

VisionQuest Biomedical Inc. Wins Grant to Revolutionize Binocular Indirect Ophthalmoscopy (BIO) Retinal Exam

Jeff Wigdahl (PhD) wins multimillion-dollar grant from the NIH for "EyeStar-BIO: Software for Enhancing Digital Binocular Indirect Ophthalmoscopy Examinations."

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“

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Peter Soliz, PhD, CEO

Biomedical research scientist Jeff Wigdahl (PhD) was recently awarded a quarter-of-a-million-dollar Phase I grant from the National Institutes of Health for his project “EyeStar-BIO: Software for Enhancing Digital Binocular Indirect Ophthalmoscopy Examinations.”

Popularized in the 1940s, binocular indirect ophthalmoscopy (BIO) is now routinely used by doctors to perform eye exams in the clinic. However, this method produces no photographic or video record of findings. In recent years, digital BIO headsets that incorporate a camera have been brought to market, but they provide no

additional analytical tools.

VisionQuest’s EyeStar-BIO will revolutionize digital BIO by adding much-needed analytical capabilities: automatic condensing lens detection, image quality assessment, image stitching, longitudinal analysis, and artificial intelligence-based retinal disease detection. These features allow doctors to digitally record and automatically analyze exam results, as well as visually present results to patients. EyeStar-BIO ensures consistently high-quality care, improves medicolegal documentation, and quantifies disease progression—all of which are challenging with traditional handwritten notes. The device will also help doctors to perform difficult neonatal retinal exams and share diagnoses with neonatal intensive care unit staff and parents in real time.

Over the course of the grant, VisionQuest will collaborate with BIO market leader Keeler Ltd. to integrate EyeStar-BIO into their new generation of digital ophthalmoscopes.

“We are excited to be supporting VisionQuest on this research project,” says Keerthighaan “KK”

Kanagasagar, senior product manager at Keeler. “In this digital age, binocular indirect ophthalmoscopy is a prime area for innovation. With this grant, there is increasing potential to offer customers cutting-edge retinal imaging and analytics to better serve their patients.”

“Serving health-care providers and their patients is our primary objective,” adds VisionQuest founder and CEO Peter Soliz (PhD). “We look forward to working with Keeler to improve the tools available to physicians and the outcomes of their patients.”

About VisionQuest Biomedical Inc.: VisionQuest delivers innovative artificial intelligence-based imaging technologies that increase access to equitable, efficient, and cost-effective health care. CEO Peter Soliz (PhD) founded the company in 2007 to advance AI techniques that would assist health-care professionals in evaluating digital medical photographs. Initially, this work focused on retinal images that showed evidence of diabetic retinopathy—a common complication of diabetes and the leading cause of blindness in the working-age population. VisionQuest’s EyeStar software has since screened over 190,000 patients throughout Mexico for diabetic retinopathy. In 2020 VisionQuest received FDA 510(k) clearance for the patented Image Quality Analyzer, a tool that identifies and corrects poor-quality retinal images. VisionQuest is now applying retinal screening to the detection of malarial retinopathy in the sub-Saharan countries of Malawi, Kenya, and Nigeria. The company is also developing tools for the early detection of diabetic peripheral neuropathy (diabetic foot).

Visit VisionQuest’s website at <https://www.visionquest-bio.com/>.

Visit Keeler’s website at <https://www.keelerusa.com/>.

Sarah Soliz

VisionQuest Biomedical Inc.

ssoliz@visionquest-bio.com

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