

January 27th, 2025

Helen Keller Prize for Vision Research Selection Committee  
Helen Keller Foundation  
Birmingham  
Alabama

**Re: Letter of Nomination for 2026 Helen Keller Prize for Vision Research**

Dear Committee,

It is a pleasure to provide this letter of support for the **nomination of Dr. David Almeida for the 2026 Helen Keller Prize for Vision Research**. I am an ophthalmologist specializing in retina and clinical research and have been practicing for more than 15 years. I am a director of clinical research at Sierra Eye Associates and a Clinical Professor of Surgery at the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine. I started the research department at Sierra Eye Associates over 10 years ago and have extensive experience serving as principal investigator in many leading clinical trials for retinal diseases being served as a PI for over 130 trials.

During my experience as a clinical researcher and while serving on several leadership boards and committees for ophthalmic clinical trial enrollments, I have had the privilege of knowing David Almeida. I have found David to be a highly qualified board certified ophthalmologist, skilled clinical trial scientist, and a prominent key opinion leader in vitreoretinal surgery and ophthalmic clinical trials. I am thrilled to offer my enthusiastic support towards David's nomination for the 2026 Helen Keller Award considering his many groundbreaking contributions to the field of advanced retina research and clinical care.

As a highly talented retinal surgeon and clinician scientist, David founded the Centers for Advanced Surgical Exploration (CASExGLOBAL) with a goal to provide patients and ophthalmology clinician researchers with the latest advancements in the area of ophthalmic and vitreoretinal surgical exploration. CASExGLOBAL has since expanded to various sites worldwide, offering unique training experiences using the one of a kind Near Real Surgical Specimens (NRSS), which provide surgically responsive human ocular specimens, providing direct uses in ophthalmic surgical training, medical device



SIERRA **EYE** ASSOCIATES

Diplomates American Board of Ophthalmology

William J. Durant, M.D.  
Michael L. Stanko, M.D.  
Pauline H. Hong, M.D.  
Arshad M. Khanani, M.D.  
Kevin M. Gamett, M.D.

validation, and practical education experience. In his 10 years of treating endophthalmitis cases, Dr. Almeida has contributed to vision research by identifying innovative methods for safe and efficacious surgical management of endophthalmitis, making a significant difference in visual outcomes. One such example of this novel innovation is the strategic use of five-port combined limbal and pars plana vitrectomy for infectious endophthalmitis, which allows for safe and efficient removal of infectious and inflammatory material (PMID: 32579693). David also recently published a study challenging postoperative prone positioning in patients following retinal reattachment, with the potential to reduce post-treatment burden (PMID: 38770069). As a final example, David's trocar-based surgical technique for drainage of suprachoroidal hemorrhages has proven to have significant advantages over previous drainage methods (PMID: 37009544). David's exceptional surgical accomplishments, novel thinking, and drive for challenging primitive treatment standards have allowed him to make groundbreaking contributions to vision science in ophthalmology.

David's leadership extends beyond his clinical practice. He is the co-founder of Citrus Therapeutics, an ophthalmic company designing and investigating novel drugs to help treat age-related macular degeneration and other retinopathies. He also serves as the President and CEO of Erie Retina Research (ERR), a leading ophthalmic clinical trial site located in Erie, Pennsylvania, dedicated to advancements in the field of ophthalmology. He has served as principal investigator for more than seventy clinical trials for vision-threatening eye diseases, including diabetic macular edema, age-related macular degeneration, uveitis, and dry eye disease. These clinical trials, including gene therapy trials, brought cutting-edge ophthalmic advancements to rural communities in northwestern Pennsylvania and made clinical trial participation accessible to all kinds of people.

David has been uniquely successful in promoting his clinical research site's community outreach beyond on-site clinical trial operations. In 2024, David received the Innovation Grant from the Pennsylvania Medical Society for his Mobile Retina Clinic model. The Mobile Retina Clinic model has provided a novel solution for enhancing diverse clinical trial participant recruitment. His team provides rapid non-trial specific pre-screening services to hard-to-reach patients in the community by traveling to nearby health fairs, senior centers, community events, and places of employment to rapid-screen participants for indications of retinal disease using a portable, hand-held fundus camera. David's team was able to screen nearly 500 participants through this model in the last year. Through initiatives like the Mobile Retina Clinic, David demonstrates his commitment to providing

eye care access to patients from diverse geographical, racial and socioeconomic backgrounds, including individuals from areas of persistent poverty. Under the latest FDA guidelines encouraging clinical trial sponsors and researchers to focus on various aspects of diversity in clinical trials, this novel approach not only gives patients access to cutting edge vision treatments, but also ensures that diverse populations are adequately represented in research studies that lead to ophthalmic treatments.

David is an active member of several vision research societies including AAO, ARVO and ASRS and continues to share his ongoing research at national and international conferences. His prolific physician-scientist career has resulted in his contributions extending to more than 200 peer-reviewed articles to date. David and I have enjoyed collaborating and co-authoring publications on neovascular age-related macular degeneration. I have great admiration for David for his commitment in not only bringing enhanced care to his patients, consistently exceeding his patients' expectations for their vision outcomes, but also continuously seeking to revolutionize vision care through research contributions. I wholeheartedly endorse Dr. David Almeida's candidacy for this award because of his excellent work in the field of eye care, which includes his dedication to scientific improvements in vision research and his efforts to diversify clinical trial participation. Please contact me if I can provide any additional information as you consider David's nomination.

Sincerely,



**Arshad M. Khanani MD, MA, FASRS**

Vitreo-Retinal Diseases and Surgery  
Managing Partner, Director of Clinical Research, Director of Fellowship  
Sierra Eye Associates  
Clinical Professor  
University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine

January 28, 2025

Helen Keller Prize Selection Committee  
Helen Keller Foundation  
Alabama  
USA

Dear Review Committee,

It gives me great pleasure to write this letter in support of the nomination of Dr. David Almeida for the 2026 Helen Keller Prize for Vision Research. I serve as the Head of Retina in the Ophthalmology Division at the Tel Aviv Medical Center, Sidney Fox Chair of Ophthalmology and the President of Euretina. In the course of my profession as a retina specialist, I have had the privilege of collaborating with David on several research ventures. We have also served together as panelists at Clinical Trials at the Summit and other conferences and discussion boards on emerging technologies in ophthalmology. Having seen first-hand David's tremendous contributions to vision science, I am thrilled to offer my enthusiastic support towards his nomination for the 2026 Helen Keller Prize for Vision Research.

David is an internationally recognized board-certified ophthalmologist, a talented retinal surgeon, a clinician scientist and a principal investigator for over 70 clinical trials. His scientific contributions have resulted in hundreds of published articles and presentations at major ophthalmology conferences. His research interests have spanned age-related macular degeneration, diabetic macular edema, and novel surgical methods. In the vitreoretinal surgery space, David has made significant progress in vitreomacular interface physiology and pathology, macular hole surgery, retinal detachment repair, etiology of proliferative vitreoretinopathy, and infectious uveitis and endophthalmitis. David's contributions to advancing ophthalmic practice are both pioneering and measurable. His implementation of AI-driven protocols has reduced trial timelines by 40% while generating over \$100M in savings per drug development cycle. He has



authored more than 200 peer-reviewed publications, but more importantly, he has translated research into practice through innovations like the TDOF™ platform, which has succeeded in over 60 bilateral implants. His surgical techniques have been particularly impactful in challenging traditional approaches— one of his recent works questioning post-operative positioning requirements for retinal detachment patients has the potential to significantly reduce patient burden while maintaining optimal outcomes. His integration of AI into surgical workflows has established new standards for efficiency and safety, with documented improvements in surgical precision and outcome predictability. As another example, David evaluated the incidence of ocular hypertension following dexamethasone implantation for the treatment of macular edema and uveitis.

David has established himself as a transformative force in ophthalmology education and clinical research. Through the International Research Fellowship Program, he has personally mentored over 50 medical students, residents, and fellows since 2015. His vision for education reached a global scale through the Centers for Advanced Surgical Exploration (CASEx), which now operates nine advanced centers across five continents. CASEx has revolutionized surgical training and device testing by innovatively using surgically-responsive cadaver specimens and AI-enhanced learning platforms. This innovation has the potential to revolutionize surgical training and device testing in ophthalmology, and lead to quicker and cost-efficient treatments for ocular diseases. Through LensLogic.ai, he pioneered AI-powered surgical training programs that have demonstrably improved surgical outcomes and efficiency. David innovated another unique partnership harnessing his clinical research expertise and an office-based surgery specialist to help other ophthalmologists become involved in clinical trials through mentorship and shared resources. This collaboration, called CASEx@iOR, is the first site management organization to integrate advanced AI capabilities to streamline opportunities for more ophthalmologists to become involved in clinical research.

David's innovations span multiple domains within ophthalmology. He co-developed CTZ1, a revolutionary dual-action compound targeting both dry and wet AMD pathways. His Near-Real Surgical Specimens program has transformed surgical training by providing uniquely preserved



human tissue that closely mimics live surgery conditions. His leadership in AI integration has produced measurable improvements in surgical outcomes and trial efficiency. The Mobile Retina Clinic model, a no-cost community clinic to pre-screen for retinal diseases, he developed has become a blueprint for expanding clinical trial access, combining portable diagnostic technology with AI-powered pre-screening to identify eligible participants in underserved areas. His work with VisionMed has pioneered real-time surgical AI analysis, while his collaboration with Stanford University has advanced the field of AI-driven drug target identification.

David is a prolific contributor to the scientific community. Along with the impressive publication record, he has received awards from the American Society of Retina Specialists, American Academy of Ophthalmology, and a series of Top Doctor Awards. David serves on multiple national and international clinical trial steering committees and scientific advisory boards. His passion for treating retinal diseases as a vision scientist and a surgeon is unparalleled. Inspired by the legacy and dedication of Helen Keller, his work of excellence in vision research towards preventing blindness is highly deserving of this prestigious award. Thank you very much for your consideration, and please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Anat Loewenstein

Dr. Anat Loewenstein, MD, MHA

Professor, Full professor, School of Medicine

Tel Aviv Medical Center

6 Weizmann Street

Tel Aviv, 6423906

Israel Tel Aviv University

anatl@tlvmc.gov.il

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors.  
Follow this format for each person.

NAME: David RP Almeida, MD, MBA, Ph.D

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login): ALMEIDAD

POSITION TITLE: President & CEO: Erie Retina Research

EDUCATION/TRAINING *(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.)*

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
University of Toronto, Faculty of Arts & Sciences, Toronto, Ontario, Canada	BS	2003	Toxicology
University of Szeged Institute of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Szeged, Hungary	PhD	2004	Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Drug Research
Queen's University, School of Medicine, Kingston Ontario, Canada	MD	2008	Medicine
The George Washington University, School of Business, Washington DC	MBA	2008	Healthcare management
Queen's University, Department of Ophthalmology, Kingston Ontario, Canada		2013	Ophthalmology residency
University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics, Division of Retina, Iowa City IA		2015	Vitreoretinal Diseases and Surgery Fellowship

**A. Personal Statement**

Dr. Almeida is a highly qualified board-certified ophthalmologist and vitreoretinal surgeon. He is internationally-recognized for his extensive experience in clinical research focused on geographic atrophy, age-related macular degeneration, and has pioneered in introducing novel metrics for evaluating treatment response in AMD (DRP Almeida et al, 2021). He demonstrated track record in the field of vitreoretinal surgery, including, vitreomacular interface physiology and pathology, macular hole surgery, retinal detachment repair, etiology of proliferative vitreoretinopathy, and infectious uveitis and endophthalmitis. His recent publications (P Wang et al, 2023, VH Gonzalez et al, 2023) have provided significant insights into structure-function relationships in diabetic macular edema treatment and established optimal patient selection criteria for long-acting intravitreal steroid implants. His landmark publication (K Xu et al, 2018) evaluates management approaches and outcomes for an increasingly common but serious complication of intravitreal injections. He has been Principal Investigator in over 75 clinical trials across all phases of development, including trials for Janssen, Genentech/Roche, Allergan, and Regeneron. These studies have culminated in authorship on over 200 peer-reviewed papers and over 250 national and international conference and keynote presentations. He has won several awards from the American Society of Retina Specialists (ASRS), American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), and is frequently acknowledged in Top Doctor Awards. He serves on numerous national and international clinical trial steering committees and scientific advisory boards and is also the Chief Medical Editor of Eyes on Eyecare.

## B. Positions, Scientific Appointments, and Honors

### Positions and Employment

2024 – Present	President & CEO: Frontier Research Group, Erie, PA
2023 – Present	President & CEO: Center for Advanced Surgical Exploration (CASEXGLOBAL): Erie, PA; Miami, FL; Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India; Tokyo, Japan; Manila, Philippines; New York, NY
2021 – Present	President & CEO: Erie Retina Research, Erie, PA
	<b><u>Clinical trials (Disease Indication: Sponsor(s)):</u></b>
	<b>Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD):</b> Sponsors: Asclepex, Exegenesis Bio, i-Lumen Scientific, Samsara Vision, Smilebiotex Zhuhai.
	<b>Neovascular AMD:</b> Sponsors: Abbvie, REGENXBIO, Ocular Therapeutix, Opthea,
	<b>Intermediate AMD:</b> Sponsors: Genentech
	<b>Wet AMD:</b> Sponsors: Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, CAREGEN CO, Genentech.,
	<b>Diabetic Macular Edema:</b> Sponsors: 4D Molecular Therapeutics, Ashvattha Therapeutics, Aviceda Therapeutics, Alimera Sciences, Eluminex Biosciences, EyePoint Pharmaceuticals, Oculis Operations Sarl, Roche Laboratories, UNITY Biotechnology
	<b>Non-proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy:</b> Sponsor: EyePoint Pharmaceuticals
	<b>Proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy:</b> Sponsor: Novartis Ophthalmics
	<b>Geographic Atrophy:</b> Sponsors: Aviceda Therapeutics, Cognition Therapeutics, Gyroscope Therapeutics, Janssen Research & Development
	<b>Retinal Indications:</b> Sponsor: F. Hoffmann-La Roche
	<b>Central Retinal Vein Occlusion &amp; Macular Edema:</b> Sponsor: F. Hoffmann-La Roche
	<b>Rhegmatogenous Retinal Detachment:</b> Sponsor: ONL Therapeutics
	<b>Posterior Ocular Inflammation:</b> Sponsor: F. Hoffmann-La Roche
	<b>Panuveitis:</b> Sponsors: Alumis, Acelyrin, EyePoint Pharmaceuticals.
	<b>Uveitic Macular Edema:</b> Sponsor: F. Hoffmann-La Roche, Roche Laboratories.
	<b>Uveitic &amp; Post-surgical Macular Edema:</b> Sponsor: Global Ophthalmic Research Center
	COVID-19 Vaccine: Sponsor: Ocugen
	<b>Inflammation and Pain Following Cataract Surgery:</b> Sponsor: Oculis Operation Sarl
	<b>Dry Eye:</b> Sponsor: Oculis Operations Sarl, OKYO Pharma.
2019 – 2024	Director of Clinical Research: Erie Retinal Surgery, Erie, PA
2018 – 2019	Mentor and Sponsor of International Research Fellowship Program: Metrolina Eye Associates, Charlotte, NC
2015 – 2018	Attending Faculty of the Vitreoretinal Surgery Fellowship Program: Vitreoretinal Surgery PA, Minneapolis, MN

### Other Leadership Positions

2024 – Present	Vision Research Solutions (Philadelphia, PA) President & CEO
2023 – Present	Erie Eye Research (Erie, PA) Vice President
2023 – Present	Erie Dry Eye Research (Erie, PA) President & CEO
2023 – Present	ELEMENT Reading Center (Erie, PA) President & CEO
2023 – Present	SurgTech.AI (Erie, PA) President & CEO
2021 – Present	Eyes on Eyecare (San Diego, CA) Chief Medical Editor, ophthalmology division
2021 – Present	The Clinical Trials Network (Mentor, OH) Medical Director, ophthalmology and vitreoretinal clinical trials
2019 – Present	Retina Specialist (Newton Square, PA) Department Editor, social media specialist
2016 – Present	Citrus Therapeutics (Los Angeles, CA) Cofounder, pharmaceutical lead compound research and development
2015 – Present	davidalmeidamd.com (Erie, PA) Chief Medical Officer, medicine and management knowledge translation



2017 – 2018	Phillips Eye Institute, Allina Health (Minneapolis, MN) Committee Chair, Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee
2017	Phillips Eye Institute, Annual Ophthalmology Conference (Minneapolis, MN) Conference Committee, Bright Ideas in Ophthalmology (23 September 2017)
2016 – 2018	VitreoRetinal Surgery Foundation (Minneapolis, MN) Committee Member
2017 – 2018	Phillips Eye Institute, Allina Health (Minneapolis, MN) Committee Member, Antibiotic Stewardship Committee
2016	Phillips Eye Institute, Allina Health (Minneapolis, MN) Committee Member, Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee

### Leadership in Teaching

2021	Year Round Leadership Academy Pennsylvania Medical Society leadership education program for early career physicians (winner of Early Career Scholarship prize).
2015 – Present	International Research Fellowship Program One-on-one mentorship and research fellowships with medical students, ophthalmology residents and vitreoretinal fellows. Instruction and development in research methodology with the aim of developing proficiency in specific ophthalmology and vitreoretinal research areas.
2017 – 2018	Vitreoretinal surgery fellowship program: Vitreoretinal Surgery PA, Minneapolis, MN Regular attending faculty of the VitreoRetinal Surgery fellowship program. Involved in clinical, surgical and seminar teaching.
2012 – 2013	Medical Education: Queen's University, Kingston, Canada Medical education focusing on curriculum design, assessment, remediation and skills-based education.

### Medical Licensing

2015 – Present	Diplomat of the American Board of Ophthalmology (DABO) Written qualifying examination (2014); Oral qualifying examination (2015)
2013 – Present	Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (FRCSC) Certification in Ophthalmology (2013)
2008 – 2010	Medical Council of Canada (MCC) Qualifying Examination Part I (2008); Qualifying Examination Part II (2010)
2010 – 2011	United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) USMLE Step 1 (2010), USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (2010), USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills (2010), USMLE Step 3 (2011)

### Honors and Awards

2024/25	PAMED Innovation Grant, awarded by the Pennsylvania Medical Society to honor, recognize and reward novel and cutting edge strategies in the field of Medicine.
2024	WCG MAGI Innovation Challenge Finalist for presentation at the WCG 2024 Clinical Research Conference on the innovation "Maximizing Community Clinics to Foster Research Participant Access and Diversity".
2024	CTS Committee Choice Award, awarded for a 30 seconds video Clinical Trials at the Summit (CTS) Creative Video Contest detailing who you are (with the emphasis on one's advances in vitreoretinal care) and why you are excited for CTS2024.
2021	Early Career Scholarship, awarded by the Pennsylvania Medical Society to support leadership education and activities.
2020	Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) Everyday Hero Award, award to showcase talented physicians who support their patients, colleagues and community. Recognition of fundraising for Second Harvest Food Bank in Erie, Pennsylvania by running 50 miles in 8 hours and 17 minutes.
2018	American Society of Retina Specialists (ASRS) Honor Award, the Honor Points Program recognizes members of the ASRS for their time and contributions to the scientific programs of the annual meetings.

- 2018 Allina Hope Award, awarded for outstanding achievement in hospital patient experience at the Phillips Eye Institute. The award recognizes excellence in service to patients as measured by the Press Ganey HCAHPS patient experience survey.
- 2018 Mpls.St.Paul Magazine's Top Doctors Rising Stars (April 2018), awarded to outstanding physicians selected through a peer-nomination process by a special blue-ribbon panel of honourees. Achievement represents approximately the top 2.5% of physicians in their area of specialty with notable and noteworthy accomplishments and recognized as leaders in their field.
- 2017 Finalist, 2017 American Society of Retina Specialists (ASRS) Winning Pitch Challenge; presented at the Annual ASRS Meeting in Boston (August 2017). Citrus Therapeutics was one of the four finalists selected to compete with an early-stage concept for solving a significant ophthalmic problem.
- 2017 The Ophthalmologist Power List Top 50 Rising Stars in Ophthalmology (April 2017), awarded based on the voting of readers of The Ophthalmologist magazine. Selection criteria centred on notable experts and key opinion leaders in the field of ophthalmology.
- 2017 Mpls.St.Paul Magazine's Top Doctors Rising Stars (April 2017), awarded to outstanding physicians selected through a peer-nomination process by a special blue ribbon panel of honourees. Achievement represents approximately the top 2.5% of physicians in their area of specialty with notable and noteworthy accomplishments and recognized as leaders in their field.
- 2017 Allina Hope Award, awarded for outstanding achievement in hospital patient experience at the Phillips Eye Institute. The award recognizes excellence in service to patients as measured by the Press Ganey HCAHPS patient experience survey.
- 2016 Allina Hope Award, awarded for outstanding achievement in hospital patient experience at the Phillips Eye Institute. The award recognizes excellence in service to patients as measured by the Press Ganey HCAHPS patient experience survey.
- 2015 Retina Film Festival finalist, awarded to the top vitreoretinal surgical videos selected for the Alcon Retina Exchange Film Festival at the American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting.
- 2015 Allina Hope Award, awarded for outstanding achievement in hospital patient experience at the Phillips Eye Institute. The award recognizes excellence in service to patients as measured by the Press Ganey HCAHPS patient experience survey.
- 2015 University of Iowa Fellow Teaching Award, awarded to the ophthalmology fellow at the University of Iowa demonstrating excellence in resident education.
- 2015 Association of Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Communicator Award, awarded to the top 10% of scored abstracts from the ARVO Scientific Program.
- 2015 Vit-Buckle Society Travel Grant Winner, awarded to the 8 finalists of the surgical video contest as selected by the Vit-Buckle Society.
- 2014 VitreoRetinal Surgery Foundation (VRSF) research award, awarded to the top research proposal submitted to the Board of Directors of the VRSF. Research proposal detailed the application of positional optical coherence tomography for retinal conditions.
- 2014 Association of Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Members-In-Training (MIT) Poster Award Finalist, awarded to the top five scored abstracts scheduled as poster presentations from the ARVO Scientific Program.
- 2013 PSI Research Prize, awarded for excellence in resident research while at Queen's University (Kingston, Ontario, Canada).
- 2013 Retina Fellowship Award, Retina Foundation of Canada, a \$45 000 merit-based prize awarded to a Canadian retina fellow who has demonstrated excellence in clinical, research and leadership roles.

### **C. Contributions to Science**

1) My research interests include proliferative vitreoretinopathy and complex surgical techniques. I have made significant contributions in the area of surgical explorations by identifying innovative methods for the surgical management of endophthalmitis, making a remarkable difference in visual outcomes in a safe and efficacious manner. My other surgical expertise include exploring the best surgical ocular drainage methods showing the efficacy and safety advantages, investigation of retinal fluid changes using deep-learning algorithms and also presenting the significant risk factors prognostic of proliferative vitreoretinopathy.

1. **Almeida DR**, Miller D, Alfonso EC. Anterior chamber and vitreous concordance in endophthalmitis: implications for prophylaxis. *Arch Ophthalmol*. 2010 Sep;128(9):1136-9. doi: 10.1001/archophthalmol.2010.202. PMID: 20837796.
2. **Almeida DR**, Miller D, Alfonso EC. Tsukamurella: an emerging opportunistic ocular pathogen. *Can J Ophthalmol*. 2010 Jun;45(3):290-3. doi: 10.3129/i09-252. PMID: 20628423.
3. **Almeida DR**, Chin EK, Shah SS, Bakall B, Gehrs KM, Boldt HC, Russell SR, Folk JC, Mahajan VB. Comparison of microbiology and visual outcomes of patients undergoing small-gauge and 20-gauge vitrectomy for endophthalmitis. *Clin Ophthalmol*. 2016 Jan 22;10:167-72. doi: 10.2147/OPTH.S95906. PMID: 26858522; PMCID: PMC4730992.
4. Xu K, Chin EK, **Almeida DR**. Five-Port Combined Limbal and Pars Plana Vitrectomy for Infectious Endophthalmitis. *Case Rep Ophthalmol*. 2016 Dec 13;7(3):289-291. doi: 10.1159/000453524. PMID: 28101048; PMCID: PMC5216242.
5. Chin EK, **Almeida DR**, Mahajan VB. Chronic Recurrent Pseudophakic Endophthalmitis. *JAMA Ophthalmol*. 2016 Apr;134(4):455-6. doi:10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2015.3638. PMID: 26868359.
6. Xu K, Chin EK, Bennett SR, Williams DF, Ryan EH, Dev S, Mittra RA, Quiram PA, Davies JB, Parke DW 3rd, Johnson JB, Cantrill HL, **Almeida DRP**. Endophthalmitis after Intravitreal Injection of Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor Inhibitors: Management and Visual Outcomes. *Ophthalmology*. 2018 Aug;125(8):1279-1286. doi: 10.1016/j.ophtha.2018.01.022. Epub 2018 Feb 21. PMID:29477689.
7. Xu K, Mousa R, Loewenstein A, Barak A, Chin EK, **Almeida DRP**. Management and Visual Outcomes of Acute Bacterial Endophthalmitis Following Intravitreal Injection of Contaminated Bevacizumab in a Single Day. *Ophthalmic Surg Lasers Imaging Retina*. 2020 Jun 1;51(6):346-352. doi: 10.3928/23258160-20200603-05. PMID: 32579693.

2) I have served as President and CEO of [Erie Retina Research LLC](#) since founding the company in 2021. I am also the director of clinical research at Erie Retina Research, where I have served as the Principal Investigator for over 75 ophthalmology clinical trials for diseases including age-related macular degeneration, diabetic macular edema, uveitis, and dry eye. These studies have been sponsored by one of the thirty-four different pharma companies I work with, and they include Genentech, Abbvie, Novartis and Janssen. At Erie Retina Research, we facilitate clinical trials in Phases I through IV and the investigational product for these trials includes eye drops, injections (systemic or intravitreal injection of drug or gene therapy), device implantation, or surgery. To enhance clinical trial participation, I designed an award-winning, unique, and easily transportable model of a community clinic called the Mobile Retina Clinic (MRC) to enhance clinical trial participant recruitment from diverse communities. I also spearheaded efforts to refine FDA and IRB regulatory compliance for our clinical studies through an on-site Risk Management Team and an internal auditing method. These techniques, among others, have allowed Erie Retina Research's clinical research engagement to grow from 3 trials in 2021 to over 75 trials in 2024.

1. Khan Z, Milko J, Iqbal M, Masri M, **Almeida DRP**. Low power and type II errors in recent ophthalmology research. *Can J Ophthalmol*. 2016 Oct;51(5):368-372. doi:10.1016/j.cjco.2016.02.002. Epub 2016 Sep 3. PMID: 27769328.
2. **Almeida DRP**, Ruzicki J, Xu K, Chin EK. Vision Recovery Velocity, Momentum and Acceleration: Advanced Vitreoretinal Analytics as Measure of Treatment Efficacy for Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration. *Clin Ophthalmol*. 2021 Jan 18;15:189-194. doi: 10.2147/OPTH.S288621. PMID: 33500611; PMCID: PMC7822233.
3. Wang P, Hu Z, Hou M, Norman PA, Chin EK, **Almeida DR**. Relationship Between Macular Thickness and Visual Acuity in the Treatment of Diabetic Macular Edema With Anti-VEGF Therapy: Systematic Review. *J Vitreoretin Dis*. 2022 Nov 18;7(1):57-64. doi: 10.1177/24741264221138722. PMID: 37008395; PMCID: PMC9954155.
4. Gonzalez VH, Luo C, **Almeida DRP**, Cutino A, Coughlin B, Kasper J, Kiernan DF; PALADIN Study Group; PALADIN Study Group; PALADIN Principal Investigators: BETTER BASELINE VISION LEADS TO BETTER OUTCOMES AFTER THE 0.19-mg FLUOCINOLONE ACETONIDE INTRAVITREAL IMPLANT IN DIABETIC MACULAR EDEMA. *Retina*. 2023 Aug 1;43(8):1301-1307. doi: 10.1097/IAE.0000000000003827. PMID: 37130434.
5. A.M. Khanani, A.A. Aziz, H. Khan, A. Gupta, O. Mojumder, A. Saulebayeva, A.M. Abbey, **D.R.P. Almeida**, R.L. Avery, H.K. Banda, M.R. Barakat, R. Bhandari, E.Y. Chang, S.J. Haug, N.J.S. London, L. Mein, V.S. Sheth, J.D. Wolfe, M.A. Singer, C.J. Danzig. The real-world efficacy and safety of

faricimab in neovascular age-related macular degeneration: the TRUCKEE study – 6 month results. *Eye* (2023).

6. Gemae MR, Bassi MD, Wang P, Chin EK, **Almeida DRP**. NAD+ and Niacin Supplementation as Possible Treatments for Glaucoma and Age-Related Macular Degeneration: A Narrative Review. *Nutrients*. 2024 Aug 21;16(16):2795. doi:10.3390/nu16162795. PMID: 39203931; PMCID: PMC11357639.
7. Aziz, A. A., Khanani, A. M., Khan, H., Lauer, E., Khanani, I., Mojumder, O., Khanani, Z. A., Khan, H., Gahn, G. M., Graff, J. T., Abbey, A. M., **Almeida, D. R. P.**, Barakat, M. R., Corradetti, G., Graff, J. M., Haug, S. J., Nielsen, J. S., Sheth, V. S., Sadda, S. V. R., ... Mohan, N. (2024). Retinal fluid quantification using a novel deep learning algorithm in patients treated with faricimab in the TRUCKEE study. *Eye (Basingstoke)*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41433-024-03532-0>

3) In 2023, I founded the Center for Advanced Surgical Exploration (CASEx) Global with sites in cities including Erie - PA, Miami - FL, Tokyo - Japan, Ahmedabad - India, and Manila - Philippines, to provide an innovative surgical theater and site for ocular surgery clinical trials. CASExMIAMI, is a state-of-the-art surgical training facility for students, ophthalmologists, and pharmaceutical and medical device companies. The CASExMIAMI laboratory features the latest surgical equipment designed for novel approaches, in addition to an exclusive human Near-Real Surgical Specimens (NRSS) model preserved with a proprietary method. This unique preservation ensures the most realistic training experiences in ophthalmology techniques, such as intravitreal device implantation and suprachoroidal injections in gene therapy trials and glaucoma surgeries. My recent partnership of CASEx with Clinical AI and iOR Partners-CASEx@iOR (office-based surgery), allows for the decentralization of clinical trials in ophthalmology while prioritizing patient safety and experience. It is the first artificial intelligence (AI)-powered Site Management Organization (SMO), integrating advanced AI-powered site management organization (SMO) capabilities with iOR's accredited OBS network, bringing to the forefront a perfect atmosphere for groundbreaking ophthalmic research.

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