

**Study Shows Promise for 59 Million Americans Suffering from Dry Eye**  
*New Pilot Study Finds HydroEye Raises Levels of Lactoferrin*

Corte Madera, Calif.– January 22, 2002 – ScienceBased Health, a developer of innovative nutraceuticals exclusively for eye health, today announced the results of a new pilot study. The study, conducted by Frank A Bucci, Jr., MD, a renowned ophthalmologist and cataract surgeon, shows a correlation between intake of HydroEye<sup>®</sup>, a patent-pending nutritional supplement developed by ScienceBased Health, and increased lactoferrin levels – a protective protein in tears that is widely accepted as an indicator of ocular surface health.

HydroEye, a proprietary blend of omega 3 & omega 6 fatty acids and other key nutrients, is formulated to help retain eye moisture by supporting tear flow and ocular surface health.

Tear lactoferrin level is a diagnostic tool for dry eye, with levels below 0.9mg/ml being indicative of dry eye. In patients with severe tear-deficient dry eye (keratoconjunctivitis sicca), 83.3% have tear lactoferrin levels below 0.9 mg/ml, and many have about half the level of tear lactoferrin found in normal eyes.

In part I of the pilot study, thirteen patients with normal levels of lactoferrin (mean of 0.91 mg/ml) were administered two capsules of HydroEye daily for eight weeks. By the fourth week, lactoferrin had increased by 56% over baseline levels, and sustained a 50% increase for the remainder of the study.

In the second part of the study, patients scheduled for Lasik surgery were given HydroEye for four weeks (average of 18.5 days on the supplement), and lactoferrin levels were assessed on the day prior to the procedure. Compared to pre-treatment levels, tear lactoferrin rose by 40% -- from a mean of 0.83 mg/ml to 1.17 mg/ml.

Many patients who undergo Lasik surgery are at risk for dry eye, and lactoferrin levels typically drop by about 20% post-surgery, according to Dr. Bucci. "This preliminary data indicates that taking HydroEye 3-4 weeks before surgery can significantly boost tear lactoferrin levels", said Dr. Bucci. "I strongly suspect that we may be able to mitigate the expected drop in lactoferrin that Lasik patients experience by administering HydroEye pre- and post-Lasik."

“We were thrilled to learn about Dr. Bucci’s findings on the correlation between HydroEye use and increased lactoferrin levels“, said R. Scot Hunter, president and CEO of ScienceBased Health. “Dry eye is one of the most common problems treated by eye care practitioners. According to the American Optometric Association, an estimated 59 million Americans (1 out of every 5) suffer from symptoms associated with dry eye syndrome, including 75% of people over 65 years of age. Since HydroEye’s launch last year, we have been overwhelmed with success stories from HydroEye users. We plan to continue to research HydroEye and its role in helping individuals with dry eyes.”

HydroEye was launched by ScienceBased Health last year and is currently recommended by several thousand ophthalmologists and eyecare practitioners nationwide.

### **About ScienceBased Health**

ScienceBased Health, a privately held company, develops and markets innovative nutraceuticals focused exclusively on promoting healthy eyes. The Company markets its products through a network of several thousand recommending ophthalmologists and optometrists and services thousands of their patients. The Company has developed **HydroEye**<sup>®</sup>, a patent-pending, oral nutritional supplement for dry eyes; **OculaRx**<sup>®</sup>, a comprehensive formula for eyes and overall body health; **MaculaRx Plus**<sup>™</sup>, a powerful nutritional formula, based on the findings of the *AREDS* clinical trial, for those concerned about preserving macular health; and other high quality products to support eye health. The formulations are created by leading physicians and researchers and are based on the latest scientific findings. Made from premium ingredients and manufactured according to highest quality standards, ScienceBased Health's products are available for purchase through eyecare physicians, by calling customer service at: (888) 433-4726 and at its Web site: [www.sciencebasedhealth.com](http://www.sciencebasedhealth.com).

### **About Frank A. Bucci, Jr., M.D.**

Frank A. Bucci, Jr., M.D. is a nationally and internationally recognized cataract and refractive surgery specialist. He is medical director of Bucci Laser Vision Institute and Ambulatory Surgery Center in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Dr. Bucci completed an anterior segment and refractive surgery fellowship with Drs. Richard Lindstrom and Edward Holland at the University of Minnesota in 1990 and has been a prolific clinical researcher and lecturer for the past 10 years.

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