



Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership

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

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Summit will Focus on Diabetic Retinopathy

Diabetes is the leading cause of new blindness among adults

CLEVELAND – Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership, the Cleveland Clinic Cole Eye Institute and Prevent Blindness Ohio and will host the Second Annual Aging Eye Summit which will focus on Diabetic Retinopathy.

The Aging Eye Summit Series: Focus on Diabetic Retinopathy will be held at The InterContinental Hotel and Conference Center, 9801 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland on Thursday, June 12, 2008 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Participation is open to vision researchers, clinicians, patients, public health and rehabilitation professionals, aging network professionals, bio-science funders & leaders from government and the bio-tech Industry. Registration and lunch are complimentary.

Topics will address the status and treatment of diabetes and diabetic eye disease, the impact of diabetes from a public health perspective, new approaches to treating late stage diabetic retinopathy, new approaches to inhibit early stages of retinopathy, and clinical trials and retina reading centers.

Diabetic Retinopathy causes abnormal growth of blood vessels in the back of the eye which can leak affecting the macula or retina. As a result, vision can be seriously distorted, blurred or even lost. Diabetes is the leading cause of new blindness among adults and people with diabetes are 25 times more likely to become blind than people without it. Management of diabetes and regular preventative eye exams are the best defense against developing the disease. Diabetic Retinopathy affects 40% of people with diabetes and there is no cure. *The challenge for research is to find treatments to delay and prevent diabetic retinopathy.*

In Ohio, 131,034 people ages 18+ that know they have diabetes report having diabetic retinopathy (20.4%). Because as many as 29% of people with diabetes don't know they have the disease, there may be as many as 904,678 Ohioans ages 18+ with diabetes with 184,554 of them having diabetic retinopathy. With cases of age-related eye disease expected to double by 2030, the number of Ohioans with diabetic retinopathy could increase to 369,108 Ohioans if nothing is done to slow the growth of diabetes. Ohioans with diabetes are at a higher risk for multiple vision problems and development of age-related eye diseases in addition to diabetic retinopathy. Ohioans with diabetes were more than twice as likely to develop glaucoma and 45% more likely to develop cataracts than were Ohioans without diabetes. Ohioans ages 40-49 with diabetes are almost twice as likely, to report having moderate difficulty reading print than were Ohioans of the same age without diabetes.

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Please note seating is limited to the first 150 registrants. Registration, including continental breakfast and lunch, is complimentary. Continuing Education Units are available to vision rehabilitation and education professionals, social workers, and occupational therapists. To register and for more information about the Aging Eye Summit: Focus on Diabetic Retinopathy log on to www.preventblindness.net/drsummit or call Laura Schwartz at 800-301-2020 ext. 112.

Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership (AEPPP) is a statewide collaboration formed to respond to the growth aging eye challenges in Ohio. The mission of the AEPPP, an initiative supported by the Ohio Department of Aging, is to develop a strategic plan of action to address issues relating to vision care public policy, vision care services, vision education, and vision research that impact the quality of life for Ohio's seniors now and in the future.

Members of the Planning Committee are: Richard T. Bunner M.A.-Prevent Blindness Ohio, Cindy Clark-Ohio Department of Aging, Marc Cloutier PhD.-Ohio Department of Development, Bonnie Hollopeter-OHIO KePRO, Thomas Joyce-Ohio Department of Health, Peggy Keating-Cleveland Sight Center, Tim Kern PhD.- Case Western Reserve University, Larry Leguire PhD.-Nationwide Children's Hospital, Neema Mayhugh, PhD.-Cole Eye Institute, Robert D. Newcomb, OD, MPH-The Ohio State University College of Optometry, Sharon Schmidt, PhD-Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission and Sherry Williams, Kira Baldonado, and Laura Schwartz-Prevent Blindness Ohio.

Members of the Aging Eye Public Private Partnership are: Association of Philanthropic Homes for the Aging, Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Association of Ohio Health Commissioners, Council for Older Adults, KnowledgeWorks Foundation, Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education, Ohio Agencies Serving the Visually Impaired, Ohio Department of Aging, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Insurance, Representative Kathleen Chandler, Ohio Ophthalmological Society, Senator Steve Stivers, Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, Ohio Osteopathic Association, Ohio Optometric Association, VA Health Care System of Ohio - VISN 10, Opticians Association of Ohio and Prevent Blindness Ohio.

Visit our website at www.preventblindness.org/ohio/agingeye or call 1-800-301-2020.

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