

Assessing Novel Efficacy Endpoints in Ophthalmologic Rare Disease Drug and Biologics Development

September 17, 2025
9:30 am – 2:30 pm ET

Hybrid Public Meeting • National Press Club • Washington, DC

Speaker Biographies



Allison Ayala is a statistician at the Jaeb Center for Health Research. She serves as the coordinating center director for the Foundation Fighting Blindness Clinical Consortium, a global network advancing inherited retinal disease research through natural history studies. This work includes collaboration on endpoint development to guide the design of future IRD clinical trials through the Consortium's REDI Working Group.

Allison Ayala has no conflicts of interest to disclose. This work is fully funded by Foundation Fighting Blindness.



Heidi Becker is a board-certified comprehensive ophthalmologist who serves as a clinical reviewer of cellular and gene therapy ophthalmic products in the Office of Clinical Evaluation at FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER). In this role, Dr. Becker supports the development of novel ophthalmology therapies for a variety of rare and common ophthalmologic disorders throughout the US regulatory process, leveraging broad clinical experience. Dr. Becker earned her medical degree from Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth College. She completed her ophthalmology residency at the University of Texas Health in San Antonio, then joined the faculty to serve as Assistant Professor and Medical

Director of the Texas Diabetes Institute's Eye Clinic. She currently maintains a volunteer role in medical education and clinical practice through the University of Colorado as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology.

Heidi Becker has no conflicts of interest to disclose.



Jean Bennett received her PhD in Zoology/Cell and Developmental Biology from University of California, Berkeley and her MD from Harvard Medical School. She completed fellowships at University of California, San Francisco, Yale University and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Bennett joined the faculty at University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine in 1992 where she was a professor of Ophthalmology and Cell and Developmental Biology until July 2022, when she became the F.M. Kirby Emeritus Professor of Ophthalmology.

Dr. Bennett was the scientific leader of a team that translated reversal of blindness in animal models to demonstration of efficacy and safety in children and adults. Her team was the first to enroll pediatric subjects with a non-lethal disease as gene therapy participants. The team completed both a re-administration study and, with Spark Therapeutics (of which she is a scientific founder), a registrational gene therapy trial for congenital blindness, the first randomized, controlled, multi-center gene therapy Phase 3 gene therapy trial targeting a genetic disease. This work led to the first approved in vivo gene therapy for inherited disease in USA (Luxturna™, 2017), in Europe (2018), and now in multiple continents. She also conceived of and helped implement the Multi-luminance Mobility Test, the functional vision outcome measure that led to this approval. She is currently developing additional virtual reality-based outcome measures.

Dr. Bennett continues to develop gene-based therapies for inherited and acquired retinal diseases (and measures of efficacy thereof) in conjunction with academia, non-profit patient-oriented foundations and biotechnology companies. She recently co-founded Opus Genetics, Inc., a clinical-stage ophthalmic biopharmaceutical company developing treatments for inherited retinal diseases and other vision disorders. She also serves on the board of REGENX BIO. An internationally recognized expert in gene therapy, Dr. Bennett has received numerous awards, including the Champalimaud Award, the Smithsonian Ingenuity Award and the Helen Keller Prize for Vision Research. She was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Association of American Physicians, the National Academy of Medicine, and the National Academy of Science.

Jean Bennett was a scientific (non-equity-holding) founder of Spark Therapeutics and served as Scientific Director of the clinical trials leading to Luxturna FDA approval. She is an independent director on the boards of Opus Genetics, Inc and REGENXBIO, Inc and is on the board of the not-for-profit Retinal Degeneration (RD) Fund for Foundation Fighting Blindness. She receives fees for serving as a scientific advisor for Sparing Vision and Lilly and for consulting for MERITCRO and has done occasional consulting for Spark Therapeutics following approval of Luxturna. She (and her husband, Albert Maguire, a PI of the Luxturna trials) waived their financial rights to their intellectual property (IP) licensed to Spark Therapeutics but they have co-authored other gene therapy-related IP owned by University of Pennsylvania.



William M. Boyd is the Deputy Director of the Division of Ophthalmology in the Office of New Drugs, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). After receiving an undergraduate degree from Duke University, Dr. Boyd completed medical school at UNC Chapel Hill and a residency in Ophthalmology at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, GA. He joined the FDA in 1998, serving as a primary reviewer for ophthalmic drug products and then subsequently as Clinical Team Leader. In 2020, he became the Deputy Director in the Division of Ophthalmology. Dr. Boyd has supervisory responsibility for the clinical review of ophthalmologic drug products and ophthalmic therapeutic biologic products submitted to the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.

William Boyd has no conflicts of interest to disclose.



Brian Canter is an Assistant Research Director on the Biomedical Innovation team working on policy solutions to improve development, regulatory review, and evidence generation for broadening access and availability to medical products. He manages one of the Biomedical Innovation team's cooperative agreements with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Brian's portfolio of work spans several key areas within the biomedical innovation space. As the lead researcher on regulatory considerations to enable greater competition for biologics, he has evaluated the value of the interchangeability designation and derived strategies to foster future biosimilar development for cell and gene therapies. Supporting the Institute's thought leadership to modernize clinical trials, Brian guides the policy work for the Coalition for Advancing Clinical Trials at the Point of Care. Brian has also managed several projects within the Institute's regulatory science work, including public meetings convened with FDA to advance clinical trial innovation and premarket safety analytics. In addition to biomedical innovation, Brian has done extensive work within the Institute's 21st Century Public Health and Population Health portfolio. He oversaw a project focused on addressing the burden of respiratory viruses through reduction of disease transmission. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Brian led the Institute's work to maximize adoption of therapeutics, with a focus on Test-to-Treat pathways. Prior to joining Duke-Margolis, Brian completed a PhD in Biomedical Sciences with a focus in Biomedical Engineering from Rutgers University. His thesis research focused on utilizing radiation therapy systemically to treat metastatic breast cancer that spread to bone. Brian also graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering from Tufts University.

Brian Canter has no conflicts of interest to disclose.



Artur Cideciyan is a Research Professor of Ophthalmology and co-director of the Center for Hereditary Retinal Degenerations at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Cideciyan's career focus has been on understanding disease mechanisms and evaluating treatments in hereditary retinal degenerations. Among his key scientific contributions are development of electrophysiology methods to directly evaluate function of the rod and cone photoreceptors, first demonstration of photoreceptor-driven reflections on optical coherence tomography, first description of structure-function dissociation and its reversal in patients, recognition of the vulnerability of diseased retinas to light damage and development of reduced-illuminance imaging methods to use in the clinic. Dr. Cideciyan was one of the developers of the FST method which is now being considered as a key outcome measure for some clinical trials. He has been Principal Investigator or co-Investigator to a dozen early stage clinical trials, and published extensively on the consequences of gene-based interventions in patients with RPE65-, CEP290-, GUCY2D-, and LCA5-related inherited retinal disease.

Artur V. Cideciyan is a Research Professor of Ophthalmology and has received research grants from NIH, FFB, Atsena Therapeutics, and Laboratories Thea; he is an unremunerated member of the scientific advisory board for the BCM Families Foundation; and he has received consulting fees from Alkeus, Laboratories Thea, Opus Genetics, Ray Therapeutics, and VC Cell Therapy Inc.



Marylee Dilling is an alumna of UNC-Chapel Hill and Jefferson Medical College and completed residency at Baylor College of Medicine. She is a double board-certified internist and pediatrician and physician-owner of a direct primary care practice in New York City, where she lives with her husband and 9-year old son.

Her son, father, and two of her cousins have Blue Cone Monochromacy (BCM). She became an Ambassador of the BCM Families Foundation in 2017 and joined the Board of Directors in 2019. Marylee strives to build awareness of BCM amongst medical professionals and to help advance a safe and effective cure for BCM.

Marylee Dilling has no conflicts of interest to disclose.



Amitha Domalpally is the Research Director at Wisconsin Reading Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and is actively involved in research of clinical trial imaging endpoints with a focus on retinal diseases. Her research interest involves novel outcomes and new imaging techniques to understand the natural history and prognostic markers for complex retinal diseases such as age-related macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy. As Director of the A-EYE Research Unit, she is also involved in developing and implementing artificial intelligence algorithms for retinal imaging. She also serves as Research Informatics Officer at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, specializing in privacy-compliant pipelines for clinical imaging and informatics, focusing on the translation of these technologies into practical healthcare applications.

Amitha Domalpally discloses the following information in accordance with University of Wisconsin Madison institutional policies and applicable regulations: no significant financial interests related to research or academic activities, no sponsored research or industry relationships, and no intellectual property interests to disclose. Dr. Domalpally has no personal or family relationships that could reasonably affect the design, conduct, or reporting of research and has no outside professional commitments that may interfere with institutional responsibilities.



Todd Durham is the Senior Vice President of Clinical and Outcomes Research at the Foundation Fighting Blindness, where he leads an international clinical consortium and directs one of the largest natural history registries in inherited retinal diseases. He works across sectors to shape clinical development strategies, advise on partnered programs, and convene stakeholders—including regulators, industry, clinicians, and patient advocates—to accelerate the development of treatments for rare retinal conditions.

With over 30 years of experience in drug development, Todd has held leadership roles in biopharmaceutical companies, clinical research organizations, and academic collaborations. His background includes contributions to both early- and late-phase programs at IQVIA, Bristol Myers Squibb, Novan, Inspire Pharmaceuticals, and Quintiles. He holds a BSPH and MS in Biostatistics and a PhD in Health Policy and Management from the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health.

Todd Durham has no conflicts of interest to disclose.



Justis P. Ehlers serves as the Norman C. and Donna L. Harbert Endowed Chair for Ophthalmic Research at the Cole Eye Institute of the Cleveland Clinic. He is also the Director of the Tony and Leona Campana Center for Excellence in Image-Guided Surgery and Advanced Imaging Research. He earned his medical degree at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri, and completed his ophthalmology residency at the Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he served as Chief Resident. Dr. Ehlers then pursued a vitreoretinal surgery fellowship at the Duke Eye Center in Durham, North Carolina as a Heed Fellow and Ronald G. Michels Fellow.

Since 2010, Dr. Ehlers has been at the Cole Eye Institute at the Cleveland Clinic where his laboratory focuses on translational intraoperative optical coherence tomography (OCT) technology, image-guided surgery, advanced image analysis, and imaging biomarker discovery. In particular, his focus is on advancing precision medicine in retinal disease through enhanced image feature assessment through machine learning and other advanced analysis techniques. Dr. Ehlers has authored over 200 peer-reviewed publications, 25 book chapters, and over 300 scientific abstracts. He has also been the senior editor for 3 books and given over 125 invited lectures. His work has also resulted in multiple issued patents.

Dr. Ehlers has been recognized through numerous awards, including the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Senior Achievement Award, the American Society of Retina Specialists (ASRS)

Presidential Award, the Macula Society Young Investigator Award, the ASRS Young Investigator Award, the AAO Secretariat Award, and The Power List Top 40 Under 40. Dr. Ehlers has served on the ASRS Board of Directors and on the AAO Council since 2019. He has also been engaged in multiple leadership positions at the Cleveland Clinic, including serving as the Medical Director for Continuous Improvement, the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine Faculty Council, and the Cleveland Clinic Professional Staff Advisory Council.

Justis Ehlers consults at Zeiss, Alcon, Allergan, Allegro, Adverum, Regeneron, Roche, Genentech, RegenxBIO, Iveric Bio, Boehringer Ingelheim, Apellis, Novartis, Stealth Biotherapeutics, Perceive Biotherapeutics, Exegenesis, Ophthalytics, Eyepoint, Abbvie, Bayer, BVI, Alexion, Eyconis, and 4DMT; he receives research funding from Regeneron, Genentech, Oxurion/Thrombogenics, Alcon, Aerpio, Allergan, Roche, Iveric Bio, Boehringer Ingelheim, Adverum, Novartis, Zeiss, Stealth Biotherapeutics, Perceive Biotherapeutics, Alexion, and Beyeonics.



Onyeka Illoh is currently a Team Leader in the Division of Clinical Outcome Assessment (DCOA) in the Office of New Drugs (OND) at the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER), U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). She leads a multidisciplinary team of health outcomes researchers to provide technical guidance and advice on the development, validation, and interpretation of clinical outcome assessment (COA) endpoints used in clinical trial development programs to support regulatory decision-making and medical product labeling claims across several therapeutic areas, including ophthalmology. She is also involved in the development of FDA guidance documents and external outreach through participation in scientific working groups and workshops. Her previous role at the FDA involved conducting real-world studies to evaluate post-marketing medical product issues.

As a clinician-scientist, Dr. Illoh holds Doctor of Optometry (OD), Master of Public Health (MPH), and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees with qualifications in primary eye care, outcomes research, pharmacoepidemiology, and biostatistics. Prior to joining the FDA in 2015, and prior to completing her graduate-level research training programs at the Johns Hopkins University and University of Maryland Baltimore, Dr. Illoh provided comprehensive eye and vision care for patients in the Washington DC Metro Area, and she continues to do so. Dr. Illoh's research focus is on patient-centered outcomes in medical product development trials, real-world evidence generation, and externally controlled trials.

Onyeka Illoh has no conflicts of interest to disclose.



Kanishka Thiran Jayasundera is professor and chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and Vision Science at the UC Davis School of Medicine. He also serves as the Fosse Endowed Chair in Vision Science Research. Jayasundera comes to UC Davis Health from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. There he served as the Paul R. Lichter Professor of Ophthalmic Genetics and professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences at the university's Kellogg Eye Center.

Jayasundera specializes in retinal diseases and is known internationally for inherited retinal diseases. He built his distinguished career by focusing on

improving treatments and providing mental health support for patients with inherited retinal diseases. A passionate researcher and innovator, Jayasundera has led numerous groundbreaking studies funded by the National Institutes of Health, Foundation Fighting Blindness and other major organizations. He developed the Michigan Retinal Degeneration Questionnaire and the Michigan Vision-related Anxiety Questionnaire, which transformed how patient-reported outcomes are measured in clinical trials for inherited retinal diseases.

Beyond his clinical and research achievements, Jayasundera has made lasting contributions to education and mentorship, training dozens of fellows and residents from around the world. Jayasundera received his medical degree from the University of Auckland in New Zealand and completed his internship at the University of Auckland. He completed his residency in ophthalmology at the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists and his fellowships at the Kellogg Eye Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan, with a subsequent fellowship at McGill University in Montreal, Canada.

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Eleonora (Nora) Lad is the Vice Chair of Clinical Research and Professor of Ophthalmology at Duke University Medical Center. She is a clinician scientist and retinal ophthalmologist with the primary goal of developing novel strategies for early diagnosis and treatment of retinal diseases. Dr. Lad's academic career goal is to translate her doctoral training in neurodegenerative diseases into developing innovative diagnostic and therapeutic approaches for retinal degenerative diseases. Her research interests are centered on functional and structural biomarkers for diagnosis, progression and treatment response in AMD and inherited retinal degeneration.

Dr. Lad has fulfilled the role of international lead PI for the Apellis phase 3 OAKS study for geographic atrophy (GA) secondary to AMD, the first phase 3 trial in GA that met its primary endpoint and lead to the first FDA approval for this disease indication. Dr. Lad serves on the Executive Advisory Boards on multiple companies and advises industry sponsors on novel, approvable visual function assessments in the context of clinical trials for retinal diseases. Dr. Lad is a member of the FDA/NEI Ophthalmic Imaging Collaborative Communities on Imaging and Artificial Intelligence, as Heed Society faculty, and on the Advisory Board of the Innovative Medicine-2 (IMI-2) consortium. Dr. Lad has served as the director of grading for retina clinical trials at Duke Reading Center and primary investigator for investigator-initiated and phase 1 through 3 clinical trials at the Duke Eye Center.

Dr. Lad was awarded the American Society of Retinal Specialists Honor Award, Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award (K23) from the National Eye Institute, the Veterans Affairs Clinical Science Research and Development I01 Merit Award, the 2016 ARVO/Alcon Early Career Clinician-Scientist Research Award, Research to Prevent Blindness Ernest & Elizabeth Althouse Special Scholar Award, and the Duke Health Scholar award. She has published as first author in *Lancet*, *Nature* and *Ophthalmology* and serves as an editor for *Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science (IOVS)*, *Ophthalmic Surgery, Lasers and Imaging (OSLI) Retina*, and as a member of the Advisory Committee for *JAMA Ophthalmology*.

Eleonora Lad consults and serves as a Scientific Advisor at 4-DMT, ADARx, Alexion, Allegro, Alkeus, Alnylam, Annexon, Apellis, Aspen Neuroscience, Aviceda, BioCryst, Blue Rock, Boehringer Ingelheim, Broadwing Bio, Complement Therapeutics, Emmecell, Endogena, FerEx Bio, Galimedix, IVERIC Bio/Astellas, Janssen, Kriya Therapeutics, LumiThera, Lutronic Vision, Nanoscope Therapeutics, NGM Biopharmaceuticals, Novartis, Ocular Therapeutics, OD-OS, Osanni Bio, Perceive Bio, Polyphron, Pulse Sight Therapeutics, Regeneron, Regenxbio, RetinAI, Retrotope, Roche, Sanofi, SepulBio, Sitala Bio, and Thea Laboratoires and receives research funding at Alexion, Apellis, Belite Bio, Boehringer Ingelheim, Gemini Therapeutics, IVERIC Bio, Janssen, LumiThera, Neurotech, NGM Biopharmaceuticals, Novartis, and Roche. Dr. Lad has personal financial interests at Osanni Bio and a provisional patent for “A System and Method to Predict Progression of Age-Related Macular Degeneration” (63162741).



Rhea Lloyd is the Clinical Team Lead of the Division of Ophthalmology in the Office of New Drugs, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). After receiving an undergraduate degree from Howard University, Dr. Lloyd completed medical school at Duke University School of Medicine, a residency in Ophthalmology and fellowship in glaucoma at the Tufts New England Eye Center in Boston, MA. She joined the FDA in 2004, serving as a primary reviewer for ophthalmic drug products. In 2021, she subsequently became the Clinical Team Leader. Dr. Lloyd has secondary review responsibility for the clinical review of ophthalmologic drug products and ophthalmic therapeutic biologic products submitted to the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.

Rhea Lloyd has no conflicts of interest to disclose.



José-Alain Sahel is a Distinguished Professor and Chairman of Ophthalmology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and Emeritus Professor at Sorbonne University. He trained at Paris University, Strasbourg Louis Pasteur University, and Harvard. He founded two Vision Institutes in Paris and Pittsburgh and focuses on vision restoration and retinal diseases. He conducted over 80 clinical trials on retinal conditions, including first-in-human trials on retinal implants, gene therapy, neuroprotection and Optogenetics. He has published over 700 peer-reviewed articles, holds 90 patents, and co-founded companies for vision therapies. He collaborates with international organizations and institutions, advancing the diagnosis and treatment of rare eye diseases, improving the lives of patients worldwide. His memberships include the Académie des Sciences, the Leopoldina German Academy of Sciences, the Association of American Physicians, and the National Academy of Inventors. He received multiple awards including the Liggett Gund Award from Foundation Fighting Blindness and, in 2024, with Botond Roska, the Wolf Prize in Medicine.

In commitment to transparency, José-Alain Sahel discloses the following relations with for-profit and not-for-profit third parties. José-Alain Sahel co-founded and has personal financial interests at GenSight Biologics, Sparing Vision, Prophesee, Tilak Healthcare, Inc., Tenpoint, SharpEye, Cliensee, Netramind, and LaScience; consults and has personal financial interests at Avista Therapeutics and LightStone Ventures. Dr. Sahel serves on the Scientific Advisory Board at the Gilbert Foundation, Foundation Fighting Blindness,

and the Institute of Ophthalmology Basel; serves pro bono on the Board of Directors at the RD Fund and Gensight Biologics; and occupies positions of influence at SparingVision, Avista (observer), Fondation Voir et Entendre, Paris (President), StreetLab, Paris (President), and UPMC Enterprises (Executive Vice-President). Dr. Sahel has patents at Allotopic Expression and Rod-derived Cone Viability Factor; he also receives patent royalties at Gensight (through Inserm).



Rosa Sherafat-Kazemzadeh is a board-certified pediatric endocrinologist and the branch chief for General Medicine Branch 2, in the Super-Office of Therapeutic Products (OTP), in the FDA Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER). She received her medical degree from Tehran University of Medical Sciences, completed residency in pediatrics at University of Illinois Medical Center, Chicago, IL and fellowship in pediatric endocrinology in Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, Cincinnati, OH. She has been an associate professor of pediatrics in the Department of Pediatrics, Medstar Georgetown University Hospital, Washington, DC (2007-2018).

Dr. Sherafat-Kazemzadeh joined FDA CBER in 2018 and has served as a Clinical reviewer and Team Lead in General Medicine Branch 2 for several cellular, tissue, gene therapy products and medical devices for a variety of neurology, dermatology and pulmonary indications. Dr. Sherafat-Kazemzadeh served as the clinical co-chair and FDA speaker at the 70th Meeting of the Cellular, Tissue, and Gene Therapies (CTGT) Advisory Committee Meeting on Toxicity Risks of AAV Vector-Based Gene Therapy Products (September 2-3, 2021). She participated in the revision of the FDA Guidance for Industry, Long Term Follow Up after Administration of Human Gene Therapy Products (January 2020) and has represented CBER in several public meetings and workshops.

Dr. Rosa Sherafat-Kazemzadeh has no conflicts of interest to disclose.



J. Timothy Stout received his undergraduate degree from Rice University, his medical degree and doctorate in Molecular Genetics from Baylor College of Medicine, where he also completed a post-doctoral fellowship in Human Genetics. He completed his Ophthalmology residency at the Doheny Eye Institute at the University of Southern California, a medical retina fellowship at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London and a surgical retinal fellowship at the Doheny Eye Institute. Dr. Stout earned his MBA at the University of Oregon.

Dr. Stout has been the Sid W. Richardson Professor and Margaret Root Brown Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology, and Director of the Cullen Eye Institute at Baylor College of Medicine since 2013. Prior to that, he served as Professor in the Departments of Ophthalmology and Molecular Genetics and Vice President for Commercialization Strategies at Oregon Health & Science University. He has directed the Clayton Gene Therapy Laboratories since 1995.

Dr. Stout brings experience from the research, clinical and biotech sides of medicine. His research interests include human gene and cell-based therapy for proliferative and inherited ocular disease, retinal disease

genotype-phenotype correlation and ocular disease gene mapping and discovery. These efforts have included preclinical discovery efforts and more than 30 human clinical trials

Timothy Stout serves as a DSMC Member at Cognition Therapeutics; DSMC Chair at Atsena Editas, Exegenesis Bio, GenSight Biologics, Sanofi, Sparing Vision; DSMC Chair and Surgical Trainer at SPARK Therapeutics; Scientific Advisory Board member at Nacuity Pharmaceutical; Surgical Committee Member at Astellas; DSMC Chair, Consultant, and Scientific Advisory Board member at Beacon; and Clinical Advisory Board member at Coave. Dr. Stout is a DSMB Consultant at Ascidian and also consults at BlueRock Therapeutics, Daiichi Sankyo, Eyepoint Pharmaceuticals US, Hubble, MeiraGTx, Oxford Science Enterprises, Regenxbio, and SpliceBio. He receives grant funding from the Chad Zuckerberg Initiative, Clayton Foundation for Research, Research to Prevent Blindness, and NEI RO1 and U24 research funding.



Dorothy Thompson is a Consultant Clinical Scientist and Head of Clinical Vision Sciences of Ophthalmology at the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust in London, UK, an Honorary Associate Professor in the Developmental Biology and Cancer Department at UCL GOSICH, and a Visiting Professor of Ophthalmic and Vision Science at Manchester Metropolitan University.

Dr. Thompson also serves as the Vice President for Europe and North Africa at the International Society for Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision after previously serving as the Director of Education. She is Special Advisor to the board, Immediate Past Chair, and Founding member of BRISCEV National Professional Body for Visual Electrophysiology and also serves as Consortium lead and assessor for UK in Masters and Doctorate programs in Ophthalmic and Vision Science at the National School for Healthcare Science Training and Academy of Health Care Science.

Dorothy Thompson has no conflicts of interest to disclose.



Omer Trivizki is Deputy Chair of Ophthalmology, Chief Medical Officer of the R&D division, and Director of the Macula Center at Tel Aviv Medical Center. An internationally recognized retina specialist and physician-scientist, he focuses on AMD, GA, and AI-based imaging biomarkers, leads global clinical trials, chairs the AI Validation Committee of the International Retina Society (IntRIS), and holds academic appointments in Israel and the United States.

Omer Trivizki receives research funding from Carl Zeiss Meditec, Ocudyne, Perceive Biotherapeutics, and RetinAI; receives compensation for speaking at Abbvie, Roche, and Bayer; consults for Truemed, Galimedix, Reeovision, Astellas, Perceive Biotherapeutics; and has equity in Opmed.AI.



Ekaterini Tsilou is currently a clinical reviewer with FDA, CBER, OTAT, DCEPT, GMB2 reviewing Cell and Gene therapy products, primarily related to Ophthalmology. She is a Board-certified Ophthalmologist with sub-specialty training in Ophthalmic Genetics and clinical experience in the area of retinal degenerations and inherited ophthalmic disorders. During her tenure at FDA, Dr Tsilou has contributed to the approval of innovative cellular and gene therapy products and has participated in the development of several FDA guidance documents. Through her previous positions in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Emmes Company she has acquired experience in the design, execution and supervision of clinical trials particularly in the area of rare genetic diseases.

Dr. Tsilou has been the scientific reviewer of several peer reviewed manuscripts, authored numerous publications and presented her work in widely attended meetings as posters and oral presentations (Scientific written and oral communications).

Ekaterini Tsilou has no conflicts of interest to disclose.

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