

## Dr. Robert Slavens benefited so many in our field and community



**"You are my life."** - This is what Dr. Robert Slavens wrote in a card to the ophthalmology residents in training a few years ago. If you were ever a student of Dr. Slavens, you know how true this is!

It is hard to imagine the department of ophthalmology without Bob Slavens. He has been a steady force here for over 50 years. Anyone who trained here or worked here most likely has benefited from the example Dr. Slavens set as a caring and dedicated clinician educator. His conferences were a cherished part of each resident's education.

In recent years, you could find Bob sitting by a computer at the end of the resident clinic corridor supervising and educating residents, sharing stories, and inspiring us all to be our best. Of course, we provided a scribe!

I attended Bob's funeral and celebration of life. The church was so packed, there was no overflow room. The celebration of life was truly that. And what a life! It was overwhelming to see how many lives Bob touched here in Syracuse.

With the approval of Dr. Slavens's family, we have established a fund at the Upstate Foundation to support medical student and resident education within the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences. If you knew him, please consider making a contribution to the

Robert L. Slavens, MD, Memorial Education Fund to help us continue his mission of bringing out the best in our young colleagues.

Bob, you are part of all our lives. Rest in peace.



Robert Fechtner, MD

**You can donate to the Robert L. Slavens, MD Memorial Education Fund over the phone by calling the Foundation at (315) 464-4416.**

**To donate online, go to [www.upstatefoundation.org/donate](http://www.upstatefoundation.org/donate). In the designation drop down box, select "other," then type in the fund name in the comment box.**

## Robert Slavens, MD, passes after decades of service

Upstate Medical University patients and students lost an integral part of vision care and vision care education when Robert L. Slavens, MD, passed away in July.

One of Upstate's longest serving clinicians, Slavens's retired in the spring, closing out a career that dated to the 1960s. Every ophthalmologist who trained at Upstate likely benefited from Dr. Slavens' wisdom and humor.

"Over the years, I often referred to my dad as the 'Atticus Finch of the medical world.' Like that character in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, I believe that had it been socially acceptable, he would have accepted a bag of apples, a sheep, or a box of roofing nails in return for ophthalmology services rendered," said his daughter Cynthia Slavens.

"While the healthcare landscape morphed and changed around him, he never lost sight of his highest priority – patient care. He referred to "rapport" – the soft skills part of the profession – as one of the key priorities for a physician. I hope the healthcare professionals who worked with him will consider this: in the moments when you find yourselves focused on the bottom line, on the stress, and how to do more, I would suggest that you pause and ask yourself: "What would Bob Slavens do?" To look beyond your patients' ailments and get to know who they are as people," she said.

Raised in Cortez, Colorado, in the southwest corner of the state, Slavens graduated from the University of Southern California and earned his MD from the University of Colorado School of Medicine in 1964. Post-graduate training brought him to Upstate. By 1969, he was an attending physician at Upstate. A clinical professor of Ophthalmology, he has been involved in the training of medical students and residents throughout his professional career.

With a private practice in East Syracuse, Slavens was an active member of Upstate's Ophthalmology faculty. His involvement was memorialized in 1986 when he donated to the University Eye Institute a podium. The podium, wood with a distinctive UEL logo on the front, was not only given by Slavens, but built by him. He also built and donated a computer-projector cabinet.

In 2010, Slavens was honored with the Gold Standard Award by Upstate. Then department

chair John A. Hoepner, MD, recounted a number of tasks Slavens had taken on, including serving as attending physician every Tuesday afternoon clinic for residents and medical students, being director of Didactic Medical Education, directing medical student clerkships, coordinating the Ophthalmic Review Series and coordinating grand rounds. There were more, including chairing the resident selection committee and developing tools for surgical instruction.

"He has done more for the Department of Ophthalmology than any other faculty member," Hoepner wrote.



In addition, Slavens was an author. He wrote, and edited, "Drugs in Ophthalmology for the New Resident," which was published in 2009. Other publications include, "Ply Not Thy Fortune From My Malady," a book about the American healthcare system published in 2002; "Oh Say Can You See", A patient's guide to the care of the eye," published in 2001; "An Attorney's Guide to the Defense of a Malpractice Allegation in Ophthalmology," published in 2003 and "Clinical Tips for the New Resident in Ophthalmology," in 2012.

"Generations of patients could turn to Bob Slavens secure in the knowledge that he knew what needed to be done and cared deeply about them. His commitment to Upstate was unsurpassed. Fifty-four years of involvement, 58 if you count his time as a post-graduate student here, ought to impress," said Robert Fechtner, MD, professor and chair of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at Upstate.

In April, while nominating Slavens for emeritus status, Fechtner made the case plain: "Dr. Robert Slavens' service to Upstate and to Ophthalmology is beyond remarkable. His 50-plus years on faculty allowed generations of ophthalmology residents to benefit from experience, wisdom and kindness."

Slavens is survived by his wife of 63 years, Nancy; sons, Douglas and Kevin (Kathleen Lord); daughter, Cynthia; his aunt, Ruth Giacomuzzi; and a number of cousins.

## Promotions

• **Audrey Bernstein, PhD**, was promoted to Professor, effective, effective March 2, 2023.

• **Robert Hill, MD**, was promoted to Clinical Associate Professor, effective March 2, 2023.



### WHAT PATIENTS SAY

In its continuing effort to improve, Upstate Ophthalmology's University Center for Vision Care asks patients for feedback following appointments and procedures. The comments are compiled and shared within the organization.

Below and elsewhere in this newsletter are comments from patients. We thank all who have taken the time to share their valuable feedback, both positive and otherwise, and hope that when you are asked, you will share your thoughts.

*Dr. Fechtner was wonderful.*

*After years at another practice, I feel someone is finally taking an interest in my case.*

*I've always been very happy with my experiences here and I would definitely recommend your practice to others.*

*Personnel at the check in/check out desk are excellent! Always so friendly, courteous, professional and provide a warm welcome for patients. If only all medical offices could have this sort of staff, it would be wonderful.*

*Dr. Liegel is an excellent provider and I enjoy coming in for my visits.*

*Dr. Swan is an exceptional communicator and his listening skills exceed those of any doctor I have ever met. He explains in more depth and clarity than any other doctor I have ever met. This gentleman is a world-class trophy you need to keep forever.*

*Dr. Merriam is an outstanding medical professional. He epitomizes the professionalism we all strive for in our work.*





# FACULTY RESEARCH

SUPPORTED BY FUNDERS



The faculty’s research is supported by extramural, philanthropic, and institutional sources of support. Extramural sources of support include the National Eye Institute, the Veteran’s Administration, the National Science Foundation, Research to Prevent Blindness, and subaward grants from several universities across the country. Here are the newest 2023 awards to faculty within the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences within the Center for Vision Research.

- Audrey Bernstein, PhD**
  - National Science Foundation
  - National Eye Institute
  - Bright Focus
- William Brunken, PhD**
  - National Eye Institute
- William Spencer, PhD**
  - E. Matilda Ziegler Foundation for the Blind
  - Research to Prevent Blindness
- Barry Knox, PhD**
  - Private philanthropic support

## Lucas Schnaidt, MD

Lucas Schnaidt, MD, grew up in the town of Beulah, nestled in rural North Dakota. From a young age, he was intrigued by the perplexities and intricacies of science and modern medicine driving him to excel in his academic studies.

He also required glasses from a young age and still remembers donning his first pair of spectacles in third grade and being awestruck at the sight of the whiteboard at the front of the classroom, crystal clear for the first time in his life. This pivotal moment sparked his interest in eyecare, a flame further fueled by his older sister Savannah, an optometrist, ultimately leading to his pursuit of ophthalmology.

Schnaidt considers himself exceptionally fortunate to have secured a position at SUNY Upstate Ophthalmology, overcoming the challenges of limited exposure to this specialty in his rural surroundings. The next step of his journey brings him back to North Dakota where he will be joining The Eye Clinic of North Dakota, in Bismarck, to provide comprehensive ophthalmological care to a large geographical area including the western half of North Dakota, eastern Montana, and northern South Dakota.

Schnaidt declared himself incredibly appreciative for the invaluable foundational training he received from the dedicated staff and faculty within the Syracuse community. He humbly recognizes the time and effort invested by each of his mentors, equipping him with the skills and knowledge needed for the next chapter of his career. Throughout this arduous and rewarding journey, Schnaidt remained profoundly grateful for the unwavering love and support of his cherished family: his wife, Emily and daughter, Rylee; his parents, Del and Linda; his sister, and brother-in-law, Savannah and Ben, as well as his remarkable co-residents, who have been instrumental in his achievements.

## Zachary Poole, MD

Zachary Poole, MD, grew up in North Carolina surrounded by a family of optometrists. This early exposure sparked his interest in eyecare. Throughout his education, he has been fortunate to have the support of his loving wife and four children. They have been his rock during the most challenging times, providing encouragement and believing in him, which have been vital to his accomplishments.

As his ophthalmology residency drew to a close, Poole expressed appreciation for the personal and professional growth he has experienced over the past three years. He is thankful for the support he received from his fellow residents. He is grateful for the faculty and staff at Upstate and the VA, who have helped him by creating an environment conducive to learning. Additionally, he appreciates the guidance and expertise of his attending physicians, whose mentorship has shaped him into the physician he is today. Upstate and Syracuse will always hold a special place in his heart.

Poole looks forward to the next chapter in his professional journey as he returns to his home state of North Carolina, where he will have the privilege of working alongside his father. As he starts this new phase of life, he is filled with gratitude for the valuable lessons learned, meaningful connections made, and personal growth achieved during his residency. Equipped with a solid foundation, he feels prepared to tackle the challenges and opportunities ahead.

## David Carli, DO

David Carli, DO, grew up in Green Bay, Wisconsin. As the son of two optometrists, he was introduced to the world of eyes at a young age. He started his first job at the age of 15 – working for his parents while learning to be an ophthalmic technician. He started college with the intention of going to medical school after graduation, but along the way he switched fields of study and instead earned an engineering degree. Despite this brief change of heart, he couldn’t escape the feeling that medicine was his true calling and eventually he pursued ophthalmology.

Carli will be joining Price Vision Group in Indianapolis for a Cornea, External Disease and Refractive Surgery fellowship after finishing residency. He and his wife, Emily (a Cazenovia native), welcomed their first child shortly after graduation.

“Although it has certainly been a long road, I can’t believe how quickly it has all flown by. If anyone would have tried to tell me after my high school graduation, or even after my college graduation that I would be here today, I’m not sure I would have believed them,” said Carli. “I’m beyond grateful for all the support I have received over the years. I would specifically like to thank my wife Emily, my mom Ann, my dad Glenn, my siblings, my in-laws Eric and Lesa, and all my coresidents and friends. The opportunity and privilege this program and our great teaching faculty have given me to become an ophthalmologist is an honor, and something I will never take for granted.”



## Carol Miller retires from key role at CVR

Carol Miller, MSED, research administrator for the Center for Vision Research, retired in July after nearly eighteen years of service to Upstate, all of which were in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences.



She first joined the department as an administrative assistant and over the years ascended to be the research administrator for the Center for Vision Research. She was instrumental in onboarding new faculty, assisting faculty with grant submissions, monitoring their expenditures, assisting in hiring innumerable students and staff, serving as an overall troubleshooter for the department — and much more. From 2009 to 2014, Miller was the administrator for the SUNY Eye Institute, a consortium of vision researchers from the four SUNY academic medical schools and the College of Optometry. As many faculty described her, she was “the face” of the Center for Vision Research.

Miller and her husband, Mark, are fond of taking journeys throughout Central New York; however, their newest journey will require frequent visits to Pennsylvania: they are now grandparents to baby Ezra, was born in June. Please congratulate her on her latest life chapter.

## Julie Arrigo takes up key role at CVR

Julie Arrigo, MBA, joined the department as the new research administrator for the Center for Vision Research on July 10. No stranger to Upstate and several faculty members; Arrigo was formerly within the Department of Cell & Developmental Biology, serving in a very similar role for seven years. She will retain the same responsibilities as Carol Miller and help support the Center for Vision Research’s next era of scientific discovery, education, and overall growth. Prior to joining Upstate, she served in various accounting and financial leadership positions in organizations across Central New York.

Arrigo is already making a positive impact and we are delighted she has joined us. Please welcome her to the department.



## WHAT PATIENTS SAY

- Every provider needs to be like Dr. Swan! I just can't say enough good things about him.*
- The technician that roomed me was phenomenal! Made me feel at ease, smiled and took the time to listen to my concerns.*
- I found the entire staff I came in contact with very professional and knowledgeable about their responsibilities.*
- Nurse listened closely and carefully recorded details.*
- A pleasure to attend your practice and receive the very high level of professional efficient, treatment in a caring environment.*
- Everyone is extremely professional and respectful.*



## September is Healthy Aging Month

A lifetime of use can take a toll on eyes. Seniors know well that vision can change over time. Statistics show that while around 60 percentage of people between the ages of 25 and 40 wear corrective lenses, fully 93 percent of those between the ages of 65 and 75 wear glasses or contacts. Eye diseases become more common with age. The average age of patients undergoing cataract surgery is 73. These facts argue for regular eye exams to ensure problems are discovered early, when treatment has the best chance of preventing loss of vision.

In addition, seniors need to be mindful of the threat of sports injuries. As more people discover senior-friendly sports, there is a risk of injury. Pickleball, for instance, is all the rage with many older players finding the game a good, fun workout. However, there are increasing reports of eye injuries blamed on the game. With the ball sometimes taking less than half a second to travel from one paddle to another, there is little time to react to an errant shot. Using proper eye protection and being mindful of the risk can help avoid eye injury and keep seniors in the game.





## Two SUNY Empire Innovation Program scholars join Upstate Center for Vision Research

The Upstate Center for Vision Research recently recruited two State University of New York Empire Innovation Program (EIP) scholars. The program supports the recruitment and retention of faculty with strong track records of research accomplishments.

EIP faculty members are recognized leaders in their fields with national and international reputation for outstanding research, established track records of scholarly achievements, high-impact publications and significant external funding. They lead Centers and Institutes for Research and serve on scientific advisory boards and professional societies. They serve as mentors for junior faculty and aspiring researchers.

### William Spencer, PhD, brings novel photoreceptor disc research

William Spencer, PhD, has joined Upstate as assistant professor Ophthalmology and Visual sciences, assistant professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, assistant professor of Neuroscience and Physiology, and assistant professor of the Neuroscience graduate program.

Spencer received his PhD and completed his postdoctoral work at Duke University where he was funded by career development awards from the NIH and Knights Templar Eye Foundation. His expertise encompasses retinal cell biology, biochemistry, immunology and mass spectrometry. He is also experienced in electron microscopy and serves as the scientific co-director of the electron microscopy core facility at Upstate Medical University.

The Spencer Lab studies rod and cone photoreceptor cells and their outer segment organelle — a type of gigantic primary cilium that is filled with hundreds of light sensitive “disc” shaped membranes. To cope with oxidative stress,



photoreceptor cells continuously renew their disc membranes through a process which is error prone. Defects in disc formation lead to incurable, blinding retinal diseases in humans such as retinitis pigmentosa. The lab’s primary goals are to elucidate the molecular mechanisms underlying photoreceptor disc formation and how defects in this process can lead to accumulation of extracellular vesicles, microglia activation and retinal degeneration. Addressing normal and pathological functioning of the photoreceptor’s outer segment is not only valuable for visual and ciliary science but may lead to the development of future therapies for blinding retinopathies, ciliopathies or other neurodegenerative diseases.

### Darwin Babino, PhD, brings AI experience

Darwin Babino, PhD, has joined Upstate as assistant professor of Ophthalmology, bringing with him extensive experience working with artificial intelligence.

Babino received his PhD from Case Western Reserve University and did postdoctoral work at the University of Washington where his research, “Assessment of murine retinal acuity ex vivo by machine learning of multielectrode array recordings” was supported with grants from the National Eye Institute. It was there that a machine learning and AI protocol was developed to analyze electrophysiological data across several psychophysical paradigms.

In another paper, “Reconstruction of visual images from mouse retinal ganglion cell spiking activity using convolutional neural networks,” Babino found the model demonstrated that artificial neural networks can learn multicellular sensory neural encoding, “and provides a viable model for understanding visual information encoding.”



## “Positive” ophthalmology technician passes

Kristine Moran-Smith, a longtime Central New York ophthalmology technician, passed away in July.

Moran-Smith worked at the Upstate Center for Vision Care in 2021, before illness forced her early retirement. Prior to that, Kris worked in health care, with a focus on vision care, for more than 20 years.

A graduate of Liverpool High School, Moran-Smith was known for her cheerful, positive demeanor.

“I went back on Kris’ paperwork from when she was interviewed for her position,” said Mindy Cole, clinical manager. “One question I always ask candidates is: If you could only use one word to describe yourself what would that word be?”

She then recalled Moran-Smith’s answer, “positive!”

That proved true in her work, co-workers said. “Even with the most difficult, angry or upset patients she could find the light and make something positive

out of it,” said one.

“Even in her short 6 months here, she left a lasting impression on everyone because of her positive outlook on life. Even after everything she went through when we saw her after getting sick, she remembered each and every one of us by name, was so happy to see us and was still always smiling!”

Moran-Smith is survived by her daughter, Olivia Smith; mother, Joyce Moran; brother, Scott Moran and sister, Susan (Tim) Dixon and nephew, David Brown.

She was predeceased by her husband, David, and her father, Bernard Moran.





The Physicians and Researchers of Upstate Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences

With a team of physicians specializing in vision care and research, Upstate Ophthalmology is by far the largest provider of vision care in the region and a vital place of research.

**Chaired by Robert Fechtner, MD,** Upstate's Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences department is a multifaceted organization that provides eye care services through University Center for Vision Care. The Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences Department includes experienced practitioners who serve as faculty at Upstate Medical University, helping educate the next generation of eye-care professionals. The specialists listed below can be reached at Upstate through University Center for Vision Care at 315 464-5230.

**Edita Abazaga, OD**  
Clinical Instructor Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Optometry*

**Mirjeta Abazaga, OD, FAAO**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Optometry*

**Samuel Alpert, MD**  
Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
Medical Director of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Glaucoma*  
*Comprehensive Ophthalmology*

**Robert Fechtner, MD**  
Professor and Chair of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Glaucoma*  
*Comprehensive Ophthalmology*

**Preethi Ganapathy, MD/PhD**  
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
Assistant Professor of Neuroscience and Physiology  
*Glaucoma*  
*Comprehensive Ophthalmology*

**Katherine Liegel, MD**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*General Ophthalmology*

**Stephen Merriam, MD**  
Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
Associate Professor of Pediatrics  
*Pediatric Ophthalmology*

**Robert Swan, MD**  
Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
Residency Program Director of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Uveitis*

Research Faculty

With approximately \$3 million in its current annual research funding, the Upstate Center for Vision Research has obtained more than \$39 million funding in its quest to understand and eliminate blinding diseases. Upstate's team of scientists work on the cutting edge of ocular research and knowledge from modern facilities on Irving Avenue in Syracuse.

**Darwin Babino, PhD**  
*Assistant Professor*  
**Audrey M. Bernstein, PhD**  
*Professor*

**William J. Brunken, PhD, FARVO**  
*Professor*

**Peter D. Calvert, PhD**  
*Professor*

**Preethi S. Ganapathy, MD, PhD**  
*Assistant Professor*

**Samuel A. Herberg, PhD**  
*Assistant Professor*

**Barry E. Knox, PhD**  
*Professor*

**Reyna I. Martinez-De Luna, PhD**  
*Research Instructor*

**Francesca Pignoni, PhD**  
*Professor*

**William J. Spencer, PhD**  
*Assistant Professor*

**Eduardo C. Solessio, PhD**  
*Associate Professor*

**Andrea S. Viczian, PhD**  
*Assistant Professor*

**Michael E. Zuber, PhD**  
*Associate Professor*

Volunteer Faculty

Practicing eye-care professionals bring a depth of experience to Upstate Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences. Volunteer faculty help train students and residents to care for patients and understand real-world challenges.

**Thomas Bersani, MD**  
Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Oculoplastics*

**Mark Breazzano, MD**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Retina*

**Cynthia Briglin-Mavady, MD**  
Clinical Instructor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Comprehensive Ophthalmology*

**Jamin Brown, MD**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Retina*

**Bryant Carruth, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Oculoplastics*

**Lawrence Cecchi, MD**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Comprehensive Ophthalmology*

**Tahsin Choudhury, MD**  
Clinical Instructor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Retina*

**Arthur Coli, MD**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Cornea/External Disease*

**John Costello, DO**  
Clinical Instructor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Comprehensive Ophthalmology*

**Patrick Costello, MD**  
*Resident Instructor*

**Anthony DeVincintis, MD**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Glaucoma*

**Justin Dexter, MD**  
Clinical Instructor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Comprehensive Ophthalmology*

**Robert Druger, MD, PhD**  
Clinical Instructor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Comprehensive Ophthalmology*

**Joseph Gale, MD**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Retina*

**Michael Geiss, MD**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Comprehensive Ophthalmology*

**William Griffith, MD**  
*Clinical Assistant Professor*

**Lev Grunstein, MD**  
VA Medical Center  
*Clinical Assistant Professor*

**Michael Gzik FCLSA ABO/NCLE, COT**  
*Resident Instructor*

**Carl Hanig, MD**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Oculoplastics*

**Alexander Harris, MD**  
Clinical Assistant Professor  
*Comprehensive Ophthalmology*

**Robert Hill, MD**  
Clinical Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Oculoplastics*

**Charles Mango, MD**  
Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Retina*

**Adam Miller, MD**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Comprehensive Ophthalmology*

**Michael Moore, MD**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Comprehensive Ophthalmology*

**Kenneth Novak, MD**  
Clinical assistant professor or Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Comprehensive Ophthalmology*

**Patrick Oellers, MD**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Retina*

**Evis Petrela, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Comprehensive Ophthalmology*

**Arlene Ratanasit Grunstein, MD**  
*Clinical Assistant Professor*

**Timothy Riccardi, MD**  
Clinical Instructor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
Division Chief of Ophthalmology  
*Comprehensive Ophthalmology*

**Kevin Rosenberg, MD**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Retina*

**Bryan Rutledge, MD**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Retina*

**Marc Safran, MD**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Pediatric Ophthalmology*

**Rajeev Seth, MD**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Retina*

**Samuel Spalding, MD**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Retina*

**Stephen Spitzer, MD**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Cornea/External Disease*

**John Sveen, MD**  
Clinical Instructor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Comprehensive Ophthalmology*

**Tina Taggart, MD**  
Clinical Instructor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Comprehensive Ophthalmology*

**Xiaofei Wang, MD, PhD**  
*Clinical Assistant Professor*

**Robert Weisenthal, MD**  
Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Cornea/External Disease*

**Matthew Weinstein, DO**  
Clinical Instructor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Comprehensive Ophthalmology*

**Steven Williams, MD**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Retina*

**Leslie Woodcock, MD**  
Clinical Instructor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
*Comprehensive Ophthalmology*

Emeritus Professors

Upstate Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences is proud to count among its greatest assets emeritus professors who remain committed to improving eye health.

**Ann Barker-Griffith, MD**  
*Professor Emeritus*  
*and former Interim Chairwoman*

**William Griffith, MD**  
*Professor Emeritus*

**Robert Hampton, MD**  
*Professor Emeritus*

**John Hoepner, MD**  
*Professor Emeritus*  
*and Former Chairman*

**James Kinsey, MD**  
*Professor Emeritus*

**Walter Merriam, MD**  
*Professor Emeritus*

**Leon-Paul Noel, MD**  
*Clinical Professor Emeritus*

**Charles Teitelbaum, MD**  
*Professor Emeritus*

**Paul Torrisi, MD**  
*Professor Emeritus*