

## **Observership Report by Sri Hudaya Widihashta: Retinal Disorders and Ophthalmic Genetics Department at Stein Eye Institute, UCLA**

My name is Sri Hudaya Widihashta from Indonesia. I am delighted to share my experiences and the knowledge I gained during my observership program at the Retinal Disorders and Ophthalmic Genetics Department at the prestigious Stein Eye Institute, UCLA. I started the program on March 11<sup>th</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup> 2024.

The Stein Eye Institute is renowned as one of the best places for ophthalmology in the USA and globally. I consider myself extremely fortunate to have been supervised by Dr. Michael B. Gorin, an authority in ophthalmic genetics, and to have had the chance to work alongside Dr. Collin McCannel and Dr. David Sarraf, both world-renowned ophthalmologists. Their mentorship and insights have profoundly influenced my understanding of retinal disorders and advanced my clinical skills.

My observership provided comprehensive exposure to both clinical and surgical settings. I was able to observe various patient interactions in the clinic, gaining insights into the diagnosis and management of complex retinal conditions. Additionally, my time in the inpatient clinic allowed me to witness the use of anti-VEGF therapies and also laser procedure. I was able to see Von Hippel Lindau laser treatment for the first time with Dr. Michael B. Gorin and learn about new therapy approach in Stargadt Disease. I had a chance to join Dr. Collin McCannel at the operating room and learn some of his skill for operating retinal condition. I have been able to learn expertise in retinal imaging, particularly in the context of retinal diseases with Dr. David Sarraf as his contributions to the field have profound impact on the field of imaging in Ophthalmology.

I joined grand rounds, surgical rounds, journal club meetings, and other academic learning sessions. These activities enriched my understanding of current issues and advancements in ophthalmology, providing a platform to discuss challenging cases and novel research with peers and experts.

One of the unique aspects of my observership was learning about genetic counseling with Dr. Michael B. Gorin. Understanding the genetic basis of ocular diseases and how to

communicate this information effectively to patients has been an enlightening experience. Furthermore, I had the opportunity to learn new techniques, including suprachoroidal injections, which are critical in the treatment of various retinal conditions.

Another highlight of my observership was the opportunity to attend prominent international conferences. I participated in ARVO 2024 in Seattle, the 10th Pacific Retinal Club Meeting and IntRIS at UCLA. These conferences exposed me to the latest advancements in retinal research and treatment, and I learned about new diagnostic approaches and therapeutic strategies from leading experts worldwide.

During my time at UCLA, I involved in research projects under the guidance of Dr. Michael B. Gorin. I am currently working on a research paper that explores Anti-VEGF treatment. This experience has underscored the importance of academic contributions to the field of ophthalmology.

Interacting with other fellows and engaging in discussions about ocular diseases has broadened my perspective and created valuable professional connections. These interactions have fostered a collaborative spirit and facilitated the exchange of ideas and knowledge.

## **Future Plans**

With the skills and knowledge gained from this observership, I am eager to contribute to the field of ophthalmology in Indonesia. My goal is to implement the advanced techniques and innovative approaches learned at UCLA to improve patient care in my country. Additionally, I plan to continue collaborating with the esteemed faculty and colleagues from the Stein Eye Institute to further enhance the standards of ophthalmic practice in Indonesia.

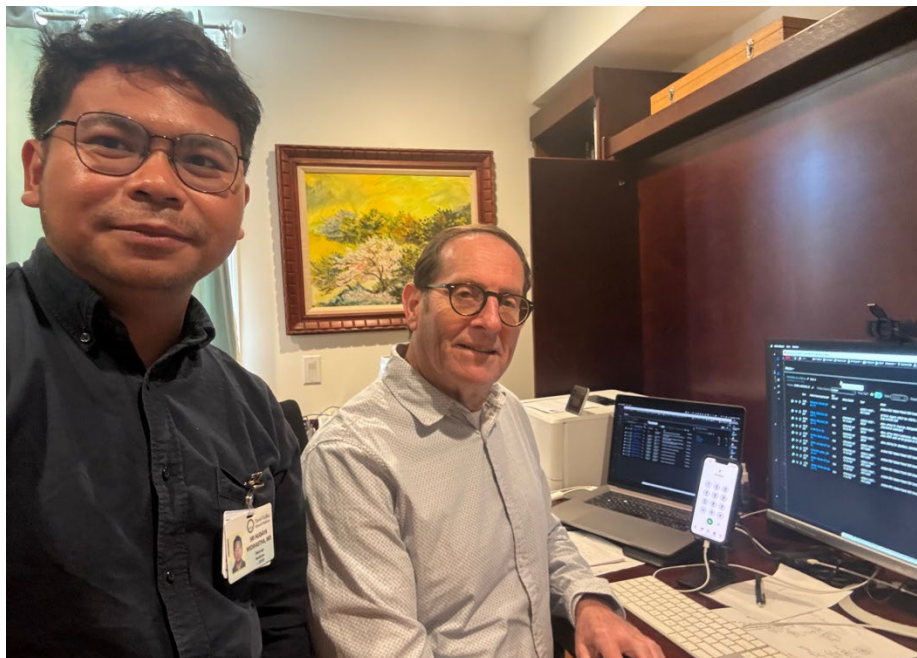
Sincerely,

Sri Hudaya Widiastha



Stein Eye Institute, UCLA





Clinic and Genetic Consultation with Supervisor, Dr. Michael B. Gorin



With Supervisor, Dr. Michael B. Gorin and fellows (Dr. Emile Vieta and Dr. Jack Lemon)

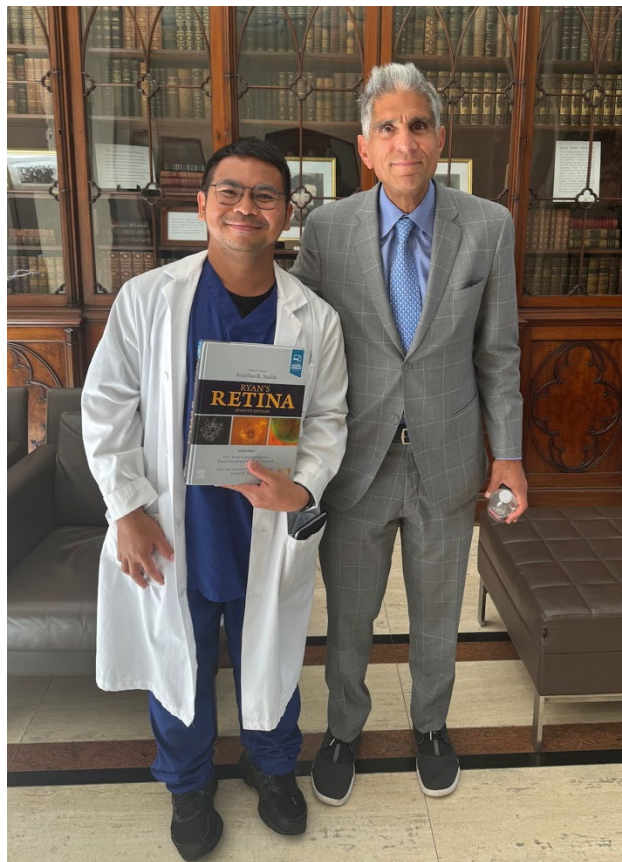


With Technician in Ophthalmology Jessica Garcia M, COA and Genetic Consultant  
Yesenia Gomez





With Dr. Collin McCannel



With Dr. David Sarraf



## ARVO 2024 and International Retinal Imaging Symposium 2024

With Prof Gemmy Cheung, MD from SNEC in International Retinal Imaging Symposium  
2024





Photo with staff at RDOG, Stein Eye Institute, UCLA