Who will develop diabetic retinopathy?

Who
Dr Richard Lee
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When
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What
1. Recruit 60 participants with different levels of retinopathy
2. Take images of their retinas and a 20 ml blood sample
3. Look at different molecules in the blood linked to an immune cell type
4. Find a marker molecule that indicates risk of retinopathy progression

Why
- It is currently difficult to develop and test new treatments as there is no precise way of working out who will develop retinopathy
- If we can find a molecular marker, it would help researchers to test new treatments in specially-designed clinical trials

The future
New treatments for retinopathy and fewer eye checks needed

The team will use their findings to develop a model that can predict the progression of retinopathy in a person.

It could reduce the number of eye checks needed for someone found to be at low risk.