# Vision Quest Calgary Program

# October 26, 2019, 8:00 am – 2:30 pm

## 8:00 – 9:00 am - Registration opens, exhibitor demonstrations and continental breakfast

## 9:00 am – 9:15 am Welcome Remarks

*Doug Earle, President & CEO, The Foundation Fighting Blindness*

## 9:15 – 9:30 am: Turning Obstacles into Opportunities

*Lowell & Julie Taylor*

Lowell Taylor lives with retinitis pigmentosa -- but living with blindness doesn’t mean living without opportunity. Together, Lowell and his wife Julie Taylor share their stories of going blind, living with blindness, working together to compete on The Amazing Race Canada, and training for the Tokyo Paralympic Games!

## 9:30 – 10:15 am – Age-Related Macular Degeneration – Where We Are Now & Where We Are Going

*Dr. Geoff Williams*

Dr. Geoff Williams will share the latest information on current treatments for age-related macular degeneration (AMD), and provide insights on how the research landscape for AMD treatments and clinical trials is rapidly changing

## 10:15 – 11 am – Updates on Gene Therapy

*Dr. Amin Kherani*

Recent breakthroughs mean that gene therapy is providing true hope for those living with blinding eye disease. Dr. Kherani shares his thoughts on the future of this revolutionary field, and discusses how vision researchers are moving gene therapy forward.

## 11 am – 11:30 am – BREAK

## 11:30 am - 12:00 pm – Genetics and Models of Ocular Disease

*Dr. Lance Doucette*

Genetics play an essential role in the development of inherited eye diseases. In this talk, Dr. Lance Doucette will explain how genetics impact ocular disease.

## 12:00 – 1:00 – LUNCH and EXHIBITORS

## 1:00 – 1:30 pm – Innovations in Surgery

*Dr. Julia Farah*

Ocular surgery is an effective intervention for some forms of blinding eye diseases. In this presentation, Dr. Julia Farah will discuss the new frontier in surgery and how it is shaping treatments for blinding eye diseases.

## 1:30 pm - 2:00 pm – Diabetes Damage: The Affect on Your Eyes and How to Prevent It

*Dr. Rajinder Nirwan*

Dr. Rajwinder Nirwan discusses the lasting impact that diabetes can have on your eyes, and provides important advice on how to prevent diabetes from affecting your sight.

## 2:00 pm – Closing remarks

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