

**Department of Ophthalmology** 

**Summer 2013** 

## NIH funding puts researchers on path to restoring vision loss from diabetic eye disease

Researchers at the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Eye Institute and the Indiana Center for Vascular Biology at Indiana University School of Medicine have received funding to research stem cell treatments that could halt and potentially reverse vision loss caused by diabetic retinopathy.

Rajashekhar Gangaraju, Ph.D., assistant professor at the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Eye Institute and the Indiana Center for Vascular Biology and Medicine, is the principal investigator in the nearly \$2 million study funded by the National Eye Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health.

Long interested in the causes and effects of diabetic retinopathy - his father and grandfather both suffered from diabetes and resulting vision loss - Dr. Gangaraju has focused his research on retinal vascular biology.

His research team consists of *Keith L. March, M.D., Ph.D.*, director, Indiana Center for Vascular Biology and Medicine and the Center for Regenerative Medicine, *Maria B. Grant, M.D.*, joining the Glick Eye Institute as senior chair this month, and others at the Glick Eye Institute and IU School of Medicine who are conducting complementary research.

Dr. Gangaraju said the funding puts researchers on the path to clinical

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Donor roll. See Pages 6-9

Residents and fellows announced for 2013 academic year. See Page 11 Green means LEED Gold for Glick Eye Institute.

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4th Annual Vision Research Symposium set.

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