

=====

THE MAGNIFIER Issue #58, August, 2007

Newsletter from the Macular Degeneration Foundation, Inc.
 P.O. Box 531313 Henderson, NV 89053
<http://www.eyesight.org>

=====

GUIDE DOGS GIVES BLIND \$5 MILLION

“Portland - Guide Dogs for the Blind has funded a \$5 million endowment through the Oregon Community Foundation to promote services for Oregon’s 13,700 blind residents.

Guide Dogs for the Blind, located in Boring, pairs mobility dogs with people who are blind. These lifelong partnerships have a huge impact on individuals ability to maintain their independence and quality of life. All services are free. This funding comes just as blindness is expected to increase due to age-related diseases such as glaucoma, diabetes and macular degeneration.

According to the National Eye Institute, blindness currently affects 3.3 million Americans age 40 and older (or one in 28), and the number is projected to reach 5.5 million by the year 2020. The organization was founded in 1942 to serve blinded WWII veterans in the Pacific.”

=====

PIPEX PHARMACEUTICALS ACQUIRES LATE-STATE ORAL CANDIDATE FOR DRY (MD) This article has been condensed by Liz Trauernicht

80-Patient Double-Blind Clinical Trial Demonstrated Statistically Significant Improvement in Visual Acuity and Other Clinical Parameters of Dry MD

July 10, 2007 “Pipex Pharmaceuticals, Inc. www.pipexpharma.com. announced that it has acquired an exclusive license to patented zinc-monocysteine complexes (“Z-monocys”). Z-monocys is initially being developed as an oral

treatment for dry (MD). According to an article published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, MD currently affects approximately 10 million people in the U.S. and is the leading cause of blindness in persons over age 65. Oral Z-monocys has successfully completed a six-month, 80-patient, randomized, double-blind clinical trial for the treatment of dry MD.

In this trial, Z-monocys demonstrated statistically significant improvements in the major clinical features of dry MD, including visual acuity, contrast sensitivity and photorecovery times, as compared to a placebo. A manuscript describing the results of this study has been submitted for publication in a leading peer-reviewed ophthalmology journal.

Steve H. Kanzer, is Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of Pipex. However, Z-monocys was invented by David A. Newsome, M.D., a retinal disease researcher and board certified ophthalmologist, who pioneered the demonstration of decreased amounts of important materials, such as zinc in the macula of eyes associated with macular degeneration, and the also first to demonstrate the clinical utility of oral high dose zinc for MD in a controlled clinical trial, the results of which were published in 1988. The clinical utility of oral zinc therapy for MD was later confirmed in the landmark Study (AREDS) sponsored by the National Eye Institute. High dose oral zinc is currently the most widely used and most effective single agent for the treatment of dry MD. Z-monocys is intended to improve upon and overcome limitations of high dose oral zinc therapy for MD.”

=====

TRAVELING THIS SUMMER?

Think about these products that may be ordered from www.sightconnection.com or calling (800) 458-4888:

1. Luggage Locator: This cool device helps you find your luggage amongst the crowd. With the push of a button, the transmitter activates the receiver causing a bright flashing light and loud chirping sound. Order # PLU 265 \$32.00
2. Sunshields and Fit Overs for your glasses. While you are out in the sun having fun, protect your eyes from harmful UV Rays. A variety of lens and frame colors are available.

=====

SCRIPPS RESEARCHERS RECEIVED \$17M STEM CELL GRANT

Scientists at The Scripps Research Institute recently received a \$17 million grant from the National Eye Institute to investigate the use of stem cells to develop treatments for eye disorders and diseases such as diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, and retinitis pigmentosa. Led by Martin Friedlander, PhD, the Scripps team will use “adult,” or non-embryonic, stem cells in their experiments. The Scripps Research Institute is part of a consortium of San Diego research and educational institutions that have established a center devoted to stem cell research.

=====

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Liz Trauernicht

I recently received a booklet, that includes a DVD from The LuEsther T. Mertz Retinal Research Center. The material is free, however, donations are greatly appreciated. If you would like to order this booklet, you may write to:

The Manhattan Eye, Ear & Throat Hospital
LuEsther T. Mertz Retinal Research Center
210 East 64th Street, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10021

=====

FINANCIAL HELP LINES

Patient Access Network Foundation: (866) 316-7263
<https://www.patientaccessnetwork.org>

Genentech Patient Assistance: (866) 724-9394
<http://www.gene.com/gene/products/access/index.jsp>

=====

NEW BOOKS ON THE MARKET

A Patient-Expert Walks You through Everything you Need to Learn and Do
The First Year Age-Related Macular Degeneration

by Daniel L. Roberts

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1569242860/maculardegener01>

Protect your Sight: How to Save Your Vision in the Epidemic of Age-Related
Macular Degeneration

by James C. Folk

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0976968908/maculardegener01>

Coping With Macular Degeneration

by Patricia Gilbert

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0859699439/maculardegener01>

=====

CONTACTING MDF

To speak to a support representative directly, you may call 1-888-633-3937. If you reach our voice mail, please speak slowly and distinctly.

ORDERING BOOKS & TAPES

When purchasing items from Amazon.com, please remember to use the MDF search box located at <http://www.eyesight.org/Books/books.html> . By simply originating your search from our website, Amazon rewards the Foundation with a small commission from each product you order. Thank you.

MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS:

Please make checks payable to Macular Degeneration Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 531313, Henderson, Nevada 89053, or you may use your credit card on our web site <http://www.eyesight.org/Donations/donations.html> . Your contributions make our services available as a support system for macular degeneration patients in the following ways:

1. We provide toll-free lines for personal contact assistance.
2. We mail brochures and other printed materials upon request.

- 3. We support an award-winning web site that provides the latest up-to-date information.
- 4. We fund research proposal grants to provide therapies for both the wet and dry form of AMD. Contributions marked "research" are used 100% for research.

=====

MDF was founded in 1992 by Edmund J. Aleksandrovich Ph.D (a victim of macular degeneration). It provides MD patients and their families with the information necessary to understand the disease, the latest news concerning ways to cope with the disease, and supports the efforts of researchers to find a cure.

Subscribers who wish to cancel their subscription or change their email address may visit: <http://www.eyesight.org/Newsletter/newsletter.html> .

=====

=====