



**2008
ANNUAL
REPORT**

DISCOVERY
THE DISCOVERY EYE FOUNDATION

A magnifying glass icon is positioned over the letter 'O' in the word 'DISCOVERY'. The handle of the magnifying glass points downwards and to the left.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

This was an exciting year of collaboration for The Discovery Eye Foundation. From research to programs and services, we saw a year of partnerships that made us stronger, but more importantly, we provided support and help to thousands of people affected by eye disease.

Partnering with the Lincy Foundation, DEF was able to help support a consortium of 11 highly respected universities from around the world as they worked on reversing vision loss from AMD, glaucoma and retinitis pigmentosa with the use of stem cells. By sharing resources, expertise and a common goal, this team is making great strides for the future.

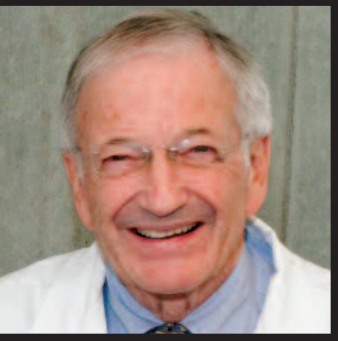
With the support of Genentech, the Macular Degeneration Partnership (MDP) has been

instrumental in helping the AARP Vision Pavilion grow each year. Partnering with seven vision organizations at the 2008 AARP event in Washington, DC, MDP helped provide support and information to more than 26,000 people.

KC Link also demonstrates the power of collaboration. An international online community of people diagnosed with keratoconus, it continues to grow each month as members offer support to people newly diagnosed and to people who thought they were alone.

However, the greatest collaboration we have experienced this year is with our donors, who have partnered with us to make a difference in the lives of those affected by vision loss. We are very thankful to the individuals, foundations and corporations that have shared our passion to support research, education and advocacy related to sight-threatening eye diseases and their treatments, improving the quality of life for patients and their families.

Jack L. Schoellerman, president



FROM THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Our mantra: "To find the means to prevent or reverse loss of vision suffered by those affected by major sight-robbing diseases." This year we have met this challenge with a variety of research projects, including:

The Retinal Regeneration Program, led by DEF-supported UC Irvine researcher Dr. Henry Klassen and Harvard's Dr. Michael Young, is working with stem cells to restore sight for people with AMD, retinitis pigmentosa

and other retinal degenerative diseases; **a unique neuroprotective drug-delivery system** to slow or halt retinal disease is undergoing safety trials in Brazil; **the genetics of AMD**, with particular attention to the mitochondria, is leading to projects focusing on the very high incidence of AMD in women; **how glaucoma affects the optic nerve to cause vision loss** is pointing research into new treatments.

Research showed more progress for eye disease in 2008 than ever before. We have made great strides, but to translate these discoveries into treatments and cures, we need continued financial support.

Anthony B. Nesburn, MD, FACS





In 2008, NKCF continued its mission of providing information and support to the keratoconus patient community. Our free services include our Web site at www.nkcf.org, informational materials (in English and Spanish), an e-mail based support group, newsletters, local seminars and a toll-free telephone line dedicated to answering patient questions.

To promote awareness among professionals, NKCF was a Bronze Sponsor of the Second Global Keratoconus Congress, which offered eye-care providers focused information on the latest diagnostic tools and treat-

ments for keratoconus. We participated in a number of professional conferences, increasing the awareness of our programs among ophthalmologists, optometrists and contact lens specialists to help them better help their patients. NKCF also hosted the Annual Keratoconus Roundtable at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) meeting, which brings together researchers from various disciplines to discuss all aspects of KC.

No other health organization provides patients and doctors with literature and support services about keratoconus. Our programs serve thousands of people and have an incredible impact on keratoconus patients and their families around the world.

Catherine Warren, executive director



The Macular Degeneration Partnership (MDP) is 10 years old! In this anniversary year, MDP continued to provide accurate information and warm support to people with age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and their families. Through the AMD.org Web site and e-newsletter, 30,000 people each month are connected with the latest research, news and resources for living with AMD.

The number of callers to our toll-free “warm line” increased dramatically. **We are the only AMD organization to offer such personal, supportive service.** MDP provides a critical

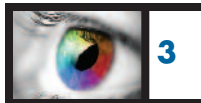
lifeline to help patients — and their families and friends — learn to live with AMD.

Nationally, MDP organized the Vision Pavilion at the annual AARP Life@50+ Event. In 2008, *Today's Joy* Bauer shared nutritional tips, and experts provided information about eye diseases, conducted vision screenings and demonstrated low-vision devices.

Locally, MDP conducted seminars and health fairs for senior organizations and retirement communities, as well as a monthly support group.

In our second decade, we are looking forward to continuing our important work to help people affected by AMD live better lives.

Judi Delgado, executive director



THE DISCOVERY EYE FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the year ended December 31, 2008

With comparative totals for the year ended December 31, 2007

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	2008	2007
REVENUE AND SUPPORT				
Contributions	\$ 387,481	\$ 3,013,998	\$ 3,401,479	\$ 2,887,209
Interest and dividends	324,466	17,325	341,791	337,844
Miscellaneous income	69,468		69,468	5,652
Amortization of discount on pledges		(8,799)	(8,799)	3,283
(Loss) on disposal of property and equipment	(10,972)		(10,972)	(3,479)
Gain (loss) on investments	(1,605,223)	(88,622)	(1,693,845)	276,955
Net assets released from program restrictions	2,406,212	(2,406,212)		
Total revenue and support	1,571,432	527,690	2,099,122	3,507,464
EXPENSES				
Program services	2,519,215		2,519,215	2,919,583
Management and general	760,519		760,519	453,822
Fund development	428,420		428,420	396,146
Total expenses	3,708,154		3,708,154	3,769,551
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(2,136,722)	527,690	(1,609,032)	(262,087)
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	6,063,813	4,161,558	10,225,371	10,487,458
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 3,927,091	\$ 4,689,248	\$ 8,616,339	\$ 10,225,371

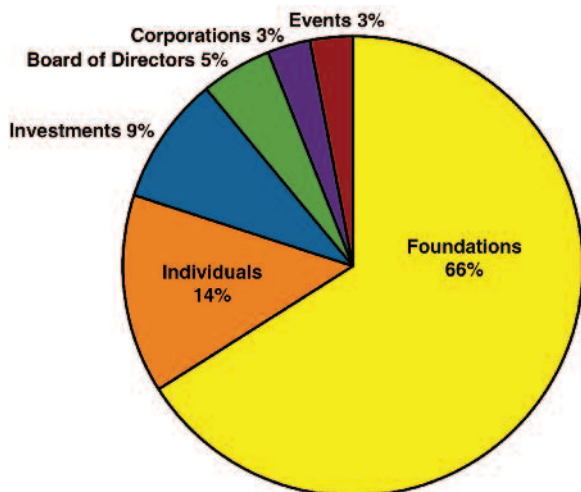


2008 GRANTS FUNDED BY DEF

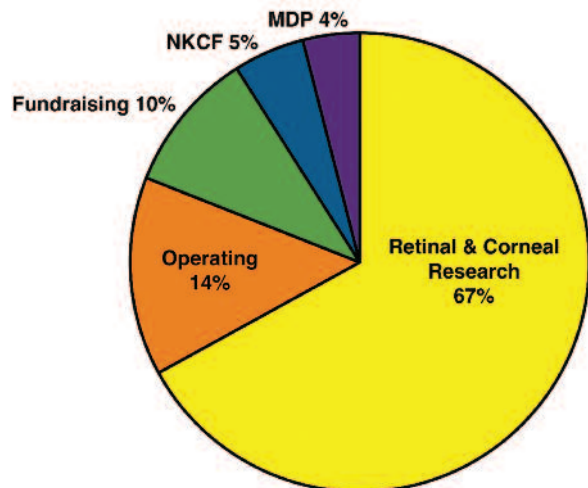
Project	Amount	Researcher	Affiliation
Functional Reconstruction of the Outer Retina	\$665,000	Dr. Henry Klassen*	UC Irvine
Functional Reconstruction of the Outer Retina	\$660,000	Dr. Michael Young*	Harvard
Genetics of Macular Degeneration	\$144,000	Dr. M. Cristina Kenney	UC Irvine
Gap Funding for NIH Grant: Corneal HSV-1: LAT Blocks Apoptosis in TG	\$110,000	Dr. Steven Wechsler	UC Irvine
Research Program Management at UC Irvine	\$100,000	Dr. Anthony Nesburn	UC Irvine
Biomechanical Correlates to Keratoconus Severity Score and Patient Visual Function	\$8,000	Dr. William J. Dupps Jr.	Cleveland Clinic, Cole Eye Institute, Ohio
Aid in Funding for International Fellows Research	\$5,000	Drs. Kenney & Baruch Kuppermann	UC Irvine

* part of a \$2.38 million grant from the Lincy Foundation to the **Retinal Regeneration Project**. DEF distributed the remainder of the grant to the following researchers: Kaplan (Louisville/BU) \$450,000, La Cour (Copenhagen) \$250,000, Tao (Draper) \$125,000, Clinical Module (Sao Paulo, Beijing) \$100,000, D'Amore (Harvard) \$50,000, Wnek (Case WRU) \$50,000, Prather (Missouri) \$30,000.

DEF 2008 INCOME



DEF 2008 DISBURSEMENTS



HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

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THE HISTORY OF THE DISCOVERY EYE FOUNDATION

DEF was founded in 1970 by Rita and Morris Pynoos as the Discovery Fund for Eye Research, after their son, Jon, a student at Harvard University, was diagnosed with keratoconus. The Discovery Eye Foundation research laboratories were originally located at the University of Southern California, moved to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and now reside at the University of California, Irvine, where they were renamed the Morris S. Pynoos Eye Research Laboratories in honor of Pynoos' support and commitment. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, **The Discovery Eye Foundation** supports groundbreaking research, and provides support and education for people affected by keratoconus and macular degeneration through the **National Keratoconus Foundation** and the **Macular Degeneration Partnership**.

A Donor Bill of Rights

PHILANTHROPY is based on voluntary action for the common good. It is a tradition of giving and sharing that is primary to the quality of life. To assure that philanthropy merits the respect and trust of the general public, and that donors and prospective donors can have full confidence in the not-for-profit organizations and causes they are asked to support, we declare that all donors have these rights:

I.

To be informed of the organization's mission, of the way the organization intends to use donated resources, and of its capacity to use donations effectively for their intended purposes.

II.

To be informed of the identity of those serving on the organization's governing board, and to expect the board to exercise prudent judgement in its stewardship responsibilities.

III.

To have access to the organization's most recent financial statements.

IV.

To be assured their gifts will be used for the purposes for which they were given.

V.

To receive appropriate acknowledgement and recognition.

VI.

To be assured that information about their donations is handled with respect and with confidentiality to the extent provided by law.

VII.

To expect that all relationships with individuals representing organizations of interest to the donor will be professional in nature.

VIII.

To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of the organization or hired solicitors.

IX.

To have the opportunity for their names to be deleted from mailing lists that an organization may intend to share.

X.

To feel free to ask questions when making a donation and to receive prompt, truthful and forthright answers.

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ENDORSED BY

in formation: Independent Sector, National Catholic Development Conference (NCDC), National Committee on Planned Giving (NCPG), Council for Resource Development (CRD), United Way of America



**The Discovery Eye Foundation
supports research, education
and advocacy related to
sight-threatening eye diseases
and their treatments,
improving the quality of life
for patients and their families.**

THE DISCOVERY EYE FOUNDATION

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