

**HOW WILL
WE WIN THE
FIGHT AGAINST
BLINDNESS?**

ONE KNOCKOUT AT A TIME.

Thanks to the support of
Foundation Fighting Blindness donors,
we have big wins to celebrate this year.

**We brought the fight to four arenas
with the greatest potential for impact.**

PRESERVE VISION

RESTORE SIGHT

EDUCATE

ADVOCATE



**The FOUNDATION
FIGHTING BLINDNESS**



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Many blinding eye diseases are progressive, leading to deteriorating vision over time.

These discoveries aim to stop vision loss before it leads to blindness.

Saving photoreceptors

Photoreceptors are the eye’s light-sensing cells, which die off in many blinding eye diseases. Dr. Philippe Monnier advanced the fight to save these cells when he discovered a link between a unique protein in the human eye and photoreceptor death.



Combined drug therapy

In some genetic eye diseases, mutations lead to unfinished proteins that don’t work, resulting in vision loss. Dr. Cheryl Gregory-Evans discovered that the combination of two specific drugs has promising results for the fight to preserve vision.

There are no cures for blindness, which is why we are fighting to restore sight.

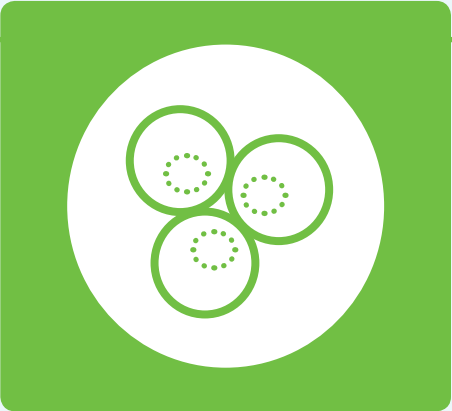
These discoveries brought us closer to the final round: an end to blindness.

New gene discovered

Dr. Michel Cayouette discovered a new “master regulator” gene involved in the production of photoreceptors. The discovery brings us one step closer to a stem cell therapy that restores vision by replacing damaged photoreceptors with healthy ones.

Restoring the macula

Loss of central (macular) vision is common across many eye diseases. Dr. Gilbert Bernier produced a macula-like retinal tissue using stem cells. The new tissue can be used for transplantation as well as the study of eye diseases – a double punch!



1 in 9 Canadians will experience irreversible vision loss before the age of 65.

We can’t fight blindness without educating patients and the public on this epidemic.

Community

We hosted 9 Vision Quest education events across Canada, which brought together more than 860 stakeholders and attracted more than 44,000 views of our interactive online sessions.



Stem cell tourism

Dubious stem cell clinics are offering dangerous “cures.” Our multimedia response saved the vision of many who were considering this perilous route.

Patient Registry

Expanded the reach of this tool, which connects patients to clinical trials, by adding an enrollment site in Québec with the leadership of Dr. Robert Koenekoop.

Research alone won’t win the fight.

Whether it’s new policies or better funding, we’re finding ways to put the products of research into the hands of Canadians.

Genetic discrimination

We helped push Bill S-201 through Parliament, ensuring companies can’t access your genetic history.

Historic gene therapy win

A US biotech firm received the first FDA committee approval for a gene therapy. Our advocacy helped pave the way.



Government consultation

We worked with the Ontario Ministry of Health to put safety first when choosing new drugs for eye diseases.

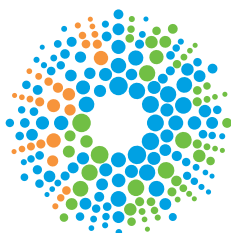


LET'S BRING THE FIGHT

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