

# **Announcing exciting changes for Berkeley Optometry!**

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### OFFICE OF THE DEAN

John G. Flanagan





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John G. Flanagan, PhD, DSc(hc), FCOptom, FAAO, FARVO Dean, Herbert Wertheim School of Optometry and Vision Science Professor, Optometry and Vision Science

Thank you for your gift in 2020. Your ongoing support drives teaching and research innovation for 21<sup>st</sup> century optometry and vision science.

Dear Jane,

Just a few weeks ago, Chancellor Christ announced a transformational investment in the School of Optometry and as part of that transformation the school has a new name, the Herbert Wertheim School of Optometry and Vision Science. We look forward to continuing the exceptional level of clinical and educational excellence that we have been accustomed to for nearly 100 years, which has been made possible because of alumni and friends like you.

As we look to a new year, I am confident that Berkeley Optometry will lead the way for our profession. As was the case when you were a student, we offer world-class education and clinical training at the hands of our world-class faculty. Indeed, the highest quality faculty drives the highest quality students — and vice versa!

This year, we bid farewell to 11 distinguished faculty members celebrating their retirement. Together, they represent 367 years of service to Berkeley Optometry, service that has provided the foundation of many successful careers among our alumni — a lasting legacy I hope you will celebrate.

As a graduate, you are a vital part of the past and future success of the School of Optometry. Today, I hope you will join us again and renew your gift. When you do, you will make a crucial investment in the next generation of optometrists and vision scientists following in your footsteps.

Your gift allows us to attract, recruit, support, and elevate our exceptional faculty to maintain the Berkeley Optometry legacy of excellence — excellence greatly increased by our retiring professors, Drs. Martin Banks, John Corzine, Robert Dister, Sarah Fisher, Dennis Fong, Cheslyn Gan, Gunilla Haegerstrom-Portnoy, Michelle Hoff, Nicholas Kerry, Jeff Ko, and Barry Winston.

With your support, our potential to drive teaching and research innovation for the 21<sup>st</sup> century is far-reaching — and exciting. Strengthening our award-winning faculty will impact our nation and world, resulting in new standards of care and increased access to primary vision care. Ongoing, important research initiatives include:

- Our dedicated myopia control clinic, the first in the nation, offers breakthrough treatment to improve lives and drive the future international standards of care.
- We're improving health outcomes of some of the most common conditions, such as amblyopia, through the use of innovative treatments, including video games.
- We are leaders in important research in gene therapy for rare eye diseases and AMD, neurodegenerative diseases such as glaucoma, dry eye therapy, and infectious diseases of the cornea.

We say it all the time: Berkeley Optometry provides 10-out-of-10 training, and we rely on the entire school family to allow us to continue doing so — by helping us provide scholarships to *every* student and ensuring they receive the mentoring and career guidance needed for long and fulfilling careers. Our alumni go out into the field and represent not just Berkeley Optometry but the profession as a whole.

Generous alumni support also ensures Berkeley Optometry's infrastructure keeps pace. With thanks to our donors, Phase II of our three-phase Pre-Clinic Renovations is complete, with an expanded teaching space and equipment upgrades. We also hope to renovate the old Business Office to serve as a flexible student learning space; and establish a permanent Virtual Learning Studio to provide for live, interactive education — to keep our community up-to-date on the latest advances in optometric care and prepare and excite the pipeline of tomorrow's vision science leaders.

Thank you for joining me in congratulating our retiring faculty members, each one with a deep desire to create a better and brighter future for Berkeley Optometry. By combining our efforts and energy today, we will carry on their legacy of excellence — and enter a shining, new era in the history of Berkeley Optometry.

Please don't wait to renew your investment in our vision for the School of Optometry and in the future of our field.

In gratitude,

John G. Flanagan, PhD, DSc(hc), FCOptom, FAAO, FARVO

Dean and Professor

P.S. We appreciate your investment in 2020 in the future of vision care. Please renew your forward-looking gift to Berkeley Optometry — through the mail or at **give.berkeley.edu/supportopt** — in support of our exceptional students and faculty, and the public we serve.

# Jane, celebrate a new chapter for Berkeley Optometry with a gift today!



**Herbert Wertheim School of Optometry** and Vision Science

# Your Berkeley giving by fiscal year:

**2021:** \$75 **2020:** \$75 **2019:** \$75

(The university's fiscal year is from July 1 - June 30)

# Yes, I want to support OD & VS students today!

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Thank you for your generous support!

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