

2014.10.10

SUBSTANTIAL NEW FUNDING FOR ESSILOR R&D JOINT RESEARCH LABORATORY ON VISION AND AGEING

SilverSight, the joint research program of Essilor R&D International and the Vision Institute of Paris, dedicated to « Healthy visual ageing, Action and Autonomy” is one of three programs to be funded by the French National Research Agency (ANR) as a new industrial chair. This funding will support ongoing research over the next four years to understand how ageing impacts both perceptual and cognitive functions and evaluate the tools that can help older people retain their independence.



ANR looks for projects that show strong collaboration between public and private sectors, linking basic academic research with industrial R&D and that facilitate the transfer of knowledge and development of technological solutions.

SilverSight was set up in January 2014 with an objective of exploring innovative ophthalmic products and new services that could combat the effects of visual ageing and preserve autonomy.

Under the leadership of research director Angelo Arleo, a specialist in cognitive neuroscience, the laboratory has currently 12 researchers with an international and multi-disciplinary range of scientific strengths. This team brings together psychophysicists, neurobiologists, opto-electronic engineers and experts in optics from all over Europe and North America.

The ANR selected SilverSight on a number of criteria including the scientific reputation of its research director Angelo Arleo, the innovative technological dimension of the project, the potential in this area of research and the quality of the consortium behind the laboratory. SilverSight is a partnership between Essilor, global leader in ophthalmic optics and the Vision Institute which is an international reference in vision thanks to multi-disciplinary teams drawn from fundamental research, clinical practice and industry. The SilverSight industrial Chair also benefits from synergies and programs already developed between Essilor R&D, Institute Vision and Pierre and Marie Curie University since 2007.

The creation of this Industrial Chair and funding from the ANR will open new perspectives for the team whose work could have significant impact for a major social challenge - how to combat the loss of autonomy caused by failing sight in an ageing population.

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