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Short biography

Dr. Brooks graduated *summa cum laude*, with general honors, and with honors in zoology from the University of Maryland, College Park. He was funded by the competitive Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) and completed his MD & PhD degrees from the University of Pennsylvania. After internship, he completed an ophthalmology residency (serving as chief resident) and a pediatric ophthalmology fellowship at the University of Michigan. He completed a clinical genetics fellowship at the National Human Genome Research Institute and is one of only a few physicians in the US boarded in both clinical genetics and ophthalmology. In 2005, he joined the National Eye Institute, receiving tenure in 2014. He is currently the Chief of the Ophthalmic Genetics & Visual Function Branch and the Clinical Director of the National Eye Institute. In 2010, President Obama awarded him the Presidential Early Career in Science & Engineering Award, the highest award for junior investigators in the United States. He was elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation in 2013.

Research interests

Dr. Brooks' research focuses on the pathogenesis of inherited eye diseases, especially those that affect children. His current research interests include the genetics of optic fissure closure defects (uveal coloboma) and the developmental vision defects in patients with albinism. He has just completed a pilot clinical trial of nitisinone, an FDA-approved compound, in adult patients with one form of albinism, OCA1B.