

HELEN KELLER FOUNDATION
FOR RESEARCH & EDUCATION

Saving sight, speech & hearing

For Immediate Release

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**INAUGURAL HELEN KELLER FOUNDATION/PFIZER OPHTHALMICS
AWARD RECIPIENT ANNOUNCED**

Dr. Xuyang Liu selected to receive inaugural award for research in glaucoma

Charleston, SC – March 03, 2006 – The Helen Keller Foundation announced today that Dr. Xuyang Liu is the recipient of the inaugural Helen Keller Foundation/Pfizer Ophthalmics Research Award for his work in the field of glaucoma. The award recognizes excellence in research and fundamental scientific discoveries.

“We work through partnerships with organizations interested in saving sight. Pfizer Ophthalmics is renowned for its recent sight saving research contributions, and the company is a worthy partner for Helen Keller’s legacy,” stated Dr. Robert Morris, President of the Helen Keller Foundation for Research and Education.

“The Helen Keller Foundation is pleased to team up with Pfizer Ophthalmics to provide this valuable award to a leader in the eye research field,” said Laura Beckwith, Executive Director of the Helen Keller Foundation for Research and Education. “The selection committee was impressed by Dr. Liu’s commitment to research in glaucoma.”

Xuyang Liu, M.D., Ph.D., a scientist in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Wisconsin, proposed a project titled, “Modulation of Aqueous Outflow by Gene Therapy Targeting Actin.” The award in the amount of \$40,000 will go towards helping Dr. Liu complete his research.

“Pfizer Ophthalmics is proud to partner with the Helen Keller Foundation to further excellence in research in glaucoma,” said Michael Widlitz, Vice President, US Medical, Pfizer Inc. “Dr. Liu’s research in glaucoma spans numerous sub-specialties including gene therapy, and we are happy to support his efforts.”

The selection committee reviewed 29 applications for the inaugural award in the field of glaucoma. The award will be presented at a luncheon coinciding with the American Glaucoma Society meeting on Friday, March 3, 2006, 1:15-2:30 p.m., Charleston Place, Charleston, South Carolina.

The Helen Keller Foundation/Pfizer Ophthalmics Research Awards will be presented to a researcher in the fields of glaucoma and macular degeneration. Two separate research awards in the amount of \$40,000 will be presented.

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