

Parent Petroleum Offers Hope to Those with Blindness

Ongoing support funds retinal degenerative disease research

Chicago, Ill. 10th December 2014

The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) department of ophthalmology and visual sciences welcomed Parent Petroleum to campus in October to recognize its longstanding support of vision research at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Chicago.

For the past 17 years, Parent Petroleum and the Chicago Alliance to Fund Retinal Research, has raised over \$1 million by hosting charitable events to benefit vision research. In August 2014, the Parent Petroleum Annual Golf Outing, along with annual lead event sponsor, British Petroleum, raised nearly \$100k to fund research into treatments and cures for retinal degenerative diseases at the department of ophthalmology and visual sciences.

“Parent’s unflagging commitment to research into the causes and treatments of blinding disease will accelerate discoveries that lead to the cures of tomorrow,” said Michael Grassi, MD, who leads the efforts in the laboratory which has been directly impacted by the contribution this year.

Grassi continued, “Through their generosity, Parent Petroleum, together with their sponsors, are helping to usher in a new era in the care of these patients. Parent has become a driving force for a better future for those who are confronted by blindness.”



The department welcomed individuals from Parent Petroleum to accept a plaque in recognition for their commitment to vision research at UIC. Those present were (from left to right) Peter Mancini, president

of Parent Petroleum; Ann Rasch, community organizer; UIC physician scientist Dr. Michael Grassi; and Joseph Aliperta, Parent Petroleum brands coordinator.

The UIC department of ophthalmology and visual sciences expresses its gratitude to Parent Petroleum - its leadership, supporters, sponsors and volunteers for their continued support of the transformational work happening at the UIC College of Medicine and for making a difference in the lives of patients living with retinal degenerative disease.

ILLINOIS EYE FAST FACTS

- 55,000 patients annually receive care at Illinois Eye
- 10 of Illinois Eye's physicians were named in *Chicago* magazine's 2014 annual Top Doctors List
- 7 of Illinois Eye's physicians were named National Top Docs and 3 were named Regional Top Docs in 2014 by *Castle Connolly*
- 500 applicants who compete for the 6 residency positions at Illinois Eye annually
- Hosts 3 endowed chairs and 7 endowed professorships in the department
- Pioneering work of Gholam A. Peyman, MD lead to the development of LASIK in the 1980s
- Illinois Medicine is home to groundbreaking pharmacological treatments, artificial corneal transplant program and developments in ocular plastics which continue to advance the field

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