



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**FIGHT FOR SIGHT ANNOUNCES ANNUAL  
GRANT WINNERS FOR 2009**

NEW YORK, NY -- Fight for Sight announced its 63rd annual selection of grantees for outstanding eye research projects in three categories, including five Post-Doctoral Awards, five Grants-in-Aid, and 22 Summer Student Fellowships.

FFS grants were given for study of glaucoma, macular degeneration, retinitis pigmentosa, aniridia, cataracts, dry eye, lazy eye, as well as other conditions and subjects.

Fight for Sight's (FFS) mission is unique among eye and vision research foundations in that it specifically identifies and funds promising students and/or researchers at the beginning of their academic careers and allows them to obtain preliminary results and experience necessary to successfully apply for larger federal and foundation awards.

Awards are made to a diverse group of universities and medical centers from coast to coast, including such pre-eminent institutions as the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical College, Case Western Reserve, Cole Eye Institute, Cleveland Clinic, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and the University of Iowa.

Grantees are selected through a rigorous review process by Fight for Sight's Scientific Review Committee, led by FFS Scientific Director Randy Kardon, MD, PhD. Annual Post-Doctoral Awards and Grants-in-Aid are valued at \$20,000 each and Summer Student Fellowships are \$2,100 each.

About Fight for Sight: Since 1946, Fight for Sight has supported and inspired eye and vision research by funding promising scientists early in their careers. FFS has granted over \$22 million in research grants which have contributed directly or indirectly to major advances in ophthalmology and vision research, including development of the IOL, donor cornea preservation, various use of ophthalmic lasers, glaucoma therapies, and stem cell research. FFS founder Mildred Weisenfeld was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa at age 15 and went on to testify before Congress to help establish the National Institute of Neurological Disease and Blindness and its successor, The National Eye Institute.

381 Park Avenue South, Suite 809, New York, NY 10016  
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## **GRANT WINNERS FOR 2009**

### **SUMMER STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS**

Ilan Y. Benador, Boston  
Univ. Mentor: Anne B.  
Fulton, M.D.

Andrew S. Camp, Univ. of  
Miami - Miller School of  
Medicine. Mentor: Richard  
K. Lee, MD, PhD

Victoria S. Chang, Univ. of  
Miami - Miller School of  
Medicine. Mentor: Sonia H.  
Yoo, MD

Ayan Chatterjee, Univ. of  
Pennsylvania School of  
Medicine. Mentor: George L.  
Spaeth, MD

Thomas Doerdelmann, Univ.  
of Cincinnati. Mark Rance,  
PhD

Kellen T. Galster, Albany  
Medical Center. Mentor:  
James T. Rosenbaum, MD

Yen Cheng Hsia, Case  
Western Reserve Univ.-  
School of Medicine. Mentor:  
Eric Pearlman, PhD

David L. Jiang, Univ. of  
California-San Diego.  
Mentor: Jonathan H. Lin,  
MD, PhD

Hikaru Kinouchi,  
Washington and Lee Univ.  
Mentor: Dong Feng Chen,  
MD, PhD

Christina A. Mamalis,  
Occidental College. Mentor:  
Bala Ambati, MD, PhD

Rachel A. Martin, Medical  
College of Wisconsin.  
Mentor: Joseph Carroll, PhD

Sarah M. Oros, Univ. of  
Dayton. Mentor: Amit Singh,  
PhD

Anish V. Patel, Univ. of  
Chicago. Mentor: Michael  
Grassi, MD

Nimish B. Patel, Univ. of  
Houston, College of  
Optometry. Mentor: Ronald  
S. Harwerth, OD, PhD

Tihomira D. Petkoca, Univ.  
of Houston, College of  
Optometry. Mentor: Deborah  
C. Otteson, PhD

Jagdeep K. Raince, Baylor  
College of Medicine. Mentor:  
Stephen Pflugfelder, MD

Jaime K. Stull, Univ. of  
Delaware. Mentor: Melinda  
Duncan, PhD

Kyle M. Trudeau, Boston  
Univ. Mentor: Sayon Roy,  
PhD

Monica L. Vandervoort,  
Univ. of Miami. Mentor:  
Jeffrey L. Goldberg, MD,  
PhD

Yoshihiro Yonekawa, Weill  
Cornell Medical College.  
Mentor: Ronald H.  
Silverman, PhD

Xiao Zhong, Univ. of  
Minnesota. Mentor: Allison  
Hubel, PhD

Maria J. Zutel, Case Western  
Reserve Univ.-School of  
Medicine. Mentor: Jonathan  
Sears, MD, PhD

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### **POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS**

Wei-Chieh Chiang, PhD, Univ. of California San Diego. Mentor: Jonathan H. Lin, M.D., PhD

Gregory H. Grossman, PhD, Cleveland Clinic. Mentor: Stephanie A. Hagstrom, PhD

Amy A. Kalia, PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Mentor: Pawan Sinha, PhD

Angela V. Turalba, M.D., MMS, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. Mentor: Louis Pasquale, M.D.

Fan Zhang, M.D., PhD, BM, SUNY State College of Optometry. Mentor: Peter S. Reinach, PhD

### **GRANTS-IN-AID**

Heather A. Anderson, O.D., PhD, Assistant Professor, Optometry, Univ. of Houston

Mihaela G. Gadjeva, PhD, Instructor, Channing Laboratory, Brigham and Women's Hospital

Kate E. Keller, PhD, Research Assistant Professor, Casey Eye Institute, Oregon Health & Sciences Univ.

Eun-Jin Lee, PhD, Research Assistant Professor, Biomedical Engineering, Univ. of Southern California

Vinit B. Mahajan, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, Univ. of Iowa

The Scientific Review Committee meets every year to select our grant recipients. Led by Randy Kardon, MD, PhD of the Univ. of Iowa, most members are Fight for Sight alumni and all have expertise in ophthalmology or vision research.

They include:

-Boston Univ. - Sayon Roy, PhD  
-Calvin College - John Ubels, PhD  
-Columbia Univ. - Norman J. Kleiman, PhD;  
Stephen Tsang, MD, PhD  
-Duke Univ. Medical Center - Paulo Ferreira, PhD  
-Emory Univ. - Mabelle T. Pardue, PhD  
-Georgia State Univ. - Richard Dix, PhD  
-Harvard Univ. - Patricia A. D'Amore, PhD; Reza Dana, MD, MSc, MPH  
-Indiana Univ. - Ernest F. Talarico, PhD  
-Johns Hopkins Univ. - Nathan G. Congdon, MD, PhD; Peter L. Gehlbach, MD, PhD  
-Mayo Clinic - William M. Bourne, MD  
-Michigan State Univ. - Simon M. Petersen-Jones, DVM, PhD  
-National Eye Institute - S. Patricia Becerra, PhD

-New England College of Optometry - Jane Gwiazda, PhD  
-Oregon Health & Science Univ. - Peter J. Francis, MD; Tammy M. Martin, PhD  
-Oregon Health & Science Univ. - Stephen Planck, PhD  
-Retina Foundation of the Southwest - Eileen E. Birch, PhD  
-SUNY Buffalo - Steven J. Fliesler, PhD; Gail M. Seigel, PhD  
-SUNY Upstate Medical Center - Robert B. Barlow, PhD

*(SRC continued next page)*

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*(SRC continued)*

-UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School - Kathryn S. Pokorny, PhD  
-Univ. of California - Los Angeles - Nick Brecha, PhD; Lynn K. Gordon MD  
-Univ. of California - San Francisco - Tatiana I. Rebrik  
-Univ. of Alabama - Jimmy D. Bartlett, OD  
-Univ. of Arizona - Velma Dobson, PhD  
-Univ. of Florida - W. Clay Smith, PhD  
Univ. of Illinois at Chicago - John R. Hetling, PhD; Harris Ripps, MSc, PhD  
-Univ. of Iowa - Randy H. Kardon, MD, PhD  
-Univ. of Kentucky - Jay Ambati, MD  
-Univ. of Miami - Abigail S. Hackam, PhD; Wei Li, PhD; Victor L. Perez, MD; Vittorio Porciatti, DSc  
-Univ. of Minnesota - Andrew Huang, MD, MPH  
-Univ. of Nebraska - Wallace B. Thoreson, PhD  
-Univ. of North Texas - Thomas Yorio, PhD  
-Univ. of Oklahoma - James Chodosh, MD  
-Univ. of Pennsylvania - Graham E. Quinn, MD, MSCE; Eric A. Pierce, MD, PhD  
-Univ. of Pittsburgh - Paul R. Kinchington, PhD; Richard W. Hertle, MD  
-Univ. of Southern California, Los Angeles - Mark S. Borchert, MD  
-Univ. of Tennessee, Memphis -Edward Chaum, MD, PhD  
-Univ. of Texas, Southwestern - Jerry Y. Niederkorn, PhD; W. Matthew Petroll, PhD  
-Univ. of Utah - Edward M. Levine, PhD  
Univ. of Washington - Russ Van Gelder, MD, PhD  
-Univ. of Wisconsin - Curtis R. Brandt, PhD; Anne E. Griep, PhD  
-Vanderbilt Univ. - Anita Agarwal, MD; David J. Calkins, PhD; Karen M. Joos, MD, PhD  
-Washington Univ. School of Medicine - Lawrence Tychsen, MD  
-Wayne State Univ. - Fu-Shin X. Yu, PhD  
-Weill-Cornell Medical College - Robison V. Paul Chan, MD; Donald J. D'Amico, MD; Christopher E. Starr, MD  
-Yale School of Medicine - Ning Tian, PhD

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