



## Join Us in Welcoming our New Faculty!



Ria Desai, MD  
Clinician of Ophthalmology

Ria Desai, MD, is a Clinician in the Department of Ophthalmology at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest Hospital. She completed her undergraduate studies at Duke University. She went on to obtain her MD from Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine. She subsequently completed her Ophthalmology residency and Vitreoretinal Diseases fellowship at Northwestern University. She is very excited about becoming the newest member of the Northwestern Retina Service. She is currently accepting new retina patients at the Lake Forest Hospital outpatient clinic.



Jeremy A. Lavine, MD, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology

Jeremy A. Lavine, MD, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology. His research focuses upon the cellular and molecular signaling pathways that regulate angiogenesis and inflammation in the context of choroidal neovascularization. He completed his medical scientist training program from 2004 – 2012 and ophthalmology residency training from 2013 – 2016, both at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Lavine's studies have identified that the beta2-adrenoreceptor drives choroidal neovascularization in mice by increasing both vascular endothelial growth factor and interleukin-6 expression. In addition to these basic science studies, he has participated in several clinical projects, resulting in 16 peer-reviewed publications and 3 book chapters. He recently completed his surgical vitreoretinal fellowship at the Cole Eye Institute at Cleveland Clinic from 2016-2018. Dr. Lavine joined us September 1 2018, beginning his career as a clinician-scientist, practicing vitreoretinal surgery and running a basic science research lab at Northwestern University, furthering his investigations into angiogenesis and inflammation.



Safa Rahmani, MD  
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology

Safa Rahmani, MD, is an Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology. She completed her bachelors and Master of Science in biomedical engineering with special interest in electrophysiology at the University of Illinois - Chicago. She went on to complete her medical degree and ophthalmology residency at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. She then completed a two-year surgical retinal fellowship at Massachusetts Eye and Ear at Harvard University, with special focus on inherited retinal dystrophies and pediatric retinal disease after her surgical fellowship. She has dual appointment at Northwestern Memorial and Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's hospital of Chicago where she provides care for both pediatric and adult retinal patients. She is accepting new patients at this time.



Shira Simon, MD, MBA  
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Neurology

Shira Simon, MD, MBA, is an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Ophthalmology and Neurology at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. She also serves as the Ophthalmology Site Director at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center. She graduated with honors from Harvard College and obtained her MD from Harvard Medical School and her MBA from Harvard Business School. Her residency training was in ophthalmology here at Northwestern University, and her neuro-ophthalmology fellowship was completed at the University of Iowa. She is accepting new patients and is always eager to discuss any neuro-ophthalmology cases. Please do not hesitate to reach out.