

GLAUCOMA

RESEARCH FOUNDATION

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Research Breakthroughs
Begin with You

Our mission is to
cure glaucoma and restore vision
through innovative research.

Research breakthroughs begin with you.

Thank you for your incredible generosity and support throughout 2024. Your contributions have made a significant impact!

This year, we were able to continue funding two bold Catalyst for a Cure initiatives. One is making significant progress in the quest to restore vision lost from glaucoma, and the other is exploring the root causes of neurodegenerative diseases to target new preventive measures and cures. Additionally, we funded ten new Shaffer Grants for Innovative Glaucoma Research, supporting early-career scientists and novel research proposals. Our outreach and education efforts also thrived in 2024, providing valuable information and hope to patients, families, and caregivers.

Research breakthroughs are only possible with the ongoing support of generous donors. We are grateful to Ted and Melza Barr for their support of the Neurodegeneration Initiative, and Richard and Carolyn Sloane for supporting another groundbreaking “Solving Neurodegeneration” catalyst meeting in August 2024. More potential breakthroughs were made possible by the Rajen Savjani Fund for Innovative Glaucoma Research, which supported three Shaffer Grants in 2024, and the Zander Family Research Fund’s first annual grant to pursue further insights into the genetics of glaucoma.

The promising discoveries that marked 2024 provide the essential steps toward development of new therapies to preserve vision and cure glaucoma. Partners like you make a future free from glaucoma possible.

Thank you for your continued support.



Thomas M. Brunner
President and CEO



Andrew G. Iwach, MD
Chair, Board of Directors

Cure Glaucoma with Us

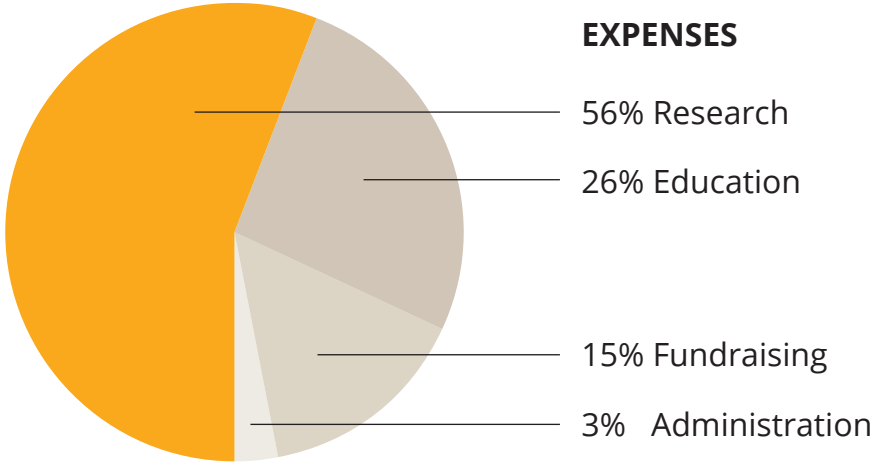
For more than 45 years, we have funded groundbreaking laboratory and clinical research that is changing the course of glaucoma care. Our work would not be possible without the generosity and dedication of people around the world who share our deep commitment to a future free from glaucoma, for everyone.

Since our earliest days, we have served as a catalyst in speeding the pace of discovery toward a cure for glaucoma. Today, in addition to championing the next generation of glaucoma science, we are a trusted source of expert information for patients, families, and doctors, reaching out through informative print materials, accessible online resources, and inclusive events.

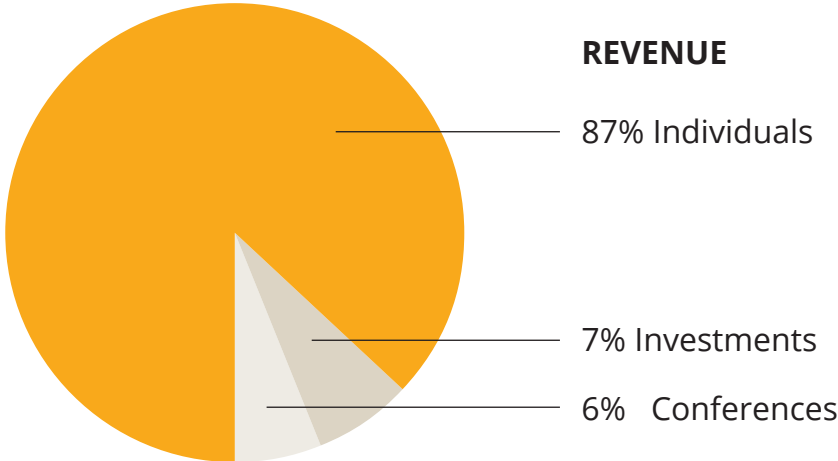


**We're focused on a cure.
Your support drives research results.**

56% of Glaucoma Research Foundation's annual budget funds innovative research toward better treatments, vision restoration, and a cure for glaucoma. An additional 26% funds education and support for glaucoma patients and their families.



More than 87% of our revenue comes from people like you. Thank you!
We receive no government funding.



Collaboration is the key to discovery.

Catalyst for a Cure (CFC) is a unique, innovative, collaborative approach to research developed by Glaucoma Research Foundation to better understand glaucoma, find ways to improve treatment, and ultimately cure glaucoma. CFC brings together teams of scientists from different backgrounds to work collaboratively rather than in isolated laboratories.



With support from donors who share our quest for a cure, our team of expert scientific advisors selects top researchers from leading institutions to form a consortium dedicated to increasing our understanding of glaucoma and other neurodegenerative diseases. Our Catalyst for a Cure teams defined glaucoma as a neurodegenerative disease and identified novel biomarkers for earlier disease diagnosis and monitoring progression. Now a CFC team is on the verge of testing neuroprotective treatments to prevent or stop loss of vision. All of these efforts are leading us closer to a cure.

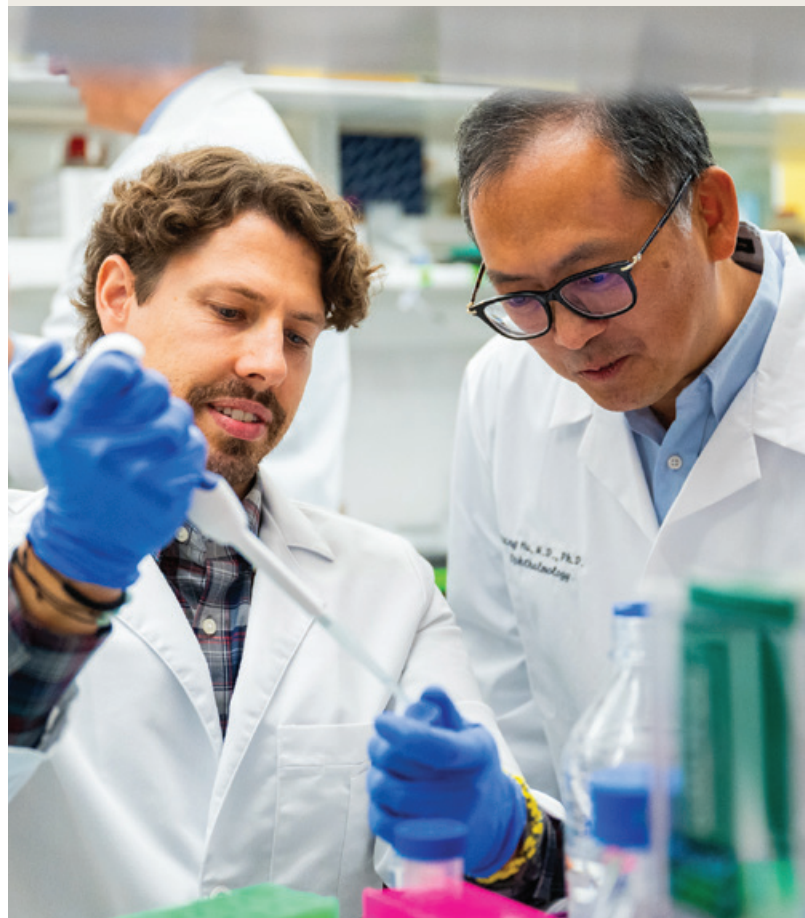
With pledge commitments from donors including Nancy and Patrick Forster, Charlot and Dennis Singleton, and Anu and Matthew Tate, as well as additional generous support from our community, our Board of Directors approved the continuation of the CFC Vision Restoration Initiative for a third phase to begin in 2025. During this critical period, the researchers will be assessing the safety and effectiveness of the treatment targets they have identified and developing plans for pre-clinical trials and commercial development of a first-in-class neuroprotective therapy for glaucoma.

Glaucoma Research Foundation is dedicated to scientific research that deepens our understanding of glaucoma, develops new treatments, and will ultimately cure a disease that is the second leading cause of blindness.

“

The work of the Catalyst for a Cure gives me real hope, for the first time in the 20 years that I've had glaucoma, that I may indeed be able to benefit from protective and regenerative therapies in the future. It is incredibly inspiring.”

Leslie K., glaucoma patient



Catalyst for a Cure 3: The Vision Restoration Initiative

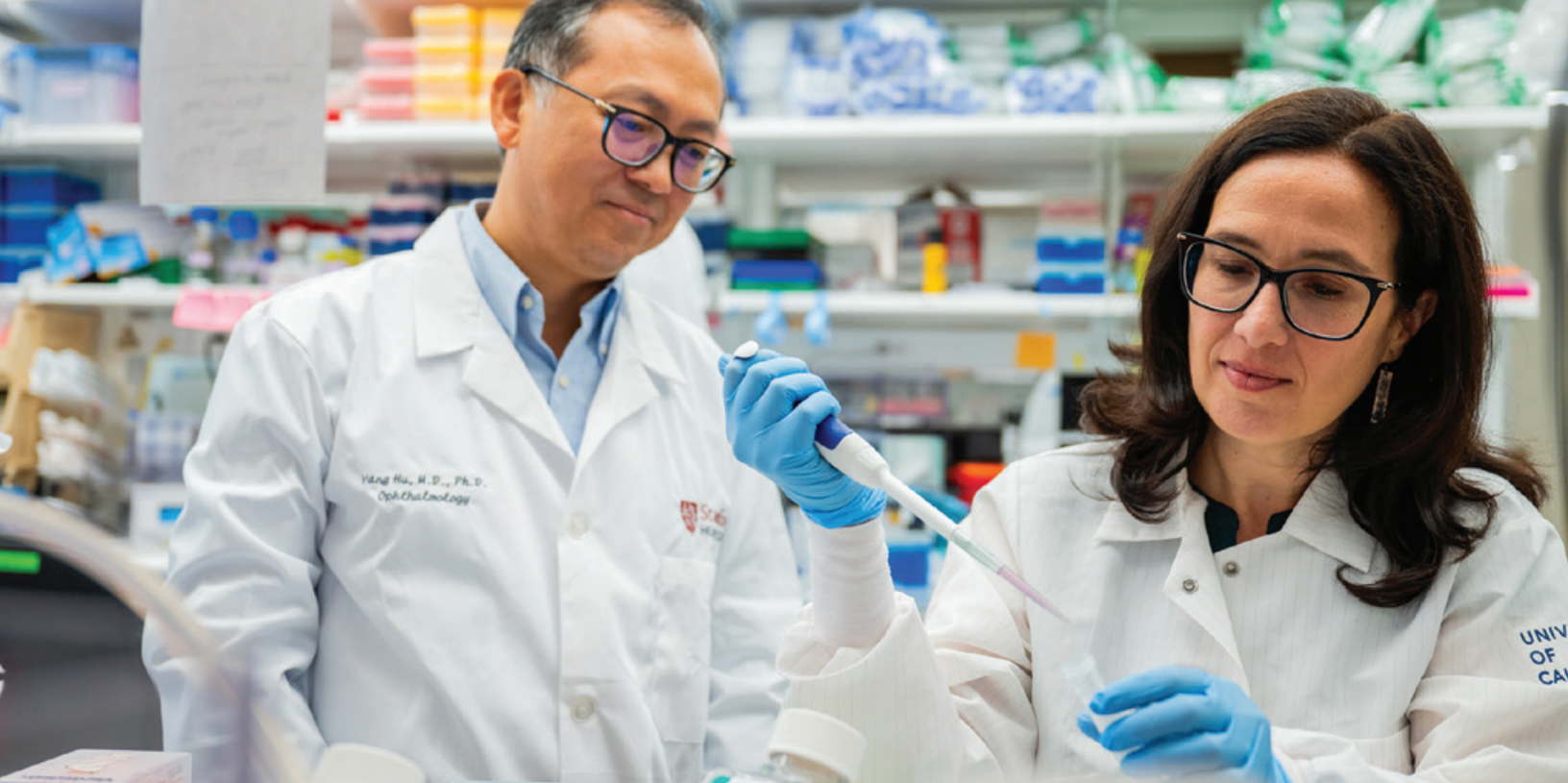
The CFC3 team of scientists and glaucoma specialists has determined three specific goals to restore vision.

First, they recognized the important need to prevent damage to the retinal nerve cells (retinal ganglion cells) that connect the eye to the brain — a neuroprotective strategy. Second, they worked to restore the function of those retinal nerve cells that were damaged but could potentially be healed — neuroenhancement. And third, when retinal nerve cells are totally lost, they set a goal to implant new retinal nerve cells and connect them to the brain — optic nerve regeneration. The team has made excellent progress toward all three goals and has published their discoveries in peer reviewed journals.

Based on their recent findings, the scientists believe they have identified ways to accomplish all three of their goals: preventing damage, restoring health, and replacing lost retinal nerve cells. Their next steps will be identifying the best combination of genes to achieve the maximum preservation of vision in models of glaucoma like human glaucoma. They believe that clinical trials of nerve cell protection and enhancement may be possible in the next few years and see opportunities for stem cell replacement to move forward in models of glaucoma in the coming years as well.

“The recent progress of the Vision Restoration research team is truly exciting. The quality of science is uniformly top notch, and there are clear examples of collaboration.”

Jeffrey L. Goldberg, MD, PhD
Byers Eye Institute, Stanford University
Chair, CFC3 Scientific Advisors



CFC3 PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

Xin Duan, PhD

Associate Professor, Department of Ophthalmology
and Physiology

Weill Institute for Neurosciences,
University of California, San Francisco

Yang Hu, MD, PhD

Professor, Department of Ophthalmology
Stanford University School of Medicine

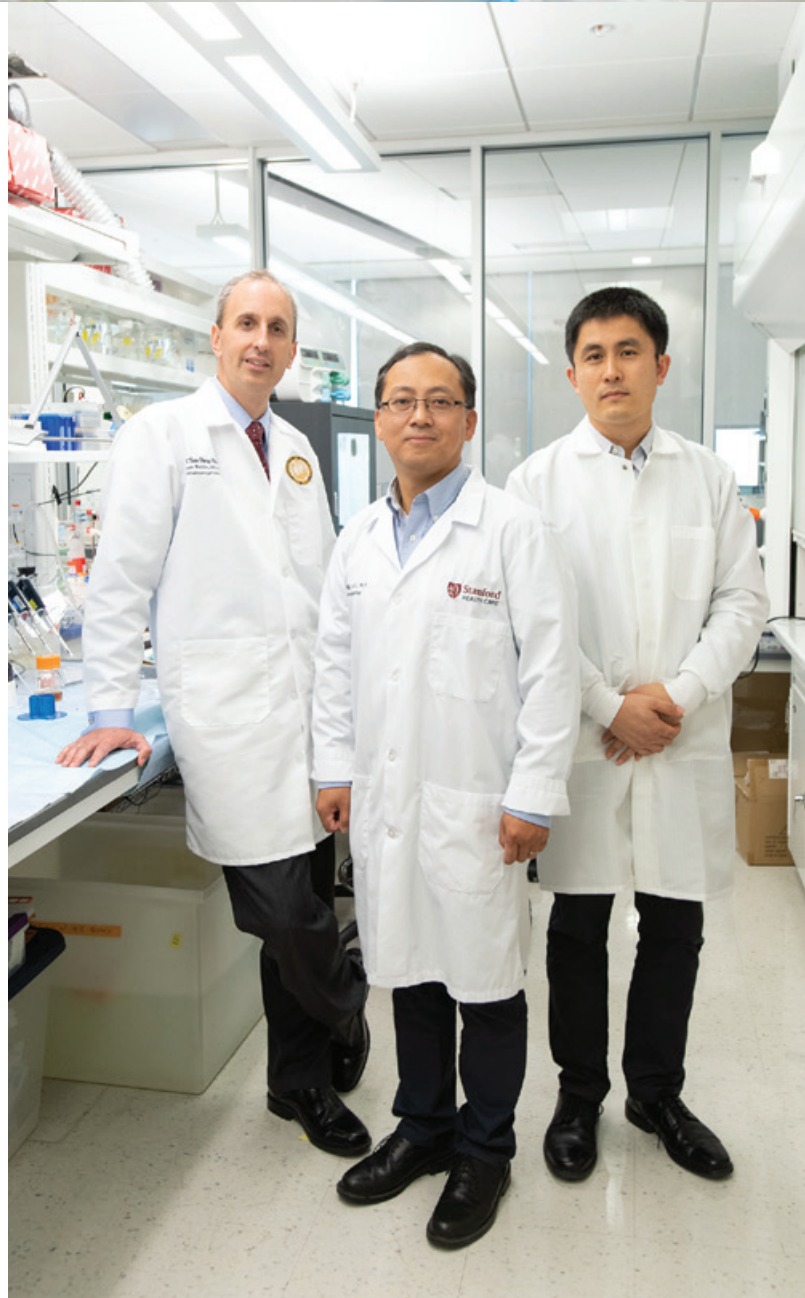
Anna La Torre, PhD

Professor, Department of Cell Biology and Human Anatomy
School of Medicine, University of California, Davis

Derek Welsbie, MD, PhD

Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, San Diego
Shiley Eye Institute

University of California, San Diego



CFC4: The Melza M. and Frank Theodore Barr Foundation Catalyst for a Cure Initiative to Prevent and Cure Neurodegeneration

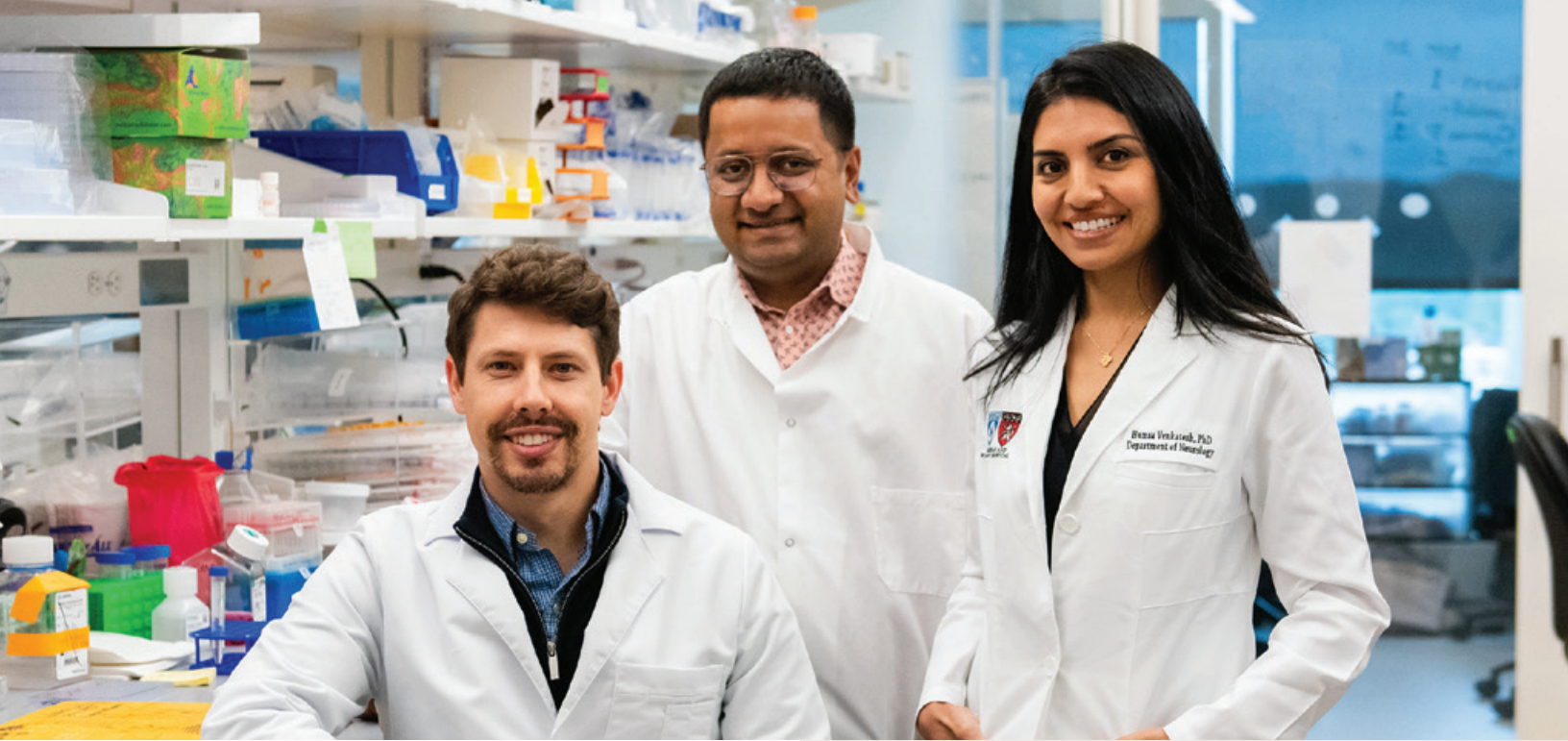
The Catalyst for a Cure Initiative to Prevent and Cure Neurodegeneration began their investigations in 2022.

Their initial goal is to understand the commonalities of three diseases of the brain and central nervous system: Alzheimer's disease, glaucoma, and gliomas. By studying how different cells in the brain and eyes behave in these diseases, they hope to find new ways to treat them. To do this, they use a technique called single-cell RNA sequencing (scRNA-seq), which allows them to look at the genetic information of individual cells. This helps them identify patterns that might lead to new therapies.

In the past year, the researchers have made significant progress. They collected data from models of Alzheimer's and tauopathy, focusing on how different types of immune cells and brain cells change when these diseases are present.

By collaborating with each other and using advanced techniques, the researchers hope to uncover new insights that could lead to effective treatments for neurodegenerative diseases.





CFC4 PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

Sandro Da Mesquita, PhD

Assistant Professor, Department of Neuroscience
Meningeal Lymphatics and Neurological Disorders Lab,
Mayo Clinic

Milica Margeta, MD, PhD

Physician and Surgeon, Massachusetts Eye and Ear
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology,
Harvard Medical School

Karthik Shekhar, PhD

Assistant Professor, Department of Chemical and
Biomolecular Engineering
Faculty Scientist, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory
Member, Helen Wills Neuroscience Institute,
University of California Berkeley

Humsa Venkatesh, PhD

Assistant Professor, Program in Neuroscience
Brigham and Women's Hospital,
Harvard Medical School

“

Each of the CFC4 labs is doing top notch scientific work. They are working together, creating more than the sum of their parts. We are seeing some exciting therapeutic candidates moving ahead, addressing commonalities across diseases.”

Sally Temple, PhD
New York Neural Stem Cell Institute,
University at Albany, New York
CFC4 Scientific Advisor

2024 Shaffer Grants for Innovative Glaucoma Research

Glaucoma Research Foundation has funded more than 300 one-year Shaffer Research Grants. Each \$55,000 grant provides crucial funds for investigators to pursue innovative, high-risk/high-reward research to advance the understanding of glaucoma. These investments have led to new therapeutics, diagnostics, and treatments to save vision for glaucoma patients.



2024 Shaffer Research Prize: Myoungsup Sim, PhD

The Shaffer Prize recognizes a researcher whose recent project best exemplifies the pursuit of innovative ideas in the quest to better understand and cure glaucoma.

“Being recognized by the glaucoma community through the Shaffer Prize has instilled a newfound sense of confidence in me. It has validated the significance of my research project and its potential to advance our understanding of glaucoma.”

Myoungsup Sim, PhD, Research Scientist, Duke Eye Center

Funded by Arlene Anthony



Kevin Chan, PhD
New York University Grossman
School of Medicine

PROJECT:
Role of Insulin Resistance and
Aquaporin-4 in Glaucoma

The Rajen Savjani Fund for Innovative Glaucoma Research



Bryce Chiang, MD, PhD
Stanford University

PROJECT:
Targeted Optic Nerve Head Drug Delivery

Funded by Linda and Gary Sirak



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Indiana University School of Medicine

PROJECT:
Studying the Contribution of Aging
to Retinal Ganglion Cell Degeneration
Relevant to Glaucoma



Takaaki Kuwajima, PhD
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

PROJECT:
Development of Immune Cell-mediated
Optic Nerve Regeneration Therapy

The Dr. Henry A. Sutro Family Grant for Research



Revathi Balasubramanian, PhD
Columbia University Irving Medical Center

PROJECT:
Endothelin Signaling in Trabecular
Meshwork and Schlemm's Canal
Development



Margaret MacNeil, PhD
York College, CUNY

PROJECT:
Protecting the Optic Nerve with
Mitochondrial Directed Peptides

The Zander Family Research Fund for Glaucoma Genetics



Felipe Medeiros, MD, PhD
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

PROJECT:
Race, Polygenic Risk Scores, and
Glaucoma Progression

The Frank Stein and Paul S. May Grants for Innovative Glaucoma Research



Olusola Olawoye, MD, PhD
University of Ibadan

PROJECT:
Genetic characterization of Juvenile
Glaucoma in Africa

Funded by Various Donors



Meredith Gregory-Ksander, PhD
Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass
Eye and Ear, Harvard Medical School

PROJECT:
Restoring Microglia Homeostasis as a
Treatment for Glaucoma



Samantha Sze Wan Shan, PhD
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

PROJECT:
MiR-17-92 Members in IOP Regulation

GRF events educate, inspire, and empower.

Collaboration and a sense of community make a profound difference for everyone affected by glaucoma: patients, families and caregivers, doctors, scientists, vision industry leaders. To experience it yourself, attend one of Glaucoma Research Foundation's events, which celebrate progress, possibilities, insight, and hope.



“

Thank you for these events. It gives me hope and comfort to hear up-to-date information about glaucoma from professionals who devote their careers to helping treat, and ultimately, cure this worrisome disease.”

A Glaucoma Patient

"IN PERSON" EVENTS

Glaucoma Patient Summit

A live forum that shares the latest treatment options and practical insights. This popular event attracts a diverse community, from people born with glaucoma to the newly diagnosed to those who have lived with glaucoma for many years. Patients and caregivers connect and share their experiences, learn more about glaucoma, and hear from doctors and scientists about research progress and the latest treatment options.

Annual Gala

A benefit dinner celebrating the donors, scientists, industry, advisors, and volunteers who work together to advance the field of glaucoma and bring us closer to curing glaucoma and restoring vision.

Glaucoma 360 New Horizons Forum

A day of presentations, panels, and discussions featuring CEOs from start-up companies, industry executives, health care leaders, venture capitalists, and the FDA, all with the goal of speeding the development of new therapies and diagnostics for glaucoma patients.

Glaucoma Symposia

Continuing education courses for practicing ophthalmologists and optometrists to learn the latest advances in glaucoma diagnosis and treatment.



"VIRTUAL" EVENTS

Innovations in Glaucoma Webinars

Our webinars feature researchers and clinicians who work with Glaucoma Research Foundation to help save vision and find a cure for glaucoma.

The Weston Family Lecture

Each year the lectureship presents a clinician or scientist whose work is significantly advancing our knowledge of glaucoma, particularly in new therapies and progress toward a cure.

Our Team

Leaders in science, partners in discovery and innovation, advocates for education and care — everyone on our team is committed to creating a world without glaucoma, a mission shared with generous donors.

Scientific Advisors

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Boston Children's Hospital

Valeria Canto-Soler, PhD

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Stanford University

Zhigang He, PhD, BM

Harvard Medical School,
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2024 Financial Report

Thanks to our generous donors, Fiscal 2024 was a record year with total revenue of \$7.9 million. Total assets were a record \$14.6 million. Glaucoma Research Foundation earned Charity Navigator's highest 4-star rating again for the 8th year in a row, recognizing the organization's strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency. In addition, we meet all 20 of the Better Business Bureau's Standards for Charity Accountability. Our audited financial report may be found on our website.

Statement of Activities for the year ended June 30, 2024 (audited)

	2024		2023	
	NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	TOTAL	TOTAL
SUPPORT AND REVENUE				
Donations and Bequests	3,511,594	2,961,420	6,473,014	5,620,842
Special Events, net of expenses	369,881	—	369,881	523,635
Other Income/Reductions	12,223	—	12,223	14,036
Investment Income	67,059	511,622	578,681	723,300
Change in value of charitable trusts	—	(2,018)	(2,018)	(1,190)
Conference/Forum income	460,180	—	460,180	391,050
Assets released from restrictions	2,988,503	(2,988,503)	—	—
Total Revenue, Gains, and Support	\$ 7,409,440	\$ 482,521	\$ 7,891,961	\$ 7,271,673
EXPENSES				
Research Programs	4,066,864	—	4,066,864	3,732,341
Education Programs	1,883,527	—	1,883,527	1,951,208
Administration	228,289	—	228,289	199,723
Fundraising	1,074,300	—	1,074,300	614,495
Total Expenses	\$ 7,252,980		\$ 7,252,980	\$ 6,497,767
Change in Net Assets	156,460	482,521	638,981	773,906
Net Assets, beginning of year	5,836,941	7,058,000	12,894,941	12,121,035
Net Assets, end of year	\$ 5,993,401	\$ 7,540,521	\$ 13,533,922	\$ 12,894,941

Statement of Financial Position as of June 30, 2024 (audited)

Assets	2024	2023
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	3,643,453	2,205,229
Pledges and bequests receivable	1,406,889	3,015,974
Prepaid expenses	167,026	226,200
Booklet inventory	31,480	27,390
Right of use assets	164,786	381,165
Total Current Assets	\$ 5,413,634	\$ 5,855,958
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Pledges and bequests receivable (net of present value discount and current portion)	2,233,976	531,979
Assets held in trust (at market value)	60,838	63,794
Investments (at market value)	3,343,804	4,468,105
Furniture and equipment (net of depreciation)	243,825	163,718
Permanently restricted cash	3,342,500	3,342,500
Total Non-current Assets	\$ 9,224,943	\$ 8,951,261
Total Assets	\$ 14,638,577	\$ 14,426,054
 Liabilities and Net Assets		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	139,417	198,558
Trusts, distributions payable, current portion	4,464	4,681
Grants payable	775,000	925,000
Lease liabilities	164,786	381,165
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 1,083,667	\$ 1,509,404
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Liabilities to trust beneficiaries (at present value)	20,988	21,709
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,104,655	\$ 1,531,113
NET ASSETS		
Net assets without donor restrictions	5,993,401	5,836,941
Net assets with donor restrictions	7,540,521	7,058,000
Total Net Assets	\$ 13,533,922	\$ 12,894,941
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 14,638,577	\$ 14,426,054

In Appreciation

We express our deepest appreciation to all our donors. Each gift makes a difference and assists us with forwarding our important mission to cure glaucoma and restore vision through innovative research.

The following is a listing of contributors of \$1,000 or more from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

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Pacesetters

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Maynard, Clarence and
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Our special thanks to **Mona Zander**, who inspired this giving society, and serves as Chair.

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We are grateful to the following individuals who have notified us of their intent to include us as a beneficiary in their wills, trusts, or other investment vehicles.

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