MARY TYLER MOORE
VISION INITIATIVE

# FALL 2024

# *Symposium*

## Curing Vision Loss From Diabetes

**November 11-12, 2024**

**Ann Arbor Marriott Ypsilanti at Eagle Crest**
Ypsilanti, Michigan

**Hosted by:**

CASWELL DIABETES INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

KELLOGG EYE CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH

# Table of Contents

# Welcome Letter

November 12, 2024

Dear MTM Vision Symposium Participants,

Welcome to the Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative's Third Annual Symposium on *Curing Vision Loss from Diabetes.* We are grateful to again have global participation by experts that span the many relevant fields of science and interested sectors, including academia, industry, regulators, government, and private funders of research. Last year's convening *Advancing Development of New Indications, Therapies, and Regulatory Pathways for Diabetic Retinal Disease* led to completion of the drafting of two clinical study protocols designed to assess a select number of promising measures of visual function and retinal physiology in trials we will launch in early 2025, in collaboration with the DRCR Retina Network. Since then, we came together in Seattle in May 2024 at our *Workshop on Data* where we discussed the value of adopting common data models, approaches to data harmonization, the creation of an MTM Vision "data lake" to support collaboration, and how we can best incentivize data sharing. We are certain that, once again, outcomes from our efforts undertaken together today, will set-up and encourage on-going actions that can result in accelerating progress toward development of new cures and preventive strategies for Diabetic Retinal Disease (DRD).

As many of you will recall, the Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative (MTM Vision) was launched to honor Mary's contributions to diabetes research and focus attention on vision in its multiple meanings to people, like her, who are personally affected by diabetes. That is:

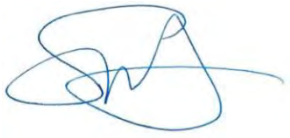
- The vision that has been lost by millions of people with diabetic retinal disease;
- The vision that will be lost, despite currently available advanced treatments for DRD;
- The vision required to imagine "a cure" for vison loss due to diabetes – and to build the needed cross-sector, cross-expertise collaborations and take specific actions to find the ways to prevent and cure vision loss in people with diabetes.

Our *Curing Vision Loss from Diabetes* Symposium and the related efforts which will follow are a critical piece of MTM Vision strategy. We are focused on the need to build greater understanding of the pathogenesis of DRD along the total arch of its occurrence and progression, including at the molecular and cellular level, to develop new ways to diagnose, assess risk and severity, and predict rate of progression and response to therapy of DRD, and to identify useful clinical endpoints and biomarkers to guide clinical care and therapeutics development.

With the shared purpose and dedication shown by the many global experts who have participated in our efforts to date and the cross-sector enthusiasm demonstrated for this Symposium, we continue to believe the Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative represents the best opportunity available to help solve the challenges of DRD, and lead in facilitating accelerated development of new methods to preserve and restore vision in people with diabetes.

At the outset of this Symposium's proceedings, I'd like to acknowledge and thank the leadership and staff of the Elizabeth Caswell Diabetes Institute and Kellogg Eye Center who are graciously hosting this important event, and the MTM Vision team, including Scientific Directors Drs. Tom Gardner and Jennifer Sun, Senior Advisor, Dorene Markel, and our Symposium project management team, Latrice Faulkner and Jocelyne Clancey.

With gratitude,



S. Robert Levine, MD
Founder and CEO
Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative

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# Executive Summary

### The Challenge: Vision Loss from Diabetic Retinal Disease (DRD)

Many of you know Mary Tyler Moore by her work as an actress and diabetes research advocate. Her professional persona was one of joy and optimism, yet very few people knew of the burden she carried due to her struggles with diabetes and its complications. To the outside world, she was a beautiful, happy, independent woman. Privately, diabetes and her near-blindness from diabetic retinal disease (DRD) stole her joy and autonomy.

Sadly, Mary's story is not unique. Everyone with diabetes knows the fear of possible vision loss. Tens of millions of individuals worldwide suffer from blindness and vision-threatening retinal disease as a complication of type 1 or type 2 diabetes. DRD is, in fact, the leading cause of blindness in working-age adults worldwide, with more than 50 million people suffering from vision-threatening DRD globally.

### Our Response: A Multi-Phase Initiative to Preserve and Restore Vision in People with Diabetes

Recent decades have given rise to great advances in retinal imaging technology, measures of visual function and retinal physiology, bioinformatics and AI, gene therapy, regeneration science, and the better understanding of DRD as an disease of the entire retinal neurovascular unit, not simply a "microvascular complication" of diabetes. Thanks to this progress, there is hope that vision restoring treatments and new ways to prevent visual loss and blindness in people with diabetes are now within our reach.

Despite these advances, the cellular and molecular mechanisms responsible for vision loss in diabetes are still not well understood and the breakthroughs needed to develop new therapeutics require intense collaborations, access to specialized resources, and a real commitment to data sharing between innovators across the spectrum of expertise. The Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative (MTM Vision) has established the enabling resources and a platform for collaborations, bringing cross-sector expertise together, and supporting the scientific programs needed to accelerate research and development of new therapies. Our ultimate goal is to create a world without vision loss from Diabetic Retinal Disease.

### Our Roadmap:

**Phase 1** of MTM Vision provides critical-path resources to address three key barriers to accelerated progress:

1. **You can't solve a problem you haven't defined.** The current method of staging DRD is over 40 years old and includes only the visible vascular component of the disease. This approach has limited how we think about therapeutics development and care, and prevented us from achieving optimal outcomes. To accelerate advances to preserve and restore vision in people with diabetes, a staging system and severity scale that takes into account the full spectrum of disease and its impacts is needed. This must include in addition to the retinal vascular component of DRD visual function and quality of life, cellular and molecular origins of disease, and the pathophysiology of retinal nerve injury. Our first accelerator, therefore (which is on-going), is to update the **Diabetic Retinal Disease Staging System and Severity Scale**.

2. **<u>You can't cure a human disease unless you can study the human condition</u>**. In order to study DRD in humans and accelerate progress, a resource of human retinal tissue and fluids, that has been properly collected, deeply characterized, and analyzed at the cellular and molecular level is required. These specimens and associated data need to be made available to broadly, with researchers willing to, in turn, share their data (3) . Our second accelerator is, therefore, a human eye tissue and fluids biorepository, established at the University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center. The **Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative Ocular Biorepository and Resource Center** is key to a cellular and molecular understanding of DRD and to identify molecular targets for potential new therapies, including in early-stage disease when there may be retinal physiologic and functional impairment without visible vascular disease on color retinal photographs. This will form a foundation for the global scientific efforts, across sectors, needed to accelerate translation of research into cures.

3. **<u>You can't judge success unless you know how to measure it</u>**. There is need for consensus across industry, academia, and regulatory bodies around the development and validation of novel endpoints for DRD diagnosis, risk prediction, and treatment response, as well as unmet needs for endpoints that incorporate the patient voice, test visual function, and assess all aspects of retinal pathophysiology. Our third Phase One accelerator, therefore, is to lead a much-needed **Novel Endpoints Identification and Validation** process and to provide support for the validation of surrogate, clinical and primary endpoints that will be useful in accelerating new therapeutics development and optimizing clinical care. Valid metrics for evaluation will allow researchers to more effectively and efficiently determine whether potential therapies are successful, and regulators to compare efficacy. By establishing consensus around and regulatory approval (FDA/EMA) of DRD surrogate, clinical and primary endpoints, we will accelerate translating scientific advances from the research lab into benefits for the patient.

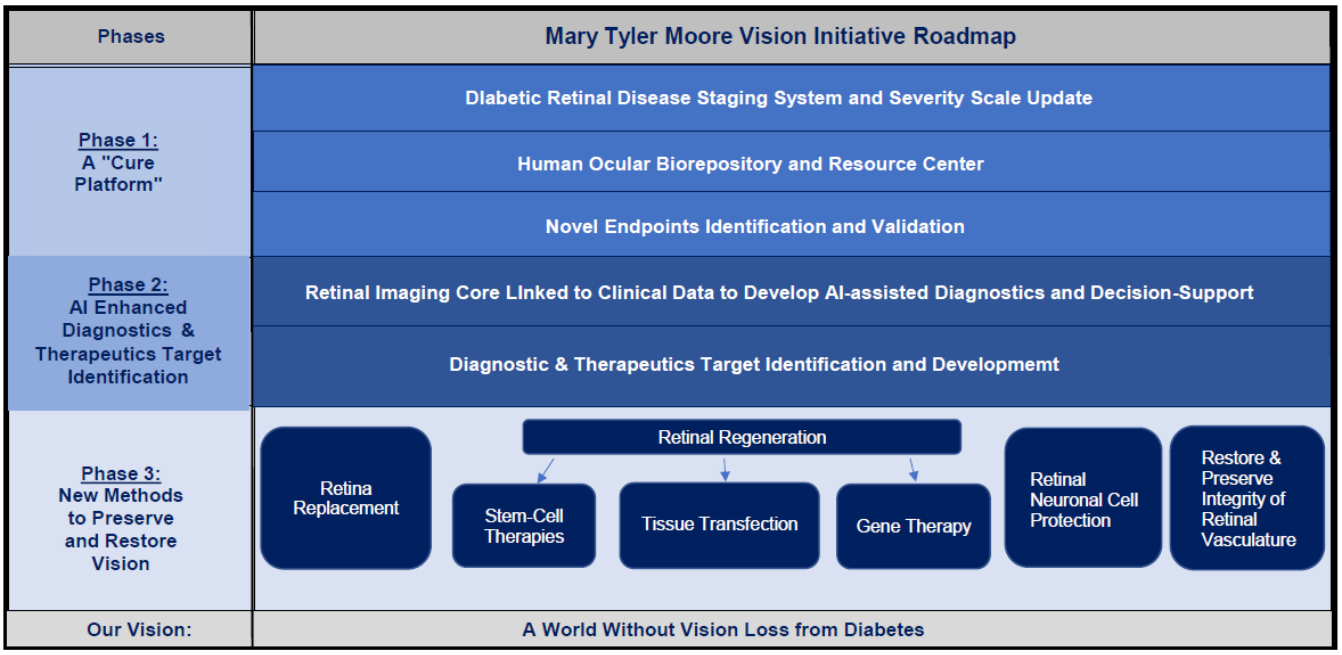


*Figure 1: The Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative is organized in three phases, with Phase 1 setting up our "Cure Platform" of accelerators which help overcome key barriers to progress, Phase 2 supporting enhanced diagnostics development and therapeutics target identification, and Phase 3 undertaking outcomes-driven science with a mission programs.*

**Successes in our Phase 1 will help:**

- Establish new indications for treatments in DRD, including in earlier stage disease
- Enable identification of new therapeutic targets at the molecular and cellular level
- Inform new regulatory pathways for drug approvals

To realize the full value of our Phase 1 projects, we are establishing a cross-sector, pre-competitive consortium to provide members access to our unique biospecimen and data assets to support their relevant research efforts… thereby accelerating progress toward development and approval of new ways to preserve and restore vision in people with diabetes.

*(See our "Milestones" document included later in this Program Book for summary of Phase 1 progress)*

**Phase 2** of MTM Vision will advance DRD diagnostic capabilities and support novel Therapeutic Targets Identification:

1. **Retinal Imaging Core.** Large, integrated data sets obtained across diverse clinical and research settings and conditions, from a range of ethnicities and environments, are needed for development of advanced, automated, AI-based diagnostic systems targeting improving clinical outcomes and reducing health care inequities. In its Phase 2, the Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative will develop a retinal image bank to support aggregation and analysis of millions of digital images aligned with functional measures and de-identified, rigorously phenotyped patient data. The image bank data-sharing platform will constitute a core research resource offered to the community of MTM Vision collaborators and will include systematic data capture, data integration and harmonization, and capacity for hypothesis testing with cloud-based research and training.

2. **Therapeutic Targets Identification Core.** With the successful University of Michigan Kidney Translation Core (Figure 2), RPC², and other proven programs as its model, the Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative will establish, as a companion to its ocular biorepository, a therapeutics target identification core to support detailed OMIC characterization of bio-samples with the data being made available for sharing, globally, to qualified scientists. This Therapeutic Targets Identification core will serve global precision-medicine academic research as well as serve our pre-competitive consortium thereby facilitating and incentivizing interest and investment in DRD therapeutics development.

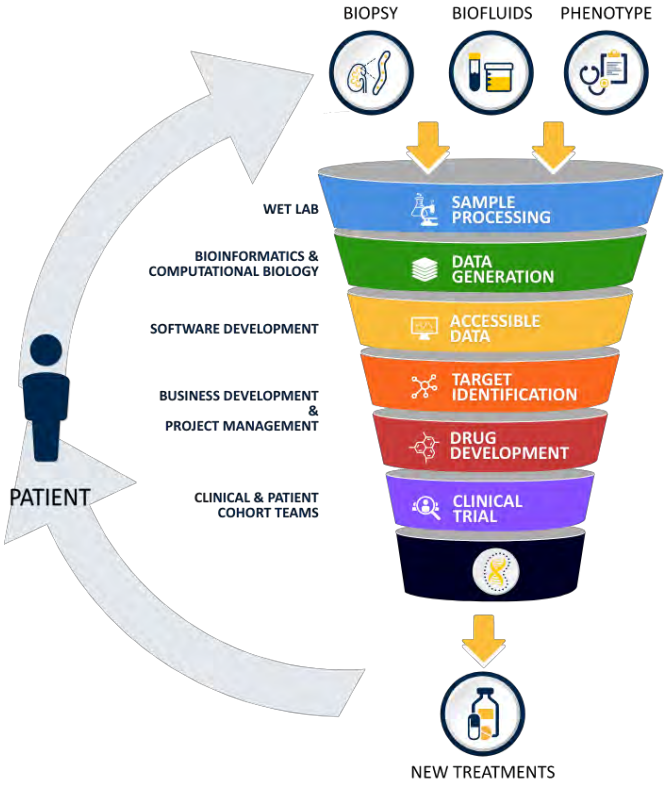


*Figure 2: University of Michigan Kidney Translation Core therapeutics development funnel*

**Phase 3** of the Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative will organize and support outcomes-driven, science with a mission program designed to develop new methods to preserve and restore vision in people with diabetes, including programs that focus on methods to:

1. Arrest the pathologic progression of the vascular and neuronal disease of DRD and protect vascular integrity and neuronal function from further damage from diabetes.
2. Induce self-repair/regeneration of damaged retina to preserve and restore visual function.
3. Generate and implant a partial or full replacement retina in end-stage DRD with GMP generated neo-retina "patch" to restore visual function.

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2. Levine SR, Myers MG, Jr., Barunas R, Chang D, Dutta S, Maddess T, Liebmann JM, Sherman S, Eydelman M, Sun JK, Chambers W, Wickstrom K, Luhmann UFO, Pellinat M, Glassman A, Aiello LP, Markel DS, Gardner TW. Report from the 2022 Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative Diabetic Retinal Disease Clinical Endpoints Workshop. TVST. 2023;12(11):33.
3. Domalpally A,Fickweiler W, Levine SR, Goetz K E, VanderBeek BL, Lee A, Sundstrom JM, Markel D, Sun K. Data Harmonization, Standardization, and Collaboration for Diabetic Retinal Disease (DRD) Research: Report From the 2024 Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative Workshop on Data. TVST 2023;13:10:4.



***For more information, please e-mail S. Robert Levine, MD at srobertmd@marytylermoore.org***


**Visit our website: marytylermoore.org**

*The Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative's audacious goals are to **preserve and restore vision** in people with diabetes. Establishing partners include The Mary Tyler Moore and S. Robert Levine, MD Charitable Foundation; University of Michigan's Elisabeth Weiser Caswell Diabetes Institute and Kellogg Eye Center; Joslin Diabetes Center and Harvard Medical School's Beetham Eye Institute; Breakthrough T1D (formerly JDRF); and the Entertainment Industry Foundation (EIF).*

# Ocular Biorepository and Resource Center

The Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative aims to eradicate visual loss caused by Diabetic Retinal Disease (DRD), one of the key steps being the establishment of the Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative Ocular Biorepository and Resource Center (MTM Vision-BRC). This project addresses the critical need of human eye tissue from diabetic patients, which is essential for advancing research in this area. Over the course of four years, the MTM Vision-BRC plans to collect and deeply analyze ocular tissues from more than 1,000 diabetic donors. By providing high-quality samples and associated data to researchers worldwide, the MTM Vision-BRC seeks to foster collaboration and accelerate understanding of DRD.

Modeled after successful initiatives like the Network for Pancreatic Organ donors with Diabetes (nPOD) and the Nephromine multi-omics platform, the MTM Vision-BRC is positioned to become a unique and invaluable resource for the scientific community. Located at the University of Michigan's Kellogg Eye Center and in association with the Elizabeth Weiser Caswell Diabetes Institute, the MTM Vision-BRC leverages existing relationships with multiple national eye banks to procure vital ocular tissue samples. Under the leadership of Dr. Patrice Fort, who has established rigorous quality controls and molecular analysis methods, the MTM Vision-BRC is dedicated to excellence in biorepository standards.

With support from the University of Michigan Central Biorepository (CBR), the MTM Vision-BRC operates in a highly regulated environment that ensures the safe processing, storage, and distribution of high-quality biospecimens. Since its inception, the MTM Vision-BRC has successfully collected and characterized tissues from 43 diabetic and age-matched non-diabetic donors and is prepared to scale up its operations in years to come. Ultimately, the MTM Vision-BRC is committed to providing essential resources to the diabetes research community, aiming to deepen the understanding of Diabetic Retinal Disease and drive the development of innovative therapies to improve the lives of affected individuals.

# Novel Endpoints Identification and Validation

One of the major hurdles to the development of novel, more effective therapies for diabetic retinal disease (DRD) is the limited number of primary endpoints available for use in regulatory trials. Current approved endpoints necessitate long trial durations and large numbers of participants to show efficacy. A better understanding of the structural and functional changes that occur in the diabetic retina is needed to develop new primary endpoints as well as to validate additional surrogate and clinical endpoints. The availability of new endpoints could improve clinical care, lead to new therapeutic targets and allow more efficient evaluation of interventions aimed at stopping, slowing, or reversing the progression of DRD.

The Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative seeks to address the unmet need for new surrogate, clinical and primary endpoints in clinical care and research of DRD. Recent advances in imaging and technology allow us to more fully characterize changes in the retina and to measure aspects of visual function beyond best corrected central visual acuity. The first step in meeting the unmet need for new endpoints in clinical care and research of DRD is to administer state-of-the art imaging and functional testing to patients with diabetes, ranging from those who are newly diagnosed to those with proliferative disease or macular edema warranting treatment. As such, we have developed two prospective, longitudinal clinical studies that will help validate potential endpoints of interest based on initial discussions at the MTM Vision Endpoints Workshop held in Ann Arbor in the Fall of 2022, and additional, subsequent protocol development meetings. Over the last year, MTM Vision has further refined these studies in collaboration with the DRCR Retina Network (DRCR), a National Institutes of Health-sponsored collaborative consortium of sites across North America, which performs clinical studies in retinal disease. Breakthrough T1D (formerly JDRF), has committed support for these studies and for the data standardization efforts that will allow mapping of study variables to common data elements models.

The first study will enroll a cohort of patients across the severity spectrum of DRD and characterize their functional and structural retinal changes over 4 years in the natural history of the disease. The second study will recruit patients who are beginning intravitreal anti-vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) therapy for center-involved diabetic macular edema and characterize baseline retinal abnormalities and longitudinal changes over a year of treatment. Study procedures are anticipated to include manifold quantitative contrast sensitivity testing, RETeval electroretinography, objective field analyzer perimetry, ultrawide field fundus photography and fluorescein angiography, optical coherence tomography and OCT angiography. The primary objective for these studies is to define the ocular structural and functional characteristics of people with diabetes, covering a broad range of diabetes duration and disease severity in eyes over the natural history of the disease and in eyes undergoing treatment for diabetic macular edema. Secondary study objectives include the following:

1. Investigate retinal structure-function relationships in eyes of patients with diabetes
2. Investigate the degree to which each measure changes with increasing severity of diabetic retinal disease
3. Understand test-retest variability for visual function measures of interest
4. Evaluate the correlation in test characteristics between the 2 eyes of patients
5. Understand whether these structural/functional measurements have the potential to be validated as surrogate, clinical, or primary endpoints.

We are excited to begin these studies in early 2025! Additional discussions are also underway to leverage other ongoing clinical research to provide supplemental endpoint validation datasets.

# Progress Milestones

## SCHOLARLY ARTICLES

- **October 2024**: Published the report of the Data Harmonization, Standardization, and Collaboration for Diabetic Retinal Disease (DRD) Research in *Translational Vision Science and Technology* (*TVST)* (an ARVO journal): Domalpally A., et al. Report from the 2024 Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative Workshop on Data. Transl Vis Sci Technol. 2024;13(10):4. Doi: https://doi.org/10.1167/tvst.13.10.4

- **November 2023:** Published the report of the 2022 MTM Vision Clinical Endpoints Workshop in *Translational Vision Science and Technology* (*TVST)* (an ARVO journal): Gardner TW. Report from the 2022 Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative Diabetic Retinal Disease Clinical Endpoints Workshop. Transl Vis Sci Technol. 2023;12(11):33. Doi: https://doi.org/10.1167/tvst.12.11.33

- **November 2020 – April 2024:** The Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative's (MTM Vision) Diabetic Retinal Disease (DRD) Staging Update has benefitted from the input of 50+ clinicians and scientific experts from 12 countries. Launched with our Editorial in *Ophthalmology* publication in November 2020 [Sun JK, Aiello LP, Abràmoff MD, et al. Updating the Staging System for Diabetic Retinal Disease. *Ophthalmology*. 2021;128: 490-493. DOI: 10.1016/j.ophtha.2020.10.008 All six of our Working Groups (Neural Retina, Vascular Retina, Systemic Factors, Basic and Cellular Mechanisms, Quality of Life, and Visual Function) have completed their narrative review papers, and their findings have been published in *Ophthalmology Science* in six separate manuscripts, see references below:
  - Channa R, Wolf RM, Simó R, et al. A New Approach to Staging Diabetic Eye Disease: Staging of Diabetic Retinal Neurodegeneration and Diabetic Macular Edema. *Ophthalmology Science*. 2024;4(3):100420. DOI: 10.1016/j.xops.2023.100420
  - Tan T, Jampol LM, Ferris FL, et al. Imaging Modalities for Assessing the Vascular Component of Diabetic Retinal Disease: Review and Consensus for an Updated Staging System. *Ophthalmology Science*. 2024;4(3):100449. DOI: 10.1016/j.xops.2023.100449
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  - Glassman AR, Elmasry MA, Baskin DE, et al. Visual Function Measurements in Eyes with Diabetic Retinopathy: An Expert Opinion on Available Measures. *Ophthalmology Science*. Published online April 1, 2024:100519. DOI: 10.1016/j.xops.2024.100519

## KEY SCIENTIFIC MILESTONES

- **November 2024:** The Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative and Boehringer Ingelheim announced the start of a long-term collaboration as Boehringer Ingelheim became the first pharmaceutical company to join the MTM Vision Consortium. Housed at the University of Michigan, the MTM Vision Consortium unites innovators from universities, foundations, and pharmaceutical and biotech companies in the pre-competitive space. This Consortium provides key research resources for identifying and validating new therapeutic targets, biomarkers, and endpoints using human tissue to expedite drug development and FDA approvals.

- **May 2024**: Contracted with Penn Institute for Biomedical Informatics at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. John Holmes, to develop the web-based platform to manage bio-sample and related research data sharing. Dr. Holmes and his team are the nPOD and CaRe T1D bio-sample and data platform developers.

- **March 2024**: Seed funded, including a matching contribution from the Macula Society, the initiation of a DRD PRO development effort led by Dr. Thiran Jayasundera and his team, modeled on their successful development of the Michigan Retinal Degeneration Questionnaire (MRDQ) (Am J Ophthalmol. 2021 February; 222: 60–68. doi:10.1016/j.ajo.2020.08.032.) and Michigan Vision-related Anxiety Questionnaire (MVAQ) (Am J Ophthalmol. 2021 May; 225: 137–146. doi:10.1016/j.ajo.2020.12.001.) for Inherited Retinal Diseases. The PRO will be completed thanks to a generous, directed contribution from MTM Vision pharma industry partner, Boehringer-Ingelheim.

- **July 2023**: Established our External Scientific Advisory Board of field leaders from academia and industry, including:
  - **Mark Atkinson, PhD** - Univ. of Florida, Director, University of Florida Diabetes Institute; Director, nPOD and CaRe-T1D
  - **Sally Baxter, MD** - UCSD Shiley Eye Institute, Division Chief for Ophthalmology Informatics and Data Science
  - **Dolly Chang, MD, MPH, PhD** - Chief Scientific Officer at Kodiak Sciences
  - **Sanjoy Dutta, PhD** – Breakthrough T1D (formerly JDRF), Chief Scientific Officer
  - **Stephen McLeod, MD** - America Academy of Ophthalmology, Chief Executive Officer
  - **Tunde Peto, MD** - Queen's University Belfast (QUB), Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology
  - **Marlon Pragnell, PhD** - ADA, Vice President of Research & Science
  - **Christopher Rhodes, PhD** - AstraZeneca, Chief Scientist/Vice President, Cardiovascular, Renal & Metabolic Disease, Biopharmaceuticals R & D
  - **Jose Sahel, MD, PhD** - Univ. of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Chair Ophthalmology
  - **Marie Schiller** - Interim CEO, The Diabetes Link; former VP of Drug Development/Device R&D Innovation, Eli Lilly and Company
  - **Donald Zack, MD, PhD** - Co-Director, Johns Hopkins Center for Stem Cells and Ocular Regenerative Medicine

- **April 2023:** In a series of in-person and virtual workshops with the participation of experts from all over the world, including at a gathering in New Orleans at ARVO in April 2023, along with subsequent efforts by the DRCR Retina Network team at JAEB and DRCR's Executive and Protocol Advisory Committees, we have completed protocol design of 2
  clinical studies aiming to validate the promising visual function measures identified in our Clinical Endpoints and Biomarkers Identification and Validation project and match against retinal structural and functional tests currently widely used in clinical trials and in-office care. These protocols were enthusiastically received at the annual meeting of DRCR Retina Network investigators and coordinators in Denver on August 11-12, 2023, and have been approved by the DRCR Executive Committee (October 2023) for launch when funding is secured.

- **April 2022:** Established our Ocular Biorepository and Resource Center (MTM Vision-BRC) at the University of Michigan's Kellogg Eye Center, accepted and processed our first 24 samples for detailed characterization to support our therapeutics target identification efforts, and provided a core asset (along with the clinical endpoints studies data) for our cross-sector (academia and pharma) pre-competitive MTM Vision Consortium. Collaborating with the well-established and groundbreaking pancreas and cardiovascular biorepositories (nPOD and CaRe-T1D) hosted at the University of Florida and led by Dr. Mark Atkinson, we are positioning the MTM Vision-BRC on a data platform with common architecture, features, and functions, as the nPOD and CaRe T1D data and sample sharing platforms.

## MTM VISION WORKSHOPS/SYMPOSIUMS

- **November 2024:** The annual 2024 Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative Symposium, “Curing Vision Loss from Diabetes,” hosted over 130 participants with diverse perspectives and expertise, coming from all over the world to Ann Arbor to engage in dynamic discussion regarding the unmet needs and scientific and patient care challenges of DRD. This includes patients, researchers, clinicians, and representatives from leading biopharmaceutical, biotech, and medical device companies, as well as leaders from non-profits and government agencies, including the National Eye Institute and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

- **November 2023**: MTM Vision hosted its second annual workshop dedicated to preserving and restoring vision for individuals with diabetes. The event centered on the critical necessity of deepening our understanding of DRD pathogenesis throughout its manifestation and progression. The workshop sessions included the following topics: updates from MTM Vision leadership and perspective talks by key invited speakers and panelists.

- **October 2022:** MTM Vision hosted its inaugural Diabetic Retinal Disease (DRD) Workshop in Ypsilanti, Michigan. This pivotal workshop, along with subsequent initiatives, represented a significant contribution to addressing the widely recognized necessity for developing innovative methods of diagnosing DRD, evaluating its severity and associated risks, and forecasting the progression rate and treatment responses. This convening also led to the drafting of two clinical study protocols designed to assess a select number of promising measures of visual function and retinal physiology in trials we hope to launch this year in collaboration with the DRCR Retina Network. The workshop sessions included the following topics: updates from MTM Vision leadership and perspective talks by key invited speakers.

## OTHER CONFERENCES

- **September 2023:** S. Robert Levine, MD, participated as a panelist for an all-day National Eye Institute/FDA Workshop on developing new Patient Reported Outcomes Measures for ocular disease. The panel emphasized the potential for the incorporation of patient-derived objective data relevant to visual function (such as collected through mobile device sensors) into PROs, consideration of caregiver observations, as well as the inclusion of questions designed to assess the patient's state of depression, anxiety, and distress due to fear of occurrence of visual loss.

- **June 2023:** Proposed, organized, and led a symposium, "Creating a World Without Visual Loss from Diabetes,” for the ADA’s 83rd Scientific Sessions in San Diego, held in June 2023. Presenters included Jennifer Sun, MD, MPH, Chief, Center for Clinical Eye Research and Trials of the Beetham Eye Institute, Joslin Diabetes Center, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, Harvard Medical School; Chair, DRCR Retina Network, and Scientific Co-Chair of MTM Vision; Stela Vujosevic, MD, PhD, FARVO, FEBO, Professor and Head of the Medical Retina Unit, University Eye Clinic, San Giuseppe Hospital, Milano, Italy, and Chair of MTM Vision’s Quality of Life Working Group; Patrice E. Fort, PhD, MS, Associate Professor, Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Associate Professor, Molecular & Integrative Physiology, University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center and Director of MTM Vision’s Ocular Biorepository and Resource Center; and S. Robert Levine, MD, Founder and CEO, MTM Vision.

## PARTNERSHIPS

- **July 2024**: Funded, in partnership with Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB), our first RPB - Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative Physician-Scientist Award, which was presented to Dr. Brian VanderBeek MD, MPH, MSCE, an Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at the Scheie Eye Institute/University of Pennsylvania. In a first for RPB, and at our request, MTM Vision’s Lay Advisors

participated in the grant review and offered inputs on the proposals from the perspective of people personally affected by diabetes. The RPB/MTM Vision Physician-Scientist Award focuses on research to develop methods to preserve and restore visual function in Diabetic Retinal Disease (DRD). Relevant areas include research related to DRD clinical endpoints and biomarkers, assessments of visual function and patient quality of life, retinal vascular dropout and vessel integrity, neuroprotection, regeneration, related stem-cell research, gene therapy, and tissue transfection.

- **2024:** MTM Vision has partnered with the National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (NAEVR)/Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR), a membership organization dedicated to supporting advancements in research for diabetic eye disease through education and advocacy efforts.

- **2024**: MTM Vision has partnered with the Collaborative Community on Ophthalmic Innovation (CCOI), where public and private sector members proactively collaborate to identify and overcome key obstacles to ophthalmic medical product innovation. CCOI addresses challenges that unilateral efforts may not effectively resolve. Our goal is to spearhead solutions to these challenges, ensuring that innovative ophthalmic products reach patients worldwide.

**ADVANCING AWARENESS INITIATIVES**

- **July 2024:** We launched our first PSA, *"The Sight You Save May Be That of Someone You Love,"* narrated by acclaimed actor Kevin Kline, a long-time friend of Mary's and a diabetes advocate who, along with Mary, testified before the Senate in 2001 for diabetes research funding. The campaign was created to educate the public on the need for medical research toward the cure of diabetic retinal disease, which afflicted Mary toward the end of her life. The PSA includes remarks by Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Oprah Winfrey, and Reese Witherspoon, whose careers were inspired by Mary.

- **July 2024:** Dr. S. Robert Levine was featured in "Leaders," a worldwide magazine that explores the broad range of leadership thoughts and visions of the world's most influential people. Here is an excerpt from the article: "With MTM Vision, Levine is disrupting the status quo, as Mary did throughout her life, to call attention to the fact that we don't know what we must about retinal disease in diabetes to cure it; the current way we diagnose it and plan treatment is outmoded and directed toward later stage disease; and, there are known obstacles that must be overcome to accelerate the development of new treatments that can stop vision loss and ultimately cure blindness from diabetes. He has brought together the best and the brightest scientists and clinicians in the world to solve this life-changing complication of diabetes, the leading cause of blindness in working-age adults globally."

- **June 2024**: Variety, the leading entertainment publication, created the inaugural Mary Tyler Moore Visionary Award, presented at the Variety TV FYC Fest to Oscar-nominated writer, actor, and producer Kristen Wiig. Kristen was recognized for her extensive and groundbreaking achievements in storytelling, matching Mary's continuing extraordinary impact on the entertainment industry.

- **May 2023:** The HBO documentary "Being Mary Tyler Moore" won a Critics Choice (2023) and Producers Guild Award in (2024) and was nominated for an Emmy Award (2024). Mary's husband, Dr. S. Robert Levine, served as executive producer of the documentary featured on the cover of People magazine and Parade, along with an interview segment with Dr. Levine on the TODAY Show and dozens of publications, including Vanity Fair, NPR, and others.

- **2023**: MTM Vision aligned with the Entertainment Industry Foundation, which supports ground-breaking programs and campaigns that raise awareness and funds for issues affecting millions worldwide, such as vision loss from diabetes. EIF created and produced the Stand Up 2 Cancer campaign, which has raised over $800 million.

# Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative
# Fall 2024 Symposium Agenda

## Curing Vision Loss from Diabetes

**November 11 - 12, 2024**

***Luggage Storage***
*Private storage for your luggage is available in the exhibitor room (Salon V) or at the front desk. Please check out and bring your bags with you prior to the meeting on Tuesday.*

**November 11, 2024**

**5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Welcome Reception** - Join us for an opening reception in the ***Garden Marquis.***

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**November 14, 2024**

**WORKSHOP PROGRAM:**

**7:30 Breakfast | Served in Pre-function B & Dining Area in Salon I**

**8:00 Welcome | All Sessions will be in Salon IV**
- ◊ **Martin G. Myers, Jr., MD, PhD I** *Director, Elizabeth Weiser Caswell Diabetes Institute, Michigan Medicine*
- ◊ **Shahzad I. Mian, MD I** *Chair, Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, University of Michigan Medical Group*

**8:10 Announcement**
- ◊ **S. Robert Levine, MD I** *Founder and CEO, Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative (MTM Vision)*

**8:20 Patient Voice**
- ◊ **Adriana Plevniak**

**8:30 Translating Science to Clinical Care for Diabetic Retinal Disease (DRD)**
- ♦ MTM Vision Update: **Jennifer Sun, MD, MPH I** *Co-Scientific Director, MTM Vision*
- ♦ Perspective:
  - ◊ **Aude Couturier, MD PhD I** *Professor of Ophthalmology, Paris Cité University; Deputy Head of the Ophthalmology Department, Lariboisière and Saint-Louis University Hospitals; Project leader EviRED (Evaluation Intelligente de la Rétinopathie Diabétique)*
    - ▪ **Preliminary findings from EviRED natural history study**
  - ◊ **Malvina Eydelman, MD I** *Director of the Office of Health Technology Ophthalmic, Anesthesia, Respiratory, ENT and Dental Devices, Office of Product Evaluation and Quality, Food and Drug Administration, Maryland, USA*
    - ▪ **Food and Drug Administration Regulation of Medical Products for DRD**
- ♦ Panelists:
  - ◊ **Michael Abramoff, MD, PhD I** *University of Iowa*
  - ◊ **Jason McAnany, PhD I** *University of Illinois College of Medicine*
  - ◊ **Sandy Puczynski, PhD I** *MTM Vision Lay Advisor*

*Note: Please hold all questions until panel session.*

**9:30 Therapeutics Target Identification Through Human Tissue and Fluid 'Omics**

- MTM Vision Update: **Patrice Fort, PhD** | *Director, MTM Vision Ocular Biorepository & Resource Center*
- Perspectives:
  - **Roger Cone, PhD** | *Director, Life Sciences Institute, University of Michigan*
    - **Process and resources for target identification and drug development**
  - **Przemyslaw (Mike) Sapieha, PhD** | Founder & Chief Scientific Officer, SemaThera Inc
    - **From target identification to drug development for ocular diseases**
- Panelists:
  - **Lloyd Paul Aiello, MD, PhD** | *Harvard Medical School*
  - **Eric Ng, PhD** | *Eyebiotech Limited, a subsidiary of Merck & Co, Inc (Rahway, NJ)*
  - **Subramaniam Pennathur, MD** | *University of Michigan*
  - **Judy Hunt, MBA** | *MTM Vision Lay Advisor*

**10:30 Break | Snack and Refreshments available in Pre-function A**

**10:45 Big-Data and Artificial Intelligence Approaches to DRD**

- MTM Vision Update: **S. Robert Levine, MD** | *Founder and CEO, MTM Vision*
- Perspectives:
  - **Tien-en Tan, MBBS(Hons), MMed(Ophth), FRCOphth, FAMS** | *Clinical Assistant Professor, SingHealth Duke-NUS Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences Academic Clinical Program*
    - **Multi-modal AI for enhanced diagnosis, risk stratification and prognostication in DRD**
  - **Brian VanderBeek, MD, MPH, MSCE** | *Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB)-MTM Vision Physician Scientist Award Winner; Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, University of Pennsylvania*
    - **Assessment of 20-year trends in the prevalence and incidence of DRD using real-world data**
- Panelists:
  - **Kerry Goetz, PhD** | *National Eye Institute*
  - **Tunde Peto, MD, PhD** | *Queens University Belfast*
  - **Chris German, PhD** | *MTM Vision Lay Advisor*

**11:45 Group Picture *(please convene quickly as directed)***

**12:00 Lunch | Served in Pre-function B & Dining Area in Salon I**

**1:00 Hot Topics**:
Facilitator: **Chris German, PhD** | *MTM Vision Lay Advisor*

- **Awareness Crisis in DRD**
  **Paolo Silva, MD** | *Associate Professor, Beetham Eye Institute, Harvard Medical School*

- **Gait Assessment in the Evaluation of Functional Vision**
  **Amanda Bicket, MD** | *Assistant Professor, Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, University of Michigan*

- **Developing a Patient-Reported Outcome (PRO) for DRD - Creating Tools to Capture Patient Voices**
  **Fernanda Abalem, MD, MSC, PhD** | *Research Assistant Professor, University of Michigan*

*Note: Please hold all questions until panel session.*

- **Vitreous Analysis for Clinical Assessment, Staging, and Patient Selection for Clinical Trials**
  **Jeffrey M. Sundstrom, MD, PhD** | *Associate Professor, Department of Cellular and Molecular Physiology, Neural and Behavioral Science, and Ophthalmology, Penn State University*

**2:00 Future Directions: Restoring Vision in DRD: Lessons from the Inherited Retinal Diseases (IRD) Field**

- Moderator: **Mark Pennesi, MD, PhD** | *Professor of Ophthalmology, School of Medicine, Oregon Health & Science University; Director, Ophthalmic Genetics at the Retina Foundation*
- Perspectives:
  - **Rebecca Pfeiffer, PhD** | *Research Assistant Professor, Ophthalmology & Visual Science, John A. Moran Eye Center, University of Utah*
    - **Pathoconnectomics: Rewiring in Retinitis Pigmentosa**
  - **Rachel Huckfeldt, MD, PhD** | *Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, Harvard Medical School, Fellowship Director, Inherited Retinal Degenerations Fellowship, Mass Eye & Ear*
    - **Leveraging Multicenter Natural History Data for Endpoint Development in Inherited Retinal Disorders**
- Panelists:
  - **James Weiland, PhD** | *University of Michigan*
  - **Adriana Plevniak** | *MTM Vision Lay Advisor*

**3:00 Break | Snack and Refreshments available in Pre-function A**

**3:15 Special Guests: Will Flanary, MD and Kristin Flanary, MA - aka "Dr. Glaucomflecken" and "Lady Glaucomflecken"**
*Will and Kristin Flanary share how their medical experiences led to the creation of their personas as Dr and Lady Glaucomflecken and their resulting advocacy work in eye health and co-survivorship, blending humor and education to raise awareness and promote change.*

**3:40 MTM Vision Consortium**

- **Shelby Unsworth, PhD** | *Associate Director, Business Development, Michigan Medicine*
- **Marianne Laouri, PhD** | *Global Asset Lead, Retinal Health, Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*

**3:55 MTM Vision Communications, Collaborations and Fund Development**

- Moderator: **Eric Carlson** | *Founder, The Carlson Company, Social Impact & Media, Award Winning Documentary and Film Producer*
  - **Public outreach, media relations, and fund development**
- Panelists:
  - **Betsy Cote** | *Joslin Diabetes Center*
  - **Chris Shoemaker** | *University of Michigan*
  - **Maurine Slutzky** | *Stand Up to Cancer*
  - **Sandy Puczynski, PhD** | *MTM Vision Lay Advisor*

**4:30 Summation and Next Steps**

- **Lloyd Paul Aiello MD, PhD** | *Professor of Ophthalmology, Joslin Diabetes Center, Harvard Medical School*
- **S. Robert Levine, MD** | *Founder and CEO, MTM Vision*

**4:45 Meeting Concludes**

*Note: Please hold all questions until panel session*

# Participant List

Workshop participants (listed alphabetically by last name)

v = virtual attendee

| NAME | ORGANIZATION | TITLE | Pg. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Fernanda **Abalem**, MD | University of Michigan | Research Assistant Professor | 25 |
| Steve **Abcouwer,** PhD | University of Michigan, Kellogg Eye Center | Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences | 25 |
| Michael **Abramoff**, MD, PhD | University of Iowa; Digital Diagnostics | Professor | 25 |
| Lloyd Paul **Aiello**, MD, PhD | Joslin Diabetes Center | Professor of Ophthalmology; Director, Beetham Eye Institute | 26 |
| Bela **Anand-Apte**, MBBS, PhD **v** | Cleveland Clinic Foundation-Cole Eye Institute | Professor | 26 |
| Chris **Andrews**, PhD **v** | University of Michigan | Statistician | 26 |
| Laura **Bachrach** | Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative | Communications and PR | 27 |
| Remko **Bakker**, PhD | Boehringer Ingelheim Pharma GmbH & Co. KG | Director Global Cardio-Netabolic Diseases Research | 27 |
| Amanda **Barnett** | University of Michigan, Kellogg Eye Center | Assistant Director of Development | 27 |
| Eric **Barritt** | Michigan Medicine | Sr. Associate Vice President and Chief Development Officer | 28 |
| Fabio **Baschiera**, PharmD, PhD | Bayer Clinical Development | Global Clinical Leader for Ophthalmology | 28 |
| Darrell **Baskin**, MD **v** | UT Health San Antonio | Assistant Professor | 28 |
| Sally L. **Baxter**, MD, MSc **v** | University of California San Diego | Associate Professor | 29 |
| Silke **Becker**, MD **v** | University of Utah | Research Assistant Professor | 29 |
| Toke **Bek**, MD, MBA, Dr. Med Sci | University of Aarhus | Professor | 29 |
| Amanda **Bicket**, MD, MSE | University of Michigan, Kellogg Eye Center | Assistant Professor | 30 |
| Barbara **Blodi**, MD | University of Wisconsin - Madison | Retina Specialist and Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences | 30 |
| William M. **Boyd**, MD **v** | US Food and Drug Administration, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research | Deputy Director, Division of Ophthalmology, Office of Specialty Medicine | 30 |
| Mitch **Brigell**, PhD **v** | Independent Consultant | Independent Consultant | 31 |
| Thomas **Brunner**, BSEE, MBA **v** | Glaucoma Research Foundation | President & CEO | 31 |
| Cindy **Cai**, MD, MS | Wilmer Eye Institute | Assistant Professor | 31 |

| NAME | ORGANIZATION | TITLE | Pg. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Anne Marie **Cairns**, BSc (Hons) | Optos | Chief Clinical Officer | 32 |
| Claire **Calhoun** | DRCR Retina Network | Protocol Director | 32 |
| Eric **Carlson** | The Carlson Company | Co-Director Media and Cause Marketing | 32 |
| Nicholas **Carruthers**, PhD | University of Michigan | Bioinformatician | 32 |
| Dolly **Chang**, MD, MPH, PhD | Kodiak Sciences | Chief Scientific Officer | 33 |
| Roomasa **Channa**, MD | University of Wisconsin School of Medicine & Public Health | Assistant Professor | 33 |
| Michelle **Chen**, PhD v | Perfuse Therapeutics | Vice President, Head of Clinical Development at Perfuse | 33 |
| Carol **Cheung**, BSc, MPhil, PhD | The Chinese University of Hong Kong | Associate Professor | 33 |
| Gemmy **Cheung**, MD v | Singapore National Eye Center | Professor | 34 |
| Emily **Chew**, MD v | National Eye Institute/National Institutes of Health | Director of the Division of Epidemiology and Clinical Applications<br>Chief of Clinical Trials Branch | 34 |
| Karen **Chu**, MS | Regeneron | Global Program Head, Ophthalmology | 34 |
| Marither **Chuidian**, MD, MPH | Abbvie | Senior Medical Director, Clinical Development, Eye Care | 35 |
| Jocelyne **Clancy**, MS, PMP, RDN | MTM Vision; UM Caswell Diabetes Institute | Project Manager, Admin Specialist | 35 |
| Helen **Colhoun**, MB BCh BAO, MD, MFMHM FRCP (Ed) v | University of Edinburgh | Professor | 35 |
| Sydney **Colvill** v | Patient Advocate | Patient Advocate | 35 |
| Roger **Cone**, PhD | Life Sciences Institute, University of Michigan | Director | 36 |
| Kevin **Corcoran**, CAE | Eye Bank Association of America | President and CEO | 36 |
| Betsy **Cote** | Joslin Diabetes Center | Vice President, Philanthropy | 36 |
| Aude **Couturier**, MD, PhD | University Paris Cite | Professor of Ophthalmology | 37 |
| Christine **Curcio**, PhD v | Professor Emerita, part-time | University of Alabama at Birmingham Heersink School of Medicine | 37 |
| Antonio **Cutino** | Alimera Sciences | VP Clinical & Medical Affairs | 37 |
| Quentin **Davis**, PhD | LKC Technologies, Inc. | Vice-President, Operations and Development | 37 |
| Michael **De Meyer** v | Self-employed | Strategic Advisor | 38 |

| NAME | ORGANIZATION | TITLE | Pg. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Akhil **Deshpande**, MBA | Verily | Head of Product, Medical Devices | 38 |
| Dina **Dubey** | LKC Technologies Inc. | CEO | 38 |
| Adam **Duerfeldt**, PhD | University of Minnesota | Associate Professor | 39 |
| Elia **Duh**, MD v | Johns Hopkins School of Medicine | Professor of Ophthalmology | 39 |
| Molly **Dwyer-White**, MPH v | Michigan Medicine - Caswell Diabetes Institute | Administrative Director | 39 |
| Erika **Eggers**, PhD v | University of Arizona | Professor | 40 |
| Jason **Ehrlich**, MD, PhD | Ollin Biosciences, Inc. | CEO | 40 |
| Angela **Elam**, MD, MPH | University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center | Assistant Professor | 40 |
| Mohamed **Elmasry**, MD, PhD v | Joslin Diabetes Center, Harvard Medical School | Instructor in Ophthalmology | 41 |
| David **Esposito** | ONL Therapeutics, Inc. | President and Chief Executive Officer | 41 |
| Malvina **Eydelman**, PhD | Food and Drug Administration, Maryland, USA | Director of the Office of Health Technology Ophthalmic, Anesthesia, Respiratory, ENT and Dental Devices, Office of Product Evaluation and Quality | 41 |
| Rafid **Farjo** | University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center | Research Fellow | 42 |
| Latrice **Faulkner**, PhD | MTM Vision; UM Caswell Diabetes Institute | Administrative Manager | 42 |
| Rick **Ferris**, MD | Ophthalmic Research Consultants | Director | 43 |
| Ward **Fickweiler,** MD, PhD | Joslin Diabetes Center | Research Fellow | 43 |
| William **Flanary**, MD | Glaucomflecken, LLC | Dr. Glaucomflecken | 43 |
| Kristin **Flanary**, MA | Glaucomflecken LLC | Lady Glaucomflecken | 43 |
| Donald **Fong**, MD, MPH | BioCryst | VP, Head of Ophthalmology | 44 |
| Patrice **Fort**, PhD, MS | Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative, University of Michigan Medical School | Director, MTM Vision Biorepository and Resource Center, Associate Professor, Departments of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, and Molecular and Integrative Physiology | 44 |
| David M. **Fresco**, PhD | University of Michigan | Professor | 44 |
| Tom **Gardner**, MD, MS | Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative, University of Michigan Medical School | Co-Scientific Director, Professor | 45 |
| Christopher **German**, PhD | Myriad Genetics | Senior Scientist | 45 |
| Per **Gjorstrup**, MD, PhD | Anida Pharma Inc | CEO | 45 |

| NAME | ORGANIZATION | TITLE | Pg. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Adam **Glassman**, MS | Jaeb Center for Health Research | Executive Director | 46 |
| Kerry **Goetz**, MS | National Eye Institute/NIH | Associate Director | 46 |
| Daniel **Gordin**, MD, DMSc v | Helsinki University Hospital, Joslin Diabetes Center | Associate Professor, Head of the Cardiorenal Diabetes Research Group | 46 |
| Jakob **Grauslund**, MD, PhD, DMSci | Odense University Hospital | Professor, Chief Physician | 46 |
| Rachana **Haliyur**, MD, PhD | University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center | Vitreoretinal Surgical Fellow | 47 |
| Julia A. **Haller**, MD v | Wills Eye Hospital/Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University | Ophthalmologist-in-Chief and William Tasman, MD Endowed Chair/Professor and Chair of Ophthalmology | 47 |
| Zhaowei (Ricky) **Han** | University of Michigan | PhD student, Bioinformatics | 47 |
| Wendy **Harrison**, OD, PhD v | University of Houston College of Optometry | Associate Professor | 48 |
| Christopher **Hartford**, MPH v | Regeneron | Senior Manager, Patient Centered Outcomes Research & Digital Health | 48 |
| Mary Elizabeth **Hartnett**, MD, FACS, FARVO v | Byers Eye Institute at Stanford | Professor of Retinal Science and Disease and Ophthalmology | 48 |
| Brian **Hofland**, PhD | Research to Prevent Blindness | President | 49 |
| John H. **Holmes**, PhD, FACE, FACMI, FIAHSI v | University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine | Professor of Medical Informatics in Epidemiology | 49 |
| Michelle R. **Hribar**, PhD v | National Eye Institute, Oregon Health & Science University | Data Scholar (NEI), Faculty Member at Oregon Health & Science University | 49 |
| Lori **Huang**, PharmD, MBA | ONL Therapeutics, Inc. | VP Clinical Affairs | 50 |
| Rachel **Huckfeldt**, MD, PhD | Massachusetts Eye and Ear, Harvard Medical School | Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology | 50 |
| Judy M. **Hunt**, BBA, MBA | Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative | MTM Vision Lay Advisor | 50 |
| Robert **Hyde**, MD, PhD | University of Illinois-Chicago | Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology | 50 |
| Leslie **Hyman**, PhD | Wills Eye Hospital, Thomas Jefferson University | Professor, Vice Chair for Research | 51 |
| Dan **Ignaszewski** | Alliance for Eye and Vision Research | Executive Director | 51 |
| Kees **Janeway** | Iconic Real Estate | Managing Partner | 52 |
| Thiran **Jayasundera**, MD, MS, FACS, FRCSC, FRANZCO | University of Michigan | Assoc. Prof. Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences | 52 |

| NAME | ORGANIZATION | TITLE | Pg. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Karl **Jepsen**, PhD | University of Michigan, Dean's office | Professor and Associate Dean for Research | 52 |
| Mark **Johnson**, MD | University of Michigan, Kellogg Eye Center | Professor of Ophthalmolology and Visual Sciences; Chief, Retina Service | 53 |
| Nina **Jolani** | Patient Advocate | Patient Advocate | 53 |
| Sam **Kavusi**, PhD | Verily (Google Life Sciences) | Head of Retina Imaging and Services | 53 |
| Dana **Keane**, MS | Optos | VP of Clinical Affairs | 54 |
| Amy **Kilbourne**, PhD | Learning Health Sciences, University of Michigan | Professor | 54 |
| Julie **Kim**, MD **v** | US Food and Drug Administration, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research | Physician | 54 |
| Leo **Kim**, MD, PhD | Mass Eye and Ear / Schepens Eye Research Institute | Associate Professor | 54 |
| Andrew **Kocab**, PhD | ONL Therapeutics, Inc. | VP, Research | 55 |
| Renu **Kowluru**, PhD, FARVO | Wayne State University | Professor | 55 |
| Leanne **Labriola**, DO | University of Pittsburgh, Sewickley Eye Group | Adjunct Professor, Investigator | 55 |
| Phillip **Lai**, MD **v** | Perfuse Therapeutics | Chief Medical Officer | 56 |
| Deepak **Lamba**, PhD | Genentech (Roche) | Distinguished Scientist | 56 |
| Marianne **Laouri**, PhD. | Boehringer Ingelheim | Global Asset Lead, Retinal Health | 56 |
| Sun Young **Lee**, MD, PhD | University of Southern California | Assistant Professor | 57 |
| Luis Andres **Lesmes**, PhD | Adaptive Sensory Technology, Inc | CEO | 57 |
| S. Robert **Levine**, MD | Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative | Founder and CEO | 57 |
| Drew **Lewis** | Estenda | CEO & President | 58 |
| Jie **Liu**, PhD | University of Michigan | Associate Professor of Computational Medicine and Bioinformatics | 58 |
| Rhea **Lloyd**, MD **v** | US Food and Drug Administration, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research | Clinical Team Leader, Division of Ophthalmology, Office of Specialty Medicine | 58 |
| Flora **Lum**, MD **v** | American Academy of Ophthalmology | Vice President, Quality and Data Science | 59 |
| Mahsaw **Mansoor,** MD | University of Michigan | Clinical Instructor | 59 |
| Dorene **Markel**, MS, MHSA | Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative, Michigan Medicine | Senior Advisor, Assistant Research Scientist Emerita, Department of Learning Health Sciences | 59 |

| NAME | ORGANIZATION | TITLE | Pg. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Red **Maxwell** | Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative | Volunteer | 60 |
| Tim **Mayotte**, BS | University of Michigan | Research Fellow | 60 |
| Jason **McAnany**, PhD | University of Illinois, Chicago | Professor of Ophthalmology | 60 |
| April **McCullough**, MD | Regeneron | Medical Director of Ophthalmology Medical Affairs | 61 |
| Stephen **McLeod**, MD v | AAO (CEO), UCSF (Chair/Professor Emeritus) | CEO, Chair/Professor Emeritus | 61 |
| Ian **McMillan** | Konan Medical | VP of Sales and Marketing | 61 |
| Mia **Meltzer** | Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative | Social Media Manager | 61 |
| Olivia **Meyerhoffer** | Boehringer Ingelheim | Global Value Lead | 62 |
| Shahzad **Mian**, MD | Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, University of Michigan | Professor, Chair | 62 |
| Kara **Mizokami-Stout**, MD | University of Michigan | Assistant Professor | 62 |
| Aileen **Morgan**, MBA, BSc | BioCryst | Vice President Global Development & Product Team Leader | 63 |
| Tomoaki **Murakami,** MD v | Kyoto University | Associate Professor | 63 |
| Martin **Myers**, MD, PhD | University of Michigan | Professor | 63 |
| Niranjani **Nagarajan**, MD, MPH | University of Michigan - MM Ophthal and Visual Sciences | Research Area Specialist Lead | 63 |
| Kelly **Naylor** | Verily Life Sciences | Head of Sales (Retinal Service) | 64 |
| Eric **Ng**, PhD | Eyebiotech Ltd - A subsidiary of Merck & Co, Inc (Rahway, NJ) | SVP, Biology | 64 |
| Lauro **Ojeda** | University of Michigan | Research Scientist | 64 |
| Shahnti **Olcese Brook** | Human Content | COO | 65 |
| Carol **Oxenreiter** v | Breakthrough TID | N/A | 65 |
| Monica **Oxenreiter**, MPP, MBA v | Close Concerns | Vice President of Content | 65 |
| Warren **Pan**, MD, PhD, MPhil | University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center | Vitreoretinal Surgery Fellow | 66 |
| Subramaniam **Pennathur**, MD | University of Michigan | Professor of Medicine and Molecular and Integrative Physiology, Director O'Brien Kidney Center | 66 |
| Mark **Pennesi**, MD, PhD | Retina Foundation of the Southwest | Professor | 66 |
| Margery **Perry** | Breakthrough T1D | N/A | 66 |

| NAME | ORGANIZATION | TITLE | Pg. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tunde **Peto**, MD, PhD | Queen's University Belfast | Professor | 67 |
| Rebecca **Pfeiffer**, PhD | Moran Eye Center, University of Utah | Research Assistant Professor | 67 |
| Gretchen **Piatt**, PhD, MPH v | University of Michigan Department of Learning Health Sciences | Professor and Chair | 67 |
| Adriana **Plevniak** | Patient Advocate | Patient Advocate | 67 |
| Corey **Porter**, PhD | Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative Biorepository and Resource Center | Research Lab Specialist | 68 |
| David **Preiss**, MRCP FRCPath PhD v | University of Oxford | Professor | 68 |
| Sandra **Puczynski,** PhD | Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative | Lay Advisor | 68 |
| Rithwick **Rajagopal**, MD, PhD | Washington University School of Medicine | Associate Professor | 69 |
| Kelli **Ramos**, MPH | Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative and Michigan Medicine | Senior Project Manager | 69 |
| Michael **Ranella**, MBA, MPH | University of Michigan | Senior Director Business Development | 69 |
| Arunkumar **Ranganathan,** PhD v | University of Utah | Post doctoral research associate | 70 |
| Rajesh **Rao**, MD | University of Michigan | Leonard G. Miller Professor of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences | 70 |
| Tanya **Richardson** v | Fortrea | Exec Dr. strategic Delivery & Growth Ophthalmology | 70 |
| Lydia **Robert** | Father Gabriel Richard High School | Student | 71 |
| Mariana **Rosca**, MD | CMU College of Medicine | Professor | 71 |
| Julie **Rosenthal**, MD, MS | University of Michigan, Kellogg Eye Center | Assistant Professor | 71 |
| Ethan **Rossi**, PhD v | University of Pittsburgh | Associate Professor | 71 |
| Mira **Sachdeva**, MD, PhD | Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine | Assistant Professor | 72 |
| Emily **Sammons**, BSc, MBChB, MSc v | University of Oxford | Clinical Research Fellow | 72 |
| Edward **Sanchez**, MBA | Adaptive Sensory Technology, Inc. | Co-founder and COO | 72 |
| Joshua **Santosa** | LKC Technologies | Senior Biomedical Engineer | 73 |
| Przemyslaw (Mike) **Sapieha**, PhD | University of Montreal | Professor | 73 |
| Eve **Scherer** | University of Michigan | Student | 73 |
| Reinier **Schlingemann,** MD, PhD v | University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands | Professor of Ophthalmology and Vascular Diseases of the Macula | 74 |

| NAME | ORGANIZATION | TITLE | Pg. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Anna **Schork**, JD | University of Michigan Life Sciences Institute | Managing Director | 74 |
| Anjali **Shah**, MD | University of Michigan, Kellogg Eye Center | Associate Professor | 74 |
| Steven **Sherman**, MPH | Regeneron | Senior Director of Health Economics and Outcomes Research | 74 |
| Henry **Shin**, PhD v | Excitant Therapeutics | CEO | 75 |
| Chris **Shoemaker**, MEd, MBA | Michigan Medicine | Managing Director | 75 |
| Fabiana **Silva**, MD | Regeneron | Medical Director | 75 |
| Paolo **Silva**, MD | Beetham Eye Institute, Harvard Medical School | Associate Professor | 76 |
| Rafael **Simó,** MD, PhD v | Vall d'Hebron University Hospital | Professor | 76 |
| Terry **Sims** | MTM Vision | Executive Assistant to Dr. S. Robert Levine | 76 |
| Sobha **Sivaprasad**, FRCOphth v | Moorfields Eye Hospital, London | Professor | 77 |
| Maurine **Slutsky** | Stand Up 2 Cancer | Media and Entertainment Relations | 77 |
| Sharon **Solomon**, MD v | Johns Hopkins School of Medicine | Professor of Ophthalmology | 77 |
| Elizabeth **Stanley**, MPH | Boehringer Ingelheim | Global HEOR Lead, Retinopathies | 77 |
| Alan **Stitt**, PhD v | Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK | Professor | 78 |
| Hannah **Stocker**, MD, PhD | Boehringer Ingelheim | Epidemiologist | 78 |
| Cathy **Sun**, MD | University of California San Francisco | Assistant Professor | 78 |
| Jennifer **Sun**, MD, MPH | Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative, Joslin Diabetes Center | Co-Scientific Director, Professor | 79 |
| Jeff **Sundstrom**, MD, PhD | Penn State College of Medicine | Assistant Professor | 79 |
| Tien-En **Tan**, MBBS(Hons), MMed(Ophth), FRCOphth, FAMS | Singapore National Eye Centre, Singapore Eye Research Institute, Duke-NUS Medical School | Fellow in Medical & Surgical Retina, Clinical Assistant Professor | 79 |
| Ziqi **Tang**, MPhil, PhD | The Chinese University of Hong Kong | Research Assistant | 79 |
| Daniel **Ting**, MD PhD v | Singapore National Eye Centre | Associate Professor | 80 |
| Peter **Toogood**, PhD | University of Michigan | Research Assoc. Professor | 80 |
| Ashu **Tripathi**, PhD | University of Michigan | Director, Natural Product Discovery Core | 81 |
| Emmanouil (Manos) **Tsamis**, PhD | Columbia University | Assistant Professor of Ophthalmic Science | 81 |

| NAME | ORGANIZATION | TITLE | Pg. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Santa J. **Tumminia**, PhD v | National Eye Institute | Deputy Director | 81 |
| Shelby **Unsworth**, PhD | University of Michigan | Associate Director for Business Development | 82 |
| Brian **VanderBeek**, ME, MPH, MSCE | University of Pennsylvania/Scheie Eye Institute | Associate Professor | 82 |
| Stela **Vujosevic**, MD, PhD, FEBO, FARVO | University of Milan | Professor | 82 |
| Hayley **Wasser** | Michigan Medicine | Associate Director of Development | 83 |
| James **Weiland**, PhD | University of Michigan | Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Medical School and College of Engineering and Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Science | 83 |
| Barbara **White**, PhD | Australian Centre for Accelerating Diabetes Innovations (ACADI, The University Melbourne) | Senior Research Fellow | 83 |
| Risa **Wolf**, MD | Johns Hopkins Medicine | Associate Professor of Pediatrics | 84 |
| Tien Yin **Wong**, PhD v | Tsinghua Medicine, Tsinghua University; Singapore National Eye Centre | Professor | 84 |
| David **Wright**, PhD v | Queen's University Belfast | Belfast Association for the Blind Lecturer in Ophthalmic Data Science | 84 |
| Charles C. **Wykoff**, MD, PhD v | Retina Consultants of Texas | Medical and Surgical Retina Specialist | 84 |
| Philip **Yin**, MD, PhD | Pemi River Health Solutions, LLC | Founder | 85 |
| Carmen **Yu** | Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative Biorepository and Resource Center | Research Laboratory Specialist | 85 |
| Alex **Zmejkoski** | University of Michigan, Kellogg Eye Center | Research Fellow | 85 |

# Participant Photos & Biographies

**Maria Fernanda Abalem, MD, MsC, PhD**

Maria Fernanda Abalem, MD, MsC, PhD, is a medical uveitis and surgical retinal specialist with expertise in conditions of inherited retinal degeneration (IRD). She was trained at the Kellogg Eye Center by Drs. Thiran Jayasundera and John Heckenlively between 2016-2018 and joined the University of Michigan's Kellogg Eye Center in 2019 as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Abalem splits her time between Ann Arbor, MI and Sao Paulo, Brazil, where she still maintains a clinical practice and serves on faculty at University of Sao Paulo.

Dr. Abalem is a research faculty at the University of Michigan with ongoing projects in structural and functional endpoints for therapeutic clinical trials, patient reported outcomes (PRO), image informatics (artificial intelligence to characterize phenotype and predict disease progression), and genotype-phenotype correlations.

**Steven F. Abcouwer, PhD**

Dr. Steven F. Abcouwer is a Research Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Michigan Medicine, Kellogg Eye Center. His research has been funded by multiple National Eye Institute (NEI) R01 research grants and industry research contracts. His lab uses rodent models of retinal ischemia-reperfusion, retinal detachment, and diabetic retinopathy to study the innate immune responses to neurodegeneration and how inflammation affects retinal degeneration and the loss and restoration of the inner blood-retinal barrier. Other research areas are the role of mechanistic target of rapamycin (mTOR) signaling in retinal physiology, including retinal vascular development, retinal ganglion cell pathophysiology, and bipolar cell light-evoked responses. Dr. Abcouwer is Director of the Molecular Biology Core of the National Eye Institute P30 grant-funded University of Michigan Vision Research Center. He has served as a member and chair of several national and international grant review panels, including NIH study sections. He serves as the Chief Editor of the Journal of Ophthalmology (Wiley Online Library), Associate Editor of Frontiers in Ophthalmology (Retina Section) and Frontiers in Immunology (Multiple Sclerosis and Neuroimmunology Section), and sits on the editorial boards of the journals Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science (IOVS), Translational Vision Science and Technology (TVST), Molecular Vision, International Journal of Molecular Sciences (IJMS), and American Journal of Physiology - Endocrinology and Metabolism. He also serves as a consultant for major biopharmaceutical companies developing treatments for sight-threatening retinal diseases.

**Michael Abramoff, MD, PhD, FARVO**

Michael D. Abramoff, MD, PhD, is a fellowship-trained retina specialist, computer engineer, and entrepreneur. A fellow of IEEE, he is the Robert C. Watzke, Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Iowa, with a joint appointment in the College of Engineering. Dr. Abramoff is also Founder and Executive Chairman of Digital Diagnostics Inc, the AI diagnostics company that was the first in any field of medicine to get FDA clearance for an autonomous AI, as well as sustainable nationwide reimbursement, where the AI makes a medical decision without human oversight. In primary care, it instantaneously diagnoses diabetic retinopathy and diabetic macular edema at the point-of-care. Dr. Abramoff developed an ethical foundation for medical AI that is instrumental to the design, validation, and regulatory and reimbursement pathways for autonomous AI. The results of randomized controlled trials and other studies show that autonomous AI increases clinician productivity and satisfaction, health equity, patient outcomes and access, and lowers cost. He is founder and executive secretary of the Healthcare AI coalition, representing pure medical AI companies in Washington DC, and a founding member and treasurer of FDA's Collaborative Community on Ophthalmic Imaging. As the author of over 400 peer-reviewed publications in this field, he has been cited over 50,000 times (h-index 82) and is the inventor on 25 issued patents and many patent applications. Dr. Abramoff has mentored dozens of graduate engineering students, ophthalmology residents, and retina fellows. His passion is to use autonomous AI to improve the productivity and affordability of healthcare.

**Lloyd Paul Aiello, MD, PhD**

Dr. Aiello is internationally recognized as an expert in the area of diabetic retinopathy basic and clinical research and has an extensive clinical, biochemical and molecular biological understanding of diabetic eye disease. He was one of the original investigators defining the role of Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor in diabetic retinopathy and other ischemic retinal diseases receiving the prestigious Antonio Champaulimaud Award in 2014 for these efforts (one of his 66 major awards & honors). He was the 2020 Friedenwald Award and the 2022 Lawrence J. Singerman Medal recipient. Dr. Aiello has also pioneered basic studies in protein kinase C and plasma kallikrein in relation to diabetic retinopathy. Dr. Aiello is expert in clinical evaluation and trials. He has been instrumental in major translational approaches to bringing basic studies into the clinical arena for clinical evaluation of diabetic eye disease, including novel assessments of visual function. He has chaired numerous multi-national multicenter randomized controlled clinical trials in treatment of diabetic retinopathy and was the inaugural chair of the NIH-sponsored Diabetic Retinopathy Clinical Research Network. He has extensive experience in diabetic patient evaluation, novel visual function assessment, retinopathy evaluation & treatment, directing clinical trials, telemedicine for diabetic eye disease, diabetes-specific eye research, intraocular fluid acquisition, storage, and analyses. Dr. Aiello is the DCCT/EDIC site PI and overseas all aspects of these studies at the Joslin Diabetes Center.

**Bela Anand-Apte, MBBS, PhD**

Dr. Anand-Apte is the Chair of Ophthalmic Research at the Cole Eye Institute at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. She is also Professor of Ophthalmology and Molecular Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University. She joined the Cleveland Clinic in 1996.

Dr. Anand-Apte received the equivalent of an MD degree from King Edward Memorial Hospital and Bombay University in India. Having developed an interest in research, she completed a PhD in Immunology and Microbiology from the Boston University School of Medicine in Boston, Massachusetts. A brief postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology at Harvard University was followed by a Research Associate position at Children's Hospital in Boston in the Department of Surgical Research.

She has received the Karen Grunebaum Award for research in Cancer, the Tom and Sandy Trudell Research Award for the study of retinal degenerative diseases, awarded through the Foundation Fighting Blindness and the Lew Wasserman Award from Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB). Dr. Anand-Apte has a strong commitment to improving diversity in the biomedical science research field and has played a pivotal role in establishing programs at the Cleveland Clinic to reach this goal.

**Chris Andrews, PhD**

Chris Andrews, PhD, is a Statistician Expert in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science at the University of Michigan Medicine Kellogg Eye Center. During three decades of training and research, Chris has acquired extensive statistical, mathematical, and programming expertise. His varied interests include predictive modeling, analysis of correlated data, clinical trial design, item response theory, epidemiology, health policy research, survival analysis, and statistics education. Chris is a coinvestigator on many federally funded grants with researchers at UM and other research institutions resulting in 140 peer-reviewed publications. He staff's the department's Data Integrity Core. He is a consultant at UM's Consulting for Statistics, Computing and Analytics Research (CSCAR). In addition to his research, Chris is a passionate educator and mentor. He has taught a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses at several institutions, consistently receiving high praise for his engaging teaching style and his ability to demystify complex statistical concepts. He actively mentors researchers and junior statisticians. Beyond his employment, he has served as president of an American Statistical Association chapter and of a school board; coached many sports teams; and donated four gallons of blood.

**Laura Bachrach**

Laura oversees communications and public relations for MTM Vision to amplify the organization's mission of preserving and restoring vision for people impacted by diabetes, drawing attention to the critical need for research and solutions to cure diabetic retinal disease.

With a career rooted in entertainment and corporate communications, Laura worked at Creative Artists Agency (CAA), where she played a pivotal role in managing public relations and communications for the agency and a diverse roster of clients, including talent, directors, athletes, and corporate partners like Coca-Cola, Sony, and NBC. This positioned her at the intersection of entertainment, corporate, and global brands. Following her tenure at CAA, Laura directed communications and PR at the renowned advertising agency Saatchi & Saatchi and Weber Shandwick, one of the world's leading communications firms.

Beyond her experience in communications and PR, Laura has worked across marketing, advertising, media, corporate social responsibility (CSR), thought leadership, and licensing for some of the world's most recognizable brands and talent, including Toyota, QVC, illy coffee, Barneys New York, The Food Network, the NFL, NBA, Disney, the Sundance Institute, Universal, and Vanity Fair.

**Remko Bakker, PhD**

Dr. Bakker is a pharmaceutical executive with over 20 years' experience in drug discovery and preclinical development. He focuses on central nervous system (CNS), CardioMetabolic, and retinal disease areas ranging from early target discovery to supporting late-stage pipeline products.

In 2002, Dr. Bakker was nominated to an assistant professor at the Department of Molecular Pharmacology of the Division of Medicinal Chemistry at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. In 2005, he joined the CardioMetabolic Diseases Research (CMDR) at Boehringer Ingelheim as a Laboratory Head and became a director in 2011.

Over the years, Dr. Bakker has led and supervised various drug discovery projects in the areas of immunology, CNS diseases, type 2 diabetes, atherosclerosis, obesity, nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), and ophthalmic diseases affecting the retina, including diabetic retinopathy and diabetic macular edema, as well as age-related macular degeneration and geographic atrophy. Dr. Bakker is responsible for the preclinical retinopathy portfolio and represents research in the Retinal Health Leadership Committee. He has also served as co-promotor of six PhD theses, and has published >75 scientific publications, including reviews, book chapters and patent applications.

**Amanda Barnett**

Amanda Barnett is an Assistant Director of Development with the W.K. Kellogg Eye Center at Michigan Medicine. Amanda enjoys connecting inspirational faculty with passionate individuals to generate support for medical research, patient care, and future generations of providers. Prior to joining Michigan Medicine, she was the Director of the Northville Art House, a small community arts organization in downtown Northville, MI. She received her undergraduate degree from Albion College and Masters in Arts Administration and Cultural Policy from Goldsmiths College in London, England. When Amanda is not working, she enjoys knitting, spending time with loved ones, and spoiling her cat.

**Eric Barritt**

Eric Barritt is the senior associate vice president and chief development officer of the Michigan Medicine Office of Development. In this role, he leads a team of 125+ development professionals with annual fundraising production of more than $200 million. Under his leadership, Michigan Medicine raised more than $1.5 billion during the Victors for Michigan Campaign, exceeding its goal by $500 million. Planning for the next campaign is underway and is anticipated to be the most ambitious in the history of the University of Michigan.

Prior to this role, Eric served as vice president of development, alumni and community engagement at Oakland University (OU). In this capacity, he led a comprehensive advancement program for the university and oversaw a team of 75. During his time at OU, annual cash from philanthropy nearly quadrupled, new pledges tripled and the number of new gifts increased 40 percent. In 2006, Eric was hired by the Detroit Medical Center (DMC) as corporate vice president of development and campaigns. He worked collaboratively with a team of more than 40 fundraising professionals at the DMC and fundraising increased nearly fourfold. From 1999 to 2006, Eric served in multiple roles at the University of Michigan, including director of development for the School of Kinesiology; the regional director of major gifts for the College of Literature, Science and the Arts (LSA); and director of development for the Life Sciences Institute (LSI). Eric began his career in fundraising in 1997 at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, a world-renowned children's hospital that garners more than $1 billion annually in philanthropy. He also served as director of major gifts at Oakwood Healthcare System, now part of Beaumont Health.

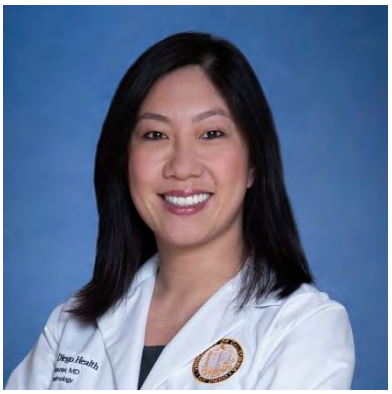
Eric has a Master's Degree in Public Administration, a graduate certificate in nonprofit management and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics, all from the University of Michigan. He also holds a certificate from Harvard's Institute for Educational Management. He has served in leadership roles on numerous nonprofit boards and professional organizations.

**Fabio Baschiera, PharmD, PhD**

Fabio Baschiera, PharmD, PhD is Global Clinical Leader for Ophthalmology at Bayer Clinical Development, Basel, Switzerland. Fabio is the medical lead for the development of compounds in Diabetic Retinal Diseases including runcaciguat, currently under study in Non-Proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy. Part of his clinical duties is also to perform Due Diligences with focus on innovative treatment options in high-medical need indications in Ophthalmology. Previously, Dr. Baschiera served as VP Clinical Development at Oculis SA, a Swiss Start Up focusing on the development of Ophthalmological topical formulations. In Novartis, as part of the Global Ophthalmology Leadership Team, Dr. Baschiera held clinical responsibilities over the Ophthalmology portfolio, including Lucentis and brolucizumab, as well as managerial ones. He received his PharmD degree at the University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy, then joined the Faculty of Medicine in the same University, licensing magna cum laude in Pharmacology at the Division of Pharmacology and Chemotherapy. Thereafter, he continued his academic path with the PhD in Medical Physiopathology and Pharmacology at the Department of Internal Medicine.

**Darrell Baskin, MD**

Darrell Baskin, MD, is a vitreoretinal surgeon and ophthalmic hospitalist at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio where he has the privilege of teaching amazing residents and caring for some of the poorest members of our society. Darrell’s research interests include diabetic retinopathy, epiretinal membranes and optical coherence tomography.



**Sally L. Baxter, MD, MSc**

Sally L. Baxter, MD, MSc is a clinician-scientist working at the intersection of ophthalmology and biomedical informatics. She is an Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and Biomedical Informatics (Department of Medicine) at the University of California San Diego. She has expertise in artificial intelligence, biomedical and clinical informatics, big-data analytics, and data standards, with a particular interest in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in clinical practice, research, and training. She is the first ophthalmologist to receive the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of the Director's Early Independence Award in 2020. Additionally, she was recognized in Ophthalmology Management's "40 Under 40" list, and was a recipient of the 2023 NEI Director's Award. Dr. Baxter is the Chief of Ophthalmology Informatics and Data Science at the University of California San Diego, chair of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Data Standards Workgroup, member of the AAO Committee on Artificial Intelligence, and founder and co-lead of the Observational Health Data Sciences and Informatics Workgroup in Eye Care and Vision Research. She is the PI of multiple grant-funded research studies and training programs and has over 110 scientific publications.

**Silke Becker, PhD**

Silke Becker, PhD, investigates the interactions between light-sensing neurons and vascular cells in retinal neovascular diseases, such as diabetic retinopathy and retinopathy of prematurity.

Dr. Becker began her scientific career at King's College London, where she studied vascular cell biology under Dr. Philip Aaronson and Prof. Albert Ferro. She then transitioned to retinal cell biology at University College London's Institute of Ophthalmology, in Prof. Astrid Limb's laboratory, where she initiated research on the role of Müller glial cells in retinal neovascular diseases. This work laid the groundwork for her subsequent studies at the University of Utah in Prof. ME Hartnett's laboratory, where she explored gene therapy approaches to mitigate neovascularization in retinopathy of prematurity.

Since establishing her research program at the John A. Moran Eye Center at the University of Utah in 2021, Dr. Becker has integrated her expertise in cardiovascular biology and retinal electrophysiology. With her extensive experience in small animal models of retinal diseases and advanced electrophysiology techniques, Dr. Becker continues to explore the mechanisms of photoreceptor damage in retinal neovascular diseases, aiming to develop novel therapies to prevent vision loss.

**Toke Bek, MD, MBA, Dr. Med Sci**

Professor Toke Bek is the head of department and professor of ophthalmology, at the Aarhus University Hospital since 2000. Not only does he is a planner for the course in clinical ophthalmology at Aarhus University, he has also launched the candidate education in Optometry and Visual Science the same place. Professor Bek is a planner and lecturer at the formalised education in organization and management for Danish medical consultants. He acted as censor in public economy and management at the universities in Denmark.

In addition, Professor Bek is the project leader under the European Union's 4. 5. and 7. framework programmes for research. He is an advisor in ophthalmology to the Danish Board of Health. Professor Bek is a corresponding editor at Acta Ophthalmologica, Current Eye Research and Graefes Archives for Clinical and Experimental Ophthalmology. He is also an official opponent to Ph.D. and doctoral theses at the universities of Aarhus, Southern Denmark, Copenhagen, Reykjavik, Lund, Toronto and Vienna.

Professor Bek graduated from University of Copenhagen in 1985 and passed the ECFMGEMS in 1986. After military service and basic clinical training, he completed a residency in ophthalmology in 1994 and concurrently took an MBA which was completed in 1995. For more than 30 years, Professor Bek's main focus has been on basic and clinical studies on retinal vascular physiology and pathophysiology in especially diabetic retinopathy. He supervises 4 post docs, 29 Ph.D students and 36 pre-graduate research studies. Professor Bek is the author of 280 peer reviewed scientific articles, contributor to 23 text books, 3 patents and has an H-index of 42.

**Amanda K. Bicket, MD, MSE**

Dr. Amanda Kiely Bicket grew up in Baltimore, Maryland. After graduating magna cum laude from Harvard University with a degree in biology, she earned her M.D. from Duke University, where she carried out ophthalmic photography research aimed at remote diagnosis of pediatric eye disease in underserved areas. During her ophthalmology residency at the Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute, she discovered a passion for the innovations changing surgical glaucoma care and a love of long-term patient relationships, education, and advocacy. Dr. Bicket briefly returned to Duke Eye Center for a glaucoma fellowship before joining the faculty at Johns Hopkins, where she practiced for 5 years.

Now, with training in both biomedical engineering and outcomes research from the Johns Hopkins Schools of Engineering and Public Health, Dr. Bicket focuses on novel ways to capture patient-centered outcomes, including gait and mobility changes, in chronic eye diseases. Her recent work employing wearable sensors to capture gait changes in glaucoma is funded by a grant from the NIH National Institute on Aging's Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Centers. Her ongoing work on patient-reported outcomes in glaucoma treatment has been published in Ophthalmology Glaucoma and the American Journal of Ophthalmology, and has informed FDA recommendations for clinical trial design. Her work on a novel glaucoma drainage device was featured in in Bioengineering & Translational Medicine and Ophthalmology & Therapy. She also chairs the Quality, Efficiency, and Performance Measures Subcommittee of the American Glaucoma Society's Patient Care Committee, and is delighted to collaborate with the Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative, combating the functional impact of diabetic eye disease.

**Barbara Blodi, MD**

Dr. Barbara Blodi is a professor and medical retina specialist in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. Dr. Blodi is the medical director of the Wisconsin Reading Center (WRC); her research focuses on novel retinal imaging systems as well as retinal imaging biomarkers. Within the WRC, Dr. Blodi currently serves as principal investigator for 6 DRCR trials and serves as PI for industry-sponsored clinical trials including phase 1, 2 and 3 trials for DR/DME, dry and wet AMD, RVO and uveitis. As part director of the WRC, she works extensively with industry partners to shape protocol development, provide imaging outcomes, and assist with data analysis. In addition to training medical students, residents and fellows, Dr. Blodi has established a pre-residency research fellowship in retinal imaging at the Wisconsin Reading Center.

**William M. Boyd, MD**

William M. Boyd, MD is Deputy Division Director of the Division of Ophthalmology at the US Food and Drug Administration, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. He joined the Agency in 1998 as a Medical Officer, and later served as Clinical Team Leader in the Division. Prior to joining the Agency, Dr. Boyd was in private practice in Western North Carolina.

**Mitch Brigell, PhD**

For the past 20 years Dr. Brigell has worked in the pharmaceutical industry leading clinical development of agents for the treatment of ophthalmic diseases. He currently consults for a number of biotechs. Dr. Brigell was the Vice President of Clinical Development at Aerpio Pharmaceuticals from 2013 to 2019. While at Aerpio, Dr Brigell directed the development of a pipeline of novel small molecules and monoclonal antibodies for the treatment of diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, wet AMD and DME. Before Aerpio, Dr. Brigell was Executive Director of Translational Medicine, Ophthalmology at Novartis Institutes of BioMedical Research and held roles of increasing responsibility at Parke-Davis/Pfizer in Experimental Medicine and Clinical Technologies. He originally joined the pharmaceutical industry as part of the Clinical Development team for Pregabalin (Lyrica). Dr. Brigell spent over a decade in academic medicine at Loyola University and the University of Chicago in the Departments of Neurology, Neuroscience and Ophthalmology. His area of academic interest focused on electrophysiological and behavioral effects of diseases of the retina and optic nerve. He has published over 70 scientific papers and is a Fellow of the Association of Research in Vision and Ophthalmology. Dr. Brigell is on the Editorial Board of Translational Vision Science and Technology and Documenta Ophthalmologica.

**Thomas Brunner, BSEE, MBA**

Tom Brunner joined Glaucoma Research Foundation in 2003 after a successful 30-year career in the ophthalmic laser business. He helped introduce major advances in eye care including laser photocoagulation to prevent vision loss from diabetic retinopathy, laser treatment of secondary cataracts, and laser treatment for glaucoma.

Since joining Glaucoma Research Foundation, Tom has helped to more than double revenue and focus on innovative research to understand how glaucoma steals sight and find a cure. He received a “Lifetime Achievement” award from the American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery for his contributions and 25 years of service on their Board of Directors.

Tom actively supports development of new products to help those with glaucoma and other eye diseases as an advisor or board member for startup companies in the eye care field. Tom graduated from Lehigh University with a degree in electrical engineering and received an MBA from the University of Delaware.

**Cindy Cai, MD, MS**

Dr. Cai is the Jonathan and Marcia Javitt Rising Professor and Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at the Wilmer Eye Institute. She graduated from Columbia University summa cum laude with a major in biology and minor in music. She received her medical degree from Columbia University and completed her ophthalmology residency at Johns Hopkins with subsequent fellowship training in vitreoretinal surgery at Duke University. She received her Master of Science in Applied Health Sciences Informatics at the Johns Hopkins University. She is now a clinician-scientist and practicing retina specialist at the Wilmer Eye Institute. Her research, supported by the National Eye Institute and Research to Prevent Blindness, is focused on promoting health equity in diabetic retinopathy care using informatics tools. She also has a keen interest in leveraging big data, such as the electronic health record (EHR) and federated data networks, to develop personalized eye care for patients with diabetes.

**Anne Marie Cairns, BSc (Hons)**

Anne Marie is a senior executive with over 30 years of global clinical trials, product development, regulatory and medical affairs expertise. She has extensive experience delivering multiple therapeutic clinical development projects working in the Pharmaceutical industry (Boehringer Mannheim & Roche). Anne Marie joined Optos as the company launched on the London Stock Market in 2007. Collaborating with the most distinguished academic leaders in the field of retinal research, she has helped revolutionised the field of retina imaging by establishing Optos ultra-widefield imaging and integrated OCT as indispensable in the management of retinal vascular diseases and beyond. With over 25,000 medical devices worldwide and more than 3,000 published clinical studies on Optos medical technology, she continues to lead research & academic collaborations into the long-term value of ultra-widefield imaging with OCT in screening, diagnosis, treatment planning, and patient engagement.

**Claire Calhoun**

Claire Calhoun, MS is a Protocol Director with the DRCR Retina Network Coordinating Center in Tampa, Florida. The mission of the DRCR Retina Network is to conduct high quality, collaborative clinical research that improves vision and quality of life for people with retinal diseases. The DRCR Retina Network supports the identification, design, and implementation of multicenter clinical research initiatives focused on retinal disorders.

**Eric Carlson**

Eric began his career at Creative Artists Agency (CAA) in Los Angeles, California, where he spent 14 years as an agent and Co-Head of Television. During his tenure at CAA, Eric packaged billions of dollars worth of content.

After leaving CAA, Eric co-founded CK&D with his wife, Susan, establishing a premier cause marketing agency. CK&D partnered with charitable organizations, corporate foundations, and media companies, including the United Nations Foundation, PBS, the Alzheimer's Association, Easter Seals, and LLS, to name a few. They have created and produced some of the most impactful social campaigns in history, including Stand Up to Cancer, iParticipate, Go Red for Women, and Stayin' Alive (hands-only CPR) for the American Heart Association. They have produced more than 40 PSAs, collaborating with actors such as Tom Hanks, Ben Affleck, Morgan Freeman, Reese Witherspoon, Joaquin Phoenix, Zoe Saldana, Garth Brooks, Mark Wahlberg, Shonda Rhimes, and Elizabeth Banks.

In 2020, Eric and Susan sold their stake in CK&D to fully dedicate themselves to social impact and cause-driven organizations and entertainment initiatives, producing feature films and television broadcast specials for clients like the Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative. They work alongside partners who share their passion for driving meaningful, lasting change through compelling storytelling, innovative marketing strategies, and strategic media partnerships while leveraging their fundraising expertise to support critical initiatives.

**Nicholas Carruthers, PhD**

Nick Carruthers, Ph.D. is a bioinformatician at the University of Michigan. He is interested in using molecular analysis of vitreous fluid to understand eye disease, particularly using Olink proteomic data for biomarker discovery in proliferative diabetic retinopathy and retinal detachment. He is also interested in data sharing standards in ocular research and for multiplexed antibody-based analyses generally. He has a Ph.D. in Molecular Toxicology from Wayne State University and extensive experience in the analysis of proteomics and NGS-based data.

**Dolly S. Chang, MD, MPH, PhD**

Dolly S. Chang, M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D. is the Chief Scientific Officer at Kodiak Sciences. Dr. Chang is an accomplished ophthalmologist and biotech leader with extensive experience in clinical development across all stages of ophthalmic drug development. Prior to joining Kodiak, Dr. Chang was Group Medical Director at Genentech Research and Early Clinical Development (gRED), where she served as the disease area expert in ophthalmology, co-led the Digital Health Team, and provided expertise in corporate development due diligence activities. At Genentech, she steered complex molecule programs across various development stages, championed new therapeutic areas including glaucoma neuroprotection, and contributed to ocular cell therapy strategy. At Kodiak, Dr. Chang oversees pipeline development and clinical programs, advancing transformative therapies for retinal diseases.

Dr. Chang earned her M.D. from National Taiwan University, and her M.P.H. and Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University, where she completed her ophthalmology residency. She further specialized with a glaucoma fellowship at Stanford University. Dr. Chang maintains a position as Adjunct Assistant Professor at Stanford University's Byers Eye Institute, continuing her clinical practice in cataract and glaucoma surgeries, research, and mentoring. She also serves on the external scientific advisory board for the Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative.

**Roomasa Channa, MD**

Roomasa Channa, MD is an Assistant Professor and co-Director of the Artificial Intelligence Unit in the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She completed her ophthalmology residency followed by vitreoretinal surgical fellowship at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. She is an NEI funded clinician-scientist with a research focus on leveraging automated retinal image analysis techniques to identify early retinal changes and prevent vision loss among patients with diabetes.

**Michelle Chen, PhD**

Michelle Chen, PhD is the head of clinical development at Perfuse with over a decade of experience in clinical and translational research in ocular drug development. Michelle joined Perfuse from Allergan/Abbie, where she had many roles including global program lead and clinical science lead in various ocular assets spanning from the front to the back of the eye at varying stages of development. She also played a key role in expanding Ozurdex® ex-US approvals and advancing Durysta® to the initial US approval. Prior to Allergan/Abbvie, Michelle worked at Spinnaker Biosciences, where she was the PI of a SBIR grant, to transfer a technology developed from a university collaborator to the clinic.

**Carol Cheung, BSc, MPhil, PhD**

Dr Carol Cheung is an Associate Professor at Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). She is an internationally recognized scientist and academic leader in the field of “ocular imaging”, as reflected in her track record over nearly 20 years in the development and application of state-of-the-art image analysis techniques, including artificial intelligence (AI), for studying major eye and systemic diseases, particularly diabetic retinal disease and Alzheimer’s disease. In broad areas of “eye imaging” and “oculomics”, her research leverages on cutting-edge digital and AI technology and has resulted in improving our understanding, and providing novel solutions to enhance the diagnosis, screening and treatment, of major healthcare problems. *(continued)*

Recently, she led the establishment of state-of-the-art three-dimensional AI models to detect sight-threatening eye diseases including diabetic retinal disease. The AI power infrastructure/platforms have been implemented in the CUHK Eye Centre, Hong Kong Eye Hospital, CUHK Medical Centre and lower-middle-income countries for prospective validation. The AI system provides a rapid, easy, cost-effective, and reliable eye disease identification as well as clinical referral/triage suggestion to facilitate timely treatment and management, leading to avoid serious and irreversible vision loss, and save and better allocate healthcare resources (e.g. doctors' time). She has authored >300 research articles in SCI international indexed peer reviewed journals, and 15 book chapters. She has delivered more than 120 invited lectures globally.

**Gemmy Cheung, MD**

Professor Gemmy Cheung is currently the Arthur Lim Professor in Ophthalmology at Duke-NUS Medical School, National University of Singapore (NUS). She is the Head of the Medical Retina Department, Singapore National Eye Center and Director of Translation Clinic Research at the Singapore Eye Research Institute (SERI). Her research interests focus on Asian retinal diseases, specifically age-related macular degeneration (AMD), polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy (PCV) and myopic macular degeneration.

Prof Cheung has published over 300 peer-reviewed articles mostly in age-related macular degeneration and polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy. She has contributed to major clinical trials in anti-VEGF for AMD and PCV. She serves on the executive committee of the Asia-Pacific Vitreoretina society, the International Retinal imaging Society and the Macula Society. She has been given >200 invited lectures internationally, including the Gabriel Coscas Lecture, the Neil Della Lecture, Optic UK Lecture and the APVRS Constable Lecture.

Professor Cheung has received several prestigious awards, including the American Academy of Ophthalmology Secretariat award, the Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology Senior Achievement award, Nakajima Award and Outstanding Service in Prevention of Blindness Award.

**Emily Chew, MD**

Emily Chew is the director of the Division of Epidemiology and Clinical Applications and the Chief of Clinical Trials Branch, at the National Eye Institute/National Institutes of Health. She is a board-certified ophthalmologist/medical retina specialist who has designed and conducted clinical trials and epidemiologic studies in retinovascular diseases including the Age-Related Eye Disease Study (AREDS)/AREDS2, the Actions to Control Cardiovascular Risk in Diabetes (ACCORD) Eye Study, and the clinical trials of the international Macular Telangiectasia Project (Mac Tel Project) for the treatment of age-related macular degeneration (AMD), diabetic retinopathy and macular telangiectasia type 2, respectively. She currently serves as the chair of Protocol AF (evaluating the use of fenofibrate for the worsening of diabetic retinopathy) for the Diabetic Retinopathy Clinical Research Retina Network. She also collaborates with colleagues at the National Library of Medicine (NLM/NIH) utilizing of artificial intelligence/deep learning on detecting, classifying, and predicting the progression of AMD. She is the Editor-in-Chief for Ophthalmology Science, a member of journals associated with the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

**Karen Chu, MS**

Karen is a clinical development professional with 28 years of strategic and operational experience leading cross-functional teams in biotech and pharma. Her development experience spans pre-IND, IND/CTA submission, Phase 1-4 clinical trials (US and Global), multiple BLA/MAA submission, FDA Advisory Committees, launch support and lifecycle management. She is currently the Vice President and Global Program Head for Ophthalmology within Global Development at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals. As Global Program Head, Karen is responsible for leading the creation of an integrated program strategy through engaging with and including information from all relevant key stakeholders for EYLEA®, EYLEA® HD and earlier phase ophthalmology assets. During her over 20-year career with Regeneron, she was a key leader in the successful strategy and execution of the EYLEA® and EYLEA® HD global development programs including FDA and global health authority approvals across multiple indications.

**Marither S. Chuidian, MD, MPH**

Dr. Chuidian is the Senior Medical Director, Clinical Development, Eye Care at Abbvie.

**Jocelyne Clancy, MS, PMP, RDN**

Jocelyne is the Project Manager for the Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative (MTM Vision) and the Admin Specialist at the University of Michigan's Caswell Diabetes Institute. As a certified Project Management Professional with over a decade of experience, Jocelyne has a strong track record of delivering complex projects on time and within budget.

Her extensive background includes a decade-long role as Room Service Call Center Manager at Michigan Medicine, where she managed daily operations, optimized workflows, and prioritized patient satisfaction. Skilled in human resource management, Jocelyne ensured clear communication and effective collaboration across diverse teams, including onsite, hybrid, and remote staff.

Inspired by her father's journey with type 2 diabetes, kidney failure, and diabetic retinal disease, Jocelyne pursued a bachelor's degree in nutrition and became a registered dietitian. Her commitment to MTM Vision's mission of curing diabetes-related vision loss drives her dedication to her role and the initiative's impactful work.

**Helen Colhoun MB BCh BAO, MD, MFMHM FRCP (Ed)**

Professor Helen Colhoun (MB BCh BAO, MD, MFMHM FRCP (Ed)) is a Professor (AXA Chair) of Medical Informatics and Life Course Epidemiology at the Institute of Genetics and Cancer within the University of Edinburgh. Prof. Colhoun leads the Diabetes Medical Informatics and Epidemiology research group, where her team harnesses the increasing availability of electronic healthcare records and uses large scale population-based approaches to further our understanding of the pathogenesis and means of prevention of diabetes and associated complications. Prof. Colhoun has led the formation and development of the national diabetes research platform in Scotland, and is the principal investigator of the Scottish Diabetes Research Network Type 1 Bioresource (SDRNT1BIO) study. Her research has impacted on and been cited in clinical guidelines internationally and in national policy for diabetes.

**Sydney Colvill, BSN, RN**

Patient Advocate: I was diagnosed with T1 D when I turned 16 and after 49 years I never let it stop me from doing interesting things. Diabetes fit right into my lifestyle regarding diet and exercise. After studying cooking in Paris, I went into mechanical engineering and later, IT in the oil and steel industry, working with my father‘s company. After he sold the business, I returned to the University of Texas HSC-Houston for a BS in nursing.  I went directly into research, first in lipid research then Cardiology research with Baylor College of medicine. As one of four RN for GCRC I was also involved in cutting edge research areas. Thankfully, when I was first diagnosed my mother, founded the Houston chapter of JDF (now JDRF) with the help of Lee Ducat. I was involved in a number of ways and went on to serve as legislative chairman covering Texas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma, which meant trips to the capital requesting research dollars  I was appointed to

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serve on the Texas Diabetes Council as well. I was in the right spot to benefit when blood sugar testing first became available. However, it did not prevent the changes that started to occur in my eyes after about 10 years from diagnosis. After many years of laser, in both eyes as well as vitrectomies in my right eye, and later, in my left eye, it was very difficult to work in the Cath Lab due to low lighting and all the laser wiped out all my side vision. I stopped working in 2005 after my left retina detached and tore leaving me with minimal vision in that eye. What I thought was going to be the end of the effects of DR with just limited vision, has turned out not to be. It is still evolving fading, detecting certain colors but the biggest challenges are to reading and recognizing what or who I'm looking at. I truly believe that with research many people will be helped and not have to face limitations on their life due to their vision.

**Roger Cone. PhD**

Roger Cone joined the University of Michigan as 2016 as the Director of the Life Sciences Institute, and was appointed Vice Provost in 2017. Prior to Michigan, Cone was Professor and Chairman of the Department of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics at Vanderbilt University from 2008-2016, and a faculty member of the Vollum Institute, Oregon Health Sciences University from 1990 - 2008. Cone is credited with the discovery of multiple fundamental biological roles for the melanocortin system in energy homeostasis, the genetics of pigmentation, and exocrine gland function. These findings resulted from studies cloning and characterizing the five receptors for the melanocortin peptides, and analyzing the pharmacological and physiological functions of these receptors. Cone's group provided the genetic and pharmacological validation of the melanocortin-4 and melanocortin-3 receptors as critical regulators of energy homeostasis, leading to the discovery of mutations in the MC4R as the leading cause of syndromic obesity, and development of the first drug for syndromic obesity, the MC4R agonist Imcivree, approved by the FDA in 2020. Cone has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences (2010), and the National Academy of Medicine (2016) for his work, and received numerous awards, including the Berson Award, Berthold Memorial Award, Ipsen Prize, and the Rolf Luft Prize.

**Kevin Corcoran, CAE**

Kevin Corcoran is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Eye Bank Association of America. Since joining EBAA in 2011, he has initiated a new strategic planning process, an outreach program to foster more member collaboration and engagement and guided the association through a reorganization of its governance structure. Recently, the association has expanded its membership qualifications to serve new markets and has begun investing a portion of its reserves in emerging technologies that benefit its members.

Kevin has over 30 years of non-profit management experience, and serves on the Boards of Directors of multiple for-profit and non-profit organizations. Kevin is a graduate of Georgetown University, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Marketing.

**Betsy Cote**

In September of 2019, Betsy Cote joined Joslin Diabetes Center as the new Chief Development Officer. Betsy has nearly 30 years of Boston-based philanthropy experience, much of which is from working in Harvard Medical School-affiliated healthcare settings. She is a proven philanthropy executive, with a track record of leading fundraising operations and creating organization-wide cultures of strategic fundraising, grounded in strong internal and external partnerships. She came to Joslin from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, where she was Managing Executive Director of Development, managing major and principal gifts for priority programmatic areas, including the Cardiovascular Institute and Cancer Center as part of a comprehensive, capital campaign. Prior to BIDMC, Betsy spent 17 years of her philanthropic career at Massachusetts General Hospital managing fundraising for clinical specialties such as pediatrics, cardiology, and primary care. In 2022, Joslin affiliated with Beth Israel Lahey Health the second largest health system in New England comprised of 14 institutions.

**Aude Couturier, MD, PhD**

Professor Aude Couturier is professor of ophthalmology at Paris Cité University and head of the ophthalmology department at the Lariboisière and Saint-Louis University Hospitals (AP-HP) and at Foundation Rothschild Hospital in Paris. Professor Couturier specializes in retinal imaging including OCT-Angiography, diagnosis and laser treatment of diabetic retinopathy, diagnosis and management of high myopia and vitreoretinal surgery. She is the project leader of EviRed study (intelligent evaluation of diabetic retinopathy, a multicentric study in France) and head of the French Myopia Institute. She is the co-organizer of the University Diploma in retinal imaging and pathologies (University of Paris Cité and Sorbonne University). She is a member of the Euretina Society, Myopia Society and she is the author of many scientific and educational papers in retinal diseases.

**Christine Curcio PhD**

Christine Curcio PhD, a neuroscientist by training, has made seminal contributions to the anatomic and molecular pathobiology of age-related macular degeneration (AMD), which degrades central vision in aged adults worldwide. Using tools of digital histology, her lab has made important discoveries about the composition and role of drusen deposits in human AMD while also identifying hallmarks such as early loss of rod photoreceptors, gliosis, and RPE transdifferentiation. Her microscopy studies support multiple clinical diagnostic techniques for ophthalmology, including optical coherence tomography, autofluorescence, adaptive optics, and rod-mediated dark adaptation. She amassed >265 PubMed entries, >34,000 citations, and an H-index of 91. Dr Curcio received the 2002 (inaugural) Roger H. Johnson Prize for Macular Degeneration research, 2014 Ludwig von Sallmann Prize, 2020 Research to Prevent Blindness – David F. Weeks Award, and the 2022 Lawrence A. Yannuzzi Lectureship of the International Retinal Imaging Society. In 2022, she became a Laureate of the Future Vision Foundation. In 2025 she and Cynthia Owsley will receive the Proctor Medal from the Association of Research in Vision and Ophthalmology.

**Antonio Cutino**

Antonio has spent over 40 years in various aspects of eye care. The last 24 years in retina working on clinical trials, product development, and expanding his medical affairs expertise. Antonio entered the world of pharma with the launch of Xalatan (the first prostaglandin for glaucoma); followed by the launch of Visudyne (the first pharmacotherapy for wAMD); then Soothe (the first lipid restorative artificial tear); and later focused on ILUVIEN (the first and only 3yr drug delivery implant for DME). He has learned from, published and collaborated with many leaders in the field of glaucoma, dry eye, retina, and continues to further his passion for all things ophthalmology.

**Quentin Davis, PhD**

Quentin received his PhD in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from MIT in 1997. His PhD research entailed computer vision, instrumentation design, and studying the mechano-electric transduction in ear of the Southern alligator lizard, Elgaria multicarinata. Afterwards, he designed equipment used to measure analyte concentrations, which has been used, for example, to measure SARS-CoV-2 antibody concentrations in COVID-19 vaccine development. In his next opportunity, Quentin designed equipment used by the military to detect for biological warfare agents. Later, Quentin moved to a company attempting to make blood tests for very low concentration analytes, such as circulating tumor cells for early cancer detection. About 15 years ago, Quentin joined LKC Technologies as the VP of Operations, leading R&D,

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manufacturing, purchasing, and quality. At LKC, he developed the RETeval device, Sensor Strip electrodes, and has modernized the UTAS product line. Among others, he has authored 2 journal articles on diabetic retinopathy detection, 1 on how to construct reference data, and 1 on Troland stimulation that was listed as a top article of the year by Documenta Ophthalmologica. His research in diabetic retinopathy has won the Marmor Award for Clinical Innovation in Visual Electrophysiology. Quentin's 11 peer reviewed publications and 20 patents have been cited over 1200 times with an h-index of 17. Quentin is a FIRST Robotics mentor, a county science fair judge, and an interviewer for high-school students applying to MIT.

**Michael De Meyer**

Michael Charles De Meyer is a brand strategist and transformation advisor. He is known for developing strong market positioning by utilizing the power of strategic brand development as a foundation for market growth and sustainability.

Michael has held several executive level positions that include roles with United Way, AlloyTek, Inc., Rospatch Corporation and as CEO of a national consulting/design agency. As a speaker he has addressed a wide range of audiences speaking on topics related to branding, communications and marketing.

Michael has been an involved advocate for education as a faculty instructor in higher education teaching capstone classes in public relations, marketing and management curriculums. Most recently, he held a faculty role in the School of Communications at Grand Valley University as well as coaching in the Design Thinking Academy.

His volunteer affiliations have included service on several board of directors and committees including: The international board of directors of Breakthrough T1D (Formerly JDRF). He is a past chair of Breakthrough T1D (Formerly JDRF) Communications Committee and served on the Government Relations, International Development, Field Operations, Children's Congress Committee's and the Research Advisory Board. He was the lead architect of their international branding initiative in 2000. Michael is a former member of the Steering Committee and past Chair of Communications for the Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative.

**Akhil Deshpande, MBA**

Mr. Akhil Deshpande is a senior medtech and digital health leader, who recently joined Verily as their Head of Product for Medical Devices and Digital Biomarkers programs. He has over 20 years of experience in medical product innovation across a wide range of disease areas, with prior global leadership roles at Medtronic, St. Jude Medical, Abbott, and Align Technology. He is passionate about bringing best in class products and solutions to the clinical and research communities to elevate outcomes and care. In his current role at Verily, he oversees initiatives such as the Verily Retinal Service, designed to enable easy access to high-quality retinal health screening.

**Dina Dubey**

Dina Dubey, Chief Executive Officer at LKC Technologies, leverages her 20 years of experience in the medical device industry to fulfill the mission to preserve vision and quality of life through functional retinal testing. She most recently served as an advisor to DW Healthcare Partners (DWHP). In this role, she worked with the investment and deal team to identify and conduct diligence on potential M&A targets within the medical device sector.

Previously, she was the Chief Operating Officer of Z-Medica under Teleflex. Post-acquisition, she joined the Teleflex integration management office to oversee the successful integration of Z-Medica into Teleflex. Prior to the acquisition by Teleflex, Dina was a critical member of the leadership team at Z-Medica. She contributed significantly to the growth and profitability of the organization. During her tenure, she collaborated with private equity investors and executive management to establish a value creation plan and execute strategies that led to acquisition of Z-Medica by Teleflex for $500 million in 2020. *(continued)*

Dina began her career at Kensey Nash Corporation (now DSM Biomedical) where she held numerous positions in research and product development, working on advanced biomaterials and regenerative medicine products. Leading cross-functional teams, she has extensive experience in all aspects of medical device development – from concept to launch.

Dina holds a B.S. degree in Biomedical Engineering from Case Western Reserve University and dual M.S. degrees in Engineering Management and Biomedical Engineering from Drexel University. She also completed the Program for Leadership Development at Harvard Business School. She is an inventor with issued and pending patents and is an author of peer-reviewed scientific publications.

**Adam Duerfeldt, PhD**

Adam obtained a B.A. in Chemistry in 2006 from Central College in Pella, IA then moved to Lawrence, KS to conduct his doctoral research as a Madison and Lila Self Graduate Fellow under the guidance of Professor Brian S.J. Blagg in the Department of Medicinal Chemistry at the University of Kansas. After obtaining his Ph.D. in 2011, Adam moved to San Diego, CA to conduct postdoctoral studies in the laboratory of Professor Dale L. Boger at The Scripps Research Institute as an American Cancer Society Postdoctoral Fellow. While at Scripps Adam was an ad hoc consultant for the Tech Coast Angels. Adam started his independent career as an Assistant Professor at the University of Oklahoma in 2014 and was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2020. In 2018, Adam co-founded Excitant Therapeutics, which focuses on the development of small molecule therapies for retinal diseases. In 2021, Adam joined the Medicinal Chemistry Department at the University of Minnesota where his groups' research continues to focus on therapeutic discovery for infectious and retinal diseases. Adam's research in the ocular space focuses on small molecule development for common ocular diseases. Various compounds developed in Adam's lab are licensed and currently in pre-clinical development for glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, macular edema, and age-related macular degeneration.

**Elia Duh, MD**

Elia J. Duh, M.D., is the G. Edward and G. Britton Durell Professor of Ophthalmology at the Wilmer Eye Institute. He has a joint appointment in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, The Whiting School of Engineering. He specializes in diseases of the retina, including diabetic retinopathy and age-related macular degeneration. In addition to his clinical practice, Dr. Duh actively researches the molecular mechanisms underlying diabetic retinopathy and macular degeneration, particularly the process of ocular neovascularization and excessive retinal vascular permeability. His research has helped determine the role of the major antioxidant regulator, Nrf2, in retinal diseases, and also connected Nrf2 to lifespan. His work has also provided insights into the involvement of the eye in COVID-19. Dr. Duh's interest in developing new treatments for retinal diseases includes nanomedicine approaches for targeted drug delivery to the eye.

Dr. Duh graduated summa cum laude from Yale University and obtained his medical degree from Harvard Medical School. He completed his ophthalmology residency and medical retina fellowship at the Wilmer Eye Institute. He was elected to the American Society of Clinical Investigation in 2016.

**Molly C. Dwyer-White, MPH**

Molly C. Dwyer-White, MPH, serves as the Managing Director of the Caswell Diabetes Institute (CDI) and the Director of the Brehm Center at the University of Michigan. In these roles, she works to develop the strategic framework and implement operations to support rigorous science and its integration with patient-centered clinical care, leading the way to prevent, treat, and cure diabetes, its complications and related metabolic diseases. Molly has many years of experience in supporting major, multi-disciplinary teams and research endeavors, especially in translational research and quality improvement arenas important for patients and communities. She also serves as Communications Director for the American Diabetes Association's Clinical Centers and Programs. *(continued)*

Recently, Molly served as the Michigan Health and Hospital Association's (MHA) vice president of safety and quality and the MHA Keystone Center's executive director. In this dual role, Molly developed and executed strategies to drive improvements in quality, safety, and experience across the state through evidence-based best practices, with special focus on addressing health and healthcare disparities. She continues to collaborate with MHA, recently serving as the Co-Chair of a state-wide Health Equity Taskforce, and as a member of the Person and Family Centered Care Committee. Prior to the MHA, Molly served as the administrative director for the Office of Patient Experience at Michigan Medicine where she provided leadership on health system-wide initiatives to improve the patient and family experience in coordination with quality and safety priorities.

Prior to working in healthcare, Molly spent years in program development and outreach for non-profit community organizations. Her passion for collaborating with partners has resulted in work that fosters innovative community and patient-engaged research and programs that produce outcomes that matter to people and families. Molly (and her family) stays very active, hopping from one sport to another and spending as much time as possible outdoors.

**Erika Eggers, PhD**

I am a Professor of Physiology and Biomedical Engineering and the Associate Department Head for Research in Physiology at the University of Arizona. I run the Eggers Laboratory for Retinal Neurophysiology (https://sites.arizona.edu/eggerslab/) that focuses on the function of retinal neurons in different conditions, including disease. Our work on diabetes seeks to understand which retinal neurons become dysfunctional in early diabetes, how this dysfunction occurs, and how this damage correlates with retinal function and glial, microglial and vascular damage. We use single-cell electrophysiology, ex vivo electroretinography, optogenetics, dopamine release measurements, in situ hybridization and immunohistochemistry labeling and confocal imaging. Our recent work focuses on how calcium and dopamine signaling are dysfunctional in the diabetic retina.

**Jason Ehrlich, MD, PhD**

An ophthalmologist and cell biologist by training, Jason Ehrlich is co-founder and CEO of Ollin Biosciences, a newly-formed biotech focusing on development of new therapeutics for ophthalmic diseases including DR and DME. Jason was previously CMO/CDO at Kodiak Sciences and Global Head of Product Development Ophthalmology at Genentech, and has been involved in the development and approval of therapeutics for diabetic eye disease since 2008.

**Angela Elam, MD, MPH**

Dr. Angela Elam is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences at the University of Michigan, a glaucoma specialist and a health equity researcher. Dr. Elam attended the University of Pittsburgh for undergrad, where she received a B.S. in Neuroscience and a B.A. in Spanish. Before attending medical school at Duke University, she was a middle school Spanish teacher in her home state of Virginia. After her time at Duke, she went back to the University of Pittsburgh for residency, followed by a glaucoma fellowship at the University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center. She subsequently joined the faculty at Kellogg and recently earned her Master's degree in Public Health from the University of Michigan. Dr. Elam's mission is to conduct research in ophthalmology that informs health policy and moves the field toward equity in eye care. She has authored multiple publications exploring sociodemographic disparities in eye care, is an NIH K23 awardee, and led the American Academy of Ophthalmology's Taskforce on Disparities in Eye Care's efforts to create a roadmap for eye care providers to combat existing disparities in vision health and eye care. In addition to being a busy clinician and researcher, Dr. Elam is a pastor's wife and mother of two children, ages 8 and 5.

**Mohamed Elmasry, MD, PhD**

Dr. Mohamed Elmasry completed his ophthalmology residency training in Alexandria, Egypt, followed by three years of medical retina fellowship at the Joslin Diabetes Center/Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. During that time, he also completed a joint PhD with Alexandria University under the supervision of Dr. Lloyd P. Aiello, earning his PhD in 2020. Since 2021, he has been a retina specialist at the Joslin Diabetes Center/Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, where he holds an academic title of Instructor in Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School. He continues to be engaged in clinical trials and conducts imaging research with a particular focus on ultrawide-field imaging and its role in diabetic retinopathy. He is also the director of the Alexandria Icare Retina Reading Center in Egypt.

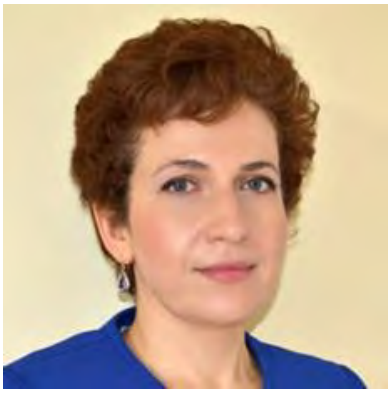
**David Esposito**

David is an experienced healthcare executive who has built and scaled multiple companies that resulted in successful exits to strategic buyers.

David is currently the CEO of ONL Therapeutics based in Ann Arbor, MI. ONL Therapeutics is developing therapeutics based on Fas inhibition to protect the vision of patients with retinal disease.

David is the former CEO of Armune BioScience. The Company successfully launched the only non-PSA blood test to improve the detection of prostate cancer. Armune BioScience was sold to Exact Sciences (EXAS) in 2017. He was President of Phadia US Inc. (allergy and autoimmune diagnostics) and played a pivotal role in the sale of the business to Thermo Fisher Scientific (TMO) in 2011. David began his career as a sales representative with Merck & Co. Inc. and rose through the ranks of sales, marketing and commercial strategy for the US Division.

David is a combat veteran, led an infantry platoon with the 101st Airborne Division through several combat operations, and was recognized with a Bronze Star for combat action in Iraq in 1991. David earned his B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from the United States Military Academy at West Point and his MBA from Syracuse University.



**Malvina Eydelman, MD**

Dr. Eydelman is the Director of the Office of Ophthalmic, Anesthesia, Respiratory, ENT and Dental Devices at the FDA.

For three decades, as an Expert Medical Officer, Senior Medical Advisor, Division and Office Director, Dr. Eydelman has led diverse multidisciplinary teams to assure the safety and effectiveness of medical devices. Her passion for expediting innovation of novel medical products that address health equity facilitates access to medical technologies for all diverse populations. Dr. Eydelman has pioneered access to numerous groundbreaking ophthalmic technologies including AI, Premium IOLs, MIGS, LASIK and Bioelectronic Implants. Dr. Eydelman is leading FDA's novel "Approach for Improving the Performance Evaluation of Pulse Oximeter Devices Taking Into Consideration Skin Pigmentation, Race and Ethnicity."

Dr. Eydelman was instrumental in developing and implementing novel policies with regulatory flexibility allowing expedited access to a number of critical devices, including ventilators during the Pandemic. Her contributions to the fight against COVID-19 have been acknowledged by personalized letter of gratitude from the President of the United States.

To promote equity along the total product life cycle of medical products, Dr. Eydelman is incorporating patient perspectives in all of the multi-stakeholder public-private partnerships that she spearheads. Her patient-centric

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approach is exemplified by development of patient-reported outcome measures for refractive surgery, premium IOLs and glaucoma. Dr. Eydelman's vision for The Collaborative Community on Ophthalmic Innovation (CCOI) is identifying and overcoming the key obstacles to ophthalmic medical product innovation around the globe. Building a new box instead of simply thinking outside one, is leading to expedited patient access in diverse communities.

Dr. Eydelman is a board-certified ophthalmologist. She received her M.D. degree from Harvard Medical School and a Doctorate in Health Sciences and Technology from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.). Dr. Eydelman received her undergraduate degree in Electrical Engineering, with a focus on Biomedical Engineering, from The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art. She was awarded the Advanced Certificate for Executives in Management, Innovation and Technology by M.I.T. Sloan School of Management.

Dr. Eydelman has been granted a U.S. patent, published more than 100 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and monographs and presented over 250 lectures worldwide. Dr. Eydelman guided development of more than 50 international and national standards, oversaw development of numerous regulations and guidance; and convened over 30 public meetings of FDA Medical Device Committees. Dr. Eydelman originated numerous symposia and workshops to facilitate medical device innovation and has been instrumental in expediting development of novel endpoints for clinical trials of pioneering technologies.

**Rafid Farjo**

Rafid Farjo is a research fellow at The University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center working on the creation of a patient-reported outcomes measure for those with diabetic retinal disease.

**Latrice Faulkner, PhD**

Dr. Faulkner has extensive expertise in leadership, administration, and strategic management. She completed a five-year postdoctoral fellowship in neuronal regulation of metabolism and a two-year fellowship in Research Operations, Management, and Strategy at the University of Michigan.

As the Administrative Manager of the Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative (MTM Vision) Consortium at the University of Michigan's Caswell Diabetes Institute, Dr. Faulkner plays a pivotal role in combating Diabetic Retinal Disease (DRD), a complication of diabetes that requires more awareness and research support. This consortium facilitates collaboration among academic and industry experts by providing access to critical research resources. These efforts accelerate the identification of new therapeutic targets, expedite drug development processes, and support FDA approvals, ultimately benefiting patients with DRD.

"Returning to CDI felt like coming home. Partnering with MTM Vision is incredibly rewarding. We strive to innovate and preserve vision in people with diabetes, and this mission motivates me daily," she notes.

Dr. Faulkner's dedication and expertise are vital to advancing MTM Vision's goal of addressing diabetes-related vision loss and offering hope to affected individuals worldwide.

**Rick Ferris, MD**

Dr. Ferris started his career at the National Eye Institute (NEI), National Institutes of Health in 1973. He was the Director of the Division of Epidemiology and Clinical Applications at NEI from 1994 to 2017 and was the Clinical Director at NEI from 2000 to 2017. He received an A.B. degree from Princeton University in 1968 and completed his medical training, internship and ophthalmology residency at Johns Hopkins. He is a board-certified ophthalmologist and epidemiologist. He has published over 300 manuscripts in peer review journals and has been involved in dozens of national and international clinical trials. He retired from NEI in 2017, but continues to consult with the DRCR, Foundation Fighting Blindness, JAMA-O and multiple data monitoring committees.

**Ward Fickweiler, MD, PhD**

Ward Fickweiler, MD, PhD, is an ophthalmologist and research fellow at Joslin Diabetes Center, Boston, MA. His research focuses on discovering novel biomarkers and protective factors for diabetic retinopathy using translational approaches. In collaboration with Joslin researchers, he has investigated the kallikrein-kinin pathway as a VEGF-independent mediator of diabetic macular edema and characterized Retinol Binding Protein 3 as a potential protective factor for diabetic retinopathy. Dr. Fickweiler is the recipient of the American Diabetes Association Postdoctoral Award and the 2024 Retina Society Research Fellowship Award for Scientific Excellence.

**Will Flanary, MD**

Will Flanary is an ophthalmologist and comedian who moonlights in his free time as "Dr. Glaucomflecken," a social media personality who creates medical-themed comedy shorts for an audience of over 4 million across social media. His humor is shaped by the challenges of medical training and his patient experiences. Will is a 2-time testicular cancer survivor as well as a survivor of cardiac arrest, saved by his intrepid wife and her timely CPR. Initially used as a creative outlet to cope with these health challenges, Will's comedy has evolved over time to incorporate biting satire of the US healthcare system, academic publishing, and interpersonal conflicts pervasive in the medical system. He co-hosts the medical comedy podcast "Knock Knock, Hi! with the Glaucomfleckens" and is currently on tour with a multimedia stage show "Wife & Death with the Glaucomfleckens."

**Kristin Flanary, MA**

Kristin Flanary, MA, holds a bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University (2008) and a master's degree from Dartmouth College (2011). Known internationally as "Lady Glaucomflecken" on social media, Kristin offers a unique perspective on healthcare. She has experienced being a patient, caregiver, and co-survivor of her husband's two cancer occurrences and sudden cardiac arrest by age 35. Co-founding Glaucomflecken LLC in 2022, she advocates for co-survivors of medical trauma, supports sudden cardiac arrest survivorship, and raises awareness for CPR and AED use. Kristin serves as Co-Patient Editor for the Journal of Cardiac Failure. She co-hosts the medical comedy podcast "Knock Knock, Hi! with the Glaucomfleckens" and is currently on tour with a multimedia stage show "Wife & Death with the Glaucomfleckens." She is honored to have received an EMS Cardiac Arrest Save Challenge Coin (2020), the Citizen CPR Foundation's 40 Under 40 award (2021), and the American Heart Association's Resuscitation Champion award (2022).

**Donald Fong, MD, MPH**

Donald Fong is VP, Global Medical Lead and Ophthalmology Therapeutic Area head at BioCryst. He also serves as Clinical Professor at the Kaiser Permanente School of Medicine. Don served his ophthalmology residency and retina fellowship at Harvard Medical School / Mass. Eye and Ear Infirmary. He also completed at diabetic retinopathy fellowship at Harvard/Joslin Diabetes Center and a clinical trials fellowship at the National Eye Institute/NIH.

**Patrice Fort, PhD, MS**

Patrice Fort, PhD, MS is the Director of The Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative Biorepository and Resource Center, Associate Professor, Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Michigan Medicine, and Associate Professor, Molecular & Integrative Physiology, Michigan Medicine.

Dr. Fort is a trained neuroscientist focusing on the neuroretina and the neuro-glial interaction. Dr Fort did his undergraduate studies at the Claude Bernard University in Lyon (France) before a master's degree in neuroscience and a Doctorate in Living Sciences from the Louis Pasteur University in Strasbourg (France) with Dr. Alvaro Rendon and Dr. Jose Sahel at the Vision Institute in Paris (France). During his Ph.D., he uncovered unknown key roles of one of the dystrophin isoforms called Dp71, one as a key player in the regulation of retinal homeostasis by Müller glial cells, and the other as a critical protein for maintenance of lens transparency.

Following his Ph.D., Dr. Fort pursued is training at the Penn State University (Hershey, PA) where he continued to gain knowledge of retinal physiology and how it is affected by metabolic and neurodegenerative diseases. As he joined the laboratory of Dr. Gardner for his postdoctoral fellowship, he started studying how diabetes affects retinal metabolism and specifically, protein synthesis. This led to the identification of novel mechanisms of regulation of protein synthesis, specific to the retina and different from other insulin-sensitive tissues. During this time, he also identified previously unknown proteome changes, including effects on intrinsic protective mechanisms critical for cellular survival, using proteomic-based discovery approaches. Dr. Fort was recruited by the University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center in 2010, where he focuses on the function and regulation of these intrinsic protective mechanisms in acute and chronic retinal neurodegenerative disorders. Dr. Fort later joined the department of molecular and Integrative Physiology (MIP) and the Neuroscience graduate program (NGP) of the University of Michigan for which he is the co-director of recruitment and teaches sensory neuroscience to graduate students.

**David M. Fresco, PhD**

David M. Fresco is Professor of Psychiatry and Research Professor at the Institute for Social Research (ISR), and Research Director for Michigan Mindfulness. His program of research adopts an affective neuroscience perspective to conduct basic, translational, and treatment studies of anxiety and mood disorders, particularly distress disorders (e.g., major depressive disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder) incorporating methodologies including functional neuroimaging (fMRI & EEG), peripheral psychophysiology, and serum markers (e.g., inflammation, neurodegeneration).

Another facet of Dr. Fresco's research has focused on the development of treatments informed by affective and contemplative neuroscience findings that incorporate mindfulness meditation and other practices derived from Buddhist mental training exercises. Much of his current and recent NIH-funded research has focused on examining neurobehavioral mechanisms and efficacy of mindfulness-enriched treatments for chronic illnesses, and the role of emotion regulation strategies in everyday life to reduce distress.
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Increasingly, with collaborators at ISR within the Data Science for Dynamic Intervention Decision-Making Center. Dr. Fresco has initiated clinical trials for treatment optimization and implementation utilizing adaptive intervention methodology (e.g., sequential multiple assignment randomized trials [SMART] & just-in-time adaptive interventions [JITAIs]).

Dr. Fresco has also co-founded the Strong Minds and Enhanced Vision initiative at the Kellogg Eye Center, University of Michigan, led by Dr. Thiran Jayasundera, which brings together experts in vision and mental health to help people with low vision handle the challenges of vision loss and find new ways to live meaningful lives. An important part of our program is teaching emotion regulation skills to manage the emotional distress of vision loss attributable to inherited retinal diseases and diabetic retinopathy.

**Thomas W. Gardner, MD, MS**

My goal is to enable persons with diabetes to maintain their vision by integrating clinical and laboratory studies of the mechanisms by which the altered metabolism and inflammatory responses of diabetes impair retinal homeostasis and vision. This strategy includes laboratory-based studies on the mechanisms of disruption of the neurovascular unit, including retinal neuronal and vascular damage, connecting with systemic and retinal metabolic disturbances and delivering pro-survival agents to the retina. Understanding the mechanisms by which diabetes disrupts the neurovascular unit is a central question toward developing improved therapies. Our studies, long funded by NIH, JDRF and the ADA have fundamentally redefined diabetic retinopathy as a sensory neuropathy rather than as a microvascular disorder. We pioneered the role of ganglion cell dysfunction in the pathophysiology of diabetes. I am a leader of the JDRF Center of Excellence at the University of Michigan and serve as Science Co-Director of the Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative.

**Christopher German, Ph.D.**

Christopher German, Ph.D. is currently serving as the Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative Lay Advisory Committee Chair. Chris has been a type 1 diabetic since the age of six and is deeply vested in the Initiative's mission. He is a senior scientist at Myriad Genetics overseeing verification and validation studies required for regulatory approvals. Prior to his time at Myriad Genetics, Chris was an assistant professor at the University of Utah, researching substances of abuse, completed his post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Utah, and earned his Ph.D. in molecular neuroscience from Mayo Clinic and B.S. in biology from the University of Notre Dame. In addition, Chris volunteers for the Breakthrough T1D Mountain West Chapter and has been on the Chapter board for the last eight years.

Chris lives in Salt Lake City, Utah, with his wife Mary, their two young sons, two dogs, and desert tortoise. When free time is found, he enjoys mountain biking, backcountry skiing, hiking, and a glass of good single malt whisky.

**Per Gjorstrup, MD, PhD**

Dr. Per Gjorstrup is the Founder of Anida Pharma which is developing first-in-class drug therapies for ocular diseases with a focus on retinal disease, including both diabetic retinopathy and retinopathy of prematurity. Dr. Gjorstrup has a long career in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry. Primarily focusing on translational science under his leadership 7 first-in-class drug candidates have been brought into clinical development with a focus on inflammation and oncology and some in continued development to approval. His preclinical and early clinical drug development experience in ophthalmology covers both anterior and posterior segment indications. He received his MD and PhD degrees from the University of Lund, Sweden, and previously held adjunct appointments at Harvard Medical School and SUNY College of Optometry.

**Adam Glassman, MS**

Adam R Glassman, MS is the President of the Jaeb Center for Health Research, a non-profit clinical trial coordinating center. He has worked at the Jaeb Center since 2003. After receiving his master's degree in statistics with an emphasis in biostatistics he joined the Jaeb Center as a biostatistician for the NIH-funded Diabetic Retinopathy Clinical Research Network (DRCR.net). Since 2009, Mr. Glassman has been the Principal Investigator (PI) and Director of the DRCR.net Coordinating Center. He has served as the PI for the coordinating center on over 25 NIH funded studies and 5 JDRF funded studies. He has co-authored over 100 per reviewed publications and is a peer-reviewer to multiple journals. Mr. Glassman is on the advisory board for the Cochrane Eyes and Vision group and is on the editorial board for JAMA-Ophthalmology and Retina Journal. Mr. Glassman has been a member of the Society for Clinical Trials since 2004.

**Kerry Goetz, MS**

Kerry Goetz is the Associate Director for the National Eye Institute's Office of Data Science and Health Informatics at the US National Institutes of Health. In this capacity she is responsible for advancing data management and sharing strategies to make NEI data FAIR (Fully AI-Ready & Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable). For over a decade, Kerry has been leading the eyeGENE Program, a controlled access resource with imaging, data, samples, and a participant registry for rare eye conditions. Kerry has also been entrenched in standards development for over 15 years. Kerry co-leads the Eye Care and Vision Research Observational Health Data Sciences and Informatics Working Group, is a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology Standards Working Group, and also works to aligning imaging standards and health data to enable groundbreaking research.

**Daniel Gordin, MD, DMSc**

Daniel Gordin MD PhD is an Associate Professor at University of Helsinki and PI at Minerva Foundation Institute for Medical Research in Helsinki, Finland. The research focus of his group is Cardiorenal diseases in patients with diabetes. Dr Gordin is an internist-nephrologist at Helsinki University Hospital and senior lecturer in internal medicine at University of Helsinki. He is an adjunct faculty at Joslin Diabetes Center in Boston MA.

**Jakob Grauslund, MD, PhD, DMSci**

Jakob Grauslund is a 47-year old Clinical Professor, Head of Research and Chief Physician at Odense University Hospital and University of Southern Denmark. He completed his PhD and Doctoral thesis within diabetic retinopathy, and he has subsequently worked intensively with various aspects of this field including screening, treatment, artificial intelligence, telemedicine, epidemiology, and register-based research. He is the main author of the Danish guidelines for screening and treatment of diabetic retinopathy and is ranked among the leading experts of the disease. He has published 216 papers and has been the principal supervisor for 80 pregraduate- and PhD students.

**Rachana Haliyur, MD, PhD**

Rachana Haliyur, MD, PhD, completed her ophthalmology residency at Kellogg Eye Center in 2024, serving as co-chief resident in her final year. Prior to her time at Michigan, she earned her MD and PhD at Vanderbilt University under the mentorship of Marcela Brissova, PhD and Alvin C. Powers, MD, where her NIH-funded doctoral work identified important molecular and functional features of the α and β cells within the human type 1 diabetes pancreas and monogenic form of diabetes caused by an autosomal dominant variant in hepatocyte nuclear factor-1α (*HNF1A*). During her ophthalmology residency, she has continued a translational research program focused on molecular mechanisms underlying inflammation in diabetic retinopathy (DR) through the study of post-mortem human retinal tissue from early DR, surgically harvested vitreous tissue in patients with vision threatening proliferative DR, and clinical findings in patients with diabetic macular edema. She has presented her work at multiple regional and national scientific venues, including selection for oral presentations. She has received several accolades for her research including the Vanderbilt Dean's Award for Research, George Slocum Resident Research Award, and Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Fellowship. She is currently a first year Vitreoretinal Surgical Fellow at Kellogg.

**Julia A. Haller, MD**

Julia A. Haller, MD is a trailblazing retina surgeon-scientist who has innovated translational advances against blindness on many fronts, including drug delivery devices, ocular pharmacotherapy, retinal 'chip' implants, gene therapy, telemedicine, and combating health care disparities. Graduate of Princeton, Harvard Medical School, and Johns Hopkins, she has published over 400 scientific articles and book chapters, with research interests in retinal pharmacology, macular surgery, venous occlusive disease, diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, complicated retinal detachments, health care disparities, and gender equity.

Chair of Section 6 of the National Academy of Medicine, Dr. Haller's honors include a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the Louis Braille Award from Associated Services for the Blind, the Heed Award from the Society of Heed Fellows, the Strittmatter Award from the Philadelphia Medical Society (their highest honor), and election to the Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars. Past president of the Retina Society, the American Society of Retina Specialists, the Women in Medicine Legacy Foundation, the John Hopkins Medicine Alumni Association, and the Board of Trustees of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology, and a founding member of Women in Retina, she chairs the Boards of the Heed Ophthalmic Foundation and The College of Physicians of Philadelphia, and serves on the Executive Committee of the Board of The Philadelphia Orchestra and Kimmel Center, Inc.

A Director of Bristol Myers Squibb, Opthea, and Outlook Therapeutics, a former Director of Celgene and Eyenovia, and Emerita Trustee of both Princeton University and the Bryn Mawr School, Dr. Haller and her husband, John D. Gottsch, MD, the Margaret C. Mosher Professor of Ophthalmology at Johns Hopkins, have five children: John, Natalie, Will, Alex, and Clare.

**Zhaowei (Ricky) Han**

Ricky is a PhD student at the University of Michigan. His research interests involve employing artificial intelligence tools like reinforcement learning, deep learning, and representation learning, to spearhead novel discoveries in Biological Sciences.

**Wendy Harrison, OD, PhD**

Dr. Wendy Harrison graduated from Indiana University School of Optometry as the first OD, MS combined degree student in 2005. Her MS thesis focused on changes in the multifocal pattern electroretinogram in glaucoma and began an interest in ocular electrophysiology that has continued throughout her career. Following graduation, Dr. Harrison completed a residency in cornea and contact lenses also at Indiana before pursuing a PhD at UC Berkeley. Her PhD is in the area of electrophysiology and early diagnosis of diabetic eye disease.

For several years Dr Harrison served on the faculty at Midwestern University where she began their clinical electrophysiology service and taught many courses. Currently she is an Associate Professor at the University of Houston College of Optometry. Dr Harrison teaches anterior and posterior segment pathology to optometry and graduate students, runs the clinical electrophysiology service for patients in need of testing, and conducts research of the visual effects of diabetes. Her current studies are funded by the NEI and evaluate both color vision changes in diabetes and also the impact of glucose and cardiovascular health on the front and back of the eye. She is an active member of both ARVO and the American Academy of Optometry.

**Christopher Hartford, MPH**

Chris Hartford is a distinguished Patient-Centered Outcomes Research & Digital Health (PCOR-DH) scientist at Regeneron. Christopher has a robust background with 9 years' experience in mixed methods research, including qualitative methodologies and measurement science. His expertise spans across therapeutic areas including neurology, dermatology, immunology, hematology, but not least, ophthalmology.

At Regeneron, Christopher generates empirical evidence to support global development efforts including clinical trial endpoints that intend to show a meaningful difference in outcomes that matter to patients the most. He is known for his ability to articulate complex research outcomes to diverse stakeholders, enhancing interdisciplinary collaboration. His work has directly contributed to the FDA approval of PRO label claims for new treatments, underscoring his impact on patient care and treatment options.

Christopher has co-authored several peer-reviewed publications in high-impact journals and has presented at leading clinical and scientific congresses. His research has advanced the understanding of patient experiences and the development of patient-reported outcome instruments, including for patients with diabetic retinopathy.

Christopher's dedication to patient-centered research and his strategic implementation of clinical outcomes assessments have established him as a trusted resource in the scientific community. His contributions continue to shape best practice frameworks intended to improve patient outcomes worldwide.

**Mary Elizabeth Hartnett, MD, FACS, FARVO**

Mary Elizabeth Hartnett, MD, is the Michael F. Marmor, M.D. Professor in Retinal Science and Diseases and is a Professor of Ophthalmology at Stanford University. Dr. Hartnett is the director of Pediatric Retina at Stanford University and principal investigator of a retinal angiogenesis laboratory, in which she studies causes and treatments for diseases including retinopathy of prematurity and age-related macular degeneration. She created the first-ever academic textbook on the subject, Pediatric Retina, in its third edition, which has proven to be an invaluable resource for residents and ophthalmologists internationally.

**Brian Hofland, PhD**

Brian Hofland, PhD, is President of Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB), whose mission is to support and advance research to develop treatments, preventives, and cures for all conditions that damage and destroy sight. RPB also seeks to strengthen and advance an excellent and diverse vision science research community. Hofland began at RPB in 2013 and works closely with its Board of Trustees. He spearheads strategic planning efforts to more sharply define mission and develop strategies to maximize the foundation's impact, including development of strategic collaborations across the vision field. Under Hofland's leadership, RPB has brought together high-level leaders of vision research funders—both private and public—for each of the last nine years. He currently serves on the Board of the National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research / the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research. Previously, Hofland held senior leadership positions with the National Council on Aging; AARP Foundation; The Atlantic Philanthropies; and The Retirement Research Foundation. Hofland was Founding Board Chair of the foundation affinity group, Grantmakers in Aging. Hofland holds a BA in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an MS and PhD in Health and Human Development from the Pennsylvania State University.

**John H. Holmes, PhD, FACE, FACMI, FIAHSI**

John H. Holmes, PhD, is the Professor of Medical Informatics in Epidemiology at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine. He is the Associate Director for Medical Informatics of the Penn Institute for Biomedical Informatics and is Past-Chair of the Doctoral Program in Epidemiology. He has mentored or co-mentored over 50 pre- and post-doctoral students in informatics or epidemiology, and has developed curricula for graduate training in epidemiology and biomedical informatics as well as short courses in these disciplines. Dr. Holmes has been recognized nationally and internationally for his work on developing and applying new approaches to mining epidemiologic surveillance data, as well as his efforts at furthering educational initiatives in clinical research. Dr. Holmes' research interests are focused on the intersection of medical informatics and epidemiologic research, specifically evolutionary computation and machine learning approaches to knowledge discovery in clinical databases, deep electronic phenotyping, interoperable information systems infrastructures for epidemiologic surveillance, and their application to a broad array of clinical domains. He has been deeply engaged in simulation through agent-based and network models of social, behavioral, and policy issues that affect health in the context of ever-changing environments. Dr. Holmes is an elected Fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics (ACMI) and the American College of Epidemiology (ACE), and an elected Fellow of the International Academy of Health Sciences Informatics (IAHSI). He is the Vice Chair of the ACE Ethics Committee. He is leading the development of the information systems for the MTM Vision Initiative Biorepository and the CARE-T1D Cardiovascular Repository for Type 1 Diabetes.

**Michelle R. Hribar, PhD**

Michelle R. Hribar, PhD is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Ophthalmology and Medical Informatics and Clinical Epidemiology at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) and a former National Institutes of Health (NIH) Data Scholar at the National Eye Institute. Her NIH funded research focuses on the effective reuse of electronic health record (EHR) data for research applications in ophthalmology. She has extensive experience using EHR data for quality improvement, operations and research. She currently helps to lead the Eye Care and Vision Research workgroup in the Observational Health Data Sciences and Informatics (OHDSI) community, focusing on standardizing ophthalmic EHR data and imaging for use in research.

**Lori Huang, PharmD, MBA**

Highly accomplished bio-pharmaceutical professional with over 15 years of cross-functional experience in biotech, pharmaceutical and hospital industries. Her expertise in clinical development and precision in operations have allowed her to develop innovative solutions and forge strategic partnerships. With a strong commitment to excellence, she is dedicated to utilizing her data analysis skills to make a significant impact in the field of healthcare and drive the successful commercialization of groundbreaking therapies.

**Rachel Huckfeldt, MD, PhD**

Dr. Rachel Huckfeldt is an Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School and a clinician-scientist at Massachusetts Eye and Ear. She completed her MD and PhD training at Washington University in St. Louis with PhD research focused on retinal development in the lab of Dr. Rachel Wong. After finishing her ophthalmology residency at Mass Eye and Ear, Dr. Huckfeldt conducted postdoctoral research focused on novel therapeutics in the lab of Dr. Jean Bennett at the University of Pennsylvania followed by clinical fellowships in medical retina (University of Iowa) and inherited retinal disorders (Mass Eye and Ear).

Dr. Huckfeldt's clinical practice and clinical research are focused on inherited retinal disorders (IRDs). She is the Director of IRD Clinical Trials at Mass Eye and Ear as well as the Co-Chair of the Foundation Fighting Blindness Clinical Consortium. Dr. Huckfeldt is also the director of the Inherited Retinal Degenerations clinical fellowship at Mass Eye and Ear.

**Judy M. Hunt, BBA, MBA**

Judy M. Hunt is on the Lay Advisory Committee of the Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative. She has an adult daughter who was diagnosed with T1D at the age of two. She is a long-time diabetes research advocate. Leadership roles have included the Advisory Council of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) JDRF International Board (now Breakthrough T1D), JDRF Canada Board, Canadian Clinical Trials Network, Network of Pancreatic Organ Donors with Diabetes (nPOD), Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists (ADCES), The Certification Board for Diabetes Care and Education (CBDCE) and the Texas and Pennsylvania Diabetes Councils. She has a BBA and MBA from Southern Methodist University.

**Robert Alexander Hyde, MD, PhD**

Robert A. Hyde, MD, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary at UIC. He is a vitreoretinal surgeon and clinician-scientist with a focus on inherited retinal diseases.

Dr. Hyde received his BS from Yale University, graduating with honors with majors in History and Physics. Following graduation, he worked as research assistant in the clinical genetics laboratory of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, where he developed an interest in the genetic basis of heritable disease. He matriculated to the Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, where he earned both his MD and PhD degrees. His graduate work focused on the electrophysiological basis of short-term memory, for which he was awarded the Doctoral Excellence Award in

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Neurosciences. Following an internship in medicine at Summa Akron City Hospital, he completed his ophthalmology residency at the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary at UIC. He then completed a fellowship in vitreoretinal surgery followed by a fellowship in retinal dystrophy, both at the Kellogg Eye Center at the University of Michigan. He joined the faculty of the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary at UIC in 2020.

Dr. Hyde's clinical interests include the diagnosis and management of patients with inherited retinal diseases and vitreoretinal disorders. He has an active interest in preclinical studies and current clinical trials, including gene therapy, for inherited retinal diseases. His research focuses on the development of novel markers of visual function in patients with inherited retinal diseases and he maintains many active collaborations within the research community. Dr. Hyde is board certified in ophthalmology.

**Leslie Hyman, PhD**

Dr. Hyman is an ocular epidemiologist with expertise in observational epidemiologic studies and clinical trials. She earned her Ph.D. in Epidemiology from The Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. She served on the faculty of the Department of Preventive Medicine at Stony Brook University Medical Center, NY, where in 2004 she became Head, Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. In September 2016, she joined Wills Eye as Vice Chair for Research and was named Thomas D. Duane Endowed Chair, Professor and Vice Chair of Research, Department of Ophthalmology, SKMC, Thomas Jefferson University.

Her research has focused on identifying causes, risk factors and treatment of the leading causes of visual impairment and blindness. Her work on macular degeneration helped lay the foundation for future research on its causes and treatments. She has also done extensive work in myopia progression and stabilization in children, evaluating treatment for glaucoma, and examining how hypertension and cardiovascular risk factors impact causes of visual decline. Her work outside the field of vision research includes studying the role of periodontal therapy on diabetes management. Dr. Hyman played crucial roles in seminal vision research studies including the Correction of Myopia Evaluation Trial (COMET) Eye Study, the Early Manifest Glaucoma Trial (EMGT) and the Barbados Eye Study. Dr. Hyman has served on a number of professional and scientific committees/boards including the Editorial Boards for Archives of Ophthalmology (JAMA Ophthalmology), AJO, and Ophthalmic Epidemiology, NIH/National Eye Institute Strategic Planning Committees, NIH Study Sections, Foundation Fighting Blindness SAB, and various NIH funded Study Advisory and Data and Safety Monitoring Committees. She has had leadership positions in the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO), and The American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO). She is a fellow of ARVO, the American College of Epidemiology and the American Academy of Optometry.

**Dan Ignaszewski**

Dan is the Executive Director of the National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research and the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (or NAEVR/AEVR). Dan has led the Alliances since January 2022 and throughout his career, has led efforts in public policy, program development and implementation, communications and marketing, and strategic partnerships, working over 16 years in patient advocacy organizations.

NAEVR/AEVR leads efforts to advocate for federal investments in vision research and promotes education and awareness of vision conditions and research with federal officials including supporting access to care for patients. In addition to his roles in nonprofit management, Dan also serves on the CDMRP Vision Research Program (VRP) Programmatic Review Panel.

**Kees Janeway**

Mr. Janeway is the Managing Partner and Broker of Record at Iconic Real Estate, a premier commercial real estate firm based in Bloomfield Hills, MI. With over 20 years of experience, he has facilitated thousands of leases and hundreds of sales transactions. His expertise spans retail and office leasing, development sites, and investment acquisitions and dispositions. Driven by a passion for real estate, Mr. Janeway leverages his analytical acumen and extensive deal experience to consistently deliver high-value opportunities for both his clients and his own investments.

**Thiran Jayasundera, MD, MS, FACS, FRCSC, FRANZCO**

Thiran Jayasundera, MD, MS, FACS, FRCSC, FRANZCO has subspecialty training in three areas; 1) vitreoretinal surgery and medical retinal diseases, 2) inherited retinal diseases (IRD) and electrophysiological testing, and 3) uveitis. His clinical practice consists of treating patients with the above conditions and focuses on caring for patients with inherited and autoimmune retinal degenerative diseases.

Dr. Jayasundera's clinical expertise puts him at the forefront of having to differentiate between autoimmune retinopathies from IRDs. This distinction is of utmost importance, as it is the basis of the decision to start or continue immunomodulatory therapy, both of which carry risks of serious side effects. For patients with inherited retinal diseases, Dr. Jayasundera can counsel them on the genetic cause of their disease and prognosis. He can perform vision restorative treatments such as implantation of retinal prostheses and gene therapy. (*Biography and headshot obtained from MTM Vision 2023 workshop program book.)*

**Karl Jepsen, PhD**

Dr. Karl J. Jepsen is the Associate Dean for Research and Professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Biomedical Engineering at the University of Michigan. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in Bioengineering and did his postdoctoral training at Case Western Reserve University in Orthopaedic Surgery. He has expertise in bone biomechanics and imaging, and studies bone as a complex adaptive system during growth and aging. The primary goal of his research program is to identify early indicators of skeletal fragility that are equitable relative to sex and race/ethnicity and to develop novel intervention programs to develop strong bones during growth and maintain strong bones with aging.

His scientific area of interest provides a strong appreciation for how multiple components within a system work together to generate a functional outcome and how disease mechanisms are often resolved through interactions among scientific disciplines. His research program has been funded through grants from federal, industry, and foundation sources such as the National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense, and Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. In addition to serving as Associate Dean for Research, his administrative qualifications also include Chair of the Research and Academic Safety Committee, Director of the Michigan Integrative Musculoskeletal Core Center, and a former role as Associate Chair of Research for the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery.

**Mark W. Johnson, MD**

Mark W. Johnson, MD, is Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences and Chief of the Retina Service at the University of Michigan Medical School in Ann Arbor. He received his medical degree from the University of Utah, served his residency in ophthalmology at the University of Michigan, and completed fellowships in medical retina and vitreoretinal surgery at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. He currently serves as Chair of the Appointments and Promotions Committee for the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences.

Dr. Johnson's chief clinical research interests include pharmacotherapies for macular diseases, pathogenesis and treatment of vitreomacular interface disorders, and vitreoretinal surgical strategies, as well as the measurable benefits of compassion in healthcare. He has served as principal investigator and Data and Safety Monitoring Committee member for numerous international multicenter clinical trials in age-related macular degeneration, retinal vascular disease, and vitreoretinal disorders. He lectures widely on retina topics, having delivered 25 named lectures and over 250 invited talks nationally and internationally. He has authored or co-authored nearly 250 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters.

Dr. Johnson has received a U.S. Presidential Scholar Award, the Senior Achievement Honor Award and Life Achievement Honor Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology, and the Heed-Gutman Award from the Society of Heed Fellows. He has served as President of both The Macula Society and The Retina Society, and as Director of the American Academy of Ophthalmology Retina Subspecialty Day.

**Nina Jolani**

From a young age, I've navigated the complexities of living with type 1 diabetes. Diagnosed at five, this condition has been a constant companion throughout my life. In recent years, I've faced an additional challenge: proliferative retinopathy, a severe eye complication associated with diabetes.

My background in public health and digital health has equipped me with a deep understanding of healthcare systems and patient advocacy. Through my volunteer work with organizations like JDRF and ADA, I've gained invaluable experience advocating for the needs of individuals with diabetes.

I am passionate about driving research and raising awareness about diabetic retinopathy. By increasing funding for research in this area, we can work towards developing effective prevention and treatment strategies. My goal is to ensure that no other person with diabetes has to endure the devastating consequences of this complication.

I am excited to contribute to the Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative as a patient advocate. Together, we can bring this vision to fruition and create a future where diabetic retinopathy is a thing of the past.

**Sam Kavusi, PhD**

Sam Kavusi is the head of Retina Imaging and Teleretinal Integration at Verily. He is interested in improving availability and accuracy of retina image captures especially outside of the ophthalmic environments. Generally, he is interested in application of on-device intelligence, computational imaging, artificial intelligence, and consumer electronics in the development of modern medical devices. He received the B.S. degree (Hons.) from Sharif University, Tehran, Iran in 1999, and the M.S. and PhD. degrees in electrical engineering from Stanford University, Stanford, CA in 2001 and 2006, respectively. He has held various industry positions leading and developing smartphone cameras, semiconductor/MEMS sensors and proteomic chips at Google and Bosch. He is co-inventor of more than 70 patents and his publications are cited more than 800 times.

**Dana Keane, MS**

Dana Keane, MS is the VP of Clinical Affairs at Optos. She has worked in clinical research and medical affairs for more than 20 years with a focus in retinal imaging. She has a Masters of Science in Regulatory Affairs and is a certified Clinical Research Professional (CCRP) with Society of Clinical Research Associates and a certified Clinical Research Associate (CCRA) with Association of Clinical Research Professionals. Dana has contributed to 23 peer-reviewed publications and previously served on the Editorial Board for ACRP's Clinical Researcher journal.

**Amy Kilbourne, PhD**

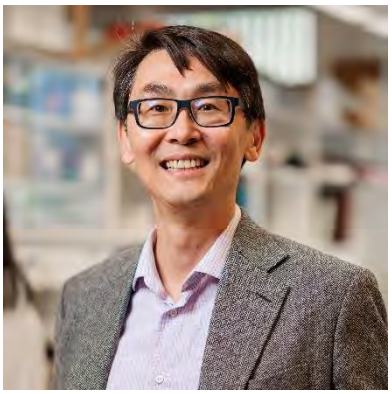
Dr. Kilbourne is Director of the VA Office of Research and Development Health Systems Research national program and Professor of Learning Health Sciences at the University of Michigan (U-M) Medical School.

Dr. Kilbourne's research goal is to improve population health by testing implementation strategies to facilitate the spread of effective practices in real-world treatment settings. She developed the Enhanced Replicating Effective Programs (E-REP) framework and conducted the first national sequential multiple assignment randomized trial (SMART) to assess the added value of more versus less intensive implementation strategies.

Dr. Kilbourne received her bachelors of arts at the University of California at Berkeley and her masters and PhD in public health from the University of California Los Angeles.

**Julie Kim, MD**

Julie Kim, MD is a Physician at the US Food and Drug Administration, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. As a board-certified ophthalmologist, she reviews applications at the Office of New Drugs. Previously, she served for over a decade at the Center for Devices and Radiological Health. Prior to medical school, she worked as clinical research coordinator for a Phase 3 ophthalmic drug trial studying neuroprotection.



**Leo Kim, MD, PhD**

Dr. Kim is currently an Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School serving on the Retina Service at Mass Eye and Ear, and the incumbent of the Monte J. Wallace Ophthalmology Chair in Retina. He completed residency in ophthalmology and fellowship in vitreoretinal surgery at USC and Doheny Eye Institute. Upon completion of his fellowship, he joined the NIH-sponsored K12 program at Mass Eye and Ear to pursue his career path as a clinician-scientist. During his time at Mass Eye and Ear, he has published over 100 peer-reviewed publications. His work has primarily focused on pathologic retinal angiogenesis and fibrosis, with the use of patient-derived surgically dissected samples to elucidate new molecular mechanisms of disease. His research has been funded by foundation grants, the Department of Defense, as well as grants from the NIH / NEI grants through R21 and R01 mechanisms.

**Andrew Kocab, PhD**

Dr. Kocab is the VP of Research at ONL Therapeutics, a startup that was spun out of the University of Michigan and based on the research of Dr. David Zacks. Dr. Kocab joined the company in 2015 after completing his PhD at the University of Michigan in immunology where he studied death and inflammatory signaling pathways. At the company, he has played instrumental roles in developing its lead asset, which is now in clinical trials, and currently leads the company's nonclinical R&D activities, including its academic collaborations, drug discovery endeavors, and indication expansion efforts. Dr. Kocab also serves as an Adjunct Research Investigator at the University of Michigan's Kellogg Eye Center and continues to work closely with Dr. Zacks and his research lab.

**Renu Kowluru, PhD, FARVO**

Renu Kowluru, PhD, FARVO, is a professor in the department of Ophthalmology and Visual & Anatomical Sciences at the Wayne State University, Detroit. Her laboratory investigates the role of mitochondrial dysfunction in the development of diabetic retinopathy, focusing mainly on understanding how diabetes damages retinal mitochondria and how the damaged mitochondria lead to the development of retinopathy. Her pioneering work has shown that the damaged mitochondrial DNA in diabetes leads to a self-propagating vicious cycle of free radicals, which contributes to the failure of retinopathy to arrest even after hyperglycemic insult is terminated (‘metabolic memory’ phenomenon). She was the first one to show the role mitochondrial epigenetics in the development of diabetic retinopathy, and now using molecular, biochemical and functional approaches, her lab is investigating the role of mitochondrial DNA-encoded long noncoding RNA in mitochondrial functional, structural and genomic instability.

Dr. Kowluru is also the Director of Translational Research, and in collaboration with ophthalmologists and endocrinologists, she is actively involved in identifying non-invasive biomarkers of diabetic retinopathy, focusing on mitochondrial DNA damage and epigenetics. She has published over 180 scientific papers and is included in the top 0.1% of scholars writing about ‘Diabetes Complications’, a level labeled as ‘World Expert’. Based on her outstanding excellence in scholarship and in creative achievement, in 2011 she was inducted in the Wayne State University’s Academy of Scholars. She just finished her four-year term serving on the National Eye Advisory Council. Dr. Kowluru has served on more than 35 different NIH study sections and JDRF and ADA grant review panels, and she continues to provide evaluations of scientific proposals submitted for funding to NIH, JDRF and in other countries including Belgium, United Kingdom and Australia. She has chaired several national and international committees including National Eye Institute’s Strategic Planning Committee. She serves on the editorial board of many leading journals and is also on the Board of Governors of ARVO Foundation for Vision Research.

**Leanne Labriola, DO**

Leanne Labriola is a board-certified ophthalmologist as well as serial entrepreneur. . Her past training includes undergraduate at Duke University, medicine training at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, ophthalmology residency at the University of Pittsburgh Eye Center Residency, and medical retina fellowship at the University of Southern California, Doheny Eye. In addition, Dr. Labriola received her MBA degree in 2018 from Haub Business School in Philadelphia. Dr. Labriola has experience in clinical and translational research and has published numerous, nationally peer-reviewed articles. Dr. Labriola specializes in uveitis and medical retina. Dr. Labriola has practiced in academic settings, as well as, private offices. Dr. Labriola created the OcuTap, a breakthrough technology in ocular fluid diagnostics. A key advantage of technology developed by Visionaire is the improve safety and efficacy of performing liquid biopsies of the eye.

**Phillip Lai, MD**

Phillip Lai, MD serves as the chief medical officer at Perfuse Therapeutics, a clinical company working on developing a long acting bioerodible implant designed to increase blood flow to the eye. Prior to joining Perfuse, Dr. Lai was in the Genentech Research and Early Development group, starting as a Senior Medical Director in Ophthalmology and worked his way through increasing roles and responsibilities culminating as the Senior Group Medical Director – Ophthalmology and Neurology leading the ophthalmology and neurology early clinical development groups. Prior to Genentech, Dr. Lai was Director of Clinical Development and Translational Medicine at Avalanche Biotechnologies and before that he worked in the Roche/Genentech late stage ophthalmology group as a Senior Medical Director.He received his undergraduate and medical degree from Brown University and completed his ophthalmology residency at George Washington University and glaucoma fellowship at UCSF.

**Deepak Lamba, PhD**

Dr. Deepak Lamba is a Distinguished Scientist affiliated with the departments of Immunology, Regenerative Medicine and Neuroscience at Genentech. He is a clinician-scientist with over 20 years' research experience working on retinal development, stem-cell based repair mechanisms and disease modeling with a focus on translational research. Dr. Lamba did his medical training in Mumbai, India, masters in Bioengineering at the University of Illinois, Chicago and received his PhD in Neurobiology at the University of Washington, Seattle. Prior to joining Genentech in 2024, he has led several projects focused on stem cell therapies, and retinal disease modeling for various disorders, including age-related macular degeneration, retinitis pigmentosa, and diabetic retinopathy at the Buck Institute and the University of California, San Francisco. At Genentech, he is leading the biology groups for the Ophthalmology translational area focusing on novel translational approaches to vision rescue.

**Marianne Laouri, PhD**

Marianne Laouri, Ph.D., is the Global Asset Team Leader for Boehringer Ingelheim's lead asset in diabetic retinopathy and is accountable for development and commercialization strategy and overall success of the asset post approval. Prior to her current role, she was Executive Director, Value Demonstration at Boehringer Ingelheim and led a team of health services researchers and health economists in generation of real world evidence about the value of Boehringer's innovative products across oncology, inflammation, rheumatology, dermatology, gastroenterology, mental health, and retinal health, and was accountable for cross-portfolio quality of care initiatives. Prior to joining Boehringer Ingelheim, Dr. Laouri led Global Health Economics and Outcomes Research for HIV and Inflammation at Gilead Sciences. She spent 10 years in leadership roles Deloitte and at Quorum Consulting serving medical technology and biopharmaceutical companies. Prior to consulting, Dr. Laouri held a variety of senior roles at Genentech, payer organizations, and the California HealthCare Foundation. Her career has focused on bringing forth innovative medical and biopharmaceutical products that add value to patients, caregivers, clinicians, and payers. She began her career at the RAND Corporation, and received her doctorate from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Public Health.

**Sun Young Lee, MD, PhD**

Sun Young Lee, MD, PhD is an Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Physiology & Neuroscience at the University of Southern California. Dr. Lee is a board-certified retina surgeon and clinician-scientist with extensive experience in managing complex vitreoretinal diseases, including diabetic retinopathy (DR), age-related macular degeneration (AMD), and inherited retinal diseases (IRD). Dr. Lee's research program, funded by the National Eye Institute (NEI), currently focuses on studying the role of extracellular vesicles (EVs), especially small EV (frequently called as exosomes), in retinal diseases and developing innovative EV-based intraocular therapies. EV-based intraocular therapy holds a promise for next generation drug delivery, gene therapy and stem cell therapy for retina diseases with limited or no treatment available.

**Luis Andres Lesmes, PhD**

Luis Lesmes is co-founder and CEO of Adaptive Sensory Technology, (AST), a leading provider of visual function endpoints and reading center services to the pharmaceutical industry. Luis has a B.S. in Psychobiology and a PhD in Experimental Psychology from the University of Southern California. He completed training as a post-doctoral fellow at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies and a Senior Scientific Associate at the Schepens Eye Research Institute, Mass Eye and Ear, before starting AST in 2012.

Lu's interest and curiosity in computational models of visual function have led to >50 publications for Bayesian active learning and its applications to sensory testing. Multiple patents have supported the commercialization of the AST Manifold, a data science platform that supports ophthalmic clinical trials with visual function endpoints and a reading center services model. Lu has led AST has to become a leader in vision testing through strong relationships with leading academic and research institutions, pharma, and key opinion leaders in retina.

Lu has played an essential role in the design and development of the Manifold Platform, which leverages active machine learning to provide the first generative models for visual acuity and contrast sensitivity. Manifold supports multiple visual function endpoints including quantitative Contrast Sensitivity (qCSF), quantitative Visual Acuity (qVA), and multidimensional analyses of low-contrast and low-luminance vision.

**S. Robert Levine, MD**

Dr. Levine, alongside his wife, Mary Tyler Moore, has been a long-standing diabetes research advocate. As JDRF's International Chairman from 1984-2017, Mary used her public recognition, personal experience with type 1 diabetes (T1D) and grace to support JDRF's research and advocacy programs and offer hope to T1D families. Dr. Levine played an instrumental role within JDRF as a member of its International Board and Board Committees by helping transform its strategy and operations as they experienced rapid growth and expanding influence. Dr. Levine led initiatives that built a grass-roots health research advocacy program that is arguably one of the most effective in modern US history. As a volunteer leader, he helped develop the strategy and processes to manage a JDRF research budget that grew from $10-12 million per year to over $100 million per year navigating the transition from small-scale bench research to large-scale Research Center and Mission-driven initiatives. Through his guidance, JDRF expanded to support clinical trials targeting the translation of scientific advances into therapeutic benefits for people with diabetes.

Dr. Levine has led the development of the "Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative" as a way to honor his wife -- who suffered from vision stealing diabetic retinal disease -- and help make her dream of a world without vision loss from diabetes a reality.

Dr. Levine was an executive producer on the HBO documentary Being Mary Tyler Moore. He provided the filmmakers unprecedented access to Mary's life and estate, loved ones, colleagues, and friends. Being Mary Tyler Moore explores Mary's personal and professional journey as an iconic star, businesswoman, and advocate. *(continued)*

Through the telling of her life story, this documentary film shows how Mary revolutionized the portrayal of women in the media and empowered generations of women from all races and economic backgrounds to dream big, work hard, and make it on their own.

Dr. Levine graduated summa cum laude from Loyola-Stritch Medical School in 1979 and completed his specialty training in Internal Medicine and Cardiovascular Disease at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City. He was the founding Director of Mt. Sinai's Cardiac Health & Rehab Program.

**Drew Lewis**

Mr. Lewis has over 25 years of experience in information technology consulting. He and Mr. Kedziora founded Estenda Solutions, Inc. in 2003 with the desire to improve the cost-effectiveness of research technologies for diabetes.

Overseeing all aspects of Estenda, Mr. Lewis focuses on developing research innovations for diabetic retinopathy screening, conducting research that demonstrates Estenda's interventions have a meaningful impact on the quality of life for patients and managing client relationships. Mr. Lewis's expertise and experience allow him to bridge the gap between the technical aspects of software development and the clinical nature of healthcare.

Mr. Lewis has led Estenda through 19 years of profitable growth while diversifying the client portfolio and developing a strong reputation for commitment and quality within Estenda's market. (*Biography and Headshot obtained from: https://theorg.com/org/estenda-solutions/org-chart/drew-lewis)*

**Jie Liu, PhD**

Dr. Jie Liu is an Associate Professor of Computational Medicine and Bioinformatics at the University of Michigan. His research lab develops computational methods, tools, and resources for understanding the human genome and diseases

**Rhea Lloyd, MD**

Rhea Lloyd, MD is the Clinical Team Leader in the Division of Ophthalmology in the Office of New Drugs at the FDA. She began her career at the FDA as a Medical Officer in the Division in 2004. Prior to working at the FDA, Rhea was in private practice in the Washington area. She completed her ophthalmology residency and glaucoma fellowship at Tufts University, The New England Eye Center.

**Flora Lum, MD**

Dr. Lum is the Vice President of Quality and Data Science for the American Academy of Ophthalmology, and the Executive Director of the H. Dunbar Hoskins MD Center for Quality Eye Care. She has overseen the Academy's IRIS® Registry (Intelligent Research in Sight) since its initiation, which has collected 600 million patient visits on 80 million patients as of January 1, 2024, and reported on quality measures for several thousand ophthalmologists each year since 2017. She oversees the quality of care and evidence-based activities of the Hoskins Center, including Preferred Practice Patterns, Ophthalmic Technology Assessments and Clinical Statements, and the creation, stewardship and revision of performance measures which are incorporated into the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Merit-based Incentive Payment System. She has co-authored more than 180 scientific peer-reviewed articles, and presented at over 50 scientific meetings, and is a reviewer for Ophthalmology Journal. Recently, she submitted 3 grant proposals as the Principal Investigator, which were awarded by the Council of Medical Specialty Societies, and the US Food and Drug Administration.

She staffed the Hoskins Center stewardship of the Premium IOL Patient-Reported Outcome measure which was approved by the FDA for their Medical Device and Development Tool program, and served as co-Principal Investigator for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)- funded grant, RiGOR, Registry in Glaucoma Outcomes Research, A Prospective Observational Study Comparing the Effectiveness of Treatment Strategies for Primary Open-Angle Glaucoma from 2011-2013. She also directs the Academy's health information technology activities, including development of Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM) standards, Systematized Nomenclature for Medicine (SNOMED) terminology, and Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE) Eye Care testing and demonstrations as well as development of criteria for ophthalmology-specific electronic health records.

**Mahsaw Mansoor, MD**

Mahsaw Mansoor, MD is currently a Medical Retina fellow at the University of Michigan. Prior to this, she completed her residency training at the University of Iowa. She is actively involved in the ophthalmology community, serving on the Young Ophthalmologist (YO) Committee for the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) and as the YO co-chair for Women in Ophthalmology (WIO). Mahsaw is passionate about diabetic retinopathy screening, with a keen interest in harnessing artificial intelligence technologies to enhance and expand screening processes in a safe and ethical manner. Currently, Mahsaw is working under Dr. Thiran Jayasundera at the Kellogg Eye Center to develop a Diabetic Retinopathy Disease (DRD) specific Patient-Reported Outcome (PRO) measure. This tool aims to precisely quantify levels of vision-related difficulties, limitations, and distress in patients with varying phenotypic manifestations of DRD.

**Dorene Markel, MS, MHSA**

Dorene Markel, MS, MHSA, Senior Advisor, Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative Assistant Research Scientist (Active Emeritus), Department of Learning Health Sciences, Michigan Medicine.

Ms. Markel has been the Senior Advisor to the Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative since July 2024 after serving as the founding Managing Director for the previous two years. As the Managing Director, she worked with Dr. Levine and the leadership team to create the Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative and launch its platform programs.

Ms. Markel brings extensive experience to her roles from four decades of leadership service at the University of Michigan (UM), with specialized expertise in creating and managing clinical research and diabetes initiatives. Her past achievements include: working with Dr. Francis Collins to create the NIH-funded UM Human Genome Center and serving as the Center's Human Studies Core Director; serving as the Administrative Director of the NIH-funded UM General Clinical Research Center; as founding Administrative

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Director of the Center for the Advancement of Clinical Research; as founding Administrative Director of the NIH-funded Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research; and as the first Director for Clinical and Translational Research for the UM Medical School. She was the founding Director of the Brehm Center for Diabetes Research and manager of the Brehm Coalition; founding Managing Director of M-Diabetes; and founding Managing Director of the Elizabeth Weiser Caswell Diabetes Institute. Ms. Markel retired from UM in 2022 and retains an active emeritus faculty position in the UM Department of Learning Health Sciences. She has extensive experience in ethical and regulatory issues in human research having served on the Michigan Medicine and Castle IRBs. Ms. Markel received her B.S. from Michigan Technological University in Biological Sciences; her M.S. from the University of Michigan Medical School, Department of Human Genetics, specializing in Genetic Counseling; and her M.H.S.A (Health Services Administration) degree from the University of Michigan School of Public Health, Department of Health Management and Policy.

**Red Maxwell**

Red Maxwell is a serial entrepreneur and technology executive with over 3 decades experience in brand building. He currently serves as an independent Board Director for mPATH Health. Prior to mPATH, Mr. Maxwell served as Chief Marketing Officer for Bigfoot Biomedical, a medical device company that developed insulin management systems. Bigfoot was acquired by Abbott Laboratories in 2023. Like many of the Bigfoot founders, he has personal family connections to T1D and has served the diabetes community at of Breakthrough T1D (formerly JDRF). At Breakthrough T1D, he volunteered as an International Board Member and is the current Vice President of the Directors Emeritus Council.

Mr. Maxwell received his B.S. in Biology from Tufts University. He lectures at the Wake Forest University School of Business,and has served on its Executive Board. Mr. Maxwell was a contributing author to The Wall Street Journal Business Bestseller, The Big Moo.

**Tim Mayotte**

Tim is a research fellow at Kellogg Eye Center developing a novel patient-reported outcome measure for diabetic retinal disease. He is a medical student at Western Michigan University Homer Stryker MD School of Medicine - Class of 2026. He is interested in pursuing a career in academic ophthalmology.

**Jason McAnany, PhD**

Dr. McAnany is Professor of Ophthalmology and Director of the Clinical Psychophysics and Electrophysiology Laboratory at the University of Illinois College of Medicine. Dr. McAnany joined the Department of Ophthalmology in September 2011 as a member of the research faculty. He is the principal investigator of a National Eye Institute (NEI) research grant, “Mechanisms of Early Functional Loss in Diabetic Eye Disease,” which aims to study early neural dysfunction of the retina in patients who have diabetes. His research is focused on defining the relationship between visual dysfunction and underlying disease processes using noninvasive test procedures including psychophysical, electrophysiological, and pupillometric measures, with the goal of developing novel approaches for diagnosing and monitoring the progression of visual dysfunction.

**April McCullough, MD**

April McCullough, M.D. is a Medical Director of Medical Affairs at Regeneron, where she is passionate about initiatives for improving outcomes for patients with diabetic retinopathy. She is a board-certified ophthalmologist and practiced in the NYC metropolitan area prior to joining Regeneron. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Biological Sciences from Cornell University, and medical degree from NYU School of Medicine. She subsequently completed her ophthalmology residency training at New York Medical College. She currently lives in White Plains, NY with her husband, and enjoys being active with patient advocacy projects at work and in the community.

**Stephen D. McLeod, MD**

Dr. McLeod is Chief Executive Officer for the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Professor and Chair Emeritus in the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of California, San Francisco. He pursued his undergraduate degree at Dartmouth College, followed by his medical doctorate degree at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He completed ophthalmology residency at the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary of the University of Illinois in Chicago, followed by fellowship training in cornea, external disease and refractive surgery at the Doheny Eye Institute.

Dr. McLeod is former Chair of the Ophthalmic Devices Panel of the Medical Devices Advisory Committee of the Food and Drug Administration. He has served as a member of the National Advisory Eye Council of the National Institutes of Health, on the Council of the American Ophthalmological Society, and on the Board of Directors of the American Board of Ophthalmology. Dr. McLeod is former Editor-in-Chief for the AAO's flagship peer review journal Ophthalmology.

**Ian McMillan**

Ian McMillan has twenty-five + years global experience in sales, marketing and product development and senior sales management experience in ophthalmic products and proven abilities in complex diagnostic devices.

Ian has management experience in both private and public companies & start-ups and extensive experience in e-commerce, SaaS, online distribution of entitlements and mission-critical enterprise software. (*Biography and headshot obtained from https://theorg.com/org/konan-medical-usa/org-chart/ian-mcmillan)*

**Mia Meltzer**

Mia Meltzer is the social media manager at MTM Vision, where she works closely with the communications team to grow MTMVI's online presence. Originally from Southern California, Mia now calls Chicago home. After graduating from Indiana University in 2023, she began her freelance writing journey, contributing affiliate marketing stories to outlets like CNN, Daily Mail, and Rolling Stone. In her free time, Mia enjoys exploring new restaurants in the city, spending time by the lake, and traveling with friends whenever she gets the chance.

**Olivia Meyerhoffer**

As the 'Global Value Lead' for Diabetic Retinopathy pipeline assets at Boehringer Ingelheim, I play a pivotal role in the global commercialization of innovative treatments, ensuring they reach patients in need. With over 15 years of extensive experience in the pharmaceutical industry and a deep commitment to patient outcomes, I blend scientific expertise with business acumen to navigate the unique challenges of the specialty care market. My decade-long experience in ophthalmology across various roles and countries fuels my passion and dedication to advancing this field and supporting the company's mission. At Boehringer Ingelheim, through innovative research and trusted partnerships, we are committed to stopping vision loss caused by chronic retinal disease through earlier detection, intervention, and new treatments.

**Shahzad Mian, MD**

Shahzad I. Mian, M.D., is the chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at University of Michigan and the F. Bruce Fralick Professor of Ophthalmology in the Medical School. He also serves as the Director of the W.K. Kellogg Eye Center.

After earning his medical degree in 1996 from the Emory University School of Medicine, he completed his residency training at the Wills Eye Hospital of Thomas Jefferson University School of Medicine in Philadelphia and a fellowship in cornea and refractive surgery at Harvard Medical School's Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. He joined the U-M faculty in 2002 and was promoted to professor in 2016. His research focuses on advanced corneal transplantation techniques, eye banking and medical education.

He is widely regarded as an outstanding teacher and mentor serving as the residency program director for 15 years. In his time as program director, the residency training program became a top-ten ranked program nationally. His other awards include the Anthony Adamis Award for Outstanding Research from the U-M Kellogg Eye Center in 2007, and the Senior Achievement Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology in 2016. He received the Straatsma Award for resident education from the Association of University Professors in Ophthalmology in 2017 and the Payton Award for Eye Banking from the Eye Bank Association of America in 2019.
He directs the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology Surgical Curriculum for Ophthalmology Residents, serves on the board of directors and as senior medical director of Eversight Eye Bank, as chair of the Eye Bank Association of America medical advisory board, as secretary of the Cornea Society and secretary/treasurer of the Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons.

**Kara Mizokami-Stout**

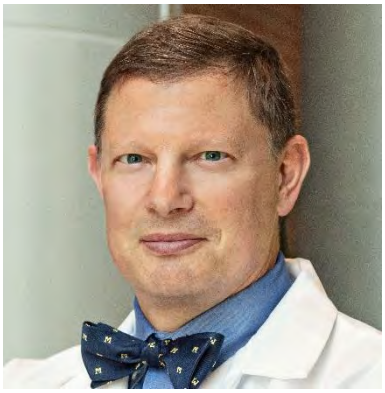
Kara Mizokami-Stout, MD, MSc is an Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine in the Division of Metabolism, Endocrinology and Diabetes at the University of Michigan and the Lieutenant Colonel Charles S. Kettles VA Medical Center in Ann Arbor, MI. Dr. Mizokami-Stout's clinical interests include type 1 and type 2 diabetes. Her research interests include diabetes health services research with a particular focus on 1) prevention and management of diabetes complications and 2) implementing technologies to improve diabetes self-management and quality-of-life.

**Aileen Morgan, MBA, BSc**

I trained as a pharmacist in the UK and have worked in the pharmaceutical industry for 40 years. I have been a team leader in drug development for 16 years, with 8 years in ophthalmology working at Allergan and now at BioCryst, where I have been for 2 years, most recently working on avoralstat for DME.

**Tomoaki Murakami**

I am working as a ophthalmologist as well as clinical and translational researcher. My expertise is diabetic retinopathy, clinically and basically. I am focusing on fundus imaging and starting data science about diabetic retinal disease. Such clinical results have led me to the translational research about autoantibodies and inflammatory neurodegeneration by extracellular mitochondria.



**Martin Myers, MD, PhD**

Dr. Martin Myers, Jr., is the Marilyn H. Vincent Professor of Diabetes Research at the University of Michigan. Dr. Myers received his BA from Princeton University, and his MD and PhD from Harvard University. Dr. Myers began his independent research career at the Joslin Diabetes Center/Harvard Medical School in 1997; he joined the University of Michigan faculty in 2004. The Myers lab studies the mechanisms by which brain circuits contribute to the control of energy balance and metabolic homeostasis, including focuses on the brainstem control of food intake and on hypothalamic leptin action. Dr. Myers received the Jerome Conn and Basic Science Research Awards from the University of Michigan, Outstanding Scientific Achievement Awards from The Obesity Society and from the American Diabetes Association, and the Ernst Oppenheimer Award from the Endocrine Society. Dr. Myers previously served as the Editor-in-Chief of Diabetes. He directs the Elizabeth Weiser Caswell Diabetes Institute at the University of Michigan.

**Niranjani Nagarajan, MD, MPH**

Niranjani Nagarajan is a Research Area Specialist at The Kellogg Eye Center, University of Michigan. She is an ophthalmologist by training and a public health researcher who's research focus is on sensory health and aging. She works on a multitude of projects, ranging from impact of glaucoma on gait among older adults to longitudinal studies of aging in low-and-middle-income countries as part of the Health and Retirement Study (HRS) network. During her free time, Niranjani loves to travel and explore regional cuisines.

**Kelly Naylor**

Kelly has a degree in Biomedical Engineering from Duke University and has spent almost 20 years in various medical device sales roles, the majority of it at Medtronic. She is now Head of Sales for the Verily Retinal Service, which is committed to bringing a high quality, easy to use, end-to-end solution for retinal screening in locations that aren't typically able to offer this service.

**Eric Ng, PhD**

For about twenty years I have been studying the diverse functional roles of the angiogenic growth factor, VEGF, in normal vasculature as well as its translational research in pathological angiogenesis in the eye. My research formed the foundation for my drug development efforts, and I have been directly involved in the development of novel vascular therapeutics in the biotech industry for about ten years. Through my experience in applying basic scientific research approaches in a translational research environment, I have applied new insights of VEGF biology into the creation of therapeutic approaches for treating pathological ocular neovascularization. Recently, I was involved in the discovery of therapeutic targets and drug development for AMD as an independent PI at UCL Institute of Ophthalmology in London, UK through research collaborations with an industrial partner, GSK. During my appointment at the Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass. Eye and Ear as an Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology my lab focused on research that will help refine our current use of anti-VEGF therapeutics and define new targets for developing the next generation of therapies for various neuro-vascular pathologies including investigating the neuroprotective function of novel engineered VEGF variants in ischemia- and inflammation-driven retinal degeneration and in glaucoma; identifying novel targets for anti-angiogenesis and anti-inflammation in neovascular AMD, diabetic retinopathy and retinopathy of prematurity; defining a role of the interaction between innate immunity and microbiome in the pathogenesis of neovascular AMD, and, characterizing a novel class of small molecule drugs with potent RPE protective activities in suppressing the progression of dry AMD. My current research at Eyebiotech focuses on developing novel therapeutics to repair and promote vascular barrier function to treat various ocular pathologies characterized by vascular hyperpermeability.

**Lauro Ojeda**

With over 25 years of experience in inertial sensing, sensor data fusion, estimation techniques, Kalman filtering, biomechanics, and human gait analysis, I have established myself as a leading expert in these domains. I take pride in pioneering the use of inertial sensors for gait tracking, which has laid the foundation for current unrestrictive gait analysis research at the University of Michigan and other research centers globally. One of my most notable contributions involves the development of identification and reconstruction techniques that provide the first biomechanical measurements and reconstructions of loss of balance events as they occur in everyday life. These methods have significantly impacted biomechanical science, particularly in the fields of persistent monitoring and mobility studies.

**Shahnti Olcese Brook**

Shahnti Brook is an Emmy Award-winning producer and Peabody recipient with a distinguished career in entertainment and media. As co-founder and COO of Human Content, she leads an innovative IP incubator that works with social influencers, musicians, comedians, and reality personalities, collectively reaching an audience of over 30 million. Human Content's roster includes notable names such as Moby, The Glaucomflecken, Andrea Forcum, Jordan & Lauran Woolley, Andy Jiang, Sidney Raz, Dani Klaric, and Tay BeepBoop. Shahnti oversees podcast production, cross-promotional strategies, brand sponsorships, Patreon initiatives, and live events.

With extensive experience across a wide range of media, Shahnti has developed and led projects in collaboration with major networks and platforms including NBC Universal, Telepictures, PBS, Syfy, and Fullscreen Media/Otter Media, as well as prominent brands like Microsoft, NEJM, and the Gates Foundation.

Throughout her career, she has conducted over 10,000 celebrity interviews and bookings, shaping the creative direction and branding strategies of some of the most prominent influencers in entertainment today. Shahnti's expertise in talent development and coaching has earned her a reputation as a trusted leader in the industry, guiding the next generation of entertainment talent.

**Carol Oxenreiter**

Carol Oxenreiter is a dedicated Breakthrough TID/JDRF volunteer. Carol is a member of the Breakthrough TID/JDRF Global Mission Board. On the local level, Carol has served the Western Pennsylvania Chapter and the Georgia/South Carolina Chapter in many roles. Carol served on the International Board of Directors from 2010 until 2016 and served as Chair of the Research Committee. Carol was awarded the Jim Tyree Chairman's Choice Award in 2016.

A graduate of Boston College, Carol lives in Hilton Head, SC, with her husband, John. They have four children: John, Katherine, Monica, and Michael. She originally became involved with JDRF when her daughter, Monica, was diagnosed at 13 months of age. Three years later, the goal to find a cure became even more crucial when her son, John, was diagnosed at the age of eight.

**Monica Oxenreiter, MPP**

Monica Oxenreiter holds her Master of Public Policy (MPP) and Master Business Administration (MBA) from the Heller School at Brandeis University and her Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from Boston College. Monica is currently the VP of Content for Close Concerns. Prior to this role, she worked at Withings, where she led the health content team and the development of longitudinal programs to help individuals engage in and form sustained healthy behavior. Prior to Withings, Monica researched outcomes for patients with ocular cancer at Mass Eye and Ear. Her passion for equity for people with chronic conditions inform her work in health engagement and communication. She has had type 1 diabetes for nearly three decades, inspiring her to be a lifelong, passionate advocate for those with diabetes. She currently serves on the Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative's Lay Review Committee, to support the patient perspective in diabetic retinopathy research, as well as T1D Breakthrough's Young Leadership Council. In her spare time, Monica loves to run and play with her dog, Teddy. With the NYC marathon under her belt, she hopes to one day complete all six of the World Major Marathons - she's currently training for Chicago in October.

**Warren Pan, MD, PhD, MPhil**

Dr. Pan is an aspiring vitreoretinal surgeon and clinician-scientist interested in studying and treating blinding retinal disease, as well as translating findings from the bench to the bedside. He graduated with an AB in Economics from Harvard College. He then was awarded an MD and PhD from the University of Michigan through the Medical Scientist Training Program working in the laboratory of Dr. Martin Myers studying the neuroendocrine control of energy balance in diabetes and obesity. He next pursued a postdoctoral MPhil at the University of Cambridge through Gates Cambridge in the laboratory of Sir Professor Stephen O'Rahilly translating basic science findings into personalized clinical care for patients with metabolic diseases. Dr. Pan recently completed his ophthalmology residency at the Kellogg Eye Center, where he won the Aizman Award for academic excellence, the Michigan Society of Eye Surgeons and Physicians Research Award, Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology Resident and Fellow Research Forum Awards, and the Heed Fellowship. During residency, he extended his research interests into photoreceptor metabolism in the laboratory of Dr. Thomas Wubben and Dr. Cagri Besirli. His research was funded by the Vitreoretinal Surgery Foundation, University of Michigan, and Knights Templar Eye Foundation. He hopes now to connect his previous research interest into the investigation of metabolic retinal diseases in and the laboratory and uncover novel therapeutic strategies for patients in the clinic and operating room.

**Sub Pennathur, MD**

The long-term goal of my work is to understand metabolic basis and molecular mechanisms involved in diabetic complications including diabetic retinopathy. My laboratory has made extensive use of mass spectrometric methods to study lipoprotein abnormalities, oxidant injury mechanisms (oxidative stress marker discovery and quantitation), macrophage-derived inflammatory mediators, metabolomics, lipidomics and proteomics in animal models and humans with diabetic complications. These investigations have led to identification of several mechanistic markers of disease-risk in animal models and humans with diabetic complications. My work is funded by several NIH and foundation grants including JDRF. I serve as the Director George O'Brien Kidney Translational Research Center, one of seven NIDDK funded U54 centers and as the Division Chief of Nephrology, Department of medicine, University of Michigan.

**Mark Pennesi, MD, PhD**

Dr. Pennesi is a clinician scientist with a passion for developing novel therapeutic regimens for inherited retinal diseases. He has published over 170 peer reviewed publications in the field on inherited retinal degenerations. He has been the PI or Co-PI on numerous first in human clinical trials including: gene augmentation therapy for RPE65-related retinopathy, ABCA4-related retinopathy, GUCY2D-related retinopathy, Type IB Usher syndrome, CNGA3 and CNGB3-related achromatopsia, X-linked retinoschisis, X-linked retinitis pigmentosa, and choroideremia. He was a principal investigator on the Editas Brilliance trial where the first patient in the world was treated with gene editing from CEP290-related retinopathy.

**Margery Perry**

Margery Perry became a diabetes advocate in 1989 when her daughter Adriana was diagnosed with Type1 diabetes. She got involved with JDRF serving on their San Diego Chapter Board and focusing on the Research. She became a member of the Lay Review Committee and subsequently became its Chair. Margery has twice served on the JDRF International Board as the Chair of the Research Committee. Presently she is the Research Pilar Lead for the Global Mission Board of Breakthrough T1D (Formerly JDRF).
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Margery has also served on the National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) Advisory Council. Currently she is a board member of two non-profit diabetes organizations: Taking Control of your Diabetes (TCOYD), Insulin for Life (IFL).

**Tunde Peto, MD, PhD**

Tunde Peto is Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology at Queen's University Belfast and the clinical lead for Diabetic Eye Screening in Northern Ireland, Consultant Ophthalmologist and Clinical lead for Diabetic Eye in the Belfast Trust. Prof Peto has considerable experience in teaching and training for diabetic eye disease both nationally and internationally. She has been working with the WHO and other organisations to enable better care for patients with diabetes around the world. Her work resulted in being awarded the prestigious Eva Kohner award in 2024.

**Rebecca Pfeiffer, PhD**

I am Research Assistant Professor at the University of Utah, where my primary research uses Connectomics/Pathoconnectomics to understand the progression of retinal remodeling in inherited retinal degenerative diseases. The primary model I have evaluated is a rabbit model of retinitis pigmentosa. I use pathoconnectomics and spatial metabolomics techniques to understand the impacts of photoreceptor degeneration on the wiring of inner retinal neurons as well as glial changes accompanying these alterations.

**Gretchen Piatt, PhD, MPH**

Dr. Gretchen Piatt is the chair of the Department of Learning Health Sciences and serves as a professor in that department and in the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education at the University of Michigan Schools of Medicine and Public Health. She serves as the Department of Learning Health Science's Associate Chair for Education. In this role, she directs the Health Infrastructures and Learning Systems MS and PhD program, an AHRQ-competency based degree program focused on transforming health through learning health system approaches.

Dr. Piatt also serves as the Co-Director of the Michigan Center for Diabetes Translational Research. She has expertise in implementing, designing, and evaluating community interventions aimed at improving health care delivery for individuals with diabetes who are from backgrounds underrepresented in biomedical and behavioral research. She leads research teams that design and evaluate interventions in the primary and secondary prevention of diabetes and its complications, including implementation and evaluation of self-management support interventions in under-resourced communities, federally qualified health centers, and primary care.

Dr. Piatt mentors a number of trainees at various stages in their career pathways including master's, doctoral, and early-stage investigators who share common interests in developing, implementing, and evaluating evidence-based solutions and interventions to improve health, health care, and health equity.

**Adriana Plevniak**

Adriana Plevniak has been living with Type One Diabetes for 36 years and has faced the challenges of Diabetic Retinopathy for over 10 years. Despite these health hurdles, she has become a passionate patient advocate, dedicating her time to raising awareness and supporting others in the diabetes community. Adriana resides in Northern Virginia, just outside of Washington, DC, where she enjoys life with her husband, son, and dog. Her advocacy work is fueled by her personal experiences, making her a committed and compassionate voice for those navigating similar health journeys.

**Corey Porter, PhD**

Along with Carmen, Corey is a technical manager of the Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative's Biorepository and Resource Center (MTM-BRC). Corey conducts the imaging, histologic characterization, processing, preservation, and distribution of ocular tissues and fluids for the MTM-BRC. Corey performs molecular analysis of these tissues including proteomic, lipidomic, and transcriptomic analyses. Corey is involved in the development and maintenance of the database of tissue and linked data, which will provide researchers from academia and industry with much needed access to high-quality samples and data for research into the pathogenesis of and novel treatments for diabetic retinal disease.

Corey has 16 years of experience in research labs. Before the MTM-BRC, she most recently worked in Dr. Matthias Truttmann's lab as a postdoctoral researcher, where she studied neurodegenerative diseases. Corey earned her PhD at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. For her thesis, Corey studied changes in the protein lactoferrin in prostate cancer tumorigenesis in Dr. Karen Sfanos's lab. Before joining her thesis lab, she investigated the parasite Toxoplasma in Dr. Isabelle Coppens's lab, colitis and sudden cardiac death in Dr. Marc Halushka's lab, and the development of colon cancer in Dr. Cynthia Sears's lab. Before graduate school, Corey worked as a research technician in Dr. Piotr Kulesza's lab at Northwestern University. Corey completed her Bachelor of Science in Biology, Molecular Biology Concentration, with minors in Chemistry and Spanish at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where she conducted cancer research in the lab of Dr. Piotr Kulesza.

**David Preiss, MRCP FRCPath PhD**

David is Professor of Metabolic Medicine and Clinical Trials at the University of Oxford, UK. His major interests are the prevention of cardiovascular and microvascular disease, with particular focus on lipid modification and diabetes, and his studies make extensive use of routinely collected healthcare data to recruit and follow up study participants. His current research combines clinical trials, epidemiological studies and meta-analyses of major studies. He is Chief Investigator for the recently completed LENS trial which demonstrated the clinical benefit of fenofibrate therapy in treating patients with early diabetic retinopathy.

**Sandra Puczynski, PhD**

Dr. Puczynski is a member of the Lay Advisory Committee for the Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative. Dr. Puczynski has over 25 years of experience leading clinical research and regulatory programs at various academic institutions and has administered many clinical trials funded by NIH, DoD, and Industry. Dr. Puczynski is a Breakthrough T1D (formerly JDRF) Director Emeritus. She is a 39-year volunteer for Breakthrough T1D, one of the founders and past presidents of the Western Pennsylvania Chapter, and served on the International Board of Directors, including Chair of Research, from 1997-2003. Dr. Puczynski has served on various healthcare boards and committees, including NIDDK Advisory Council. Her daughter, Michelle, was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes 39 years ago, at 11 months of age. Now retired, Sandra and her husband Mark live in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**Rithwick Rajagopal, MD, PhD**

I am a clinician-scientist with expertise in the area of vitreoretinal diseases. My laboratory studies mechanisms of disease pathogenesis in the diabetic retina, with specific interests in early changes to photoreceptor metabolism in diabetes, retinal cellular energy-sensing pathways in nutrient abundance and scarcity, and effects of these molecular pathways on retinal neurovascular coupling. I was trained in experimental biology at Cornell University, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, and New York University, where I was part of the medical scientist training program. I completed residency training in ophthalmology and fellowship training in vitreoretinal surgery at Washington University in St. Louis. In my current clinical practice, I treat people of all ages who suffer from nearly all forms of pathology to the retina and vitreous. My specific clinical interests are surgical management of advanced diabetic eye disease, early diagnosis and retinal pathology in diabetes, and implementation of meaningful lifestyle changes to prevent complications of diabetes.

**Kelli Ramos, MPH**

Kelli Ramos is the senior project manager for the Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative Ocular Biorepository and Resource Center located at the Kellogg Eye Center at the University of Michigan. Kelli oversees hiring of technical staff to support daily needs of the project and working with contractors and collaborators to bring foundational components of the project to fruition. A large part of this undertaking is managing the collection of precious ocular tissues and managing the standardization of storage and distribution of samples for the project. Kelli has an active role in the collection and curation of data collected from ocular donors and stored for scientific research and collaboration.

Kelli has previous experience in technical program management for domestic and international medical laboratory testing policy. As a TPM, Kelli helped implement and interpret international and domestic public policy to guide the quality and reliability of laboratory test results across the globe. Kelli also has extensive experiences handling and collecting samples in a clinical laboratory setting when she worked as a clinical laboratory technician at a CLIA accredited laboratory located in a critical access hospital in costal Oregon. Kelli has multiple close relatives with Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes, and she is honored to contribute to the MTM Vision Initiative in their shared goal to curiously and compassionately investigate therapeutic treatments to improve and end vision loss for patients with Diabetic Retinopathy.

**Michael Ranella, MBA, MPH**

Mike earned his bachelor's degree in Human Biology from Michigan State University in 2004. He began his research career at the John D. Dingell VA Hospital in Detroit, focusing on clinical research related to aortic disease in the veteran population. In 2007, Mike transitioned to the University of Michigan, where he continued his work in cardiovascular research. By 2010, he had taken on the role of Aortic Program Manager at the Frankel Cardiovascular Center. During his time there, he led cross-disciplinary teams in implementing innovative implantable technologies as part of the Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) program. After many years of working at the intersection of industry and research, Mike pursued dual master's degrees in Business Administration and Public Health. This educational path enhanced his understanding of both the epidemiology of disease processes and the operational aspects of healthcare.

Currently, Mike serves as the Senior Director of the Fast Forward Medical Innovation Business Development team at the University of Michigan. In this role, he collaborates with industry partners and UM faculty to drive academic-industry partnerships, leveraging cutting-edge innovations to improve healthcare. His team facilitates a wide range of industry collaborations, including licensing agreements, sponsored research, clinical trials, and consulting services. With over 15 years of healthcare research experience, Mike excels at forming mutually beneficial partnerships with industry to support the mission of the healthcare system.

**Arunkumar Ranganathan, PhD**

Dr. Ranganathan is a post-doctoral research associate at the University of Utah. *(Headshot obtained from: https://loop.frontiersin.org/people/1354684/bio)*

**Rajesh Rao, MD**

Rajesh is a physician-scientist and vitreoretinal surgeon. He earned his undergraduate degree in Molecular Biology at University of Wisconsin-Madison, and his M.D. from Yale School of Medicine. He completed an internship at McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University and ophthalmology residency at Harvard Medical School/Mass Eye & Ear. Rajesh obtained additional 2-year training in vitreoretinal surgery, uveitis, and ocular oncology at Washington University School of Medicine and The Retina Institute, St. Louis.

Dr. Rao's lab seeks to understand epigenetic mechanisms underlying retinal disease using pluripotent stem cell derived retinal organoids. He is one of few retinal surgeons in the U.S. who trains graduate students, and who is supported by an NIH R01. His work has led to over 110 publications, and he currently conducts first-in-human adult RPE stem cell therapy trial for macular degeneration in 2022 (NCT04627428) – Kellogg Eye Center is the sole trial site nationally. In addition, Dr. Rao is regularly tapped review grant applications for NIH, Veterans Affairs, UK Medical Research Council, HHMI , and other funding bodies. He is a trusted contributor to the National Eye Institute (NEI), participating in initiatives like the Audacious Goals Initiative and the NEI Regenerative Medicine Strategic Planning Panel.

Dr. Rao's clinical practice is largely comprised of caring for patients affected by diabetic retinopathy and macular degeneration, at Kellogg Eye Center and the VA Ann Arbor Healthsystem, where he leads the retina service. He is a pioneer in the use of liquid biopsies for lymphoma cancer detection in the eye, and has bridged this interest into better understanding the cell types and transcriptomics in the diseased human vitreous.

**Tanya Richardson**

Tanya has over 26 years of experience with Fortrea (formerly Labcorp, Covance and Chiltern), including monitoring, global project management, delivery director oversight and strategic planning and growth. Her clinical research experience includes a broad range of therapeutic experience with the last 15 years specifically focused on ophthalmology. Tanya's ocular experience covers front and back of the eye indications, inherited retinal and ocular rare diseases across phase I-IV and medical device studies as well as ocular cell and gene therapies.

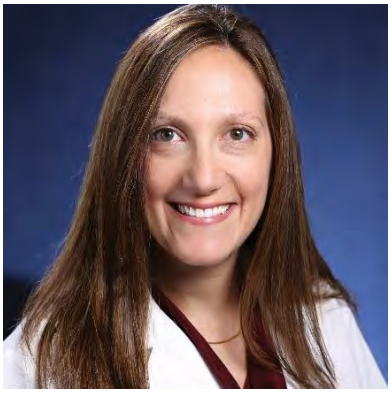
Her extensive delivery background, coupled with her ocular experience supports both internal and external stakeholders in the strategic development of a reduced burden approach, as well as an efficient and successfully executed ocular trial. Tanya is passionate about ensuring the priorities of a clinical trial are 1) to reduce the burden across all stakeholders 2) a realistic, common-sense approach and 3) at the end of the day, we all do what we do for the patients! *(Bio and headshot obtained from: https://www.fortrea.com/scientific-expertise/by-therapeutic-or-specialty-areas/ophthalmology/ophthalmology-team/tanya-richardson.html)*

**Lydia Robert**

I am a High School student with type one diabetes and was invited to attend by Dr. Gardner at the University of Michigan after getting connected with him through a summer program at the university. In the future I would like to pursue a career somewhere in the field of diabetes.

**Mariana Rosca, MD**

I graduated the University of Medicine and Pharmacy Gr. T Popa in the city of Iasi, Romania and was an Assistant Professor of Pathophysiology in the same university for 10 years. I joined the Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) Department of Internal Medicine-Nephrology as a Fulbright fellow in 2000 and two years later I became a postdoctoral fellow for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. My research focus was the involvement of mitochondria in chronic diabetes complications, specifically diabetic nephropathy. In 2004 I joined the Central of Inherited Disorders of Energetic Metabolism (CIDEM) and the Department of Pharmacology at CWRU, where I expanded my expertise on cellular bioenergetics and the role of mitochondrial metabolism in the development and progression of chronic diseases including diabetic cardiomyopathy and heart failure and diabetic retinopathy. In 2014 I joined Central Michigan University College of Medicine where I became the Chair of the Foundational Sciences Discipline and a Professor with tenure in 2022. My research is currently funded by the NIH for a project on mitochondrial redox state regulated by nicotinamide nucleotide transhydrogenase and its role in metabolic heart disease.



**Julie Rosenthal, MD, MS**

Julie M. Rosenthal, MD, MS, is a Clinical Assistant Professor at the Kellogg Eye Center, University of Michigan. She is an ophthalmologist with fellowship training and experience in the field of Ophthalmology and Retina. She has been involved in studies of Diabetic Retinopathy and Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD), as well as Central Serous Chorioretinopathy (CSCR). Dr. Rosenthal serves as the Associate Medical Director of the Kellogg Clinical Research Center (KCRC), where she helps oversee clinical trials involving ophthalmology. A significant proportion of Dr. Rosenthal's patient population suffers from diabetic retinopathy, and she is passionate about preventing severe retinopathy in those with youth-onset diabetes.

**Ethan Rossi, PhD**

Dr. Rossi is an Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Pittsburgh, where he holds a secondary appointment in Bioengineering. Dr. Rossi completed his PhD training in Vision Science at the University of California, Berkeley in the laboratory of Austin Roorda. Following that Dr. Rossi completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the laboratory of David Williams and then joined the Advanced Retinal Imaging Alliance as a research associate. Dr. Rossi's PhD research used adaptive optics to study the retinal and neural limits of human vision. In his postdoctoral training, Dr. Rossi improved adaptive optics autofluorescence techniques and applied them to the study of patients with age-related macular degeneration (AMD). As a research associate, Dr. Rossi worked to improve the clinical utility of adaptive optics scanning light ophthalmoscopy (AOSLO) and developed a new method that allowed retinal ganglion cells to be imaged in the living eye of humans. In his laboratory at Pittsburgh, Dr. Rossi has continued to develop and deploy advanced imaging technologies for the study of human disease. Some highlights of his recent work include evaluation of the

*(continued)*

microscopic near-infrared autofluorescence features of AMD, study of fixational eye movements following concussion, and improved nonconfocal AOSLO techniques for fine-scale tracking of microglia in healthy eyes and macrophages in patients with uveitis. Dr. Rossi's current research interests include adaptive optics ophthalmoscopy, aging, age-related macular degeneration, inherited retinal dystrophies, glaucoma, uveitis, eye movements and concussion. Dr. Rossi has obtained funding for his work from several sources, including the National Eye Institute, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, Foundation Fighting Blindness, BrightFocus Foundation, and the Eye & Ear Foundation of Pittsburgh.

**Mira Sachdeva, MD, PhD**

I am a clinician-scientist in the Retina Division at the Wilmer Eye Institute/Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. My research focuses on identifying molecular mechanisms and biomarkers for the early neurodegenerative component of diabetic retinal disease (DRD) through basic science and translational approaches. I have had a longstanding interest in diabetes, having studied the pancreatic beta-cell response to insulin resistance as a graduate student in Cell and Molecular Biology in the MD/PhD program at the University of Pennsylvania. That formative experience provided me with a broad multidisciplinary foundation in diabetes and metabolism research that continues to shape my career and collaborative endeavors. I then completed my Ophthalmology residency at Wilmer and my Vitreoretinal Surgery Fellowship at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, after which I returned to Wilmer as Faculty. Now I divide my time between patient care, research, and teaching. My patients who suffer irreversible vision loss from diabetes (and other retinal diseases) inspire my current research efforts to understand how diabetes damages retinal neurons. On the basic science side, my lab has been using mouse models of diabetes and retinal ganglion cells in culture to study how these critical neurons are damaged in the early stages of DRD. On the more translational side, we are investigating proteins in the aqueous fluid that may be biomarkers for early retinal disease in diabetic patients. Overall, my hope is that my work will ultimately identify (1) new strategies to protect retinal neurons in DRD and therefore preserve or improve vision in individuals with diabetes, and (2) new ways to monitor DRD with molecular biomarkers, especially in its early stages, to assess risk for progression and response to treatment.

**Emily Sammons, BSc, MBChB, MSc**

Dr Emily Sammons is a Clinical Research Fellow at the Clinical Trial Service Unit of the University of Oxford. She has particular research interests in diabetic eye disease and age-related macular degeneration. She is also leading the long-term follow-up of participants in the ASCEND and REVEAL trials. Emily is the Lead Safety Officer and a Steering Committee Member for the EMPA-KIDNEY and EASi-KIDNEY trials and a co-investigator of the LENS trial. Emily has experience working in General Medicine and a DPhil in Population Health.

**Edward Sanchez, MBA**

Edward, is co-founder and COO of Adaptive Sensory Technology, Inc. (AST). He leads the company's operation, business development and commercialization efforts, and has over 25 years of experience in entrepreneurship, international business, and software development.

He has helped launch and commercialize the Manifold Platform a data science platform that supports ophthalmic clinical trials with visual function endpoints and a reading center services model. Manifold has been used across a global network of 175 retina sites that includes the U.S., U.K., Germany, France, Italy, Australia, China, Singapore, Denmark, Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland, and Spain. *(continued)*

Edward's leadership focuses on building a strong team and developing commercially viable strategies to bring the company's products and technology to market. He has established strong relationships with major pharmaceutical, medical device, and MedTech companies. Through these collaborations, Ed has successfully helped grow the company and transform its cutting-edge innovations into commercially ready solutions that meet clinical and business needs.

Before joining Adaptive Sensory Technology, Ed co-founded Nik Software and served as its Executive Vice President. At Nik Software, he was instrumental in developing and commercializing over 20 award-winning products, including Snapseed, which won Apple's iPad App of the Year award in 2011. His strategic leadership helped drive Nik Software's acquisition by Google in 2012.

Ed holds a BA in International Business from California State University, Fullerton, and an MBA in International Business from the University of San Diego. His expertise in business, technology, and commercialization has positioned him as a key driver of Adaptive Sensory Technology's market success.

**Joshua Santosa**

Joshua Santosa is a Senior Biomedical Engineer at LKC Technologies, where he specializes in training clients and technical staff on medical products and procedures. With over ten years of experience, he manages support and clinical trial teams, develops training resources, and troubleshoots field products to enhance operational efficiency. Passionate about advancing biomedical innovation, Joshua actively represents his company at industry conferences.

**Mike Sapieha, PhD**

Przemyslaw (Mike) Sapieha is the University of Montreal Endowed Chair in translational vision research, Canada Research Chair in retinal cell biology and director of the Neurovascular Eye Disease Lab at the Maisonneuve-Rosemont Hospital Research Centre. In addition, he is the Chief Scientist at UNITY Biotechnology in San Francisco and Founder and Chief Scientific Officer of SemaThera Inc. His team identified mechanisms implicating deregulation of neuronal metabolism and cellular senescence in retinal vascular diseases such as diabetic retinopathy and age-related macular degeneration (AMD). Notably, they identified roles for guidance cues Semaphorins and Netrins in these diseases. His fundamental work has been translated and is currently in distinct clinical trials for diabetic retinal disease and AMD. Mike is a fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Science and member of the College of the Royal Society of Canada. He has received awards such as the Cogan Award from the Association for Research and Vision and Ophthalmology, the Alcon Senior Investigator Award and Innovation Award in AMD from the Bright Focus Foundation and more.

**Eve Scherer**

Eve Fradin Scherer is an undergraduate student at the University of Michigan. Currently she's a sophomore studying biomolecular science. This summer, she interned for Dr. Richard Rosen at Mount Sinai New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. She did patient recruitment for two of his studies involving imaging using the Ultra-Wide Field DREAM-OCT from Intalight. One focuses on the progression of eye diseases and the relationship with the patient's other diseases, and the other focuses on post vitrectomy surgeries. She's excited to learn more about ophthalmology and the field.

**Reinier Schlingemann, MD, PhD**

Dr. Reinier O. Schlingemann is among the foremost researchers in ocular angiogenesis and anti-VEGF therapy in the eye. After receiving his medical degree from the University of Leiden Medical School, the Netherlands, Dr. Schlingemann gained his PhD from the University of Nijmegen in 1990, on the subjects of tumor angiogenesis and tumor vascular targeting. He undertook his residency in ophthalmology at the University of Amsterdam, followed by a medical retina fellowship with Professor Alan Bird at Moorfields Eye Hospital, London. He is now Professor of Ophthalmology and Vascular Diseases of the Macula and a medical retinal specialist in Amsterdam.

Dr. Schlingemann's research interests include the role of growth factors in ocular angiogenesis and fibrosis (particularly in AMD and diabetic retinopathy); the cellular mechanisms underlying loss of the blood–retinal barrier in diabetic retinopathy; and vaso-occlusive mechanisms that cause non-perfusion of the retinal vasculature in diabetic retinopathy. He is involved in several prospective clinical trials on the use of anti-angiogenic therapy in AMD and diabetic retinopathy, and is a Board Member of EURETINA and EASDec.

**Anna Schork, J.D.**

Managing Director Anna Schork, J.D., is the chief operating officer, overseeing administration, finance and operations of the LSI. Schork and her team provide integrated strategic support to the institute director, enabling nimble and transparent decision-making, and fostering a climate for success for the entire institute community. Prior to joining the LSI, she was the assistant director for the University's Institute for Social Research for five years, overseeing all administrative and strategic operations and a research budget of nearly $100 million. Schork began her career at the university in 2001 in the Division of Research Development and Administration, negotiating sponsored research contracts and related agreements with various foundations, pharmaceutical companies and other industry partners. In 2005, she became the Legal/Fiscal Director for the Southwest Oncology Group, a national cancer cooperative funded by the National Cancer Institute through a $50 million grant.

**Anjali Shah, MD**

Dr. Shah earned her medical degree from the University of Michigan Medical School in 2006, completed her residency in ophthalmology at the Cullen Eye Institute, Baylor College of Medicine in 2010 and a fellowship in medical retina at New England Eye Center, Tufts University in 2011. Dr. Shah is involved in multiple clinical research projects focused on improving outcomes and understanding risk in diabetic eye disease. She is Co-Director of Medical Student Education for the Department of Ophthalmology, and Medical Director of the Kellogg Eye Center, Ann Arbor.

**Steven Sherman**

Steve Sherman is a Senior Director of Health Economics and Outcomes Research at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals supporting Ophthalmology, including areas of AMD (iAMD/GA and nAMD), Diabetic Eye Disease, RVO, ROP, and glaucoma. Steve received his B.S. degree in Biology from Seattle University, and an MPH in Epidemiology from Columbia University. Over the course of his 18 years career in HEOR, he has conducted studies in the areas of oncology, CNS, respiratory disorders, endocrinology, women's health, urology, dermatology, hematology, CV disorders, immunology, infectious diseases, and ophthalmology. Steve resides in Westchester County, NY with his wife and two sons.

**Henry Shin, PhD**

Henry is a co-founder and the CEO of Excitant Therapeutics, where he currently leads a small-molecule drug development program focused on addressing unmet needs for diabetic retinopathy and age-related macular degeneration. He is a seasoned ophthalmic researcher with a training background in physiology. He completed his PhD at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, where he worked with Dr. Jian-xing Ma to explore the first dominant-negative mutation of the human RPE65 linked to autosomal dominant retinitis pigmentosa. Henry's research interests include the biochemical and molecular foundations of human vision, the pathophysiology of diabetic retinopathy and age-related macular degeneration, and pharmaceutical development. Outside of research, he enjoys hiking and photography and is on his quest to visit all 63 national parks in the US.

**Chris Shoemaker, MEd, MBA**

Chris joined Michigan Medicine in early 2018 overseeing the DCI (Departments, Centers, and Institutes) and Surgery teams. These teams include the areas in the Departments of Internal Medicine, Kellogg Eye Center, transplant surgery, the Frankel Cardiovascular Center, orthopaedic surgery, family medicine, emergency medicine, the Taubman Institute, and concierge medicine programs. Chris also works closely with Michigan Medicine's health innovation teams growing venture philanthropy across the health system. He also leads grateful patient fundraising strategies and serves as the Office of Development's main liaison to the President of the Health System.

Prior to joining Michigan Medicine, Chris spent the previous ten years growing philanthropy at the UIC College of Pharmacy (ranked #6) with an emphasis on increasing engagement with alumni and enhancing marketing and communications. He was an integral part of the college's leadership team serving in the Dean's Cabinet. In his time there, the college raised more in that decade than it had in the 50 years prior. Before working in pharmacy, Chris held roles in marketing and fundraising for the UIC College of Medicine.

In 2009, he co-founded and served as CEO of PAX Neuroscience, a seed-stage award-winning biotech company with a mission to improve the quality of life and care for patients with major depressive disorder. The company is still actively growing with a goal to produce a suite of tests and treatments for patients.

**Fabiana Silva, MD**

Fabiana Silva, M.D., is a Medical Director of Ophthalmology Medical Affairs at Regeneron, a position she has held since July 2021. Dr. Silva is an ophthalmologist with extensive experience in both clinical practice and medical research. She earned her Doctor of Medicine degree from the Federal University of Pernambuco in Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil, in 2005. Following her graduation, Dr. Silva completed her residency in Ophthalmology at Santa Luzia Eye Hospital in Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil. Dr. Silva further honed her expertise in ophthalmology clinical research by serving as a Retina Research Fellow at the prestigious Cleveland Clinic Cole Eye Institute. During this fellowship, she made significant contributions to the understanding and treatment of retinal diseases. In her current role at Regeneron, Dr. Silva continues to advance the field of ophthalmology through her work in Medical Affairs. She collaborates with cross-functional teams to drive initiatives aimed at improving patient care and outcomes.

**Paolo Silva, MD**

Dr. Paolo S. Silva is staff ophthalmologist and co-chief of telemedicine at the Beetham Eye Institute of the Joslin Diabetes Center. He is Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Silva's work is focused on innovative and investigative work at a field that is at the intersection of clinical care and technology with the hope of providing an ideal model for the delivery of evidence based highly effective and efficient diabetes eye care to the population that needs it the most.

**Rafael Simó, MD, PhD**

Dr. Rafael Simó is the Chair of the Division of Endocrinology and Nutrition at Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, Director of Diabetes and Metabolism Research Unit at Vall d'Hebron Research Institute (VHIR), Professor of Medicine & Endocrinology at the Autonomous University of Barcelona and Deputy Director of Clinical Research at VHIR. His group belongs to CIBERDEM (the Spanish network for the research of diabetes and associated metabolic diseases).

Prof. Simó (Hirsch index: 68) has authored over 450 articles related to diabetes which have been published in high-profile peer-reviewed journals, besides 14 book chapters. He has participated in 28 research projects related to diabetic retinopathy and in 34 projects related to clinical diabetes. He has been the Coordinator of the European Consortium for the Early Treatment of Diabetic Retinopathy (EUROCONDOR). In addition, he is the current coordinator of the "Retinal and cognitive dysfunction in type 2 diabetes: unravelling the common pathways and identification of patients at risk of dementia (RECOGNISED).

Prof. Simó has been the President of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes-Eye complications (EASD-ec) from 2019 to 2021. The Service of Endocrinology and Nutrition headed by Dr. Simó has been ranked within the top 20 in the world in the years 2022-2023 (1st in Spain and 4th in Europe) by the prestigious journal Newsweek.

Prof. Simó received the Spanish Society of Diabetes Award (Rodríguez Miñón Award-2008) for a career in the field of Clinical Research in Diabetes, the Award of the Spanish Society of Endocrinology (2015) for the development and consolidation of a high-quality research group, the Alberto Sols Award from the Spanish Diabetes Society (2023) in recognision to basic research contribution in Diabetes (2023), and the Eva Kohner Award from the European Association for the Study of Diabetes–Eye complications (2023), among others.

**Terry Sims**

Terry is honored to have served as Mary Tyler Moore's Executive Assistant for over 25 years. During this time with Mary, he traveled extensively with her and worked on many of her television shows, films, and theatre projects, fostering a deep friendship with Mary and Robert. He also supported their passionate efforts to advance diabetes research, a cause that became personally significant when his father was diagnosed with the disease.

Following his work with Mary, Terry returned to the medical field, serving as Administrative Director of Cardiology, Surgery, and Anesthesia at NYU Langone in Brooklyn, NY. After eight years in this demanding role, he retired from NYU. However, retirement didn't last long, as Terry resumed his career as Robert's Executive Assistant, contributing to MTM Vision and other significant projects. One of his proudest accomplishments is his work as Associate Producer on the Emmy-nominated documentary, "Being Mary Tyler Moore."

**Sobha Sivaprasad, FRCOphth**

Professor Sobha Sivaprasad is a Medical Retina Consultant Ophthalmologist at Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and a Professor in Retinal Clinical Research at University College London. She is the DIrector of Moorfields Clinical Research Facility and the Vascular Theme Lead for Moorfields Biomedical Research Centre. She is the Chair of the Scientific Committee of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists. Professor Sivaprasad has published more than 500 peer-reviewed publications. Her main research interests are clinical trials, imaging and risk prediction. She works collaboratively with a large number of institutions both in the UK and globally. She is the Editor-in-chief of Eye since January 2018.

**Maurine Slutsky**

Maurine Slutzky joined the Entertainment Industry Foundation (EIF) in 2005, where she led entertainment communications and donated media efforts on behalf of all EIF programs. As part of her role, Maurine worked on health and education initiatives such as “Stand Up To Cancer,” “Saks Fifth Avenue’s Key To The Cure,” EIF’s Revlon Run Walk,” “Hunger Is,” “Think It Up,” “Diabetes Aware,” “Lee National Denim Day,” “Rise and Honor.” During Slutzky’s tenure at EIF and Stand Up To Cancer, Slutzky has worked on seven Stand Up To Cancer multi-network “roadblock” telecasts, education specials “Think it Up” and “XQ: Super School Live” and disaster relief initiative “Somos Una Voz.” Slutzky was part of the team that helped launch Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C) in 2008 and now oversees talent and entertainment relations as well as donated media efforts on behalf of Stand Up To Cancer.

Prior to her work at EIF and Stand Up To Cancer, Slutzky worked as an publicist and account executive at Full Picture representing fashion, lifestyle and beauty clients such as Victoria’s Secret, Frederic Fekkai, John Varvatos, Chanel, Barneys New York among many others.
*(Biography and headshot obtained from: https://standuptocancer.org/who-we-are/executive-team)*

**Sharon D. Solomon, MD**

Sharon D. Solomon, M.D., is the Katharine M. Graham Professor of Ophthalmology at the Wilmer Eye Institute and a member of the Miller-Coulson Academy of Clinical Excellence at Johns Hopkins. She is the Associate Secretary for the Annual Meeting Program Committee for the American Academy of Ophthalmolgy and serves on the editorial boards of Ophthalmology and Ophthalmology Retina. Dr. Solomon received her bachelor's degree in biochemistry from Harvard University and her medical degree from the University of California, San Francisco. After her internship at Stanford, she returned to UCSF for her residency in ophthalmology. Dr. Solomon completed her surgical retina fellowship at the Wilmer Eye Institute prior to joining the faculty.

**Elizabeth Stanley, MPH**

Elizabeth (“Liz”) Stanley, Global Health Economics and Outcomes Research (HEOR) Lead for Retinopathies at Boehringer Ingelheim, develops and executes global HEOR value demonstration strategies for Boehringer's retinal health portfolio. Liz collaborates across functions and with external partners to generate evidence that supports market access, demonstrating the clinical, economic, and humanistic value of Boehringer's retinopathy products.

With experience spanning biopharmaceuticals (Boehringer, Novartis, and Amgen), consulting (Deloitte and Booz Allen), and academia (Rutgers and Emory), her expertise covers health economics, policy, quality, outcomes research, and health services research across various therapeutic areas/diseases, health sectors, and countries. *(continued)*

Liz is currently a Ph.D. Candidate in Translational Health Sciences at The George Washington University. She completed a post-graduate fellowship in HEOR through Rutgers University and Novartis and holds a Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) in Health Policy and Epidemiology from Emory University.

**Alan Stitt, PhD**

Alan Stitt was appointed to the Harold McCauley Chair of Experimental Ophthalmology at Queen's University Belfast in 2001. Since this time he has led the University's ophthalmic research programme and built a strong reputation based on high-quality basic science which is translationally linked to patient studies and clinical trials. This multi-disciplinary programme currently consists of 15 academic leaders who are linked to a shared vision focused on understanding and treating sight-threatening retinal diseases such as diabetic retinopathy and age-related macular degeneration. From a personal perspective, Alan's research group is committed to understanding the pathogenesis of diabetic retinal disease, proliferative retinopathies and vasoregeneration in the ischaemic retina and he has published extensively in these areas (https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=Stitt+AW&sort=date). Some of this basic research has supported translation into early phase clinical trials which underscores is commitment to creating translational impact from his research. He was the Chief Scientific Officer for Oxurion (Leuven, Belgium) on a part time basis between 2019 and 2022, in which he led the preclinical programme to support two novel therapies to treat diabetic macular edema. He is also a founder of two UK spinout companies Vascversa (www.vascversa.org) and Medinect (www.medinect.co.uk).

Alan's research and academic leadership achievements have been acknowledged through election to membership of the Royal Irish Academy, receipt of a Royal Society Merit Award and Gold fellow status of the Association for Research in Vision & Ophthalmology (FARVO). He serves on many national and international panels and editorial boards. For example, he was an associate editor for Diabetologia (2015-2022) and in 2022 he became the Editor-in-Chief of Progress in Retinal Eye Research.

**Hannah Stocker, MD, PhD**

Hannah Stocker is a graduate prepared Epidemiologist (PhD, MPH) with over 14 years of experience across academia, industry, and the clinical setting in both the US and Germany and is a real-world evidence lead for Boehringer Ingelheim in the retinal health space.

**Cathy Sun, MD**

Cathy is a clinician-scientist with a passion for data-driven research. She is currently on a NEI K23 Career Development Award focused on data analytics and informatics, epidemiology and statistics, and clinical trial design. She has published on prediction models for progression to proliferative diabetic retinopathy, mediation analysis to understand the relationship between diabetic retinopathy progression and insurance, and natural language processing to classify patients with diseases of interest from clinical notes. She is also interested in integrating clinical trials with routine patient care to prospectively conduct studies using electronic health record-based methods.

**Jennifer Sun, MD, MPH**

My expertise lies in identifying and developing novel biomarkers of diabetic retinopathy and diabetic macular edema progression and treatment response through advanced imaging techniques. My research team has elucidated retinal vascular wall characteristics on adaptive optics scanning laser ophthalmoscopy (AOSLO) that are associated with local surrounding neural retinal pathology. We identified the novel biomarker of disorganization of the retinal inner layers (DRIL) as a parameter on optical coherence tomography imaging that predicts current and future vision in eyes with diabetic macular edema independently of retinal thickness or retinal outer layer disruption, I also have substantial experience in clinical trial evaluation and treatment of diabetic retinopathy through multiple leadership roles. As Chair for the Diabetes Initiatives of the DRCR Retina Network (formerly the Diabetic Retinopathy Clinical Research Network), I have gained extensive knowledge of protocols in diabetic retinopathy being implemented and under development nationwide and internationally. I also serve as Science co-Director for the Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative.

**Jeffrey Sundstrom, MD, PhD**

Dr. Sundstrom is a clinician-scientist involved in patient care, research, education, and innovation. My translational research focuses on the molecular analysis of ocular fluid to identify pathways involved in ocular disease. My basic research laboratory focuses on the role of extracellular vesicles in RPE dysfunction.

**Tien-En Tan, MBBS (Hons), MMed (Ophth), FRCOphth, FAMS**

Dr Tien-En Tan is a Consultant at the Singapore National Eye Centre, and is a Clinical Assistant Professor with the Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences Academic Clinical Programme (EYE ACP) in Duke-NUS Medical School. He has completed 2 years of Medical & Surgical Retina Fellowship at the Singapore National Eye Centre, and is currently undertaking PhD research in retinal gene therapy at the University of Oxford, under the supervision of Prof Dominik Fischer and Prof Robert MacLaren.

**Ziqi Tang, MPhil, PhD**

Ziqi Tang, MPhil, PhD, received her PhD in 2023 under the direction of Dr. Carol Cheung in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She is a young researcher continuing her work under Dr. Cheung's guidance. Her principal research interest lies in the field of diabetic retinopathy, with a specific focus on utilizing retinal images for the early identification of the development and progression of the condition, as well as the application of artificial intelligence in diabetic retinopathy. Since 2019, she has authored over 20 articles cited in PubMed.

**Daniel Ting MD, PhD**

Associate Professor Daniel Ting is a senior consultant vitreo-retinal surgeon working in the Singapore National Eye Center (SNEC), an Associate Professor with Duke-NUS Medical School and an Adjunct Clinical Associate Professor and an Innovation Mentor at Stanford University. He is also the Director of Singapore Health Service (SingHealth) AI Office, SNEC Chief Data and Digital Officer, and the Head of AI and Digital Innovation in Singapore Eye Research Institute (SERI).

In 2017, Dr Ting was US-ASEAN Fulbright Scholar visiting the Johns Hopkins University Fulbright Scholar to share his expertise in AI and big data in medicine. In addition to that, his research focus span across not only on the technical aspect on machine learning, deep learning, large language models, explainable AI, privacy preserving technologies, but also safe, responsible and ethical clinical AI applications. He is also involved in several international consensus reporting guidelines such as STARD-AI, QUADAS-AI and DECIDE-AI.

To date, Daniel has published >250 publications on peer reviewed, book chapters, educational articles and conference abstracts. Of those, 45 were published in high impact journals (IF >10) such as JAMA, NEJM, Lancet, Nature Medicine, Nature Biomedical Engineering, Lancet Digital Health, Progress in Retinal and Eye Research, Diabetes Care, Nature Digital Medicine, Ophthalmology and etc. As of May 2024 (Google Scholar), his current H index: 60, i-10 index: 162 with total citations of >19296. Dr Ting has received a total of 100M research grants, in which 20 M as a principal investigator, and 80M as co-investigators on AI and digital innovation related projects in health.

He also serves in numerous advisory and editorial boards in the top-tiered digital and medical journals, including Lancet Digital Health; Section Editor in British Journal of Ophthalmology and Editorial Board Member in Ophthalmology. In 2022, 2023 and 2024, he is included in the World's Top 100 Ophthalmology Power list by the Ophthalmologists; and the World's Top 2% Scientists by the Stanford University world ranking. In 2021, 2022 and 2023, he was consistently ranked top 3 in the deep learning domain over the past decades (2010 – 2023) by the ExpertScape. "

**Peter Toogood, PhD**

Dr. Toogood is the Director of Michigan Drug Discovery and a Research Associate Professor of Medicinal Chemistry. His lab uses use organic synthesis and computational chemistry to identify novel ligands for challenging protein and RNA targets. A primary focus of our work is a class of metabolic enzymes implicated in cancer and autoimmune disease.

Dr. Toogood joined Lycera in 2007 as VP Chemistry and Chemical Biology. He previously held the titles of senior research associate, associate director and research fellow at Parke-Davis/Pfizer in Ann Arbor, Michigan. His drug discovery experience encompasses the fields of immunology/inflammation, infectious diseases and cancer.

Dr. Toogood was a co-inventor of the cyclin-dependent kinase-4 inhibitor Palbociclib. Before joining Parke-Davis, Dr. Toogood served on the chemistry faculty of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where he established an NIH and NSF funded research program in natural products total synthesis and chemical biology.

Dr. Toogood received his Ph.D. from Imperial College, London, working with Professor Steven V. Ley, and was a NATO postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Professor Jeremy R. Knowles at Harvard University. He is an author of more than 40 peer-reviewed publications, and an inventor on 20 issued patents and pending patent applications.

**Ashu Tripathi, PhD**

Dr. Tripathi is a recognized leader in natural product chemistry and drug discovery, with a prolific publication record that has significantly advanced the understanding and application of natural product-based therapeutics. As a co-founder of the Natural Product-based Drug Discovery Center (NPDC) and Research Associate Professor of Medicinal Chemistry at the University of Michigan, Dr. Tripathi has been instrumental in establishing this state-of-the-art center, developing its strategic business plan, and raising $2.5 million to launch a cutting-edge laboratory equipped with the latest in analytical and discovery technologies.

Dr. Tripathi's recent efforts include establishing a data-intensive discovery platform within NPDC and bringing together advanced high-throughput screening and metabolomic profiling methods to accelerate the identification of promising therapeutic leads. Under Dr. Tripathi's leadership, NPDC has built an exceptional research team, initiated multiple collaborative projects, and secured grants to pursue groundbreaking projects, further positioning NPDC as a leader in microbial metabolite discovery. Their contributions to the field are underscored by an extensive body of peer-reviewed publications, which continue to influence natural product science and the broader drug discovery community. His recent effort includes the development of a unique small molecule library exclusively available through NPDC for AI/MI-based drug discovery and virtual screening.

**Manos Tsamis, PhD**

Emmanouil Tsamis, called Manos by friends and colleagues, is an Assistant Professor at Columbia University, NY. His research focuses on the development and improvement of techniques to better detect and monitor glaucoma. His primary research interest lies on the technologies of optical coherence tomography (OCT) and perimetry (visual fields). He works closely with Prof Donald C Hood, Dr Gustavo De Moraes, as well as the rest of the glaucoma team (Dr Liebmann, Dr Cioffi) at Columbia University Medical Center.

He has previously graduated as an optician-optometrist from the Technological Educational Institute of Athens, Greece. He worked at an optician/optometrist practice for a year, before joining Prof David Henson in Manchester, England, where he completed his Masters (Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences) and PhD (Medicine-Optometry) degrees. He joined Prof Don Hood's Lab in 2018 and under his mentorship Manos established himself as one of the research experts in structure and function relationships in glaucoma. In 2021, he was awarded the K99/R00 Pathway to Independence Award by the NIH/NEI for his project 'Development, validation and assessment of an automated, topographic structure-function approach to the detection of glaucoma and its progression'.

**Santa Tumminia, PhD**

Santa Tumminia, Ph.D. serves as the Deputy Director of the National Eye Institute (NEI). Dr. Tumminia is experienced in basic, clinical and translational research, and executive-level management in government, non-profit and corporate environments. During her tenure at the NEI, she has also served as Acting Director and Acting Scientific Director. In these roles, she provides executive leadership and scientific expertise on NEI policies and initiatives, strategic and organizational leadership, research oversight and priority setting and financial management.

Dr. Tumminia earned a Ph.D. in Biology from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Following postdoctoral training in the Department of Biochemistry at the Roche Institute of Molecular Biology, Hoffman La-Roche, Inc., where she examined the protein-nucleic acid interactions involved in ribosome assembly, Dr. Tumminia joined the NEI Laboratory of Mechanisms of Ocular Diseases. Her research focus was on the mechanisms of ocular diseases, specifically, glaucoma and cataract formation.

Recently, as part of NEI Strategic Plan implementation, she has been working on the new Cerebral/Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) initiative that has recruited partners from across the NIH. She provides leadership and scientific expertise on NEI initiatives and manages projects involving both intramural and extramural activities. *(continued)*

She has developed policies to foster strategic partnerships with stakeholders including industry, patient advocacy groups, and individuals impacted by vision loss.

Dr. Tumminia has served on many trans-NIH committees and is a member of several prominent professional societies. She has received numerous awards including NIH Director's Awards for the NIH-wide Strategic Plan Working Group and the eyeGENE® Initiative. She has also received the NIH Director's Award in Mentoring. Dr. Tumminia is known internationally and respected as a distinguished individual of outstanding scientific competence and administrative capability. Through her leadership, NEI has developed partnerships with eye health care providers, private industry, patient constituencies and extramural scientists who support broad research initiatives.

**Shelby Unsworth, PhD**

Shelby is an Associate Director for Business Development in the University of Michigan Medical School Office of Research. In this role, she supports U-M faculty and initiatives (including the Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative) in executing collaborative agreements with Industry partners. Shelby has spent the past two years working with the MTM Vision team to build out the structure of the MTM Vision Consortium and identify Industry members for the Consortium.

**Brian L. VanderBeek, MD, MPH, MSCE**

Brian L. VanderBeek, MD, MPH, MSCE is an Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at the Scheie Eye Institute/University of Pennsylvania. He received his Master of Public Health from the University of Michigan and his Master of Clinical Epidemiology from the University of Pennsylvania. His residency training in ophthalmology was at the New York Presbyterian Hospital Weill Cornell Medical College. This was followed by a two-year fellowship in vitreo-retinal surgery at the University of Michigan's Kellogg Eye Center. His research focuses on developing and implementing methodologies to use real-world data to analyze comparative effectiveness, health outcomes, health policy, and resource utilization as they pertain to eye disease. He has had multiple NIH-funded grants to examine diabetic retinal disease and was awarded the inaugural Research to Prevent Blindness Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative Physician Scientist Award. He has published over 90 peer-reviewed studies and has been an invited speaker at numerous national and international meetings.

**Stela Vujosevic MD, PhD, FEBO, FARVO**

Medical retina specialist, head of Medical Retina Unit of the MultiMedica Group and associate professor at the University of Milan, already qualified as Full Professor in 2020. After Medical School and Specialization in Ophthalmology she obtained the PhD in Clinical Methodology, Endocrinological and Diabetological Sciences at the University of Padova, Italy. Fellowship in Medical Retina at the Moorfields Eye Hospital in London with Professor Alan C. Bird. Research Fellowship at the Reading Centre, Moorfields Eye Hospital in London. She is the fellow of the ARVO and the EBO. Elected Member of Diabetic Retinopathy Expert Committee of the EVICRnet, Macula Society, Co-chair of the Imaging Subspecialty Section of the EURETINA, Vice-president of the EAsDEC, scientific committee member of the SISO. Major awards include: "The Power List 2022", the Top 100 most influential ophthalmologists in the world by the Ophthalmologist; TOP LIST of excellent Women in European Vision Research and Ophthalmology 2021 by the European Vision Institute; and Women's Leadership Development in ARVO Program. Dr Vujosevic serves as the Managing Editor of the Ophthalmic Research, the Associate Editor of the AJO Case Reports, and the EBM of the IOVS and the Acta Ophthalmologica. With more than 120 publications and 7 book chapters to her credit, dr Vujosevic has participated and is participating in numerous research projects, both Italian and international, in the role of Principal Investigator; some of these also had European funding.

**Hayley Wasser**

Hayley Wasser is a gift officer with Michigan Medicine. Prior to her work with U-M, she served as the vice president of impact & sustainability at the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford. Previously she was director of major and planned giving at United Way of the Battle Creek & Kalamazoo Region. Hayley received her BA cum laude from Vanderbilt University. She received her MPH and MSW from the University of Michigan.

**James Weiland, PhD**

James Weiland received his B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Michigan in 1988. After 4 years in industry with Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Engines, he returned to Michigan for graduate school, earning degrees in Biomedical Engineering (M.S. 1993, Ph.D. 1997) and Electrical Engineering (M.S. 1995). He joined the Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute at Johns Hopkins University in 1997 as a postdoctoral fellow and, in 1999, was appointed an assistant professor of ophthalmology at Johns Hopkins. Dr. Weiland was appointed assistant professor at the Doheny Eye Institute-University of Southern California in 2001, and was promoted to Professor of Ophthalmology and Biomedical Engineering in 2013. In 2017, Dr. Weiland was appointed as Professor of Biomedical Engineering (Medical School) and Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences at the University of Michigan. He is a Fellow of the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering and a Fellow of the IEEE. Dr. Weiland's research interests include retinal prostheses, neural prostheses, electrode technology, visual evoked responses, implantable electrical systems, and wearable visual aids for the blind.

**Barbara White**

Dr. Barbara White is a Senior Research Fellow specializing in type 2 diabetes and obesity research at the University of Melbourne's Department of Medicine (Austin Health) and the Australian Centre for Accelerating Diabetes Innovations (ACADI). With over 21 years of discovery research and teaching experience, she leads the Islet Biology and Metabolism Research Group and serves as an Honorary Senior Fellow at the Baker Department of Cardiometabolic Health. Dr. White has secured over $3.4 million in research funding as a Chief Investigator from prestigious bodies like the NHMRC, Diabetes Australia, and others. In 2024, she received a coveted Australian Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Targeted Translational Research Accelerator grant to explore new therapeutics for the management of type 2 diabetes and obesity. Her substantial research contributions are reflected in over 35 publications, including collaborations featured in high-impact journals such as Nature and Nature Communications. In addition to her research prowess, Dr. White is dedicated to teaching, mentoring students, and guiding early-career researchers across various programs, including teaching undergraduate students studying Bachelor of Medicine, international medical students studying the Bachelor of Medical Science and undergraduate and Honours students studying Bachelor of Biomedicine. She has developed educational modules, coordinated courses, and engaged with international partners to strengthen academic collaborations. Dr. White's expertise extends beyond the laboratory, as she has served as an Evidence Officer for the Australian Diabetes Society, contributing to the integration of scientific evidence into clinical guidelines for diabetes. Her leadership roles within the university include membership on faculty committees, advisory boards, and academic progress committees. Through her extensive collaborations with clinicians, industry partners, and researchers across disciplines, Dr. White is driving innovative research initiatives in novel drug development and investigating the mechanisms underlying type 2 diabetes and its complications. Her diverse skill set, encompassing technical expertise, academic acumen, and proven leadership capabilities, position her as an invaluable asset in advancing research endeavors and shaping the future of diabetes and obesity research.

**Risa Wolf, MD**

Dr. Risa Wolf is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics and the Director of the Pediatric Diabetes Program at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She is an NIH funded investigator with research focused on using innovative technologies to improve outcomes in pediatric diabetes. Dr. Wolf is the PI of the ACCESS trials implementing autonomous AI diabetic retinopathy screening in the pediatric population, funded by the National Eye Institute. She is experienced in implementation and validation studies of diagnostic AI, and has served as a member of the Collaborative Community for Ophthalmic Imaging on foundational principles for AI interpretation. She is also a member of the American Diabetes Association Eye Health Committee.

**Tien Yin Wong, PhD**

Dr. Wong is Founding Head and Chair Professor, Tsinghua Medicine, Beijing, China, and Professor & Senior Advisor, Singapore National Eye Centre, Singapore. Professor Wong is a physician-scientist who completed medical school at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and a PhD from the Johns Hopkins University, USA. Over the past two decades, Prof Wong has served in multiple leadership positions in Singapore as Chair of Ophthalmology at the Singapore National Eye Center and University of Melbourne, Australia. Prof Wong is a retinal specialist, with a research portfolio on retinal diseases and ocular imaging. He has published >1,500 papers and has been recognized with multiple awards including being an elected international member of the US National Academy of Medicine.

**David Wright, PhD**

Dr. Wright gained a PhD in statistical ecology before taking up research positions in epidemiology and data linkage. He moved into ophthalmology research through an MRC Innovation Fellowship, affiliated with Health Data Research UK. His research is centred on using data to better understand the most common causes of vision loss: glaucoma, age-related macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy. Current projects focus on developing data pipelines for large ophthalmic datasets, risk prediction using electronic medical records and using interpretable Machine Learning techniques to separate signal from noise.

**Charles C. Wykoff, MD, PhD**

Charles C. Wykoff, MD, PhD is Director of Research at Retina Consultants of Texas; Chairman of Research, Retina Consultants of America; Deputy Chair of Ophthalmology for the Blanton Eye Institute, Houston Methodist Hospital; and Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, Weill Cornell Medical College. He received his baccalaureate from MIT, PhD from Oxford University while on a Marshall Scholarship, MD from Harvard Medical School and completed retina fellowship at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute where he served as Chief Resident/Co-Director of Ocular Trauma and received a Heed Fellowship and the Ronald G. Michels Award.

He is passionate about translational research and accelerating drug and device development. He has published over 300 peer-reviewed manuscripts and serves on multiple scientific and medical advisory boards, safety monitoring committees, and global steering committees for endeavors spanning the innovative process from early to late-stage developments. He serves on the ASRS Executive Committee and Board of Directors, is a founding member of the Ophthalmology Retina Editorial Board, and a past President of the Vit-Buckle Society for which he is an Emeritus member of the Board of Trustees. He is a member of the NEI Audacious Goals Steering Committee and has been awarded multiple Achievement, Honor and Senior Honor Awards including the ASRS Young Investigator and the AAO Secretariat Awards. His guiding philosophy is to build and strengthen innovative, ethical team.

**Philip Yin, MD, PhD**

Dr. Philip Yin is a physician-scientist with a strong interest in integrating technology to enhance drug development, clinical care, and personalized medicine. With a background in internal medicine and infectious disease, Dr. Yin brings over 15 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry, leading clinical development programs at both large pharmaceutical companies and biotech startups across various therapeutic areas, including ophthalmology, cardiovascular, metabolic, and infectious diseases. During his tenure as Head of Clinical Development at Valo Health, he collaborated closely with data scientists and engineers to leverage AI/ML-driven analysis of real-world data to enhance clinical trial design, patient selection, and biomarker development. Dr. Yin serves as a consultant for biotechnology and health technology companies, driving the development of data-driven solutions that prioritize patient-centric care. Recently, he led clinical product efforts at a start-up health technology company to develop a program for improving cardiometabolic health through frequent, affordable, and convenient at-home blood biomarker testing. Dr. Yin's career reflects his commitment to driving the adoption of innovation in drug development and healthcare.

**Carmen Yu**

Along with Corey Porter PhD, Carmen conducts the imaging, histologic characterization, processing, preservation, and distribution of ocular tissues and fluids for the MTM-BRC. She also performs molecular analysis of these tissues and the development and maintenance of the database of the tissues and linked data, which will provide researchers from academia and industry with much needed access to high-quality samples and data for research into the pathogenesis of and novel treatments for diabetic retinal disease.

Carmen comes to the MTM-BRC with 15 years of experience in research labs, with hands-on expertise spanning various fields, including cancer biology, immunology, muscle biology and cell biology. Prior to joining the MTM-BRC, Carmen worked in drug discovery and development to create next generation precision medicines for patients with cancer and inflammatory diseases. Carmen also developed, verified and validated a new Laboratory Developed Test (LDT) under CLSI guidelines, ISO standards, and LDT regulatory agencies. Carmen has conducted pre-clinical in vivo oncology drug discovery research at a Contract Research Organization (CRO) executing client-based animal studies. Prior to her work in industry, Carmen worked at the University of Michigan, in the Department of Pharmacology, School of Kinesiology and the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology (CDB). While in the Department of Pharmacology, Carmen worked with G Protein Coupled Receptors (GPCRs) and heterotrimeric G protein signaling mechanisms. Carmen worked in the Muscle Biology lab at the School of Kinesiology, focusing on the effects of age, diet and exercise on insulin signaling and glucose metabolism in skeletal muscle. Her time in CDB focused on hematopoiesis, specifically the role of GATA2 and GATA3 transcription factors on the regulation of the function and maintenance of hematopoietic stem cells and the role of erythroid progenitors in the induction of fetal hemoglobin synthesis as a treatment for beta-thalassemia and sickle cell disease.

**Alex Z. Zmejkoski**

Alex Z. Zmejkoski is a Research Fellow at the University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center, where he focuses on advancing patient care through the development of patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) for diabetic retinopathy. His current research strategically involves participant recruitment from Wayne State University to ensure the development of these measures reflects and serves diverse patient populations.

# Welcome Reception Menu

***The Welcome Reception is in the Garden Marquis at the Ann Arbor Marriott Ypsilanti at Eagle Crest.***

## Monday, November 11, 2024
**5:00 – 6:30 pm**

## Hors D'oeuvres

Jerk Chicken Satay
Mini Crab Cakes
Spanakopita
Swedish Meatballs

Antipasto Display: Mortadella, Capicola, Provolone Cheese, Traditional Salamis, Marinated Artichokes, Roasted Red Peppers, Assorted Olives, Balsamic Glazed Mushrooms, Pepperoncini Peppers, Bread Sticks
Beef Tenderloin Crostini Topped with Caramelized Onions and Blue Cheese
Fresh Vegetables Served with Cucumber Dip
Mediterranean Bouche
Pita Crisp with Spiced Eggplant and Yogurt

## Drinks

Canyon Road Chardonnay
Canyon Road Cabernet
Canyon Road Pinot Noir
Beringer White Zinfandel
Premium Beer
(Corona, Lagunitas IPA, Sam Adams Lager)
Seasonal Craft Beer

# Symposium Menus

***The Workshop is in the Roy E. Wilbanks Ballroom, Salon IV***
****Breakfast and Lunch will be served in Pre-function B****
***Dining area is adjacent in Salon I***
***Refreshments will be available in Pre-function A.***

## Tuesday, November 12, 2024

### Breakfast Buffet | 7:30am:

Sliced Fresh Fruit Tray
Assorted Fruit Yogurts with Granola Topping
Muffins, Danish, Scones, Bagels
Scrambled Eggs
Breakfast Potatoes
Applewood Smoked Bacon and Sausage
Orange Juice
Regular and Decaf Coffee
Hot Teas

### Lunch | 12:00pm:

Tossed Salad
Caesar Salad
Penne Pasta Salad
Rolls and Butter
Chicken Piccata
Sliced Brisket with Mushroom Demi
Portabella Napoleon
Green Beans
Roasted Redskin Potatoes
Assorted Desserts

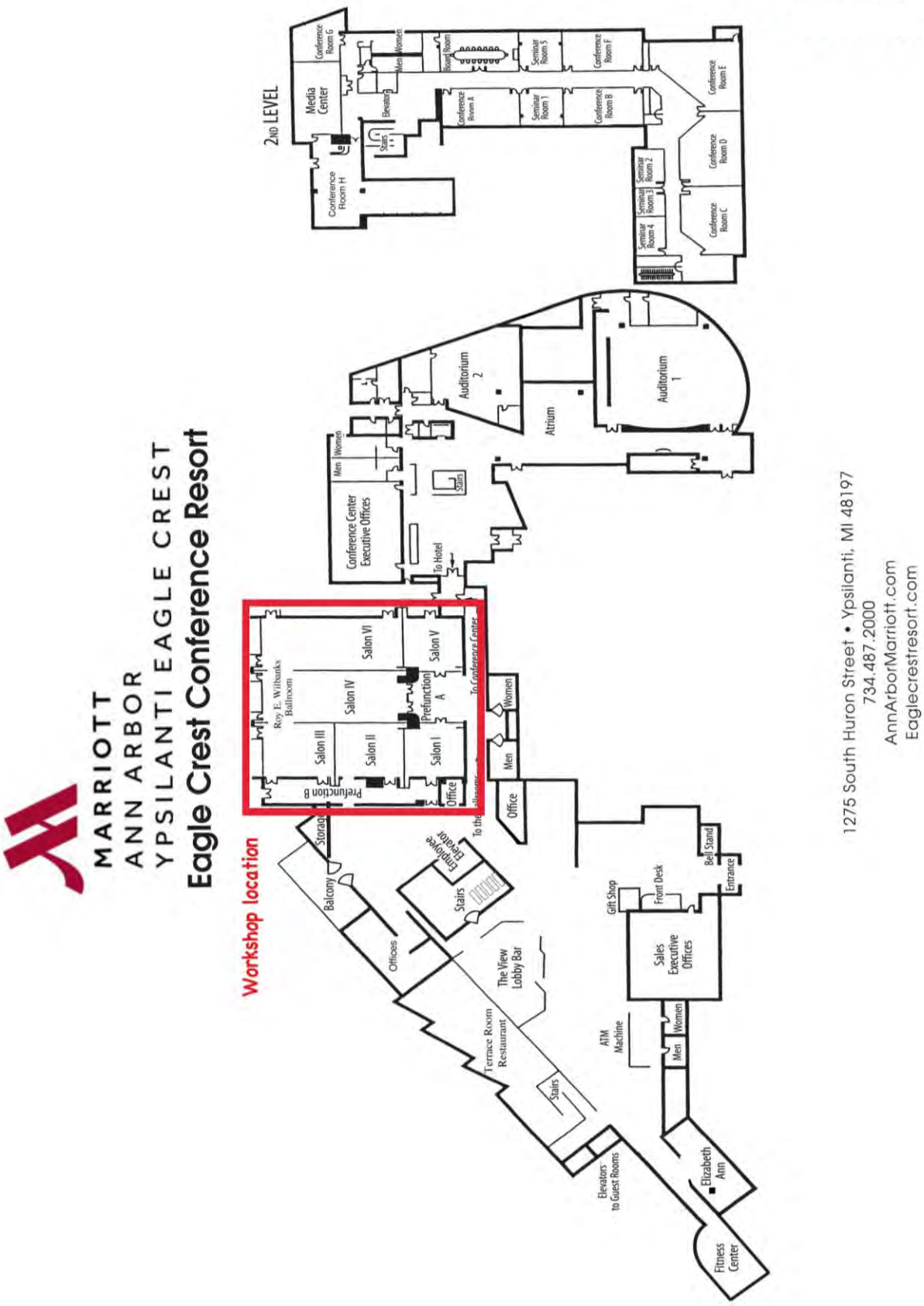
### Morning Snack | 10:00 – 11:45am:

Red Apples, Green Apples, Bananas and Oranges
Granola Bars
Mixed Nuts
Regular and Decaf Coffee
Hot Teas
Water

### Afternoon Snack | 3:00 – 4:30pm:

Freshly Popped Popcorn
Nutri Bars
Assorted Cookies
Regular and Decaf Coffee
Hot Teas
Water

# Hotel Map


MARRIOTT
ANN ARBOR
YPSILANTI EAGLE CREST
Eagle Crest Conference Resort
Workshop location
2ND LEVEL
Media Center
Conference Room G
Conference Room H
Conference Room A
Seminar Room 1
Conference Room B
Seminar Room 5
Conference Room F
Conference Room E
Conference Room D
Conference Room C
Seminar Room 2
Seminar Room 3
Seminar Room 4
Auditorium 2
Atrium
Auditorium 1
Conference Center Executive Offices
To Hotel
Roy E. Wilbanks Ballroom
Salon VI
Salon V
Salon IV
Salon III
Salon II
Salon I
Prefunction A
Prefunction B
To Conference Center
Office
Storage
Balcony
Offices
Employee Elevator
Stairs
The View Lobby Bar
Terrace Room Restaurant
Elevators to Guest Rooms
Gift Shop
Front Desk
Bell Stand
Entrance
Sales Executive Offices
ATM Machine
Elizabeth Ann
Fitness Center
1275 South Huron Street • Ypsilanti, MI 48197
734.487.2000
AnnArborMarriott.com
Eaglecrestresort.com

# Notes

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In Loving Memory of

Mary Tyler Moore

1936 – 2017

Mary Tyler Moore thought anything was possible.

Her dream … to cure and prevent vision loss from diabetes.

Thank you for helping make her dream a reality.

MaryTylerMoore.org

MARY TYLER MOORE
VISION INITIATIVE