



Alliance For Eye
And Vision Research

AEVR

Educating about the Value of Vision Research



**Foundation
Fighting Blindness** SM
Driving research to save and restore sight

THE ALLIANCE FOR EYE AND VISION RESEARCH

In conjunction with

Foundation Fighting Blindness

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

Please join us for a Luncheon Briefing

*“Understanding and Screening Usher
Syndrome- the Leading Cause of
Deaf Blindness in the United States”*

Thursday, February 5, 2009

12 Noon - 1:15 pm

House Rayburn B-338

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

**AEVR and FFB are 501(c)3 Non-Profit Foundations hosting this
widely attended event.**

***“Understanding and Screening Usher Syndrome—
the Leading Cause of Deaf Blindness”***

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What is Usher Syndrome, and why is it important?

Usher Syndrome is the most common condition that affects both vision and hearing. The major symptoms are hearing loss and an eye disorder called retinitis pigmentosa, or RP. Retinitis pigmentosa causes night-blindness and a loss of peripheral vision (side vision) through the progressive degeneration of the retina, which is the light-sensitive tissue at the back of the eye that is crucial for vision. As RP progresses, the field of vision narrows, a condition known as “tunnel vision,” until only central vision (the ability to see straight ahead) remains. About 3-6 percent of all children who are deaf and another 3-6 percent who are hard-of-hearing have Usher Syndrome, which is an inherited condition. In developed countries, such as the United States, about four babies in every 100,000 births have Ushers Syndrome.

What research is being conducted, and how is it funded?

Researchers funded by the National Eye Institute (NEI) and the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NICDC), both of which are within the National Institutes of Health (NIH), as well as those funded by the Foundation Fighting Blindness (FFB, a private funding foundation), are working to better understand the genetic basis of this disease to screen for, diagnose, and ultimately treat this condition.

About the speaker...

William J. Kimberling, Ph.D., is a leading researcher with Boys Town National Research Hospital Center for the Study and Treatment of Usher Syndrome in Omaha, Nebraska. He is a Professor of Ophthalmology at the Carver School of Medicine in Iowa City, as well as a Professor with the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the Creighton University School of Medicine and an Adjunct Professor with the Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders at the University of Nebraska. Dr. Kimberling is also the Director for the Center for Hereditary Communication Disorders at Boys Town National Research Hospital.

About the Alliance...

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.

About FFB...

The Foundation Fighting Blindness, Inc., is a 501(c)3 non-profit foundation dedicated to research into preventions, treatments, and cures for people affected by retinitis pigmentosa (RP), macular degeneration, Usher Syndrome, and the entire spectrum of retinal degenerative diseases.

**AEVR and FFB are pleased to host this widely attended event,
with a meal value of less than \$50.**