We recently held the 2015 Pan-American Research Day on May 2 in Denver, one day before the ARVO meeting. Almost 200 young ophthalmologists and researchers attended from 24 countries came together to listen to 90 presentations in Research in Ophthalmology. This is a unique, vibrant meeting which features talents of the future leaders in Ophthalmology. We thank Allergan International whose generous support makes this vital meeting a reality.

The meeting featured two keynote speakers. J. Bronwyn Bateman, MD, Specialist in Genetics and Pediatric Ophthalmology and is a clinical professor of ophthalmology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. She spoke on “The Ophthalmologist in the Modern World of Genetics.” The second keynote speaker was Alfredo A. Sadun MD PhD, who is Professor and Thornton Endowed Chair at the Doheny Eye Institute and Vice-Chair of Ophthalmology at UCLA. He spoke on “How a Giant Brazilian Pedigree Helped Solve 3 Great Mysteries in LHON.”

Sponsored by industry leaders and private foundations, a total of seven awards were presented at the 2015 Pan-American Research Day.

**Arno Habicht Awards for Research Sciences, supported by the Allergan Foundation**
- Romina Mayra Lasagni Vitar MSc (Argentina): “Evaluation of redox status in human conjunctival epithelial cells exposed to diesel exhaust particles (DEP)”
- Ricardo Yuji Abe MD (Argentina): “Detecting Functional Loss in Glaucoma with the Performance Centered Portable Test (PERCEPT)”
- Jesús Cabral Macías MD (Mexico): “Novel TACSTD2 gene Nonsense Mutation in a Family with Gelatinous Drop-Like Corneal Dystrophy (GDLD)”

**David & Juliana Pyott Foundation Travel Award**
- Jeremías Gastón Galletti MD PhD (Argentina): “Corneal burn in one eye disrupts conjunctival immunological tolerance of the fellow eye”

**Allergan Latin America Research Incentive Awards in Cornea**
- Mauricio Guzman MD (Argentina): “Tear film hyperosmolarity breaks down the ocular surface’s immune tolerance: a role in initiating dry eye?”

**Allergan Latin America Research Incentive Awards in Retina**
- Natalia Alpízar Alvarez MD (Costa Rica): “Long-Term Visual and Anatomical Outcomes of Patients with CME Secondary to BRVO Following Intravitreal Bevacizumab: Real World Experience from a Developing Country.”

And now we are looking forward to our next meeting, the 31st Pan-American Congress of Ophthalmology in Bogota, Colombia, August 5-8, 2015. The scientific program is of the highest quality. We hope that you will also consider supporting Pan-Americanism and its assortment of educational programs with the Andrés Carne de Res will be the charity event planned for the Pan-American Foundation, on Friday, August 7, 2015, just outside of Bogotá. This exciting location promises excellent food and entertainment. We welcome your participation in this event! Please go to www.paao.org to buy tickets. You will be able to purchase tickets on-site at the Congress as well.

Our other fund raising event for the Pan-American Foundation is the raffle that will also take place at a Pan-American Congress. Proceeds from the raffle will directly support our educational programs that are not covered completely with restricted donations, such as expenses related to the eLearning and our Portal & Webinars, the Pan-American Research Day, the Lo Mejor de la AAO en Español meeting, publication expenses for Vision Pan-America: The Pan-American Journal of Ophthalmology, among other things. Please go to www.paao.org to buy raffle tickets and you will be able to purchase tickets on-site at the Congress as well.

See you soon in Bogotá!

Best regards,

William De La Peña, MD
Chairman of the PAOF Board, Pan-American Ophthalmological Foundation