



June 1, 2009

Paul A. Sieving, M.D., Ph.D.,
Director National Eye Institute
Building 31, Room 6A03
31 Center Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Board Members

The Canadian National
Institute for the Blind

The Foundation
Fighting Blindness (USA)

International Agency for the
Prevention of Blindness
(Italy)

International
Federation on Ageing

Lighthouse International

The Macular
Disease Society (UK)

Macular Degeneration
Foundation (Australia)

Pro Retina Deutschland
(Germany)

Prevent Blindness America

Retina International

Retina France

Retina Hong Kong

Royal National
Institute of the Blind (UK)

Spectrios Institute for Low
Vision (USA)

The Seniors Coalition (USA)

Vision Australia

Dear Dr. Sieving,

As the global organization of more than 60 non-profit member organizations in 25 countries around the world dedicated to bringing hope and help to those with macular disease, AMD Alliance International congratulates you and your staff at the National Eye Institute on 40 years of scientific excellence.

When the NEI first opened its doors, very little was known about macular disease. Today, thanks to the groundbreaking work of NEI-funded scientists on nutritional supplements, people all over the world living with macular disease have a cost-effective way to slow the progression of their disease and further decrease their risk of debilitating vision loss.

In addition, the National Eye Institute was instrumental in identifying key genes associated with age-related macular degeneration providing us with clear pathways to preventions, treatments, and ultimately cures.

It is important to note that NEI works collaboratively with many of our member organizations to ensure that research efforts are maximized. Additionally, AMD Alliance International participates in NEI's valuable National Eye Health Education Program to increase awareness about the importance of early detection for treating eye diseases. We commend you for these public-private partnerships that are expediting treatments as well as ensuring that patients have timely access to treatments and low vision rehabilitation.

The National Eye Institute is a true leader in the field of vision research and has made tremendous strides since its inception in 1968. Thanks to your efforts, patients with macular disease now have hope. We look forward to our continued collaboration. Happy Anniversary and keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Wanda Hamilton
Chief Executive Officer

Global Office
1929 Bayview Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M4G 1N2

USA
10519 Old Court Road
Woodstock, MD, 21163

Japan
1-31-1-502, Kaminoge
Setagaya-ku, Tokyo 158-009