
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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NAME: **Eric (Wei Chen) Lai**

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login):

POSITION TITLE: Heed Fellowship

EDUCATION/TRAINING (*Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.*)

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Start Date MM/YYYY	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
University of Maryland College Park	BS	08/2014	06/2018	Biology: Neurobiology and Physiology
University of Maryland School of Medicine	MD	08/2019	06/2023	Medicine
Yale School of Medicine	MD	06/2024	06/2027	Ophthalmology Residency

A. Personal Statement

My interest in ophthalmology and academic medicine developed early through my employment as an ophthalmic technician and photographer, where I gained firsthand exposure to patient care and the clinical application of multimodal imaging. Growing up and witnessing my father who is a practicing chair in academic ophthalmology shaped my understanding of the impact of combining clinical practice, teaching, and research.

These experiences have guided my development toward a career in ophthalmology, where I aim to integrate clinical care with education and innovation. As the upcoming chief resident at Yale, I aim to continue building on these interests through leadership, teaching, and scholarly work. My long-term goal is to contribute as a clinician-educator, advancing patient care while mentoring future trainees and fostering new advances in ophthalmology.

B. Positions, Scientific Appointments and Honors

Positions and Scientific Appointments

- Chief Resident, Yale Ophthalmology 2026 – 2027
- American Academy of Ophthalmology Mid-Year Form Advocacy Ambassador 2025
- British Journal of Ophthalmology Editorial Board - Social Media Editor 2023 – Present
- MedSchool Insiders Elite Advisor and Tutor 2022 – Present
- UMSOM Ophthalmology Medical Education Innovation Team Founder 2021 – 2023
- Retina Group of Washington Ophthalmic Photographer and Technician 2019 – 2020

Honors

- Yale Ophthalmology Academic Excellence Award 2026
- Duke Fellows Advanced Vitreous Surgery (fAVS) Course Travel Grant Recipient 2026
- Yale Ophthalmology Academic Excellence Award 2025
- MedSchool Insiders Iconic Insider of the Quarter 2025
- Yale New Haven Hospital Emergency Department Consultant of the Month 2025

- George Frick MD Award for Outstanding Research in Ophthalmology 2023
- UMSOM Office of Student Research Publication Recognition Award 2023
- UMSOM Outstanding Medical Student Researcher Award 2023
- UMSOM Stuart and Eleanor H. Yuspa Biomedical Research Scholarship award 2022
- UMSOM PRISM Research Merit Scholar Recipient 2020
- UMD Biology: Neurobiology and Physiology Cum Laude Honors Award 2018

C. Contributions to Science

(* indicates co-first author)

Peer Reviewed Journal Article & Abstract Publications

1. **Lai E**, Lee T, Chen G, Lai SC, Kang P, Schechet SA. Ocular Manifestations of Vitamin A Deficiency in Gastrointestinal and Hepatobiliary Diseases: A Multicenter Case Series. Accepted to *Frontiers in Ophthalmology*, April 2026.
2. **Lai E**, Lee T, Patel D, Hariprasad HM, Schechet SA. Ocular Anesthesia Techniques in Intravitreal Therapy: A Comparative Review. Accepted to *Ophthalmic Surgery, Lasers and Imaging Retina*, March 2026.
3. **Lai E**, Henick D and Debroff B. Reverse optic capture in cataract surgery: techniques, indications, and outcomes. *Frontiers in Ophthalmology*. 2026 Mar; 6:1760370. doi: 10.3389/fopht.2026.1760370. PMID: 41890624; PMCID: PMC13013005
4. Lee T, **Lai E**, Liu J, Schechet SA. Optical Coherence Tomography Angiography: Updates in Clinical Practice. *Retinal Physician*. 2026 Jan. Vol 23, p. 12-14.
5. **Lai E**, Lee T, Hariprasad SM, Schechet SA. Clinical Integration of Genetic Testing in the Management of Inherited Retinal Diseases. *Ophthalmic Surg Lasers Imaging Retina*. 2025 Nov;56(11):650-653. doi: 10.3928/23258160-20250924-02. PMID: 41115295.
6. Henick D, **Lai E**, Mendelson B, Rivera PM, Kombo N, Diaz V. Sequential dexamethasone and fluocinonide intravitreal implants to reduce recurrence of macular edema in non-infectious posterior uveitis. *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science*. Jun 2025;66(8):637
7. Jung JJ, Chan X, Cheong KX, Shan Dan Y, Cheng JY, **Lai E**, Li H, Hoang QV. Sensitivity of Ophthalmologist, Residents, and Optometrists in Identifying Peripheral Retinal Tears on Ultra-widefield Imaging. *Canadian Journal of Ophthalmology*. 2025 Mar 3:S0008-4182(25)00042-0. doi: 10.1016/j.cjco.2025.02.002. PMID: 39993440
8. **Lai E**, Lee Timothy, Schechet SA. Clinical Advances of Intraoperative OCT in Vitreoretinal Surgery. *Retinal Physician*. 2025 Jan. Vol 22, p. 15-17.
9. **Lai E**, Hariprasad HM, Schechet S. Safety Profile and Practical Applications of the C3 and C5 Complement Inhibitors for Management of Geographic Atrophy. *Ophthalmic Surgery, Lasers and Imaging Retina*. Dec 2024; 55;12, 694-697. doi: 10.3928/23258160-20241114-02. PMID: 39680450.
10. **Lai E**, Lee T, Lee C, Schechet SA. New horizons in geographic atrophy treatment: enthusiasm and caution surrounding complement inhibitors. *British Medical Journal Open Ophthalmology*. 2024 Aug 29;9(1):e001854. doi: 10.1136/bmjophth-2024-001854. PMID: 39209742; PMCID: PMC11367370.
11. **Lai E**, Tai YH, Wu HL, Dai YX, Chen TJ, Cheng YG, Lai SC. The Association between Autoimmune Thyroid Disease and Ocular Surface Damage: A Retrospective Population-Based Cohort Study. *Journal of Clinical Medicine*. 2023 Apr 29;12(9):3203. doi: 10.3390/jcm12093203. PMID: 37176642; PMCID: PMC10179488.
12. **Lai E**, Oquendo P, Melo IM, Muni RH, Schechet SA. Pneumatic Retinopexy in Dialysis-Associated Rhegmatogenous Retinal Detachments. *Ophthalmology Retina*. 2023;7(1):92-94. PMID: 36152984. doi: [10.1016/j.oret.2022.09.003](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.oret.2022.09.003)
13. Lee T, **Lai E**, Elman MJ, Schechet SA. Vogt-Koyanagi-Harada Disease Following COVID-19 Vaccination. *New Retinal Physician*. 2023 May;20:9-12.

14. Li J, Wang D, Pottenburgh J, Bower AJ, Asanad S, **Lai E**, Simon C, Im L, Hury LA, Tao Y, Tam J, Saeedi OJ. Visualization of erythrocyte stasis in the living human eye in health and disease. *iScience*. 2022 Dec 7;26(1):105755. doi: 10.1016/j.isci.2022.105755. PMID: 36594026; PMCID: PMC9803835.
15. **Lai E**, Dinh R, Do BK, Schechet SA. Posterior Placoid-Like Maculopathy and Macular Hole Associated with Vitamin A Deficiency. *American Journal of Ophthalmology Case Reports*, 2022 Dec 7;29:101772 doi: 10.1016/j.ajoc.2022.101772 PMID: 36544748. PMCID: PMC9761597.
16. Nguyen SN, **Lai E**, Ling C, Brown D, Rajpal S, Markidan J, Michael M. Corneal Melt in a Patient with Rheumatoid Arthritis on Methotrexate and Tofacitinib. *Edorium Journal of Ophthalmology*. 2022;5(2):5-10. doi: 10.5348/100007O02NN2022CR
17. **Lai E**, Bergman Z, Grumbine FL. Pott's Puffy Tumour with Eyelid Abscess. *Canadian Journal of Ophthalmology*. 2022;S0008-4282(22)00275-7. PMID: 36183745. doi: 10.1016/j.cjco.2022.09.002
18. Asanad S, Bayomi M, Brown D, Buzzard J, **Lai E**, Ling C, Miglani T, Mohammed T, Tsai J, Uddin O, Singman E. Ehlers Danlos Syndromes and their Manifestations in the Visual System. *Frontiers in Medicine*. 9:996458. PMID: 36237549. doi: 10.3389/fmed.2022.996458.
19. **Lai E**, Schechet SA. Ultrasound Imaging of Extensive Peripheral Macrocysts in Chronic Total Combined Rhegmatogenous-Traction Retinal Detachment. *American Journal of Ophthalmology Case Reports*. June 2022. PMCID: PMC9168472 PMID: 35677814. doi: 10.1016/j.ajoc.2022.101604
20. **Lai E**, Schechet SA. Advanced Gyrate Atrophy of the Retina and Choroid – A Genetic Retinal Disease Associated with Hyperornithinemia. *New Retinal Physician*. 2022 May;19:15-17.
21. **Lai E**, Etter J, Schechet SA. Strikingly High Myopia in Aland Island Eye Disease. *Ophthalmology*. Feb 2022;129(2):160. doi: 10.1016/j.ophtha.2021.06.013. PMID: 35065730.
22. **Lai E**, Nguyen NS, Husain A, Rajpal SD, Michael MB. Thyroid Eye Disease with Divergence Insufficiency Causing Recurrent Falls in an Elderly Patient. *Cureus*. 2022 Jan 28;14(1):e21695. PMID:35237487; PMCID: PMC8882349.
23. **Lai E**, Elman MJ, Schechet SA. Suprachoroidal Hemorrhages During Cataract Surgery: Is Surgical Intervention the Only Treatment Option? *New Retinal Physician*. 2021 Nov;18:10-12.
24. Wang D, Pottenburgh J, **Lai E**, Simon C, Tao Y, Saeedi OJ; Neural network aided erythrocyte stasis characterization based on erythrocyte mediated angiography (EMA). *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science*. 2021;62(8):2110.
25. Amedeo M, Chowdhary PK, Jalalian A, **Lai E**, Sahai A, et al. Identification and Quantification of Secreted Proteins Driving Hematopoiesis in an Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell Coculture System. University of Maryland Gemstone Honors Program Senior Thesis. 2018. doi:10.13016/M2GM81R8C. 2018 May.
26. Amedeo M, Chowdhary PK, Jalalian A, **Lai E**, Sahai A, et al. Optimization of Hematopoietic Induction from Induced Pluripotent Cells. *Adv Tissue Eng Regen Med*. 2017;3(1):296–298.

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles Submitted Under Consideration

1. **Lai E**, Singer M, Liu J, Sarrafpour S, Walsh E, Liu J, Kombo N, Chow J. Enhancing Ophthalmology Residency Application with Automated Data Extraction. Submitted to *Journal of Academic Ophthalmology*, March 2026.
2. Le C*, **Lai E***, Nwanyanwu K. Estimated Prevalence of Other Eye Disease Fundus Photography Findings in Non-Referable Diabetic Retinopathy. Submitted to *International Ophthalmology*, Feb 2026.
3. **Lai E**, Arat Y, Howard M. Medial Rectus Severance Following Traumatic Spikeball Injury. Submitted to *Journal of Binocular Vision and Ocular Motility*, Jan 2026.
4. Henick D, **Lai E**, Mendelsohn B, River-Morales P, Kombo N, Diaz V. Sequential dexamethasone and fluocinolone acetonide intravitreal implants to treat macular edema in non-infectious uveitis. Submitted *French Journal of Ophthalmology*, Jan 2026.

5. **Lai E**, Lee MH, Lai SC. Monkeypox-Associated Keratitis and Glabellar Lesion Mimicking a Third Eye. Submitted to BMJ Case Reports, Aug 2025.
6. Liu J, Li K, **Lai E**, Kombo N. Dupilumab-Associated Relentless Placoid Chorioretinitis. Submitted to BMJ Case Reports, Aug 2025.

Peer Reviewed Book Chapters

1. **Lai E**, Sunness JS, Schechet SA. Retinal and Choroidal Disorders in Pregnancy. Accepted to Ryan's Retina, 8th edition, Volume 2, Ch. 90, Jan 2026.
2. **Lai E**, Alexander, J., Kenny, E., Levin, M.R. Guidance for Social/School Life and Future Directions. In: Özdek, Ş., Berrocal, A., Spandau, U. (eds) Pediatric Vitreoretinal Surgery, 1st edition. Springer, Cham. June 2023. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-14506-3_72
3. **Lai E**, Schechet SA. Lipemia Retinalis- Hereditary Hypercholesterolemia. In D. Skondra, A. Rachitskaya, & S. Huang (Eds.), American Society of Retina Specialists Retina Atlas, 2023 edition.

Non-Peer Reviewed Publications

1. Lee T, **Lai E**, Schechet SA. Enhancing Retinal Practice with Genetic Testing. Accepted to Retina Today, July 2026 edition.
2. **Lai E**, Do BK, Schechet SA. Posterior Placoid Changes Due to Nutritional Deficiency. Retina Today May issue, 2025.
3. **Lai E**, Le C, Chen V, Saeedi OJ. Dynamic Blood Flow Measurements using Laser Speckle Contrast Imaging in Glaucoma. Glaucoma Today. 2022 Jan/Feb: 14-20.

Podium Oral Presentations

1. **Lai E**, Singer M, Liu J, Chow J. Enhancing Ophthalmology Residency Application Review with Automated Data Extraction. Presented at Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO) Annual Educating the Educators Meeting, San Diego, CA, Feb 2026.
2. Howard MA, **Lai E**, Arat Y. Spikeball-Associated Medial Rectus Avulsion Injury. Presented at Wills Eye Hospital 42nd Annual Joseph H. Calhoun Pediatric Ophthalmology Forum, Philadelphia, PA, Nov 2025.
3. **Lai E**, Do BK, Dinh R, Kombo N, Schechet SA. A Placoid Hole in the Posterior Pole. Presented at American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Grand Rounds Symposium, Orlando, FL, Oct 2025.
4. Le C*, **Lai E***, Nwanyanwu K. Estimated Prevalence of Other Ocular Disease Findings in Non-Referable Diabetic Retinopathy. Presented at New York Academy of Medicine Conference, New York, May 2025.
5. **Lai E**, Schechet S, Do BK, Kombo N. Closing A Gap. Presented at the 2025 Atlantic Coast Retina Conference (ACRC) held at Wilmer Eye Institute, Baltimore, Maryland.
6. Levin MR, **Lai E**. Pros of Ophthalmology Residency Virtual Interviews. Presented at Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO) 2024 Annual Meeting; Austin, TX, Feb 2024.
7. **Lai E**, Simon C, Saeedi OJ. Vascular Autoregulation and Glaucoma: Development of a Machine Learning Algorithm for Vasomotion Quantification. Presented at University of Maryland School of Medicine 43rd Annual Medical Student Research Day; Baltimore, MD, Nov 2020.
8. **Lai E**, Simon C, Wang D, Pottenburgh J, Saeedi OJ. Vascular Autoregulation and Glaucoma: Correlation of Structural Biomarkers with Vasomotion using Erythrocyte Mediated Angiography (EMA). Presented at University of Maryland School of Medicine Program for Research Initiated by Students and Mentors (PRISM) Annual Research Forum; Baltimore, MD, July 2020.

Poster Presentations

1. **Lai E**, Lee T, Kang P, Schechet SA. Ocular Manifestations of Vitamin A Deficiency Associated with Gastrointestinal and Hepatobiliary Comorbidities. Presenting at Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO), Denver, Colorado, May 2026.

2. **Lai E**, Muni RH, Oquendo P, Melo IM, Schechet SA. Pneumatic Retinopexy as a Treatment Option for Rhegmatogenous Retinal Detachments Secondary to Retinal Dialysis. Presented at the 14th Vit Buckle Society Annual Conference; Las Vegas, Nevada, April 2026.
3. **Lai E**, Lee MH, Lai SC. Monkeypox-Associated Keratitis and Glabellar Lesion Mimicking a Third Eye. Presented at the Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO) Annual Meeting, Hong Kong, Feb 2026.
4. **Lai E**, Ou KL, Lai SC. Development of a Translational Platform for Corneal Tissue Culture, Biobanking, and Exosome Therapeutics. Presented at the Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO) Annual Meeting, Hong Kong, Feb 2026.
5. Li E, **Lai E**, Kang A, Kedia N, Kang P. Evaluating Ophthalmologic Needs, Barriers to Care, and Health Literacy in a Mission Medicine Setting: Insights from Roatán, Honduras. Presented at 2024 Global Ophthalmology Summit Meeting; Portland, OR, USA, Aug 2024.
6. **Lai E**, Nguyen G, Shah DM, Gunnarsson E, Gill A, Swamy R, Alexander J, Levin MR. Innovations in Virtual Ophthalmology Teaching: Enhancing Remote Learning During the COVID-19 Era and Beyond. Presented at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine Institute for Excellence in Education Conference; Baltimore, MD, USA, Mar 2022.