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(1896-1981) Founder

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ON THE FRONT COVER: (top) Tingting Yang, PhD, of the Columbia University Irving Medical Center, received an RPB Career Advancement Award in 2022. See page 9. Here, she reviews a sample with her colleagues. (bottom) Neel Pasricha, MD, of the University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine, received an RPB Career Development Award in 2022. See page 8.

ON THE BACK COVER: (top) Cintia de Paiva, MD, PhD, of Baylor College of Medicine, and her colleague Laura Schaefer, PhD, examine samples on glass slides. Dr. de Paiva received an RPB Stein Innovation Award in 2022. See page 10. (bottom) Michael Telias, PhD, of the University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry received an RPB Career Development Award in 2022. See page 8.
Dear Friends of Research to Prevent Blindness,

Thank you for your support over the past year! As a nonprofit, we are in the business of creating breakthroughs in the diagnosis and treatment of eye diseases for the benefit of all. But the path to a breakthrough is not linear. Instead, it requires a strong foundation of knowledge that can be built upon, layer by layer. We do this by identifying brilliant, compassionate and committed scientists and then giving them the resources they need to make the next advance.

When we prioritize scientific excellence (the purview of our esteemed review committees, page 17), and we commit to doing this year after year, incredible breakthroughs happen! This is why we never waver in our commitment to you. You can rely on RPB to advance its mission. From the creation of lasers to repair torn retinas; to the development of safe and effective cataract surgery; to the creation of intra-ocular pressure lowering drugs for glaucoma, anti-VEGF drugs for the treatment of wet age-related macular degeneration, and gene therapy for inherited retinal disease, RPB has been there, making breakthroughs possible.

We’ve made huge progress, but there are still many questions to be answered and treatments to be developed. That is why we work so hard to identify and support the specific scientists doing the precise research that will make the critical advances that add up to a breakthrough. It’s the only way that we can turn a sight-threatening disease into a treatable one. With more than 2,000 new scientific publications citing RPB funding in 2022 (see page 2), we’re well on our way!

Another important way that we support breakthroughs is by supporting the careers of innovative scientists. It’s simple: when scientists have the resources they need, they do their best work. See page 6 for a few examples.

Thank you for building solutions with us. Thank you for supporting tomorrow’s breakthroughs, today.

With hope,

Diane S. Swift
Chairman

Brian F. Hofland, PhD
President
Building A Clearer Tomorrow

At Research to Prevent Blindness, our grants program is the foundation of our work. We support the brightest researchers, in highly effective labs, asking the most important questions. The new knowledge that our grantees enable is built upon, year after year, discovery by discovery.

As a result, RPB was cited as a funder in 2,000+ new scientific publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

In 2022, RPB: provided more than $11 million in grants to researchers and departments of ophthalmology.

It’s clear: excellent science is the foundation upon which discoveries and developments are built.
RPB works tirelessly to fulfill our mission to develop “treatments, preventives and cures” to preserve and restore vision for all. How do we do this? We use a unique, two-pronged grantmaking model that allows us to be both directive (allocating funding to the areas of highest need) and flexible (responding to timely scientific opportunities).

Individual Grants
RPB offers a variety of individual grants that allow scientists to pursue specific, cutting-edge research proposals. Grant applications are rigorously assessed by RPB’s esteemed grant review committees to ensure that all funded projects are grounded in excellent science and that the research will move the field of vision science forward. RPB’s individual grants are highly competitive. See pages 7–13 for our 2022 individual grantees.

Departmental Grants
RPB provides exceptional departments of ophthalmology with $75,000 – $115,000 a year in unrestricted funding. As one of the few sources of unrestricted funds—which can be used for pilot studies, starting new lines of research, the purchase of a piece of high-tech research equipment—RPB grants provide the flexibility that enable innovative scientific approaches to eye diseases. See page 16 for a list of the departments we funded in 2022.

Across its grant program, RPB funds research projects that uncover critical knowledge about the function of key structures in the eye, down to the cellular and molecular level. These discoveries are critical to understanding why disease occurs and how to treat it!

In 2022, RPB-supported researchers conducted critical research that led to advancements in AMD, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, retinal diseases, strabismus/amblyopia, corneal diseases, low vision, dry eye, uveitis/infectious diseases, myopia and many more conditions.

Wherever eye disease exists, RPB is there, catalyzing discoveries that lead to treatments. RPB will never waver in its commitment to enable everyone to see the future clearly.
In The Lab With RPB Grantees

RPB Unrestricted Grants, Challenge Grants and a wide variety of individual grants are supporting the work of these dedicated vision researchers.

Dr. Gregory W. Schwartz of Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine is at the lab’s fluorescence microscope. He works to uncover new information about the brain’s role in visual processing.

Dr. Daniel Pelaez (left) of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine supervises his PhD student Acadia Moeyersoms during the extraction of nucleic acids from tear samples collected in Dr. Carol Karp’s clinic. The lab focuses on the development of treatments for pre-malignant and cancerous ocular tumors.

At Duke University School of Medicine, researchers Belinda Hernandez, PhD student (right), and Dr. Catherine Bowes Rickman conduct research related to age-related macular degeneration. Here, they use a centrifuge tube to isolate extremely small vesicles (exosomes) from retinal pigment epithelium cells.

Dr. Audrey M. Bernstein of SUNY Upstate Medical University is testing the enzyme activity of an anti-scarring target with inhibitory compounds in her lab’s quest to prevent scarring of critical eye tissue after surgery or injury.

Dr. Stacy Pineles (left) and Dr. Federico Velez of the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles are pediatric ophthalmologists developing a novel hydrogel material to be used as a substitute for extraocular muscle for paralytic strabismus.
RPB grantees were not only busy in the lab—some also participated in outreach events designed to educate the patient community about eye diseases via our “Lunch & Learn” events—one-hour, free virtual sessions featuring expert researchers.

Our 2022 events focused on geographic atrophy / dry age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and retinitis pigmentosa. We thank the following RPB grantees for serving as speakers for these events:

- **Eleonora Lad, MD, PhD**, Duke University School of Medicine
- **SriniVas R. Sadda, MD, FARVO**, University of California, Los Angeles, David Geffen School of Medicine
- **Jacque Duncan, MD**, University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine
- **Krzysztof Palczewski, PhD**, University of California, Irvine, School of Medicine
- **Jayakrishna Ambati, MD**, University of Virginia School of Medicine
- **Catherine Bowes Rickman, PhD**, Duke University School of Medicine

Thank you to Apellis Pharmaceuticals for sponsoring two events on geographic atrophy / dry AMD and to Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson for sponsoring an event on retinitis pigmentosa.

Where Are They Now?

RPB grants not only serve as the bedrock for scientific breakthroughs, they also serve as the foundation for career success! An RPB grant can enable a researcher to start a new line of research, launch their own lab, compete for large-scale government research grants and gain recognition in their field.

In many cases, an RPB grant is the first significant grant a researcher receives, enabling them to kick-start a thriving research career. Here are just a few examples of the hundreds of vision science careers launched and sustained by RPB awards.

**Bryan William Jones, PhD**  
*Awards: RPB Career Development Award (2006), RPB International Research Collaborators Award (2019)*  
Dr. Jones studies cellular neuroscience and the neurobiology of disease at the Moran Eye Center at the University of Utah Health Sciences Center. As Associate Professor of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, he and his research team created their first retinal connectomes in 2009 and have continued their work, completing the first pathoconnectomes, which show how eye disease alters retinal circuitry, in 2020. This pioneering work, which has provided the first and highest resolution large-scale retinal connectomes in the world, is providing tremendous amounts of data for research into the normal circuitry of the retina and discovering how inherited retinal diseases and other neurodegenerative diseases change neural circuitry.

**Terri L. Young, MD, MBA**  
*Awards: RPB Career Development Award (1996), RPB Physician-Scientist Award (2003), RPB Lew R. Wasserman Award (2008)*  
Dr. Young is the Chairwoman of the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW) Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences. She is the Peter A. Duehr Chair of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, and also serves as a Professor of Pediatrics and Medical Genetics at UW. Dr. Young’s research team was the first to systematically develop and explore strategies to uncover genes/proteins causative for high-grade myopia (nearsightedness) which has associated morbidities of glaucoma and retinal detachments. She has established novel ophthalmic genetics programs and systems, and her team has discovered multiple gene mutations for refractive errors, inherited retinal and corneal disorders, syndromic disorders and childhood glaucoma.

**Stephen H. Tsang, MD, PhD**  
*Awards: RPB Medical Student Eye Research Fellowship (1996), RPB Physician-Scientist Award (2013)*  
Dr. Tsang is an esteemed clinical geneticist at Columbia University Irving Medical Center where he designs and tests genome engineering strategies for retinal and other eye diseases as the Laszlo T. Bito Professor of Ophthalmology, and Pathology and Cell Biology. Dr. Tsang now serves on the RPB Scientific Advisory Panel, which brings him full circle from his first research experience in ophthalmology as a medical student with an RPB fellowship. He also serves as a mentor to current RPB medical student fellows.

**Paula Anne Newman-Casey, MD, MS**  
*Awards: RPB Career Development Award (2016), RPB Physician-Scientist Award (2021)*  
Dr. Newman-Casey is a clinician-researcher focused on understanding how we can leverage technology to extend the healthcare system’s reach first by engaging people in eye disease screening and then by helping support their chronic eye disease self-management. She is an Associate Professor and Associate Chair for Research in the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences at the University of Michigan School of Medicine. She also directs the eye center’s outreach initiative to provide free ophthalmic care for all patients referred through a local free clinic.
Each year, RPB makes grants to researchers who are studying a wide variety of sight-threatening diseases. We’re pleased to present the 2022 RPB individual award recipients on the following pages.

These talented scientists were selected by RPB’s esteemed review panels (see page 17) after careful assessment and deliberation. They were chosen for their field-changing research proposals and commitment to scientific excellence.

We are proud to support these researchers today, as they pursue the sight-saving breakthroughs of tomorrow.
RPB Career Development Awards

This award provides $350,000 over 4 years to early-career MDs, PhDs and MD/PhDs to support their investigations, with mentorship from senior scientists. Their primary appointments must be in ophthalmology, and they must show potential to lead independent research.

Kun-Che Chang, PhD
*University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine*

Studying retinal ganglion cell (RGC) and optic nerve degeneration—factors that result in permanent loss of vision in patients with glaucoma and other optic neuropathies—in order to identify the factors involved in RGC development.

Thomas Dohlman, MD
*Harvard Medical School / MEEI*

Investigating how the immune system in children rejects corneal transplants, an area of fundamental importance that has not been explored before.

Robert A. Hyde, MD, PhD
*University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine*

Studying retinitis pigmentosa (RP)—one of the most common, and blinding, inherited retinal degenerations—to examine how the cells that transmit visual information to the brain, which are in close proximity to the RP-affected light-sensitive cells, change as the disease progresses.

Wendy Liu, MD, PhD
*Board of Trustees of the Leland Stanford Junior University*

Exploring the role of specific genes in sensing intraocular pressure (a known risk factor for glaucoma) and mediating retinal ganglion cells, the cells that are lost during the course of glaucoma.

Neel Pasricha, MD
*University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine*

Advancing novel therapeutics for dry eye disease—a common and sometimes painful disease of the ocular surface—by promoting tear fluid secretion by targeting ion transport proteins on epithelial cells lining the ocular surface.

Lev Prasov, MD, PhD
*The Regents of the University of Michigan School of Medicine*

Studying a specific gene, identified by studying a rare genetic disorder, that leads to glaucoma (as well as skin, blood vessel and joint disease) when the gene is altered.

Michael Telias, PhD
*University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry*

Investigating a long-lasting treatment for the preservation of residual vision in patients suffering from retinal degeneration based on blocking a specific target receptor for inner retinal neurons.

Victoria L. Tseng, MD, PhD
*The Regents of the University of California, Los Angeles*

Testing the hypothesis that the occurrence and outcomes of neovascular glaucoma—a devastating and potentially blinding condition—are closely linked to an individual’s social, economic and demographic background.
RPB Career Advancement Awards
This award supports early- to mid-career researchers with a grant of $150,000 as they seek new knowledge related to eye diseases. The award is aimed at vision researchers who have already received their first independent federal grant—the National Institutes of Health R01—and are collecting new data to apply for a second R01.

Mrinalini Hoon, PhD
*University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine & Public Health*
Studying the molecular interactions that underlie visual function in the retina using the well-characterized dim-light pathway in the mouse retina.

David Myung, MD, PhD
*Board of Trustees of the Leland Stanford Junior University*
Developing a new way to deliver healthy endothelial cells to patients with corneal cell loss through an innovative technology known as bio-inkjet printing.

Tingting Yang, PhD
*Columbia University Irving Medical Center*
Studying two specific proteins that have critical roles in the eye (generating a vision-related electrical signal and determining intraocular pressure) in order to learn how these proteins regulate cells in a physiological context.

RPB Physician-Scientist Awards
This 3-year, $300,000 award strengthens and promotes clinical and/or basic research conducted by MDs or MD/PhDs who are actively engaged in clinical research. Physician-scientists bring a unique perspective and commitment to patient care to their research activities, enhancing the vision science field.

Anthony Kuo, MD
*Duke University School of Medicine*
Extending the capabilities of a previously developed imaging system that can provide robotically aligned optical coherence tomography for semi-automated retinal imaging of patients.

Uri Soiberman, MD
*The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine*
Developing the first topical medical treatment (eye drops) for keratoconus—a progressive disease that causes bulging of the cornea and blurry vision.
RPB Stein Innovation Awards

Named after RPB’s founder, Dr. Jules Stein, this award was developed to uncover and encourage high-risk/high-gain vision research that is innovative and cutting-edge. It provides $300,000 over 3 years to researchers whose goal is understanding the visual system and the diseases that compromise its function. The proposed research cannot be funded—previously or currently—by others.

Colin J. Barnstable, DPhil
Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine
Using epigenetic modifiers to alter patterns of gene expression in ways that promote photoreceptor cell survival, which is necessary for vision, and which is disrupted in diseases like retinitis pigmentosa and dry age-related macular degeneration.

Cintia S. de Paiva, MD, PhD
Baylor College of Medicine
Investigating specific receptors for cytokines (chemical messengers that take information between cells) located in the corneal epithelium to determine if they are functional and, if so, if they promote corneal health.

Kirill Martemyanov, PhD
University of Florida Scripps Biomedical Research
Defining and studying photoreceptor G protein coupled receptors, using a range of techniques, to enhance our understanding of how these cells function to detect light and transmit it to the brain.

RPB/Lions Clubs International Foundation Low Vision Research Award

Low vision is a substantial and chronic loss of visual ability, not correctable by eyeglasses, contact lenses, medicines or surgery and includes degradation of central and/or peripheral vision. This $300,000 award seeks greater understanding of how the visual system and brain respond to severe and chronic visual loss.

Gislin Dagnelie, PhD
The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Stroke patients can lose vision in the left or right half of the visual field, in either eye; this research is providing new knowledge about the mechanisms of visual adaptation in patients who lost vision in this manner.
RPB Catalyst Awards for Innovative Research Approaches for Age-Related Macular Degeneration

This $300,000 award is designed to support novel, ground-breaking research into age-related macular degeneration (AMD), with the ultimate goal of creating effective treatments for this increasingly common and debilitating condition. We are proud to partner with several other organizations that are committed to ending vision loss from AMD to offer these awards.

RPB/International Retinal Research Foundation Catalyst Award

Kaustabh Ghosh, PhD
The Regents of the University of California, Los Angeles

Studying how the blood vessels in the outer retina (choroidal vessels) degenerate early on in AMD.

RPB/Dr. H. James and Carole Free Catalyst Award

Yali Jia, PhD
Oregon Health & Science University

Developing a new, ultra-high-speed imaging platform based on optical coherence tomography that will enable localized measures of neurovascular coupling—the mechanism that links neural activity to subsequent changes in cerebral blood flow.

RPB/American Macular Degeneration Foundation Catalyst Award

Claudio Punzo, PhD
University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School

Developing a new small molecule approach to treat wet AMD, the advanced form of the disease in which blood vessels in the eye leak into the macula, which provides central vision.

RPB Walt & Lilly Disney Award for Amblyopia Research

This $100,000 award is available to MDs, PhDs or MD/PhDs conducting research of unusual significance into the diagnosis and treatment of amblyopia (commonly referred to as “lazy eye”), which develops in up to 4% of children, causing decreased vision without detectable anatomic damage.

Roger Wing-Hong Li, BSc (Optom), PhD
Nova Southeastern University

Building upon the researcher’s previous work developing a novel binocular treatment for adult patients with amblyopia using three-dimensional video games, the researcher will establish a new protocol for treating children.
RPB Medical Student Eye Research Fellowships

This $30,000 grant allows outstanding medical students to take a year off from medical school to devote time to a research project in an RPB-supported department of ophthalmology while working closely with a mentor. The fellowship is designed to encourage talented medical students to consider careers as physician-scientists working in eye research.

**Binh Cao**, conducting research at the University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine
Mentor: Jeremy Keenan, MD, MPH

**Kyle S. Chan**, conducting research at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
Mentor: Jeremy A. Lavine, MD, PhD

**Owen D. Clinger**, conducting research at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
Mentor: Yuanyuan Chen, PhD

**Monica Sophia Diaz-Aguilar**, conducting research at the Board of Trustees of the Leland Stanford Junior University
Mentor: Jonathan Lin, MD, PhD

**Maxwell B. Lohss**, conducting research at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
Mentor: Leah Byrne, PhD

**Megan E. Paul**, conducting research at The Regents of the University of California, Los Angeles
Mentor: Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD

RPB/American Osteopathic Colleges of Ophthalmology & Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Foundation Medical Student Eye Research Fellowship

**Soha Noorani**, conducting research at Duke University School of Medicine
Mentor: Cynthia Toth, MD

RPB/Castle Biosciences Medical Student Eye Research Fellowship in Ocular Cancer

**Shreya Sirivolu**, conducting research at Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California
Mentor: Jesse L. Berry, MD

RPB/Janssen Medical Student Eye Research Fellowship

**Cherrell Price**, conducting research at Harvard Medical School / MEEI
Mentor: Kinga Bujakowska, PhD

RPB International Research Collaborators Awards

This $75,000 award promotes international collaborations through which researchers in the U.S. and outside the U.S. gain new knowledge and skills. Under a reciprocal arrangement, a U.S.-based researcher—MD, PhD, or MD/PhD with a primary appointment in a department of ophthalmology or other relevant department—will be funded to develop a new or deeper collaboration with a research collaborator outside the U.S. in order to advance vision science.

**Vladimir J. Kefalov, PhD**
The Regents of the University of California, Irvine
Collaborator: Pere Garriga, PhD, Professor, Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya, Spain
Determining the molecular mechanism by which the G90D and G90V rhodopsin mutations cause night blindness and retinal degeneration, respectively.

**Mengyu Wang, PhD**
Harvard Medical School / MEEI
Collaborator: Franziska G. Rauscher, PhD, Principal Investigator, Leipzig University, Germany
Creating personalized profile norms based on individual retinal anatomy to improve glaucoma diagnostic accuracy.

**Vladimir J. Kefalov, PhD**
Partnership Research Grants

In 2022, RPB worked with several well-respected partner organizations to support grants made by those organizations to highly qualified scientists in areas of strategic interest.

RPB/AAO Awards for IRIS Registry Research

RPB was pleased to again partner with the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) on the RPB/AAO Awards for IRIS Registry Research, a joint award administered by AAO. The award enables researchers to use AAO’s IRIS® Registry—the nation’s largest specialty clinical database—to conduct population-based studies in ophthalmology and blindness prevention.

Congratulations to the 2022 awardees:

Mary Elizabeth Hartnett, MD, Board of Trustees of the Leland Stanford Junior University*
Kyle Kovacs, MD, Weill Cornell Medical College
Adrienne Scott, MD, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Victoria Tseng, MD, PhD, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

*Grant was made when Dr. Hartnett was at the University of Utah Health Sciences Center

TGF (sponsored by Patricia Hill) – RPB Fellowships in Glaucoma

RPB partnered with The Glaucoma Foundation (TGF) to fund the TGF (sponsored by Patricia Hill) – RPB Fellowships in Glaucoma, which support underrepresented minority researchers who are pursuing glaucoma research. The award is administered by The Glaucoma Foundation.

Congratulations to the 2022 fellows:

Clara Maria Colon Garcia-Moliner, MD, Wayne State University School of Medicine
William Gomes de Matos Plum, MD, Columbia University Irving Medical Center
Jose Quiroz, MD, PhD, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

RPB David F. Weeks Award for Outstanding Vision Research

RPB provided support to the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO) for the RPB David F. Weeks Award for Outstanding Vision Research, which is administered by AUPO to recognize and celebrate an outstanding ophthalmic vision scientist whose research has made meaningful contributions to the understanding and/or treatment of potentially blinding eye diseases. The award carries the name of David F. Weeks, former President and Chairman of Research to Prevent Blindness, in honor of his contributions to the field of vision research.

The 2022 awardee was Donald J. Zack, MD, PhD, of The Wilmer Eye Institute and The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Zack is the Guerrieri Professor of Genetic Engineering and Molecular Ophthalmology and co-director of the Center for Stem Cells and Ocular Regenerative Medicine. His lab studies the control of gene expression in retinal ganglion cells, the cells whose death in glaucoma leads to visual loss and potentially blindness. Dr. Zack and his colleagues are studying the differentiation of stem cells into retinal ganglion cells, in the hope of restoring vision to glaucoma patients who have already lost vision. Congratulations to Dr. Zack!

William Gomes de Matos Plum, MD (left)
Strategic Support

In 2022, RPB provided grants to select organizations that provide critical, complementary services, to make the vision research field stronger for all.

Educating Policymakers About Vision Research

RPB supported the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR) in its efforts to educate policymakers and the public about the value of federally-funded vision research with a 2022 grant of $50,000. With RPB support, AEVR held its Eighth Annual Emerging Vision Scientists (EVS) Day on Capitol Hill, which enables early-career researchers to engage with members of Congress and Congressional staff to discuss their research and the importance of funding for their work.

“It was exciting to see both the knowledge and passion that the Emerging Vision Scientists bring to their research. The excellent training session by AEVR helped the scientists do a masterful job of summarizing their research in accessible and meaningful ways to intelligent lay and policy audiences,” said Brian F. Hofland, PhD, President of RPB.

AEVR also utilized RPB support to hold events for legislators called Congressional Briefings, which educate members of Congress and Congressional staff to discuss their research and the human impact of these conditions and the need for federal funding to advance vision research.

Supporting Ophthalmology Leadership

RPB provided a $175,000 grant to support the activities of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO), which supports academic departments of ophthalmology and their leadership, as well as promotes excellence in ophthalmic education, fosters vision research and promotes ethical practice in eye care.

The grant included $50,000 to support the RPB David F. Weeks Award for Outstanding Vision Research (detailed on the previous page).

Supporting Early-Career Researchers

RPB provided a grant to the Heed Ophthalmic Foundation (HOF) ($34,000, payable over 2 years) to renew RPB’s support for HOF’s Resident Retreats, which provide professional development experiences to talented ophthalmology residents from across the country. The Retreats encourage residents to pursue academic careers in ophthalmology.

RPB also provided additional funding to HOF to support well-qualified under-represented minority candidates in The Heed Fellows program, which provides funding for postgraduate studies in ophthalmology and ophthalmic sciences.

Special Event: Vision Research Funding Partnership

RPB was pleased to bring together leaders from more than 30 different organizations at the 2022 Vision Research Funding Partnership meeting, where funders of vision research talked about opportunities to advance the field, as well as common challenges. Special thanks to our excellent keynote speakers: Dr. Michael Chiang, Director of the National Eye Institute, and Dr. Sharon Fekrat, Professor of Ophthalmology, Professor in Neurology, Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery, at Duke University School of Medicine.
### 2022 RPB Approved Grants Total: $11,079,000*

U.S. medical schools receiving new 2022 departmental and/or individual investigator awards

<table>
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<tr>
<th>State</th>
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*Includes commitments for special grants to the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology and the Heed Ophthalmic Foundation.

Schools that received earlier RPB support but no new grant in 2022: Indiana University School of Medicine and Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.
The RPB grant approval process is highly competitive. A standing Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) and rotating Ad Hoc Committees convene each spring and fall to review all grant applications. Ad Hoc Committees are comprised of ophthalmology department chairs and expert researchers whose recommendations are forwarded to the SAP for further evaluation. The SAP includes distinguished scientists representing a broad range of scientific disciplines and interests. Their recommendations are presented to the RPB Board of Trustees for final approval.

We thank our committees for their dedication!

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