

History

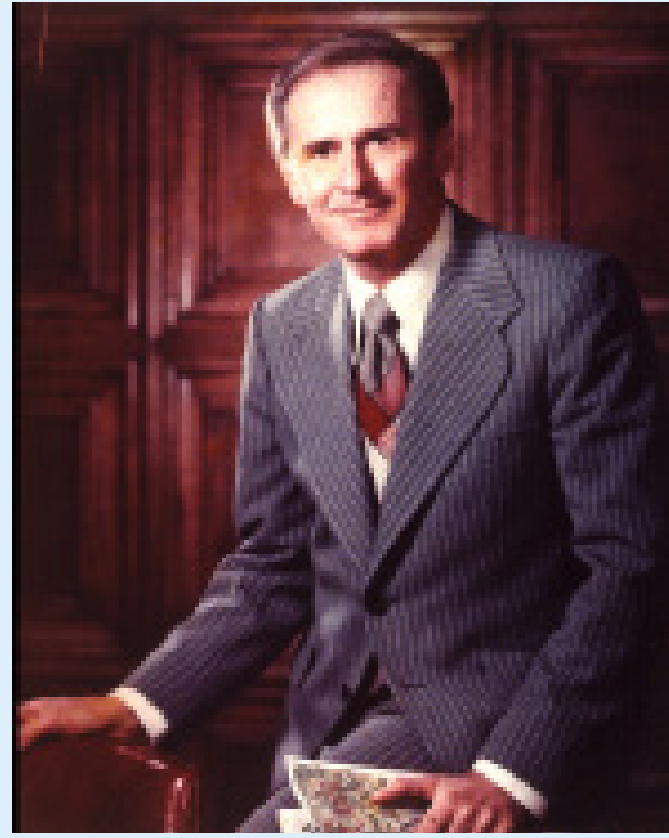


Edward Cary, M.D.

The history of academic ophthalmology in Dallas goes back over 100 years ago, when **Dr. Edward Cary**, an ophthalmologist from Bellevue Hospital Medical College in New York, moved to Texas and joined the faculty at Baylor University School of Medicine, located in Dallas at that time. In 1943, Baylor School of Medicine relocated to its current site in Houston. Dr. Cary remained in Dallas, and was one of the founding fathers of Southwestern Medical School. When he died in 1953, construction of the foundation-sponsored medical school at Inwood Road and Harry Hines Boulevard, by then affiliated with the University of Texas, was halfway to completion.

Formal establishment of academic ophthalmology began after World War II when **Dr. Kelly Cox** joined the Division of Ophthalmology at Southwestern Medical School in 1945, and served as its first chairman until 1953.

Dr. Cox was succeeded by **Carrol Browning, M.D.**, who came to Dallas from Springfield, Illinois. Dr. Browning accepted a part-time position in the Division of Ophthalmology while maintaining a private practice. His involvement with Southwestern Medical School grew, and, in 1953, he became the second chairman of the Division of Ophthalmology, serving in that capacity until 1963. During his tenure, Dr. Browning helped organize the first basic training course for ophthalmology, and, with the assistance of the Lion's Club, established the first eye bank in Dallas, created as an affiliate of the University Eye Department. **Dr. W. Maxwell Thomas**, a pioneer in corneal transplantation in the region, was an important participant in the development of the teaching program at UT Southwestern. Corneal transplantation was performed for the first time in the Dallas area, which went on to become a regional center for this type of surgery. The 1960s also ushered in a glaucoma diagnostic and treatment clinic under the direction of Dr. John Lippas, as well as an ocular motility clinic.



Carrol Browning, M.D.



W. Maxwell Thomas, M.D.

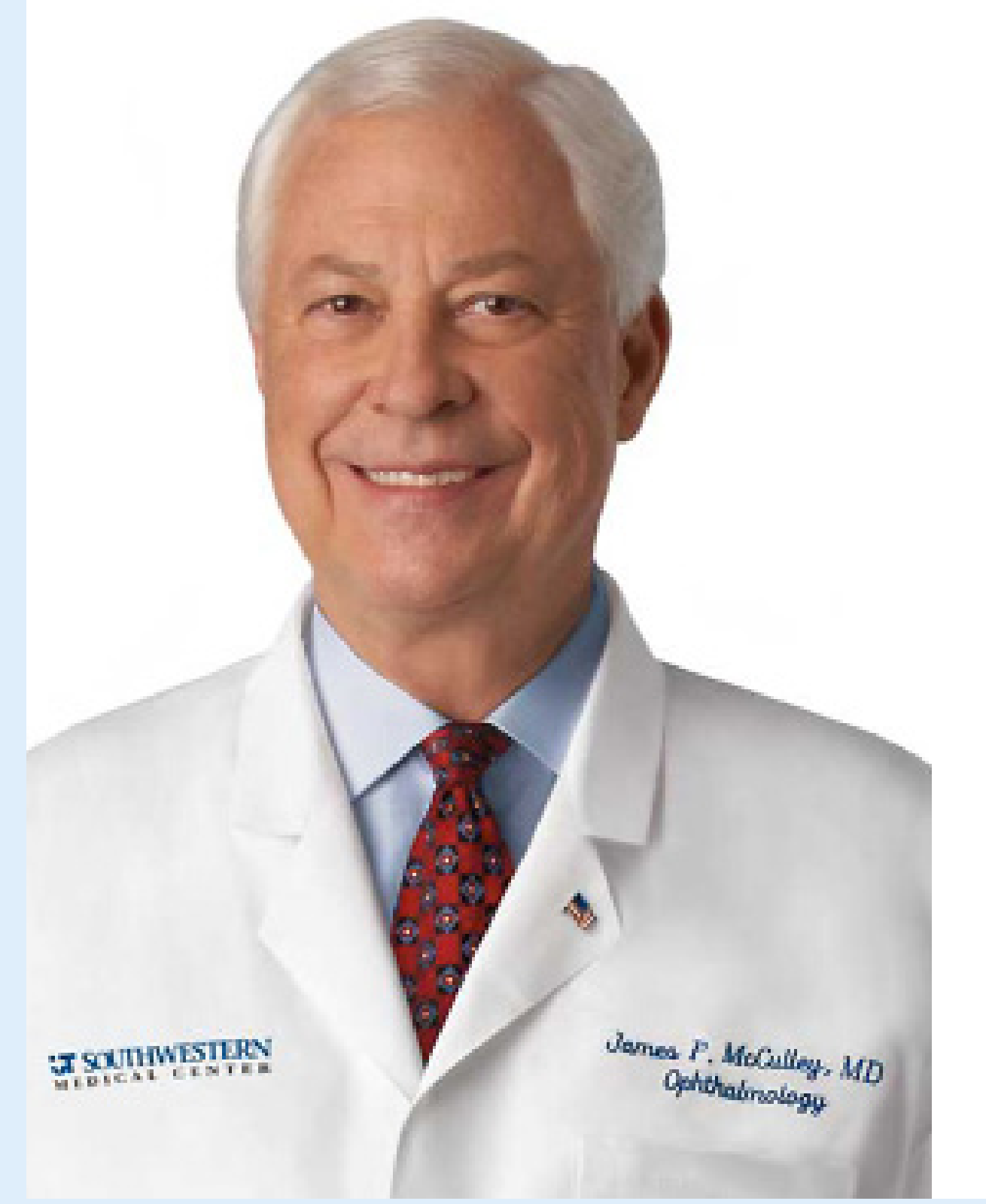
In 1963, **John Lynn, M.D.**, was appointed Chairman of the Division of Ophthalmology at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas, as it was called at that time. Dr. Lynn became the first full-time faculty member in the Division of Ophthalmology. Through his efforts, the Division of Ophthalmology emerged as an independent, free-standing academic Department of Ophthalmology in 1969. Dr. Lynn embarked on an ambitious campaign to expand the residency training program; improve the patient care facilities



John Lynn, M.D.

at Parkland Hospital; recruit new faculty; create an active basic research program; obtain space for research laboratories; and establish independent facilities for private patient care.

In 1981, the Department of Ophthalmology underwent a major transformation when Dr. Lynn left UT Southwestern to pursue private practice and **James P. McCulley, M.D.** was appointed chairman. Dr. McCulley received his M.D. from Washington University, and did his residency and a cornea/external disease fellowship at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. Under his leadership, the Department of Ophthalmology continued to expand and initiated training programs for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. The ophthalmology department facilities grew with the addition of the James W. Aston Ambulatory Care Center, which provided 51 exam rooms for private patients; a CLIA-accredited microbiological laboratory; laser and photographic support facilities; and a laser keratorefractive facility. The Department opened private patient satellite offices in Fort Worth and North Dallas in the 1990's, and the Laser Center for Vision Care began providing customized vision correction surgery for the Metroplex beginning in 1996.



James P. McCulley, M.D.

Dr. McCulley retired in 2021, after serving as chair for almost 40 years.

Today the department is a major referral center offering consultative services in every medical and surgical area of ophthalmic care. The goals of the department are to deliver comprehensive specialty and subspecialty eye care of the highest quality; to conduct research for the prevention and treatment of eye disease and blindness; and to train eye care physicians, as well as interns, residents, graduate students, and clinical and research post doctoral fellows.

The Department of Ophthalmology at UT Southwestern Medical Center has gained national prominence, and members of the Ophthalmology faculty are recognized as leaders in research in a wide range of topics, including corneal transplantation; contact lens-borne diseases; corneal wound healing; dry eye; blepharitis; ocular tumor immunology; regulation of ocular inflammation; the genetic basis of retinal diseases; cause and treatment of age-related macular degeneration; and biochemistry of the meibomian glands.

Solidly committed to basic scientific research; teaching future ophthalmologists; and medical and surgical treatment of eye problems, the Department of Ophthalmology at UT Southwestern Medical Center is prepared to bring the latest ophthalmic findings from the laboratory to the bedside.



Southwestern Medical School 1958



UT Southwestern Medical Center 2021