

Steering Committee Bios

Name: Franz Badura

Institution: Retina International

Background:



He has been the Chair of Retina International, a global umbrella organization for patients with inherited retinal diseases, age related macula degeneration and other acquired retinal diseases since 2020. For over four decades, Retina International (RI) has been the voice of patient-led voluntary groups, charities and foundations worldwide who fund and support retinal research that is seeking a cure for inherited and acquired retinal diseases. From 2012 until 2020 he served as head of the German patient organization, PRO RETINA Deutschland e.V., one of the 43 member organizations of Retina International. In 2005 he initiated and implemented the international research colloquium on retinal degeneration, the annual Potsdam Meeting, which is nowadays an established platform for international exchange for retinal research. Since 2019 he works as a professional patient advocate for the German patient organization in part-time in Berlin, lobbying the needs and interests for people living with IRD or AMD. In 2014 he was admitted into the Hall of Fame of the German Ophthalmologic Surgeons. In 2019 he was awarded the "Bundesverdienstkreuz am Bande" (Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, suspended on neck riband) as well as being the first awardee of the "Theodor-Leber-Medaille der Deutschen Ophthalmologischen Gesellschaft" (Theodor Leber Medal of the German Ophthalmic Society (DOG)).

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: None

Name: Emily Y. Chew, MD

Institution: National Eye Institute/National Institutes of Health

Background:

Emily Chew is the director of the Division of Epidemiology and Clinical Applications and the Chief of Clinical Trials Branch, at the National Eye Institute/National Institutes of Health. She received her medical degree and her ophthalmology training at the U. of Toronto, School of Medicine. She completed her fellowship in Medical Retina at the Wilmer Eye Institute, the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutes and the U. of Nijmegen, the Netherlands. She has designed, conducted, and completed clinical trials and epidemiologic studies in retinovascular diseases including several large randomized trials: the Age-Related Eye Disease Study (AREDS)/AREDS2, the Actions to Control Cardiovascular Risk in Diabetes (ACCORD) Eye Study, and the clinical trials of the international Macular Telangiectasia Project (Mac Tel Project) for the treatment of age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy and macular telangiectasia type 2, respectively. She also collaborates with colleagues at the National Library of Medicine (NLM/NIH) utilizing of artificial intelligence/deep learning on detecting, classifying and predicting the progression of AMD. She is the Editor-in-Chief for Ophthalmology Science.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: None

Name: Todd A. Durham, PhD

Institution: Foundation Fighting Blindness

Background:



Todd Durham is the Senior Vice President, Clinical & Outcomes Research at the Foundation Fighting Blindness, a national non-profit that funds research to treat and cure inherited retinal diseases. In his current role, Todd is responsible for directing the Foundation's Clinical Consortium of retinal experts, managing the Foundation's disease registry, developing strategies to enhance product development, partnering with industry, and providing technical input on partnered programs and investment decisions. Todd has over 25 years of drug development experience. Prior to his current position, he contributed to research on numerous marketed products as Director of Biostatistics with IQVIA's Real World Evidence Solutions, was a doctoral fellow with Bristol Myers Squibb, and worked in various statistical and leadership roles for Novan, Inspire Pharmaceuticals, Quintiles, and as a self-employed consultant. Todd earned a BSPH and MS in biostatistics and a PhD in health policy and management (Decision Science and Outcomes Research) from the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: None

Name: Malvina B. Eydelman, M.D.

Institution: Food and Drug Administration

Background:



Dr. Eydelman is currently the Director of Office of Ophthalmic, Anesthesia, Respiratory, ENT and Dental Devices.

For over 20 years, as an Expert Medical Officer, Senior Medical Advisor, Director of the Division of Ophthalmic, Neurological and Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Devices and Director of the FDA’s Pilot Office of Ophthalmic, Dental, Respiratory, ENT, Anesthesia and Sleep Devices, Dr. Eydelman has played a key role in assuring the safety and effectiveness of medical devices.

Dr. Eydelman guided development of more than 50 international and national standards, oversaw development of numerous regulations and guidance; and convened over 30 public meetings of FDA Medical Device Committees. She originated numerous symposia and workshops to facilitate device innovation and has been instrumental in expediting development of novel endpoints for clinical trials of pioneering technologies. Dr. Eydelman has organized multi-stakeholder public- private partnerships and spearheaded many clinical and laboratory studies designed to improve the safety of medical devices.

Dr. Eydelman received her M.D. degree from Harvard Medical School and a Doctorate in Health Sciences and Technology from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.). M.I.T. Sloan School of Management recently awarded Dr. Eydelman the Advanced Certificate for Executives in Management, Innovation and Technology. Dr. Eydelman has been granted a U.S. patent, published more than 100 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and monographs and presented over 200 lectures worldwide.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: None

Name: Tony D. Gover, Ph.D.

Institution: National Eye Institute

Background:



Dr. Gover is a Program Director in the Division of Extramural Science Programs at the National Eye Institute (NEI). His responsibility of oversight includes NEI's Biotechnology and Engineering Program, Translational Research Program (R24) and Small Business Program for the anterior eye segment. Prior to serving as a Program Director for NEI, Dr. Gover served as the Acting Director and Civilian Deputy Director for the Clinical and Rehabilitative Medicine Research Program (CRM RP) at the United States Army Medical Research and Development Command (USAMRDC). At CRM RP, Dr. Gover oversaw Army, Defense Health Program, and Congressional Special Interest funds directed toward developing innovative clinical and rehabilitative medicine solutions. The research program focused on investigating strategies to repair catastrophic wounds, improve pain

management, maximize return to duty rates and improve the overall quality of life for Service Members who sustained traumatic injuries. Dr. Gover was the scientific lead for USAMRDC's Horus Vision Restoration Project with a goal of developing cortical brain machine interfaces to restore vision for our injured Service Members and Veterans. Dr. Gover received his Ph.D. in Neuroscience from the University of Maryland Baltimore. His academic career focused on understanding the physiology of sensory afferent neurons and how that physiology changed as a result of physical damage or as a result of neuroinflammation.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: None

Name: Philip C Hessburg, M.D.

Background:

Dr Hessburg received his Bachelor's degree from St John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, and is a graduate of Marquette University School of Medicine. He completed an internship, and after years as a Flight Surgeon in the USAF, completed a four-year residency in ophthalmology at the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. He served two full terms on the Council of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, has served as an Associate Examiner for the American Board of Ophthalmology, and is past President of the Michigan Ophthalmological Society. He was a member of the founding Board of Directors of the Outpatient Ophthalmic Surgery Society, a permanent faculty member of the Welsh Cataract Congresses for several years, and a very early member of the American Intraocular Implant Society (AIOIS).

The American Academy of Ophthalmology Board of Trustees presented him with the Secretariat Award in 2004 and the Senior Achievement Award in 2006. In 1992 he was duly elected to the Chinese American Ophthalmological Society. Dr Hessburg has been awarded the Statesmanship Award of the Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology. He considers the greatest honors of a long career in ophthalmology to be named the Guest of Honor of the American Academy of Ophthalmology at its annual meeting in Las Vegas in 2006, and of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS) in 2014.

In 1985, Dr Hessburg was the AIOIS representative defending its members before the "Big Cutter" hearings in the U.S. Senate Committee Hearings of Senator Pepper of Florida. (Cataract Surgery: Fraud, Waste and Abuse. Subcommittee on Health and Long-Term Care of the Select Committee on Aging. House of Representatives 99th Congress, July 1985.) Active in both business and creative technical elements related to ophthalmology, he was Founder and Board Chairman of Health Applications Network and of Mediventures Inc. He is past President of Medical Eye Services of Michigan. He has published over 50 scientific papers and numerous book chapters. He invented the Hessburg anterior chamber intraocular lens, the Hessburg/Barron corneal trephine, the Hessburg subpalpebral lavage system, and the Hessburg Swim Machine.

He was the founder (1972) and volunteer President of the Detroit Institute of Ophthalmology (D10), a not-for-profit corporation focusing on programs related to ophthalmic education, research and aid to the visually impaired. He is currently the Medical Director of the Detroit Institute of Ophthalmology, now the Education and Research Division, Department of Ophthalmology, Henry Ford Health System. Although he retired in December 2005 from active ophthalmic practice at Grosse Pointe Ophthalmology/Henry Ford Health System he was asked to rejoin the Senior Staff of the Department of Ophthalmology in June 2012 at the time of the merger of the Detroit Institute of Ophthalmology and the Henry Ford Health System.

Since 1988 a major portion of the funds necessary to support the DIO tax-exempt organization has come from ***EyesOn Design***, a highly acclaimed annual car show which is an international celebration of automobile design of the past, the present, and the future.

In October 2022, The Detroit Institute of Ophthalmology will host the 10th ***The Eye, The Brain and The Auto World Research Congress*** related to the safe operation of a motorized vehicle. In October 2023 the Institute will host the 11th ***The Eye and The Chip*** world research congress related to the bionic eye.

Dr Hessburg is married to Betsy Haupt of Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin. They have five grown children, and 17 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Name: Mark S. Humayun, MD., Ph.D.

Institution: FARVO, University of Southern California

Background:



MARK S. HUMAYUN, MD, PHD, is the Cornelius J. Pings Chair in Biomedical, Sciences, Professor of Ophthalmology, Biomedical Engineering, and Integrative Anatomical Sciences, Director of the USC Ginsburg Institute for Biomedical Therapeutics, and Co-Director of the USC Roski Eye Institute. Dr. Humayun is an internationally recognized pioneer in vision restoration. He assembled a team of multidisciplinary experts to develop the first FDA approved artificial retina, Argus II, for sight restoration. He has more than 125 issued patents and over 250 peer reviewed publications. He has a google scholar H index of 100.

Dr. Humayun is a member of the U.S. National Academies of Medicine, Engineering, and Inventors. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), American Society of Retinal Specialists (ASRS), and Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO).

For his extraordinary contributions he was awarded the United States’ highest technological achievement, the 2015 National Medal of Technology and Innovation by President Obama. He is the recipient of the 2018 IEEE Biomedical Engineering Award, the 2020 IEEE Medal for Innovations in Healthcare Technology, the Charles Schepens award by the American Academy of Ophthalmology in 2021. He was named top 1% of ophthalmologists by the U.S. News & World Report.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure:

- Alcon Laboratories Inc., Consultant/Advisor, Lecture Fees/Speakers Bureau
- Duke Eye Center – Patents/Royalty
- Golden Eye/Intellimicro- Equity, Patent/Royalty
- IRIDEX – Patent/Royalty
- Johns Hopkins University – Patents/Royalty
- Lutronic Vision – Equity, Consultant/Advisor
- Outlook Therapeutics – Equity, Consultant/Adv Consultant/Advisor
- Regenerative Patch Technologies - Consultant/Advisor, Equity, Patent/Royalty
- Replenish - Consultant/Advisor, Equity, Patent/Royalty
- Second Sight Medical Products, Inc. -Patent/Royalty

Name: Colonel Scott F. McClellan, MD, MPH, MSS, United States Army

Institution: Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC), Bethesda, MD

Background:



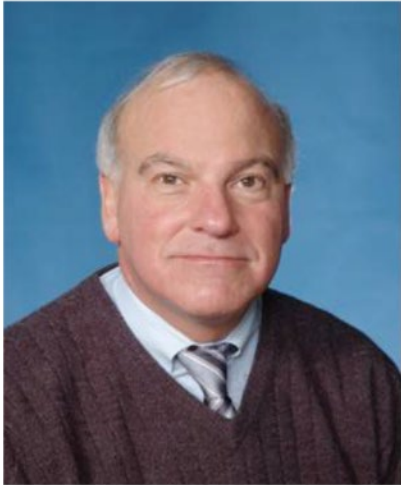
Colonel Scott F. McClellan was fellowship trained in Cornea, External Disease, and Refractive Surgery at the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, Maryland in 2014. He served two years as the Chief of Surgery and later as the Deputy Commander for Clinical Services at the Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center on Fort Meade, Maryland. From 2016-2019, he was the Chief and Chairman of the Ophthalmology Service within the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center-Uniformed Services University's Department of Surgery in Bethesda, Maryland. He served as the Director, U.S. Army Medical Command (MEDCOM) Root Cause Analysis Event Support and Engagement Team (RESET) at the Office of the Surgeon General (OTSG) in Falls Church, VA from 2019-2021. He graduated from the Army War College Distance Education Program (AWCDEP) in July 2021 and recently transitioned to the role of Branch Chief, Vision Center of Excellence (VCE), Defense Health Agency (DHA) Research & Engineering in August 2021.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: None

Name: John McInerney

Institution: Blind and Vision Rehabilitation Services (BVRS) of Pittsburgh

Background:



John McInerney is a member of the Board of Directors of BVRS and recently served as the Interim President and CEO of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind from April 2018 to June 2020. He lost his vision through X-Linked RP and has BS and MS degrees in Engineering from the University of Notre Dame.

He also serves on the Board of The Support Sight Foundation (TSSF) who's mission is to save sight for millions of people who suffer from age-related macular degeneration (AMD). He continues to serve on the Development Panel for a NIDILRR-funded IMPACT (Initiative to Mobilize Partnerships for Successful Assistive Technology Translation) Center through the School of Health and Rehabilitation Science at University of Pittsburgh. The panel supports the IMPACT Center's research initiatives, training programs, and assessments.

He retired from the Westinghouse Electric Company as VP of Engineering in 2015 after a successful engineering and management career in the commercial nuclear power industry and consulted in the nuclear industry until accepting the interim CEO position at PAB in April 2018. Over His engineering career, he contributed from both a management leadership and technical perspective to a broad breath of nuclear plant engineering disciplines including systems and mechanical component design, safety analysis, and instrumentation and control systems/hardware design. In an executive management capacity, he served as Vice President of Westinghouse's automation business with nearly 1,200 employees worldwide and revenue of approximately \$400M. In addition, as Vice President, New Plant Design Delivery, he was responsible for completion of the engineering design for the standard AP1000 nuclear power plant, of which four units are operating in China and two units are nearing completion outside Augusta, Georgia.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: None

Name: Elvin Ng

Institution: Food and Drug Administration

Background:



Elvin Ng is Assistant Director for the Retinal and Diagnostics Team. As part of the Ophthalmic Devices Division in the Center for Devices and Radiological Health at the FDA, his team is responsible for the total product lifecycle review for ophthalmic medical devices, participation in the development of guidance documents and consensus standards, and development and interpretation of regulations and policies. The Retinal and Diagnostics team reviews devices that include artificial intelligence/deep learning diagnostic software, vision restoration bioelectric implants, and head mounted display therapeutics.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: None

Name: Tieuvi Nguyen, PhD

Institution: Food and Drug Administration

Background:



Tieuvi Nguyen currently serves as Director of the Division of Ophthalmic Devices (DOD) in FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH). She received her PhD in Biomedical Engineering. In her role as Director, she oversees the scientific, compliance and regulatory work products related to premarket approval, post-market performance and surveillance, and compliance and enforcement of ophthalmic devices. She also provides scientific and technical leadership and guidance on the development of new regulations and policy issues, including the development of FDA guidance and consensus standard documents. Prior to joining FDA, she held numerous positions in the pharmaceutical and finance industries.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: None

Name: Daniel Palanker, PhD

Institution: Stanford University, CA

Background:



Daniel Palanker is a Professor of Ophthalmology and, by courtesy of Electrical Engineering, and a member of the Hansen Experimental Physics Laboratory at Stanford University. He received MSc in Physics in 1984 from the Yerevan State University in Armenia, and PhD in Applied Physics in 1994 from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.

Dr. Palanker studies interactions of electric field with biological cells and tissues, and develops optical and electronic technologies for diagnostic, therapeutic, surgical and prosthetic applications, primarily in ophthalmology. In the optical domain, these studies include laser- tissue interactions with applications to ocular therapy and surgery, and interferometric imaging of physiological signals. In the field of electro-neural interfaces, Dr. Palanker is developing retinal prosthesis for restoration of sight to the blind, and implants for electronic control of other organs. In the field of imaging, he is working on interferometric detection of neural signals, including Optoretinography.

Several of his developments are in clinical practice world-wide: electrosurgical scalpel PlasmaBlade (Medtronic), ocular scanning laser PASCAL (Iridex), femtosecond cataract surgical system Catalys (Johnson&Johnson), and neural stimulator for tear secretion TrueTear (Allergan). Several others are in clinical trials, including the retinal prosthesis PRIMA (Pixium Vision).

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: My patents about retinal prosthesis are licensed by Stanford University to Pixium Vision, and I serve as a consultant to Pixium Vision.

Name: Jon Pearlman, PhD

Institution: University of Pittsburgh

Background:



Jon Pearlman is associate professor and chair of the Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology and director of the International Society of Wheelchair Professionals or ISWP (see video below). Pearlman earned his BS and MS in mechanical engineering at the UC Berkeley and Cornell University, respectively. Pearlman completed his PhD work Rehabilitation Science and Technology at the University of Pittsburgh in 2007, with an emphasis on assistive technology design and transfer to

developing countries. His research interests are in the areas of participatory action design, assistive technology transfer methods, and new product development.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure:

Dr. Pearlman receives research grant support from the National Institute of Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research; the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation; and the US Agency for International Development.

Name: Michael X. Repka, MD, MBA

Institution: Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Background:



Michael X. Repka, MD, MBA is the *David L. Guyton, MD and Feduniak Family Professor of Ophthalmology* and a professor of pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He has been at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine since 1983. He received his medical degree from the Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University in 1979 and completed his ophthalmology residency at Wills Eye Hospital. He completed his MBA at Johns Hopkins University in 2010. Dr. Repka led the Pediatric Eye Disease Investigator Group funded by the National Eye Institute from 1997 to 2009 as chair and currently serves as a member of

the operations and executive committees.

Dr. Repka currently serves as Vice-chair for Clinical Practice of the Wilmer Institute and Division Director of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Adult Strabismus at the Wilmer Institute of Johns Hopkins University. He serves as Medical Director for Governmental Affairs of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. He is a past chair of the FDA's CDER Ophthalmic and Dermatological Advisory Committee and is AAO's CPT Advisor to the AMA's CPT Editorial Panel.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: None

Name: Calvin W. Roberts, M.D.

Institution: Lighthouse Guild

Background:

Dr. Calvin Roberts is Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at Weill Cornell Medical College and CEO and President of Lighthouse Guild International, the leading provider of programs and services to people who are blind and visually impaired. Prior to coming to Lighthouse Guild in 2020, Dr. Roberts was Chief Medical Officer of Bausch and Lomb.

Dr. Roberts spent the first 25 years of his career in academia at Weill Cornell. He led the early trials on the use of topical nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs for ocular use and pioneered the concept of pretreatment of patients prior to cataract surgery. Earlier in his career, Dr. Roberts research studied the corneal endothelium, and he co-developed the wide field specular microscope with Dr. Charles Koester.

A graduate of Princeton University and Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, Dr. Roberts did his internship and residency at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, and cornea fellowships at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary and the Schepens Eye Institute.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: None

Name: José-Alain Sahel, MD

Institution: University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

Background:



José-Alain Sahel, MD is Distinguished Professor and Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology and the Director of the UPMC Eye Center at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and the Eye and Ear Foundation Endowed Chair, Pittsburgh, PA USA, as well as Professor (Exceptional Class) Sorbonne University, Director Institute Hospitalo-Universitaire (IHU) FOReSIGHT, Paris France.

Dr. Sahel, who was born in Algeria, studied medicine at the University of Paris Medical School and completed his Ophthalmology Residency at Adolphe de Rothschild

Ophthalmology Foundation, Paris, France, and a at Louis Pasteur University in Strasbourg, France. He completed a Research Fellowship at Harvard Medical School in Boston, MA, USA where he was also a Visiting Scholar and lecturer.

Dr. Sahel is the founder of the Vision Institute in Paris, a Professor at the Sorbonne University, Paris, and Honorary Professor from University College London, where he held the Cumberledge Chair for many years. He was Chairman of Ophthalmology at the National Ophthalmology Hospital, Paris.

He co-developed novel therapies for vision restoration and is the author of over 690 peer-reviewed publications and an inventor of more than 40 patents and developed several first-in man vision restoration therapies.

Dr. Sahel co-founded a dozen startup companies, e.g., Fovea Pharma, GenSight Biologics, Pixium Vision. He is a member of several Editorial Boards, including Sci. Transl. Med. He is an elected member of eight academies and societies (e.g., Academic des Sciences-Institute de France, Leopoldina Academy), and Doctors Honoris Causa of University of Geneva.

Dr. Sahel has been the recipient of numerous honors and awards, which include Officer of the Legion of Honour, and Member of the Académie des Sciences, Institute de France, and the Leopoldina German Academy of Sciences. Dr. Sahel is an Honoris Causa Doctorate at the University of Geneva. Recent awards include the Falling Walls Breakthrough in Life

Sciences (2021) and the Chica and Heinz Schaller Foundation Award in Translational Neuroscience (2022).

Conflict of Interest Disclosure:

Consultant (with no consulting fee)

- Pixium Vision, GenSight Biologics, SparingVision, Tilak Healthcare, Bluebird

Personal Financial Interests (Stock/Stock Options)

- GenSight Biologics, Sparing Vision, Prophesee, Chronolife, Tilak Healthcare, VegaVect, Inc., Avista, Tenpoint, SharpEye

Grants:

- Institut Hospitalo-Universitaire FOrEsiGHT (ANR-18-IAHU-0001)
- The Edward N. & Della L. Thome Memorial Foundation Awards Program in Age-Related Macular Degeneration Research
- United States Department of Defense (W81XWH-22-9-0011 & 2019-447-005)
- NIH National Institutes of Health CORE Grant (P30 EY08098)/ RPB Research to Prevent Blindness, Unrestricted Grant
- Department of Defense Grant on Optogenetics
- European Research Council (ERC) Synergy Helmholtz Grant (#610110)

Name: Michelle Gabriele Sandrian, PhD

Institution: Food and Drug Administration

Background:



Michelle Sandrian is a Biomedical Engineer on the Retinal and Diagnostic Devices Team. As part of the Ophthalmic Devices Division in the Center for Devices and Radiological Health at FDA, Dr. Sandrian is a lead and consulting Total Product Lifecycle medical device reviewer, with experience evaluating Premarket Approvals (PMA), Premarket Notifications (510(k)), De Novo Classification Requests, Investigational Device Exemption Studies, Pre-Submission Requests, 513(g) Requests for Designation, Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA), and Breakthrough Device submissions. She also contributes to the development of FDA guidance documents and international consensus standards. Her technical expertise includes optical coherence tomography imaging, lasers, artificial intelligence-based diagnostic software as a medical device, bioelectronic implants for vision restoration, and electromagnetic compatibility of medical devices.

Dr. Sandrian earned a BS in Biomedical Engineering (Electrical Engineering concentration) from the University of Rochester School of Engineering and a PhD in Bioengineering (Neural Engineering concentration) from the University of Pittsburgh Swanson School of Engineering. She was a Whitaker Foundation International Postdoctoral Research Scholar at the Medical University of Vienna Center for Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering (Vienna, Austria). Prior to joining FDA in 2015, Dr. Sandrian was an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Ophthalmology and Bioengineering at the University of Pittsburgh.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: None

Name: Elizabeth Skidmore, PhD, OTR/L

Institution: University of Pittsburgh

Background:



Elizabeth Skidmore is a Professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy and Associate Dean for Research in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh. She received her BS in Occupational Therapy from Western Michigan University, and her MS and PhD in Rehabilitation Science from the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Skidmore is a federally-funded scientist with expertise in rehabilitation intervention development, testing, and implementation. Her studies seek to optimize training methods that promote long-term independence, community participation, and subsequent health among adults with disabilities. She served on the task force responsible for writing the 2021 NIH Research Plan on Rehabilitation and

is an inducted Fellow of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine and the American Occupational Therapy Association.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure:

Dr. Skidmore receives research grant support from the National Institute of Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research; the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation; the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council; the Canadian Institute of Health Research; and the Taiwan National Health Research Institute.

Name: Mariia Viswanathan, M.D, Ph.D.

Institution: Vision Center of Excellence, DHA Research and Engineering

Background:



Mariia Viswanathan is an ophthalmologist and scientist with 20 years of experience in research environments in addition to managing an eye care clinical practice. She completed traineeship in the Ophthalmic Molecular Genetics Section, Ophthalmic Genetics and Visual Function Branch, National Eye Institute with a National Institute of Health Intramural Research Training Award (IRTA). She received Doctor of Philosophy in Ophthalmology at the Filatov Institute of Eye Diseases and Tissue Therapy of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine, Odessa, Ukraine. Dissertation: The efficacy of photodynamic therapy in the treatment of bacterial keratitis considering changes in acid- base balance of the

tear film. She completed her residency in Ophthalmology, Kyiv National Medical University, Kyiv, Ukraine. Mariia Viswanathan has extensive clinical experience in direct patient care, strong expertise in clinical trial design, product and medical device development. Special expertise in recombinant protein characterization through functional assays and structural studies. She serves as Vision Care Readiness section lead at the Vision Center of Excellence, DoD (R&E)

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: None

Department of Defense Liaison Bio

Name: Q. Tian Wang, Ph.D., P.M.P.

Institution: Program Manager, Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

Background:



Dr. Wang currently serves as Program Manager of the Hearing Restoration Research Program (HRRP) and Vision Research Program (VRP) at the Department of Defense (DOD) Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP), overseeing the execution of \$30 million per year in Congressional appropriations and the management of a neurosensory injury portfolio totaling ~\$200 million.

Dr. Wang has over 20 years of experience managing complex biomedical research programs in academia and in DOD. At the CDMRP, Dr. Wang has supported multiple programs and program areas including Vision, Hearing and Balance, Spinal Cord Injury, and Psychological Health/Traumatic Brain Injury. In her current role, Dr. Wang leads Integrated Program Teams to develop and execute investment strategies for the HRRP and VRP and to provide life cycle management of over 150 awards in program areas of vision, hearing, and balance research. Her work involves broad collaboration and coordination with US Army Medical Research and Development Command, DOD components, the National Institute of Health, the Department of Veterans Affairs, academia, industry, consumer advocacy organizations, and other stakeholders.

Dr. Wang holds a Ph.D. degree in Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Cell Biology from Northwestern University. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Stanford University School of Medicine. She is a member of the Army Medical Department Regiment and a graduate of the Civilian Leader Advanced Training program at the Army Management Staff College. Dr. Wang has broad scientific expertise in areas of biochemistry, molecular biology, cell biology, developmental biology, genetics, epigenetics and genomics. Prior to joining the CDMRP, Dr. Wang was Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago where she directed research programs on the epigenetic regulation of heart disease and heart regeneration.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: None