DRY EYE
AWARENESS MONTH

ALLIANCE FOR EYE AND VISION RESEARCH (AEVR)
In conjunction with
TEAR FILM & OCULAR SURFACE SOCIETY (TFOS)

Invite you to a Congressional Briefing/Screening/Research Poster Session held during Dry Eye Awareness Month–July 2017

Dry Eye: An Updated Definition, A Greater Impact on Vision Health

Wednesday, July 12, 2017
House Rayburn 2168 (Gold Room)

12 Noon - 1:15 pm: Luncheon Briefing
11:30 am – 2 pm: "Test Your Tears" Screening/Poster Session

Briefing: A panel of experts will discuss the just-released TFOS Dry Eye Workshop II (TFOS DEWS II™) Report on Dry Eye Incidence, Diagnosis, and Treatment—with Implications for Vision Health and Research.

Screening and Poster Session: "Test Your Tears" screening of osmolarity—an important biomarker of ocular surface health, and posters by Dry Eye Researchers on various aspects of the disease.

Please R.S.V.P. to
Dina Beaumont @ 202-407-8325 or dinabeau@aol.com

AEVR and TFOS, 501(c)3 Non-Profit Educational Foundations, are pleased to host this widely attended event, with event management supported by a Shire grant.

Dry Eye Awareness Month—July 2017
Dry Eye: An Updated Definition, A Greater Impact on Vision Health

July 12, 2017 House Rayburn 2168 (Gold Room)
11:30 am – 2:00 pm: "Test Your Tears" Screening/Dry Eye Researcher Poster Session
12 Noon – 1:15 pm Congressional Luncheon Briefing
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What is Dry Eye and Why Is It Important?
Dry Eye, a global problem affecting more than 30 million people in the United States alone, occurs when the eye does not produce tears properly or when they are not of the correct consistency and evaporate too quickly, creating an unhealthy ocular surface. For some people, it feels like a speck of sand in the eye or a stinging or burning that does not go away. For others, it can become a painful chronic and progressive condition that leads to blurred vision or even vision loss if it goes untreated due to inflammation that can cause ulcers or scars on the cornea—the clear surface of the eye. Moderate-to-severe dry eye is associated with significant pain, role limitation, low vitality, poor general health, and often depression. Although researchers have long known about age, sex, and gender as factors, they are now discovering ethnic and racial differences and that dry eye impacts younger patients. It can have many causes, including environmental exposure; side-effects from medications; eye surgery (such as laser correction surgery); lid disorders; immune system diseases such as Sjögren's syndrome, lupus, or rheumatoid arthritis; contact lens wear; cosmetic use; aesthetic procedures; and an increasingly common cause—staring at computer screens for too long.

How is Research Addressing Health Challenges from Dry Eye?
The National Eye Institute (NEI) within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) supports research—as does the private sector—to better understand the complex processes involved, including how genes code for proteins that switch tear production on/off, factors associated with dry eye and ocular surface health, and novel approaches to diagnosis and management.

About the Briefing:

A panel of experts will discuss the just-released TFOS DEWS II™ Report on Dry Eye incidence, diagnosis, and treatment—with implications for vision health and research. The panel, moderated by **Paul Karpecki, OD, FAAO** (Director of Cornea Services, Kentucky Eye Institute, Lexington, Kentucky) includes:

- **Janine Austin-Clayton, MD**, (Associate Director for Research on Women's Health and Director, Office of Research on Women's Health, National Institutes of Health) **Invited**
- **Susan Vitale, PhD., MHS (**Research Epidemiologist, Clinical Trials Branch, National Eye Institute)
- **David Sullivan, MS, PhD, FARVO** (Senior Scientist, Schepens Eye Research Institute, Associate Professor, Department of Ophthalmology, Harvard Medical School, and TFOS Founder)

About the "Test Your Tears" Screening and Dry Eye Researcher Poster Session:
TearLab will conduct a "Test Your Tears" screening using its TearLab Osmolarity System, which measures the osmolarity of human tears to aid in the diagnosis of dry eye disease, in conjunction with other methods of clinical evaluation. Osmolarity is an important biomarker of ocular surface health.

In the Poster Session, researchers will address the following aspects of Dry Eye:

- **"Why Is the Tear Film Important?" Carolyn Begley, OD, MS, FAAO (**Professor, Indiana University School of Optometry)
- **"Why is Dry Eye Disease Painful?" Anat Galor, MD (**Staff Physician, Surgical Services, Miami VAMC and Associate Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute/University of Miami)
- **"Why is Dry Eye a Problem for Doctors?" Victor Perez, MD** (Professor of Ophthalmology, Microbiology, and Immunology, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute/University of Miami)
- **"Can the Use of Cosmetics Affect Dry Eye?" Laura Periman, MD** (Private Practice, Redmond Eye Clinic, Redmond, Washington)