



December 22, 2025

Dear Alumni, Friends and Colleagues:

It is a pleasure for me to provide this update on the recent accomplishments and future directions of the Department of Ophthalmology. Our focus remains on collaboration and mentorship in the core missions of academic health care: patient care, education, research and service. The department's solid reputation continues to grow through our relationships with alumni, clinical colleagues, and research partners at other institutions in Chicago, across the United States, and internationally.

Our [Patient Care Services](#) at Loyola and Hines VA (HVA) have expanded in scope and depth. We currently have 3 full time Cornea Surgeons, 3 Retina Surgeons and 3 Glaucoma Surgeons, Pediatric and Strabismus Surgeons in addition to other subspecialties. We have expanded our ASC surgical services to Oakbrook Terrace (Loyola Ambulatory Surgery Center (LASCO)) in addition to the Palos Surgery Center and LOC. We expanded our infrastructure at the Loyola Hickory Hills site to accommodate 2 faculty at the same time to serve the growing southwest corridor. Finally, 6 Loyola Medicine Ophthalmologists were recognized this year as [2025 Loyola Medicine Castle Connolly Top Doctors](#): Charles Bouchard, Felipe de alba, James McDonnell as well as Brad Anstadt, Saba Quraishi, and Ronald Weiss.

Our **Educational Programs** remain strong, with a sustained focus on our target audiences: medical students ([UME](#)), residents ([GME](#)) and practicing ophthalmologists and optometrists ([CME](#)). We continue to offer one of the most comprehensive resident training programs in the Midwest led by Roshni Vasaiwala as Program Director and Anuradha Khanna, MD, as Vice Chair of Education who continues to lead the way in educational technology.

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2025 was the **most significant year ever** for our [Research Programs](#). **First**, we benefitted from an incredibly generous gift from [Richard A. Perritt Charitable Foundation](#) which will further establish the growing regional and national reputation of our Vision Research Programs. Led by Director Evan Stubbs, PhD, our [Publications and Presentations](#) continues to grow and our funding continues to expand. **Secondly**, this year, the department not only received the most funding ever (\$60K) with 16 grant Awards ([2025 Grant Recipients](#)) from the [Illinois Society for the Prevention of](#)

[Blindness](#) (ISPB), but we were also awarded **all 3** of the named ISPB awards: 1) The Donna Dreiske Award for best medical student research went to Ethan Teich; 2) The Helen and Wesley E. Bass Jr. Award for the best Resident Research, went to Lauren Nakhleh, and 3) the James A. McKechnie Award for the best Graduate Student Research went to Rachel Mazurek. This exceptional level of recognition is the best in the 30-year history of the ISPB. **Furthermore**, in another unusually strong reflection of our research quality, Loyola residents received 2 of the 3 annual Beem-Fisher Awards for the best resident research in Chicago [COS Beem-Fisher Awards](#): Paul de Bustros-Second Place and John Zahour-Third Place. **Finally**, The Department sponsored an outstanding National [2025 Vision Research Day](#) with nationally recognized speakers.

Since 2012, our tradition of [International Service](#) has been focused in Guatemala through the generous support of [Thomas Stamm, MD World Service Endowment](#). In 2024, Charles Bouchard and his team established the Chicago Global Ophthalmology (Chica-GO) where faculty, residents and medical students from Loyola, Cook County, Rush and Northwestern as well as others travel to [Sacatepéquez](#), Guatemala to provide needed surgical care at [Nasir Hospital](#). This has been a result of a strong partnership between Loyola and [Humanity First](#). In November, 2025, Charles Bouchard presented a talk on Integrating Artificial Intelligence for Equitable Eye Care at the 30th Anniversary of Humanity First in London [Humanity First 30 Years Celebration](#). Humanity First Healthcare and Loyola have now established a foundation for long term growth of Vision Care Services in Guatemala for those in need.

Guided by the Jesuit Catholic principle of Cura Personalis (care for the whole person), the Department continues to expand our faculty, enhancing our capacity and outreach to provide exceptional eyecare to more individuals in need here and abroad. Our innovative 3-D educational programs led by Dr. Anu Khanna continue to revolutionize learning for medical students and residents, equipping them with unparalleled understanding and skill. Furthermore our research enterprise has demonstrated translational results and continues to expand.

This has been an exceptional year of growth and recognition in multiple areas of Patient Care, Education, Research and Service. We thank you for your continued interest in supporting the department and I welcome your engagement.

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I wish you all a grateful and joyful holiday season with family and friends.

Warmly,



[Charles S. Bouchard, MD, MA](#)

The John P. Mulcahy Professor and Chairman
Department of Ophthalmology