

EVS RECEPTION



The 2023 EVS Participants included:

Louay Almidani, MD (Wilmer Eye Institute/Johns Hopkins University)
Sean Ashworth, PhD (New York University Langone Health)
Paulo Bispo, PhD (Massachusetts Eye and Ear/Harvard Medical School)
Pooja Chauhan, PhD (New York University Langone Health)
Holly Chen, PhD (University of Alabama at Birmingham)
Christopher Conrady, MD, PhD (University of Nebraska Medical Center)
Ananya Datta, PhD, BOptom (New England College of Optometry)
Antonio Escudero Paniagua, PhD (University of California Los Angeles)
Mohammad Eslami, PhD (Harvard Medical School)
TJ Hollingsworth, PhD (University of Tennessee Health Science Center)
Kirk Hou, PhD (University of California Los Angeles)
Sangeetha Kandoi, PhD (University of California San Francisco)
Deepayan Kar, PhD, BOptom (University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine)
Shilpa Kodati, MD (Kellogg Eye Center/University of Michigan)
Sun Young Lee, MD, PhD (Roski Eye Institute/University of Southern California)
Shwetha Mangalesh, MD (Duke University)

Phuc Nguyen, PhD (University of Michigan)
Onur Olcucu, MD (Tufts Medical Center)
Anh Pham, PhD (Bascom Palmer Eye Institute/University of Miami)
Shaohua Pi, PhD (University of Pittsburgh)
Sriganesh Ramachandra Rao, PhD (State University of New York at Buffalo)
Neisha Rodriguez Ruiz, OD, PhD (Interamerican University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry)
Miranda Scalabrino, PhD (University of California Los Angeles)
Sneha Singh, PhD (Wayne State University School of Medicine)
Shreya Sirivolu, PhD (Keck School of Medicine/University of Southern California)
Whitney Stuard Sambhariya, MD, PhD (Wilmer Eye Institute/Johns Hopkins School of Medicine)
Pratima Suvas, PhD (Wayne State University School of Medicine)
Mala Upadhyay, PhD (Cole Eye Institute/Cleveland Clinic)
Cammi Valdez, PhD (Northeastern State University)
Mengyu Wang, PhD (Massachusetts Eye and Ear/Harvard Medical School)

The 2023 class of *Emerging Vision Scientist* researchers (see names above) who participated in the AEVR and NAEVR events reflected the breadth of breakthrough vision research.

On September 20, AEVR's *Research Saving Sight, Restoring Vision Initiative* hosted the ninth annual *Emerging Vision Scientists (EVS)* Program, which was supported by a grant from Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB). The event,

held during *Healthy Vision Month*, took place as Congress was working to finalize Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 appropriations before the start of the fiscal year on October 1.

Thirty early-stage investigators from around the country, reflecting a breadth of basic and clinical vision research and who have not yet received their first investigator-initiated (R01) grant from the NEI, displayed posters of their research



Shefa Gordon, Director of the Office of Program Planning and Analysis at the National Eye Institute (NEI), addresses the audience



Brian Hofland, PhD, President of Research to Prevent Blindness

during an evening Congressional Reception held in the Rayburn House Office Building Courtyard. Earlier in the day, the EVS participants attended AEVR's annual AMD Congressional Briefing to learn how the Alliances effectively communicate the value and importance of vision research to a non-research, high-level lay audience meant for Congressional staff and policymakers.

AEVR Executive Director Dan Ignaszewski hosted a brief program that included comments from RPB President Brian Hofland, PhD and Shefa Gordon, PhD, Director of the Office of Program Planning and Analysis at the National Eye Institute (NEI).

Before the reception, AEVR staff conducted training for EVS participants on communication techniques and methods for effectively sharing their research. The training and reception focused on the importance of engaging with Congressional staff to help understand how federal support for basic science has led and continues to lead to advancements in the mitigation, diagnosis, and treatment of a range of conditions that lead to impaired vision and blindness.



Deepyan Kar, PhD, University of Alabama at Birmingham speaks with an attendee



John Graham (Senate Special Committee on Aging) with Onur Olcucu, MD (Tufts Medical Center)