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MACULAR DEGENERATION
Network

“Update on New Initiatives for Low Vision Accessibility”

Saturday, May 16
10:30 a.m.

Sibley Memorial Hospital
Ernst Auditorium
5255 Loughboro Road, NW
Washington, DC 20016

LOW VISION
ACCESSIBILITY
SPECIAL EVENT:

Many changes are under way for low vision accessibility. Patrick Sheehan, accessibility coordinator for the Department of Veterans Affairs, will give an update on these initiatives and will discuss talking crossing signals, new currency for the visually impaired, audio description, keeping safe from hybrid and electric cars, and more. Sheehan is also the chair of the Access Advisory Committee for METRO and president of the American Council of the Blind of Maryland. First Connection Share Group will meet from 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

Macular Degeneration Network

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5255 Loughboro Road, NW
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Free Program!
Coping with Vision Loss
Learning to adjust to your new sight

When you lose vision, the loss may be gradual. The time may come when you can no longer ignore the loss if you cannot carry out your usual activities. At this point, you may feel sad and/or depressed. Although such feelings can be normal, they should not go on too long. If after several months you are rejecting most of the aides and help offered, you probably could benefit from expert advice and counseling.

Adjustment is underway when you are able to accept vision loss and shift energy from anger or self-pity to learning new skills so you can go on living a normal life despite your vision loss. You can often obtain help in coping with the activities of everyday work and living just by talking with someone who has experienced and adjusted to their loss of sight. Join us on May 19 for a special program on coping with vision loss with Phyllis Burson, Ph.D., clinical psychologist, and talk to others who are experiencing and adjusting to vision loss.

Low Vision Support Group

“Coping with Vision Loss”

Phyllis Burson, Ph.D.

Tuesday, May 19
12:30 p.m.

Friendship Heights Village Center
4433 Southpark Avenue
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
Calendar of Events

- **Wednesday, May 6, 2009**
  Aging Eye Network, “You and Your Cornea: The Window to Your Eyes,” 1:15 p.m.
  Julie Gutmark, M.D.
  *Free Glaucoma Screenings, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.*
  Holiday Park Multiservice Senior Center
  3950 Ferrara Drive
  Silver Spring, MD 20906

- **Tuesday, May 12, 2009**
  Low Vision Support Group, “Making Life Most Livable: Low Tech Solutions,” 11 a.m.
  Washington Hospital Center, Eye Clinic
  110 Irving Street, NW
  Washington, DC 20010
  *Call (202) 877-6081 to reserve lunch.*

- **Tuesday, May 12, 2009**
  Low Vision Share Group, 2 p.m.
  Falcon’s Landing
  20522 Falcon’s Landing Circle
  Potomac Falls, VA 20165

- **Wednesday, May 13, 2009**
  Tea & Conversation, “Protect Your Sight: Sunlight, Kiss or Curse?,” 1:30 p.m.
  Dawn Devaney-Gammon, O.D., optometrist
  Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library
  5005 Duke Street
  Alexandria, VA 22304
Calendar of Events

• Saturday, May 16, 2009
  Macular Degeneration Network, “Update on New Initiatives for Low Vision Accessibility” 10:30 a.m.
  Patrick Sheehan, Accessibility Coordinator, Department of Veterans Affairs
  First Connection Share Group, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.
  Sibley Memorial Hospital, Ernst Auditorium
  5255 Loughboro Road, NW
  Washington, DC 20016

• Tuesday, May 19, 2009
  Low Vision Support Group, “Coping with Vision Loss,”
  12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
  Phyllis Burson, Ph.D., clinical psychologist
  Friendship Heights Village Center
  4433 Southpark Avenue
  Chevy Chase, MD 20815
  Bring a bag lunch. Dessert and beverage provided.

• Wednesday, May 20, 2009
  Low Vision Share Group, 10 a.m.
  Vinson Hall
  6251 Old Dominion Drive
  McLean, VA 22101
Calendar of Events

• Wednesday, May 20, 2009
Low Vision Support Group, open discussion, 10:30 a.m.
Classic Residence by Hyatt
8100 Connecticut Avenue
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
Free parking.

• Thursday, May 21, 2009
Stargardt’s Network, 6:15 p.m.
Location TBD

• Wednesday, May 27, 2009
Picture This! Descriptive Art Tour and Share Group, 1 p.m.
Share Group 2 - 2:45 p.m.
National Gallery of Art, West Building
Meet at Second Floor, Rotunda
4th and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20565

For more information on these events, please call POB at (202) 234-1010
FDA Advisory Panel Recommends Approval of Implantable Telescope

VisionCare Ophthalmic Technologies, Inc., a developer of advanced visual prosthetic devices for individuals with age-related macular degeneration (AMD), announced the FDA Ophthalmic Devices Advisory Panel unanimously recommended that the FDA approve, with conditions, the premarket application for its implantable telescope for End-Stage AMD. The implantable telescope is the first medical device to be recommended by the panel for FDA approval for End-Stage AMD.

End-Stage AMD occurs when the macula in each eye is irreversibly degenerated and no longer provides detailed central vision required for common everyday activities such as recognizing people and facial expressions, or watching television. End-Stage AMD is characterized by central scotomas, or blind spots, in both eyes that cause images in the central visual field to be unrecognizable or not visible at all.

The investigational Implantable Miniature Telescope (IMT) by Dr. Isaac Lipshitz is designed to be a solution for moderate to profound vision loss due to advanced, end-stage forms of AMD that have no current surgical or medical treatment options. Smaller than a pea, the telescope prosthetic device is implanted into one eye in an outpatient surgical procedure. In the implanted eye, the device renders enlarged central...
In the News

vision images over a wide area of the retina to improve central vision, while the non-operated eye provides peripheral vision for mobility and orientation.

The FDA usually follows the recommendations of an advisory panel, but is not required to do so. The panel recommended approval of the device with conditions including post-approval surveillance and labeling suggestions.

Data from clinical studies were presented to the panel by the following leading surgeons and vision experts at the March 27, 2009 Ophthalmic Advisory Panel Meeting:

-- R. Doyle Stulting, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Ophthalmology, Director of Cornea Service, Emory University.

-- Stephen Lane, M.D., Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, University of Minnesota and in private practice at Associated Eye Care, Stillwater, MN.

-- Oliver Schein, M.D., M.P.H., Burton E. Grossman Professor of Ophthalmology, Director of Comprehensive Eye Services at The Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University.

-- Eli Peli, M.Sc., O.D., Senior Scientist and the Moakley Scholar in Aging Eye Research at The Schepens Eye Research Institute, and Professor of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School.

-- Fox Business News, March 31, 2009
*Always remember you should consult with your doctor before enrolling in a clinical trial.
Save the Date

June 9: Washington Hospital Center, Eye Clinic, free lunch, 11 a.m.
June 9: Low Vision Share Group, Falcon’s Landing, 2 p.m.
June 16: Low Vision Support Group, Friendship Heights Village Center, bring a bag lunch, 12:30 p.m.
June 17: Low Vision Share Group, Vinson Hall, 10 a.m.
June 18: Stargardt’s Network, Location TBD, 6:15 p.m.
June 20: Macular Degeneration Network, Sibley Memorial Hospital, 10:30 a.m., First Connection, 9:30 a.m.
June 24: Picture This!, National Gallery of Art, 1 p.m.

To receive E-mail reminders about upcoming events, please send an E-mail to jheilman@youreyes.org.