

Apeliotus Vision Science receives grant from Ben Franklin Technology Partners



While Dr Greg Jackson spends most of his time performing clinical research as part of the Penn State Hershey Eye Center, he is also Chief Scientific Officer of a start-up company called Apeliotus Vision Science. Along with John Edwards, CEO, Jackson is developing a new instrument to detect early vision loss in age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

Imagine you are staring at the mini-blinds in your living room, when suddenly the blinds appear wavy and tilted. Some rows disappear all together. When you open the blinds and bright light hits your face, you are blinded for what seems like far too long. This is how many patients discover age-related macular degeneration. In the U.S., 1 in 6 people over the age of 65 have AMD, which can result in blurred vision leading in some cases to almost complete vision loss. While there are several new treatments for the disease, there is currently no low-cost method for detecting the early stages of AMD. Apeliotus Vision Science aims to provide a simple, cost-effective tool for early diagnosis of AMD, before patients have suffered significant visual impairment.

Apeliotus is currently developing a new diagnostic technology, called ADAPTDx. This new device uses a test of night vision to detect early changes in vision due to AMD. In September the company received \$200,000 from the Ben Franklin Technology Partners to help test ADAPTDx for FDA approval. With the addition of the Ben Franklin grant, Apeliotus begins the long process of applying for FDA approval, submitting data and prototyping their commercialized product. The device--a large box akin to a viewfinder--has been tested and developed for distribution. Once it receives FDA approval the company will be ready to go into production to help early diagnosis for thousands of AMD patients.

(Adapted from KeystoneEdge.com)
