



Bruce Eldon Spivey, MD


In the words of his family and colleagues

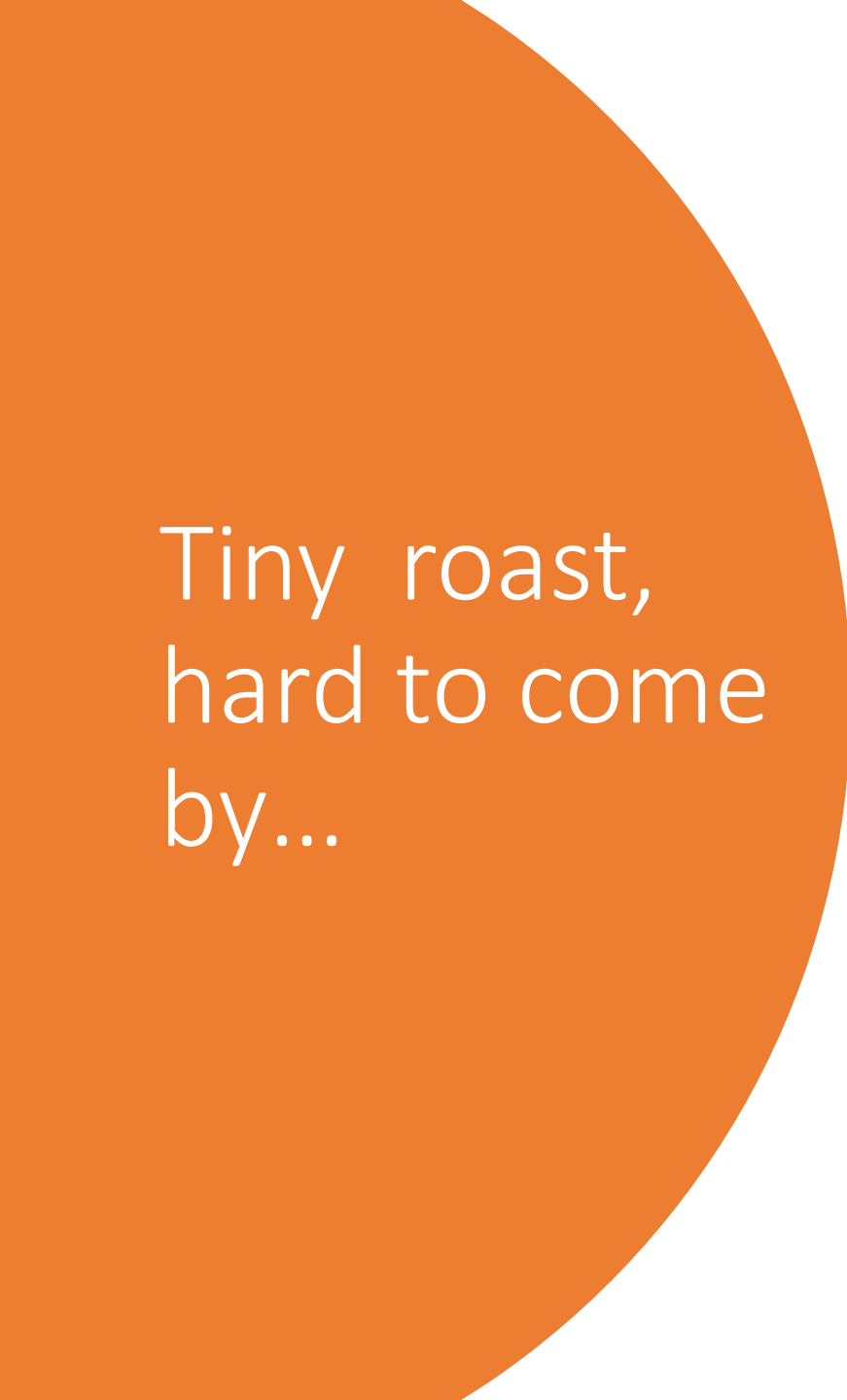
A large orange circle graphic on the left side of the page, partially cut off by the edge.

Forward by Bernd Kutzscher, MD

As Bruce Spivey, Jo Burnett and I started to work on the Barkan Society website, we were hoping to record both the history of the remarkable California Pacific Medical Center's Department of Ophthalmology and its place in today's world. The inspiration for this project came largely from Bruce Spivey, as did the generous financial support needed to create a website that would do justice to an extraordinary institution.

One of our goals was to create a "Luminaries" section – highlighting some of the most distinguished members of the CPMC Ophthalmology family. We quickly came to realize that we could only feature a small number of colleagues whose stories needed to be told. While Bruce Spivey's extraordinary contributions clearly had earned him a place in this section, he presented a unique problem since the impact of his work is so central to the life of the department.

A yellow dashed line graphic in the bottom right corner, consisting of several short, curved segments.

A large orange circle is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially cut off by the edge. It contains the text 'Tiny roast, hard to come by...'.

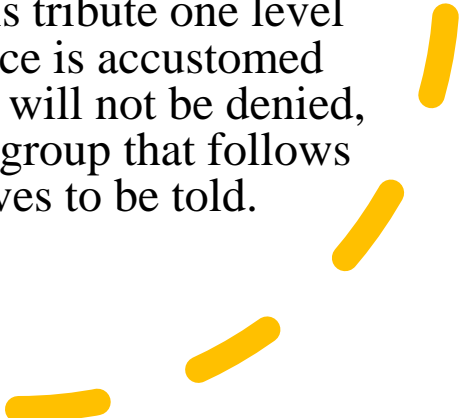
Tiny roast, hard to come by...

Bruce made it crystal clear that he did not want any special attention. Even worse, he really meant it! Ignoring him, we blazed ahead, and I attempted the task of the first draft, quickly running out of synonyms for amazing.

I decided instead, to reach out to many of his friends, asking them to tell his story, specifically asking for a few less-than-glowing stories, maybe even a tiny roast. However, the idea of using the words of friends and colleagues of Bruce had just one small flaw. As Bruce read the personal comments, he became so emotional that he had to stop, and after expressing his sincere thanks for our efforts – he declared that this collection could not possibly be included in his luminary section since it gave him an out-sized degree of attention.

This time we decided to ignore his request because his colleagues had spoken not only about him, but also about how honored they were to be asked to add their thoughts to this document.

To make Bruce feel a bit better, we elected to place this tribute one level down on the site, in a less prominent place. While Bruce is accustomed to getting his way, this time his friends and colleagues will not be denied, so he will have to acquiesce as the truly distinguished group that follows tell all of us about the many parts of a story that deserves to be told.

A series of five yellow brushstroke-like lines are arranged in a curved, arc-like pattern in the bottom right corner of the slide.

What follows is a portrait of Bruce Spivey, by his friends, seen in many facets of his career, from a young physician in Vietnam to an experienced international leader, and most importantly, all the time, one of us, in support of the CPMC Department of Ophthalmology.



Bruce Spivey, MD, US Army, Vietnam

SPIVEY

U.S. ARMY



AAO Laureate
Bruce Spivey,
MD

ACADEMIC COLLEAGUES

Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD

Within two years of becoming the first chair of the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology, Dr. Straatsma collaborated with Dr. Jules Stein and gained financial support for the construction of Jules Stein Eye Institute, a massive achievement that foreshadowed his impressive and impactful career.

As a leader in the field of ophthalmology, Dr. Straatsma served as Academy president in 1977, president of the American Ophthalmological Society from 1992 to 1993, president of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO) from 1974 to 1975, chair of the American Board of Ophthalmology in 1980, president of the Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology from 1987 to 1989 and president of Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis from 1998 to 2002.

l to r: Bruce and Amanda Spivey, Ruth and Bradley Straatsma



In the words of Dr. Straastma...

Bruce Spivey has had a tremendous and beneficial impact on ophthalmology in San Francisco, the United States and throughout the world. Bruce is a paramount leader of world ophthalmology with a record of distinguished accomplishments as an ophthalmologist, medical educator and transformative manager of medical organizations.

He maintained the role of EVP and CEO of the Academy from 1978 until 1992 and his leadership and steady demeanor contributed greatly to this period of epochal growth and development for the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

In the early 1970s, the first Continuing Education in Ophthalmology Committee was formed, and my long-lasting and happy interaction with Bruce commenced. Bruce and I will always remember traveling to Texas and meeting with Dr. Whitney Sampson to organize Year One-Section One, “Optics”, of the Basic and Clinical Science Course. More than a half-century later and enriched by the actions of several hundred ophthalmology faculty members, the Basic and Clinical Science Course is the standard core of knowledge for ophthalmologists worldwide.

Dr. Straatsma continued...

Most impactful for world ophthalmology, Dr. Spivey served as President of the International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) from 2006 through 2014. In collaboration with Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis, he led the ICO into formation of curricula for education and certification of ophthalmologists worldwide, on-site courses for ophthalmology residency.

Continuing with international educational activities after serving as ICO President, Bruce is an officer of the international Ophthalmology Foundation and the Africa Eye Foundation. The Africa Eye Foundation has established the Magrabi ICO Cameroon Eye Institute at Yaounde, Cameroon as an ophthalmology subspecialty patient care center for all in need, regardless of ability to pay, and as a training center for ophthalmologists, ophthalmology subspecialists and allied professionals.

With a mutual interest in global ophthalmology, Bruce and I have shared airplanes traveling to every continent (except Antarctica) and many countries (recently Cameroon and Myanmar). Together, we have witnessed the earnest and overwhelming commitment of ophthalmologists, allied professionals, communities and countries to the preservation of sight and the prevention of blindness.

David Pyott, CBE, MD, (Hon) OStJ

In his first year as CEO of Allergan in 1998, David Pyott created the Allergan Foundation. The Allergan Foundation strives to make a positive and lasting impact on the community. Pyott continued his philanthropic efforts outside of Allergan as well. In 2015, he donated £4.3 million to his alma mater, London Business School. His donation helped transform the future of the school and its ability to fulfill its vision of having a profound impact on the way the world does business. To further his quest for driving positive patient outcomes, Pyott also established a personal foundation, the David & Molly Pyott Foundation, to help address the many issues in the eye care community. On March 9, 2016, the foundation pledged \$2 million to the American Academy of Ophthalmology. The David E.I. Pyott Glaucoma Education Center will help speed online medical training in glaucoma treatment addressing a growing need in the world.

Recognizing that more physicians must properly be trained to affect a greater number of positive patient outcomes, Pyott also donated to the University of Edinburgh for The David E.I. Pyott Master of Surgery in Clinical Ophthalmology Scholarship, awarding online distance learning master's scholarships in the field of Ophthalmology for students from Africa, South Asia, Caribbean Islands, Pacific Islands, Central and South America. The Pyott Foundation will donate \$2 million to Orbis over a period of 3 years (2019- 2021) to further support Orbis's work in Zambia to strengthen eye health capacity and care. Pyott is also the Chairman of the privately held Bioniz Therapeutics helping treat immune-inflammatory diseases and cancer and is the founding President of the Ophthalmology Foundation.

l to r: Molly and David Pyott



In the words of Dr. Pyott...

I have known Bruce for almost 20 years in many eyecare charitable and professional circles. Most recently we have worked closely and intensely to establish a new Foundation - the Ophthalmology Foundation - a successor organization to the International Council of Ophthalmology Foundation. In such periods of heavy work and decision making, people show their true colors.

I can most certainly state that Bruce is one of the giants in ophthalmology, not only in the United States but also globally. So, it is so appropriate that he was recognized as one of the very few who is a Laureate of the American Academy. He has an amazing circle of contacts and insights into the delivery of eyecare worldwide. He is universally respected for his wisdom, his balanced and always congenial nature and above all, humanity.

I am fortunate to count Bruce as both a close colleague but also a true friend.



David Parke, MD

David Parke served as CEO of the American Academy of Ophthalmology from 2009 to 2021. The Academy is the world's largest ophthalmology organization, with over 32,000 members and offices in San Francisco and Washington, DC. It is the principal source of educational materials and quality of care programs for ophthalmologists as well as the profession's voice to physicians, the public, and Washington policymakers.

Dr. Parke was previously CEO of the Dean McGee Eye Institute in Oklahoma.

l to r: David Parke, Bruce Spivey, Dunbar Hoskins, Jack Hetherington and David Noonan

In the words of Dr. Parke...

Bruce is a builder. As in the CPMC Ophthalmology Department and as in the American Academy of Ophthalmology. Both of those organizations are enduring monuments to his ability to hire good people and give them the space to flourish. They are also monuments to his ability to separate people—from the contents of their wallets. Neither the Department nor the Academy would be as robust as they are today without Bruce's ability to articulate his dreams and convince others with resources to share them.

Bruce also understands the importance of building a strong culture. The Ophthalmology Department has a distinct culture that he planted and nurtured. The same is true of the Academy. The values and mission that he inculcated have stood both organizations well. So, when he turned the Academy CEO position to Dunbar Hoskins after 16 years, Bruce provided him with the same elegant instructions that Dunbar later gave to me. "Just don't screw it up!"

David McNally, EdD, Coe College President Emeritus

In July 2013, Professor McNally became the 15th President of Coe College, founded in 1851. Prior to that, Professor McNally was Executive Vice President of Allegheny College in Pennsylvania.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration and a Master of Arts degree in English language and literature from the University of Akron. He then earned a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Pittsburgh in administrative and policy studies.



In the words of Prof. David McInally...

My connection with Bruce starts with his alma mater, Coe College. Bruce grew up in the college's neighborhood in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and eventually attended Coe where he excelled in every way (which will come as no surprise to those who know him). He claims to have studied medicine because he and his friends did not really have any better ideas for what to do with their lives, but I think we all recognize his characteristic humility in that statement. He has traveled the world and dedicated his life to improving health for countless people everywhere, but here in his hometown we still think of him as a local boy who worked hard, put the well-being of others first, and didn't blow his own horn. This despite the fact that here at Coe—where he began as a neighborhood kid—Coe students now live in a building named for him and he is one of a handful of people in the history of the college to receive the Coe Founder's Medal.

In this way—and despite his immense success and the contributions to his field that will serve generations—Bruce remains very much an Iowan.

Bruce never forgets his roots, and he puts character and values ahead of pedigree or resume in his relationships with everyone. He remains closely involved with Coe, and he seems to read just about everything related to higher education. When he speaks, everyone stops and listens. But if you bumped into him on the street, you would never know that he was so accomplished because he would make the conversation about you, since he genuinely cares about how you are, whether he has known you for 60 years or 60 minutes. When people tell Bruce that he is an inspiration, he responds that he just kept going for a long time—which may be true, but that is not the reason that I respect and admire him so much.

David McNally continued...

He inspires me because he believes in ideals, he does what he says, and he puts the good of the whole above his own interests. No matter how advanced or specialized our curriculum becomes, those personal qualities are what I care most about teaching to our students. That's what will build a happier, healthier, more productive, and more meaningful society, whether you're talking about health care, business, politics, education, or any other field. In other words, the answer to our world's problems is to plant and grow many more Bruce Spiveys.

We know that he is one of a kind, but we also believe that his example can help the rest of us—and generations of his successors—live the same kind of joyful and values-driven life as he does. That's a wish that really is in our collective power to grant and nothing would make Bruce happier.

I cherish Bruce's friendship. He is blessing to all of us.

Keith Carter, MD

Dr. Carter is the Lillian C. O'Brien & CS O'Brien Chair of Ophthalmology at the University of Iowa. The University of Iowa's Department of Ophthalmology has long been considered one of the finest in the world. Its line of Department Heads is legendary, with the highly distinguished Dr. Frederick Blodi serving as Head from 1967 to 1983.

Dr. Carter continues that tradition and has been Head of the Department of Ophthalmology since 2006. Dr. Carter completed his residency at the W.K. Kellogg Eye Center of the University of Michigan. He was a Fellow in Oculoplastics and Orbital Surgery at the University of Iowa.



In the words of Dr.Carter...

Bruce Spivey epitomizes what is great about Ophthalmology. Bruce is a leader in ophthalmic education worldwide and his dedication in education has been unsurpassed in our field.

Bruce is a natural leader with charm that was nurtured from his Midwest background. Bruce was picked to be the first Executive President of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and thanks to Bruce, we are fortunate enough to have a wonderful office in San Francisco. Bruce was too talented just for the American Academy of Ophthalmology and he was tapped to go out and share his talents in Chicago and New York before he finally came back to San Francisco to his home institution of Cal Pacific.

We were fortunate to have Bruce back to the University of Iowa to lecture to our residents. He challenged them to make a difference and that attending the University of Iowa was significant and they owed it to the ophthalmic field to be contributors. Graduates still talk about that inspiring lecture.

Dr. Carter continued...

Ophthalmology has benefited from Bruce's talents and we here at Iowa are so proud of our Alumnus and department family member, Bruce Spivey. I am honored to be able to call Bruce a colleague, mentor, and friend. All of our meetings are memorable, due to his energetic demeanor and words of wisdom.

Best to you, Bruce. You are the Man.



Randall Olsen, MD

Dr. Olson is Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences and CEO of the renowned John Moran Eye Center at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. He specializes in research dealing with intraocular lens and cataract surgery. Dr. Olson is the author of more than 300 professional publications. He was selected to receive the 2016 Jan Worst Medal by the International Intra-Ocular Implant Club, the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the 2014 Kelman Award by the AAO, and the 2012 Binkhorst Medal by the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery.

Dr. Olson's start at the University of Utah in 1979 was very modest. The entire department, consisting of one ophthalmologist, was on track to be shut down. Forty years later, Dr. Olson had built the Moran Eye Center and turned the Department of Ophthalmology into one of the most highly recognized Ophthalmology departments in the world.

In the words of Dr. Olsen...

Bruce Spivey has been a giant in our field for as long as I have known him. In my early career he was so much more than the Executive VP of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. He was so central to the AAO function that when many organizations were moving to Washington, DC, the AAO decided not to because they did not want to lose Bruce's excellent leadership! I remember that as a quote as other organizations were discussing this and was impressed at what this implied!

As Bruce moved on his imprint and involvement in the birthing process of the ICO is equally impressive. His imprint was clear to see, and I was always impressed with the vision and understanding that Bruce brought to the equation during those times we met and discussed this field. My other international experience was serving as the CMO at the King Khalid Eye Specialist Hospital in Saudi Arabia. I know Bruce was one of the original group who helped plan and make that place an international place of distinction. To create a middle eastern center of excellence from scratch was a daunting challenge and a great success.

Of course, his work of creating and love for the California Pacific Medical Center Department of Ophthalmology is well known by me, and I loved visiting the place as a visiting Professor and in seeing the excellence the institution represented. Bruce has an amazing legacy and richly deserves the accolade for being a giant in our field!



Harry W. Flynn, Jr., MD

Dr. Flynn is Professor of Ophthalmology and the J. Donald M. Gass Distinguished Chair in Ophthalmology at the renowned Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at the University of Miami Health Systems. He is a specialist in diseases of the retina., especially diabetic retinopathy.

He was a Fellow in Retina/Vitreous at CPMC from 1975-76. His many international awards include the Schepens Award and the Lifetime Achievement Honor Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology. He also received the Physicians Recognition Award from the American Medical Association.

In the words of Dr. Flynn ...

Coming from the University of Iowa, Dr. Bruce Spivey arrived at CPMC to become the new Chairman of Ophthalmology. Bruce gave me great advice and helped me tremendously in decisions about future career options. Whether running Ground Rounds or guiding departmental activities, Bruce was excellent in handling the various challenges in the training program.

At the AAO annual meeting each year, I always look forward to talking with Bruce and catching up on developments in and around CPMC and the Pacific Vision Foundation.

James C. Tsai, MD, MBA

Dr. Tsai is President of the New York Eye & Ear Infirmary and Delafield-Rodgers Professor and Chair, Department of Ophthalmology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

He is a graduate of Amherst College and MD alumnus of the Stanford University School of Medicine. Dr. Tsai completed his residency in ophthalmology at the Doheny Eye Institute at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles and glaucoma fellowships at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at the University of Miami and at Moorfields Eye Hospital and the Institute of Ophthalmology in London. He also received a master's degree in business administration from the Owen Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt University.



In the words of Dr. Tsai...

Bruce is the consummate physician leader, clinician, educator, researcher, and scholar. His gregarious personality is intertwined with razor sharp intelligence and clarity of thought and expression.

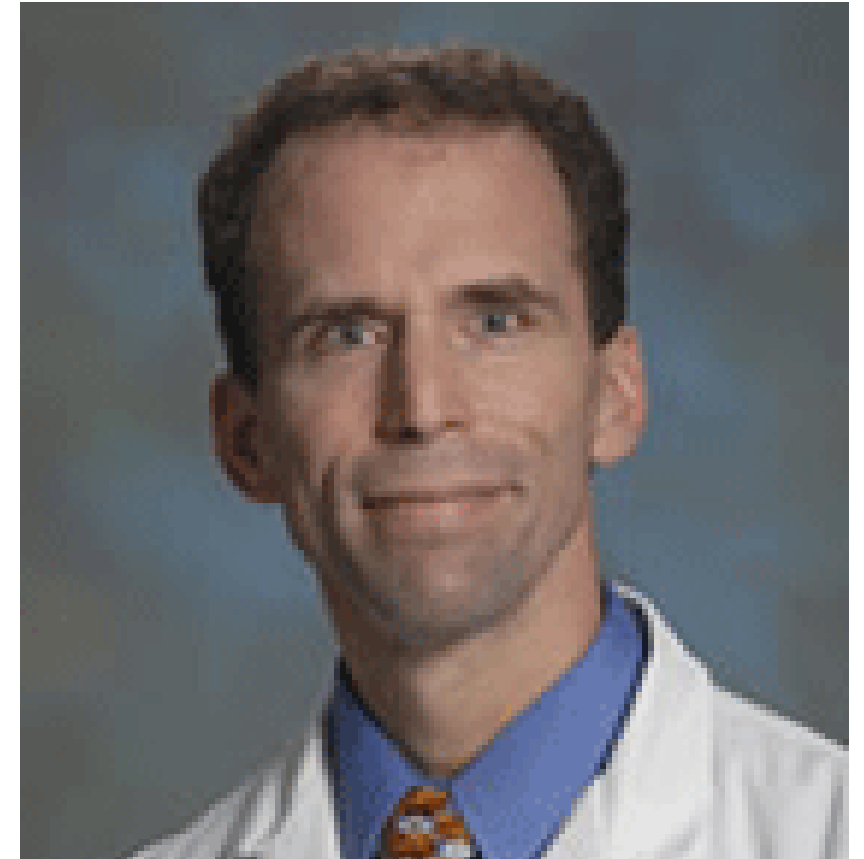
When New York Eye and Ear Infirmary was looking for an internationally renowned clinician-educator to deliver the inaugural Jay M. Galst, MD Lectureship in Ophthalmology during our bicentennial year, Bruce was the unanimous choice. As anticipated, Bruce gave an outstanding and momentous lecture on the history, current state, and future of global ophthalmology that inspired and motivated our faculty, community physicians, residents, fellows, and staff.

In the very same way, Bruce has served as an influential mentor and adviser to me throughout my academic career.

Karl Golnik, MD

Karl C. Golnik, M.D. is the Neuro-Ophthalmologist at Cincinnati Eye Institute (CEI) and Professor & Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Golnik has published more than 150 articles and book chapters in the field of neuro-ophthalmology and medical education. He has given invited lectures in more than 70 countries and earned a master's degree in Education in 2005 to facilitate his research in this area.

He chairs the Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology's Resident Education Committee and is Past-President of the Joint Commission on Allied Health in Ophthalmology. He was recently accepted to the prestigious American Ophthalmological Society and is a consultant for the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva.



In the words of Dr. Golnik...

In the mid-2000s, we created an International Council of Ophthalmology Residency Program Director's Meeting designed to improve educational skills of program directors. I was fairly nervous as our second meeting was in Cairo, Egypt and we were not entirely sure how relevant our material would be. The meeting started at 8:00 am and at about five to eight Bruce came up to me and said: "We have a problem; they don't even have Residency Program Directors in this part of the world!" I felt like the floor fell out from underneath me, but fortunately, everything turned out OK.

Another time we were at a large ophthalmology meeting somewhere in the world attending a gala dinner with thousands in attendance. Several friends and I searched for Bruce and found him, not at his assigned table at the front, but off to the side. We commiserated about the lack of alcohol being served. He looked at us and said: "You rookies!" and pulled back the tablecloth to show a bag with his hotel room's minibar contents at his feet! Live and learn.

Paul Orloff, MD

Dr. Orloff is a Diplomate of the American Board of Ophthalmology. He received his medical degree from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. Dr. Orloff did his residency training in Ophthalmology at Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital.

He is Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology at NYU Grossman School of Medicine. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.



In the words of Dr. Orloff...

Bruce Spivey is the epitome of a leader and a friend.

His leadership contributions to his profession are truly astounding: from actually establishing the American Academy of Ophthalmology (!), to running a department that trained several future Presidents of the AAO, to being an essential leader of International Ophthalmology through multiple organizations, to establishing the Pacific Vision Foundation as a dynamic Ophthalmic Center in San Francisco, Bruce has been a driving force at the center of American and International Ophthalmology for several generations. As a result of his efforts and accomplishments, hundreds of thousands of eyes have benefitted from superior treatment. What a legacy!

As a friend, Bruce defines the qualities of a good, dear friend. He listens; he advises; he is not judgmental; he is always available, and he is absolutely someone you can count on and trust. The very thought of him brings a smile to your face, and to actually spend time with him is a true privilege. There are not many people in my life that bring these qualities to a relationship and who effortlessly remind you what a true friend is, consistently and effortlessly.

My life had been enriched and so much better for my 35-year relationship with Bruce. He deserves all the adulation we can shower upon him.

H. Dunbar Hoskins, Jr. MD

Dunbar Hoskins Jr., MD is an internationally recognized glaucoma specialist, having authored or coauthored more than 70 publications and presented more than 300 invited lectures.

He is the former Executive Vice President of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, a position he held from January 1, 1993, to March 31, 2009. He received an Academy Honor Award in 1979 and a Senior Honor Award in 1989 and Distinguished Service Award in 1999.



In the words of Dr. Hoskins...

I was attending a group meeting of Academy leaders when the chairman stood to introduce a few folks. His description of Bruce Spivey was "the Energizer Bunny".

It couldn't be more accurate. Bruce is full of energy but focuses it well with wisdom and caring. He greets you with a smile and a big laugh is not far behind. He drives for inclusiveness, kindness and generosity. Amanda once said he has at least one really good laugh every day. These never come at others' expense and usually those around join in as he brings joy to the gathering.

His unique character has brought him many awards, honored positions and admiration, but he gives back so much more. He is a wonderful man, a leader and a cherished friend.

Bernd Kutzscher, MD

Dr. Kutzscher is a graduate of Stanford Medical School. He then did subspecialty training in corneal and retinal diseases during two years at the King Khaled Eye Specialist Hospital in Saudi Arabia. He recently retired from his private practice after 33 years.

Dr. Kutzscher is on the clinical teaching faculty of UCSF. He served as medical director of the Stanford Eye Laser Center. He was chairman of the Charity and Community Benefits Committee at Seton Medical Center.



In the words of Dr. Kutzscher...

In my third year of residency, I had run out of good ideas of how to finish my training with a really meaningful fellowship. One day, walking to Grand Rounds, I happened to walk next to Bruce who asked me what I planned to do next. I stammered something about “thinking about it.” Bruce then ran into someone considerably more important than a slightly confused third year resident, so my 15 second session with The Chair was over.

About a month later, I heard that the World Health Organization had joined with the leadership of Saudi Arabia to advise them on building a new health system, virtually from scratch. The key recommendation from the WHO was to put a strong emphasis on restoration of vision including a financial investment larger than any other part of medical care. A group of American Ophthalmology leaders including Bruce were asked to act as advisors, and that included a visit to the new King Khaled Eye Hospital (KKESH) in Riyadh, a 350 bed Ophthalmology-only hospital with state-of-the-art equipment, a western faculty and endless pathology with eleven OR's in nearly constant use.

Dr. Kutzscher continued...

About a month later, I heard that the World Health Organization had joined with the leadership of Saudi Arabia to advise them on building a new health system, virtually from scratch. The key recommendation from the WHO was to put a strong emphasis on restoration of vision including a financial investment larger than any other part of medical care. A group of American Ophthalmology leaders including Bruce were asked to act as advisors, and that included a visit to the new King Khaled Eye Hospital (KKESH) in Riyadh, a 350 bed Ophthalmology-only hospital with state-of-the-art equipment, a western faculty and endless pathology with eleven OR's in nearly constant use.

Bruce returned home and came to the CPMC Grand Rounds. I was eager to hear his report about KKESH, when he pulled me aside and said, "I have your fellowship set up in Saudi Arabia if Marilyn (my wife) goes for it." We arrived in Riyadh a short time later with our 5-month-old daughter in tow. We left over 2 years later with the most impactful fellowship and then faculty stint that I could have ever hoped for.

Dr Kutzscher ...

The Chief of Ophthalmology was the amazing Randall Olson, simultaneously Chief at the Moran Center in Utah and KKESH in Saudi Arabia. I was asked on the first day to introduce myself to Dr. Olson. After some conversation, he told me that a graduate of the CPMC Ophthalmology program was, from his point of view, already experienced enough in surgery to simply start acting like an attending. And he added, “Dr. Spivey spoke highly of you, so you’re all set. Enjoy your time here.”

So that small, nearly throw-away effort by Bruce Spivey, who managed to think of my career issue in the midst of a much larger and more important project, ended up being life changing for me and my family.



CPMC Colleagues



Robert M. Tomasello

Mr. Robert Tomasello is a Board Member of the Pacific Vision Foundation and is a Partner, Guardian Investment Management, LLC

He is Chairman of the Board of the CPMC Foundation and the past Chairman of the Corporate Board of CPMC, past President of the Olympic Club Foundation, past Regent of St. Ignatius College Preparatory, and past Vice President of The Guardsmen.

In the words of Mr. Tomasello...

I met Dr. Bruce Spivey about 40 years ago when my partner and I were hired to manage the Academy of Ophthalmology Pension account. We did not connect personally for twenty years until I became Chairman of CPMC. I developed a friendship with Bruce over his vision [no pun] of an Eye Center of Excellence near the new hospital on Van Ness. Bruce has enthusiasm, integrity, and a kindness that is infectious.

He has had an illustrious career in San Francisco and New York along with his long term as CEO of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. He remains humble after all that success. After his many attempts to get me involved with the Eye Center, I agreed because he is a wonderful friend.



Robert Sorenson, MD

Robert Sorenson was a resident in Ophthalmology and graduated in 1984. He then completed a fellowship in retina, also at CPMC. He has been in private practice in Berkeley where he is in the middle of three generations of ophthalmologists. In total, there are 5 ophthalmologists in the Sorenson family.

Dr. Sorenson along with his brother, Andy (also a CPMC Ophthalmology grad), have been the key leaders in turning the Hospital de la Familia in Guatemala into one of the finest Ophthalmology programs in the developing world. Bob and his family members practice at the highest level of community “comprehensive ophthalmology.” In that role, Bob stands at the heart of the CPMC Ophthalmology community.

In the words of Dr. Sorenson...

My first day of residency in 1981 included a meet and greet with the Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology, Dr. Bruce Spivey. That encounter confirmed his reputation as an intelligent, organized and caring leader. For the next three years I was dazzled by the skills of this extraordinary man. He has a keenly accurate intuition about his trainees and nudges them in the direction most suitable to their individual strengths.

Administratively, he is unmatched. When I requested a letter of recommendation in support of a fellowship, Dr. Spivey interviewed me for fifteen minutes and immediately dictated a flawless reference. Whereas, after 35 years of practice, I continue to stumble and fret over this exact task.

Eventually I discovered the true extent of his stature as a visionary, policy maker and respected advisor on the global ophthalmology stage. In light of his exceedingly encumbered plate, Dr. Spivey could be forgiven a gloomy demeanor. And yet he is charming and convivial - able to tap his way through a room, leaving attendees puffed and pleased. He will celebrate your triumphs or attend you in your losses.

To be in his orbit has been one of the greatest gifts of my life.



William Stewart, MD

William Stewart completed his Ophthalmology residency at CPMC in 1975. He then continued his training in orbital, reconstructive and oculoplastic surgery in London and at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami.

He returned to CPMC in 1977 and was named the Director of Orbital and Oculoplastic surgery. He served as chair of the Department of Ophthalmology CPMC from 1996 to 2000. A textbook author and lecturer, he has maintained a long association with the Aravind Eye Care System in Madurai, India where he helped to established their department of Orbit, Oculoplasty, Ocular Oncology and Ocular Prosthetics. In 1990 he founded the Institute of Health and Healing in San Francisco.

In the words of Dr. Stewart...

In 1971, when Bruce Spivey was recruited to be the next Chair of the CPMC Department of Ophthalmology, he succeeded Dr. Art Jampolsky. The Department during his tenure has flourished! What did Art Jampolsky see in this young ophthalmologist from the Midwest? What led Dr. Spivey to evolve in ways that enhanced compassionate ophthalmic care and training around the world? Who would have thought that this young upstart would grow into a global transformative ophthalmic hero?!

His imagination, vision for the future and capacity for work have become legendary. Furthermore, in 1975, he was the youngest member to be elected to the American Board of Ophthalmology. Many significant positions of leadership have subsequently come his way.

I first met “BES” in 1972 while seeking residency training in ophthalmology. During my initial interview, his enthusiasm, visionary ideas, optimism, clarity, social and professional skills were apparent and inspiring.

Dr. Stewart continued...

Bruce understands the underlying necessity for honest relationships and inclusion as well as ethical and moral behavior for the leader to warrant being supported and followed. He is clear about what he expects in behavior, performance and accountability. The power of his leadership in large part is based on trust and respect. He has genuine affection for those he works with and concern for their growth and well-being. He is a leader who serves the people, projects and communities with which he is involved.

“The servant-leader is servant first....It begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve, to serve first. Then conscious choice brings one to aspire to lead. That person is sharply different from the one who is leader first.... True leadership emerges from those whose primary motivation is a deep desire to help others.” *Robert K. Greenleaf (1904-1990)*

David Vastine, MD

David Vastine is a cornea specialist who practiced in Oakland, CA. He has been one of the most generous and experienced members of the CPMC faculty, spending much of his faculty time teaching CPMC Ophthalmology residents at Highland General Hospital in Oakland, CA. He is a graduate of the Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University.

After his initial training, he joined the highly acclaimed General Surgery residency program at UC San Francisco. Fortunately for the CPMC Ophthalmology program, he found his calling as one of the most highly respected ophthalmologists in the Bay Area. He is credited with helping to establish the long and fruitful relationship between Aravind Eye Care System and the CPMC residency.



In the words of Dr. Vastine...

Dr. Spivey revolutionized the department when he arrived in 1971.

His energy and foresight changed the educational objectives of the department as he began to recruit and attract fulltime subspecialists to join in his efforts to develop a model educational residency program as he also expanded the center into CPMC.

His recruitment allowed a full-time corneal specialist to incorporate the eye department of Highland General Hospital in Oakland. This service provided an irreplaceable part of the residency with excellent pathology and a venue for the residents to become the primary provider in the care of many difficult patients.



Rosalind A. Stevens, MD, MPH

Dr. Stevens served as Chair of Ophthalmology at Dartmouth in New Hampshire for ten years. She specializes in diseases and surgery of the retina. She completed her medical school training at the University of Illinois. After her residency at CPMC, she did further fellowship training at two highly acclaimed programs, the Wilmer Institute at Johns Hopkins and the Department of Ophthalmology at Emory University.

She is one of the most frequent (30 years) and influential faculty volunteers on the Orbis Flying Hospital. She has served as the Medical Director for Orbis in China, Indonesia, India, Bangladesh and Cuba, training ophthalmologists in over 30 countries from Myanmar to Mongolia and counting!

In the words of Dr. Stevens...

Our Chief, Bruce Spivey, MD, is a unique individual. I first met him while I was a medical student from Illinois visiting CPMC, and he was putting on his coat to go to the airport!!! I started writing him a long note explaining why I wanted to come to CPMC on an extra-long yellow legal pad. He stopped, took me upstairs to meet the faculty, and I thought that perhaps my toe had gotten in the door!

He engendered an atmosphere of trust and support, coupled with a feeling of family spirit, which permeated both the residency training program and the Ophthalmic community at large. I recall during my residency interview trips I noticed that the first-year residents at CPMC presented the case to be discussed, then spoke first.... followed at the end of the discussion by the ‘Professor’ of that subject. The reverse was true in Boston at that time, where the Professor spoke first, and the first-year students sat at the rear of the assembly.

I decided I would feel at home in San Francisco at CPMC, and I did!



Arthur (Mike) Allen, MD

Mike Allen has been a prominent member of the CPMC Ophthalmology faculty for many years, including service as Vice-Chair of the department.

His private practice has been with Pacific Eye Associates in San Francisco where he has focused on diseases and surgery of the retina. Dr. Allen was a resident at the University of Colorado. He served in the U.S. Air Force where he specialized in Ophthalmology in the Philippines. He then was a fellow in retinal disease at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami. Dr. Allen has contributed his skills and time in a variety of locations on the Orbis Flying Hospital.

In the words of Dr. Allen...

I think we all understand that Bruce has an amazing capacity for work. When I first arrived in San Francisco in January 1978 Bruce was the EVP of the AAO, Chairman of the Eye Dept, and CEO of Presbyterian hospital. Anyone of those jobs would have been a full-time effort from a normal individual but not for Bruce.

On a lighter note, we also know that Bruce is energetic and always on the move. During one of our several OMIC trips to London, to meet with our reinsurance broker and underwriters, we went to see Mamma Mia one evening. If you've ever been to the theater with Bruce, you know that one of his goals is to exit quickly and find a cab. As the curtain came down Bruce was out of his seat and headed towards the exit when the usher stepped in front of him and told him he couldn't leave. Bruce said why not, and the usher replied because you will miss the best part. He obediently sat down and thoroughly enjoyed the encore which was terrific. Predictably we had trouble finding a cab.



Richard Abbott, MD

Dr. Abbott is a graduate of the CPMC Department of Ophthalmology and served as Co-Chief of Cornea from 1974-1995. He then moved to UC San Francisco. Dr. Abbott is Past President of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) and the Past President of both the Pan American Association of Ophthalmology and the Pan American Ophthalmological Foundation.

Dr Abbott is past Chairman of the Board of the Ophthalmic Mutual Insurance Company (OMIC). He is the Thomas W. Boyden and Kathleen L. Rydar Professor Emeritus Department of Ophthalmology, University of California San Francisco and Research Associate, Francis I. Proctor Foundation.

l to r: Richard and Chita Abbott, Amanda and Bruce Spivey

In the words of Dr. Abbott...

I first met Bruce in 1973 when I interviewed for a position as a first-year resident. Bruce had only been Chair of the department for a few years and was one of the youngest chairs in the country at that time, being in his 30s. I was coming from the Indian Public Health Service in rural New Mexico, and I remember that we had matching beards when we first met! Little did I know, that over the next 45+ years, Bruce would become my mentor and one of my dearest friends.

Throughout my career, Bruce has provided numerous opportunities for me in clinical practice, academics, and global Ophthalmology. He opened more doors for me than I can easily recount. There were many years that we would see each other more at international meetings than in San Francisco. It was always a joy for Chita and me to meet Bruce and Amanda somewhere in Europe, Asia, Latin America, or the Middle East for a special meal. Bruce, as we all know, was (and still is!) an international Ophthalmology rock star. He is respected, revered, and loved by ophthalmologists around the world. I am always amazed how Bruce can “work a room” better than anyone I have ever seen. No matter the language or culture, Bruce never slowed down.

Dr. Abbott continued...

At the end of each year, Bruce and I meet for a quiet lunch in San Francisco to catch up both personally and professionally. We have a tradition of bringing our United Airlines end of year mileage statement to see who flew more miles that year. We were both flying well over 100,000 miles each year (pre-COVID) and it was a fierce competition. Winning was a double-edged sword, as the winner actually was the person who flew less miles, not more. We figured the person who flew the most miles needed to get a life! Since Bruce flew more miles than I had flown practically every year, Bruce lost the competition (and you know how Bruce hates to lose). We still have our annual lunch (except for this past year), and our airline miles this year have significantly decreased. We both look forward to posting any flown miles in our accounts in the near future!

Bruce, you are an inspiration to all of us who have trained under you at CPMC. We are so fortunate to have been part of your Ophthalmology family. Your legacy will not only be what you accomplished in your many leadership positions, but also your lifelong commitment to mentoring so many of us in helping to build the next generation of leaders.

Charlene Hsu-Winges, MD

Dr. Hsu-Winges graduated from Tufts Medical School. She completed her Ophthalmology residency at CPMC. She then did further fellowship sub-specialty training in Pediatric Ophthalmology at UC San Francisco.

She is an active member of the CPMC volunteer faculty.



In the words of Dr. Hsu-Winges...

I have two short vignettes that speak volumes about this classy caring department chair and human being.

Dr Diane Albracht underwent surgery as a first-year resident. Diane's husband John will never forget how Dr Spivey came right to Diane's hospital room to sit with John until Diane's surgery was finished. Caring, totally endearing.

Another resident required expensive emergency care across town and the co-pay was beyond the then annual CPMC resident's salary. Department Chair Dr Spivey assured the resident that the department would help pay the hospital copay. The resident's response: "Truly grateful" for this leadership action.



Ivan Schwab, MD

Dr. Schwab is a graduate of the CPMC Department of Ophthalmology. He then completed fellowships at both CPMC and UC San Francisco. He specializes in cornea, external eye disease and uveitis as a Professor in the UC Davis Department of Ophthalmology. He is emeritus director of the American Board of Ophthalmology.

His honors and awards include the Lifetime Teaching Award UC Davis Department of Ophthalmology and the Lifetime Achievement Award-American Academy of Ophthalmology.

l to r: Drs: Susan Day, Ivan Schwab

In the words of Dr. Schwab...

Cue the oboes, lower the cellos, and accent the tympanies. The master conductor blends the talents and limits the shortcomings of each musician. He brings magic and excitement to the orchestra instead of individual notes.

Bruce is our conductor!

When I arrived in 1977, Bruce was in full stride conducting spectacular music from a nidus of in-house faculty including Bob Stamper on the glaucoma, David Vastine excelling at the Cornea and External Disease, John Cavender playing first seat in medical retina and many community ophthalmologists who knew their profession very well. These free-lance virtuosos including Art Jampolsky, Wayne Fung, Mike Allen, Ed Tamler, John Norris, and Gil Cleasby were mainstays at their particular seat in this magnificent orchestra. A first-class orchestra, though, will have some specialty instruments that few others will or can play, and Bruce had these players available to conduct as well. Joel Porter, Ernie Denecke, and other private practitioners taught the skill and grace of managing a carriage-trade practice.

It was beautiful music for a first-year resident to witness. Surprisingly, though, Bruce was conducting other orchestras often unbeknownst or less well known to the residents. At least this resident didn't grasp the unique and pure genius that Bruce summoned to create the American Academy of Ophthalmology juggernaut of national education, individual instruction, and personal and organizational recognition.

Dr. Schwab continued...

His skill at blending and encouraging growth within such a large organization is humbling, especially if you consider the egos, power, and personalities he had to blend.

Rumor has it that he changed his middle name to Consensus. He rarely encountered a permanent “No.” His emphasis on education on a residency level carried over to our national organization, and it was the real “star” of his initial work. The AAO became the envy of other specialties, and his ideas were copied throughout medicine—the entire profession benefitted from his ideas but especially his perseverance toward the goals of education and continuing education.

There were other orchestral commitments along the way that are detailed elsewhere, but it all started with his emphasis on education. He wanted to provide an atmosphere of learning in a friendly and nurturing environment—with lots of knowledge as the principal product.

Now, cue the chorus.

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. Nelson Mandela

Joel Porter, MD

Dr. Porter's career has been a tale of two cities. After earning his MD at Penn, he came to San Francisco for his internship at CPMC. He returned to Philadelphia to complete his residency at the world-class Wills Eye Hospital. He was then a full-time attending ophthalmologist at the Temple Eye Department, affiliated with Wills. In 1971, he made a trek back to San Francisco where he worked at Kaiser and then went into private practice with Bill Miller in 1974. From 1971-1980, he was on the teaching staff of the CPMC Eye Clinic.

He returned to Philadelphia in 1980 where he was in private practice for 26 years and on the Wills Eye Hospital teaching staff until 2017 – 37 years. Though he retired in 2017, he continued from 2009-2020 to make “yearly sojourns” to San Francisco to attend and teach in the Comprehensive Lions Eye Clinic.

l to r Drs: Jonathan Hernandez and Joel Porter



In the words of Dr. Porter...

Like Bruce, I arrived at PMC as it was called then, in 1971, almost around the time that he came to take over the department. I so much admired how he would conduct Monday morning rounds back then. We gathered in the Auditorium after we all had the chance to see patients in the 5th Floor Eye Clinic across the street. Lines of doctors stretched out up to 5-6 deep for each of 3-4 rooms, as in those days, people had more time for these activities than they do now to leave their offices, and there were people from all the various military services on active duty as well to swell the ranks of attendees.

I helped to support the program by always finding patients from my practice to bring in, for teaching purposes. Either the patient had an interesting finding that was a bit unusual, or else, like other doctors, I wanted to know more about the precise diagnosis, or management of the particular condition being shown. So, by bringing in the patient, it helped the patient, it helped me in my education, and it helped those who got to see the patient in the flesh. No presentation in absentia of slides and/or photos comes close. Bruce was a Master in coordinating the discussion of these cases. He solicited experts in the audience to contribute their knowledge. Oftentimes, their opinions were the final arbiter.

Dr. Porter continued...

What I so much admired about Bruce is that after the conclusion of each case, Bruce made a mental note that he would seek out on subsequent weeks, follow-up on those cases to see what the resolution was for that patient. That was priceless for me and for others in acquiring a deeper understanding of our clinical pathology.

It also should be pointed out, and I still kid Bruce about this to this day, that there were always doughnuts next to the coffee in the back of the auditorium. Bruce had a particular liking for the ones with sprinkles on top. I'm not sure if they have them now, but if not, Bernd, please see that Bruce gets one.

National Colleagues

G. Aubrey Serfling

Mr. Serfling was CEO of CPMC in the late 1990's. He joined Dr. Bruce Spivey in 1997 in New York at the Columbia-Cornell Health Care System where he served as COO and CFO.

He went on to serve for 20 years as CEO and President of the Eisenhower Health Center in Rancho Mirage where he continues to serve on the Eisenhower Foundation Board of Governors and is a member of the board of the Annenberg Center for Health Sciences.



In the words of Mr. Serfling...

I have one adventure that is an unusual experience for both of us and that is the wild ride that we had in New York City. As you may recall the good doctor was recruited to be the CEO of Columbia Cornell Care (a 50/50 joint venture between Columbia and Cornell's Medical Schools) and he recruited me to be his Chief Operating and Chief Financial Officer. HOW COULD I SAY NO and so the wild ride began.

Not just at work but the whole NY experience.

The good doctor bought into a building on the east side that was so exclusive that the Board wouldn't even tell him who else lived there. OH MY.

Of course, there were no egos to deal with at work with the faculty at the Ivy League medical schools. Not bad for a couple of Iowa Boys. I am not sure what we really accomplished but I have some of the best memories of my life doing those years and treasure the many years that Bruce and I worked together in both San Francisco and New York.

Heidi Schelling, MHA

Heidi Schelling serves as Senior Vice President, Business Development at Aspire Health, focused on market expansion. Prior to Aspire, Heidi served in senior leadership roles with Midwest CareCenter and Northwestern Healthcare Network and as Managed Care Team Leader for Searle Pharmaceutical.

Heidi's experience also includes leadership positions in health care consulting and MCO program and network development. Heidi received a Master in Health Administration and Planning from Washington University in St. Louis.



In the words of Ms. Schelling...

I had the high privilege of working with Bruce at Northwestern Healthcare Network in Chicago. His leadership brought personal wisdom and valuable West Coast experience to the Network members as a guide in the next stage of market evolution. Bruce's unique blend of business acumen and clinical expertise was well respected, as was his much needed sense of humor. It carried us through many tense times as change is difficult for most. His perseverance and energy level were absolutely unstoppable. One definitely needed to use energy drinks to just keep up!

I was truly fortunate to have found such a magnificent mentor and friend in Bruce at that time in my career. I have many many fond memories. He is simply the best.

INTERNATIONAL COLLEAGUES

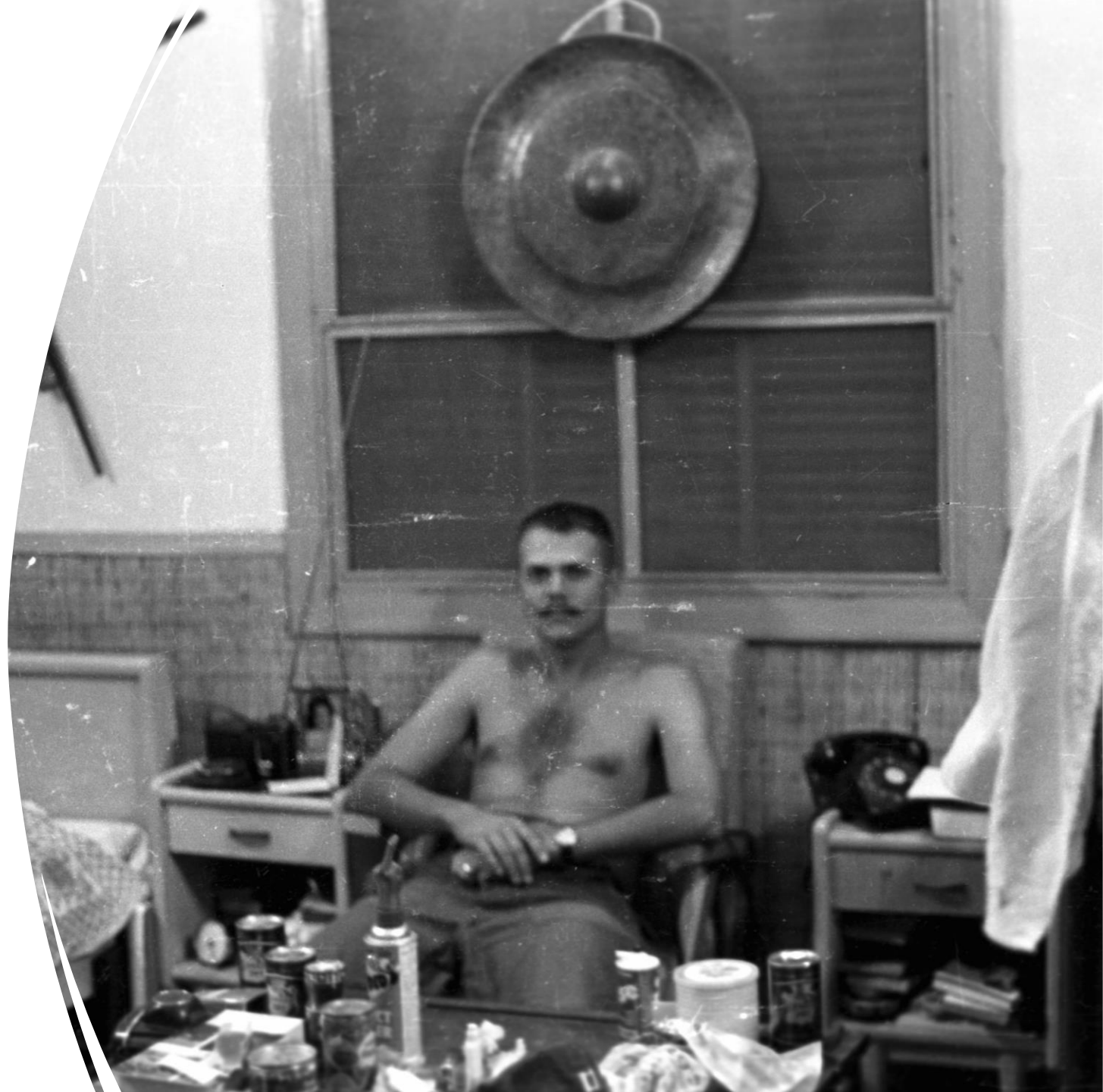
William H. Baker, MD

Professor Emeritus, Division of Vascular Surgery, Department of Surgery, Loyola University Medical Center, Maywood, Illinois.

Author of more than 150 papers, and president of 6 surgical societies.

Retired Captain, US Army, 85th Evacuation Hospital, Qui Nhon, Vietnam, 1965-66.

Right: Dr. Baker, as he was in Vietnam



In the words of Dr. Baker...

I have been asked to pen a few words about Bruce Eldon Spivey. Today he is a highly respected Ophthalmologist, has served as a departmental chair, and on the American Board of Ophthalmology and is a member of multiple Societies of Ophthalmology, both foreign and domestic and an officer of most of these. He is known and respected throughout the world.

Spoiler alert!! I knew Bruce prior to RVN, and we have maintained a friendship to this day. Despite his illustrious reputation he was one of troops in Asia. Yes, he plied his trade taking care of patients, but some afternoons he could be found at happy hour -- 30 cent drinks were now half price at 15 cents. I still wake at night thinking that my pantleg is wet!! We lived in the nearby officers' quarters with Joe Garneau. Joe was a Major in charge of repairing aircraft - he had a private, spacious room until we knocked on his door. The look on his face as he gazed at a tall Captain with a mustache and a short Captain with a mustache was a look of shock! Not welcoming!! Regardless, we rolled in with our gear including an out of tune guitar. We became fast friends - I borrowed his jeep every morning to eat at MacV. No, Bruce did not accompany me for breakfast.

Dr. Baker continued...

One night we started singing with music on the CD or tape player. Some unappreciative soul in our barracks (undoubtedly field grade officer) turned off the electricity so the CD player was non-functional. Not to be denied, we then sang ditties to the strumming of my out of tune guitar. YUCK! In a few minutes the electricity was restored.

On another night we were all overserved. Joe had a bed to himself on the opposite wall, Bruce slept in the upper bunk, and I had the lower bunk on the near wall. In the middle of the night there was a huge and great noise that awoke Howie Berman in the next room. He thought the VC were attacking!! But the three of us slept through it all. The next morning, I found Bruce in bed with me, our Army table had been shattered and a bottle of booze destroyed. Even the Major slept despite the disaster. I think Bruce had a sore and bruised side for a few days. Not much for a fall from an upper bunk. I don't know if Howie ever recovered from his fright.



More from Dr. Baker...

Bruce and I made numerous trips courtesy of the USAF. In Bangkok he rode a small elephant -- I recall the elephant squatting to pee with his rider perched atop and laughing riotously. One afternoon we went shopping with my cousin's wife - there was a drink in every store - and yes, we bought a couple of baubles. I don't recall the details of other trips but I know we did not get arrested.

To this day Bruce and I remain friends. And despite his worldly success and fame, he remains the same good guy from the 85th Evacuation Hospital.

Dr. RD Ravindran

Dr. Ravindran is a cataract surgery and lens implant specialist. His mentor when he started his practice was the legendary Dr. Venkataswamy, the Founder in 1987 of the Aravind Eye Care System in India.

Dr. Ravindran has been the Chief Medical Officer for every new Aravind Center. He now holds the prestigious and demanding position of his former mentor, Chairman of the Aravind Eye Care System, a position he has held since 2010.



In the words of Dr. Ravindran...

I have known Bruce for the last two decades and always admire his level of energy, even in his eighties. He is a very warm and friendly person to interact with. Our founder, Dr. Venkataswamy always personally visited him whenever he traveled to San Francisco and made it a point to spend some time with him.

Dr. V had a high regard for Bruce. Bruce's contribution to global ophthalmology education through the AAO and later through IOC has few parallels. I hope that we will have leaders like him in the future.

BGK Ajayi MHS, FMCOphth

Dr. B.G.K. Ajayi, an icon of Ophthalmology in Nigeria and past President of the Ophthalmological Society of Nigeria, “clocked” 70 years on the 25th of July 2018. This platinum jubilee was celebrated in a grand way on the same day at a public lecture organized in his honour by the Ophthalmology Department College of Medicine, University of Ibadan (U.I.), the University College Hospital (UCH) Ibadan and the Eleta Group of Catholic Eye Hospitals.

l to r: Drs. Straastma, Tornambe and BGK



In the words of Dr. BGK...

I am greatly indebted to Bruce for ALL he has done for me and for Ophthalmology in Nigeria. How can I describe, succinctly, an extraordinary person such as Dr Bruce Eldon Spivey? A man whose impact is felt in all the seven continents of the world cannot be described in a few sentences! Only volumes of books **can capture it all!**

I am reminded of the story of seven blind men who tried to describe an elephant. Since they had no sight, they had to use their sense of touch. Positioned around the elephant, each one touching and feeling the part nearest to him, could only describe the information conveyed to him by his sense of touch! So inspired by the seven blind men, I will try to limit this tribute to those aspects of my encounters with Dr. Spivey. In doing this, I can't help but borrow from some of my previous writings on this great man. Facts don't change! However, I will try to be brief! The Yoruba, the largest ethnic group in Nigeria and probably in Africa, say "*Soki l'obe oge.*" The adage connotes that the allure of a special stew, prepared for a lover on a special occasion, using a special recipe, is enhanced by its limited quantity. The lover is left craving for more!

Dr. BGK continued...

Bruce started a revolution in eye care all over the world. He took special interest in Africa and in particular, Nigeria where a quarter of the population of Africa resides. The revolution has continued to gather momentum. Thousands of eyes, blind from cataract, have had vision restored and millions have been prevented from going blind.

In the Ophthalmological Society of Nigeria's book of tributes to Bruce Spivey to celebrate the occasion of his 80th Birthday, titled "Bruce Spivey in Africa," Dr. Robert Rich, MD, Shelley and Steven Einhorn Distinguished Chair, Professor of Ophthalmology, wrote, "Bruce has the unique ability to bring people together, stimulate them, focus them, get them to work together and get them to perform," That was exactly what he did for us in Africa.

Under the auspices of the ICO when he was the President, Bruce brought us sub-Saharan Africans together, spent time and money to groom us in leadership skills; made us work together and later gave us the push to form the African Ophthalmology Forum and even went further to ensure a good representation in the ICO. Working with the American Academy of Ophthalmology, WHO, IAPB and other agencies, he organized training for ophthalmologists and supported several training programmes for the improvement of ophthalmology in Africa. Africa witnessed a monumental revolution in eye care and for the first time, sub-Saharan Africa had a voice on the international scene.

Dr. BGK continued...

Bruce is humane, humble, approachable and always ready to help. My institutions, University College Hospital (UCH) Ibadan, Eleta Eye Institute and its affiliated eye hospitals have benefitted tremendously from Dr. Spivey. He has been the wind beneath our sails.

On a personal note, Bruce has been a great friend, brother and mentor. I remember my first encounter with him during the historic visit of ICO to Nigeria in 2004. Dr. Spivey, then President elect of ICO, said to me, “BGK please call me Bruce.” I shuddered! The Yoruba say, “Igi imu o *jina si ori.*” *Literarily translated into English, it means the tip of the nose is quite a distance from the forehead. It is insulting and outright disrespectful to call an older person by his name!*

He insisted and after several days of careful manipulations and deliberate construction of my sentences to avoid having to call him directly, gradually acquiesced. Soon I forgot the age difference.

Dr. BGK continued...

I recall one occasion; we were at a meeting which started at about 7.00pm. There were about five of us and interestingly, I was the only Nigerian, and we were discussing matters about ophthalmology in Nigeria. When it was 11.30pm, I could hardly keep my eyes open. Afraid that I would soon start snoring, I asked to take my leave. “Young men,” I said to the other members who were all much older than me, “I must go to bed now because I can barely keep my eyes open.” Bruce smiled and asked, “BGK, how old are you?” “I am 50,” I replied. “Really! You’re the youngest here! I am about 14 years older,” he added. They were all strong and vibrant and I, a much younger man, was already worn out at 11.00pm! Suffice it to say that when the meeting reconvened at 7.30am the following morning, they were all there and punctual. They had adjourned at 12.30am.

I have personally learnt several lessons from Bruce. He demonstrated to me the true meaning of Diligence, Simplicity, Perseverance, Altruism, Commitment, Humility, Compassion and Love and believing in oneself. “In spite of all the accolades and recognition Bruce has received from around the world, he does not have an inflated ego,” said Jane Aguirre, who had worked with him at the Academy for several years. Dr. Bruce Eldon Spivey is a very practical person. He believes what he preaches and practices what he believes. His life is a Bible worth reading.

Professor Gabriela Palis, MD

Dr. Palis is the Director of Education, Ophthalmology Department Universidad del Salvador Residency Program: Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Advisory and Strategic Committees, and Editor-in-Chief of the Ophthalmology Foundation Center for Ophthalmic Educators. Dr. Palis is Chair of the Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology Education Committee, member of the Argentinian Council of Ophthalmology Accreditation of Residency Programs Committee, and member of the Argentinian Society of Ophthalmology, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, Ophthalmology, Asociacion Latino Americana de Cirujanos de Catarata y Segmento Anterior.

l to r: Drs. Mayorga, Palis, Spivey and Golnik



In the words of Dr. Palis...

My first acquaintance with Bruce was 20 years ago. I was pursuing my degree in Medical Education and preparing a paper on "how to develop learning objectives". In my search for references, I found an article by a certain Spivey that amazed me - how well written! What clarity of thought! A few months later, I was among the audience of a meeting in Buenos Aires, when the chair announced that, sitting a few rows behind me, was Bruce Spivey himself. I was so amazed that I didn't dare to introduce myself and greet him.

Almost a decade later, and due to other circumstances, years of deep mutual friendship, mentoring and thousands of opportunities he gave me to grow and develop in the field of ophthalmic education would come... but I never forgot that first encounter of intellectual admiration. My deep recognition to Bruce from the bottom of my heart for being my friend, my mentor, and an outstanding role-model.

Eduardo Mayorga, MD

Dr. Mayorga is the Director of Distance Education of the Ophthalmology Foundation and of the Pan American Association of Ophthalmology and President of the Association of University Professors in Ophthalmology of that Association. He is the Coordinator of the Residency Accreditation Commission of the Argentine Council of Ophthalmology and is the Senior Consultant on Medical Education at the Eye Department, Hospital Universitario Austral Argentina.

His Society memberships include the Argentinian Society of Ophthalmology, the Argentine Council of Ophthalmology and the American Academy of Ophthalmology. He is married to Gabriela Palis, MD, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

l. to r: Drs. Mayorga, Palis, Spivey, Amanda Spivey and Dr. Hilary Beaver



In the words of Dr. Mayorga...

I met Bruce Spivey in 2007 when he visited Buenos Aires together with the group that was organizing the first "ICO Program Director Course" led by Karl Golnik. I was a local co-organizer and was asked by the organizer to fetch Bruce at the airport. At that time, I wasn't very social and almost declined this opportunity. "What was I going to be talking about with a guy I did not know, in a language that was not my first language?". Glad I did not decline the opportunity. That day I met the person that changed my life as a person, an educator. and as a leader. Bruce became my role model, inspiration, mentor, and friend.

\From there on, with the opportunity he gave me, I traveled the world helping run residency program director's courses and teaching the teachers meetings with the group that had come to Buenos Aires. In many of these instances, Bruce was there, and what I enjoyed most were the "after-action" debriefings, the dinners, and the many sightseeings that we did together.

What impresses me more about his personality is how he leads projects and people, always by empowering those involved. I also admire his fine humor and comments, his kindness, and his ability to change, when needed, from his kind "Santa" look into a fierce warrior.

Not even the Covid pandemic was able to keep me apart from my dear friend, being part of the projects, he leads and waiting for his nice comments on my "Facebook" using his gracious language and expressions that many times make me look them up in Google.

Suzanne Gilbert, PhD, MPH



Dr. Gilbert is a Founder and the Senior Director, Research & Strategic Opportunities for the Seva Foundation, Berkeley, California.

Seva's vision as described beautifully on their website is a world free of avoidable blindness. As they state so clearly, "Restoring sight is one of the most cost-effective interventions to reduce poverty. With clear vision, those you help can return to work and school and live productive lives". Seva works in over 20 countries to increase the capacity of local hospitals and to develop sustainable eye care programs.

l to r: Bruce Spivey, David Vastine, Amanda Spivey and Suzanne Gilbert

In the words of Dr. Gilbert...

I have been inspired and mentored by Bruce Spivey for several decades.

Our initial contact came through our committee work together with AAO, WHO, ICO, and IAPB (International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness). In more recent years we have collaborated on local projects and found many areas of shared interest.

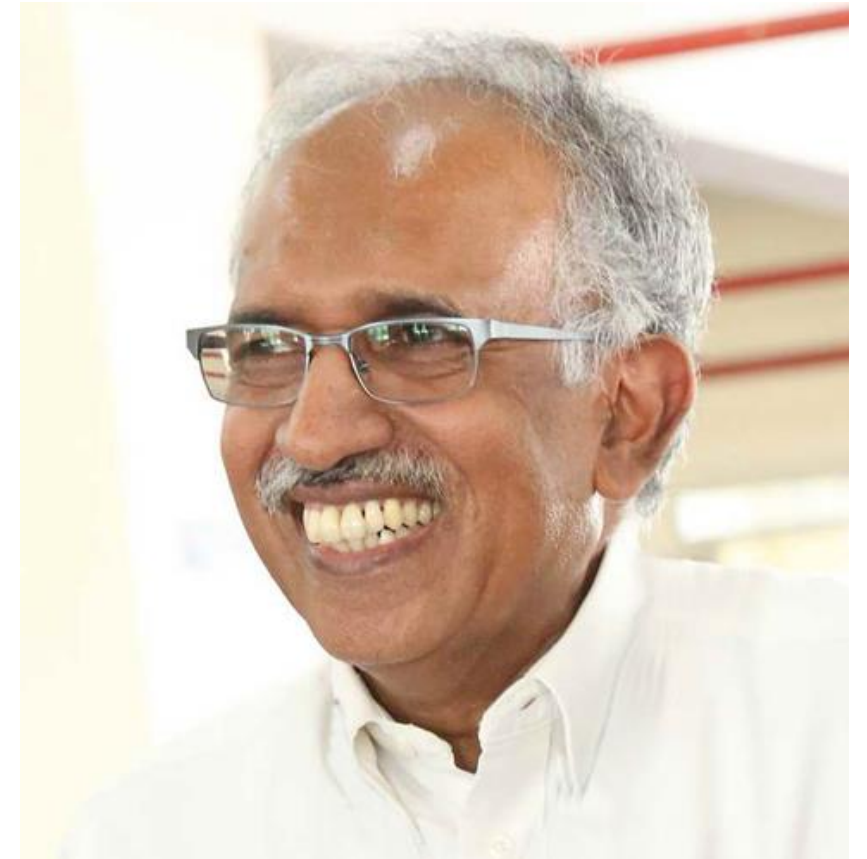
Bruce is a big thinker whose thoughts shape institutions and also make space for those of us newer to the work. He brings to any group a high level of organization as well as a succinct and clear method of communication (written and verbal!).

Bruce is a man of few words. Yet those words create impact. I am grateful for all we have done together and will continue to do as colleagues and friends.

Thulasiraj Ravilla

Thulsi is the Director of Operations for the Aravind Eye Care Systems. He is also the Executive Director of the Lions Aravind Institute of Community Ophthalmology, the training and consulting arm of the Aravind Eye Care System.

He is a Board Member of the Seva Foundation, USA and he is a visiting scholar at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.



In the words of Thulsi...

Bruce is amongst the (very) few, impressive institution builders that I have come across. This requires a rare capacity of engaging conflicting qualities to play – such as the confidence to lead (as if you know it all), and at the same time having the humility and thirst to learn; uncanny capacity to judge and bring in the right people to work with him; more than anything else institution building requires persistence and never giving up. All of this and more, is what Bruce personifies. And he is an absolutely “no-nonsense” guy. That’s another thing I love about him.

The Spivey Family

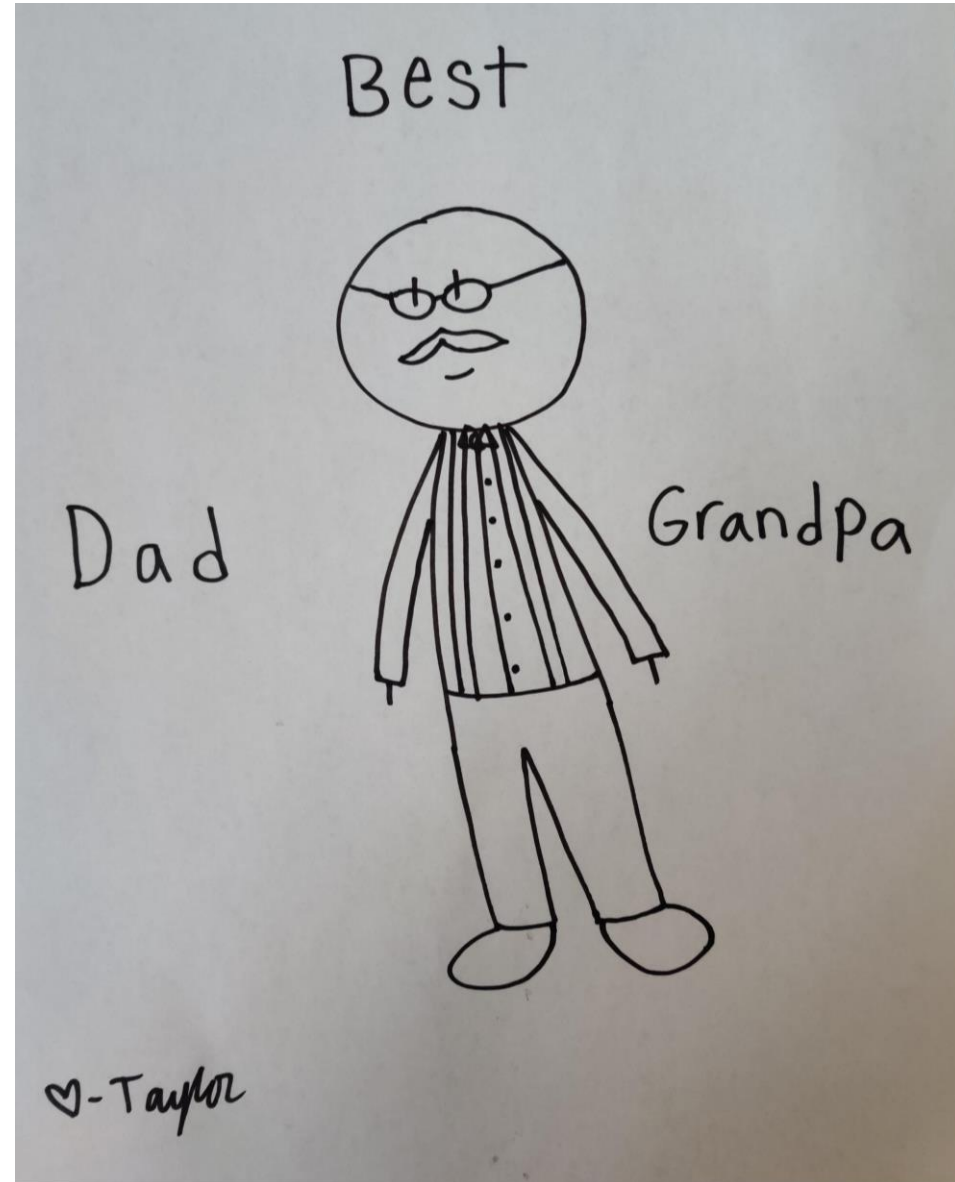
Lisa Spivey

Dad inspired daughter Lisa to follow an international career in Asia, and now she focuses on providing continuing education which is another of his passions.

Granddaughter Taylor Spivey is attending college at California College of the Arts and loves eating yummy things together with her grandfather.



Grandfather Spivey as seen by Taylor Spivey



Eric Spivey

Eric Spivey is Chairman of Trans DS LLC

*l to r: Bruce, Sanford, Eric, Austin, Cynthia, Sheridan
and Amanda Spivey*



In the words of Eric Spivey...

When I was a young boy, my father sat me down and explained he needed to go far away for quite some time. I didn't understand where Vietnam was or for what purpose he was going, I just remember that I was sad he was leaving.

While he didn't have a choice to stay home in that situation, his passion to help others wouldn't have kept him away and didn't stop him in future years as he traveled the world in the pursuit of better eye care worldwide. As I grew to appreciate, my father was determined to leave a lasting footprint on this planet. And he has.

His energy, blended with generosity and optimism, opened my eyes (pun intended)—and the eyes of all those around him—to the wonders of the world and the gift of giving one's time and talents.

For the next generation, my dad has generously shared his infectious love of travel and food with his grandchildren, allowing them to experience his lifelong pursuits in Ophthalmology while they spent time with Grandpa and Grandma on trips throughout the world. They are some very lucky grandchildren.

We are all so proud of the accomplishments of Dr. Bruce E. Spivey and are honored to call him Dad and Grandpa.