

# MEMBER RESOURCE GUIDE



**VISION HEALTH**  
ADVOCACY COALITION

# About the Vision Health Advocacy Coalition

The Vision Health Advocacy Coalition, or VHAC, an initiative of the Alliance for Patient Access, unites organizations committed to improving vision health in the United States. Members include patient groups, medical societies and advocacy organizations that represent people with vision conditions and related diseases.

Millions of Americans live with vision conditions that can significantly affect daily functioning, independence and overall quality of life. While symptoms and disease progression vary, patients often face common challenges, including delayed diagnosis, uneven access to specialists and coverage barriers that limit timely treatment. VHAC brings together diverse voices across the vision health community to address these shared challenges through coordinated education and policy engagement.

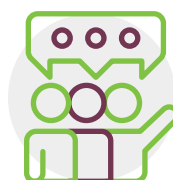
This guide highlights the priorities, programs and tools of VHAC's member organizations, reflecting a collective commitment to patient-centered vision care and policies that recognize individual needs.

VHAC members share a common goal: to strengthen awareness of vision health needs, expand patient access to treatment and support continued innovation that improves outcomes for people living with vision conditions.

VHAC advances this work by:



Convening patient and provider organizations to align on shared access challenges in vision care.



Elevating patient and clinician perspectives in policy discussions related to coverage and care delivery.



Translating real-world patient experiences into actionable policy priorities.





# Alliance for Vision Research

Alliance for Vision Research advocates for federally funded vision research and educates policymakers and the public about the value of this research. The organization unites stakeholders to keep vision science a national priority.

## PRIORITIES:

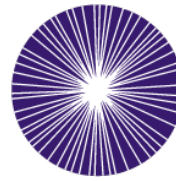
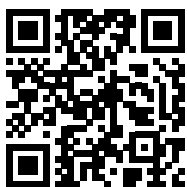
- Advocacy for robust federal funding of vision research
- Public education and policy awareness
- Strategic convening of the vision research community

## RESOURCES:

 [#SeeWhatMatters Campaign](#)

 [State Vision Fact Sheets 2026](#)

 [Emerging Vision Scientist Program](#)



# AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY®

The American Academy of Ophthalmology is the world's largest association of eye physicians and surgeons. A global community of 32,000 medical doctors, it protects sight and empowers lives by setting the standards for ophthalmic education and advocating for patients and the public. The Academy supports research to advance the profession and ensure the delivery of high-quality eye care.

## PRIORITIES:

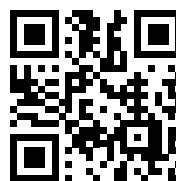
- Enact long-term Medicare physician payment reform
- Educate lawmakers on cutting-edge eye care treatments discovered through NEI research
- Pass the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act to reduce prior authorization burdens

## RESOURCES:

 [EyeCare America](#)

 [Eye Smart](#)

 [What is an Ophthalmologist](#)





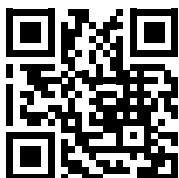
The American Macular Degeneration Foundation, or AMDF, is dedicated to improving quality of life for those affected by age-related macular degeneration, or AMD. It funds research to advance cures, treatments and strategies to prevent vision loss. AMDF also empowers patients and caregivers with tools and information through patient-focused advocacy work. AMDF also welcomes collaboration with mission-aligned organizations.

#### **PRIORITIES:**

- Grants for research
- Education, Awareness and Advocacy
- Opportunities for patient engagement, including webinars and surveys

#### **RESOURCES:**

- ▶ [Patient Stories and Perspectives](#)
- ✍ [AMDF Newsletter](#)
- ▶ [Low Vision Aids and Modifications](#)



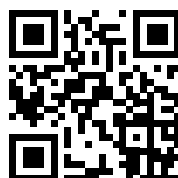
The Autoimmune Association is the world's leading nonprofit dedicated to autoimmune awareness, advocacy, education and research.

#### **PRIORITIES:**

- Community
- Patient resources
- Advocacy opportunities

#### **RESOURCES:**

- 📅 [Autoimmune Community Summit](#)
- 📖 [Resource Center](#)
- 📖 [Autoimmune Legislative Advocacy Center](#)





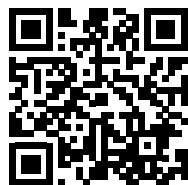
The Dry Eye Foundation is a nonprofit organization based in Poulsbo, Washington, dedicated to improving patients' quality of life. It works to restore hope, redefine disease and reshape the future for people living with ocular surface diseases and pain disorders through education, research and advocacy.

### PRIORITIES:

- Community support programs, including helplines and peer support
- Patient education through websites, publications and events
- Eye drop safety, including a searchable FDA-linked database of recalled and unsafe products

### RESOURCES:

-  [Dry Eye Zone Patient Guidebook](#)
-  [My Big Fat Scleral Lens \(Patient and Provider Resources\)](#)
-  [Dry Eye in DC: Annual Patient Advocacy Day](#)



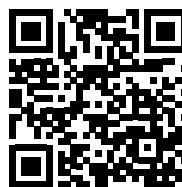
The Endocrine Nurses Society, or ENS, promotes clinical excellence in endocrine nursing worldwide. It facilitates communication among members, supports interdisciplinary collaboration and provides a forum for sharing evidence-based practice and research.

### PRIORITIES:

- Annual Educational Symposium
- Regional Symposia
- Support for research and quality improvement projects through grants

### RESOURCES:

-  [Grants and Awards Process](#)
-  [Position Statements](#)



# FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS

Foundation Fighting Blindness provides vision-related, educational and mental health resources for patients with thyroid eye disease and a wide range of ocular diseases. Founded in 1971, the Foundation has 45 volunteer-led chapters across the United States.

## PRIORITIES:

- Mental Health Resource Center
- VisionWalk Events
- United in Vision Conference

## RESOURCES:



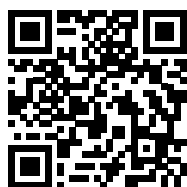
[Mental Health Resource Center](#)



[VisionWalk](#)



[United in Vision Conference](#)



Future Leaders in Sight, or FLIS, unifies the advocacy efforts of ophthalmology-interested medical students across the country. It fosters leadership development early in medical careers to enrich education and promote lasting commitment to advocacy, with the goal of advancing high standards of medical and surgical care.

## PRIORITIES:

- Increase medical student understanding of legislation affecting ophthalmology
- Enrich student learning through advocacy-focused educational opportunities
- Engage students in supporting legislation to safeguard patient care

## RESOURCES:



[Website](#)





The Infusion Access Foundation is a nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated to protecting access to physician-administered treatments such as infusions and injections. It supports patients with chronic, rare and life-threatening conditions by addressing harmful delays and denials of care caused by insurance processes.

#### **PRIORITIES:**

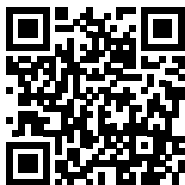
- Advocate for timely, quality care at the state and federal levels
- Develop materials to help patients navigate the health care system
- Convene patients to build community and a nationwide advocate network

#### **RESOURCES:**

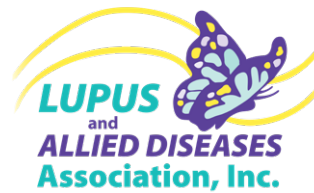
 [Education Hub](#)

 [Advocacy Blog Posts](#)

 [Infusion Center Locator](#)



*Amplifying the Patient Voice*



The Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc., or LADA, is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to improving quality of life for those affected by lupus and allied diseases and other conditions of unmet need. LADA fosters collaboration among stakeholders, promoting unity in the community and wielding the patient voice as a catalyst to advance innovative advocacy, education, awareness and research initiatives.

#### **PRIORITIES:**

- Provide patient and care partner insights for advocacy, research and policy initiatives
- Support access to care and treatment initiatives
- Support lupus research to improve diagnostics, expand treatment options and discover a cure

#### **RESOURCES:**

 [Health Technology Assessment Resources](#)

 [Programs](#)

 [Clinical Trial Participation](#)





The Macular Degeneration Association, or MDA, is a patient advocacy organization and is designated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. MDA provides both in-person and virtual educational programs nationally. The MDA offers grants for research projects to find a cure for macular degeneration.

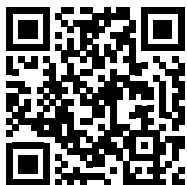
#### **PRIORITIES:**

- Patient education
- Educational Videos
- Quarterly Newsletters

#### **RESOURCES:**

 [Prevent Blindness](#)

 [Owl Radio](#)



THE OCULAR IMMUNOLOGY  
AND UVEITIS FOUNDATION

*Dedicated to Eye Disease Cure and Education*

The Ocular Immunology and Uveitis Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing research, education and support for ocular inflammatory diseases. Through fellowship training programs, patient and physician education and collaborative research initiatives, the foundation works to address the global shortage of trained ocular immunologists and improve the diagnosis and treatment of these conditions. The organization also provides free resources and support communities for patients and caregivers.

#### **PRIORITIES:**

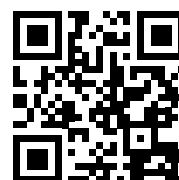
- Find cures for ocular inflammatory diseases
- Correct the worldwide deficit of properly trained ocular immunologists
- Provide education and emotional support for those patients afflicted with ocular inflammatory diseases

#### **RESOURCES:**

 [Monthly Virtual Support Groups](#)

 [List of Ocular Inflammatory Disease Specialists](#)

 [Online Guide to Ocular Inflammatory Disease](#)





Prevent Blindness is a national nonprofit dedicated to preventing blindness and preserving sight. Founded in 1908, it promotes a continuum of vision care through education, advocacy, screenings, research and community engagement.

#### **PRIORITIES:**

- Promote early detection and access to care through screenings and partnerships
- Empower communities through education and engagement programs
- Advance vision as a public health priority through policy and research initiatives

#### **RESOURCES:**

- ▶ [The Prevent Blindness Eye Health and Safety Video Library](#)
- 📖 [The Prevent Blindness Children's Vision Screening Certification Course](#)
- 📖 [The Early Detection of Vision Impairment for Children Act](#)



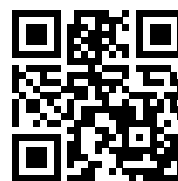
The Sjögren's Foundation is a patient advocacy organization serving as the voice for all Sjögren's patients. It provides education, resources, services and credible information for patients and health care professionals, while also funding innovative research.

#### **PRIORITIES:**

- Protect NIH research funding
- Grow research funding for Sjögren's and autoimmune diseases
- Improve access to treatments and therapies

#### **RESOURCES:**

- 📖 [Get Involved | Sjögren's Foundation](#)
- 📖 [Advocacy | Sjögren's Foundation](#)





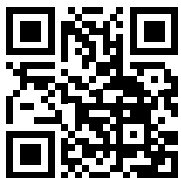
TED Community Organization is the first and only global 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated solely to thyroid eye disease, or TED. Founded by patients, we provide trusted information, compassionate support and meaningful programs — ensuring no one faces the isolating journey of TED alone while empowering patients to take an active role in healing.

#### **PRIORITIES:**

- Education: CONNECTED Videos
- Support: TED Support Groups
- Connection: TED ART & Creative Studio

#### **RESOURCES:**

-  [The TED Community Organization Statement 2026](#)
-  [CONNECTED Conference](#)
-  [TED Art & Creative Studio Program](#)
-  [Jesse's Personal Story with Thyroid Eye Disease \(TED\)](#)



VisionServe Alliance is a consortium of more than 130 organizations serving people of all ages with blindness and low vision. It advances leadership, strengthens organizational health and expands awareness of specialized services that transform lives.

#### **PRIORITIES:**

- Improve organizational health and sustainability
- Enhance industry insight and collaboration through conferences and research
- Expand awareness and access to vision rehabilitation and services

#### **RESOURCES:**

-  [Big Data Project Reports](#)
-  [Leadership Consulting](#)
-  [Become a Member](#)

