



DECADE OF VISION
an initiative of the **2010-2020**
Alliance For Eye And Vision Research

THE ALLIANCE FOR EYE AND VISION RESEARCH

In conjunction with:
Research to Prevent Blindness
American Glaucoma Society
Assoc. for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology
Glaucoma Research Foundation
Optometric Glaucoma Society

*Invites you to join us for a Luncheon Briefing to Recognize
World Glaucoma Week 2017 (March 12-18)*

Translating Glaucoma Therapy from Bench to Bedside

Thursday, March 9, 2017

12 Noon - 1:15 pm

House Rayburn 2040 (formerly B-340)

Featuring Speaker
Malik Y. Kahook, M.D.
(University of Colorado School of Medicine)

Please R.S.V.P. to
Taylor Beaumont @ 202-407-8320 or TaylorBeaumont1@gmail.com

**AEVR, a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Educational Foundation, is pleased to
host this widely attended event featuring
an eye-healthy luncheon.**

Translating Glaucoma Therapy from Bench to Bedside
Recognizing World Glaucoma Week 2017 (March 12-18)
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What is glaucoma and why is it important?

Glaucoma, the second leading cause of preventable vision loss in the United States, is a neurological disease affecting the optic nerve and causing loss of peripheral vision—and ultimately blindness. It affects more than 2.7 million Americans over age 40, with that number estimated to more than double by year 2050. It includes both diagnosed and undiagnosed cases, as often individuals are unaware they have the disease until vision is lost. It is a driving factor—along with cataract and diabetic retinopathy—in the annual cost of vision impairment reaching \$373.2 billion by year 2050, or \$717 billion when adjusted for inflation, as estimated in a 2014 report issued by Prevent Blindness.

Certain characteristics such as age, ethnicity, high blood pressure, high intraocular pressure (IOP), and optic nerve appearance are associated with disease development. Groups at highest risk include African Americans over age 40, individuals over age 60—especially Mexican Americans, and those with a family history of the disease. In its most common form—primary open angle glaucoma (POAG)—nerve damage results from high IOP, which occurs when the fluid that circulates in and out of the front part of the eye drains too slowly. Research funded by the National Eye Institute (NEI) within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has resulted in pressure-reducing drug regimens, and NEI's *Ocular Hypertension Treatment Study (OHTS)* found that pressure-reducing eye drops delayed disease onset. In addition to drug regimens, glaucoma is also treated through conventional surgery—which makes a new opening for fluid to leave the eye—and laser trabeculoplasty, where the laser burns a drainage hole in the eye's spongy meshwork.

How does translational research impact the care of glaucoma patients?

Translating research discovery from the laboratory to the clinic or operating room can take a decade or longer. The process depends on many team members with varying backgrounds leading to a synthesis of ideas that move from early basic research to clinical trials and eventually to wide use in clinics around the world. Discovery and innovation depends on significant support from the NIH/NEI at every single step along translational pathway. Dr. Kahook will discuss his research which focuses on developing innovative technologies to treat glaucoma patients and alleviate the burden of disease by preserving vision.

About the Speaker....

Malik Y. Kahook, M.D. is the Slater Family Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus in Denver. He serves as the Vice Chair of Clinical and Translational Research and Chief of the Glaucoma Service and Co-Director of Glaucoma Fellowship in the Department of Ophthalmology. He specializes in the medical and surgical treatment of glaucoma and cataracts, and his research focuses on multiple unmet needs including advanced cataract surgery devices and implants, treatment of macular degeneration, novel glaucoma therapies, and advanced imaging techniques.

About World Glaucoma Week 2017...

The first *World Glaucoma Day* was held on March 6, 2008, and the United States House of Representatives passed H.R. 981, which recognized the event and supported the NEI's efforts to research the causes of and treatments for glaucoma. That day has expanded into a full week of educational events held worldwide, including this annual Briefing to educate Congress about this blinding eye disease.

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