



**Dr. Shyamanga Borooah Receives Knights Templar Eye Foundation Grant**  
April 28, 2020



[Shyamanga Borooah, MBBS, PhD](#), Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at the Shiley Eye Institute and Viterbi Family Department of Ophthalmology at UC San Diego, has received a grant from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. The 2020 Pediatric Ophthalmology Research Grant will support the development of new treatments for sight threatening childhood eye disease.

The grant will support Dr. Borooah's work on retinal degeneration associated Danon disease, a complex systemic disorder, caused by a faulty gene. It is a condition that is characterized by weakening of the heart muscle and skeletal muscles used for movement. Children with Danon disease often develop a severe retinal degeneration which causes vision loss.

Dr. Borooah states, "I am hugely honored to have been awarded a Pediatric Ophthalmology Research Grant by the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. This funding is vital to support the stem cell and gene therapy research programs at the Shiley Eye Institute."

This critical research will be performed in close collaboration with [Eric Adler, MD](#), Professor of Medicine and Director of the Cardiac Transplant and Mechanical Circulatory Support at [UC San Diego Health](#). He has many years of experience caring for children with Danon disease.

Dr. Borooah continues, “As part of an academic medical center, the Shiley Eye Institute regularly deals with the most complex retinal diseases in pediatric and adult cases. The research, in my laboratory, aims to develop new treatments for this and other inherited retinal degenerations. The ultimate aim of these investigations is to develop new treatments to prevent blindness in children.”

Dr. Borooah completed his medical training at the Imperial College in London, his ophthalmology residency at the University of Edinburgh and retina fellowship at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London. He also obtained a PhD in stem cells during which he developed gene editing and a model of retinal degeneration using retinal cells. His research accomplishments have been honored with multiple prestigious awards including a Rowling scholarship for translational medicine, a Foundation Fighting Blindness Career Development Award and a Fulbright Fight for Sight Scholarship.

The mission of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation is to improve vision through research, education, and supporting access to care. Their grants help to launch the careers of clinical or basic researchers committed to the prevention and cure of potentially blinding diseases in infants and children.

*For more info on the [Shiley Eye Institute](#) and Viterbi Family Department of Ophthalmology, please contact Karen Anisko Ryan at [kanisko@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:kanisko@health.ucsd.edu)*