Team Justin Spirit

Who knew that a knee to the eye could be such a blessing? While playing with friends, then 6 years old, Justin Barnes was kneed in the eye and sent to the nurse’s office at school. The nurse noticed Justin’s poor vision and suspected that something else was at play past some recess roughhousing. And so began a nerve wracking process of referral after referral. Doctors knew that something was wrong, but no one could pin point what exactly it was. Melissa, Justin's mother, remembers the stress of this uncertainty: “I was anxious and nervous. First we made an appointment with a local ophthalmologist who had never seen inflammation this bad, who sent us, on the same day, to a retina specialist, who then had us make an appointment with a Rheumatologist. The urgency yet uncertainty of the situation was really scary.” After a battery of tests, Justin's Rheumatologist referred him to Dr. David Chu, a former OIUF fellow and current board member. After 6 weeks and “all sorts of labwork,” including a full body scan and an MRI of his brain and orbits; Justin and his parents, finally had an answer as to what was causing the inflammation: Idiopathic Uveitis. Melissa remarked how grateful she was to see Dr. Chu, and a uveitis specialist in general, explaining that “[there was the option] to let the Retina specialist treat him. But we were so lucky to have found Dr. Chu. He let me know what to expect every step of the way and monitored Justin [at every interval]. Dr. Chu worked with us and all of Justin's doctors to make sure he had the best care.” Following a medication regiment, Justin's vision has greatly improved and his inflammation has remained under control.

Quirk Subaru “Share the Love” Campaign

Mr. Daniel Quirk, president of Quirk Auto Dealers, has always held OIUF’s mission close to his heart; his daughter, Bridget Quirk, has lived much of her life with Uveitis—now in a controlled remission: “We couldn’t be happier with the care of Dr. Foster and it’s so clear to see the impact OIUF’s research has had in improving uveitis treatment.” Mr. Quirk’s support over the years has been instrumental in furthering our mission at OIUF and we want to extend our sincerest gratitude for our involvement in the “Subaru: Love to Care” campaign. The campaign strives to support local charities by donating a portion of Subaru sales to a non-profit of the dealership’s choosing—the donation this year totaled $45,000, the most Quirk Auto Dealers has ever been able donate to OIUF. We look forward to working together to find a cure for uveitis and ocular inflammatory disease.
Calendar of Events

**August 7, 2018**  
Support Group  
MERSI  
1:00pm – 2:00pm

**August 19, 2018**  
**Boston Walk for Vision**  
Hyatt Regency Cambridge  
Cambridge, MA

**September 16, 2018**  
**NJ/NY Walk for Vision**  
Verona Park Boat house  
Verona, NJ

**October 2, 2018**  
Support Group  
MERSI  
1:00pm – 2:00pm

**November 10, 2018**  
**12th Annual Auction Benefit**  
An Evening:  
Dedicated to Making a Visible Difference  
Fairmont Copley Plaza  
Boston, MA

**December 4, 2018**  
Support Group  
MERSI  
1:00pm – 2:00pm

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**Our Mission**

The Ocular Immunology and Uveitis Foundation is a 501c(3), national non-profit, tax-exempt organization. Our mission is to find cures for ocular inflammatory diseases, to erase the worldwide deficit of properly trained ocular immunologists, and to provide education and emotional support for those patients afflicted with ocular inflammatory disease.

**How You Can Make A Visible Difference**

Your gifts and donations help the work of the Ocular Immunology and Uveitis Foundation in achieving our mission.  
To help meet your philanthropic goals, OIUF accepts gifts of many types, including appreciated securities, bequests, real estate, qualified retirement and life income gifts.

For more information please contact Alison Justus at (781) 647-1431 x407 or email oiuf@uveitis.org

Please use the enclosed envelope for your donation

Congratulations! Are you one of many happy couples planning a wedding this time of year? Instead of traditional favors, consider a donation to the Ocular Immunology and Uveitis Foundation and begin your marriage with a gift of sight!

For information on how to make a donation, contact Alison Justus, Director of Development and Programs, at ajustus@mersi.com

www.uveitis.org
Now that we find ourselves past the halfway point of 2018, I am delighted to say that—unsurprisingly with the quality of our supporters, staff, and physicians—we have continued to see significant strides in both spreading awareness of ocular inflammatory disease and uveitis and in bettering treatment as well. The story of Justin Barnes provides an example not only of diligent, loving parents, finding a way for their son to get the best care, but also of the vital role of OIUF’s dependable network. From the nurse who first noticed Justin’s vision to his Rheumatologist: every medical professional involved ought to be commended for getting Justin to Dr. Chu. Ophthalmologists, like Dr. Chu, have been working extremely hard to push forward a dialogue on the best treatments of ocular inflammatory disease. Dr. Chu was one of the hosts of the second annual Sonoma Eye Conference for physicians, some of whom are my former fellows, to present and discuss just that—the latest discoveries and breakthroughs of ocular inflammatory disease. Justin’s seemingly simple referral manifests the overall structure that we have built at OIUF. Uveitis and ocular inflammatory disease patients have a real ability to receive timely and effective treatment by the proper specialists. This, of course, would also not be possible without the work of everyone at OIUF and those who support us. I would like to once more thank those at Quirk for their tremendous gift. With our focus on OIUF’s outreach nationally and internationally, it is easy to forget the incredible, local network of support. Much like Justin’s parents, Dan Quirk, whose daughter was diagnosed with Uveitis, demonstrates the power of loved ones in our OIUF community in fighting against blindness.

We, as an organization, however, would not satisfy the intention of this wonderful support without following through in our mission to constantly better treatment methodology and to train and inform physicians in this methodology. In the academic community, I was excited to see my work with fellow doctors published to differentiate the importance of corticosteroids as an immediate solution to control inflammation with the desire to avoid their harmful side effects by employing immunomodulatory agents (corticosteroid-sparing therapies) over the long term. We are also proud to see Artur Filipowicz and Sara Syeda, who have both thrived and learned so much as fellows, take their knowledge to Miami and Detroit. Through them, our OIUF network expands even further, and I look forward to seeing how they too further the field of Ophthalmology. OIUF has also hosted many events and held a great presence in the furthering education of the medical community: from our own “Preventable Blindness Hot Topics Crash Course” to the annual New England Ocular Society meeting. Additionally, I have had the honor of lecturing at Harvard University, UC San Diego, Loyola Chicago University, in Lancaster, as well as at Brown University. We are constantly working to inform the medical and academic community and further advance ocular inflammatory disease and uveitis treatment.

As we look forward to the summer and fall, OIUF has many great events planned and opportunities to get involved. On August 19th in Cambridge, MA and September 16th in Verona, NJ, we will host the walk for vision. Every year, I love to see the involvement from our supporters and the energy and hope that is a part of the event. Please consider joining Team Justin and others as a part of this wonderful experience. Once more, I would like to thank all of you who support OIUF. All of our communal success comes through the work of many individuals who have offered time, donations, and support. Moving forward we will need you in our pursuit of curing uveitis and ocular inflammatory disease.

With sincerest best wishes,

C. Stephen Foster
Fellow Spotlight

Artur Filipowicz:

Artur Filipowicz was born in Zgorzelec, Poland. When he was a boy his family immigrated to the United States in search of better opportunities. This journey brought them to Chicago, where he grew up in the suburbs. Following high school, Artur completed his undergraduate studies at Loyola University Chicago. Not long after graduation, he started travelling as a medical device quality consultant. Little did he know, the next 7 years of his life would be defined by travel. After one year of biweekly visits to airports, Artur answered his call to medicine; he enrolled in medical school at Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

His clinical years of medical school were spent travelling to various rotations in medical practices throughout the country. He lived in many cities, including Des Moines, Miami, Philadelphia, Columbus, Indianapolis, Peoria, and of course Chicago. In doing so, Artur drastically expanded his own geographic diversity and learned while observing and working in many different practices. Upon graduating from medical school, Artur was determined to gain a residency in ophthalmology. He believes, “there is no other specialty where you can learn so much about your patient from only their history and a non-invasive physical exam.” To bolster his own credentials and knowledge, Artur found Dr. Foster’s office and applied for the OIUF fellowship. “I heard that Dr. Foster was the best and when I found out that I had secured the fellowship, I was excited to make my way to yet another city,” says Artur.

Artur added Boston to his list of cities, where he began his OIUF fellowship in July 2017. His decision to study with the best ophthalmology physicians was immediately validated. Artur reminisced about his first days: “I was busy right away; seeing patients with common complaints to rare conditions. There was never a dull moment and at the same time the days would fly by and I never truly felt like I was working in this incredibly satisfying setting.” His enthusiasm did not go unnoticed and Artur quickly became a favorite among patients and coworkers alike.

In July 2018, Artur will take the next step in his education, as he returns to Miami for his ophthalmology residency. While OIUF is sad to see him go, we are excited to send off another well-trained fellow in ophthalmology. Nonetheless, he will be missed.

Sara Syeda

Over the years, we have had the pleasure and privilege of having Sara as a Research Fellow for multiple stints. As early as 2010, while she was at medical school in Glasgow, Scotland, Sara has been shadowing, working, and “fellowing” at OIUF and her experience culminated in a final fellowship this spring and summer. Originally born in Ireland and splitting time growing up in the UK and Saudi Arabia, Sara attended medical school in Scotland; she joins many other OIUF fellow alumni with incredible personal and medical international perspective.

While in medical school, Sara went through her rotations and studies and ultimately decided that she wanted to focus on Ophthalmology. “It was a case that I saw on Asteroid Hyalosis that hooked me. I found Ophthalmology so fascinating and beautiful.” After discovering her passion for the field, Sara sought out Dr. Foster and the pedigree that preceded him: “I had seen all the books that he wrote and I wanted to learn from the best.” However, Sara, looking back on her initial experience at OIUF, remembers that it was not quite smooth sailing from the get-go: “It was very intimidating at first—being surrounded by Dr. Foster’s books and seeing his knowledge first hand. I was so nervous that I found myself unable to finish the patient presentations I had started!” Luckily, however, Sara overcame her jitters and was able to take full advantage of the opportunity. Once she had returned, Sara said “I knew so much more than my peers—and even more than some of the residents at the hospital.”

Throughout her various assignments, Sara has been a valuable member of the OIUF team. As she looks to the future, she aims to continue her education in the United States with a pre-residency at the Kresge Eye Institute in Detroit. While Sara will be missed, we are excited to see her establish herself in Michigan and are grateful for all that she has done for OIUF.
2018 Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Annual Meeting

In April, ARVO held their annual conference in Honolulu, HI, where physicians and scholars from around the world presented their ocular research from the previous year. During the conference, the Foster Ocular Immunology Society held their 23rd annual FOIS dinner on Sunday, April 29th. Guest of Honor, Professor Andrew Dick, MD spoke regarding the immune mechanisms of tissue homeostasis and the ways to target and suppress tissue-damaging inflammation.

ARVO Travel Grant Recipient - Ryan Salvador

Ryan Salvador has the honor of being this year’s OIUF travel grant winner. The grant has allowed Ryan to travel and present his research at the ARVO conference this past May:

“Much mahalo (thanks) to the Ocular Immunology and Uveitis Foundation Travel Grant for the opportunity to attend my second annual ARVO meeting and present my research in such a beautiful setting, Hawaii. It was a privilege to give a poster presentation on how the ‘Duration of antibiotic treatment affects gut microbiota and intestinal immunity, and determines susceptibility to ocular autoimmunity.’ These results contribute to the understanding of how the gut microbiota modulates systemic immunity and how it can impact susceptibility to autoimmune diseases such as uveitis. I value the opportunity to engage with uveitis experts in the field and learned a lot from similar work being done all over the world. ARVO continues to nurture my interest in understanding the complex interaction between the gut microbiome, immunology, and ophthalmology.”
SAVE THE DATES

THE WALK FOR VISION BOSTON
Sunday, August 19, 2018
Hyatt Regency Cambridge
Boston, MA
https://walkforvision.rallybound.org/boston

THE WALK FOR VISION NEW JERSEY/NEW YORK
Sunday, September 16, 2018
Verona Park Boathouse
Verona, NJ
https://walkforvision.rallybound.org/njny

12TH ANNUAL AUCTION BENEFIT
AN EVENING: DEDICATED TO MAKING A VISIBLE DIFFERENCE
November 10, 2018
Fairmont Copley Plaza
Boston, MA
2018 Preventable Blindness Hot Topics Crash Course

On Saturday April 21st, OIUF held the 2018 Preventable Blindess Hot Topics Crash Course at the Royal Sonesta Boston in Cambridge, MA. The course endeavored to highlight how specialists in the field recognize and manage various prominent forms of preventable blindness and provide a venue for discussion of these diseases, as well as to help their peers incorporate these methods into their individual practices. Headlined by a robust lineup of talks from physicians of various backgrounds and experience, the course emphasized the treatment and emergence of Uveitis.

For a full lineup of presentations, please stay tuned for our posting of the Preventable Blindess Hot Topics Crash Course Webinar. In case you could not attend the conference, you still have the opportunity to find out Dr. Anesi’s take on “What’s Hot with White Dots,” online! Forward the info onto your Ophthalmologist or primary care physician for an excellent opportunity for continuing their medical education! For more info please go to Uveitis.org.
Sonoma Eye Conference

Founded by Doctors David Chu, Erik Letko, William Ayliffe, and Quon Nguyen—all of whom are both former fellows of Dr. Foster and members of the Foster Ocular Immunology Society—the conference held its second annual meeting this past March. The meeting is uniquely focused on research, diagnosis, and treatments of ocular diseases with inflammation as the root cause. These doctors evidence Dr. Foster’s legacy in action as they endeavor to not only discuss the most prevalent issues of ocular inflammatory disease, but to also further grow the network of physicians, who are capable of recognizing, treating, and referring for Uveitis. At OIUF, we are very excited to see how Dr. David Chu, current president of FOIS and OIUF board member, and all of these former Foster fellows continue to advance the field and strive with us towards a cure for Uveitis and ocular inflammatory disease.

Team Justin Spirit  Continued from page 1

It is not often that you can say that you were lucky to get kneed in the eye, but with the help of this bruise, dedicated and loving parents, and the referral process getting Justin to the right doctor, his uveitis is well under control. And now “Team Justin” has become a stalwart in our yearly “Walk for Vision,” and everything has been all smiles for Justin and Melissa after meeting Dr. Chu. We’re excited to watch Justin grow up without uveitis holding him back and at OIUF we’ll strive every day to live with the Team Justin spirit as we pursue a cure for uveitis. To hear directly from Dr. Chu about Justin’s story, visit www.uveitis.org and view his video testament.
The Uveitis/OID Support Group is a patient education and mutual support resource founded in 1996 by Dr. Foster, Frances Foster MS, NP, John Hurley LISCW, and patients of Dr. Foster. Our mission is to educate patients, their family members and friends, and the medical community about ocular inflammatory disease and to facilitate the exchange of information, emotional support, and mutual aid between members. We are also deeply committed to raising funds to support research related to the causes and effective treatment of uveitis/OID.

Please take advantage of all our free services in this upcoming year: our in person support group meetings, as well as resources on the OIUF website (uveitis.org)—featuring a support group page for adults, parents, and children, parent/teacher guides, and a Guide to Ocular Inflammatory disease. Our multifarious support system runs on the generous contributions to the Foundation from our support group members and their family and friends.

Every year, we hold six support group meetings. The meetings are committed to emotional support. Negativity has no place in our circle, and medical advice is given only to those who seek it and only from physicians and medical professionals. Refer to the event calendar under the “patients” tab on uveitis.org to find out the time of our next meeting. Come by, have a slice of pizza, and join the discussion!

Can’t attend a meeting? Get support online!

In addition to the onsite meetings, the Uveitis/OID Support Group is also online! Visit uveitis.org to access information on both adult and child uveitis, as well as links to other resources under the “Support Group” tab. Join our online community—never feel alone in your or your loved one’s fight against uveitis or OID!

Do you want to stay up to date on the day to day of OIUF? Or maybe you’re Dr. Foster’s biggest fan? Then visit OIUF Facebook page and click that like button! Search for Ocular Immunology and Uveitis Foundation and be the first to know about our activities, photos, and recent events! The Ocular and Immunology and Uveitis Foundation reaches over 3000 fans on Facebook—become one of them!

OIUF’s OID guides are now available in the Amazon Kindle Store! Uveitis: A Guide for Teacher’s and Parents aims to assist parents and teachers in understanding uveitis as a disease and in how to help support those children—both inside and outside of the classroom—who are diagnosed with uveitis. A Guide to Ocular Inflammatory Disease is a practical and concise reference that provides a clear overview of ocular inflammatory diseases. A description of diagnostic features, treatment options and support groups is presented. This book is intended for all levels.

Monthly Giving

Donations help OIUF focus more of its resources on finding cures of ocular inflammatory diseases. Monthly giving is easy and secure. You choose your own monthly amount and have the freedom to alter or cancel your giving at any time. Sign up and help make a difference in the fight against ocular inflammatory diseases.

Sign up today at https://sna.etapestry.com/prod/Main2.jsp
The Ocular Immunology and Uveitis Foundation preferred practice patterns of uveitis management

Authored by Doctors Foster, S Kothari, Stephen Anesi, Albert Vitale, David Chu, and Olga Ceron, as well as Jamie Metzinger, MS/MPH, the uveitis preferred practice article endeavors to provide physicians with the up-to-date methodology of the standardized treatment of uveitis. This publication marks an incredible milestone—a manifestation of our progress at the foundation. This official documentation, recognized by AAO, will serve as the groundwork to steer the course of uveitis treatment in the United States and around the world. The strides that have been made by this team of doctors and medical professionals have, through this article, been put to paper and made available to physicians around the world—we are not only incredibly proud, but also excited to see how optical community will take the torch alongside in striving towards a cure for ocular inflammatory disease and uveitis.

Abstract:

Ocular inflammatory disease is a leading cause of vision loss worldwide. Uveitis encompasses a wide spectrum of pathology, both with respect to its etiology and the anatomic location within the eye. Inflammation can be confined to the eye and may also be seen systemically. The cornerstone of management of ocular inflammatory disease historically has been corticosteroids, which are invaluable in the immediate control of inflammation; however, corticosteroids are inappropriate for long-term use as they are associated with a wide array of toxic side effects. As we continue to learn more about the various etiologies and elucidate the basic science pathways and mechanisms of action that cause intraocular inflammation, new therapeutic approaches have evolved. They include employment of immunomodulatory agents (corticosteroid-sparing therapies) that have expanded our treatment options for these vision-threatening diseases. These pharmacologics provide therapy for ocular and systemic inflammation in an individualized, patient-tailored, stepladder approach with the ultimate goal of durable, corticosteroid-free remission. We review the preferred practice patterns of a tertiary care center specializing in ocular inflammatory disease.

“Finally, there is a consolidated resource for the paradigms and protocols we physicians affiliated with OIUF have used for many years to manage ocular inflammatory disease, that may be accessed by both patients for reference, as well as by other physicians who wish to utilize them in their own practices. The true significance of this white paper lies in its strong foundation in and emphasis on the achievement of long term steroid-free remission of inflammation.”

- Stephen Anesi, MD

“I don’t know anything else, because I was raised on the Preferred Practice Patterns, but, in all seriousness, this is a landmark paper that will guide physicians in treating complex ocular inflammatory diseases for the years to come. It is nice to finally see in print the clinical experiences that Dr. Foster and his trainees have amassed.”

- Peter Y. Chang, M.D.

Matching Donations

Make your donation double! Many companies offer matching gift programs for non-profits. Often, this goes uncommunicated—leaving a lot of unused funds on the table for the fight against ocular inflammatory disease and uveitis! Donation matching programs is also a great way to spread the word! Ask your employer and take the next step to making an even bigger impact!
**Research Highlights**

**Aldeyra, ADX-102_UV-005**

With their ADX-102 Ophthalmic Solution (0.5%), Aldeyra Therapeutics, Inc. is seeking to better treat non-infectious anterior uveitis. Patients in this phase 3 trial will be randomized 1:1 and receive either the ADX-102 product or simply the vehicle for this solution. Aldeyra will gather information on the safety and efficacy of their treatment in regards to the anterior chamber cell count and the symptoms of anterior uveitis over the course of this approximately five week trial. Subjects between the ages of 18 and 85 will have seven visits throughout the course of the study and will undergo a variety of testing. ADX-102 (0.5%) has previously been shown to be safe in other non-infectious anterior uveitis patients who were treated topically four times per day.

**Bausch and Lomb, 440**

This change from baseline clinical trial seeks to determine the changes in corneal endothelial cell density in eyes treated with a Retisert Implant (fluocinolone acetonide, 0.59 mg). Patients 12 years of age and older who have received an intravitreal Retisert implantation are eligible for this study. Patients will come in to clinic one year post Retisert surgery to receive imaging (Specular Microscopy).

**Allakos, AK002-005**

This phase 1b study on the novel antibody, AK002, seeks to understand the safety, tolerability, and pharmacodynamics of utilizing AK002 to treat keratoconjunctivitis. Patients over the age of 18 with either atopic keratoconjunctivitis (AKC), vernal keratoconjunctivitis (VKC), or perennial allergic conjunctivitis (PAC) are eligible for 6 monthly infusions with the study antibody. There is no placebo as this is an open-label study. Allakos is currently testing their therapy in three national studies for a variety of eosinophilic and mast cell related conditions.

**OIUF Research Reaches Global Scale**

OIUF receives weekly updates from ResearchGate regarding statistics surrounding the number of times our research has been viewed, cited, and downloaded. While the results have always been quite astounding, Dr. Foster has been ranked the most read author and the most downloaded researcher in his field multiple times in the past several months. We have shared the latest total numbers below. Thank you again for your continued support in allowing physicians and patients from across the world to access the novel discoveries conducted at OIUF each day.

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Publications of Interest to Physicians and Patients for Sale

**Foster, C.S., Bhatt, P., Yilmaz, T., Cervantes, R., Mauro, J. Atlas of Ocular Inflammatory Disease. 2009.** Cost $198.00

The photographs were taken from the MERSI archives and will provide a unique resource for ophthalmologists world-wide to view various types of lesions caused by ocular inflammation as a result of roughly 100 different disorders, enabling them to more readily recognize and diagnose these diverse disorders.

**Foster, C.S., Anesi, S., Gonzalez, L., Palafox, S. Childhood Uveitis. 2011.** Cost $30.00

Monograph from the Ocular Immunology and Uveitis Foundation’s Symposium on Childhood Uveitis held on August 7, 2010 in Cambridge, MA.

This monograph is based on the lectures delivered by the following experts in the field, Janis Arnold, David Chu, MD, David Hinkle, MD, C. Egla Rabinovich, MD, MPH, C. Michael Samson, MD, MBA, H. Nida Sen, MD, MCHc, Howard H. Tessler, MD, Patrick Whelan, MD, PhD, and C. Stephen Foster, MD.

**Foster CS. Birdshot Retinochoroidopathy Volume Two. 2013.** Cost $30.00

This Monograph is based on lectures delivered from the 2nd International Symposium on Birdshot Retinochoroidopathy held in Boston on September 28, 2013.

**Anesi, SD; Metzinger, JL; Ceron, O; Foster, CS. Uveitic Glaucoma. 2016.** Cost $144.00

Uveitic Glaucoma provides an overview of the disease, as well as the pathophysiology, diagnosis, management, and an examination of the disease in specific populations. The term “uveitic glaucoma” is used to describe glaucoma associated with uveitis or ocular inflammation. In this publication, we emphasize a “hands-on” medical and surgical approach aimed at educating patients and practitioners with topic sections crafted in a concise, manageable way.

This textbook is essential for both comprehensive ophthalmologists and specialists looking for more guidance in dealing with this complicated disease.

**Order Publications directly from OIUF at www.uveitis.org**