



FIGHT FOR SIGHT

The Year In Review: 2019

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.

SCIENTISTS



Mary Elizabeth Hartnett, MD, University of Utah Moran Eye Center and 2018 ARVO Weisenfeld Award winner with **Sheila West, PhD**, Wilmer Eye Institute and the Department of Epidemiology at John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, ARVO's 2019 Weisenfeld Award winner. Mildred would be proud.



Paul Sieving, MD, PhD, Director of The National Eye Institute, who received a 1980 *FFS* Grant-in-Aid, was recipient of our 2019 Alumni Achievement Award.



Eve J. Higginbotham, SM, MD, Vice Dean for Inclusion and Diversity of the Perelman School of Medicine, and Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Pennsylvania received the 2019 Physician Scientist Award at this year's *FFS Lights-On Gala*. She received a 1985 *FFS* Grant-in-Aid.

FUNDRAISING



James Wang presented an estate gift of \$500,000 to **Norman Kleiman, PhD**, *FFS* Board President, during *Lights-On*. It will be used to fund Glaucoma and Macular Degeneration Research.



Lights-On Chairman, past Honoree and *FFS* Board member, **John LaSpina**, with **Nancy Kerrigan**, 2019 *Lights-On* Emcee and past Honoree.

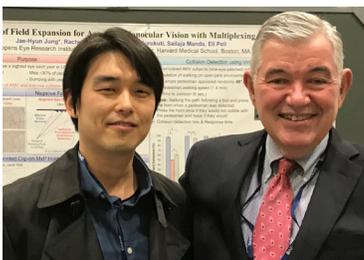


Tony and Emmy Award winning actress, **Donna Murphy**, received *FFS's* 2019 Special Star Award.



Bryan and Bradford Manning, retailing entrepreneurs and vision research funders – also known as Two Blind Brothers, received *FFS's* 2019 Vision Research Advocate Award.

THE RESULTS OF OUR EFFORTS



Jae-Hyun Jung, PhD, a scientist from Schepens Eye Research Institute, presented a poster during ARVO, citing research funded through a 2018 *FFS* Grant-in-Aid. He is seen here with Executive Director **Arthur Makar**.



FFS hosted a November screening of the film, *Going Blind*, for donors and other friends. It was followed by a discussion featuring **Joel Schuman, MD**, (1989 *FFS* Grant-in-Aid recipient) Chairman of Ophthalmology at NYU Langone Medical Center and *FFS* Board member; **Serena Sukhija, OD**, Low Vision Services Coordinator at NY Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai; moderated by the filmmaker, **Joe Lovett**.



Jordan Greco, PhD, is another 2018 *FFS* Grant-In-Aid recipient. Dr. Greco also presented a poster during ARVO, using *FFS* funded research.

2019 GRANT-IN-AID



Reyna Martinez-DeLuna, PhD

The Role of B2 and γ 3-Containing Laminins in Intrinsically Photosensitive Ganglion Cell Development

Upstate Medical University, SUNY

FFS-International Retinal Research Foundation Grant-in-Aid

2019 POSTDOCTORAL AWARD



Sriganesh Ramachandra Rao, PhD

Studies on the Requirement of Dolichol Synthesis-Dependent N-Glycosylation during Photoreceptor Development

University at Buffalo, SUNY

Mentor: **Steven Fliesler, PhD**

2019 SUMMER STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS



Samuel Adade

Neural Innervation of Superior Oblique Muscle during Vertical Vergence in Non-Human Primates

University of Houston

Mentor: **Vallabh Das, PhD**



Salma Al Saai

Investigation of TDRD7 Function in Lens Development and Cataract Pathobiology

University of Delaware

Mentor: **Lachke Salil, PhD**

FFS – Basil V. Worgul Lens Research Award



Elisa Arlotti

Memory T Cells in the Parthenogenesis of Glaucoma

Schepens Eye Research Institute
Mentor: **Dong Feng Chen, MD, PhD**

FFS – Aniridia Foundation International Award

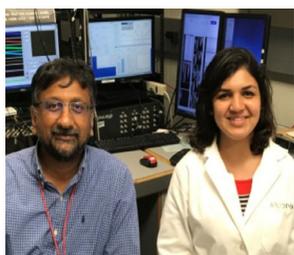


Xiaoke Bi

ATF6 Signaling of Unfolded Protein Response is Essential for Cone Photoreceptor Survival

University of California, San Diego

Mentor: **Jonathan Lin, MD, PhD**
(Not Shown)



Apoorva Karsolia

Properties of Primary Somato-Sensory Cortex Eye Position Neurons in Strabismic Monkeys

University of Houston

Mentor: **Vallabh Das, PhD**



Nicole Karson

Functional and Structural Retinal Examination Outcomes in Patients with Prediabetes and Type 2 Diabetes

University of Houston

Mentor: **Wendy Harrison, OD, PhD**



Ashley Park

Quantification of the Effect of IOP Lowering on Erythrocyte Velocity in Episcleral Veins In Vivo

University of Maryland

Mentor: **Osamah Saeedi, MD**



Ali Salehi

Detecting Progression of Glaucoma from Optic Nerve Head Images using a Convolutional Neural Network

University of Memphis

Mentor: **Balasubramanian Madhusudhanan, PhD**

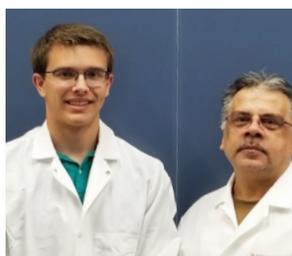


Ari Stoner

Objective Measurement of Sleep Quality and Physical Activity in Open-Angle Glaucoma by Actigraphy

University of Colorado

Mentor: **Leonard Seibold, MD**



Andrew Suscha

Anti-Inflammatory Dietary Tryptophan Metabolites and Diabetic Retinopathy

University of Wisconsin, Madison

Mentor: **Nader Sheibani, PhD**



Tu Tran

CRISPR/Cas9-Mediated Gene Editing to Suppress Choroidal Neovascularization

University of California, Davis

Mentor: **Glenn Yiu, MD, PhD**

FFS – American Macular Degeneration Foundation Summer Student Fellowship



Kalila Wash

Advancing Stem Cell Based Therapeutics for Age-Related Macular Degeneration

University of California, Santa Barbara

Mentor: **Dennis Clegg, PhD**

FFS – American Macular Degeneration Foundation Summer Student Fellowship



Fight for Sight

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