

International Leadership

Scientists funded by the FFB have been responsible for many internationally celebrated advances in genetic research. These discoveries are the critical first step toward finding cures.

Dr. Robert K. Koenekoop, working at Montreal Children's Hospital, found two gene mutations that cause a form of R.P.

Dr. Torben Bech-Hansen of the University of Calgary led teams that discovered two gene mutations that cause forms of congenital stationary night blindness.

Dr. Roderick McInnes of The Hospital for Sick Children Toronto was responsible for the finding of a gene for cone-rod dystrophy.

Dr. Ian MacDonald of the University of Alberta has developed a screening test for choroideremia.

Dr. Robert Molday of UBC is in the forefront of research into the molecular basis of retinal degeneration.

Making Things Happen

The Foundation Fighting Blindness has a number of annual, signature events which include the NHL Fantasy Draft, Comic Vision, Forever Yonge Run and Ride for Sight.

Ride for Sight 
Motorcyclists
fighting blindness.

Ride for Sight is Canada's largest charity motorcycle event and the leading source of funds for vision research. The first Ride was organized in 1979 by founder Jim Bentley, with a small group of motorcyclists participating. Now, more than 10,000 Riders are expected to take part in events right across the country.

Funds raised through Ride for Sight bring hope to the children and adults who are losing their vision as a result of retinal degenerative disease.

Children's Research Fund

All children deserve the gift of sight.

The Children's Research Fund was created in 2000 with a generous inaugural gift from the Universal Workers Union, Local 183. The purpose of this special fund is to provide financial support to researchers seeking to cure or prevent childhood blindness.

The Foundation has a tradition of supporting institutions that include:

- The Hospital for Sick Children
Toronto, Ontario,
- The Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario
Ottawa, Ontario,
- Alberta Children's Hospital
Edmonton, Alberta, and
- Montreal Children's Hospital
Montreal, Quebec

The Children's Research Fund will ensure this legacy continues.

A Cure is in Sight

Losing your vision is a frightening, lonely path. It's a real boost to know that The Foundation Fighting Blindness is funding such promising research. I look to the future with confidence that a cure is in sight.

On behalf of The Foundation Fighting Blindness, I would like to thank our many donors and volunteers, including our Board of Directors, Scientific Board, Chapter members, event organizers and the RD Network.



Donna Green, President of the Board of Directors with Molly and Gavin

You can become a partner in sight, too.
Your investment now will have a direct impact on how quickly a cure is found.

Yes, I will help fight blindness!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov. _____

Postal Code _____

Email _____

My donation for eye research is:
\$ _____

Cheque Enclosed

Visa MasterCard

Card Number _____

Expiry Date _____

Signature _____

Vision Quest

I would like to receive the newsletter in

Regular print Large print

By Email

Receipts are issued for tax purposes.
Revenue Canada Charitable Registration
#119129369RR0001

**The Foundation Fighting Blindness
National Office**

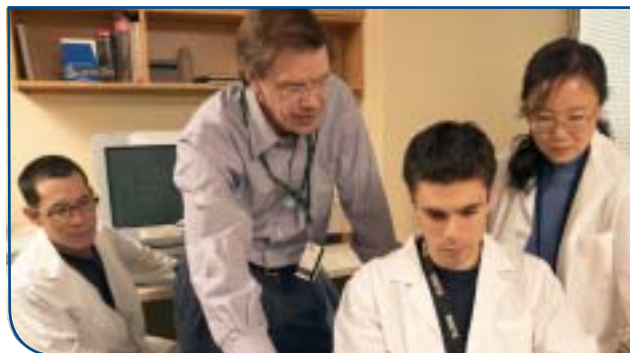
703-60 St. Clair Avenue East
Toronto, ON M4T 1N5

Email info@ffb.ca

www.ffb.ca www.rideforsight.com

Tel 416.360.4200 or 1.800.461.3331

Fax 416.360.0060



A \$1.25 million dollar cheque presented to the FFB from Ride for Sight

The FFB is the major supporter of eye research in Canada, and scientists funded by the Foundation over the past three decades have made major contributions to the understanding of the causes of retinal degeneration.

“Gene therapy studies using animal models of retinal degeneration have given very promising results. The question is no longer whether gene therapy will be effective for these diseases, but when. These almost unbelievable advances mean that the next decade will see the greatest increase in history the knowledge of genetic diseases of the retina, and for the first time, real hope of effective treatment and cure.”

Roderick R. McInnes, Ph.D, M.D.,
The Research Institute,
The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto

Scientific Advisory Board

Distinguished medical and scientific professionals serve as the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB). They carry out a rigorous review process which ensures that funds are used to support only the most worth-while projects. Every year the Foundation invites scientists to submit applications for funding by the SAB members, using the guidelines and high standards of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

Age-related Macular Degeneration



Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) causes progressive central vision loss and is the leading cause of legal blindness in the western world.

It is estimated that 800,000 Canadians have irreversible vision loss caused by AMD.

Despite these staggering figures, little is known about the causes of AMD, although inheritance and smoking are significant risk factors. Treatments to halt the progress of the disease are limited.

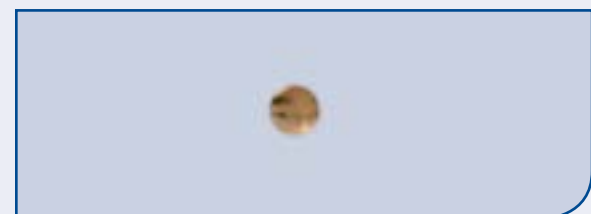


Retinal Degenerative Diseases



Retinitis pigmentosa (RP) is a large family of inherited eye diseases that cause progressive vision loss. The first symptom is often night blindness which is followed by diminished peripheral vision and eventually, tunnel vision.

It is estimated the RP affects 1.5 million people worldwide. Recent discoveries are promising, but there are still no treatments or cures.



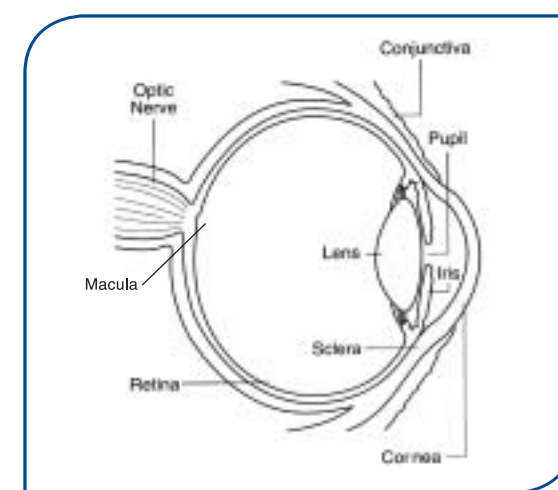
A Cure is in Sight



Thirty years ago there were only questions; now there are answers. Today, vision researchers are confident that cures are in sight. The Foundation Fighting Blindness is Canada's leading vision research charity, and it has provided more than \$12.5 million to groundbreaking eye research in the nation's leading medical research institutions.

The \$7.7 million A Cure is in Sight campaign will fund even more discoveries.

The mission of The Foundation Fighting Blindness is to find the causes, treatments and ultimately the cures for retinitis pigmentosa, macular degeneration and related retinal diseases by the support and promotion of research and the development of public awareness.



The Foundation Fighting Blindness



Blindness affects people of all ages. The Foundation Fighting Blindness is Canada's leading charity dedicated to fighting retinal diseases.