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**Contact:**

Amy Skimin  
Staff Journalist  
734-780-2605  
Fax: 734-780-2142  
[askimin@midwesteyebanks.org](mailto:askimin@midwesteyebanks.org)

## Midwest Eye-Banks awards \$155K in grant funding

ANN ARBOR, Mich. – Ten researchers will receive seed money grants for their research into the causes of and cures for blinding eye conditions, thanks to Midwest Eye-Banks' Eye and Vision Research Program.

The Eye and Vision Research Program was created in 1980 to address the types of blindness that cannot be treated through corneal transplantation.

“Our mission is the restoration of sight, no matter what the cause may be,” explains Charles Pivoney, Midwest Eye-Banks' Chief Operating Officer. “Traditionally, eye banks recover, evaluate and distribute eye tissue for transplantation, but we know that transplants can only be used to treat about 10 percent of blinding eye conditions. By funding research, we can fight blindness on all fronts.”

Of the ten research proposals approved for funding, two were from the University of Illinois at Chicago and eight were from institutions in Michigan, including the University of Michigan, Oakland University and Wayne State University. The proposed research will investigate such eye conditions as diabetic retinopathy, Stargardt Disease and other genetic disorders.

Midwest Eye-Banks is a charitable, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and restoration of sight. It recovers, evaluates and distributes human eye tissue for transplantation. It also supports research into the causes and cures of blinding eye conditions, promotes donation awareness through public and professional education, and provides humanitarian aid to people in need of corneal transplantation throughout the world. For more information, visit Midwest Eye-Banks online at [www.midwesteyebanks.org](http://www.midwesteyebanks.org) or call 800-247-7250.

