



**For Immediate Release**

Mike Wilke, Executive Director,  
Fight for Sight  
212-679-6060  
mike@fightforsight.org

Ilene K. Gipson, Ph.D., Chair  
Womens Eye Health.org  
617-912-0220  
weh@schepens.harvard.edu

**Fight For Sight and Womens Eye Health.org Announce New Summer Research Fellowship, “Understanding Gender Disparities in Eye Health”**

NEW YORK, NY, and BOSTON, MA, January 26, 2010 -- Fight for Sight and Womens Eye Health.org will co-sponsor a new 2010 Summer Student Research Fellowship, “Understanding Gender Disparities in Eye Health,” for the study of gender-based disparities in vision health, treatment, and/or eye disease prevention with respect to public health, biology, or epidemiology.

Candidates for the “Understanding Gender Disparities in Eye Health” award, an annual \$2,100 grant, are invited to apply by visiting [fightforsight.org](http://fightforsight.org) or [womenseyehealth.org](http://womenseyehealth.org) for an application. The deadline for receipt of applications is Feb. 1, 2010. Applications will be reviewed by the *Fight for Sight* Scientific Review Committee and grantee will be selected based upon the committee's recommendations to the Boards of both organizations. The recipient will be announced by June 1, 2010.

The new “Understanding Gender Disparities in Eye Health” award was created in response to a 2001 meta-analysis<sup>1</sup> reporting that two-thirds of the world’s vision-impaired and blind persons are women, and to create synergy between the missions of the two organizations.

About Fight for Sight: Since 1946, Fight for Sight has invested in the future of 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 therapies, and gene therapy ([www.fightforsight.org](http://www.fightforsight.org)).

About Womens Eye Health.org: Formed in 2002, in response to the troubling reality that two-thirds of the world’s population of blind and visually impaired persons is women. Researchers at the Schepens Eye Research Institute in Boston joined forces with colleagues from the U.S. and the world to form an education and outreach program ([www.womenseyehealth.org](http://www.womenseyehealth.org)).

---

<sup>1</sup>Abou-Gareeb I, Lewallen S, Bassett K, Courtright P. Gender and blindness: a meta-analysis of population-based prevalence surveys. *Ophthal Epidemiol.* 8:39-56, 2001