

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Florida Eye Doctor Helps Legally Blind To See Again

Specialist in Low Vision Care helps those with Macular Degeneration to keep reading and driving

By Lois Neinken
Freelance writer



PATIENT NORMA GOLDSTEIN DEMONSTRATING MINIATURE TELESCOPES FOR DRIVING, WATCHING TV, AND THEATER, ETC.

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida—Just because you have macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, or other eye diseases doesn't mean you must give up driving or participating in the activities that make your life full.

Ever look through a pair of binoculars? Things look bigger, closer, and easier to see. Florida Optometrist, Dr. Marc Jay Gannon, is using miniaturized binoculars and telescopes to help people who have lost vision from macular degeneration and many other eye conditions.

"Some of my patients consider me the last stop for people who have vision loss," said Dr. Gannon, a low vision specialist with offices in Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, Boca Raton, West Palm Beach, and Stuart.

People don't know that there are doctors who are very experienced and well-versed in low vision care." Dr. Gannon is a panel member of the Florida Division of Blind Services, and the

founder and director of the Low Vision Institute and the American Foundation for Visual Rehabilitation.

Macular Degeneration is the most common eye disease amongst the senior population. As many as 25% of those over 65 have some degree of degeneration. The macula is a very small part of the retina, but is the center of the retina in the back of the eye. It is the most sensitive part of the retina and is responsible for giving us the ability to see sharply and clearly. When it degenerates, it leaves a blind spot right in the center of vision, making it impossible to recognize faces, read a book, or pass the driver's vision test.

The experts do not know what causes macular degeneration, but it is known that UV light from the sun is

a major contributing factor. Other factors are smoking, aging of course, poor nutrition, and genetics.

There are two types of macular degeneration, wet and dry. The wet type involves leaky blood vessels and can be lasered shut. There are other newer modalities of treatment as well. Unfortunately, most are only temporary since additional leaks usually occur.

"Our job is to figure out everything and anything possible to keep a person functioning," says Dr. Gannon.

Even if it's driving, or reading. Donald Papuette, 72, a former county assessor from Anaheim, California, said, "I could not read the street signs soon enough when driving and I couldn't read my saxophone music anymore."

The doctor fit him with bioptic telescope glasses. "Amazing," says Donald. "I can read the street sign twice as far as I did before. I can play my sax again. Happy Day!"

Dr. Gannon also provides special microscopic reading glasses to make the newspaper print much easier to read.

Dorothy Weston, 80, from Broward County, Florida was unable to perform her job as a bookkeeper before visiting Dr. Gannon. She received a pair of special tele-microscopic glasses for reading her spreadsheets and

viewing the computer. "I am thrilled to be able to keep working," said Dorothy.

"A while back I worked with a world class tournament bridge player who could no longer see the cards in her hand or the cards on the table," said Dr. Gannon. "I designed a special split tele-microscopic system for her to function like a bifocal. The top part allowed her to see the cards on the table and the bottom was for those in her hand."

Telescopic glasses usually cost over \$2,000," says Dr. Gannon, "especially if we build them with an automatic sunglass lens system."

Ellen Imboden traveled from Sweden and was helped with two pairs of glasses: special \$475 prismatic glasses that let her read newsprint, as well as bioptic telescopic glasses for her to continue driving in Sweden.

Low vision devices are not always expensive. Some reading glasses cost as little as \$475 and some magnifiers, \$100. Every case is different because people have different levels of vision and different desires.

Dr. Gannon can be reached at 1-866-942-2020. Or visit Dr. Gannon on the Internet at www.lowvisioninstitute.com. He is available to speak to interested support groups without any fees.

Hair apparent: Your average cat usually has twelve whiskers on each side of its face. (From: Random Kinds of Factness)

Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage 2006

Every person who already has Medicare will have some choices to make about the prescription drug coverage Medicare will offer January 1, 2006. Private companies will offer plans that will include different drugs, co-payments, and other benefits. The specifics of these plans will not be announced until October, so some of the many questions people with Medicare are asking can't be answered until then.

This fall, all people on Medicare will receive information about Medicare prescription drug coverage, sometimes called Medicare Part D. They'll be asked to enroll in one plan from among several different prescription drug plans so that they have the coverage that suits their needs the best.

People on Medicare can join a Medicare pre-

scription drug plan between November 15, 2005 and May 15, 2006. People that become eligible for Medicare after May 15, 2006 will have a seven month "window" to enroll (3 months before, the month of, and 3 months after the month they become eligible).

Because there are added out-of-pocket costs with the new Medicare prescription program, Medicare, via the Social Security Administration, has already sent letters to people who might be eligible for financial assistance to help pay for the plan's costs. This assistance is called "Extra Help." People who did not get the Extra Help application can apply at www.ssa.gov on the Internet or contact the Social Security Administration to request an application.

For more information about the Medicare prescription drug coverage, call your local senior center or the Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP).

A summary of the Medicare drug coverage program is shown below.

(Excerpt: MedicareDrugs11.htm)
Mr. Catania has a Bachelor's degree majoring in finance from the University of South Florida. He has worked with the senior population in Florida for more than sixteen years. Call him for more information on long-term care, Medicare supplements, life insurance and annuities. Call Peter Catania at 800-566-0662 to develop a plan that's right for you.



Peter Catania



Affordable Long-Term Care insurance to fit YOUR needs...

Long-Term Care insurance used to be "one size fits all" and most benefits covered only nursing home care. Today, Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company lets you choose the type of services you wish to receive. Because long-term care services are expensive, each of our three new policies can help you keep your financial plans intact and remain independent.

Home Health Care Policy- Benefits include home health care, homemaker/companion services, adult day care services, caregiver training and outpatient hospice services.

Long-Term Care Policy- Benefits include assisted living facilities and an optional Home Health Care rider because most people prefer the comfort and dignity of their own home.

Long-Term Care Policy for Married Couples- Benefits include care in an assisted living facility, personal care facility, residential care facility, Alzheimer's center or adult day care center, survivorship benefit, adjustment period benefit, spousal waiver, and an optional Home Health Care rider.

Each policy is affordable, easy to apply for and is available with a variety of features and options.

Who needs Long-Term Care Insurance?

Nursing home costs average \$38,000 a year and costs are expected to triple in the next 20 years, and 43% of people over 65 will spend time in a nursing home at some point.¹

These policies have exclusions and limitations. For costs and complete details of coverage, call or write us.

Call us today for no-obligation information about affordable Long-Term Care insurance that lets you choose the care you want!

¹Source (1) Dow Jones & Company, Inc., Feb. 2000.

Long-Term Care insurance underwritten by Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company, Mutual of Omaha Plaza, Omaha, NE 68175-0001

Your costs in 2006...

If your annual drug costs are between...	You pay...	Up to a maximum of...	Your total costs are shown below, not including the annual premium...
\$0-250	100%	\$250	\$250
\$251-\$2,250	25%	\$500	\$750
\$2,251-\$5,100	100%	\$2,850	maximum of \$3,600
Over \$5,100	5%	No limit	\$2 for generic, \$5 for brand name drugs, or 5 percent of the cost, whichever is greater.



Call Peter Catania at 1-800-566-0662

