

enVISION

News From the UC Davis Eye Center

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***Clinician,
Pathologist,
Teacher***



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Tyrone Glover, M.D. and
Thomaysa Glover

Tyrone Glover, M.D.

BY: ERIN J. BAUER

From Smithfield, Virginia to the UC Davis Eye Center Clinic, Dr. Tyrone Glover has left a mark on this world and the many lives he affected through his service, time and surgical talents. For more than 27 years, the Eye Center residents have benefited from Dr. Glover's dedication to educating and training the next generation of ophthalmologists. As a member of our volunteer clinical faculty (VCF), Dr. Glover spends hours each month teaching Eye Center residents surgery techniques and excellence in patient

care, and provides aspiring ophthalmologists with exposure to a career path outside of academic medicine. Dr. Glover has been the recipient of the William Briggs Teaching Award for providing exceptional training and dedicated service to the department for 25 years. He is also a two time recipient of the VCF Outstanding Clinical & Surgical Teaching Award (1994, 2014). Easily and decisively, Dr. Glover has been an inspirational fixture amongst the VCF and a dear friend to the faculty.

Dr. Glover was very generous to give us more of his time and sat down for an interview to shed light on his career, family, and how he became part of the clinical faculty at the Eye Center.



● **Birthplace?**

I was born and reared in Smithfield, Virginia; the “Ham Capital of the World.” Sacramento has been home to me and my family since 1989. You could say I’ve gone from “Ham Town” to “Sac Town.”

● **Tell us about your family:**

My father worked at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, and my mom worked at Smithfield Foods, a Fortune 500 Company in this town of < 10,000 residents. Although not college-educated, they encouraged me and promoted and supported my education. My uncle was a biochemist, which probably ignited my interest in science. I met my wife, Thomaysa, while attending Hampton University, and we married during our senior year at Hampton. Thomaysa is an educator and retired school board trustee. She served two four-year terms on the San Juan Unified Board with Jim Livingston (who is well known in the department) and served one term with the Sacramento County Office of Education. She has always been there to support me throughout my career. Together,

we have two “30 something” sons and one grandson. My first son was born the second year of my residency and the second was born six months after my residency. Our eldest son and his wife are private practice lawyers in Denver and our youngest son works part time. He has an accounting degree and is studying computer science.

● **When did you first become interested in medicine?**

I always had an interest in science, but it wasn’t until I was a junior in high school when I considered a career in medicine. My chemistry teacher asked if I ever thought about being a doctor. The seed was sown. After I graduated salutatorian, I went on to college and majored in biology. I spent a summer at Duke University Medical Center doing of all things, bladder cancer research. That solidified my decision to go to medical school. After college, I went to medical school at the University of Virginia and graduated as the only African American Student

in my class of 135. It was disconcerting to be the only student of any color, but not surprisingly, that pattern has followed me throughout my career. I completed a flexible internship and ophthalmology residency at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas.

● **When did you first become interested in ophthalmology?**

When I was in my second year of medical school I was leaning towards a cardiology career. Early in my third year, I did an elective rotation in ophthalmology and met Dr. Harry Flynn, who at that time was the Chief Resident at UVA. He became a mentor and inspiration to me. My career path changed literally overnight. To my delight, I would cross paths again with Dr. Flynn at Brooke Army Medical Center where he was one of the retina attendings. He is now the J Donald M Gass Distinguished Chair & Professor at Bascom Palmer. I also had 14 weeks of experience in ophthalmology before starting my residency. I learned that ophthalmology is a cottage industry; everyone I encountered was incredibly kind. Dr. Charles Leone Jr., M.D., our oculoplastic attending was also very influential on my career and desire to pursue oculoplastics as my specialty. Dr. Leone was highly skilled, a true gentleman and a fine attending. The Chair of our department was John Shock, who I considered a genius. He was extraordinarily smart but did not lord it over others. He would find retinal holes that no one else could see! He was also Bascom Palmer trained.

I hadn't thought about this before; seems to be a connection between Virginia and ophthalmology:

- Harry Flynn: UVA medical school and residency
- Tyrone Glover: UVA medical school
- Harinder Chahal, UVA medical school
- Charles Leone, UVA undergrad

● **Did anyone try and discourage you from specializing in ophthalmology?**

I had a rheumatologist faculty advisor in medical school who told me he was disappointed in me for wanting to be "just an eyeball doctor." He handed me a book titled, "Ophthalmic Manifestations of Systemic Vascular Disease." He said, "Remember, it's all connected." I've kept that book on my bookshelf as a reminder.

● **What was the first surgery you performed?**

My first surgery in residency was a blepharoplasty. I spent two months in plastic surgery as a medical student and as an intern and had done a lot of blepharoplasties, so for me it was easy. I always had an interest in art so plastics was a good fit for me. Furthermore it allowed me to be creative and think outside the box. I love the variety of cases. And, ophthalmology, I learned, was the perfect blend of surgery and medicine.

● **Can you share with us your career path?**

During medical school I received the Army Health Professions Scholarship, which paid full tuition, books, equipment and fees, plus a small monthly stipend. With this I incurred a minimum three-year obligation to serve. So following residency, I spent three years in Frankfurt, West Germany at the 97th General Army Hospital as a Major and Assistant Chief of Ophthalmology. We left in 1984 and moved to United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, where I was the Chief of Ophthalmology at the Keller Army Hospital. After a year of treating cadets and retirees, I moved on to do a fellowship in Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary under Arthur S. Grove, Jr., a brilliant surgeon and exceptional teacher. After I completed my fellowship, I spent three years as the Chief of the Oculoplastics Service at Brooke Army Medical Center. Dr. Mary O'Hara, now Director of the Pediatric Ophthalmology Services at the Eye

Center, and her husband Dr. William Lloyd, and I all knew each because of our training and teaching assignments at Brooke. I was also very proud of the fact that during my three years teaching, three of my residents went on to do fellowships in Oculoplastics. Two went to Mass Eye & Ear and one to Wills. After completing 12 years of active duty at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and teaching/researching for three years I retired and joined Kaiser in Sacramento. I retired in 2013 after practicing at Kaiser for 24 years.

- **What is the most interesting medical case you have encountered?**

I thought I had seen it all until I saw a little girl in Haiti several weeks ago with anthrax involving her entire face and eyelids. The Haitian doctors knew more about how to treat it than I did. I was astounded but he was nonplussed.

- **What brought you to Sacramento?**

Besides my wife's brother who lived in Stockton, CA, we had no family living in California. But, I was being actively recruited by Kaiser Permanente in Sacramento, and they gave me an offer I couldn't refuse. Prior to moving to Sacramento, my knowledge of the city was limited to the King's coach at the time, Bill Russell, and later Ralph Sampson, a King's player who was a star at UVA. He remains the tallest human being I've seen up close.

- **How did you get involved with the Eye Center?**

I always enjoyed teaching and was introduced to the VCF at the Eye Center by Dr. Craig Berris, who had been a member of the VCF for about nine years. After speaking with Craig, I reached out to Dr. Mannis and soon started coming to the Cannery Building 1-2 times a month from 1 PM – 5 PM using my vacation time. When Dr. Keltner, who was the chair of the department at the time, learned I was using my vacation time to serve on the clinical faculty, he wrote a letter to

my Physician in Chief and I was given "teaching time" to fulfill my commitment to UC Davis. When I started on the VCF, there were no faculty members who specialized in oculoplastics and reconstructive surgery. So, the residents would also rotate through my office to get some exposure and experience.

- **What does your average day look like as a VCF?**

I arrive at the clinic around 1 PM and join the resident—typically first year residents assigned to work with me that day. Some days we finish seeing patients in the clinic awaiting care, but most days we head straight to the hospital, review the cases and develop a game plan for rounding. The hospital is a maze so I depend on them to lead me around. It's a good 10,000 step workout, so it keeps me in shape.

- **What has made our residents stand out to you over the years?**

Many of the residents have stood out as exceptionally bright, caring physicians. I developed a special bond with Bill Rosen, who spent as much as six weeks at Kaiser learning plastics while he was a resident at the UCD Eye Center. Bill went on to Dartmouth and did an informal fellowship in plastics. We continue to stay in touch and I tried to be a resource to Bill as he started his professional career. We enjoyed touring New Orleans together the last time the Academy meeting was there in 2014. I'm also very pleased to have worked with Hari Chahal, M.D., who is our first UCD Eye Center resident to do a formal, ASOPRS-approved fellowship in oculoplastics. I had the pleasure of working with Denise Satterfield, Anne Khong, Loan Tran, Jane Galustian and Daniel Rich on multiple cases. I also remember Esther Kim, who was very talented and did many surgeries while a resident. Quite a few of the residents have gone on to practice at Kaiser so that keeps us connected.

Tyrone Glover, M.D.
and UC Davis residents



- **After 27 years, what keeps you involved as a member of the VCF?**

I like being around bright, inquisitive people. Mark and the crew have done an excellent job in selecting our residents. I also love seeing the sparkle in their eye as they begin their formal training. The residents remind me that what we are doing is important. It's easy to become jaded or cynical as one ages in the profession. I learn a great deal from each of them, particularly on the medicine side of the profession. We also get to discuss career plans, practice settings, burnout and life in general. I have made some friends who are part of the VCF—James Ruben, Bob Miller and JP Perlman—to name a few.

- **What do you do when you're not at the Eye Center?**

I have been involved with the Capital Medical Society (local affiliate of the National Medical Association) for a very long time and have been president since 2012. We work closely with MAPS (UCD Undergrads) and SNMA (UCD Medical School) in a mentoring capacity. I offered many shadowing opportunities in my office through MAPS when I was practicing. The students often come from disadvantaged backgrounds and are underrepresented in the medical profession. Hopefully, one of these bright, young students will pursue a career in ophthalmology and add to the diversity of the Eye Center. I am also involved with NEPO and the CMA Council of Health Professions and Quality of Care. In the past I've worked with Dr. Frank Sousa conducting interviews as part of the School of Medicine admission selection committee.

- **Let me rephrase the last question. What do you do for fun?**

Travel! My wife and I love traveling and experiencing other cultures—Africa, Europe, South America, Central America, Hawaii, Mexico and the Caribbean. I am also a member of two men's book clubs so I am constantly reading, and I enjoy skiing and really bad golf! I also travel to Haiti each year with four other surgeons to volunteer at the Hôpital Sacré Coeur in Milot, Haiti through the CRUDEM Foundation. We see more than 600 patients in one week, and it is always challenging, yet a rewarding experience. I plan to go again next year.

- **What do we do particularly well in our training program and at the Eye Center?**

I am very impressed with the quality of the eye team here at UC Davis. Mark Mannis has recruited a very diverse field of smart, talented leading edge clinicians and scientists. I am blown away by their presentations at the Annual Napa Scientific Symposium! Dr. Mannis must be extremely proud. The residents benefit directly from their love of teaching, enthusiasm, knowledge and surgical abilities. It's important that we prepare the next generation of ophthalmologists for the tsunami of baby boomers that will soon arrive at our shores. The residents here see a lot of patients and they do more cataract surgeries than most programs in the country so I think we are well prepared.

- **What are your hopes for the training program in the future?**

Continue to do what we are doing and see a lot of patients. The first year residents spend a lot of time doing clinical work and could benefit from more time for didactic study. On the other hand, we do learn from our patients and the more you see, the more you know. Once you know it, you can see it. I am very impressed by the residents. They are walking, talking Wikipedias.

It was a pleasure getting to know Dr. Glover more and learn about his life story. Of course, we only scratched the surface on Dr. Glover's professional and personal achievements and his many contributions to the profession and to the community. I hope you all have the opportunity to meet Dr. Glover during a clinic visit, Eye Center event or at a symposium. We thank Dr. Glover for his outstanding commitment to our residents, patients and to the faculty at the Eye Center. Our program flourishes because of talented and compassionate people like Dr. Glover.

Tyrone Glover, M.D. and
Thomaysa Glover



Teaching the Ophthalmologists of Tomorrow: VOLUNTEER CLINICAL FACULTY

BY: NANDINI GANDHI, M.D.

At the UC Davis Eye Center, our core faculty is complemented by 24 volunteer clinical faculty (VCF) who take time from their own bustling practices to teach our residents. Our VCF's are central to the educational mission of UC Davis, allowing us to provide our residents with diverse and well-rounded training that extends far beyond the walls of the Eye Center. Our VCF volunteer at least 20 hours a year for medical student or resident teaching at the eye center, though most spend upwards of 50 hours per year involved in direct teaching of our trainees. Some are alumni of the residency program, others are friends of the department from our community; all are dedicated to teaching the next generation of eye physicians and surgeons.

Our VCF volunteer their time in countless ways: many spend half days staffing our busy outpatient and inpatient consult service, providing invaluable support and educational guidance to our (exhausted and infinitely grateful) first year residents. Our current consult resident told me that he was able to perform several minor procedures with the volunteer faculty last week alone, and that he now feels more confident in his skills going forward. Others host residents in their own practices, allowing them to participate in the

care of their own patients, and allowing the residents a rare window into different models of healthcare delivery. We are also grateful to those faculty who spend time lecturing in our Basic Science Series and who proctor our hands-on skills sessions with first year residents at the beginning of their training. Finally, several of our VCF proctor and oversee our student-run free clinics, contributing to the education of our medical students and to the health of our community.

I asked some of the residents to tell me the first words that came to mind when I said the words "Volunteer Clinical Faculty." Their responses were:

"Awesome"
"Godsend"
"Amazing"
"Love them"

"The very best addition to our program, ever." (That's more than a few words, but this particular resident literally could not help herself.)

The residents' words truly say it all. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and committed group of volunteer faculty as a part of our department, and appreciate their central role in educating, guiding and mentoring our future ophthalmologists.