

# 2017 Project – Vision for the Stars



**Grand Chapter of Iowa  
Order of the Eastern Star**

**STEPHEN A. WYNN  
INSTITUTE FOR  
VISION RESEARCH**  
University of Iowa  
Foundation



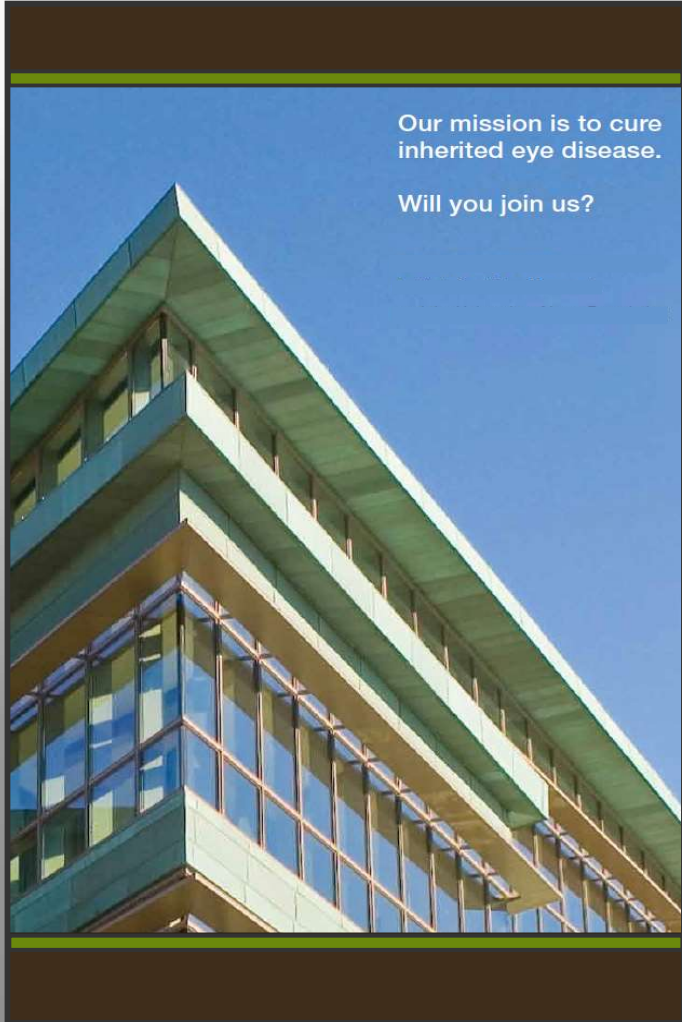


Adult Macular Degeneration (AMD)





Glaucoma



Our mission is to cure  
inherited eye disease.

Will you join us?

# STEPHEN A. WYNN INSTITUTE FOR VISION RESEARCH

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## Our History

The Stephen A. Wynn Institute for Vision Research (WIVR) was created to enable the University of Iowa to strengthen its world-leading role in the eradication of human blindness through interdisciplinary research, education, and clinical care.

- 40,000 sq. feet of contiguous research space
- 35+ faculty members dedicated to eye research
- 45,000 DNA patient samples– largest of it's kind
- Unique philanthropically funded mission



## AMD

AMD causes damage to the macula (the central part of the retina) which results in a loss of central vision. There are two forms of AMD:

dry and wet.

- Straight lines or faces appear wavy
- Blurry or blind spots in central vision
- Difficulty recognizing faces
- Vision seems hazy or less well defined





# Glaucoma

Glaucoma can begin without any symptoms and over time can advance to more severe stages, in which central vision narrows to “tunnel” vision or even result in a complete loss of vision.

- Gradual loss of peripheral vision
- Blurred and/or double vision
- Mild headaches or eye pain
- Halos around lights



## AMD and Glaucoma

Did you know that Glaucoma and AMD are the two leading causes of blindness in the US?

Collectively affecting as many as one-third of all people over the age of 75.

As these diseases tend to be slow moving, many people don't even notice the symptoms before it is too late.



## Why Iowa and Why Now?

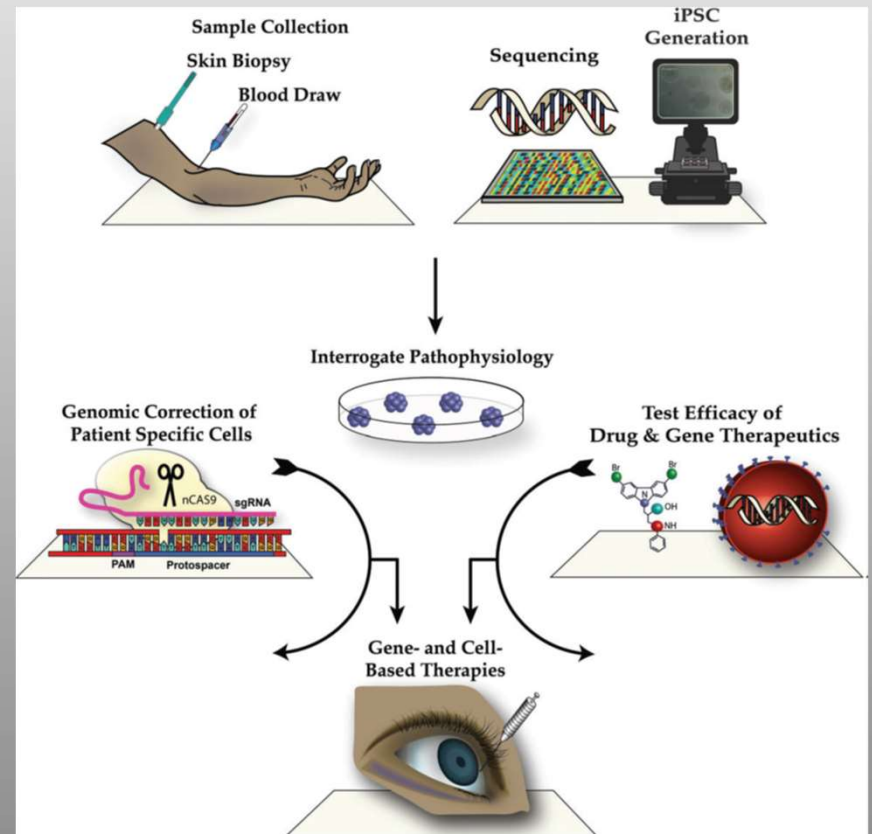
Researchers at the Wynn Institute have a mission of curing all eye diseases, from the most common (glaucoma, AMD) to the most rare (Retinitis Pigmentosa). In order to reach our mission our scientists today are using a new innovative approach with patient-derived stem-cells.

### Patient-Derived Stem-Cell Research

Treatment plan and goal:

**AMD**- We are using patient-derived stem-cells to create eye tissue that can be implanted back into the eye in order to stop the progression and restore vision.

**Glaucoma**- We are using patient-derived stem-cells to create brand new optic nerves. We are then studying those optic nerves to create and test new drugs for therapy in order to stop the progression and restore vision.



*“As a person who knows firsthand what it is like to lose vision from a rare inherited eye disease, I want to do everything I can to help others who are similarly affected... I am thrilled by the pace of the scientific progress that has occurred in the past few years and I feel that the prospect of finding a cure is possible and probable in the short term and certainly the long term.”*

*- Steve Wynn*



## 2017 Project – Vision for the Stars

Raise funds to help the Wynn Institute advance their efforts in the fight end blindness especially those caused by AMD Glaucoma



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