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ARMY FUNDS RESEARCH OF OPTIC NERVE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION THROUGH MTEC

Charleston, SC – In partnership with the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC), the Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) is pleased to announce that Stanford University has been awarded funding to research and refine treatments that protect or regenerate the optic nerve.

Optic nerve injuries that can occur in both military conflicts and civilian life—as well as damage from degenerative disorders such as glaucoma or ischemic optic neuropathy—may result in permanent vision loss. Additional data about the effectiveness of therapies that can protect or regenerate the optic nerve are needed to advance current treatment capabilities.

The Stanford University project team will use a large animal model of traumatic optic nerve injury to test promising therapies and develop a proof-of-concept for treatments. This project will build on previous research by other MTEC members that identified the survival and pro-regenerative molecular pathways that support protection and regeneration of the optic nerve.

MTEC awarded Stanford University project ceiling in the amount of \$3,000,000 to collect high-quality pre-clinical data on the effectiveness of novel vision protection and regeneration treatments and to position the most promising therapies to advance to the next stage of testing or implementation.

Lester Martinez, MD, MPH, Major General (Retired), U.S. Army, President and Chairman of MTEC Board acknowledged the tremendous value of Stanford’s research. “Congratulations to the Stanford University team on this award—MTEC is honored to support their research efforts to protect and restore full sight to the many Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines affected by vision loss,” Martinez stated.

MTEC is a biomedical technology consortium collaborating with multiple government agencies under a 10-year renewable Other Transaction Agreement with the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command. To find out more about MTEC, visit www.mtec-sc.org.

