

2014 Macular Society research grants

Dr Michel Michaelides
UCL Institute of Ophthalmology
£168,606

Assessing retinal structure and function in Stargardt's disease using advanced phenotyping in preparation for planned therapeutic intervention

The researchers will look at the observable characteristics of eyes with Stargardt's to determine how retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) cells and photoreceptor cells are involved in various forms of Stargardt's disease.

Dr Raymond Beirne
University of Ulster
£45,126

Does higher macular pigment density preserve visual function in intermediate AMD?

Dr Beirne will be researching the relationship between macular pigment density and visual function in AMD to understand the role that the macular pigment plays in keeping retinal rods healthy and maintaining dark adaption.

Josie Grant
Heriot Watt University
£10,000

How eccentric viewing training may help wayfinding and outdoor mobility in the built environment for people with AMD

The research will focus on navigating the built environment and whether eccentric viewing training (Skills for seeing) makes this easier for people with AMD. It will also measure whether the training improves people's self-confidence and has a positive impact on physical activity levels and quality of life.

Professor Paul Bishop
University of Manchester
£166,602

Establishment of a national eye tissue archive for AMD research

This work will retrieve tissue from 1,000 pairs of eyes and make it available to researchers in the UK for at least the next 10 years to provide a unique and important resource for future research into new treatments for AMD.

Dr Amanda Carr
UCL Institute of Ophthalmology
£53,898

Using induced pluripotent stem cells to investigate Best's associated macular degeneration

Dr Carr aims to create models of Best's disease using induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) to define the role of the gene BEST1 in the progression of Best's disease, and potentially identify new treatment pathways. The Macular Society have funded the first year of this study.