Vision loss often has devastating consequences for affected individuals and their families. Millions of Americans (including approximately 100,000 Wisconsin residents) suffer from age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, and childhood-onset disorders, among many other conditions. The McPherson Eye Research Institute (MERI) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison was founded to bring together experts from many fields to develop much-needed solutions.

Named in honor of University of Wisconsin Medical School graduate Dr. Alice McPherson—a founding supporter of the Institute and the first woman retinal surgeon in the United States—the McPherson ERI has quickly become one of the world’s foremost multi-disciplinary vision research centers. Our member-researchers have made significant advances in the prevention and treatment of blinding diseases.

The Institute’s mandate is broad as well as deep, addressing basic and clinical science research of the eye and visual system, arts and humanities avenues in visual arts and culture, psychology and neuroscience frontiers in cognition and perception, and engineering and computer science applications. Our goal is to explore and understand all facets of vision—this most vital of senses.

Many McPherson ERI events are open to the general public. Please join us for seminars, lectures, and other events, including our annual Cycle for Sight indoor biking fundraiser. For more information, please visit vision.wisc.edu or call (608) 265-0690.
The McPherson Eye Research Institute’s Mandelbaum & Albert Family Vision Gallery, on the 9th floor of the Wisconsin Institutes for Medical Research, showcases the connection between art and vision—promoting interdisciplinary study through a changing series of exhibitions that draw on the creativity of the artistic and scientific communities within the University of Wisconsin-Madison and beyond.

Exhibits and installations may reflect how artists intuit the visual system’s power to process color and luminance, lines and form, depth and motion, and the brain’s fascination in finding patterns and seeking faces. In turn, exhibits may inspire aesthetic interpretation and appreciation of the tools and artisanship integral to science. Gallery works may also display how visual artists re-interpret and re-purpose science as a framework for understanding our world.

Named for the related families of David & Nathan Mandelbaum — key supporters of the McPherson ERI—and Daniel Albert, the Institute’s Founding Director, the Mandelbaum & Albert Family Vision Gallery brings new opportunities for visual art and vision science to intersect.

Please contact Gail Stirr at gmstirr@wisc.edu or 608-265-4023 if you have questions about the Vision Gallery.