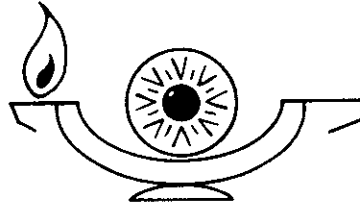


Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology

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May 28, 2009

Paul Sieving, M.D., Ph.D.
Director
National Eye Institute
Building 31/Room 6A-03
9000 Rockville Pile
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Dear Dr. Sieving:

On behalf of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO), I am pleased to offer my congratulations on the celebration of the National Eye Institute's 40th anniversary. With a membership representing chairs, program directors, research directors, medical student educators and administrators from ophthalmology departments around the country, AUPO recognizes the important role that NEI plays in advancing vision research and is proud to support the 2010-2020 Decade of Vision.

Since 1968, NEI has worked to protect and prolong the vision of the American people. NEI has made groundbreaking contributions in the areas of research and education. Knowledge of the visual system has been advanced through research supported by NEI, which has led to sight-saving treatments and improves the quality of life for people of all ages.

AUPO extends our best wishes for a memorable celebration and future successes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bartly J. Mondino".

Bartly J. Mondino, MD
Executive Vice President, AUPO