



**Clinical Study Headed by Dr. Mitchell Scheiman of Salus University
Awarded Grant Funding from the National Eye Institute of the National
Institutes of Health**

Elkins Park, PA (June 6, 2014) – The National Eye Institute (NEI) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded an \$8 million grant to the Convergence Insufficiency Treatment Trial (CITT) Investigator Group. The grant will be used to fund a five-year randomized clinical trial designed to determine if the successful treatment of convergence insufficiency leads to improvements in attention and reading skills in children 9 to 14 years old.

The Study Chair is Mitchell Scheiman, OD, interim dean of Research at Salus University and a nationally recognized expert in the field of convergence insufficiency. Data for the study is being coordinated at The Ohio State University by principal investigator Lynn Mitchell, MAS. NEI representation is being provided by Dr. Maryann Redford. There are eight clinical sites participating in the trial, including The Eye Institute of Salus University, whose lead investigator is Michael Gallaway, OD. Other sites/lead investigators include:

- State University of New York, Jeffery Cooper, OD, MS
- Southern CA College of Optometry at Ketchum University, Susan Cotter, OD,MS,
- NOVA College of Optometry, Rachel Coulter, OD
- Children's Hospital Medical Center of Akron, Richard Hertle, MD
- University of Alabama, Birmingham, Wendy Marsh-Tootle, OD,MS
- Ohio State University, Marjean Taylor Kulp, OD,MS
- Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Susanna Tamkins, OD,

Convergence Insufficiency (CI) is a binocular vision disorder impacting 5-10 percent of school-aged children. Symptoms include visual discomfort as well as negative effect on reading performance such as slow reading and loss of concentration. In previous studies performed by the CITT group it was demonstrated that office-based treatment therapy exhibited the greatest success.

According to Dr. Scheiman, “We would like to thank NEI for this generous grant funding. This is a critical phase of this important trial as it will aid us in our understanding of the correlation between symptomatic CI treatment and how it impacts a child’s attention and reading performance.”

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