



THE ALLIANCE FOR EYE AND VISION RESEARCH (AEVR)

*continues its series of educational briefings on
breakthrough developments in eye and vision
research funded by the National Eye Institute (NEI)*

Please join us for a Luncheon Briefing

“Children’s Vision Research”

Thursday, June 28, 2007

12:00 Noon – 1:15 pm

House Rayburn B-339

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

**Note: AEVR is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Educational Foundation
hosting this widely attended event with meal value less than \$50**

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What is the focus of this briefing?

The doubling of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) budget in Fiscal Years 1998-2003 enabled the National Eye Institute (NEI) to significantly expand children’s vision research. Dr. Lynn Cyert, a principal investigator in NEI’s Vision in Preschoolers (VIP) Study, will report on this multi-center study’s research into the accuracy of vision screening tests. Since she works with the Cherokee Nation Head Start, she will also address children’s vision issues in the Native American population. Dr. Michael Repka, co-chair of NEI’s Pediatric Eye Disease Investigator Group (PEDIG), will describe this collaborative network of research into treatments for strabismus (misaligned eyes), amblyopia (often called “lazy eye,” where the brain and eye do not coordinate properly), and other eye disorders that affect children. He will report on the latest PEDIG breakthroughs, as well as the Multi-Ethnic Pediatric Eye Disease Study (MEPEDS) and Baltimore Pediatric Eye Disease Study (BPEDS), which are evaluating eye disorders in multi-ethnic populations. He will also comment on just-released NEI research into treatment of Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP), where abnormal blood vessels grow in the retina (light-sensitive back of eye), causing it to scar or detach.

How does NEI-funded research into children’s vision demonstrate NIH’s overall goals?

NEI’s large population studies that characterize disease prevalence and determine best treatments are important since they: recruit multi-ethnic patients to determine disparities; engage community-based practitioners of “real life” medicine; are “harmonized” to other studies with similar methodologies to maximize the use of data measurements and treatment outcomes; and often involve collaboration of multiple NIH Institutes. As such, they represent a rapid translation of basic research into clinical practice, maximizing patient benefit.

About the speakers...

Lynn Cyert, PhD, OD, is a Professor of Optometry and Chief of the Pediatric and Infant Vision Service at Northeastern State University College of Optometry in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. She has served as a member of the National Advisory Eye Council to the NIH.

Michael Repka, MD, is a Professor of Ophthalmology at the Wilmer Eye Institute at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland. He is the immediate-past President of the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus.

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