



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **VISION RESEARCH SCIENTIFIC FORUM FEATURED PROJECTS FROM SOME OF OHIO'S MOST TALENTED YOUNG SCIENTISTS**

**COLUMBUS, OH** – A *Vision Research Scientific Forum*, held on Monday, November 11 at TechColumbus, featured presentations from winners of Prevent Blindness Ohio's Young Investigator Student Fellowship Awards for Female Scholars in Vision Research. The Scientific Forum was co-sponsored by Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership. The Fellowship Awards are made possible through the financial support of the Charlotte R. Schmidlapp Fund, Fifth Third Bank, Trustee, The Reinberger Foundation, and The Sarah E. Slack Prevention of Blindness Fund, Muskingum County Community Foundation

Keynote Speaker Dr. Caroline Whitacre, Vice President for Research, The Ohio State University, encouraged the student research fellows to "think about their goals, make a difference in science, and to take their research beyond publication." Additionally, she noted that "Prevent Blindness Ohio is serving Ohio in such an important way by giving these fellowship awards."

2008 Prevent Blindness Ohio Research Fellow, Katherine Trueblood Dorian, Case Western Reserve University, whose research will contribute to the knowledge of how high blood glucose levels and the initiation of an inflammatory response contribute to the development of diabetic retinopathy said, "Vision loss is a growing problem due to the size of the aging population and the growth in the number of people who will have diabetes. There is a great need now for new treatments and methods to curb this growth. Thanks to Prevent Blindness Ohio for making this opportunity possible for young scientists."

The Prevent Blindness Ohio Female Fellowship Award provides training support for future generations of outstanding female scientists committed to pursuing biomedical, behavioral or clinical research careers relevant to the mission of Prevent Blindness Ohio – to prevent blindness and preserve sight. To apply for the 2009 Young Investigator Student Fellowship Awards for Female Scholars in Vision Research, log on to: [www.pbohio.org](http://www.pbohio.org). Applications are due February 15, 2009.



*From left to right: Fellowship Recipients: Jennifer Stanke, Reyna Martinez-De Luna, and Holly Moose of The Ohio State University , Katherine Trueblood Doriean of Case Western Reserve University, and Elizabeth McDonald from Cincinnati Children's Hospital with Kira Baldonado from Prevent Blindness Ohio*

#### **ABOUT OHIO'S AGING EYE PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP**

*The Aging Eye Public/Private Partnership is an initiative supported by the Ohio Department of Aging whose mission 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. The formation of the Partnership and its on-going work is supported by a Proclamation from the Governor of Ohio. Visit [www.preventblindness.org/ohio/agingeye](http://www.preventblindness.org/ohio/agingeye) for more information.*

#### **ABOUT PREVENT BLINDNESS OHIO**

*Prevent Blindness Ohio, founded in 1957, is Ohio's leading volunteer nonprofit public health organization dedicated to preventing blindness and preserving sight. We serve all 88 Ohio counties, providing direct services to more than 800,000 Ohioans annually and educating millions of consumers about what they can do to protect and preserve their precious gift of sight. Prevent Blindness Ohio is an affiliate of Prevent Blindness America, the country's second-oldest national voluntary health organization. For more information or to make a contribution, visit our website at [www.pbOhio.org](http://www.pbOhio.org) or call 800-301-2020.*

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