Dr. Evan A. Ballard joined Associated Eye Care in 1982, after completing a residency in ophthalmology and a fellowship in pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus at the Jules Stein Eye Institute at UCLA. Since that time, Dr. Ballard has devoted his professional life to caring for pediatric eye needs, embracing the spectrum of problems from nearsightedness and crossed eyes to the consequences of birth defects and brain tumors. Not all patients that require the services of a pediatric ophthalmologist are under 18 years of age. Some are adults who, for a variety of reasons, suffer from misalignment of the eyes, a condition known as strabismus. Some are troubled by double vision and others find the deviation of the eyes disfiguring and socially disadvantageous. For that reason, Dr. Ballard maintains that a specialist in pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus must care for children of all ages.

Besides the direct care of patients, Dr. Ballard has enjoyed other opportunities for service to the community and to humanity. For many years he taught clinical and surgical skills to residents in ophthalmology and holds the rank of adjunct professor of ophthalmology at the University of Minnesota. He continues to teach prospective ophthalmic technicians at the Regions Hospital School for Ophthalmic Technology. Special satisfaction has come from service to populations far removed from the modern medical system in the United States. He has traveled twice to El Salvador and once to Albania to provide service to the people of those countries and to share experience and insights relating to his specialty with the doctors in those countries. The other excuse for travel has involved chasing solar eclipses, once to Mexico and once to the Caribbean. Dr. Ballard’s enthusiasm for optics extends to his hobby in astronomy.

A native of Utah, Dr. Ballard attended college at Brigham Young University and medical school at the University of Utah before he moved on to UCEA for advanced training. He is married to Pamela Ballard, his best friend and etiquette teacher. They have seven children and three grandchildren and enjoy living on a quiet wooded farm in Wisconsin and making music together when time allows.

Dr. Ballard serves as scoutmaster for a Boy Scout Troop and is becoming a veteran of many battles with sore feet, frozen ears, mysterious food and terrorist mosquitoes. He finds delight in his patients, his colleagues, his family and his life in the Upper Midwest. He is often heard to utter the phrase, “better than I deserve.”

The data from all sites is entered into a single online database, which is available worldwide at http://www.respectacle.org. The search query features a unique algorithm that approximates search results to the prescription entered. The search can be refined based on several advanced filters (e.g. bifocals, color frames, condition, adult vs pediatric, etc).

Domestically, orders are user-driven from the website. Any individual or eyecare provider in the USA can simply enter a prescription, view the results, and select the glasses based on prescription and style. Internationally, orders are coordinated with an eyecare provider stationed in the area of need. Shipping is paid for by grant funding and private donations, and glasses are free to recipients (maximum 3 per annum).

Since inception, the organization has received a warm reception at a number of conferences, including the 2012 United for Sight Global Health and Innovation Conference at Yale University. It has also recently been featured in several local newspapers, Non-profit Quarterly magazine, and the USA Today newspaper.

For more information, or if you would like to donate, please contact LynchMD@respectacle.org

Optometric Update

We are pleased to extend you an invitation to our upcoming optometric update.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2013
The Sheraton St. Paul Woodbury Hotel
676 Bielenberg Drive
Woodbury, MN 55125
3:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Dinner Served at 6:00 p.m.
5 CME Credits Available

Please RSVP to Tara Nance at tnance@associatedeyecare.com
no later than Friday, April 5, 2013