



## Ophthalmology Education Expands

Bascom Palmer's tradition of excellence has earned worldwide recognition for outstanding research and patient care. In particular, the Institute works for the global advancement of ophthalmology through medical education. *Ophthalmology Times*, an industry periodical for and by ophthalmologists, continually ranked Bascom Palmer's residency program the best in the nation.

In addition to the Institute's extensive offerings of continuing medical education courses for practicing ophthalmologists, accredited residency, fellowship and observership programs, and weekly "Grand Rounds" where unique medical cases are discussed, Bascom Palmer recently announced a unique graduate degree - **Master of Science in Vision Science and Investigative Ophthalmology (MVSIO)**.

"Bascom Palmer's new master of science degree confirms the Institute's role as the world leader in ophthalmology education."

- Sanjoy Bhattacharya, M. Tech., Ph.D.

This innovative program, the first of its kind in the world, offers comprehensive training in ophthalmic translational research, problem-based learning, management, and a skill set available only at Bascom Palmer.

The MVSIO program focuses on science and laboratory research, including the disciplines of electrophysiology, biochemistry and molecular biology, as well as exposure to ocular clinical details and ocular pathology. It will prepare students to further their careers in vision science and investigative ophthalmology.

By training graduate students in research, research management skills and enterprise management, the goal of the degree is to educate the next generation of leaders in vision science. These include clinician and non-clinician graduates with medical degrees from foreign countries; medical school graduates interested in joining an ophthalmology residency program; science graduates who want to extend their intellectual horizons; college graduates who intend to improve their medical education prior to entering medical school; professionals in industry, academic research settings, regulatory bodies and philanthropic organizations; and prospective entrepreneurs in the growing field of vision care.

The program is scheduled to begin in August 2016. Ten students will be enrolled per year, for the two-year program. Professor of Ophthalmology Sanjoy K. Bhattacharya, M. Tech., Ph.D., is the director of the MVSIO graduate program. For more information, visit [bascompalmer.org](http://bascompalmer.org). ■

## Partners on the Journey of Scientific Discovery



Dr. Eduardo Alfonso, Dr. David Tse, UM President Julio Frenk, Dr. Nasser Ibrahim Al-Rashid, Fahad Al-Rashid, Ibrahim Al-Rashid, Ron Stone and Dean Pascal Goldschmidt

**THE DR. NASSER IBRAHIM AL-RASHID ORBITAL VISION RESEARCH CENTER** was formally dedicated in March, welcoming the first cure-based, orbital research laboratory in the world where basic science will be translated into clinical cures to transform the lives of patients with eye disease.

The new research center at Bascom Palmer celebrates the culmination of a bond nearly three decades in the making between Dr. Nasser Ibrahim Al-Rashid and David T. Tse, M.D., the director of the eponymous center.

"The dedication of this magnificent orbital research center is the result of a fortuitous chance encounter, fortified by years of friendship and trust," said Tse, who holds the Dr. Nasser Ibrahim Al-Rashid Chair in Ophthalmic Plastic, Orbital Surgery, and Oncology. "Dr. Al-Rashid's commitment to partner with Bascom Palmer on a journey of progress and scientific discovery not only will yield academic excellence and research breakthroughs, but will also have a profound global effect on the quality of life for future generations of patients with orbital diseases."

The center's laboratories and facility, located in the Evelyn F. and William L. McKnight Vision Research Center, was made possible thanks to a transformative \$10 million gift from the Al-Rashid family to support the work of Tse, whom Al-Rashid first met 27 years ago.

In honor of the dedication, Al-Rashid traveled from Dubai, and was accompanied at the ceremony by his sons, Fahad and Ibrahim. He said his commitment stems from his belief in the University of Miami and its passion for research and exceptional clinical care.



Dr. Nasser Ibrahim Al-Rashid with Dr. David Tse

"I am dedicated, with pleasure, to make sure this center, at this University, will prove to the entire world - east and west - that this is where the treatments that are not yet available will emanate from," said Al-Rashid. "That is my dream to see this happen."

The Center is dedicated to the investigation of molecular underpinnings of a broad spectrum of orbital diseases in which effective therapy remains elusive, and to transform the culture of biomedical research to hasten the discovery and implementation of new treatment and prevention strategies.

"Dr. Al-Rashid, you are loved and revered here," said Tse. "This center is now your new home, your new address. You are a partner with us on the journey of scientific discovery." ■