

first in.



2017 Annual Report

Alzheimer's Disease Research
Macular Degeneration Research
National Glaucoma Research

Dear Friends,

BrightFocus Foundation continues to grow as a premier source of funding and support for scientific research to defeat Alzheimer's, glaucoma, and macular degeneration. Thanks to the generosity and support of friends like you, we are leading the fight against the devastating conditions we all fear most: loss of sight and loss of mind.

We make bold bets on the future, investing in groundbreaking science that will change lives. BrightFocus recently announced \$13.3 million in new grants, a record amount that brings us to more than \$36 million awarded in the past three years alone. In supporting cutting-edge research and investing in the next generation of bright young minds, we're funding the future we want for our loved ones and ourselves.

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As our nation and the world's population ages, it is imperative that we change the trajectory of these diseases. Our research ranges from better understanding how our bodies age, to the clinical testing of promising new treatments. BrightFocus was the first to invest in an innovative statistical model to accelerate Alzheimer's research, and the first to bring eye and brain researchers together to fuel new collaborations. The strong reputation of our research allows us to continue to reach larger audiences—sharing information with families impacted by these diseases and fostering partnerships with public and private sector leaders.

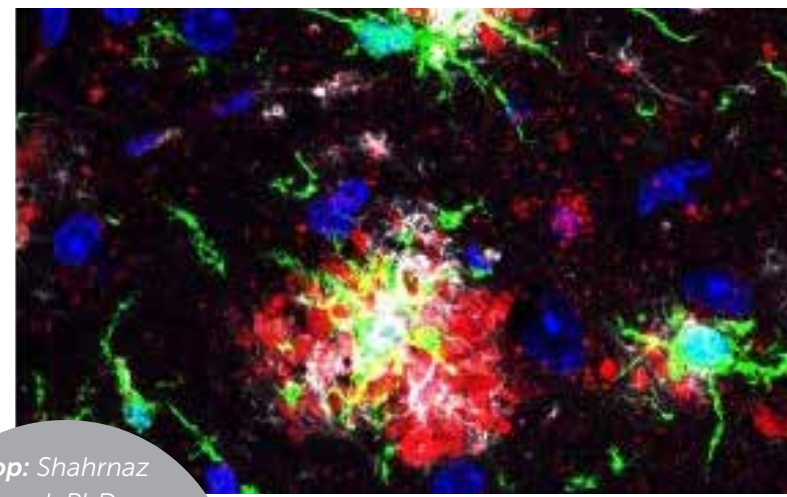
The diseases we take on are daunting, but we don't fear being unable to find cures. We only fear that we won't find them soon enough to help the ones we love. Working together, we won't let this happen.



STACY PAGOS HALLER
President and CEO



SCOTT D. RODGVILLE, CPA
Chair, Board of Directors



Top: Shahnaz
Kemal, PhD

Middle:
From the lab of
Dr. Kemal

Bottom: Robert
Newton, PhD





BrightFocus goes beyond

conventional wisdom to discover new research leaders.



innovation

BrightFocus is leading the fight against the devastating conditions we fear most: loss of sight and loss of mind.

BrightFocus Foundation's three scientific research programs to end diseases of mind and sight are *Alzheimer's Disease Research*, *Macular Degeneration Research*, and *National Glaucoma Research*.

Supporting Innovative Research

BrightFocus-supported research advances the work of scientists around the world.



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Alzheimer's Disease Research

Every 66 seconds, another American develops Alzheimer's disease, the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States and the only leading cause of death that has significantly increased in recent years. Alzheimer's has no known cure.

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Researcher Spotlight

To Understand the Aging Brain, Study the Young Brain

Stacy Grunke, PhD, a postdoctoral fellow at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, studies Alzheimer's disease because she's "fascinated by the learning and memory circuitry of the brain, and the loss of cognitive function with aging."

Grunke is examining how the young brain is able to restore cognitive function despite instances of profound cell loss. "We hope that by understanding how the young brain recovers, we can then identify which of these mechanisms is lost with age, with the hope of restoring cognitive function in the aged population," she says.

"I think the most promising area of research is identifying genetic risk factors of the disease," notes Grunke. She predicts: "As genetic screens become available to identify people likely to develop the disease and advances in brain scans enable confirmation of Alzheimer's pathology, we will begin to see real improvements from early interventions that target the disease."

Over 5 million people live with Alzheimer's disease in the United States today, by 2050 there will be close to **15 million**.



“Research equals hope. These young scientists represent the future.”

Frank M. LaFerla, PhD
University of California, Irvine



Alzheimer's Fast Track, October, 2016



Incubator for Rising Researchers

BrightFocus sponsored its biennial conference, Alzheimer's Fast Track, which serves as a boot camp for young scientists to hear from leading experts in the Alzheimer's field. This signature event fosters unique collaboration among both seasoned and promising scientists.

Frank M. LaFerla, PhD, University of California, Irvine, a renowned Alzheimer's investigator, said, "Research equals hope. There is no doubt about it. We are never going to find a cure for these diseases other than through research. These young scientists represent the future."

Crowdsourcing Public's Help

EyesOnALZ  Funded by BrightFocus, EyesOnALZ is the first-ever, citizen science project to engage the public with Alzheimer's research. The project uses

crowdsourcing to speed up time-consuming data analysis for research studying stalled blood vessels in the brain. Headed by Pietro Michelucci, PhD, of Ithaca, NY-based Human Computation Institute, EyesOnALZ was recently featured in a PBS documentary series, *The Crowd & The Cloud*.



Fostering Dementia Friendly Communities



Dementia Friendly America™

As a founding member of Dementia Friendly

America, BrightFocus has partnered with Montgomery County, Maryland, to launch a local campaign to better serve those in our community living with dementia.

\$8.4m

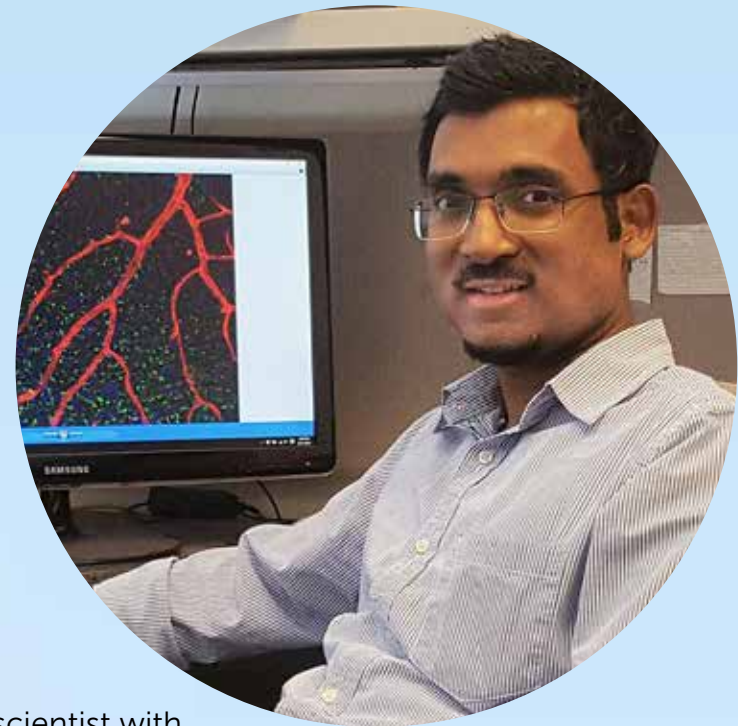
BrightFocus has funded more than \$8.4 million to 38 new projects

Macular Degeneration Research

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is a leading cause of irreversible vision loss in the United States, and for Caucasians older than 40 it is the leading cause of blindness. BrightFocus convened the first-ever international gathering of brain and eye researchers to map out an ambitious research agenda on the common features of neurodegenerative diseases.

Researcher Spotlight

An Entirely New Way of Looking at an Age-Old Problem



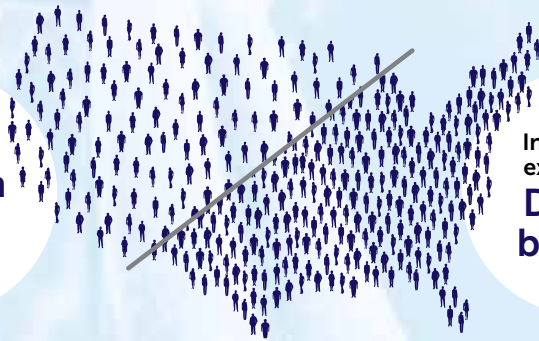
Perhaps it's no surprise that a scientist with an interdisciplinary background believes that interdisciplinary work will help solve the puzzle that is age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

Kaustabh Ghosh, PhD, of the University of California, Riverside, has a background in vascular biology, mechanobiology, and bioengineering, and was drawn to vision research by a colleague who encouraged him to explore AMD and diabetic retinopathy.

While these two vision conditions have long been known to involve vascular dysfunction, a topic that is of central interest in Dr. Ghosh's lab, very little is known about precisely how blood vessels become dysfunctional or the extent to which vessel dysfunction affects vision.

Dr. Ghosh is studying the role of age-related vascular stiffening in the development of dry AMD, an approach that, if successful, could lead to new treatments for dry AMD.

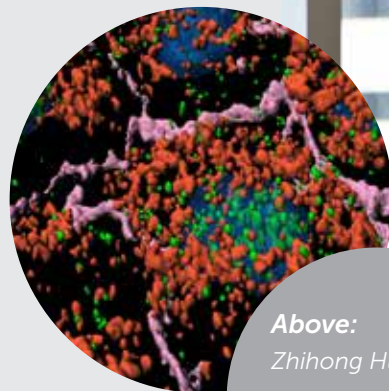
Roughly
2 Million
people have
advanced amd



Incidence is
expected to
Double
by 2050

“I really appreciate this program. I can’t tell you how much it means to me. I wouldn’t miss it for anything.”

Ella
*A longtime chat listener
Wooster, Ohio*



Above:
Zhihong Hu, PhD

Left: *From the lab
of Aparna Lakkaraju,
PhD*

Tips for Families and Caregivers



The BrightFocus Chats, a monthly telephone call-in series featuring researchers, clinicians, and low vision specialists, provide the latest advice for those living with vision loss. All the chats are archived at brightfocus.org.

On a recent chat, Dr. Ward Bond, the host of a national television

program, shared his expertise about the vital role of nutrition in reducing the risk and progression of age-related diseases such as macular degeneration and glaucoma.

BrightFocus[®]
Chats

\$2.6m

BrightFocus has funded more than \$2.6 million of 17 new projects

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*Rajendra
Kumar-Singh,
PhD*



Researcher Spotlight

An Engineer's Perspective

Darryl Overby, PhD, of the Department of Bioengineering at Imperial College, London, has been fascinated since college with biofluid mechanics. That's the study of fluid motion in response to certain pressures or forces.

While engineers typically focus on fluid motion in pipes or plumbing, Overby became "captivated with how the same ideas can be applied to the human body, to understand disease."

For years Overby has been investigating the fluid mechanics of the eye in glaucoma, looking at the mechanics of fluid drainage (the aqueous humour) in the eye. He believes the eye's drainage pathway can be better targeted to more successfully lower intraocular pressure, which in turn can help prevent vision loss in glaucoma.

Overby is encouraged about the future of glaucoma research, seeing certain compounds progress from "bench to bedside" and begin to help patients.

"As we learn more about the trabecular meshwork and aqueous humour dynamics in general," says Overby, "no doubt even better and more effective vision-saving drugs will emerge. Stay tuned!"

National Glaucoma Research

Glaucoma is the second leading cause of irreversible blindness worldwide according to the World Health Organization. And for Hispanics and African-Americans in the United States, glaucoma is the leading cause of blindness.

Through social media campaigns and public service announcements, BrightFocus works to educate Americans on the importance of scheduling a regular eye exam.

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Only **half** of people living with



are likely aware they have it.



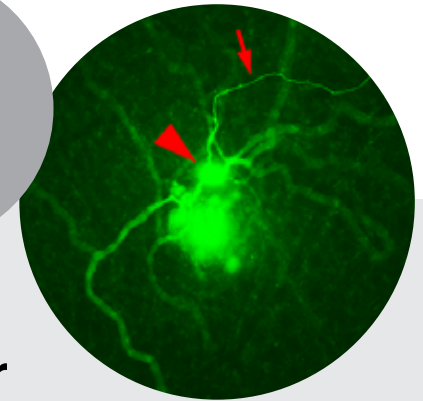
#EyeCelebrate



"I have light colored eyes and a thin cornea. Surgery to repair a macular pucker resulted in central vision loss. This loss just compounded the damage done to the same eye from advanced glaucoma. Protecting my eyes is paramount in preserving what eye sight I do have."

Marilyn Pope

From the lab
of Matthew
Van Hook,
PhD



Jeffrey L.
Goldberg, MD,
PhD, Stanford
University

Twitter Chats Stats

#GlaucomaTalk –
700,000 impressions
and **140,000** reach
from Twitter Chat
with Dr. Goldberg

\$2.2m

BrightFocus has funded
more than \$2.2 million of
15 new projects



Clinical Trials Guide

BrightFocus recently released a new publication designed to help families seeking information on clinical trials for diseases of mind and sight.

Email info@brightfocus.org to receive a free copy of *Clinical Trials: Your Questions Answered* brochure or download it at brightfocus.org/clinical-trials.

2017 BrightFocus Awards

These 70 new awards totaling more than **\$13 million** contribute to a portfolio of more than **\$35 million** with **177 awards** managed during fiscal 2017.

Alzheimer's Disease Research

Randall Bateman, MD

A New Way to Image Amyloid Plaque Growth in Human Alzheimer's Disease
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Daniel Bos, PhD

How Atherosclerosis Affects Brain Structure, Cognitive Function, and Dementia
ERASMUS MEDICAL CENTER

Kathryn Bowles, PhD

Discovering Factors that Cause Tau to Change
ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI

Resham Chhabra, PhD

TDP-43 Depletion as a Risk Factor for Tau Pathology in Alzheimer's
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Inma Cobos, MD, PhD

This grant is made possible in part by support from Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles.
Alzheimer's in the Human Brain: Focusing on One Neuron at a Time
UCLA MEDICAL CENTER

Richard Darby, MD

Neuroimaging and Understanding Delusions and Hallucinations in Alzheimer's
BETH ISRAEL DEACONESS MEDICAL CENTER, HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

Pierre De Rossi, PhD

BIN1 as a Genetic Risk Factor in Alzheimer's Pathology
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Sarah DeVos, PhD

A New Tool to Monitor Tau Aggregates in the Brain
MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

Karen Duff, PhD

Slowing Alzheimer's by Enhancing Cellular Garbage Disposal
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Sarah Fritschi, PhD

Understanding the Interplay Between Sleep and Alzheimer Disease
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Lea Grinberg, MD, PhD

A Neuroimaging Biomarker for Asymptomatic Alzheimer's Disease
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO

Chadwick Hales, MD, PhD

How Proteins Contribute to Alzheimer's Pathology and Spread
EMORY UNIVERSITY

Mar Hernández-Guillamon, PhD

Modulating Brain Cholesterol to Treat Alzheimer's Disease
VALL DE HEBRON RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Majken Jensen, PhD

Using Blood Samples to Assess the Role of Nutritional Factors in Alzheimer's
HARVARD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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2017 BrightFocus Grants at a Glance

Basic – Research that aims to better understand how a disease happens, and to obtain new ideas of how to stop the disease.

Clinical – Research involving volunteer participants to test the safety and effectiveness of drugs, devices, or other treatment candidates.

Translational – Research to move findings from the lab bench to the "bedside" by testing potential treatments.

47%

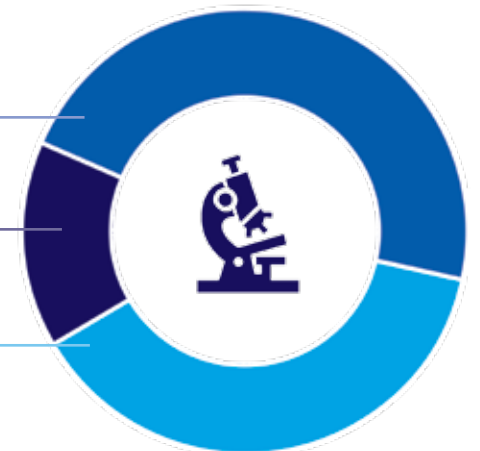
Basic Research Grants

15%

Clinical Research Grants

38%

Translational Research Grants



Shahmaz Kemal, PhD

Unexplored Toxic Pathways in Alzheimer's: Potential New Drug Targets
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Chaeyoung Kim, PhD

ApoE4 and Mitochondrial Function in Alzheimer's Disease
THE J. DAVID GLADSTONE INSTITUTES

Terrance Kummer, MD, PhD

An MRI Fingerprint of Brain Circuit Breakdown in Alzheimer's
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Tae Ho Lee, PhD

A New Pathway to Neuron Death in Alzheimer's Disease
BETH ISRAEL DEACONESS MEDICAL CENTER, HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

Jin Rui Liang, PhD

Link Between Endoplasmic Reticulum Turnover & Neurodegeneration in Alzheimer's
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Ethan Lippman, PhD

Why Do Brain Blood Vessels Become Leaky in Alzheimer's and Dementia?
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Tao Ma, MD, PhD

A Potential New Drug Target to Prevent Alzheimer's-related Synapse Loss
WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL

Edoardo Marcora, PhD

Understanding the Role of Apolipoprotein E in Microglia
ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI

Randy McIntosh, PhD

Building a Personalized Virtual Brain with Alzheimer's
BAYCREST CENTRE FOR GERIATRIC CARE

Myles Minter, PhD

This Alzheimer's Disease Research Fellowship Grant is made possible in part by support from Lois and Duane Luallin in Memory of Denver E. Perkins and Edwin H. Luallin.

The Impact of Gut Microbes on Alzheimer's Disease Progression
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Robert Newton, PhD

Exercise to Reduce Alzheimer's Risk in African Americans
PENNINGTON BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH CENTER

Daniel Pak, PhD

Testing a Novel Amyloid-Promoting Factor as an Alzheimer's Therapy
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Angèle Parent, PhD

Targeting APP Intracellular Fragment to Improve Memory and Reduce A β Burden in AD
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Chris Schaffer, PhD

Improving Brain Blood Flow in Alzheimer's Disease to Improve Cognitive Function
CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Yi Su, PhD

Neurovascular Changes in Aging and Alzheimer Disease
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Peter Tessier, PhD

New Tau Imaging for Early Diagnosis of Alzheimer's
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Yong Wang, PhD

A New Way to Image White Matter Damage and Inflammation in Alzheimer's
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



Macular Degeneration Research

Daniel Chao, MD, PhD

A Zebrafish Model of Wet Macular Degeneration
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Jing Chen, PhD

Protecting RPE and Photoreceptors in AMD
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL BOSTON, HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

Yan Chen, PhD

Metabolic Pathways of the Retina in Health and AMD
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BRANCH AT GALVESTON

Astra Dinculescu, PhD

Extracellular Deposits and Vision Loss in AMD
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Cristhian Ildefonso, PhD

The Helen Juanita Reed Award
Exploring the Role of Inflammation in AMD
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Rajendra Kumar-Singh, PhD

Developing a Gene Therapy for AMD
TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Binxing Li, PhD

Delivering Sight-saving Nutrients to the Retina in AMD
MORAN EYE CENTER

Sarah McFarlane, PhD

Aberrant Blood Vessel Growth in AMD: A New Animal Model
UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Trevor McGill, PhD

The Carolyn K. McGillvray Award

Nutritional Factors in the Development of AMD
OREGON HEALTH AND SCIENCE UNIVERSITY

Philippe Murrain, PhD

This grant is made possible by support from the Nancy Ferguson Seeley Trust in memory of Mildred F. Ferguson

Can the Zebrafish Provide Clues to New AMD-Associated Genetic Mutation?
STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Patsy Nishina, PhD

Which DNA Changes Can Lead to AMD and Other Vision Disease?
THE JACKSON LABORATORY

Michael Paulaitis, PhD

MicroRNAs and Mitochondrial Dysfunction in AMD
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Claudio Punzo, PhD

Role of the Light-sensing Photoreceptor Cells in AMD
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Sheldon Rowan, PhD
The Elizabeth Anderson Award

Importance of Gut Bacteria in A Model of AMD
TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Daniel Saban, PhD

Targeting Immune Cells in AMD
DUKE UNIVERSITY EYE CENTER

Gaofeng Wang, PhD

Using Vitamin C to Treat AMD
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



**National
Glaucoma
Research**

Tobias Elze, PhD

Computational Investigation of Glaucoma Progression
SCHEPENS EYE RESEARCH INSTITUTE, MASSACHUSETTS EYE AND EAR, HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

Brad Fortune, OD, PhD

The Thomas R. Lee Award
Can Imaging Reveal Early Stage Damage to Individual Optic Nerve Fibers
DEVERS EYE INSTITUTE

Esther Gonzalez, PhD

Testing the Brain Structure Connecting Two Hemispheres in Glaucoma
KREMBIL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Douglas Gould, PhD

Growth Factor Signaling in Eye Development
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO

Krish Kizhatil, PhD

Neuronal Control of IOP
THE JACKSON LABORATORY

Andras Komaromy, DVM, PhD

A Gene Therapy Approach to Neuroprotection in Glaucoma
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Weiming Mao, PhD

CRISPR Interference for Glaucoma
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

Ethan Rossi, PhD

Imaging the Cells Affected by Glaucoma in the Human Eye
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Feliks (Ephraim) Trakhtenberg, PhD

New Approach for Regenerating the Injured Optic Nerve
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT MEDICAL CENTER

Matthew Van Hook, PhD

Effects of Elevated IOP on Ganglion-Cell Photoreceptors
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER

Derek Welsbie, MD, PhD
The Dr. Douglas H. Johnson Award

Gene Therapy to Inhibit Retinal Nerve Cell Death in Glaucoma
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Ji Yi, PhD

A New Imaging Technique to Detect Early Markers of Glaucoma
BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER

Linda Zangwill, PhD

The Role of Vascular Factors in Glaucoma
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Fengquan Zhou, PhD

This grant is made possible in part by a bequest from the Timothy Miles Charitable Trust.
A New Approach to Optic Nerve Regeneration
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Gulab Zode, PhD

Novel Treatment for Steroid and Myocilin Glaucoma
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

Special Thanks to Donors Supporting Ongoing Research**ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH****Jean-Vianney Haure-Mirande, PhD**

This grant is made possible by support from the J.T. Tai Foundation.
Role of Microglia in Alzheimer's Disease: Deleterious or Helpful?
ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI

David Irwin, MD

This grant is made possible in part by a bequest from the Timothy Miles Charitable Trust.

Non-Amnesic Alzheimer's Disease Biology
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Ana Pereira, MD

This grant is made possible by support from the Ping Y. Tai Foundation.
Enhancing Glutamate Levels as a Way to Treat Alzheimer's Disease
THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

Paul Seidler, PhD

This grant is made possible in part by support from Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles.
Blocking Assembly of Tau Protein into Toxic Structures Associated with Alzheimer's Disease
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

MACULAR DEGENERATION RESEARCH**Jianhai Du, PhD**

This grant was made possible in part by the support from the Ivan Bowen Family Foundation.
A New Method to Decrease Cell Death by Supplementation with NAD Metabolites
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

NATIONAL GLAUCOMA RESEARCH**Jeffrey L. Goldberg, MD, PhD**

This clinical trial is made possible in part by support from The Barry Friedberg & Charlotte Moss Family Foundation.
Study of NT-501 Encapsulated Cell Therapy for Glaucoma Neuroprotection and Vision Restoration
STANFORD UNIVERSITY

BrightFocus Scientific Review Committees

Alzheimer's
Disease
Research

Co-Chair:

David R. Borchelt, PhD
University of Florida

Co-Chair:

David M. Holtzman, MD
Washington University
School of Medicine

Committee Members:

Beau Ances, MD, PhD, MSc
Washington University
School of Medicine

M. Flint Beal, PhD
The New York Hospital –
Cornell Medical Center

Mark D'Esposito, MD
University of California,
Berkeley

Guojun Bu, PhD
Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville

George Carlson, PhD
McLaughlin Research
Institute

Steven Estus, PhD
University of Kentucky

Matthew Frosch, MD, PhD
Massachusetts General
Hospital

Douglas Galasko, MD
University of California,
San Diego

Yukiko Goda, PhD
RIKEN Brain Science
Institute (Japan)

Charles G. Glabe, PhD
University of California,
Irvine

Alison M. Goate, DPhil
Icahn School of Medicine
at Mount Sinai

Todd E. Golde, MD, PhD
University of Florida

John Hardy, PhD, FMedSci, FRS
University College London

Julie Harris, PhD
Allen Institute for Brain
Science

John "Keoni" Kauwe, PhD
Brigham Young University

Allan I. Levey, MD, PhD
Emory University

Edward Koo, MD
University of California,
San Diego

Cynthia Lemere, PhD
Harvard Medical School,
Brigham and Women's
Hospital

Ronald K. Liem, PhD
Columbia University

Hendrik Luesch, PhD
University of Florida

John M. Olichney, MD
University of California,
Davis

David P. Salmon, PhD
University of California,
San Diego

Gerard Schellenberg, PhD
University of Pennsylvania
School of Medicine

Jane M. Sullivan, PhD
University of Washington
School of Medicine

David B. Teplow, PhD
University of California,
Los Angeles

Gopal Thinakaran, PhD
University of Chicago

Ronald B. Wetzel, PhD
University of Pittsburgh

Tony Wyss-Coray, PhD
Stanford University
Medical School

Our world-class scientific review committees, featuring renowned scientific leaders, recommend the annual BrightFocus research grants with the goal of discovering a treatment or cure of Alzheimer's, macular degeneration, and glaucoma.



BrightFocus grantees have received numerous prestigious awards including two Nobel Prizes, 49 Met Life Foundation Awards and 34 Potamkin Prizes.

Kristine Yaffe, MD

University of California,
San Francisco

Riqiang Yan, PhD

Cleveland Clinic
Foundation

Hui Zheng, PhD

Baylor College of
Medicine



**Macular
Degeneration
Research**

Chair:**Joe G. Hollyfield, PhD**

The Cleveland Clinic
Foundation

**Committee
Members:****Bela Anand-Apte, PhD**

The Cleveland Clinic
Foundation

**Robert E. Anderson, MD,
PhD**

University of Oklahoma
Health Sciences

John D. Ash, PhD

University of Florida

Alan Bird, MD

University College London

Dean Bok, PhD

University of California,
Los Angeles

**Catherine Bowes-
Rickman, PhD**

Duke University

Deborah Ferrington, PhD

University of Minnesota

Steven Fliesler, PhD

SUNY, Buffalo

Claire Harris, PhD

Cardiff University (Wales)

Alfred S. Lewin, PhD

University of Florida

**Michael B. Gorin, MD,
PhD**

University of California,
Los Angeles

John Penn, PhD

Vanderbilt University
School of Medicine

Nancy J. Philp, PhD

Thomas Jefferson
University

Sylvia B. Smith, PhD

Augusta University

Debra Thompson, PhD

University of Michigan



**National
Glaucoma
Research**

Chair:**John C. Morrison, MD**

Oregon Health & Science
University

**Committee
Members:****R. Rand Allingham, MD**

Duke University

Claude Burgoyne, MD

Devers Eye Institute

Abbot F. Clark, PhD

University of North Texas

Anne Coleman, MD, PhD

University of California,
Los Angeles

Adriana Di Polo, PhD

University of Montreal
(Canada)

C. Ross Ethier, PhD

Georgia Institute of
Technology and Emory
School of Medicine

**Thomas F. Freddo, OD,
PhD**

University of Waterloo
(Canada)

**Jeffrey L. Goldberg, MD,
PhD**

Stanford University

Richard Libby, PhD

University of Rochester
Medical Center

**Nicholas Marsh-
Armstrong, PhD**

Johns Hopkins University

**Stuart J. McKinnon,
MD, PhD**

Duke University

Robert W. Nickells, PhD

University of Wisconsin

Ian A. Sigal, PhD

University of Pittsburgh
School of Medicine

Arthur J. Sit, MD

Mayo Clinic, MN

W. Daniel Stamer, PhD

Duke University

James N. Ver Hoeve, PhD

University of Wisconsin

Monica Vetter, PhD

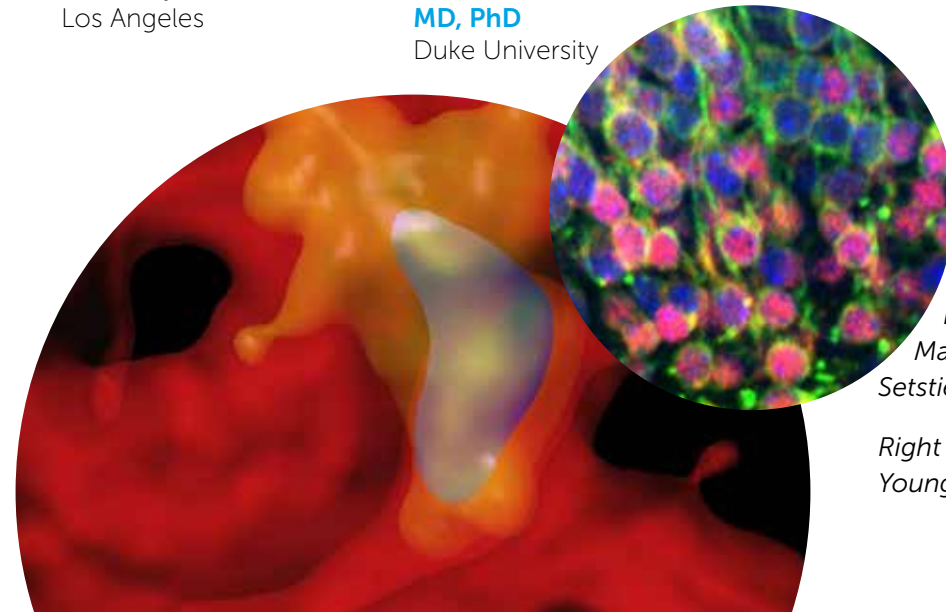
University of Utah

**Darrell WuDunn, MD,
PhD**

Indiana University

Mary Wirtz, PhD

Oregon Health & Science
University



Left image credit:
Marie-Victoire Guillot-
Setstier, PhD

Right image credit: Tracy
Young-Pearse, PhD

Partnerships For A Cure

BrightFocus works closely with nonprofits and corporate partners alike to advocate for those impacted by loss of mind and loss of sight. We collaborate with leading coalitions, key policymakers and elected officials to seek greater allocation of federal resources and support for caregivers.



for hope, for strength, for life.



Global Network for Alzheimer's

BrightFocus partners with four European countries to advance research and provide public awareness of Alzheimer's disease.

Belgium

Stichting Alzheimer Onderzoek

France

La Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer

Germany

Alzheimer Forschung Initiative e.V.

The Netherlands

Internationale Stichting Alzheimer Nederland



Investing In A Cure

On behalf of current and future generations who benefit from the research funded by Alzheimer's Disease Research, Macular Degeneration Research and National Glaucoma Research, BrightFocus thanks our generous donors for funding the future we want for our loved ones and ourselves.

We are so fortunate to be supported by many individuals, private foundations and corporations for our programs that advance research and promote public awareness on loss of mind and loss of sight.

A wide range of contribution opportunities is available to accommodate resources and charitable goals. Each gift is important and needed to help us find a cure.

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Sowing the Seeds of Scientific Progress

BrightFocus-funded researchers often go on to receive awards **TEN TIMES GREATER** from NIH and other sources, a **1,000% return** on our early investment.

An Evening of BrightFocus

Our second annual dinner in Washington brought together nearly 300 leaders from business, science, and government to celebrate excellence in research and advocacy. Seven BrightFocus-funded scientists shared their current project highlights and their hopes for the future.



Above: J. Crawford Downs, PhD, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Right: Joe G. Hollyfield, PhD, Cleveland Clinic; Stacy Haller, BrightFocus; Jennifer Gatchel, MD, PhD, Harvard Medical School; George Vradenburg, USAgainstAlzheimer's



Left: Meryl Comer, Geoffrey Beene Alzheimer's Initiative; Kim Campbell, Careliving.org

Right: Keith Carradine, entertainer;



Donor Spotlight

Many BrightFocus donors have special connections to the research programs they support. We are honored to share two of those stories with you.

Optimism and Hope about Alzheimer's Disease Research

Joanne Strate's enthusiasm and love of life are obvious as she shares how she came to support planned giving for Alzheimer's Disease Research (ADR).

Ms. Strate, an active retiree from Minnesota, is motivated to support science because of her mother who died in 2012, seven years after an Alzheimer's diagnosis.

She is passionate about the need for more financial support of Alzheimer's research. "It's a no-brainer for me, especially with no children or spouse, to designate 20 percent of my estate for research." Gifts such as hers to ADR help support scientists worldwide, as they work to end the disease.

"I feel hopeful that science is getting closer to slowing the growth of Alzheimer's and understanding it all," she says.

Above left: Joanne Strate, center, cites her mother Lillian, right, who had Alzheimer's, as a major reason she supports Alzheimer's Disease Research.

Sharing a Mission on Vision Health

For more than 80 years, the *Service for Sight* program has been the hallmark of Delta Gamma, a national sorority. In 1936, Delta Gamma initiated an international philanthropy resulting from the plea of a young alumna, Ruth Billow, who was blind and encouraged the group to support a "talking book" as a project to aid the blind.

The Delta Gamma Foundation's *Service for Sight* has grown into a program that every year positively impacts more than one million children and adults who are blind or visually impaired.

"We are committed to supporting national organizations that share the Delta Gamma Foundation's mission," said Kate Morales, a program specialist with the Delta Gamma Foundation. "We feel that if Ruth was with us today, she would be inspired by the impactful work of BrightFocus, and their *Chat* tele-forum series to help individuals interested in learning more about vision health."

To right: Carol Dalton, a Delta Gamma member and volunteer at the Foundation for Blind Children in Phoenix, reads to a young boy who is vision impaired. On her shirt is a Delta Gamma motto: "do good."

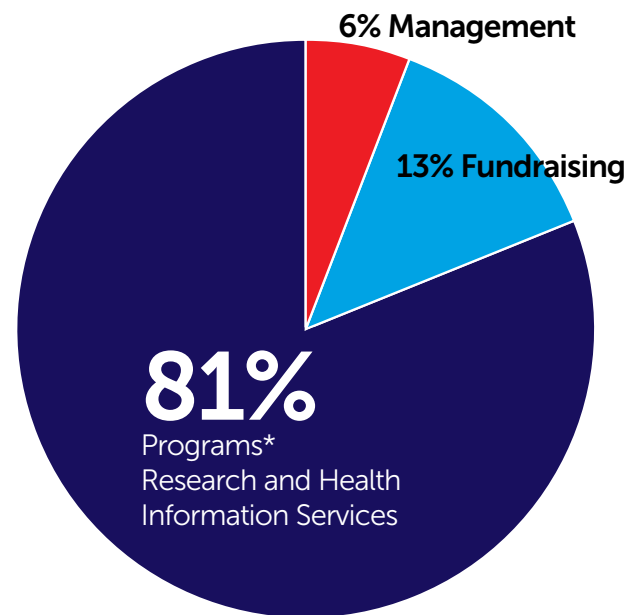


Financial Highlights

BrightFocus is a nonprofit organization designated under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions to BrightFocus and its programs are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. The Foundation is supported entirely by voluntary private contributions.

*BrightFocus received in-kind donations to expand public health information outreach and these are included in Program Services expenses. This allowed the organization to reach millions of people with information about risk factors, treatments and caregiving.

A complete copy of the financial statement audited by Raffa, P.C., is available upon request from BrightFocus at 1-800-437-2423 or www.brightfocus.org.



Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

As of March 31, 2017 (in thousands of dollars)

ASSETS	
Cash and Investments	\$35,784
Charitable Trusts and Bequests Receivable	5,512
Rental Property	3,886
Fixed Assets, Net	4,513
Other Assets	1,242
TOTAL ASSETS	\$50,937
LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable and Other Liabilities	\$545
Grants Payable	17,420
Charitable Gift Annuities	1,277
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$19,242
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	\$18,012
Temporarily Restricted	13,593
Permanently Restricted	90
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$31,695
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$50,937

Consolidated Statement of Activities

For the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2017

(in thousands of dollars)

SUPPORT & REVENUE	
Contributions and Grants	\$24,313
Bequests	6,250
Donated Services	15,795
Investment Income	2,883
Rental & Other Income	797
TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE	\$50,038
EXPENSES	
PROGRAM SERVICES	
Research	\$16,888
Health Information Services	23,016
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$39,904
SUPPORTING SERVICES	
Fundraising	\$6,339
Management and General	2,960
TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES	\$9,299
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$49,203
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$835

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Our Mission

BrightFocus drives innovative research worldwide and promotes awareness of Alzheimer's, macular degeneration, and glaucoma.

Programs

Alzheimer's Disease Research
Macular Degeneration Research
National Glaucoma Research

Contact

22512 Gateway Center Drive
Clarksburg, MD 20871
1-800-437-2423

Integrity



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