

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Rochester / Finger Lakes Eye & Tissue Bank (R/FLETB), a nonprofit organ and tissue donation agency, has awarded grants totaling \$40,145 to three researchers from the Rochester and Syracuse NY region. The period of funding is for January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008.

Principal investigator Richard T. Libby, Ph.D., University of Rochester Eye Institute, Rochester, NY, will receive \$10,145 for his research project, *Histological Analysis of Human Glaucoma*. His project will look to answer how and why retinal ganglion cells die in glaucoma. Experiments conducted to answer these questions will have an important impact on developing therapeutic strategies for the treatment of glaucoma.

Principal investigator Geunyoung Yoon, Ph.D., University of Rochester Eye Institute, Rochester, NY, will receive \$20,000 for the research project, *Real-time Observation of in situ Tear Film Dynamics with Optical Coherence Tomography and Wavefront Sensor*. Their research will study dry eye disease and its treatment.

Principal investigator Sudipta Tripathi, Ph.D., Department of Surgery, SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, NY, will receive \$10,000 for a fellowship project, *A Novel Role for Th17 Cells in Cyclosporine Resistant Transplant Rejection*. The project will study why transplanted organs are rejected despite adequate immunosuppression and provide strategies to prevent resistant rejection, thus prolonging the survival of transplanted organs.

These grants continue a program begun in 1954 through which more than \$1 million has been awarded to investigators conducting transplantation and vision-related research. Founded in 1952, the R/FLETB serves the Western, Central, Finger Lakes and Northern NY regions, as well as North Central PA.

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