



AMERICAN
GLAUCOMA
SOCIETY
FOUNDATION

INVESTING IN PATIENT CARE,
INNOVATION, AND DISCOVERY.



2024-25 IMPACT REPORT



AMERICAN
GLAUCOMA
SOCIETY
FOUNDATION
INVESTING IN PATIENT CARE,
INNOVATION, AND DISCOVERY

Mission of the Foundation

To support glaucoma research and education and to promote excellence in the care of patients with glaucoma.

What Is Glaucoma?

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that damage the optic nerve, leading to vision loss and blindness. Symptoms often develop gradually, making early detection through a comprehensive dilated eye exam crucial. While there is no cure, early diagnosis and treatment can slow its progression and preserve vision.

Who Is at Higher Risk?

- Individuals over age 60, especially of Hispanic/Latino descent
- African Americans age 40 and older
- Those with a family history of glaucoma

Nearly 3 million Americans have glaucoma, but half remain unaware of their condition.

Glaucoma ranks as the second leading cause of blindness globally and is the leading cause of irreversible blindness.



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We are deeply grateful for your partnership with the American Glaucoma Society (AGS) Foundation. It is with great pride that we present the **2024-2025 Impact Report**, highlighting the transformative programs and initiatives made possible by your generous contributions. These efforts are driving significant advancements in glaucoma research, enhancing patient care, and fostering the education of future glaucoma specialists.

Your commitment as a donor empowers us to make meaningful progress in the fight against glaucoma, and we couldn't do it without you.

AGS by the Numbers: Total Impact

Young Physician Scientists

85

Young Physician Scientist
Research Grants Totaling

\$3,640,000*

Members

1,654

Mid-Career Physician Scientists

28

Mid-Career Physician
Scientist Research Grants

\$1,080,000**

MAPS Awards

146

Mentoring for the
Advancement of Physician
Scientists (MAPS) Awards

\$1,510,000

Total Research Grants



\$6,230,000

INSPIRE AWARDS



15

(launched in 2023)



AMERICAN GLAUCOMA SOCIETY

CARES

276

AGS Patients Treated

400

AGS Cares
Volunteer Members

*Since 1997

**Since 2008



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Supporters:

On behalf of the American Glaucoma Society, I want to express my sincere appreciation for your support of the American Glaucoma Society Foundation. Your generosity enables us to pursue the Foundation's mission of supporting glaucoma research and education, and to promote excellence in the care of glaucoma patients. Every contribution made—whether through individual donations, corporate partnerships, or participation in Foundation initiatives—is an investment in a future where glaucoma is no longer the leading cause of irreversible blindness in the world.

The impact of your giving is tangible. The research you help fund is truly groundbreaking. From exploring new drug therapies to developing innovative surgical techniques and enhancing diagnostic tools, our researchers are at the forefront of the fight against glaucoma. We are proud to support promising early- and mid-career investigators whose work has the potential to transform patient outcomes. Additionally, your contributions help expand our educational programs, provide mentorship opportunities for young ophthalmologists, and strengthen our commitment to fostering inclusive excellence within our specialty.

Your donations continue to support glaucoma surgical care for uninsured patients in the United States, and they have allowed the launch of a public awareness campaign designed to educate patients and their families about the increased risk of glaucoma among first-degree relatives.

The fight against glaucoma requires sustained effort and resources. Your steadfast support allows us to continue our work and creates hope for the millions of people living with glaucoma and for those at risk. Your partnership is what turns our goals into reality. Thank you again for being a champion of the American Glaucoma Society Foundation. We are deeply grateful for your trust, your dedication, and your shared vision for a world free from the threat of glaucoma.

With appreciation,

Steven J. Gedde, MD

President

American Glaucoma Society



AGS Programs

PATIENT-FOCUSED PROGRAMS

Driven by our commitment to improving patient outcomes, AGS is expanding its range of patient-focused programs, ensuring more comprehensive care and support.

AGS Cares

Launched in 2017, AGS Cares is a public service initiative that provides free surgical glaucoma care to uninsured or underinsured patients in the United States. The program addresses critical gaps in access by connecting patients with volunteer glaucoma surgeons who are AGS members.

AGS Family Matters

This is a public service program created to raise awareness about the 10X increased risk of glaucoma if you have a first-degree relative (parent, sibling, or child) who has the disease.

RESEARCH PROGRAMS

AGS Research Programs offer multiple grant awards for different career stages to advance the fight against vision loss.

Young Physician Scientist Awards

The Young Physician Scientist Awards support early-career glaucoma researchers within five years of fellowship, fostering skill development and mentorship to help establish successful research careers.

Mid-Career Physician Scientist Awards

The Mid-Career Physician Scientist Awards provide research funding for investigators 5 to 20 years post-fellowship, enabling them to initiate new projects or continue ongoing research when other funding sources are unavailable.

Mentoring for the Advancement of Physician Scientists (MAPS) Awards

The MAPS Award Program is a mentoring initiative of AGS that aims to support early-career glaucoma specialists and researchers by providing tools and resources for their advancement into leadership roles in glaucoma research. Through the MAPS Awards, AGS supports clinicians and emerging physician scientists at the beginning of their careers, helping them to overcome barriers and accelerate their progress in glaucoma research.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

AGS is amplifying its programs to shape the next generation of glaucoma specialists while fostering global collaboration through international fellowship opportunities.

INSPIRE

In 2023, AGS introduced its first Initiative for Networking and Support of Prospective Individuals in Resident Education (INSPIRE) awards to encourage opportunities for ophthalmology residents to attend our annual scientific meeting, with the goal of inspiring and encouraging the next generation of glaucoma specialists.

INSPIRE CLASS OF 2025



Left to right: Anania Woldetensaye, MD, Ivan Copado, MD, Simon Mogendi, MD, Nathan Shenkute, MD, and Jeremy Nortey, MD.

George L. Spaeth, MD International Fellowship Program

The George L. Spaeth, MD International Fellowship Program was established to empower early-career AGS members to share advanced glaucoma care in underserved global communities while fostering long-term partnerships.

Alan Crandall International Humanitarian Travel Award

The Alan Crandall International Humanitarian Travel Award supports early-career international glaucoma specialists by providing mentorship and professional development opportunities within AGS. The award covers travel and registration for the AGS Annual Meeting, where recipients present on the challenges and impact of their work in treating glaucoma in their communities.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

This has been a very exciting year as AGS has celebrated its 40th Anniversary and the Society's 13 founders! Four of those 13 – Drs. David G. Campbell, Harry A. Quigley, M. Bruce Shields, and George L. Spaeth - honored us with their personal presence at the AGS Foundation Fundraiser, “Celebrating 40 Years of Impact: Honoring the Founders of the American Glaucoma Society,” on February 28 at the AGS Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

The Founders Society, established in 2025 to recognize our founders and donors with lifetime giving of \$10,000 or more to the AGS Foundation, now has more than 20 members. Together, let's make that 50, and then 100! To achieve this, I strongly encourage all AGS members to consider regular annual contributions to the AGS Foundation, preferably at the President's Circle level of \$1,000 or more, in support of the many programs highlighted in this Impact Report.

Margaret Caspler, MBA, MPA, during her tenure as executive director of the AGS Foundation, has ensured that our membership remains well informed about these AGS programs and their exceptional impact. Thanks to her inspirational leadership and hard work, donations to the AGS Foundation in 2024 reached \$394,444, which was 153% higher than 2022 and 42% above 2023. We wish Margaret well as she transitions to the executive directorship of a foundation dedicated to the early detection of pancreatic cancer, and we are grateful for her profound influence on the continuing positive direction of the AGS Foundation. As successor to Dr. Louis B. Cantor, we also deeply appreciate Dr. Joel S. Schuman's leadership as chair of a highly engaged AGS Foundation Advisory Board.

It is very gratifying to be part of an organization as vibrant and forward-thinking as the AGS, and I am excited by the possibilities created by your broad support of the AGS Foundation. Thank you for your continuing generosity and commitment to the Society, its mission and supporting Foundation, and the patients we serve.

With warmest regards,

Gregory L. Skuta, MD
Executive Vice President
American Glaucoma Society



RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS

AGS Research Programs play a critical role in advancing the fight against vision loss, offering multiple grant awards that support innovative research for early- and mid-career investigators. By fostering groundbreaking discoveries and treatments, AGS is leading the global effort to treat glaucoma and prevent blindness. The AGS Young Physician Scientist Awards and the Mid-Career Physician Scientist Awards are open to all AGS members, regardless of academic position.

Young Physician Scientist Grant Program

The AGS Young Physician Scientist Grant Program exists to encourage the development of new investigators in glaucoma research. Awards are up to \$50,000 for one year. For 2025, the grant recipients are:



Elizabeth Cretara, MD, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center

Changes in Macular and Peripapillary Vessel Density in Perimenopausal Women Receiving Hormone Replacement Therapy Versus Control

We will study how hormone replacement therapy in perimenopausal females impacts ocular blood vessel density and intraocular pressure. We hope this study will improve our understanding of how hormonal changes in women impact glaucoma risk and help identify new treatments.



Anh H. Pham, MD, PhD, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, University of Miami

Determining Mitochondrial Health as a Risk Factor for the Development of Ocular Hypertension and Progression of Glaucoma

We will examine the central hypothesis that mitochondrial health and genomic integrity play important roles in the maintenance of intraocular pressure and progression in glaucoma using *in vitro* and *in vivo* models and collected tissues from primary open-angle glaucoma (POAG) patients. Our study will expand treatment options for ocular hypertension and provide a molecular understanding of glaucoma progression in a diverse registry of POAG patients.

Mid-Career Physician Scientist Grant Program

The Mid-Career Physician Scientist Grant Program provides research funding for investigators 5 to 20 years post-fellowship, offering grants of up to \$50,000. These grants enable mid-career investigators to launch new research projects or continue existing research when other funding sources are unavailable. Clinicians without existing research support are particularly encouraged to apply, as this award can only be received once in an investigator's career. For 2025, the recipients are:



**Qi N. Cui, MD, PhD, Scheie Eye Institute,
University of Pennsylvania**

Single Cell Genomics Examination of Molecular Signatures in Hypertensive Glaucoma

This proposal will utilize novel single-cell genomics to systematically dissect the molecular and cellular responses in the retina and optic nerve at different timepoints after intraocular pressure (IOP) elevation. Our scalable, cost-effective single-cell RNA-sequence approach will capture early and late responses in a mouse model of glaucoma with continuously elevated IOP and following IOP reduction.



**Alex S. Huang, MD, PhD, Shiley Eye Institute,
University of California, San Diego**

The Role of Glycosaminoglycans in Segmental Aqueous Humor Outflow and Glaucoma

Intraocular pressure lowering is the only proven treatment for glaucoma, and intraocular pressure is regulated primarily through aqueous humor outflow. Aqueous humor outflow is now known to be segmental, and the role of glycoproteins will be studied by evaluating the distribution of glycoproteins in low- and high-flow regions of the eye as well as by evaluating glycoprotein alteration as a method to lower intraocular pressure.

Mentoring for the Advancement of Physician Scientists (MAPS) Awards

The MAPS Awards Program is a multi-faceted mentoring program of AGS. The awards are given to clinicians and emerging physician scientists at the early stages of their careers to facilitate their glaucoma research interests and overcome any related barriers. MAPS Awards support Fellows-in-Training and Provisional or Active Members within five years of completion of fellowship training, regardless of holding an academic position. The awards of up to \$10,000 are provided annually, funded by the AGS Foundation.

The awardees for 2025 are:



Kyle A. Bolo, MD
University of Southern California



Karin Duarte Bojikian, MD
University of Washington



Daniel L. Liebman, MD, MBA
Massachusetts Eye and Ear



Rebecca F. Neustein, MD
Emory Eye Center



Claire L. Wright, MD
University of Tennessee

Impact of AGS Grants

From November 2024 to March 2025, the AGS surveyed 108 AGS grant recipients. Results show that AGS funding has a powerful impact on advancing research and careers:

- **91%** work in academic settings
- **70%** published peer-reviewed articles after their grant (average 3.5 per recipient)
- **45%** went on to secure National Institutes of Health funding, including K23, R01, and K08 awards
- **98%** continue glaucoma research in clinical practice
- **94%** agree the grant significantly advanced their careers

These findings confirm that AGS grants play a critical role in supporting physician scientists, driving innovation, and strengthening the pipeline of leaders in glaucoma research and patient care.



AMERICAN GLAUCOMA SOCIETY

CARES

AGS CARES

AGS Cares addresses a critical need by providing glaucoma surgery and care to uninsured and underinsured patients in the United States, preventing disease progression and blindness. This program thrives thanks to the dedication of over 400 volunteer surgeons across 24 states and U.S. territories, as well as the generous support of AGS Foundation donors, who help cover costs like facility and anesthesia fees up to \$1,500 per eye.

With their help, we have served 276 patients to date and continue to expand each year. We extend our deepest gratitude to our volunteers, especially the top 10 providers, for their invaluable service and commitment:

Michelle R. Butler, MD
Matthew E. Emanuel, MD
Brian E. Flowers, MD
William J. Flynn, MD
Davinder S. Grover, MD, MPH
Helen L. Kornmann, MD, PhD
Richard Grant Morshedi, MD
Anhtuan H. Nguyen, MD
Oluwatosin U. Smith, MD
Zachary Daniel Vest, MD

Thank you to our generous corporate donors, who support this program financially and in-kind:

*Glaukos Corporation
Iridex Corporation
New World Medical*

"We all know patients who are challenged not only by their disease but also by socioeconomic factors that threaten to limit their care. AGS Cares offers glaucoma surgeons a rewarding opportunity to help these most vulnerable patients preserve their vision."

***—Adam L. Rothman, MD,
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute***

**SERVE AS A
VOLUNTEER
SURGEON**

Join this remarkable program and make a lasting impact! More details and the enrollment form can be found on our website: [AGS Cares](https://www.agsglaucoma.org/cares).



AGS Family Matters

People with a first-degree relative (parent, sibling, or child) who has glaucoma are at **10 times greater risk** of developing the disease themselves. Additional risk factors include:

- Being over age 60
- Being of African American, Latino, or Asian descent
- Being extremely nearsighted or farsighted
- Having elevated eye pressure
- Using steroid medications



If you are at increased risk, it is important to be examined by a medical eye doctor (ophthalmologist). Even if you do not currently have glaucoma, regular eye exams are essential — **the earlier glaucoma is detected, the better it can be managed.**

First-Degree Relatives (FDRs) include:

- *Father*
- *Mother*
- *Son*
- *Daughter*
- *Brother*
- *Sister*



SCAN
LEARN
SHARE

A Patient's Journey

Carolyn's Story: The Power of Awareness and Early Detection

Carolyn E. was diagnosed with glaucoma at an early age. Her journey began during a follow-up visit at age 39 after LASIK surgery. Because her grandmother had gone blind from glaucoma, a family history was noted on her intake forms. A young associate—just months out of her glaucoma fellowship—noticed something unusual and recommended further testing. The results revealed an aggressive form of glaucoma, and Carolyn has been in treatment ever since.

Her story didn't end there. Aware of her family's risk, Carolyn urged her mother and siblings to get tested. One of her sisters and her mother were both diagnosed and are now being successfully treated.

Carolyn's experience underscores the importance of AGS's mission: to educate the next generation of glaucoma specialists, advance research in diagnosis and treatment, and raise awareness so patients encourage their first-degree relatives to get screened—just as promoted through **AGS Family Matters**.

Education Programs

INSPIRE

INSPIRE

In 2023, AGS introduced its first Initiative for Networking and Support of Prospective Individuals in Resident Education (INSPIRE) awards to encourage residents to attend our annual scientific meeting. The initiative is designed to empower ophthalmology residents through mentorship, professional development, and meaningful engagement with the glaucoma community. Awards are for up to \$5,000 each for attendance at the annual meeting.

INSPIRE Class of 2025



Ivan Copado, MD
PGY-1

University of California,
Davis



Simon Mogendi, MD
PGY-3

University of Virginia School
of Medicine



Jeremy Nortey, MD
PGY-2

Northwestern Feinberg
School of Medicine



Nathan Shenkute, MD
PGY-1

Kellogg Eye Center
University of Michigan



Anania Woldetensaye, MD
PGY-2

Stanford University School
of Medicine

George L. Spaeth, MD International Fellowship



“Words cannot express my gratitude at being given this once in a lifetime opportunity. Using the partnership between U.S. glaucoma specialists and host country physicians that the Spaeth Fellowship fosters will help make a better future for all involved.”

—Ranti Oguntoye-Ouma, MD

This fellowship honors the legacy of George L. Spaeth, MD, a world-renowned expert in glaucoma patient care, education, and clinical research, and the first president of AGS.

The global fellowship supports early-career AGS members in advancing glaucoma care in international areas where resources and access to specialized eye care are limited, while fostering cross-cultural exchange and professional growth through work in diverse healthcare environments. A key goal of the program is to establish sustainable, long-term partnerships with host institutions and countries, fostering ongoing collaboration and mutual learning that benefit both the fellows and the communities they serve.

AGS is proud that **Dr. Morohunranti “Ranti” Oguntoye-Ouma**, formerly at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, was the inaugural recipient. Dr. Oguntoye spent time at the Lions Aravind Institute of Community Ophthalmology (LAICO), a division of Aravind Eye Care System in Madurai, India, and then traveled to Tulsi Chanrai Foundation Eye Hospital in Abuja, Nigeria.

Thank you to The Louis B. and Linda E. Cantor Endowment Fund and the Cantors’ generous support of this program.

Alan S. Crandall International Humanitarian Travel Award

Alan S. Crandall, MD, was a passionate advocate for teaching and training young ophthalmologists across Africa, Southeast Asia, and throughout the world. A leader, supporter, and magnanimous member of AGS, he was deeply devoted to advancing glaucoma care for the benefit of humankind.

The Alan Crandall International Humanitarian Travel Award, with a current focus on Africa, aims to foster mentorship, connections, and professional development for promising, early-career ophthalmologists from outside the United States or Canada. These candidates are committed to providing care to glaucoma patients in their communities. The international recipient must be an early-career practicing glaucoma specialist, be proficient in both conversational and medical English, and have a personal or professional relationship with an AGS member.

The award covers registration, airfare, and hotel accommodations to attend the AGS Annual Meeting.

Congratulations to the 2025 recipient:

Tesfaye Tadesse, MD

Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia



The Alan Crandall International Humanitarian Travel Award is made possible by the generosity of Ravi Nallakrishnan, a member of the AGS Foundation Advisory Board.

Letter from the Foundation Advisory Board Chair

Dear Colleagues:

The 2024–2025 year has been one of extraordinary progress and purpose for the AGS Foundation. Together, we have built upon decades of innovation and collaboration to advance research, education, and patient care in ways that are shaping the future of glaucoma management worldwide.

Your generosity continues to drive discovery. Through your support, AGS-funded investigators are redefining how we understand, detect, and treat glaucoma—pioneering new imaging technologies, exploring neuroprotective strategies, and translating laboratory insights into meaningful clinical advances. Each grant awarded represents a step closer to our shared goal: preventing vision loss for millions affected by this complex disease.

Beyond research, the Foundation remains deeply committed to education, mentorship, and service. Our programs have expanded opportunities for early-career ophthalmologists, supported compassionate care through AGS Cares, and strengthened our international outreach to clinicians and patients alike. The Family Matters initiative, which raises awareness of the ten-fold increased risk among first-degree relatives of glaucoma patients, continues to grow—connecting families to information, screenings, and hope.

This year, the impact of your giving was tangible not only in laboratories and clinics, but also in the lives of people who can now access quality glaucoma care because of you. Each contribution—whether through personal philanthropy, corporate partnership, or engagement in AGS Foundation programs—has amplified our collective vision for a world without glaucoma blindness.

The progress we celebrate today is possible only through steadfast partnership. The AGS Foundation Advisory Board (FAB) brings together glaucoma specialists, industry, and philanthropic foundations to identify areas of need and to develop mechanisms to fill those gaps. On behalf of the FAB, I thank you for your trust, leadership, and unwavering belief in the power of science and compassion to change lives.

With deepest gratitude,

Joel S. Schuman, MD

Chair

AGS Foundation Advisory Board



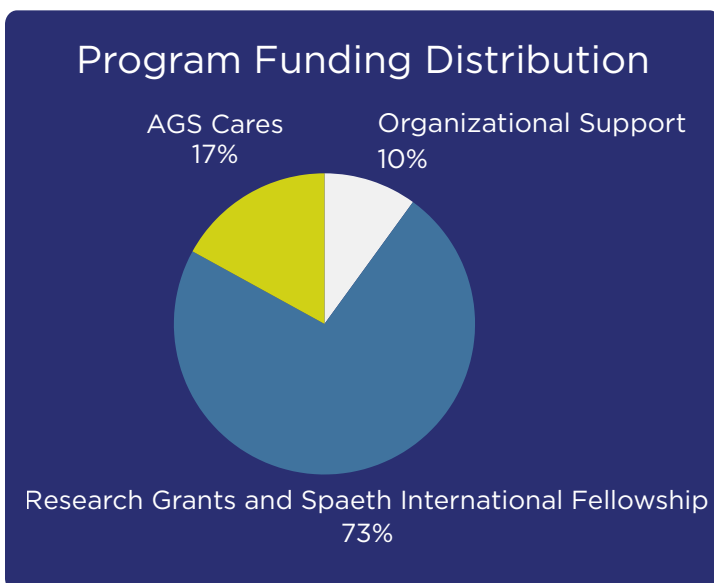
FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUE & SUPPORT

	2024	2023
Contributions & Grants	\$394,444	\$278,423
Total Revenue and Support	\$394,444	\$278,423

EXPENSES

	2024	2023
Organizational Support	\$30,394	\$35,802
Research Grants	\$150,000	\$150,000
Other	\$120,253	\$50,972
Total Expenses	\$300,647	\$236,774



ASSETS

	2024	2023
Changes in Net Assets from Operations	\$93,797	\$41,649
Investment Income	\$2,443	\$1,902
Net Realized & Unrealized Gains on Investments	\$8,711	\$7,774
Change in Net Assets	\$104,951	\$51,325
Net Assets Beginning of the Year	\$375,846	\$324,521
Net Assets End of the Year	\$480,797	\$375,846

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are deeply grateful for your continued generosity. Over the past year, the AGS Foundation has grown stronger thanks to you. We welcomed new donors, expanded our programs, and celebrated the growth of our new giving societies. The Founders Society—now 22 members strong—honors those whose lifetime gifts of \$10,000 or more are fueling our mission and making a lasting difference.

Your support has real impact. Together, we:

- Expanded **AGS Cares**, connecting even more patients with the glaucoma care they need.
- Advanced **Family Matters**, our outreach program helping patients and families better understand the hereditary risks of glaucoma.
- Awarded new **research grants** at three levels, fostering innovation at every stage.
- Supported the **INSPIRE Awards Program**, encouraging the next generation of glaucoma specialists.
- Funded two **global fellowships**, expanding the reach of the American Glaucoma Society.

To date, more than **\$6 million** in research grants has been awarded. Many of our grantees are now recognized leaders, driving new treatments, advancing clinical care, and contributing their expertise within AGS. Their work is shaping the future of treatment and improving patient outcomes every day.

Looking ahead, we are committed to expanding research, education, and patient-centered programs. We are also building partnerships with industry leaders and peer organizations to extend our reach and amplify results.

But none of this is possible without you. As national research funding continues to shrink, your support matters now more than ever. Your gift ensures that we can keep investing in new ideas, supporting young investigators, and reaching patients and families who need us most.

Please consider renewing your support today and help us continue to make a difference in the lives of people living with glaucoma.

With gratitude,

Margaret A. Caspler, MBA, MPA

Executive Director

American Glaucoma Society Foundation



Make Your Donation Today

Founders Society

The **Founders Society** recognizes individuals who have made lifetime contributions of **\$10,000 or more** in support of the AGS Foundation's mission. Named in tribute to the **13 Original Founders** of AGS, we extend our deepest gratitude to the following individuals for their unwavering commitment and generosity.

Reay H. Brown, MD
Linda E. Cantor and Louis B. Cantor, MD
Ronald Leigh Fellman, MD
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Oluwatosin U. Smith, MD
George L. Spaeth, MD
Robert N. Weinreb, MD



Left to right: Drs. David G. Campbell, George L. Spaeth, M. Bruce Shields, and Harry A. Quigley, four of the Society's 13 founders, at the 2025 AGS Foundation Fundraiser.

"As a glaucoma patient, I naturally want to support organizations that support glaucoma research. My glaucoma doctor and medical friends directed me to AGS. Charity Navigator ranks them very highly and my investigations confirmed their excellence, so I have been contributing to them since 2023. Moreover, they are very responsive at the highest level to my emails, even going so far as recommending glaucoma doctors in the LA area. I also like their highly informative online Glaucoma Chats. It is a privilege to include them in my annual donation list and in my estate plan."

-Art Geoffrion



Thank You!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the following individuals and organizations for their generous support of the American Glaucoma Society Foundation. Your contributions are vital to our mission of advancing glaucoma research, fostering education, and promoting excellence in patient care.*

VISIONARY \$100,000+

Dr. Louis and Linda Cantor

BENEFACTOR \$40,000 – 99,999

Arthur Geoffrion

PIONEER \$10,000 – 39,999

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