

**Department of Ophthalmology**

11/21/2007

Re: Nystagmus Research Funding

Dear Patients, Families and Membership of American Nystagmus Network

It is with a little reluctance and a lot of hope that I write this short letter of introduction and purpose. As those of you who were at the bi-annual meeting of ANN here in Pittsburgh heard me say, we in the research community are in crisis now due to the decreasing and almost absent governmental support for biomedical research. Towards this end we now have to subsidize our research programs via alternative routes. Endowments and gifts may become the only way to support long term research, especially for less common diseases and conditions such as nystagmus in infancy and childhood. In combination with the Eye & Ear Foundation of Pittsburgh we have developed an ambitious program of giving that will ensure long-lasting research support and have a specific purpose – to help children with nystagmus and related disorders. It is not my habit or nature to reach out in this manner as we have always found traditional routes of support, but with our research program possibly in jeopardy in the near future I feel it is important to personally explore all resources.

If you have or know of an individual or a corporation who may be able to help us with our support goals, please let us know. In the end, this is for our patients and your children.

Sincerely,



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