Val Sheffield, MD, PhD

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Dr. Sheffield received his Ph.D. degree in Developmental Biology and his M.D. degree with honors from the University of Chicago. He received Pediatric residency training and Medical Genetics fellowship training at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). Upon completion of training at UCSF, Dr. Sheffield came to the University of Iowa, where he has spent his entire career. His laboratory played an active role in the human genome project helping to complete the first major goal of the human genome project. The focus of Dr. Sheffield's research has been the study of human hereditary diseases. His laboratory has identified genes involved in numerous different disorders including hereditary blindness, deafness, diabetes, and hypertension. Besides identifying genes and mutations that cause human diseases, his laboratory has studied disease mechanisms. His laboratory is currently exploring novel treatments for human diseases including blindness and diabetes.

Included among Dr. Sheffield's list of honors are the E. Mead-Johnson Award for Pediatric Research from the Society for Pediatric Research and the Lewis Rudin Glaucoma Prize from the New York Academy of Medicine. Dr. Sheffield was a Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) investigator for 18 years. He was elected to the National Academy of Medicine (USA) in 2005 and to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2020. He has authored or co-authored more than 350 peer-reviewed scientific publications.

Besides running his research laboratory, Dr. Sheffield cares for patients with genetic disorders. He also has mentored numerous graduate students and post-doctoral fellows.