ALLIANCE FOR EYE AND VISION RESEARCH (AEVR)

In conjunction with:
Research to Prevent Blindness
Prevent Blindness
Society for Women’s Health Research
Association for Research in Vision and
Ophthalmology (ARVO)

continues its series of educational briefings on exciting new developments in eye and vision research during the second annual Thyroid Eye Disease Awareness Week, November 14-20, 2021

Better Understanding Thyroid Eye Disease: Physician, Patient, and Caregiver Perspectives, with a Discussion on Women’s Vision Health

Wednesday, November 17, 2021
12:00 Noon – 1:15 pm Eastern

Featured Speakers:
Kimberly Cockerham, MD, FACS (Central Valley Eye Medical Group)
Ron and Vickie Barela (Patient Advocate and Caregiver)
Kathryn Godburn Schubert, MPP, CAE (Society for Women’s Health Research)
Kira Baldonado, MPH (Prevent Blindness)

Please R.S.V.P. to Dina Beaumont @ 202-407-8325 or dinabeau@aol.com
Event link: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dL1OkyNtSl-Sw4Ed_dzZoQ

AEVR, a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Educational Foundation, is pleased to host this widely attended global event during Thyroid Eye Disease Awareness Week 2021 with streaming support by ARVO and Novartis.
What is Thyroid Eye Disease, and What is its Patient Impact?

Thyroid Eye Disease (TED) is a serious, debilitating, and vision-threatening rare autoimmune disease where the immune system attacks muscles and other tissue behind and around the eyes. People living with TED frequently experience long-term functional, psychosocial, and economic burdens, including inability to work and perform activities of daily living that can result in depression and accelerated mortality. TED is often misunderstood and misdiagnosed due to the similarities of its symptoms to less-severe eye conditions, such as dry eye and allergies. While TED is most often seen in patients with Graves’ disease – affecting up to half of Graves’ patients – it is a distinct disease that requires separate treatment. A diagnosis of TED may even precede a finding of Graves’ and can serve as an early warning sign of impending thyroid dysfunction. TED is an ongoing condition with two phases and if left untreated may get worse over time.

- When patients first develop TED, it is in the “acute” phase, sometimes referred to as the “active” phase. During this time, inflammation and scarring begin and often appear suddenly, causing symptoms that include eye bulging and double vision. The acute phase generally lasts 6 months to 3 years.

- Over time, TED changes into the “chronic” – also known as the “inactive” – phase where scarring and damage continues. During this phase, some symptoms, like redness or swelling, may get better, but others, such as eye bulging, may not go away.

Because TED is progressive, early management and treatment is critical. The National Eye Institute (NEI) within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is funding TED research, as is private industry, to develop new therapies. Although past treatments have consisted of corticosteroids and ocular lubricants which only treat the symptoms, in 2020 the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first and only approved therapy for TED. As a result, physicians and TED patients may no longer have to wait for progression to inactivity and for inflammation to subside to perform complex surgical procedures that may be associated with additional complications.

The Briefing features physician and patient/caregiver perspectives on living with TED, as well as a dynamic discussion about the Society for Women’s Health Research’s initiatives on women’s eye health.

About the Speakers…

Kimberly Cockerham, MD, FACS, is in private practice in San Diego, California

Ron Barela is a patient advocate, and his wife Vickie is his caregiver

Kathryn Godburn Schubert, MPP, CAE is President and CEO of the Society for Women’s Health Research

Kira Baldonado, MPH is Vice President of Public Health and Policy at Prevent Blindness

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