first in.
Dear Friends,

BrightFocus Foundation continues to grow as a premier source of funding and support for scientific research to defeat Alzheimer’s, glaucoma, and macular degeneration. Thanks to the generosity and support of friends like you, we are leading the fight against the devastating conditions we all fear most: loss of sight and loss of mind.

We make bold bets on the future, investing in groundbreaking science that will change lives. BrightFocus recently announced $13.3 million in new grants, a record amount that brings us to more than $36 million awarded in the past three years alone. In supporting cutting-edge research and investing in the next generation of bright young minds, we’re funding the future we want for our loved ones and ourselves.

As our nation and the world’s population ages, it is imperative that we change the trajectory of these diseases. Our research ranges from better understanding how our bodies age, to the clinical testing of promising new treatments. BrightFocus was the first to invest in an innovative statistical model to accelerate Alzheimer’s research, and the first to bring eye and brain researchers together to fuel new collaborations. The strong reputation of our research allows us to continue to reach larger audiences—sharing information with families impacted by these diseases and fostering partnerships with public and private sector leaders.

The diseases we take on are daunting, but we don’t fear being unable to find cures. We only fear that we won’t find them soon enough to help the ones we love. Working together, we won’t let this happen.

STACY PAGOS HALLER
President and CEO

SCOTT D. RODGVILLE, CPA
Chair, Board of Directors
BrightFocus is leading the fight against the devastating conditions we fear most: loss of sight and loss of mind.

BrightFocus Foundation’s three scientific research programs to end diseases of mind and sight are Alzheimer’s Disease Research, Macular Degeneration Research, and National Glaucoma Research.

Supporting Innovative Research

BrightFocus-supported research advances the work of scientists around the world.

Table of Contents

| Alzheimer’s Disease Research | 4 |
| Scientific Review Committees | 13 |
| Macular Degeneration Research | 6 |
| Partnerships For A Cure | 15 |
| National Glaucoma Research | 8 |
| Investing In A Cure | 16 |
| 2017 Grant Recipients | 10 |
| Financial Highlights | 18 |
| Board & Leadership | 19 |
Alzheimer’s Disease Research

Every 66 seconds, another American develops Alzheimer’s disease, the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States and the only leading cause of death that has significantly increased in recent years. Alzheimer’s has no known cure.

Researcher Spotlight

To Understand the Aging Brain, Study the Young Brain

Stacy Grunke, PhD, a postdoctoral fellow at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, studies Alzheimer’s disease because she’s “fascinated by the learning and memory circuitry of the brain, and the loss of cognitive function with aging.”

Grunke is examining how the young brain is able to restore cognitive function despite instances of profound cell loss. “We hope that by understanding how the young brain recovers, we can then identify which of these mechanisms is lost with age, with the hope of restoring cognitive function in the aged population,” she says.

“I think the most promising area of research is identifying genetic risk factors of the disease,” notes Grunke. She predicts: “As genetic screens become available to identify people likely to develop the disease and advances in brain scans enable confirmation of Alzheimer’s pathology, we will begin to see real improvements from early interventions that target the disease.”

Over 5 million people live with Alzheimer’s disease in the United States today, by 2050 there will be close to 15 million.
Incubator for Rising Researchers

BrightFocus sponsored its biennial conference, Alzheimer’s Fast Track, which serves as a boot camp for young scientists to hear from leading experts in the Alzheimer’s field. This signature event fosters unique collaboration among both seasoned and promising scientists.

Frank M. LaFerla, PhD, University of California, Irvine, a renowned Alzheimer’s investigator, said, “Research equals hope. There is no doubt about it. We are never going to find a cure for these diseases other than through research. These young scientists represent the future.”

Crowdsourcing Public’s Help

EyesOnALZ Funded by BrightFocus, EyesOnALZ is the first-ever, citizen science project to engage the public with Alzheimer’s research. The project uses crowdsourcing to speed up time-consuming data analysis for research studying stalled blood vessels in the brain. Headed by Pietro Michelucci, PhD, of Ithaca, NY-based Human Computation Institute, EyesOnALZ was recently featured in a PBS documentary series, The Crowd & The Cloud.

Fostering Dementia Friendly Communities

As a founding member of Dementia Friendly America, BrightFocus has partnered with Montgomery County, Maryland, to launch a local campaign to better serve those in our community living with dementia.

$8.4m

BrightFocus has funded more than $8.4 million to 38 new projects
Macular Degeneration Research

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) 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. BrightFocus convened the first-ever international gathering of brain and eye researchers to map out an ambitious research agenda on the common features of neurodegenerative diseases.

Incidence is expected to double by 2050

Roughly 2 Million people have advanced AMD

Researcher Spotlight

An Entirely New Way of Looking at an Age-Old Problem

Perhaps it’s no surprise that a scientist with an interdisciplinary background believes that interdisciplinary work will help solve the puzzle that is age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

Kaustabh Ghosh, PhD, of the University of California, Riverside, has a background in vascular biology, mechanobiology, and bioengineering, and was drawn to vision research by a colleague who encouraged him to explore AMD and diabetic retinopathy.

While these two vision conditions have long been known to involve vascular dysfunction, a topic that is of central interest in Dr. Ghosh’s lab, very little is known about precisely how blood vessels become dysfunctional or the extent to which vessel dysfunction affects vision.

Dr. Ghosh is studying the role of age-related vascular stiffening in the development of dry AMD, an approach that, if successful, could lead to new treatments for dry AMD.
Tips for Families and Caregivers

The BrightFocus Chats, a monthly telephone call-in series featuring researchers, clinicians, and low vision specialists, provide the latest advice for those living with vision loss. All the chats are archived at brightfocus.org.

On a recent chat, Dr. Ward Bond, the host of a national television program, shared his expertise about the vital role of nutrition in reducing the risk and progression of age-related diseases such as macular degeneration and glaucoma.

“I really appreciate this program. I can’t tell you how much it means to me. I wouldn’t miss it for anything.”

Ella
A longtime chat listener
Wooster, Ohio

BrightFocus has funded more than $2.6 million of 17 new projects

$2.6m

Rajendra Kumar-Singh, PhD

Above:
Zhihong Hu, PhD

Left: From the lab of Aparna Lakkaraju, PhD
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.

Through social media campaigns and public service announcements, BrightFocus works to educate Americans on the importance of scheduling a regular eye exam.

Only half of people living with glaucoma are likely aware they have it.

**Researcher Spotlight**

**An Engineer’s Perspective**

Darryl Overby, PhD, of the Department of Bioengineering at Imperial College, London, has been fascinated since college with biofluid mechanics. That’s the study of fluid motion in response to certain pressures or forces.

While engineers typically focus on fluid motion in pipes or plumbing, Overby became “captivated with how the same ideas can be applied to the human body, to understand disease.”

For years Overby has been investigating the fluid mechanics of the eye in glaucoma, looking at the mechanics of fluid drainage (the aqueous humour) in the eye. He believes the eye’s drainage pathway can be better targeted to more successfully lower intraocular pressure, which in turn can help prevent vision loss in glaucoma.

Overby is encouraged about the future of glaucoma research, seeing certain compounds progress from “bench to bedside” and begin to help patients.

“As we learn more about the trabecular meshwork and aqueous humour dynamics in general,” says Overby, “no doubt even better and more effective vision-saving drugs will emerge. Stay tuned!”
"I have light colored eyes and a thin cornea. Surgery to repair a macular pucker resulted in central vision loss. This loss just compounded the damage done to the same eye from advanced glaucoma. Protecting my eyes is paramount in preserving what eye sight I do have."

Marilyn Pope

Twitter Chats Stats

#GlaucomaTalk – 700,000 impressions and 140,000 reach from Twitter Chat with Dr. Goldberg

$2.2m

BrightFocus has funded more than $2.2 million of 15 new projects

Clinical Trials Guide

BrightFocus recently released a new publication designed to help families seeking information on clinical trials for diseases of mind and sight.

Email info@brightfocus.org to receive a free copy of Clinical Trials: Your Questions Answered brochure or download it at brightfocus.org/clinical-trials.
2017 BrightFocus Awards

These 70 new awards totaling more than $13 million contribute to a portfolio of more than $35 million with 177 awards managed during fiscal 2017.

Randall Bateman, MD
A New Way to Image Amyloid Plaque Growth in Human Alzheimer’s Disease
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Daniel Bos, PhD
How Atherosclerosis Affects Brain Structure, Cognitive Function, and Dementia
ERASMUS MEDICAL CENTER

Inma Cobos, MD, PhD
This grant is made possible in part by support from Alzheimer’s Greater Los Angeles.
Alzheimer’s in the Human Brain: Focusing on One Neuron at a Time
UCLA MEDICAL CENTER

Kathryn Bowles, PhD
Discovering Factors that Cause Tau to Change
ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI

Reshem Chhabra, PhD
TDP-43 Depletion as a Risk Factor for Tau Pathology in Alzheimer’s
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Richard Darby, MD
Neuroimaging and Understanding Delusions and Hallucinations in Alzheimer’s
BETH ISRAEL DEACONESS MEDICAL CENTER, HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

Pierre De Rossi, PhD
BIN1 as a Genetic Risk Factor in Alzheimer’s Pathology
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Sarah DeVos, PhD
A New Tool to Monitor Tau Aggregates in the Brain
MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

Karen Duff, PhD
Slowing Alzheimer’s by Enhancing Cellular Garbage Disposal
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Chadwick Hales, MD, PhD
How Proteins Contribute to Alzheimer’s Pathology and Spread
EMORY UNIVERSITY

Mar Hernández-Guillamon, PhD
Modulating Brain Cholesterol to Treat Alzheimer’s Disease
VALL DE HEBRON RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Majken Jensen, PhD
Using Blood Samples to Assess the Role of Nutritional Factors in Alzheimer’s
HARVARD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

2017 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.

Clinical — Research involving volunteer participants to test the safety and effectiveness of drugs, devices, or other treatment candidates.

Translational — Research to move findings from the lab bench to the “bedside” by testing potential treatments.

47% Basic Research Grants
15% Clinical Research Grants
38% Translational Research Grants
Shahmaz Kemal, PhD
Unexplored Toxic Pathways in Alzheimer’s: Potential New Drug Targets
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Chaeyoung Kim, PhD
ApoE4 and Mitochondrial Function in Alzheimer’s Disease
THE J. DAVID GLADSTONE INSTITUTES

Terrance Kummer, MD, PhD
An MRI Fingerprint of Brain Circuit Breakdown in Alzheimer’s
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Tae Ho Lee, PhD
A New Pathway to Neuron Death in Alzheimer’s Disease
BETH ISRAEL DEACONESS MEDICAL CENTER, HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

Jin Rui Liang, PhD
Link Between Endoplasmic Reticulum Turnover & Neurodegeneration in Alzheimer’s
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Ethan Lippman, PhD
Why Do Brain Blood Vessels Become Leaky in Alzheimer’s and Dementia?
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Tao Ma, MD, PhD
A Potential New Drug Target to Prevent Alzheimer’s-related Synapse Loss
WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL

Edoardo Marcara, PhD
Understanding the Role of Apolipoprotein E in Microglia
ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI

Randy McIntosh, PhD
Building a Personalized Virtual Brain with Alzheimer’s
BAYCREST CENTRE FOR GERIATRIC CARE

Myles Minter, PhD
This Alzheimer’s Disease Research Fellowship Grant is made possible in part by support from Lois and Duane Luallin in Memory of Denver E. Perkins and Edwin H. Luallin.
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Yong Wang, PhD
A New Way to Image White Matter Damage and Inflammation in Alzheimer’s
WASHINGTO N UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Daniel Pak, PhD
Testing a Novel Amyloid-Promoting Factor as an Alzheimer’s Therapy
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Angèle Parent, PhD
Targeting APP Intracellular Fragment to Improve Memory and Reduce Aβ Burden in AD
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Chris Schaffer, PhD
Improving Brain Blood Flow in Alzheimer’s Disease to Improve Cognitive Function
CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Yi Su, PhD
Neurovascular Changes in Aging and Alzheimer Disease
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Peter Tessier, PhD
New Tau Imaging for Early Diagnosis of Alzheimer’s
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Yan Chen, PhD
Metabolic Pathways of the Retina in Health and AMD
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BRANCH AT GALVESTON

Philippe Mourrain, PhD
This grant is made possible by support from the Nancy Ferguson Seeley Trust in memory of Mildred F. Ferguson.
STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Patsy Nishina, PhD
Which DNA Changes Can Lead to AMD and Other Vision Disease?
THE JACKSON LABORATORY

Michael Paulaitis, PhD
MicroRNAs and Mitochondrial Dysfunction in AMD
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Daniel Chao, MD, PhD
A Zebrafish Model of Wet Macular Degeneration
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Jing Chen, PhD
Protecting RPE and Photoreceptors in AMD
CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL BOSTON, HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

Astra Dinculescu, PhD
Extracellular Deposits and Vision Loss in AMD
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Cristhian Ildefonso, PhD
The Helen Juanita Reed Award
Exploring the Role of Inflammation in AMD
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Rajendra Kumar-Singh, PhD
Developing a Gene Therapy for AMD
TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Binxing Li, PhD
Delivering Sight-saving Nutrients to the Retina in AMD
MORAN EYE CENTER

Sarah McFarlane, PhD
Aberrant Blood Vessel Growth in AMD: A New Animal Model
UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Trevor McGill, PhD
The Carolyn K. McGillvray Award
Nutritional Factors in the Development of AMD
OREGON HEALTH AND SCIENCE UNIVERSITY
Claudio Punzo, PhD  
Role of the Light-sensing Photoreceptor Cells in AMD  
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Sheldon Rowan, PhD  
The Elizabeth Anderson Award  
Importance of Gut Bacteria in a Model of AMD  
TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Daniel Saban, PhD  
Targeting Immune Cells in AMD  
DUKE UNIVERSITY EYE CENTER

Gaofeng Wang, PhD  
Using Vitamin C to Treat AMD  
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Tobias Elze, PhD  
Computational Investigation of Glaucoma Progression  
SCHEPENS EYE RESEARCH INSTITUTE, MASSACHUSETTS EYE AND EAR, HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

Brad Fortune, OD, PhD  
The Thomas R. Lee Award  
Can Imaging Reveal Early Stage Damage to Individual Optic Nerve Fibers  
DEVERS EYE INSTITUTE

Esther Gonzalez, PhD  
Testing the Brain Structure Connecting Two Hemispheres in Glaucoma  
KREMBIL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Douglas Gould, PhD  
Growth Factor Signaling in Eye Development  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO

Krish Kizhatil, PhD  
Neuronal Control of IOP  
THE JACKSON LABORATORY

Andras Komaromy, DVM, PhD  
A Gene Therapy Approach to Neuroprotection in Glaucoma  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Weiming Mao, PhD  
CRISPR Interference for Glaucoma  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

Ethan Rossi, PhD  
Imaging the Cells Affected by Glaucoma in the Human Eye  
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Feliks (Ephraim) Trakhtenberg, PhD  
New Approach for Regenerating the Injured Optic Nerve  
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT MEDICAL CENTER

Matthew Van Hook, PhD  
Effects of Elevated IOP on Ganglion-Cell Photoreceptors  
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER

Derek Welsbie, MD, PhD  
The Dr. Douglas H. Johnson Award  
Gene Therapy to Inhibit Retinal Nerve Cell Death in Glaucoma  
BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER

Ja Yi, PhD  
A New Imaging Technique to Detect Early Markers of Glaucoma  
BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER

Jean-Vianney Haure-Mirande, PhD  
This grant is made possible by support from the J.T. Tai Foundation.  
Role of Microglia in Alzheimer’s Disease: Deleterious or Helpful?  
ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI

David Irwin, MD  
This grant is made possible in part by a bequest from the Timothy Miles Charitable Trust.  
Non-Amnestic Alzheimer’s Disease Biology  
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Ana Pereira, MD  
This grant is made possible by support from the Ping Y. Tai Foundation.  
Enhancing Glutamate Levels as a Way to Treat Alzheimer’s Disease  
THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

Gulab Zode, PhD  
Novel Treatment for Steroid and Myocilin Glaucoma  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

Paul Seidler, PhD  
This grant is made possible in part by support from Alzheimer’s Greater Los Angeles.  
Blocking Assembly of Tau Protein into Toxic Structures Associated with Alzheimer’s Disease  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

Jeffrey L. Goldberg, MD, PhD  
This clinical trial is made possible in part by support from The Barry Friedberg & Charlotte Moss Family Foundation.  
Study of NT-501 Encapsulated Cell Therapy for Glaucoma Neuroprotection and Vision Restoration  
STANFORD UNIVERSITY

This grant is made possible in part by a bequest from the Timothy Miles Charitable Trust.
BrightFocus Scientific Review Committees

Our world-class scientific review committees, featuring renowned scientific leaders, recommend the annual BrightFocus research grants with the goal of discovering a treatment or cure of Alzheimer’s, macular degeneration, and glaucoma.

Co-Chair:
David R. Borchelt, PhD
University of Florida

Co-Chair:
David M. Holtzman, MD
Washington University School of Medicine

Committee Members:
Beau Ances, MD, PhD, MSc
Washington University School of Medicine

M. Flint Beal, PhD
The New York Hospital – Cornell Medical Center

Mark D'Esposito, MD
University of California, Berkeley

Guojun Bu, PhD
Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville

George Carlson, PhD
McLaughlin Research Institute

Steven Estus, PhD
University of Kentucky

Matthew Frosch, MD, PhD
Massachusetts General Hospital

Douglas Galasko, MD
University of California, San Diego

Yukiko Goda, PhD
RIKEN Brain Science Institute (Japan)

Charles G. Glabe, PhD
University of California, Irvine

Alison M. Goate, DPhil
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Todd E. Golde, MD, PhD
University of Florida

John Hardy, PhD, FMedSci, FRS
University College London

Julie Harris, PhD
Allen Institute for Brain Science

John “Keoni” Kauwe, PhD
Brigham Young University

Allan I. Levey, MD, PhD
Emory University

Edward Koo, MD
University of California, San Diego

Cynthia Lemere, PhD
Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women’s Hospital

Ronald K. Liem, PhD
Columbia University

Hendrik Luesch, PhD
University of Florida

John M. Olichney, MD
University of California, Davis

David P. Salmon, PhD
University of California, San Diego

Gerard Schellenberg, PhD
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine

Jane M. Sullivan, PhD
University of Washington School of Medicine

David B. Teplow, PhD
University of California, Los Angeles

Gopal Thinakaran, PhD
University of Chicago

Ronald B. Wetzel, PhD
University of Pittsburgh

Tony Wyss-Coray, PhD
Stanford University Medical School

BrightFocus grantees have received numerous prestigious awards including two Nobel Prizes, 49 Met Life Foundation Awards and 34 Potamkin Prizes.
National Glaucoma Research

Chair:
John C. Morrison, MD
Oregon Health & Science University

Committee Members:
R. Rand Allingham, MD
Duke University

Claude Burgoyne, MD
Devers Eye Institute

Abbot F. Clark, PhD
University of North Texas

Anne Coleman, MD, PhD
University of California, Los Angeles

Adriana Di Polo, PhD
University of Montreal (Canada)

C. Ross Ethier, PhD
Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory School of Medicine

Thomas F. Freddo, OD, PhD
University of Waterloo (Canada)

Jeffrey L. Goldberg, MD, PhD
Stanford University

Richard Libby, PhD
University of Rochester Medical Center

Nicholas Marsh-Armstrong, PhD
Johns Hopkins University

Stuart J. McKinnon, MD, PhD
Duke University

Robert W. Nickells, PhD
University of Wisconsin

Ian A. Sigal, PhD
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Arthur J. Sit, MD
Mayo Clinic, MN

W. Daniel Stamer, PhD
Duke University

James N. Ver Hoeve, PhD
University of Wisconsin

Monica Vetter, PhD
University of Utah

Darrell WuDunn, MD, PhD
Indiana University

Mary Wirtz, PhD
Oregon Health & Science University

Chair:
Joe G. Hollyfield, PhD
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Committee Members:
Bela Anand-Apte, PhD
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences

John D. Ash, PhD
University of Florida

Alan Bird, MD
University College London

Dean Bok, PhD
University of California, Los Angeles

Catherine Bowes-Rickman, PhD
Duke University

Deborah Ferrington, PhD
University of Minnesota

Steven Fliesler, PhD
SUNY, Buffalo

Claire Harris, PhD
Cardiff University (Wales)

Alfred S. Lewin, PhD
University of Florida

Michael B. Gorin, MD, PhD
University of California, Los Angeles

John Penn, PhD
Vanderbilt University

School of Medicine

Nancy J. Philp, PhD
Thomas Jefferson University

Sylvia B. Smith, PhD
Augusta University

Debra Thompson, PhD
University of Michigan

Left image credit: Marie-Victoire Guillot-Setstier, PhD

Right image credit: Tracy Young-Pearse, PhD
Partnerships For A Cure

BrightFocus works closely with nonprofits and corporate partners alike to advocate for those impacted by loss of mind and loss of sight. We collaborate with leading coalitions, key policymakers and elected officials to seek greater allocation of federal resources and support for caregivers.

Global Network for Alzheimer’s

BrightFocus partners with four European countries to advance research and provide public awareness of Alzheimer’s disease.

Belgium
Stichting Alzheimer Onderzoek

France
La Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer

Germany
Alzheimer Forschung Initiative e.V.

The Netherlands
Internationale Stichting Alzheimer Nederland
**Investing In A Cure**

On behalf of current and future generations who benefit from the research funded by Alzheimer’s Disease Research, Macular Degeneration Research and National Glaucoma Research, BrightFocus thanks our generous donors for funding the future we want for our loved ones and ourselves.

We are so fortunate to be supported by many individuals, private foundations and corporations for our programs that advance research and promote public awareness on loss of mind and loss of sight.

A wide range of contribution 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**

Our second annual dinner in Washington brought together nearly 300 leaders from business, science, and government to celebrate excellence in research and advocacy. Seven BrightFocus-funded scientists shared their current project highlights and their hopes for the future.

**Above:** J. Crawford Downs, PhD, University of Alabama at Birmingham

**Right:** Joe G. Hollyfield, PhD, Cleveland Clinic; Stacy Haller, BrightFocus; Jennifer Gatchel, MD, PhD, Harvard Medical School; George Vradenburg, USAgainstAlzheimer’s

**Left:** Meryl Comer, Geoffrey Beene Alzheimer’s Initiative; Kim Campbell, Careliving.org

**Right:** Keith Carradine, entertainer;
Donor Spotlight

Many BrightFocus donors have special connections to the research programs they support. We are honored to share two of those stories with you.

Optimism and Hope about Alzheimer’s Disease Research

Joanne Strate’s enthusiasm and love of life are obvious as she shares how she came to support planned giving for Alzheimer’s Disease Research (ADR).

Ms. Strate, an active retiree from Minnesota, is motivated to support science because of her mother who died in 2012, seven years after an Alzheimer’s diagnosis.

She is passionate about the need for more financial support of Alzheimer’s research. “It’s a no-brainer for me, especially with no children or spouse, to designate 20 percent of my estate for research.” Gifts such as hers to ADR help support scientists worldwide, as they work to end the disease.

“I feel hopeful that science is getting closer to slowing the growth of Alzheimer’s and understanding it all,” she says.

Sharing a Mission on Vision Health

For more than 80 years, the Service for Sight program has been the hallmark of Delta Gamma, a national sorority. In 1936, Delta Gamma initiated an international philanthropy resulting from the plea of a young alumna, Ruth Billow, who was blind and encouraged the group to support a “talking book” as a project to aid the blind.

The Delta Gamma Foundation’s Service for Sight has grown into a program that every year positively impacts more than one million children and adults who are blind or visually impaired.

“We are committed to supporting national organizations that share the Delta Gamma Foundation’s mission,” said Kate Morales, a program specialist with the Delta Gamma Foundation. “We feel that if Ruth was with us today, she would be inspired by the impactful work of BrightFocus, and their Chat tele-forum series to help individuals interested in learning more about vision health.”
Financial Highlights

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 the financial statement audited by Raffa, P.C., is available upon request from BrightFocus at 1-800-437-2423 or www.brightfocus.org.

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position
As of March 31, 2017 (in thousands of dollars)

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**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS** $50,937

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<td>Rental &amp; Other Income</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</strong></td>
<td><strong>$50,038</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
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<tr>
<td>PROGRAM SERVICES</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research</td>
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<td>Health Information Services</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<td>SUPPORTING SERVICES</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$6,339</td>
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<td>Management and General</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,299</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$49,203</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$835</td>
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BrightFocus drives innovative research worldwide and promotes awareness of Alzheimer’s, macular degeneration, and glaucoma.

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Macular Degeneration Research
National Glaucoma Research

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