



Eduardo C. Alfonso, M.D.
Director, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute
Professor and Chairman, Department of Ophthalmology
Kathleen and Stanley J. Glaser Chair in Ophthalmology
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Eduardo C. Alfonso, M.D., is the Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, director of the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute and holder of the Kathleen and Stanley J. Glaser Chair in Ophthalmology. Physician, surgeon, professor, administrator and researcher, he is known for his clinical expertise and research in eye diseases, corneal surgery and ocular microbiology.

Born in Cuba, Dr. Alfonso grew up in Puerto Rico before moving to the U.S. to attend college. He received a Bachelor of Science degree (*Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa*) from Yale College and medical degree from Yale University School of Medicine. He first arrived at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in 1981 as an ophthalmology resident. Following his three-year residency, he completed three fellowships. At Harvard Medical School, he completed a corneal and external disease fellowship; at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary he completed an ophthalmic pathology fellowship at the David G. Cogan Eye Pathology Laboratory; and a research fellowship at the Howe Laboratory at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary at Harvard University School of Medicine. A board-certified ophthalmologist, Dr. Alfonso joined the Bascom Palmer faculty in 1986 as assistant professor and became professor of ophthalmology and the Edward W.D. Norton Professor in Ophthalmology in 1998.

Dr. Alfonso has served as director of Bascom Palmer since November of 2007 when he was appointed as interim chairman, officially becoming chairman in June 2009. As director, he oversees ophthalmology clinical facilities that perform over 230,000 patient visits and 15,000 surgeries a year and include the Anne Bates Leach Eye Hospital, Jackson Memorial Hospital, the University of Miami Hospital, the Veterans Administration Hospital and outpatient facilities in Palm Beach Gardens, Plantation, and Naples, Florida.

Dr. Alfonso received the American Academy of Ophthalmology's Honor Award in 1993 and Senior Achievement Award in 2003. He was named as CEO of the Year by South Florida Business, and named one of the 100 most influential leaders in South Florida. He was honored with the Florida Society of Ophthalmology leadership award in 2011. He received the ORBIS International Medical Faculty Award in 2004. He was inducted into the American Ophthalmological Society in 2009 and the University of Miami Iron Arrow Society in 2010.

He has delivered 14 named lectures. He serves on the editorial board of U.S. and international ophthalmology journals, has authored more than 300 scientific publications, and has been guest lecturer nationally and internationally.

Dr. Alfonso is an internationally known expert on ocular infectious diseases and he is the medical director of Bascom Palmer Eye Institute's Ocular Microbiology Laboratory. He has published his research in this subject since 1982. In 2006, he documented an increase in the incidence of an aggressive form of fungal corneal infection that was related to soft contact lens use. His findings drew considerable media attention throughout the world and significantly reduced the number of new infections.

His research interests include bacterial and fungal sensitivity. With a team of investigators from the University of Miami, he is spearheading ways to make rapid identification of sight threatening eye infections. Clinically, Dr. Alfonso also specializes in corneal transplants having performed over 1,000 of these in adults and children and he is developing clinical applications of keratoprosthesis, an artificial cornea, which has significant potential for patients awaiting transplants in developing nations where donor tissue is often scarce. His clinical expertise has led him to be included in the Best Doctors in America by Woodward and White since 1994 and Top Doctors in the United States by Castle Connolly since 2000.

He has served as president of the Miami Ophthalmological Society, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute Alumni Association, Sociedad Iberoamericana de Cornea y Cirugia Refractiva, the Cuban Ophthalmological Society in Exile and the Ocular Microbiology and Immunology Group. He has been director of the Pan American Association of Ophthalmology, the Ophthalmology Research Foundation, and the Heed Foundation. He was founder of the Cornea and External Disease Society in 1988. He has also served as vice chair of the University of Miami Medical Group and vice chair of the its Board of Governors of the Anne Bates Leach Eye Hospital.

Dr. Alfonso and his wife, Molly, live in Key Biscayne, Florida. They have three children and three grandchildren.