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THE MAGNIFIER Issue #57, July, 2007

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

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The Infobility Report

A NEW ON-LINE SUPPORT GROUP (INFOBILITY) OFFERS NEWSLETTER

From Susan Schaffer, "Why Infobility? Because in order to succeed in life, we must be self-advocates. I do not suggest that we chain ourselves to walls or march in Washington DC. Those methods are effective but they aren't for everyone. We can get our point across successfully in quieter ways. Examples include writing letters, following up with meetings where the issue(s) can methodically be discussed, and finding the right people who can make changes happen. This is what Infobility is all about - working with others to ensure that our voices are heard in order to bring about change. Many agencies exist for the purpose of helping people who have disabilities. Infobility is not a replacement for them. However, it can be a supplement to them. Infobility not only encourages people to visit their local Independent Living Center or Vocational Rehabilitation office, but will also locate the ones in your area. It is important for people to work together to effectively solve problems. Imagine how much further you'll get when you share your knowledge! I will be offering a newsletter in which people share their stories, struggles, and successes. I encourage you to share your story, so I can share it with others. The goal is to create a big chain of challenges. Eventually when someone contacts me with a specific problem, I'll be able to share information. I would also like to get your reactions to this concept so please contact me." swheels@verizon.net.

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A SPECIAL "THANK YOU" TO PHIL RIGGS FOR THIS WONDERFUL STORY

Phil is incredibly proud of his friend with MD, Cleo.

Cleo lives alone in a three-bedroom house on 2 acres of land that is 11 miles from the nearest town. In her state of New Mexico rattlesnakes are common. One day her dog alerted her that a rattlesnake had crawled up on her back porch. Cleo got her 22 pistol and shot the snake off the porch. Then she continued her gardening. Her long day toiling in the garden yielded three wheelbarrow loads of weeds!

When Cleo was only 90 years old, friends and family were having a friendly discussion with her. The mission was to try to get her to move into town into a senior living complex. A petite lady only 5'2" tall, she insisted she was fine to live alone. Then all of a sudden she gets up does a summersault and jumps to her feet. She quietly sat down and said, "if one of you ladies can do that, then we'll continue this conversation!" Obviously the subject was closed!

The purpose of this and other reports from victims of MD is to give everyone a positive attitude about life. You may not be able to do everything Cleo can do or all the things you used to do, but do what you can do with joy and hope!

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TargeGen Initiates Multi-Center Phase II Clinical Trial Of TG100801, A Topically Applied Kinase Inhibitor In Macular Degeneration Patients
<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/78284.php>

Article Date: 7/31/07 - Article condensed by Julie Zavala

TargeGen, Inc. <http://www.targegen.com> today announced the Company has initiated a multi-center Phase II clinical trial of topically applied TG100801 in patients with age-related macular degeneration (AMD). According to the TargeGen website, the first clinical trial of TG100801, a Phase 1 healthy volunteer study, was completed in February 2007. Preliminary data suggest that TG100801 was well tolerated in healthy volunteers who received study drug twice a day for 14 consecutive days.

AMD is the leading cause of blindness in adults with more than 3.5 million estimated patients worldwide. Currently approved treatments for macular degeneration require repeated injection into the eye and act primarily by reducing VEGF mediated retinal leakage. TG100801 is administered non-invasively as an eye drop and is designed to suppress VEGF mediated leakage and additional kinase targets associated with inflammation, edema, and angiogenesis which are the pathological hallmarks of AMD and other back of the eye diseases including diabetic macular edema and proliferative diabetic retinopathy.

“The initiation of this trial is a significant milestone for TargeGen,” stated Peter G. Ulrich, President, CEO and Co-Founder of TargeGen. “TG100801 is an important drug candidate that potentially addresses the leading causes of debilitating vision loss in adults in a more comprehensive way and may eliminate or reduce the requirement for repeated injections into the eye.”

For information on clinical trials, please contact Lori Isbell at isbell@targegen.com or TargeGen Inc., 9380 Judicial Drive, San Diego, CA 92121, Tel. (858) 678-0760

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NEW BOOKS ON THE MARKET

A Patient-Expert Walks You through Everything you Need to Learn and Do

The First Year Age-Related Macular Degeneration

by Daniel L. Roberts

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1569242860/maculardegener01>

Protect your Sight: How to Save Your Vision in the Epidemic of Age-Related Macular Degeneration

by James C. Folk

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0976968908/maculardegener01>

Coping With Macular Degeneration

by Patricia Gilbert

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0859699439/maculardegener01>

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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.

Subscribers who wish to cancel their subscription or change their email address may visit:
<http://www.eyesight.org/Newsletter/newsletter.html> .

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