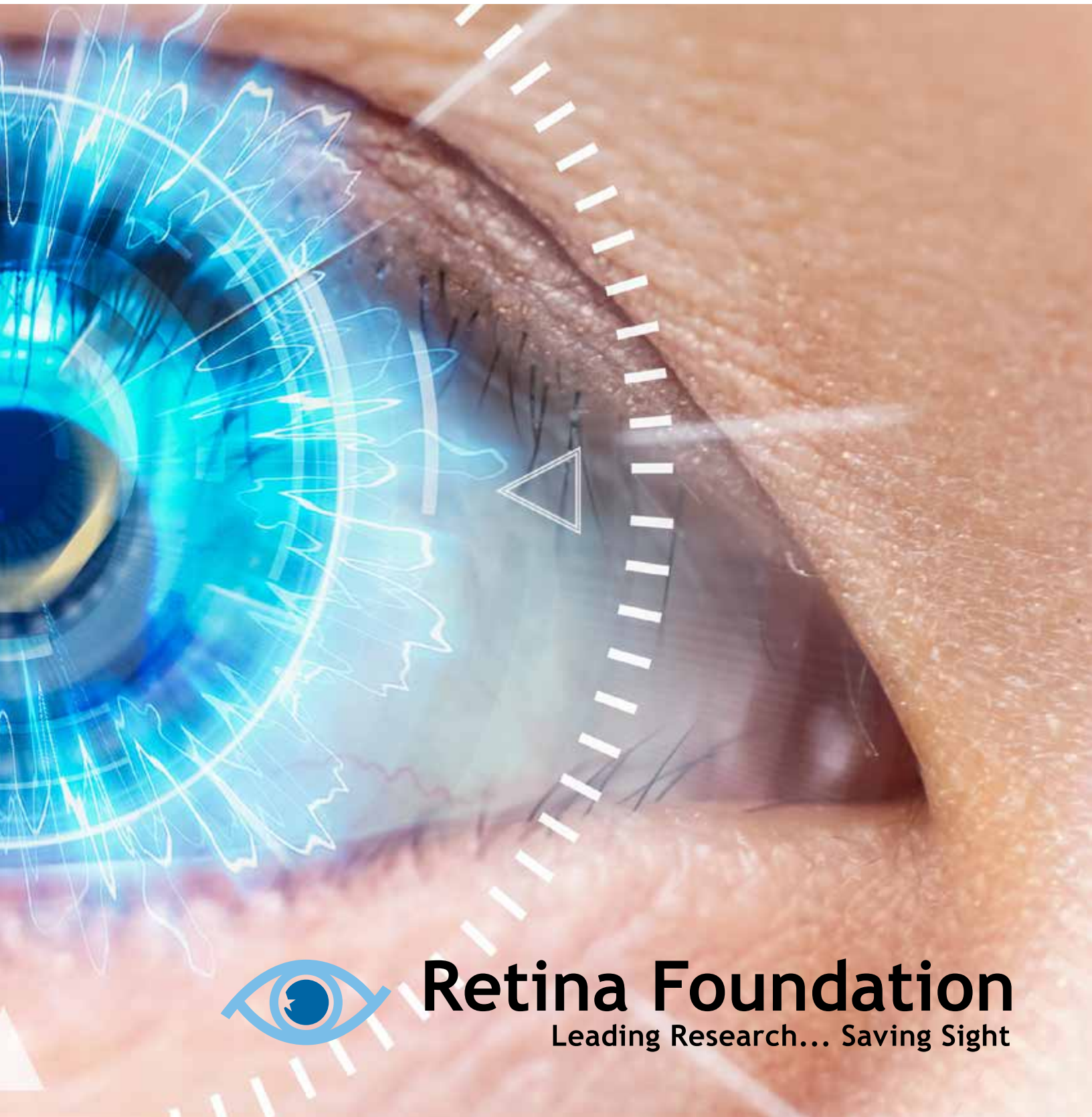


2019-20 **IMPACT REPORT**



Retina Foundation

Leading Research... Saving Sight



Dear Retina Foundation Friends and Family,

Times like these remind us more than ever of our gratitude for your unwavering generosity and support. Our mission to prevent vision loss and restore sight through innovative research and treatment would not be achievable without you. Your commitment to our research enables the growth, expansion, and acceleration of our efforts, resulting in meaningful scientific contributions for individuals living with eye disease.



The Retina Foundation has continued to advance in every direction since its start in 1982. This past year our Board of Directors finalized the 2020-2022 Strategic Plan for the Foundation, which provides a roadmap for significant future progress and allows our cutting-edge research to continue. This plan has created positions for new laboratory directors, which will allow expansion of our three core areas; pediatric eye conditions, inherited eye diseases, and age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

In August 2019, we welcomed Dr. Krista Kelly as our newest Laboratory Director. Dr. Kelly established the Vision and Neurodevelopment Laboratory to investigate the impact of amblyopia (lazy eye) on reading speed, motor skills, and eye-hand coordination in children.

As part of the strategic plan, we are currently recruiting a new laboratory director who will focus on AMD research. This addition will create a new laboratory to accelerate our efforts to develop therapeutics that could reverse the damaging effects of AMD, and provide treatment for those who currently have no other option.

Clearly, the future is bright because of our partnership with patrons like you.

Sincerely,

Karl G. Csaky, M.D., Ph.D.
Chief Executive and Medical Officer

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The Retina Foundation of the Southwest is making a difference in the lives of children and adults living with devastating conditions and diseases. Our mission is to prevent vision loss and restore sight through innovative research and treatment in three core areas: pediatric eye conditions, inherited eye diseases, and age-related macular degeneration.





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Retina Foundation Board of Directors is currently comprised of 27 volunteers whose responsibility it is to determine our strategic direction, secure sustainable resources, and provide governance and operational oversight. Our Board members commit to three-year terms and are able to serve up to three consecutive terms. Board meetings take place quarterly, and we request that all Board members serve on at least one committee as well. We are most appreciative of the support and contributions made by our current Board members, as well as all past members who have given their time and talent to the Retina Foundation.



Tia S. Tomlin, Board Chair
Hilltop Securities
Independent Network Inc.



Rajiv Anand, M.D.
Texas Retina Associates



Diane Boddy
Community Volunteer



David Callanan, M.D.
Texas Retina Associates



Mehmet Candas, Ph.D.
University of Texas
at Dallas



Lois J. Carver
JPMorgan Chase & Co.



Alex M. Cena
Morgan Stanley



Lori Dao, M.D.
ABC Eyes – Pediatric
Ophthalmology, P.A.



Scott A. Davis
Morgan Stanley Private
Wealth Management



Laurie Dotter, CPA
Community Volunteer



Steven Eisnaugle
Wealth Advisor



Louis L. Grabowsky
Juniper Capital
Management



Rebecca Hicks
Hicks Law Group, PLLC



William L. Hutton, M.D.
MedSynergies, RFSW,
Texas Retina Associates



Marc H. Klein
Thompson & Knight



Richard A. Massman
Hunt Consolidated (Ret.)



James H. Merritt, M.D.
Oculoplastic Associates
of Texas



Mickey Munir
Sharif & Munir
Custom Homes



Evelyn J. Pulliam
Toyota Financial Services



Nancy Rogers
Community Volunteer



Therese Rourk
Compass Real Estate



Kristy Sands
Community Volunteer



Richard Schaar, Ph.D.
Texas Instruments (Ret.)



Shelly Slater
Shelly Slater Strategies
The Slate



Rand Spencer, M.D.
Texas Retina Associates



Robert C. Wang, M.D.
Texas Retina Associates



Paul Wilson
ORIX USA

2020-2022 STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

Our mission is to prevent vision loss and restore sight through innovative research and treatment.

Our updated vision statement is: The Retina Foundation of the Southwest is the leading translational research institution that develops breakthrough technologies and treatments for pediatric and retinal eye conditions. Translational research acts as a bridge between science and practice. It links laboratory science with patients and potential treatments for disease.

- 1

Develop a plan to ensure adequate space for growth beyond the Foundation’s current capacity.
- 2

Attract innovative and cutting-edge scientists to fill our current lab space, while building for future transitions and growth.
- 3

Raise \$6 million from individual donations and foundation grants to fund two new laboratory directors to expand our research on age-related macular degeneration and inherited eye diseases.
- 4

Organize administrative responsibilities to optimize operations and build a foundation for growth.
- 5

Build stronger brand awareness of the Foundation in our local community and increase the overall reach of the Foundation.
- 6

Diversify revenue sources to ensure financial growth.
- 7

Engage the staff in bringing to life the vision of being the leading translational research institution for our three core areas.
- 8

Engage the Board of Directors to help the Foundation’s CEO implement all aspects of the Strategic Plan with a high level of staff support.



2019
BY THE NUMBERS

622

Donors



808

Gifts



36


Years of Funding from the National Eye Institute



Research Productivity


58

Publications




60

Research Studies*




66

Presentations




* Including Clinical Trials

Breakdown by Gender




52%

Female



48%

Male



1,084

Patients

2,148

Total Appointments

Breakdown by Core Research Areas

17%

AMD

32%

Inherited Eye Disease



51%



Pediatric Eye Conditions

RESEARCH FOR
PEDIATRIC EYE CONDITIONS

Vision loss during childhood can affect a child’s ability to learn important skills for growth, development, and independence such as crawling, walking, reading, writing, and playing sports. The Crystal Charity Ball Pediatric Vision Laboratory (established in 1982) and the Vision and Neurodevelopment Laboratory (established in 2019) at the Retina Foundation are dedicated to helping children with pediatric eye conditions through cutting-edge research and innovation. Our pediatric researchers focus primarily on the following key activities:



Developing and testing new treatments for eye conditions such as amblyopia (lazy eye) and strabismus (misaligned eyes)







Researching how eye conditions may impact a child’s everyday life activities such as reading speed, fine motor skills, self-perception, and quality of life

Improving vision screening for preschool children to be more effective and significantly reduce the number of inaccurate referrals to eye care specialists





Providing visual assessments for infants and children with special needs who are at higher risk of having or developing visual impairment

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EYE ON THE FUTURE EXPANDING RESEARCH FOR PEDIATRIC EYE CONDITIONS

In August 2019, the Retina Foundation welcomed Krista Kelly, Ph.D., as the Director of the Vision and Neurodevelopment Laboratory. Many of our supporters will already be familiar with Dr. Kelly as she initially joined the Retina Foundation in 2014 as a Postdoctoral Fellow. Dr. Kelly trained under the direction of our very own Dr. Eileen Birch, a world-renowned researcher of pediatric eye conditions.

The Vision and Neurodevelopment Laboratory focuses on amblyopia, commonly known as lazy eye, and its impact on the everyday lives of children. Lazy eye is the most common cause of poor vision in one eye, affecting about one to two children in every classroom. Her research shows that children with lazy eye read slower than their peers and have impaired fine motor skills, both of which can hinder academic success and self-esteem.

Diagnosed with lazy eye as a child, Dr. Kelly can personally attest to the issues faced by the children her research aims to help. Dr. Kelly has always had a fascination with how the brain works and how it can rewire from just a slight eye turn, or other vision disruptions early in life.

She is especially interested in the impact of early vision loss on the development of other abilities that rely on vision, as well as the effects it has on a child's life. This curiosity, coupled with her desire to help others, shapes her research.

Through Dr. Kelly's research efforts, parents, educators, and doctors are now aware that impaired fine motor skills and/or slow reading in a child may be due to their lazy eye. As a new laboratory director, Dr. Kelly aims to uncover why these impairments exist, which may lead to methods of prevention and treatment for children with lazy eye.

Because the Retina Foundation is an independent research center, Dr. Kelly's work has progressed at an exceptional pace. Within the first two months, she set up her laboratory and hired a research assistant to aid with project coordination. Dr. Kelly's laboratory is now conducting 11 research studies. As the Retina Foundation enters an exciting new stage of expansion following the Board of Director's approval of a new three-year strategic plan, Dr. Kelly aims to accelerate her research to ensure every child reaches his or her full potential.



Krista R. Kelly, Ph.D.

Director, Vision and Neurodevelopment Laboratory



EYE ON THE FUTURE RETINA FOUNDATION TACKLES CHALLENGE OF COMBINED BLINDNESS AND DEAFNESS

Imagine being born into a quiet world where lip reading is your primary method of communication. Then imagine that as a teenager you are told that you are also slowly losing your vision from retinitis pigmentosa. This is the reality for thousands of individuals born with a genetic disorder known as Usher syndrome.

Individuals with Usher syndrome have a mutation (or change) in one of at least nine possible genes associated with the disease. Some of these genetic variations cause profound congenital deafness and progressive vision loss. These patients

have Usher 1. For these patients, cochlear implants are a tremendous development for their hearing, but there is no known way to stop the vision loss. Other patients have genetic variations that cause a partial, high-frequency hearing loss. These patients have Usher 2 and benefit from hearing aids. The most common form of Usher syndrome is Ush2A associated with mutations in the gene that produces a protein called Usherin.

The Rose-Silverthorne Retinal Degenerations Laboratory has embarked on an ambitious program to prevent vision loss from retinitis pigmentosa in

patients with Ush2A. A key finding underlying this program is the concentration of mutations in one exon (a portion of a gene), exon 13, of the USH2A gene. The Usherin protein needed by the retina is produced by reading the genetic code along the USH2A gene. When the reading machinery hits a mutation in Exon 13, it stops reading and produces a shortened and nonfunctional protein. Would it be possible to trick the transcription machinery into skipping Exon 13? Could a fully functional protein be produced by reading just the normal exons? These questions were answered by a team of scientists working with cells derived from patients with Ush2A. They found a molecule that could be delivered to the cells to trick them into skipping Exon 13 and producing a fully-functioning Usherin molecule.

This discovery provides the rationale for a clinical trial in Ush2A headed by Dr. David Birch at the Retina Foundation and coordinated by Martin Klein. We are currently in Phase 1 of the trial, where the safety of the treatment is the primary question. We are working out the maximum dose of the molecule that can be safely administered to a patient and also looking for early signs of benefit.

Mariam
(Age 45)



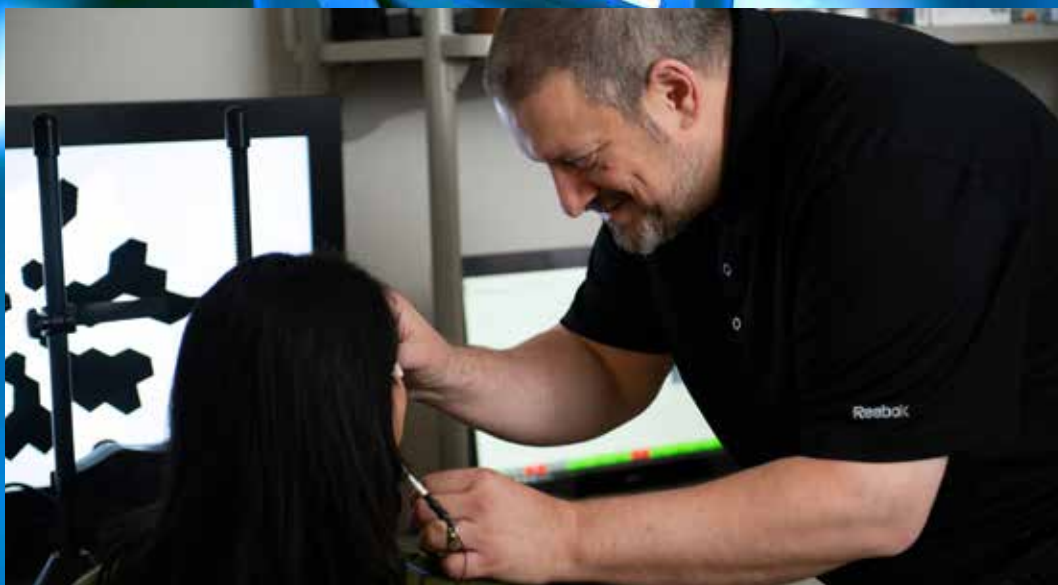
PATIENT SPOTLIGHT MARIAM'S STORY

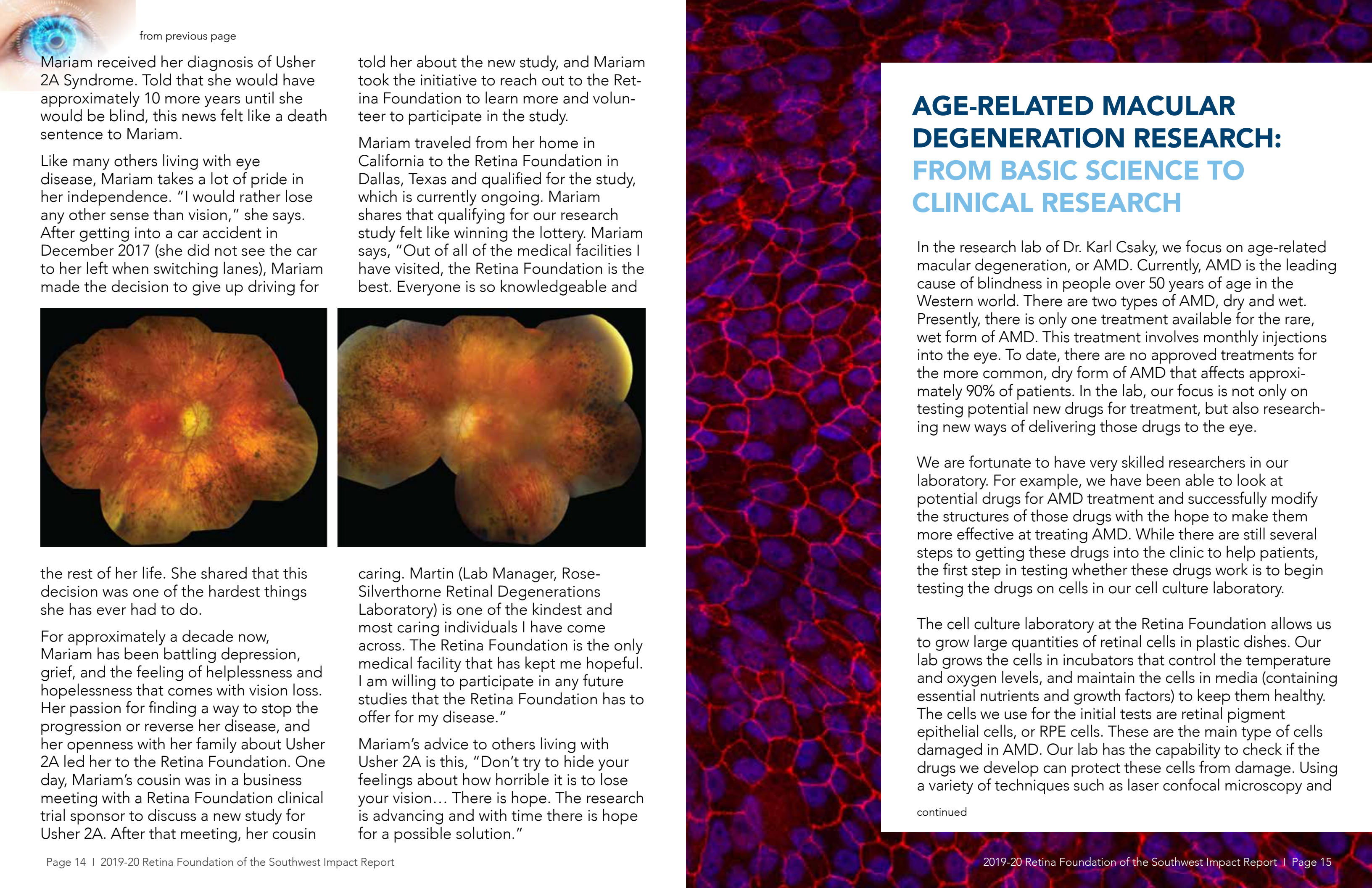
Mariam was born in Iran and moved to the United States at age 11. She is the only member of her family with Usher 2A Syndrome, a debilitating inherited eye disease characterized by hearing loss and a progressive loss of vision resembling retinitis pigmentosa (RP). Some individuals also have balance problems. Mariam's main symptoms are loss of peripheral and night vision. Mariam shares, "I am a visual and night person which is a complete contradiction to my diagnosis."

The first vivid memory Mariam recalls of her reduced vision was in May 2011 when she was on vacation with her sister, and they visited an amusement park. Mariam and her sister decided to enter a haunted house ride, which was very dark. Mariam immediately noticed she could not see anything in front of her. Her sister guided her through the ride, which quickly turned from exciting to frightening.

Upon her return home to California, Mariam called her eye doctor to make an appointment. He speculated that she might have an eye disease known as cone-rod dystrophy. However, a doctor at the University of California, Los Angeles eventually proved this initial presumption incorrect. Through genetic testing in 2012,

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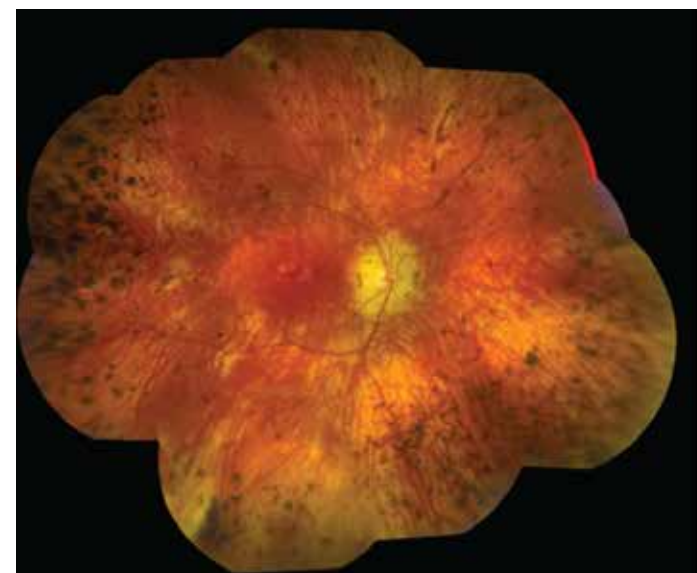




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Mariam received her diagnosis of Usher 2A Syndrome. Told that she would have approximately 10 more years until she would be blind, this news felt like a death sentence to Mariam.

Like many others living with eye disease, Mariam takes a lot of pride in her independence. "I would rather lose any other sense than vision," she says. After getting into a car accident in December 2017 (she did not see the car to her left when switching lanes), Mariam made the decision to give up driving for

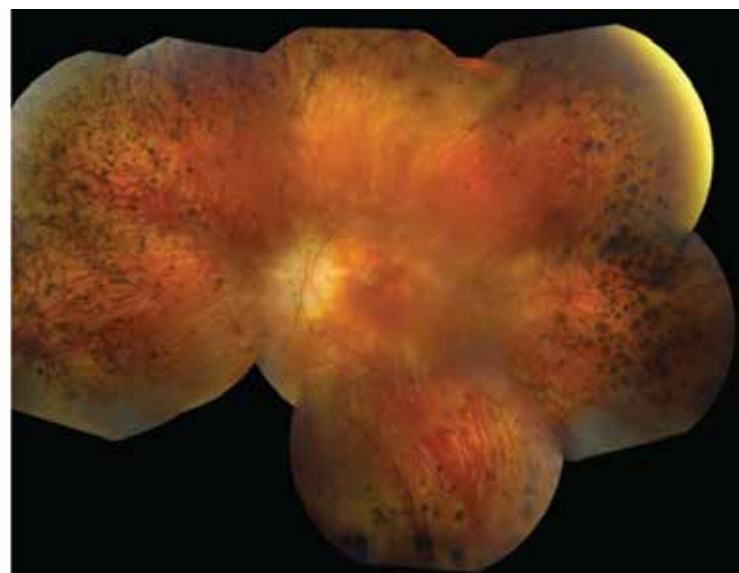


the rest of her life. She shared that this decision was one of the hardest things she has ever had to do.

For approximately a decade now, Mariam has been battling depression, grief, and the feeling of helplessness and hopelessness that comes with vision loss. Her passion for finding a way to stop the progression or reverse her disease, and her openness with her family about Usher 2A led her to the Retina Foundation. One day, Mariam's cousin was in a business meeting with a Retina Foundation clinical trial sponsor to discuss a new study for Usher 2A. After that meeting, her cousin

told her about the new study, and Mariam took the initiative to reach out to the Retina Foundation to learn more and volunteer to participate in the study.

Mariam traveled from her home in California to the Retina Foundation in Dallas, Texas and qualified for the study, which is currently ongoing. Mariam shares that qualifying for our research study felt like winning the lottery. Mariam says, "Out of all of the medical facilities I have visited, the Retina Foundation is the best. Everyone is so knowledgeable and



caring. Martin (Lab Manager, Rose-Silverthorne Retinal Degenerations Laboratory) is one of the kindest and most caring individuals I have come across. The Retina Foundation is the only medical facility that has kept me hopeful. I am willing to participate in any future studies that the Retina Foundation has to offer for my disease."

Mariam's advice to others living with Usher 2A is this, "Don't try to hide your feelings about how horrible it is to lose your vision... There is hope. The research is advancing and with time there is hope for a possible solution."

AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION RESEARCH: FROM BASIC SCIENCE TO CLINICAL RESEARCH

In the research lab of Dr. Karl Csaky, we focus on age-related macular degeneration, or AMD. Currently, AMD is the leading cause of blindness in people over 50 years of age in the Western world. There are two types of AMD, dry and wet. Presently, there is only one treatment available for the rare, wet form of AMD. This treatment involves monthly injections into the eye. To date, there are no approved treatments for the more common, dry form of AMD that affects approximately 90% of patients. In the lab, our focus is not only on testing potential new drugs for treatment, but also researching new ways of delivering those drugs to the eye.

We are fortunate to have very skilled researchers in our laboratory. For example, we have been able to look at potential drugs for AMD treatment and successfully modify the structures of those drugs with the hope to make them more effective at treating AMD. While there are still several steps to getting these drugs into the clinic to help patients, the first step in testing whether these drugs work is to begin testing the drugs on cells in our cell culture laboratory.

The cell culture laboratory at the Retina Foundation allows us to grow large quantities of retinal cells in plastic dishes. Our lab grows the cells in incubators that control the temperature and oxygen levels, and maintain the cells in media (containing essential nutrients and growth factors) to keep them healthy. The cells we use for the initial tests are retinal pigment epithelial cells, or RPE cells. These are the main type of cells damaged in AMD. Our lab has the capability to check if the drugs we develop can protect these cells from damage. Using a variety of techniques such as laser confocal microscopy and

continued



from previous page

antibody staining, we can examine how effective the drugs are at maintaining the health of the cells.

Once we determine that the drugs are effective, the next problem to tackle is “how can we use these drugs in a clinical setting?” To address this, we have created a drug delivery device as an alternative to injections. The delivery device contains the drugs designed to treat AMD and allows these drugs to be easily distributed to the eye. The patient would continually wear the device, which would eliminate the need for monthly injections into the eye. The device would sit on the surface of the eye, undetected by the individual, and slowly release the drugs that would move through the surface of the eye to the back of the retina. We are testing several types of delivery devices made with different materials and manufacturing techniques. We anticipate significant results in the near future, and our hope is to provide more treatment options for those with AMD.

Before we use any new drugs or delivery devices in the clinic, they must undergo rigorous testing for both safety and efficacy through multi-stage clinical trials. One of the unique aspects of the Retina Foundation is that we can conduct clinical trials alongside basic laboratory research. The following story highlights the importance of our clinical research from a patient’s perspective. We are paving the way research is applied from the laboratory to the clinical setting, with the goal to advance sight saving treatments to make a lifetime of good vision a reality for everyone.

Bernie
(Age 68)



PATIENT SPOTLIGHT BERNIE’S STORY

Bernie is a high school teacher with a 45 year career (and counting) and a passion for United States history. Her two rescue dogs, Teddy and Dolly, are even named for a president and first lady! Bernie enjoys spending her free time repairing, refinishing, and repainting furniture. About 11 years ago, Bernie began to notice that she had difficulty reading student papers, and identifying students in her classroom and in the hallways. She is very open with her students about her vision loss and asks for their help. Bernie uses the code “Who Dat?” with her students when she is unable to discern their identity and needs them to give her their name. She also asks her students to complete their assignments in pen instead of pencil, which they do gladly.

Bernie’s ophthalmologist diagnosed her with age-related macular degeneration (AMD), but it was not until she was referred to Dr. Karl Csaky, that having AMD became “real” to her. Age-related macular degeneration is a common, irreversible retinal disease that typically strikes adults in their fifties or sixties, and progresses painlessly, gradually destroying central vision. Bernie is the only member of her family who has been diagnosed with AMD, but she is constantly urging her brothers to have routine eye exams.

When asked about her personal experience with the Retina Foundation, Bernie says, “I feel that I am being cared for by the ‘best in the business’. It is my hope that any program or study that I am a candidate for can only serve to help the research, and perhaps help delay the onset of my condition. During one of my visits, Dr. Csaky diagnosed a retinal tear in one of my eyes and literally walked me over to the retinal specialists next door to get me the help I needed. His staff members are professional and thorough, and very understanding when I have trouble seeing the big E at the top of the eye chart with my ‘bad eye’.”

For Bernie, and for all of the patients seen at the Retina Foundation, there is absolutely no charge for any of our services, including in-depth vision evaluations and participation in groundbreaking research. Patients experience little to no wait time upon arrival for their appointment and are met by one of our dedicated researchers. Time is always made for compassionate and thorough explanations of test results, and for questions from our patients and their family members.

Bernie shares that participating in research at the Retina Foundation makes her feel hopeful that there is something that one day might either help her or future patients. Bernie is currently participating in her second research study at the Retina Foundation and believes that our reputation in the field affords our patients with AMD the best chance to be given helpful treatments. Bernie says, “I am so happy that Dr. Csaky continues to see me as a patient and that he considers my case when new studies come up.” The only alternative for Bernie would be to continue on with her ophthalmologist who has no treatment and

says, “There is nothing I can do but follow your progress.”

Bernie’s vision loss has progressed more over the past two to three years, and she now uses tools such as magnifiers and prescription glasses to further help her. Bernie shares that yes, AMD is a scary diagnosis and she knows that as her disease continues to progress, she will have more difficulties in doing the things she enjoys. She has had trouble reading, but then she discovered Audible (a company that produces audio entertainment, information, and educational programming on the Internet). She also had difficulty writing, but then the technology department at her school helped connect her with writing software. Bernie sees a time when driving will no longer be a good idea, but



she knows there are alternative ways to go out and about. She advises to others living with AMD to “look for the lighter side of the problem.” You can cry or you can laugh at the situation. Laughter has helped Bernie get come to terms with her diagnosis. She believes that if you have yourself to laugh at, you are never without a subject of laughter.



Throughout the year, we host a variety of events in support of our mission to prevent vision loss and restore sight through innovative research and treatment. We know that you have several choices about where to invest your time and financial resources, and we are honored that you continue to choose the Retina Foundation of the Southwest.

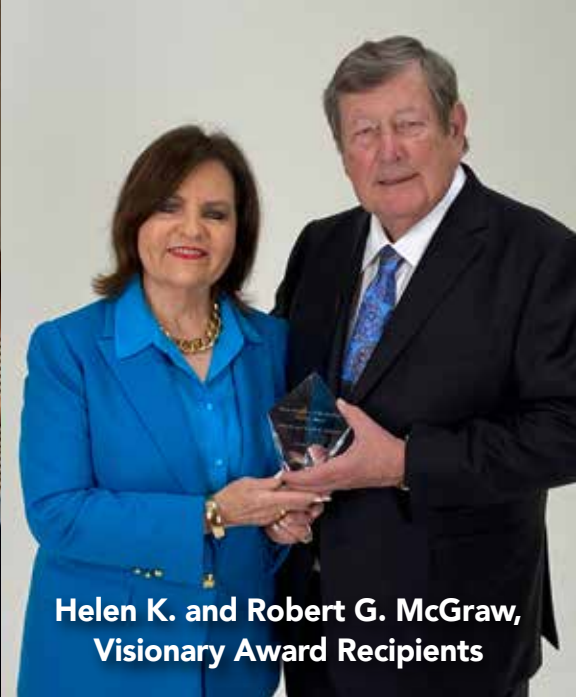
On the pages that follow are highlights from our events that celebrate your support.

2020
VISIONARY LUNCHEON

We scored a touchdown at the 2020 Visionary Luncheon held on Wednesday, March 4 thanks to your generosity and an inspiring conversation with NFL quarterback, Drew Brees. Our signature event raised \$685,333 from sponsorships, tables and tickets, and donations from individuals, corporations, and foundations – all in support of research and clinical trials at the Retina Foundation. We extend our sincere gratitude to Visionary Luncheon Chairs, Nancy and Stephen Rogers, along with the entire Nancy and Herbert Hunt family as Honorary Chairs and Helen K. and Robert G. McGraw as the Visionary Award Recipients.



Nancy and Steve Rogers, Luncheon Chairs



Helen K. and Robert G. McGraw, Visionary Award Recipients



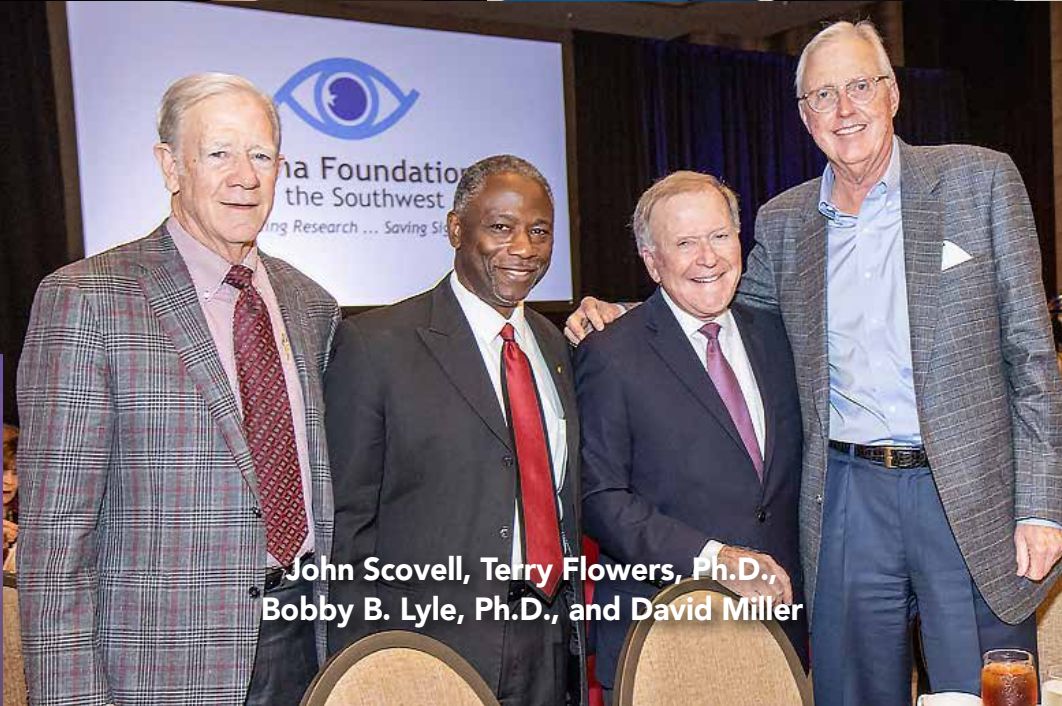
Drew Brees, Luncheon Speaker



Inspiring the next generation!



Karl G. Csaky, M.D., Ph.D.



John Scovell, Terry Flowers, Ph.D., Bobby B. Lyle, Ph.D., and David Miller



Nancy and Herbert Hunt, Honorary Chairs with Drew Brees



John Bartling, Drew Brees, and Cliff Braly



Melinda Blundell, Evelyn Pulliam, and Shontae Bryant Toyota - VIP Reception Sponsor



Judy Kaye, Julie Schwartz, and Dylan Kaye



RETINA FOUNDATION AUXILIARY

The purpose of the Auxiliary is to support the Retina Foundation in all of our endeavors, especially our research and raising community awareness through fundraising and volunteerism for our three core areas. It is our hope that all members will become ambassadors for the Retina Foundation. Auxiliary membership offers many opportunities for educational, charitable, and social involvement, such as invitations to lectures, luncheons, and other events as they become available during the year. A Lifetime Membership is \$500. Annual memberships are also available at the Friend (\$50) or Patron (\$100) levels.

Please contact Amy Lobner at alobner@retinafoundation.org or visit our website at www.retinafoundation.org/auxiliary for more information.



Barbara Hunt Crow, Mary Lee Cox*, and Diane Boddy, Auxiliary President
*deceased



Herbert Hunt and Libby Hunt Allred

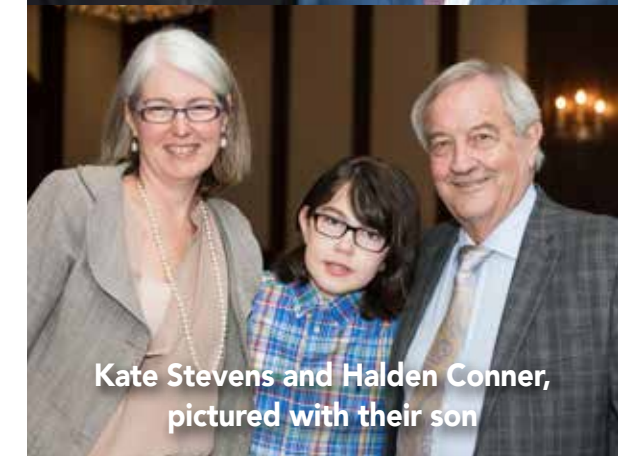
KEEPING AN EYE ON INNOVATION LECTURE SERIES

We created this free lecture series to educate our community on the most up-to-date research from renowned leaders in the fields of pediatric eye conditions, inherited eye diseases, and age-related macular degeneration. These lectures are for a lay audience and allow many opportunities for questions and answers. The Rosewood Foundation, and Dr. and Mrs. William Hutton generously sponsored our lecture series in 2019 and 2020, respectively.

Please contact Amy Lobner at alobner@retinafoundation.org or visit our website at www.retinafoundation.org/lecture-series for more information.



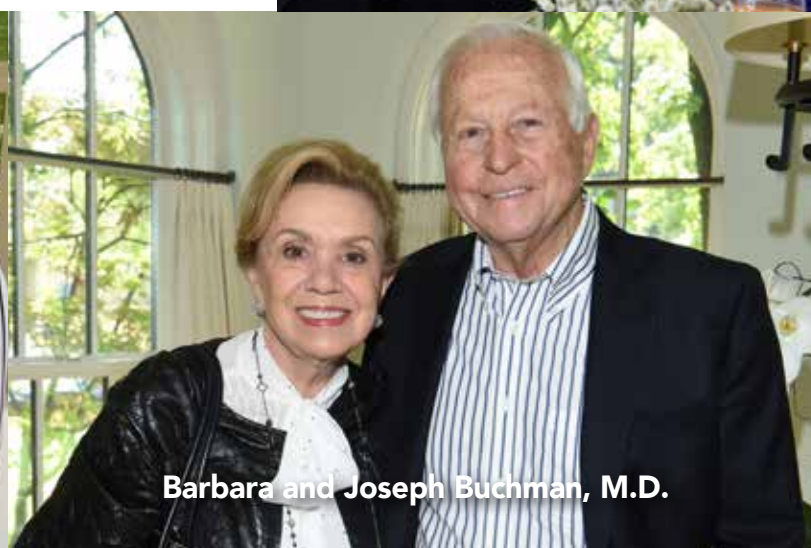
Sue and William Hutton, M.D.



Kate Stevens and Halden Conner, pictured with their son



Nancy Rogers, Pat and Clyde McCall, Jr., and Nancy O'Neil



Barbara and Joseph Buchman, M.D.



Michael Young, Ph.D.



Lois Carver and Deborah Hill



Kristy and Patrick Sands, Donna Morgan, and Lynn Fisher



Susan Wren, Amy Lobner, Amy Wilson, Maxine Shannon, and Julie Shannon, Ph.D.



Sharon and Harold Hosack



Karl G. Csaky, M.D., Ph.D., Deborah Ferrington, Ph.D., Lynn Fisher, and Julia Sands



Educating the Dallas community about eye disease

GLOBAL RESEARCH PARTNERS

Everyone at the Retina Foundation is committed to improving the quality of life for people of all ages. We put every infant, child, and adult at the center of our efforts to fight the conditions that steal the precious gift of sight. We are working at the cutting edge of science to discover better ways to diagnose and treat eye conditions.

We won't stop until a lifetime of good vision becomes a reality for everyone.

We will continue working in Dallas with partners across the nation and around the globe, sharing our discoveries as they are made so that doctors and scientists can use this knowledge toward saving sight for millions of people. Our laboratories are in Dallas, but our discoveries advance eye care worldwide.

- Bascom Palmer Eye Institute** – Miami, FL
- Baylor College of Medicine** – Houston, TX
- Bonn University Eye Clinic** – Bonn, Germany
- Boston Image Reading Center** – Boston, MA
- Cleveland Clinic Cole Eye Institute** – Cleveland, OH
- Columbia University** – New York, NY
- Dean McGee Eye Institute** – Oklaholma City, OK
- Duke Univeristy Medical Center** – Durham, NC
- Federal University of São Paulo** – São Paulo, Brazil
- Foundation Fighting Blindness Clinical Research Institute** – Columbia, MD
- Ghent University Hospital** – Ghent, Belgium
- Harvard University** – Boston, MA
- Indiana University** – Bloomington, IN
- Jaeb Center for Health Research** – Tampa, FL
- John A. Moran Eye Center** – Salt Lake City, UT
- Luigi Sacco University Hospital** – Milan, Italy
- Massachusetts Eye and Ear** – Boston, MA
- Mayo Clinic** – Rochester, MN

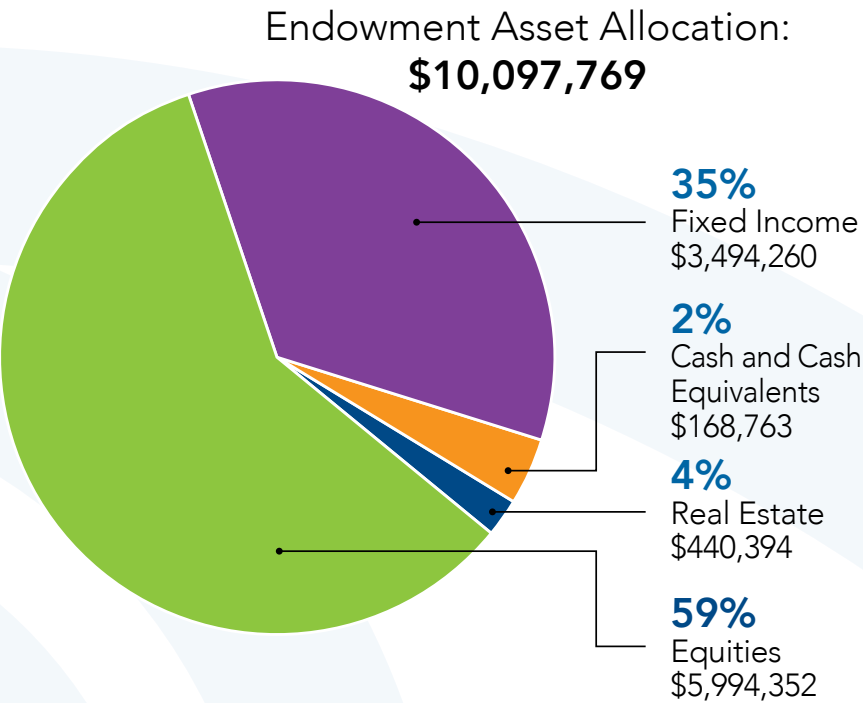
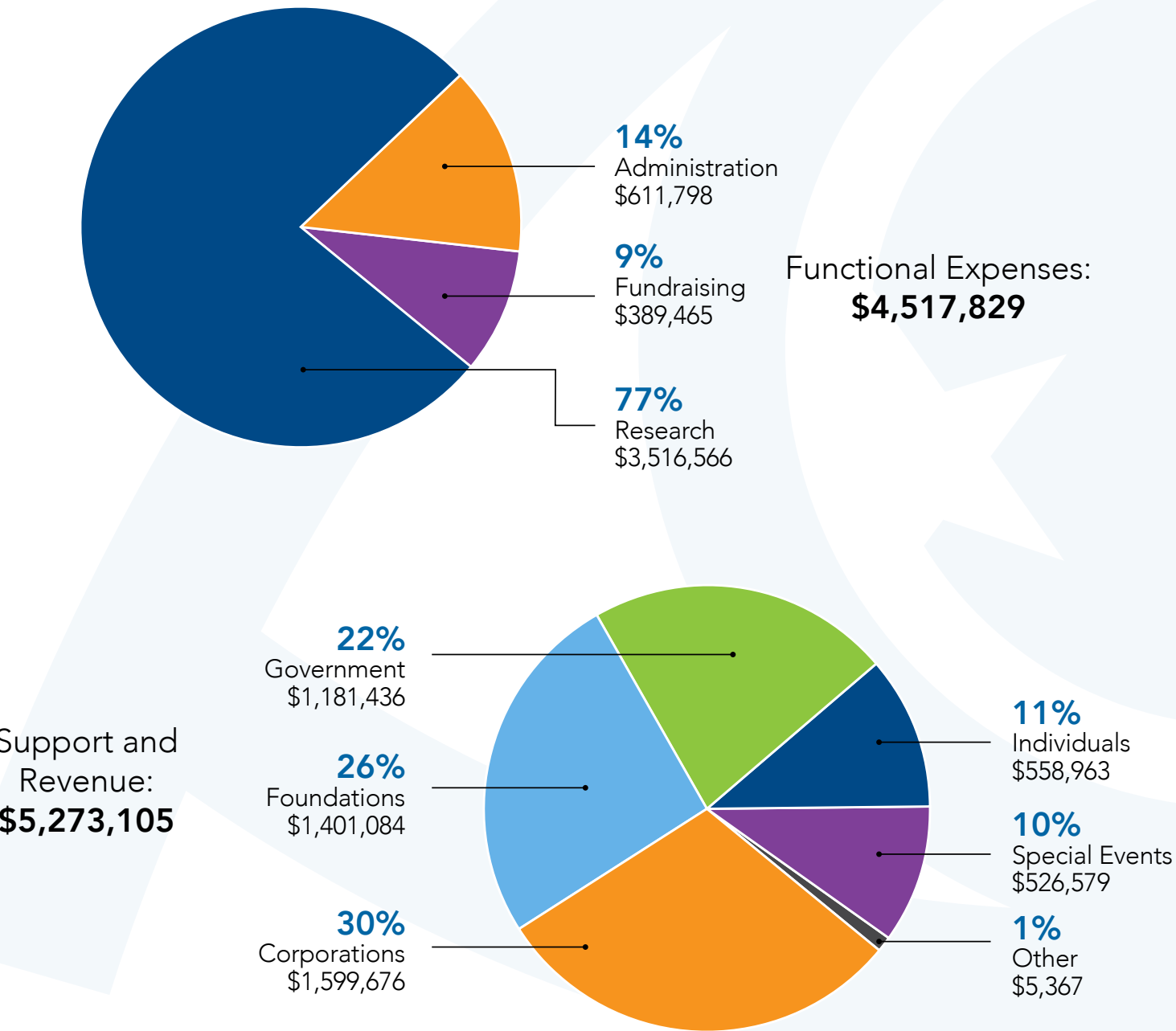
- McGill University** – Montreal, QC Canada
- Medical College of Wisconsin Eye Institute** – Milwaukee, WI
- Moorfields Eye Hospital** – London, United Kingdom
- National Institutes of Health, National Eye Institute** – Bethesda, MD
- New York University** – New York, NY
- Oregon Health & Science University** – Portland, OR
- Queen's University** – Belfast, United Kingdom
- Queensland University of Technology** – Brisbane, QL Australia
- Radboud University Medical Center** – Nijmegen, Netherlands
- Salus University** – Elkins Park, PA
- Scheie Eye Institute, University of Pennsylvania** – Philadelphia, PA
- Southern Methodist University** – Dallas, TX
- Tarleton State University** – Stephenville, TX
- The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine** – Baltimore, MD
- The University of Melbourne** – Melbourne, Victoria Australia
- The University of Texas at San Antonio** – San Antonio, TX
- The Vision Institute** – Paris, France
- Tufts Medical School** – Boston, MA
- University of Alberta** – Edmonton, AB Canada
- University of British Columbia** – Vancouver, BC Canada
- University of California, San Francisco Medical Center** – San Francisco, CA
- University of Illinois** – Urbana, IL
- University of Liverpool** – Liverpool, United Kingdom
- University of Michigan** – Ann Arbor, MI
- University of Minnesota** – Minneapolis, MN
- University of Texas at Dallas** – Dallas, TX
- University of Texas Health Science Center** – Houston, TX
- University of Tübingen** – Tübingen, Germany
- University of Waterloo** – Waterloo, ON Canada



2019 RETINA FOUNDATION FINANCIALS

Patients are seen **without charge** through the **generosity** of individuals, foundations, corporations, and **people like you.**

Our research is also supported by **academic institutions**, the **National Institutes of Health**, and **pharmaceutical/biotechnology companies.**



About Our Endowment

The purpose of the Retina Foundation endowment is to support the scientists, programs, and activities of our research institute in perpetuity. Growth of the endowment through investment return and charitable giving has enabled the Retina Foundation to grow. We utilize spending and investment policies designed to provide a stable flow of support to advance our research. Approved by the Retina Foundation Board of Directors, the spending rate policy allows for an annual distribution of 4% of the endowment's average value from the previous three years to support our mission. The endowment is comprised of nine individual funds that total approximately \$10 million. We continue to build our endowment in order to expand our research and ensure that our organization will remain stable until a lifetime of good vision is a reality for everyone.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

THE PHYLLIS G. AND WILLIAM B. SNYDER LEGACY SOCIETY

Ensuring Hope for the Future

It is easier in hindsight for Janell to identify the exact moment she began to lose her vision. Her diagnosis of retinitis pigmentosa (RP) took place later in life. Retinitis pigmentosa is an inherited eye disease that results in gradual vision loss and can occur over several years. Janell remembers subtle changes that made it difficult for her to drive at night. However, significant changes at the age of thirty-two prompted her to see a doctor. "I told the doctor that I couldn't see at night and he said that he thought I had RP," said Janell. "I didn't want to believe it, so I didn't follow up on the initial diagnosis until I met my husband, Alan."

Janell's vision has been declining in stages. Every two years there would be a surge of vision loss that affected her ability to complete certain tasks. She stopped driving about 16 years ago, when her vision was greatly deteriorating. She recounts that the loss of her independence has been the most difficult

aspect of her life with RP, but she is grateful to have a supportive husband and family to assist her.



Alan encouraged Janell to seek out resources for her condition, which ultimately led them to the Retina Foundation. They have been dedicated supporters of the Foundation for over a decade and hope that the research will develop treatments for people with RP and other conditions. She and Alan are

also grateful to have the support of the Retina Foundation, working on their behalf.

Alan explains, "When you have this, you are told from day one that there is no cure, where as with other conditions, they can be managed and cured, so you are always being given that hope. But when you have this, you are immediately told that nothing can be done."

Because he is a caretaker to someone with limited vision, Alan has so much empathy for those going through this. They do everything they can to help the Retina Foundation and those individuals impacted by vision loss. Alan says they are so involved because, "we have skin in this

game and we have a vested interest in this."

"To have an organization that is not giving up on RP, and constantly striving to find treatments rather than accepting that nothing can be done provides a great deal of hope that something will be done, if not for us, then for others," said Alan. "That is what inspires us to donate our time and treasure to the Retina Foundation."

Because of this, Alan and Janell chose to become members of the The Phyllis G. and William B. Snyder Legacy Society. They want to make a difference for others affected by this disease.

PLAN TO GIVE BACK

The Phyllis G. and William B. Snyder Legacy Society, named in honor of one of our four founders of the Retina Foundation, was established to encourage planned gifts to make a lasting and permanent difference for the Retina Foundation. Funds generated through planned gifts are devoted to current funding needs, as well as capital projects and endowments.

The simplest and most common planned gift is a bequest designation in your will or trust. Assets you may consider as part of your planned gift to the Retina Foundation include securities, business interests, cash, life insurance, personal property, real estate, and retirement plan.

NEXT STEPS FOR JOINING

1. Contact Amy Lobner, Development Manager at 214.363.3911, ext. 102 or alobner@retinafoundation.org for additional information on becoming a member of The Phyllis G. and William B. Snyder Legacy Society.
2. Seek the advice of your financial or legal advisor.
3. If you include the Retina Foundation in your plans, please use our legal name and federal tax ID number listed below.

Legal Name: Retina Foundation of the Southwest

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The Retina Foundation of the Southwest has achieved remarkable success since 1982 because of the tremendous support provided by you, our generous donors. We are pleased to take this opportunity to recognize and thank those who made gifts or provided support of \$250 or more from January 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020. Every effort has been made to ensure this list is as accurate as possible, but inevitably some omissions or errors may have occurred. We would appreciate receiving corrections, comments, or questions. Please contact the Retina Foundation of the Southwest at 214.393.3911.

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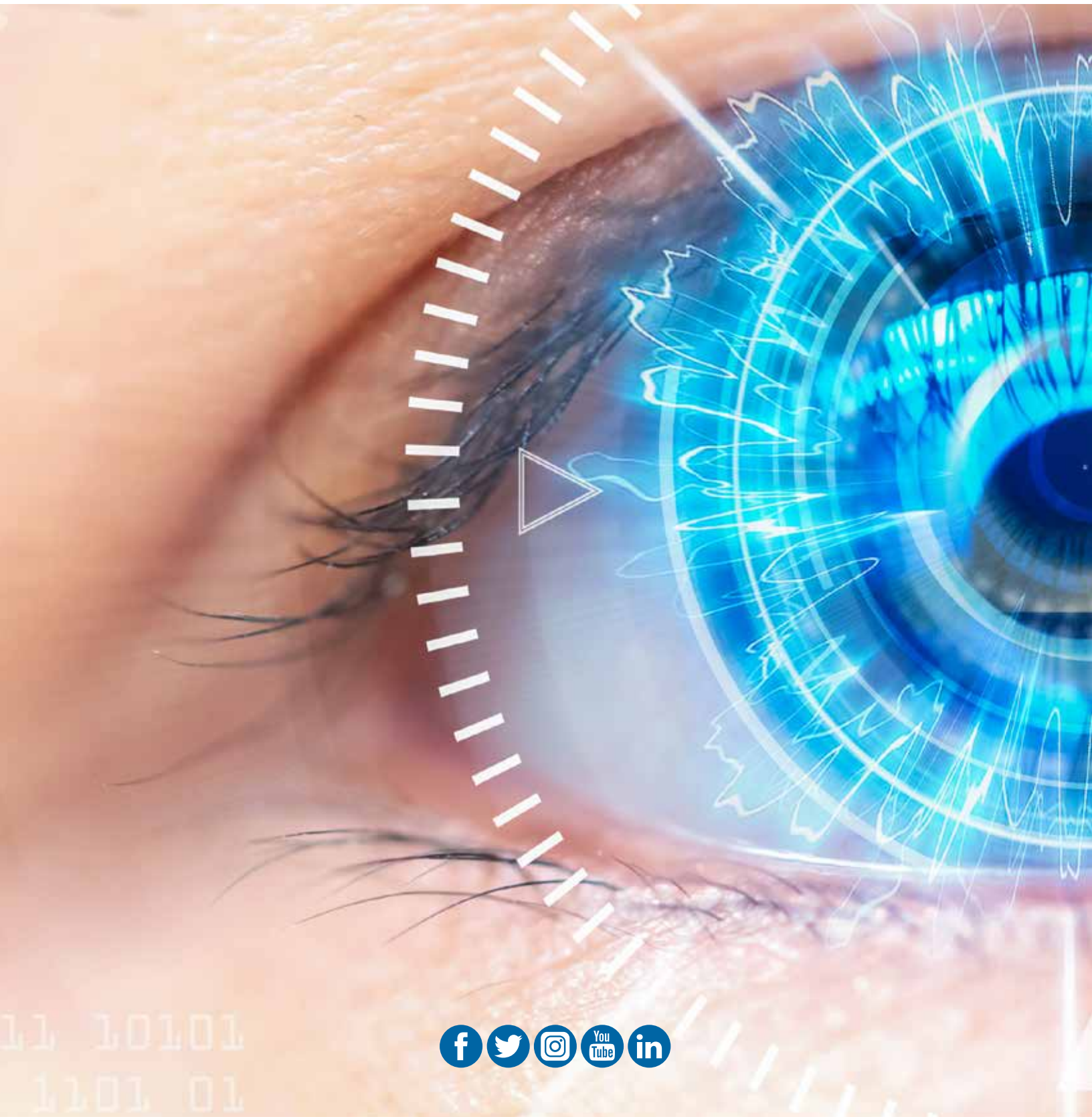
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