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Combined Meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) and the Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO), Las Vegas, NV

(Stuart, Florida) – The AAO and APAO congratulate Ronald Frenkel, MD, FACS of Stuart, Florida for his numerous scientific contributions to the joint meeting that advance the eye care of millions of patients in the United States and around the globe.

Dr. Frenkel, who is in private practice in Stuart, Florida and a Voluntary Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, is one the international leaders at this year's meeting in terms of his innovations. He ranks with a small, elite group in that he has three original ophthalmic presentations that will be given to the international assembly of ophthalmologists. His clinical research efforts are being presented to the combined meeting in three areas.

First, he has identified a safer method of treating patients with the revolutionary class of drugs for wet macular degeneration, which are injected into the eye. These drugs (Macugen, Avastin, and Lucentis) help prevent new blood vessel growth under the retina which can lead to severe vision loss. His method helps to avoid side effects from the treatment so that patients have the best chance at getting a helpful response from the therapy.

Second, he has identified a new risk factor for the development of glaucoma-- poor blood circulation to the eye at night-time can lead to new glaucoma or worsen existing glaucoma. Dr. Frenkel discovered this by giving his patients a computerized blood pressure monitor that makes measurements while they are asleep. Risk factors in glaucoma are an important topic because they help to decide which patients need treatment. Dr. Frenkel also developed ways to help prevent and treat this problem.

Lastly, Dr. Frenkel has developed a miniature sensor that continuously monitors eye pressure. It is only 1/10 of an inch in diameter, yet can give constant readings of the pressure within the eye. This is important for patients with glaucoma, a disease in which elevated eye pressure can lead to blindness because typically only a few readings can be taken per year per patient. This device will give a much more accurate picture of eye pressure. "It's like seeing the whole movie, instead of trying to guess what it's about from viewing a few frames of the film," said Dr. Frenkel.

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