



## SERA Welcomes Devon Ghodasra, MD

Southeastern Retina Associates (SERA) is proud to welcome home board certified ophthalmologist and retina specialist Dr. Devon Ghodasra, MD, who joins our esteemed physician team in Chattanooga. Dr. Ghodasra grew up in Dalton, GA and attended high school in Chattanooga at the McCallie School. He played on the varsity tennis team and was a faculty scholar. "I became interested in science and technology at a very early age, and was lucky to have the strength of McCallie's outstanding science faculty nurture that interest," said Dr. Ghodasra. Following high school, he attended Duke University where he received degrees in economics and biology. "From my economics major, I became fascinated in learning how to improve the delivery of healthcare by increasing access for patients while improving cost-efficiency." Dr. Ghodasra was selected to attend courses at the world-famous London School of Economics in England, where he developed the analytical skills to further investigate economic challenges faced by patients. Dr. Ghodasra graduated Magna Cum Laude from Duke and received a full scholarship to attend the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, GA. He was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society and awarded the competitive Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellowship. Dr. Ghodasra said, "My research fellowship was truly the moment I fell in love with ophthalmology. I realized I could use cutting edge technology to advance the field of retina and improve the lives of patients. I helped develop an automated image analysis software that is used to remotely analyze the eyes of premature babies at risk for retinopathy of prematurity. The desire to practice the most up-to-date retinal eye care and lead clinical trials ultimately led me to join Southeastern Retina Associates." After medical school, Dr. Ghodasra completed his ophthalmology residency at the Scheie Eye Institute of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. In his



final year, he received the Heed Fellowship, awarded to the top 20 ophthalmology residents in the country.

Dr. Ghodasra continued his training with a two-year fellowship in retinal surgery at the Kellogg Eye Center at the University of Michigan, which is ranked in the top 10 eye hospitals in the country. "I wanted to be trained by the best, even if that meant enduring freezing winters in Ann Arbor. My mentors at Michigan were some of the top physician-scientists in the country," said Dr. Ghodasra. He worked with

surgeons who performed the first retinal prosthetic implants in the world following FDA approval. The

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*– Devon Ghodasra, MD*

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Argus II device is an artificial retina that gives sight to previously blind patients with inherited retinal disease. Dr. Ghodasra authored a chapter in the textbook of retinal prostheses and ultimately hopes to bring the technology to Chattanooga. In his final year at Michigan, Dr. Ghodasra received the Margherio Award given annually to one fellow in the country to present a lecture at the Retina Society in Paris, France. "It was intimidating and humbling giving a lecture to the brightest minds in the field of retina. But it is now my great honor to call those world leading retina specialists my colleagues." While in Ann Arbor, Dr.

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**SERA Announces Current and Upcoming Clinical Trials** on page 2.

# Clinical Trials Focus

SERA is committed to enrolling new clinical trials for patients affected by blinding retinal diseases. Patients are thus able to have access to cutting-edge investigational treatments locally rather than travel to an academic center. Here is a list of our currently enrolling clinical trials along with their identifying [clinicaltrials.gov](https://clinicaltrials.gov) number:

## CHATTANOOGA

### Wet Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) Trials

**BP29647** Phase 2 trial: Intravitreal Anti-GEGf/ANG 2 therapy for Neovascular AMD.

**\*CR39521** Phase 2 trial: Intravitreal Anti-VEGF/ANG 2 therapy for Neovascular AMD.

### Dry Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) Trials

**GX29185** Phase 2 trial: Intravitreal Anti-VEGF therapy for Geographic Atrophy secondary to AMD.

**GX30191** Phase 3b trial: Intravitreal Anti-VEGF therapy for Geographic Atrophy secondary to AMD.

### Proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy Trials

**\*VGFTe-OD-1411** trial: Intravitreal Anti-VEGF therapy in patients with Non-Proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy.

DRCR Genes Project: Trial to evaluate a patient with diabetes risk for developing Diabetic Retinopathy.

### Diabetic Macular Edema Trials

DRCR Protocol V trial: Intravitreal Anti-VEGF/photocoagulation therapy for Diabetic Macular Edema.

### Coming Soon

DRCR Protocol W trial: Intravitreal Anti-VEGF therapy for prevention of Proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy/Diabetic Edema.

DRCR Protocol AB trial: Intravitreal Anti-VEGF vs. prompt surgery for Vitreous Hemorrhage from Proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy.

## KNOXVILLE

### Geographic Atrophy Trials

**NCT01602120** Phase 2 trial: A multicenter, open-label extension study to evaluate the long-term safety and tolerability of FCFD4514S in patients with geographic atrophy.

**NCT02288559** Phase 2 trial: A study of Lampalizumab Intravitreal Injections administered every two weeks or every four weeks to participants with Geographic Atrophy.

### Wet Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) Trials

**NCT02713204** Phase 2 trial: A randomized, double-masked, active-controlled phase 2 study of the efficacy, safety and tolerability of repeated doses of Intravitreal REGN910-3 in patients with Neovascular AMD.

### Diabetic Retinopathy Trials

**NCT01489189** Phase 3 trial: Prompt Panretinal Photocoagulation vs. Intravitreal Ranibizumab with Deferred Panretinal Photocoagulation for Proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy

**\*NCT02634333** Phase 3 trial: Intravitreal Anti-Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor Treatment for Prevention of vision threatening Diabetic Retinopathy in eyes at high risk.

**\*NCT02858076** Phase 2/3 trial: Intravitreal Anti-VEGF vs. Prompt Vitrectomy for Vitreous Hemorrhage from Proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy.

### Diabetic Macular Edema Trials

**NCT01945866** Phase 2 trial: Short-term evaluation of Combination Corticosteroid+Anti-VEGF Treatment for Persistent Central-Involvement Diabetic Macular Edema following Anti-VEGF Therapy.

**NCT01909791** Phase 3 trial: Treatment for Central-Involvement Diabetic Macular Edema in eyes with very good visual acuity.

### Retinal Vein Occlusion Trials

**NCT01969708** Phase 3 trial: Study of comparative treatments for Retinal Vein Occlusion 2 (SCORE2): a multicenter, prospective, randomized non-inferiority trial of eyes with Macular Edema secondary to Central Retinal Vein Occlusion, comparing Intravitreal Bevacizumab every 4 weeks with Intravitreal Aflibercept every 4 weeks.

## TRI-CITIES

### Wet Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) Trials

**\*NCT02727881** Phase 3 trial: A Phase 3 Study of the Efficacy and Safety of Squalamine Lactate Ophthalmic Solution, 0.2% twice daily in subjects with Neovascular AMD.

### Diabetic Macular Edema Trials

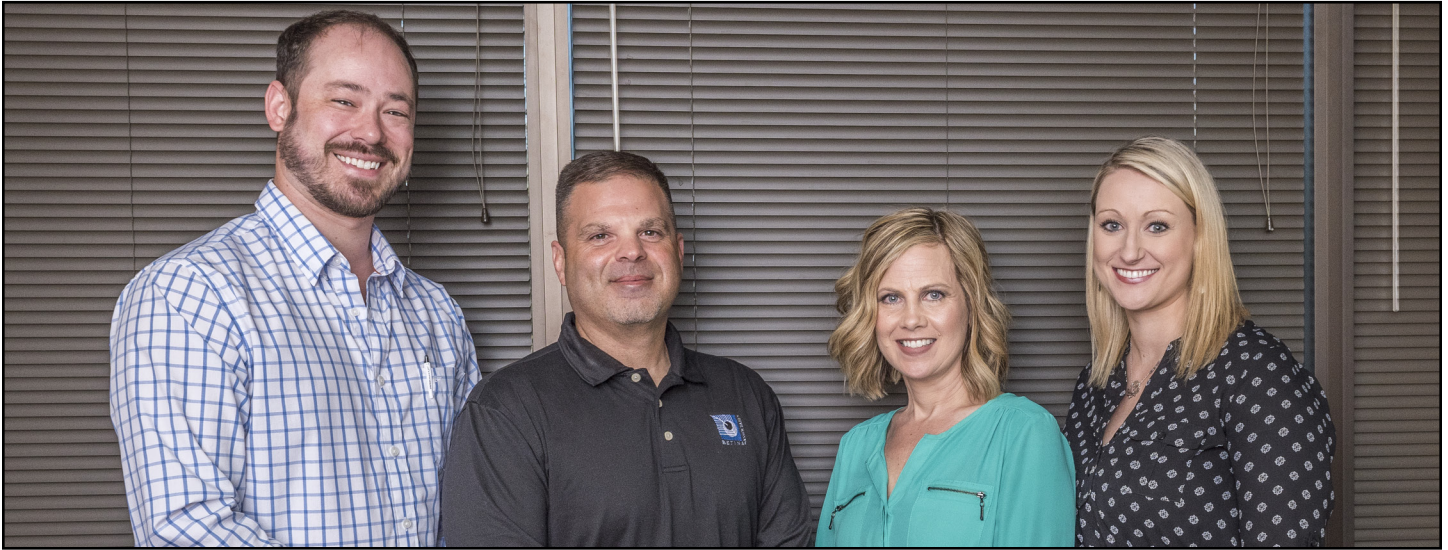
**NCT01909791** Phase 3 trial: Treatment for Central-Involvement Diabetic Macular Edema in eyes with very good visual acuity.

**MCT024424019** Phase 4 trial: Phase 4 IOP Signals associated with ILUVIEN (Fluocinolone Acetonide Intravitreal Implant 0.19 MG).

\*Currently enrolling



# Clinical Trials = Innovation



*SERA's Clinical Trial Coordinators from left to right; Steve Morris (Knoxville), Steve McBee (Chattanooga), Kristina Oliver (Knoxville), Amber Anderson (Tri-Cities)*

SERA physicians place significant emphasis on being involved in the latest clinical trials. Clinical trials help us discover new methods of treating retina conditions, and help us stay at the forefront of new technology and techniques. As you can see in this newsletter, our physicians are involved formally in many trials, and also keep up with the latest on new medicines and procedures through their own personal research, peers, and individual ties to larger academic centers. SERA enjoys an excellent national reputation because of the groundbreaking research with which our physicians are involved, and the quality and quantity of work in this area over many years.

Our Clinical Trial Research Team meets semi-annually to discuss general processes and procedures in an effort to ensure regulatory compliance, while making clinical trials participation a great experience for patients. Each clinical study has specific criteria that participants must meet, so the team is equally focused on ensuring the physicians and staff know these criteria, as well as assist the clinical teams with

identifying qualified patients. Our top-notch team of Clinical Research professionals can be seen in the picture above.

SERA continues to be one of the top research sites in the United States. This year, SERA was recognized as “one of the top sites for demonstrating outstanding performance” in the Diabetic Retinopathy Clinical Research (DRCR) Network, and our individual research team members also received awards for their excellence. While these accolades affirm our commitment to quality, our focus continues to be on finding new ways to combat blinding diseases such as age-related macular degeneration, retinal vein occlusions and diabetic retinopathy.

## SERA Announces New Offices Coming Soon in

JOHNSON CITY  
161 Technology Ln. • Johnson City, TN 37601  
KNOXVILLE  
4536 Chapman Hwy. • Knoxville, TN 37920  
SEVIERVILLE  
1017 Middle Creek Rd. • Sevierville, TN 37862



*SERA has won several awards for our quality of work and patient participation.*

**Fellowship-Trained Medical  
and Surgical Retina  
Specialists for 36 years**

- ◆ Macular Degeneration
- ◆ Intravitreal Injection for  
Macular Degeneration and  
Diabetic Eye Disease
- ◆ Diabetic Retinopathy
- ◆ Retinal Vein and  
Artery Occlusion
- ◆ Flashes and Floaters
- ◆ Retinal Detachment

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**SERA Welcomes Ghodasra**

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Ghodasra also served as senior retina consultant at the Veterans Administration Hospital. He said, "I treasured every moment taking care of veterans. These men and women have sacrificed everything for us, and taking the best possible care of their eyes is one small way I can repay that debt." Dr. Ghodasra joins

Southeastern Retina in Chattanooga where he will be taking an active role in clinical trials and providing the most cutting-edge retinal care in the Southeast. "I went searching for the top training and experiences around the country, knowing that I wanted to bring the best retinal care back to Chattanooga. I am excited to be back at home, and look forward to taking care of my friends and neighbors."

