



MACULA VISION RESEARCH FOUNDATION 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

ONE TOWER BRIDGE
100 FRONT STREET, SUITE 300
W. CONSHOCKEN, PA 19428

2015-2016: A YEAR IN REVIEW

MACULA VISION RESEARCH FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

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 three main areas of focus: SupportSightSM Seminars, SupportSightNEWSSM and SupportSightSM Resources.

It takes intensive research to find exceptional researchers. MVRF is guided by an International Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) comprised of leading retina researchers from around the world.

We award funding to the **best of the best**. And with no ties to any one institution, our research dollars are directed to the most promising ideas.

International Scientific Advisory Board

Robert S. Molday, PhD

Chairman

Director, Center for Macular Research

University of British Columbia

Vancouver, BC

Colin J. Barnstable, DPhil

Professor and Chair, Department of

Neural and Behavioral Sciences

Pennsylvania State University College

of Medicine, Hershey, PA

Dean Bok, PhD

Distinguished Professor of Neurobiology

Dolly Green Professor of Ophthalmology

University of California, Los Angeles

William W. Hauswirth, PhD

Professor, Department of

Molecular Genetics

Rybaczki-Bullard Professor,

Department of Ophthalmology

College of Medicine, University of Florida

Gainesville, FL

Roderick R. McInnes, MD, PhD

Director, Lady Davis Research Institute,

Jewish General Hospital

McGill University, Montréal, Quebec

Philip J. Rosenfeld, MD, PhD

Professor of Ophthalmology,

Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

University of Miami

Miller School of Medicine

Miami, FL

Founders

Karen & Herbert Lotman

**Founding
Scientific Director**

Marvin L. Sears, MD

Board of Directors

Shelly Lotman-Fisher

George Ginader

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Robert S. Molday, PhD

Colin J. Barnstable, DPhil

Dean Bok, PhD

William W. Hauswirth, PhD

Roderick R. McInnes, MD, PhD

Philip J. Rosenfeld, MD, PhD

Our MVRF Team

Dawn Prall George
Executive Director

Nikki Grossman
*Director of
Development*

Lynn Rinaldi
*SupportSightSM
Program Manager*

Academic & Institutional Partners (partial list)

Beckman Vision Center –
University of California, San Francisco

Casey Eye Institute

Columbia University

Duke University Medical Center

Eccles Institute of Human Genetics

Hadassah Hebrew University Medical
Center

Harvard Medical School

Institute of Human Genetics

Johns Hopkins University School
of Medicine

Jules Stein Eye Institute

Moran Eye Center

Neural Stem Cell Institute, Rensselaer, NY

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

Tufts University School of Medicine

UCL Institute of Child Health (London)

University of Arizona

University of California Santa Barbara

University of California, Berkeley

University of Florida

University of Iowa

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

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 13th International Scientific Conference in Boston.
- Launched a newly re-designed website **www.mvrf.org**
- Provided continuing funding for nine ongoing research projects
- Co-Sponsored the second annual *Emerging Vision Scientists Day* and Congressional Reception on Capitol Hill
- Participated in the 2015 *Partnering for Cures* Conference in New York
- Convened 13 SupportSightSM education sessions
- Presented at the third, invitation-only, Convening of Vision Research Funders hosted by Research to Prevent Blindness in D.C.
- Launched a new clinical trials initiative as part of our SupportSightSM Program, which links patients and families to relevant AMD clinical trials in their area
- Expanded our Anonymous donor match ***Believing is Seeing 20/20 Campaign***, raising more than \$44,500 in 2016 to help fund groundbreaking research projects

Financials

Please visit our website **www.mvrf.org** for the most recent audited information and IRS form 990.

Active Grants

Eyal Banin, MD, PhD, William Hauswirth, PhD & Samuel Jacobson, MD, PhD
Hadassah Hebrew University, et al.

Grant Amount: \$450,000

Name of Study: **Developing Treatment for CNGA3 Achromatopsia**

Frans Cremers, PhD
Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Center

Grant Amount: \$300,000

Name of Study: **Transcriptome Analysis of iPSC-derived Retinal Cells of Patients with Inherited Retinal Dystrophies**

Anneke den Hollander, PhD
Radboud Univ. Nijmegen Medical Center, Dept. of Ophthalmology

Grant Amount: \$300,000

Supplemental Grant: \$160,000

Name of Study: **Genetic and Immunological Causes of Central Serous Retinopathy**

Thank you to all of our generous MVRF supporters - you are not just contributing to the potential for a cure that will restore the gift of sight to millions - you are helping to make it happen!

Kazuko Nishikura, PhD
The Wistar Institute
Grant Amount: \$300,000
Name of Study: **Involvement of RNA Editing and RNA Interference in AMD Pathogenesis**

Rachael Pearson, PhD
UCL Institute of Ophthalmology
Grant Amount: \$300,000
Name of Study: **Retinal Repair Using Embryonic Stem Cell Derived Photoreceptors: Defining the Window of Transplantation Competence**

Roxana A. Radu, MD
Jules Stein Eye Institute, UCLA
Grant Amount: \$300,000
Name of Study: **Gene-therapy to Prevent Visual Loss in Macular Degenerations by Increasing Expression of Complement Negative-Regulatory Proteins in the RPE**

SriniVas R. Sadda, MD
Doheny Eye Institute, David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA
Grant Amount: \$300,000
Name of Study: **Multimodal Image Analysis in Age-Related Macular Degeneration**

Enrica Strettoi, PhD
Istituto di Neuroscienze del CNR
Grant Amount: \$300,000
Name of Study: **Spingolipid Ceramide Signaling in Retinal Degeneration: In Vivo Targeting**

Sally Temple, PhD
Neural Stem Cell Institute
Grant Amount: \$300,000
Name of Study: **Reprogramming the Human Retinal Pigment Epithelial Stem Cells (RPESCs) into Photoreceptor Cells**

Nadia Waheed, MD, MPH
Tufts Medical Center
Grant Amount: \$300,000
Name of Study: **Ocular Blood Flow Changes in Exudative Macular Degeneration**



NO ONE DOES WHAT THE MACULA VISION RESEARCH FOUNDATION DOES

Please do not be confused by organizations with similar names. The Macula Vision Research Foundation (MVRF) devotes 100% of your donation to research. That guarantee will always be included in our appeals and communications.

Thank you again for your continued interest and support.