2012-2013: A Year in Review
Macula Vision Research Foundation Annual Report

This information represents our fiscal year October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013 and our 15th year of operation.

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 Herb 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 SupportSightSM seminars and newsletter.

Our MVRF Team

Dawn Prall George
Executive Director

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Director of Development

Nikki Grossman
Marketing & Communications Coordinator

Lynn Rinaldi
Outreach & Education Coordinator

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University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Miami, FL

Academic & Institutional Partners

Beckman Vision Center
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Eccles Institute of Human Genetics
Hadassah Hebrew University Medical Center
Harvard Medical School
Harvard University
Institute of Human Genetics
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
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Jules Stein Eye Institute, UCLA
Medical University Vienna
Moran Eye Center
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Neuroscience Institute, Pisa, Italy
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St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital
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The Jackson Laboratory
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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
Celebrity Ambassadors
These stars are shining light on our important mission...

Buzz Aldrin
Edward Asner
Angela Bassett
Shari Belafonte
Richard Dreyfuss
Hector Elizondo
David James Elliott
Brad Garrett
Hal Holbrook
Penny Marshall
The Reverend Dr. Della Reese Lett
Nancy Sinatra
Cheryl Tiegs
Hunter Tylo
Al Unser, Jr.
Christopher Walken

Highlights & Accomplishments

• Hired a new Executive Director
• Implemented a new 3-year strategic plan
  o Improved communications strategy for web, proposals and social media
  o Executed a new social marketing strategy and increased Facebook fans by 15%
  o Launched a newly designed website, www.MVRF.org
• Convened the 11th Scientific Conference in Chicago, IL on October 18-21st, 2012
  o 23 world-renowned vision scientists discussed recent progress in therapeutic strategies for treatment of macular degeneration and related inherited blinding diseases
• Increased grant cycle funding amount by 25% to $100,000/year for 3 years
• Awarded 4 new grants
• Distributed 3 SupportSightSMNEWS publications with improved content and increased readership by 10% - total circulation of 25,000
• Partnered with The Middle Atlantic Blind Golf Association for their 2013 Invitational Golf Tournament which raised more than $50,000 in total
Currently Funded Grants

2013-2014 Grant Recipients:

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

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

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

2nd & 3rd Year Grant Recipients:

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

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

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

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

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

Austin Roorda, PhD
University of California, Berkeley
Name of Study: Improved Structure/Function Measures in dry-AMD
**Financial Report**
For year ended September 30, 2012

- Total income in the past fiscal year $3.8 MM
- Total program expenses $3.1 MM
- Total fund raising expenses $ 221,607
- Total administrative expenses $ 224,568
- End of year assets $ (156,888)
- IRS form 990 (on website)

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**Looking Forward...**

- Our 12th Scientific Conference will be held on March 21-23, 2014 in Atlanta, Georgia
- We will be holding a SupportSightSM Seminar on October 22, 2013 in Cleveland, Ohio
- Upcoming SupportSightSM Seminars (dates TBD):
  - Phoenix, Arizona - Winter 2014
  - Atlanta, Georgia - Spring 2014
  - Philadelphia Region - Summer 2014
  - Austin, Texas - Summer 2014