

# J. William Harbour, M.D.

*Mark J. Daily Chair in Ophthalmology*

---



With nearly two decades separating their training at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, renowned ophthalmologists Mark J. Daily, M.D., and **J. WILLIAM HARBOUR, M.D.**, had not met before their shared vision for pioneering research and patient care brought them together at a ceremony at which Harbour was presented with the Mark J. Daily Chair in Ophthalmology that supports retinal research.

A retinal surgeon and ocular oncologist, Harbour's genetic discoveries have transformed the diagnosis and treatment of uveal melanoma, retinoblastoma, ocular lymphoma and other intraocular tumors. He pioneered the use of gene expression profiling in uveal melanoma, and was the first to report the use of next-generation genomic sequencing techniques in this

cancer. Harbour's work resulted in the discovery of the first and only metastasis suppressor gene (BAP1) to be identified in uveal melanoma. This has led to new treatments and discovery of the BAP1 familial cancer syndrome that is characterized by a risk of uveal and cutaneous melanoma, mesothelioma and other cancers. He developed the first and only molecular prognostic test for ocular melanoma that is now the gold standard in the field. Harbour also discovered that the retinoblastoma eye cancer gene RB1 is involved in common cancers, such as lung cancer, and described how the (RB1) protein is regulated.

Harbour has been the principal investigator on major research grants from the National Cancer Institute, National Eye Institute, Melanoma Research Foundation, Melanoma Research Alliance, Research to Prevent Blindness, and other foundations. He founded the Collaborative Ocular Oncology Group and the Ocular Oncology Research Society as well as other collaborative initiatives in eye cancer treatment and research. He is the author or co-author of 100 abstracts and book chapters, more than 100 peer-reviewed articles in journals such as *Science*, *Cell* and *Nature Cell Biology*, and has been invited to deliver 158 lectures.

The Macula Society has presented Harbour with the Paul Henkind Memorial Award Lecture for outstanding retinal research and the Young Investigator Award. He received the Shaler Richardson, M.D. Service to Medicine Award from the Florida Society of Ophthalmology and the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology's Cogan Award for important and worthwhile contributions to ophthalmic research.

---

*"My expertise in taking care of patients with cancers inside their eye is complemented by other world-class Bascom Palmer physicians who treat patients with tumors on other parts of the eye. This has resulted in Bascom Palmer being the international destination for eye cancer care of unsurpassed quality."*