HOPE in FOCUS

Research & Genetic Testing Contributions
2014–2023: $600,200

Hope in Focus supports innovative early-stage proof of concept research programs and IRD genetic testing through fundraising events and individual donations. We partner with the Foundation Fighting Blindness (FFB) to designate our research contributions, and to ensure free genetic testing and counseling continues to be available to individuals through FFB's My Retina Tracker® program.

The My Retina Tracker® program is an open access, no-cost genetic testing program for individuals living in the U.S. with a clinical diagnosis of an inherited retinal disease (IRD). For the most current information on research advances, please visit our partner's website at www.fightingblindness.org.

YEAR		CONTRIBUTION DETAIL AS OF DECEMBER 2023
2023 ($35,000)	**$35,000**	In 2021, Hope in Focus made a $300,000 pledge to the **The Retinal Degeneration Fund** (RD Fund), the venture arm of the Foundation Fighting Blindness created to accelerate life-changing outcomes for people with retinal degenerations through direct mission related investments in therapeutic companies. The Hope in Focus Board of Directors made this decision to shift research funds raised to the RD Fund to support the movement of several promising LCA treatments in the lab into human trials, faster. For the LCA community the advantage of donating through Hope in Focus, when designated for research, is the ability to contribute at any level of giving to RD Fund investments restricted for LCA. **RD Fund investments in LCA include:** • ***Atsena Therapeutics*** Phase 1/2 trials underway for LCA1 *GUCY2D* • ***Opus Genetics*** - pipeline includes: - *LCA5* (lebercilin) - Phase 1/2 trial underway - *NMNAT1* - *RDH12* • ***ProQR Therapeutics (assets acquired by Thea)*** Pipeline includes RNA therapy for LCA10 *CEP290*. Rob Collin's work at Radboud University supported this program which Hope in Focus funded in 2015 and 2016.
2022 ($75,000)	**$75,000**	
2021 ($35,000)	**$35,000**	

YEAR	CONTRIBUTION DETAIL AS OF DECEMBER 2023	
2020 ($80,200)	**$20,000**	**W. Clay Smith (University of Florida) —** *Enhancing Metabolism in Photoreceptors with a Modified Arrestin to Treat Retinal Degeneration*
	$20,000	**Rob Collin, PhD (Radboud University, The Netherlands) —** *Development and optimization of AON-based therapies for selected splice defects*
	$20,000	**Sandro Banfi, MD (Fondazione Telethon, Italy) —** *AAV-Sponge-mediated modulation of microRNA-181a/b: a potential therapeutic approach for Inherited Retinal Disease*
	$20,200	**My Retina Tracker® program**
2019 ($100,000)	**$15,000**	**My Retina Tracker® program**
	$15,000	**Sandro Banfi, MD (Fondazione Telethon, Italy) —** *AAV-Sponge-Mediated Modulation MicroRNA-181a/b: A Potential Therapeutic Approach for Inherited Retinal Disease*
	$20,000	**Clay Smith, PhD (University of Florida) —** *Enhancing Metabolism in Photoreceptors with a Modified Arrestin to Treat Retinal Degeneration*
	$25,000	**Krishanu Saha, PhD (University of Wisconsin-Madison) —** *Gene Editing Nanomedicines to Correct Pathogenic Mutations in the Retina*
	$25,000	**Rob Collin, PhD (Radboud University, The Netherlands) —** *Development and Optimization of AON-based Therapies for Selected Splice Defects*
2018 ($100,000)	**$25,000**	**My Retina Tracker® program**
	$20,000	**Rob Collin, PhD (Radboud University, The Netherlands) —** *Development and Optimization of AON-based Therapies for Selected Splice Defects*
	$15,000	**Eric Pierce, MD, PhD (Massachusetts Eye and Ear Institute) —** *Efficacy, Safety, and Toxicity of AAV-Mediated Human RPGRIP1*
	$40,000	**Krishanu Saha, PhD (University of Wisconsin) —** *Gene Editing Nanomedicines to Correct Pathogenic Mutations in the Retina*
2017 ($65,000)	**$65,000**	**My Retina Tracker® program —** *support in its pilot year*

YEAR	CONTRIBUTION DETAIL AS OF DECEMBER 2023	
2016 ($65,000)	**$25,000**	**Anand Swaroop, PhD (National Eye Institute) and Wolfgang Baehr, PhD (John A. Moran Eye Center, University of Utah) —** *seeking therapies for LCA caused by mutations in NPHP5 (IQCB1), CEP290 (LCA10), and additional genes, and seeking to understand the underlying causes of LCA by observing similarities and differences between gene defects. (First funded in 2015.)*
	$25,000	**Rob Collin, Assistant Professor, Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Center (The Netherlands) —** *for antisense oligonucleotide therapy for a type of gene splicing for the CEP290 (NPHP6) gene variation. The study has led to the development of Sepofarsen by ProQR. (First funded in 2015.)*
	$15,000	**My Retina Tracker® program**
2015 ($45,000)	**$15,000**	**Anand Swaroop, PhD (National Eye Institute) and Wolfgang Baehr, PhD (John A. Moran Eye Center, University of Utah) —** *seeking therapies for LCA caused by mutations in NPHP5 (IQCB1), CEP290 (LCA10), and additional genes, and seeking to understand the underlying causes of LCA by observing similarities and differences between gene defects.*
	$30,000	**Rob Collin, Assistant Professor, Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Center (The Netherlands) —** *for antisense oligonucleotide therapy for a type of gene splicing for the CEP290 (LCA10) gene variation. The study has led to the development of Sepofarsen by ProQR.*