

Introducing! MARION RETINA INSTITUTE

OF MARION EYE CENTERS

A STATE-OF-THE-ART RETINA CARE DIVISION FOCUSED SOLELY ON THE CARE OF RETINAL DISEASE

Marion Eye Center is proud to announce a significant new expansion with the addition of the Marion Retina Institute, a dedicated, state-of-the-art retina care division focused solely on the care of retinal disease.

While Marion Eye Center patients have always received exceptional retinal eye care, the establishment of the Marion Retina Institute elevates that care to a new level, reflecting recent important advances in the treatment of retinal disorders and the high prevalence of retinal disease in an aging population.

The retina, frequently compared to the film in a traditional camera, is the thin, light-sensitive membrane lining the back of the eye. Light passes through the pupil and lens and is focused on the retina, which sends signals to the brain, resulting in the ability to see. As a patient ages, this retinal membrane can become damaged due to an assortment of causes, including diabetes and macular degeneration.

Marion Eye Center founder Dr. Maqbool Ahmad is both pleased and proud that his two sons, Dr. Omar Ahmad and Dr. Faisal Ahmad, will be heading the new Retina Institute. "Of course it makes a father proud to see his sons return home as accomplished



Dr. Faisal performing a surgical procedure in the Marion Retina Institute

professionals to care for the residents in their community," he says, "but even if they weren't related to me, I'd still be extremely confident in their abilities. These are two very skilled physicians."

Dr. Omar, a graduate of the University of Chicago with a medical degree from Washington University, will

concentrate primarily on surgical treatments, while Dr. Faisal, a graduate of Northwestern University with a medical degree from Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, and currently a Marion Eye Center cataract specialist, will focus on medical treatment options.

"Most retinal disorders can be approached from both surgical and medical angles." – Dr. Faisal



Dr. Maqbool Ahmad and his sons, Dr. Faisal Ahmad and Dr. Omar Ahmad



Dr. Faisal and Dr. Omar review the results of the OCT

“Most retinal disorders can be approached from both surgical and medical angles,” Dr. Faisal says. “The unique conditions each patient develops ultimately determine which direction we take.”

“Treatment options have improved dramatically over the past few years.”

– Dr. Omar

“Treatment options have improved dramatically over the past few years,” Dr. Omar says.

“With the advent of new medications to treat macular degeneration and advances in surgery that allow us to cure previously vision-threatening conditions like macular holes, we are able to successfully manage retinal disease like never before.”

The Institute will specialize in the medical and surgical treatment of retinal disorders including:

- **Age-related macular degeneration (AMD)**, a condition involving the degeneration of retinal cells in the macula, is one of the most common causes of visual impairment among today’s elderly.
- **Diabetic retinopathy**, disorders associated with damage to tiny blood vessels at the back of the eye

- **Retinal detachments**, where the thin retina membrane separates from the back wall of the eye
- **Retinal vascular occlusion**, a type of blood vessel blockage preventing blood flow into or out of the eye
- **Macular hole**, a small hole in the central retina develops as the vitreous gel inside the eye shrinks and pulls at the macula
- **Epi-retinal membranes**, thin layers of tissue that develop over the macula, causing retinal wrinkling and swelling.

AMD, one of the most common causes of visual impairment among today’s elderly, is a condition wherein light-sensitive retina cells begin to break down at the back of the eye in a region known as the macula. Since the macula is the area of the retina responsible for central vision, any reduction in the quality of vision in this area significantly affects one’s ability to perform everyday tasks such as driving and reading. There are two forms of AMD: Dry and Wet. The Dry form of AMD is the more common of the two and tends to slowly decrease vision over time, while Wet Macular Degeneration is characterized by abnormal blood vessel growth and results in a relatively rapid decline in vision. While studies have shown that antioxidant therapy may slow the progression of the Dry form, there are several options available to treat the Wet form, including the

Dr. Faisal doing a slit lamp exam





Surgical procedure being performed by Dr. Omar

use of VEGF inhibitors Avastin and Lucentis. These revolutionary medications “have really changed the way we treat wet macular degeneration,” says Dr. Faisal. “Now not only are we stabilizing vision loss, but in a large percentage of patients we are actually seeing significant improvement in vision.” Marion Retina Institute patients can be confident that the Ahmad doctors are experienced in every cutting-edge treatment option available and stay current on the developing technologies in this rapidly-evolving area of ophthalmology.

“Now not only are we stabilizing vision loss, but in a large percentage of patients we are actually seeing significant improvement in vision.” – Dr. Faisal

Diabetic retinopathy is caused by complications of diabetes that, in its most severe form, can lead to blindness. The retina’s very small blood vessels are particularly affected by changes in blood glucose levels. The disease process can also cause retinal blood vessels to grow where they shouldn’t, causing bleeding, scar formation and retinal detachment. While diabetic retinopathy affects up to 80% of all patients who have been diabetic for at least ten years, it can also develop in patients who’ve only recently been diagnosed with the disease, and is seen in both those who diligently manage their blood sugar levels and those who do not. In any case, proper, continued treatment can

drastically improve one’s chances of maintaining their vision.

Retinal detachments are a potentially devastating situation that, when left untreated, can cause blindness. They can be associated with a number of factors, including nearsightedness, diabetes and certain factors associated with aging. “Patients who experience decreased peripheral vision, flashing lights, or the sudden onset of floaters should see an eye care professional immediately,” says Dr. Omar. “Thanks to recent advances in surgery, we can now successfully treat almost all forms of retinal detachment.”

“Thanks to recent advances in surgery, we can now successfully treat almost all forms of retinal detachment.”
– Dr. Omar

Retinal vascular occlusions, or “eye strokes”, occur when one or more of the blood vessels in the retina become blocked by a clot or a piece of arterial plaque. Occlusions, while painless, usually result in very sudden and severe decrease in vision. However, through the combined use of cutting-edge medications and laser treatments, it is possible to restore vision in many patients.

Dr. Faisal and Dr. Omar check in on a patient following a procedure



Macular hole (not to be confused with Macular Degeneration) occurs when the vitreous gel inside the eye shrinks and pulls on the retinal membrane. A small macular hole can result, severely impacting visual clarity. While this condition had no treatment just a few years ago, recently developed surgical techniques allow us to now cure most macular holes.

Macular hole
(not to be confused with
Macular Degeneration)
occurs when the
vitreous gel inside the
eye shrinks and pulls on the
retinal membrane

Epi-retinal membranes, also called macular puckers, are transparent layers of tissue that grow over the macula and, as they tighten and pull on the retina, eventually impair vision. Surgery is indicated to remove this membrane and preserve the patient's quality of vision.



Omar Ahmad, MD
Retina Surgery Specialist

- Cleveland Clinic, Cole Eye Institute, Surgical Retina Fellow
- University of Michigan, Kellog Eye Center, Ophthalmology Residency
- Washington University School of Medicine
- University of Chicago, BS



Faisal Ahmad, MD
Retina Medical/Cataract Specialist

- Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Miami, Florida, Visiting Observership Program
- St Louis University Eye Institute, Ophthalmology Residency
- Memorial Medical Center, Springfield, IL Internal Medicine Internship
- Southern Illinois School of Medicine
- Northwestern University, BS



M. Ahmad, MD
Cataract/Retina Specialist

Marion Eye Centers Locations

IL: Anna, Benton, Carbondale, Carlyle, Carmi, Carterville, Centralia, Chester, DuQuoin, Eldorado, Fairfield, Flora, Harrisburg, Herrin, Marion, McLeansboro, Metropolis, Mt. Vernon, Murphysboro, Nashville, Pinckneyville, Salem, Sparta, Steeleville, Vandalia, Vienna, West Frankfort
MO: Cape Girardeau, Charleston, Dexter, Poplar Bluff, Sikeston

MARION
RETINA INSTITUTE
OF MARION EYE CENTERS

800-344-7058

www.MarionEye.com