



# Huntington Beach News



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## Community News

### HB Local Joins Beyond Blindness' Ambitious Ophthalmic Advisory Board



*Dianne Whitfield of Huntington Beach*

**SANTA ANA**...Beyond Blindness, an Orange County-based nonprofit that empowers children with visual impairments and other disabilities to achieve their fullest potential today announced nine appointments to its Board of Directors and Ophthalmic Advisory Board. In addition to industry leaders, new members include two parent leaders with children enrolled in the nonprofit's programs.

The expansion of the board is part of Beyond Blindness' ambitious, fast-paced growth trajectory to serve 2,680 individuals by 2027. With terms beginning July 1, 2023, appointees include Board of Directors members Michele Allegretto, Glaukos; Yvette Lavery, First 5 Orange County; Kristin McKay, Project Alive; Hemant Mistry, Capital Group; and Adelaine Sin, Experian Mortgage. Ophthalmic Advisory Board members appointed for 2-year terms include Rex Chandler, Staar Surgical; Eric Garner, OSRX®, Inc; Melissa Moncrief, Johnson & Johnson Surgical Vision; and Dianne Whitfield, Tarsus Pharmaceuticals.

"We are pleased to welcome this new slate of board and advisory board members, whose visionary leadership and wealth of expertise in diverse fields will help accelerate connection, partnerships and awareness for Beyond Blindness during a pivotal time of growth," says Angie Rowe, President and CEO of Beyond Blindness. "As we embark on year two of our strategic plan, these high-quality appointments will not only elevate the stature of the board but also bring us closer to our goal of becoming the go-to provider for children with visual impairments and other disabilities and their families in the greater Orange County area."

Board of Directors Appointees:



*Michele Allegretto*

An innovative human resources and business leader, Michele Allegretto is the senior vice president of human resources at Glaukos, a leader in the delivery of novel therapies for the treatment of glaucoma, corneal disorders and retinal diseases. Her 20-year career includes nearly a decade at Abbott Medical Optics, where she served as director of global business, human resources, as well as leadership roles at high-profile companies in the entertainment, consumer products and retail industries. Through The Glaukos Foundation, Michele and her team are active supporters of Beyond Blindness by volunteering at special events and providing generous sponsorships. Michele has a master's degree from California State University, Long Beach, and a bachelor's degree from San Diego State University.



*Yvette Lavery*

Named one of the “Top 40 Under 40 Political Consultants” by the American Association of Political Consultants, Yvette Lavery is a sought-after public affairs strategist and consultant with 19 years of experience in strategic communications, crisis communications, and organizational management for nonprofit, corporate and political clients. Her academic research has been published by the U.S. Department of Labor and the Harvard Medical School Bioethics Journal, and she currently serves as a commissioner with First 5 Orange County. She holds a Master of Science in bioethics from Harvard Medical School, a Master of Public Affairs from Sciences Po-Paris and a bachelor’s degree from USC. In addition to her role on the board of directors, Yvette is the parent of two Beyond Blindness students enrolled in the preschool and infant classrooms.



Kristin McKay



A skilled nonprofit leader, Kristin McKay is the executive director of Project Alive, which supports research and advocacy to find and fund a cure for Hunter Syndrome. Charged with daily operations, programming, resource development, and advocacy efforts, she oversees a nationwide team while working alongside families to understand community needs. Her project management and operations experience spans myriad industries, including commercial real estate, property maintenance, and electrical services. Kristin has a Bachelor of Science in global business from Saint Mary's College of California as well as a Bachelor of Engineering from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. She is also the parent of a son who is currently a student in Beyond Blindness' preschool program.



*Hemant Mistry*

Hemant Mistry is the global head of identity and risk management at Capital Group, where he collaborates with C-suite executives and business and IT governance committees to steer initiatives in the U.S., Europe and Asia regions. He is also the chair of the Nonprofit Leadership Committee at Capital Group, providing mentoring, networking and educational opportunities for company associates to become nonprofit advocates in the community. A globally experienced leader, his 30-year career includes tenure at several major financial institutions such as Citigroup, Barclays and JP Morgan Chase Bank. Hemant has a Bachelor of Science (Hons.) in mathematics from Middlesex University - Business School in London, United Kingdom (UK) and a diploma in export management (MIEx) from Institute of Export & International Trade in London, United Kingdom (UK)



*Adelaine Sin*

As a senior director, strategic alliances at Experian Mortgage, Adelaine Sin is engaged in the development and expansion of key strategic partnerships and leads the commercial due diligence for investment and acquisition opportunities within the mortgage business unit. She has held numerous roles at Experian spanning product/program management and vertical market development for business information and credit services, which included collaboration with Experian UK, Brazil and Australia as well as health analytics and technology entities. Adelaine has an MBA and bachelor's degree from California State University, Fullerton.

Ophthalmic Advisory Board Appointees:



*Rex Chandler*

Rex Chandler is vice president of global strategic marketing at STAAR Surgical, a+ leading developer, manufacturer and marketer of implantable lenses and delivery systems for the eye. In addition to 25-plus years of global medical device experience with an emphasis on developing and marketing best-in-class medical devices, he is also the inventor and holder of 10 U.S. patents focusing on ophthalmic innovations to enhance surgical outcomes and protect the health of the eye. Rex has an MBA from the University of Phoenix, a master's degree from Florida State University, and a bachelor's degree from the University of Central Florida.



*Eric Garner*

Eric Garner serves as the chief commercial officer for OSRX®, Inc., a national ophthalmic compounding pharmacy that is an affiliate of Southern California-based Ocular Science®. In this role, he oversees corporate sales strategies, Salesforce automation initiatives, customer service, and national strategic marketing and communications. His diverse background includes tenure as the lead communications strategist for a half-billion-dollar health care campus for one of the country's largest preventive health agencies, as well as management of public relations and marketing efforts for Ford, TrueCar, Yokohama Tires and the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance. Eric has a bachelor's degree from Portland State University.





*Melissa Moncrief*

Melissa Moncrief, the region head of customer experience at Johnson & Johnson Surgical Vision, has 28 years of experience specializing in contract negotiations, sales operations and customer service. Her expertise in the eye care industry includes more than two decades working at Bausch & Lomb, where she served as vice president of sales operations. She has a bachelor's degree from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

As chief human resources officer at Tarsus Pharmaceuticals, which develops novel therapeutics for diseases with limited treatment options, Dianne Whitfield designs of Huntington Beach, implements and executes strategy and programs focused on an optimal employee experience that drives a differentiated culture, engagement and business results. Dianne previously supported a division with 700 employees as director of global human resources at Allergan and was recently named a "Distinguished Leader in Human Resources" by the Orange County Business Journal. HB local Dianne Whitefield just joined the Ophthalmic Advisory Board at Orange County non-profit Beyond Blindness. She has a bachelor's degree from University of California, Irvine, and a master's in social work from California State University, Long Beach. *Photos: Beyond Blindness*