



SHILEY EYE INSTITUTE

UC SAN DIEGO

Shira L. Robbins, MD, selected for a Hartwell Foundation Individual Biomedical Research Award



Physician scientist, **Shira L. Robbins, MD**, associate clinical professor in the Department of Ophthalmology at the UC San Diego Shiley Eye Institute, received a prestigious Hartwell Foundation Individual Biomedical Research Award to study omega-3 fatty acids as a therapy for the prevention of retinopathy of prematurity (ROP), a condition that affects the vision of preterm infants. She will use this annual funding of \$100,000 for three years to improve the methods by which doctors diagnose, prevent and treat blinding disease in the smallest most vulnerable of babies.

As part of the study, Dr. Robbins and her team will investigate premature infants' fatty acid biochemistry and biomarkers of pro-inflammatory and angiogenic genes. This could potentially lead to new therapies to treat babies born prematurely, resulting in a transformative benefit to prevent ROP and the associated blindness.



Dr. Robbins performs research to preserve and protect the vision of premature infants. She stated, "These tiny two pound babies, born way too early, must heroically battle to survive and then tragically develop this blinding disease. My research targets ways to give these babies and their families a fighting chance at more normal vision. I cannot imagine a more fulfilling career."

Dr. Robbins' clinical practice focuses exclusively on pediatric ophthalmology and adult eye re-alignment at the Anne F. and Abraham Ratner Children's Eye Center. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Robbins, please call 858-534-2020.