

Media Tips Sheet

Summer 2010

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Eye on NEI gives readers an inside look at the vision research process, from the laboratory bench to the patient's bedside. It includes:

- Feature stories on research projects
- Interviews with scientists
- Descriptions of vision-related images
- Answers to eye health questions

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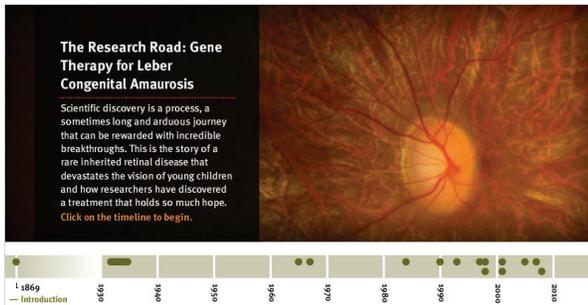
March 2010

Insight
Subtle Saccades
Researchers learn about the brain through quick eye movements

Visionary
Gaining Perspective on How We See in 3-D
Interview with Bruce Cumming, M.D., Ph.D.

Snapshot
Lenspin in the Lens
Protein helps organize the structure of a clear lens

Ask the Doctor
Is it possible to receive an eye transplant?
Find out the answer from Rachel Bishop, M.D.



The Research Road: Gene Therapy for Leber Congenital Amaurosis

Scientific discovery is a process, a sometimes long and arduous journey that can be rewarded with incredible breakthroughs. This is the story of a rare inherited retinal disease that devastates the vision of young children and how researchers have discovered a treatment that holds so much hope. [Click on the timeline to begin.](#)

1869 Introduction

1881

1961

1990

1994

1997

1998

1999

2000

2001

2002

Watch and Listen to The Research Road:
Gene Therapy for Leber Congenital
Amaurosis

http://www.nei.nih.gov/lca/nei_timeline

This **interactive timeline** tells the story of a rare inherited retinal disease that devastates the vision of young children, and how researchers have discovered a treatment that holds so much hope.

Visit Our Online Press Room:
<http://www.nei.nih.gov/pressroom>

Get the **latest information** about eye and vision research, including:

- Press Releases and Statements
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- Statistics
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Recent Research Breakthroughs Supported by the NEI:

May 1, 2010

Latinos Have High Rates of Developing Vision Loss and Certain Eye Conditions

Los Angeles Latino Eye Study is First to Track Eye Disease Incidence in U.S. Latinos

- Latinos have higher rates of developing visual impairment, blindness, diabetic eye disease, and cataracts than non-Hispanic whites, researchers found. These are the first estimates of visual impairment and eye disease development in Latinos, the largest and fastest growing minority population in the United States.

April 27, 2010

Comparative-Effectiveness Study Confirms Treatment for Diabetic Macular Edema

Ranibizumab Injections Plus Laser Results in Dramatic Visual Improvement

- Researchers have shown that ranibizumab (Lucentis) eye injections, often in combination with laser treatment, result in better vision than laser treatment alone for diabetes-associated swelling of the retina. Laser treatment alone has been the standard care for the past 25 years.

April 12, 2010

Strategy Confirmed to Help Determine When to Treat Retinopathy of Prematurity

Surgery or Careful Monitoring of Infants Depends on Disease Characteristics

- Scientists have shown that through an eye exam, doctors can identify infants who are most likely to benefit from early treatment for a potentially blinding eye condition called retinopathy of prematurity. These long-term results of the Early Treatment for Retinopathy of Prematurity study confirm that the visual benefit of early treatment for selected infants continues through 6 years of age.

April 12, 2010

Additional Genes Associated with Age-Related Macular Degeneration Identified

- A large genetic study of age-related macular degeneration has identified three new genes associated with this blinding eye disease—two in the cholesterol pathway.

December 12, 2009

Prevalence of Nearsightedness in the U.S. Increased Dramatically Over 30 Years

- Researchers have found that the prevalence of myopia increased 66 percent in the United States between 1971-1972 and 1999-2004. Myopia prevalence rose more than 100 percent for black Americans and 30-80 percent for white Americans. According to a 2008 NEI study, the overall prevalence of myopia in the U.S. is 33.1 percent.