



Alliance For Eye
And Vision Research

AEVR

Educating about the Value of Vision Research

THE ALLIANCE FOR EYE AND VISION RESEARCH

In conjunction with

**American Glaucoma Society
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology
Glaucoma Research Foundation
The Glaucoma Foundation**

*Invite you to join us for a Luncheon Briefing
recognizing the Second Annual World Glaucoma Day*

“Glaucoma—The Stealth Robber of Vision”

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

12 Noon - 1:15 pm

House Rayburn B-369

**Please R.S.V.P. to
Dina Beaumont @ 202-530-4672 or Dinabeau@aol.com**

**AEVR is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Foundation hosting this widely
attended event.**

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What is glaucoma and why is it important?

Glaucoma, a progressive disease of the optic nerve that robs individuals of both peripheral and central vision, is the second leading cause of preventable vision loss in the United States, afflicting 2.2 million Americans, and the leading cause of permanent blindness worldwide, afflicting 67 million individuals. It often has no symptoms until vision loss occurs—the National Eye Institute (NEI) within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) estimates that, in the US, more than half of the individuals with glaucoma are unaware they have it. Glaucoma affects all age groups and disproportionately affects underserved minority populations, with African-Americans having a three times greater risk of developing it than White Americans. It is the leading cause of irreversible vision loss in African-Americans and Hispanics. The first World Glaucoma Day was held on March 6, 2008, and the US House of Representatives passed H.R. 981, which recognized the event and supported NEI’s efforts to research the causes of and treatments for glaucoma.

What is new in glaucoma research?

Researchers funded by the NEI will describe the latest research, including: determining the genetic basis of different types of the disease and the potential for gene therapy approaches; identifying factors that protect the optic nerve from damage; evaluating the potential for optic nerve cell regeneration; and better understanding how elevated intraocular pressure leads to optic nerve damage. In March 2008, the NEI held a joint meeting with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) entitled *Glaucoma Endpoints* at which researchers acknowledged that glaucoma is a complex, neurodegenerative disease in which detectable structural changes within the eye may not progress linearly or in concert with functional changes, that is, vision loss.

About the speakers—two researchers from the 2008 *Glaucoma Endpoints* meeting...:

Rohit Varma, M.D., M.P.H., is Director of the Glaucoma Service, Ocular Epidemiology Center and Clinical Trials Unit at the Doheny Eye Institute, University of Southern California. In 2004, Dr. Varma spoke at a Congressional briefing about the NEI-funded Los Angeles Latino Eye Study (LALES), in which he serves as the Principal Investigator.

Murray Fingeret, O.D., is a Clinical Professor at the SUNY College of Optometry and serves as the Chief of the Optometry Section, Brooklyn/St. Albans Campus, Department of Veterans Administration New York Harbor Health Care System.

About AEVR ...

The Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR) is a 501(c)3 non-profit foundation dedicated to education about the importance of federal funding for eye and vision research.

AEVR is pleased to host this widely attended event in conjunction with the American Glaucoma Society, the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, the Glaucoma Research Foundation, and The Glaucoma Foundation.