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Abstract Title:

The AGS Patient Care Improvement Project

Purpose:

To discover useful and novel techniques to improve patient adherence to recommended care, and to disseminate the best ideas to the eye care community.

Design:

Prospective solicitation of ideas from ophthalmologists, ophthalmic assistants, and patients through an online questionnaire.

Participants:

Physicians, office support personnel, and patients

Main Outcome Measures:

Number and quality of ideas submitted. A blue ribbon judging committee will identify the ten best ideas from each category of participant, awarding cash prizes and recognition at the AAO Annual Meeting.

Methods:

The American Glaucoma Society (AGS) developed guidelines for receipt of unrestricted grant support from industry to enable the society to advance its mission. An unrestricted grant from Pfizer was solicited. The quality of care subcommittee of the AGS was put in charge of the project, and divided activity into solicitation of ideas, organization of responses, judging of ideas, and dissemination of results. Solicitation took place from February through May 2006 using email, FAX, EyeNet magazine, newsletters of organizations, journal advertisements, and website notices. Our research team at

Vanderbilt University constructed the response website, pilot tested the questionnaire, and organized the responses according to type of barrier.

Results:

Early results from the project will be presented. Since the solicitation phase concludes May 31, 2006, no results are available at the time of the abstract deadline.

Conclusion:

Research can be conducted by national societies with unrestricted grant support.