That’s a landmark that should be a source of pride for us all in Oklahoma. In ten years, the vision scientists at Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) have seen their research grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) go from 65th to 6th. This ranks DMEI ahead of such distinguished institutions as Harvard, Yale, Stanford, and Duke. How did it happen? Three big reasons. First, the Institute’s Board of Trustees and leadership were committed to this goal. Second, hundreds of people and organizations share a dedication to the cure of blinding eye disease. This includes such key partners as the Presbyterian Health Foundation, the Noble Foundation, Research to Prevent Blindness, and particularly the Dean McGee Eye Institute Foundation. Third, and most importantly, DMEI was successful in recruiting top quality talent — productive and innovative scientists. Where do we go from here? Consider that one out of every 100 over age 40 is legally blind. Three out of every 100 is visually impaired. That is our fight. And research is our best weapon.

Robert Leonard, M.D. leads clinical trials on macular degeneration.
The Dean McGee Eye Institute is dedicated to serving our community through excellence and leadership in eye care, education, and vision research.

The Dean McGee Eye Institute is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization based on the campus of the Oklahoma Health Center in Oklahoma City. Its forty ophthalmologists and scientists care for over 130,000 patients annually and rank sixth nationally in funding from the National Institutes of Health.

John Ash, Ph.D. does basic research on diabetic retinopathy.

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