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**THE MAGNIFIER Issue #63, February, 2008**

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

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**Envision Conference:  
A Call for Presentations**

The Envision Conference is pleased to announce a call for presentations for the Envision Conference 08, which will be held September 4-6, 2008 in San Antonio, Texas. Please consider submitting any topic related to research or the practice of low vision rehabilitation.

The deadline is April 30; early submissions are encouraged. Share your knowledge and help shape the field. As a speaker, you'll receive free conference registration, a room at the conference hotel, and reimbursement for your travel expenses. We encourage you to submit more than one presentation. If you would like to see the programs from Envision 06 or Envision 07, please follow this link <http://www.envisionconference.org/> to Envision Conference

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**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**The Eye and The Chip 2008**  
June 12-14, 2008 - Detroit, Michigan

The Eye and the Chip is a 3-day World Congress to accelerate progress toward the goal of artificial vision by providing a format for the exchange of scientific advances and discussion among

internationally recognized experts. Someday electrical stimulation of a chip near the retina may restore vision. Perhaps a camera on glasses or in a contact lens will transmit a signal to the chip, activating a signal to the visual cortex.

When this initiative is successful, some who now live in darkness may be able to see light or forms which can give them visual cues to mobility and some independence. The Eye and the Chip studies address projects that may ultimately, through leading edge technology, provide "artificial vision" to the visually impaired and blind.

REGISTRATION CONTACT: Carolyn L Barth, PhD  
(313) 824-4710 or Register Online

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### **Early Detection Device**

Note: The following article combines excerpts taken from "MacuChek Chooses Creative Technology Services to Manage the Manufacturing of Its New Product" and "Setting a New Standard of Care for AMD Patients" from Foresee PHP.

"MacuScope, the first commercial instrument capable of accurately measuring and tracking macular protective pigment density (MPPD) in the center of the eye. Research has shown that a low MPPD dramatically increases the risk for developing MD of the macula." The MacuScope can detect early MPPD deficiencies in apparently healthy eyes, years, or even decades, before any signs or symptoms appear.

Uncovered deficiencies can be treated with a unique oral supplement and re-pigmentation can be monitored with the MacuScope. Damage to the delicate macular tissue is permanent and cumulative over a lifetime. "Early detection of disease contributors to age-related macular degeneration is critical to preserving one's vision," said Dr. Lloyd Snider, optometric director of MacuChek™. "Finding a potential

precursor before symptoms start is a major breakthrough in controlling AMD."

For more information on MacuScope you may visit them at <http://www.macuscope.com> or call (800) 404-4170.

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### **Foresee PHP Diagnostic Test Addresses Early Detection of the Wet Form of MD**

The Foresee PHP diagnostic test addresses early detection of the wet form of MD. "Unlike dry MD, wet MD has a number of effective treatment options that can help patients preserve vision. The key to the best outcome in these cases is detecting the progression to wet MD at the earliest possible time and starting treatment immediately.

Eye care specialists have continually struggled to effectively diagnose the conversion from the dry to the wet stage of MD. The standard practice of patient self-monitoring uses a sheet of paper with a series of grid lines on it called the Amsler grid. Patients are supposed to hang this paper in their home and look at it each day. When the lines of the grid appear curved, the patient has experienced the conversion from dry to wet MD.

However, just as the brain compensates so people don't notice their blind spot, it also compensates for what the eye actually sees when looking at the grid." This means that by the time the lines appear curved, vision loss has already occurred, thus making the Amsler test compromised. 'When left unchecked for as little as three months, wet MD can cause severe vision loss,' said Dr. Yair Alster, a retinal specialist and chief technology officer for Notal Vision, the company that developed the device. 'PHP technology represents a great leap forward in monitoring MD, and can result in vision-saving outcomes for patients.'

In studies, the PHP device has been shown to correctly detect indicators of wet MD more than 80% of the time, representing a significant improvement over the Amsler grid. The device works by mapping defects within a patient's visual field. The non-invasive and easy-to-perform test analyzes patients' responses to images flashing on a computer screen. The response patterns are recorded and analyzed, then compared to a database to produce a report that tells the eye care specialist the location of defects in the macular area. Most doctors recommend at-risk patients with intermediate, dry MD have this simple diagnostic test performed four times a year. For additional information about the Foresee PHP call MSS at 1-800-728-9615 or see [www.ms-services.com](http://www.ms-services.com)

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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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