## RESEARCH 2014

Our efforts in 2014 led to incredible breakthroughs in vision science. Thanks to our donors, we supported Canadian scientists coast-to-coast with our largest research investment ever. See how our scientists are restoring hope and sight.

## How much did we invest?

In 2014, we invested $2.2 million into research. This year, we made our largest ever investment in sight-saving research, allowing us to accelerate scientific momentum.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
| $1.8 million | $2.0 million | $2.2 million |

## Where did we invest?

We funded 25 projects at hospitals and universities across Canada, in Victoria, Vancouver, Edmonton, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and St. John’s.

## Funding Composition

Our emphasis on treatment-focused research continues to grow with exciting developments in these three interconnected project categories.

* Four ‘understanding vision’ projects.
* Thirteen ‘preserving vision’ projects.
* Eight ‘restoring sight’ projects.

## Research At Work

* Our funded scientists conducted 43 ground-breaking studies that were published in internationally renowned biomedical journals.
* These efforts also helped train 41 new vision scientists; building Canada’s capacity for future sight-saving research.
* For the first time, the Foundation supported four human clinical trials in 2014, bringing us closer to treatments than ever before.

## Our Partnerships

The Foundation entered into four new partnerships in 2014, turning $193,607 of your donations into over $2 million in research funding. Our partners were:

* University Health Network (UHN) and the Toronto General and Western Hospital Foundation
* Alberta Innovates Health Solutions
* Ontario Institute for Regenerative Medicine
* Montreal Children’s Hospital Foundation

## 2014 Breakthroughs

* The Foundation Fighting Blindness brought the first ‘bionic eye’ to Canada – restoring partial sight to two trial patients
* We supported the first clinical trial of an oral drug to treat childhood blindness, which produced very promising results.
* A collaboration involving three Foundation-funded scientists opened up new possibilities for treating blindness in babies
* A Foundation-funded clinical trial revealed that taking omega-3 supplements can help improve age-related macular degeneration
* One Foundation-supported research team developed a new technology with potential to safely deliver stem cells to the eye
* Our researchers learned more about why photoreceptors die, bringing us closer to preserving vision