

Dr. Ben Backus, Associate Professor at the State University of New York College of Optometry, is the principal investigator for a National Institutes of Health-funded study exploring whether light deprivation could be an effective treatment for amblyopia in adults. Subjects will live in complete darkness for 10 days in a specially equipped apartment and then undergo binocular vision training. If the approach is successful in amblyopia, it may also have potential as a therapy for other conditions that might be improved if the brain can be made more plastic.



*Dr. Ben Backus, left, and research technician Morgan Williams underwent five days of light deprivation in 2012 to test the feasibility of the study.*