

EYE CARE TODAY

Advances in eye care. Connections to experts.

FEBRUARY 6-8

2026

EYE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

PRESENTS

THE 37TH ANNUAL CONTINUING EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

Clearer Together: Building Bridges in Eye Care



HAVE YOU REGISTERED?

Registration is filling quickly for the **37th Annual Eye Education Foundation Continuing Education Symposium**, taking place **February 6-8, 2026, in Dothan**. More than 75 optometrists and a dozen vendors have already secured their spots, and we invite you to join us.

This year's symposium offers 20 CE credits, including 12 TQ hours, with engaging, practical content presented by leading experts. You'll also have the opportunity to connect with vendors offering tools and solutions to support your practice, enjoy meaningful time with colleagues, and participate in drawings for a variety of exciting door prizes throughout the weekend.

Most Eye Center South Ophthalmologists will be in attendance, and we truly value the opportunity to learn alongside you and strengthen our partnership.

We look forward to seeing you in Dothan—thank you for your continued trust and collaboration.

CLICK TO REGISTER



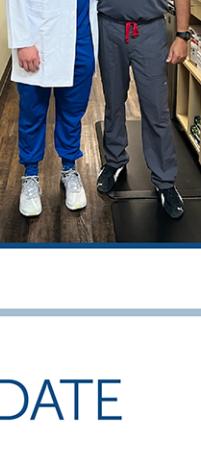
CARLO PELINO, OD
THE EYE INSTITUTE, PHILADELPHIA, PA



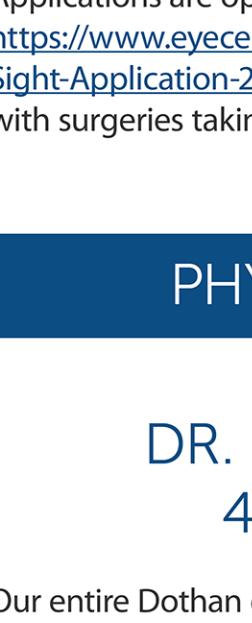
NSU FLORIDA, FORT LAUDERDALE, FL



MARIUS HEERSINK, MD
EYE CENTER SOUTH, DOTHON, AL



ALICE STERLING, OD
FLORIDA EYE CLINIC, ORLANDO, FL



UAB The University of Alabama at Birmingham
School of Optometry



CLINIC NEWS

45 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP - TOGETHER

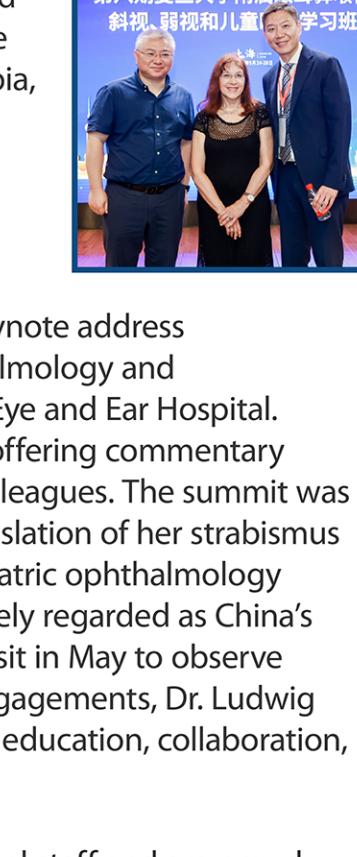
October was a special month in the life and history of our organization. We celebrated our 45th year in business of providing quality specialty eyecare to people throughout the Southeast. We are deeply grateful to all of you, many of whom we worked with all these years. Your trust in our team is paramount to our success. Thank you for the quality primary vision care you provide your patients and thank you for recommending them to us for specialty surgical care. Together,

we have made a tremendous impact on elevating quality eyecare to members of our communities. We are excited to continue working together to broaden our impact in the years to come.



JOIN US IN WELCOMING DR. MAUER & DR. SMITH TO NEW PANAMA CITY OFFICE

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Richard Mauer and Dr. Kelly Smith to our Panama City location, our newest and second office in the area where they will both practice exclusively. Dr. Mauer offers expertise in comprehensive ophthalmology, cataract and refractive surgery, minimally invasive glaucoma surgery, and oculoplastics, further expanding the specialty care available to your patients in the region. Dr. Kelly Smith will provide primary eye care services to patients that were already established at Advanced Eye Care but also welcomes new patients, including children.



We would also like to thank our Panama City optometric colleagues who joined us for dinner at Firefly on December 9 to help welcome Dr. Mauer—your time and partnership are greatly appreciated.

If you would like to schedule a personal visit with Dr. Mauer or Dr. Smith, please contact Kim Smith at 334-793-2211. To learn more about Dr. Mauer, [click here](#) to view his profile.

To learn more about Dr. Smith, [click here](#) to view her profile.



WELCOME DR. VROTSOS TO MONTGOMERY

Dr. JoAnna Vrotsos joined Dr. Owens in our Montgomery practice in September. Dr. Vrotsos is a skilled and passionate optometrist with diverse experience across community health, private practice, and corporate settings.

Dr. Vrotsos values a collaborative, team-based approach to patient care and is excited to offer her expertise to the Montgomery community. She will be working closely alongside Dr. Owens to extend quality vision care to our medical management patients. [Click here](#) to learn more about Dr. Vrotsos.



WELCOME DR. CAM SCHROEDER TO DOTHON

We're excited to welcome Dr. Cameron Schroeder, new Optometrist at Eye Center South in Dothon.

Dr. Schroeder will be working alongside our ophthalmologists to extend quality vision care to our medical eye patients. He will be heavily assisting Dr. Sen in our retina suite following Dr. Fortin's retirement. Learn more about Dr. Fortin by [clicking here](#).

Dr. Schroeder by [clicking here](#).



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Dr. Schroeder by [clicking here](#).

WELCOME DR. MARIUS HEERSINK TO RECEIVE A LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

It is with great pride that we announce that our founder, Dr. Marnix Heersink, has been named a Lifetime Achievement Award recipient from Business Alabama, to be awarded on January 30.

Dr. Heersink will be recognized along side Raymond Harbert, F. Granger Ford, and Bill Park.

His remarkable contributions to education,

expanded access to quality healthcare, and

business innovation have made a lasting impact

at the local, state, and global levels. Please join

us in celebrating this incredible and well-deserved honor.

DR. LUDWIG SHARES GLOBAL EXPERTISE IN PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY AND STRABISMUS

In 2025, renowned ophthalmologist Dr. Ludwig was invited to participate in a series of prestigious national and international academic events, highlighting her global leadership in pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus surgery.

In April, Dr. Ludwig served as a visiting Professor at Boston Children's Hospital. During her visit, she delivered lectures and provided expert intraoperative strabismus surgery to the nation's leading pediatric institutions.

In September, Dr. Ludwig delivered the Carl J. Troia Distinguished Lecture at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.

Procedures Incorporating Recent Advances in

Anatomy and Function of the Extraocular Muscles (Palsy Surgery), was followed by a distinguished

banquet. The next morning, she presented three additional lectures to the department—Exotropia,

Exotropia, and The American Health Care Crisis:

Follow the Money—which later participated in a clinic in which Dr. Rhywalski presented

challenging cases for her expert input.

Later in September, Dr. Ludwig delivered the keynote address at the International Summit on Pediatric Ophthalmology and

Strabismus—Shanghai, held at Fudan University Eye and Ear Hospital.

She also led an interactive case-review session, offering commentary

on complex cases presented by international colleagues. The department chair, Dr. Chen Zhao, widely regarded as China's

leading strabismus surgeon, is planning these visits in May to observe Dr. Ludwig's surgical practice.

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Dr. Ludwig continues to shape the field worldwide through education, collaboration, and surgical innovation.

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that her international optometric colleagues refer her to our local optometric community.

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