Dear Supporters, Alumni, Mentors and Friends,

We are pleased to share with you Fight for Sight’s (FFS) 2016 Annual Report. It documents our seven decades’ long pursuit of our founder Mildred Weisenfeld’s mission to support and inspire eye and vision research by funding promising scientists early in their careers. During this past year, we funded twenty new clinical and academic researchers hailing from some of our nation’s most prestigious institutions including Harvard Medical School, Johns Hopkins University, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute and the University of Iowa, to mention but a few. Details about all of our 2016 grantees, who we fully expect will blossom into the next generation of leaders in ophthalmology research for the 21st century, can be found throughout this report. Your support and generosity will continue to enable their future success.

In addition to the exciting new research initiated by our newest FFS investigators, 2016 highlights include:

• New partnerships with the Glaucoma Research Foundation, Choroideremia Research Foundation and individual donors – augmenting other FFS alliances developed in recent years with, among others, the American Macular Degeneration Foundation, International Retinal Research Foundation and Prevent Blindness America.

• Successful fundraising and public outreach efforts through our annual Lights-On gala and Strike for Sight bowling event. These fundraising efforts are supported by greater visibility on social media including Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

• Expanding awareness and support of Fight for Sight among members of professional organizations including the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO), Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO), and the American Academy of Optometry.

Since its inception, FFS has been blessed by the generosity of donors who have included us in their estate planning. In 2016, almost 70% of our income came from bequest and trust gifts, which allowed us to end the year on a positive financial note. These gifts are critical to increasing our endowment, an essential element in ensuring FFS’s continued financial health. We ask you to consider making a bequest to FFS or including us as a beneficiary in your planned giving. Remembering us in this way will help fulfill Mildred’s passion and vision for eye and vision research for many years to come.

We thank you for your partnership with us during 2016 – as a donor, grantee, Scientific Review Committee member, fundraising volunteer or friend, and look forward to our work together as we cure blinding eye diseases and find better treatments for those afflicted.

Sincerely yours,

Norman J. Kleiman, Ph.D.  Arthur Makar
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS  EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
2016 Grants-in-Aid

Grants in Aid (GIA) are intended to fund pilot projects and generate preliminary results for investigators who have limited or no other research funding. Grants-in-Aid are awarded to junior faculty members who are developing their independent scientific skills. A majority of Grant-in-Aid recipients go on to successfully compete for larger, multi-year awards from the NIH or other governmental and private sources utilizing preliminary results generated by their FFS-funded GIA award.

2016 Post-Doctoral

Post Doctoral Awards support individuals with a doctorate (PhD, MD, DrPH, OD or DVM) who are interested in academic careers in basic or clinical research in ophthalmology, vision or related sciences. Awardees typically spend a year of more engaged in vision and eye research under the supervision of a senior scientist/clinician mentor.
2016 Summer Student Fellowships

Summer Student Fellowships are awarded to undergraduates, graduate and medical students interested in pursuing eye-related clinical or basic research. For most students, this is their first exposure to eye or vision research, and the experience has helped influence many students to choose academic ophthalmology or eye and vision research as a full-time career.

Age-Related Macular Degeneration
Meleha Ahmad
NYU School of Medicine
Harvey Knopman Award

Age-Related Cataracts
Ramachandran Balasubramanian
University of Delaware
Basil V. Worgul Lens Research Award

Fungal Endophthalmitis
Joshua W. Barbosa
Wayne State University
John and Anita LaSpina Award

Diabetic Retinopathy
Karen M. Wai
Cleveland Clinic
Earl & Shirley Herbst Eye Research Award

Congenital Eye Defects
Soma Dash
University of Delaware
Earl & Shirley Herbst Eye Research Award

Diabetic Retinopathy
Hannah J. T. Fisher
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Streilein Foundation for Ocular Immunology

Retinal Ganglion Cell Injury, Glaucoma
Timothy D. Holley
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, U. of Miami School of Med.
Dr. James C. Tsai Award

Retinal Imaging
Rachel E. Linderman
Medical College of Wisconsin
Nicholas Cacciola Award

Corneal Transplants
Manuel Ramirez-Garcia
University of Rochester
Eye Bank for Sight Restoration Award

Smith-Lemli-Opitz Syndrome
Sriganesh Ramachandra Rao
University at Buffalo, SUNY

Aniridia
Matthew R. Riccetti
University of Dayton
Aniridia Foundation International

Retinal Photoreceptor Damage
Catherine T. Tran
Wayne State University

Elizabeth R. Curtiss,
Wayne State University;
Diabetic Retinopathy

Kasra Zarei,
University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine;
Glaucoma
The Scientific Review Committee (SRC) is charged with reviewing and evaluating grant applications for Summer Student Fellowships, Post-Doctoral Awards and Grants-in-Aid. It is composed of prominent research scientists, academic ophthalmologists and clinician scientists representing a broad range of disciplines in ophthalmology, vision and eye research. Many received a FFS grant earlier in their career and/or have served as FFS mentors to the next generation of awardees.

FFS strives to create a diverse group of reviewers representing many of the best academic and clinical institutions across the country, who help us choose the best and brightest young students and scientists for our awards. Our review process is modeled on the peer review system utilized by the National Institutes of Health, which evaluates and ranks each application on scientific merit, strength of institutional resources and clinical relevance. The SRC meets annually to review award applications in roundtable discussions among its members. The SRC is one of Fight for Sight's greatest assets, and we are extremely grateful for their assistance, dedication and hard work.

2016 Reviewers

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Duke University
Duke University
Illinois Eye & Ear Infirmary
Georgia State University
Johns Hopkins University
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Jules Stein Eye Institute, UCLA
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Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary
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New England College of Optometry
New York Eye & Ear Infirmary of Mt. Sinai
New York Eye & Ear Infirmary of Mt. Sinai
New York Eye & Ear Infirmary of Mt. Sinai
How Can You Help Fight for Sight?

For seven decades, Fight for Sight has been dependent on individuals, the scientific and medical communities, foundations and corporate philanthropy to advance our mission to support and inspire eye and vision research by funding promising scientists early in their careers. Today, we need your help more than ever. Here are some very specific ways for you to help us:

- Make a donation to Fight for Sight on our website, www.fightforsight.org, or mail your contribution to Fight for Sight, 381 Park Avenue South, #809, New York, NY 10016. If you, your spouse or significant other works for an employer with a matching gift program, your gift could be doubled.

- Consider joining the Mildred Weisenfeld Society, a group of individuals who have included Fight for Sight in their estate plans. For specific information about membership in the Mildred Weisenfeld Society or to discuss other planned gift options, please contact Arthur Makar at (212) 679-6060.

- If you are a past Fight for Sight grantee, consider joining our Scientific Review Committee. Membership applications for this critical group of scientist/educators are available on our website, www.fightforsight.org. Go to the "About Us" tab, then to the Scientific Review Committee section.

- Past grantees are the best mentors to future Fight for Sight grant recipients. Encourage your best and brightest younger colleagues to apply for our various grants for which they are eligible.

- Fight for Sight is active on social media including Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Please join us and use our social media to share your achievements in eye and vision research.

- Fight for Sight needs volunteers to assist with fundraising and with general office duties. If you live or work in the Metro New York area, please call (212) 679-6060 if you wish to become a volunteer.

For more information, visit www.fightforsight.org
Financial Highlights

Generous donors and prudent financial management are critical to FFS’s success. The numbers from our 2016 audit underscore our expertise in this area. FFS’s program spending ratio was 66%. This means that for every dollar spent, 66 cents went towards program services.

![Graphs showing sources of revenue and expenses]

**SOURCE OF FUNDS**
- Foundations and corporations: $108,784
- Bequests & trusts: $579,999
- Investment income: $45,367
- Events income: $83,628
- Other income: $22,610
- Total operating revenue: $840,388

**EXPENSES**
- Staff and professional fees: $273,395
- Occupancy: $87,937
- Grants: $173,000
- Meetings and conferences: $23,948
- Other expenses: $45,488
- Total operating expenses: $603,768
- Income in excess of expenses: $236,620
Partner Spotlight

*Fight for Sight* recognizes and thanks the organizations listed below as grant partners, allowing us to co-fund scientists in specialized areas of eye and vision research.

**AMDF**
American Macular Degeneration Foundation

Since 2012, we have co-funded Summer Student Fellowships focusing on macular degeneration through our partnership with the AMDF.

**Aniridia Foundation International**

Fight for Sight co-funds a Summer Student Fellowship focused on aniridia research in partnership with Aniridia Foundation International.

**Choroideremia Research Foundation**

A Summer Student Fellowship, Post-Doctoral Award and Grant-in-Aid are eligible for funding in partnership with the Choroideremia Foundation.

**Earl & Shirley Herbst Eye Research Fund**

Two Summer Student Fellowships are offered annually through a partnership with the Earl & Shirley Herbst Eye Research Fund.

**Glaucoma Research Foundation**

A Post-Doctoral Award and Summer Student Fellowship are funded in partnership with the Glaucoma Research Foundation.

**International Retinal Research Foundation**

Fight for Sight funded its first annual Grant-in-Aid with the International Retinal Research Foundation in 2013. Two Grants-in-Aid are now funded through this partnership.

**Lirot**

A Summer Student fellowship is available through a partnership with Lirot, the Israeli eye and vision research organization, restricted to students studying in Israel.

**Lions Eye Institute for Transplant & Research**

A partnership related to transplantation of eye tissue was brokered in 2012 between Fight for Sight and the Lions Eye Institute for Transplant & Research.

**International Neuro-Ophthalmology Society**

In partnership with the North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society, we offer a special research fellowship for neurology or ophthalmology residents or fellows pursuing academic research in neuro-ophthalmology.

**Prevent Blindness**

In 2018, Fight for Sight will resume a public health-focused Grant-in-Aid with Prevent Blindness.

**Streilein Foundation for Ocular Immunology**

We have offered a Summer Student Fellowship focusing on ocular immunology in partnership with the Streilein Foundation.

**The Eye Bank for Sight Restoration, Inc.**

Since 2011, we have partnered with The Eye Bank for Sight Restoration, co-funding a Summer Student Fellowship related to corneal transplantation research. Preference is given to applicants from the Northeastern United States.

**Women's Eye Health Research Fund**

We have partnered with Women's EyeHealth.org to fund a Summer Student Fellowship to study gender-based disparities in vision health, treatment and/or eye disease prevention.

**Basil V. Worgul Lens Research**

Fight for Sight awards the Basil V. Worgul Lens Research Summer Student Fellowship to honor the memory of Professor Basil V. Worgul, who was internationally recognized for his work in radiation cataract.
We would like to thank all of our donors for their generosity in helping Fight for Sight provide grants to uniquely qualified students.
2016 LIGHTS-ON GALA SILENT AUCTION ITEM DONORS

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Since 1946, Fight for Sight has supported and inspired eye and vision research by funding promising scientists early in their careers.

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