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Prevent Blindness America Issues Call for Applications for 2012 Investigator Awards

Awards Designed to Support Sight-saving Research

CHICAGO (Jan. 9, 2012) – Prevent Blindness America, the nation’s oldest voluntary eye health and safety organization, is announcing the call for applications for its 2012 Investigator Awards. The Investigator Awards are research grants provided to public health projects that seek to put an end to unnecessary vision loss and blindness. Since its inception, the program has awarded more than \$1 million to eye and vision research projects.

The deadline for the ninth annual Prevent Blindness America Investigator Awards is March 30, 2012. Grants are for a one-year period, up to \$30,000 and reviewed by a panel of scientists in coordination with the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO). The Awards will commence on July 1, 2012.

Applications will be accepted in the following priority areas in adult vision, children’s vision, or eye injury:

- Burden/economic aspects of eye disease/vision loss on society
- Best practices to integrate vision screening/follow-up care to system care access
- Vision program effectiveness/evaluation

Recent Investigator Award recipients have included researchers from Children’s Hospital Boston, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, University of California, Los Angeles, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, and Washington University in St. Louis.

“Since 1908, part of our core mission has been to provide the necessary funds to those who are dedicated to protecting one of our most precious gifts—our sight,” said Hugh R. Parry, president and CEO of Prevent Blindness America. “By supporting talented researchers and qualified institutions, we hope that the 2012 Investigator Award program will help to eventually lead to important breakthroughs in the field of vision preservation.”

For more information on the 2012 Investigator Awards, please call (800) 331-2020 or visit preventblindness.org/investigator-awards.

About Prevent Blindness America

Founded in 1908, Prevent Blindness America is the nation's leading volunteer eye health and safety organization dedicated to fighting blindness and saving sight. Focused on promoting a continuum of vision care, Prevent Blindness America touches the lives of millions of people each year through public and professional education, advocacy, certified vision screening and training, community and patient service programs and research. These services are made possible through the generous support of the American public. Together with a network of affiliates, divisions and chapters, Prevent Blindness America is committed to eliminating preventable blindness in America. For more information, or to make a contribution to the sight-saving fund, call 1-800-331-2020. Or, visit us on the Web at preventblindness.org or facebook.com/preventblindness.

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