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- **Quark MATISSE**
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- **Pfizer B1181003**
- **GSK BAM114341**
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- **DRCR S**
- **DRCR T**

Welcoming Chirag Jhaveri, MD

The Retina Research Center and Brian B Berger, MD, PA are pleased to announce Dr. Chirag Jhaveri as the newest member of their team. Dr. Chirag Jhaveri is a board certified ophthalmologist specializing in diseases of the retina and vitreous. After finishing his internship at Emory School of Medicine in Atlanta, he completed his residency at LSUHSC and Ochsner Clinic Foundation in New Orleans where he served as chief resident his final year. Interested by the complex pathology and intricate surgeries of vitreo-retinal diseases, he completed a prestigious fellowship at Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois.

As a member of the Retina Research Center, Dr. Jhaveri understands the importance and vitality clinical research has in generating a wealth of new discoveries in advancing ophthalmological care.

In addition to age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and complex surgeries of the retina, Dr. Jhaveri also has an interest in rare white spot syndromes, ocular melanomas, and pediatric retinal diseases.



Microperimetry- A New Experimental Measure of Visual Function

OPTOS Microperimetry is now being used at the Retina Research Center to evaluate new treatment for macular diseases. This state of the art technology measures retinal function simultaneously with retinal thickness to evaluate therapies. The new SLO tracking feature increases test reliability as it compensates automatically for involuntary eye movements during the examination. The focus of the Retina Research Center continues to be providing the highest quality clinical research using the best drugs and equipment under development.

Fiscal Year 2012- BEST Program Update

The Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services/Division for Blind Services (DARS-DBS) **Blindness Education, Screening, and Treatment (BEST)** Program assists uninsured adult Texas residents with payment for urgently needed eye treatment. The intent of the BEST Program is to prevent blindness, and the program serves qualified individuals with diabetic retinopathy or any other eye disease determined to be an urgent medical necessity by both the applicant's eye doctor and the DBS.

The Texas Legislature originally authorized BEST in 1997, and its only source of funding is a voluntary \$1.00 donation when Texans apply for or renew their Texas driver's license or DPS-issued identification card. The program grew steadily through the first years, but then donations were negatively impacted by the recession in 2008. Over the past several years, donations have been on the upswing and program donations remain steady.

Currently, there is no one on the waiting list and we are encouraging applications. Ophthalmologists serving areas of Texas that have historically underutilized the program, such as from North, East, West, and Central Texas, are especially encouraged to utilize the program. The application form has recently been simplified and updated to include intravitreal injections.

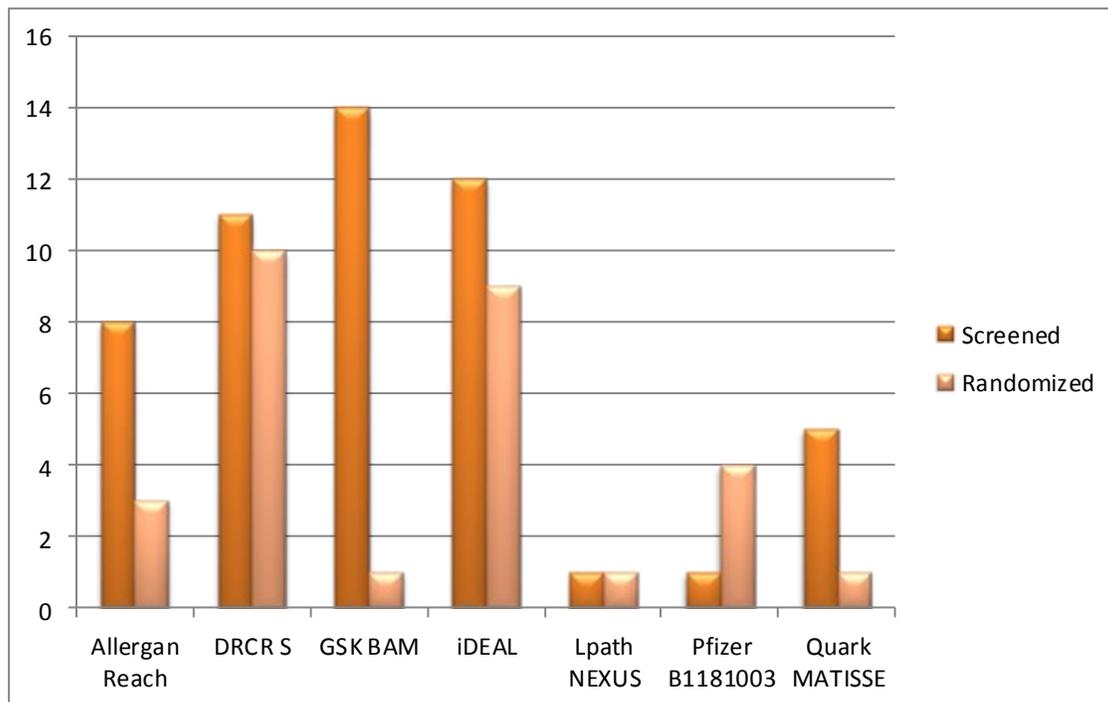
The BEST program uses the same fee schedule as Medicare. In fiscal year 2012, the BEST program funded medical/surgical treatment services to **100** individuals that were in immediate danger of losing their sight. Through the BEST Vision Screening program, screening services for **4,287** people were provided in 2012 throughout the state.

Individuals applying for BEST services must apply through their physician. We welcome and encourage your participation in this important program to protect the eyes of Texas. The BEST application and guidelines can be found at www.dars.state.tx.us/dbs/best/index.shtml. If you have any questions about the BEST Program, please call 1-800-628-5115 or e-mail your questions to DARS.Inquiries@dars.state.tx.us. Dr. Berger is the state medical director for DARS and the medical advisor to the BEST program since its inception.

New Protocol Amendment for GSK BAM Trial

On September 18, GlaxoSmithKline amended the ongoing BAM1143141 protocol to allow the participation of patients with CNV (exudative ARMD) in the fellow eye. This amendment will significantly expand the number of potential participants and increase the enrollment rate of this trial. If you have patients with geographic atrophy who were not considered due to wet ARMD in the fellow eye, please reconsider their participation. Enrollment is projected to end in December 2012, so please reserve your patient a space now!

RRC Enrollment in Active Trials



Special Thanks

A special thank you goes to the following for referring patients into our ongoing clinical trials:

Sam Key, MD; Stacie Virden, OD; Quynh Vu, OD; Glen Underwood, OD; Kyle Rhodes, MD; Anne Miller, OD; Thomas Henderson, MD; Theresa Wagner, MD; Susan Shauger, OD; John Ryder, OD; Diane Davis, OD; John Odette, MD; Shilpa Patel, OD; David Tybor, OD; Mark Schaper, OD; Laurie Sorrenson, OD; James Meany, OD; Russell Swann, MD; Aarti Mahadeva, OD; Kim Trinh, OD; Barbara Coldiron, OD

Enrolling Trials: Patient compensation is provided for all trials

Wet Age-Related Macular Degeneration

Allergan REACH - Single and repeat dose study of the safety and efficacy of AGN-150998 in patients with treatment naïve exudative age-related macular degeneration.

Dry Age-Related Macular Degeneration

GSK BAM114341 - A phase II study of GSK933776, a monoclonal antibody, in patients with geographic atrophy (GA) secondary to age-related macular degeneration. Fellow eye CNV is permitted.

Pfizer B1181003 - A Phase II study evaluating RN6G (monoclonal antibody binding amyloid beta) in patients with geographic atrophy (GA) secondary to age-related macular degeneration.

Uveitis

XOMA X052130/ CL3-78989-005 - A study of monthly subcutaneous injections of gevokizumab in the treatment of active or steroid maintained stable non-infectious intermediate, posterior, or pan-uveitis.

Diabetic Macular Edema

iCO Therapeutics and Juvenile Diabetes Foundation (iDEAL Study) - A Phase II study of repeated intravitreal injections of iCO-007 as monotherapy or in combination with ranibizumab or laser photocoagulation in the treatment of diabetic macular edema with involvement of foveal center.

Quark ORK202 (Matisse) - An open-label dose escalation study of PF-04523655 alone and in combination with ranibizumab versus ranibizumab alone in diabetic macular edema.

DRCR T - A comparative study of ranibizumab, aflibercept, and bevacizumab for diabetic macular edema.

Proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy

DRCR S - Prompt panretinal photocoagulation versus intravitreal Lucentis with deferred panretinal photocoagulation in patients with proliferative diabetic retinopathy.

Presentations & Publications

IVANA GUNDERSON and BRIAN BERGER, MD

“Lessons Learned” Pfizer B1181003 Investigator Meeting, Chicago, July 2012

CHIRAG JHAVERI, MD

“Suprachoroidal Silicone Oil Following Retina Detachment Surgery” The American Society of Retina Specialists annual meeting, Las Vegas, August 2012

BRIAN BERGER, MD

“Retinal Thickness in People with Diabetes and Minimal or No Diabetic Retinopathy: Heidelberg Spectralis Optical Coherence Tomography” accepted for publication IOVS, October 2012