

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Prevent Blindness Declares Third Annual Inflammatory Eye Disease Awareness Week as Sept. 18 – 24**

***-- Prevent Blindness Offers Information on Inflammatory Eye Diseases, Including a New Video, Fact Sheets and Social Media Graphics, to Educate Public on Ways to Protect Vision and Prevent Unnecessary Vision Loss --***

**CHICAGO (Sept. 15, 2023)** – [Prevent Blindness](#), the nation's leading eye health and safety nonprofit organization, has declared Sept. 18 – 24, 2023, as the third annual Inflammatory Eye Disease (IED) Awareness Week. IEDs include a range of conditions associated with eye inflammation.

Different types of IED include [Uveitis](#), [Keratitis](#), [Conjunctivitis](#), [Rheumatoid Arthritis](#), and [Thyroid Eye Disease](#). In addition to free downloadable fact sheets and social media graphics in English and Spanish, Prevent Blindness hosts a [dedicated webpage](#) on IEDs, and a listing [financial assistance resources](#). IED Awareness Week is supported by a grant from [Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals](#).

Prevent Blindness is also debuting a new episode in the online Focus on Eye Health Expert Series, "[Uveitis and Inflammatory Eye Diseases](#)." Jeff Todd, president and CEO of Prevent Blindness, interviews Steven Yeh, MD, Professor and Stanley Truhlsen Jr. Chair of Ophthalmology, Truhlsen Eye Institute, University of Nebraska Medical Center. Dr. Yeh is also a volunteer on the Prevent Blindness Scientific Committee.

The uvea is a layer of the eye made up of three parts from the front to the back of the eye that helps provide nutrients to the eye. Uveitis is a term used to describe a group of inflammatory diseases or inflammation of the eye, which can be serious and lead to permanent vision loss. Uveitis causes about 30,000 new cases of blindness each year in the United States.

Signs and symptoms of uveitis include:

- Eye redness
- Eye pain
- Light sensitivity
- Blurred vision
- Dark, floating spots in your field of vision (floaters)
- Decreased vision

In addition to uveitis, there are many other types of IED. To help explain, Prevent Blindness offers the “[Inflammatory Eye Disease](#)” episode of the Focus on Eye Health Expert Series. This episode features [Ann-Marie Lobo-Chan, MD, MS](#), of the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, Co-Director, Uveitis Service, University of Illinois College of Medicine, Department of Ophthalmology, and patient Addison Schwaller, Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant at Logansport Memorial Hospital in Logansport, Ind.

“Although ‘Inflammatory Eye Disease’ may not be a term that most people are familiar with, it is a condition that can have severe impact on vision if left untreated,” said Todd. “We encourage people to educate themselves on the various types of IEDs and whether they are at risk for, or have developed them already, to help prevent unnecessary vision loss.”

For more information on inflammatory eye disease, please visit

<https://preventblindness.org/inflammatory-eye-disease>.

For a listing of vision care financial assistance programs in English or Spanish, visit

<https://preventblindness.org/vision-care-financial-assistance-information>.

### **About Prevent Blindness**

Founded in 1908, Prevent Blindness 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 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, Prevent Blindness is committed to eliminating preventable blindness in America. For more information, visit us at [PreventBlindness.org](https://PreventBlindness.org), and follow us on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#), [Threads](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).

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