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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE MACULA VISION RESEARCH FOUNDATION (MVRFF) ANNOUNCES THEIR 2013-2014 GRANT RECIPIENTS

National research foundation awards \$1.2 million to scientists in Italy, Netherlands and U.S. conducting groundbreaking research to find a cure for macular degeneration and other retinal diseases

CONSHOHOCKEN, PA (June 24, 2013) The Macula Vision Research Foundation (MVRFF), a national nonprofit focused on funding research to find a cure for macular degeneration and other retinal diseases including childhood blindness, announces their 2013-2014 grant recipients. The grantees will receive \$100,000 a year for three years to fund their basic research projects directly aligned with the mission of MVRFF to find treatments and a cure for degenerative eye diseases.

“Some of the scientists we have funded have identified the gene for Leber congenital amaurosis, a disease which causes blindness in children” say Karen and Herb Lotman, founders of MVRFF. “They are currently reversing childhood blindness as you read this. We are eager for our new grantees to follow the same path with their research and continue to carry out our mission to find a cure for these types of diseases.” The four grantees receiving funding were chosen through a selective, invitation-only application process conducted by the Foundation’s International Scientific Advisory Board.

2013-2014 MVRFF Grant Recipients:

- Dr. Frans Cremers, Ph.D., a professor at Radboud University’s Nijmegen Medical Center, Netherlands, will be using state of the art technology to identify gene variants in seven different retinal degenerative diseases that have no known associated gene variants.
- Roxana Radu, M.D., a researcher at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, L.A., will be researching the possibility of slowing retinal dysfunction, which often leads to macular degeneration, by expressing a specific type of protein in the eye.
- Dr. E. Strettoi, Ph.D., a senior investigator at the Italian National Research Council’s Institute of Neuroscience, Italy, is conducting research on the sphingolipid pathway in the eye to identify the effects it has on retinal degeneration.
- Dr. Sally Temple, Ph.D., the scientific director and co-founder of the Regenerative Research Foundation’s Neural Stem Cell Institute, N.Y., will attempt to use human stem cells to generate fully functional human photoreceptors.

To date, MVRFF has awarded \$18.6 million in grants to fund visionary research and is committed to funding the best and brightest researchers in the world.

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About the Macula Vision Research Foundation:

The Macula Vision Research Foundation (MVRFF) is a 501 (c)(3) organization dedicated to finding a cure for macular degeneration and other retinal diseases. To reach this goal, MVRFF funds groundbreaking research projects conducted by the world’s top scientists with the hope of improving the lives of millions of people affected by visual impairment. **What makes MVRFF unique is that 100% of every dollar donated goes directly to research.** All administrative and fundraising expenses are underwritten by the Karen and Herb Lotman Foundation, allowing MVRFF to allocate all donations towards finding a cure. Along with funding research, MVRFF also provides education and outreach to those with visual impairments through our SupportSight™ seminars and newsletter.

www.mvrff.org

If you’d like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with Dawn Prall George, Executive Director, Macula Vision Research Foundation, please call Dawn at 610-234-0091 or email her at Dawn@mvrff.org.