



Thursday, July 26, 2001

Eye Research Institute gets \$15,000 grant

Janet Blanks, director of Oakland University's **Eye Research Institute** (ERI), has received a \$15,000 grant from the Midwest Eye Banks and Transplantation Center for her "Novel Methods for Gene Therapy to Rescue Photoreceptor Cells" research.

Dr. Blanks has been interested in retinal morphology and cell biology since 1973. She studied the histopathology found in retinas from Alzheimer patients compared to age-matched controls. Recently, she began to study gene transfer to photoreceptor cells to provide preliminary data for eventual patient therapies for retinal degeneration.

The ERI is a center of ophthalmic research. Its primary mission is to conduct basic research into the underlying causes of eye diseases that result in blindness and loss of vision. It is formally associated with William Beaumont Hospital.

For more information on the ERI and its research, visit the **Eye Research Institute** Web site.

SUMMARY

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