



University of Rochester  
Flaum Eye Institute Basic Science Seminar Series



**Robert Mullins, PhD (FARVO)**

*Dept. of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, University of Iowa*

[Robert Mullins-Iowa](#)

Title:

Complement System Overactivity: A Smoking Gun in Age-related Macular Degeneration?

**Abstract:** The choroid is the highly vascularized connective tissue that provides support for the overlying retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) and outer neural retina. Compared with normal aging, the choroid in eyes with age-related macular degeneration undergoes molecular and structural changes including increased deposition of the membrane attack complex and degenerative changes to the choroid's dense capillary bed, the choriocapillaris. The degeneration of the choriocapillaris frequently precedes the loss of RPE, and likely results in loss of trophic support for the retinal photoreceptor cells. Understanding the molecular basis and the consequences of choriocapillaris degeneration is important in envisioning therapies for AMD. Approaches to understand choroidal dysfunction at the single cell level and to both protect existing choroidal cells and to replace cells using iPSC technology will be discussed.

**Friday, December 6, 2024 @ 1:00PM**

**Conference Room 2.6408 (K207 Auditorium)**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 940 7125 4483**

<https://urmc.zoom.us/j/94071254483>