

Christine Curcio, PhD, FARVO



White-McKee Endowed Professor of Ophthalmology
Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science
University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine

EyeSight Foundation of Alabama
Vision Research Laboratories

Dr. Curcio investigates human retinal neuroscience, aging, and age-related macular degeneration (AMD) using laboratory and clinical approaches. She has focused on anatomic and molecular pathobiology especially drusen and other characteristic extracellular deposits of AMD, outer retinal degeneration and gliosis, transdifferentiation of retinal pigment epithelium, and microarchitecture of end-stage neovascularization and atrophy. Her superb microscopy studies provided a cellular and subcellular basis of clinical retinal imaging technology (optical coherence tomography, fundus autofluorescence, adaptive optics-assisted scanning laser ophthalmoscopy, angiography), building toward a fully-visualizable progression sequence of disease. Her maps of the human photoreceptor layer showing rod loss in aging and AMD stimulated development of delayed rod-mediated dark adaptation as a functional indicator for AMD onset. Since 1984, research resulting in 230 peer review articles and >300 invited presentations has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, foundations, and industry. She serves on editorial boards of *Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science* and *Retina*. She was awarded the 2002 (inaugural) Roger H. Johnson Prize for Macular Degeneration research, the 2014 Ludwig von Sallmann Prize, the 2020 Research to Prevent Blindness – David F. Weeks Award for excellence in AMD research, and the 2022 Lawrence A. Yannuzzi Lectureship from the International Retinal Imaging Society. Dr. Curcio provides histology to the Classification of Atrophy Meeting (CAM), a clinical international consensus group defining OCT-based imaging endpoints for AMD clinical trials.