

Anne Marie Hanneken, M.D

Dr. Anne Marie Hanneken is an Associate Professor of Molecular Medicine at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, CA and an active vitreoretinal surgeon at the Scripps Memorial Hospital. At present, she is the Vice-President/Secretary of Retina Consultants San Diego.

Dr. Hanneken received her Medical Degree and graduated with Great Distinction from the Medical College of Wisconsin. After completing an ophthalmology residency at the Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute, a vitreoretinal fellowship with Dr. Robert Machemer at the Duke University Eye Center and a postdoctoral research fellowship in La Jolla, CA with the Nobel Laureate, Dr. Roger Guillemin, she then joined the Scripps Research Institute.

She is a fellow of the American Board of Ophthalmology, the American Society of Retina Specialists, a diplomat of the American Board of Ophthalmology, the Associate Editor of Ophthalmology Science, member of the American Ophthalmological Society, the Retina Society, and other organizations. She has been a principal investigator or co-investigator on multiple NIH RO-1 awards and a reviewer for the National Eye Institute at the National Institutes of Health.

Her basic research interests span angiogenesis, neuroprotection, and visual chemistry. While collaborating with Roger Guillemin, she was one of numerous pioneers whose research led to the clinical development of Avastin and Lucentis for the treatment of macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy.

Her current team utilizes computational modeling to identify small molecules to improve visual chemistry and develops strategies to revive human organ donor eyes after death. Her 2022 Nature paper with Dr. Frans Vinberg titled “Revival of light signaling in the postmortem mouse and human retina” was listed in the top 99% of all scientific papers, the top 96% of all Nature papers, and the subject of a Wall Street Journal article entitled “A spark of life after death in sight research”. This research became a cornerstone of the government’s initiative known as THEA (Transplantation of the Human Eye Allograft) which was funded in October 2024 by ARPA-H, the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health, and modeled after DARPA.

She has been recognized by several awards, including 2024 Medical College of Wisconsin Alumna of the Year award, the 2023 Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute Distinguished Alumna of the Year award, the Marquette University Distinguished Alumna of the Year Award, the Arnold P Gold Foundation Humanitarian Award, the Heed Fellowship Award, the Hornaday Award and multiple San Diego and multiple Castle Connolly Regional Top Doctor of the Year awards.