Eye Center South

Your vision. Our mission.

Fall 2021

EYE CARE TODAY

Advances in eye care. Connections to experts.

Welcome to the second edition of Eye Care Today, a quarterly e-newsletter designed to provide educational and partnership opportunities to you, our friends in the OD community. We are privileged to continue the excellent patient care you provide to your patients, and we thank you for trusting their care to us. It is our hope that your patients return to your care having received the best outcome and enjoyable patient experience while in our care.

This e-newsletter was designed to communicate helpful information to support the MD/OD partnership. We welcome your feedback on the content we share. Please email kims@eyecentersouth.net to provide your feedback or share ideas.

CLINIC FOCUSED NEWS

UAB SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY
The University of Alabama at Birmingham

PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE
OD MD
THROUGH COOPERATION

Invitations have been mailed and registration is now open for "Going for the Gold, Excellence in Eyecare," 33rd Annual Continuing Education Symposium. **Early bird registration cost is $495 until November 15, 2021,** and includes all meals, digital lecture materials, and 2 tickets to the Gala Saturday evening. You can register by remitting the registration form by mail or through the website at www.EyeEducationFoundation.net.

February 4 – 6, 2022
Dothan Country Club

Earn 20 Hours of
COPE-approved CE
Including 6 hours CEE/TQ.

Featured Speakers:
John McGreal, OD
Leo Semes, OD
Ron Melton, OD, FAAO
Randall Thomas, OD, MPH.; FAAO.
Joseph Sowka, OD, FAAO, Diplomate

This year's event will be hosted at the Dothan Country Club, located less than one mile from Eye Center South in Dothan, Alabama. Our event will take place on the opening weekend of the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, China. To celebrate, we have selected an Olympic theme to include a Parade of Nations food journey on Friday evening, February 4 in our Olympic Village Lounge. Saturday, February 5 we will host the Gold Medal Gala, featuring a special guest and live music entertainment. Special hotel room rates are offered at the Hilton Doubletree, Courtyard by Marriott and Fairfield Inn, all located conveniently nearby the Dothan Country Club event venue. Book your hotel rooms well in advance for best availability.

ENTER TO WIN A SPECIAL DOOR PRIZE!

Like the EyeEducationFoundation Facebook page and be entered into a special door prize drawing to be awarded Friday, Feb. 4.

FALL SEMINAR FOLLOW-UP

Thank you to attendees of the Eye Education Foundation Fall Seminar, hosted on September 22, 2021. Dr. Richard Bryant presented "Benign Tumors of the Eyelid" to a full house. CEs have been emailed to all participants directly from UAB School of Optometry. If you attended this seminar and haven't received confirmation of your CE credit, please contact Sherry McLean at smclean@eyecentersouth.net

GIFT OF SIGHT UPDATE

Sonya Wilkinson had cataract surgery with Dr. Sebastian Heersink on August 2, 2021. She was referred to us by Dr. Gene Terrezza of Terrezza Optical in Milton, Florida. Prior to her surgery, she was "Count Fingers" and couldn't see out of both eyes. She was unable to work or drive. She had difficulty cooking or seeing her medications. After her surgery, her vision is 20/20 in her left eye, and she has accepted a new job and has recently moved into a new home! She can now drive again and is pursuing her commercial driving license. She said, "I can't describe what y'all did for me! You gave me my life back!"

Sebastian B. Heersink, M.D.

Thank you to Dr. Terrezza and Dr. Sebastian Heersink and all other participants of this program for donating your time and talent to impact those in need achieve the Gift of Sight.

PHYSICIAN FOCUSED NEWS

HISTORIC GIFT TO UAB

Eye Center South co-founder Dr. Marnix Heersink, and wife Mary made national headlines for their recent historic philanthropic gift to the UAB School of Medicine, which was recently renamed UAB Heersink School of Medicine. Dr. Heersink said, "We have all been warmed by fires that we did not build." Dr. Heersink explained that this commitment is his way of starting fires to inspire and warm others. Seventy-five percent of the gift will be used to sustain programs, professorships, and academic chairs, with the remaining 25% to establish two new programs—The Marnix E. Heersink Institute of Biomedical Innovation and the Mary Heersink Institute of Global Health. Since co-founding Eye Center South, Dr. Heersink has held a deep commitment to education, academics, and pioneering advancements in healthcare. This legacy gift underscores the building blocks upon which Eye Center South was built.

UAB HEERSINK SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The University of Alabama at Birmingham

On July 14th, the physicians, and staff of Eye Center South-Dothan celebrated Dr. William Bennett's 35th year in practice. Dr. Bennett saw his first patient in Dothan, Alabama on July 14, 1986; it was a retinal occlusion. Since that day, he has helped thousands of patients achieve better vision. We are so thankful to have Dr. Bennett as a member of our physician staff.

From left to right, Dr. Sebastian Heersink, Dr. Bill Bennet, Dr. John Fortin, Dr. Harsha Sen and Dr. Marnix Heersink

MEET DR. SWENDRIS

Eye Center South welcomes our newest Ophthalmologist, Ron Swendris, MD who just celebrated his 1-year anniversary as a member of our Medical Staff. Dr. Swendris relocated to Dothan, Alabama from Michigan where he attended both undergraduate and Medical School at the University of Michigan. He completed a three-year Ophthalmology residency at the University of Texas/Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. He returned to Michigan to complete a Glaucoma Fellowship with the Dr. Doug Shin at the Kresge Eye Institute in Detroit.

Ronald Swendris, M.D.
Board-Certified Ophthalmologist and Glaucoma Specialist

Dr. Swendris has over 30 years of experience as a comprehensive ophthalmologist and glaucoma specialist in Massachusetts, Virginia, Missouri, New Hampshire, and Michigan. He brings that experience now to our Dothan, Alabama and Panama City, Florida locations. He has extensive experience in anterior segment surgery, cataracts, and glaucoma. His interests include new drug therapy for glaucoma, combined cataract and glaucoma surgery, care of advanced glaucoma and laser treatment for glaucoma. He has been active in clinical research and has presented lectures and seminars on many of these topics.

Dr. Swendris has new patient availability in Dothan within the same week.

If you would like to schedule a time to meet him, we are happy to come visit you, to get better acquainted. Call Kim Smith at 334-798-5714 to schedule a personal visit.

Trinity Research Group

CLINICAL TRIAL UPDATE

Did you know that Eye Center South – Dothan offers multiple clinical trials in partnership with Trinity Research Group? This partnership allows us to be on the cutting edge of advanced treatment before these treatments become available to the public. We currently offer the following trials to patients who qualify.

Alcon	Post Approval Study of the AcrySof ReSTOR Toric IOLs
Athena	A comparison of Bimatroprost SR to selective laser trabeculoplasty in patients with Open-Angle Glaucoma or Ocular Hypertension
Surface	Compare ocular safety, tolerability, and efficacy of Surf-200 Opthalmic Solution to vehicle in subjects with a diagnosis of Dry Eye Disease.
IDose	Comparing two models of a travoprost intraocular implant to timolol maleate ophthalmic solution, ISP, O.5%.
Pavillion	Port delivery system with Ranbizumab in patients with diabetic retinopathy
Morpheus	Evaluation of the 24-Hour IOP-lowering effect of Bimatroprost SR in participants with Open-Angle Gluacoma or Ocular Hypertension.

IMPORTANT REFERRAL REMINDER

When referring a patient for a cataract or LASIK evaluation or surgery, please remind your patients to remove their contact lenses prior to their appointments. Soft contacts need to be removed two weeks prior while hard contacts need to be removed six weeks prior. Thank you for your continued partnership with Eye Center South, we appreciate your referrals.

STAFF NEWS & MILESTONES

Emerald Coast Magazine recently honored our Destin and Panama City locations with the "Best Eye Surgeon Practice." We thank Dr. Bansagi, Dr. Leoncavallo, Dr. Henkel, Dr. Ludwig, Dr. Bryant, Dr. Fortin and Dr. Swendris for providing excellent eye surgical care to patients along the Emerald Coast to deserve this distinction. Congratulations to our referral partner Dr. Mollega of Mollega Eye Care & Optique for also winning "Best Eye Doctor Practice." For a complete list of winners click **https://www.emeraldcoastmagazine.com/best-of-the-emerald-coast-2021**. Earlier this year, Eye Center South also earned the Destin VIP Magazine distinction of 2021 Best of Destin Eye Care Office.

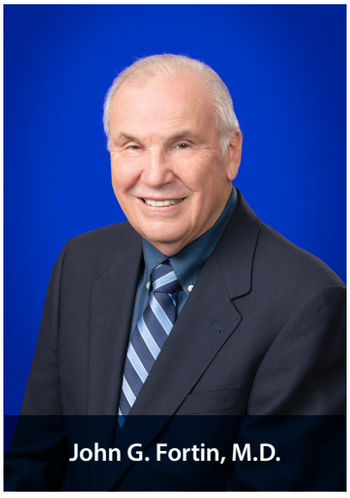
Zsolt C. Bansagi, M.D.

Anthony J. Leoncavallo, M.D.

Austin R. Henkel, M.D.

Irene H. Ludwig, M.D.

Richard W. Bryant, M.D.


John G. Fortin, M.D.

Ronald P. Swendris, M.D.

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SPECIALIST

Olivia Baxley, our new Administrative Support Specialist, is a graduate of UAB with a degree in Digital Marketing. In this new role, she will be assisting in the Administration, Marketing, and Education departments.

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