The Aniridia Foundation International and The University of British Columbia Department of Ophthalmology Presents The Ninth “Make a Miracle” Medical and Scientific Meeting August 12-15, 2015 Supported by the Sharon Stewart Testamentary Trust and Aniridia Foundation International

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW
The Aniridia Foundation International (AFI) “Make a Miracle” meetings are unique, dedicated medical and scientific meetings in which ophthalmologists are provided opportunities to increase knowledge and competence related to the most up-to-date diagnostic and therapeutic interventions for a syndrome called aniridia. This congenital genetic syndrome has many ophthalmic and systemic disorders causing loss of vision such as: difficult to treat childhood glaucoma, corneal keratopathy due to limbal stem cell deficiency (LSCD), childhood cataracts, and retinal problems. Although these conditions are commonly found individually in the general population, the syndrome is defined by these being found in one person. This essential information from fellow ophthalmologists with the latest information may lead to changes in their daily practice, and assist in the restoration / preservation of their patient’s vision. Included in this unique meeting are researchers studying the ophthalmic and systemic disorders of this serious genetic syndrome. Scientists will gain knowledge from discussions with the physicians, fellow scientists and promote translational research towards better treatments and eventually a cure. Special presentations from the experts will be open to those with aniridia syndrome and their families to help educate them so they may make informed decisions on their medical care. Adults, teens and children will have program events that are both educational and social which provide important peer support and networking with other families who live with this syndrome. At the conference “See the Experts” clinic is overseen by the volunteer physicians on the AFI Medical Advisor Board and provide hands on education to other ophthalmologists while those affected are seen in a clinic atmosphere.
AGENDA and EVENTS

Childcare and Teen programs (w/ tentative field trip)
Roundtable Discussions and panel discussions on the latest topics
The “Make a Miracle Dinner Gala” in memory of former AFI member Sharon Stewart
“See the Experts” Clinic and Data Collection

The definite times of presentations and locations will be available in the FINAL Program which attendees will receive at conference check in. Some presentations not to miss are:

Presentations open to all registered attendees:
“Impact of disease severity in genetic counseling for aniridia”
“Towards gene therapy for aniridia”
“Overview of clinical and research findings in aniridic keratopathy”
“New approaches in the diagnosis and treatment of LSCD” (Limbal Stem Cell Deficiency)
“Treatment options for aniridic keratopathy”
"Retinal update in congenital aniridia: tips, tricks, and new developments”
“The Congenital Eye Disorder Program: A special opportunity for aniridia syndrome”
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“Intraocular pressure monitoring and glaucoma update”
“Childhood ophthalmic issues associated with aniridia”
“Cataract: what is special in aniridia and what about surgery?”
“Recruitment into new treatment trials for aniridia”
“Advancing research for aniridia syndrome”
“Connections between aniridia and metabolism: What we learned from testing at the 2013 Aniridia Foundation International ‘Make a Miracle’ conference at UVa”
“Cutting edge changes in the brain and pituitary: What we learned from testing at the 2011 Aniridia Foundation International ‘Make a Miracle’ conference at UGA”
“Aniridia fibrosis syndrome, possible causes and prospects for prevention: Update on the AFS research grant from Aniridia Foundation International”

Additional Presentations open only to the professional meeting registered attendees:
“Anterior segment imaging in congenital aniridia”
“Intrafamilial variability in a large aniridia family without genetic diagnosis”
“Non-eye changes associated with Pax6-mediated aniridia”
“Regulation of Pax6 gene dosage by the microRNA, miR-7”
“Targeting miR-7 and miR-375 to upregulate Pax6 expression”
“Regulation of lens fiber cell differentiation by a Prox1/FGFR axis”
“Xenopus pax6 mutants affect eye development and other organ systems, and have phenotypic similarities to human aniridia patients”
“From gene augmentation therapy to in vivo genome editing therapy”
“RNA therapies for aniridia”

Professional’s Poster Session and Award Ceremony

INFORMATION

Learn more about AFI or to refer patients, visit our website www.make-a-miracle.org

For more information contact Jill Nerby at Aniridia Foundation International, University of Virginia, Department of Ophthalmology at 1-434-243-3357 or via e-mail at jan4s@virginia.edu

The Aniridia Foundation International invites you to our “Make-a-Miracle” Gala Dinner in honor of the late Sharon Stewart

Join us for our “Make a Miracle for Vision” dinner to socialize with your fellow attendees and learn about the late Sharon Stewart, a wonderful, successful woman born with Aniridia syndrome. She inspired so many of us and made a big impact in advancing our aniridia mission of research, education and caring about those who were born with aniridia syndrome. Professionals, meet the children and adults with aniridia syndrome who are so thankful for her compassion and for your help through your clinical care and research work. Keynote address, presentations and entertainment will accompany dinner. Dinner included in most registration fees (guests at additional charge and maybe ordered via the registration portal given in your meeting registration packet.)