

VISITING SCHOLAR OPPORTUNITY AWARD APPLICATION

Applicant Name: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	Are you a MERI member? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Applied/Applying
Your Dept and Institution: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	
Your Current Title: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	
Visiting Scholar's name: [REDACTED]	
Visiting Scholar's Dept and Institution: [REDACTED]	
Applicant Email: [REDACTED]	Applicant Phone: [REDACTED]

Outline goals of the proposed visit for your research group (must be vision-related):

The primary goals of Dr. [REDACTED]'s visit are to establish collaborative relationships between vision research groups at MCW and UW-Madison, with a specific focus on retinal physiology. At MCW's Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, Dr. [REDACTED] will share his expertise in multi-electrode array setup and data analysis framework, which will enhance our capabilities in evaluating neural output in both healthy and diseased states. This is particularly relevant for our ongoing research in retinal disease mechanisms. At UW-Madison, we aim to explore potential collaborations in light sheet microscopy development and marmoset retina research. The dual-institution visit will create synergistic opportunities for advancing our understanding of retinal function and disease mechanisms through shared technical knowledge and collaborative research initiatives.

Describe the breadth of opportunity for impact of the proposed visit (e.g., specificity of need in the lab, benefit to lab members; potential connection with other McPherson ERI members, labs and departments; potential for new grants)

Dr. [REDACTED]'s visit presents significant opportunities for impact across both institutions. Investigators at MCW will benefit from his expertise in retinal circuit analysis. This visit will strengthen MCW's technical capabilities in the [REDACTED] Lab by establishing neural recording and analysis. This technique particularly benefits our research programs in retinal diseases and visual processing, including Drs. [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] (all MERI members). The knowledge transfer will enhance our ability to evaluate neural output in health and disease states, potentially leading to new therapeutic approaches. In addition to assisting in setting up multielectrode array electrophysiology, Dr. [REDACTED] will present a lecture as part of the MCW Distinguished Lecture Series. Part of the series involves a journal club run by students to discuss one of Dr. [REDACTED]'s papers prior to his visit, then a trainee only lunch with Dr. [REDACTED] for networking and learning. Faculty and trainees at MCW will have the opportunity to meet with Dr. [REDACTED] one-on-one.

At UW-Madison, numerous MERI faculty members spanning diverse research interests from systems/behavior to cell/molecular biology will benefit from interactions with Dr. [REDACTED], including Drs. [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]. The visit will facilitate knowledge transfer in three key areas: First, Dr. [REDACTED] will share research performed in his lab related to how the retina processes visual scenes in health and disease, with relation to glaucoma research programs. Second, Dr. [REDACTED] will provide technical expertise in light sheet microscopy setup, which will benefit Dr. [REDACTED]'s lab and potentially other vision research groups. Last, this visit will mediate exchange of information on primate physiology, specifically marmoset, which is a shared area of study between Dr. [REDACTED] and Dr. [REDACTED].

The cross-institutional nature of this visit creates unique opportunities for future multi-investigator grant applications and lasting collaborations between [REDACTED], MCW, and UW-Madison vision researchers. This partnership could lead to innovative approaches in understanding and treating vision disorders by combining diverse research capabilities.

Propose and describe at least one event that other McPherson ERI members could attend at UW-Madison during the visit, such as a lecture, workshop, roundtable, mini-symposium, etc. This event would be planned by the hosting McPherson ERI member. (NOTE: *If the host's institution is NOT UW-Madison, you may use this box to also describe any additional event involving the visiting scholar that will take place at the host's institution.*)

Dr. [REDACTED] will deliver a seminar at UW-Madison, allowing MERI members and trainees to learn about his cutting-edge research in retinal neuroscience. This seminar will be hosted by Dr. [REDACTED] and will be open to all MERI members, facilitating broad engagement with the UW-Madison vision research community. Dr. [REDACTED] will give a separate talk at MCW's Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences. These presentations will provide opportunities for researchers from both institutions to engage in discussions about potential collaborations and technical innovations in vision research, fostering a stronger regional vision research community in Wisconsin.

Checklist:

☒ Completed application form signed by applicant (i.e., host)

- ☒ Visitor's short CV/biosketch (5-page limit)
- ☒ Message/letter from invited visitor indicating his/her commitment to come to UW-Madison within the identified timeframe [3/1/25 - 12/20/25] if your proposal is selected.
- ☒ **Please combine all of these files into a single PDF file in the order listed above**





[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

January 22, 2025

Dear Dr. [REDACTED], Dr. [REDACTED], and the McPherson Eye Research Institute Education Committee:

I am writing to confirm my strong interest and commitment to visit both the Medical College of Wisconsin and the University of Wisconsin-Madison as part of the MERI Visiting Scholar Award program. I am available and committed to making this visit between March 1, 2025 and December 20, 2025, pending the selection of Dr. [REDACTED]'s proposal. We are targeting the week of June 2nd.

I am particularly excited about the opportunity to share my expertise in retinal physiology with both institutions. The prospect of collaborating with researchers at both MCW and UW-Madison is especially appealing, as it would allow us to explore potential connections between my work on marmoset retina and the ongoing vision research programs at both institutions. I am also enthusiastic about working with Dr. [REDACTED]'s lab to get her multielectrode array system functional, which will be a great benefit to both MCW and UWM.

I have agreed to give research seminars at both institutions during my visit. These presentations will focus on our latest findings in retinal circuit analysis and provide opportunities for detailed technical discussions about our methodological approaches. I look forward to engaging with faculty members from diverse research backgrounds and exploring potential collaborative opportunities.

Thank you for considering this visit. I am enthusiastic about the possibility of contributing to the vision research community in Wisconsin and establishing lasting collaborative relationships.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ph.D.,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]