Who We Are

This laboratory, with major funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other entities, is internationally recognized for its pioneering work on low vision. Its director, Gordon E. Legge, Ph.D., is a Distinguished McKnight University Professor and has received several major awards for his research. Other lab members include postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, undergraduates, and lab staff, all of whom specialize in vision research.

Research Participants Wanted

Our research relies on voluntary participation by people with both normal and low vision from all walks of life. Research participants visit the lab for one or more two-hour sessions. Testing may involve reading letters, words, or text on charts or computer screens. Testing in our wayfinding project may involve learning roots in computer-generated virtual or real buildings. Most people enjoy their visits to the lab, and find the projects to be interesting.

Al May, a retired statistician from Pillsbury, has low vision resulting from ischemic optic neuritis. He has participated in several studies over a period of years. "I feel like I am making a contribution to low-vision technology, and that's important to me. Participating in studies is a pleasant experience."

Lab staff facilitate participation by arranging transportation for participants. The laboratory covers reasonable transportation costs within the Twin Cities area, and pays participants for their time in the lab.

Because of the variety of projects in the lab, people with all levels of visual acuity—from 20/20 to no vision—are invited to participate. To reflect the rich diversity of the Twin Cities, we encourage members of all racial and ethnic backgrounds to take part in this important research. If you would like to participate, please get in touch with us. Our address, email address and phone numbers are on the back of the brochure.
What We Do

Results from our research are being used to develop new tests of reading and new technologies for displaying text. We are also exploring changes that take place in the brain resulting from partial or total vision loss, and studying technologies that will assist visually impaired people in wayfinding.

For example, the MNREAD acuity chart, developed in our lab, provides a much better measure of reading vision than previous eye charts.

For more information about our research, see the lab website: http://vision.psych.umn.edu/~gellab

Please get in touch with us!

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The Minnesota Laboratory for Low Vision Research, located at the University of Minnesota, is dedicated to understanding reading difficulties and other important visual problems encountered by people with low vision.

Low vision is any eye condition, not correctable by glasses or contact lenses that results in visual impairment. Low vision can be caused by macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, cataract, retinitis pigmentosa, and many other eye disorders.