Our Purpose

Developing Country Eye Researcher Fellow Dhanwini Rudraprasad, BSc, MSc, MRes, at her poster with Joveeta Joseph Ruben, PhD and Rossen Hazarbassanov, MD, PhD.

The ARVO Foundation for Eye Research serves as a global catalyst for innovation, workforce development and collaboration in the field of vision research. We raise funds through partnerships, grants and the generosity of ARVO members to support the next generation of eye and vision researchers.
The Numbers

423 Early-career researchers supported by travel grants

$409,600 invested in research grants and fellowships

28 Travel grants were provided to trainees from 28 countries

5 New members of the Dowling Society

505 Number of ARVO members and friends who supported the Foundation

$64,330 Invested in career development program to support junior researchers

9 Legacy Society members

$40,870 Awarded to recognize and encourage innovative research
As I reflect on my term as Chair of the ARVO Foundation for Eye Research, I am grateful that our community has been supporting Foundation initiatives since 2001. Our dedicated members and partners have made it possible for scientists worldwide to advance their sight-saving research and gave us many reasons to celebrate successes in 2023.

The generosity we have seen from ARVO members, through sponsorships, corporate grants, and fundraising events has shown an immense dedication to supporting early-career researchers. We were able to award a record 423 travels grants to provide young researchers the opportunity to present their science and connect with experts in the field at the 2023 Annual Meeting in New Orleans. We were also proud to launch the ARVO Foundation Research Catalyst Awards for investigators beginning their careers or returning to the workforce after an extended leave.

We were able to help authors continue to publish in ARVO’s three open access journals through the Publication Financial Assistance Program, and we brought researchers from across the globe to the Annual Meeting as part of our Developing Country Eye Researcher Fellowship and the Women’s Leadership Development Program.

We were appreciative to Dr. Donald Hood for leading the way with a $25,000 commitment and challenging the ARVO community to raise $50,000 in the Matching Donor Campaign. Our members heroically stepped up and raised over $54,300 to provide travel grants for young researchers to attend ARVO 2024 in Seattle. Every year, we are blown away by the unwavering dedication ARVO members continue to show to our community.

I am appreciative for my time representing the Foundation and helping to advance our mission serving as a global catalyst for innovation, workforce development and collaboration in the field of vision research. With your support, we can ensure that the next generation of researchers has the resources needed to continue the work we started.

Joel S. Schuman, MD, FARVO
Chair, ARVO Foundation Board of Governors
Foundation Highlights

WEAVR Luncheon attendees

Leslie Hyman, PhD, FARVO; Steven Fliesler, PhD, FARVO; Patricia D’Amore, PhD, MBA, FARVO; and Renu Kowluru, PhD, FARVO, at the Dowling Society Reception

Mugging for the camera at the ARVO Foundation Gala photo booth.

WEAVR Mentoring sessions

ARVO Foundation Gala attendees
The ARVO Foundation awarded 423 travel grants through 42 named funds in 2023, benefitting trainees from 28 countries. These travel grants underwrite the cost of attendance for the ARVO Annual Meeting, allowing young scientists to present their research and network with other eye and vision researchers from around the world.

- Alan Laties, MD, Memorial
- American Macular Degeneration Foundation
- American Uveitis Society
- ARVO Foundation
- ARVO Staff
- Elizabeth Anderson
- Joanne G. Angle
- Grant Wood Balkema Memorial
- Robert B. Barlow, Jr., Memorial
- Roger Beuerman, PhD, Memorial
- IRCCS-Fondazione G. B. Bietti per lo Studio e la Ricerca in Oftalmologia –ONLUS
- BrightFocus Foundation
- Sek-Jin Chew
- Ramon F. Dacheux II Memorial
- M. Velma Dobson Memorial
- Eye Research Center
- Qais Farjo, MD Memorial
- Foster Ocular Immunology Society
- G. M. Jager Memorial
- Murray and Jeanie Johnstone
- Karamichos/Utheim Keratoconus
- Knights Templar Eye Foundation
- Kowa
- Piyush and Sarla Kothary Memorial
- Kreissig
- Lens and Cataract
- Lincoff and Kreissig Minimal Surgery
- Lions Eye Institute for Transplant and Research
- Connie Lee Lerea
- Friederike Mackensen
- Richard Newton Lolley
- Robert F. Miller, MD, Memorial
- NIHR Moorfields Biomedical Research Centre
- OCAVER
- David R. Pepperberg Memorial
- Retina Research Foundation/Joseph M. and Eula C. Lawrence
- Kazuo Tsubota, MD, PhD Innovation
- Società Italiana Laser in Oftalmologia
- Striatech
- Josh Wallman Memorial
- Women in Eye and Vision Research (WEAVR)
- Gerhard Zinser Memorial
Retina Research Foundation/Joseph M. and Eula C. Lawrence Travel Grantee Maximilian McCann, PhD, at his poster

Right: Student/Trainee Social attendees
The Developing Country Eye Researcher Travel Fellowship program brings aspiring scientists from developing nations to the ARVO Annual Meeting. Each recipient is paired with a volunteer mentor who guides them through ARVO’s large scientific meeting.
2023 Recipients

Carlo Artiaga, MD, FICO
University of the Philippines/Philippine General Hospital
Manila, Philippines

Maleeha Azam, PhD
COMSATS University Islamabad
Islamabad, Pakistan

María Belén Cancela
Hospital de Pediatría J.P. Garrahan
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Satyashree Gagan
LV Prasad Eye Institute
Hyderabad, India

Sushma Nandyala, MSc
All India Institute of Medical Sciences
New Delhi, India

Nadine Nsiangani Lusambo, MD
University of Kinshasa
Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Carmen Pessuti, MD
Federal University of São Paolo
São Paulo, Brazil

Dhanwini Rudraprasad, BSc, MSc, MRes
LV Prasad Eye Institute
Hyderabad, India

Paula Estefania Tenconi, PhD, BSc
Instituto de Investigaciones Bioquímicas de Bahía Blanca
Bahía Blanca, Argentina

Uloma Ubani-Ukoma, BPharm, MSc, PhD
University of Lagos
Lagos, Nigeria

Thokozani Zungu, MD
Kamuzu University of Health Sciences
Blantyre, Malawi

“The DCERF award has given me a sense of belonging, it has exposed me to career possibilities I did not know existed prior to the conference. I have a fair idea of the career path to pursue, and I have made a number of collaborations that will help me achieve this in the near future.”

— Uloma Ubani-Ukoma, BPharm, MSc, PhD

Program Supporters

ARVO Foundation
Annual Meeting donors

J. Mark Petrash, PhD, FARVO and family

University of Wisconsin–Madison

Women in Eye and Vision Research (WEAVR)

Satish K. Srivastava
Developing Country Eye Researcher Travel Fellowship
**Award Recipients**

**Dr. David L. Epstein Award**
Pradeep Y. Ramulu, MD, PhD (mentor) and Jithin Yohannan, MD, MPH
Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute Baltimore, Md.
*Improving the Enrollment and Implementation of Glaucoma Neuroprotective Trials by Harnessing Deep Learning*

Joshua Stein, MD, MS (mentor) and Lev Prasov, MD, PhD
University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Mich.
*Using Big Data and Familial Studies to Define Novel Glaucoma Genes*

Clare M. Robinson, PhD
University of Utah Salt Lake City, Utah
*Anastrozole residues in ocular tissues: Novel targets for advanced glaucoma pathology*

**EyeFind Research Grant**
Nicole Carnt, BOptom, PhD
Centre for Vision Research Westmead, NSW, Australia
*Eye bank: NSW Tissue Bank — member of Eye Bank Association of Australia and New Zealand*
*A pilot study characterizing the immune response in Herpes Keratitis*

**Genentech Career Development Award for Underrepresented Minority Emerging Vision Scientists**
Edmund Arthur, OD, PhD
University of Alabama at Birmingham Birmingham, Ala.
*Using Big Data and Familial Studies to Define Novel Glaucoma Genes*

**Tarsis Ferreira, PhD**
University of Houston Houston, Texas
*Eye bank: Saving Sight; Miracles in Sight*
*Exploring Decorin Mimetics as modulators of fibroblast-to-myofibroblast transdifferentiation: Implications for corneal healing and fibrosis*

**Xiang Ma, PhD**
Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation Oklahoma City, Okla.
*Eye bank: Lions Gift of Sight*
*Assessing markers of vascular regression in various stages of diabetic retinopathy*

Susan Epstein with David L. Epstein Award recipients (from left) Joshua Stein, MD, MS; Lev Prasov, MD, PhD; Jithin Yohannan, MD, MPH; and Pradeep Ramulu, MD, PhD
Award Recipients

**Michael Mong, MD**
Veteran Affairs North Texas Health Care Medical Center
Dallas, Texas
Eye bank: Lions Vision Gift of Sight
Eye Bank
Regional vitamin K content of the human eye: A pilot study

**Sudhir Verma, PhD**
University of Houston
Houston, Texas
Eye bank: Saving Sight, Kansas City
Characterizing the progenitor-like properties of Transient Amplifying Cells (TACs) that present a Hyaluronan (HA)-rich glycocalyx Cycle 2

**Ananya Datta, BOPTM, MPhil, PhD, FAAO**
New England College of Optometry
Boston, Mass.
Eye bank: Eversight Eye Bank
Unlocking the Secrets of Diabetic Eyes: A Revolutionary Study of Substance P Receptors in Conjunctival Goblet Cells

**Martina Christina Herwig-Carl, MD**
University Hospital Bonn
Bonn, Germany
Eye bank: Advancing Sight Network
Histopathological evaluation of the central and peripheral retina and its correlation with SD-OCT images in geographic atrophy

**John Hetling, PhD**
University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, Ill.
Eye bank: VisionFirst Indiana Lions Eye Bank
Device-Based Therapeutic Hypothermia for Human Eyes

**Matias Soifer, MD**
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute
Miami, Fla.
Eye bank: Florida Lions Eye Bank
Identification of Corneal Immune Cells Visualized By In Vivo Confocal Microscopy Via Immunohistochemistry

**Asmaa Zidan, MD**
Massachusetts Eye and Ear
Boston, Mass.
Eye bank: Lions Eye Bank of the Northeast
The Impact of Oxygen Supplementation on Corneal Endothelial Cells Morphology and Function

**ARVO Foundation Early Career Clinician-Scientist Research Award**

**Alessandro Rabio, MD, FEBO**
Università del Piemonte Orientale, Italy

**Sarah Helena Thiele, MD**
University of Bonn
Bonn, Germany

**Malena Daich Varela, MD**
Moorfields Eye Hospital
London, U.K.

**Carl Camras Translational Research Awards**

**Jessica I. W. Morgan, PhD**
University of Pennsylvania

**Pete A. Williams, PhD**
Karolinska Institutet
Stockholm, Sweden
ARVO Foundation Collaborative Research Fellowship

Jose Arthur Milhomens Filho, MD
Universidade Federal de São Paulo
São Paulo, Brazil

Maria Constanza Paz, PhD
Universidad Nacional de Córdoba
Córdoba, Argentina

Raba Thapa, PhD
Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology
Kathmandu, Nepal

Bert M. Glaser, MD Award for Innovative Research in Retina

Miguel Flores-Bellver, PhD
CellSight Program, Department of Ophthalmology
University of Colorado School of Medicine
Aurora, Colo.

Oberdorfer Award for Low Vision Research

Lisa Ostrin, OD, PhD, FARVO
University of Houston College of Optometry
Houston, Texas

Ludwig von Sallmann Clinician-Scientist Award

Patrick Yu-Wai-Man, MD, PhD
University of Cambridge
Cambridge, U.K.
Gene therapy for Leber Hereditary Optic Neuropathy

Kreissig Award for Excellence in Retinal Surgery

Demetrios G. Vavvas, MD, PhD
Mass Eye and Ear,
Harvard Medical School
Boston, Mass

Point of View Award

Tasneem Khatib, DM, FRCOphth
Byers Eye Institute at Stanford
Palo Alto, Calif.
Receptor-ligand replacement via a self-cleaving 2A peptide-based gene therapy promotes CNS axonal transport with functional recovery

Oberdorfer Award recipient
Lisa Ostrin, OD, PhD, FARVO
Karen Allison, MBA, MD, Associate Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology, University of Rochester Medical Center, was the featured speaker of the 2023 WEAVR Luncheon in New Orleans, Louisiana. The luncheon hosted more than 600 attendees and raised $77,500. Dr. Allison’s talk covered the Unstoppable Twist and Turns of Research 6 Proven Principles.

The WEAVR Luncheon is open to all attendees and is an opportunity to network while enjoying a lunch in addition to a powerful talk.
Held just before the ARVO Foundation Gala, The Dowling Society Reception is an invitation event to recognize new members of the Dowling Society and to honor exceptional individuals for their dedication and commitment to ARVO and the ARVO Foundation.

Members of the Dowling Society have made a pledge or donation to the Foundation for $10,000 or more. The following new members were welcomed to the Society: Donald C. Hood, PhD, FARVO; Alan M. Laties, MD, FARVO and Deena Gu; David Laties; Cynthia A. Toth, MD, FARVO and Kazuo Tsubota, MD, PhD, MBA, FARVO.

In addition to Dowling Society inductees, the following exceptional honorees were recognized for their commitment to ARVO and the ARVO Foundation through financial support, exemplary leadership of a Foundation initiative or dedication to endeavors that represent the mission of the ARVO Foundation:

**BrightFocus Foundation**: in recognition of their generous philanthropic support of the Travel Grant program, the EyeFind Research Grant and the Women in Eye and Vision Research (WEAVR) initiative.

**Dr. Stella Roberston**: in recognition of her long-standing support of the Women in Eye and Vision Research (WEAVR) initiative and her generous philanthropic support of the Foundation.

**Dr. Daniel Stamer**: in recognition of his extraordinary efforts to develop the EyeFind Research Grant and his generous philanthropic support of the Foundation.
The ARVO Foundation Gala is the largest fundraising event hosted by the ARVO Foundation. Guests at the 2023 Foundation Gala in New Orleans, La., enjoyed a lively evening with a Louis Armstrong impersonator emcee and were entertained by a jazz band. Generous attendees raised $135,400 to support the Foundation’s sight-saving programs. The Foundation was pleased to honor individuals for their dedication and commitment to ARVO and the ARVO Foundation.
Gary W. Abrams, MD, FARVO and Jane C. Werner, MD
Anthony P. Adams, MD, FARVO
Jayakrishna Ambati, MD, FARVO
Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD, FARVO
Joanne Angle, MLS, MPA
Sally S. Atherton, PhD, FARVO and Robert Atherton
Robert B. Barlow, PhD, FARVO and Patricia Barlow
Haydee E. P. Bazan, PhD, FARVO and Nicolas G. Bazan, MD, PhD, FARVO
Bernard Becker, MD, FARVO
David C. Beebe, PhD, FARVO and Mrs. Betsy Beebe, PA-C
Paul S. Bernstein, MD, PhD, FARVO and Ann Bernstein
Eliot L. Berson, MD, FARVO and Kyra Kaplan-Berson
Roger W. Beuerman, PhD, FARVO
Laszlo Z. Bito, PhD
Janet C. Blanks, PhD, FARVO
Jeffrey H. Boatright, PhD, FARVO
William J. Brunken, PhD, FARVO and Dale D. Hunter, PhD, JD
Claude F. Burgoyne, MD, FARVO and Vicki Smith
Patrick Burke, MD, PhD
R. V. Paul Chan, MD and Ann-Marie Lobo-Chan, MD
Stanley Chang, MD, FARVO
Steve T. Charles, MD, FACS, FICS
Emily Y. Chew, MD, FARVO and Robert P. Murphy, MD
Michael F. Chiang, MD, FARVO
Thomas A. Ciulla, MD, MBA
John I. Clark, PhD, FARVO*
Bruce E. Cohan, MD
Lancey B. Cohan, JD, CAE
Cheryl M. Craft, PhD, FARVO
Patricia A. D’Amore, MBA, PhD, FARVO
Reza Dana, MD, MPH, MSc, FARVO
Paulus T. V. M. de Jong, MD, PhD, FARVO, FEBOphth, FRCOphth and Marij de Jong
Claes H. Dohlman MD, PhD, FARVO*
John E. Dowling, PhD, FARVO and Judith F. Dowling
Joseph L. Dowling, MD
Melinda K. Duncan, PhD, FARVO
David L. Epstein, MD, FARVO and Susan M. Epstein, RN, JD
Rafal Farjo, PhD, FARVO and Krysten M. Farjo, PhD
Paul T. Finger, MD
Malinda E. C. Fitzgerald, PhD, FARVO
Steven J. Fliesler, PhD, FARVO
Robert N. Frank, MD, FARVO
Ronald E. P. Frenkel, MD
Juan E. Gallo, MD, PhD, FARVO
Ronnie Glaser and Bert M. Glaser, MD, FARVO
Israel A. Goldberg, PhD and Diane Goldberg
Evangelos S. Gragoudas, MD, FARVO
Adrienne Graves, PhD*
Hans E. Grossniklaus, MD, FARVO and Maurice A. Grossniklaus, PhD
Julia A. Haller, MD, FARVO and John D. Gottsch, MD, FARVO
Mary Elizabeth Hartnett, MD, FARVO
Linda D. Hazlett, PhD, FARVO
John R. Heckenlively, MD, FARVO
John A. Hoepner, MD
Donald C. Hood, PhD, FARVO
David Huang, MD, PhD, FARVO
Leslie Hyman, PhD, FARVO
Martine J. Jager, MD, PhD, FARVO
Dowling Society

Murray A. Johnstone, MD, and Jeanie Johnstone
Dimitrios Karamichos, PhD
Paul L. Kaufman, MD, FARVO and Margaret Kaufman
John L. Keltner, MD and Nancy Keltner
Shigeru Kinoshita MD, PhD, FARVO
Renu A. Kowluru, PhD, FARVO and Anjan Kowluru, PhD
Ingird Kreissig, MD
Alan M. Laties, MD, FARVO and Deena Gu
David Laties
Paul P. Lee, MD, JD, FARVO and Jennifer Lee
Maureen G. Maguire, PhD, FARVO
Todd P. Margolis, MD, PhD, FARVO
Marmor Foundation/
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Alice R. McPherson, MD
Jennifer J. Kang-Mieler, PhD, FARVO and William F. Mieler, MD, FARVO
Ann H. Milam, PhD, FARVO
Joan W. Miller, MD, FARVO
Robert F. Miller, MD, FARVO
Sayoko Eileen Moroi, MD PhD
Alan R. Morse, PhD
Janice Oliva
Samir C. Patel, MD
Christopher A. Paterson, PhD, DSc, FARVO
David R. Pepperberg, PhD, FARVO and Audrey Eisenmann
J. Mark Pettrash, PhD, FARVO and Kelly Cope Pettrash
Stephen C. Pflugfelder, MD, FARVO
Robert Ritch, MD, FARVO
Stella M. Robertson, PhD, FARVO and James D. Robertson, PhD
Frances J. Rucker, PhD, MC Optom, FARVO

Iris M. Rush, CAE
Stephen J. Ryan, Jr., MD, FARVO
SriniVas R. Sadda, MD, FARVO
David E. Saffer
Jose Alain Sahel, Jr., MD, FARVO
Joel S. Schuman, MD, FARVO and Carole Miner Schuman
Lawrence J. Singerman, MD, FACS
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Mary Ann Stepp, PhD, FARVO
Michael E. Stern, PhD, FARVO
Paul Sternberg, Jr., MD, FARVO and Gloria Sternberg

Andrew W Taylor, PhD, FARVO*
Michael Trese, MD, FARVO
Joyce Tombran-Tink, PhD, FARVO and Colin J. Barnstable, DPhil, FARVO
Carol B. Toris, PhD, FARVO
Cynthia Toth, MD, FARVO
Kazuo Tsubota, MD, PhD, MBA, FARVO
Erik J. van Kuijk, MD, PhD, FARVO and Virginia Brooke, RN, PhD
Sheila K. West, PhD, FARVO
Janey L. Wiggs, MD, PhD, FARVO and Robert J. D’Amato, MD, PhD, FARVO
David R. Williams, PhD, FARVO and Inger M. Williams, PhD
George A. Williams, MD, FARVO
Terri L. Young, MD, MBA, FARVO
Thomas Yorio, PhD, FARVO and Elena Yorio

*2023 Dowling Society members

ARVOFOUNDATION.ORG
For the past several years, a generous ARVO member has come forward to donate to the ARVO Foundation in a Matching Donor Campaign. In 2023, Donald C. Hood, PhD, FARVO, made a generous $25,000 gift to the ARVO Foundation and challenged the ARVO community to match this donation to raise $50,000 during the 2023 Annual Meeting.

Hood has been an active member of ARVO for many years. He has served as VI Section Trustee on the ARVO Board, as a member of the ARVO Foundation Board of Governors and as a member of the Finance Committee. He was the Editor-in-Chief of IOVS and was on the editorial board of all three ARVO Journals. He is the James F. Bender Professor in Psychology and Professor of Ophthalmic Science in the Department of Psychology at Columbia University and leads the Hood Visual Science Lab at Columbia.

Throughout the week in New Orleans, the ARVO community responded to Hood’s challenge and generously donated over $54,000 to the Matching Gift Campaign. These funds will provide travel grants for young researchers to attend the ARVO 2024 Annual Meeting in Seattle, Wash.

Don Hood, PhD, FARVO was recognized at the General Business Meeting for his generous donation to the Matching Donor Campaign and for becoming a Dowling Society member.
Corporate Donors

Through our numerous projects and activities, the ARVO Foundation continues to make significant strides within eye research. Our ability to collaborate with corporate and foundation partners strengthens the impact of the ARVO Foundation in the vision community.

$100,000 and above
- Genentech
- Knights Templar Eye Foundation

$75,000 to $99,000
- Alcon Laboratories

$25,000 to $49,999
- Novartis
- BrightFocus Foundation
- Retina Research Foundation
- Apellis
- Regeneron

$10,000 to $24,999
- Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary
- Fight for Sight, U.K.
- EyeCRO
- Qlaris Bio
- Trefoil Therapeutics, Inc.
- Eye Bank Association of America

$5,000 to $9,999
- University of Wisconsin Department of Ophthalmology
- University of California, San Francisco
- Lowy Medical Research Institute
- University of Miami
- Casey Eye Institute
- Indiana University
- USC Roski Eye Institute
- Medical College of Wisconsin

$2,500 to $4,999
- Tufts University
- Duke Eye Center
- New York Eye and Ear Infirmary
- ONL Therapeutics, Inc.
- University of North Texas Health Science Center
- University of California, Los Angeles — Stein Eye Institute
- University of Rochester
- LV Prasad Eye Institute

$1,000 to $2,499
- NIHR / Moorfields Eye Hospital
- University of California, San Diego — Shiley Eye Institute
- Wayne State University
- Eye Research Center, LLC
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<th>Amount Range</th>
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<td>$100,000 and above</td>
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#### Assets
- Cash and equivalents: $418,552
- Investments: $7,337,556
- Receivable, net: $24,379
- **Total assets**: $7,780,487

#### Liabilities and Net Assets

**Liabilities**
- Accounts payable and accrued expenses: $800,244
- Deferred revenue: $3,773
- **Total liabilities**: $883,017

**Net Assets**
- Without donor restrictions: $3,864,573
- With donor restrictions: $3,032,897
- **Total net assets**: $6,897,470

**Total Liabilities and Net Assets**: $7,780,487

*As of December 31, 2023*

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- Research grants and fellowships: 41.4%
- Travel grants: 38.7%
- Education and Meetings: 15.7%
- Recognition Awards: 4.1%