

Cristos Ifantides MD, MBA

Assistant Professor
Department of Ophthalmology
University of Colorado School of Medicine
Denver Health Medical Center
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Appointments: (303) 602-8550

Education and Experience

Wills Eye Hospital

Academic Global Ophthalmology/Anterior Segment Fellow

- Performing advanced anterior segment surgical techniques including femtosecond, refractive, and scleral fixated IOLs
- Clinical instructor to Wills Eye residents in resident clinic and the OR
- Spending 6 months abroad performing low resource surgical techniques including manual small incision cataract surgery (MSICS)
- Learning healthcare administration (finance, operations management, supply chain, international regulations, etc) for global eyecare facilities
- Designing educational curriculum for the Wills Eye Hospital Center for Academic Global Ophthalmology
- To date, have performed hundreds of cataract surgeries on 4 continents
- Countries include Ecuador, India (LV Prasad Eye Institute), Haiti, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, and Burundi

Philadelphia, PA
July 2016 – June 2017

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Ophthalmology Resident and GME Representative

- Chief resident in busy urban setting at three medical centers
- completed over 210 cataracts (including premium IOLs) and numerous other glaucoma, anterior segment, retina (over 400 intravitreal injections), and oculoplastics procedures as primary surgeon
- Developed new imaging technologies for eye care telemedicine
- “Young Researcher” with NEI/ARVO/NIH, lobbying congress in Washington to increase appropriations to eye research

New York, NY
July 2013 – June 2016

New York Hospital – Queens

Transitional Year Medical Resident and GME Representative

- Rotations through medicine, surgery, and emergency medicine
- Bimonthly GME meetings with hospital Chief Officers and Vice Presidents
- Conducted Quality Improvement projects to increase patient health literacy

Flushing, NY
July 2012 – June 2013

University of Florida – College of Medicine

Doctor of Medicine (MD)

- Graduated with Honors in Research
- Conducted eye healthcare administration research in Havana, Cuba in 2012

Gainesville, FL
May 2012

University of Florida – Hough Graduate School of Business

Master in Business Administration (MBA)

Gainesville, FL
May 2012

University of Florida – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Classical Studies with minor in Greek Studies

- Graduated with Highest Distinction – *summa cum laude*
- Elected to Phi Beta Kappa for outstanding academic performance

Gainesville, FL
May 2006

Research Experience

Researcher

Wills Eye Hospital/LV Prasad Eye Institute

- Won the AAO Annual Global Video Contest 2017 Grand Prize for the Simple Limbal Epithelial Transplant (SLET) technique
- Designing low-cost intraocular pressure measurement device
- Worked on big data initiative with LV Prasad Eye Institute and Microsoft on Microsoft Intelligent Network for Eyecare (MINE) with Dr. Vipin Das
- Investigating stem cell modulation for non-surgical treatment of congenital blepharoptosis with Dr. Virender Sangwan at LV Prasad Eye Institute Center for Regenerative Ophthalmology

July 2016 - Present

Researcher

Department of Ophthalmology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

- Developed affordable imaging modalities that increase access to care and telemedicine capabilities (presented results at multiple meetings including ARVO 2015/2016)

July 2013 - June 2016

Researcher

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Houston, TX

- Worked under NASA's lead scientist for the Visual Impairment Intracranial Pressure Risk (effect of zero gravity on astronauts' eyes), NASA's top human spaceflight risk
- Analyzed the effects of high altitudes on eye physiology in mountain climbers on Mount Everest

April 2013 - May 2013

Ophthalmology Research Assistant

Department of Ophthalmology, University of Florida

Supervised by Nausheen Khuddus, M.D. and Clay Smith, Ph.D.

- Studied retina development under different oxygen supplementation levels in a retinopathy of prematurity animal model
- Employed immunohistochemistry and confocal microscopy to study VEGF and other growth factor expression in the different treatment groups
- This project **won 1st Prize** in June 2011 at the Annual University of Florida Ophthalmology Resident Research Symposium and was presented at ARVO in May 2014

December 2010 - May 2011

Co-Investigator

Department of Pediatrics, University of Florida

Supervised by Kathleen Ryan, M.D.

- Designed and executed a research project studying MRSA in gymnasiums
- Presented the results at the Annual UF Medical Student Research Day, winning the **Lawrence M. Goodman Research Award**
- This study **received global recognition**, being cited by thousands of news outlets, including The Wall Street Journal and National Public Radio (NPR)

May 2008 - March 2011

Surgery Research Assistant

Division of Vascular Surgery, University of Florida

Supervised by Peter Nelson, M.D.

NIH Funding: \$4,370

- Administered quality of life surveys to peripheral vein graft bypass patients
- Related proteomic/genomic patient data to patient quality of life

June 2008 - August 2008

Surgery Research Assistant

Division of Vascular Surgery, University of Florida

Supervised by Scott Berceci, M.D., Ph.D. and C. Keith Ozaki, M.D., FACS

UF University Scholars Program and Lifeline Foundation Funding: \$6,500

- Studied the role of TGF- β , CTGF, and FAK in vein graft remodeling under different hemodynamics (high/low shear and high/low flow)
- Assisted in surgeries, harvesting, and tissue processing of bypass grafts

January 2004 - July 2007

Surgery Research Assistant

Division of Vascular Surgery, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Univ.
Supervised by Michael Conte, M.D. and Michael Belkin, M.D.
Lifeline Vascular Surgery Research Foundation Funded: \$3,000

June 2006 - August 2006

- Prospective NIH-funded study correlating C-Reactive Protein (CRP) levels and statins with lower extremity vein graft bypass outcomes
- Conducted a basic science project studying the effects of exogenous inflammatory markers on gene expression related to cell migration/proliferation in human saphenous vein tissue cultures

Honors and Awards

MEDICAL SCHOOL

The Florida Medical Foundation Joseph S. Sadowski, M.D. Scholarship

Presented to one medical student in Florida who demonstrates personal integrity, as exemplified by leadership, community involvement, public health initiatives and concern for others

June 2011

The Lawrence M. Goodman Research Award

Presented for research presentation, "Gymnasium Equipment Surfaces are Not a Source of Community Staphylococcal Infections" at the University of Florida Medical Student Research Day

April 2011

Award for Excellence in Clinical Psychiatry

Presented to student who displays exemplary performance during the third year psychiatry clerkship at the University of Florida College of Medicine

June 2010

NIH Research Grant

Funding for summer research project between MS1 and MS2 years
University of Florida College of Medicine, Gainesville, FL

April 2010

UNDERGRADUATE STUDY

Lifeline Student Research Fellowship

National vascular surgery research grant (second time awarded)
Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

April 2006

Phi Kappa Tau National Scholarship

June 2005

Lifeline Student Research Fellowship

National vascular surgery research grant
University of Florida College of Medicine, Gainesville, FL

April 2005

Hartigan-Valken Study Abroad Scholarship

April 2005

UF International Center Study Abroad Scholarship

March 2005

UF College of Medicine, University Scholars Program

Medical research grant
University of Florida College of Medicine, Gainesville, FL

May 2004

Bilirakis Greek Studies Scholarship

March 2004

Public Service and Activities

RESIDENCY

Young Investigator Lobbyist, National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (NAEVR)

Lobbied legislators in D.C. to increase funding in NIH and NEI for 2016
Results: NIH increase of \$1.1B to \$31.2B and NEI increase of \$13.9M to \$698.1M

February 2015

Representative, Mount Sinai Hospital House Staff Council

July 2013 - present

MEDICAL SCHOOL

Board Member, Florida Medical Association Political Action Committee

2007 - 2012

Volunteer, UF Equal Access Healthcare Clinic

Provided healthcare to the uninsured and underserved in Gainesville, FL

2008 - 2012

Member, Florida Medical Association Council on Medical Economics

2010 - 2012

Member, Project Yucatan Medical Mission Trip in Merida, Mexico	March 2009
Vice President, UF chapter of the American Medical Association	2008 - 2009
Treasurer, UF College of Medicine Surgical Subspecialties Interest Group	2008 - 2009
Member, American Medical Association Committee on Scientific Issues	2008 - 2009
First Year Representative, American Medical Association	2007 - 2008
<u>BUSINESS SCHOOL</u>	
Study Abroad at IAE Business School, Buenos Aires, Argentina	March 2011
Studied international business at the business school of Universidad de Austral	
<u>POSTGRADUATE ACTIVITY</u>	
AmeriCorps Tutor	2006 - 2007
Completed 1700 hours of community service working full-time for a year as a tutor and mentor at Williams Elementary School in Gainesville, FL	
<u>UNDERGRADUATE ACTIVITY</u>	
Board Member, UF Recreational Sports Board of Directors	2005 - 2006
Chairman, UF Recreational Sports Long Term Planning Committee	2005 - 2006
Member, UF Undergraduate Advising Council	2005 - 2006
Study Abroad in Santorini, Greece	May/June 2005
Lead Creative Writing Intern, EXI Technologies, Fort Myers, FL	2001 - 2002

Research

PUBLICATIONS

- Ifantides C, Friedman A, Strauchen J, Wu AP. A Novel Case of Xanthogranuloma. Manuscript submitted.
- Ifantides C, Batlle O, Mushart D, Ayyala RS. Nocardia exalbida Blebitis: A Case Report. *Journal of Glaucoma*, 2015 Apr-May;24(4):e19-21.
- Ryan KA, Ifantides C, Bucciarelli C, Saliba H, Tuli S, Black E, Thompson LA. Are gymnasium equipment surfaces a source of staphylococcal infections in the community? *American Journal of Infection Control*. 2011 Mar;39(2):148-50.
- Jiang Z, Yu P, Tao M, Ifantides C, Ozaki CK, Berceci SA. Interplay of CCR2 signaling and local shear force determines vein graft neointimal hyperplasia in vivo. *FEBS Letters*, 2009 Nov; 583(21):3536-40.
- Ho KJ, Owens CD, Longo T, Sui XX, Ifantides C, Conte MS. C-reactive protein and vein graft disease: evidence for a direct effect on smooth muscle cell phenotype via modulation of PDGF receptor-beta. *American Journal of Physiology-Heart and Circulatory Physiology*, 2008; 295 (3):H1132-H1140.
- Jiang Z, Yu P, Tao M, Fernandez C, Ifantides C, Moloye O, Shultz GS, Ozaki CK, Berceci SA. TGF- β /CTGF Mediated Fibroblast Recruitment Influences Early Outward Vein Graft Remodeling. *American Journal of Physiology-Heart and Circulatory Physiology*, 2007 July; 293(1):H482-8.
- Jiang Z, Tao M, Fernandez C, Ifantides C, Ozaki CK, Berceci SA. Wall tension modulates cytokine and growth factor expression to limit outward vein graft remodeling. *Vascular Medicine*, 2005; 10(2):166.

PRESENTATIONS

- Ifantides C, Naidis S. New Lens Converts Smartphone Into Portable Slit Lamp. The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Imaging Conference. Seattle, WA May 2016.
- Ifantides C, Naidis S. Smartphone magnifying lens: an affordable imaging modality to increase access of care and obtain high resolution photos in clinic, at the bedside, and abroad. The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Imaging Conference. Denver, CO May 2015.
- Ifantides C, Friedman A, Strauchen J, Wu AP. A Novel Case of Xanthogranuloma. American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (ASOPRS) Fall meeting. Chicago, IL, October 2014.
- Ifantides, C, Khuddus N, McGowan C, Smith WC. A Novel Piglet Animal Model in Retinopathy of Prematurity. ARVO Annual Meeting. Orlando, FL May 2014.
- Ifantides C, Eubanks B, Taylor D, Peden MC. Pan-retinal Photocoagulation In High-risk Non-proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy. The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO). Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, May 2012.

Hong SM, Coons EM, O'Malley KA, Ifantides C, Nelson PR. Quality of Life Outcomes Following Lower Extremity Revascularization. Peripheral Vascular Surgery Society. Steamboat Springs, Colorado, January 2011.

Ryan KA, Ifantides C, Bucciarelli C, Saliba H, Black E, Thompson LA. Gymnasium Equipment Surfaces Are Not a Source of Community Staphylococcal Infections. Annual Pediatric Academic Society. Vancouver, Canada, May 2010.

SKILLS

Patent Writing, Ad Copy Writing, Research Grant Writing, Lobbying, Proficiency in Greek language, Microsoft PowerPoint, Excel, SPSS, Access

INTERESTS

Inventor, led team of 5 members through design, patent, and manufacturing of non-medical device currently in production.

Traveling, mountain climbing/hiking (last hiking trips were to Glacier National Park, Montana in May 2016), rock climbing, learning about different cultures and languages, cooking, and playing sports: racquetball, softball, triathlons, and soccer (2010 UF intramural Men's Soccer League Champions).