

Dr. Rohit Varma is currently the founding Director of the the Southern California Eyecare and Vision Research Institute. Prior to this Varma was professor of ophthalmology and preventive medicine and the Grace and Emery Beardsley Chair in Ophthalmology at Keck School of Medicine of USC. Previously he served as dean of the Keck School of Medicine of USC, and president and chairman of the Board of Directors of USC Care. He was also chair of the USC Department of Ophthalmology and founding Director of the USC Gayle and Edward Roski Eye Institute and served as associate dean for strategic planning and community network development.

An accomplished world-renowned physician-scientist, Varma is recognized as a visionary leader in glaucoma and population health as it relates to eye diseases. He is an expert on changes in the optic nerve in glaucoma and is also studying new imaging techniques in the early diagnosis of glaucomatous optic nerve damage. His primary research focuses on epidemiologic studies of eye disease in children and aging populations. He is principal investigator of several National Institute of Health-funded studies, including the Los Angeles Latino Eye Study, the Chinese American Eye Study, the Multi-Ethnic Pediatric Eye Diseases Study and the African American Eye Disease Study. His has been continuously funded by the NIH for over 20 years and his population based studies have significantly impacted health care policy and allowed for a deeper understanding of how eye disease affects different populations. He also served as principal investigator for studies on blindness and vision impairment for the World Health Organization. Most recently, Varma has been involved in the use of large databases and artificial intelligence in the detection and monitoring of disease and the development of novel implantable intraocular pressure sensors and drainage devices.

Previously, Dr. Varma also served as professor and chair of the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary at the University of Illinois at Chicago where he held the Charles I. Young Endowed Chair of Ocular Research and served as associate dean for strategic planning.

A native of India, Dr. Varma earned his medical degree at the University of Delhi. He then completed his residency in ophthalmology at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore and obtained a masters of public health degree from Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Varma completed two glaucoma fellowships, one at the Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia and the other at USC.