

# [Bascom Palmer Eye Institute Ranked #1 in Ophthalmology for 17th Time](#)

*U.S. News & World Report* has once again ranked [Bascom Palmer Eye Institute](#) of the University of Miami Health System as the nation's best in ophthalmology. Recognized as a global leader in vision research, medical education and patient care, this marks the 15th year in a row and the 17th time that Bascom Palmer has received this ranking since the publication began surveying U.S. physicians for its annual Best Hospitals edition 29 years ago.

"We are honored to be recognized as the leader in the life-changing and dynamic field of ophthalmology. It is our privilege and priority to deliver exceptional and personalized vision care for each of our patients," said [Dr. Eduardo Alfonso](#), director of Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. "Having ophthalmologists from around the country recognize Bascom Palmer as the best in the nation once again is a great tribute to our physicians, their expertise and their commitment to our patients."

"Bascom Palmer's physicians and scientists are international leaders in every subspecialty of ophthalmology, including glaucoma, cataracts and corneal diseases, macular degeneration, retinal surgery, optic nerve diseases, ophthalmic plastic surgery, ocular oncology and eye diseases in children," said Dr. Edward Abraham, Executive Vice President for Health Affairs and CEO of UHealth. "We are proud of their accomplishments, which make it possible for us to provide the nation's most advanced ophthalmic care to our patients."

Bascom Palmer has long been at the forefront of innovation in ophthalmology, advancing the research

that leads to superior clinical care and better patient outcomes. The Institute's physician-scientists lead research teams that are currently involved in clinical trials using gene therapy, retinal chips, genomics and stem cell therapy.

For example, a nine-year-old boy successfully underwent [gene therapy surgery](#) at Bascom Palmer in March 2018, following FDA approval of the first gene therapy to treat an inherited disease. The young boy, unable to see except in bright light, had been diagnosed at age two with Leber congenital amaurosis, a blinding genetic disease caused by an RPE65 genetic mutation. Within days of his surgery, his sight improved and he is now busy exploring his world, looking for rainbows and playing games with his friends. Combining technology, subspecialty care and advanced science, gene therapy will provide new avenues for treating inherited eye disorders in the future, said Alfonso.

"Bascom Palmer's training programs are creating exceptional physicians who go on to care for patients around the world," said Dr. Henri Ford, Dean and Chief Academic Officer of the Miller School of Medicine. "Bascom Palmer faculty members also collaborate with their colleagues across the Miller School to bring innovative treatments to our patients."

The results of the U.S. ranking are based on surveys of ophthalmologists nationwide who were asked to identify the nation's best eye hospitals regardless of location or cost. The 2018-2019 Best Hospital rankings are accessible [online](#) and in the U.S. News Best Hospitals 2019 guidebook.