



Duke Eye Center



MARCH 27-28, 2026

12th Annual Duke Fellows Advanced Vitreous Surgery Course

WASHINGTON DUKE INN • DURHAM, NC

COURSE DIRECTOR

LEJLA VAJZOVIC, MD, FASRS

COURSE CO-CHAIRS

DILRAJ S. GREWAL, MD, FASRS

XI CHEN, MD, PhD

DURGA S. BORKAR, MD, MMCi

2026



**"PROGRESS COMES FROM
DOING THE UNCONVENTIONAL."**

– Dr. Robert Macheimer

DUKE RETINA FACULTY



Lejla Vajzovic, MD, FASRS
Course Director



Dilraj S. Grewal, MD, FASRS
Course Co-Chair



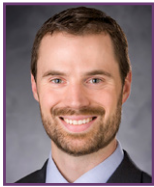
Xi Chen, MD, PhD
Course Co-Chair



Durga S. Borkar, MD, MMCI
Course Co-Chair



Oleg Alekseev, MD, PhD



Michael J. Allingham, MD, PhD



Jason Fan, MD, PhD



Sharon Fekrat, MD, FASRS



Majda Hadziahmetovic, MD



Glenn J. Jaffe, MD



Eleonora G. Lad, MD, PhD



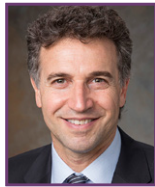
Yannek I. Leiderman, MD, PhD



Ramiro S. Maldonado, MD



Arpita S. Maniar, MD



Miguel A. Materin, MD



Prithu S. Mettu, MD



Stefanie G. Schuman, MD



Amol A. Sura, MD



Cynthia A. Toth, MD

Dear Esteemed Participants,

On behalf of the Duke Eye Center Retina Faculty, we are delighted to warmly welcome all trainees, guest faculty, and industry partners to the 12th Annual Duke Fellows Advanced Vitreous Surgery (fAVS) Course, held at the Washington Duke Inn in Durham, North Carolina.

This course continues to serve as a dynamic forum dedicated to advancing education, innovation, and collaboration in vitreoretinal surgery. We are honored to welcome vitreoretinal surgical fellows, medical retina, and uveitis fellows from across North America, along with our valued international colleagues. We are also pleased to include PGY-3 residents preparing to pursue retina fellowships, whose enthusiasm and curiosity represent the future of our field.

Our goal remains to create an engaging and high-impact educational experience. This year's program brings together an exceptional group of distinguished faculty and industry partners who will share their expertise through didactic lectures, interactive panel discussions, and hands-on surgical learning sessions designed to enhance both knowledge and surgical skills.

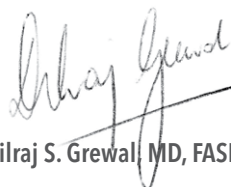
With over one hundred fellows and residents participating, the course promises lively discussions, meaningful networking, and opportunities to learn from leaders in vitreoretinal surgery.

Your participation is what makes this meeting truly special. We are grateful for your presence and look forward to an inspiring and collaborative program together in Durham.

Warm regards,



Lejla Vajzovic, MD, FASRS



Dilraj S. Grewal, MD, FASRS



Xi Chen, MD, PhD

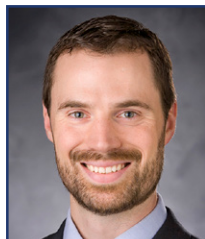


Durga S. Borkar, MD, MMCI

DUKE RETINA FACULTY



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Mathew W. MacCumber, MD, PhD
Rush University/
Illinois Retina Associates
macretina@gmail.com

7:00 - 8:00 AM	Registration & Breakfast
7:00 AM - 5:30 PM	Exhibits
8:00 - 8:10 AM	Welcome Remarks Lejla Vajzovic, MD, FASRS
8:10 - 9:40 AM	Session 1: Retinal Pharmacotherapy Update <i>Chairs:</i> Eleonora G. Lad, MD, PhD & Alice Zhang, MD
8:10 - 8:18 AM	Neovascular AMD: Therapies in the Pipeline Prithu S. Mettu, MD
8:18 - 8:20 AM	Discussion
8:20 - 8:28 AM	Port Delivery System Surgical and Refill Exchange: Tips and Tricks Margaret A. Chang, MD, MS
8:28 - 8:30 AM	Discussion
8:30 - 8:38 AM	Novel Anti-VEGF Agents: Clinical Trial vs. Real World Data Durga S. Borkar, MD, MMCi
8:38 - 8:40 AM	Discussion
8:40 - 8:48 AM	Biosimilars in Retina 2026: A Cost-Effective Solution or Clinical Compromise? Stefanie G. Schuman, MD
8:48 - 8:50 AM	Discussion
8:50 - 8:58 AM	Dry AMD Biomarkers and Therapies in the Pipeline Eleonora G. Lad, MD, PhD
8:58 - 9:00 AM	Discussion
9:00 - 9:08 AM	Management of Diabetic Retinopathy: Guidance from the DRCR Retina Network Mathew W. MacCumber, MD, PhD
9:08 - 9:10 AM	Discussion
9:10 - 9:18 AM	Best Practices in RVO Management Michael J. Allingham, MD, PhD
9:18 - 9:20 AM	Discussion
9:20 - 9:28 AM	IRDs: 5 Exciting Developments Nieraj Jain, MD
9:28 - 9:30 AM	Discussion
9:30 - 9:38 AM	Uveitis Therapeutic Pipeline in 2026 Dilraj S. Grewal, MD, FASRS
9:38 - 9:40 AM	Discussion

9:40 - 10:08 AM	Corporate Presentations
9:40	Genentech, Inc.
9:46	AbbVie
9:49	Astellas
9:52	EyePoint, Inc.
9:55	Ocular Therapeutix
9:58	Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
10:01	ZEISS
10:04	Castle Biosciences
10:06	Norlase
10:08 - 10:30 AM	Break
10:30 - 11:20 AM	Session 2: Inherited Retinal Diseases, Peds and Ocular Oncology <i>Chairs:</i> Arpita S. Maniar, MD & Safa Rahmani, MD
10:30 - 10:38 AM	Tumor Biopsy Miguel A. Materin, MD
10:38 - 10:40 AM	Discussion
10:40 - 10:48 AM	Tiny Patients, Big Anxiety: Making Peace with Pediatric Retina Safa Rahmani, MD
10:48 - 10:50 AM	Discussion
10:50 - 10:58 AM	IRDs: 5 Clinical Pearls Nieraj Jain, MD
10:58 - 11:00 AM	Discussion
11:00 - 11:08 AM	What Not to Miss - Ocular Oncology in your Every Day Clinic Basil K. Williams, MD
11:08 - 11:10 AM	Discussion
11:10 - 11:18 AM	Unmasking the Pseudomelanoma Michael I. Seider, MD
11:18 - 11:20 AM	Discussion
11:20 - 11:50 AM	Current and Emerging Therapies in Medical Retina, IRD, Uveitis, and Ocular Oncology Panel Discussion <i>Moderators:</i> Michael J. Allingham, MD, PhD & Dilraj S. Grewal, MD, FASRS <i>Panelists:</i> Oleg Alekseev, MD, PhD Jason Fan, MD, PhD Nieraj Jain, MD Ramiro S. Maldonado, MD Amol A. Sura, MD Basil K. Williams, MD

11:50 – 11:52 PM **Introduction of the 2025 Robert Machemer Foundation and International Retinal Research Foundation Fellowship Awardee**
Cynthia A. Toth, MD
Chairman, The Robert Machemer Foundation Board

11:52 AM – 12:00 PM **Biomechanics of the Vitreous in Vivo with Brillouin Spectroscopy**
Taariq Mohammed, MD
2025 Robert Machemer, MD/IRRF Fellowship Awardee

12:00 – 1:15 PM Lunch & Satellite Symposium

12:15 – 1:00 PM Satellite Symposium Suvvimo: The Power of Continuous Delivery
Arghavan Almony, MD & Jonathan Brugger, MD
Sponsored by Genentech, Inc.

1:15 – 2:25 PM Session 3: Surgical Retina: My Approach
Chairs:
Margaret A. Chang, MD, MS & Sharon Fekrat, MD, FASRS

1:15 – 1:23 PM **Ergonomics in the Operating Room**
Basil K. Williams, MD

1:23 – 1:25 PM **Discussion**

1:25 – 1:33 PM **Management of Posterior Lens Subluxation - Options for the Vitreoretinal Surgeon**
Alice Zhang, MD

1:33 – 1:35 PM **Discussion**

1:35 – 1:43 PM **Approaching Young Patients Without a PVD: Surgical Tips and Tricks**
Xi Chen, MD, PhD

1:43 – 1:45 PM **Discussion**

1:45 – 1:53 PM **Scleral Buckling - My Approach**
Alice Zhang, MD

1:53 – 1:55 PM **Discussion**

1:55 – 2:03 PM **True Cost of Retinal Detachment Repair**
Jason Fan, MD, PhD

2:03 – 2:05 PM **Discussion**

2:05 – 2:13 PM **Risk Factors of PVR**
Mathew W. MacCumber, MD, PhD

2:13 – 2:15 PM **Discussion**

2:15 – 2:23 PM

2:23 – 2:25 PM

2:25 – 3:15 PM

3:15 – 3:36 PM

3:15
3:21
3:24
3:27
3:30
3:32
3:34

3:36 – 4:00 PM

4:00 – 4:30 PM

4:00 – 4:08 PM

4:08 – 4:10 PM

4:10 – 4:18 PM

4:18 – 4:20 PM

4:20 – 4:28 PM

4:28 – 4:30 PM

Principles of Surgery for Diabetic Tractional Retinal Detachment

Yannek I. Leiderman, MD, PhD

Discussion

Panel: Surgical Rounds

Moderators:

Yannek I. Leiderman, MD, PhD & Lejla Vajzovic, MD, FASRS

Panelists:

Durga S. Borkar, MD, MMCi
Margaret A. Chang, MD, MS
Jason Fan, MD, PhD
Michael I. Seider, MD
Alice Zhang, MD

Corporate Presentations

Retina Consultants of America
ANI Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Bausch + Lomb
Neurotech Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals
Notal Vision
Adverum Biotechnologies

Break

Session 4: Real-World Retina: Job Search and Contract Negotiations

Chairs:

Mathew W. MacCumber, MD, PhD & Jason Fan, MD, PhD

Coding and Billing Pearls
Margaret A. Chang, MD, MS

Discussion

The Do's and Don'ts of Technology Transfer and Academic-Industry Partnerships

Cynthia A. Toth, MD

Discussion

Finding 20/20 Hindsight in Fellowship

Safa Rahmani, MD

Discussion

4:30 - 5:20 PM

**Classic Duke VR Rounds
Unleashed: Fellows'
Surgical Videos**

Moderators:

Cynthia A. Toth, MD &
Lejla Vajzovic, MD, FASRS

Panelists:

Durga S. Borkar, MD, MMCI
Margaret A. Chang, MD, MS
Mathew W. MacCumber, MD, PhD
Michael I. Seider, MD
Basil K. Williams, MD

5:20 - 5:30 PM

Wrap Up

5:30 - 6:30 PM

Tour of Duke University

6:30 PM

**Meet in Washington
Duke Inn lobby for Shuttle**

7:00 - 10:00 PM

**Dinner and Axe Throwing
at Urban Axes**

Sponsored by 4DMT

SATURDAY | MARCH 28, 2026

7:00 - 8:00 AM

Registration & Breakfast

7:00 AM - 4:20 PM

Exhibits

8:00 - 8:15 AM

**Welcome Remarks & Wet Lab
Overview**

Lejla Vajzovic, MD, FASRS

8:15 - 8:25 AM

Relocate

Group A to Wet Lab

Group B stays in

General Session

Group A

8:25 - 11:25 AM

Hands on Experience

Faculty:

Durga S. Borkar, MD, MMCI
Margaret A. Chang, MD, MS
Xi Chen, MD, PhD
Jason Fan, MD, PhD
Sharon Fekrat, MD, FASRS
Dilraj S. Grewal, MD, FASRS
Nieraj Jain, MD
Yannek I. Leiderman, MD, PhD
Mathew W. MacCumber, MD, PhD
Safa Rahmani, MD
Michael I. Seider, MD
Basil K. Williams, MD
Cynthia A. Toth, MD
Lejla Vajzovic, MD, FASRS
Alice Zhang, MD

Group B

8:25 - 9:40 AM	Medical Retina Update 2026: Part I <i>Chairs:</i> Eleonora G. Lad, MD, PhD & Prithu S. Mettu, MD
8:25 - 8:40 AM	Neovascular AMD: Best Practices in 2026 Prithu S. Mettu, MD
8:40 - 8:55 AM	Complement Inhibition in Geographic Atrophy Eleonora G. Lad, MD, PhD
8:55 - 9:10 AM	Role of AI in Screening Majda Hadziahmetovic, MD
9:10 - 9:25 AM	Biologics in Uveitis Amol A. Sura, MD
9:25 - 9:40 AM	Must Knows of Genetic Testing in IRDs Oleg Alekseev, MD, PhD
9:40 - 10:00 AM	Break
10:00 - 10:45 AM	Medical Retina Update 2026: Part II <i>Chairs:</i> Eleonora G. Lad, MD, PhD & Prithu S. Mettu, MD
10:00 - 10:15 AM	Stargardt Disease: Evolving Strategies in Gene and Drug Therapy Ramiro S. Maldonado, MD
10:15 - 10:30 AM	Use of PDT in Ocular Tumors Arpita S. Maniar, MD
10:30 - 10:45 AM	It is Not Melanoma, What is It? Miguel A. Materin, MD
10:45 - 11:25 AM	Medical Retina, Uveitis, IRD, and Oncology Case Panel <i>Moderators:</i> Majda Hadziahmetovic, MD & Prithu S. Mettu, MD <i>Panelists:</i> Oleg Alekseev, MD, PhD Eleonora G. Lad, MD, PhD Ramiro S. Maldonado, MD Arpita S. Maniar, MD Miguel A. Materin, MD Amol A. Sura, MD

11:25 AM - 12:40 PM Lunch & Satellite Symposium

11:40 AM - 12:25 PM Satellite Symposium
A Treatment of Option for wAMD, DME, and ME/RVO
Sri Krishna Mulkamala, MD
Sponsored by
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

12:40 - 12:45 PM

12:45 - 1:00 PM

12:45

12:55

12:58

1:00 - 1:05 PM

Relocate to General Session

Corporate Presentations

Alcon

Apellis Pharmaceuticals

Retina Today

Relocate

Group B to Wet Lab

Group A stays in

General Session

Group B

1:05 - 4:05 PM

Hands on Experience

Faculty:

Durga S. Borkar, MD, MMCi
Margaret A. Chang, MD, MS
Xi Chen, MD, PhD
Jason Fan, MD, PhD
Sharon Fekrat, MD, FASRS
Dilraj S. Grewal, MD, FASRS
Glenn J. Jaffe, MD
Nieraj Jain, MD
Yannek I. Leiderman, MD, PhD
Mathew W. MacCumber, MD, PhD
Safa Rahmani, MD
Michael I. Seider, MD
Basil K. Williams, MD
Cynthia A. Toth, MD
Lejla Vajzovic, MD, FASRS
Alice Zhang, MD

Group A

1:05 - 2:20 PM

Medical Retina Update 2026: Part 1

Moderators:

Eleonora G. Lad, MD, PhD &
Prithu S. Mettu, MD

1:05 - 1:20 PM

Neovascular AMD: Best Practices in 2026

Prithu S. Mettu, MD

1:20 - 1:35 PM

Complement Inhibition in Geographic Atrophy

Eleonora G. Lad, MD, PhD

1:35 - 1:50 PM

Role of AI in Screening

Majda Hadziahmetovic, MD

1:50 - 2:05 PM

Biologics in Uveitis

Amol A. Sura, MD

2:05 - 2:20 PM

Must Knows of Genetic Testing in IRDs

Oleg Alekseev, MD, PhD

2:20 - 2:40 PM

Break

2:40 - 3:25 PM

Medical Retina Update 2026: Part II

Moderators:

Eleonora G. Lad, MD, PhD &
Prithu S. Mettu, MD

2:40 - 2:55 PM

Stargardt Disease: Evolving Strategies in Gene and Drug Therapy

Ramiro S. Maldonado, MD

2:55 - 3:10 PM

Use of PDT in Ocular Tumors

Arpita S. Maniar, MD

3:10 - 3:25 PM

It is Not Melanoma, What is It?

Miguel A. Materin, MD

3:25 - 4:05 PM

Medical Retina, Uveitis, IRD, and Oncology Case Panel

Moderators:

Majda Hadziahmetovic, MD &
Prithu S. Mettu, MD

Panelists:

Oleg Alekseev, MD, PhD
Eleonora G. Lad, MD, PhD
Ramiro S. Maldonado, MD
Arpita S. Maniar, MD
Miguel A. Materin, MD
Amol A. Sura, MD

4:05 - 4:20 PM

**Break & Relocate to
General Session**

4:20 - 4:50 PM

The Great Job Search Panel

Moderator:

Sharon Fekrat, MD, FASRS

Panelists:

Margaret A. Chang, MD, MS

Xi Chen, MD, PhD

Nieraj Jain, MD

Mathew W. MacCumber, MD, PhD

Safa Rahmani, MD

Michael I. Seider, MD

Basil K. Williams, MD

4:50 - 5:00 PM

Closing Remarks & Awards

Lejla Vajzovic, MD, FASRS

6:30 PM

**Meet in Washington
Duke Inn lobby for Shuttle**

7:00 - 10:00 PM

Closing Dinner at Geer Street

Sponsored by

Apellis Pharmaceuticals



The 12th Annual Duke Fellows Advanced Vitreous Surgery Course gratefully acknowledges the following industry partners:

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Retina Consultants of America

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Ocular Therapeutix

Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

ZEISS

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Castle Biosciences

EyeBio

Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals

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4DMT

Adverum Biotechnologies

Harrow, Inc.

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Ocugen

Sandoz

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Alcon

Bausch + Lomb

ZEISS

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