Moving Forward.
At the center of the cause for a cure.

Alzheimer’s Disease | Macular Degeneration | Glaucoma

Cure in Mind. Cure in Sight.

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Dear Friends,

One in sixteen Americans age 40 and above suffers from Alzheimer’s disease, macular degeneration or glaucoma. Left unabated, the growing wave of people living longer and requiring long-term care for these diseases means that families, communities, and our nation face strained social and economic resources.

BrightFocus Foundation (formerly known as American Health Assistance Foundation) is a nonprofit organization supporting research and providing public education to eradicate brain and eye diseases. For more than 35 years, we have funded research to end these incurable diseases. During this time, we have awarded more than 1,000 grants worldwide for a total of $130 million, including more than $26 million in the last four years alone. Our research funding has led to major contributions to the understanding of these diseases and to the awarding of two Nobel prizes.

At BrightFocus, we take our mission quite personally. The loss, frustration, sadness, and anxiety of these diseases has touched the lives of our board and of our staff. While we have made significant advances that have brought us closer to new treatments, we have more work to do and no time to lose.

BrightFocus occupies a unique position in the world of research, identifying the most promising research opportunities. We initiate and fund the best ideas within the scientific community. Our grants are vetted by the world’s top scientists and have successful outcomes.

We at BrightFocus believe that finding cures to these diseases must be made a national priority. Our strategic alliances with other nonprofits and advocacy organizations help raise awareness of the urgency for Alzheimer’s disease, macular degeneration, and glaucoma research in the scientific community, Congress, and among decision makers who determine health science research priorities.

With the continued strain and decline on federal funds for research, it is vital we keep the pipeline well-funded. Our five-year strategic plan aims to increase support for research and engage our nation in the fight. Knowing our mission must be articulated in a way that is clear and compelling, our new name, BrightFocus, reflects our hope and commitment to slowing, preventing and treating brain and eye diseases: “Cure in Mind. Cure in Sight.”

Many thanks to our esteemed panel of scientific review members, partners and all those who support our shared mission. Above all, we thank our donors. Only with your support, will we reach the day when diseases of mind and sight no longer threaten our loved ones.

Stacy Pagos Haller
President and CEO
Grace Frisone
Chairman of the Board
We fund breakthrough research. Your gift gives hope to millions.

Alzheimer’s disease is a devastating diagnosis for patients and their families. It robs victims of their awareness, memory, and judgment, and deprives families of the person they once knew and loved. Alzheimer’s is the sixth leading cause of death across all ages in the United States and the only one with no treatment or cure.

Alzheimer’s Disease’s Deadly Toll

- More than five million Americans suffer from Alzheimer’s disease. The number of cases is expected to triple in the next 40 years.
- Every 68 seconds, someone in America develops Alzheimer’s. By mid-century, someone in America will develop the disease every 33 seconds.
- $157 billion to $215 billion is the annual cost of Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia, annually, making it more costly than heart disease or cancer.
- More than 15 million Americans provide unpaid care for a person with Alzheimer’s disease or other dementias.
Promising research is underway to determine if the neuritic plaques formed in the brain, believed to be the cause or result of Alzheimer’s disease, can be slowed or prevented. These clumps of beta-amyloid protein are thought to kill brain cells in many ways, including cell-to-cell communication in the brain. In addition, the cells depend on a protein called tau for normal brain function. In Alzheimer’s patients, threads of tau protein form tangles, which interfere with the transport of nutrients and other essential materials.

Alzheimer’s Disease Research (ADR), a program of BrightFocus Foundation, funds research focused on early detection of the disease; treatments to help slow or stop disease progression and the accumulation of detrimental proteins; and ways to stop proteins from becoming deadly to the brain. To date, ADR has provided more than $82.5 million in funding to Alzheimer’s disease research projects.

This year, BrightFocus also co-founded the 21st Century Brain Trust. This coalition of four non-profits was awarded a $100,000 prize, out of submissions from more than 280 partnering organizations to the Sanofi US’s Partners in Patient Health Collaborate | Activate Innovation Challenge. The trust made its first grant of $50,000, managed by BrightFocus, to fund clinical trial testing opportunities for patient engagement in health through mobile health technologies. The projects range from advanced genetic studies that aim to identify inheritable risks for Alzheimer’s disease, to the development of new therapeutic interventions against the disease.

ADR has a successful track record of funding research that has led to breakthroughs in understanding Alzheimer’s disease. We support the President’s BRAIN Initiative—short for Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies. This National Institutes of Health program will help create detailed maps of the human brain, fostering new ways to treat, cure, and prevent brain disorders. We also call on Congress to make research a national priority.

“Funding from BrightFocus provided a vital bridge between a novel research idea and the preliminary results necessary to obtain prolonged government support for the development of new treatments and therapies.”

— Dr. Paul Greengard, Ph.D., BrightFocus honorary board member, former BrightFocus grantee, and Nobel Prize recipient for contributions to understanding signal transduction in the nervous system.
Dr. Maya Koronyo-Hamaoui (Koronyo) saw the ravages of Alzheimer’s disease by caring for her father, a successful pediatrician. The condition robbed him of his memories and eventually his life. Today she is an assistant professor, and head of the Neuroimmunology and Retinal Imaging Laboratory, at Cedars Sinai Medical Center. Koronyo received a BrightFocus Foundation grant to study a protein associated with controlling blood pressure and immune cell behavior. She is examining its potential role in reducing the accumulation of beta-amyloid, thought to be a hallmark of Alzheimer’s disease. “I believe one of the most promising therapeutic approaches is to target the disease’s multiple abnormalities with the body’s own intricate and powerful immune system,” she says.

Specifically, Koronyo and her team and her collaborator, Dr. David Teplow of the University of California, Los Angeles, will investigate whether ACE enzymes produced by immune cells can facilitate the clearance of toxic beta-amyloid. If successful, the research could lead to therapies to safely target the site of the beta-amyloid in Alzheimer’s patients and enhance immune responses that protect the brain.

“I greatly appreciate BrightFocus donors and can assure them that their contributions are being used to help find a solution for those who suffer daily, are frustrated, confused, and scared as a consequence of this terrible disease, and to help those who find themselves in the unthinkable role of caring for their deteriorating loved ones,” she says.

Southern California residents Colonel Sherman A. Smith, USMC (Ret.), and his wife, Lady, received a disheartening diagnosis some six years ago. Lady, who was experiencing vision problems, had wet macular degeneration, the most severe form of the incurable disease. Fortunately, she had a good ophthalmologist and retinologist, who recommended eye injections to prevent the growth of abnormal blood vessels that lead to vision loss. Even though Mrs. Smith had to quit driving, she still has some reading capability.

In addition to vision loss, the Smiths—who are in their 90’s—have many friends and associates who have Alzheimer’s disease. They both felt that they wanted to do something to promote research to help those suffering from macular degeneration and Alzheimer’s disease.

The Smiths established charitable gift annuities with Alzheimer’s Disease Research and Macular Degeneration Research, programs of BrightFocus Foundation, so they could make meaningful gifts now toward research. “We wanted the satisfaction of knowing that important research and investigation could be pursued through our charitable gift annuities,” said Col. Smith. Their support is helping BrightFocus reach out and explain these diseases to the public. Most importantly, the Smiths urge people “to stay in close touch with your doctors and be vigilant as to your own eye and mental health. There is help out there but you have to seek it.”

BrightFocus thanks the Smiths for their generous contributions to advance innovative research into some of the toughest diseases facing Americans today.
Emerging Concepts in Alzheimer’s Disease Research

Emerging Concepts in Alzheimer’s Disease Research, an international conference focused on current and emerging Alzheimer’s research, was organized by BrightFocus and its European affiliates. Pictured with some of the world’s most prominent health scientists at the New Orleans, LA, conference are BrightFocus officials Guy Eakin, Ph.D., Vice President of Scientific Affairs (fourth row, far right); Diane Bovenkamp, Ph.D., Scientific Program Officer (front row, second from left); and Stacy Pagos Haller, President and Chief Executive Officer (second row, tenth from left). BrightFocus is committed to accelerating the impact of Alzheimer’s research through professional conferences, collaborative research, and grants for innovative research.

Our International Reach

The diseases BrightFocus funds have no international boundaries. Our scientific review committees identify the most promising areas of research—no matter where it is being conducted. To date, BrightFocus research has taken place in 19 countries.

We partner with four European affiliates on Alzheimer’s disease research. This network generates valuable funding and public information to advance research and educate millions of people all over the world.

**G E R M A N Y**
Alzheimer Forschung Initiative e.V. (AFI)
DUSSELDORF | [www.alzheimer-forschung.de/](http://www.alzheimer-forschung.de/)

**B E L G I U M**
Stichting Alzheimer Onderzoek / Fondation Recherche Alzheimer
ZELLICK | [www.alzh.org](http://www.alzh.org)

**T H E N E T H E R L A N D S**
Internationale Stichting Alzheimer Onderzoek
MAASTRICHT | [www.alzheimer.nl/](http://www.alzheimer.nl/)

**F R A N C E**
Lingue Europèene Contre La Maladie d’Alzheimer
PARIS | [www.maladiealzheimer.fr](http://www.maladiealzheimer.fr)
The need for a cure has never been clearer.

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is a leading cause of vision loss in the U.S. It destroys the macula, the part of the eye that provides sharp, central vision needed for seeing objects clearly. The most common eye condition in people age 60 and older, it can lead to vision loss in one or both eyes, making it difficult to recognize faces, drive a car, read, or do close work, such as sewing or fixing things around the house.

A Leading Cause of Irreversible Blindness

- Nearly 11 million people in the United States have some form of macular degeneration. This number is expected to double to nearly 22 million by 2050.
- The number of people living with all forms of macular degeneration today is similar to those who have all types of cancer.
- Direct health care costs in U.S. are $255 billion.
- No treatment or cure for the most advanced form.
The dry form of Macular Degeneration (AMD) causes light-sensitive cells of the macula to slowly begin to break down. In the wet form of AMD, which is the more severe form of the disease, abnormal blood vessels grow behind the macula. Symptoms can occur gradually over time, or more quickly in some patients, leading to vision loss in one or both eyes. There is no cure for AMD and limited treatments for preventing or treating it.

AMD leads to a diminished quality of life for many older people. Patients are often unable to continue working, volunteering, or doing many of life’s daily activities that many of us take for granted. Although some symptoms of AMD can be mitigated with low-vision services and devices, it’s not surprising that many patients feel isolated and depressed.

Macular Degeneration Research (MDR), a program of BrightFocus Foundation, has awarded nearly $14 million to scientists studying the disease. The latest research is focused on novel treatments for the disease, understanding its causes and progress, drug therapies, and new screening techniques. With your generous support, BrightFocus is committed to finding a cure for this pervasive disease and providing a brighter future for patients and their families.
During college, Martin-Paul Agbaga thought he knew what medical career path to follow until a fateful visit with his father in Ghana in 1996. “On this particular visit, my father told me his eyesight was getting bad and affecting his driving badly and that he saw fuzzy rings around the lamp,” said Dr. Agbaga. “We have a history of eye problems in our extended family, so I knew something was wrong.”

A doctor diagnosed glaucoma and recommended immediate surgery to reduce his father’s eye pressure, which was extremely high. The experience of his father’s failing eyesight, as well as other medical problems that ultimately claimed his father’s life in 2002, were major factors in Agbaga’s decision to devote his career to eye disease research.

Macular Degeneration Research awarded Agbaga a grant to research causes for the juvenile onset of macular degeneration in autosomal dominant Stargardt-like Macular Dystrophy (STGD3). This is an inherited form of macular degeneration that occurs in about one in 8,000 to 10,000 children and begins to cause visual loss somewhere between the ages of three and 50, with an average age of 14 years. The onset of vision loss is gradual and then rapidly progresses to legal blindness levels—often within the teenage years. Patients first notice difficulty in reading, complaining of gray, black, or hazy spots in the center of their vision. The disease is caused by mutations in a gene called Elongation of Very Long Chain Fatty Acids-4 (ELOVL4). Agbaga and his colleagues discovered that the normal ELOVL4 protein is responsible for making a unique group of fatty acids found in the eye, but the mutant ELOVL4 is unable to make these unique fatty acids and is misdirected to the wrong cellular compartments in the eye.

With the grant from BrightFocus, Agbaga’s team will work on identifying the mechanism behind how the mutant ELOVL4 protein signals early-onset macular degeneration in patients with ELOVL4 mutations. “As a team, we seek the scientific truth behind the cause of blinding eye diseases to develop therapeutics that will ameliorate the rate of disease progression,” said Agbaga.
DONOR PROFILE

A Gift in Memory of Her Fighting Spirit

By all accounts, Carolyn Kathryn McGillvray was an active participant in life: businesswoman, investor, world traveler, wife, mother, and a cook best known for her outstanding pies.

She and her husband, Frank, established the first Western Auto Store in Lincoln, ME, in 1949. After Frank’s death in 1981, Carolyn continued to work part-time and travel to exotic locales such as Antarctica and Vietnam. Her son, Karl McGillvray, first noted her vision problems when she failed to realize a rose bush near her house had bloomed. But the diagnosis of macular degeneration did not prevent her from working part-time until the age of 85. Although her poor eyesight did not allow her to work at the computer, she continued to assist customers and help clean the store.

Karl, a Navy veteran and businessman, and his wife Yoriko, divide their time between Maine and Florida and are also avid travelers. They made a major gift to Macular Degeneration Research to honor Carolyn and her fighting spirit against vision loss. That memory lives on in The Carolyn K. McGillvray Memorial Award, which was awarded for outstanding research in May to Dimitrios Morikis, Ph.D., of the University of California, Riverside. (See page 20.)
Our research offers hope for a clearer future.

Glaucoma is a group of diseases that damage the eye’s optic nerve and can result in vision loss and blindness. With early detection and treatment, glaucoma can be managed to protect eyes from serious vision loss.

The Leading Cause of Blindness in the World

- More than three million Americans age 40 and older have glaucoma. An estimated 2.72 million have open-angle glaucoma, the most common form of the disease.
- It is estimated that only half of the people living with glaucoma are aware they have the disease.
- Over 60 million people in the world have open-angle and angle-closure glaucoma. That number is expected to increase by 20 million over the decade between 2010 and 2020.
There are two main forms of glaucoma: open-angle (the most common form affecting approximately 60 percent to 95 percent of individuals) and angle-closure. There are also several other forms of glaucoma, including normal-tension, congenital, juvenile, and secondary.

At first, open-angle glaucoma has no symptoms. It causes no pain. Vision stays normal. Glaucoma can develop in one or both eyes. Without treatment, people with glaucoma will slowly lose their peripheral (side) vision. As glaucoma remains untreated, people may miss objects to the side and out of the corner of their eye. They seem to be looking through a tunnel. Over time, straight-ahead (central) vision may decrease until no vision remains.

National Glaucoma Research (NGR), a program of BrightFocus Foundation, has awarded more than $22.6 million worldwide for the study of glaucoma. NGR-supported research has been focused on the eye-brain connection and the mechanisms for pressure buildup; preventing the death of axons in the optic nerve that occurs in the disease; and understanding the role genes play in order to develop early glaucoma screening and targeted treatments.
Dr. Elliott had an “aha” moment that led to his application for a research grant from BrightFocus. He was at his lab at the University of Oklahoma studying the role the CAV1 gene plays in the retina when he came across research that linked the gene to an increased risk of developing primary open-angle glaucoma.

“It hit close to home since my father has been living with glaucoma for the past 30 years,” said Elliott. The CAV1 gene is responsible for forming “caveolae”—small, cave-like areas in the cell membranes. Research shows these could trigger sensors for mechanical changes in cells, such as those that cause increases in eye pressure. These caveolae are abundant in meshwork cells in the eyes’ pathways where aqueous fluid flows outward. Dr. Elliott’s results suggest that loss of caveolae increases eye pressure.

Dr. Elliott hypothesizes that caveolae indeed act as sensors that regulate fluid drainage, and that mutations in the CAV1 gene may deactivate the sensors—opening the door for potential gene therapies.

Although Dr. Elliott’s father, Bob, controls his glaucoma with medication, current medical therapies are not effective for many glaucoma sufferers. The potential of this research could help identify new therapeutic targets for improved medical therapies for glaucoma, and provide insight into glaucoma disease mechanisms.

Florence Rothman was a perfect role model for her sons, Michael and Steven. A middle school teacher in northern New Jersey for 30 years, she was a dynamic individual with a forceful personality. After her death, her sons changed their careers, coming together to work in medical research. The result was five years inventing a method for early detection of declines in patient condition; the Rothman Index was named in her memory.

Things began to change for Florence and the family as her vision weakened, the result of “low-tension” glaucoma. She retired and stopped driving. Years passed as her vision slowly deteriorated, despite attention by doctors. Steven recalls how sad the slow-motion decline into blindness was. Florence grew increasingly isolated from friends, who most likely did not know how to accommodate blindness into social situations.

Medical science as yet knows very little about how to stop the progression of low-tension glaucoma. Steven and his wife Barbara recognized that the only answers can come from innovative research, so they spent time with us, investigating the National Glaucoma Research program to cure glaucoma. Their substantial donation is a “Challenge Gift”—a way to encourage others to match funds, contributing together to the effective support of glaucoma research.

It’s the Rothmans’ hope that we can save others from the suffering their mother endured.
Reaching Hearts and Minds through Public Education

Engaging the public in a dialogue about the critical need for innovative research, and the steps individuals can take to prevent, mitigate, and cope with disease is a critical part of BrightFocus’ mission.

Thanks to our donors, this year BrightFocus launched a series of public outreach initiatives and partnerships to reach a wide audience with messages about Alzheimer’s disease, macular degeneration, and glaucoma.

BrightFocus in the News

The media considers BrightFocus a trusted source on issues related to disease. Executive and scientific staff are regularly quoted and interviewed by the national media, including National Public Radio, Politico, Voice of America, Medical Daily, Seattle Post-Intelligencer, and Rochester Post-Bulletin. BrightFocus also participated in TEDMED and National Press Club panels addressing Alzheimer’s disease.

BrightFocus-funded research projects made national headlines in this fiscal year, including high-visibility studies suggesting roles for previously-approved cancer and diabetes drugs in combating Alzheimer’s disease; progress in the development of a molecular switch to replace dying photoreceptors, as well as progress in treating the currently untreatable dry form of macular degeneration; and new genetic links that might control how glaucoma is passed from one generation to another.

Promoting Public Health

Among BrightFocus’ most requested publications is the 35-page booklet, “Living with Alzheimer’s Disease.” An award-winning national public service campaign, “Now is the Moment to Stop Alzheimer’s Disease,” was produced in English and Spanish, and began running nationwide on TV and radio. A public service announcement entitled, “What Would You Like to See?” aired on TV, radio, and on the Internet as part of our “See a Better Tomorrow” campaign to raise awareness of the need for regular eye exams to maintain healthy vision.

These materials are part of BrightFocus’ ongoing media campaign to educate and inform, including direct mail, email alerts, expert opinions online, social media, news releases, podcasts, videos, and publications.

Now is the Moment to Stop Alzheimer’s Video

Family members discuss how Alzheimer’s disease has affected their lives in “Now is the Moment to Stop Alzheimer’s,” a public service announcement produced by BrightFocus.

WATCH TODAY
http://www.brightfocus.org/aboutbrightfocus/public-education/psas/alzheimers-disease-learn-more-60.html
Acting as an Advocate for Scientists

BrightFocus continues its partnership with the academic journal, *Molecular Neurodegeneration*, as the official journal of BrightFocus Foundation.

The journal publishes technical papers primarily on topics related to the Alzheimer’s Disease Research program. As an “open access” journal, there is no fee for readers, and all content is freely available through its website. This ensures maximal exposure of journal contents to scientists and care providers worldwide.

BrightFocus increased its advocacy activity on Alzheimer’s disease, collecting more than 22,000 signatures on a Stop Alzheimer’s Petition. The results of a BrightFocus researcher survey in February revealed that a large majority of Foundation-funded scientists conducting brain or vision research believe that inadequate federal research funding is threatening a “brain drain” of talented researchers.

We’re Closer to a Cure Because of Your Contributions

BrightFocus has a multi-decade track record as a leader in advancing scientific research seeking a cure for diseases including Alzheimer’s disease, macular degeneration, and glaucoma. We take a bold approach that has been shown to lead to major breakthroughs in understanding and developing therapies to treat disease.

Through the support of our committed donors and a network of world-class scientists, we have the ability to identify, fund, and cultivate emerging research leaders, drug therapies, and treatments.

Thank you to the more than 350,000 donors who contributed to BrightFocus in fiscal year 2013. We also thank the 15,000 donors who, every year for 10 or more consecutive years, have contributed to Alzheimer’s Disease Research, Macular Degeneration Research, or National Glaucoma Research. Your help brings BrightFocus one step closer to conquering these debilitating diseases and ensuring a world in which everyone has the opportunity to see and experience life with clarity.
Ways to Give

BrightFocus is a not-for-profit organization supported entirely by contributions from hundreds of thousands of individuals, as well as private foundations and corporations. Many donors direct their gifts to one or more of our research programs: Alzheimer’s Disease Research, Macular Degeneration Research, or National Glaucoma Research. Others choose to support BrightFocus in general, which helps us strengthen our research, advocacy, and public information work. However you contribute, you help advance knowledge on the possible causes, prevention, and treatments for these life-altering diseases.

BrightFocus staff can help facilitate your preferred type of gift.

- **Cash gifts**
- **Gifts of stock**—donating a gift of publicly-traded stock may provide greater tax benefits than giving cash
- **Gifts of real estate**
- **Bequests**—by naming BrightFocus a charitable beneficiary of an estate or trust, you become a member of our Heritage Society
- **Gifts of life insurance**
- **Charitable gift annuities**—make a charitable gift and receive lifelong income at the same time
- **Retirement plans**
- **Honor or memorial gifts**

> **Walkway of Hope™**—honor a loved one with a personalized bench, brick paver, or tree in the garden pathway located at our Clarksburg, Maryland headquarters

> **Matching gifts**—many companies match an employee’s donations to charitable organizations

> **Workplace contributions**—Alzheimer’s Disease Research participates in the Combined Federal Campaign (#30518) for federal workers and numerous state government campaigns

> **Designate BrightFocus** or any of our three programs through a local United Way campaign

For more information on these giving opportunities, visit [www.brightfocus.org/donate](http://www.brightfocus.org/donate) or call us at 1-800-437-2423.

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**Bonnie Rea: A Gift for the Living**

Bonnie Rea of Concord, California, lost her father to Alzheimer’s disease. She also watched her mother fade away from dementia, saying it was the most heart-wrenching thing she has ever experienced.

“I visited her twice a day and each time would ask her, ‘Do you know who I am?’ The answer was always the same, ‘You are my little angel that comes to visit me every day.’ It was not until the last few minutes of her life that she remembered who I was,” she explains.

“She told the nurse, ‘You had better call my Bonnie,’ and then, at age 89, she passed away.”

After losing her father to Alzheimer’s disease, Bonnie chose to honor her parents’ memories by naming Alzheimer’s Disease Research as a beneficiary in her will.

“I wanted to do something to contribute to the research and hope that someday they will find a cure for the disease, or at least something to alleviate the effects of the disease,” she said.

“**I wanted to do something to contribute to the research and hope that someday they will find a cure for the disease...**”
Personal Events

Many donors fundraise for BrightFocus programs by holding activities within their communities, often in memory or honor of a loved one. BrightFocus thanks all of those contributors who sponsored, hosted or supported special events in 2013 for Alzheimer’s Disease Research, Macular Degeneration Research, and National Glaucoma Research programs in 2013.

Sea Colony Women’s Club – Jupiter, FL
South Side Lionettes – St. Louis, MO
Charity Challenge – Tewksbury, MA
Vernon Lions Club – Vernon, CT
Bausch & Lomb – St. Louis, MO
Odyssey Angels – Reston, VA
Wilkins Family Charitable Foundation – Bath, NY
Bowling Fundraiser (Tenore) – Elmhurst, PA
Bill Regan (Maxfield) – Wolfeboro, NH
Mrs. Mickey Karlan – Rye Brook, NY
St. Felicitas Catholic Church – San Leandro, CA
Line Dance Club – Tamarac, FL
Monterey Park Senior Citizens Club – Monterey Park, CA
JTD Productions, Inc. – Woodstock, NY
Carroll Lutheran Village, Inc. – Westminster, MD
Plantation Estates – Matthews, NC
Baker Hostetler – Orlando, FL
MTA NYC Transit Authority – New York, NY
Bethany United Church of Christ – Bethlehem, PA

Taking a Step Forward Toward a Cure

Marv Welstead’s commitment to Alzheimer’s advocacy and research is inspiring, especially when you consider that he is in his 90s. For eight years, Marv cared for his wife Jean. He helped her re-learn how to eat and swallow and sat by her side when she lost use of her arms and legs.

Her battle inspired him to get involved in the formation of The Fremont Area Alzheimer’s Committee in Fremont, Nebraska.

From the beginning, the Committee has been on the move. They started the "Step Toward Progress" annual walk on a local college campus, and have been vocal advocates raising awareness about the importance of investing in Alzheimer’s research.

More than one-third of the funds raised through last year’s event were sent to BrightFocus to support cutting-edge Alzheimer’s research.

Below: Marv Welstead (center) leads a group on the first lap at Midland University in Fremont, NE. Part of the proceeds go to BrightFocus’ Alzheimer’s Disease Research program.
Financial Highlights

BrightFocus Foundation is a not-for-profit organization designated under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. All contributions to BrightFocus and its programs are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. The foundation and its programs receive no government funding, and are supported entirely by voluntary private contributions.

CONsolidated Statement of Financial Position

As of March 31, 2013
(in thousands of dollars)

**ASSETS**

- Cash and Investments $27,168
- Charitable Trusts and Bequests Receivable 5,336
- Rental Property 4,053
- Fixed Assets, Net 4,550
- Other Assets 1,132

**TOTAL ASSETS** $42,239

**LIABILITIES**

- Accounts Payable and Other Liabilities $742
- Grants Payable 11,925
- Charitable Gift Annuities 1,538

**TOTAL LIABILITIES** $14,205

**NET ASSETS**

- Unrestricted $15,916
- Temporarily Restricted 12,028
- Permanently Restricted 90

**TOTAL NET ASSETS** $28,034

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS** $42,239

CONsolidated Statement of Activities

For the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2013
(in thousands of dollars)

**SUPPORT AND REVENUE**

- Contributions and Grants $18,134
- Bequests 5,360
- Donated Services 15,998
- Investment Income 1,503
- Rental & Other Income 837

**TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE** $41,832

**EXPENSES**

- Program Services
  - Research $9,805
  - Health Information Services 22,052

**TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES** $31,857

- Supporting Services
  - Fundraising $5,030
  - Management and General 2,610

**TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES** $7,640

**TOTAL EXPENSES** $39,497

**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS** $2,335

Financial Highlights, Grants

BrightFocus Foundation 2013 Expense Percentage

- **Programs** 80%
- **Research & Health Information** 40%
- **Donated Services** 13%
- **Fundraising** 7%
- **Management** 7%

A complete copy of the financial statement audited by Raffa, P.C., is available upon request from BrightFocus Foundation, 22512 Gateway Center Drive, Clarksburg, MD 20871, or on our website at brightfocus.org.

*BrightFocus received in-kind donations to expand our public health information outreach. This allowed BrightFocus to reach millions of people with information about risk factors, treatments, and caregiving for the three areas on which we focus.*
Grant Recipients

2013 BrightFocus Research Grant Recipients – Alzheimer’s Disease Research

Hirohide Asai, M.D., Ph.D.  
A Novel Cellular Mechanism to Understand Spreading of Tau Aggregation in Alzheimer’s Disease Brain  
Boston University, School of Medicine, Boston, MA  
July 1, 2013-June 30, 2015—$100,000

Carlos Crucchaga, Ph.D.  
A New Method to Identify Protein and Genes Involved in Alzheimer’s Disease  
Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO  
July 1, 2013-June 30, 2016—$248,172

Dolores Del Prete, Ph.D.  
Searching the Main Actors Involved in Human Dementia  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY  
July 1, 2013-June 30, 2015—$100,000

Laurie Erb, Ph.D.  
Exploring New Ways to Prevent Brain Cell Death by Increasing Blood Flow  
The Curators of the University of Missouri, Columbia, MO  
July 1, 2013-June 30, 2016—$250,000

Nilufer Ertekin-Taner, M.D., Ph.D.  
Identifying Novel Drug Targets in Alzheimer’s Disease Using Brain Gene Expression  
Mayo Clinic Jacksonville, Jacksonville, FL  
July 1, 2013-June 30, 2016—$250,000

Vivek Gautam, D.V.M., Ph.D.  
Novel Factors that Regulate Alzheimer’s Disease Pathology  
Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA  
July 1, 2013-June 30, 2015—$100,000

David Harris, M.D.  
Treating Alzheimer’s Disease with Drugs Directed Against the Prion Protein  
Boston University, School of Medicine, Boston, MA  
July 1, 2013-June 30, 2016—$250,000

Joachim Herz, M.D.  
A Novel Therapeutic Approach to the Prevention of Alzheimer’s Disease  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX  
July 1, 2013-June 30, 2015—$150,000

Lee-Way Jin, M.D., Ph.D.  
A New Anti-Inflammatory Therapy for Alzheimer’s Disease  
University of California, Davis, Davis, CA  
July 1, 2013-June 30, 2016—$250,000

Maya Koronyo-Hamaoui, Ph.D.  
Delivery of ACE by Immune Cells to Reduce Beta-Amyloid Pathology for Alzheimer’s Disease Treatment  
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA  
July 1, 2013-June 30, 2016—$250,000

Hongmei Li, Ph.D.  
Understanding the Causal Link between Brain Blood Flow Reduction and Alzheimer’s Disease and Exploring a Novel Nano-Drug Treatment  
Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX  
July 1, 2013-June 30, 2015—$100,000

Fan Liao, Ph.D.  
New Therapeutic Approach for Alzheimer’s Disease via Apolipoprotein E  
Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO  
July 1, 2013-July 31, 2015—$100,000

Tao Ma, M.D., Ph.D.  
A New Study to Rescue Memory Impairments in Alzheimer’s Disease by Changing a Cellular Signaling Pathway  
New York University, New York, NY  
July 1, 2013-June 30, 2015—$100,000

Crystal M. Miller, Ph.D.  
Understanding How an Innate Immune Signaling Pathway in Microglia Affects Different Stages of Tau Pathology  
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, OH  
July 1, 2013-June 30, 2015—$100,000

Leonard Petrucelli, Ph.D.  
Studying How HDAC6 Influences Toxic Effects of Tau in Alzheimer’s Disease  
Mayo Clinic Jacksonville, Jacksonville, FL  
July 1, 2013-June 30, 2016—$250,000

Ismael Santa-Maria Perez, Ph.D.  
MicroRNAs and Tau Gene Expression Regulation  
Columbia University Medical Center, New York, NY  
July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014—$50,000

Stephen Strittmatter, M.D., Ph.D.  
Prion Drugs for Alzheimer’s Disease Therapy  
Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT  
July 1, 2013-June 30, 2016—$250,000

Dominic Walsh, Bsc. (Hons), P.G.C.E., Ph.D.  
Identifying the Disease—Causing Form of the Amyloid Beta-Protein in Human Brain  
Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, MA  
January 1, 2014-December 31, 2016—$250,000

Jessica Young, Ph.D.  
Dissecting the Role of Genetic Factors that Predispose Individuals to Sporadic Alzheimer’s Disease  
University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA  
July 1, 2013-July 31, 2015—$100,000

Abraham Zangen, Ph.D.  
Clinical Study to Treat Alzheimer’s Disease with Magnetic Stimulation of Deep Brain Regions  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel  
July 1, 2013-June 30, 2016—$190,000

2013 BrightFocus Research Grant Recipients – Macular Degeneration

Martin-Paul Agbaga, Ph.D.  
Recipient of The Elizabeth Anderson Award  
What is the Cause of Macular Degeneration in STGD3 Patients?  
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City, OK  
July 1, 2013-June 30, 2015—$120,000

Ruth Ashery-Padan, Ph.D.  
Involvement of microRNAs in Retinal Diseases  
Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel  
July 1, 2013-June 30, 2015—$120,000

Venkata Chava, Ph.D.  
Investigation of the Role and Function of Long Non-Coding RNAs Which May Serve as Novel Molecular Tools that Cause Age-Related Macular Degeneration  
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA  
July 1, 2013-June 30, 2015—$120,000
Jing Chen, Ph.D.
A New Mechanism Linking Lipid and Altered Inflammation in Neovascular AMD
Boston Children’s Hospital, Boston, MA
July 1, 2013–June 30, 2015—$120,000

Sarah L. Doyle, B.A., Ph.D.
Investigating if an Uncontrolled Immune Response to Your Own Damaged Cells Causes the Progression of AMD
Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland
July 1, 2013–June 30, 2015—$120,000

Chenghua Gu, D.V.M., Ph.D.
New Therapeutic Strategy for Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration
Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA
July 1, 2013–June 30, 2015—$120,000

Jonathan Lin, M.D., Ph.D.
A New Source of Stem Cells to Treat Age-Related Macular Degeneration
University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA
July 1, 2013–June 30, 2015—$120,000

Chi Luu, Ph.D.
Clinical Characterisation of Age-Related Macular Degeneration Using Novel Imaging and Functional Techniques
Centre for Eye Research Australia, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia
July 1, 2013–June 30, 2015—$120,000

Dimitrios Morikis, Ph.D.
Recipient of The Carolyn K. McGillvray Memorial Award
Drug Discovery for Macular Disease
University of California, Riverside, Riverside, CA
July 1, 2013–June 30, 2015—$120,000

Marcelo Nociari, Ph.D.
Development of a New Therapy for Age-Related Macular Degeneration
Joan and Sanford I. Weill Medical College of Cornell University, New York, NY
July 1, 2013–June 30, 2015—$120,000

Magali Saint-Geniez, Ph.D.
Role of Cell Metabolism Regulators in Cell Function and Death and Implications for AMD
Schepens Eye Research Institute, Boston, MA
July 1, 2013–June 30, 2015—$120,000

Shusheng Wang, Ph.D.
Tiny RNAs with a Big Role in Age-Related Macular Degeneration
Tulane University, New Orleans, LA
July 1, 2013–June 30, 2015—$120,000

2013 BrightFocus Research Grant Recipients – Glaucoma

Curtis Brandt, Ph.D., FARVO
An Improved Gene Delivery Method to Lower Eye Pressure in Primate Eyes
Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, School of Medicine and Public Health, Madison, WI
July 1, 2013–June 30, 2015—$100,000

Kevin Chan, Ph.D.
Effects of Prolonged Eye Pressure Elevation on Visual Brain Changes
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
July 1, 2013–June 30, 2015—$100,000

Yang Hu, M.D., Ph.D.
Recipient of The Douglas Johnson Award
A Novel Way to Protect Neurons and Axons in the Eyes
Temple University, Philadelphia, PA
July 1, 2013–June 30, 2015—$100,000

Richard K. Lee, M.D., Ph.D.
Stimulation of the Retina to Grow Axons that Allow Eye Cells to Make Connections to the Brain to Allow for Vision Recovery
Bascrom Palmer Eye Institute, Miami, FL
July 1, 2013–June 30, 2015—$100,000

Matthew Glucksberg, Ph.D.
Mechanism of Cell Damage in Glaucoma: Effect of Rapid Depressurization on Cells
Northwestern University, Chicago, IL
July 1, 2013–June 30, 2014—$50,000

Alex Hewitt, M.B.B.S. (Hons), M. Med. Sci., Ph.D.
Development of a Patient-Specific Model of Glaucoma
Centre for Eye Research Australia, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia

Hyungsik Lim, Ph.D.
A New Imaging Technique to Sensitive Detect Abnormal Changes in the Retinal Nerves
Hunter College, CUNY, New York, NY
July 1, 2013–June 30, 2015—$100,000

John H. Fingert, M.D., Ph.D.
Investigating the Biology and Causes of Glaucoma Using Stem Cells
University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa
July 1, 2013–June 30, 2015—$100,000

Philip J. Gage, Ph.D.
A New, Rapid, and Inducible Model of Glaucoma in Mice
Regents of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
July 1, 2013–June 30, 2015—$100,000

Matthew Glucksberg, Ph.D.
Mechanism of Cell Damage in Glaucoma: Effect of Rapid Depressurization on Cells
Northwestern University, Chicago, IL
July 1, 2013–June 30, 2014—$50,000

Alex Hewitt, M.B.B.S. (Hons), M. Med. Sci., Ph.D.
Development of a Patient-Specific Model of Glaucoma
Centre for Eye Research Australia, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia

The Elizabeth Anderson Award
Recipient: Martin-Paul Agbaga, Ph.D.
This award is selected by the Anderson family and presented annually in honor of Mrs. Anderson, the beloved wife of Robert (Gene) Anderson, a longstanding member of the BrightFocus Scientific Review Committee for Macular Degeneration Research. Mrs. Anderson was dedicated to the vision research community and took particular interest in young scientists whom she shepherded through the difficulties of their early careers.

The Carolyn K. McGillvray Memorial Award
Recipient: Dimitrios Morikis, Ph.D.
Carolyn K. McGillvray was a successful businesswoman, savvy investor, and much-loved wife, mother and grandmother who died at the age of 99 in 2008. Her son made a generous gift to Macular Degeneration Research to honor her memory and her fighting spirit as she battled macular degeneration. Even as her vision deteriorated, Mrs. McGillvray traveled around the world, including Antarctica, and continued to work until she was 85, adapting her duties to accommodate her low vision. The research project selected to receive this award was chosen by her family.
**The Douglas Johnson Award**  
*Recipient: Yang Hu, MD., Ph.D.*  
This award is presented annually to the top-rated proposal in the National Glaucoma Research Program. Beyond his strong record of contributions to the glaucoma field, Dr. Johnson is fondly remembered at BrightFocus for his many years of service as Chairman of the Scientific Review Committee for our National Glaucoma Research program. Each year we bestow this award in recognition of exceptionally promising and forward-thinking ideas in the field of glaucoma.

**The Thomas R. Lee Award**  
*Recipient: Michael Elliott, Ph.D.*  
This award is presented annually to the second-highest rated proposal in the National Glaucoma Research (NGR) program. Mr. Lee was a farmer, businessman, investor, real estate developer, and philanthropist. Inspired by his own battle with glaucoma, Thomas R. Lee bequeathed a significant gift to NGR to ensure continuous funding for research is available.

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**BrightFocus Foundation Teams of Experts**

Volunteer teams of world-recognized experts in their respective health science fields compose BrightFocus’ Scientific Review Committees. All applications for BrightFocus research funding are carefully peer-reviewed and rated by these committees on the basis of scientific merit, resulting in significant advances in understanding diseases.

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**Darryl Overby, Ph.D.**  
*Can We Increase the Number of Drainage Pores in the Eye to Better Treat Glaucoma?*  
Imperial College London, London, United Kingdom  
July 1, 2013–June 30, 2015—$100,000

**John Wood, B.Sc., D.Phil.**  
*Novel Way to Treat Experimental Glaucoma by Directly Preventing Nerve Axon Damage*  
South Australian Institute of Ophthalmology, Adelaide, Australia  
July 1, 2013–June 30, 2015—$100,000

**Zhenhua Xu, Ph.D.**  
*Protective Role of Nrf2 in Glaucoma*  
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD  
July 1, 2013–June 30, 2015—$100,000

**Beatrice Yue, Ph.D.**  
*Can Optineurin Protein Aggregate to Form Toxic Amyloid-Like Fibrils or Oligomers?*  
University of Illinois Medical Center, Chicago, IL  
July 1, 2013–June 30, 2015—$100,000

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BrightFocus Foundation is one of only 80 nonprofit organizations, of the 24,000 in Maryland, to have achieved the requirements of the Maryland Nonprofits’ Standards for Excellence certification. The award promotes ethical practices and accountability in nonprofit organizations across the state.
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BrightFocus Foundation seeks to save mind and sight by funding innovative research worldwide and by promoting better health through education.
One in 16 Americans, age 40 and above, lives with a life-changing, incurable disease affecting mind and sight. Investing in cutting-edge research is our best hope for finding a cure. We are dedicated to innovative research and educating the public through our three programs:

- Alzheimer’s Disease Research
- Macular Degeneration Research
- National Glaucoma Research

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