



News & Information

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VARILUX PHYSIO TO BE SUBJECT OF POSTER PRESENTATION DURING AAO MEETING
Wavefront Technology Found to Improve Vision by Reducing Aberrations in Progressive Lenses

DALLAS – (October 18, 2006) – This November, attendees of the 2006 Joint Meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) and the Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology in Las Vegas will have an opportunity to learn about wavefront technology in progressive lenses. Essilor of America announced today that its Varilux[®] Physio[™] progressive lenses will be the subject of a poster presentation at the Academy's conference.

Marguerite McDonald, M.D., F.A.C.S., a pioneer in wavefront correction in cornea surgery, will present her poster, "Wavefront Technology Improves Vision by Reducing Aberrations in Progressive Lenses," which concluded that wavefront-optimized Varilux Physio lenses provided better vision than a standard progressive lens design in all fields of vision. The abstract was one of 760 posters selected from more than 2,000 abstracts submitted to the AAO.

"We are thrilled that Varilux Physio technology will be the subject of Dr. McDonald's poster on wavefront-optimization of progressive lens design," said Dr. Rodney Tahrán, vice president of professional relations and clinical affairs for Essilor. "With the advent of wavefront-optimized progressive lens technology, spectacle correction for presbyopes is now as sophisticated as the wavefront technologies used by ophthalmologists to enhance refractive outcomes in their surgical practices. Dr. McDonald, who is one of the best known refractive surgeons in the United States, will bring her expertise and perspective from the realm of wavefront-guided refractive surgery and talk about wavefront technology in Varilux Physio progressive lenses."

The purpose of the study was to determine if the new Varilux Physio wavefront-optimized progressive lens produces measurable optical benefits versus standard progressive lens designs. The study will help

ophthalmologists, optometrists, and opticians make spectacle lens dispensing decisions for presbyopes based on carefully reviewed scientific and clinical evidence. The paper concludes that the wavefront-optimized Varilux Physio provided better vision than a standard progressive lens design in all visual fields.

In January of 2006, Essilor launched Varilux Physio 360°™ and Varilux Physio as the first lenses to deliver the corrective power of W.A.V.E. Technology™: Wavefront Advanced Vision Enhancement to presbyopes seeking the sharpest, most natural vision. Worldwide studies with more than 2,000 patients conducted by Essilor showed that wearers preferred Varilux Physio no matter what the ametropia, age of presbyopes or previous type of lens.

Dr. McDonald will present and attend her poster, #PO209, during Poster Session 1, on Sunday, Nov. 12, from 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. in Sands Convention Center, Hall G. The poster exhibition will open at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 11, and at 7:30 a.m., Sunday through Tuesday, Nov. 12 – 14. The AAO and AAPO meeting will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, from Nov. 11 – 14.

Dr. McDonald is a clinical professor of ophthalmology at Tulane University Health Sciences Center, in New Orleans, LA, where she also maintained a private cornea, refractive and contact lens practice, Southern Vision Institute, prior to Hurricane Katrina. She is now also a cornea/refractive/anterior segment specialist with the Ophthalmic Consultants of Long Island, Lynbrook, NY. In 1987, using a VISX laser, Dr. McDonald performed the world's first excimer laser vision correction procedure, and on October 12, 1999, she performed the world's first Summit/Autonomous wavefront-based excimer laser surgeries, which were also the first wavefront-based laser surgeries in the USA. Dr. McDonald was the first North American surgeon to perform Epi-LASIK in September 2003.

Essilor is the leading manufacturer of optical lenses in the United States and is the market leader in progressive, high-index and anti-reflective coated lenses. A pioneer in the development and production of ophthalmic lenses, Essilor employs over 6,100 people in more than 100 facilities throughout the 50 states. Essilor manufactures optical lenses under the Varilux®, Crizal®, Thin&Lite®, DEFINITY™ and other Essilor brand names. Essilor Laboratories of America (ELOA) is the largest, and most trusted, optical lab network in the U.S. and offers a wide choice of services and lens brands, including Essilor premium lenses, to eye care professionals across the nation. Essilor of America, Inc. (Essilor) is a subsidiary of Paris-based Essilor International, S.A., a publicly held company traded on the Euronext Paris stock exchange (Reuters: ESSI.PA).

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