

DISCOVERY

EYE FOUNDATION

~ FOUNDED IN 1970 ~

SUPPORTING WORLDWIDE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND EYE RESEARCH

SPRING/SUMMER 2006

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The Discovery Eye Foundation newsletter is currently published twice annually. It serves to bring you the latest information about our eye research, patient outreach programs, organizational achievements, and profiles of our supporters, patients and friends of DEF.

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WORKING TOWARDS A COMMON GOAL

Group Headed by DEF Board Member Conducts Promising Clinical Trials

On a daily basis, consumers are flooded with advertising for the latest name-brand drugs and medical treatments. So much so, that many of us know the "cures" for ailments that don't even afflict us.

While all of the hype that goes into marketing a drug seems superfluous, the dedicated and continuous testing of drugs for safety and effectiveness is essential. Moreover, throughout the extensive testing periods, doctors are able to provide wonderful advances in treatment and great care for patients in need of immediate and innovative treatment.



Renowned retina specialists, front left to right, Thomas G. Chu, M.D., PhD., Ron P. Gallemore, M.D., PhD., Firas M. Rahhal, M.D.; back left to right, Edgar L. Thomas, M.D., Roger L. Novack, M.D. PhD., David S. Boyer, M.D.

The Discovery Eye Foundation (DEF) is proud to be associated with doctors - such as those in the Retina Vitreous Associates Medical Group - that are on the leading edge of testing to find new treatments for eye disease.

Their Work

Headed by David S. Boyer, M.D., who is a member of the DEF Board of Directors, the Retina Vitreous Associates Medical Group consists of six eye-care specialists who are board certified in ophthalmology and have completed formal subspecialty training in medical and surgical diseases of the retina, vitreous and macula. Each member of the group is nationally recognized for their participation in research and educational programs primarily aimed at understanding the causes of retinal diseases and developing novel treatments leading eye care providers.

The group specializes in the diagnosis, treatment and surgery of retinal, vitreous and macular diseases including macular degeneration, macular pucker, macular hole, diabetic retinopathy, retinal detachment, vitreous hemorrhage, transpupillary thermotherapy (TTT), anti-VEGF therapy, uveitis, choroidal melanoma, vascular occlusion, CMV retinitis, and AIDS.

Continued On Next Page

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Spring has long been a time of discovery and hope. For those of you directly affected by eye problems, I am pleased to announce that the Discovery Eye Foundation (DEF) continues to make progress in researching the causes of and the treatments for a variety of diseases, including diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, ocular herpes, keratoconus, glaucoma and other degenerative conditions.

This newsletter features the extraordinary work being done by DEF Board Member Dr. David S. Boyer and his partners in the Retina Vitreous Associates Medical Group. The group is currently running a one-year clinical trial to study the effectiveness of two different doses of Lucentis - a newly developed drug that holds great hope for the treatment of wet-type age related macular degeneration (AMD).

The leading cause of blindness in seniors, AMD can be a devastating condition. With the development of Lucentis, doctors hope to halt the growth of the blood vessels that destroy vision through pharmaceutical intervention, providing an additional option to laser therapy. DEF is proud of the vital clinical research being done by Dr. Boyer and his group. We are

very lucky to have such an honored member of the medical community on our Board of Directors. Not only does he share his medical expertise with us, but as a member of other non-profit boards, he brings an understanding of the importance of translational eye research, patient outreach and educational programs. He is a great asset to DEF.

Patient education and outreach are essential components of the Discovery Eye Foundation. For this reason, we have long established partnerships in support of both the National Keratoconus Foundation (NKCF) and the Macular Degeneration Partnership (MDP).

We are pleased by the national and international roles both NKCF and MDP are playing. Most recently, the directors of both groups have been asked to represent DEF and our constituents at collegial meetings and seminars. Some of the opportunities and recognition offered to NKCF and MDP are detailed in this newsletter.

I am delighted to announce two new members to our Board of Directors: Roni Leiderman, Ph.D., and Barry Smooke. Dr. Leiderman and Mr. Smooke bring with them a wealth of information that will greatly benefit us all at DEF. In keeping with the Board's 2005 strategic planning, both of these individuals are eager to apply their individual skill sets to help us raise the necessary support to expand our research and outreach efforts. We look forward to working with them in years to come.

Lastly, I hope that you will join us for the fourth annual Discovery Eye Foundation Golf Tournament. Scheduled for August 21, the tournament will be held at the spectacular Monarch Beach golf course in Dana Point. This year, in addition to golf, silent and live auctions, dinner, and an awards ceremony, we have added the opportunity for doctors to participate in small roundtable information sharing sessions with some of the leading doctors in the fields of eye disease research and care.

I hope that we can look forward to seeing you at the UCI laboratory tour (see pg. 5) and the golf tournament!

Sincerely,

Anthony B. Nesburn, M.D., F.A.C.S.
DEF Medical Director

At this time, the Retina Vitreous Associates Medical Group, which works out of four offices, is conducting roughly 30 clinical studies.

A one-year trial with a drug called Lucentis is yielding promising results for patients with the "wet" type of macular degeneration, says **Edgar L. Thomas, M.D.**, a member of the Medical Group and a leading researcher in macular degeneration.

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the leading cause of blindness in the United States. It usually affects older patients- retirement age and above, however initial signs of macular degeneration may occur when patients are in their 40s and 50s.

In the wet form of macular degeneration, abnormal blood vessels grow from the outer retinal circulation beneath the retinal pigment epithelium and sometimes into the retina itself. These blood vessels can leak fluid and protein and eventually form a scar. Traditionally, with early diagnosis of these blood vessels, laser surgery can be used to close the blood vessels and prevent further vision loss.

The ongoing pharmacological Lucentis trial, however, holds additional hope for patients with wet AMD. In the trial, Lucentis is administered by painless injection into the eye, where it inhibits the growth of the blood vessels that block vision.

One hundred and two patients are involved in the trial, which compares the effectiveness of two different doses of the drug.

"This is one of the largest groups we've worked with," says **Jackie Sanguinet, COT**, Director of Clinical Trials Department, who is the main point of contact for participating patients. "There is a fine art to explaining clinical trials to patients. Most of them are newly diagnosed and they are scared. We need to help make them aware of the potential benefits of these trials. The team wants to keep them really well informed."

"We've seen excellent results in this trial," says see increased benefits throughout the treatment period.

"Clinical trials like this one are essential for medical progress," he continues. "To best serve our patients, we need to continually explore treatment options. I am fortunate to work with the outstanding doctors in the group. We are all working towards the same goal - helping our patients."

The Doctors

In addition to being senior partner of the group, **David S. Boyer, M.D.**, is a clinical associate professor with the University of Southern California and has an extensive research background. He has been involved in trials studying age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and cytomegalovirus retinitis. Dr. Boyer has been a member of the DEF Board of Directors since the 1990s.

In 1999, Dr. Boyer was a driving force behind the development of the Macular Degeneration Partnership Medical Advisory Committee, identifying and inviting experts in the field of AMD to join the Partnership. Due to his reputation and influence, the Macular Degeneration Partnership (MDP) continues to successfully attract highly regarded researchers and clinicians. MDP is an outreach program of DEF.

Also a member of the Vitreous Associates Medical Group is **Thomas G. Chu, M.D., Ph.D.**, an internationally recognized clinician, scientist and surgeon, who has held academic positions at USC and the University of California at Davis. His research interests include the management of complicated retinal diseases.

Like Dr. Chu, group members **Ron P. Gallemore, M.D., Ph.D.**, and **Roger L. Novack, M.D., Ph.D.**, are respected clinicians, scientists and surgeons. They have both held academic positions at Duke University and UCLA. Dr. Gallemore's research has focused on the retinal pigment epithelium, a key player in macular degeneration. Dr. Novack's work in developing instrumentation for monitoring retinal metabolism, for which he holds a patent, has led to groundbreaking understanding of the retina.

As well as holding an academic position at UCLA, **Firas M. Rahhal, M.D.**, brings extensive experience in national clinical trials to the group. His clinical trial experience has focused on diabetic retinopathy and age-related macular degeneration.

Like Dr. Rahhal, **Edgar L. Thomas, M.D.**, brings extensive experience in clinical trials to the group. His trial work concentrates on determining new treatments for macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy. Dr. Thomas' scientific research established principles for Photodynamic Therapy, a new treatment for macular degeneration. ▲

TRUST AND AN INNOVATIVE TREATMENT ESSENTIAL TO EYESIGHT



Etta Benjamin knows the importance of acting fast.

Already blind in one eye, Ms. Benjamin developed age-related macular degeneration (AMD) in her 70s, shortly after her husband died. She acted quickly, seeing her ophthalmologist as soon as she realized her vision was deteriorating. Her ophthalmologist, in turn, immediately referred her to David S. Boyer, M.D., who recommended laser therapy (see article from p.1).

Dr. Boyer treated Ms. Benjamin with a new type of "cold" laser treatment, that doesn't cause retinal scarring and that had only recently been approved for patient use. The treatment was effective and, because she was treated immediately, her eyesight was saved before the scarring advanced to a stage that might have been inoperable. Dr. Boyer knew what to do," she recalls. "He acted fast and helped me keep my vision."

"If I'd waited, I wouldn't have had the results I did," says Ms. Benjamin. "I wasn't worried that it was a new treatment. I knew I needed to act fast if I wanted to keep going. I trusted Dr. Boyer. He is very dedicated and he knew what would be best for me. Now I'm back in the swing of things." ▲

Smart Actions Save Eyesight

- See your eye care professional regularly for comprehensive exams and retinal evaluation - especially if you are 50 or older.
- See your ophthalmologist immediately if you experience blurred vision, a burning sensation in your eyes, or any vision loss.
- Make an appointment with your eye doctor if you have a family history of eye disease, have high blood pressure, or diabetes - they can all lead to vision problems.

DEF ANNOUNCES TWO NEW MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Discovery Eye Foundation (DEF) is pleased to announce **Roni Leiderman, Ph.D.**, and **Barry Smooke** as the newest members of its Board of Directors.



Dr. Roni Leiderman has a lengthy relationship with DEF. After her son was diagnosed with keratoconus, Dr. Leiderman joined the Board of Directors of the National Keratoconus Foundation (NKCF), an outreach program of DEF, serving as chairperson for the organization's fundraising program: Friends of Vision.

Dr. Leiderman is the Associate Dean of the Mailman Segal Institute for Early Childhood Studies in Nova Southeastern University. She is responsible for the Parenting Place, a model research and demonstration center and the nation's largest early childhood and parenting program; the Unicorn Children's Clinic; the autism; and research and training.

A nationally recognized developmental psychologist, educator, speaker and consultant specializing in child development, early brain development, relationships, work/family issues and parenting, Dr. Leiderman is also a licensed Supreme Court mediator specializing in families and children. She has educated and informed countless audiences as a spokesperson and keynote speaker, and writes for professional journals, magazines and newspapers and showcases her expertise on radio and television programming.

Dr. Leiderman has been honored for her unceasing dedication to others. She is the recipient of the Weitzmann Foundation Woman of Vision Award for Science and Research, the Price Waterhouse Up and Comer's Award, Who's Who in National and International Education, the President's Faculty Scholarship Award, and the Crystal Communicator Award for excellence in children's television programming.

Barry Smooke is a new friend of the Discovery Eye Foundation. He has friends and relatives who have had eye problems, and he first learned about DEF through his ophthalmologist - Dr. Anthony Nesburn.

Mr. Smooke became interested in being a member of the Board of Directors when he was familiarized with DEF's plans for growth and development, and the Board's plan to expand the Foundation's influence in the arena of eye disease research.

A native of Southern California by birth, Mr. Smooke is a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration.

That degree has been put to good use throughout his career, which has included positions in manufacturing, real estate development and industrial real estate management. At this time, Mr. Smooke is a retired partner at Wellman and Souvenir Properties where he developed and managed industrial real estate.

An avid art collector and a strong supporter of a variety of museums and art institutes, Mr. Smooke is actively involved with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Museum of Contemporary Art. He is also a member of the National Council of the Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco.

Mr. Smooke and his wife, Julie, have three children and eight grandchildren. ▲

NKCF NATIONAL KERATOCONUS FOUNDATION

ARVO ROUNDTABLE

The National Keratoconus Foundation (NKCF), an outreach program of the Discovery Eye Foundation (DEF), will host a Keratoconus Roundtable Discussion Meeting at the upcoming Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO), which will be held in Fort Lauderdale from April 30 to May 4.

NKCF has invited researchers and clinicians from around the world to discuss their findings on keratoconus at the May, 2006 meeting. Participants in the roundtable discussion will include M. Cristina Kenney, M.D., Ph.D., DEF Medical Director Anthony B. Nesburn, M.D., F.A.C.S. and James Jester, M.D. of the Morris S. Pynoos Research Laboratories at University of California, Irvine (UCI), and Roger Steinert, M.D.

"This one-of-a-kind roundtable discussion will discuss the most recent, cutting-edge ideas, treatments and techniques relating to keratoconus," explains Catherine Warren, Director of NKCF. "This is a wonderful opportunity to tap into some of the most brilliant and innovative minds in the field."

More than 11,000 researchers and clinicians attend ARVO each year. In addition to the keratoconus researcher, several other DEF funded researchers will attend the event, including Donald J. Brown, Ph.D. of UCI, who will serve as a moderator and presenter of several research papers and Llachir Benmohamed, Ph.D., will also present research papers. The five-day conference includes presentations on and discussions of research encompassing the entire spectrum of ophthalmology.

10 Years of KC-Link

This year, NKCF celebrates 10 years of innovative patient outreach through KC-Link, a free interactive e-mail based discussion group serving over 2,000 KC patients and practitioners world-wide.

One of the many outreach tools available through NKCF, the web-based service provides a vital resource for the KC community, offering those with keratoconus a chance to communicate with others who understand the daily frustrations of living with this disease.

KC-Link provides an international forum in which patients and eye care professionals can discuss and learn about innovative treatments for keratoconus, and in which individuals can share their experiences and feelings. KC-Link allows optometrists, ophthalmologists and contact lens specialists to respond immediately to patient questions. A highly effective and efficient vehicle for communication, KC-Link is a unique program not offered by any other organization.

KC-Link began in 1996 under the direction of NKCF medical advisors Mark Mannis, M.D., and

Guided Tour of the MORRIS S. PYNOOS RESEARCH LABORATORIES at UCI with Dr. Anthony Nesburn, DEF Medical Director



Friday, May 12, 2006
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

LOCATION:
University of California, Irvine
Medical Center
Orange, California

Please join the resident scientists for discussions of cutting-edge eye research in the areas of Macular Degeneration, Diabetic Retinopathy, Glaucoma, Keratoconus and Ocular Herpes.

For More information, call 310 423-6455

GUIDED RESEARCH TOUR

Karla Zadnik, O.D., Ph.D. Originally called Keratoconus-Link, the service was first operated out of the University of California, Davis.

In 2000, KC-Link transferred its base of operations to NKCF to be moderated by Catherine Warren, R.N., Executive Director of NKCF.

"This move made National Keratoconus Foundation information services directly available to KC-Link participants," she explains. "We now have more than 2,000 participants from countries all over the world."

To learn more about keratoconus and NKCF, please call Catherine Warren, R.N. at 800-521-2524, or visit the [Discovery Eye Foundation](http://www.discoveryeye.org) website at www.discoveryeye.org, or go to www.nkcf.org. ▲



MDP Invited to Collaborate on NEI Education Efforts

The Macular Degeneration Partnership (MDP), an outreach program of the Discovery Eye Foundation (DEF), has been invited to work with the National Eye Institute (NEI) in its efforts to create a comprehensive education program for patients with age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

The NEI, which supports more than 75 percent of vision research conducted in the United States at 250 medical facilities, has created comprehensive programs addressing glaucoma, diabetes and low vision. These programs have a proven track record as powerful tools in educating the public about eye disease.

The DEF Board of Directors understands the importance of reaching out to and educating individuals with macular degeneration and those who care for them.

"AMD is the leading cause of blindness in Americans over age 60," says DEF Medical Director Anthony B. Nesburn, M.D. "The disease damages the macula, the central part of the retina, which is responsible for central vision and the ability to see detail. When the macula is damaged, the eye loses its ability to see color and details such as newsprint and facial features. Not being able to read, drive or see TV is a life-changing event and it can be devastating."

Judith Delgado, Director of MDP will serve on the planning committee for the NEI's new educational program. "I am honored to be a part of this national effort," she says. "The more people we can If we educate people about AMD, they can get treatment early and have a better chance of not losing their sight."

Promising Treatments for "Wet" AMD

In mid-2006, it is expected that the newly developed drug Lucentis® will be approved by the FDA. Specifically developed for eye treatment, clinical trials show that Lucentis effectively inhibits the growth of the blood vessels that diminish vision and are the main cause of wet-type AMD. Lucentis has been shown to stabilize and/or improve vision in 95 percent of patients in the trial group. (For additional information, please see Working Towards a Common Goal: Group Headed by DEF Board Member Conducts Promising Clinical Trials on page 1.)

Until Lucentis is approved, many retinal specialists have embraced the off-label use of Avastin®, a drug developed and approved for the treatment of colon cancer. Like Lucentis, Avastin retards the growth of blood vessels, making it an effective treatment for wet-type AMD. Patients using Avastin report positive results. However, since the drug was not developed for use in the eye, there is currently no safety data available for that use.

Other treatments for wet-type AMD include Macugen®, an approved drug to stop the growth of blood vessels; and photodynamic therapy (PDT) with Visudyne®, which seals off existing blood vessels that are already leaking.

MDP Helps Patients by Spreading the Word About AMD

In March, the Macular Degeneration Partnership (MDP) attended the American Society on Aging/National Council on Aging Annual Conference, concentrating on creating an Advisory Group for MDP's Family Caregiver project. MDP currently plans to expand its website (www.AMD.org) to provide additional information about macular degeneration to families, friends and caregivers of individuals with AMD.

Also in March, Ms. Delgado delivered a presentation titled "The Heart of AMD" to the National Eye Institute Educational Program Conference. The presentation profiled the MDP program, detailing the program's history, its uniqueness, challenges and opportunities, and explaining the niche market it serves.

In May, MDP will be represented at a global meeting of the AMD Alliance International. MDP is a part of the Alliance, which consists of 55 vision organizations from 21 countries, working to raise awareness of AMD and to address the growing crisis of vision loss worldwide. The conference will present opportunities to share information about AMD research, therapy and low vision, and to collaborate with colleagues around the globe.

To learn more about age-related macular degeneration and MDP, please call Judith Delgado at 310-423-2067, or visit the Discovery Eye Foundation website at www.discoveryeye.org, or go to www.AMD.org. ▲

Discovery Eye Foundation (DEF)

is a 501(c)3 dedicated to finding cures and treatments for corneal and retinal eye diseases. It supports scientists participating in groundbreaking eye research particularly in the areas of diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, ocular herpes, keratoconus and other sight threatening conditions.

DEF also supports two excellent educational programs with world-wide reach, Macular Degeneration Partnership (MDP) and the National Keratoconus Foundation (NKCF). These programs uniquely serve a growing population affected by eye disease with opportunities for Internet interaction, free printed educational materials and telephone access to a healthcare professional.

A GLANCE AT WHAT'S INSIDE

Guided Research Tour at UCI



DEF Announces New Board Members



Also inside:

KC-Link 10 Year Anniversary

Group Headed by DEF Board Member Conducts Promising Clinical Trials

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DISCOVERY
EYE FOUNDATION
~ FOUNDED IN 1970 ~

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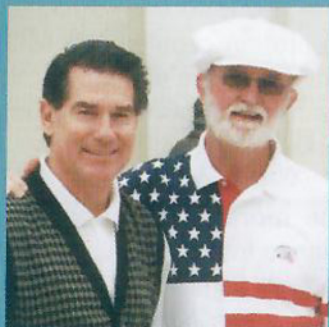
Mission Statement:

Discovery Eye Foundation exists to facilitate the development of cures and improve patient care through corneal and retinal research and educational programs for eye disease.

GET IN THE SWING!



Allergan Presents DEF 4th Annual Golf Tournament - Monday, August 21, 2006



Former Dodger, Steve Garvey and Tournament Chairman, James J. Salz, M.D.

The fourth annual Discovery Eye Foundation Golf Tournament will be held on August 21 at the spectacular Monarch Beach Golf Links in Dana Point. As in past years, proceeds from the event will fund eye research at the Morris S. Pynoos Research Laboratories at the University of California, Irvine.

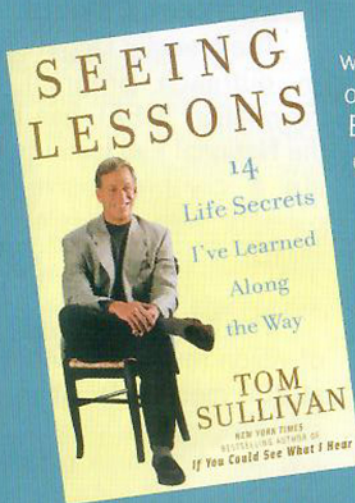
The full day event will feature celebrity golfers including former Los Angeles Dodger, Steve Garvey, a silent and a live auction, dinner, and an awards ceremony.

Radio personality Rick Dees, whose syndicated radio program is broadcast worldwide, will serve as master of ceremonies for the awards presentation.

In addition, for the first time ever, this year's event will include a roundtable luncheon featuring ophthalmologists James J. Salz, M.D., Roger Steinert, M.D., David J. Schanzlin, M.D., Anthony B. Nesburn, M.D., and George Baerveldt, M.D. The roundtable



Tournament Master of Ceremonies, Rick Dees



which will be held at 11 a.m., is intended to benefit ophthalmologists by encouraging them to "Ask the Experts" in informal informational exchange groups of ten or less.

Entertainment in the evening will be provided by Tom Sullivan, a sight-impaired actor and singer who has appeared in guest roles on such television programs as Designing Women, Highway to Heaven, Fame,



Author and entertainer, Tom Sullivan

M.A.S.H., Mork & Mindy, and WKRP in Cincinnati. An avid snow skier, marathon runner, and golfer, Mr. Sullivan has never seen his blindness as a handicap. He is a recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from The American Foundation for the Blind, and has worked as a special correspondent for ABC's Good Morning America.

James J. Salz, M.D., member of the Discovery Eye Foundation Board of Directors, is Chairman of the 4th Annual Golf Tournament Committee, with Ronald N. Gaster, M.D., as co-chair. Committee members include: Richard Mendoza, Allergan, Norman Delgado, Oasis Medical, Ernie Edwards, Advanced Medical Devices and Discovery Eye Foundation Medical Director Anthony Nesburn, M.D.

Donna Posner is Chairwoman for the Live and Silent Auctions, and Tom Hebert is Tournament Director.

For additional information about foursomes and sponsorship opportunities, please call the Discovery Eye Foundation at 310-423-6455. The event cost per player is \$300.

Doctors interested in attending the roundtable discussion should contact DEF at 310-423-6455. A \$50 lunch donation is requested.

DISCOVERY EYE FOUNDATION EVENTS