

Ross F. Collery, PhD, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, Assistant Professor of Cell Biology, Neurobiology and Anatomy, has been awarded a grant from the E. Matilda Ziegler Foundation for the Blind, Inc. for his study entitled ***“Understanding genetic causes of refractive error using zebrafish.”*** The E. Matilda Ziegler Foundation for the Blind, Inc. was established in 1929 to fund services to benefit the blind community and continues their philanthropic mission by funding vision research. The Foundation funds top young basic research researchers with strong potential for making significant steps in understanding root causes of blindness and developing cures.

The three-year, \$240,000 grant will facilitate studies into the role of the interphotoreceptor retinoid binding protein (IRBP) in the eye, and how it contributes to controlling eye size and preventing myopia. Mutations in IRBP are linked to myopic refractive error and retinitis pigmentosa, studying the functions of this protein will have implications for understanding visual processes and preventing blinding pathologies.