



FOR RELEASE:

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CONTACT:

Dan Reynolds
Communications Coordinator
(734) 780-2116
(734) 998-9159 Fax
dan@midwesteyebanks.org

Midwest Eye-Banks Contributes Nearly \$80,000 to Eye and Vision Research

ANN ARBOR – Midwest Eye-Banks has announced that the following researchers and projects will receive funding as part of its annual Eye and Vision Research Program for 2005-2006:

- Bruce I. Gaynes, O.D., Pharm.D., Assistant Professor, Ophthalmology and Pharmacology, Rush College of Medicine, *"Phase Contrast Tomography of the Mammalian Lens."* \$5,825.00
- Peter Hitchcock, Ph.D., Professor, Departments of Ophthalmology and Cell and Developmental Biology, University of Michigan, *"Function of Midkine b in the Developing and Regenerating Retina."* \$15,000.00
- Cindy L. Linn, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Western Michigan University, *"Mechanism of ACh - induced Neuroprotection in Retinal Ganglion Cells."* \$15,000.00
- Ping Qiu, M.D., Ph.D., Research Associate, Kresge Eye Institute, Wayne State University, *"Thymosin beta 4, PINCH, and Corneal Epithelial Cell Migration."* \$15,000.00
- Debra A. Thompson, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Michigan, Departments of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, and Biological Chemistry, *"The RPE Visual Cycle and Metabolism in Cone Cell Function."* \$15,000.00

In addition to these research projects, five stipends of \$2,500 each were awarded to students and medical residents involved in eye and vision research at the University of Illinois-Chicago, the University of Michigan and Wayne State University in Detroit. This brings the total eye and vision research funding provided by Midwest to \$78,325 for 2005-2006.

Midwest has awarded nearly \$2 million in seed money grants since its Eye and Vision Research Program began in 1980. Over the years, this funding has led to important scientific findings, including the discovery of a gene that can cause early childhood blindness if defective.

Midwest Eye-Banks is a 501(c)(3), independent not-for-profit organization dedicated to the restoration of sight. It recovers, evaluates and distributes human eye tissue for transplantation. It also supports research into the causes and cures of blinding eye conditions, promotes donation awareness through public and professional education, and provides humanitarian aid to people in need of corneal transplantation throughout the world. For more information, visit the Midwest Eye-Banks online at www.midwesteyebanks.org or call (800) 247-7250.