Studying Photoreceptor Cell Death

David Zacks, M.D. Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Michigan Medical School

Associate Professor David Zacks, from the Ophthalmology Department at U-M, works to understand diseases of the retina.

Professor Zacks' laboratory has identified a small peptide antagonist of the Fas-receptor, and is working on developing a compound as a potential therapeutic for preventing photoreceptor cell death during retinal disease.

"The Proteomics & Peptide Synthesis Core has been instrumental in our work," Dr. Zacks explained. "It provides us with a very high-quality reagent, as well as help with the development of analytic methods for detecting the compound after injection into the eye. Furthermore, and perhaps most importantly, Dr. Remmer has provided us with very expert advice in regards to any protein work we do."