Mission

The Macula Vision Research Foundation (MVRF) is a 501 (c)(3) organization dedicated to finding a cure for macular degeneration and other retinal diseases. To reach this goal, MVRF 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 MVRF unique is that 100% of every dollar donated goes directly to research. All administrative and fundraising expenses are underwritten by the Karen and Herbert Lotman Foundation, allowing MVRF to allocate all donations towards finding a cure. Along with funding research, MVRF also provides education and outreach to those with visual impairments through our SupportSight™ seminars and newsletter.

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We are excited to introduce Deborah-Jo Essrog who has recently joined the MVRF Team as Director of Development. With 23 years of experience in Finance and Development, Deborah-Jo is a strong leader in strategically creating and expanding campaigns. She brings energy and enthusiasm to MVRF to broaden awareness and investment in finding the cure for AMD.

Our MVRF Team

Dawn Prall George  
*Executive Director*

Deborah-Jo Essrog  
*Director of Development*

Nikki Grossman  
*Marketing & Communications Coordinator*

Lynn Rinaldi  
*SupportSightSM Program Manager*

Academic & Institutional Partners

Beckman Vision Center  
Casey Eye Institute  
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Doheny Eye Institute  
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Eccles Institute of Human Genetics  
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Neuroscience Institute, Pisa, Italy  
Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands  
Scheie Eye Institute  
St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital  
The Cleveland Clinic  
The Jackson Laboratory  
The Johns Hopkins University

The University of Alabama at Birmingham  
The Wistar Institute  
Tufts Medical Center  
Tufts University School of Medicine  
UCL Institute of Child Health (London)  
UCL Institute of Ophthalmology  
University of Arizona  
University of California Santa Barbara  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of Florida  
University of Iowa  
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University of Kentucky  
University of North Dakota  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine  
University of Southampton (UK)  
University of Utah  
University of Washington School of Medicine  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
W.K. Kellogg Eye Center  
Washington University School of Medicine  
Weill Medical College of Cornell University  
Western General Hospital Edinburgh  
Wilmer Eye Institute  
Yale University School of Medicine
Highlights & Accomplishments

• Brought together a group of world-renowned vision scientists and medical researchers to dialogue and share ideas about emerging concepts, techniques and treatments for AMD for our 12th Scientific Conference in Atlanta

• Convened five SupportSightSM seminars and expanded programming to include senior living communities all over the country

• Announced new strategic partnership with Optelec U.S.

• Created the Harold and Betty Brewer Research Endowment Fund

• Participated in a high profile panel discussion on philanthropy and research at the Partnering for Cures annual conference

• Attended the first-ever, invitation-only convening of vision research funders hosted by Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB) in D.C.

• Launched MVRF mobile app

Financial Report

For year ended September 30, 2013

• Total income in the past fiscal year $1,753,270
• Total program expenses $956,523
• Total fund raising expenses* $208,053
• Total administrative expenses* $200,593
• End of year assets $(231,213)
• IRS form 990 **

* paid by the Karen & Herbert Lotman Foundation
** (please visit www.mvrf.org to view)

Currently Funded Grants

2014-2015 Grant Recipients:
Kazuko Nishikura, PhD
The Wistar Institute
Philadelphia, PA
Name of Study: Involvement of RNA Editing and RNA Interference in AMD Pathogenesis

Rachael Pearson, PhD
UCL Institute of Ophthalmology
London
Name of Study: Retinal Repair Using Embryonic Stem Cell Derived Photoreceptors: Defining the Window of Transplantation Competence

SriniVas R. Sadda, MD
Doheny Image Reading Center
Doheny Eye Institute
David Geffen School of Medicine
UCLA
Name of Study: Multimodal Image Analysis in Age-Related Macular Degeneration

Nadia Waheed, MD, MPH
Tufts Medical Center
Boston, MA
Name of Study: Ocular Blood Flow Changes in Exudative Macular Degeneration

As of this year, MVRF has granted more than $20 million to vision research around the world.
2nd & 3rd Year Grant Recipients:

Gustavo Aguirre, VMD, PhD
University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine
Name of Study: Gene Replacement Therapy in Bestrophin 1 Model: Implications for Recessive and Dominant Human BEST1-Disorders

Eyal Banin, MD, PhD, Samuel Jacobson, MD, PhD and William Hauswirth, PhD
Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center
Jerusalem, Israel
Name of Study: Developing Treatment for CNGA3 Achromatopsia

Frans P. M. Cremers, PhD
Nijmegen Medical Center, Radboud Univ. The Netherlands
Name of Study: Transcriptome Analysis of iPSC-Derived Retinal Cells of Patients with Inherited Retinal Dystrophies

Wolfgang Drexler, PhD
Medical University Vienna
Name of Study: Comprehensive Choroidal and Cellular Resolution Retinal OCT of Macular Degenerations

Anneke den Hollander, PhD
Radboud Univ. Nijmegen Medical Center, Department of Ophthalmology
Name of Study: Genetic and Immunological Causes of Central Serous Retinopathy

Samuel Jacobson, MD, PhD and William Hauswirth, PhD
Scheie Eye Institute, University of Florida
Name of Study: Treatments for Inherited Macular Degenerations, Specifically Blue Cone Monochromacy

Sheila Nirenberg, PhD
Weill Medical College of Cornell University
Name of Study: A Retinal Prosthetic for the Treatment of Advanced Stage Macular Degeneration: A Device with the Potential to Restore Normal or Near-normal Vision

Roxana Radu, MD
Jules Stein Eye Institute, UCLA
Los Angeles, California
Name of Study: Gene-Therapy to Prevent Visual Loss in Macular Degenerations by Increasing Expression of Complement Negative-Regulatory Proteins in the RPE

Austin Roorda, PhD
University of California, Berkeley
Name of Study: Improved Structure/Function Measures in dry-AMD

Enrica Strettoi, PhD
Institute of Neuroscience, Italian National Research Council
Pisa, Italy
Name of Study: Sphingolipid Ceramide Signaling In Retinal Degeneration: In Vivo Targeting

Sally Temple, PhD
Neural Stem Cell Institute, Regenerative Research Foundation
Rensselaer, New York
Name of Study: Reprogramming the Human Retinal Pigment Epithelial Stem Cells (RPESCs) into Photoreceptor Cells

100% of every dollar you give goes directly to research. All expenses are paid by the Karen and Herbert Lotman Foundation.