally the transformative power of improved sight. So being a part of something that could positively impact lives was certainly a draw,” said Flaum, an inaugural member of the Eye Institute’s Advisory Board.

“But I was also attracted by the recruitment of Dr. Feldon who impressed me immediately and continues to prove himself a great leader.”

Flaum is the founder and CEO of Flaum Management Co., a real estate development company based in Rochester. He is a member of both the University of Rochester Board of Trustees and the Medical Center Board. In 2008, he was the Eye Institute’s *Partner in Vision* award winner.



David and Ilene Flaum with Partner in Vision award





*Adeline P. Lutz Pavilion — Named for a Piano Teacher with a Passion for Eye Care*

For Adeline Lutz, the past 22 years have been a lesson in the value of sight and the need for individuals to have access to the best vision care possible.

Adeline and her late husband, Walter “Jack” Lutz, led an active, full life. Adeline worked out of their Greece home and taught piano lessons. Jack was employed at Kodak as an engineer. They traveled some, played tennis

together often, enjoyed their home, and spent more than 50 joyful years as best friends. Beginning in 1987, Adeline, now 82 years old, began having vision problems. Since that time she has undergone a series of surgeries at the recently named Flaum Eye Institute (FEI) 13 operations that included two corneal transplants and the repair of two macular holes in her retina.

Adeline’s primary ophthalmologist, corneal surgeon **Steven Ching, M.D.**, became a driving force in her vision care, and he also became a close friend.

Because of her relationship with Ching and the entire staff at (FEI), Adeline and Jack decided they wanted to do something to give back to the Eye Institute, to assist with its mission to provide the most leading-edge eye care and become a major national center for eye care, ophthalmic research, education, and technology transfer.

“They are all like family to me and I credit Dr. Ching with saving my sight,” Adeline said. “Jack and I wanted to repay him and everyone at the Eye Institute for their dedication and kindness and ensure that future patients continue to get the very best, the very newest, treatments.”

As a result of the Lutz’s wish, the couple decided to donate most of their savings to the Eye Institute — an impressive \$6 million.

“This significant gift is an illustration of the power of University of Rochester faculty to use patient care and research to make an extraordinary impact on patients’ lives,” said University of Rochester President **Joel Seligman**. “The entire university is grateful to Mrs. Lutz and her husband for recognizing our world-class vision experts and seeing an opportunity to further support the Eye Institute so that it can assist more individuals in the future.” URMCA Acting CEO **Mark B. Taubman, M.D.**, said of the multi-million-dollar contribution: “The Lutz’s generosity will help FEI continue to fulfill the important mission of giving those with even the most complex visual conditions reason for hope.”

Adeline admits that most in the community will be shocked to learn that the Lutz’s had such substantial savings. She acknowledges they lived a quiet life,

which was what made them most happy. Adeline has always clipped coupons and has driven the same car since the early 1980s. It was Adeline who handled their money from the very first week of their marriage, and she thoroughly enjoyed investing in the stock market.

“It just slowly added up over time,” she said modestly. She has directed the \$6 million gift to be used for whatever initiatives will move FEI forward in patient care and research.

The **Adeline P. Lutz Pavilion** is named in her honor. This building houses the Flaum Eye Institute at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

“My husband wanted it to be in my name only, since I went through all the surgeries,” Adeline said. “He was such a sweet and generous man — I could never have gone through all of it without him. This gift is a tribute to him, as well.”



*Diane and Steven Feldon, Adeline Lutz, and University of Rochester president, Joel Seligman*

Ching is humbled by the Lutz gift. “For a patient to support us in this way, it is truly overwhelming,” he said. **Steven E. Feldon, M.D., M.B.A.**, chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and director of the Flaum Eye Institute, commented, “This generous offering is one of the largest gifts we’ve ever received. We are grateful for the Lutz’s support of our faculty and programs and will use their donation to further enhance FEI’s role as it becomes one of the top centers in the nation.”

## Eye on the Community

### Program Helps Prevent Blindness in Underserved Neighborhoods

The Flaum Eye Institute recently received a \$21,000 grant to start a Student Sight Savers program. Spearheaded by **Shakeel Shareef, M.D.** and University of Rochester Medical School medical student **Keri Allen**, the funds will be used to purchase specialized diagnostic equipment and underwrite glaucoma screenings in some of Rochester's poorest neighborhoods. Glaucoma is a silent thief of sight that disproportionately affects persons of African and Hispanic descent and is a leading cause of blindness. However, if the disease is caught early, it can be treated with eyedrops or surgery before irreversible loss of vision occurs.

Funding for the program is provided by the **Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation (FCGCF)**. The Student Sight Savers chapter at Flaum Eye Institute joins a growing number of locations at academic ophthalmology programs throughout America which have to date conducted over 250,000 screenings. To date the Flaum Eye institute has conducted more than 200 glaucoma screenings with support of FCGCF, FEI faculty and residents, and medical students.

## CME Calendar

### VISITING PROFESSOR LECTURE SERIES

**January 16**     **Neuro-ophthalmology**  
*Neuro-ophthalmology Symposium*  
*Flaum Eye Institute Faculty*

**February 20**     **Glaucoma**  
**John Danias, M.D., Ph.D.**  
*Professor of Ophthalmology, SUNY Downstate Medical Center*

**March 19 - 20**     **55th Annual Rochester Ophthalmology Conference**  
**Eduardo Alfonso, M.D.,**  
*Chair of Ophthalmology, University of Miami School of Medicine*  
*Director, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute*  
*Snell Memorial Lecturer*  
**Edward Buckley, M.D.,**  
*Professor of Ophthalmology & Chief of Pediatric Ophthalmology,*  
*Duke University Eye Center*  
*Vice Dean of Medical Education, Duke University School of Medicine*  
*B&L Visiting Professor*

**April 24**     **Cornea / Refractive**  
**Stephen McLeod, M.D.**  
*Professor of Ophthalmology, Department Chair*  
*University of San Francisco*

**May 16**     **Retina**  
**Pravin Dugel, M.D.**  
*Retinal Consultants of Arizona*

**June 19**     **Retina**  
**Rajendra Apte, M.D., Ph.D.**  
*Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology,*  
*Washington University St. Louis*

## Faculty Practice

Accepting new patients  
through your referrals:  
**585-273-EYES**

**Comprehensive Eye Care**  
**Shobha Boghani, M.D.**  
**Rebecca Nally, O.D.**  
**Jill Schafer, O.D.**

**Contact Lens Services**  
**Rebecca Nally, O.D.**  
**Jill Schafer, O.D.**

**Cornea and External Disease**  
**James Aquavella, M.D.**  
**Steven Ching, M.D.**  
**Holly Hindman, M.D.**  
**Ronald Plotnik, M.D.**

**Glaucoma**  
**Shakeel Shareef, M.D.**

**Neuro-Ophthalmology  
and Orbit**  
**Steven Feldon, M.D., M.B.A.**  
**Deborah Friedman, M.D., M.P.H.**  
**Zoë Williams, M.D.**

**Pediatric Ophthalmology**  
**Matthew Gearing, M.D.**

**Refractive Surgery**  
**Scott MacRae, M.D.**  
**Joseph Stamm, O.D.**

**Retina and Vitreous**  
**Mina Chung, M.D.**  
**David DiLoreto, M.D., Ph.D.**  
**David Kleinman, M.D., M.B.A.**  
**Rajeev Ramchandran, M.D.**

## Research Faculty

**Alfredo Dubra, Ph.D.**  
**Charles Duffy, M.D., Ph.D.**  
**Lin Gan, Ph.D.**  
**Krystal Huxlin, Ph.D.**  
**Amy Kiernan, Ph.D.**  
**Richard Libby, Ph.D.**  
**William Merigan, Ph.D.**  
**Gary Paige, M.D.**  
**Richard Phipps, Ph.D.**  
**David Williams, Ph.D.**  
**Geunyoung Yoon, Ph.D.**  
**Jim Zavislan, Ph.D.**

*For more information about  
the Eye Institute or one of our  
professionals, contact:*  
**eyeinstitute.urmc.edu**  
**585-273-EYES**