



Friday, May 8, 2026 | 7:00am-8:00am | Wills Eye Auditorium

The 4th Annual Peter R. and Ruth Laibson Endowed Cornea Lecture

Featuring

Dr. Christina R. Prescott

Chief, Division of Cornea Services
Vice Chair for Education
Associate Professor of Ophthalmology
NYU Langone School of Medicine

Christina Rapp Prescott, MD, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at NYU Langone School of Medicine, where she serves as Vice Chair for Education, Chief of the Cornea Service, and Residency Program Director at the NYU Langone Eye Center. Dr. Prescott completed her MD/PhD at the University of Colorado through the NIH Medical Scientist Training Program, followed by residency training at Yale New Haven Hospital and fellowship training in cornea, refractive surgery, and external disease at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary/Harvard Medical School.

A nationally and internationally recognized leader in cornea and cataract surgery, Dr. Prescott has authored multiple peer-reviewed publications, reviews, book chapters, and clinical guidelines, and serves as a reviewer and editor for leading journals including JAMA Ophthalmology, Ophthalmology, Cornea, and the Journal of Cataract and Refractive Surgery. Her research interests include surgical education, pediatric corneal transplantation outcomes, advanced intraocular lens technology, sustainability in ophthalmic surgery, and reducing disparities in ophthalmologic care. She has held key leadership roles within major professional organizations such as the American Academy of Ophthalmology, Cornea Society, Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology, ARVO, and the Eye and Contact Lens Association, where she currently serves as President.

Dr. Prescott is a sought-after speaker and educator, having delivered invited lectures, courses, wet labs, and keynote presentations at major national and international meetings. She is deeply committed to surgical education and curriculum development and has been instrumental in advancing resident and fellow training programs at both Johns Hopkins University and NYU. Through her clinical leadership, research, and educational innovation, Dr. Prescott continues to shape best practices in cornea and cataract surgery while mentoring the next generation of ophthalmologists.



Dr. Peter R. Laibson

Director Emeritus, Cornea Service
Wills Eye Hospital



Dr. Peter R. Laibson's medical career began in 1959, when he completed his M.D. from SUNY Medical Center, New York City. He graduated from the Wills Eye Hospital Residency Class of 1964. His Cornea fellowship was completed in Boston with Dr. Claes Dohlman in 1965, before returning to Philadelphia and accepting his first appointment at Wills as Assistant Cornea Surgeon. By 1973 he was serving as the Director of the Cornea Service.

His role in the study of herpetic corneal disease stands out as a career-long focus. Dr. Laibson and his colleagues were awarded an NIH grant funding research on HSV, leading to the discovery of an animal model of recurrent corneal HSV. He also acted as principal investigator in key studies at Wills in the 1980s-1990s: the Prospective Evaluation of Radial Keratotomy (PERK) Study and the Herpetic Eye Disease Study (HEDS).

He has published over 345 peer reviewed articles and several books. His concentration in viral diseases of the eye transformed the field. Always on the cutting edge, he participated in the initial studies of pharmacologic therapeutic interventions for viral eye diseases including IDU, Ara-A, and F3T, the early anti-virals which eventually became commercial drugs. Dr. Laibson's collaborative work also demonstrated the first successful use of topical steroids to prevent or delay the onset of sub-epithelial infiltrates in adenovirus keratoconjunctivitis (EKC). In another corner of the sub-specialty, Dr. Laibson made contributions to the area of corneal dystrophy and transplantation. He and his group at Wills with the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology were the first to describe the pathology of "Map Dot Fingerprint Dystrophy" - Dr. Laibson coined this term in a paper describing the disease.

Dr. Laibson is a true treasure in the medical community, having given so much of his time serving as President of the Cornea Society, President of the Wills Eye Hospital medical staff, and a thesis committee member for the American Ophthalmological Society (AOS). He served on numerous editorial boards, and edited the Yearbook of Ophthalmology for 10 years. He has given over 25 named lectures and received numerous awards, including the Life Achievement Honor Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) in 1999, the Castroviejo Award in 1991, the Dohlman Award from the Cornea Society in 2007, and the Howe Medal from the AOS in 2019.

He transitioned to Director Emeritus of the Cornea Service in 2005, leaving a legacy of care and mentorship in the ophthalmology community at Wills and beyond. His contributions to the success of Wills physicians and ophthalmology at large continues even in retirement. This endowed lecture has been graciously established by Dr. Peter R. Laibson and his wife Ruth to ensure that Wills remains at the forefront of physician education. It serves to highlight the work being done here and around the world by dedicated cornea specialists, like Dr. Christina Prescott, who is honored at the fourth annual lecture today.

Prior Peter R. and Ruth Laibson Endowed Cornea Lecturers:

2022-2023	Guillermo Amescua, MD
2023-2024	Fasika A. Woreta, MD, MPH
2024-2025	Jayne S. Weiss, MD