



DATE: December 21, 2011

TO: Chairs, Departments of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences and Health Services Research; Directors of Research and Administrators at Colleges, Universities and Hospitals

FROM: Kevin W. Ross, President and Chief Executive Officer 

RE: **Midwest Eye-Banks Vision Research Program**

Midwest Eye-Banks is pleased to invite research proposals for its 2012-2013 Vision Research Program. The purpose of the Program is to provide financial support for nascent scientific investigations that serves as seed funding for meritorious projects, with special emphasis on projects likely to develop into larger studies that could attract substantial funding from other public and/or private sources. To further its own mission and objectives, the Vision Research Program aims to support research related to corneal surgery, corneal disease, and eye banking practice as its highest priority. However, this would not rule out funding for other scientific research related to eye disease and blindness.

The Vision Research Program is intended for faculty only. We are interested in receiving proposals from young faculty and investigators who are establishing their research careers, and also from established faculty who are pursuing new areas of inquiry. Funding levels are normally limited to \$15,000 per grant, and a maximum of \$25,000 for exceptional projects that receive very high ranking by the Research Review Committee. The number of grants to be awarded in 2012-2013 is subject to availability of discretionary funds.

Grant Applications must be received by the close of business on Friday, March 2, 2012. Information on the submission of proposals and the requisite forms are available on our website www.midwesteyebanks.org/communities/researchers/researchers.htm. Interested researchers are asked to download these forms from the Web site, complete them electronically and send them via E-mail to the research grant mailbox, grants@midwesteyebanks.org. This is the preferred method of submission.

For your information, the members of the **Midwest Eye-Banks Research Review Committee** are listed on the Midwest Eye-Banks Web site. If there are any questions about the application process for the Midwest Eye-Banks Eye and Vision Research Program, visit www.midwesteyebanks.org or call (800) 247-7250.

Please circulate this information broadly so that interested members of your faculty will be advised of the opportunity to submit proposals with sufficient notice.

