



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Gwen Cohan, Director of Marketing & PR
(561) 736-5050 or gwen@fleyedocs.com

THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS LOSING THEIR VISION TO AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION IS ON THE RISE. ANNUAL EYE EXAMS ARE PARAMOUNT IN PROTECTING SIGHT, ACCORDING TO FLORIDA EYE MICROSURGICAL INSTITUTE.

February 1, 2014 - Boynton Beach, FL... In an effort to educate the public about the symptoms, risk factors and treatment options for older adults living with low vision or who may be candidates for vision loss, Prevent Blindness America (PBA) has once again designated February as Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) Awareness Month.

According to AMD.org, AMD is the leading cause of blindness in adults 65 and older, currently affecting more than 15 million Americans, with 200,000 new cases diagnosed each year. Unfortunately, this number has increased 25 percent over the last decade.

A reason for this increase, according to [Florida Eye's Macular Degeneration Specialist Dr. Randy Katz](#), is that too many adults put off getting annual eye exams. "The only way to stay on top of potential problems is to have regular yearly exams, and sometimes more often than that if a condition needs to be monitored closely. This is the only way for eye doctors to monitor for any changes in a patient's vision, which can truly mean the difference between preserving sight and perhaps even losing it."

[Dr. Barry Schechter, M.D., F.A.A.O.](#) is the Director of Cornea & Cataract Services, Glaucoma, External Disease & Comprehensive Ophthalmology at Florida Eye. He concurs with Dr. Katz and adds another reason for the increase in adults living with AMD: "As our population ages and lives longer, we will continue to see a rise in conditions such as AMD as well as cataracts and glaucoma, all ailments which necessitate preventive care."

Besides regular visits to the eye doctor, Dr. Schechter recommends no smoking, healthy eating and staying active. Additionally, protecting eyes from the sun with UV-blocking sunglasses and brimmed hats could also help prevent eye injuries that could lead to AMD and cataracts.

Download Florida Eye's [12 Risk Factors for Developing Macular Degeneration](#) for more information about AMD risk factors, symptoms, treatment and prevention and visit fleyedocs.com.

Florida Eye Microsurgical Institute offers a full range of total eye care, including routine examinations, pediatric eye care, dry eyes, advanced corneal, retinal and cataract procedures, laser treatments, glaucoma and diabetic procedures, and various other sophisticated treatments. With its own pediatric wing and fully accredited outpatient surgical center in Boynton Beach, the Institute has additional offices in Boca Raton, Wellington and Juno Beach. Also at Florida Eye with Dr. Katz and Dr. Schechter: Dr. Lee Friedman, Pediatric, ROP & Adult Strabismus Specialist and Dr. Jason Gorscak, Refractive Cataract Surgery, Glaucoma & Comprehensive Ophthalmologic Care.

*Florida Eye is a premier center for national clinical trial studies. For information on current or future studies contact [Debbie Rankin](#) or call (561) 736-5055. For the latest eye care news and info on the most current treatments and technologies, follow us on Twitter at [@fleyedocs.com](#), Facebook and sign up to receive our e-newsletter, **Florida Eye News and Views**.*

#