



UNWAVERING

2018 Annual Report

Alzheimer's Disease Research
Macular Degeneration Research
National Glaucoma Research



BrightFocus[®]
Foundation

Cure in Mind. Cure in Sight.



BrightFocus is leading the fight to defeat diseases of mind and sight.

Our three scientific research programs are Alzheimer's Disease Research, Macular Degeneration Research, and National Glaucoma Research.

UNTIL

**A CURE
IS
FOUND.**

Dear Friends,

Welcome to BrightFocus Foundation, a premier source of research funding to defeat Alzheimer’s disease, macular degeneration, and glaucoma. By investing worldwide toward cures for diseases of mind and sight, we are turning fear into hope.

Because of the strong support of our donors, BrightFocus’ cutting-edge science is pursuing the untried, the unexpected, and the most promising. These are the bold “what-if’s” of science that, if given a chance, may someday change the lives of millions.

We are blazing new trails of discovery, paving the way for a new screening platform to more quickly test potential Alzheimer’s drugs, as well as a clinical trial for a groundbreaking drug-delivering device implanted directly into the eye to combat vision diseases. We are bringing brain and eye researchers together to explore common neurodegenerative features, leveraging the breakthroughs from one field to help another. Through our signature Fast Track programs and fellowships, we are sowing the seeds of the next generation of science.

This is personal – we have all been impacted by these diseases. You can see it in the drive of our scientists, the generosity of our donors, and the dedication of our staff. We don’t fear the inability to find cures. We only fear that we won’t find them soon enough to help someone we love.



STACY PAGOS HALLER
President and CEO



SCOTT D. RODGVILLE, CPA
Chair, Board of Directors

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EVERY 65 SECONDS ANOTHER AMERICAN DEVELOPS ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

ALZHEIMER'S
DISEASE
RESEARCH

*From the lab of
Benjamin Hogan, PhD,
University of Queensland
(Australia)*

41 NEW ALZHEIMER'S PROJECTS

Alzheimer's disease is among the most expensive illnesses in the U.S. There's no cure, no effective treatment, and no easy fix for the skyrocketing financial cost of caring for an aging population.

Ian Levingston, *Bloomberg*

An estimated 5.7 million
people live with Alzheimer's disease
in the United States today: by 2050
there will be close to **15 million.**



BrightFocus had the wisdom and foresight to understand that this project could lead to a novel treatment for Alzheimer's.

It is a foundation that has the guts to fund a high risk, innovative idea.

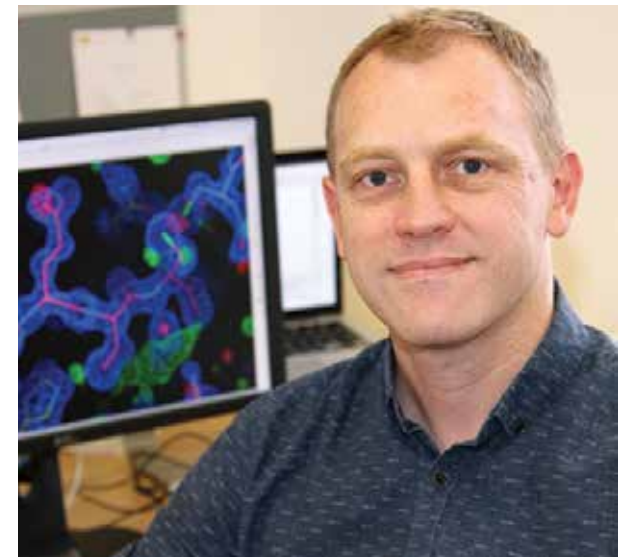
Donald Weaver, MD, PhD



*Saima Hilal (top right),
Erasmus Medical Center
(Netherlands)*

*Donald Weaver, MD, PhD
(above right)*

*Brett Collins, PhD (right),
The University of
Queensland (Australia)*





EXERCISE: WHEN THE PROJECT BECOMES PERSONAL

Thanks to support from BrightFocus, a Louisiana scientist is able to pursue both his professional and personal interest in the effects of physical activity on dementia risk in older African Americans.

Dr. Robert Newton is an associate professor at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge. Along with Dr. Owen Carmichael, he designed the Program for African American Cognition and Exercise (PAACE). The goal: to determine if physical activity has a positive effect on brain functioning in older African Americans.

"I have always been physically active," says Newton. "So engaging in research to find

ways to help people initiate and maintain physical activity is a natural fit for me."

Newton's interest was piqued early in his career when he learned about the lack of dementia research in African Americans, and that this population experiences health disparities across a range of chronic diseases.

The project became personal when Newton saw that his mother was experiencing cognitive decline. "As you can imagine, I have found new inspiration for my work: to find physical activity routines that will help stave off impending dementia for my mother."



#InsideAlz Twitter chats (above) showcase scientists like Dr. Robert Newton, in Alzheimer's research, who are looking for treatments and cures in bold, innovative ways.

ALZHEIMER'S AND CAREGIVING: AN EVENING WITH KIM CAMPBELL



Janine Starinsky, Mario Cornacchione, Kim Campbell

Over 250 area residents attended a BrightFocus event in Scranton, PA to hear from experts in Alzheimer's treatment, caregiving, and clinical trials. Pennsylvania Secretary on Aging Teresa Osborne opened the event, followed by speakers including Kim Campbell, who cared for her husband, the late country music legend Glen Campbell, during his battle with Alzheimer's. She spoke of the toll of a "long and hard journey" and shared her blog, CareLiving.org, named that because, "you've got to keep living your life" while caregiving.

Dr. Mario Cornacchione, DO, MS, FAAFP, at Geisinger School of Medicine, runs several local Alzheimer's clinical trials and told the audience that his goal is to "raise the volume on the disease," including greater participation in clinical trials.

Janine Starinsky of Oakwood Terrace Memory Care gave advice for families considering joining a memory care community, stressing that "Alzheimer's doesn't take away dignity, our reaction to it does." Her tips for families are, "accept it, expect it, and absorb it – plan ahead."



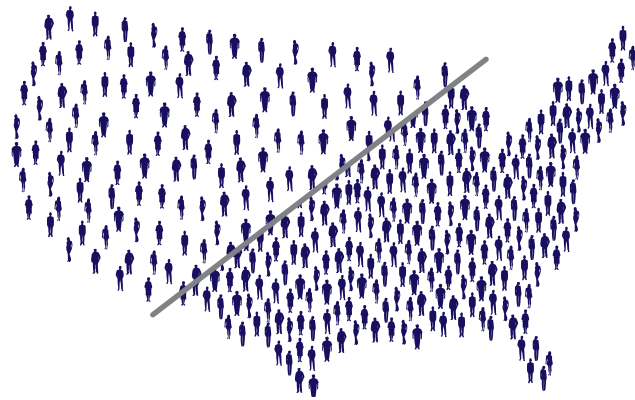
11 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE MACULAR DEGENERATION

MACULAR
DEGENERATION
RESEARCH

*From the lab of
Claudio Punzo, PhD,
University of
Massachusetts
Medical Center*

18 NEW MACULAR DEGENERATION PROJECTS

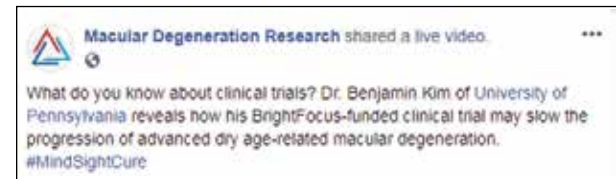
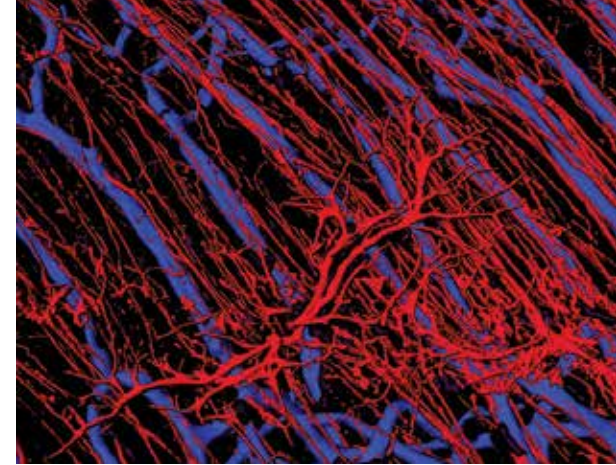
Age-related macular degeneration is a leading cause of irreversible vision loss in the United States, and for Caucasians older than 40 it is the leading cause of blindness.



**The incidence
of macular
degeneration
is expected to
double
by 2050.**

*From the lab of
Malia Edwards, PhD
(top right), Wilmer Eye
Institute, Johns Hopkins
University*

*Facebook Live with
Benjamin Kim, MD (right),
University of Pennsylvania
Student in lab (bottom right)
of Astra Dinculescu, PhD,
University of Florida*





HOW DOES DIET AFFECT MACULAR DEGENERATION?

Sheldon Rowan, PhD, a professor of ophthalmology at Tufts University School of Medicine and scientist with the Nutrition and Vision Research Laboratory at the Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging, is looking at “the interaction of diet, age, and risk for age-related macular degeneration.”

Rowan, who knew since high school that he wanted to be a researcher, began to study the eye and development of the ocular structures during his graduate work.

With support from BrightFocus, his current research focuses on the fact that “risk

for macular degeneration comes from environmental causes, particularly our diets and nutrition; however, we don’t know why these dietary factors change the risk of AMD or how they affect our bodies,” says Rowan.

“I’m really interested in understanding how we can define the role of gut bacteria. Is it protective? How does it contribute to the disease? I think of nutrition as something that is a potential treatment for age-related macular degeneration. Giving people good advice on how they could modify their diet, what they eat, and the impact on the risk for disease... this could actually have an impact on disease.”



BrightFocus held a Healthy Recipe Contest during February, Age-Related Macular Degeneration and Low Vision Awareness Month to increase awareness of vision health.

SHARING TIPS FOR FAMILIES

BrightFocus® Chats

Our free monthly telephone call-in series, the *BrightFocus Chats*, features the latest news and advice for those living with vision loss. Researchers, clinicians, and low vision specialists share their tips and answer questions from participants. The *Chats* are archived at BrightFocus.org.

Leona, a woman living with macular degeneration, joined

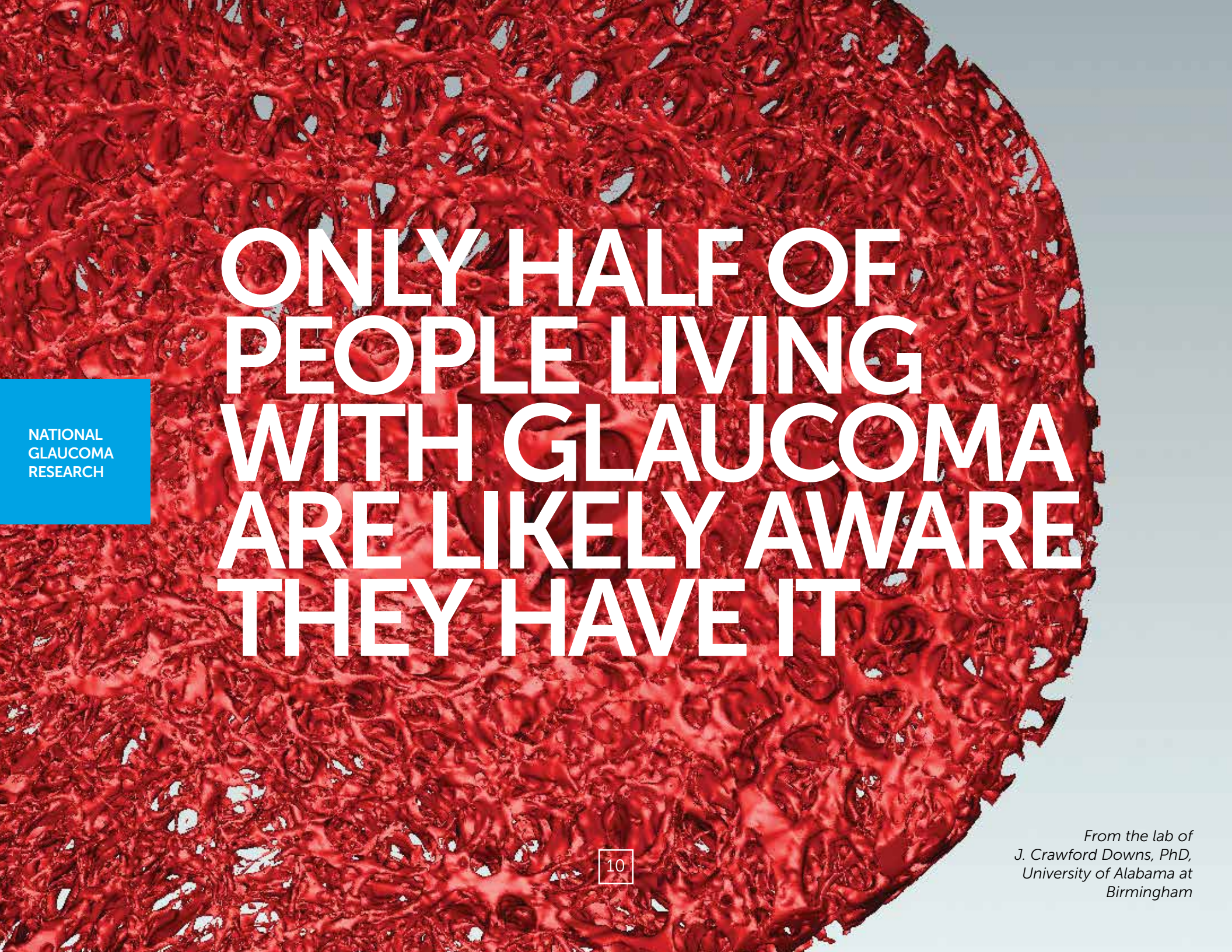
her daughter Sharon as guests on a recent *Chat* to provide their perspectives on managing the eye disease. Sharon's advice as her mother's caregiver is, "Go to every doctor's appointment. Ask the questions that the patient may forget to ask or be too anxious to ask. From the beginning, if somebody says, 'I think this is what I'm seeing' - take it seriously."



CLINICAL TRIALS TIPS AND TOOLS

BrightFocus has developed a guide to help families seeking information on clinical trials.

Clinical Trials: Your Questions Answered is available free upon request by email to info@brightfocus.org or download at BrightFocus.org. Families can also use the web site's trial finder tool, powered by Antidote, to identify clinical trials that may be of interest.



**ONLY HALF OF
PEOPLE LIVING
WITH GLAUCOMA
ARE LIKELY AWARE
THEY HAVE IT**

NATIONAL
GLAUCOMA
RESEARCH

13 NEW GLAUCOMA AWARDS

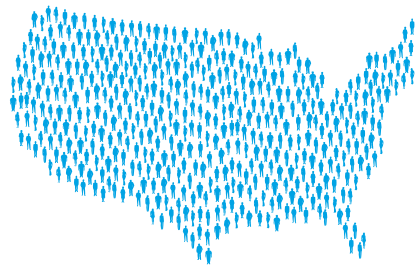
Glaucoma is the second leading cause of irreversible blindness worldwide according to the World Health Organization. And for Hispanics and African Americans in the United States, glaucoma is the leading cause of blindness.

TODAY



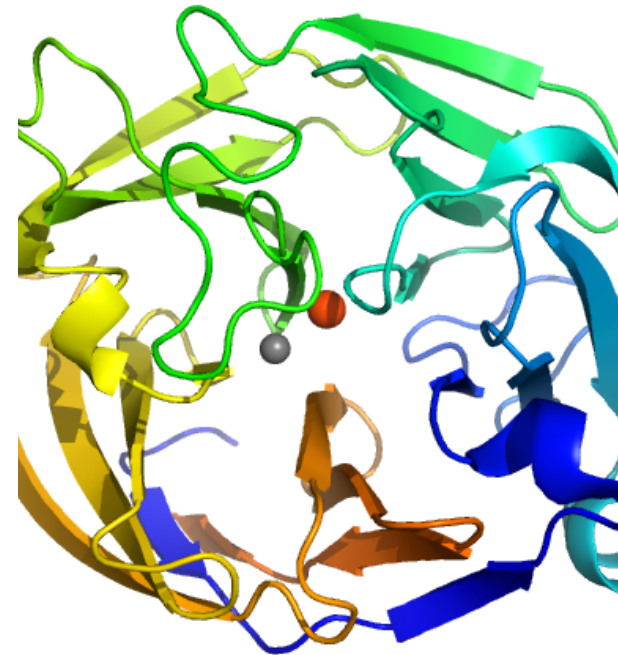
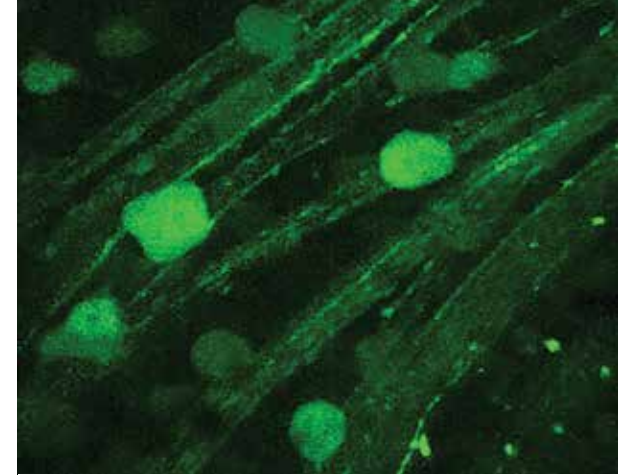
More than
3 million
Americans
aged 40 and older
have glaucoma.

BY 2050



It is estimated that
the number will double to
6 million
people.

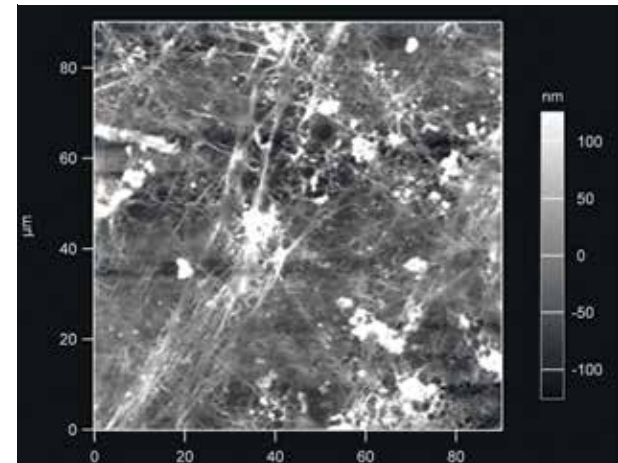
11



*From the lab of
Robert W. Nickells, PhD
(top right), University of
Wisconsin-Madison*

*From the lab of
Raquel Lieberman, PhD (right),
Georgia Institute of Technology*

*From the lab of
Vijay Krishna Raghunathan, PhD
(bottom right), University of
Houston*





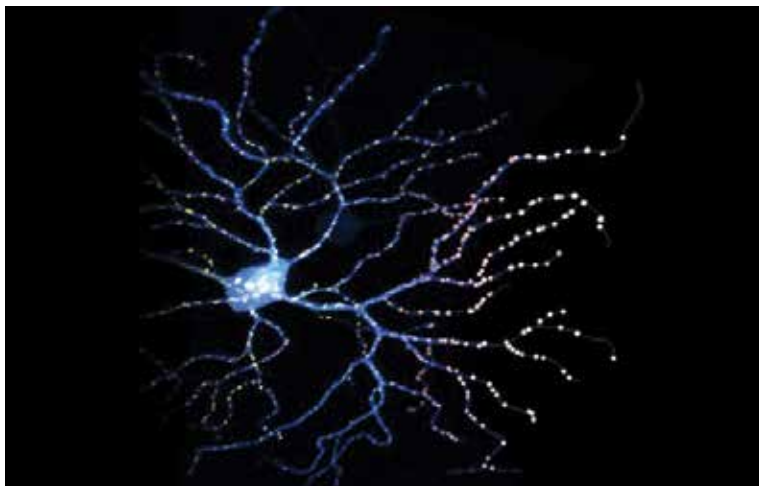
HELPING FAMILIES TODAY, SEARCHING FOR A CURE FOR TOMORROW

Ophthalmologist Yvonne Ou, MD, of the University of California, San Francisco, is driven by two goals: helping her patients in clinical practice and advancing our scientific understanding of glaucoma, a disease that can lead to vision loss and even blindness.

As the recipient of BrightFocus' *Dr. Douglas H. Johnson Award*, Ou is using this support to develop earlier and more effective ways to diagnose and treat glaucoma.

Through writing over 60 expert articles for BrightFocus.org, she has shared helpful information with a global audience about how to identify, treat, and manage glaucoma.

As a mother of young children, Ou says, "I have gained new appreciation for seeing the world through fresh eyes, and it is my hope to translate this by bringing new and fresh ideas to the field of glaucoma."



*From the lab of Yvonne Ou, MD (above top),
University of California, San Francisco*

*Ou with her laboratory team (above) at University
of California, San Francisco: Luca Della Santina,
Alfred Yu, Kelly Mai, Alan Tran*

INCUBATOR FOR RISING RESEARCHERS



More than 100 vision scientists from across the globe attended BrightFocus' first-ever Glaucoma Fast Track, a meeting modeled on the success of our signature Alzheimer's Fast Track program. Bringing together senior researchers with those new to the field, they reviewed the latest discoveries and research directions and fostered new collaborations to accelerate progress towards treatments and cures.



"Glaucoma Fast Track is an immersive learning opportunity specifically created for scientists who are starting or contemplating a career in glaucoma research," said Diane Bovenkamp, PhD, BrightFocus Vice President, Scientific Affairs.

*(Above, from left to right)
Ester Reina-Torres, PhD,
Imperial College London,
Diane Bovenkamp, PhD,
BrightFocus Foundation,
Jeffrey O'Callaghan, BA,
Trinity College Dublin*

\$13.5M AWARDED IN 2018

BrightFocus has invested more than \$50 million in research worldwide in the last four years alone.



2018 BRIGHTFOCUS GRANTS AT A GLANCE

BASIC – Research that aims to better understand how a disease happens, and to obtain new ideas of how to stop the disease.

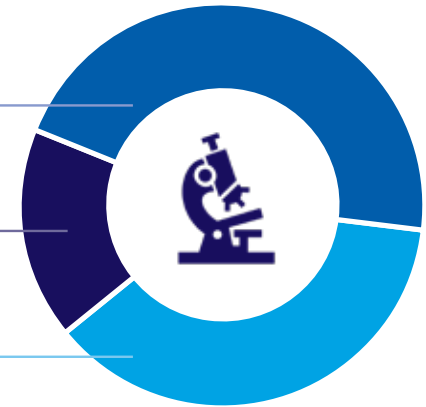
CLINICAL – Research involving volunteer participants to test the safety and effectiveness of drugs, devices, or other treatment candidates.

TRANSLATIONAL – Research to move findings from the lab bench to the “bedside” by testing potential treatments.

46%
BASIC RESEARCH GRANTS

17%
CLINICAL RESEARCH GRANTS

37%
TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH GRANTS



ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH

Ottavio Arancio, MD, PhD

Identifying How Tau Impairs Nerve Cell Communication in Alzheimer's Disease
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Mickael Audrain, PhD

Role of the Microglial Protein Tyrobp in the Pathogenesis of Tauopathy
ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI

Wei Cao, PhD

A New Immune Molecule in the Inflamed Alzheimer's Brain
BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Joseph Castellano, PhD

ApoE4's Effects on Blood Proteins and Brain Function in Alzheimer's Disease
ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI

Carol Y. Cheung, PhD

Recognizing a "Retinal Fingerprint" for Alzheimer's Using Artificial Intelligence
THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Brett Collins, PhD

Stabilizing Proteins to Prevent Amyloid Build-up in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's
THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND (AUSTRALIA)

Cara Croft, PhD

Using Brain Slices to Understand and Target Tau in Alzheimer's Disease
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Holly Cukier, PhD

Clarifying the Role of the ABCA7 Gene on Alzheimer's Risk and Development
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Weiwei Fan, PhD

Developing a New Alzheimer's Drug that Improves Lipid Metabolism in the Brain
THE SALK INSTITUTE FOR BIOLOGICAL STUDIES

Sara Gallant, PhD

This grant is made possible in part by support from Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles.

Arousal-Induced Memory Selectivity in Aging and Alzheimer's Disease
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Daniel Geschwind, MD, PhD

A Bioinformatics Approach to Identifying Disease Mechanisms in Tauopathy
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

Charles G. Glabe, PhD

Mechanism of Neuronal Death in Alzheimer's Disease
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

Ann-Charlotte Granholm-Bentley, PhD, DDS

International Brain Bank for Down Syndrome-Related Alzheimer's
KNOEBEL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTHY AGING, UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

Joshua Grill, PhD

Improving Recruitment to Prodromal Alzheimer's Disease Clinical Trials
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

Shermali Gunawardena, PhD

A Novel Therapeutic Device to Clear Axonal Blocks to Prevent Alzheimer's
SUNY, BUFFALO

Jason Hassenstab, PhD

Rapid Assessment of Cognition Using Smartphones to Track Early Alzheimer's Changes
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Congcong He, PhD

How Autophagy Recognizes and Degrades Alzheimer's Disease-Causing Amyloids in the Brain
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Zhuohao He, PhD

Studying a Type of Tau Protein that Specifically Aggregates in Alzheimer's Disease Brains
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Saima Hilal, PhD

The Impact of 'Silent' Small Strokes on Brain Function and Alzheimer's Development
ERASMUS MEDICAL CENTER (NETHERLANDS)

Benjamin Hogan, PhD

Characterization of Waste Clearance Pathways in the Vertebrate Brain
THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND (AUSTRALIA)

Celeste Karch, PhD

Defining the Role of CXCR4 in Alzheimer's Disease
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Sanjeev Kumar, MD, FRCPC

Identifying and Treating Agitation/Aggression in Dementia Using Non-Invasive Brain Stimulation
CENTRE FOR ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH (CANADA)

Timothy Miller, MD, PhD

Decreasing a Genetic Risk Factor for Alzheimer's and its Effect on Pathology and Cognition
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Goonho Park, PhD

A Novel Mechanism of Neuronal Disconnection in Early Stage Alzheimer's
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Stephanie Rainey-Smith, PhD

Can Good Sleep Prevent Alzheimer's Disease?
EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY (AUSTRALIA)

Farid Rajabli, PhD

Evaluating the Role of Ethnicity, Race, and Genetic Ancestry in Alzheimer's Disease
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Alex Smith, PhD

Why Is Brain Glucose Uptake Reduced in Alzheimer's Disease?
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO

Jeremy Strain, PhD

How Connections in the Brain Break Down in Alzheimer's Disease
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Jeffery Vance, MD, PhD

Identifying DNA Changes that Reduce ApoE Risk in Alzheimer's Disease
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

Chao Wang, PhD

A New Approach to Treating Tauopathy by Lowering Apolipoprotein E Level
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Jessica Young, PhD

A New Method to Assess Cellular Dysfunction in Alzheimer's Using Human Neurons
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Na Zhao, MD, PhD

Regulating ApoE and the Effects on Insulin Signaling and Energy Metabolism in the Alzheimer's Brain
MAYO CLINIC, JACKSONVILLE

Yingjun Zhao, PhD

This grant is made possible in part by the support of the J.T. Tai Foundation.

A Novel Approach for Memory Improvement in Alzheimer's Disease
SANFORD-BURNHAM PREBYS MEDICAL DISCOVERY INSTITUTE

MACULAR DEGENERATION RESEARCH

Xi-Qin Ding, PhD

The Elizabeth Anderson Award
Thyroid Hormone Regulation in Retinal Degeneration
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

Rosario Fernandez-Godino, PhD

This grant is made possible by the Ivan Bowen Family Foundation.

The Relationship Between Genetic Predisposition and Age in AMD
MASSACHUSETTS EYE AND EAR, HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

Yingbin Fu, PhD

Helen Juanita Reed Award
A Novel Method to Treat Both the Wet and Dry Forms of AMD
BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

John Hulleman, PhD

Conditional Control of Inflammation in Retinal Degenerative Diseases
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER

Mark Kleinman, MD

A New Method to Regulate Gene Expression Pathways in AMD
EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Chi Luu, PhD

The Role of "Good Cholesterol" in AMD
CENTRE FOR EYE RESEARCH AUSTRALIA

Ross Poché, PhD

Reawakening the Ability of the Damaged Retina to Regenerate and Restore Vision
BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Magali Saint-Geniez, PhD

Investigation of a New Target in AMD
SCHEPENS EYE RESEARCH INSTITUTE, HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

William K. Scott, PhD

This grant is made possible by support from Dr. H. James and Carole Free.

Genetics Factors Accelerating Progression to Advanced AMD
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Florian Sennlaub, MD, PhD

Understanding the Role of Sleep Apnea Syndrome in AMD
FONDATION VOIR ET ENTENDRE (FRANCE)

Dimitra Skondra, MD, PhD

Role of Diet and Gut Microbes in Macular Degeneration
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Karl Wahlin, PhD

Carolyn K. McGillvray Award.
Identifying Drugs that Block AMD Using Adult Stem Cells with AMD-Associated Mutations
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Ji Yi, PhD

A New Imaging Method to Predict Neovascular AMD
BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER

NATIONAL GLAUCOMA RESEARCH

Suchismita Acharya, PhD

A Novel Dual-Active Compound to Treat Glaucoma
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT FORT WORTH

Rouzbeh Amini, PhD

Detecting Iris Stiffening and Its Significance in Certain Types of Glaucoma
THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

Jessica Cooke Bailey, PhD

Amish Study to Understand Glaucoma Genetics
CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

John Danias, MD, PhD

Next Generation Experimental Glaucoma Model
SUNY HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER, BUFFALO

F. Kent Hamra, PhD

Genetically Engineering Brown Norway Rats to Find Cures for Glaucoma
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER

Yang Hu, MD, PhD

Studying Gene Regulation Networks in Retinal Ganglion Cells for Novel Neuroprotective Targets
STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Xiangrun Huang, PhD

Dr. Douglas H. Johnson Award
Developing a New Imaging Method for Sensitive Detection of Early Glaucoma Damage
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Monica Jablonski, PhD

New Glaucoma Models
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

Yuan Lei, PhD

A Key MicroRNA That Controls Eye Pressure
EYE AND ENT HOSPITAL OF FUDAN UNIVERSITY (CHINA)

Biji Mathew, PhD

Treating Glaucoma with Naturally Derived Nanoparticles from Adult Stem Cells
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

Robert W. Nickells, PhD

Thomas R. Lee Award
Defining the Link between Cell Adhesion and Retinal Ganglion Cell Death
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Jason Porter, PhD

A New Method to Detect Glaucoma by Examining Changes in Blood Vessels in the Eye
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Benjamin Sivyver, PhD

Dr. Douglas H. Johnson Award
More Sensitive Methods for Studying the Onset of Glaucoma
OREGON HEALTH AND SCIENCE UNIVERSITY

SPECIAL THANKS TO DONORS SUPPORTING ONGOING RESEARCH

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH

Karen Duff, PhD

This grant is made possible in part by the support from Lois and Duane Luallin in Memory of Denver E. Perkins and Edwin Luallin.

Slowing Alzheimer's Disease by Enhancing Cellular Clearance
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Lea Grinberg, MD, PhD

This grant was made possible in part by support from The Carl and Judy Moore Charitable Trust.

A Neuroimaging Biomarker for Asymptomatic Alzheimer's Disease
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO

Ana Pereira, MD

This grant is made possible by the support from the Ping Y. Tai Foundation.

Enhancing Glutamate Levels as a Way to Treat Alzheimer's Disease
ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI

MACULAR DEGENERATION RESEARCH

Philippe Murrain, PhD

This grant is made possible by support from the Nancy Ferguson Seeley Trust in Memory of Mildred F. Ferguson.

Can the Zebrafish Provide Clues to New AMD-Associated Genetic Mutation?
STANFORD UNIVERSITY

NATIONAL GLAUCOMA RESEARCH

Jeffrey L. Goldberg, MD, PhD

This clinical trial is made possible in part by support from The Barry Friedberg & Charlotte Moss Family Foundation.

Study of NT-501 Encapsulated Cell Therapy for Glaucoma Neuroprotection and Vision Restoration
STANFORD UNIVERSITY

WORLD CLASS REVIEW



Our world-class scientific review committees, comprised of renowned leaders in their fields, recommend new research opportunities for BrightFocus to advance our goal of defeating Alzheimer's, macular degeneration, and glaucoma.

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OF MEDICINE

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(UNITED KINGDOM)

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PARTNERSHIPS FOR A CURE

BrightFocus works closely with nonprofits and corporate partners on issues of common concern. As a respected member of broad coalitions, we communicate with key policymakers and elected officials on the importance of research funding and caregiving support.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR A CURE





GLOBAL NETWORK FOR ALZHEIMER'S

BrightFocus works with partners worldwide to advance research and provide public awareness of Alzheimer's disease including:

Belgium

Stichting Alzheimer Onderzoek

France

Fondation Vancre Alzheimer

Germany

Alzheimer Forschung Initiative e.V.

The Netherlands

Alzheimer Nederland

INVESTING IN A CURE

BrightFocus thanks our donors for their generosity toward our three scientific and public awareness programs - Alzheimer's Disease Research, Macular Degeneration Research, and National Glaucoma Research. The support of individual donors, family foundations, and corporate partners makes our work possible.

A wide range of contribution opportunities is available to accommodate resources and charitable goals. Each gift is important and needed to help us find a cure.

INVESTING
IN A CURE

Sowing the Seeds of Scientific Progress

BrightFocus-funded researchers
often go on to receive awards

TEN TIMES GREATER
from NIH and other sources, a

1,000% return
on our early investment.



AN EVENING OF BRIGHTFOCUS

More than 400 leaders from business, science, and philanthropy joined BrightFocus at our third annual dinner to celebrate excellence in research and advocacy. Six BrightFocus-funded scientists shared highlights from their ongoing research, showing encouraging progress toward ending diseases of mind and sight.

*2018 Honorees:
Brenda Gallie, MD, FRCSC,
A. Linn Murphree, MD,
Thaddeus Dryja, MD,
Helen Keller Prize for Vision
Research, Rachel Bennett, PhD,
Emerging Researcher,
and James Keach,
Public Leadership Award.
BrightFocus President and CEO
Stacy Pagos Haller is second
from the right.*



Sunny Hostin (top), *The View*

Richard Lui (middle), *MSNBC*, with James Keach, *PCH Films*

Makoto Ishii, MD, PhD (bottom), *Weill Medical College of Cornell University*

EVERY BRAIN IS AT RISK: TURNING POINT

BrightFocus is proud to be a Presentation Partner for a gripping new documentary, *Turning Point*, about researchers on the cusp of a scientific breakthrough that could be the first step toward making

Alzheimer's a distant memory. Created by award-winning producer, director, and actor James Keach, the documentary is currently being screened at film festivals across the country.



Noted scientist Neil deGrasse Tyson
Photo courtesy of PCH Films



BrightFocus donors often have special connections to the scientific research programs they support.

We are honored to share two of those stories with you.

AS AN ENGINEER WHO LOVED TO "FIX THINGS," PREYSNAR WANTED TO DO SOMETHING.

"I NEEDED TO DO SOMETHING." DISCOVERING THE GIFT OF A BONUS

Walter Preysnar had a long career as an engineer. His projects included the NASA-manned lunar landing program, and government solar energy programs.

Then his family experienced Alzheimer's disease.

"When my mother was about 75, I noticed a subtle change. Soon she showed signs of dementia followed by a diagnosis of Alzheimer's," he said.

As an engineer who loved to "fix things," Preysnar wanted to *do* something. He joined an Alzheimer's support group, and participated in two clinical trials. As he approached

retirement, he also discovered the gift of annuity through an incentive or so-called "buyout" offered as a bonus to retire.

"I felt that donating was the most beneficial thing that I could do," says Preysnar. "I could pass on this gift to benefit Alzheimer's research and so donated my entire bonus."

"Knowing my mother was in such a hopeless condition at that time, it was in a sense my gift to her. She passed away two months later. I don't think I've ever felt a higher level of doing something than my donation for Alzheimer's research."

DONOR SPOTLIGHT



A FAMILY HISTORY OF GIVING NOW SUPPORTS MACULAR DEGENERATION

SHE'S CONCERNED THAT HER CHILDREN, OR GRANDCHILDREN MAY ONE DAY SHARE THE DIAGNOSIS.

Nancy Ferguson Seeley of Naples, Florida and Hammond, New York, has a strong family history of philanthropy spanning 140 years. The Ferguson family has supported Hamilton College since Seeley's grandfather graduated in 1871 and through her granddaughter's Class of 2017. Generous family funds created endowments for professorships, student scholarships, and support for the arts.

Seeley continues that tradition, supporting a range of causes, from music to nature conservancy to education. When her mother died in 1997, Seeley created the Leonard and Mildred Ferguson Foundation, with proceeds from the estate.

It was here that the family history of planned giving crossed another family legacy: the diagnosis of macular degeneration.

Both Seeley's mother, Mildred Ferguson, and her grandmother had macular degeneration late in life. Now, Seeley has been diagnosed with the disease. She's concerned that her children or grandchildren may one day share the diagnosis.

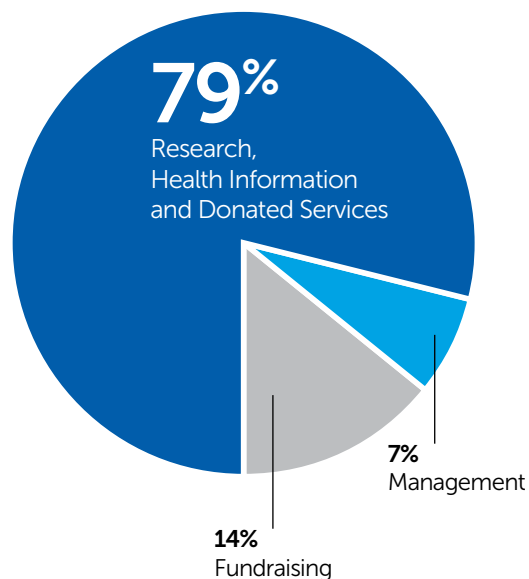
For their sakes, and in memory of her mother, Seeley now contributes to Macular Degeneration Research, a program of BrightFocus. Continuing a legacy of generosity, her contributions could help speed discoveries on how to prevent, slow, treat, or even cure the disease.

OUR BOTTOM LINE: COMMITMENT TO FINDING A CURE

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

BrightFocus is a nonprofit organization designated under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions to BrightFocus and its programs are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. The Foundation is supported entirely by voluntary private contributions.

BrightFocus received in-kind donations to expand public health information outreach and these are included in Program Services expenses. This allowed the organization to reach millions of people with information about risk factors, treatments and caregiving.



A complete copy of financial statements audited by Raffa, P.C. is available upon request from the BrightFocus Foundation, 22512 Gateway Center Drive, Clarksburg, MD 20871 or on our website at www.brightfocus.org.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of March 31, 2018 (in thousands of dollars)

ASSETS	
Cash and Investments	\$39,084
Charitable Trusts and Bequests Receivable	4,075
Rental Property	3,844
Fixed Assets, Net	4,148
Other Assets	1,443
TOTAL ASSETS	\$52,594
LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable and Other Liabilities	\$690
Grants Payable	18,855
Charitable Gift Annuities	1,181
TOTAL LIABILITIES	20,726
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	19,709
Temporarily Restricted	11,839
Permanently Restricted	320
TOTAL NET ASSETS	31,868
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$52,594

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2018 (in thousands of dollars)

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	
Contributions and Grants	\$28,243
Bequests	3,928
Donated Services	13,658
Investment Income	2,199
Rental & Other Income	1,314
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	49,342
EXPENSES	
PROGRAM SERVICES	
Research	16,919
Health Information Services	21,824
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES	38,743
SUPPORTING SERVICES	
Fundraising	7,095
Management and General	3,331
TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES	10,426
TOTAL EXPENSES	49,169
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$173

LEADERSHIP

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Our Mission

BrightFocus drives innovative research worldwide and promotes awareness of Alzheimer's, macular degeneration, and glaucoma.

Programs

Alzheimer's Disease Research
Macular Degeneration Research
National Glaucoma Research

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Integrity



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