

The Glaucoma Foundation (TGF) and Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC) Announce Inaugural Cohort of Hill-Eisenberg Glaucoma Fellows.

The Patricia Hill-Dr. Sanford Eisenberg Fellowship in Glaucoma was founded this spring by Ms. Patricia Hill, a member of the board of directors of The Glaucoma Foundation. These annual grants will support women and minorities in the study of glaucoma.

Ms. Hill: "I come from two generations of eye-care professionals. Through my work with TGF and the creation of this fellowship, I hope to encourage and support diversity and expand opportunity within this new generation of physicians."

The first two grants have been awarded to fellows Dr. Jessica Scott and Dr. Sejal Patel at Columbia University Medical Center, under the auspices of Dr. Jeffrey M. Liebmann.

Dr. Jessica Scott is a recent graduate from The Ohio State University Ophthalmology Residency and completed her medical degree from Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia. She will use her fellowship to fully engage the clinical and research aspects of glaucoma, and to attend meetings of organizations such as American Glaucoma Society and Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) to enrich her learning experience and network with influential people in the field.

Dr. Sejal Patel is particularly interested the social and economic factors that impact healthcare. A fellowship with the Assistant Surgeon General, studies and service abroad, and work within the

Guyanese community in the Bronx, NY where she was a medical student and a resident at Montefiore Medical Center have all informed her belief in the need for meaningful patient access to medical services. She will use her grant to study and pursue creative resolutions to these issues.

Dr. Liebmann, Shirlee and Bernard Brown Professor of Ophthalmology, Vice Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology, and Director of Glaucoma Service at CUMC is a longstanding member of the board of directors of TGF. “My colleagues and I are optimistic that increasing the level of diversity among eye-care professionals may help reduce disparities in care. We are grateful to Ms. Hill for providing these fellowships to some of our most talented and dedicated young members.”

The Glaucoma Foundation’s president and CEO, Elena Sturman, sites the timeliness of this fellowship. “There is much we can do to champion diversity in our country and communities. We are indebted to Ms. Hill for launching this initiative and we look forward to following the experiences of Drs. Patel and Scott over the next year and beyond.”

For thirty-five years, The Glaucoma Foundation has worked to identify, encourage, and fund scientific research into the potentially blinding disease of glaucoma, and to serve glaucoma patients and their families through essential education and support.