2020 Grant Recipients

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.

2020 Grants-In-Aid Awards

Carolina Arias, PhD
Establishing retinal organoids as models for the study of herpetic retinopathies
University of California, Santa Barbara
FFS – International Retinal Research Foundation Grant-in-Aid

Angela Elam, MD
Engagement in telemedicine-based glaucoma screening in community clinics
University of Michigan
FFS – Prevent Blindness Joanne Angle Public Health Award

Benjamin Xu, MD, PhD
Development of quantitative OCT-based methods to detect and evaluate biometric risk factors for primary angle closure disease
University of Southern California
FFS – Leonard & Robert Weintraub Family Foundation Grant-in-Aid

2020 Post-Doctoral Awards

Pinar Demirayak, PhD
Identifying cortical laminar architecture changes associated with compensation for central vision loss due to macular degeneration
University of Alabama, Birmingham
Mentor: Kristina Visscher, PhD
FFS – Mae Sun Wang Post-Doctoral Award

Raven Diacou, PhD
Generation of PAX6 mutations in human stem cells to model aniridia
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Mentor: Ales Cvekl, PhD
FFS – Aniridia Foundation International Post-Doctoral Award

Jason Miller, MD, PhD
Identifying non-toxic autophagy inducers as therapy for dry AMD
University of Michigan
Mentor: Kouros Nouri-Mahdavi, MD, MSc
FFS – American Macular Degeneration Foundation Post-Doctoral Award

Vahid Mohammadzadeh, MD
Prediction of central functional measurements with macular OCT imaging in glaucoma: an AI approach
Jules Stein Eye Institute, UCLA
Mentor: Kouros Nouri-Mahdavi, MD, MSc
FFS – Mae Sun Wang Post-Doctoral Award
2020 Post-Doctoral Awards continued

**Kelly Mulfaul, PhD**
Role of CFH protein in protecting choroidal endothelial cells from membrane attack, complex formation and cellular lysis in age-related macular degeneration
*University of Iowa*
*Mentor: Robert Mullins, PhD (not pictured)*
*FFS – American Macular Degeneration Foundation Post-Doctoral Award*

**Ganeswara Rao Musada, PhD**
Wnt5a: a novel regulator of retinal ganglion cell axon growth
*University of Miami*
*Mentor: Abigail Hackam, PhD (not pictured)*
*FFS – Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium Post-Doctoral Award*

**Daisy Shu, PhD**
Tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNFα) in the interplay of inflammation, metabolism and age-related macular degeneration
*Schepens Eye Research Institute*
*Mentor: Magali Saint-Geniez, PhD*
*FFS – Leonard & Robert Weintraub Family Foundation Post-Doctoral Award*

2020 Summer Student Fellowships

**Ji Soo Choi**
Anti-EGFR antibody drug conjugates for targeted therapy of retinoblastoma
*University of Buffalo*
*Mentor: Gail Seigel, PhD*
*FFS – Leonard & Robert Weintraub Family Foundation Summer Student Fellowship*

**Adam Faranda**
Pax6 haploinsufficiency promotes Runx1 mediated fibrosis in aniridia
*University of Delaware*
*Mentor: Melinda Duncan, PhD*
*FFS – Aniridia Foundation International Summer Student Fellowship*

**Matthew Hunt**
Real-world assessment of visual impairment in age-related macular degeneration in the anti-VEGF era using the AAO IRIS Registry
*University of Washington, Seattle*
*Mentor: Aaron Lee, MD, MSc (not pictured)*
*FFS – American Macular Degeneration Foundation Summer Student Fellowship*

**Abhishek Sethi**
Multi-view deep learning algorithm with imaging and clinical text data for glaucoma classification
*University of Illinois, Chicago*
*Mentor: Joelle Hallak, PhD (not pictured)*
*FFS – Mae Sun Wang Summer Student Fellowship*

**Catherine Urbano**
Real-world treatment patterns in a population with neovascular age-related macular degeneration treated with anti-vascular endothelial growth factor agents
*Cleveland Clinic Foundation*
*Mentor: Rishi Singh, MD*
*FFS – Mae Sun Wang Summer Student Fellowship*