

LIONS VISION

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF MULTIPLE DISTRICT 22 LIONS, LIONESS AND LEO CLUBS

FALL 2016



You are Invited

THE GREAT LIONS ROAR

Saturday, November 19, 2016 @ 9:30 A.M.

TURNER AUDITORIUM

Johns Hopkins Medical Campus
720 Rutland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21205

and

LVRF LIONS PRIDE LUNCHEON

Celebrating 25 Years of Service
(immediately following in Turner Concourse)

COST: \$20.00



RSVP for the LVRF LIONS PRIDE LUNCHEON

will be attending.

*Please write names of others attending on a separate sheet of paper and mail
check made out to "LVRF" by November 14th, 2016 to:*

Lions Vision Research Foundation, Inc.
% PDG Susan Timmons
724 Pensinger Road
Greencastle, PA 17225
RSVP by emailing: sktimmons@comcast.net

LVRF Chairman's Message

What an exciting time for our Foundation, turning 25 and starting on a new campaign to secure our endowment for our fellowship for years to come. 25 years ago the Lions of Multiple District 22 partnered with the Wilmer Eye Institute to support research on low vision forming the Lions Low Vision Research Foundation. Today they are a world leader in low vision; what a huge success it is, and something every Lion in the multiple should be very proud of and take ownership in. It is our Foundation! Thank you to the Lions and the Council of Governors who saw a need and did something about it 25 years ago; we are still growing. Happy Birthday LVRF!

On November 19 we will celebrate our Birthday at our annual Rally and a very special luncheon after the rally. This is one party you don't want to miss - learn about what LVRF is doing now and has done over the last 25 years; also look into the future to see where we are going. It will be a day when you leave knowing why we do what we do as Lions. If you have new Lions in your club it is a perfect day to show them about Lionism and make them proud of being a Lion in Multiple District 22. Looking forward to seeing you at the party.

When was the last time your club had a program on LVRF?

You can learn about what is new in low vision and be able to see where donations are going and take ownership in our world class foundation. Your trustees are just waiting for an invite so ask your club's program chair to have a LVRF night. Please don't forget to save your Dimes for LVRF....don't know what I am talking about? That's just another reason to come to the rally or have a program on LVRF.



PDG Karl Gude

Lions, this is your Foundation and one of the best in Lions worldwide so I hope to see you on the 19th. If not then, your trustees are sitting by the phone waiting for an invite to share with your fellow Lions where we have been and where we are going with your LVRF foundation.

Yours In Lionism,

PDG Lion Karl E. Gude
Chairman, LVRF

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Dr. Robert Massof
Dr. Gislis Dagnelie
Dr. Judy Goldstein

A Box of Wheaties, Hollywood Boulevard, and the MD-22 Lions Vision Center

The title contains three very diverse entities that share a common characteristic. They are all places where we recognize Champions. For decades, Olympic gold medalists and other sports champions have greeted Americans at the breakfast table with their proud, beaming smiles gracing the cover of the “Breakfast of Champions” Wheaties boxes. On Hollywood Boulevard tourists marvel at the over 2,500 brass and terrazzo stars embedded in the Walk of Fame that recognize the best in the entertainment industry. In 2012, representing the Lions of MD-22 and the world class team at the Lions Vision Center, founding Director Dr. Bob Massof was recognized at the White House as a “Champion of Change” for his work in low vision technology and rehabilitation. All are champions in their respective field of expertise.

As experts in the field of humanitarian service to others, all members of the MD-22 Lions Family are champions too!

We recently watched with pride as the American Olympic Champions achieved record performances in swimming, gymnastics, and basketball. Moviegoers will soon rate the winners and losers among the Hollywood summer blockbusters. We will wait for Oscar Night for Hollywood to recognize the best. As summer fades, daylight shortens, the air gets chillier, and the colorful leaves of autumn appear, the work of the championship team at the Lions Vision Center goes on. Work aimed at improving the quality of life for the millions of people afflicted with low vision for which there is no present medical cure.

This autumn will be a very special season for the Lions of MD-22. We have an opportunity to celebrate the 25th Anni-

versary of the founding of the Lions Vision Center at Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute. Every Lion, Lioness, and Leo Club in MD-22 has championed the work of the Lions Vision Center by raising money through Vision Days and countless local fundraising projects. Clubs, individual champions, businesses, and foundations have all made very generous donations to fund research, rehabilitation, and the training of low vision professionals. The 25th Celebration will start with a Rally titled “The Great Lions Roar” at 9:30am on November 19 in Turner Auditorium at Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, MD. At noon the Lions Pride Luncheon will top off the celebration. Watch your email or mail box for more information to follow.



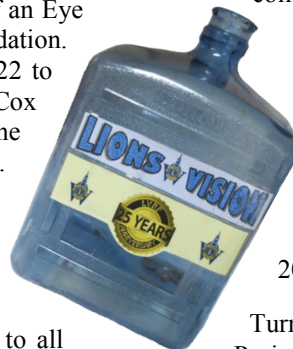
PDG: John J. Shwed,

The LVRF Trustees would like to see 300 or more attendees at this celebration. Talk it up among your Club members. Get a carload together, show your Lions pride and make plans to attend. The MD-22 Lions Family/Wilmer Partnership have achieved much in 25 years. On November 19th we will celebrate past accomplishments and present future plans and challenges. In 2017 Lions International will be celebrating a “Century of Service”. What better way to launch this special year than with a November celebration recognizing 25 years of unique Lions service and accomplishment right here in MD-22! I hope to see you there and hear your best Lions roar at the “Great Lions Roar”.

Contributed by PDG John J. Shwed, [LVRF Development Chair]

WHAT'S WITH THE 22-W BOTTLES?

Last spring Lion Sandy Parker shared the model of an Eye Dime Bank to benefit Lions Vision Research Foundation. These little banks are being used throughout MD 22 to collect coins for LVRF. District Governor Brian Cox embraced the concept, but thought he could turn the idea of a bank into something bigger and better. Soon after, his 3-gallon water bottle made its debut. (There it is on the right!) One of the first donations was made by Lion Bill Strauss, who contributed his winnings from a 50/50 drawing.



District Governor Brian takes the bottle with him to all Official Visits and district activities, humorously indicating

that the container holds a fund for his four college enrolled children. He quickly shares that the bottle contains a special collection for LVRF's 25th Anniversary. Whether by good luck or karma, DG Brian has won four 50/50 drawings that have been donated thus far. Always on for a challenge, he has requested that HIS FELLOW District Governors match or exceed 22-W's donation to LVRF.

DG Brian will present the District 22-W donation at ***The Great Lions Roar*** on November 19, 2016.

Turn to page 7 for information about the Eye Dime Project.

Lions Low Vision Rehabilitation Fellowship Program

Contributed by Judith Goldstein, OD, Chief, Low Vision and Vision Rehabilitation
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, Wilmer Eye Institute, JHMI

In the book *Outliers*, author Malcolm Gladwell says that it takes roughly ten thousand hours of practice to achieve mastery in a field. Although one year at Johns Hopkins as the Lions Low Vision Rehabilitation Fellow doesn't quite add up to ten thousand hours of practice, our approach follows a similar philosophy: the more experience, the better.



Dr. Goldstein

The focus in training is to create a wealth of opportunities for exposure and experience so clinicians develop the patient management skills necessary to optimize the treatment of the individual with vision loss. Like any trade or profession, proficiency comes with time and hands-on practice.

The intent of the fellowship-training program is to develop the future leaders in the field of LVR. The Lions Low Vision Rehabilitation Fellowship Program is unique because both direct patient care and research is built-in. The program provides dedicated time for trainees to develop their career as a clinician and as a scientist.

The Lions Fellowship Program has made a huge impact on low vision patients, the community and the field of LVR. In the MD-22 area alone, the fellowship has made it possible to timely serve those patients in need and educate the local community on service access and provision. The original scientific work published by the Lions fellows has impacted the scientific community in the field's understanding of low vision discipline. Past

fellows have moved to other regions of the U.S. taking on leadership positions at academic institutions, expanding service provision and educating the next generation of LVR clinicians. The program has generated such excitement and enthusiasm that other academic training centers have begun to initiate their own fellowships.

With the population aging, the expectation of increasing demand of LVR services, and a lack of physicians entering the LVR field, the Lions Multiple District 22 recognized the importance of providing support for a dedicated LVR clinical training program. This proactive thinking in early 2008 initiated the launch of the Lions Fellowship Program, nearly the first of its kind. The success of the trainees and the program has clearly shown that the effort is more than worth it. The trainees, the community, the Lions, the scientific field, and most importantly, the patients, have all observed the benefits of the MD-22 Lions Fellowship Training Program. If the past is any prediction of the future, we see only success ahead in training the next generation of skilled leaders.

The Lions Multiple District 22 Fellowship Program is the only program of its type in the United States that is fully accredited and recognized by a school of medicine, in this case, the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. This honor and recognition would not be possible without the generous support of the Lions of Multiple District 22. Thank you for making this educational opportunity a reality for clinicians wishing to specialize in the area of low vision rehabilitation.

Judith Goldstein, MD

Editor's Note: The LLVRF program has been a very successful program and was funded on a yearly basis. At the 2016 September Board Meeting, it was voted to endow this fellowship so that it would be funded in perpetuity.



We had a group of gauchos at a recent LVRF Board meeting who visited us to publicize the importance of Lions Vision Days projects. They arrived on the scene as a raucous group and collected a lot of loot from the members present. Here they are after their "robbery of the century", a calm and posing group. They are from Left to Right: PDG John Cullison, PDG Ted Ladd, PDG John Schwed, Lion Bob Bullock, Lion Mel Nace and Past International President Clem Kuziak. On the wall behind the group is a portrait of Dr. Arnall Patz.

Seeing with a Bionic Brain?

Contributed by Gislin Dagnelie, PhD
Associate Director, Lions Vision Research and Rehabilitation Center
Associate Professor of Ophthalmology

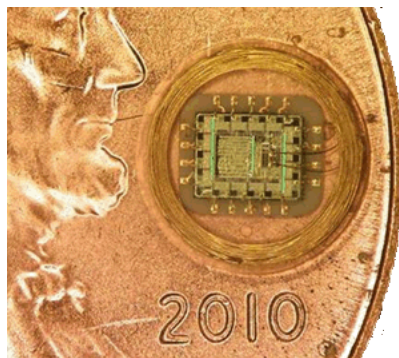
It's been 25 years since retinal surgeons and vision researchers at the Wilmer Eye Institute took the first steps towards what is now called a "bionic eye," the Argus II retinal prosthesis system. As most readers of Lions Vision know, the Argus II is not really an eye; it is an implant in the back of the eye that stimulates the remaining secondary cells after the rods and cones have been destroyed by an inherited disease called retinitis pigmentosa. A tiny video camera in the Argus II glasses sends images to a belt pack processor that transforms them into electrical pulses that are delivered to



Dr. Dagnelie

the retina by a small grid of 6 x 10 electrodes. After implant surgery and a lengthy training period, this very crude picture is seen as "moving shadows" by the implant wearer – certainly not great vision, but a big step forward from total blindness, and the first step towards better implants in the future.

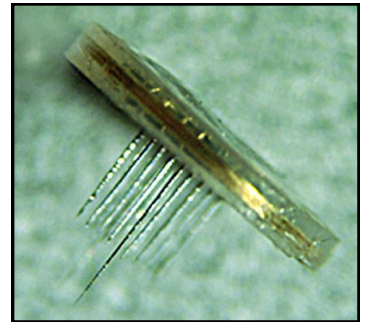
Signals from the Argus II are sent to the brain by nerve fibers traveling from the eye through the optic nerve. This means that patients who are blind due to destruction of the optic nerve – from glaucoma or injury, in an accident or warfare – cannot be treated with an implant in the eye. But another option may soon be available. Over the past decade, researchers at the Illinois Institute of Technology have developed small wireless implant modules, each equipped with 16 needle electrodes, that can be placed on the surface of the brain, in the back of the head where signals from the eye are normally received. Using a camera similar to that of the Argus II and antennas to send energy and information to these implants, the team at IIT has demonstrated that animals can see the flashes of light presented by these implants. Recently the National Institutes of Health decided to support this project with 5 years of funding that, if all goes as planned, will restore some vision in 5 volunteers blind from damage to the optic nerves; the last volunteers may receive 10 or more modules and thus over 100 different flashes.



The implant superimposed on a penny to show the relative size of the implant

The Lions Vision Center has played an active role in this research: Over the past several years IIT graduate student Gayatri Kaskhedikar has worked in Dr. Gislin Dagnelie's laboratory to develop efficient ways to map the flashes of light produced by

the new implant, and to use these maps to convey images. In the new project, Dr. Dagnelie will work with the researchers in Chicago to further develop these methods, and he will be closely involved in studying what the volunteers will be able to see. The project will require review and approval by the FDA and other agencies, so the first implantation is not expected until early 2019. Nonetheless, this is the first time a university-based vision restoration project using brain implants has been sponsored by the NIH.



A side view of the implant showing the electrodes which penetrate the visual cortex of the brain.

Get an LVRF Speaker for your next Club Meeting

So that all Lions, Lionesses and Leos of Multiple District 22 can learn more about the foundation, a Speakers Bureau has been set up to address this need. The LVRF is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, so now is a perfect time to engage a knowledgeable speaker and learn more about LVRF's history, current programs, and future plans.

In addition to the LVRF itself, your club may want to learn more about the Lions Low Vision Center at the Wilmer Eye Institute or the Low Vision Rehabilitation Network (LOVRNET). LOVRNET is a joint program of the LVRF and the Lions Vision Research and Rehabilitation Center of the Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute (Lions Vision Center). This groundbreaking program, aimed at expanding access to low vision services, is now three years old and in many ways is changing the way low vision services are provided in Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia. Already, Multiple Districts in other states have shown interest in bringing LOVRNET to their regions.

The LVRF Speakers Bureau will assist your club in obtaining a speaker who will provide you with the information you need to really understand the importance of supporting the LVRF while at the same time expanding your overall understanding of what has been accomplished over the past 25 years. Typically speakers will be one of the LVRF Trustees from your sub-district, or the sub-district LVRF Chair. In some cases, it is possible to get a member of the staff of the Lions Low Vision Center to speak to your club.

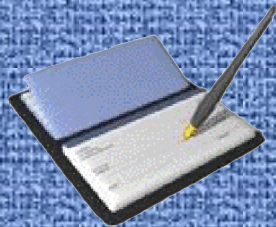
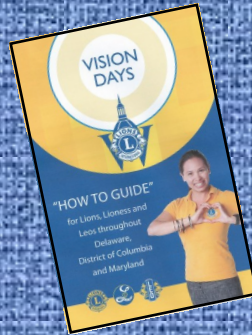
To schedule a speaker, please contact Lion Bob Johnson at rcyrilj@aol.com or (301) 371-9129 giving your sub-district, club name and date of the event.

Contributed by Lion Bob Johnson, LVRF Speakers Bureau Chairperson

Visit the LVRF website at: www.LionsVision.org

How to donate to your Lions Vision Research Foundation

1. Go to our website, www.LionsVision.org and click on **"Donate Now"**. Download the "Donation Form". Fill out the Donation Form, write a check to "LVRF" and mail both to LVRF, PO Box 1714, Baltimore, MD 21203.
2. Drop dimes in the Eye Dime bottle at your meetings.
3. Drop coins and paper money in your District Governor's "LIONS VISION Jug"
4. Schedule Lions Vision Days activities and collect donations in your region. This both raises money but almost more importantly lets the community learn what Lions are all about.
5. Attend LVRF banquets and present your donations from 3, 4 and 5 above or
6. Attend **The Great Lions Roar** and present your donations there.
7. **And don't forget** to fill out a donor recognition form. Click on "Recognition Form" just below Donation Form. They are available for:
 - a. 120 Club Pins (\$120 Donation)
 - b. LVRF Knights of the Blind Pyramids (\$1,000 Donation)
 - c. Arnall Patz Fellowship & Progressive Memberships (\$2,500 Donation)
8. For faster service when requesting a recognition award, scan the completed form and email to LVRF.infor@gmail.com. Allow 10 business days for processing.



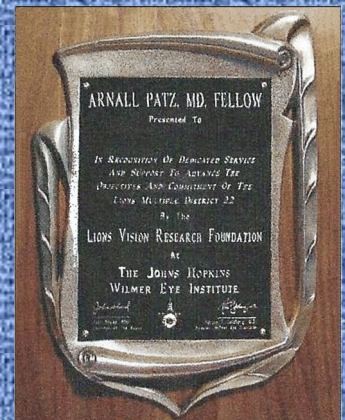
120 Club Pin



LVRF Knights of the Blind Pyramid



Arnall Patz Fellowship Pin & Plaque



The Wilmer Eye Institute Spearheads Creation of the Johns Hopkins Zika Center



J. T. Dean

the Brazilian ophthalmology community.

The center was established to facilitate the comprehensive care of patients with Zika virus, including infants with virus-related congenital defects, and to conduct research that helps identify effective therapies and ways to minimize transmission, according to Peter McDonnell, M.D., director of the Wilmer Eye Institute.

Wilmer ophthalmologist William May, M.D., the co-director of the center, is working with specialists from epidemiology, infectious disease, maternal-fetal medicine, orthopedics, pediatrics, physiotherapy, psychiatry and social work to treat adult and pediatric patients with Zika virus infection. With eye abnormalities affecting more than half of babies with the illness, in addition to some adults who contract the illness, the Wilmer Eye Institute will focus on the ophthalmologic manifestations of Zika. It has a team dedicated to the diagnosis, treatment and research of ocular conditions related to the cornea and the retina.

Medical experts from Brazil, a country greatly affected by Zika, are also members of the center, including Carol Marquezan, M.D., from Mato Grosso, who has come to Baltimore to work closely with May to assess the needs that may arise should substantial numbers of patients develop Zika in-

fection in our region of the world. Additionally, Rubens Belfort Jr., M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A., Brazil's premier ophthalmic expert on Zika virus, is an advisor to the center.

The early spread of Zika in the Western Hemisphere was once largely confined to Latin America, but the number of reported cases in the United States is now rapidly growing. The swath of the country expected to experience Zika stretches from coast to coast and as far north as Minnesota and New England. As of August, in the U.S. states alone, the rate of reported Zika cases had tripled in two months, with more than 2,700 cases on record—including 624 documented cases in pregnant women and 21 babies born with birth defects (among them five pregnancy losses).

As many as 55 percent of Zika-infected babies may have eye disease and ocular abnormalities have been reported in a Zika baby with no indication of microcephaly. Also, adults may develop eye disease after becoming infected with the virus.

“Without a doubt, microcephaly is a gruesome and real consequence, but Zika is not a one specialty concern,” May says. “The list of adverse outcomes from Zika ranges from severe brain damage to profound hearing and vision loss. That’s where Wilmer comes in.”

“The Zika virus can go in the eye and stay in the body for months after infection. This raises concern that patients will need on-going care, even when the disease is seemingly cleared,” says ophthalmologist **Allen Eghrari, M.D.**

Wilmer’s policy is to see every patient who seeks care. “We will not turn anyone away,” May says. “Let’s not let an epidemic become a pandemic,” May concludes. “We must act fast to get on top of Zika before it’s too late.”

Contributed by J. T. Dean, Associate Director of Development at Johns Hopkins University

Project Eye Dime

Project Eye Dime is a fundraising project for the LVRF envisioned by Lion Sandy Parker, an LVRF trustee from District 22W. One of those visionaries always looking for easy and painless ways to raise funds, she reasoned that if somehow every Lion would think about all those with low vision and how they are helped by the low vision programs supported by the Lions Vision Research Foundation whenever they saw a common thing such as a dime, they might just think that it, the dime, should not be spent but should be put somewhere and saved until many, many dimes were collected and then sent to the LVRF.

There are probably many ways to do this, but Lion Sandy came up with the idea of using a wide-mouth soda bottle. Of course, the bottle needed to be noticed, so she designed a label to wrap around it. Where would the bottle be used? At home where every night, all members of the family would empty their pockets and put all the dimes in the bottle. Of course, every Lions, Lioness and Leo club should have a bottle that

would be passed around at each meeting to collect all spare dimes. The bottle might look like the one shown.

Note that the label on the bottle advertises our 25th anniversary. Wouldn't it be great if all the clubs in MD 22 filled one of these bottles and then brought them to **The Great Lions Roar** at the Wilmer Eye Institute on November 19th, 2016?

If you haven't been participating in Project Eye Dime, get a bottle and label and fill it at your next meeting! To get a label, contact Lion Sandy at:

sandyparker012@gmail.com

Note:

This article was published in the Spring Edition of the Lions Vision and is repeated here as a reminder to bring your donations to **The Great Lions Roar** on November 19th.



LIONS VISION

The Multiple District 22
Lions Vision Research Foundation, Inc.
At the Wilmer Eye Institute, the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions
P. O. Box 1714, Baltimore, MD 21203-1714

Dr. Arnall Patz was the Wilmer visionary who desired a partnership with Lions International. Helen Keller had previously suggested to him that he work with the Lions, who were active in helping the blind.

He concluded that a joint service project between the world's largest service organization and the world's leading eye institute would result in great discoveries which would help people worldwide. During the period 1978 to 1985 Dr. Patz made several overtures to Lions International, including a trip to Lions Headquarters in 1979, to encourage the Lions to collaborate with the Wilmer Eye Institute. With time, support for the partnership grew among the Lions of MD22 representing Delaware, the District of Columbia, and Maryland.

In May of 1988, delegates to the 66th MD22 Lions Convention approved the establishment of the Lions Vision Research Foundation. In March of 1991,

Robert Massof, Director of the Lions Vision Center, recommended that the Center's research be focused on the problem of low vision for which there is no cure. "Low vision" is vision loss that cannot be corrected by eyeglasses, medicines, or surgery. Major causes of low vision

are macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, and inherited eye diseases.

Five million people in the US suffer from low vision; twenty-five million people are impacted worldwide. Dr. Massof proposed further that the Lions create a \$4 million endowment fund to guarantee the Lions Vision Center would operate in perpetuity.

In November 1991, with then Lions International President Don Banker in attendance, the Lions and the Wilmer Eye Institute entered into a formal memo of understanding, officially creating the Lions Vision Center and committing the Lions to the raising of the endowment fund.

