

## **NATALIE AFSHARI**

### **Ophthalmology**

Natalie Afshari is a clinician and research scientist who joined the faculty of UCSD in 2012 as a professor of Ophthalmology. She is currently Stuart I. Brown MD endowed Chair in Ophthalmology in Memory of Donald P. Shiley, Chief of Cornea and Refractive Surgery, and Vice Chair of Education at the Shiley Eye Institute. Prior to this, she was Professor of Ophthalmology and Director of Centers of Excellence at the Duke University Eye Center. She received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from University of California Berkeley, her medical degree from Stanford University and her residency and fellowship training at Harvard University.

Dr. Afshari has received the inaugural Top Ten Women in Medicine award by Triangle News, Women Who Mean Business award by San Diego Business Journal, the Best Doctors in America for the past decade, and a Top Doctor listing in the U.S. News & World Report. Dr. Afshari's dedication to clinical care also inspires her research. Her NIH research grant is on genetics and regeneration of cornea. Her laboratory has shown robust conversion of pluripotential stem cells to corneal endothelial cells for the first time.

Within the university, Dr. Afshari has served on the Resource Alignment (RA2016) Work Stream Committee, the UC San Diego Health System Faculty Leadership Group and most recently in the Health Sciences Faculty Mentor Training Program. She also serves on the Leadership Council of the Department of Ophthalmology and is the chair of the Education Committee, Clinical Competency Committee, and the Residency Selection Committee.

Nationally, Dr. Afshari is a consultant to the FDA and chairs the FDA Committee of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery. She is on several editorial boards of scientific and scholarly journals. She also holds a variety of positions that allow significant leadership and policy contributions in medicine as well as the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues across the nation. Dr. Afshari is the co-editor of a two volume text book "Copeland and Afshari's Principles and Practice of Cornea".

When not researching or practicing, Dr. Afshari donates her time and surgical expertise as an international volunteer. She has traveled to West Africa, Central America, and Mexico to help patients who might otherwise go untreated.