

Research & Genetic Testing Contributions

2014-2020: \$383,200

Sofia Sees Hope 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 USA 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 SEPTEMBER 2020	
2020 (\$8,200)	\$8,200	My Retina Tracker [®] program
2019 (\$100,000)	\$15,000	My Retina Tracker [®] program
	\$15,000	Sandro Banfi, MD (Fondazione Telethon, Italy) — <i>AAV-Sponge-Mediated Modulation MicroRNA-181a/b: A Potential Therapeutic Approach for Inherited Retinal Disease</i>
	\$20,000	Clay Smith, PhD (University of Florida) — <i>Enhancing Metabolism in Photoreceptors with a Modified Arrestin to Treat Retinal Degeneration</i>
	\$25,000	Krishanu Saha, PhD (University of Wisconsin-Madison) — <i>Gene Editing Nanomedicines to Correct Pathogenic Mutations in the Retina</i>
	\$25,000	Rob Collin, PhD (Radboud University, The Netherlands) — <i>Development and Optimization of AON-based Therapies for Selected Splice Defects</i>
2018 (\$100,000)	\$25,000	My Retina Tracker [®] program
	\$20,000	Rob Collin, PhD (Radboud University, The Netherlands) — <i>Development and Optimization of AON-based Therapies for Selected Splice Defects</i>
	\$15,000	Eric Pierce, MD, PhD (Massachusetts Eye and Ear Institute) — <i>Efficacy, Safety, and Toxicity of AAV-Mediated Human RPGRIP1</i>
	\$40,000	Krishanu Saha, PhD (University of Wisconsin) — <i>Gene Editing Nanomedicines to Correct Pathogenic Mutations in the Retina</i>
2017 (\$65,000)	\$65,000	My Retina Tracker [®] program — support in its pilot year

YEAR	CONTRIBUTION DETAIL AS OF SEPTEMBER 2020	
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 .