



American Association of Eye & Ear Centers of Excellence

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Emory Eye Center Joins the American Association of Eye & Ear Centers of Excellence

Arlington, VA (July 1, 2010) – The American Association of Eye & Ear Centers of Excellence (AAEECE) is pleased to announce that the Emory Eye Center, Atlanta, Georgia, has joined the Association effective July 1, 2010. The Emory Eye Center representative to the Association will be Mr. Andy Garrard, MHA, Administrator.

“On behalf of the entire membership, we want to welcome the Emory Eye Center as the newest members of AAEECE. Emory Eye Center has a long track record of excellence in ophthalmology and specialty surgical services. We know that their contributions to the mission of AAEECE will be substantial.” Michael Gittelman, President of Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, and AAEECE Chairman of the Board said.

Emory Eye Center has a mission to conduct pioneering research into blinding eye diseases, to educate and train eye professionals, and to provide outstanding patient care. The Department includes 33 ophthalmologists, eight optometrists, 12 basic scientists, 4 post-doctoral fellows, 12 clinical fellows, and several researchers in other Emory departments who hold joint appointments in the Emory University School of Medicine’s Department of Ophthalmology. Ophthalmology research at the Emory Eye Center is supported by current National Institute of Health (NIH) funding of \$20 million through 2010. The Department remains in the top rankings (#9 – 2009) by U.S. News & World Report for the 14 years the magazine has held a ranking for Ophthalmology. It also ranks in the Top Ten in the peer-reviewed Ophthalmology Times annual report.

The American Association of Eye and Ear Center of Excellence is comprised of the premier centers for specialized eye and ear procedures in the world. Association members are major referral centers, offer some of the most innovative teaching programs in the world, and routinely treat the most severely ill eye and ear patients. The mission of these specialty institutions requires them to maintain leading edge technologies, enabling them to provide highly specialized services not available in general acute care hospitals.