

The Vision Community Announces Three Fall 2014 Congressional Briefings on Major Topics in Eye Disease Research and Prevention

Wednesday, September 10 Congressional Briefing:

Retinal Diseases and Vision Loss

12 Noon – 1:15 pm, House Rayburn B-369

Hosted by Lighthouse Guild International the briefing will provide an overview of common blinding retinal disorders such as Macular Degeneration (AMD), Diabetes, and Genetic Retinal Degenerations. The presentation will be interactive; through the use of vision loss simulators attendees will gain a first-hand experience of what it is like to experience an eye disorder. The presentation will also highlight and demonstrate the revolutionary role that consumer electronics are now playing as low vision aids in enhancing the lives of those with vision loss by allowing them to read. Recent studies that underscore the necessity of low vision rehabilitation for preventing depression will also be discussed. Featured speakers include:

- Howard Kaplan, M.D., of Hudson Retina; Vassar Brothers Hospital in Poughkeepsie, New York; and Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City
- Mark G. Ackermann, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer (Lighthouse Guild, Host)

Thursday, September 18, 2014, *International Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) Week* Congressional Briefing:

Aging Eye Disease Prevalence and Cost by 2050—How Vision Research Addresses This Challenge

12 Noon – 1:15 pm, House Rayburn B-369

Hosted by the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR), with sponsorship by Research to Prevent Blindness and Research!America, the briefing begins with Capitol Hill release of a new study that gauges the public's attitudes about vision/vision loss and a new fact sheet *Vision and Blindness*, then a summary of the latest research on AMD, the leading cause of vision loss.

Featured speakers include:

- Neil Bressler, M.D. (Wilmer Eye Institute/Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine)
- James Jorkasky, Executive Director (AEVR, host)

Thursday, October 9, 2014, *World Sight Day* Congressional Briefing:

The Economic and Societal Impact of Diabetic Retinopathy

12 Noon – 1:15 pm, House Rayburn 2168 (The Gold Room)

Hosted by Vision 2020/USA, a program of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), this year's *World Sight Day* briefing focuses on the impact of Diabetic Retinopathy, the leading cause of vision loss in the "working age" population. Speakers will address current research, ethnic disparities, access to care, and prevention. Featured speakers:

- Susan Bressler, M.D. (Wilmer Eye Institute/Johns Hopkins)
- Ann Williams, Ph.D., R.N., C.D.E. (Case Western Reserve University)

RSVP to Dina Beaumont at dinabeau@aol.com or 202-530-4672