



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

Support Innovation in Eye Care

Invest in cutting-edge research at AKU

Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences



The Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences (OVS) and the Centre for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research (CRM) at Aga Khan University (AKU) are dedicated to improving patient care through groundbreaking research.

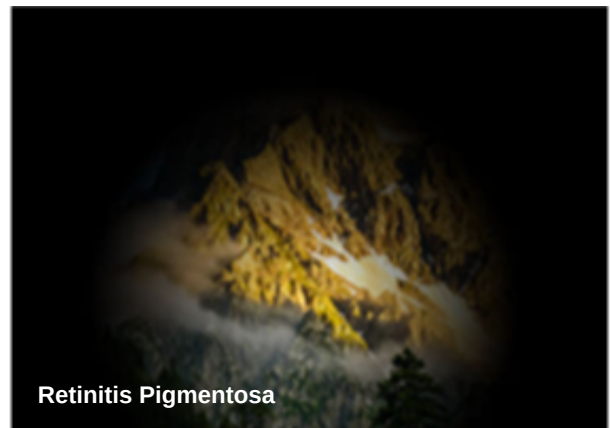
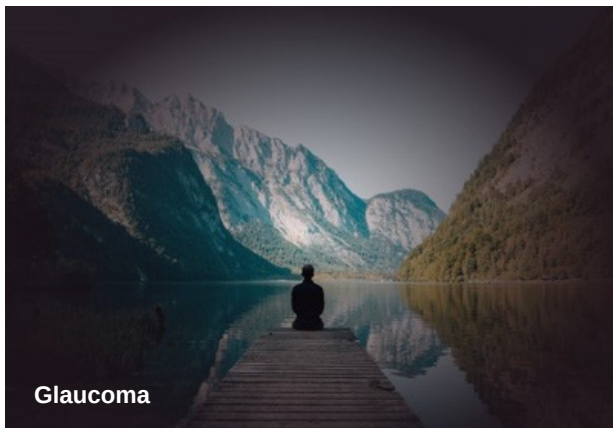
Globally, 2.2 billion people face vision impairment, with 21 million affected in Pakistan alone. Glaucoma impacts 80 million worldwide, including 1.8 million in Pakistan, with half experiencing vision loss due to late diagnosis. The prevalence of consanguineous marriages further increases the risk of inherited conditions. With cases rising due to aging, lifestyle changes, and population growth, urgent research is needed to develop breakthrough therapies.

Building on its strong expertise in glaucoma and retinal disease, AKU is launching the Innovation in Eye Research Fund, with the goal of developing and testing new, breakthrough solutions to the leading causes of blindness. By unlocking the potential of stem cells, this fund aims to develop treatments that would prevent vision loss and restore sight. This fund will drive research on:

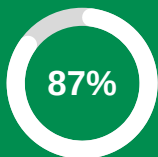
- Glaucoma – repairing or regenerating the optic nerve
- Inherited retinal diseases – primarily retinitis pigmentosa
- Diabetic eye disease
- Age-related macular degeneration

An initial funding of \$1 million is required to get this crucial initiative off the ground.

The world through the eyes of patients suffering from Glaucoma and Retinitis Pigmentosa



The leading causes of vision impairment include cataract, glaucoma (damage to the optic nerve), retinal disease, diabetic retinopathy (damage to the retina due to diabetes) and age-related macular degeneration (blurring of central vision).



87% of the world's visually impaired live in LMIC's with a disproportionate impact on older people, children, women and those living in rural communities.



85% of all visual impairment and 75% of blindness is avoidable.

Twenty years ago, reversing vision loss from inherited retinal diseases like Leber Congenital Amaurosis seemed impossible—today, gene therapy has made it a reality. By uniting doctors and scientists, we can accelerate breakthroughs in diagnosing and treating eye diseases.



Vision scientist Dr Irfan Khan (second from right) with colleagues from Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences (Dr Karim F. Damji on the right) and the Center for Regenerative Medicine (Dr Azhar Hussain and Dr Rumina Hasan)



In partnership with the Centre for Regenerative Medicine and the Clinical Trials Unit, we are collaborating to find breakthrough therapies for major causes of vision loss in Pakistan and beyond, including developing innovative therapies for various types of glaucoma and inherited retinal disease.

Dr Karim F. Damji
Professor and Chair
Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, AKU

Support the AKU Innovation in Eye Research Fund and help prevent vision loss

1

Donate any amount towards the existing expendable or endowment funds

On a donation of USD 50,000 and above, your name will be etched on the AKU walls.

2

Create a named endowment

USD 100,000 and above

3

Make a blended gift partial endowment and partial expendable fund

Ways to support

Pakistan-based Donors can donate via cheque drawn in favour of the "Aga Khan University" and send it to:

University Advancement
The Aga Khan University
5th Floor, University Centre
Stadium Road, P.O. Box 3500,
Karachi 74800, Pakistan

Please indicate that your donation is for the AKU Innovation in Eye Research Fund.



Overseas Donors can donate through the online giving platforms of the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) in Canada, United Kingdom and United States of America and avail tax benefits. Please mention AKU in the comments section while making a donation.

You can also donate via cheque through the respective AKF offices in these countries. **Please indicate that your contribution is for the AKU Innovation in Eye Research Fund at the Aga Khan University** while sending your cheque to the respective AKF office.

Canada

Mark your cheque in favour of 'Aga Khan Foundation, Canada' and send it to:

Aga Khan Foundation, Canada
199 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 1K6, Canada

Charitable Registration Number:
10007 2586 RR0001

United Kingdom

Mark your cheque in favour of 'Aga Khan Foundation, UK' and send it to:

Aga Khan Foundation, UK
Aga Khan Centre
10 Handyside Street
London, N1C 4DN, UK

Registered Charity Number: 266518

United States of America

Mark your cheque in favour of 'Aga Khan Foundation USA' and send it to:

Aga Khan Foundation, USA
1825 K. Street, Suite 901
Washington, DC 20006,
USA

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