



To cure RP (retinitis pigmentosa), macular degeneration, Usher syndrome and related retinal degenerative diseases

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Dear Dr. Sieving and Colleagues of the NEI:

We at the Foundation Fighting Blindness congratulate you on 40 years of extraordinary work to save and restore the vision of our country's citizens. Thanks to your innovative research and investments in the world's leading eye and vision investigators, we now have sight-saving treatments for common ophthalmological conditions — diseases that would otherwise rob people of their eyesight, independence, and quality of life.

We at the Foundation Fighting Blindness are delighted with the recent progress we have made in concert with the National Eye Institute to eradicate retinal degenerative diseases such as macular degeneration, the leading cause of blindness in people over 55, and retinitis pigmentosa, which causes devastating vision loss for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Today, we are reversing blindness caused by these retinal diseases thanks to NEI- and FFB-funded innovations in gene therapy and pharmaceutical agents. Due to the NEI's dedication, leadership, and collaboration, the future is bright for many more sight-saving treatments and cures in the coming years.

With sincere thanks and congratulations,

Gordon Gund  
Chairman and Co-Founder  
Foundation Fighting Blindness