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Research News **Font Size**
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 Posted online: Tuesday, July 24, 2007 at 7:46:56 PM

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Scientists From Barrow Honored For Their Research On Fixational Eye Movements

The August issue of Scientific American bears the faces of Susana Martinez-Conde and Stephen Macknik from the Barrow Neurological Institute.

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be featured in such a prestigious publication."

Drs. Martinez-Conde and Macknik authored an article describing the history of fixational eye movement research and the investigations they have conducted at Barrow. For decades, researchers have debated the purpose of fixational eye movements and particularly of microsaccades, the largest and fastest of fixational eye movements.

Recent research conducted by Dr. Martinez-Conde and her team at Barrow has shown that microsaccades produce visibility when a person's gaze is fixed on an object. Microsaccades may also help reveal a person's subliminal thoughts.

Fixational eye movements are responsible for driving most of our visual experience and without them humans would become blind to stationary objects.

"We are thrilled to have our research highlighted in Scientific American," says Dr. Martinez-Conde. "Fixational eye movements have long been debated and our research has proven that they do serve a very important purpose."

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