

2023 Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

Those Receiving Career Starter Grants for 2023-2024

Recipients Name	Institution / University	City	State	Zip	Proposal
Ashrifa Ali, PhD	University of Texas at Austin	Austin	TX	78705	Identifying novel neuroprotective factors that increase RGC survival using zebrafish and human retinal organoid-derived RGCs.
Anil K. Chekuri, PhD	Schepens Eye Research Institute Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary	Boston	MA	02114	Mechanism and therapeutic opportunity for Familial Dysautonomia associated optic neuropathy
Parisa Emami-Naeini, MD, MPH	University of California, Davis	Sacramento	CA	95817	Non-Invasive and Quantitative Imaging Biomarkers for Pediatric Uveitis
Tanya Glaser, MD	Duke Eye University	Durham	NC	27705	Using Novel Bruch Membrane Opening-Based Optical Coherence Tomography Measures to Study Optic Nerve Development in Healthy Pediatric Eyes and Nerve Changes in Childhood Glaucoma and Other Childhood Optic Nerve Diseases
Marta Grannonic, PhD	University of Virginia School of Medicine	Charlottesville	VA	22904	Establishing In Vivo Biomarkers for Retinal Developmental Damage in Aniridia
Rafal Holubowicz, PhD	University of California, Irvine	Irvine	CA	92697-4375	Restoration of MFRP rd6 mutation using prime editor ribonucleoprotein delivery
Ying Hsu, PhD	University of Iowa	Iowa City	IA	52242	Investigating the Immune Response in Gene Therapy Treatment for Juvenile X-linked Retinoschisis
Archana Jalligampala, PhD	University of Louisville, School of Medicine	Louisville	KY	40202	Therapeutic efficacy of a novel stereopure antisense oligonucleotide (ASO) - Wave1, to treat P23H autosomal dominant retinitis pigmentosa.
Raulas Krusnauskas, PhD	Ocular Genomics Institute Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary Harvard Medical School	Boston	MA	02114	Proof of concept for twin prime editing of RP1 mutations for inherited retinal degenerations
Dominik Lewandowski, PhD	University of California, Irvine School of Medicine	Irvine	CA	92617	Identifying new strategies for lowering ceramides in the retina as a potential approach in retinitis pigmentosa and juvenile macular degeneration treatment
Sumanth Manohar, PhD	University of Kentucky	Lexington	KY	40506	Understanding the function of CHD7 during retinal development and the ocular complications of CHARGE syndrome
Isdin Oke, MD	Boston Children's Hospital Harvard Medical School	Boston	MA	02115	Newborn Genomic Screening Strategies to Reduce Disparities in the Visual Outcomes of Retinoblastoma Survivors
Anh H. Pham, MD, PhD	Bascom Palmer Eye Institute University of Miami School of Medicine	Miami	FL	33136	Development of a Mitochondrial CRISPR Therapy for the Treatment of Mitochondrial Optic Neuropathy
Muhammad Ali Riaz, PhD	The Wilmer Eye Institute Johns Hopkins Univ. School of Medicine	Baltimore	MD	21287	Examining the efficacy of human iPSC-derived corneal endothelial cells injection as an alternative to pediatric endothelial keratoplasty
Emily R. Sechrest, PhD	West Virginia University	Morgantown	WV	26505	Disease mechanism of blue cone monochromacy and gene therapy approaches to extend the therapeutic window
Sahil Shah, MD, PhD	Stanford University School of Medicine	Palo Alto	CA	94304	Role of kinesin cargo and adapter specificity in retinal dystrophies
Ruchi Sharma, PhD	National Eye Institute	Bethesda	MD	20892	Developing Foveal iPSC-RPE from Albinism Patients to Discover Foveal Hypoplasia Associated RPE Defects
Dhiraj Srivastava, PhD	University of Iowa	Iowa City	IA	52246	Mechanisms of CRX and NRL mutations in childhood retina diseases
Chi Sun, PhD	Washington Univ. in St. Louis	St. Louis	MO	63110	Adjunct biomolecular treatments to enhance gene therapy efficacy for CRX-associated pediatric retinal diseases
Aleksander Tworak, PhD	UCI Center for Translational Vision Research Gillespie Neuroscience Research Facility	Irvine	CA	92617	Mer tyrosine kinase: functional study and therapeutic approach evaluation.
Anna L. Vlasits, PhD	Northwestern University	Evanston	IL	60208	The role of the retina in visual symptoms of Fragile X syndrome
Sean K. Wang, MD	Byers Eye Institute at Stanford Stanford Univ. School of Medicine	Palo Alto	CA	94303	Circular RNA mediated gene editing for inherited retinal dystrophies
Benjamin Young, MD, MS	Casey Eye Institute Oregon Health & Sciences University	Portland	OR	97239	Retinopathy of Prematurity Progression Kinetics
Brent K. Young, PhD	Stanford University School of Medicine	Palo Alto	CA	94304	Survival and regeneration of retinal ganglion cells in Neurofibromatosis type-1.
Syed Adeel Zaidi, PhD	Augusta University	Augusta	GA	30912	Targeting the ornithine decarboxylase 1/polyamine pathway to limit pathological neovascularization in ROP.