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CBR Member Patricia Wren, of the School of Health Sciences, Studies Quality of Life.

CBR member **Patricia Wren**, of the **School of Health Sciences**, describes her research as

"collaborating with physicians, to study quality of life and other patient-centered outcomes...For more than a decade, I have directed the Quality of Life Interviewing Center that employs students to conduct standardized telephone interviews with participants in our clinical trials and intervention studies. All of my research is designed to improve the health of persons with various chronic conditions. Today, I am working with physicians, nurses, and other social scientists on a number of different projects related to glaucoma, breast cancer, ulcerative colitis, stroke, and pelvic floor disorders in women.

Her most recent results are published in the June-July 2009 issue of the **Journal of Glaucoma (Contrasting the Use of 2 Vision-specific Quality of Life Questionnaires in Subjects With Open-angle Glaucoma**, Volume 18, Pages 403-411). Leading a team of researchers, Wren found that "patients reported excellent visual function on both the NEI-VFQ [National Eye Institute-Visual Function Questionnaire] and VAQ [Visual Activities Questionnaire]. These findings will help researchers interested in assessing patients' perceptions of their visual function make an informed selection when choosing between the VAQ and the NEI-VFQ."

Although much of medical research focuses on carrying out clinical trials, understanding fundamental biological mechanisms, and improving medical devices and drugs, Wren realizes that the "bottom line" for patients is how a medical treatment improves their quality of life.

SUMMARY

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