



For Immediate Release:

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Fight For Sight and Prevent Blindness Announce Recipient of New Public Health Award

CHICAGO (Sept. 25, 2014) – National non-profit organizations Fight for Sight and Prevent Blindness announced today the recipient of the new “Fight for Sight-Prevent Blindness Public Health Award.” This year’s selected recipient is to Dr. Hannes Devos at Georgia Regents University for the project entitled “Performance-Based Visual Field Testing to Detect Driving Impairments in Individuals with Glaucoma.”

The award is for a one-time \$20,000 grant for a year of full-time research on improving the public’s eye health and safety.

According to the 2014 [“The Future of Vision: Forecasting the Prevalence and Costs of Vision Problems”](#) report from Prevent Blindness, [more than 2.8 million Americans ages 40 and older have glaucoma](#), with glaucoma and disorders of the optic nerve costing \$6.1 billion annually.

In some cases, the severity of visual field loss from glaucoma may result in loss of driving privileges. At present, no objective, office-based tests can accurately estimate the impact of visual field loss on driving ability. The purpose of the Performance-Based Visual Field Testing to Detect Driving Impairments in Individuals with Glaucoma study is to develop a new, performance-based visual field test that is specifically designed to detect visual field impairments in driving conditions.

“The toll that glaucoma and other eye diseases take on our quality of life can be tremendous. Simple pleasures that we take for granted, such as reading, watching television and even driving, can slowly be taken away,” said Hugh R. Parry, president and CEO of Prevent Blindness. “Through this new research, we hope to get a better understanding of the impact that glaucoma has on driving ability to help keep all motorists safe.”



"Fight for Sight is thrilled to be co-funding this grant with Prevent Blindness," said Fight for Sight Executive Director Arthur Makar. "It takes us beyond our typical laboratory or clinical research grant -- literally from the laboratory and onto the road. It is very exciting!"

For more information on glaucoma, please call Prevent Blindness at (800) 331-2020 or visit www.preventblindness.org/glaucoma-learning-center.

For more information on the Fight for Sight-Prevent Blindness Public Health Award, please email Fight for Sight at info@fightforsight.org, call (212) 679-6060, or visit www.fightforsight.org or facebook.com/fightforsight.

About Fight for Sight

Since 1946, Fight for Sight (FFS) has supported and inspired eye and vision research by funding promising scientists early in their careers. FFS has granted over \$20 million in research that has contributed directly or indirectly to major advances in ophthalmology and vision research, including development of the IOL, aspects of donor cornea preservation, various use of ophthalmic lasers, glaucoma treatment, and gene therapy.

About Prevent Blindness

Founded in 1908, Prevent Blindness is the nation's leading volunteer eye health and safety organization dedicated to fighting blindness and saving sight. Focused on promoting a continuum of vision care, Prevent Blindness touches the lives of millions of people each year through public and professional education, advocacy, certified vision screening and training, community and patient service programs and research. These services are made possible through the generous support of the American public. Together with a network of affiliates, Prevent Blindness is committed to eliminating preventable blindness in America. For more information, or to make a contribution to the sight-saving fund, call (800) 331-2020. Or, visit us on the Web at preventblindness.org or facebook.com/preventblindness.

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