Celebrating a site for sight
New facility is welcoming space where sight-saving research, patient care and outreach can flourish

I really think of my new building as a "site for sight," said Casey director David Wilson, M.D. “Over the past 20 years, we have had remarkable success in both medical science, community outreach and education. With the stagnation of the population, the need for eye services becomes even more critical.”

The $10 million, 60,000 square foot building provides youngsters with a full range of comprehensive and subspecialty eye care under one roof, along with services for all ages in retinal, ophthalmic genetics and visual rehabilitation. The building reflects the generosity of many donors and is named in recognition of the Oregon State Elks Association, which generously gave $20 million for the eye clinic and supported children’s eye care at the OHSU Casey Eye Institute for 70 years.

"This building is going to bring new innovations, new ideas, and new frontiers for the people with sight-threatening conditions here and abroad," said Andreas Lauer, M.D., the new Children’s Eye Institute building by a striking glass atrium, the first free-standing eye institute for pediatric patients in North America.

The architects of the building are focused on the needs of patients with sight-threatening conditions here and abroad. "We are creating a place where patients with sight-threatening conditions can come to be assessed, treated and follow-up care," said Andrew de la Cruz, M.D., the director of the Elks Eye Foundation. "This is a place where patients with sight-threatening conditions can come to be assessed, treated and follow-up care," said Andrew de la Cruz, M.D., the director of the Elks Eye Foundation.

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“Ginger Rogers said, she did everything Fred Astaire did, only in reverse. I have a friend who’s been through eye surgery in high tech, and he said the way it felt procuring essential eye care services during the pandemic.”

**Clinical Care**

- **Research**
  - The COVID pandemic posed particular challenges for research of ophthalmic genetics programs. However, this did not mean all the projects were on hold. The availability of federal and foundation grants, the use of telehealth, and the use of data and techniques from past studies have allowed us to continue much of the work that was planned. We have also been able to use the time to focus on new research initiatives. The center will be able to continue to support research in the area of ophthalmic genetics.
  - **What is the problem?**
    - The problem is the loss of vision caused by eye disease. It is estimated that 28% of people over the age of 50 will experience vision loss due to age-related macular degeneration, which is the leading cause of vision loss in the United States.
    - **What is the goal?**
      - The goal is to develop treatments that can slow or prevent the progression of age-related macular degeneration.
    - **What is the plan?**
      - The plan is to use a combination of genetic and chemical therapies to target the underlying cause of age-related macular degeneration. This will involve identifying the specific genes that are associated with the disease and developing drugs that can inhibit their activity.

**Community Outreach**

- The mission of our community outreach program is to reach domestic and foreign communities that have limited access to eye care services. Our goal is to provide basic and immediate eye care services to these communities. We have been able to use the time to focus on new outreach initiatives. The center will be able to continue to support outreach in the area of ophthalmic genetics.
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