



State-of-the-Art Care:

Flanzer Center Opening Unites Ophthalmology Services

The state-of-the-art Gloria and Louis Flanzer Vision Care Center opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday, April 8. Guests at the ceremony included senior officials from the

from the landlord, the Resnick family, the architectural firm, Integrated Design Group, the contractor, Aragon Construction, and Columbia University Facility Management. They had the opportunity to tour the

new, 8,000 square foot facility, which occupies the entire second floor of 880 Third Avenue, with the entrance on 53rd Street.

The spacious, light-filled new center features 14 exam rooms, two diagnostic rooms and a treatment room, all equipped with the latest in diagnostic and treatment technologies. Among these is the Pentacam, an advanced eye imaging tool that provides a comprehensive and sophisticated assessment

of the optical status of the eye, using wave front analysis and ray tracing technologies.

Columbia's several ophthalmology practices, previously scattered in several locations around midtown, have

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L to R: Stanley Chang, M.D., Robert L. Burch III, Lee Goldman, M.D., Stephen J. Corwin, M.D.

Medical Center and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital administration, donors to the facility and the department, and people involved in the development, design, and construction of the space, including representatives

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A Closer Look



Clinical Insight: Sculpting New Vision

The last issue of *Viewpoint* told the stories of three visual artists whose vision was saved by Columbia's Department of Ophthalmology.

Here are the stories of three other artists, all sculptors, who have been Columbia patients.

Robin Antar, a sculptor living in Brooklyn, relies on Columbia to safeguard the vision in her only functioning eye. Blind in her right eye since birth, Antar says she didn't even recognize her condition until, as a budding artist in her teens, she sculpted only one side of

an abstract face. Today, carving fluid, lifelike objects from the raw material of hard stone, she captures and recreates a striking variety of everyday items from American pop culture. Whether the item is a blue-jean jacket, a tube of popular toothpaste, a bag of M&Ms, or a No. 2 pencil, she describes the work as "art mirroring life."

Antar had bad experiences with eye doctors until she found Stanley Chang, M.D. "I was on a plane coming home from Las Vegas," she says, "and people were talking about laser surgery. I asked, 'Who's the best doctor on the

East Coast?' and three people said, 'Dr. Stanley Chang.' Now I go to him every year, and the last time I saw him, the vision in my good eye was 20/22." Recalling one incident—an eye injury she suffered



Lower Manhattan Classic, 2007 by Judith Shea.

doing weight training—she says Dr. Chang saw her immediately and diagnosed a vitreous pull. She notes, "He's available for emergencies, and when I'm concerned, he takes me seriously. He understands the patient's fears."

Judith Shea, also a sculptor, lives in Manhattan. Her widely acclaimed work in textiles, bronze and wood is exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney, the Museum of Modern Art, and other major museums around the country. Shea was about to work on a project in California when she realized something was terribly wrong with her right eye. "I was watching TV, looking at a speaker on a news show, and the

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Above: Ian Taylor, NBE, MP.

Left, L to R:
Francis L'Esperance, Jr., M.D.,
Ian Taylor, NBE, MP,
Stephen Trokel, M.D.,
The Earl of Selborne.

Promotions

Rando Allikmets, Ph.D.
promoted to Professor of Ophthalmic
Science (in Ophthalmology and
Pathology and Cell Biology) effective
January 1, 2010

Richard E. Braunstein, M.D.
promoted to Professor of Clinical
Ophthalmology effective April 1, 2010

Amilia Schrier, M.D.
promoted to Clinical Professor of
Ophthalmology effective May 1, 2010

Flanzer Center Opening

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now been brought together under one roof in the new Center. This consolidation offers patients easy access to a wide range of general ophthalmologists and specialists, who focus on cornea, cataract, glaucoma, oculoplastics (rebuilding the eye following major trauma or tumors), and retina diagnosis and treatment.

A light lunch and refreshments were served for the ribbon-cutting event. At 1:30 pm, Stanley Chang, M.D., Department Chairman, opened the ceremony, noting that the new Center came about in direct response to the needs of patients, who had long requested a centralized midtown practice. He explained that even though the Hospital's real estate board gave approval for the project, it was seen as a fundraising long shot—until Mr. and Mrs. Flanzer, the Center's major benefactors, along with other contributors such as Robert Burch, stepped forward.

Lee Goldman, M.D., Executive Vice President for Health and Biomedical Sciences and Dean of the Faculties of Health Sciences and Medicine, praised the department's commitment to providing high-quality care for all patients. "We take care of some of the most vulnerable people in America. At the same time we take care of people who could see any doctor in the world. This extraordinary breadth of commitment, from the most vulnerable to the most able, is in part what makes us so special. The only way we can do that is because so many people are so generous."

Stephen J. Corwin, M.D., Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, who represented Hospital President Herbert Pardes, M.D., gave the Department of Ophthalmology his highest praise, noting that his own eye care and that of his family are entrusted to its doctors. "They give the most outstanding, first-rate, and compassionate care," he said. "You can call Stanley and his faculty at two in the morning, and you know they will be there for you."

Unfortunately, the Center's primary benefactors, Mr. and Mrs. Flanzer, were unable to attend the event, but Robert L. Burch III, who contributed a major gift to the Center, spoke about the wonderful care he has personally received from Dr. Chang and his team.

The facility opened for business the following Monday, April 12. All clinicians will be seeing their patients there at least one day a week. (The facility at 60th Street is now closed.) Appointments can be made by calling the central number, 212-305-9535. ■



Top, L to R:
Bernard Brown, Shirlee Brown,
Jean Chang, Stanley Chang, M.D.

Above:
Stanley Chang, M.D. making the
presentation, with Stephen J. Corwin, M.D.
and Lee Goldman, M.D.

Left, L to R:
Stanley Chang, M.D.,
Helen Kimmel, Jack Resnick.

