

LIONS VISION

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF MULTIPLE DISTRICT 22 LIONS, LIONESSES AND LEO CLUBS Fall 2010

“Enter the World of Wilmer”

What kind of place do you imagine that to be? If you have never been in that World, wouldn't you welcome the opportunity to venture in and find out what it is all about? All members of the MD-22 Lions Family have the chance to do just that by attending the annual Lions Day at LVRF scheduled for Saturday morning, November 13, 2010. The invitation mailed to club officers is extended to all Lions, Lionesses and Leos.

Lion animals are stealthy predators; never timid. They will even take on the mighty African Cape Buffalo. Our early Lion founders chose the Lion as the symbol of our organization because of its noble position within the animal kingdom. In English folklore, they boasted about the exploits of “Richard the Lion-Hearted.” Catch the symbolism of bravery even in the Middle Ages?



Our MD-22 Lion Pride should be made up of adventurous, courageous Lions, Lionesses and Leos rather than the timid lion of the Wizard of Oz. If you Lions are true to your heritage, you won't hesitate to enter the World of Wilmer. I'll tell you what I think is there. First, it is a magical place, where patients of all ages from places far and wide become the beneficiaries of the latest miracles of medical science. Second you will meet some of the finest,

skilled doctors and researchers the world has ever known. They in turn will share with us how we Lions can help them in their quest to rid the world of preventable blindness. You will get to see the facilities where they practice their craft.

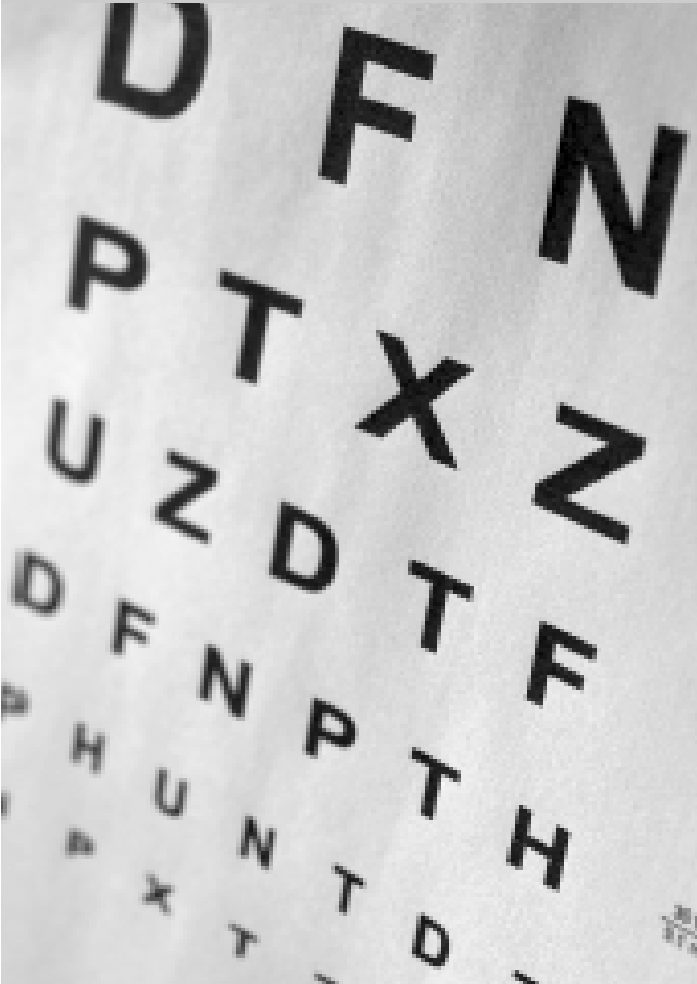
Any new World also has its potential for encountering new and strange life forms. Never know what you might see, but then you may never know unless you venture in.

I look forward to seeing you in Baltimore on November 13th. I hope it will be a roaring success! And if you want to bring a donation to support the good of work of the research and clinical team that would be a gracious action and a rewarding experience for you and your club.

PDG John J. Shwed
Development Committee Chair

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Chairman's Message

John Lawrence, PCC, Chairman
LIONS VISION RESEARCH FOUNDATION

I have just returned from the Memorial Service for Dr. Arnall Patz, 1920 – 2010. It is said that the dates of your birth and passing are of little consequence. It is what the “dash” in between represents that counts. And what a “dash” Dr. Patz had. Early in his career, after serving in the U. S. Army in World War II, he noticed that there was an association between the levels of oxygen in the incubators for premature babies and blindness in these infants. Although being rebuffed in his efforts to conduct a study of this association by the National Institutes of Health and being called unethical by some of his colleagues, he pressed on and saved the eyesight of thousands of infants. For these efforts, he received the prestigious Albert Lasker Medical Research Award, presented to him by Helen Keller in 1956.

During his career, he continued his research efforts into the areas of diabetic retinopathy and macular degeneration. In 1968 he developed the use of argon lasers to combat these eye diseases. Over his lifetime, he received many awards from ophthalmic societies and professional organizations. In 2004, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President George W. Bush, and in 2005 he received the Lions Humanitarian Award, presented by International President Clement Kusiak.

This is the type of man we Lions in Multiple District 22 are fortunate enough to be associated with. In the late 1980's, Dr. Patz worked with our Lions, including the late PID Murray Ryan, to create the Lions Vision Research Foundation. The fruits of their labors have been great. The Lions Low Vision Center has been established at the Wilmer Eye Institute. As Past Chairman Ken Watson is prone to say, “It is a place where miracles happen every day.” LVRF and the Lions of MD-22 have produced an endowment of \$4 million to ensure that its work continues into the future. LVRF is providing the funds to offer a post-doctoral fellowship in the Lions Low Vision Clinic,

resulting in reduced waiting times for appointments at the clinic and increased training in low vision techniques for medical professionals in our area.

Over the past few years, I had several occasions to be with Dr. Patz at some Lions events. I often observed a Lion express to Dr. Patz our thanks to him for taking his valuable time to be with us, whether it be at a meeting or a golf outing or some celebration. His response was always something like, “No, it is I who should be thanking you for taking time from your busy schedule to be with us and to help with your Lions Vision Center.” It was a very humbling experience for a man we so much admired and were in awe of to appreciate us for what we were doing. We are so thankful Dr. Patz took the initiative in establishing a relationship with the Lions of Multiple District 22.

At his passing in March 2010, many of Dr. Patz's former colleagues and students asked how his legacy would be memorialized at the Wilmer Eye Institute. In consultation with his widow Ellen Patz and their children, it was decided that whatever the memorial was, it should include the Lions in recognition of his career-long relationship with the Lions Vision Research Foundation and desire to help those affected with visual loss for whom drugs and surgery are not an option. Thus, the Arnall Patz, M. D. Endowed Professorship at the Lions Vision Center is being established. The fundraising efforts are being coordinated by the Wilmer Development Office. Your Board of Trustees is considering the role that the LVRF will play.

We are so fortunate have an association with the Wilmer Eye Institute and the Lions Low Vision Center. I can think of no place I would rather go for my personal eye care than the Wilmer. We are able to form relationships and friendships with some of the best vision specialists in the world. We are able to exemplify our motto of “We Serve” by helping with their efforts in both research and the treating of patients. We are fortunate indeed to live in the shadow of men like Dr. Arnall Patz. Let us let the memory of Dr. Patz become our challenge to continue our efforts towards Low Vision education, research, and rehabilitation.



In the photo at left, Dr. Arnall Patz is addressing members of the LVRF and Wilmer professional staff after receiving the 2005 Lions Clubs International Humanitarian award from Immediate Past President Clement “Clem” Kusiak at the Wilmer Eye Institute on August 5, 2005. He is shown receiving the award in the photo at right.

Dr. Judy Goldstein Receives Excellence Through Collaboration Award

On September 26, Dr. Bob Massof sent the following e-mail message regarding a significant award received by Dr. Judy Goldstein, Director of the Lions Low Vision Clinic.

“I am just getting ready to return home from the Envision Low Vision Conference in San Antonio. This is the 5th year of the conference, which dedicates all four days to low vision research and clinical meetings. It is a multidisciplinary international meeting covering research ranging from clinical outcomes to functional imaging of the brain and covering clinical low vision rehabilitation from the perspectives of all of the different members of the rehabilitation team. Attendees include basic scientists, clinical researchers, ophthalmologists, optometrists, occupational therapists, orientation and mobility instructors, vision rehabilitation therapists, social workers, rehabilitation engineers, psychologists, and vision teachers.

This year the conference gave a special award to Judy Goldstein. Quoting from the program,

‘Judith A Goldstein, OD, FAAO, was nominated and awarded by her peers the 2009 Envision Excellence through Collaboration Award. Dr. Goldstein was recommended for her work to provide collaborative leadership in the multi-disciplinary low vision clinical study of rehabilitation outcomes of patients seen within the Low Vision Rehabilitation Outcomes Study (LVROS).’

The full page announcement in the program, along with her picture, goes on to describe her training and experience, her position at Wilmer, and mentions that she developed the “Johns Hopkins accredited Lions Fellowship Training Program” in low vision rehabilitation.”



Dr. Judy Goldstein

Robert W. Massof, Ph.D.
Professor of Ophthalmology and Neuroscience
Director, Lions Vision Research and Rehabilitation Center
Wilmer Eye Institute
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine



Join the Lions Legacy Society *Make sure the Dream Lives On!*

The **Wilmer Lions Legacy Society** was formed in the summer of 2000 to recognize and honor the commitment of donors who have provided for the Wilmer Eye Institute and the Lions Low Vision Rehabilitation Center in their estate or financial plans. By helping to guarantee future generations of patient care, research and teaching, **Wilmer Lions Legacy Society** members serve as an inspiration to and demonstrate leadership for others.

Wilmer Lions Legacy Society members have the *foresight* to see the needs of the future and the *commitment* to plan for those needs today. Many Lions are already members. We hope that if you have not done so already, you will include Wilmer in your estate plans and make a lasting investment in the treatment and cure of eye disease. Please contact us and we will assist with crafting your legacy for Wilmer. Also ask about the excellent investment opportunities available that benefit you now and the Lions Low Vision Rehabilitation Center later.

For more information, please contact Suzy Williams at the Wilmer Development Office. Call 410.955.2020 or email swilli91@jhmi.edu.

Spreading the Word about Restoring Sight



Dr. Dagnelie chatting with Dr. Patz on August 5, 2005

LVC's retinal implant researcher, Dr. Gislin Dagnelie, took his show on the road in September to present at gatherings in two neighboring countries and to attend a biennial worldwide meeting of specialists in sight restoration.

Accompanied by postdoctoral fellow, Christiaan Stronks, and graduate student, Michael Barry, Dr. Dagnelie attended the 3-day "Eye and the Chip" conference that brought together about 100 researchers in the field of visual prosthetics from a dozen countries on 4 continents. This was the 6th such meeting hosted (since 2000) by the Detroit Institute of Ophthalmology, and the progress reported by the presenters was very encouraging. In addition to the clinical trial of the ArgusTM II retinal implant, there are now several other projects in clinical trials or approaching that stage. Several of these devices may be implanted clinically within the next few years, and the level of funding for this type of research in countries such as Australia, China, Germany, and Japan suggests that this growth will further accelerate. Dr. Dagnelie's lab plays a central role in this research and currently has 5 study participants who have implants.

Dr. Dagnelie's second trip, to Monterrey, Mexico, and Calgary, Canada, coincided with the Envision conference, attended by several other LVC staff. The 5 engineering departments of the University of Monterrey had joined forces for a 3-day meeting, highlighting several new engineering fields, and they invited Dr. Dagnelie as their keynote speaker for the last day. An enthusiastic crowd of over 250 students showed great interest and posed excellent questions. Chances are that one or more of these students will spend some time working in Dr. Dagnelie's lab at the LVC in the next few years.

The stay in Monterrey only lasted for about 18 hours. Dr. Dagnelie was expected in Calgary the same evening. The Alberta provincial office of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) had organized a whirlwind program organized for Dr. Dagnelie's visit. CNIB is a nationwide organization with 800 staff and 10,000 volunteers that provides services and support for blind and visually impaired clients. Dr. Dagnelie was invited as the guest speaker for the Annual General Meeting of the national organization. The provincial branch had gone all out to attract publicity for the meeting, so his 2-day program involved 2 live radio shows, 3 TV and newspaper interviews, an after-dinner talk for the national and regional boards, and an hour-long lecture that was the highlight of the membership meeting, attracting well over 100 outsiders. Whew!!! There were some rewards, though: Calgary has the second oldest polo club in North America, and in addition to watching the ponies and riders perform Dr. Dagnelie managed

to fit in an early Sunday morning hike in Banff National Park – breathtaking in every sense of the word!

For Second Sight Medical Products, the California company behind the ArgusTM II research study, Dr. Dagnelie's trips provided good publicity. Dr. Dagnelie's interview on a CBC morning show has been posted on the SSMP website at <http://www.2-soght.com>. And as for spreading the word: In the same month of September, the book "Visual Prosthetics: Physiology, Bioengineering, Rehabilitation," which Dr. Dagnelie has been editing over the past several years, went to the publishing company. It is expected to be in print around the turn of the year.

Dr. Rana Taji is Newly Appointed Lions Low Vision Fellow

Dr. Rana Taji of Toronto, Canada, is the 2010-2011 recipient of the Lions Low Vision Clinical Fellowship award. Dr. Taji earned a Bachelor's degree in Bio-medical Sciences and a Masters in Low-Vision Rehabilitation from the University of Waterloo. "Studying for my Masters in low vision made me realize how underserved this field was and the need for low vision professionals. I really wanted to help people as best I could to improve their quality of life in any way despite their visual impairments." This was her motivation to earn her Doctor of Optometry degree at the Michigan College of Optometry, Ferris State University.



Her graduate education also heightened her interest in research and academia, making her fellowship appointment an asset to her career goals. She hopes to become involved in optometric education to bring further awareness to the low vision field among healthcare professionals. Besides her work at the Lions Vision Center, she is also affiliated with the Maryland Optometric Association, the American Optometric Association and the Canadian Optometry Association.

Dr. Taji is quick to say, "Like most optometrists, I didn't receive much, if any, low vision training through my optometry school rotations, and so I wanted comprehensive training in the field, especially if it's something that I would want to teach in the future. The Low Vision clinical fellowship supported by the Lions is a perfect fit because it is truly low vision comprehensive care; and the diversity and volume of patients that I see will truly develop and heighten my skills in low vision. This will be what sets me apart as a qualified low

TAJI

Continued from page 5

vision professional, providing excellent care in the field. I am happy to be accepted for this position to be part of such an esteemed and reputable institution.”

The Lions are no strangers to Dr. Taji. While in optometry school, she volunteered two consecutive years for the Special Olympics Opening Eyes Vision Screening team and recognizes how involved the Lions are with such events. Dr. Taji would like to continue her affiliation with the Lions beyond the period of her fellowship and shared, “I would definitely be interested in participating in mission trips with the Lions in the future to dedicate some time to providing vision care in third world countries.”

Letter from a Satisfied Client of the Lions Low Vision Clinic

The following letter was received by Immediate Past Chairman of the LVRF, PDG Bob Muchow, regarding excellent service provided by the Lions Low Vision Clinic.

The letter compliments Dr. Alexis Malkin, our first Lions Low Vision Fellow, as well as the other staff members of the Clinic with whom she came in contact.

Dear PDG Bob,

I was having a problem with my eyes and had become extremely frustrated. The doctors that I have are excellent and I have faith in them; I just needed a second opinion for my own peace of mind. I was told that I could call the Low Vision Center for an appointment and I was very pleased that they were able to schedule an appointment within a week. Imagine my surprise, when they called back and asked if I could come in the next morning!

From the time I walked through the door until I left my experience was nothing but positive. Not only was the staff friendly and efficient, but Dr. Malkin was wonderful. She asked many questions that had not been asked before and, although my diagnosis was the same, she presented me with new options that would certainly make my life easier.

While in the waiting area, I had the opportunity to witness the genuine depth of caring and concern of another doctor at the Center. From beginning to end, my experience at the Center was positive, reassuring and comforting.

The Lions of MD22 can take great pride in their funding and support of the Low Vision Center. While I am well aware of *all* the good work that the Lions do, I can unequivocally state that this project is a true success.

Sincerely,

Gail S. Riley

The Arnall Patz, M.D. Professorship for the Lions Vision Center

By Kim Morton, Director of Development, Wilmer Eye Institute

“Dr. Patz’s influence in ophthalmology as a clinician, researcher and mentor will be powerful and long lasting,” said Edward D. Miller, M.D., dean of the faculty of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and CEO of Johns Hopkins Medicine. “He graced the school and hospital for more than half a century, and we are enormously proud to have his extraordinary contributions as part of our history.”

At his passing in March 2010, many of Dr. Patz’s former colleagues and students asked how his legacy would be memorialized at the Wilmer Eye Institute. In consultation with Ellen Patz and their children, it was decided that he would have most wished for an endowed professorship for Wilmer’s Lions Vision Center in recognition of his career-long relationship with the Lions Vision Research Foundation and desire to help those affected with visual loss for whom drugs and surgery are not an option.

An endowed professorship in support of the Lions Vision Center provides powerful encouragement to both practicing visual rehabilitation specialists and potential trainees who have an interest in caring for patients facing a future with limited vision. In addition to affording the opportunity to gain necessary experience to become an international leader, the **Arnall Patz, M.D. Professorship for the Lions Vision Center** would allow greater opportunity and resources for the Wilmer clinician-researcher to explore and develop new techniques and communicate these advances through scientific meetings and peer reviewed journal articles. The professorship also provides time to teach and mentor the next generation of rehabilitation specialists, passing on the expertise and to the fellows and residents specializing in this field.

The minimum endowment required for a named professorship is \$2,875,000. This permanently endowed fund will provide an annual income of approximately \$140,000 to be used as the discretion of the individual named as the Arnall Patz, M.D. Professor to benefit the Lions Vision Center.

If you would like to make a contribution in memory of Dr. Patz to support the Lions Vision Center Professorship in his name, please contact Kim Morton, Director of Development, Wilmer Eye Institute at 410-955-2020 or kmorton3@jhmi.edu.

Check out our new and improved LVRF Website

Significant improvements are being implemented on the LVRF Website at www.lionsvision.org with the professional guidance of MD-22 Council of Governors Chairman, PDG Ralph Schieferstein. There are some remarkable items on the Website now, and progress to make it even better is being made on an almost daily basis.

Did you miss the dedication of the Smith Building that is depicted below? Want to experience it from top to bottom? Then go to the LVRF Website, click on NEW WILMER BUILDING on the left margin. That will take you to a page where you may watch the entire dedication video, opt for a slide show instead, see the ribbon cutting and dedication, or see photos of the construction. The dedication was wonderful and you really should see the video. It contains the inspiring remarks of the late benefactor Robert H. Smith, and many other highlights. If you want to be educated on the Wilmer Eye Institute, watch this video

Click on the Lions Low Vision Center and you will not only see mission and function statements, but you can

click on Diabetic Retinopathy, Glaucoma or Macular Degeneration and get passed on to a Wilmer Eye Institute Web page that will give you full descriptions of these vision problems. And there is a lot more to explore on this page.

You may want to review past Lions Vision newsletters. If so you can read issues as far back as Fall 2007 now, and efforts are being made to add even more of the previous issues.

So see for yourself, go to www.lionsvision.com and check it out. It's the greatest, and getting better.

Lions Low Vision Clinic

If you would like information about the Lions Low Vision Service or want to set n appointment, please discuss it with your eye doctor. Then, you or your eye doctor should call the Center at 410-955-0580, Monday thru Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. or fax a request to 410-955-1829. They will send you a letter confirming your appointment and a questionnaire to fill out and return.

Wilmer Eye Institute

You may speak to the Wilmer Eye Institute Referral Coordinator any time between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday. Call 410-955-5080 or 1-800-215-6467 and ask to be switched to the Wilmer Referral Office.



The new Robert H. & Clarice Smith Building of the Wilmer Eye Institute

Lions Day at LVRF

November 13, 2010

“Enter The World of Wilmer”



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