UNWAVERING
BrightFocus is leading the fight to defeat diseases of mind and sight.

Our three scientific research programs are Alzheimer’s Disease Research, Macular Degeneration Research, and National Glaucoma Research.
Dear Friends,

Welcome to BrightFocus Foundation, a premier source of research funding to defeat Alzheimer’s disease, macular degeneration, and glaucoma. By investing worldwide toward cures for diseases of mind and sight, we are turning fear into hope.

Because of the strong support of our donors, BrightFocus’ cutting-edge science is pursuing the untried, the unexpected, and the most promising. These are the bold “what-if’s” of science that, if given a chance, may someday change the lives of millions.

We are blazing new trails of discovery, paving the way for a new screening platform to more quickly test potential Alzheimer’s drugs, as well as a clinical trial for a groundbreaking drug-delivering device implanted directly into the eye to combat vision diseases. We are bringing brain and eye researchers together to explore common neurodegenerative features, leveraging the breakthroughs from one field to help another. Through our signature Fast Track programs and fellowships, we are sowing the seeds of the next generation of science.

This is personal – we have all been impacted by these diseases. You can see it in the drive of our scientists, the generosity of our donors, and the dedication of our staff. We don’t fear the inability to find cures. We only fear that we won’t find them soon enough to help someone we love.

STACY PAGOS HALLER
President and CEO

SCOTT D. RODGVILLE, CPA
Chair, Board of Directors
EVERY 65 SECONDS ANOTHER AMERICAN DEVELOPS ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE

From the lab of Benjamin Hogan, PhD, University of Queensland (Australia)
41 NEW ALZHEIMER’S PROJECTS

Alzheimer’s disease is among the most expensive illnesses in the U.S. There’s no cure, no effective treatment, and no easy fix for the skyrocketing financial cost of caring for an aging population.

Ian Levingston, Bloomberg

An estimated 5.7 million people live with Alzheimer’s disease in the United States today: by 2050 there will be close to 15 million.

BrightFocus had the wisdom and foresight to understand that this project could lead to a novel treatment for Alzheimer’s. It is a foundation that has the guts to fund a high risk, innovative idea.

Donald Weaver, MD, PhD

Saima Hilal (top right), Erasmus Medical Center (Netherlands)
Donald Weaver, MD, PhD (above right)
Brett Collins, PhD (right), The University of Queensland (Australia)
Thanks to support from BrightFocus, a Louisiana scientist is able to pursue both his professional and personal interest in the effects of physical activity on dementia risk in older African Americans.

Dr. Robert Newton is an associate professor at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge. Along with Dr. Owen Carmichael, he designed the Program for African American Cognition and Exercise (PAACE). The goal: to determine if physical activity has a positive effect on brain functioning in older African Americans.

“I have always been physically active,” says Newton. “So engaging in research to find ways to help people initiate and maintain physical activity is a natural fit for me.”

Newton’s interest was piqued early in his career when he learned about the lack of dementia research in African Americans, and that this population experiences health disparities across a range of chronic diseases.

The project became personal when Newton saw that his mother was experiencing cognitive decline. “As you can imagine, I have found new inspiration for my work: to find physical activity routines that will help stave off impending dementia for my mother.”
Over 250 area residents attended a BrightFocus event in Scranton, PA to hear from experts in Alzheimer’s treatment, caregiving, and clinical trials. Pennsylvania Secretary on Aging Teresa Osborne opened the event, followed by speakers including Kim Campbell, who cared for her husband, the late country music legend Glen Campbell, during his battle with Alzheimer’s. She spoke of the toll of a “long and hard journey” and shared her blog, CareLiving.org, named that because, “you’ve got to keep living your life” while caregiving.

Dr. Mario Cornacchione, DO, MS, FAAFP, at Geisinger School of Medicine, runs several local Alzheimer’s clinical trials and told the audience that his goal is to “raise the volume on the disease,” including greater participation in clinical trials.

Janine Starinsky of Oakwood Terrace Memory Care gave advice for families considering joining a memory care community, stressing that “Alzheimer’s doesn’t take away dignity, our reaction to it does.” Her tips for families are, “accept it, expect it, and absorb it – plan ahead.”

#InsideAlz Twitter chats (above) showcase scientists like Dr. Robert Newton, in Alzheimer’s research, who are looking for treatments and cures in bold, innovative ways.
11 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE MACULAR DEGENERATION
The incidence of macular degeneration is expected to double by 2050.

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.

From the lab of Malia Edwards, PhD (top right), Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University

Facebook Live with Benjamin Kim, MD (right), University of Pennsylvania

Student in lab (bottom right) of Astra Dinculescu, PhD, University of Florida
Sheldon Rowan, PhD, a professor of ophthalmology at Tufts University School of Medicine and scientist with the Nutrition and Vision Research Laboratory at the Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging, is looking at "the interaction of diet, age, and risk for age-related macular degeneration."

Rowan, who knew since high school that he wanted to be a researcher, began to study the eye and development of the ocular structures during his graduate work.

With support from BrightFocus, his current research focuses on the fact that "risk for macular degeneration comes from environmental causes, particularly our diets and nutrition; however, we don’t know why these dietary factors change the risk of AMD or how they affect our bodies," says Rowan.

"I'm really interested in understanding how we can define the role of gut bacteria. Is it protective? How does it contribute to the disease? I think of nutrition as something that is a potential treatment for age-related macular degeneration. Giving people good advice on how they could modify their diet, what they eat, and the impact on the risk for disease... this could actually have an impact on disease."
Clinical Trials: Your Questions Answered

BrightFocus has developed a 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 web site’s trial finder tool, powered by Antidote, to identify clinical trials that may be of interest.

Leona, a woman living with macular degeneration, joined her daughter Sharon as guests on a recent Chat to provide their perspectives on managing the eye disease. Sharon’s advice as her mother’s caregiver is, “Go to every doctor’s appointment. Ask the questions that the patient may forget to ask or be too anxious to ask. From the beginning, if somebody says, ‘I think this is what I’m seeing’ - take it seriously.”

BrightFocus held a Healthy Recipe Contest during February, Age-Related Macular Degeneration and Low Vision Awareness Month to increase awareness of vision health.

Our free monthly telephone call-in series, the 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. The Chats are archived at BrightFocus.org.

BrightFocus held a Healthy Recipe Contest during February, Age-Related Macular Degeneration and Low Vision Awareness Month to increase awareness of vision health.
ONLY HALF OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH GLAUCOMA ARE LIKELY AWARE THEY HAVE IT
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.

More than 3 million Americans aged 40 and older have glaucoma. It is estimated that the number will double to 6 million people.

13 NEW GLAUCOMA AWARDS

From the lab of Robert W. Nickells, PhD (top right), University of Wisconsin-Madison

From the lab of Raquel Lieberman, PhD (right), Georgia Institute of Technology

From the lab of Vijay Krishna Raghunathan, PhD (bottom right), University of Houston
HELPING FAMILIES TODAY, SEARCHING FOR A CURE FOR TOMORROW

Ophthalmologist Yvonne Ou, MD, of the University of California, San Francisco, is driven by two goals: helping her patients in clinical practice and advancing our scientific understanding of glaucoma, a disease that can lead to vision loss and even blindness.

As the recipient of BrightFocus’ Dr. Douglas H. Johnson Award, Ou is using this support to develop earlier and more effective ways to diagnose and treat glaucoma.

Through writing over 60 expert articles for BrightFocus.org, she has shared helpful information with a global audience about how to identify, treat, and manage glaucoma.

As a mother of young children, Ou says, “I have gained new appreciation for seeing the world through fresh eyes, and it is my hope to translate this by bringing new and fresh ideas to the field of glaucoma.”
More than 100 vision scientists from across the globe attended BrightFocus’ first-ever Glaucoma Fast Track, a meeting modeled on the success of our signature Alzheimer’s 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.

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

(Above, from left to right) Ester Reina-Torres, PhD, Imperial College London, Diane Bovenkamp, PhD, BrightFocus Foundation, Jeffrey O’Callaghan, BA, Trinity College Dublin
$13.5M AWARDED IN 2018

BrightFocus has invested more than $50 million in research worldwide in the last four years alone.
2018 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.

ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE RESEARCH

Ottavio Arancio, MD, PhD
Identifying How Tau Impairs Nerve Cell Communication in Alzheimer’s Disease
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Mickael Audrain, PhD
Role of the Microglial Protein Tyrobp in the Pathogenesis of Tauopathy
ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI

Wei Cao, PhD
A New Immune Molecule in the Inflamed Alzheimer’s Brain
BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Joseph Castellano, PhD
ApoE4’s Effects on Blood Proteins and Brain Function in Alzheimer’s Disease
ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI

Carol Y. Cheung, PhD
Recognizing a “Retinal Fingerprint” for Alzheimer’s
THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Brett Collins, PhD
Stabilizing Proteins to Prevent Amyloid Build-up in Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s
THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND (AUSTRALIA)

Cara Croft, PhD
Using Brain Slices to Understand and Target Tau in Alzheimer’s Disease
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Holly Cukier, PhD
Clarifying the Role of the ABCA7 Gene on Alzheimer’s Risk and Development
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Weiwei Fan, PhD
Developing a New Alzheimer’s Drug that Improves Lipid Metabolism in the Brain
THE SALK INSTITUTE FOR BIOLOGICAL STUDIES

Sara Gallant, PhD
This grant is made possible in part by support from Alzheimer’s Greater Los Angeles.
Arousal-Induced Memory Selectivity in Aging and Alzheimer’s Disease
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Daniel Geschwind, MD, PhD
How Autophagy Recognizes and Degrades Alzheimer’s Disease-Causing Amyloids in the Brain
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

Charles G. Glabe, PhD
Mechanism of Neuronal Death in Alzheimer’s Disease
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

Ann-Charlotte Granholm-Bentley, PhD, DDS
International Brain Bank for Down Syndrome-Related Alzheimer’s
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

Joshua Grill, PhD
Improving Recruitment to Prodromal Alzheimer’s Disease Clinical Trials
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

Zhuohao He, PhD
Studying a Type of Tau Protein that Specifically Aggregates in Alzheimer’s Disease Brains
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Jason Hassenstab, PhD
Rapid Assessment of Cognition Using Smartphones to Track Early Alzheimer’s Changes
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Congcong He, PhD
How Autophagy Recognizes and Degrades Alzheimer’s Disease-Causing Amyloids in the Brain
NORTHERN UNIVERSITY

Shermali Gunawardena, PhD
A Novel Therapeutic Device to Clear Axonal Blocks to Prevent Alzheimer’s
SUNY, BUFFALO

BASIC RESEARCH GRANTS

46%

CLINICAL RESEARCH GRANTS

17%

TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH GRANTS

37%
Saima Hilal, PhD
The Impact of 'Silent' Small Strokes on Brain Function and Alzheimer’s Development
ERASMUS MEDICAL CENTER (NETHERLANDS)

Benjamin Hogan, PhD
Characterization of Waste Clearance Pathways in the Vertebrate Brain
THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND (AUSTRALIA)

Celeste Karch, PhD
Defining the Role of CXCR4 in Alzheimer’s Disease
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Sanjeev Kumar, MD, FRCPC
Identifying and Treating Agitation/Aggression in Dementia Using Non-Invasive Brain Stimulation
CENTRE FOR ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH (CANADA)

Timothy Miller, MD, PhD
Decreasing a Genetic Risk Factor for Alzheimer’s and its Effect on Pathology and Cognition
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Goonho Park, PhD
A Novel Mechanism of Neuronal Disconnection in Early Stage Alzheimer’s Disease
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Stephanie Rainey-Smith, PhD
Can Good Sleep Prevent Alzheimer’s Disease?
EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY (AUSTRALIA)

Farid Rajabli, PhD
Evaluating the Role of Ethnicity, Race, and Genetic Ancestry in Alzheimer’s Disease
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Alex Smith, PhD
Why is Brain Glucose Uptake Reduced in Alzheimer’s Disease?
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO

Jeremy Strain, PhD
How Connections in the Brain Break Down in Alzheimer’s Disease
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Jeffery Vance, MD, PhD
Identifying DNA Changes that Reduce ApoE Risk in Alzheimer’s Disease
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

Chao Wang, PhD
A New Approach to Treating Tauopathy by Lowering Apolipoprotein E Level
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Jessica Young, PhD
A New Method to Assess Cellular Dysfunction in Alzheimer’s Using Human Neurons
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Na Zhao, MD, PhD
Regulating ApoE and the Effects on Insulin Signaling and Energy Metabolism in the Alzheimer’s Brain
MAYO CLINIC, JACKSONVILLE

Yingjun Zhao, PhD
This grant is made possible by support from Dr. H. James and Carole Free.
Genetics Factors Accelerating Progression to Advanced AMD
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

William K. Scott, PhD
Genetics Factors Accelerating Progression to Advanced AMD
FONDATION VOIR ET ENTENDRE (FRANCE)

Rosario Fernandez-Godino, PhD
This grant is made possible by the ivan Bowen Family Foundation.
The Relationship Between Genetic Predisposition and Age in AMD
MASSACHUSETTS EYE AND EAR, HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

John Hulleman, PhD
Conditional Control of Inflammation in Retinal Degenerative Diseases
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER

Mark Kleinman, MD
A New Method to Regulate Gene Expression Pathways in AMD
EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Florian Sennlaub, MD, PhD
Understanding the Role of Sleep Apnea Syndrome in AMD
CENTRE FOR EYE RESEARCH AUSTRALIA

Xi-Qin Ding, PhD
The Elizabeth Anderson Award
Thyroid Hormone Regulation in Retinal Degeneration
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
Karl Wahlin, PhD  
Carolyn K. McGillvray Award  
Identifying Drugs that Block AMD Using Adult Stem Cells with AMD-Associated Mutations  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO  

Ji Yi, PhD  
A New Imaging Method to Predict Neovascular AMD  
BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER  

Suchismita Acharya, PhD  
A Novel Dual-Active Compound to Treat Glaucoma  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT FORT WORTH  

Rouzbeh Amini, PhD  
Detecting Iris Stiffening and Its Significance in Certain Types of Glaucoma  
THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON  

Jessica Cooke Bailey, PhD  
Amish Study to Understand Glaucoma Genetics  
CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY  

John Danias, MD, PhD  
Next Generation Experimental Glaucoma Model  
SUNY HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER, BUFFALO  

F. Kent Hamra, PhD  
Genetically Engineering Brown Norway Rats to Find Cures for Glaucoma  
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER  

Yang Hu, MD, PhD  
Studying Gene Regulation Networks in Retinal Ganglion Cells for Novel Neuroprotective Targets  
STANFORD UNIVERSITY  

Xiangrun Huang, PhD  
Dr. Douglas H. Johnson Award  
Developing a New Imaging Method for Sensitive Detection of Early Glaucoma Damage  
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  

Monica Jablonski, PhD  
New Glaucoma Models  
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER  

Yuan Lei, PhD  
A Key MicroRNA That Controls Eye Pressure  
EYE AND ENT HOSPITAL OF FUDAN UNIVERSITY (CHINA)  

Biji Mathew, PhD  
Treating Glaucoma with Naturally Derived Nano-Particiles from Adult Stem Cells  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO  

Robert W. Nickells, PhD  
Thomas R. Lee Award  
Defining the Link between Cell Adhesion and Retinal Ganglion Cell Death  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  

Jason Porter, PhD  
A New Method to Detect Glaucoma by Examining Changes in Blood Vessels in the Eye  
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON  

Benjamin Sivyer, PhD  
Dr. Douglas H. Johnson Award  
More Sensitive Methods for Studying the Onset of Glaucoma  
OREGON HEALTH AND SCIENCE UNIVERSITY  

SPECIAL THANKS TO DONORS SUPPORTING ONGOING RESEARCH  

ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE RESEARCH  
Karen Duff, PhD  
This grant is made possible in part by the support from Lois and Duane Luallin in Memory of Denver E. Perkins and Edwin Luallin.  
Slowing Alzheimer’s Disease by Enhancing Cellular Clearance  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  

Lea Grinberg, MD, PhD  
This grant was made possible in part by support from The Carl and Judy Moore Charitable Trust.  
A Neuroimaging Biomarker for Asymptomatic Alzheimer’s Disease  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO  

Ana Pereira, MD  
This grant is made possible by the support from the Ping Y. Tai Foundation.  
Enhancing Glutamate Levels as a Way to Treat Alzheimer’s Disease  
ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI  

MACULAR DEGENERATION RESEARCH  
Philippe Mourrain, PhD  
This grant is made possible by support from the Nancy Ferguson Seeley Trust in Memory of Mildred F. Ferguson.  
Can the Zebrafish Provide Clues to New AMD-Associated Genetic Mutation?  
STANFORD UNIVERSITY  

NATIONAL GLAUCOMA RESEARCH  
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  

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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.
Malu Tansey, PhD
EMORY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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CLEVELAND CLINIC FOUNDATION

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SUNY, BUFFALO

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THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY

Nader Sheibani, PhD
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY

Debra Thompson, PhD
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Heping Xu, MD, PhD
QUEENS UNIVERSITY, BELFAST (UNITED KINGDOM)

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OREGON HEALTH & SCIENCE UNIVERSITY

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OREGON HEALTH & SCIENCE UNIVERSITY

Darrell WuDunn, MD, PhD
INDIANA UNIVERSITY
BrightFocus works closely with nonprofits 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.
BrightFocus works 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
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 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.

2018 Honorees: Brenda Gallie, MD, FRCSC, A. Linn Murphree, MD, Thaddeus Dryja, MD, Helen Keller Prize for Vision Research, Rachel Bennett, PhD, Emerging Researcher, and James Keach, Public Leadership Award.

BrightFocus President and CEO Stacy Pagos Haller is second from the right.

AN EVENING OF BRIGHTFOCUS
More than 400 leaders from business, science, and philanthropy joined BrightFocus at our third annual dinner to celebrate excellence in research and advocacy. Six BrightFocus-funded scientists shared highlights from their ongoing research, showing encouraging progress toward ending diseases of mind and sight.
EVERY BRAIN IS AT RISK: TURNING POINT

BrightFocus is proud to be a Presentation Partner for a gripping new documentary, *Turning Point*, about researchers on the cusp of a scientific breakthrough that could be the first step toward making Alzheimer’s a distant memory.

Created by award-winning producer, director, and actor James Keach, the documentary is currently being screened at film festivals across the country.

Sunny Hostin (top), *The View*
Richard Lui (middle), *MSNBC*, with James Keach, PCH Films
Makoto Ishii, MD, PhD (bottom), Weill Medical College of Cornell University

Noted scientist Neil deGrasse Tyson
Photo courtesy of PCH Films
BrightFocus donors often have special connections to the scientific research programs they support.

We are honored to share two of those stories with you.

Walter Preysnar had a long career as an engineer. His projects included the NASA-manned lunar landing program, and government solar energy programs.

Then his family experienced Alzheimer’s disease.

“When my mother was about 75, I noticed a subtle change. Soon she showed signs of dementia followed by a diagnosis of Alzheimer’s,” he said.

As an engineer who loved to “fix things,” Preysnar wanted to do something. He joined an Alzheimer’s support group, and participated in two clinical trials. As he approached retirement, he also discovered the gift of annuity through an incentive or so-called “buyout” offered as a bonus to retire.

“I felt that donating was the most beneficial thing that I could do,” says Preysnar. “I could pass on this gift to benefit Alzheimer’s research and so donated my entire bonus.”

“Knowing my mother was in such a hopeless condition at that time, it was in a sense my gift to her. She passed away two months later. I don’t think I’ve ever felt a higher level of doing something than my donation for Alzheimer’s research.”
Nancy Ferguson Seeley of Naples, Florida and Hammond, New York, has a strong family history of philanthropy spanning 140 years. The Ferguson family has supported Hamilton College since Seeley’s grandfather graduated in 1871 and through her granddaughter’s Class of 2017. Generous family funds created endowments for professorships, student scholarships, and support for the arts.

Seeley continues that tradition, supporting a range of causes, from music to nature conservancy to education. When her mother died in 1997, Seeley created the Leonard and Mildred Ferguson Foundation, with proceeds from the estate.

It was here that the family history of planned giving crossed another family legacy: the diagnosis of macular degeneration.

Both Seeley’s mother, Mildred Ferguson, and her grandmother had macular degeneration late in life. Now, Seeley has been diagnosed with the disease. She’s concerned that her children or grandchildren may one day share the diagnosis.

For their sakes, and in memory of her mother, Seeley now contributes to Macular Degeneration Research, a program of BrightFocus. Continuing a legacy of generosity, her contributions could help speed discoveries on how to prevent, slow, treat, or even cure the disease.
OUR BOTTOM LINE: COMMITMENT TO FINDING A CURE

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 Raffa, P.C. is available upon request from the BrightFocus Foundation, 22512 Gateway Center Drive, Clarksburg, MD 20871 or on our website at www.brightfocus.org.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As of March 31, 2018 (in thousands of dollars)

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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NET ASSETS</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>19,709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
<td>11,839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently Restricted</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL NET ASSETS</td>
<td>31,868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</td>
<td>52,594</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2018 (in thousands of dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and Grants</td>
<td>28,243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bequests</td>
<td>3,928</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donated Services</td>
<td>13,658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>2,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental &amp; Other Income</td>
<td>1,314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</td>
<td>49,342</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROGRAM SERVICES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>16,919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Information Services</td>
<td>21,824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES</td>
<td>38,743</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUPPORTING SERVICES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>7,095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>3,331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES</td>
<td>10,426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENSES</td>
<td>49,169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Nobel Laureate

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Nobel Laureate
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BrightFocus drives innovative research worldwide and promotes awareness of Alzheimer’s, macular degeneration, and glaucoma.

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Alzheimer’s Disease Research
Macular Degeneration Research
National Glaucoma Research

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