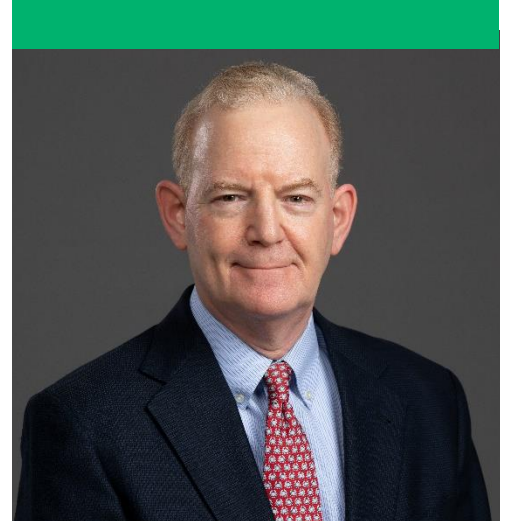


Jonathan B. Rubenstein, MD

The Deutsch Family Professor of Ophthalmology

Advancement of Medicine

In 2025, I continued to oversee the academic mission, clinical care delivery, educational experiences and research endeavors as chairperson of the Department of Ophthalmology at Rush University Medical Center. This year:



- Our research portfolio continued to grow.
- We began offering a quarterly, case-based Continuing Clinical Curriculum in Ophthalmology Program that teaches ophthalmologists the latest concepts in subspecialty ophthalmology in Chicago and nationally. We continued to host the biannual Chicago Cataract Club Conference, and Rush faculty were involved in major national ophthalmology meetings, including the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Society of Retina Specialists, and the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery.
- We continued providing top-tier education to residents and medical students.
- We continued offering excellent clinical care as a top tertiary ophthalmic site in Chicago and the surrounding area.

Research

Our research efforts continued to focus on three major areas:

- **The study of new therapeutics** addressing key causes of vision loss, including age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, non-healing corneal epithelial defects, ocular inflammation (uveitis), vitreomacular traction, retinopathy of prematurity, keratoconus and the ocular complications of AIDS
- **The development and evaluation of new surgical approaches and devices** for age-related macular degeneration, including implantable drug reservoirs, stem cell implantation and the small incision implantable miniature telescope
- **The testing of new ocular imaging technologies**



Your support fuels research projects directed by medical students, residents, and fellows, as well as educational activities for ophthalmologists at Rush and in the greater Chicago area. Your support also enables us to disseminate information about our research advancements and pursue national and international lecturing opportunities.

Clinical Trials

We are involved in 20 local and multicenter national clinical trials, focused especially on the study of macular degeneration, non-healing corneal epithelial defects, Herpes zoster (shingles) eye disease, and an implantable miniature telescope for patients with macular degeneration and cataracts.

Education

I continued to teach, lecture and present papers at the major national and international ophthalmology meetings, including the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, the International Society of Cornea, Stem Cells and Ocular Surface, and multiple national courses geared toward resident education.

Presentations, Labs and Courses

- Lecturer, International Society of Cornea, Stem Cells and Ocular Surface Meeting
 - DMEK in Phacoemulsification
 - Herpes Simplex Keratitis — Challenges in Diagnosis and Treatment
- Panelist, Association of University Professors in Ophthalmology Annual Meeting, February 4, 2026.
- CSE second-year resident course in cataract education, “Management of astigmatism in cataract surgery,” December 6, 2025
- CSE second-year resident education courses: “Pearls for the standard cataract surgery technique” and “Management of the Brunescant cataract,” December 6, 2025
- American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting, October 16-20, 2025:
 - Advanced Phacoemulsification Lab
 - Assessment and Management of Astigmatism in Cataract Surgery
 - Limbal Relaxing Incisions in the Management of Astigmatism
 - Microsurgical Suturing Techniques
- Panelist, National Medical Association, July 20, 2025



- International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology Meeting, “Surgical Management of Astigmatism,” April 27, 2025
- American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, April 26-28, 2025:
 - Challenging Cataract Cases Video Symposium
 - Corneal Suturing Techniques
 - Surgical Management of Astigmatism
 - Cataract Surgery After Radial Keratotomy
- Panelist, World Cornea Congress, March 21, 2025

The Year Ahead: 2026 and Beyond

We plan to continue our quarterly, two-year Continuing Clinical Curriculum in Ophthalmology Program, with each meeting focused on a subspecialty within ophthalmology, such as cornea, retina, glaucoma, etc. We also plan to deploy Deutsch Professorship funds to support the creation of a simulation lab for ophthalmic surgery at Rush, which can be used to teach residents, medical students, and other trainees and practitioners in the Chicago area. Lastly, we anticipate moving and, in doing so, expanding the clinical, research and educational footprints of the Department of Ophthalmology at Rush. Funds from my professorship will help cover the costs of equipping this space with state-of-the-art diagnostic and therapeutic ophthalmic equipment.

With Gratitude

Thank you for your enduring support. Your generosity is promoting and safeguarding the clinical, research and educational endeavors of the Department of Ophthalmology at Rush. I want to personally thank everyone who adds to this endowment for your support of our scholarly activities.