



UC San Diego
SHILEY EYE CENTER



THE UC SAN DIEGO SHILEY EYE CENTER AND GRAVES' DISEASE & THYROID FOUNDATION TO HOST PATIENT EDUCATION EVENT IN SAN DIEGO

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The UC San Diego Shiley Eye Center and the Graves' Disease & Thyroid Foundation will host a free patient education seminar on **Saturday, January 25th from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** at the Shiley Eye Center Conference Room, 9415 Campus Point Drive, La Jolla, CA 92093. Registration information is available at the foundation's web site at www.gdatf.org or by calling 877-643-3123. Confirmed speakers include Dr. David B. Granet, Dr. Don O. Kikkawa and Dr. Bobby S. Korn of Shiley Eye Center as well as a panel of patients that will be broadcast over the internet through webcasting.

The month of January has been designated as "Thyroid Awareness Month". The American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists estimates that up to 30 million Americans may be affected by a thyroid disorder, with half of these cases currently undiagnosed. Two autoimmune disorders, Graves' disease and Hashimoto's thyroiditis are responsible for the vast majority of cases of hyperthyroidism (overactive thyroid) and hypothyroidism (underactive thyroid). Patients with autoimmune thyroid disease may also be diagnosed with Graves' eye disease (also called thyroid eye disease), which can cause bulging eyes and double vision, as well as dryness, light sensitivity, and swelling. Patients with severe disease face multiple surgeries over a period of years in order to restore eye appearance and function.

"The effects of thyroid eye disease can have a devastating impact on a patient's quality of life", stated GDATF Executive Director Kimberly Dorris. "Many patients find it difficult to work due to vision issues, and the drastic change in appearance causes many to withdraw socially. Those who are living with Graves' eye disease can gain a sense of empowerment by learning about this condition and making connections with others who understand what they are going through. We are excited to bring this opportunity to patients and family members in Southern California."

The UC San Diego Department of Ophthalmology at the Shiley Eye Center is the only academic eye center in the region offering the most advanced treatments across all areas of eye care. The center's world-class clinicians, surgeons, scientists and staff are dedicated to excellence, and providing the best possible patient care to prevent, treat and cure eye diseases.

The Graves' Disease and Thyroid Foundation provides educational programming and support to patients with Graves' disease and other thyroid disorders. For more information, please visit www.gdatf.org.