



University of Missouri

# College of Veterinary Medicine

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## NEWS & EVENTS

### Renowned Ophthalmology Researcher is New Kraeuchi Endowed Professor

Rajiv Mohan, PhD, has been named the next Ruth M. Kraeuchi Missouri Endowed Professor in Veterinary Ophthalmology at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine. Mohan, a professor of ophthalmology, will still maintain appointments at the MU School of Medicine and Truman Veterans Hospital; however, his primary appointment with MU will move to the CVM's Department of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery.



The Ruth M. Kraeuchi Endowed Professorship funds the investigation of structural and functional aspects of retinal cell biology, comparative aspects of clinical retinal disease and intraocular microsurgery. Mohan's research has focused on corneal gene therapy, corneal wound healing, refractive laser surgery, corneal scarring and angiogenesis, nanomedicine and nanoparticles, growth factors and apoptosis. His laboratory is attempting to define viral and nonviral gene therapy approaches for corneal diseases and dystrophies using AAV- and nanotechnology-based vectors. In addition, he is investigating the safety and efficacy of various therapeutic genes for treating corneal diseases, such as corneal scarring and angiogenesis, using newly defined controlled gene therapy modalities and rabbit and rodent models. Other research focuses on molecular mechanisms and signaling pathways associated with corneal wound healing, and strategies to improve laser eye surgery outcomes.

Mohan earned a bachelor of science degree in chemistry, zoology and botany, a master's degree in synthetic organic and medicinal chemistry, and a doctoral degree in medicinal chemistry at Lucknow University in India. He undertook postdoctoral training at Case University, Cleveland, Ohio (1993-1995), Cole Eye Institute, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio (1995-1998) and University of Washington, Seattle, Washington (1998-2001).

The Kraeuchi Endowed Professor position was previously held by Kristina Narfstrom, DVM, PhD. Narfstrom retired from the College of Veterinary Medicine and is now an emeritus professor.

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