Balamurali K. Ambati, MD, PhD, MBA

Professor & Director of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences

University of Oregon

Brief Description:

Dr. Bala Ambati earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Biology at New York University. He later

earned his Medical Degree from Mount Sinai School of Medicine at the age of 17, becoming the

world’s youngest doctor. After completing a residency in ophthalmology at Harvard University,

he completed a fellowship in cornea and refractivesurgery at Duke University. He completed a

PhD in Cell Biology at Medical College of Georgia, where he practiced for 5 years, prior to

moving to University of Utah in 2008. After 9 years at U. of Utah, Dr. Ambati moved to private practice in Eugene, OR, where he is President of Pacific Clear Vision Institute (a 7 doctor anterior segment practice) and Professor at University of Oregon.

Dr. Bala Ambati is a cornea specialist with a research focus in angiogenesis. Splitting his time

between clinic and research, his most significant basic science research advances have

been the identification of sFlt-1 as the prime mediator of corneal avascularity (published in

Nature and recognized by Science as a Signaling Breakthrough of the Year) and the development

of Flt-1 intraceptors as a novel intracellular anti-VEGF therapy, of significant impact as current

anti-VEGF agents work only outside cells.

He has been awarded the Research to Prevent Blindness Physician-Scientist Award, the 2012

ARVO Award for Macular Degeneration Research, the 2013 Troutman-Veronneau Prize, the

2014 Ludwig von Sallmann Clinician Scientist Award, and the Gold Humanism Award. He has been recognized as the #1 Ophthalmologist in the Top 40 under 40 Power List by The Ophthalmologist Magazine, and as a a Health Care Hero in 2011 by Utah Business Monthly.

Dr. Ambati has been recognized for his teaching excellence by a University of Utah Resident

Research Mentor Award and by serving as an Instructor at the Harvard Cataract Course for 2009

and 2010. His community and overseas service is consistent and giving: he has conducted free

eye screenings in New York, Georgia, and Utah, and served as a volunteer eye surgeon with

ORBIS, Sight for the Sightless, and Help Mercy International in Ghana, Zambia, India, the

Philippines, and Malaysia.