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## Chadwick Optical Gets Additional NIH Funding

BOSTON and WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, Vt.--Chadwick Optical, a Vermont-based wholesale lab, received the second phase of an National Institute of Health (NIH) Small Business Innovation Grant this month. The \$750,000 grant will allow Chadwick to continue a collaboration with the Schepens Eye Research Institute, an affiliate of Harvard Medical School, to further refine the first glasses to significantly improve quality of vision and life for sufferers of hemianopia. More than a million Americans have this vision problem, caused by stroke, head injury or tumor, in which half the visual field in both eyes is blind.



This woman is wearing the Peli prism glasses produced by Chadwick Optical.

"We are very excited about the opportunity to continue to refine and improve these prism glasses, which offer the only real option for patients with this debilitating problem," said low vision expert Eli Peli, PhD, Schepens Institute senior scientist and the Moakley Scholar in Aging Eye Research. Peli is the inventor of the glasses and holds the patent for them.

"With the help of the first phase of this grant," says Karen Keeney, president of Chadwick, "we were able to take Dr. Peli's brainchild, create a pair of saleable glasses and make them available to patients within two years." Keeney adds that anecdotal feedback from low vision specialists and patients who

have tested the product has been extremely positive. The first phase of the grant also funded a national multi-center trial. The successful results of the study will be made public in the near future.

The new grant will allow Keeney and Peli to explore new lens and prism powers and increase the width of the visual field to enhance the value of the glasses to patients. Testing will be conducted at the Schepens as well as in a new multi-center study that will be coordinated by the Schepens team.

The NIH Small Business Innovation Research Program, established in 1982, makes it possible for small business to bring novel and needed biomedical technologies to the public safely and quickly.

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