



Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership

A statewide collaboration preparing for the growth of aging eye challenges in Ohio

Ohio Vision Loss Prevention Research Symposium

An Eye-Opening Experience for Vision Research Scientists, Public Health Professionals, Clinicians, Senior Services Professionals, Government Agencies/Programs and the Bio-Tech Industry

The Ohio Vision Loss Prevention Research Symposium is a project of **Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership**, an initiative formed by a proclamation from Ohio Governor Bob Taft and supported by the Ohio Department of Aging. The mission of the **Partnership** is to develop a strategic plan of action to address issues relating to vision care public policy, vision care services, vision education, and vision loss prevention research that impact the quality of life for Ohio's seniors now and in the future. The **Partnership** is comprised of key leaders and experts in the areas of vision healthcare, the elderly and social services.

Ohio Vision Loss Prevention Research Symposium Details:

When: June 6, 2005; 8:30 am-5 pm

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Informal reception ends the day at 5:00 p.m.

Where: COSI – The Center for Science and Industry, Columbus, Ohio (see www.cosi.org)

Who: 200 leaders from government, public health, eye care research/clinical practice, senior care and the bioscience/biotech community are expected to attend

The Planning Committee: Chaired by Tim Kern, PhD, Prof. of Medicine & Ophthalmology; Director, Center for Diabetes Research, Case Western Reserve University and Marc Cloutier, PhD, Special Assistant for Biotechnology, Ohio Department of Development.

Invited Speakers: Governor Bob Taft, Congressman Patrick J. Tiberi, Tony Dennis (CEO of OMERIS), John Rice (CEO Triathlon Medical Ventures), Douglas Millhorn (Genome Research Institute) and various Ohio-based vision researchers and clinicians.

For more information and registration, visit: www.preventblindness.net/symposium

Vision Loss Prevention Research Symposium Goal: To foster a collaborative environment for accelerating the translation of vision research discoveries into the creation of Ohio health care products and services that prevent vision loss due to aging eye diseases.

Objectives:

1. Expose Ohio vision research scientists to available Ohio assets and resources that can lead to more effective and successful collaboration and assist their research.
2. Expose Public Health Professionals, Clinicians, Senior Services Professionals, and the BioScience Industry to research discoveries that can be translated into treatments, public and professional education initiatives and products and services to help curb vision loss among seniors and commercialize discoveries.
3. Exchange insights about current and proposed research projects, new non-invasive technologies, and clinical trials for the detection and prevention of blindness and vision loss.
4. To promote new vision research and vision research discoveries that focus on nutrition and lifestyle choices that can have an impact in preventing eye disease and vision loss.

5. To focus vision research efforts on the four leading causes of vision loss and socioeconomic costs among Ohio's aging population: diabetic retinopathy, cataract, glaucoma, and age-related macular degeneration (AMD). More than 2.5 million Ohioans will be affected.

Collaborations that will be fostered and encouraged at the *Symposium* are:

- Interdepartmental (within Institutions and Industries)
- Inter-Institutional (among research institutions, biotechnology industries and public/professional health organizations)
- Translational (translating research into products, technologies and services that positively impact the visual quality of life for seniors now and in the future)

The Need: The *Ohio Vision Loss Prevention Research Symposium* will address the growing threat of blindness and vision loss from age-related eye disease. According to “*Vision Problems in the U.S.*” a study conducted by PBA with support from the NIH, **the number of Ohio seniors affected by age-related eye diseases is expected to double over the next 30 years** as the Baby Boomer generation ages, largely resulting from the eye diseases of diabetic retinopathy, cataract, glaucoma, and age-related macular degeneration (AMD). **More than 2.5 million Ohioans will be affected.**

Healthy People 2010 cited that in the U.S., an estimated 80 million people have a potentially blinding eye disease, 3 million have low vision, 1.1 million are legally blind, and 200,000 are more severely visually impaired. The *2010* report highlighted that vision is critical to conducting activities of daily living, is a portal for language, and affects developmental learning, communicating, working, health and quality of life. Vision impairment is one of the most feared disabilities. The annual economic and societal burden of vision-related disabilities is significant. Based on a 2004 study published by the National Eye Institute (NEI), the economic costs of visual disorders and disabilities in the U.S. are estimated to be over **\$67.5 billion**. Costs in Ohio alone are **\$2.7 billion**.

The **Ohio Aging Eye Public Private Partnership** has selected the *Ohio Vision Loss Prevention Research Symposium* as one of its key action initiatives. There is high-level interest in and support of this effort which makes this approach one that has the momentum behind it to make it a success. There is also interest and momentum at the national level, with the *Healthy People 2010 Initiative's* focus on vision health and the formation of a National Congressional Vision Caucus by PBA.

Partnership Members are: AOPHA - The Advocate of Not For Profit Services for Older Ohioans, Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Association of Ohio Health Commissioners, Council for Older Adults, KnowledgeWorks Foundation, Ohio Council for Home Care, Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education, Ohio Agencies Serving the Visually Impaired, NASA Glenn Research Center, Ohio Department of Aging, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Insurance, Representative Kathleen Chandler, Ohio Nurses Association, Ohio Ophthalmological Society, Senator Steve Stivers, Senator Randy Gardner, Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, Ohio Osteopathic Association, Ohio Optometric Association, Ohio Veterans Visual Impairment Services Team, Opticians Association of Ohio and Prevent Blindness Ohio.

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