

# The Bascom Palmer Society

Recognized as the George E. Merrick Society at the University of Miami

**Honoring the Institute's most generous benefactors whose gifts exceed \$1 million, the Bascom Palmer Society was created in memory of the Institute's namesake, Bascom Headon Palmer, M.D., an ophthalmologist who pioneered eye care in Miami.**

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Mr.* & Mrs. Willard Butcher			Donations listed as of May 31, 2017.

## Salah Foundation Supports Macular Degeneration Research

Nearly a century ago, Joseph and Nora Salah emigrated from Lebanon to the United States in pursuit of the American dream. With little more than a pickup truck and a wheelbarrow, their son Jim started a construction business in Boston that grew into a major company. He later ventured into real estate development and heavy equipment leasing in the Northeast. Like many successful individuals, Jim Salah understood the importance of giving back to his community. Upon his death in 2009, the Salah Foundation was founded as a living tribute to his lifelong success and generosity. Today, that nationwide commitment to philanthropy lives on through his niece, Noreen Salah Burpee, who was honored with a prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 2013.

Burpee serves as executive director of the private foundation, which has won numerous awards for its philanthropic work. She guides the foundation's invitation-only grant process.

Under her direction, the Salah Foundation recently awarded a two-year, \$1 million grant to Bascom Palmer for research into



**Noreen Salah Burpee**

age-related macular degeneration (AMD), one of the major causes of vision loss among the elderly.

"AMD is a condition we all get with advancing age," said Burpee. "My father, age 90, and my mother-in-law, age 92, both have macular degeneration."

A South Florida resident, Burpee said Bascom Palmer is known for leadership in research and clinical care for patients with the aggressive "wet" form of AMD, as well as the "dry" form of the disease, which causes a more gradual loss of vision.

"Bascom Palmer's scientists and physicians conduct leading-edge research on AMD, as well as other types of eye diseases. They deserve our Foundation's support," Burpee said. "Our grant can help increase the understanding of macular degeneration and make a difference in the lives of patients here in South Florida, across the country and throughout the world."