

# **WELCOME**

Welcome to View Point, Fighting Blindness Canada’s new virtual education series that brings the latest in vision research directly to you at home. Over the next several weeks, join us in exploring cutting edge vision research, new treatments for blinding eye diseases, and more.

View Point will present a combination of live webinars and pre-recorded sessions, covering a range of topics including; gene therapy, pharmaceutical treatments, age-related vision loss, and inherited retinal disease. To keep up to date on upcoming session and view recordings of past webinars, please visit our virtual events web page.

If you would like to receive email updates about new webinars or to share future webinar topic ideas, please email mineson@fightingblindness.ca.

Thank you,



Doug Earle

CEO & President

Fighting Blindness Canada

# **VIEW POINT PROGRAM**

**Tracing Inherited Eye Disease Across Atlantic Canada: From Discovering Genes to Developing New Treatments | Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 2 p.m. ET**

Before we could even think about gene therapy, much important work had to be done to gain a solid understanding of genetics, mutations, and inherited retinal diseases. **Dr. Jane Green** has been working at the forefront of genetic research in Canada since the 1960s. In the 1970s, Dr. Green moved to Newfoundland where she played a critical role in mapping IRDs across the province. Dr. Green will speak about the historical perspective of medical genetics and gene therapy research.

There will be time for a question and answer period at the end of the webinar. You will be able to type your questions into the Zoom Webinar Q&A box or use the “raise your hand” feature to ask a question using your device microphone. Full instructions on how to do this will be shared during the webinar. Questions after the webinar can also be emailed to mineson@fightingblindness.ca

# **ABOUT THE SPEAKER**

**Dr. Jane Green, a Member of the Order of Canada**, is considered a pioneer in genetic research. In the 1970s, Dr. Green studied hereditary eye diseases by mapping their prevalence across all of Newfoundland – her work helped to unlock may of the secrets around the clinical basis of eye diseases and cancers, as well as how genetic diseases manifest in families and communities. She focused her work on Stargardt disease, Bardet-Biedl Syndrome, and Newfoundland Cone-Rod Dystrophy, all of which cause blindness. Because of what’s known as the “founders effect”, there’s a high prevalence of families in Newfoundland with these sorts of blinding eye diseases. Thanks to Dr. Green’s work, we know exactly which genes are involved in the development of these diseases. Dr. Green’s work is particularly exciting now because we’re starting to see new gene therapies enter the market – and her research was integral in making this happen!

# **GET INVOLVED**

Now, more than ever, we need your support! View Point is free of charge for all participants. If you would like to support this program and the important sight-saving research funded by Fighting Blindness Canada, please make a donation today!

Every year, people across Canada join the fight against blindness by participating in our signature fundraising events: Last Call, Cycle for Sight, Comic Vision, and Ride for Sight. Thousands of motorcyclists, comedy fans, and cyclists coast-to-coast fundraise for vision research, bringing us closer than ever to treatments and cures for blinding eye diseases. Find out how you can become a participant or ‘virtual rider’ and raise money for sight-saving research by calling 1.800.461.3331 ext. 231 or visiting our event websites:

[**lastcalltoronto.ca**](https://www.lastcalltoronto.ca/) | [**cycleforsight.ca**](https://secure.e2rm.com/registrant/EventHome.aspx?eventid=298788&langpref=en-CA&Referrer=direct%2fnone) | [**comicvision.ca**](https://www.comicvision.ca/) | [**rideforsight.com**](https://www.rideforsight.com/)

# **FBC HEALTH INFORMATION LINE**

**Fighting Blindness Canada is here to support you!**

This past year Fighting Blindness Canada launched a Health Information Line so our community could have someone to contact with their vision health related questions. If you have any questions regarding your eye health and how COVID-19 may be affecting it, please reach out to the line by phone **1-888-626-2995** or email **healthinfo@fightingblindness.ca****.**

# **HELP US ADVOCATE**

Fighting Blindness Canada wants to hear from you! By filling out our surveys you’re telling policy makers what it’s like to live with vision loss and why it’s so crucial that new treatments are made available and accessible to all Canadians. We currently have three anonymous and confidential surveys available. You can complete multiple surveys if you have more than one eye condition:

1. [Living with an inherited retinal disease (IRD)](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/viewIRDs)
2. [Living with age-related macular degeneration (AMD)](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VIEWAMD)
3. [Living with diabetic retinopathy (DR) or diabetic macular edema (DME)](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VIEWDME2)

Know someone living with these eye conditions? Share the survey links with them. The more feedback we collect, the greater the impact.

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