



*dedicated to finding a cure*

June 12, 2009

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

Dear Dr. Sieving:

On behalf of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), I want to congratulate the National Eye Institute (NEI) on 40 years of critically important scientific research. The research performed and funded by NEI is critical to the 24 million people diagnosed with diabetes. Diabetes is the leading cause of new blindness in working age adults, and nearly half of all people in the U.S. diagnosed with either type 1 or type 2 have some form of retinopathy or eye disease.

Thankfully, NEI is supporting a number of research studies to learn what causes diabetic retinopathy and how it can be better treated. This research will provide better ways to detect and treat diabetic eye disease and prevent blindness in more people with diabetes. It is critical research such as this that provides hope for a future free from complications to all those living with diabetes.

Congratulations on all of the advancements and accomplishments achieved these past 40 years. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lawrence A. Soler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".

Lawrence A. Soler  
Executive Vice President, Government Relations and Operations  
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International