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THE MAGNIFIER Issue #55, May, 2007

Newsletter from the Macular Degeneration Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 531313 Henderson, NV 89053  
<http://www.eyesight.org>

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CLARIFICATION ON AVASTIN AND LUCENTIS DRUG THERAPY  
The information in our article “Lucentis And Avastin: MD Patients Are Still Confused”, in the April edition of the Magnifier must be corrected to include the following clarification:

Genentech specifically designed, developed, and tested Lucentis for use in the eye. They believed an antibody fragment the size and with the properties of Lucentis might be more effective as an eye treatment. They also hoped it would limit some of the potential systemic adverse events associated with systemic use of anti-VEGF treatments in patients with cancer.

Although it's a common misperception, Lucentis was not derived from Avastin. Both were derived from the same parent antibody, but Lucentis is not a fragment of Avastin itself. There was an article published in the New England Journal of Medicine last October by R. Steinbrook explaining the differences between the two molecules and it included a graphic of the development of the two antibodies showing where they were derived from and how they evolved.

For patients that cannot afford the treatment or are having trouble with the insurance co-pay, Genentech has provided a toll-free patient assistance number (866-724-9394). Genentech is committed to out-of-pocket patient cost not being a barrier to access Lucentis. For more information about Lucentis therapy call toll-free (866)-582-3684.

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## NEW LENS DEVELOPED BY MACVISION

We had a tremendous response to the article regarding a new lens for glasses that would specifically help MD patients. This new technology adds refractive properties to eyeglass lenses and redirects light to improve the central vision for people affected by the disease. As a result of the interest, we received a letter from Patrick O. McCormick, Vice President of MacVision to our subscribers. Mr. McCormick writes the following:

“Some members of your Foundation are contacting us to learn about our new, MacVision technology that may prove helpful to patients with MD. As your “Magnifier” reported in April, 2007, MacVision originated at the University of New Mexico and was invented by Dr. McAllister Hull. Dr. Hull is a distinguished, former physicist, and professor, whose spouse suffers from MD. It is his work that we are currently testing to determine its appropriateness for other MD sufferers.

We are working to develop new reading glasses for those patients suffering from MD. Once our reading glasses have proven successful, we will then move on to the issue of distance glasses, followed by other MD issues. We are currently in non-clinical tests administered under the direction of an O.D., who has been practicing in the area of Low Vision for over 20 years. While we are finding good, solid results from Dr. Hull’s design, and we are very encouraged by our initial results, we are not, by our standards, ready for market yet. Our early hypothesis is that each patient must be fit with an individualized prescription lens and when properly fitted the patient reports are favorable. We are developing a more rigorous testing protocol and we will report on those results as soon as they are available.

If you or your subscribers wish to contact us regarding MacVision, queries can be sent to Ms. Thilde Peterson, Director of Business Development at [tapeterson@macvision.com](mailto:tapeterson@macvision.com). Thilde is a gerontologist from Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. and has a good deal of experience with MD patients. Furthermore, Thilde will notify

the Macular Degeneration Foundation when the MacVision website is available.” You may address inquiries to: MacVision Attn: Patrick McCormick, VP, 4340 Von Karman Avenue Suite 200, Newport Beach, CA 92660

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## OBESITY MAY BE LINKED TO VISION PROBLEMS

[www.checkyearly.com](http://www.checkyearly.com)

A recent article posted on [www.checkyearly.com](http://www.checkyearly.com), “Weight Loss Prevents Vision Loss”, states that “recent studies have found significant evidence that links obesity to several major eye diseases including Macular Degeneration.”

“The connection between your weight and your vision has to do with a number of factors that include poor diet, lack of exercise and weight-related health problems such as diabetes and high blood pressure. The good news is there are several things you can do to lower weight and, in turn, protect your eyes.

**Eat fruits and vegetables:** Researchers have found that people who eat less than the recommended daily amount of fruits and vegetables were significantly more likely to develop cataracts. Dark leafy greens and foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids are especially important in preventing vision problems, such as macular degeneration.

**Exercise:** Working out will help you lose weight as well as reduce harmful inflammation throughout the body, even in your eyes. A recent study found that people who maintained an active lifestyle were 70 percent less likely to develop macular degeneration. By developing a healthy lifestyle you can not only reduce your weight, but also your risk of developing eye diseases.”

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CONTACTING MDF

To speak to a support representative directly, you may call 1-888-633-3937. If you reach our voice mail, please speak slowly and distinctly.

#### ORDERING BOOKS & TAPES

When purchasing items from Amazon.com, please remember to use the MDF search box located at <http://www.eyesight.org/Books/books.html> . By simply originating your search from our website, Amazon rewards the Foundation with a small commission from each product you order. Thank you.

#### MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS:

Please make checks payable to Macular Degeneration Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 531313, Henderson, Nevada 89053, or you may use your credit card on our web site <http://www.eyesight.org/Donations/donations.html> . Your contributions make our services available as a support system for macular degeneration patients in the following ways:

1. We provide toll-free lines for personal contact assistance.
2. We mail brochures and other printed materials upon request.
3. We support an award-winning web site that provides the latest up-to-date information.
4. We fund research proposal grants to provide therapies for both the wet and dry form of AMD. Contributions marked "research" are used 100% for research.

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MDF was founded in 1992 by Edmund J. Aleksandrovich Ph.D (a victim of macular degeneration). It provides MD patients and their families with the information necessary to understand the disease, the latest news concerning ways to cope with the disease, and supports the efforts of researchers to find a cure.

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