



June 1, 2009

Paul A. Sieving, M.D., Ph.D.,  
Director National Eye Institute  
Building 31, Room 6A03  
31 Center Drive  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

**Board Members**

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Dear Dr. Sieving,

As the global organization of more than 60 non-profit member organizations in 25 countries around the world dedicated to bringing hope and help to those with macular disease, AMD Alliance International congratulates you and your staff at the National Eye Institute on 40 years of scientific excellence.

When the NEI first opened its doors, very little was known about macular disease. Today, thanks to the groundbreaking work of NEI-funded scientists on nutritional supplements, people all over the world living with macular disease have a cost-effective way to slow the progression of their disease and further decrease their risk of debilitating vision loss.

In addition, the National Eye Institute was instrumental in identifying key genes associated with age-related macular degeneration providing us with clear pathways to preventions, treatments, and ultimately cures.

It is important to note that NEI works collaboratively with many of our member organizations to ensure that research efforts are maximized. Additionally, AMD Alliance International participates in NEI's valuable National Eye Health Education Program to increase awareness about the importance of early detection for treating eye diseases. We commend you for these public-private partnerships that are expediting treatments as well as ensuring that patients have timely access to treatments and low vision rehabilitation.

The National Eye Institute is a true leader in the field of vision research and has made tremendous strides since its inception in 1968. Thanks to your efforts, patients with macular disease now have hope. We look forward to our continued collaboration. Happy Anniversary and keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Wanda Hamilton  
Chief Executive Officer

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