

Avalanche, U Wash to develop CVD treatments

The University of Washington and Avalanche Biotechnologies will jointly develop potential treatments for color vision deficiency (CVD). University of Washington researchers used gene therapy to confer color vision in 2 adult male squirrel monkeys that had been colorblind since birth. Avalanche is developing 2 separate gene therapies for this disorder, 1 that treats the protan defects and 1 that treats the deutan defects (long and middle wavelengths, respectively). The most common forms of CVD are due to genetic defects that lead to missing either the L-opsin (protan defects) or the M-opsin (deutan defects).

In conjunction with the announcement, Avalanche launched www.colorvisionawareness.com, a disease awareness website designed to help people suffering from color blindness to better understand their condition.