**Patient Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR) Low Vision FOCUS Group**

www.**pcori**.org

**When: TBD**

**Where: TBD**

**What are we asking you to do:** Participate in a focus group of about 10 persons with blindness or low vision. The focus group will be led by a professional facilitator. The discussion will be guided by a series of questions. The discussion will last about 60 minutes*. Supper or snacks will be served and participants will receive a $25 gift card for their time.*

**Why participate:** Traditionally, researchers ask patients to participate in their projects as human subjects but neither engage patients in designing the study nor ask patients to help identify the most important research questions. Minority and other groups disadvantaged by mobility, hearing, and vision problems in particular, have been left out of the research process. Our research aims to change this one-way relationship and determine how best to engage patients who have been traditionally hard to reach for participation in the research process.

Our goal is to develop methods that can be used to create a relationship between researchers and patients based upon trust and respect in order to generate relevant, patient-centered study goals and encourage mutually-beneficial patient engagement in research.

 As a person with blindness or low vision, you have important perspectives and insights that will greatly contribute to this project.

We will be asking your thoughts about ways to increase the engagement of patients, such as yourself, in the research process so that diverse perspectives on what is important are included. As part of this project, our research team will also be conducting about 15 addditional focus groups with other relevant stakeholder groups including: persons with disabilities, their caregivers, doctors, nurses, and community groups.

**Who are we:** We are a multi-disciplinary research team from University of Maryland – Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and Westat, a highly regarded, independent research organization.

**This is an opportunity for you to bring your voice to patient-centered research!**

**Questions?**

**Call Beth Barnet, M.D. – University of Maryland Department of Family & Community Medicine**

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