



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:

**AMD Alliance International (AMDAI)
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)
European Vision Institute (EVI)**

*continues its series of educational briefings on exciting new
developments in eye and vision research*

Please join us for a Luncheon Briefing

New Developments in Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) Research: An International Perspective

**Recognizing International AMD Awareness Week 2010 and
featuring researcher Hendrik Scholl, M.D. (Wilmer
Eye Institute/Johns Hopkins), formerly at the University of Bonn**

Thursday, September 23, 2010

12 Noon - 1:15 pm

House Rayburn B-340

Please R.S.V.P. to

Dina Beaumont @ 202-530-4672 or Dinabeau@aol.com

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

**AEVR's *Decade of Vision 2010-2020 Initiative* Presents a Congressional Briefing
Recognizing International AMD Awareness Week 2010 (September 18-26)
"New Developments in Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) Research:
An International Perspective"**

September 23, 2010

12:00 – 1:15 pm, House Rayburn B-340

RSVP to: 202-530-4672 or Dinabeau@aol.com

Why is research into AMD important?

In a March 2010 report, the AMD Alliance International estimated that 33 million people worldwide currently experience vision impairment from age-related macular degeneration (AMD) at a direct healthcare cost of \$255 billion. AMD is the leading cause of blindness and low vision in the United States and the developed world. Since AMD affects central vision, it severely alters a person's ability to read and drive, which has a significant impact on productivity, independence, and quality of life, adding greatly to its overall cost burden. The National Eye Institute (NEI) within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) estimates that more than 200,000 Americans each year go on to develop advanced AMD, and this number is expected to double by 2020.

What are the new routes of research?

The global vision community is studying all aspects of AMD, from prevention and preemption of the disease to new treatments and therapies. The NEI recently created an International AMD Genetics Consortium to share global data on the genetic associations implicated in AMD—to date, 22 such associations have been discovered, including gene variants in the body's immune and cholesterol pathways that increase an individual's risk of developing AMD. Researchers are not only investigating the potential for human gene therapy to treat AMD—such as that which was used successfully to treat patients with the neurodegenerative disease Leber Congenital Amaurosis (LCA)—they are also researching the use of stem cell therapies. New treatments are being approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), including the first implantable miniature telescope to improve sight of AMD patients. At a June 15 House Energy and Commerce Committee hearing, NIH Director Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D. stated that, "Twenty years ago, we could do little to prevent or treat AMD. Today, because of new treatments and procedures based in part on NIH research, 1.3 million Americans at risk for severe vision loss over the next five years can receive potentially sight-saving therapies."

Who will speak, and what are his international credentials?

Hendrik Scholl, M.D. serves as a Visiting Professor of Ophthalmology and Head of the Visual Neurophysiology Service at the Wilmer Eye Institute/Johns Hopkins University. He was previously in the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Bonn (Germany) after a research fellowship at Moorfields Eye Hospital (London) and residency at the University of Tuebingen (Germany), where he received his medical degree. Dr. Scholl, who specializes in the treatment of retinal diseases such as AMD and inherited retinal degenerations, will address the latest in AMD research and differences between U.S. and European medical research funding mechanisms.

About the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR) and its *Decade of Vision 2010-2020 Initiative*...

In H. Res 366 and S. Res. 209 passed in 2009, Congress designated 2010-2020 as the decade of vision and acknowledged AEVR's efforts to provide sustained education about the impact of eye disease and vision impairment through its *Decade of Vision 2010-2020 Initiative*. AEVR, a 501(c)3 non-profit foundation, is pleased to host this widely attended event in conjunction with:

AMD Alliance International (AMDAI)

Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)

European Vision Institute (EVI)