



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WOMEN'S VISION RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP SELECTION COMMITTEE IS ANNOUNCED

COLUMBUS – Prevent Blindness Ohio announced the members of the selection committee for their fourth annual Young Investigators Student Fellowship Award for Female Scholars in Vision Research Program.

Selection committee members are:

Rafat Ansari, PhD, NASA Glen Research Center

Andrew Hansen, PhD, Ohio Department of Development

Larry Leguire, PhD, MBA, Nationwide Children's Hospital

Robert Newcomb, OD, MPH, Ohio State University College of Optometry

Timothy S. Kern, PhD, Case Western Reserve University

Stephanie Hagstrom, PhD – Cole Eye Institute Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Terri A. Gossard, O.D., M.S., Eye Care Associates of Greater Cincinnati

Anita Dash-Modi M.D., Summit Ophthalmology Inc., Past President- Ohio
Ophthalmological Society

Amy Long, Vision Research Fellowship Grantee – 2006

Holly Moose, Vision Research Fellowship Grantee- 2008

This Fellowship Program for female scholars in vision research is designed to provide 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.

Today, there are 1,259,000 older Ohioans affected by vision problems that if not detected and treated early, could lead to blindness. Because of the growth in the aging population, there will be more than 2.5 million Ohioans affected by vision-robbing conditions by the Year 2030, largely resulting from the eye diseases of diabetic retinopathy, cataract, glaucoma, and age-related macular degeneration (AMD). The burden on our health care system, social/rehabilitative service programs, and quality of life will be staggering. More than 2.5 million Ohioans will be affected.

This Fellowship Program is designed to encourage scientists at the beginning of their careers to pursue vision research that can contribute toward the early detection and treatment discoveries that will be needed to address Ohio's considerable growth in vision health challenges. In 2003, the National Academy of Sciences issued a report on national needs for biomedical and behavioral research scientists. The report cites that there is an increased need for clinical scientists who can help translate research findings into improvements for health.

Prevent Blindness Ohio's Young Investigators Student Fellowship Award for Female Scholars in Vision Research will provide a student stipend to support interdisciplinary research, help translate research findings into improvements for health, and target the health problems of the nation's growing underrepresented minority populations that are not receiving adequate attention.

Fellowships will be awarded to investigators conducting their fellowship training with a recognized academic institution in the State of Ohio. Grants will be awarded for the summer 2009 session and average \$3000-\$5000/award.

The Award Program is supported by a grant from the Charlotte R. Schmidlapp Fund of the Fifth Third Bank Foundation, The Reinberger Foundation and The Sarah E. Slack Prevention of Blindness Fund of the Muskingum County Community Foundation.

For more information contact Prevent Blindness Ohio at 800-301-2020 or info@pbohio.org.

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 or call 800-301-2020.