

Robert Hyde MD, PhD

Dr. Robert Hyde is at present an Assistant Professor, Physician Surgeon, and the Director of Inherited Retinal Disease Service.

He completed his undergraduate studies at Yale University then pursued a Ph. D. in Neurosciences at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine where he also completed his Medical Degree. He had his Preliminary Medicine Internship at Akron City Hospital then completed his Ophthalmology residency at UIC. He also completed both his Vitreoretinal Surgery and Retinal Dystrophy fellowship at the University of Michigan.

He is a clinician-scientist who professional aims not only laboratory and clinical research but also the clinical care of patients with vitreoretinal disorders. It was his background in genetics, neuroscience and ophthalmology that led him to a focused interest on the pathophysiology and therapeutic possibilities for patients with inherited retinal diseases such as Stargardt disease and retinitis pigmentosa. He is the proponent in establishing the Inherited Retinal Disease Service at the University of Illinois Chicago, where they are providing specialized functional testing and counseling patients on current and upcoming potential therapeutic options for retinal degenerations.

His focus in the lab is investigating inner retinal dysfunction in mouse models of retinal degeneration using electrophysiology (electroretinography and intracellular recordings). These efforts are currently being supported by the NIH (K08EY304211), Research to Prevent Blindness and Foundation Fighting Blindness. The long-term goals of this research are to use non-invasive electrophysiology techniques to understand opportunities for treatment in patients with retinal degeneration, specifically by elucidating the pathophysiology of neural network dysfunction in animal models of those diseases that may limit the therapeutic potential of photoreceptor-based therapies, and to identify candidates who would be more likely to benefit from treatment in clinical trials.

Several of his achievements include 2023 Foundation Fighting Blindness Career Development Award, 2022 UIC Rising Star, 2022 Research to Prevent Blindness Career Development Award, 2020 Donna J. Dreiske Award, and the Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness.