



***The 16th Conference of the
Stephen J. Ryan Initiative for Macular Research***

The David R. Hinton MD Scholarship Program

Enabling promising, early career researchers to participate in a RIMR Conference.

Program Guidelines

Application opens June 1, 2025

Application Deadline:

Monday, August 4, 2025

6:00 p.m. Pacific Time

Late applications will not be accepted

Introduction

The Executive Committee of the Ryan Initiative for Macular Research (“RIMR”) created the David R. Hinton MD Scholarship Program to honor the memory of David R. Hinton, MD, FARVO and acknowledge his many contributions to age-related macular degeneration (AMD) research, his commitment to the RIMR Program, and his passion for mentoring the next generation of researchers.

The Hinton Scholarship will provide funding for early-career vision researchers to attend a RIMR Conference.

The David R. Hinton MD Scholarship Program

RIMR Conferences bring physicians and scientists together to identify important unanswered questions surrounding dry AMD and to spark new, interdisciplinary research.

RIMR Conferences normally have eight breakout groups, each focused on a different topic. Typically, invitations to attend RIMR are extended to approximately 100 well-established researchers in relevant fields. Attending a RIMR Conference will afford an early-career researcher the opportunity to learn from and exchange ideas with the invited participants during breakout group meetings, meals, and networking time.

Hinton Scholarships may be awarded for each Conference on a competitive basis; eight Hinton Scholarships will be awarded in a typical year, but the number may vary each year.

Eligibility

Researchers from academic institutions who have a demonstrated interest in pursuing research in dry age-related macular degeneration research may apply.

Applicants may be clinician/scientists or basic science researchers in a field that is relevant to the scientific challenges of AMD. An MD, PhD, or equivalent is required. Applicants must be able to provide a recommendation from a faculty member who is familiar with their work.

Individuals’ current academic title should be Assistant Professor, Senior Instructor or equivalent research scientist. Those with associate or full professorships or titles such as Chair, Head, Dean, or Emeritus are ineligible.

Applicants must be able to travel to Irvine, CA to attend the entirety of the RIMR Conference on March 26-28, 2026.

Previous award recipients are ineligible.

Scholarship Amount and Terms

Scholarships amounts will vary, based on each Recipient’s travel costs.

Doheny Eye Institute will pay vendors directly for Recipients’ coach-class travel, ground transportation, meals at the conference, and lodging at the conference hotel. Recipients will be reimbursed for incidental expenses on travel days, including:

- a. Airport parking, and mileage or transit fare between home and originating airport. Daily round trip mileage between home and venue for local participants.
- b. Valet parking at the hotel for local participants who drive their personal vehicles to the meeting.
- c. Taxi or rideshare fares to/from John Wayne Orange County airport (SNA) to venue or hotel.
- d. Tips to drivers, hotel maids, bellmen, and valets.
- e. Dinner on the unscheduled night of the meeting (not to exceed the maximum listed in the conference travel policy).

Scholarship awards will be made to individuals, not to institutions, and each Recipient must sign an award agreement (sample attached).

Scholarships are not transferrable and may not be carried over from one year to another. Unused scholarships are forfeited.

Application Timeline

An email will be sent to past RIMR Conference participants encouraging them to forward the scholarship program information and application to interested and qualified candidates in their institution or in other institutions. There are no restrictions on forwarding.

All applications **must be completed by 6:00 p.m. Pacific Time on August 4, 2025**. The application form will be deactivated at that time, and only information received by 6:00 p.m. will be reviewed by the committee. **Late applications will not be accepted.**

The Scholarship Review Committee will review the applications in August 2025, and applicants will be notified of the status of their application no later than September 30, 2025.

Application Process

Scholarship applications must be submitted via the [online form](#). Applications will not be accepted by email or postal mail.

Application Questions

The following template is provided to help you prepare your application. Please review before beginning the online application.

All open-ended questions include word limits. When your completed application form is downloaded, only the allowable number of words will be forwarded to the committee review. **Please check your word count carefully prior to submitting your application.**

At the end of the online application, you will have the opportunity to upload two PDF files: your CV and a letter of recommendation. The file size limit for each PDF is 300K, so please be sure to include only images that significantly enhance your application and compress the file, if needed.

Question 1. Applicant's Contact Information

First Name: Last Name:
Title:
Department:
Organization/Institution:
Street Address:
City:
State:
Zip Code:
Email Address:
Website:
Phone Number:

Question 2. Contact Information for Author of Letter of Recommendation

First Name: Last Name:
Organization/Institution:
Street Address:
Apt/Suite/Office:
City:
State:
Zip Code:
Email Address:
Phone Number:

How Your Interests Align with RIMR's Goals

Questions 3-7 on the application are included to assess how your scientific interests align with the goals of the RIMR Program and Conferences. Before answering, please review the program's goals and the conference format.

Goals: The overall goal of the RIMR program is to hasten the research in dry AMD through new collaborations and interdisciplinary research projects. Specific aims include:

- Identify key research problems and potential solutions to the challenges of dry AMD
- Set participants on the path to collaborate on interdisciplinary research projects

- Advance past obstacles that have stalled the successful development of therapies for dry AMD
- Increase understanding of the relationship between AMD and other age-related disorders
- Reveal new pathways and targets relevant for developing treatments for dry AMD
- Identify novel endpoints and clinical trial designs that can inform or address key knowledge gaps in the development and progression of AMD.
- Allow attendees to recognize and pursue clinical trials that target earlier disease stages

Conference format: An intensive 2½-day program that emphasizes teamwork across institutional and disciplinary boundaries in which each participant is a member of a task group that has a “challenge” to address. The group is not expected to solve the challenge, but rather to reach consensus on a proposed method(s) of attack and identify what is needed to make progress possible.

The program's Executive Committee selects high-level topics for the conference based on the most pressing problems identified in the final reports of the prior conference. Task group leaders are recruited for each topic, and they draft the specific challenge for their group. Challenges include a short statement of the group's objective, a list of questions for discussion, and recommended reading.

Before the conference, participants are asked to watch online tutorials on the disciplines that will be represented at the meeting and read the reports from the prior year's task group discussions. An interdisciplinary glossary is provided to bridge gaps in terminology.

The schedule includes an opening plenary session with all participants; approximately twelve hours of discussion time in task groups, including inter-mixing between groups to further the exchange of ideas, and, final presentations from each group in which they report their approach to their topic, obstacles they identified, and what was accomplished. A Q&A session and discussion follows each presentation.

Question 3. Personal Profile:

Please provide a few paragraphs about yourself. You may write about your background, special interests, obstacles you may have overcome, or anything you would like the committee to know that may set you apart from other applicants. DO NOT include all the details on your CV. Your CV will be uploaded at the end of the application process.

Text only. Do not include symbols, super- and/or sub-scripts, or tables. (500-word limit)

Question 4. Current Research Interests:

Text only. Do not include symbols, super- and/or sub-scripts, or tables. (500-word limit)

Question 5. Career Goals and Why Dry AMD?

Please describe what you hope to accomplish in your research, its relevance to dry AMD, and why this research topic is of interest to you from a professional and/or personal perspective.

Text only. Do not include symbols, super- and/or sub-scripts, or tables. (500-word limit)

Question 6. What area of research will have the greatest impact on advancing our understanding of dry AMD, and why?

Text only. Do not include symbols, super- and/or sub-scripts, or tables. (500-word limit)

Question 7. How do you think attending the RIMR Conference will help your career? What can you contribute to the RIMR Conference?

Text only. Do not include symbols, super- and/or sub-scripts, or tables. (500-word limit)

Question 8. Upload CV: Please upload your CV as a PDF file. Please list publications, patents, grant funding, and awards in your CV. (File size limit 300K.)

Question 9. Upload Letter of Recommendation: Please upload a single PDF file that contains one letter of recommendation from a faculty member familiar with your work and your potential. (File size limit 300K.)

Review Process

Members of the Hinton Scholarship Committee will review applications. Proposals will be judged on:

1. information submitted in applicants' CVs, including but not limited to education, awards, accomplishments, publications, successful grant applications, and relevant experience
2. responses to the questions above
3. letter of recommendation

Applicants interested in pursuing research in dry AMD, or scientific fields that could contribute to the research on dry AMD, will be favored.

Sample Agreement

This sample Agreement is provided for reference only – DO NOT complete at this time. RIMR will send an Agreement to you if your proposal is selected.

David R. Hinton MD Scholarship Agreement

This agreement is entered into by the Ryan Initiative for Macular Research, a program of the Doheny Eye Institute, and the Scholarship Recipient (hereinafter called “RIMR”) and _____ (hereinafter called the “Recipient”).

Scholarship Number:

Funding Source: Doheny Eye Institute

Recipient Name: Degrees:

Recipient Mailing Address:

Effective Date:

Expiration Date:

Scholarship Amount:

Hinton Scholarship Administrator:

ARTICLE I – DEFINITIONS

Authorized signer means a person with authority to enter into, administer and/or terminate scholarships and make related determinations and findings. The term includes certain authorized representative of the authorized signer, acting within the limits of their authority as delegated by the Authorized signer.

Recipient shall mean the individual to whom the Hinton Scholarship was awarded, as identified in the Recipient Name field in this agreement.

ARTICLE II – ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

On Recipients’ CVs this award shall be described as the “David R. Hinton Scholarship to the 20XX (year) Conference of the Ryan Initiative for Macular Research”.

The effective date of this agreement is _____, and the completion date shall be sixty days after the close of the Conference.

ARTICLE III – REPORTING REQUIREMENT

The Ryan Initiative for Macular Research seeks to keep reporting requirements to a minimum. Recipients are required to:

1. Complete the post-conference survey.
2. Submit a short written report (between 1-5 pages) within 60 days after the conclusion of the Conference. The report should address all applicable questions provided below:
 - a. Please describe what you learned, how your thinking was challenged, and any significant realizations or “aha” moments during or since the Conference?
 - b. How did the experience affect your thinking about your career or research interests (current or future)?
 - c. Please describe one or more notable exchanges with another participant.
 - d. Did you share an idea that had an impact on your task group? Please describe.
 - e. Did you make plans made for further discussions or possible research collaborations – inside or outside your current field? Please describe.

- f. If the Conference inspired you to pursue research specific to dry AMD that you would not otherwise have pursued, please describe.
- g. If the Conference changed your conceptual and methodological approach to your research, please describe.
- h. Are you involved in interdisciplinary research in your institution? If not, do you intend to pursue?
- i. What would have made the experience better?

ARTICLE IV – COVERED EXPENSES AND PAYMENT THEREOF

Funds allocated to this Scholarship Agreement will primarily be paid “in-kind”. Air travel costs will be paid by the RIMR Program directly to the Program’s Travel Agency or airline by credit card. Lodging costs will be charged to the RIMR Program’s Master Account at the Conference hotel. Airport transportation from LAX will be charged to and paid by the RIMR Program. Meals and ground transportation to and from the venue will be provided during the Conference.

Following the Conference, the Recipient may submit an expense claim for incidentals, including:

- Airport parking, and mileage or transit fare between home and originating airport. Daily round trip mileage between home and venue for local participants.
- Valet parking at the hotel for local participants who drive their personal vehicles to the meeting.
- Taxi or rideshare fares to/from John Wayne Orange County airport (SNA) to venue or hotel.
- Tips to drivers, hotel maids, bellmen, and valets.
- Dinner on the free night of the meeting (not to exceed the maximum listed in the conference travel policy).
- No other expenses will be reimbursed.

No expenses shall be incurred, nor payments or reimbursements made, until this agreement has been signed by both parties.

ARTICLE V – TERMINATION

Scholarship award may be terminated in whole or part only if the following apply:

1. If a Recipient materially fails to comply with the terms and conditions of an award, or
2. If the two parties (Doheny Eye Institute and the Recipient) agree upon the termination conditions.

ARTICLE VI – CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Recipient agrees to assume the sole responsibility for his or her participation, including disclosure of unpublished research results or other preliminary or confidential information. Recipient is responsible for taking any necessary precautions for the protection of the intellectual property belonging to them or to their institution. The RIMR Program, and the Doheny Eye Institute, and their officers, directors, and agents shall not be responsible for any claims, damages, or liability arising out of Recipient’s research performed using grant funds.

ARTICLE VII – SUBGRANTING AND ASSIGNMENTS

No portion of this Scholarship may be sub-granted or assigned.

ARTICLE VIII - DISPUTES

The parties shall attempt to resolve any disputes arising out of or related to the Scholarship award by mutual agreement. The parties agree that any disputes that are not so resolved shall first be subject to resolution by the RIMR Executive Committee and the Doheny Eye Institute.

ARTICLE IX – JURISDICTION

This Scholarship award is to be construed under the laws of the State of California. The sole venue for any disputes shall be the State of California.

ACCEPTED BY:

(GRANTEE NAME)	Ryan Initiative for Macular Research	Doheny Eye Institute
Signed: _____	Signed: _____	Signed: _____
Name: _____	Name: SriniVas Sadda, MD	Name: Marissa Goldberg
Title: _____	Title: Program Chair	Title: CEO
Date: _____	Date: _____	Date: _____

Sample: Do not sign.