

# CURES WITHIN REACH RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT: SEEING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR RETINAL DISORDERS

In 2020, Cures Within Reach funded **Dr. Susanna Park** at **University of California, Davis** to support a Phase I/II open-labeled, prospective clinical trial studying the injection of a patient's own CD34+ stem cells in bone marrow to treat vision loss due to retinitis pigmentosa, a rare hereditary form of retinal degeneration.

Dr. Park is an ophthalmologist with clinical interests in the diagnosis and treatment of retinal disorders using stem cells and retinal imaging. She is the inaugural Barbara A. and Alan M. Roth, MD Endowed Chair for Discovery, Education and Patient Care at the UC Davis Eye Center. Dr. Park has been honored for her work as a distinguished clinician, teacher, and researcher, including many awards: the Retina Society Research Award, the Best Doctors in America Award, the Ophthalmology Teaching Award, the Joan Oettinger Memorial Award for Excellence in Cancer Research, the Senior Honor Award, the Achievement Award, the Honor Award, the Research to Prevent Blindness Career Development Award, and the Heed Foundation Fellowship Award.

Her overall goal: to create innovative therapies for patients with retinal disorders.



**Dr. Susanna Park**



## PROFILE

- Dr. Susanna Park earned her M.D. and Ph.D. at Yale University. She completed her residency and fellowship at Harvard Medical School.

## CWR FUNDING

- This \$50,000 **Phase I/II clinical trial** is testing the use of a patient's own bone marrow stem cells to treat retinitis pigmentosa.
- Dr. Park and this trial represent two of Cures Within Reach's communities:
  - **Rare Diseases**
  - **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

