

# **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](https://www.fightingblindness.ca/get-involved/virtual-events/).

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**

**Stem Cells and Ocular Regenerative Medicine | Wednesday, May 27, 2020, 2 p.m. ET**

In this live webinar, Dr. Brian Ballios will speak about stem cells and their application for ocular regenerative medicine, including inherited retinal degenerations.  He will show how studying stem cell biology has expanded our understanding of eye development, and also allowed identification of new disease targets, models of human disease, and new therapies being testing in clinical trials.

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 can also be emailed to mineson@fightingblindness.ca before, during or after the webinar.

# **ABOUT THE SPEAKER**

 Dr. Brian Ballios is a Senior Research Associate in the Department of Ophthalmology and Vision Sciences at the University of Toronto. He is completing his residency in ophthalmology at the University of Toronto, and is the Clinical Fellow in Ocular Genetics at Harvard / Massachusetts Eye and Ear for 2020-2021. He is the inaugural recipient of the Clinician Scientist Emerging Leader Award from Fighting Blindness Canada. His work has also been funded by the BrightFocus Foundation and Retina Foundation of Canada. Dr. Ballios completed his PhD through the University of Toronto’s MD/PhD Program, where his work focused on developing new approaches to the transplantation of stem cells and their progeny for the treatment of retinal degeneration. As a physician and engineer, his ongoing research draws on his expertise in regenerative medicine and bioengineering to develop new therapies for inherited retinal degenerations.

# **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**](https://fightingblindness.donorportal.ca/Donation/Donation.aspx?F=1689&T=GENER&L=en-CA&G=307&NFP=1&_ga=2.219803929.1651576222.1590498661-475951419.1582852242)!

# **CYCLE FOR SIGHT**

Hundres of cyclists join us each year for our Canada-wide annual Cycle for Sight fundraising event. This year, Cycle for Sight has gone virtual on June 20, 2020! Participants can join us by cycling indoors, walking, running, doing yoga, and more. Registration is free and there are no fundraising minumums. Learn more at [**cycleforsight.ca**](https://secure.e2rm.com/registrant/EventHome.aspx?eventid=298788&langpref=en-CA&Referrer=direct%2fnone).

# **FBC HEALTH INFORMATION LINE**

This past year Fighting Blindness Canada launched a Health Information Line so our community could have someone to contact with their vision health questions. If you have questions regarding COVID-19 and your eye health, please call **1-888-626-2995** or email **healthinfo@fightingblindness.ca****.**

# **HELP US ADVOCATE**

We want 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. The following surveys are currently available:

1. [**Economic impact of inherited retinal distrophies (IRD Counts)**](https://deloitteau.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6PYjyH8T6mXw5AF?utm_source=ENEWS&utm_campaign=aeb1e94624-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_05_14_05_19&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c0ff4a6b06-aeb1e94624-232604537&mc_cid=aeb1e94624&mc_eid=565bc38a0f)
2. [**Living with an inherited retinal disease (IRD)**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/viewIRDs)
3. [**Living with age-related macular degeneration (AMD)**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VIEWAMD)
4. [**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.

# **THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS**

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