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Michigan Eye and Vision Researchers Among Recipients of \$167,500 in Grant Funding from Midwest Eye-Banks

ANN ARBOR – Midwest Eye-Banks has announced its research grant funding disbursement for the 29th year of its Eye and Vision Research Program. The program aims to provide seed money for research into the causes of and cures for blinding eye conditions.

Midwest Eye-Banks' Research Review Committee met on May 29 to evaluate proposals received earlier this year. The committee recommended funding for 10 research proposals and seven student stipends totaling \$167,500. The Eye-Bank's Board of Directors approved the Committee's recommendation in a meeting on June 13.

"Midwest Eye-Banks is one of the few organizations of its kind that provides substantial funding for eye and vision research," explains Charles Pivoney, Chief Operating Officer. "Eye banks are nonprofit organizations that primarily recover, evaluate and distribute eye tissue for transplantation. However, we know transplantation can only address about 10 percent of all blinding eye conditions. That's why we go a step farther with our Eye and Vision Research Program, which enables us to fight blindness on all fronts through research and support."

Of the 10 research proposals approved for funding, nine were from academic institutions in Michigan, including Wayne State University/Kresge Eye Institute and the University of Michigan. The proposed research will investigate such eye conditions as glaucoma, diabetic macular edema and retinal detachment.

Since its inception in 1980, the Eye-Bank's Eye and Vision Research Program has awarded more than \$2.5 million in research grant funding and student stipends.

The Michigan Eye-Bank is a division of Midwest Eye-Banks, a charitable 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. Visit www.michiganeyebank.org or call (800) 247-7250 for more information.



Midwest Eye-Banks
Eye and Vision Research Program
2009 Grant Awards

1. Mian, Shahzad, M.D., University of Michigan Medical School
Femtosecond laser-assisted keratoplasty: Clinical Outcomes.
(\$15,000)
2. Petty, Howard, Ph.D., University of Michigan Medical School
Retinal metabolic analysis of glaucoma. (\$15,000)
3. Berger-Szliter, Ph.D., Wayne State University
Ocular Infection: Immunoregulatory Role of Vasoactive Intestinal Peptide. (\$15,000)
4. Khanna, Hermant, Ph.D., University of Michigan Medical School.
Cilia-dependent signal transduction and photoreceptor degeneration.
(\$15,000)
5. Frank, Robert, M.D., Kresge Eye Institute
Correlation between Multifocal ERG and optical coherence tomography in patients with Clinically significant diabetic macular edema.
(\$15,000)
6. Zacks, David, M.D, Ph.D., University of Michigan Medical School
Activation of Autophagy during Retinal Detachment. (\$15,000)
7. Moroi, Sayoko, M.D., Ph.D., University of Michigan Medical School
Identifying genomic determinants of a thin central cornea as a risk factor for glaucoma. (\$15,000)
8. Ivanova, Elena, Ph.D., Wayne State University
Evaluation of Virus mediated expression of Channelrhodopsin-2 in the Marmoset Retina. (\$14,850)
9. Jin, JP, M.D., Ph.D., NorthShore University Health System
Role of h-2 calponin in cornea epithelial growth and wound healing.
(\$15,000)
10. Tkatchenko, Andrei, Ph.D. Wayne State University
Mouse model of myopia. (\$15,000)