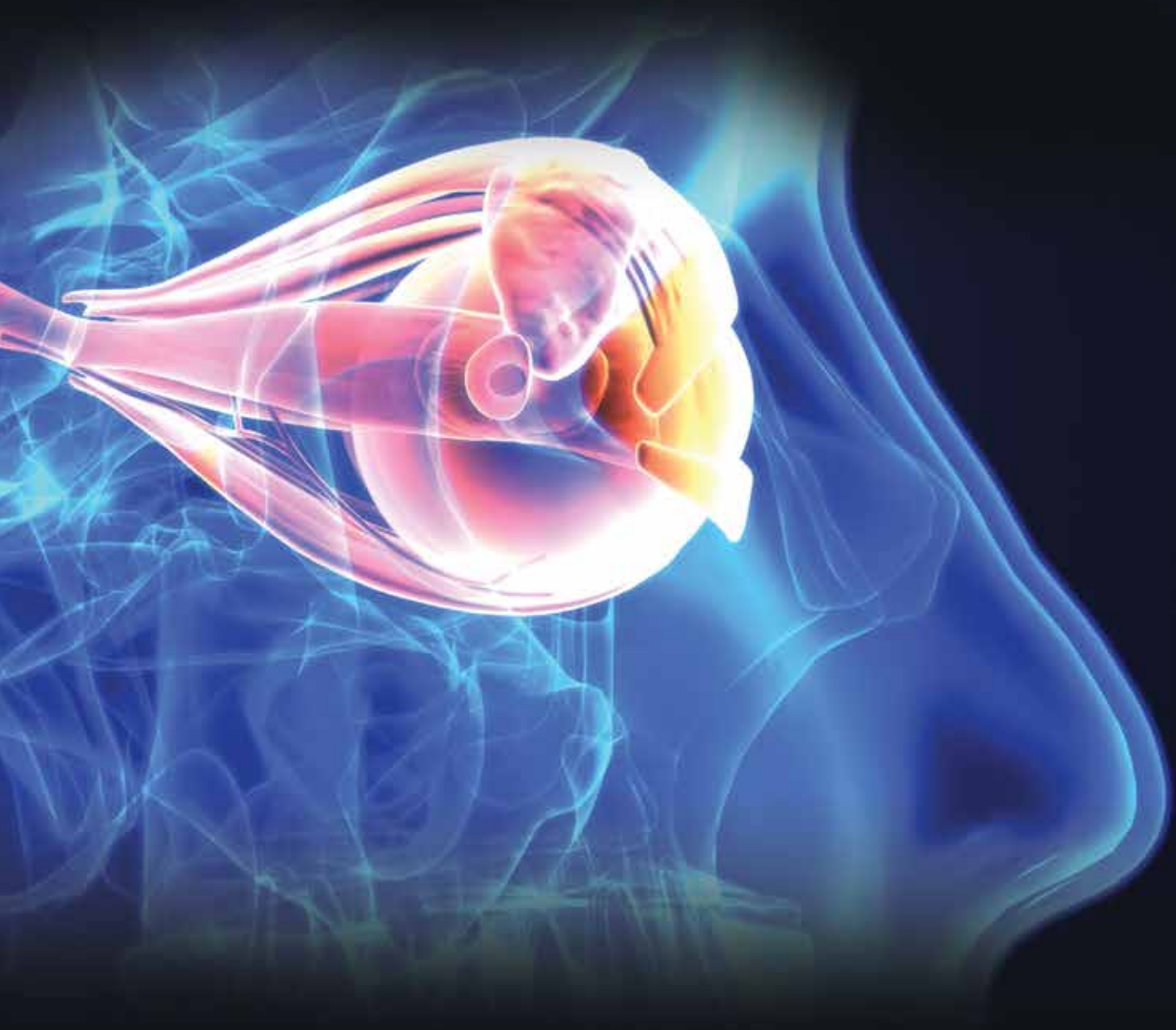
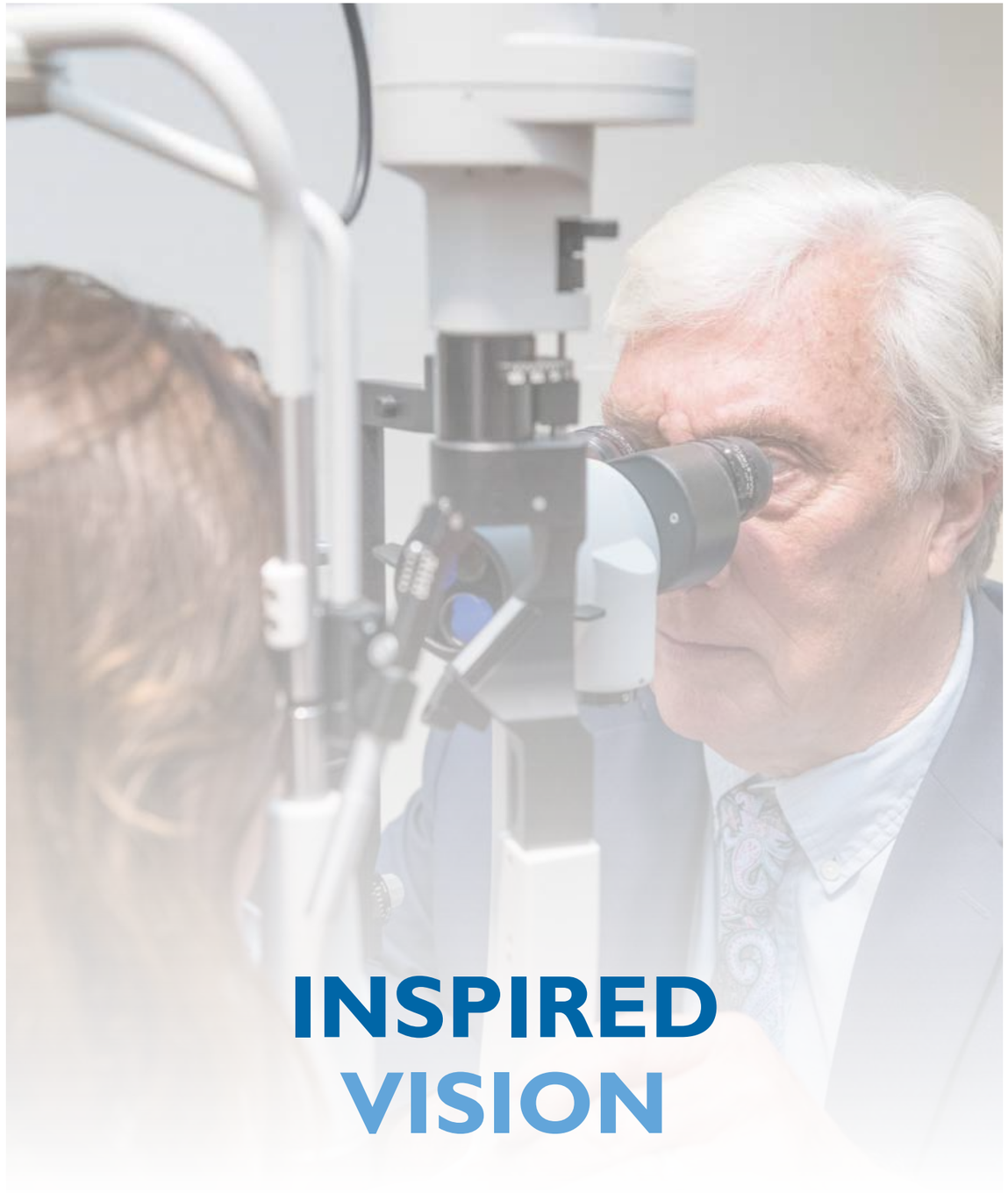
Retina Foundation
Leading Research... Saving Sight

IMPACT REPORT



2021-2022



INSPIRED VISION

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OUR MISSION

The mission of the Retina Foundation of the Southwest is to prevent vision loss and restore sight through innovative research and treatment.

PATIENT CENTRIC

GROUNDED IN RESEARCH

SOLUTIONS BASED

INNOVATIVE

MISSION FOCUSED

AGILE

DEAR FRIENDS,

July 2021 to December 2022 was an unprecedented time at the Retina Foundation of the Southwest– both in terms of how we managed our business as we continued to navigate COVID-related challenges and in new opportunities for our organization as we grew our world-class team and increased revenue.

When the pandemic shut down the world in 2020, it forced us, like so many others, to rethink how we would continue to support our patients and deliver on the strategic goals we had set for our organization. As the Chief Executive and Medical Officer, I am privileged and humbled to work alongside committed researchers, physicians, staff, donors, and volunteers – all of whom, despite any challenge we faced, have remained steadfast in their commitment to support the work of the Retina Foundation.

Together, we dug deep and stayed focused on vision as our destination, with a mission to prevent vision loss and restore sight through innovative research and treatment, specifically targeting age-related macular degeneration (AMD), inherited retinal diseases, and pediatric disorders. In 2022, we welcomed staff and patients back to the facility. It was wonderful to go back full force to innovative research and helping patients. Then, we surpassed all expectations.

We **recruited the most innovative and brilliant scientists and staff to our tenured team to fulfill our mission.** Thanks to early funding and a competitive virtual search conducted by our Scientific Advisory Board, our recruitment success included Srinivasa R. Sripathi, PhD, as Director of the new Ocular Stem Cell Laboratory. Dr. Sripathi will uncover why cells become sick and die of AMD and other diseases – and, most importantly, how to slow down the degeneration process with a personalized treatment approach.

Dr. Sripathi was introduced during our in-person, mission-focused, and **record-breaking 2022 Visionary Luncheon**, where we shared stories of lives we have changed and will change in the future. The 2022 event raised the most funds in Retina Foundation history, supporting the search for solutions that save vision through a research-based, patient-centered, faster approach. The new Hunt Family Visionary Award was presented at the 2022 luncheon, which was chaired by the dedicated Libby Hunt Allred.

The extraordinary success of the luncheon launched us into events that drew the community to the heart of our mission. Through the Eye on Innovation Lecture Series, we shared our innovation and thought leadership in ocular stem research and AI with researchers, patients and their families as well as philanthropic, business and community leaders.

Throughout the 18-month time period, the **Retina Foundation made significant progress in personalized medicine and discovered genes and gene mutations connected to several retinal diseases**.

In other words, we came out of the pandemic era stronger than we have ever been.

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.

Looking to the future, the Retina Foundation is on an accelerated course to save vision. Along with recruiting additional best-in-class scientists and staff, the Retina Foundation will recruit another director-level leader in inherited retina diseases with expertise as a medical doctor and innovation scientist with a vision and plan to find cures. In 2023, we expect to see a large return on our 2022 development efforts as we continue to diversify our funding and build long-term partnerships with donors. The Retina Foundation is at the forefront as North Texas takes center stage in biotech and life sciences, helping lead the charge to bring more businesses and cutting-edge research to Dallas and elevating our city as a globally recognized leader in life sciences. Personalized medicine and gene therapy will bring us the solutions we have been seeking.

Thank you to everyone who helped us continue to invest in patient-centered research. Each of us at the Retina Foundation is continually inspired by the patients' steadfast commitment and trust they give to the Retina Foundation. By donors who believe in hope backed by fact-based research. By the families who are impacted and stand by their loved ones facing these diseases. By the passion to preserve vision today and save vision for future generations.

With Gratitude,

Karl Csaky, MD, PhD

Chief Executive and Medical Officer
Retina Foundation of the Southwest

T. Boone Pickens Director
Molecular Ophthalmology Laboratory

Director
Clinical Center of Innovation for AMD

Louis J. Grabowsky

Chairman, Board of Directors

SUCCESS IN 2020-2022 GOALS

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

- Recruited Srinivasa R. Sripathi, PhD as Director of the new Ocular Stem Cell Laboratory, focused on developing and translating stem cell-based therapies for treating AMD and inherited retina diseases.

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.

- Secured $1.4 million in early funding and launched Eye on the Future Campaign.

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

- Introduced reimagined and new events that drew in philanthropic, business and community leaders.
- Partnered with a public relations firm to amplify our story and impact to a broader audience with the ultimate goal to increase both donors and patients.

Diversify revenue sources to ensure financial growth.

- The 2022 Visionary Luncheon raised the most funds in Retina Foundation history.
- Introduced the Philanthropic Investment Fund and partnered with new corporate sponsors to diversify revenue sources.

Please visit www.retinafoundation.org to view our full financials.

2022 VISIONARY LUNCHEON

2022 Visionary Luncheon draws hundreds to celebrate Retina Foundation at first in-person event since the pandemic.

MORE THAN 400 GUESTS GATHERED to celebrate the significant strides the Retina Foundation is making in groundbreaking research for preserving and saving eyesight at the Hilton Anatole on May 24, 2022. Guests were thrilled to catch up with friends and hear featured speakers Dan Hunt and Bob Lilly at the first Retina Foundation in-person event since the pandemic.

Libby Hunt Allred, 2022 Luncheon Chair, remarked that she had five goals for the luncheon, including raising awareness of retinal conditions/diseases, raising funds and educating others on the work of the foundation. "We also wanted to meet in person after a season of virtual events, and have fun," said Allred. "We met all five goals!"

Sponsors included the Rosewood Corporation as the Inventor sponsor and Toyota North America as the Hunt Family Visionary Award Presentation sponsor. Margot Perot and Family served as Honorary Family.

The Foundation highlighted decades of monumental breakthroughs and, with an eye to the future, illustrated its path ahead to save sight for even more families through its patient-focused, research-based, innovative, and accelerated approach.

The annual luncheon recognized multiple generations of Dallas' longtime philanthropic Hunt family for their unwavering support of the Foundation's mission to prevent vision loss and restore sight through innovative research and treatment.

The family was honored with the first-ever Hunt Family Visionary Award, presented by sponsor Toyota North America. The Foundation will recognize an individual or organization helping to bring the organization's mission into practice with the Hunt Family Visionary Award sculpture annually.

As part of the award presentation, brothers and skiers Brian and Robin McKeever shared how the two teamed up to overcome Brian's vision loss to win in the Paralympics, inspiring others to achieve the impossible no matter the circumstance. Brian has Stargardt disease, an inherited retina disease that causes children and young adults to lose their vision. As a center of excellence for Stargardt innovation, The Retina Foundation's Rose-Silverthorne

Retinal Degeneration Laboratory discovered the gene linked to the disease, and researchers are looking at how gene therapy could impact the trajectory of Stargardt's.

The luncheon was a success by all measures – fundraising, bringing the mission to life, reconnecting with fellow supporters in person, and recognizing committed individuals who propel the Retina Foundation forward with their support.

The Retina Foundation's annual Visionary Luncheon **raised more than $780,000** exceeding funds raised by any past Visionary Luncheon.

CLOSER TO THE CURE FOR AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION (AMD)

AMD is a progressive disease of the retina with no cure that robs individuals 50 years and older of their sight and independence. The Retina Foundation is committed to accelerating research to find better treatment options and solutions for those battling this devastating disease and for those who have inherited a gene mutation linked to AMD.

AMD IS...

The **MOST COMMON CAUSE OF VISION LOSS** for those 50 and older in the U.S.

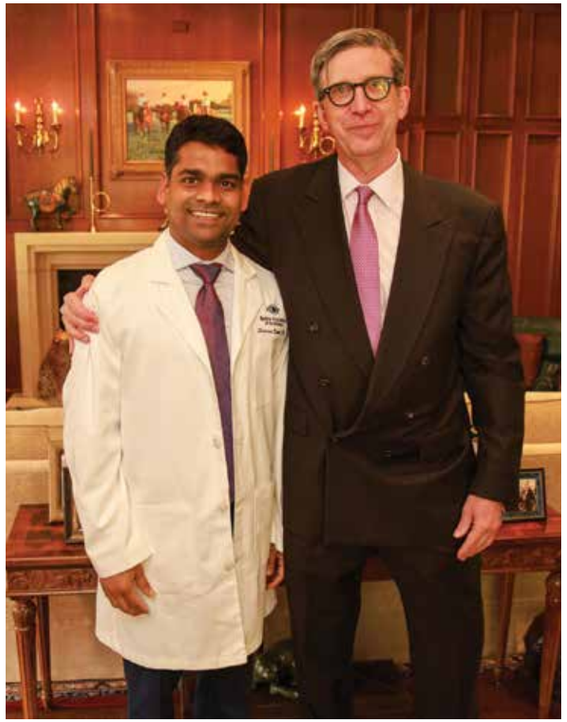
Estimated to cost **$343 BILLION IN VISUAL IMPAIRMENT DAMAGES** to individuals and the healthcare system

A disease with **NO CURE**

Impacting a growing number of seniors 65 and older — estimated to reach **8.3 MILLION BY 2050**

SRINIVASA R. SRIPATHI, PhD, has known that saving vision was in his future since he was a child attending a missionary school in India. The school was attached to an eye hospital, where he had a bird's eye view of surgeries. More importantly, he worked with vision-impaired children and adults to read braille and help improve their daily mobility. He also listened to patients speak about how vision loss dramatically impacted every part of their lives.

After receiving his Master's degree, Dr. Sripathi researched the genetics of premature babies suffering from irreversible vision loss at another eye hospital in India, and his calling to save vision was solidified.



In 2022, the Retina Foundation accomplished a next-generation goal to develop an ocular stem cell research laboratory and recruit the best of the best to lead the lab, setting a new trajectory to find the cure for AMD.

After a highly competitive search, Srinivasa R. Sripathi, PhD, joined the Retina Foundation from the Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute to lead the new stem cell lab.

Building upon the support and success of the past, the Retina Foundation is driving new science toward the future of saved vision. Dr. Sripathi will collaborate with Dr. Karl Csaky in leading the generation of stem cells grown from an AMD patient's blood sample. By individualizing the research to the patients, Dr. Sripathi uncovers why cells become sick and die of AMD – and, most importantly, how to slow down the process with a personalized treatment plan.

"I am honored to join Dr. Csaky and the amazing team at the Retina Foundation as I continue my ocular stem cell research utilizing patients' own blood or skin cells to find the best treatment for AMD," said Dr. Sripathi. "As a director at the Retina Foundation, I'm joining a world-class organization known for its agility, efficiency, patient-centric focus and life-changing innovation, and I look forward to working alongside the brightest minds in AMD research to transform the lives of AMD patients."

The Retina Foundation's ability to recruit the best minds in AMD research is only possible because of the generous support of future-focused families and foundations. Early investors into this new level of AMD research included The Rosewood Foundation; Kristy and Patrick Sands; Lyda Hill; Nancy and Stephen Rogers; Helen and Bob McGraw; Angela and Marc Klein; and Judy and Harold Kaye.

CRAFTING A CAREER IN PEDIATRIC VISION RESEARCH

Dr. Eileen Birch's groundbreaking pediatric vision research legacy started in an unexpected place: art class.

IN HER FIRST YEAR AS AN ART MAJOR, Dr. Birch enrolled in a class on color vision, eager to understand how artists experiment with color. Instead, she left the class enthralled with how vision works, switched her major to pre-med and nutrition, and never looked back.

Dr. Birch earned her PhD from the University of California and completed a fellowship in vision science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before joining the Retina Foundation. She now serves as a senior research scientist and director of the Crystal Charity Ball Pediatric Vision Laboratory.

Dr. Birch has received funding for her work from the National Institute of Health every year since 1983.

She said spending her 40-plus-year career at the Foundation was a simple choice. "I absolutely love research. The very clear mission of wanting to prevent vision loss and restore sight has been our light post since we opened. For children, that's so important. There are so many things that we can do to prevent vision loss in children while they still have a chance to recover during these early years of life and to develop better treatments for them."

CURRENT WORK AND RESEARCH

Today, almost all formula-fed infants benefit from Dr. Birch's work. She led the first serious studies examining the benefit of DHA, a building block for nerve cells in the eye and brain, in infant formula. Results showed significantly better vision for infants who received it than those with unsupplemented formula. DHA is now included in virtually all infant formula.

Dr. Birch's current research focuses on modernizing treatments for children with vision issues, finding options that are more effective and more enjoyable for children.

Amblyopia, or "lazy eye," occurs when nerve pathways between the brain and an eye don't work together correctly and affects approximately 3% of all children. If not treated early and effectively, it can result in permanent vision loss. For years, the standard treatment was to have children wear a patch over the strong eye to encourage the weak eye to work – a challenge for small children. Researchers found a 60 to 80% adherence to the assigned patching regimen for the first six weeks and that compliance dropped to about 30% by week 12.

"Either the parent is frustrated, the child is frustrated, or they just don't see enough improvement per week to continue on," Dr. Birch said. "So, we wanted to find something that would work more quickly and consistently."

Dr. Birch and her team decided to create a treatment that would teach the eyes to work together. Along with video game developer Ubisoft and a colleague at McGill University, they developed simple games that four- and five-year-olds would enjoy while strengthening their vision.

Their most recent development is the result of a partnership with the BBC, which donated episodes from the Q Pootle 5 animated television series. The treatment involved altering the video so that each eye saw a different image; children only saw the complete picture when they combined the two images with binocular vision. Nine hours of watching these cartoons created results equivalent to 120 hours of using a patch treatment.

For Dr. Birch, the greatest reward comes from seeing her work improve children's quality of life. She has trained 17 researchers, 35 college interns, and 20 bridge-year interns who are extending her impact worldwide.

"It's not like I'm just sitting in an isolated lab that has no effect on anyone until years and years later," she said. "I can see firsthand every day that kids are happier with these treatments. They're doing better with the accommodations we can get them at school. It's very rewarding."

LOOKING AHEAD

Dr. Birch's work on amblyopia doesn't stop with treatment. She and her teams are working on more effective screening techniques so that children can be diagnosed and receive earlier intervention. They are also studying how the condition impacts other areas of a child's life.

> THE WHOLE CHILD APPROACH IS BECOMING POPULAR IN OTHER HEALTH AREAS, BUT IT REALLY HASN'T GOTTEN TO PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY YET. WE'RE TRYING TO ENCOURAGE THAT BY LOOKING AT HOW AMBLYOPIA AFFECTS THEIR READING, MOTOR SKILLS, SELF-PERCEPTION, AND QUALITY OF LIFE. THE AIM IS TO FIND TREATMENTS OR PREVENTIONS THAT IMPROVE THOSE OUTCOMES AS WELL FOR OVERALL IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE.
> – DR. EILEEN BIRCH

LATEST TECHNOLOGY ADVANCING BREAKTHROUGHS

The continued progress of the Retina Foundation is made possible by innovative partnerships and the strategic implementation of new technologies for research.

TIME TO PLAY

A unique collaboration between the Retina Foundation and Balance Media TECHNOLOGY resulted in a groundbreaking new approach to diagnosing age-related macular degeneration (AMD) – a video game titled *Eye in the Sky: Defender.* This research was supported by a $2.5 million grant award from the W.W. Caruth, Jr. Foundation at Communities Foundation of Texas to help rapidly prototype new diagnostic and clinical treatment approaches, focusing on the specific needs of patients who are losing their vision to AMD.

Dr. Corey Clark, Chief Technology Officer at Balance Media TECHNOLOGY, said, "There are an estimated three billion gamers worldwide and by engaging this group, doctors and scientists can collect data to provide standardized and accurate identification of ocular diseases."

The game uses retinal scans to diagnose and track patient treatment for AMD. The purpose is to utilize the already massive gaming industry to treat many ocular diseases in the future. By accelerating this process, costs are minimized for patients and medical staff, and patients could receive solutions to their diagnoses in a shorter time.

"Combining our expertise and creating this video game is just the beginning to finding new, innovative solutions in medicine," said Dr. Csaky.

GOING DEEP

Yi-Zhong Wang, PhD, Director of the Macular Function Laboratory, works with Deep Machine Learning or artificial intelligence to review retina scans to diagnose various stages of retinitis pigmentosa (RP).

Dr. Wang's program can interpret retina scans and measure various points in the eye within minutes – cutting back a month-long wait for results to just a few minutes. He regularly updates the Deep Machine Learning equipment with the goal of identifying the level of vision loss the patient is experiencing and then predicting the amount of vision loss the patient will have over time.

Dr. Wang hopes to share this equipment with other retinal specialists solving other retinal diseases besides RP. By establishing a

routine procedure that saves time and money, treatment solutions can be delivered faster and exponentially increase the patient's quality of life.

NO MORE SHOTS

The Retina Foundation is thinking ahead about how to ease the strain on families and healthcare providers with the growing, aging population. Whether they reside in a rural Texas town or across the country, too many AMD patients are having to travel long distances for access to medical providers and treatments. With funding support from the Still Water Foundation, the Retina Foundation has developed a solution with the creation of a new ocular drug delivery device. The device provides an effective and low-risk treatment for patients living with AMD. It is placed in the surface tissue of the eye, and the medicine is delivered in a slow-release manner for up to a year. The device serves as a non-invasive method, reduces the number of clinic visits per year, can be removed easily, and eliminates the need for shots in the eye.

The Retina Foundation is closing in on solutions with stem cell research, gene therapy and personalized medicine that will greatly improve how we diagnose and treat patients with AMD.

2021–2022 HIGHLIGHTS

The Retina Foundation makes breakthrough advancements through innovative research, continuously pushing closer and closer to better treatments and, ultimately, cures.

FIVE LABORATORIES PARTICIPATING IN MORE THAN 60 CLINICAL RESEARCH STUDIES

ADDING A SIXTH LABORATORY FOCUSED ON STEM CELL AND GENETIC RESEARCH

CLINICAL CENTER OF INNOVATION FOR AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION MOLECULAR OPHTHALMOLOGY LABORATORY

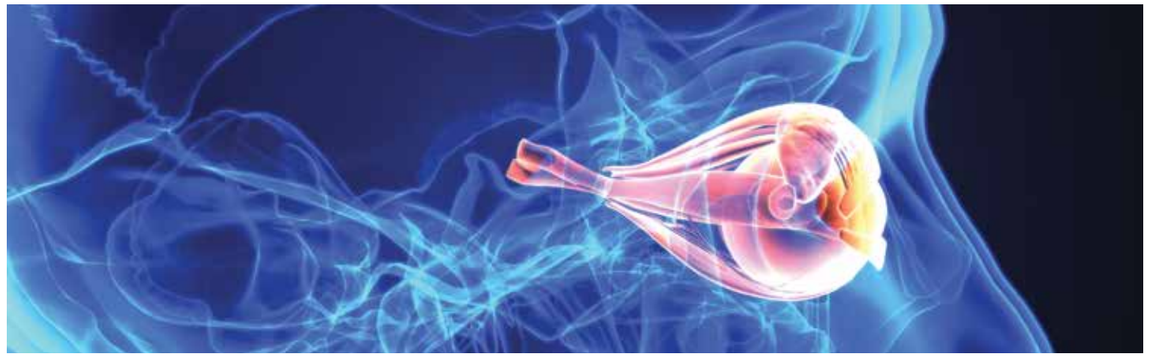
- Led 15 clinical studies for AMD and geographic atrophy (GA), along with two studies focusing on Stargardt's disease treatment, to gain a better understanding of these AMD-related conditions.
- Recruited and hired visionary Srinivasa R. Sripathi, PhD from the Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins to lead the sixth Retina Foundation lab focusing on ocular stem cell research.
- In collaboration with SMU and BALANCED Media/Technology with funding from the Carruth Foundation, secured a patent for medical imaging technology that uses automated software and a video game that uses retinal scans to diagnose and track AMD patient treatment. Through this faster and more efficient process, doctors can diagnose and track treatment, minimizing costs for both medical staff and partners.
- Received grants from Still Water Foundation, Wilson Family Foundation and Amon G. Carter Foundation to develop an in-vitro approach and to continue to study the ability of mitochondrial rescue agents to reverse the cellular changes observed in our laboratory model of AMD. This will help accelerate efforts in identifying the drug most likely to be therapeutic in patients with AMD.

CRYSTAL CHARITY BALL PEDIATRIC VISION LABORATORY

- Dr. Eileen Birch has provided 26 years of continuous service on the Pediatric Eye Disease Investigator Group Executive Committee and many of their planning, monitoring, and writing subcommittees.
- Received the National Eye Institute Award to develop and assess a new methodology in the treatment of several pediatric optic conditions.
- Presented at the Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus.
- Completed two studies of novel AI-aided approaches to preschool vision screening.
- Demonstrated that contrast-rebalanced dichoptic movies are an effective treatment for amblyopia in three- to seven-year-olds (Nature – Scientific Reports 2022).
- Launched deep-learning strabismus images for screening.
- Launched research on factors that may contribute to slow reading in amblyopic children.
- Launched evaluation of Blinq and Spot in special needs kids.
- Developed two new patch-free treatments for amblyopia to evaluate in 2023.

ROSE-SILVERTHORNE RETINAL DEGENERATIONS LABORATORY

- Designated as a Center of Excellence for Gene Therapy and concluded a promising Phase 1/2 clinical trial for gene therapy for patients with XLRP, an inherited eye disease that causes gradual vision loss in boys and young men.
- Began clinical trial utilizing a mobility course to assess mobility and functional vision in patients with retinitis pigmentosa, which is characterized by gradual vision loss of peripheral and night vision.
- Served as Co-Chair of the Regulatory Endpoints and Trial Design for IRDs (REDI) Working Group. The REDI Working Group seeks to collaborate with a wide range of subject matter experts to identify and propose best study design methods for Inherited Retinal Disorder (IRD) clinical trials, obtain input from regulatory bodies such as the FDA, and disseminate recommendations.
- Served on Executive Committee of Foundation Fighting Blindness Clinical Consortium, overseeing a network of national and international Centers of Excellence conducting IRD research.
- Completed Phase 1/2 safety and efficacy trial of a recombinant adeno-associated virus vector expressing retinoschisin (rAAV2tYF-CB-hRS1) in patients with x-linked retinoschisis.
- Completed an Open-Label Dose Escalation Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of AGTC-501 (rAAV2tTF-GRK1-RPGR) in Subjects with X-linked retinitis pigmentosa caused by PRPGR-ORF15 mutations.
- Provided a chapter on retinitis pigmentosa to the book "Genetic Diseases of the Eye, 3rd Edition."



MACULAR FUNCTION LABORATORY

- Honored with the Foundation Fighting Blindness (FFB) Individual Investigator Research Award.
- Received the Fichetenbaum Charitable Trust and a portion of the Voelcker Fund to support deep learning projects and patient testing
- Secured Genentech consulting agreement for mobile visual function testing, as well as completing the study for mobile visual function testing.
- Completed 3-year project funded by FFB and established deep machine learning models for the analysis of retinal images.

VISION AND NEURODEVELOPMENT LABORATORY

- Honored as an ARVO Women's Leadership Development Program mentee.
- Invited to speak at the 'Functional Consequences of Pediatric Eye Conditions' Centre for Vision Research – Vision Science to Applications (CVR-VISTA) Seminar at York University, Toronto.
- Received an award from the Ray H Marr Foundation for continued research.
- Presented 'Intact Hand Kinematics in Anisometropic Children During Visually-Guided Reaching' for the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology annual meeting.
- Served as the guest editor for the Frontiers of Neuroscience's *Functional Eye Disease: Visual Deficits & Visual Rehabilitation* edition.

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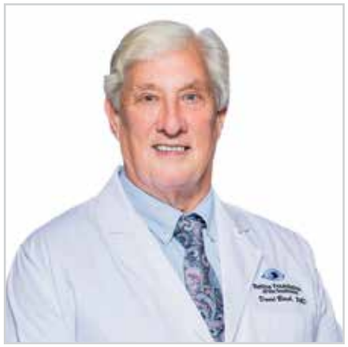

David Birch, PhD

Director, Rose-Silverthorne Retinal Degenerations Laboratory

Yi-Zhong Wang, PhD

Director, Macular Function Laboratory

We would like to express our **HEARTFELT GRATITUDE** to all of our donors who have generously given to the Retina Foundation to advance innovative research for **NEW TREATMENTS AND CURES** to save vision.

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ajohnson@retinafoundation.org

The Retina Foundation of the Southwest
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