

Medical Research: It's About Paul

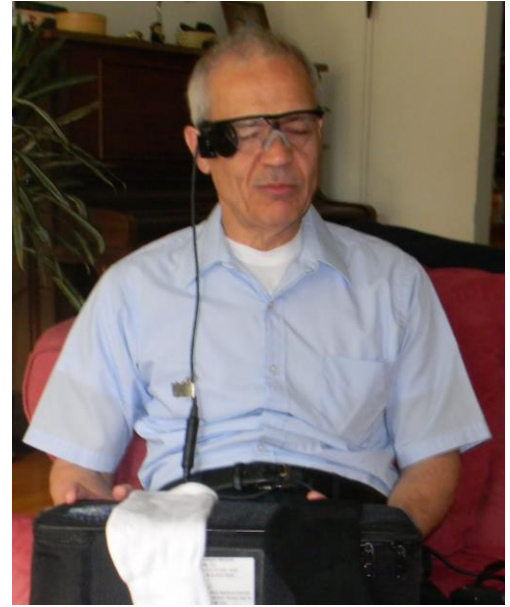


" The capabilities are enormous, a little bit of research can pay off quite a bit in the long run"

When he was 27, Paul D'Addario was diagnosed with Retinitis pigmentosa (RP), a disease that causes steady decline in peripheral vision and eventually complete blindness. Now at age 59, Paul has been totally blind for 10 years.

Although he continued to work as his eyesight steadily deteriorated throughout his life, the effects of his condition eventually forced his early retirement from his career as a database manager. His condition became severe enough that he could no longer effectively accommodate his vision loss in order to perform the duties of his job.

In the 1980s, as his vision loss progressed, Paul began looking into ways to participate in clinical research. In 2007, he had an experimental chip implanted into his eye in the hopes of restoring some of his sight. This device, developed by universities and an industry partner, was made possible by funding from the Department of Energy's National Laboratories and its Artificial Retina Program and the National Eye Institute. It has improved vision in some RP patients. For Paul, the device has enabled him to see contrast, which has greatly increased his independence including allowing him to safely cross streets and even sort black and white socks. Paul continues to be active in the research advocacy community, working with the Foundation Fighting Blindness, Inc. He has met with elected officials to advocate for increased funding for vision and blindness research.



20.6 million adult Americans live with significant visual impairment.*
Clinical trials have led to several new treatments, including eye implants like Paul's, to halt and even reverse vision loss.
We've made progress. But the funding to sustain it is eroding.
Congress: harness your compassion, gather your will, and fund the National Institutes of Health at \$32 billion in FY15.
Do it for Paul

MYOPIA OPTIC NEURITIS NYSTAGMUS COLOR BLINDNESS DIABETIC RETINOPATHY ASTIGMATISM COLOR BLINDNESS MYOPIA
CATARACTS STARGARDTS DISEASE MACULAR DYSTROPHY
GLAUCOMA DE MORSIERS SYNDROME HYPEROPIA MACULAR DYSTROPHY KERATOCONUS CORTICAL VISUAL IMPAIRMENT CATARACTS
RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA NYSTAGMUS HYPEROPIA GLAUCOMA MACULAR DYSTROPHY ACANTHAMOEBA KERATITIS
MACULAR DEGENERATION HYPEROPIA DE MORSIERS SYNDROME BESTS DISEASE OPTIC NEURITIS FUCHS CORNEAL DYSTROPHY
KERATOCONUS MACULAR DEGENERATION ASTIGMATISM BESTS DISEASE MACULAR HOLE
CHOROIDEREMIA COLOBOMA EYE OCCLUSIONS CORNEAL ABRASION MACULAR DEGENERATION CORNEAL ABRASION DIABETIC RETINOPATHY
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EYE OCCLUSIONS BESTS DISEASE FUCHS CORNEAL DYSTROPHY CHOROIDEREMIA RETINOBLASTOMA
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*American Foundation for the Blind (www.afb.org)