

**Robert Eugene Anderson, MD, PhD** holds faculty appointments in the Departments of Ophthalmology, Cell Biology, and Geriatric Medicine at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. He is the Dean McGee Professor of Ophthalmology, George Lynn Cross Research Professor, and Director of Research in the Department of Ophthalmology and the Dean McGee Eye Institute. Dr. Anderson received his PhD in Biochemistry (1968) from Texas A&M University and his MD from Baylor College of Medicine (1975). In 1969, he joined the faculty of Baylor, where he rose through the ranks to become Professor in 1981. He joined the faculty of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in January of 1995. He served as Director of the Oklahoma Center for Neuroscience from 1995-1999 and Chairman of the Department of Cell Biology from 1998-2007.

Dr. Anderson has published over 250 papers in the areas of lipid metabolism in the retina and biochemistry of retinal degenerations. He has edited 17 books, 16 on retinal degenerations and one on the biochemistry of the eye. Dr. Anderson has received numerous awards, including the Dolly Green Award (1982) and two Senior Scientific Investigator Awards (1990 and 1997) from Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc and the Sam and Bertha Brochstein Award for Outstanding Achievement in Retina Research from the Retina Research Foundation (1980). He received an Award for Outstanding Contributions to Vision Research from the Alcon Research Institute (1985) and the Marjorie Margolin Prize (1994). He was a member of the inaugural class of ARVO Gold Fellows in 2009. Most recently he received the Llura Liggett Gund Lifetime Achievement Award from the Foundation Fighting Blindness (June 23, 2011), the Proctor Medal from ARVO (May 6, 2012), and the Paul A. Kayser International Award from the Retina Research Foundation (July 24, 2012). He has served on the editorial boards of *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science*, *Journal of Neuroscience Research*, *Neurochemistry International*, *Current Eye Research*, and *Experimental Eye Research*. Dr. Anderson has received grants from the National Institutes of Health, The Retina Research Foundation, the Foundation Fighting Blindness, and Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc. He is currently PI on 2 R01 grants from the National Eye Institute now in their 34<sup>st</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> years of continuous funding. He was recently awarded an R21 grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. He was the Program Director of a CoBRE grant from 2002-2012. In addition, he is PI on 2 center grants (P30 Vision Center from NEI and FFB Southwest Center-Without-Walls) and is co-director of the Pilot Project program of the CTR grant awarded in 2013 to the OUHSC.

Notable discoveries in Dr. Anderson's laboratory include: 1) First demonstration of the essential role of omega-3 fatty acids in retinal function, 2) The role of the phosphoinositide cascade in phototransduction in the invertebrate retina, 3) The role of the insulin receptor/PI 3-kinase/Akt pathway in stress-induced retinal degenerations, 4) The role of oxidant stress in light-induced apoptosis of photoreceptor cells, 5) The identification of the biosynthetic step catalyzed by the ELOVL4 protein, which is mutated in Stargardt-3 macular dystrophy, and (6) The neuroprotective properties of nitrones in animal models of retinal degeneration.

Dr. Anderson has been an active participant in the program committees of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) and was a trustee representing the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology section. He has served on the Vision Research Program Committee and Board of Scientific Counselors of the National Eye Institute and the Board of the Basic and Clinical Science Series of The American Academy of Ophthalmology. Dr. Anderson is a past Councilor, Treasurer, and President of the International Society for Eye Research. He serves on the Scientific Advisory Panel of Research to Prevent Blindness. Since 1984, along with other colleagues, Dr. Anderson has organized 16 biennial meetings of the International Symposium on Retinal Degeneration.