

Bower Media News

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Honoring the 50th Anniversary of the Retina Service and the 15th Anniversary of the Henry and Corinne Bower Laboratory



The history of the Retina Service Professional Corporation, the corporation which oversees activities related to the retina, is intimately tied to the history of Wills Eye Hospital (WEH). Wills Eye Hospital was founded as a result of a philanthropic bequest of James Wills, Jr. in 1832. The hospital has prospered for over 150 years and remains as one of the premier centers for eye care in the world. For most of its early history physicians of WEH participated in all aspects of eye care. It soon became apparent with the increasing knowledge and complexity of eye care that education and specialization were necessary. In 1957 the Retina Service of WEH was born and in 1960 it was officially recognized by the Board of Directors of City Trusts, who oversee the hospital. P. Robb McDonald, MD was the first director of the Retina Service and William H. Annesley, Jr., MD, Charles Rife, MD, Lov Sarin, MD, and William Tasman, MD were the initial members. The Service organized itself into a professional corporation in 1970. In the philanthropic tradition of James Wills, Jr. the members

of the Retina Service as well as grateful patients contributed funds over the years which created the establishment of endowed funds to educate students, fellows, and distinguished lectures in the field of retina disease.

The Philadelphia Retina Endowment Fund was established by a bequest from Henry Bower and as part of our scientific, education, and charitable purpose. It will administer three programs related to its educational Mission. The nature of the programs includes:

The Scholar Series consisting of an educational experience at the student level related to the retina/vitreous of the eye. For students in training. Individuals will be named as Scholars after a donor.

The Fellow Series consisting of an educational experience at the fellow level related to the retina/vitreous of the eye at the Fellow level. Individuals will be named after former Fellows of the Retina Service, PC of the Wills Eye Institute.

The Lecture Series consisting of an educational experience at the Professorial level. Invited speakers on retina/vitreous topics will be introduced by a donor.

For more information about the series, contact a member of the PREF board of directors.

Contributed by: Larry A Donoso