FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS

Impact and Insights

The Foundation Fighting Blindness is the driving force in the global development of treatments and cures for blinding diseases.

OVER $996 MILLION

raised for retinal research and public health education since the Foundation Fighting Blindness began in 1971.

OVER 245,000

walkers, donors, and corporate sponsors have raised more than **$74 million** through VisionWalk.

75% of total expenditures this year have been spent on research and public health education.

OVER 330

retinal-disease causing genes identified.

MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH

LUXTURNA® The first FDA-approved gene therapy for the eye or any inherited disease.

OVER 45 VOLUNTEER CHAPTERS

A national network that raises funds, increases public awareness and provides support to communities.

60+ CLINICAL TRIALS

evaluating potential treatments.

40+ TOP CLINICAL CENTERS IN OUR CONSORTIUM

including the U.S., Australia, Canada, England, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Mexico, and the Netherlands.

104 GRANTS FUNDED GLOBALLY IN 2026

• **126** investigators • **96** institutions

RESEARCH PRIORITY AREAS

25.8%	Cell and Molecular Mechanisms
21.3%	Genetic Technologies
20.2%	Novel Medical Therapies
15.7%	Genetics
12.4%	Clinical: Structure and Function
4.5%	Regenerative Therapies

1 IN EVERY 37

people globally are affected by an IRD or AMD.

RD FUND

Over $123 million raised through this venture philanthropy arm to accelerate late-stage outcomes through direct mission-related investments.

MY RETINA TRACKER® REGISTRY

Patient database with more than **43,000 profiles** – supporting the research community to actively collaborate and efficiently enable people to connect to relevant clinical trials.

Impact Study

The Foundation partnered with ClearView Healthcare Partners to evaluate the impact of its funding and resources from 2005-2021 on the clinical understanding and development of novel therapies for inherited retinal diseases (IRDs). Below are the key take-aways.

The Foundation has played a major role in the development of 88% of treatments in clinical trials for the leading retinal diseases.

89% of the recipients who have received a Career Development Award from the Foundation have continued working in the retinal disease field.

Later-stage funding from the Foundation has resulted in 14 programs entering a clinical stage.

Foundation-funded projects have developed 35% of the large non-rodent animal models to help better understand the cause of blinding retinal diseases.

More than 10% of people with retinal diseases in the U.S. are registered in the Foundation's My Retina Tracker® Registry – the largest retinal disease patient database connecting people to relevant clinical trials.

Since 2005, projects funded by the Foundation have helped to identify 40% of the genes that cause retinal diseases.

Since 2005, the Foundation has awarded 440 grants for retinal disease research to 227 individuals, resulting in more than 12,000 published research articles.

Providing free genetic testing has increased the number and diversity of people with a blinding disease who know their genetic mutation.

Foundation-led natural history studies have helped to identify additional measures used to determine the success of clinical trials – including one that led to the first FDA-approved gene therapy for the eye or any inherited disease, LUXTURNA®.

Foundation-sponsored research and clinical trial studies were instrumental in identifying key measures used to inform clinical trial designs.

The advancement of optogenetics has been guided by investments of the Foundation and the RD Fund.

There is still much work to be done.
Join the fight and help us accelerate our mission.
Visit **FightingBlindness.org** or call **800-683-5555**.

FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS