

Winter 2026

JEROME JACOBSON GLOBAL PROGRAM AT THE KELLOGG EYE CENTER



MICHIGAN MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



Dr. Kaz Soong (center) with Ukrainian ophthalmologists Dr. Georgii Parkhomenko (left) & Dr. Elizabeth Baran (right)

Building capacity in Ukraine

In August 2025, a group of Ukrainian eye surgeons visited Kellogg for observational training in corneal transplantation and eye banking. This was a key element of a larger collaboration, including the Ann Arbor-based eye bank Eversight and the non-profit organization Eye Care for Ukraine. Our Ukrainian colleagues have shown incredible grit by continuing to provide care to their community despite extenuating circumstances, and we value the chance to work with them to expand corneal transplant services.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

**We are excited to share
with you some recent
highlights!**

You may notice that our name has changed from *international* program to *global* program, to better reflect our focus on issues that transcend borders, both in the United States and abroad. But our mission remains the same: to work toward the elimination of avoidable and preventable blindness and vision impairment around the world.



Dr. Vera Essuman with UM chair of ophthalmology Dr. Shahzad Mian

Ghana partnership flourishes

We recently enjoyed a visit from Dr. Vera Essuman, faculty chair for ophthalmology for the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons (GCPS), and explored opportunities to build upon our longstanding collaboration. For example, Kellogg faculty Dr. Sangeeta Khanna was recently awarded a Global REACH Partnership Development Grant to work with GCPS in establishing a neuro-ophthalmology fellowship program in Ghana. Currently there is only one neuro-ophthalmologist in the entire country (trained abroad), and this fellowship program will have an exponential impact on expanding subspecialty care.

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Global ophthalmology fellowship update

Building partnerships both old and new was the theme of the year for recent global ophthalmology fellow Dr. Otana Jakpor. Over the course of the year, she rotated through sites in India, Kenya, Costa Rica, Nepal, and Ghana. She also worked to develop a global ophthalmology curriculum for Kellogg residents, which includes an honors program called the Global Ophthalmology Academic Track (GOAT). She is now pediatric ophthalmology faculty at Kellogg, and she looks forward to continuing to work with the many wonderful colleagues she met during fellowship.



Dr. Otana Jakpor (center) with Nepali colleagues at Dhulikhel Hospital (left to right: Dr. Pooja Shrestha, Dr. Tina Shrestha, Dr. Richa Shrestha, Dr. Angira Shrestha, Dr. Shreeya Shrestha)

Kellogg resident creates research tool with colleagues in Pakistan

Without a doubt, eye health matters deeply when it comes to quality of life. But at present, there is no vision-related quality of life survey available in Urdu. Alongside colleagues at Aga Khan University Hospital, Kellogg resident Dr. Mariam Sohail is seeking to change that. In October 2025, she travelled to Karachi, Pakistan, to help draft a culturally relevant glaucoma quality of life questionnaire. Their team established a Delphi panel to review the questionnaire, involving physician experts, ophthalmology technicians, psychiatrists, glaucoma researchers, and glaucoma patients. The next phase of the study will be to conduct cognitive interviewing to finalize the survey prior to validation. We are thrilled to see our residents grow as future leaders in collaborative global health research!



Dr. Mariam Sohail (center) with colleagues at Aga Khan University Hospital

DO YOU HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

**We would love to hear
from you!**

Please feel free to email Donna Donato at donnadon@med.umich.edu. We are always delighted to receive updates from our international alumni and partners!

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