



Jerome Jacobson International Program at the Kellogg Eye Center



UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Dear International Alumni and Friends of Kellogg:

As everyone says, it has been an interesting year. Actually, clinical activities at Kellogg have been at pre-COVID levels for many months. Now we are even busier than before COVID!

To our great regret, though, international exchanges had to go on pause. We missed sending our people abroad and the excitement of hearing so many languages and dialects in our hallways, clinics, labs, and operating rooms. Donna Donato, international center coordinator, already has a long list of doctors ready to visit us. As soon as we get the signal from the Medical School and the Hospital, we'll open the gates!

Meanwhile, our Center has not been idle. As you will see here, our first international fellow is in place to start, our collaboration in developing ophthalmology fellowship programs with Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital in Accra, Ghana has continued to progress, three of our ophthalmology residents have been approved for research projects in Brazil, China, and India, and we held a lively Zoom reunion with our former visitors from Brazil.

Upcoming Events

- Kellogg's Annual International Night will be held this year. Watch for the date!
- Our International Alumni Webinar on Pediatric Ophthalmology moderated by Monte Del Monte, MD, is being planned. Details to follow.



Tim Soeken, MD (left) with Joshua Ehrlich, MD, MPH

Tim Soeken, MD Begins Kellogg's First International Fellowship

On July 7, Tim Soeken, MD will become Kellogg's first international ophthalmology fellow. He begins by joining Joshua Ehrlich, MD, MPH, international ophthalmology fellowship director, on a 2-day retreat in Park City, UT. Drawing faculty and fellows from other international programs, the retreat will provide incoming international fellows with preparatory knowledge in public health, ethics, teaching, and small-incision cataract surgery.

Dr. Soeken will then travel to Kellogg's partner institution in Kenya, the Kisii Eye Hospital (KEH). He will be teaching advanced corneal surgical skills and will be working to develop a reliable supply chain to obtain high-quality corneal transplant tissue with Patrick Ruhagaze, MD, a past International Council of Ophthalmology fellow in corneal diseases at Kellogg,

Later in 2021, Dr. Soeken will travel to Kibuye Hope Hospital in Burundi. As the year progresses, we expect fascinating dispatches from the field!

Kellogg Collaborates with Ghana In Developing Pilot Pediatric Ophthalmology Fellowship Program

Until recently, Ghana did not have any ophthalmology subspecialty fellowship training programs. On behalf of the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons (GCPS), Vera A. Essuman, MD, a Ghanaian pediatric ophthalmologist, sought out Kellogg's collaboration in developing a pilot subspecialty fellowship program in pediatric ophthalmology. Kellogg faculty pediatric ophthalmologist Monte Del Monte, MD, who had consulted on this matter in several other countries, made a site visit to Accra, Ghana in January 2019. He came back with a blueprint for a curriculum from the Ghanaian pediatric ophthalmology team led by Dr. Essuman. Grace Wang, MD, Kellogg pediatric ophthalmologist, joined Dr. Del Monte in elaborating the document, which was eagerly accepted after going through the GCPS academic approval process. Vera M. Beyuo, MD was selected as the first foundation fellow. She has now entered her second year of the program. A second trainee has been recruited to start in January 2022.

The GCPS also requested Kellogg's help in developing fellowship programs in other subspecialties in ophthalmology. Kellogg faculty members and alumni have consulted on curricular plans in glaucoma, retina, and cornea which are going through the approval process at the GCPS. Training in those fields is expected to begin shortly.



Vera M. Beyuo, MD (left) with Vera Essuman, MD



Grace Wang, MD, (left) Vera Essuman, MD (middle), and Monte Del Monte, MD (right)

Jordanian Physician Will Collaborate On Retinal Research at Kellogg

Yousef Abdeh, MD who graduated in 2019 from the University of Jordan in Amman will arrive at Kellogg in August 2021 to continue work with Cagri Besirli, MD, PhD, a Kellogg clinician-scientist and retina specialist. For the past year, Dr. Abdeh has been collaborating remotely with Dr. Besirli on the unique role of retinal metabolism in regulating photoreceptor health. Dr. Abdeh's interest in ophthalmology germinated after he spent a month at Kellogg on a medical student rotation in 2018.



Cagri Besirli, MD, PhD



Yousef Abdeh, MD

Kellogg Ophthalmology Residents to Contribute to Global Health Research

David Skanchy, MD R '23, Otana Jakpor, MD MSc R '23, and Anvesh Annadanam, MD R '23 have received approval from the University of Michigan Graduate Medical Education Committee to travel abroad for one month as part of their second-year research rotations.

Dr. Skanchy will work at the University of São Paulo (USP) in Brazil, the country's largest training program. His in-country supervisor is Fernanda Abalem, MD, MSc, PhD, who is a faculty member at USP and holds an adjunct faculty position at Kellogg. His mentor at Kellogg is professor Jonathan Trobe, MD. Dr. Skanchy will study how the management of eye emergencies at USP's enormous eye emergency department is affected by Brazil's universal health care system.



David Skanchy, MD



Dr. Jakpor will spend her rotation in the Ningxia region of western China studying health outcomes in the See Well to stay In ScHool (SWISH) trial, a cluster-randomized trial of spectacle distribution to decrease secondary school dropout rates. Her supervisors are Nathan Congdon, MD of Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland and Joshua Ehrlich, MD, MPH at Kellogg. She notes that many children in China's underserved rural western and urban migrant communities need glasses and do not have them. The trial seeks to discover the impact of providing glasses on high school attendance.

Otana Jakpor, MD, MSc

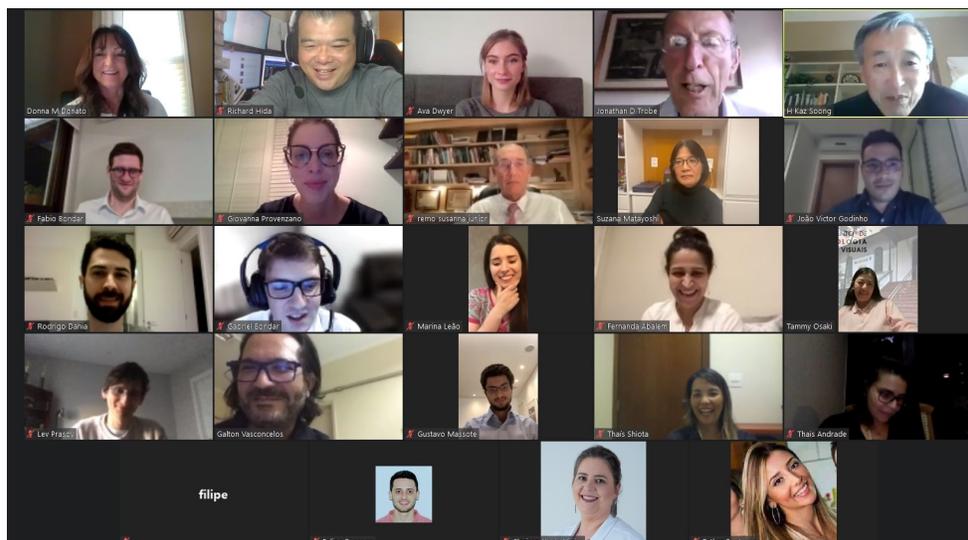
Dr. Annadanam will be at the Aravind Eye Hospital in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India, supervised by Venkatesh Prajna, MD at Aravind and Maria Woodward, MD at Kellogg. His project is part of the Automated Quantitative Ulcer Analysis (AQUA) study in which Kellogg and Aravind are patient recruitment centers. The research aims to quantify morphologic features of microbial keratitis with the goal of developing a linear regression model to determine outcomes.



Anvesh Annadanam, MD

Zoom Reunion Links Brazil and Kellogg on Screen

Of the many, many scholars, researchers, and doctors who have come to Kellogg from all over the planet, the largest number have come from Brazil. To commemorate this wonderful exchange, which extends back over 40 years, we decided to have a party. Because of COVID, we went with Zoom. On the evening of March 16, 2021, over 30 people joined us from São Paulo, Belo Horizonte, Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, and Porto Alegre. We talked about COVID, research, weddings, jobs, memories, and how we do not look a day older! Amazing to us at Kellogg was that our Brazilian colleagues were speaking so effortlessly in their second language. If only we could speak half as well in Portuguese!



Co-Directors: Jonathan Trobe, MD, H. Kaz Soong, MD, Christine Nelson, MD, Joshua Ehrlich, MD
Design and Marketing: Ava Dwyer
Program Coordinator: Donna Donato - donnadon@med.umich.edu