Dear Friends,

At BrightFocus, as we tackle Alzheimer’s, macular degeneration, and glaucoma, diseases rooted in some of science’s most complex and unanswered questions, we are guided by a deep, abiding belief: research equals hope.

We see hope in the eyes of the young, promising scientists who each year have their bold research ideas, their audacious “what-if’s,” accelerated through our Fast Track programs and fellowship awards.

We hear hope firsthand from scientists about their progress toward new tools and technologies to give us earlier, more accurate diagnoses and treatment.

We find hope in the notes we receive from those who say that BrightFocus gave them clear, trusted information, drawn from the latest science, to better understand and manage their health.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we are currently supporting a portfolio of nearly 200 research projects around the world. In the past three years alone, we have invested $43 million in the power and promise of science to improve lives for generations to come.

We appreciate your interest in BrightFocus Foundation. On the following pages you will find an overview of our mission to save mind and sight. You will find examples of the research we fund and profiles of just a few of the many scientists and donors who make it possible.

We believe that our Annual Report will help you see why, even in the face of great challenges, we continue to believe that research is the best, most promising pathway to cures.

STACY PAGOS HALLER  
President and CEO

SCOTT D. RODGVILLE, CPA  
Chair, Board of Directors

Mission Statement
BrightFocus funds exceptional scientific research worldwide to defeat Alzheimer’s disease, macular degeneration, and glaucoma, and provides expert information on these heartbreaking diseases.

Below: This mini human retina in a dish was created entirely from adult stem cells. (Courtesy of Maria Valeria Canto-Soler, PhD, University of Colorado)
200 research projects

Left: The intricate network of immune (green) and vascular (red) cells in the retina. (Courtesy of Ye Sun, MD, PhD, Children’s Hospital Boston, Harvard Medical School)

43M in research funding in three years alone

24 countries

76 new research grants

Right: View of a developing mouse brain with different types of neurons stained with different colors. (Courtesy of Alexandre Bonnin, PhD, University of Southern California)

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Every 65 seconds another American develops Alzheimer’s disease.

(Courtesy of Dominik Paquet, PhD, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany)
5.8 million people live with Alzheimer’s in the United States today and by 2050 there will be close to 15 million.

In 2019 BrightFocus awarded funding for 43 new Alzheimer’s projects, $10.5 million in research funding.

Above: BrightFocus grantee Nick Cochran, PhD, HudsonAlpha Institute, made news with his work on the “on” and “off” switches of genes implicated in Alzheimer’s disease.

Left: Three images of brain cells grown in a lab from adult stem cells. (Courtesy of Dominik Paquet, PhD, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany)

Above: A blood test to screen for Alzheimer’s turned a major corner toward reaching the marketplace when it was given a “Breakthrough Device” designation by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The highly sensitive test could be cheaper and less invasive than the current PET scan or spinal tap diagnostic methods. Joel Braunstein, MD, MBA, and CEO of C2N Diagnostics said, “We are grateful to Alzheimer’s Disease Research for being such a strong supporter every step of the way.”
Alzheimer’s in the human brain: focusing on one neuron at a time

For Inma Cobos, MD, PhD, it is both a simple question and one of science’s great mysteries – how does the brain work?

To answer this, Dr. Cobos, at Stanford University, is applying cutting-edge biotechnology, RNA sequencing of single cells, to compare thousands of neurons in the brains of healthy individuals with those of people with Alzheimer’s. She wants to understand why some neurons degenerate in Alzheimer’s while others nearby remain healthy.

Her goal is to someday lessen the symptoms of the disease and slow its progression. With a grant from BrightFocus’ Alzheimer’s Disease Research program, Cobos was able to pursue her research ideas, which have subsequently caught the attention of the National Institutes of Health and others in science.

“Our studies aim to define what makes some neurons more vulnerable or resilient to disease.”
Incubator for rising researchers

Above: Leading scientists and young investigators thank BrightFocus donors for supporting Fast Track, a signature boot camp on Alzheimer’s research.

More than 100 Alzheimer’s scientists from across the globe attended BrightFocus’ annual Fast Track program. Bringing together senior researchers with those new to the field, they reviewed the latest discoveries and research directions and fostered new collaborations to accelerate progress towards treatments and cures.

“Alzheimer’s Fast TrackSM is an immersive learning opportunity specifically created for scientists who are starting or contemplating a career in Alzheimer’s research,” said Diane Bovenkamp, PhD, BrightFocus Vice President for Scientific Affairs.

Raising awareness of the impact of Alzheimer’s

BrightFocus Foundation recently released a new national public service campaign to increase awareness and understanding of Alzheimer’s disease. The Impact of Alzheimer’s public service announcement (PSA) series, in English and Spanish, depicts the powerful, first-person accounts of families impacted by the disease:

- Giovanni lost his father and his grandmother to Alzheimer’s disease.
- Evelyn is the primary caregiver for her mother who has Alzheimer’s.
- Pasquale enrolled in a clinical trial after receiving his Alzheimer’s diagnosis.
Age-related macular degeneration is a leading cause of irreversible vision loss in the United States, and for Caucasians older than 40 it is the leading cause of blindness.
In 2019 BrightFocus awarded funding for $3.1 million for 20 new macular degeneration research awards.

11 million in US
The incidence of macular degeneration is expected to double by 2050

Shaping vision science worldwide

The annual spring meeting of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology brings together nearly 12,000 vision scientists from more than 75 countries.

Current and past BrightFocus grantees participate in this global scientific knowledge exchange, and at the 2019 conference, BrightFocus was listed as a funder of more than 80 research presentations. That’s a reflection of our growing role as a significant funder of some of the top vision science in the world.
Looking beyond the retina to the biology of AMD

Daniel Saban is curious. As a child, it was taking apart toys, watches, pens, and “you name it” to see how they work. Now, holding a PhD and working as a Duke University immunologist, this curiosity means studying how the immune system works in the eye.

Saban’s research is examining how the immune cells of the eye support and protect the light-sensing nerves of the retina. He believes that insights into the role and behavior of each immune cell type may lead to new strategies to treat age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

To someone with Saban’s drive and curiosity, Macular Degeneration Research, a BrightFocus program, has been crucial, allowing him to “pursue the new and bold ideas” that he says might not be funded by other organizations.

“The role of the immune system in retinal degenerative diseases is an emerging and promising field in AMD research.”
Above: Michael Buckley, VP, Public Affairs, BrightFocus hosts a Chat with Sean Curry, MPH, and Belinda Weinberg, OD, of the Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington on Low-Vision Services: Getting the Help you Need.

Above: Gayatri S. Reilly, MD, The Retina Group of Washington, DC.

Your AMD questions answered

Our free, monthly telephone call-in series, BrightFocus Chats, features the latest news and advice for those living with vision loss. Researchers, clinicians, and low vision specialists share their tips and answer questions from participants via phone or online. The Chats are archived at BrightFocus.org.

“We’re definitely making improvements, and that’s the part I find so exciting in doing what we do every day. There are new treatments being investigated. There are new clinical trials being created. There are new genetics in terms of just understanding the disease much better than we did 10 years ago,” said Gayatri S. Reilly, MD, a retina specialist with The Retina Group of Washington, DC, who was a recent featured speaker.
Glaucoma is the second leading cause of irreversible blindness worldwide according to the World Health Organization. And for Hispanics and African Americans in the United States, glaucoma is the leading cause of blindness.
Today, more than 3 million Americans aged 40 and older have glaucoma. By 2050, it is estimated that the number will double to 6 million people.

In 2019 BrightFocus awarded funding for 13 new glaucoma research awards, $2.5 million in new research funding.

Above left: In glaucoma, the BAX protein (green) gathers on mitochondria and triggers deaths in retinal ganglion cells. (Courtesy of Robert W. Nickells, PhD)

Below left: Human retina organoid, a three-dimensional tissue culture derived from stem cells. (Courtesy of Robert Johnston, PhD, Johns Hopkins University)

Right: BrightFocus held a Healthy Recipe contest during September to increase awareness of a healthy diet for brain and eye health.
A key microRNA controls eye pressure

Yuan Lei, PhD, of China’s Fudan University, grew up watching her father and grandmother gradually lose their eyesight to glaucoma. As a young researcher, she had ideas about what was triggering the abnormally high eye pressure typically found in glaucoma. Yet with her initial funding running out, she was worried that her encouraging but preliminary data would wither on the vine.

Thanks to BrightFocus’ National Glaucoma Research program, Dr. Lei is now continuing her research into molecular signaling in glaucoma. She believes that her efforts and those of other scientists who are studying the eyes with “curiosity, diligence, and awe” will lead to new treatments and cures.

“This work might pave the way to the discovery of a new pathway that controls eye pressure.”
Above: Scenes from the Alzheimer’s Disease and Parkinson’s Disease meeting in Portugal, including, at right, Drs. Bu, Golde, and Bovenkamp, who helped organize and lead the event, along with Dr. Di Polo, who’s not shown.

Bridging eye and brain research

BrightFocus is breaking down barriers between research of mind and sight, leveraging the learnings of one disease to better inform and help another.

A recent workshop at the International Conference on Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s Diseases convened and led by BrightFocus, Common Features of Neurodegenerative Diseases: Exploring the Brain-Eye Connection and Beyond, brought together over 200 researchers to bridge research knowledge of brain and vision scientists, to spark new collaborations and interdisciplinary innovation, and to accelerate progress towards improved treatments and cures.

“BrightFocus is a recognized leader in this new lane of interdisciplinary scientific collaboration, and it’s exciting to help bring researchers together to accelerate innovation. Diseases this complex can’t be solved in a silo,” said Guojun Bu, PhD, Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, who co-chaired the symposium along with Diane Bovenkamp, PhD, BrightFocus Foundation; Todd Golde, MD, PhD, University of Florida, Gainesville; and Adriana Di Polo, PhD, University of Montreal.

Clinical trials tips and tools

BrightFocus’ guide to help families seeking information on clinical trials, Clinical Trials: Your Questions Answered, is available free upon request by email to info@brightfocus.org or download at BrightFocus.org. Families can also use the trial finder tool on our website, powered by Antidote, to identify local clinical trials.
These new research awards that were offered total **more than $16.2 million,** part of our ongoing scientific portfolio of nearly 200 projects, a more than $40 million investment in research worldwide.
2019 BrightFocus Grants at a Glance

**BASIC** – Research that aims to better understand how a disease happens, and to obtain new ideas of how to stop the disease.

**TRANSLATIONAL** – Research to move findings from the lab bench to the “bedside” by testing potential treatments.

**CLINICAL** – Research involving volunteer participants to test the safety and effectiveness of drugs, devices, or other treatment candidates.

### Alzheimer’s Disease Research

- **Peter Abadir, MD**
  Characterizing Brain Angiotensin System
  JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

- **Darrick T. Balu, PhD**
  Glial D-Serine in the Amygdala and Alzheimer’s Disease
  MCLEAN HOSPITAL AND HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

- **Ana Batista, PhD**
  The Effect of TTR Gene Therapy in Alzheimer’s Disease
  UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

- **David Berron, PhD**
  Learning About the Early Consequences of Alzheimer’s Disease on our Brain and Cognitive Functions
  LUND UNIVERSITY (SWEDEN)

- **Alexandre Bonnin, PhD* & Axel Montagne, PhD**
  Prenatal Inflammation Programs Alzheimer’s Disease Risk Later in Life
  UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

- **Marc Aurel Busche, MD, PhD**
  Mechanisms of Neuronal Dysfunction in Early Alzheimer’s Disease
  UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON (UK)

- **Becky Carlyle, PhD**
  Investigating Neuropeptides as Biomarkers and Novel Therapeutics for Alzheimer’s Disease
  MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

- **Maria Calvo-Rodriguez, PhD**
  Dysfunction of Astrocytic Mitochondria in Alzheimer’s Disease
  MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

- **Nick Cochran, PhD**
  How an Important Gene for Alzheimer’s called MAPT is Turned On
  HUDSON ALPHA INSTITUTE FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY

- **Luca Colnaghi, PhD**
  Molecular Mechanisms in Alzheimer’s Disease
  ISTITUTO DI RICERCHE FARMACOLOGICHE MARIO NEGRI (ITALY)

- **Camin Dean, PhD**
  Treating Memory Loss in Alzheimer’s Disease by Strengthening Synapses
  EUROPEAN NEUROSCIENCE INSTITUTE, GOETTINGEN (GERMANY)

- **Hemraj Dodiya, PhD**
  Microbiome Influences Microglia Phenotypes and Beta-Amyloid Amyloidosis in a Sex-Specific Manner
  UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

- **Syed Abid Hussaini, PhD**
  Does the Brain Region Responsible for Sleep Trigger Alzheimer’s disease?
  COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

- **Alireza Faridar, MD**
  Does Immune System Play a Role as a Potential Therapeutic Target in Alzheimer’s Disease?
  HOUSTON METHODIST RESEARCH INSTITUTE

- **Michelle Farrell, PhD**
  Improving Detection of the Earliest Signs of Alzheimer’s Disease to Help Prevent Memory Loss
  MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

- **Kei Igarashi, PhD**
  Rescuing Impaired Memory in Alzheimer’s Disease Using Reactivation of Brain Network Activity
  UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

- **Lukasz Joachimiak, PhD**
  Detecting the Shape Changing Protein Tau in Alzheimer’s Disease
  UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER

- **WonHee Kim, PhD**
  Understanding Alzheimer’s Disease to Avoid Side Effects of Drugs
  TUFTS UNIVERSITY

* indicates principal investigators. All others listed are co-principal investigators and may be at other institutions.
Hosung Kim, PhD* & Arthur Toga, PhD
Machine-Learning Applied to Neuroimaging Data Can Predict Brain Biological Age and Acceleration of Aging in Early Alzheimer’s Disease UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Giacomo Koch, MD, PhD* & Martorana Alessandro, MD, PhD
Magnetic Stimulation to Treat Alzheimer’s Disease IRCCS SANTA LUCIA FOUNDATION (ITALY)

Thomas Kukar, PhD
A New Approach to Understand Why Defects in the Lysosome Pathway Increase the Risk of Developing Alzheimer’s Disease EMORY UNIVERSITY

Min-Kyoo Shin, PhD
Determination of Whether a Novel Biological System in the Brain Regulates Nerve Cell Death and Behavioral Abnormalities in Alzheimer’s Disease CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

Masato Maesako, PhD
A New Method to Visualize Amyloid Beta Generation MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

* indicates principal investigators. All others listed are co-principal investigators and may be at other institutions

Arjun Masurkar, MD, PhD
This grant is made possible in part by the support from the Ping Y. Tai Foundation. Towards New Stimulation Methods to Correct Memory in Alzheimer’s Disease NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Jerome Mertens, PhD
Reprogramming of Skin Cells from Alzheimer Patients into Brain Neurons to Understand and Fight Cellular Memory Loss on the Molecular Level UNIVERSITY OF INNSBRUCK (AUSTRIA)

Henrietta Nielsen, PhD
Assessment of Associations Between a Liver-Generated Profile in the Blood, Behavior and Alzheimer’s Disease Related Changes Inside the Brain STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY (SWEDEN)

Anna Orr, PhD* & Adam Orr, PhD
Alleviating Alzheimer’s Disease with Novel Therapeutic Agents That Can Precisely Block The Production of Reactive Oxygen WEILL CORNELL MEDICINE

Bryndon Oleson, PhD
Understanding the Function of the Biomolecule Polyphosphate During Aging and Alzheimer’s Disease UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Dominik Paquet, PhD
A Human Brain-in-a-Dish Model to Investigate Central Factors Required for the Formation of Alzheimer’s Disease Pathology LUDWIG-MAXIMILIANS-UNIVERSITY MUNICH (GERMANY)

Anna Pimenova, PhD
Uncovering the Features of PU.1-Protective Microglia in Alzheimer’s Disease ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI

Bede Portz, PhD
New Protein Modifiers and Therapeutic Targets to Combat Toxic RNA Foci in Frontotemporal Dementia UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Gustavo Rodriguez, PhD
Improving the Quality of Spatial Information Processing by Combating Dysfunctional Neuronal Activity in Alzheimer’s Disease Mouse Models COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Wenyuan Sun, PhD
Determine Whether PIWIL and piRNAs are Dysregulated in Tau Transgenic Mice and Human Neurodegenerative Tauopathies UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT SAN ANTONIO

Yuxiang Sun, PhD
A New Intervention to Control Inflammation in Alzheimer’s Disease TEXAS A&M

Matthew Truttman, PhD
The Alzheimer’s Mystery: Why Proteins Clump Up and Kill Our Memories UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Nicholas Varvel, PhD
Brain-Invading Monocytes at the Intersection of Alzheimer’s Disease and Seizures EMORY UNIVERSITY

Eitan Wong, PhD
Relationship Between Biological Clock and γ-secretase, the Enzyme Responsible for Generating Senile Plaques in Alzheimer’s Disease MEMORIAL SLOAN-KETTERING CANCER CENTER

Justyna Dobrowolska Zakaria, PhD* & Robert J. Vassar, PhD
A New Method to Separate Sub-groups of Alzheimer’s Disease by Measuring sAPPβ in Human Cerebrospinal Fluid NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

Stephen Aller, PhD* & Alecia K. Gross, PhD
The Three-Dimensional Structure of a Protein that Causes Macular Degeneration UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM

Paul Baird, PhD*, Adam Kowalczyk, PhD & Alice Pebay, PhD
A New Method for Prediction of the Two Advanced Types of AMD THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE (AUSTRALIA)

Tim Corson, PhD
Carolyn K. McGillvray Award.
A New Way to Target Abnormal Blood Vessel Growth in Wet Macular Degeneration INDIANA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Michael Farkas, PhD
The Role of Long Non-coding RNAs in HTRA1 Regulation UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO
A Novel Gold Medicine for Making Optic Nerve New Compounds for the Treatment of AMD

New Automated Method to Prevent Wet AMD

A Selective Anti-Oxidant Nanoparticle to Treat AMD

This grant is made possible in part by support from the Jerome Jacobson Foundation.

INVESTIGATING THE ROLE OF THE IMMUNE SYSTEM IN AMD PATHOGENESIS AND THERAPEUTIC STRATEGY FOR AMD

This grant is made possible in part by support from the J.T. and M.L. legislation.

This grant is made possible in part by the support from Nancy Ferguson Seeley Trust.

A New Approach to Modeling Subretinal Tissue

This grant is made possible in part by the Ivan Bowen Family Foundation.

National Glaucoma Research

A Novel Genetic Model to Study Glaucoma in the Peripheral Retina

A Novel Approach to Modeling Subretinal Tissue

This grant is made possible in part by the support from Lois and Duane Luallin.

Thasarat Vajaranant, MD, & Raju Rajala, PhD

A New Method for Diagnosing Glaucoma in the Peripheral Retina

Alejandra Bosco, PhD

Thomas R. Lee Award

Thomas R. Lee Award

Defective Energy Utilization in AMD

Complement-Targeted Therapy to Restrict Glaucoma Progression

Growing Human Retina in a Dish to Model Glaucoma

A Novel Negative Immune Regulator to Control Wet AMD

The Role of Waste Removal in the Visual Pathway in Glaucoma

A Novel Genetic Model to Study Glaucoma

This grant is made possible by Enhancing Cellular Clearance

A New Method to Assess Cellular Dysfunction in Alzheimer’s Using Human Neurons

A Selective Anti-Oxidant Inside the Eye

This grant is made possible in part by support from Dr. H. James and Carole Free.

Using Genetics and Retinal Imaging to Predict Progression to Advanced AMD

Regulating the Pressure Protecting Eye-Brain Neurons

A New Method to Assess A New Approach to The Role of Thrombospondin-1 in

This grant is made possible by support from Nancy Ferguson Seeley Trust.

This grant is made possible in part by the support from the J.T. Tai Foundation.

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This grant is made possible by support from Dr. H. James and Carole Free.

Using Genetics and Retinal Imaging to Predict Progression to Advanced AMD

This grant is made possible by support from Dr. H. James and Carole Free.

Using Genetics and Retinal Imaging to Predict Progression to Advanced AMD
Our world class scientific review committees comprised of renowned leaders in their fields, recommend new research opportunities for BrightFocus to advance our goal of defeating Alzheimer’s, macular degeneration, and glaucoma.

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BrightFocus grantees have received numerous prestigious awards over the years.
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BrightFocus works closely with nonprofit and corporate partners on issues of common concern.

As a respected member of broad coalitions, we communicate with key policymakers and elected officials on the importance of research funding and caregiving support.
Global Network for Alzheimer’s

BrightFocus has worked with partners worldwide to advance research and provide public awareness of Alzheimer’s disease including:

**Belgium**
Stichting Alzheimer Onderzoek

**France**
Fondation Vancre Alzheimer

**Germany**
Alzheimer Forschung Initiative e.V.

**The Netherlands**
Alzheimer Nederland

*Right:* A cone photoreceptor, filled with red dye overlaid on an array of other cone terminals (cyan) in the primate fovea. (Courtesy of Raunak Sinha, PhD, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health)
BrightFocus thanks our donors for their generosity toward our three scientific and public awareness programs: Alzheimer’s Disease Research, Macular Degeneration Research, and National Glaucoma Research.

The support of individual donors, family foundations, and corporate partners makes our work possible. A wide range of giving opportunities is available to accommodate resources and charitable goals. Each gift is important and needed to help us find a cure.

**Sowing the Seeds of Scientific Progress**

BrightFocus-funded researchers often go on to receive awards TEN TIMES GREATER from NIH and other sources, a 1,000% return on our early investment.
An Evening of BrightFocus

Hundreds of leaders from the scientific, philanthropic, private and public sectors joined together at the Embassy of Italy for our fourth annual dinner to celebrate the most promising science and bold advocacy to end diseases of mind and sight.

At a well-attended reception prior to the awards program, six BrightFocus-funded scientists shared highlights from their ongoing research, showing encouraging progress toward ending diseases of mind and sight.

Above right: David Irwin, MD, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

Below right: Richard Lui interviewing Laine Hardy, and his father, Barry Hardy.
BrightFocus is proud to be a presentation partner for Turning Point, a new documentary that captures the drama and personal dedication of researchers who are pursuing drug breakthroughs to make Alzheimer's a distant memory. Directed by award-winning filmmaker James Keach, the film has been seen by more than 10,000 people at 40 screenings in five countries since its premiere in May 2018.
A retired business executive with a long career at Sysco, Ken Spitler of Houston well understands the personal impact of vision disease. Ken was diagnosed with wet macular degeneration in his left eye over 20 years ago, but after a surgical procedure, his vision was largely restored.

Ken now undergoes eye injections every eight weeks to maintain his vision, and he hopes that others don’t have to encounter such a frightening disease in the future.

He became actively engaged in the fight against vision disease, and began donating to fund research through Macular Degeneration Research (MDR), a program of BrightFocus Foundation that funds promising vision research. Ken also volunteered with the Houston Eye Associates Foundation, which meets the surgical and medical eye care needs within the community.

“What I like to see is the good research and results,” says Ken. “When BrightFocus shares the news and updates from the scientists’ projects, I feel like I am part of the research.”

“If I could say something directly to the MDR researchers it would be, ‘Thank you for the work you have done and keep up the fight.’”
A Partnership with Gates Ventures—RACERS Initiative

With funding from Gates Ventures, BrightFocus is working in collaboration with the National Institute on Aging to help health care providers learn, and be proactive about, early detection and diagnosis of cognitive impairment/Alzheimer’s/related dementias.

With a goal of providing patients and their families the opportunity to participate in research studies, the RACERS project focus is to:

- **R**econgnize early signs of cognitive issues
- **a** conduct or refer patient for assessment
- **c**ommunicate to patient and family re: diagnosis, treatment/care options and planning, and talk about the opportunity to participate in clinical trials
- **e**nroll in research studies as appropriate
Honoring memories: Carol Terrell

For Carol Terrell of Vancouver, Washington, Alzheimer’s is personal. The disease runs in her family—her mother, her maternal grandmother, and her aunt all suffered from Alzheimer’s disease.

To honor their memories—and to hopefully spare her daughters from this disease—Carol supports Alzheimer’s Disease Research, a program of BrightFocus Foundation, and also volunteers for a leading clinical trial.

The clinical trial, the A4 study (Anti-Amyloid Treatment in Asymptomatic Alzheimer’s) is the largest effort to prevent Alzheimer’s-related memory loss due to amyloid build-up in the brain. Led by a BrightFocus grantee, it is funded by the National Institute on Aging and Eli Lilly and Company, has already uncovered insights that will inform researchers in the future.

Carol makes monthly visits to a nearby study site for an infusion of drugs and monitoring. She is proud to be among the more than 1,000 participants enrolled in this scientific research using family history, imaging equipment, and genetic analysis, to identify precursors to Alzheimer’s early on so that treatment can start before symptoms begin.

Her contribution to clinical research could make the difference for the next generation. “I am hopeful that this study will help advance knowledge to find solutions for Alzheimer’s disease,” says Carol.

“I am hopeful that this study will help advance knowledge to find solutions for Alzheimer’s disease.”
BrightFocus is a nonprofit 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 is supported entirely by voluntary private contributions.

BrightFocus received in-kind donations to expand public health information outreach and these are included in Program Services expenses. This allowed the organization to reach millions of people with information about risk factors, treatments and caregiving.

A complete copy of financial statements audited by Marcum, LLP is available upon request from the BrightFocus Foundation, 22512 Gateway Center Drive, Clarksburg, MD 20871 or on our website at www.brightfocus.org.
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Cecilia Arradaza
C.A. Collaborative

Our senior management team

President & CEO
Stacy Pagos Haller

Vice President, Scientific Affairs
Diane Bovenkamp, PhD

Vice President, Public Affairs
Michael Buckley

Senior Vice President, Development
R. Brian Elderton

Senior Vice President, Strategic Partnerships
Nancy Lynn

Vice President, Finance and Administration
David F. Marks, CPA, CMA