



Retina Foundation
Leading Research... Saving Sight



2020 - Q1 2021
IMPACT REPORT

A Letter from the CEO

Dear Retina Foundation Family and Friends,

More than any year before, 2020 challenged and changed all of us at the Retina Foundation. However, what has not changed is our continued dedication to advancing our mission to prevent vision loss and restore sight through innovative research and treatment for our three core areas of research: pediatric eye conditions, inherited eye diseases, and age-related macular degeneration (AMD).



When the COVID-19 pandemic transformed our way of life seemingly overnight, we collectively adapted to ensure continued progress in research, patient care, and community engagement. The Retina Foundation developed creative and safe ways to continue to provide specialized vision evaluations, genetic testing and counseling, and participation in clinical trials. I am proud of our devoted team who refocused and were able to accomplish remarkable outcomes in the face of adversity in 2020:

- Completed vision evaluations for more than 1,500 children and adults
- Worked with our research partners to write 41 peer-reviewed publications
- Shifted to virtual platforms to participate in 45 conference presentations
- Conducted a total of 64 research studies, 23 of which were initiated in 2020

Despite the hardships of the past year, there is also so much to celebrate! August 2020 marked the one-year anniversary of the opening for the Vision and Neurodevelopment Laboratory, directed by Krista Kelly, Ph.D. Additionally, I am pleased to share that we have raised over 40% of our \$3.5 million goal to recruit a new laboratory director to expand our research for AMD. With guidance from our dedicated Board of Directors, we are paving a robust path toward an exciting future. With the continued support from individuals like you, the Retina Foundation will continue to be the world-class research institute we are today.

It is an honor to join forces in our endeavors with outstanding friends, partners, and gracious donors across the United States and around the world. To all of you, I extend my deepest thanks and appreciation. As Helen Keller once said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karl G. Csaky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karl" being more prominent.

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

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Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD)

Leading the Way in Patient Care Here's How:



1

Determining the stage of your AMD



2

Genetic testing and analysis to determine your risk of AMD progression



3

Individualizing treatment options for your AMD



4

Connecting you with clinical trial opportunities

Pushing the Envelope in Basic Science By:



Developing a one-of-a-kind therapy for dry AMD



Conducting translational research that will move from the laboratory to the patient clinic



Recruiting a new Laboratory Director for AMD to complement existing research efforts



Karl Csaky, M.D., Ph.D.
Chief Executive and Medical Officer
T. Boone Pickens
Director
Clinical Center of Innovation for AMD

After his tenure at Duke University and the National Eye Institute, Dr. Csaky joined the Retina Foundation in 2009. He is a board-certified ophthalmologist and vitreoretinal specialist. He participates in clinical trials for AMD and leads a team of researchers who are developing novel diagnostics and therapies for AMD.

Pediatric Eye Conditions



**Eileen Birch,
Ph.D.**
**Director, Crystal
Charity Ball
Pediatric Vision
Laboratory**

Dr. Birch joined the Retina Foundation in July 1982, after completing her post-doctoral fellowship at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She received her doctorate from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Dr. Birch has dedicated her life to conducting sight-saving research to help infants and children with eye conditions.



**Krista Kelly,
Ph.D.**
**Director, Vision and
Neurodevelopment
Laboratory**

Dr. Kelly received her doctorate from York University and completed her Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Retina Foundation. Her transition to an independent career, as the Retina Foundation's newest Director, is supported by the National Eye Institute. She is dedicated to investigating the impact of eye conditions on children's everyday life.

Accelerating Research to Meet Our Goals:



1

Developing more accurate technologies for preschool vision screening



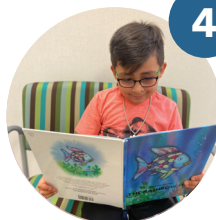
2

Conducting clinical trials of novel treatments for strabismus (misaligned eyes) and amblyopia (lazy eye)



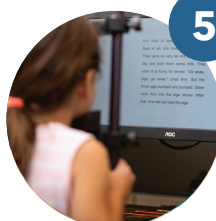
3

Crafting new approaches to improving the child's compliance with treatment



4

Determining how eye conditions affect the child's reading speed, eye-hand coordination, balance, walking, self-perception, and quality of life



5

Investigating potential causes of slow reading and motor impairments in children with eye conditions, such as the child's eye movements



"We found out today that I don't need glasses anymore, and I might just be okay without them because my eye got so strong and improved so much. Thank you, Retina Foundation."

- KATE LOCKWOOD,
PEDIATRIC EYE CONDITIONS PATIENT

Conducting Groundbreaking Research:

Inherited Retinal Diseases



1

Working with 4 approaches to more effectively deliver gene vectors or mRNA to the retina



2

Connecting eligible individuals with clinical trials at the Retina Foundation



3

Growing our genetic database, which currently has more than 9,100 patients with inherited retinal diseases



4

Completing detailed clinical-work for individuals with identified gene mutations



5

Developing a deep machine learning (artificial intelligence) program for analyzing retina scans



"I think that everyone should have a chance to see what this world offers."

- MASON TWOCROW,
INHERITED EYE
DISEASE PATIENT



David Birch, Ph.D. Director, Rose-Silverthorne Retinal Degenerations Laboratory

Dr. Birch is the first scientist hired by the Retina

Foundation in July 1982 while working at Harvard Medical School. He received his doctorate from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Dr. Birch has developed game-changing electrophysiological and imaging techniques and is a leader in clinical trials of gene therapy for inherited eye diseases.



Yi-Zhong Wang, Ph.D. Director, Macular Function Laboratory

Dr. Wang joined the Retina Foundation in 1998 after his postdoctoral

training at McGill University. He conducts clinical studies focused on how eye diseases affect retinal structure and visual perception. His special projects are aimed at developing new tools and technologies to help patients with macular degeneration and inherited eye diseases.

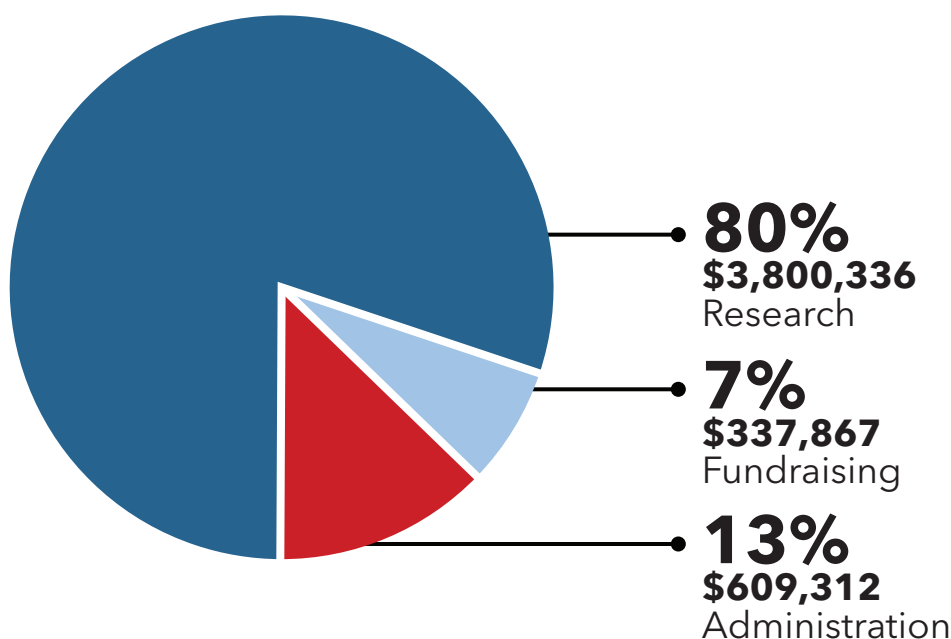
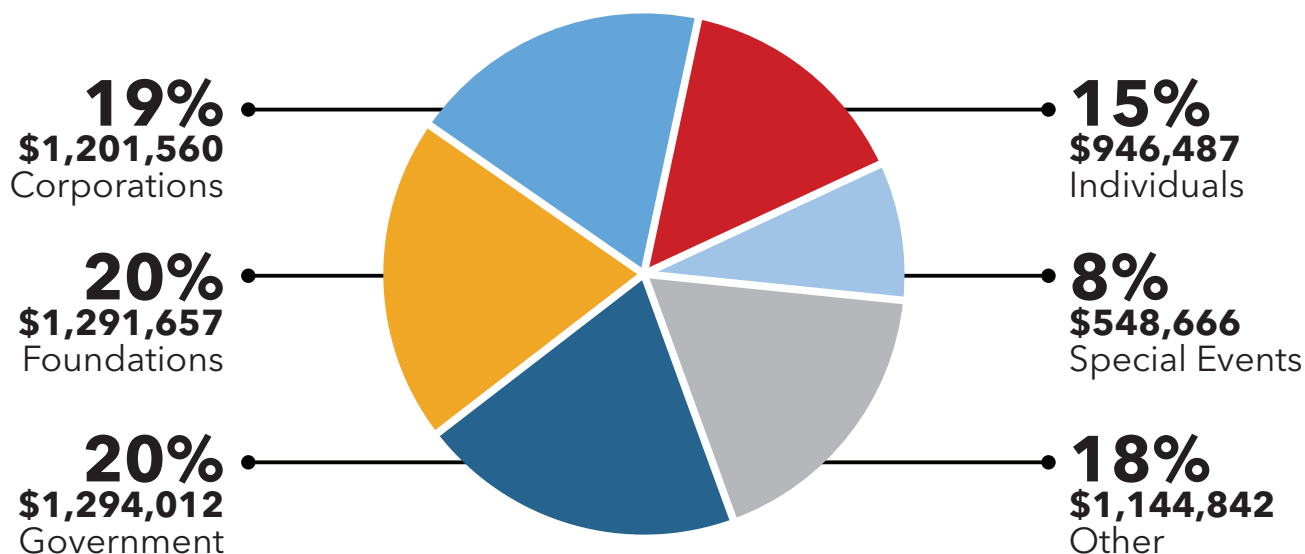
2020 Retina Foundation Financials

JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2020

The Retina Foundation is **advancing research** for pediatric eye conditions, inherited eye diseases, and age-related macular degeneration because of the **generosity** of foundations, corporations, and **people like you**.

Support & Revenue:

\$6,427,224



Functional Expenses:
\$4,747,515

"Thanks to all who support this amazing independent research institution. Because of our supporters' dedication to the Retina Foundation, our scientists are able to advance research and save sight."



- TIA TOMLIN,
BOARD CHAIR
(2019 - 2021)

Annual Giving

JANUARY 1, 2020 - MARCH 31, 2021

INNOVATOR (\$100,000 - \$500,000)

Lyda Hill
Sue and William Hutton, M.D.
J. Willis Johnson III*
Helen K. and Robert G. McGraw
The Rosewood Foundation
The Sands Foundation
The Jasper L. and Jack Denton Wilson Foundation

ILLUMINATOR (\$25,000 - \$99,999)

The Theodore & Beulah Beasley Foundation
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Hoblitzelle Foundation
Nancy and W. Herbert Hunt
Jeffrey Moskow Trust
ORIX Foundation
Bridget Russell
The John and Bonnie Strauss Foundation

"It is my honor to support the Retina Foundation and their innovative research for age-related macular degeneration."



- LYDA HILL

ACCELERATOR (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

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Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
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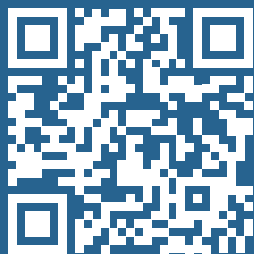
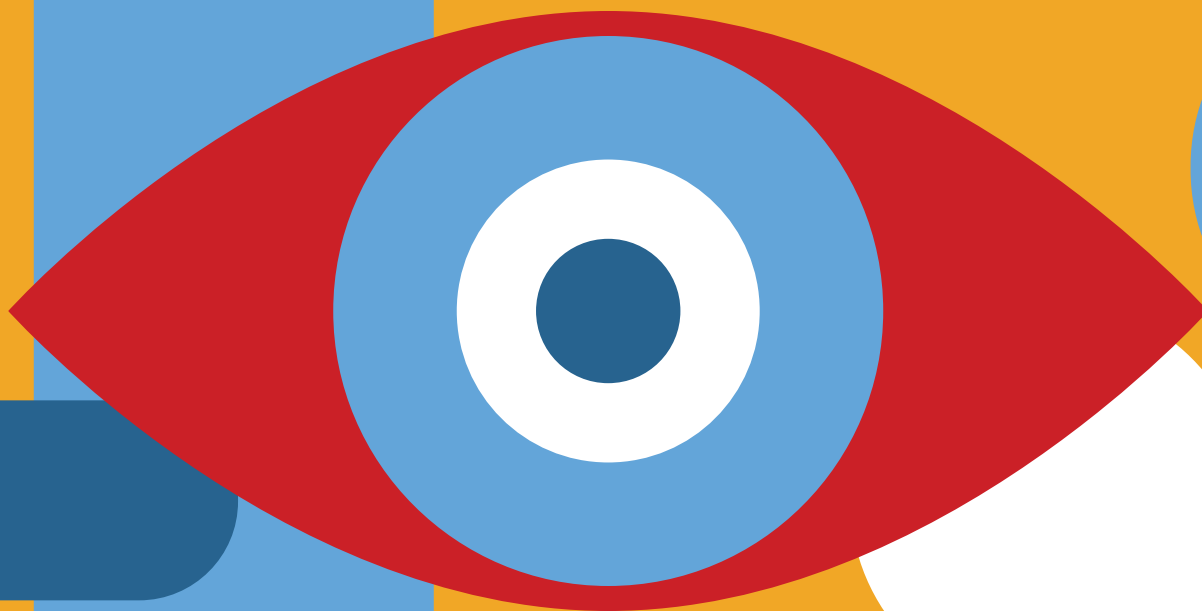
"Age-related
 macular
 degeneration
 research at
 the Retina

Foundation is crucial to
 finding treatments and
 improving the quality
 of life for millions of
 people living with this
 common eye disease
 that gradually destroys
 central vision. We are
 proud to support this
 initiative and honor the
 legacy of Mrs. Caroline
 Rose Hunt by driving
 sight saving research
 forward."

- LYNN FISHER,
 VICE PRESIDENT,
 THE ROSEWOOD
 FOUNDATION



Retina Foundation
Leading Research... Saving Sight



**Give the Gift of Sight.
Donate Today.**

www.retinafoundation.org/donate