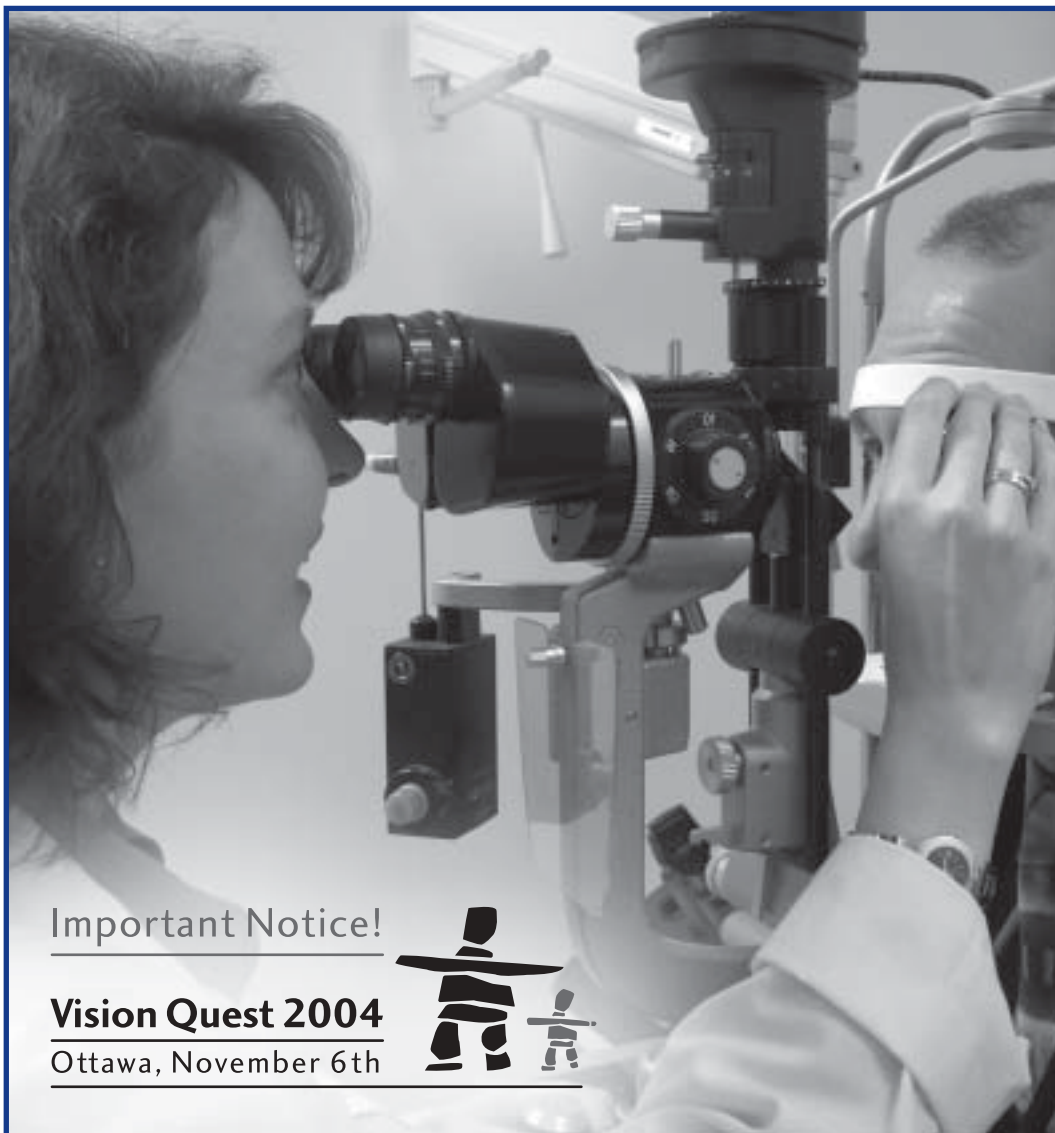


VISION QUEST



The Foundation Fighting Blindness
La fondation qui lutte contre la cécité

FALL 2004



Important Notice!

Vision Quest 2004
Ottawa, November 6th



Healing Views

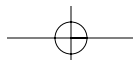
One of the Foundation's medical advisors, Dr. Jill Hopkins, uses a gentle hand when examining a patient with age-related macular degeneration.

Dr. Hopkins is a retina specialist at Sunnybrook & Women's College Health Sciences Centre, Toronto.

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Supported by Ride for Sight www.rideforsight.org
Visit Our Web Site! www.ffb.ca



The Foundation Fighting Blindness

Celebrating 30 Years!

Our Mission

The mission of The Foundation Fighting Blindness is to find the causes, treatments and ultimately the cures for retinitis pigmentosa, macular degeneration and related retinal diseases by the support and promotion of research and the development of public awareness.

Our Web site is updated regularly. To learn the latest news or to take advantage of our online donation page, visit us at www.ffb.ca.

Learn about Ride for Sight: www.rideforsight.org.

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Publication No. 40008940

FOUNDATION NEWS

Message from the National Executive Director

Sharon Colle

Thousands of people share a common goal in supporting The Foundation Fighting Blindness. They place their trust in the hands of medical researchers working toward developing cures for vision loss and blindness. Friends and supporters criss-cross Canada, either collecting pledges or giving donations for the painstaking work performed every day in teaching hospitals and university laboratories. Funding research is the only route to a cure... this is something we can all accept.

Patience and persistence are hallmarks of scientific endeavour. I suppose we shouldn't be surprised that these attributes so closely match the Foundation's biggest and most loyal supporters, the motorcyclists engaged in the fight against blindness through Ride for Sight. Year after year Riders and Ride for Sight supporters have exhibited dogged determination in collecting pledges for eye research, and in doing so they have paved the way for Canadian scientists to make essential discoveries. In 2004, Riders contributed more than \$1.26 million to the Foundation, replenishing the resources so badly needed to sustain leading-edge research at Canadian institutions.

In order to accelerate progress the FFB has decided to "shift up a gear" and this has entailed among other things, establishing productive relationships with organizations that have similar goals. This year we have entered into our first funding partnership with the E.A. Baker Foundation for the Prevention of Blindness to support a promising Young Investigator, Dr. Robert Chow, at the University of Victoria. The FFB will also strengthen its alliance with the Stem Cell Network by offering two new partnership training awards; and, we have agreed to take on the role of host to the Vision Health Research Council (VHRC). This distinguished professional organization represents all vision research and our association

with it will help to ensure RP and AMD have a place of importance in the Canadian vision health agenda.

Perhaps one of our most exciting achievements is the formal establishment of a relationship with the CIBC which will allow us to build the platform for a patient registry project under the direction of Dr. Elise Héon at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. The plans for the registry are in the early development stages, and we will keep you informed as plans unfold. Our thanks go to Ron Lalonde and Joan Peters for believing in the importance of this groundbreaking project.

While our research goals remain paramount, we are acutely aware that many of you are living with the consequences of vision loss today, needing and deserving the support of your community. Therefore, I am very pleased to announce that the Ottawa-Gatineau Chapter of the FFB is hosting our first regional conference on November 6, 2004. I would like to thank the volunteers of the Ottawa-Gatineau Chapter for showing such initiative, and we look forward to its success.



The Inuvik Ride for Sight had much to celebrate. From the left are: Jo Whiteside, Leonard Adams, Sharon Colle, Cyril Gregory and Mike Whiteside.

FOUNDATION NEWS

Board of Directors Update

The Foundation would like to express its appreciation to the retiring members of the Board of Directors for contributing their guidance and expertise over the years. Normand Beausoleil, Vice-président, exécutif, Prestolan; Peter Burke, Publisher, Eye Weekly; Ossie Hinds, President, The Cornerstone Group and Dr. J. Jill Hopkins, Ophthalmologist, Sunnybrook & Women's College Health Sciences Centre will be missed.

Dr. Hopkins has been an excellent resource in the role of medical advisor, especially with respect to issues related to age-related macular degeneration. We wish her continued success as she embarks on a new and exciting career in retina research at the Doheny Retina Institute at the University of Southern California.



J. Jill Hopkins, M.D.

It is with pleasure we announce the election of Antonio Dionisio, Business Manager, Universal Workers Union Local 183; Derek George, Deloitte & Touche LLP and Chair, Central Ontario Ride for Sight; Karl Graham, President, SpectraDynamix; Dr. Patricia Harvey, Ophthalmologist, Toronto Western Hospital; Garry Lee, President, Cundari Integrated Advertising; Carol Lithwick, Ph.D. President, C. Louise Appel Consulting Inc., and John Snisarenko, Vice President, Novartis Ophthalmics to the National Board of Directors. Thank you for taking on the challenge of bringing retinal degenerative disease research closer to its goal of finding cures for retinitis pigmentosa, macular degeneration and related diseases of the retina.

Gene Lafleur Remembered



Eugène "Gene" Lafleur

The founder, president and mainstay of the Sudbury Chapter, Gene Lafleur, died on August 18, 2004. Gene provided leadership to the chapter from its inception in 1996 and he proved himself to be a consummate fund raiser, collecting in excess of \$100,000 from bingos, raffles, car washes and his most favourite source – pool tournaments. Living with retinitis pigmentosa may have been a nuisance, but Gene was an independent and determined man, and he set a high standard for others to follow. His strength and fortitude, his generous spirit and joie de vivre will be missed. Our heartfelt condolences go to his family, especially wife Denise and daughter Louise, as well as to his friends and community.

In Memoriam

We thank everyone who has remembered the life of a friend or loved one through a contribution to The Foundation Fighting Blindness.

Frank Adlam	Gerry Lewis
Baby Matthew Bowen	Dorothy McCullough
Betty Camp	Allen Meeks
Danny Catenacci	Verna Mosier Jones
Wayne Keating	Irv Mudrick
Ron "Popeye" Lafleche	Shawn O'Rourke
Eugène "Gene" Lafleur	Ellwood Ward
Edna Lawton	

FOUNDATION NEWS

The Foundation Fighting Blindness to Host Vision Health Research Council



Sharon Colle with Dr. Martin Steinbach, President of the Vision Health Research Council

The Foundation Fighting Blindness (FFB) and Vision Health Research Council (VHRC) are pleased to announce an agreement that assures the preservation and autonomy of VHRC while being hosted by the FFB.

The FFB and VHRC have vision health in common, but otherwise they are quite different entities. As Canada's leading health charity supporting eye research, the FFB has led the charge to find the causes and treatment of inherited and degenerative retinal diseases including retinitis pigmentosa and macular degeneration.

The mission of the Vision Health Research Council, a progressive group of vision health research professionals, is broadly based and includes the promotion of research in vision health and the presentation of the work and opinions of Canadian investigators of all disciplines, fields and aspects of science and medicine related to vision.

"We welcome our new association with VHRC. The FFB has always been about excellence in eye research and providing a home for the Council is a logical fit," says Sharon Colle, National Executive Director of the FFB.

The retirement of Dr. Jean-Réal Brunette, founder of

VHRC, and the dissolution of the Sherbrooke Symposium Foundation had the potential to create a vacuum in Canada's vision research community.

"I am grateful that FFB will take over the support of VHRC and insure the continuation of our venture. It is the sole voice of Vision Researchers of all disciplines and professions. I'm proud to pass on the torch to such a successor."

President of VHRC is Dr. Martin Steinbach, Distinguished Research Professor of Psychology and Biology at York University and Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Toronto. He is a prominent advocate for vision health research in Canada and perceives the union as advantageous. "The merging of FFB and VHRC will provide a true symbiosis, bringing our common goals of restoring sight and preventing blindness closer to fruition," Dr. Steinbach states.

The VHRC facilitates vision health research in Canada by bringing together a large and powerful group of investigators and focusing their energies on the vision health priorities that are emerging in Canada. It sees its task as coordinating the efforts of Canadian vision research scientists, developing collaborative projects, and establishing an integrated research community capable of responding to the expanding vision health research needs.

"For 30 years the FFB has dedicated its resources to finding the causes, treatments and cures for degenerative retinal diseases," says Colle. "Our alliance with the Vision Health Research Council can only enhance these efforts, and in the meantime help all Canadians suffering with vision loss. It is only by working together that we can succeed."

For information about the Vision Health Research Council: www.vhrc.net

RESEARCH & MEDICAL NEWS

New Mouse Model Mimics Symptoms of Neovascular Eye Diseases Memorial University of Newfoundland



Dr. Robert Gendron

With the help of FFB funding, Robert Gendron and H el ene Paradis have been hard at work in their labs at Memorial University of Newfoundland. They have been studying the role of Tubedown-1, a protein important in the processes that mediate normal blood vessel development in the retina. The researchers have found that the normal functioning of the Tubedown-1 protein is suppressed in eye diseases where abnormal blood vessel growth occurs. This group of eye diseases includes diabetic retinopathy and advanced age-related macular degeneration.

In order to further study the pathways that result in these eye diseases the researchers created a "designer" mouse, or mouse model, in which the Tubedown-1 protein was suppressed in retinal blood vessel cells. Upon examining the mice, the investigators learned that absence of the Tube-down-1 protein resulted in abnormal blood vessel development and thickening of retinal and choroidal tissues in a way very similar to human retinal diseases. These findings demonstrate the important role of Tubedown-1 in neovascularization, and pave the way to developing improved therapies for human diseases of the retina. This work will be published in an upcoming article in *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science*.

Canadian Scientist Plays Key Role in Development of Mouse Model of Juvenile Retinoschisis

An international collaboration involving Drs. Bernhard Weber (Germany), William W. Hauswirth (U.S.) and Robert S. Molday (Canada) has resulted in the development of a retinoschisis mouse model. X-linked juvenile retinoschisis is a rare inherited retinal degenerative disease that affects only males. The disorder is named for the *schisis* or splitting of the inner layers of the retina.

Affected male children typically experience a significant loss in central vision before the age of 10 and have about a 50 percent chance of also having decreased peripheral vision. As the disease progresses, they may develop additional ocular complications that can cause severe vision loss. Both eyes are affected and at the present time there is no known cure. Treatments for possible retinal detachments and other complications are used when necessary.

The human gene responsible for X-linked juvenile retinoschisis was identified in 1997 by Dr. Weber and his colleagues. The gene was responsible for the creation of a retinal protein that the researchers called *retinoschisin* (or RS1). It is thought that the role of RS1 is to act as a "cellular glue" to maintain and stabilize the various cells and layers of the retina. The demanding task that remains is to demonstrate that a defective gene can be replaced with a healthy one in a mouse model. This may lead the way to treatments and cures for individuals affected by retinoschisis.



Dr. Molday is Chair of the Foundation's Scientific Advisory Board.

RESEARCH & MEDICAL NEWS

Update from the 13th World Congress of Retina International · July 3, 2004

Retinitis Pigmentosa and Allied Disorders

*Report from Edwin M. Stone, M.D., Ph.D.,
University of Iowa, U.S.A.*

The human retina is a remarkable instrument. In its most sensitive state, it is capable of detecting single photons of light while at its least sensitive, it can detect subtle differences of color or texture in a white cloth lying on the beach on a summer day. It can transmit portions of these views more than 30 times per second. It can detect millions of colors. Perhaps most amazingly, this instrument can assemble itself by synthesizing over 7,000 different proteins in a precisely orchestrated fashion. Many of these proteins, in turn, synthesize, metabolize, or mobilize a variety of ions, lipids, carbohydrates, nucleic acids, and neurotransmitters at exactly the right time, amount and location for the miracle of vision to be possible. Of these 7,000 or so genes, many are also critically important for the function of tissues like the brain, heart and liver and their absence or significant dysfunction is not compatible with life beyond the embryonic stage. However, many, many genes – almost certainly more than 1000 – are either expressed only in the retina or have an importance outside the retina that is sufficiently restricted in space and time that their loss or improper function results in retinal disease in an ambulatory patient. For the past 20 years, molecular geneticists have teamed up with clinical ophthalmologists to find and characterize these genes and to date more than 100 have been found. In addition, the precise locations in the genome of another 50 have been identified. The genes that have been found have a wide array of functions ranging from the photon-capturing proteins of the photoreceptors themselves, to transcription factors that control retinal cell fate during development. The disorders that result from abnormalities in these genes range from blindness at birth to relatively benign disturbances of color vision. Our steadily improving ability to detect retinal-disease-causing variations in human patients is beginning to have a profound effect on our understanding, coun-

selling, and treatment of these patients. Clinicians from all parts of the world can now use a common genomic language to categorize their observations in a mechanistically meaningful way. New hypotheses can be tested in the laboratory, sometimes using animal models that are genetically engineered to mimic human diseases. These models are leading to the development of new treatments – some involving gene replacement and some using more conventional strategies – that are just now entering the early phases of testing in human beings.

Dr. Stone is Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Iowa and a leading researcher in ophthalmogenetics. His group is involved in the identification and characterization of many retinal dystrophy and glaucoma genes.

Gene Defect for Usher Syndrome Type 1F Identified

*With thanks to Elaine A. Richman, Ph.D.
Foundation Fighting Blindness, Maryland, USA*

The discovery of a gene is the first step toward finding the cause of an inherited disease. The second step is to discover exactly where on that gene the defect, or mutation, causing the problem lies. In 2003, scientists supported by the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) in the United States reported that they had found the specific location of the defect responsible for causing Usher Type 1F syndrome among Jews of Ashkenazi descent. These individuals have a heritage from Germany, Poland, Austria, and Eastern Europe. Researchers hope that the knowledge gained from this discovery will lead to a genetic screening test for this population. At this time, 10 genes are known to be involved in the different forms of Usher syndrome.

Usher syndrome is an inherited disorder that affects individuals of many racial and ethnic backgrounds. There is general agreement that there are three major types of Usher, each with distinguishing characteristics. Each type is associated with varying degrees of hearing loss and progressive vision loss due to retinitis pigmentosa.

RESEARCH & MEDICAL NEWS

Second Gene Found that Causes Age-Related Macular Degeneration

A team of researchers led by Edwin Stone, M.D., Ph.D. at the Research Center for Macular Degeneration and Allied Retinal Diseases, University of Iowa have discovered a gene called fibulin 5 which is implicated in the development of age-related macular degeneration. The finding was reported in the July 22, 2004 issue of the prestigious *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The fibulin 5 gene is normally involved in the production of a protein called elastin. Elastin helps to form the elastic fibres that are important for the maintenance of the integrity of tissues like skin and blood vessels. Elastin fibres are also found in Bruch's membrane, one of the layers of the retina. Bruch's membrane lies beneath another important layer, the retinal pigment epithelium (RPE). We know that cells of the retina rest on the RPE and depend on it and Bruch's membrane for support and nourishment.

The researchers believe that there may be a link between the elastin fibres and drusen, which are a hallmark of AMD. The yellowish protein and fat-containing drusen form in Bruch's membrane. The investigators speculate that reduced amounts of the fibulin 5 protein in Bruch's membrane, or an aberrant fibulin 5 protein, affects the normal assembly of elastin and somehow sets the stage for drusen formation.

Researchers screened 402 patients diagnosed with AMD and compared them with a similar number of individuals of the same age who did not have the eye disease. The same variation in the fibulin 5 gene (mutations) occurred in seven of the 402 patients with AMD. This genetic clue will help researchers understand the causes of the disease.

Many researchers believe that AMD is not caused by a single gene defect, but that many variables and perhaps multiple genes are involved. Environmental influences, like smoking, sun exposure, and diet may also contribute to AMD. Finding genetic links to AMD reinforces the need to support research that will help not only today's patients but also future generations.

Under Investigation for Wet Macular Degeneration

Vision scientists are working hard to find a way to prevent wet age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and its associated vision loss. In a healthy eye, the very small blood vessels that lie beneath the macula serve to deliver nutrients and carry away the by-products of cell activity. However, in eyes with advanced AMD the abnormal growth and leakage of these vessels can lead to scarring and permanent vision loss.

Recent reports place **statins** and **aspirin** in the spotlight. Statins are drugs designed to reduce cholesterol in the blood and, according to some researchers, **may** reduce the risk of developing the wet form of AMD. Aspirin, a type of non steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, may also reduce the risk of developing wet AMD.

Other anti-inflammatory compounds like **steroids** are also currently under investigation. A substance called **Anecortave Acetate** (developed under the name **Retaane** by Alcon) and anti-oxidants may also retard the progress of AMD.

Anti-VEGF drugs have been developed to combat wet AMD. VEGF stands for **vascular endothelial growth factor**, a substance essential for blood vessel development. Researchers claim that the experimental drug **Pegaptanib Sodium** (developed under the name **Macugen**, Eyetech Pharmaceuticals) has been shown to stabilize and improve vision in some patients.

During the study, the drug was injected into the eye once every six weeks for a total of up to nine times (54 weeks). Researchers admit that the improvement in the patient group was modest, and there are risks associated with the treatment. These risks include retinal detachment, cataract and infection from the injection site.

The Foundation Fighting Blindness recommends consulting a doctor before beginning any therapy to prevent or treat AMD or any other medical condition. This information is not medical advice.

RESEARCH & MEDICAL NEWS

What is a Snellen Eye Chart?



Hermann Snellen



Almost everyone would recognize the Snellen Eye Chart. It is the chart that hangs on the wall of almost every eye doctor's office, displaying rows of letters of decreasing size. The Snellen Eye Chart is used to measure visual acuity. This standardized device has been in existence for many years, and was developed by the Dutch ophthalmologist Hermann Snellen in 1862. Although the chart most frequently uses the capital letters of the alphabet, Snellen Eye Charts may be seen with numbers, and symbols are often used for those patients unable to decipher letters or numbers.

How is the chart used?

A patient is asked to read the chart from a specific distance. One eye is covered at a time and the vision of each eye is recorded separately, as well as both eyes together.

What does 20/20 mean?

The Snellen fraction 20/20 represents "normal" visual acuity. The first number is always the *test distance*, in this case, 20 feet. The second number is the distance that the average eye can see the letters on a specific line of the eye chart. 20/20 vision is considered to be what the average eye can read when using the Snellen Eye Chart; specifically, it means that the eye being tested can read a certain size letter when it is 20 feet away.

What does it mean when the numbers change?

Let's say a person is told they see 20/40 in one eye. This means that at a distance of 20 feet from the chart, that eye can read letters that an eye with 20/20 vision can read from 40 feet away.

The measure gives no information as to whether or not meaning is obtained from visual input, how much effort is needed to see clearly or, and whether or not vision is less efficient when using both eyes as opposed to each eye individually.

What is legal blindness on the Snellen Eye Chart?

If a patient sees 20/200, then the smallest letter that he or she can see at 20 feet can be read by a normal eye at 200 feet. Legal blindness is when a person's best-corrected vision is 20/200 or worse. If a person is legally blind, they may be eligible to take advantage of social services and programs, such as the Disability Tax Credit.

My eye doctor uses metric readings. How does this translate?

Metric	Snellen Acuity
6/3	20/10
6/4.5	20/15
6/6	20/20
6/7.5	20/30
6/12	20/40
6/15	20/50
6/30	20/100
6/60	20/200

What if I can't even read the big letter on the top of the eye chart?

For people who see less than 20/400 on a Snellen Eye Chart, a different measure is often used. It is common to record vision less than 20/400 as Count Fingers (CF at a certain number of feet), Hand Motion (HM at a certain number of feet), Light Perception (LP), or No Light Perception (NLP).

If you have any questions about an eye test, let us know. Contact: ehurdman@ffb.ca

FUNDRAISING & BUSINESS NEWS

10th Annual FFB Golf Classic a Swinging Success

Report from Ann Morrison

On August 24, 2004 the sky was a magnificent blue and the sun shone brightly on all the participants at the FFB 10th Annual Golf Classic at Angus Glen Golf Course in Markham.

It was nice to see so many familiar faces. Some of the most dedicated supporters of this event have returned for many years to play in this tournament. Everyone who participated last year will never forget how the Power Blackout cut our evening short. All the players were pleased to have such gorgeous weather.

The FFB would like to acknowledge the many sponsors who helped make the 10th Annual Golf tournament possible: Allianz Canada, Atrons-Counsel Insurance Brokers Inc., BMW Motorrad Canada, CGI Insurance Business Services, CIBC, Canada Brokerlink Inc., Deeley Harley-Davidson, Grey Power Insurance Brokers, Novartis, Pyrowear, Snow City Cycle Marine and Totten Insurance Group.

We also like to thank the many sponsors who generously donated prizes. There were some very exciting items for the silent and live auction.

A golf tournament would not be possible without a dedicated team of volunteers. A special thank you goes to the chair of this event - Kellee Irwin. Kellee started the Golf Classic 10 years ago and her dedication to the event has resulted in raising just over \$250,000 for The Foundation Fighting Blindness.



"It is particularly gratifying to be able to support critical eye research while enjoying a round of golf with friends and colleagues." Kellee Irwin, Chair - FFB Golf Classic

A Cure is in Sight Campaign Update

Report from Paul Moore

An Insider Announcement for Vision Quest Readers!

\$1 million in donations was donated to the A Cure is in Sight Campaign by the end of August 2004! Several major gifts have been received from FFB's committed and generous Board of Directors.

Funds collected for the A Cure is in Sight Campaign, a \$7.7 million special initiative, are designated to support promising new scientists and innovative research projects. Key priorities include: Young Research Investigators - \$250,000 or \$50,000 each year for 5 years; Postdoctoral Fellowships - \$70,000 or \$35,000 each year for 2 years; and Studentships - \$42,000 or \$21,000 each year for 2 years.



With the help of an FFB Studentship, Michael Szego is being trained in the laboratory of the eminent vision scientist, Dr. Roderick R. McInnes, at the Hospital for Sick Children's Research Institute.

Campaign Volunteers

If you have time and skills to contribute or corporate contacts, please call Paul Moore, Director of Development at 416.360.4200 or 1.800.461.3331. Volunteering allows you to make a meaningful contribution to the cause, while meeting new people and gaining valuable experience.

FUNDRAISING & BUSINESS NEWS

How You Can Help...

Monthly Giving

Why not join the Commitment to a Cure monthly giving program? It is the easiest way to ensure your donations find their way to vision research. It helps the Foundation plan ahead, and it is more efficient because administration and postage costs are low. To join the "Commitment to a Cure" monthly giving program or learn more about it, please contact Ann Morrison, amorrison@ffb.ca.

In Honour of...

Give extra meaning to life's important milestones by commemorating the event with a gift to vision research. For information about how to make a milestone more meaningful, call Josie Di Roma at 1.800.461.3331 or visit our Web site at www.ffb.ca and enter our Donate Now page.

Investments

Many financial institutions advocate charitable giving as mutually beneficial for donors and recipients. A financial planner can help you best evaluate the tax savings and other benefits that a charitable transfer can offer. For more information, you can contact Sharon Colle at the FFB offices.

Workplace Contributions

By putting forward the FFB as the recipient of your company's annual fundraising event, you are helping in two important ways: you are increasing awareness about the need to support eye research in Canada, and you are also helping to collect the funds so badly needed to fund vision scientists.

Matching Gifts

If your employer is a "matching gift company", a percentage of your personal donation will be matched. Just think how this increases the impact your gift will have on fighting blindness. To find out if your company has a matching gift program, please contact your Human Resources department.

Sponsorships

If your company is looking for a great way to reach the community, and would like to market its services or products to a diverse audience, become a sponsor for one of our many events. To sponsor Ride for Sight activities contact Brenda Dainard at brenda@ffb.ca, or for Foundation events, contact Ann Morrison at amorrison@ffb.ca.

The Ottawa-Gatineau Chapter of The Foundation
Fighting Blindness is pleased to present...

Vision Quest 2004

A Cure is in Sight

Saturday, November 6, 2004

A one-day conference for people interested in learning about the latest scientific breakthroughs in the search to find cures for retinitis pigmentosa, macular degeneration and related diseases of the retina.

Vision Quest 2004 Highlights Include:

Updates on stem cell research, gene therapy, genetics and inheritance, nutritional supplements and more...

Featured Speakers Include:

Michael Gottheil, LL.B.

*Director, Ottawa District and Ontario Division of the CNIB
Member, Canadian Association of Visually Impaired Lawyers*

Robert G. Korneluk, Ph.D.

*Professor, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Biochemistry,
Microbiology and Immunology, University of Ottawa
Director of the Molecular Biomedicine Program
Director of the Apoptosis Research Centre*

Marie-Louise Lapointe, M.D., FRCSC

Ophthalmologist, Assistant Professor, University of Ottawa

Brian C. Leonard, M.D., FRCSC

Ophthalmologist, University of Ottawa Eye Institute

Stuart Lithwick, B.Sc.

*Graduate Student, Gallie Laboratory, Department of
Molecular and Medical Genetics, University of Toronto*

Dino Petrin, B.Sc., M.Sc.

*Research Assistant, Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario
Research Institute, University of Ottawa*

Valerie Wallace, Ph.D.

*Senior Scientist, Molecular Medicine
Ottawa Health Research Institute*

Ride for Sight Rocks On with a Solid \$1.26 million for FFB



Thank You Riders and Volunteers!

Motorcyclists united in the fight against blindness collected more than \$1.26 million on behalf of The Foundation Fighting Blindness this year. Thousands of motorcyclists flocked to celebrations from coast to coast, bringing with them pledges collected throughout the year.

Planning Teams work all year long, distributing Ride for Sight materials and organizing Ride for Sight events. Working with Coordinators and Ride Directors, they reach out to their various communities and clubs, spreading word of the Ride and its purpose and forging goodwill.

Inuvik Ride for Sight Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Ride for Sight in Inuvik is always special, but this year was a particularly memorable year. Not only was it also the 20th anniversary of the Dempster Highway, but Sharon Colle, the FFB's National Executive Director, made the long trip to the Northwest Territories to help celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Inuvik/NWT Ride for Sight. Colle was impressed with the sparsely populated but beautiful landscape, but was amazed to find that the donations to the Ride had reached \$23,400 – 56 percent above the organizer's expectations. Credit must be given to the leadership of the past and current Ride Chairs, Jo & Mike Whiteside and Cyril Gregory for doing so much to help in the fight against blindness. Their accomplishment is an inspiration!

Many Thanks and Congratulations to All 2004 Ride for Sight High Milers!

Individuals who collect \$1,000 or more in pledges for Ride for Sight are called High Milers. This select group of committed fund raisers is growing and their efforts are having a real impact. The Foundation Fighting Blindness honours these individuals and thanks them for their dedication to fighting blindness.

10

Newfoundland & Labrador Raise a Record-Breaking \$205,000

Report from Elizabeth Hurdman



Elizabeth Hurdman from the FFB national office stands proudly with George Small of Lewisport, the biggest High Miler in Newfoundland!

My work with the FFB usually involves talking with people experiencing vision loss or communicating with vision researchers seeking to find treatments and cures for eye disease. So, it was with a true sense of adventure that I journeyed to Newfoundland to take part in the Newfoundland and Labrador Ride for Sight.

The people of Newfoundland are renowned for their humor and hospitable spirit - well known are their propensities for hard work and an uncanny ability to play very, very hard. It is not surprising then, that the Ride for Sight Planning Team, along with Ride Directors from around the province, put together an event that just about knocked my socks off, and that they collected a record-breaking sum of \$180,000 for eye research.



Suzuki offered test rides in Nova Scotia.



Vision Quest 2004

The RA Centre - 2451 Riverside Drive
Near Bank St., Riverside Dr. and the Billings Bridge Transitway
Saturday, November 6th, 2004

Registrant Information (one form per registrant)

Mrs. Ms. Mr. Dr.

Surname _____ First Name _____

Street _____ Apt. _____

City _____ Prov. _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone (day) _____ Fax _____ Email _____

I am registering as a:

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Person with retinitis pigmentosa | <input type="radio"/> Ophthalmologist | <input type="radio"/> Scientist/Researcher |
| <input type="radio"/> Person with macular degeneration | <input type="radio"/> Optometrist | <input type="radio"/> Vision/Healthcare Worker |
| <input type="radio"/> Person with other eye disease | <input type="radio"/> Optician | <input type="radio"/> Friend/Family Member |

Let Us Know How We Can Help...

Requests for special services must be received no later than October 8.

- I have a guide dog. I require all materials in large print.
- I have dietary needs. *Please specify: (e.g., Vegetarian)* _____
- I have other special needs. *Please specify:* _____

Bus Access: Billings Bridge is a major bus route hub reachable by many bus routes.

- I will be coming by bus and require assistance.

How To Register

On-line:

For on-line registration, go to: www.ffb.ca

Fax:

416.360.0060

Telephone:

416.360.4200 or Toll Free 1.800.461.3331

Mail:

Complete this form, enclose payment and mail to:

Vision Quest 2004 - Ottawa

c/o The Foundation Fighting Blindness

60 St. Clair Avenue East, Suite #703

Toronto, ON M4T 1N5



Vision Quest 2004

Payment

Early Bird Registration Deadline Extended!: October 15, 2004

	Early Bird	Regular	Total
All Participants	\$49.95	\$65.00	\$
Children Under 16 yrs.	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$
*Luncheon Only (if not attending sessions)	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$
Continuing Education Credit Service Fee	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$
Total Amount Enclosed			\$

Credit Card Payment

If paying by credit card, please complete the following information.

I authorize payment by credit card for \$ _____

Signature _____ Name on Credit Card _____

Credit Card No. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Exp. Date _____ / _____ Mastercard Visa

Accommodation

Take advantage of the discounted group room rate at the Days Inn or the Holiday Inn.

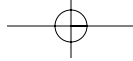
The before tax room rates are as follows:

Days Inn (near Airport) \$109. 1.866.468.4442

Holiday Inn (Downtown) \$ 108. 1.800.267.8378

For reservations call and state that you are with Vision Quest 2004 or The Foundation Fighting Blindness.

Direct questions to the FFB Office at 416.360.4200 or 1.800.461.3331 or Email: amorrisson@ffb.ca



VISION QUEST

Please fill out and mail your donation form to:

The Foundation Fighting Blindness
60 St. Clair Avenue East, Suite # 703, Toronto, ON M4T 1N5



YES... I WILL HELP FIGHT BLINDNESS!

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
Province _____ Postal Code _____
Email Address _____

If your donation is in memory or in honour of a friend or loved one, please complete the following:

In Memory of _____
In Honour of _____
Occasion Birthday, Anniversary etc. _____

My donation for eye research is:

- \$100
- \$75
- \$50
- \$35
- Other Amount _____

I would like an acknowledgement card sent to:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
Province _____ Postal Code _____

Method of Payment:

- Cheque
- Money Order
- Visa
- Master Card

- Please send me information on your Commitment to a Cure monthly giving plan.**
- Please send me information on making a bequest in my will to the Foundation.**

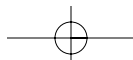
Card # _____ Expiry Date _____
Signature _____

A receipt will be issued for income tax purposes.
BN 119129369RR0001 Revenue Canada

Visit Our Web Site! www.ffb.ca

Supported by Ride for Sight www.rideforsight.org

Thank you for your support!



VISION QUEST

VISION QUEST is published by the **Foundation Fighting Blindness** to inform readers of research directed to finding the causes, treatments and cures of retinitis pigmentosa, macular degeneration and related retinal diseases, as well as providing Foundation news. **Your comments are welcome at all times.**

Please Contact The Foundation Fighting Blindness by...

Telephone - Toll Free 1.800.461.3331 or 416.360.4200

Fax - 416.360.0060

Email - info@ffb.ca

Visit our Web Site! www.ffb.ca

Mission Statement · The mission of The Foundation Fighting Blindness is to find the causes, treatments and ultimately the cures for retinitis pigmentosa, macular degeneration and related retinal diseases by the support and promotion of research and the development of public awareness.

Thank you for your support!

The Foundation Fighting Blindness
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Toronto, Ontario, Canada
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