

Your support allows us to fund promising eye and vision researchers.

Fight for Sight's mission is to support and inspire eye and vision research by funding promising scientists early in their careers. This mission has been fulfilled consistently and with passion throughout our history.



FIGHT FOR SIGHT The Year In Review: 2018

OUR SCIENTISTS



Paul A. Sieving, MD, PhD, Director of the National Eye Institute, the section of the National Institutes of Health that focuses on vision research, is a 1980 *FFS* Grant-in-Aid recipient.

1989 Grant-in-Aid recipient, Joel S. Schuman, MD, FACS, Chair of Ophthalmology at NYU Langone Medical Center, received *FFS's* 2018 Alumni Achievement Award at the annual ARVO meeting.

Dr. Jordan Greco received a 2018 *FFS* Grant-In-Aid award for developing a protein-based artificial retina at the Univ. of Connecticut.

FFS maintains an alumni network that mentors future eye researchers. Pictured: Roy S. Chuck, MD, PhD, Chair of Ophthalmology, Montefiore Medical Center; Davis Uzo Anugo, 2017 Summer Student Fellowship recipient; Selina S. Soloman, PhD, 2017 Postdoctoral Awardee, and Rebecca S. McGreal, PhD, 2016 Postdoctoral Awardee.

OUR FUNDRAISING



American sports icon Nancy Kerrigan returned as the 2018 Lights-On emcee, shown here with Gala Chair, John LaSpina and Board President, Dr. Norman Kleiman.

Renowned Broadway Producer Barry Brown was honored with the 2018 Special Star Award. He recounted his recent personal confrontation with eye disease during his acceptance speech.

Special guest Bernadette Peters introduced Barry Brown to the Gala audience. Ms. Peters also read congratulatory letters from actors Angela Lansbury and Tyne Daly.

FFS Board President Dr. Norman Kleiman with our 2018 Lights-On Honorees: Broadway producer, Barry Brown, Dr. Eduardo C. Alfonso, Director, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, and David E. Acker, ScD, Co-Founder and CEO, TECLens.

OUR OUTREACH IN THE EYE AND VISION COMMUNITY



Mary Elizabeth Hartnett, MD, FARVO, surgeon and researcher at the University of Utah's John A. Moran Eye Center, received ARVO's 2018 Weisenfeld Award at the organization's international conference in Honolulu.

Janice Benson, *FFS's* Associate Director, speaks about Mildred Weisenfeld's legacy. Ms. Benson was hired by Mildred Weisenfeld in 1993.

Saving Sight is a new *FFS* grant partner. Arthur Makar is shown with Patrick Gore, Chief Business Development Officer and Lynn Forest-Smith, Director of Business Development, at the ARVO Conference.

FFS was represented at a Research to Prevent Blindness sponsored meeting of vision research funders and other stakeholders in Washington, DC in April.

...and our commitment to eye and vision research continues with grants to the twenty promising scientists highlighted on the other side of this report.

2018 GRANTS-IN-AID



Gregory Bramblett, MD, PhD
 Preservation and Restoration of Vision after Traumatic Optic Nerve Injury
 US Army Institute of Surgical Research
FFS – MTEC Grant-in-Aid



Jae-Hyun Jung, PhD
 Field Expansion for Acquired Monocular Vision
 Schepens Eye Research Institute



Jordan Greco, PhD
 Characterization of an Ion-Mediated Protein-Based Retinal Implant
 University of Connecticut
FFS – International Retinal Research Foundation Grant-in-Aid

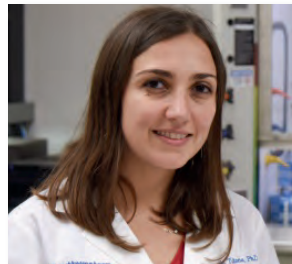
2018 POSTDOCTORAL AWARDS



Henri Leinonen, PhD
 Preventing retinal degeneration with FDA-accepted compounds
 Case Western Reserve University
FFS – Curing Retinal Blindness Postdoctoral Award



Mohamed M. Ibrahim, PhD
 Novel glaucoma therapy
 University of Tennessee Health Science Center

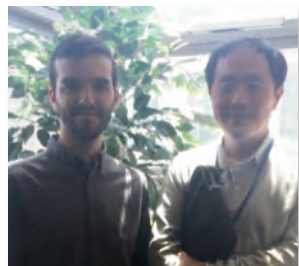


Rossella Titone, PhD
 Autophagy in corneal infection
 UT Southwestern Medical Center

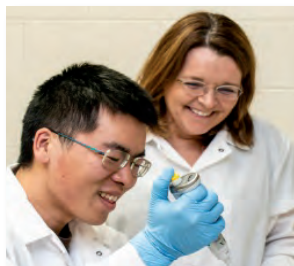


Keirnan Willett, MD
 Vascular biomarkers in retinal gene therapy for Leber Congenital Amaurosis & Choroideremia
 University of Pennsylvania
FFS – Choroideremia Research Foundation Postdoctoral Award

2018 SUMMER STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS



David Castillejos
 Small molecule regulators of retinal cell function
 Columbia University
 Mentor: Jonathan Lin, MD, PhD



Kore Chan
 Rapalog therapy to mitigate Vigabatrin retinal toxicity
 University of Wisconsin-Madison
 Mentor: Gillian McLellan, PhD



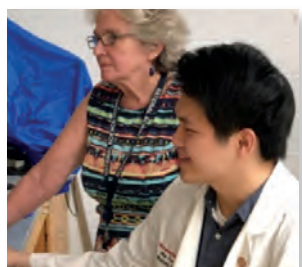
Amy Evans
 Molecular mechanisms of signal transmission in retinal photoreceptor cells
 University of Iowa
 Mentor: Sheila Baker, PhD



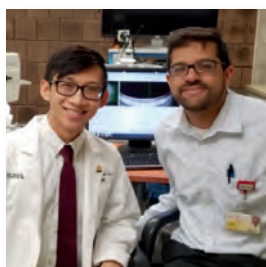
Daniel Hass
 Glaucoma therapy
 Pennsylvania State University
 Mentor: Colin Barnstable, DPhil



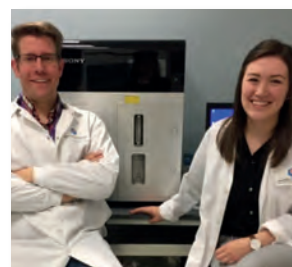
Jaeyoung Heo
 Primary open-angle glaucoma (POAG)
 Case Western Reserve Univ.
 Mentor: Douglas Rhee, MD



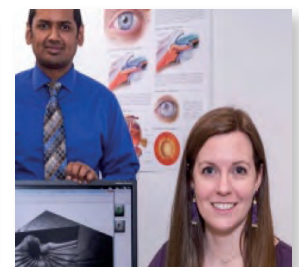
Min Tae Kim
 Corneal wound healing in diabetes
 Boston University
 Mentor: Vickery Trinkaus-Randall, PhD
FFS – Saving Sight Summer Student Fellowship



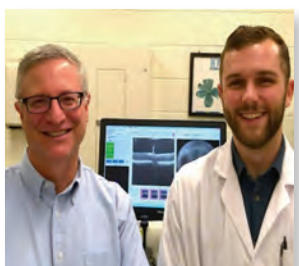
Christopher Le
 Biomarkers for measuring glaucoma progression
 University of Maryland
 Mentor: Osamah Saeedi, MD



Nicole Mattson
 CRISPR/Cas9-based gene therapy for inherited visual disorders
 University of Washington
 Mentor: Tim Cherry, PhD



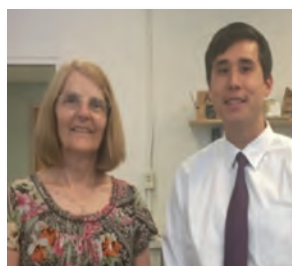
Laura Pardon
 Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) diagnosis in Papilledema
 University of Houston
 Mentor: Nimesh Patel, OD, PhD



Collin Richards
 Retinal rod cell mitochondrial reserves during oxidative stress
 Wayne State University
 Mentor: Bruce Berkowitz, PhD



Weilin Song
 Epidemiology of Age-related Macular Degeneration
 Cleveland Clinic
 Mentor: Rishi Singh, MD
FFS – American Macular Degeneration Foundation Summer Student Fellowship



George Tye
 Glaucoma risk and structural differences between ethnicities
 Case Western Reserve University
 Mentor: Carol Toris, PhD
FFS – Earl & Shirley Herbst Eye Research Foundation Summer Student Fellowship



Sean Wang
 Therapeutic targets for treating Retinitis Pigmentosa
 Harvard Medical School
 Mentor: Constance Cepko, PhD



Fight for Sight

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