

GLAUCOMA

RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Mission

Glaucoma Research Foundation (GRF) is a national nonprofit founded in 1978 in San Francisco to encourage innovative research toward better treatments for people with glaucoma – the leading cause of preventable blindness. GRF has funded more than \$50 million of grants and projects. The Glaucoma Research Foundation mission is to prevent vision loss from glaucoma by investing in innovative research, education, and support with the ultimate goal of finding a cure.

Patient Education

The Glaucoma Research Foundation website, www.glaucoma.org offers a wide range of information and news for glaucoma patients and their families. Our free newsletter, *Gleams*, with a circulation of **100,000**, offers the latest information about glaucoma treatments and research. Glaucoma Research Foundation publishes and distributes free patient education materials including comprehensive 32-page booklets on *Understanding And Living With Glaucoma* and *Childhood Glaucoma*.

Catalyst for a Cure

Catalyst for a Cure (CFC) is a unique approach to research developed by Glaucoma Research Foundation to accelerate the pace of discovery toward a cure for glaucoma. It involves bringing together scientists from different backgrounds to work collaboratively to understand glaucoma and find ways to improve treatment and ultimately cure this blinding disease.

Research Collaboration

Glaucoma Research Foundation is currently funding four scientists from prestigious academic centers across the country chosen for their particular expertise in biomedical imaging, physics, retinal cell biology, neurobiology, and clinical ophthalmology. Their goal is to develop new, specific and sensitive biomarkers to diagnose and manage glaucoma more effectively. This knowledge could help predict glaucoma in patients who do not yet show symptoms of vision loss as well as help doctors choose the best course of therapy for each patient.

Join Us

By giving to the Glaucoma Research Foundation you are helping us to work towards our goal of finding a cure for this devastating disease. Learn about more opportunities to give, volunteer or even start your own fundraiser at: www.glaucoma.org

What Is Glaucoma?

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that have common features including eye pressure too high for the health of the eye, damage to the optic nerve and possible permanent loss of sight.

How to Detect Glaucoma

There are usually no symptoms. You may see perfectly, read or drive without problems, while early glaucoma steals your sight.

To detect glaucoma, an eye doctor does a series of simple painless tests, including:

1. An eye pressure check
2. A dilated eye exam

If anything looks unusual, most doctors will perform:

- A visual field test to measure side vision
- An exam to see whether the eye's drainage area is blocked
- Measurement of the thickness of the central cornea

Who Gets Glaucoma?

Anyone can get glaucoma but those at a higher risk to develop it are:

- Over 60 years of age
- People of African descent
- Relatives of people with glaucoma
- Hispanics in older age groups

Is there a Cure for Glaucoma?

Although careful, lifelong treatment usually controls glaucoma, there is no cure. However, research being conducted by scientists in the areas of genetics, neuroprotection and neuroregeneration is speeding the pace of discovery that may lead to a cure.

Glaucoma is treated with drugs, lasers and surgery. The best prevention is to find out if you have glaucoma. Regular medical eye exams may help prevent unnecessary vision loss.

Facts About Glaucoma

- Over 2.7 million Americans have glaucoma
- Only half know they have it
- Glaucoma is dangerous because there are usually no symptoms until serious damage has occurred
- More than 60 million people worldwide have glaucoma
- More than 120,000 Americans are permanently blind as a result of glaucoma