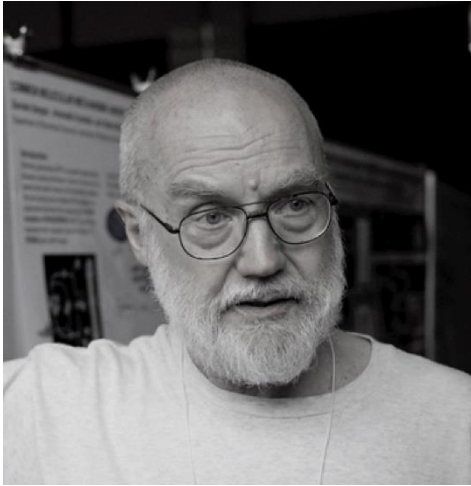


Rafael Iribarren

MD. University of Buenos Aires 1976. Ophthalmologist. University of Buenos Aires. 1983.

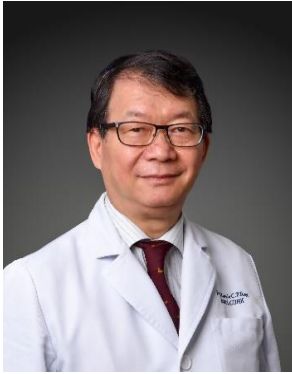
He is an active clinical Ophthalmologist and surgeon for anterior segment pathology. His research interests include mainly refractive errors, trying to understand the principal causes of lens prescription (myopia, hyperopia, astigmatism and presbyopia). Has performed studies about prevalence of refractive errors in Argentina. And has collaborated in the calculation of crystalline lens power for studies in different countries (Norway, China, Singapore, USA, India and Iran), publishing 40 papers in peer reviewed journals. Has been following both clinical and basic research on myopia for the last 20 years, and has began (since 2011) to treat children and adolescents with progressive myopia using diluted atropine drops. Studies risk factors for myopia development, such as outdoor exposure and reading or computer use habits. He studies the contribution of crystalline lens power in myopia and hyperopia. Continues studying eye growth from infancy to adulthood, trying to understand how normal vision is achieved, or presbyopia and cataracts are developed. He is member of the myopia study group of the Argentinian Society of Pediatric Ophthalmology and has been involved in multiple courses and symposiums about refractive errors in this country since year 1995. Past ARVO Member and Member of the Argentinian Council of Ophthalmology and the Argentinian Ophthalmological Society.



Prof. Dr. Bill Stell

University of Calgary- Cumming School of Medicine, Calgary, Canada.

Bill Stell was born, raised and educated in the northeastern United States, the older child of art and language teachers. He graduated with a B.A. in Zoology (High Honors) from Swarthmore College and then entered the University of Chicago, where he earned a Ph.D. in Anatomy and an M.D. (Honors). During the first year of medical school he developed a passion for understanding the retina and vision. He likes to claim that the great Spanish neuroanatomist, Santiago Ramón y Cajal, was his principal teacher – that he learned from Cajal about the Golgi silver-chromate method and retinal circuitry through his timeless monograph, *La Rétine des Vertébrés* (1893). In his Ph.D. thesis, Bill introduced the Golgi-EM method and used it to identify connections of rods and cones with specific bipolar and horizontal cells in the goldfish retina. After serving as postdoctoral fellow at the N.I.H., Bill joined the Jules Stein Eye Institute, UCLA, where he continued his studies of outer-retinal circuits in goldfish and produced an enduring model accounting for the main properties of color-coding in cone horizontal cells. In 1980, he moved to the University of Calgary, where he directed the Lions' Sight Centre for many years and produced new works on retinal neuropeptides and efferent fibers. A lecture by the late Josh Wallman in 1990 led to the realization that myopia is an indicator of retinal function and malfunction, and from then on he sought mainly to understand the retinal circuitry and signalling mechanisms responsible for myopia. Another favourite activity is mentoring young people, regarding science, research, careers, and life itself. He is proud to have participated in the training of a number of successful and well-known retina and myopia research scientists, including Professors Andrew Ishida, Bärbel Rohrer, and Andy Fischer, and future professors Hope Qing Shi, Brittany Carr, and Derek Waldner. His motto is, "Treat people as if they were what they ought to be, and you will help them become what they are capable of becoming" [Goethe].



Prof. Dr. Calvin C. P. Pang

Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong.

Prof. Pang, BSc (Lond), DPhil (Oxon), FARVO, is S.H. Ho Research Professor of Visual Sciences, Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) and former Chairman of the Department. He is also Director of Shantou University/CUHK Joint Shantou International Eye Center. He has published >460 papers in international indexed peer-reviewed journals and 22 book chapters. He is a reviewer for the Wellcome Trust (UK), National Eye Institute (USA), National Medical Research Council (Singapore), Health Research Board (Ireland), Catalan Agency for Health Technology Assessment and Research (Spain), National Health & Medical Research Council (Australia), National Natural Science Foundation (China), National Science Foundation China, and Changjiang Scholar Program (China) He is an advisor and Honorary/Visiting Professor of >60 clinical or research institutions in Asia, Australia, Europe and North America. Prof Pang's research interests: (1) molecular genetics and genomics of complex and monogenic eye diseases, including POAG, PACG, AMD, PCV, CSCR, DR, inherited retinal diseases, retinoblastoma, uveitis, Grave's disease, congenital cataracts, corneal dystrophies, keratoconus and myopia; (2) microRNA in adult ocular stem cells; (3) constitutive and inductive risk factors of children eye diseases, advocating the concept of health care through children eye care; (4) ophthalmic effects of green tea catechins, herbal molecules and peptides, including GHRHR agonists/antagonists, for the alleviation of oxidative stress and inflammation.



Prof. Dr. Andrzej Grzybowski

University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn.

Andrzej Grzybowski, M.D., Ph.D., MBA, is a Professor of Ophthalmology and Chair of Department of Ophthalmology, University of Warmia and Mazury, Olsztyn, Poland and Head of Department of Ophthalmology at Poznań City Hospital, Poland. His professional expertise includes cataract surgery, presbyopia treatment, clear-lens exchange; neuro-ophthalmology; vitreo-retinal surgery, glaucoma pathogenesis, myopia pathogenesis and treatment, parameterizations in science and history of ophthalmology. He is active in international scientific societies including Euretina (Co-opted Board member), AAO (International Fellow), ISBCS, ICO (programme coordinator for WCO in 2011-2016), Cogan Society, EVER, ESCRS (curator of ESCRS Archive), and representative of Poland at ISRS (International Society of Refractive Surgery) International Council (2015). He became lifelong member (chair LIV) of the European Academy of Ophthalmology (<http://www.eao.eu>) and its Treasurer. He has been active contributor to major ophthalmic conferences worldwide, including AAO, APAO (International Coordinator), WCO (Programme Coordinator), Euretina, ESCRS, EVER, ISOPT. He delivered invited lectures in many national and international ophthalmic meetings, including Italy, Spain, France, UK, Germany, USA, India, South Africa, Mexico, Japan, Argentina and Taiwan. Prof. Grzybowski is on the Editorial Board of several international medical, ophthalmic and historical journals, including Acta Ophthalmologica, Graefes' Archive for Experimental and Clinical Ophthalmology, Translational Vision Science and Technology (ARVO journal), and Neuro-Ophthalmology. He has been active editor, editor in chief and author of more than 350 peer-reviewed international publications (total IF higher than 700), and reviewer for more than 20 journals.



Prof. Dr. Carlos Alejandro Kotlik

Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, Mendoza, Argentina.

Ophthalmology title at Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, Hospital Central de Mendoza y Clínica Mulet de Mendoza. (1990) Doctor of Science in Medicine and Surgery Belford University 2006. Studied in Millau (France), Chennai (India) and several universities in USA. Director of Ophthalmology Dpt. Hospital Notti, Mendoza, Adjunct Prof. UNCuyo and director Kotlik Ophthalmological Center, Mendoza. Clinical practice in Pediatric Ophthalmology, Optics and Refractive Error, including Refractive Surgery and Ophthalmic Echography. Teaches how to arrest myopia progression with different approaches, the fundamental use of Retinoscopy, Bruckner Test, and visual Acuity measurement in infants, and Contrast Sensitivity tests. Languages: Spanish, English, French and Hebrew.



Prof. Dr. Pei-Chang Wu

Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Chang Gung University, Taiwan.

Director, Department of Ophthalmology, Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taiwan. Associate Professor, Chang Gung University, Taiwan. Supervisor of The Ophthalmological Society of Taiwan. Director of Taiwan Retina Society. Consultant in Health Promotion Administration in Ministry of Health and Welfare, K-12 Education Administration in Ministry of Education, Taiwan. Principal Investigator of Taiwan Schoolchildren Vision Care Program in Ministry of Education. Educational background: MD, Kaohsiung Medical College, Taiwan. PhD, Graduate Institute of Medicine, Kaohsiung Medical University, Taiwan. Research interest and achievement: Myopia, Retina, Stem cell. Under his direction educational policy was used as a public vision health intervention for the first time to prevent myopia. Children are required to go outside classroom during recess for increasing time spent in outdoors. The myopia onset rate decreased over 50% in the past years. He is leader in the use of anti-angiogenesis, bevacizumab, in treating myopic choroidal neovascularization. The first identified the scleral stem/progenitor cells.



Prof. Dr. Jos J. Rozema

Department of Ophthalmology, Universitair Ziekenhuis Antwerpen. Belgium.

He received a Master's degree in Physics at the University of Antwerp (Belgium), where he also completed a PhD in Physics (2004) and a PhD in Medical Sciences (2017). He is currently the head of the Visual Optics Lab Antwerp (VOLANTIS), part of the Department of Ophthalmology of the Antwerp University Hospital. He is also an associate professor at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences of the University of Antwerp. His current research interests lie in eye modelling, physiological optics, ocular biometry and ocular straylight, on which he has published numerous papers.



Prof. Dr. Yuval Cohen

University, Israel, and Pediatric Ophthalmologist at Ziv Medical center, Zafed, Israel.

Prof. Dr. Yuval Cohen is a graduate of Ben-Gurion University Medical School in Be'er Sheva, specializing in ophthalmology at Assaf Harofeh Hospital. Dr. Cohen performed a fellowship in pediatric ophthalmology at Sheba Medical Center, and later in the USA at CHOP (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia). He also holds a PhD in pharmacology and physiology from Tel Aviv University, where he conducted research on the development of myopia. Dr. Cohen has also conducted post-doctoral research in the biomedical laboratories of the University of Pennsylvania. He studied spontaneous myopia in chicken growing for three months under dim lights finding alterations in eye growth according to indoor illuminance. He continues his studies about myopia in Israel. He has a position as a clinical and surgical specialist as Pediatric Ophthalmologist at Ziv Medical Center, Zafed, Israel.



Prof. Dr. Ian Morgan

Australian National University, and Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center, Sun Yat-Sen University. Australia.

Professor Ian Morgan is a Visiting Fellow at the Research School of Biology at the Australian National University and at the Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center of the Sun-yat Sen University in Guangzhou, China. He has a research background in animal models of myopia and epidemiology of myopia, but has no clinical qualifications. His research has helped to establish the role of environmental factors in the development of myopia, and identify the preventive role played by time outdoors. Professor Morgan studied biological sciences at the University of Melbourne and completed his PhD at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. He then worked for 6 years in the Neurochemistry Center of the French National Scientific Research Center in Strasbourg, France, before returning to Australia to take up a position at the Australian National University, which he held until 2010. He is now a Visiting Fellow at that university, as well at the State Key Laboratory of Ophthalmology, Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China. Over the past 20 years, his research work has increasingly focused on the biological basis and epidemiology of myopia and high, potentially pathological, myopia. His work has helped to reshape thinking about myopia in relation to the balance between genetic and environmental factors in the etiology of myopia, and in relation to the protective effects of time outdoors against the development of myopia. He has published on myopia in journals such as JAMA, The Lancet, Ophthalmology, and Progress in Retinal and Eye Research. Three of his publications are the most highly cited papers on myopia published in 2005, 2008 and 2012 respectively.



Prof. Dr. Frank Schaeffel

Ophthalmic Research Institute, Universitätsklinikum Tübingen, Germany. Section of Neurobiology of the Eye, Institute for Ophthalmic Research, Centre for Ophthalmology, University of Tübingen, Germany.

As to Frank Schaeffel's contribution to the research field of refractive development and myopia there are few who can claim to have made such an influence on this research community over the last 30 years. Frank Schaeffel's classic paper regarding "accommodation, refractive error and eye growth in chickens" in 1998 produced a paradigm shift in our understanding of regulation of refractive errors and ocular growth. While this is one of the most cited papers in the area (2nd only to Nobel Laureate Torsten Wiesel, who with Elio Raviola published an important early paper in 1977 on the monkey model of myopia), it is Frank Schaeffel's continued and numerous contributions to the research field of myopia over the last 25 years, which marks him out for special recognition. He has made major additional contributions to our understanding of how the eye regulates its growth, both in the physiological aspects of vision and also in the biochemical and molecular pathways in myopia. His expansive knowledge across both traditional biological foundations of the eye and his more recent work on molecular pathways of signals causing or preventing myopia is inspiring to many in the field. It is also important to note that this research has significant public health implications and it is imperative that we gain a better understanding of the etiology of myopia and that we develop new treatments strategies to reduce myopia. Frank Schaeffel's research is at the forefront of these efforts. He is a true renaissance man in science in the way he is driven by fundamental questions in vision, not just regarding myopia development, but also in the areas of ocular accommodation, stereopsis and evolution of general visual mechanisms.



Prof. Dr. Virginie Verhoeven

Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Prof. Dr. Virginie Verhoeven obtained her MD degree in general medicine, Utrecht University in 2008, an MSc degree in genetic epidemiology, from the Netherlands Institute for Health Sciences (NIHES), Rotterdam in 2012, and a PhD degree from Erasmus University Rotterdam (Erasmus Medical Center) in 2015 under the guidance of Professors Klaver and Vingerling. The title of her PhD dissertation was “What causes myopia? Complex genetics and epidemiology of a common condition.” Dr Verhoeven’s publications are impressive, including three co-authored papers in Nature Genetics, her awards include a Ludwig von Sallmann clinician-scientist award and in 2016, she received a prestigious grant from the Dutch government on the topic of genetics of high myopia, enabling her to start her own research group. She is described by one of her past mentors as a dedicated researcher and passionate clinician. She is a member of the international myopia genetics consortium CREAM and has finished residency in 2020 and is now a clinical geneticist with expertise on ophthalmogenetics.



Prof. Dr. Jason Yam

Associate Professor, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China.

Dr. Jason YAM is Associate Professor at the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences of Chinese University of Hong Kong, Head of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Services at the Hong Kong Eye Hospital, and Head of Ophthalmology Department at Hong Kong Children's Hospital. He serves as the Training and Education Committee Chair of International Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Council (IPOSC), and the Secretary-General of Asia-Pacific Strabismus and Pediatric Ophthalmology Society (APSPOS). He is Principal Investigator of Low-concentration Atropine for Myopia Progression (LAMP) study, and the Hong Kong Children Eye Study.



Prof. Dr. Shi-Ming Li

Beijing Tongren Eye Center, Beijing Tongren Hospital, Capital Medical University, Beijing, China.

Prof. Shi-Ming Li is an active clinical Ophthalmologist and surgeon for refractive surgery. After completing his postdoctoral work in epidemiology and evidence-based medicine in 2009, he established the largest cohort to study myopia in Chinese children, the Anyang Childhood Eye Study, with annual follow-up of 4000 children over 5 years. He works to find clinically effective interventions on controlling children myopia and methods for preventing myopic complications, and clarify the gene-environment interaction in the etiology of myopia. Much of his myopia research work has been included as evidence in the Chinese Guidelines for myopia prevention and treatment and the AAO. In 2015, He was named one of the power list of ‘Top 40 Under 40’ by journal of 《Ophthalmologist》. He believes that “wearable devices combining internet and big data” will be helpful for screening, diagnosis, real-time monitoring and treatment of myopia. He was elected as Beijing New Star of Science and Technology (2012), Beijing outstanding young talent (2014), Great challenges. Young scientist (2015) and Outstanding Youth of Beijing Natural Science Foundation (2020). He has published over 40 papers in peer-reviewed international journals and is also an active reviewer for IOVS, BJO, OPO, CEO, CDSR, Ophthalmic Epidemiology, Human Genetics”.