The Center for Academic Global Ophthalmology team will be at the Academy meeting in Chicago. Please come talk with us at the alumni reception or the Wills Eye booth!

A major gift was just received that will fund an ambitious Pediatric School Screening and Treatment project in Rwanda.
Wills Eye has long been a global leader in the prevention and treatment of blindness. Now, through the creation of the Wills Eye Center for Academic Global Ophthalmology (CAGO), we are sharpening our focus on the pressing needs of the millions of people lacking access to quality eye care around the world.

Wills Eye was founded in 1832 to serve the “indigent, blind and lame.” Since that time, Wills Eye has trained more ophthalmologists than any other institution in the Western Hemisphere. Given our unparalleled expertise in education, the primary focus of our global efforts is on training. We have nurtured relationships with international partners and are empowering them to tackle the devastating eye disease in their regions.

We invite you to engage with Wills Eye in our efforts to train and support ophthalmologists around the globe. These newsletters will give you updates on our global campaigns and snapshots of our Center's ophthalmologists tackling blindness.

You, our faculty, alumni, friends, and supporters, are Wills Eye's greatest assets. We need your support to expand our capacity to eradicate avoidable blindness. Please make a gift today by visiting willseyeglobal.org or contact us at donate@willseyeglobal.org.

- Dr. Brad Feldman
   Director
Residency in Rwanda

Since its inception in 2011, the Rwanda International Institute of Ophthalmology (RIIO) (founded by Dr. Wanjiku Mathenge and Dr. John John Nkurikiye) has broadened the reach of Ophthalmology in East Africa through high quality education, advocacy, and service. A recent memorandum of understanding signing between Wills Eye CAGO and RIIO solidified our partnership and commitment to achieving the goal of creating a sustainable solution for lowering disparities in eye care in this region. Pictured here is Wills Global Fellow (Zubair Ansari) alongside our Rwandan partners and residents during a successful MSICS cataract campaign in Gisenyi and Kinihira Rwanda. During this outreach, over a 100 patients of varying ages and backgrounds with severely debilitating cataracts were treated – highlighting the important need for expanding eye services in these regions and, importantly, transferring the necessary medical and surgical skills to Rwanda’s future ophthalmologists.
Haitian Residency Program Grows

The ophthalmology residency program at Hopital de L’Universite d’Etat d’Haiti (HUEH) in Port Au Prince, Haiti has seen a lot of progress over the year. Many of our CAGO faculty and several of the residents (through their international elective program) have spent time at this program. Three of our global fellows have now visited this site and have been providing support through lectures, wet-labs, clinical workshops and attending to surgical emergences with the residents. Last month, the program added two new Haitian ophthalmologists to the faculty, bringing them up to a total of five faculty members available to work with the residents. Our fellows will be helping to develop a curriculum with the faculty, in preparation for the new first-year class to join later this year.

There are several teams from overseas working to deliver ongoing support to HUEH. Our fellows have been working closely with the global fellow from Moran Eye Center to help build on each other’s visits to the program. Last month, a video system was set up in the operating room, thanks to Dr. Dan Alter, which will enhance the surgical experience for the residents. In addition, CAGO has recently donated an Infiniti phaco machine to HUEH and we are hoping to start training community ophthalmologists and the residents soon. We are really excited about the steady growth we have seen at HUEH and look forward to continuing to support the program in every way that we can.
It's been an exciting year of expansion for CAGO and for the Global fellowship in particular. This year, we expanded the fellowship program from one to two positions. The global fellow has come to play an integral role in resident education in the Wills Eye Cataract and Primary Eye Care Clinic as well as the Wills Emergency Department, and the expansion allows the opportunity for a year-round stateside presence.

Similarly, we have been able to double our presence at our partnering sites abroad. In Haiti, the global fellows have provided consistent support academically and surgically, filling large gaps in continuity for the Haitian residency program. In other news, 2018 marks the inaugural year of a joint endeavor between CAGO and the Rwandan International Institute of Ophthalmology. Together, we created Rwanda's first Ophthalmology residency program. Our global fellows have been instrumental in bringing the Wills approach of strong academic and clinical training to the nascent program.

As we look to the future, we hope to continue to consolidate our efforts around the globe toward the support of resident education both at home and abroad. With the global fellow at the heart of each of our projects, we anticipate further growth and success.

-Dr. Alessandra Intili
Fellowship Director
The Center for Academic Global Ophthalmology has teamed up with Dr. Cathy Schanzer and her husband Tom Lewis with their ongoing project in Serabu, Sierra Leone. Dr. Schanzer has been treating eye disease in the region for the past 13 years, and for the past 3 years the Wills Eye global fellows have joined her in the fight against blindness. As healthcare in the region grows, their mission has also grown to include local education of healthcare providers. During his trip to Serabu, our 2017-2018 global fellow Brenton Finklea worked with a local ophthalmologist, Dr. Lloyd Williams, to develop Dr. Williams’ phacoemulsification skills. These skills transfers will continue in coming years through our efforts in western Africa.

Sister Linda (pictured right) is the full time ophthalmic nurse who staffs Dr. Schanzer’s clinic year-round and is one of the only front-line providers of eye care in the region.
In 2017, Dr. Rao of the LV Prasad Eye Hospital made a visit to Philadelphia to share his experiences running one of the largest and most successful eye hospitals and community care networks in the world. Physicians and public health specialists from throughout Philadelphia joined us at Wills Eye to celebrate Dr. Rao’s achievements.

MEET THE FELLOWS

**Zubair Ansari** Though originally born in Rajahmundry India, Zubair grew up in the state of Florida, and completed his undergraduate education at the University of Tampa. Because of his strong interest in rural medicine, he completed his medical education at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia then went on to complete his residency training at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami. Zubair, in a few short months, has already made major contributions to the education of residents at Wills Eye and abroad, having spent six weeks teaching at our partner programs in Haiti and Rwanda.

**Suzette Luke** is a recent graduate of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center’s ophthalmology residency program. She is a Toronto native, but moved to Houston in 2001 and has been established there ever since. She developed an interest in global ophthalmology after doing an international rotation in medical school and through learning about organizations and individuals that make sustainable impacts abroad. She had a very positive experience during her first AGO trip to Haiti and is now in India for an MSICS course and mentored experience at the LV Prasad Eye Institute.
CAGO is Tackling Blindness
Milestones since 2013:

• Helped create Rwanda’s first ophthalmology residency
• Supported and assisted Rwanda’s only national survey of blindness and visual disability
• Serve as the primary academic partner to support and teach at Haiti’s only residency program
• 14 Wills Eye Faculty have led CAGO outreach efforts
• 31 Wills Eye Resident International participants
• 5 Wills Eye Academic Global Ophthalmology fellows
• 5 Manual Small Incision Cataract courses
• 5 Paton Lectureships in AGO
• >5000 Chief Rounds participants globally

CAGO and Our Mission

The prevalence of global blindness is staggering. An estimated 36 million people are bilaterally blind and 216 million people have bilateral moderate to severe visual impairment. We can prevent and treat the major causes of blindness worldwide, which are not from exotic tropical diseases, but are from uncorrected refractive error, cataract and glaucoma. Globally, an estimated 19 million children are visually impaired--12 million cases of this impairment are due simply to uncorrected refractive error. Over 90% of all blindness is found in the developing world. Nearly 80% of blindness is preventable or curable, and we are determined to make a difference.

Wills Eye’s Center for Academic Global Ophthalmology is looking for donors to provide us with the funds to expand our educational, research and outreach capacity, to address preventable blindness and train in-country ophthalmologists in Rwanda, Haiti, Burundi, Sierra Leone, Kenya, and beyond. We thank you for your generous gift. Together we can improve eye care worldwide.
On October 11th, the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) sponsored World Sight Day, an annual event focused on increasing awareness of preventable blindness and visual impairment. In recognition of this day of advocacy, the Wills Eye Center for Academic Global Ophthalmology partnered with the Thomas Duane Ophthalmology Society at Sidney Kimmel Medical College to hold individual and small group talks about eye health. Our community partners included Prevention Point Philadelphia, Puentes de Salud, and Our Brothers Place, a Bethesda Project site. Twelve medical student volunteers facilitated discussions with participants about basic eye health practices, common eye diseases, and ways to find an ophthalmologist. Pictured below are volunteers with Dr. Brad Feldman and a participant at Prevention Point Philadelphia (above) and volunteers at Our Brothers Place (below).