

VISION INSIGHTS FROM THE REGION'S LEADING EYE SURGERY SPECIALISTS

New Addition to our team of specialists



Ryan L. Geraets, MD

Ophthalmology Ltd. welcomed Dr. Ryan L. Geraets, MD to our staff on August 3, 2009. Dr. Geraets specializes in uveitis as well as vitreoretinal diseases and surgery. After graduating from the University of South Dakota's Sanford School of Medicine, he performed his Ophthalmology residency training at Texas A & M University, followed by a two-year vitreoretinal surgery and uveitis fellowship at the University of Michigan's Kellogg Eye Center.

Dr. Ryan Geraets always knew he wanted to help take care of people, so he chose to pursue a career in ophthalmology to make an impact on peoples' lives through preserving their vision.

"I always knew I wanted to return to South Dakota. I missed the people and way of life here," said Dr. Geraets. "One of the great things about Ophthalmology Ltd. is that everyone in the office gives their all to provide patients with the best possible ophthalmic care. Every subspecialty is represented, so if patients have cornea problems, glaucoma, or even eye plastics issues, there's an expert just down the hall."

If you or a loved one is suffering from macular degeneration or other retina problems, please call or visit our office for more information on how we may be able to help you.

www.ophthalmologyltd.com

FALL 2009

Retinal Problems on the Rise

Ophthalmology Ltd. physicians respond

Whether it's because of diabetes, macular degeneration or retinal tears and detachments, the need for retinal services is increasing dramatically. With an aging population, it is estimated that 10 million Americans will experience visual impairment during their retirement years, making it difficult to read, drive or even recognize faces. In spite of these

statistics, Ophthalmology Ltd. is determined to provide patients with the finest and most up-to-date care possible.

The physicians at Ophthalmology Ltd. know how important eyesight is and want all of their patients to reach their greatest vision potential. To achieve their goal, they have expanded their retinal team to now include three physicians dedicated solely to diseases and surgery of the retina and vitreous. With the most comprehensive retina service in the region, Ophthalmology Ltd. has stayed on the cutting edge of technology and is currently using all of the latest therapies to treat macular degeneration and other retinal problems.

By combining technological advances and clinical experience, the retina specialists at Ophthalmology Ltd. hope to provide the very best retinal care available to their patients.

If you or a loved one is suffering from retina related problems, please call or visit our office for more information on how we may be able to help you.



Quick Facts: **Retinal Disease in America**

- 7 million diabetics suffer from diabetic retinopathy.
- 25,000 new cases of blindness are caused annually by complications of diabetes.
- 25,000 cases of retinal detachment are treated each year.
- Almost all blindness in the United States is the result of common eye diseases. (Less than 4% is the result of injuries.)

Source: University of Washington Dept. of Ophthalmology

Meet Our Retinal Specialists

Dedicated to diseases and surgery of the retina and vitreous



Charles W. Mohler, MD



Eric R. Thomas, MD



Ryan L. Geraets, MD

At Ophthalmology Ltd., we provide the region's most comprehensive retinal care provided by fellowship trained vitreoretinal surgeons/physicians.

Another First for Ophthalmology Ltd.

Introducing a new surgical treatment for Glaucoma

The second most common cause of blindness, glaucoma is a condition in which the pressure inside the eyes rises because of impaired fluid drainage from inside the eye.

But now, at Ophthalmology Ltd., there's a new treatment option. The first in South Dakota and the region, Ophthalmology Ltd. is offering an innovative new surgical therapy procedure for glaucoma, known as trabectome.

Dr. Osmundson, the region's only certified Ophthalmologist to perform the procedure, is currently offering trabectome surgery to his patients. The procedure removes the resistance to the flow of eye fluid, restoring the eye's natural drainage system.

Trabectome surgery is much safer, and simpler, than other glaucoma surgical therapies. With fewer risks associated than conventional glaucoma surgery, trabectome surgery lowers eye pressure and reduces patients' reliance on glaucoma medications.

If you would like to learn more about glaucoma management or think you may have symptoms, please call or visit us today.

Trabectome Benefits

- Easily combines with cataract extraction
- Restores the eye's natural fluid balance
- Lowers patient risk
- Simpler than traditional therapies
- Low complication rate



Gregory D. Osmundson, MD is the region's only surgeon fellowship-trained in glaucoma management.

Conjunctivitis

Does my child have pink eye? Is he contagious?

Conjunctivitis is an inflammation of the mucous membrane that lines the eyelids and covers the white of the eyeball. Symptoms include redness, discharge, burning and sometimes itching and light sensitivity and can occur in one or both eyes.

The most common cause of conjunctivitis is **viral conjunctivitis**, which can be transmitted from one person to another by casual contact, sharing towels or pillowcases, facial contact or sharing cosmetics. It can also occur before, during or after a cold or respiratory infection. Viral conjunctivitis is very contagious in the first 10-12 days and may last up to 2-3 weeks.

Allergic conjunctivitis usually occurs in the spring and summer months and unlike a viral infection, is not contagious. It causes itching, redness

and tearing and is caused by allergies to pollens from plants.

Bacterial conjunctivitis is contagious. Most people who develop this type of conjunctivitis also have other eye conditions such as dry eyes or inflammation of the eyelids.

Precautions

- Always wash your hands with soap and water before and after touching the eyes.
- Avoid any facial contact with others while you are having symptoms.
- If you are a contact lens wearer, don't wear contact lenses while you have any symptoms.
- People who provide public services shouldn't work until their eyes feel and look normal, as to not risk infecting others.

Treatment

- For viral conjunctivitis, use a cold, moist cloth 3-4 times daily.
- For bacterial conjunctivitis, antibiotic drops or ointments are usually given.
- Allergic conjunctivitis may be relieved by over the counter medications such as Naphcon A or by prescription medications like Livostin or Patanol.

If you would like to learn more about conjunctivitis or think you may have symptoms, please call or visit us today.



Dustin L. Dierks, MD specializes in small-incision cataract surgery.

Contact Ophthalmology Ltd. and see the difference.



Richard T. Tschetter, MD

Founder of Ophthalmology in 1968, Dr. Tschetter specializes in small-incision cataract surgery and glaucoma management. He received his BA from Huron

College and his MD from John Hopkins Medical School. He interned at John Hopkins Hospital and then completed his ophthalmology residency at the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, MI.



Charles W. Mohler, MD PhD

Dr. Mohler specializes in diseases and surgery of the retina and vitreous. He received his BS from Purdue University and his MD from Case Western Reserve

University. He completed his ophthalmology residency at John Hopkins Hospital and his retinal fellowship at John Hopkins and the University of Iowa.



Byron T. Hohm, MD

Dr. Hohm specializes in corneal surgery and external eye diseases, as well as small-incision cataract surgery. He received his BA from The University of South Dakota

and his MD from The University of Texas. He completed his internship at Southwestern Hospital in Dallas, TX and his ophthalmology residency at The University of Missouri. He completed a fellowship in corneal surgery and external diseases in Houston, TX.



Gregory D. Osmundson, MD

Dr. Osmundson is the region's only surgeon fellowship-trained in glaucoma management. His practice also includes cataract and implant surgery. Dr. Osmundson

received his BA from South Dakota State University and his MD from The University of South Dakota's Sanford School of Medicine. He completed his ophthalmology residency at The University of Missouri and his fellowship at The University of Utah.



David R. West, MD

Dr. West specializes in small-incision cataract surgery and pediatric ophthalmology. He received his BA from The University of South Dakota and

his MD from The University of Oklahoma Medical School. He completed his ophthalmology residency at The University of Missouri.



Bryan J. Hammer, MD

Dr. Hammer specializes in oculoplastic surgery, small-incision cataract surgery and reconstruction of the lids and orbits as well as laser skin resurfacing. He received

his BS from The University of South Dakota and his MD from The University of South Dakota School of Medicine. He completed his ophthalmology residency at Texas A&M University and his fellowship in oculoplastic surgery in Cincinnati, OH.



Eric R. Thomas, MD

Specializing in vitreoretinal surgery, Dr. Thomas is passionate about helping his patients preserve their eyesight. After receiving his BA from Augustana

College, he received his MD from The University of South Dakota School of Medicine. He completed his residency at The University of Missouri and his retinal fellowship at The University of Kentucky.



Dustin L. Dierks, MD

Dr. Dierks specializes in small-incision cataract surgery. After graduating from Augustana College, he obtained his MD at The University of South Dakota's

Sanford School of Medicine and completed his ophthalmology residency from The University of Missouri.



Ryan L. Geraets, MD

Dr. Geraets specializes in uveitis as well as vitreoretinal diseases and surgery. After graduating from The University of South Dakota's Sanford School of Medicine, he performed his ophthalmology

residency training at Texas A&M University, followed by a two-year vitreoretinal surgery and uveitis fellowship at The University of Michigan's Kellogg Eye Center.

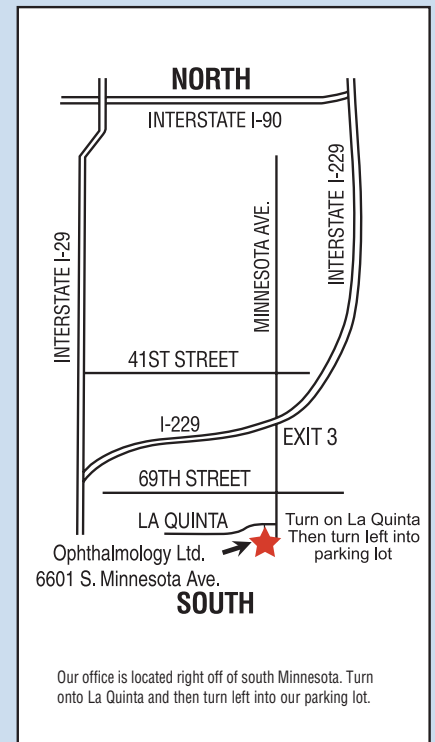
Your Providers of Medical and Surgical Eye Care

At Ophthalmology Ltd., you'll receive the highest quality eye care with every treatment, routine or specialized, from our experienced staff of ophthalmic physicians.

All of our surgeons are board-certified ophthalmologists and members of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery.

They are also on staff at the Sanford School of Medicine at The University of South Dakota, Sanford USD Medical Center, Avera McKennan Hospital, Royal C. Johnson Veterans Memorial Hospital and over 15 other medical facilities across the region.

For more information, go to www.ophthalmologyltd.com



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