



The Aniridia Foundation International
and
The University of British Columbia Department of Ophthalmology

Presents

The Ninth
**"Make a Miracle"
Medical and Scientific
Meeting**

August 12-15, 2015

Venue:
University of British Columbia Eye Care Centre
Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences

2550 Willow Street
Vancouver, BC Canada V5Z 3N9

Keynote Speaker

Peter A. Netland, MD, PhD

**Vemah Scott Moyston Professor and Chair
University of Virginia
Department of Ophthalmology**

Supported by the Sharon Stewart Testamentary Trust



**Aniridia Foundation
International**



CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The AFI "Make a Miracle" biennial meetings are unique dedicated medical and scientific meetings in which ophthalmologists are provided opportunities to increase knowledge and competence related to the most up-to-date diagnostic and therapeutic interventions for a syndrome called aniridia. This congenital genetic syndrome has many ophthalmic and systemic disorders causing loss of vision such as: difficult to treat childhood glaucoma, corneal keratopathy due to limbal stem cell deficiency (LSCD), childhood cataracts, and retinal problems. Although these conditions are commonly found individually in the general population, the syndrome is defined by these being found in one person. This essential information from fellow ophthalmologists with the latest information may lead to changes in their daily practice, and assist in the restoration / preservation of their patient's vision. Included in this unique meeting are researchers studying the ophthalmic and systemic disorders of this serious genetic syndrome. Scientists will gain knowledge from discussions with the physicians, fellow scientists and promote translational research towards better treatments and eventually a cure. Special presentations from the experts will be open to those with aniridia syndrome and their families to help educate them so they may make informed decisions on their medical care. Adults, teens and children will have program events that are both educational and social which provide important peer support and networking with other families who live with this syndrome. At the conference "See the Experts" clinic is overseen by the volunteer physicians on the AFI Medical Advisor Board and provide hands on education to other ophthalmologists while those affected are seen in a clinic atmosphere.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this meeting, participants will be able to:

- Determine how to correctly diagnosis aniridia syndrome;
- Identify common areas of this disorder, treatment strategies and pharmaceutical protocol;
- Recognize how the genetics of this syndrome may determine augmented ways of treating those affected to prevent visual loss;
- Identify new areas of treatment and new research that may help in the future;
- Recognize the importance of peer support, education and Aniridia Foundation International to aniridia patients and future patients they may have.
- Learn a special perspective on this syndrome by interacting with those affected and parents.

CONFIRMATION AND CANCELLATION POLICY

Upon receipt of registration and payment, you will receive an email confirmation. Registration fees will be refunded (less a \$50 administrative fee) for written cancellations (emails and faxed requests are acceptable) received a minimum of 14 days prior to the activity date. No refunds will be granted for registration fees of less than \$50 or for cancellations made within 13 days of the activity.

All other expenses incurred in conjunction with this meeting are the sole responsibility of the participant.

REGISTRATION

Registration will be available online only and will end on July 12, 2015

Professionals and students should visit our registration payment portal at

<https://aniridiafnd.ejoinme.org/profregistration>

to register with a credit card. Bring your payment receipt to **conference check in on Wednesday evening (5 pm – 9 pm) to *get your badge and meeting materials.***

Location: Hotel

Learn more about AFI or to refer patients, visit our website www.make-a-miracle.org

The registration fee for professionals and students covers syllabus materials, presentations on Thursday and Friday, conference breaks and for the rates denoted with *******, it also includes the Friday evening “Make a Miracle Dinner Gala” with Keynote Speaker, special presentations and entertainment.

Physicians and Researchers Registration - \$ 195 (USD)*******

Student Registration **with** Dinner Gala - \$ 150 (USD)*******

Student Registration (**no Dinner Gala**) - \$ 85 (USD)

SPECIAL NEEDS

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 requires that all individuals, regardless of their disabilities, have equal access. The Aniridia Foundation International and the University of British Columbia Department of Ophthalmology is pleased to assist participants with special needs. Written requests must be received 60 days prior to the conference date. The conference will be in English, however, we will make all efforts to assist with foreign language assistance. Language translation must be requested at the time of registration and cannot be guaranteed. These requests should be mailed to Aniridia Foundation International, c/o UVA Department of Ophthalmology, Box 800715, Charlottesville, VA 22908-0715. The Eye Care Centre is ADA accessible; however there is limited space for wheel chairs at the back of the auditorium. Feel free to contact the facility building manager, Linda Wong, Tel: 1-604-875-4242. To reserve one of the wheelchair spaces contact Dr. Gregory-Evans Tel: 1-604-875-5529.

COURSE LOCATION AND PARKING

The **conference presentations** will be held ***UBC Eye Care Centre***, 2550 Willow Street Vancouver, BC Canada V5Z 3N9. Some activities such as **conference registration** on Wednesday evening and the Friday night ***“Make a Miracle” Dinner Gala*** will be held at the conference hotel (see below for hotel address)

Parking lots are available near the Eye Care Center on Willow Street.

ACCOMMODATIONS

We have reserved blocked space at a hotel. The actual international chain hotel along with the discounted rate block code will be found on your payment receipt. PLEASE see link above under registration for payment portal. The room block releases July 13, 2015 at which time rooms will be booked, if available, at the current hotel rate.

HOTEL COSTS: \$186.30 (CAD) including tax per night (double occupancy)
Vancouver, BC Canada

Special breakfast buffet – When making your reservation, you can request the AFI discounted breakfast buffet price to be added to your room. It is \$10 per person per breakfast day. Children 12 and under eat free on most menu items (ask your server or reservationist)

INFORMATION

For more information contact Jill Nerby at Aniridia Foundation International, University of Virginia, Department of Ophthalmology at 1-434-243-3357 or via e-mail at jan4s@virginia.edu

AGENDA

Wednesday, August 12, 2015

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Holiday Inn Vancouver – Centre (Broadway)

5th floor Pine Room

Conference Registration Check in and Badge pick up

Thursday, August 13, 2015 *University of British Columbia Eye Care Centre*

Session I Moderator: *Cheryl Gregory-Evans, PhD*

8:30 - 8:35 **WELCOME**

8:35 - 8:55 **Dominique Bremond-Gignac, MD, PhD**
"Anterior segment imaging in congenital aniridia"

8:55 - 9:15 **Jane Green, PhD**
"Intrafamilial variability in a large aniridia family without genetic diagnosis"

9:15 - 9:35 **James Lauderdale, PhD**
"Non-eye changes associated with Pax6-mediated aniridia"

8:55 - 9:15 **Bob Chow, PhD**
"Regulation of Pax6 gene dosage by the microRNA, miR-7"

9:55 - 10:15 **Perry Howard, PhD**
"Targeting miR-7 and miR-375 to upregulate Pax6 expression"

10:15 - 10:40 **BREAK**

10:40 - 11:00 **Melinda Duncan, PhD**
"Regulation of lens fiber cell differentiation by a Prox1/FGFR axis"

- 11:00 - 11:20 **Robert Grainger, PhD**
"Xenopus pax6 mutants affect eye development and other organ systems, and have phenotypic similarities to human aniridia patients"
- 11:20 - 11:40 **Elizabeth Simpson, PhD**
"From gene augmentation therapy to in vivo genome editing therapy"
- 11:40 -12:00 **Cheryl Gregory-Evans, PhD**
"RNA therapies for aniridia"
- 12:00 – 1:00 **LUNCH**

Thursday, August 13, 2015

Session II Moderator: *Peter A. Netland, MD, PhD*

- 1:00 – 1:30 **Jane Green, PhD**
"Impact of disease severity in genetic counseling for aniridia"
- 1:30 - 2:00 **Elizabeth Simpson, PhD**
"Towards gene therapy for aniridia"
- 2:00 - 2:30 **Sophie Deng, MD, PhD**
"New approaches in the diagnosis and treatment of LSCD" (Limbal Stem Cell Deficiency)
- 2:30 - 2:55 **Jill A. Nerby, B.S.**
"Advancing research for aniridia syndrome"
- 2:55 - 3:10 **BREAK**
- 3:10 - 3:40 **Melinda Duncan, PhD**
"Aniridia fibrosis syndrome, possible causes and prospects for prevention: Update on the AFS research grant from Aniridia Foundation International"
- 3:40 - 4:10 **James D. Lauderdale, PhD**
"Cutting edge changes in the brain and pituitary: What we learned from testing at the 2011 Aniridia Foundation International 'Make a Miracle' conference at UGA"
- 4:10 - 4:40 **Robert M. Grainger, PhD**
"Connections between aniridia and metabolism: What we learned from testing at the 2013 Aniridia Foundation International 'Make a Miracle' conference at UVA"
- 4:45 - 6:15 **Professional's Poster Session and Award Ceremony**
- 6:15 **ADJOURN**

(continued)

Friday, August 14, 2015 *University of British Columbia Eye Care Centre*

Session III

Moderator: *Kevin Gregory-Evans, MD, PhD*

- 9:00 - 9:05 **WELCOME**
- 9:05 - 9:30 **Christopher J. Lyons, MD**
"Childhood ophthalmic issues associated with aniridia"
- 9:30 - 9:55 **Dominique Bremond-Gignac, MD, PhD**
"Cataract: what is special in aniridia and what about surgery?"
- 9:55 - 10:45 **Peter A. Netland, MD, PhD**
"Intraocular pressure monitoring and glaucoma update"
- 10:45 - 11:15 **Jill A. Nerby, BS**
"The Congenital Eye Disorder Program: A special opportunity for aniridia syndrome"
- 11:15 - 12:45 **LUNCH**
- 12:45 - 1:15 **Kevin Gregory-Evans, MD, PhD**
"Recruitment into new treatment trials for aniridia"
- 1:15 - 2:05 **Christopher D. Riemann, MD**
"Retinal update in congenital aniridia: tips, tricks, and new developments"
- 2:05 - 2:35 **John M. Freeman, MD**
"Overview of clinical and research findings in aniridic keratopathy"
- 2:35 - 3:05 **Sophie Deng, MD, PhD**
"Treatment options for aniridic keratopathy"
- 3:05 – 3:15 **ADJOURN until 5:30 pm (or additional panel questions)**

5:30 pm at the Holiday Inn Vancouver – Centre (Broadway) Arbutus Ballroom off the lobby

The Aniridia Foundation International invites you to our "Make-a-Miracle" Gala Dinner in honor of the late Sharon Stewart

*Join us for our 9th "Make a Miracle for Vision" dinner to socialize with your fellow colleagues and learn about the late Sharon Stewart, a wonderful, successful woman born with Aniridia syndrome. She inspired so many of us and made a big impact in advancing our aniridia mission of research, education and caring about those who were born with aniridia syndrome. Meet the children and adults with aniridia syndrome who are so thankful for her compassion and for your help through your clinical care and research work. Keynote address, presentations and entertainment will accompany dinner. **Dinner included in most registration fees** (guests at additional charge – see payment area to order) or call Jill at 1-(434) 243-3357.*

Thank you to our venue hosts, The University of British Columbia Faculty

Cheryl Y. Gregory-Evans, PhD

*University of British Columbia
Professor, Department of Developmental Biology
Vancouver, BC, Canada*

Kevin Gregory-Evans, MD, PhD

*University of British Columbia
Professor, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences
Vancouver, BC, Canada*

Christopher J. Lyons, MD

*University of British Columbia
Department of Ophthalmology
Paediatric Ophthalmology Division Head
Vancouver, BC, Canada*

Elizabeth Simpson, PhD

*University of British Columbia
Professor, Department of Medical Genetics,
Senior Scientist, (CMMT) Center for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics
Vancouver, BC, Canada*

GUEST FACULTY

Dominique Bremond-Gignac, MD, PhD

*Université de Picardie Jules Verne
Department of Ophthalmology
Amiens, France*

Robert Chow, PhD

*University of Victoria, Centre for Biomedical Research
Assistant Professor, Department of Biology
Canada Research Chair in Retinal and Early Eye Development
Vancouver Island, Canada*

Sophie Deng, MD, PhD

*Jules Stein Eye Institute – UCLA
Director, Cornea Biology Laboratory
Associate Professor, Department of Ophthalmology
Los Angeles, CA USA*

Melinda Duncan, PhD

*University of Delaware
Professor, Department of Biological Sciences
Newark, DE USA*

John M. Freeman, MD

MECA Eye & Laser Center

Memphis, TN USA

Robert M. Grainger, PhD

University of Virginia

*W. L. Lyons Brown Professor, Department of Biology
Charlottesville, VA USA*

Jane Green, PhD

Memorial University of Newfoundland

*Discipline of Genetics, Department of Medicine
St. John's, NL, Canada*

Perry Howard, PhD

University of Victoria

*Associate Professor, Department of Biology
Vancouver Island, Canada*

James Lauderdale, PhD

University of Georgia - Athens

*Associate Professor, Department of Cellular Biology
Athens, Georgia USA*

Jill Nerby, B.S.

University of Virginia Department of Ophthalmology

Congenital Eye Disorder Program Manager

*Director / Founder, Aniridia Foundation International
Charlottesville, VA USA*

Peter A. Netland, MD, PhD

University of Virginia Department of Ophthalmology

Vemah Scott Moyston Professor and Chair

Charlottesville, VA USA

Christopher Riemann, MD

Cincinnati Eye Institute

Associate Professor, University of Cincinnati

Cincinnati, OH USA

DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

Disclosure of faculty financial affiliations

The 2007 Canadian Medical Association (CMA) Guidelines for Physicians in Interaction with Industry, Section 24, states that:

“CME/CPD organizers and individual physician presenters are responsible for ensuring the scientific validity, objectivity and completeness of CME/CPD activities. Organizers and individual presenters must disclose to the participants at their CME/CPD events any financial affiliations with manufacturers of products mentioned at the event or with manufacturers of competing products.” For example, but not limited to direct financial interest in a commercial entity such as a pharmaceutical organization, medical devices company or communications firm, membership of an organization’s advisory boards, participation in a sponsored clinical trial, employee, consultant, stock holder or member of a speakers’ bureau.

All Speakers and Planning Committee members must complete a Disclosure of Conflict of Interest Form and submit to the Department of Ophthalmology, UBC prior to their presentation. Disclosure must be made to the audience at the beginning of the presentation whether you do or do not have a relationship with a commercial entity such as a pharmaceutical organization, medical device company or a communication firm.

Disclosure of discussion of non-FDA approved uses for pharmaceutical products and/or medical devices

The CMA requires that all faculty presenters identify and disclose any off-label uses for pharmaceutical and medical device products, especially if they intend to make therapeutic recommendations.

“Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, Section 1 credits – to be advised”