



FLORIDA LIONS EYE BANK

2012 ANNUAL REPORT



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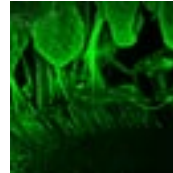
Two cornea transplants from the Florida Lions Eye Bank have helped Karin Williamson overcome Fuchs' Dystrophy and to continue her life on the move.



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Donated eyes from the Florida Lions Eye Bank have improved the Ophthalmic Biophysics Center's understanding of the accommodation apparatus of the human eye.



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2011-2012 Status Report

July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012

Grand Total

Eye Donors	986		42,420
Surgical	759		
Research	227		
Eyes/Corneas Received	1,962		82,446
Eyes / Corneas Furnished for Transplant	804		11,787
FLEB Corneas Used in USA	667		
FLEB Corneas Sent Outside USA	137		
Corneas received from other eye banks & sent to international patients:	382		
Sclera tissue provided (whole or parts)	337		
Glycerin preserved corneas provided	746		
Eyes furnished for research or teaching	538		31,148
Pathology specimen studies	3,917		86,025
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute patients	3,280		
Patients operated outside BPEI	557		
Florida Medical Examiner cases	80		
Total served during the year	6,724		

Medical Director Report 2011-12

Sander R. Dubovy, M.D. Medical Director
Florida Lions Eye Bank

As 2012, our 50th anniversary year, comes to an end, we look back on the past half century and the tremendous strides the Florida Lions Eye Bank has made and look forward to the future which holds much promise.

Founded in 1962 by Dr. Victor Curtin, Professor of Ophthalmology at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute of the University of Miami School of Medicine in collaboration with Lions clubs from South Florida.

James "Jimmy" Nelson was the first President, serving from 1962-3, in which 200 eyes were donated and 62 corneas were used for transplant. The total expenses for the year were \$17,000. Pearl Goldberg became the Executive Director and served from 1965-84. The Florida Lions Ocular Pathology Laboratory was started with Manuel Solis as the supervisor and completed 5,936 cases by the end of the first decade.

In 1977, Florida Statute 732.919 was passed, allowing corneal removal by Medical Examiners. This critical piece of legislation allowed the vast majority of tissue to be harvested from medical examiners offices in South Florida. In 1980, the FLEB began supporting the Ophthalmic Biophysics Laboratory and Jean Marie Parel, whose instrumentation has made immeasurable advances in the care of patients with ophthalmic disease.

In 1983, the Eye Bank moved into larger,

more modern facilities in the Anne Bates Leach Eye Hospital, and provided 1,000 corneas for transplantation for the first time. This was followed by the arrival of Mary Anne Taylor who became the second Executive Director upon the retirement of Pearl Goldberg in 1984. The 25th Anniversary was celebrated in 1986, a year when we reached 30,000 eyes received, nearly 20,000 corneas transplanted, nearly 15,000 eyes provided for research and almost 30,000 pathology studies performed. Dr. Victor Curtin retired in 1996 after 35 years and was honored with the Victor T. Curtin Chair in Experimental Pathology and the Victor T. Curtin Lectureship in which visiting physicians aid in the education of residents and fellows.

The volume and scope of the FLEB continued to grow. Elizabeth Fout Caraza became the third Executive Director in 2005 and in 2010 we joined the Eye Bank Association of America. We started providing tissue for DSAEK tissue in 2007 which now accounts for approximately 40% of the tissue used for transplant. At the time of our 50th Anniversary we received over 80,000 eyes, transplanted over 41,000 corneas, provided over 30,000 eyes for research and performed over 83,000 pathology studies.

There have been tremendous advances as the FLEB has grown and matured. We have



provided sight saving services through cornea transplantation, ocular pathology studies, research support and education.

It has been an honor to be a part of this organization for the past 13 years and I can only imagine what advances will take place in the next half century. I want to thank all the staff, Lions club members, donor families, medical examiners and those who provided support for our sight saving mission. Furthermore, I hope you will continue to support the FLEB as we pursue our goals of helping as many as possible in providing

President's Report 2011-12

James R. Brauss, OD, President,
Florida Lions Eye Bank Board of Directors

I want to thank all of the Board Members and especially the staff of the Florida Lions Eye Bank for all their hard work this past year, for without their support our 50th year would not have been the success that it was.

The Florida Lions Eye Bank celebrated this milestone anniversary with two key events. The Open House (Lions Appreciation Night) in January 2012 at the Florida Lions Eye Bank started the celebrations and was one of the best attended in recent years. More than 150 people attended and were on hand to hear several Eye Bank Past Presidents speak about their year of presidency. We got a good look at how much has changed in the eye bank through its 50 year history. All who attended received a commemorative 50th anniversary lapel pin.

Our 50th Anniversary Gala was a rousing success with over 200 in attendance and sponsorships by: Florida Optometry Eye Health Fund., the Bonita Springs Lions Club, Dr. and Mrs. Jean Cornille, the Lubitz Finan-

cial Group, the Fort Lauderdale Lions club, Braverman Eye Center, Rand Eye Institute, Moria, and a host of others. It was a wonderful evening that included entertainment by the Grammy Nominated singer/songwriter Karen Taylor Good.

In addition to the 50th Anniversary celebrations, the Florida Lions Eye Bank continued its effort to reach out to the Lions members and Lions clubs throughout Florida. The Florida Lions Eye Bank was represented at every Lions Council Meeting. We attended all 4 Multiple District Meetings and the Annual Meeting which was held in Miami.

We also served! The Florida Lions Eye Bank provided 809 cornea tissues for transplant and over 1,000 pieces of long term preservation tissue for glaucoma and oculoplastic procedures. We are so grateful to the donor families who donated the Gift of Sight to these appreciative recipients.

With the continued diverse leadership of the



future board members, I am confident that we have the power to shape an even better next 50 years.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to serve.

2011-12 Florida Lions Eye Bank Officers

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Recipient Profile

Cornea Transplants Keep An Active Life on Track



Karin Williamson has always been a woman on the move. Before her retirement last year, she was a busy South Florida health care administrator who specialized in hospital quality assurance. And she hasn't slowed down away from her job. She habitually walks four miles a day, exercises her talented green thumb in an impressive sub-tropical garden, creates gourmet baked treats in her home kitchen and feeds her curiosity as a voracious reader of all genres.

But both her career and lifestyle were threatened with the gradual loss of sight from Fuchs' dystrophy, an uncommon degenerative disease of the corneal endothelium that affects patients most often in their fifties and sixties.

Karin had faced eye problems throughout her life, including childhood treatment for amblyopia. She thinks the Fuchs' dystrophy was inherited from her mother's side. But it wasn't until she reached her late forties that Fuchs' began to take its toll, as her job required long hours of studying computer data and reports.

As her vision diminished, she magnified the size of the type on her computer screen and used a magnifying glass to review printed spread sheets. In 2010, she went to corneal specialist Carol Karp, M.D., professor of Ophthalmology at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. It was determined that Karin would ultimately need cornea transplants in both eyes.

The first surgery would be in her "good" eye, a lifelong designation that stemmed from her childhood amblyopia. Prior to the first surgery in October 2010, Karin's husband, Thomas, gave her a Kindle, a digital e-reader. "I love to read books, but since I wouldn't be able to read after the surgery, most of the books we downloaded were audio," she said. But just a few weeks after the surgery, Karin was back at work and reading large type on her Kindle.

In April of 2012, the other eye received a new cornea. Both corneas were supplied by the Florida Lions Eye Bank. Now, when Karin reads, she keeps the font at



normal size. “My vision is very good,” she said.

Karin grew up in Lindsborg, Kansas a tiny town in the northern edge of the state settled by Swedish immigrant farmers. Even today, a third of the town’s population is of Swedish descent, including Karin and her relatives. She attended the University of Kansas where she received a bachelors in Nursing, a Masters in Nursing Administration. She joined the faculty of the University of Kansas in Kansas City and taught nursing, specializing in neurology and neuro-surgery. She was famous among her students for carrying around a “must-have” teaching tool: a human brain floating in formaldehyde.

While Karin and her family enjoyed life in Kansas, in October of 1988 she received an offer to work as an administrator at the former Miami Heart Institute on Miami Beach. With another Great Plains winter approaching, she accepted.

“Life in South Florida took some getting use to,” she said. “It was your basic case of culture shock. We were not in Kansas any more.”

Continued on next page



Homemade biscottis, anyone?

Karin learned to bake as child from her Swedish relatives and knows her way around the kitchen.

Fuchs’ Dystrophy Can Result in Cornea Transplants

Fuchs’ dystrophy (*pronounced fukes*) is an uncommon, slowly progressive disorder that affects the cornea – the transparent front surface of your eye. Fuchs’ dystrophy is a type of corneal dystrophy, that may cause a hazy deposit to build up over the cornea. Normally, the cells in the back surface (endothelium) of the cornea prevent excess fluid from accumulating, keeping the cornea transparent. But with Fuchs’ dystrophy, the endothelial cells slowly deteriorate, lose function and die. As a result, fluid builds up in the cornea. This may cause swelling, cloudy vision, pain and loss of corneal transparency. Although the cause is unknown, it may be inherited.

SYMPTOMS

- Blurred vision on awakening that may gradually clear up later
- Other types of visual impairment, including distorted vision, sensitivity to light, difficulty seeing at night and seeing halos around lights
- Generalized eye discomfort
- Painful, tiny blisters (epithelial blisters) on the surface of your cornea – caused by excess fluid within the cornea
- A cornea that is cloudy or hazy in appearance



The joy of reading.

After two cornea transplants, Karin has no problem reading regular size text.

Continued from the previous page _____

As local hospitals were bought up by large health care companies, Karin moved to Hialeah Hospital and then settled at Mercy Hospital, where she worked until her retirement just a year ago. Her husband is a retired chemist, who specialized in developing adhesives.

Twenty years ago, Karin and Thomas moved into their home in one of Miami’s oldest neighborhoods, just west of Brickell near Miami Avenue.

“It was just after hurricane Andrew and we liked that this was an older, sturdy house,” she said. The home was made from native stone and Dade County pine and the deep lot was thick with subtropical trees and shrubs. “We learned all about orchids and ferns and bromeliads.”

In another part of the garden, she grows her own fresh herbs and spices which come in handy in her well-stocked kitchen. Karin enjoys cooking and baking. She sometimes shares the kitchen with her son-in-law, a chef, who lives close by with Karin’s daughter, Kristi. As a young girl back in Lindsborg, Karin’s relatives taught her to bake Swedish specialties such as peppernuts, a holiday favorite. “I don’t really follow a recipe, I just add flour and mostly go by memory,” she said.

With her cornea surgeries behind her, Karin is enjoying her many hobbies and is tutoring nursing students. She is still on the move.

“I’m grateful to my doctor and to the Florida Lions Eye Bank,” she said.

2011-2012 Financial Report

<i>Revenues and Gains</i>	<i>2011-2012</i>	<i>2010-2011</i>
Program Service Fees	\$2,332,414	\$2,005,316
Contributions		
General Public	\$18,239	\$38,703
Bequests	\$207,315	\$-
Foundation Grants	\$48,400	\$6,000
Lions Clubs	\$15,115	\$40,265
Donated Facilities & Services	\$100,800	\$100,344
Interest & Dividends	\$329,939	\$302,114
Net unrealized and realized gains of long term investments	\$(292,392)	\$2,026,868
TOTAL REVENUES AND GAINS	\$2,759,830	\$4,519,610
<i>Expenses and Losses</i>		
Program Services		
Medical Services	\$2,420,734	\$2,317,471
Research Grants	\$50,465	\$127,997
Supporting Services		
Management & General Development	\$285,975 \$169,643	\$167,000 \$14,494
Total Expenses	\$2,926,817	\$2,626,962
Total Expenses & Losses	\$2,926,817	\$2,626,962
CHANGE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	\$(166,987)	\$1,892,648

RESEARCH

Zonule Arrangement in *ex-vivo* Human Eyes Using Fluorescent Confocal Microscopy

Heather Durkee,¹ Andres Bernal,¹ Steven Bassnett,² Yanrong Shi,² Esdras Arrieta,¹ Jean-Marie Parel¹

¹ Ophthalmic Biophysics Center, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, University of Miami School of Medicine, FL

² Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis,

Overview

The Florida Lions Eye Bank has been instrumental to the Ophthalmic Biophysics Center's efforts to understand the anatomy of the accommodative apparatus in the human eye. Accommodation is the complex process in which humans shift their focus from far to near objects. The crystalline lens is located behind the iris and is suspended in place by fibers called zonules. Zonules are responsible for transmitting the forces from the ciliary muscle to the crystalline lens thus altering the lens' shape and curvature.



Fig.1. Structures in the eye change from the relaxed state (L) to the accommodated state (R). In the relaxed state, zonules are under tension and the crystalline lens becomes flatter. In the accommodated state, zonules are slack and the crystalline lens is more rounded.

The loss of this ability is called Presbyopia and occurs around age forty. Extensive research has been done to understand the progressive age-related changes which result in this loss of function.

Limited research has been done on the age-related changes that occur in the zonules. In 2006, Andres Bernal used environmental scanning electron microscopy (eSEM) to visualize the zonules in human cadaver tissue. Tissue preparation in this modality is less damaging compared to other imaging modalities of the time such as traditional Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM). He was able to compare the zonule arrangement in an 8-year-old and 63-year-old. As one can see in the images, the structural

differences between the zonules are remarkable. The zonules in the younger tissue appear to be thicker than the older eye.

Currently, the Ophthalmic Biophysics Center at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute is continuing Andres' work in collaboration with Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis utilizing fluorescent confocal microscopy to visualize the complex three-dimensional arrangement of the zonules in human cadaver eyes donated by the Florida Lions Eye Bank.

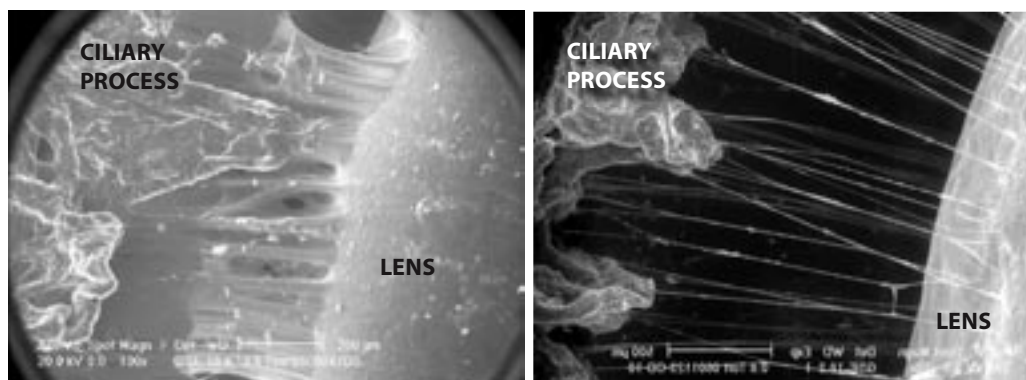


Fig. 2. eSEM images of human lenses and zonules.(L) Human tissue of 8-year-old, zonules appear thicker and shorter in length when compared to (R) human tissue of a 63-year-old. Images from Andres Bernal's thesis.

Unique Approach

Fluorescent confocal microscopy combines two technologies (immunostaining and laser confocal microscopy) in order to improve imaging resolution. In immunostaining, particular proteins in the tissue sample are marked with antibodies specially made to attach to that protein. The antibodies are transparent and cannot be seen with white light; therefore fluorescent dyes are attached to the antibodies. When the fluorescent dyes are exposed to laser light they become excited and emit colored light. These emissions are detected by a confocal microscope. Confocal microscopy is an excellent imaging modality for thick tissue samples because depth information is preserved. Individual slices can be assembled together to create a three-dimensional reconstruction of the tissue sample.

Results

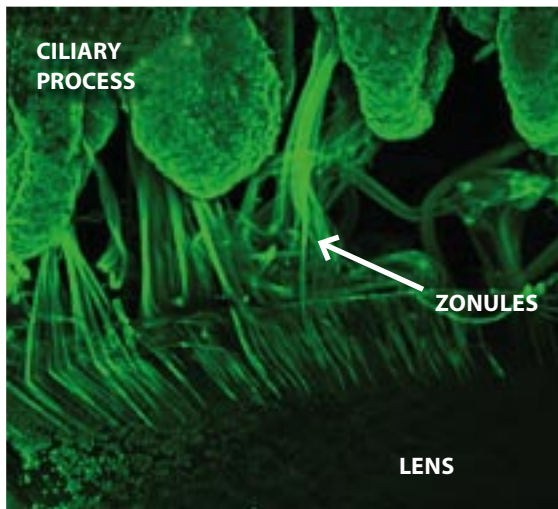
After the tissue is stained, images are acquired from both the anterior and posterior faces. Images are taken for the entire length of the zonules, from the lens to the pars plana. It is of particular importance to understand how the zonules insert into the lens capsule, how they interact with the ciliary processes and where the zonules terminate in the pars plana. It is unclear whether the zonules attach to the inner-limiting membrane or Bruch's membrane in the retina. Preliminary images have been taken of the retina but further investigations must be conducted.



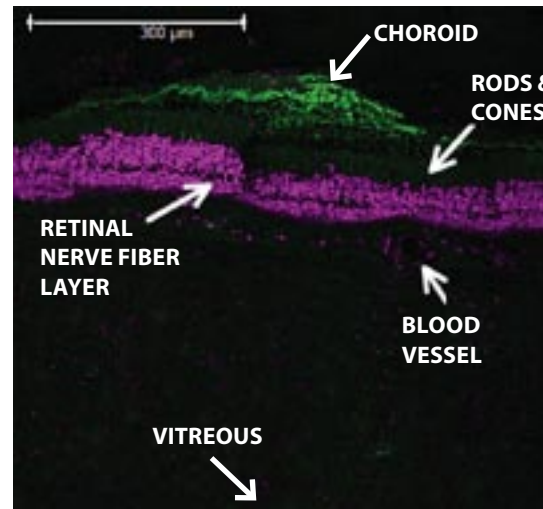
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute's Leica TCS SP5 confocal microscope and objective lenses ranging from x5 to x63 magnifications.

Next Steps

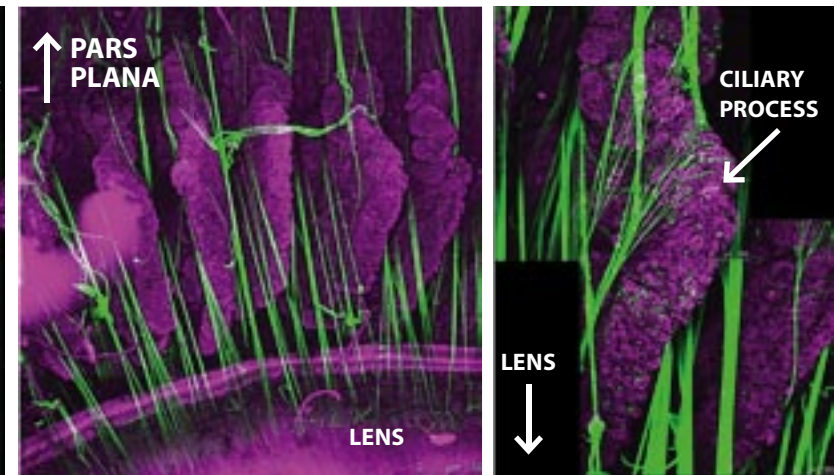
In order to visualize the zonules in the most natural state it would be best to image the tissue without fixation. Preliminary findings have shown it is possible to utilize the antibody staining on un-fixed tissue. With the continued support of the Florida Lions Eye Bank and those who donate precious eyes for research purposes, the OBC will have access to human tissue from a variety of ages.



53-year-old male



99-year-old female



68-year-old male

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January 1, 2012 - December 31, 2012

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January 1, 2012 - December 31, 2012

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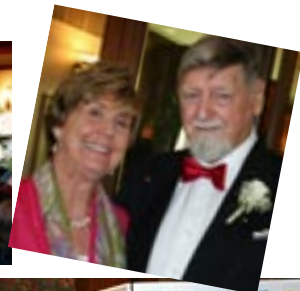
Fifty Years of Giving the Gift of Sight

Lions Appreciation Night

The Florida Lions Eye Bank began its historic 50th anniversary with a festive appreciation night for the Lions of South Florida. Attendees honored eleven past presidents who reminisced on the achievements of their year and how the eye bank has changed during the decades. Medical Director Sander Dubovy and Executive Director Elizabeth Fout Caraza expressed appreciation for the Lions dedication, perseverance and leadership over the years.

Fiftieth Anniversary Gala

On March 24, 2012, the Eye Bank celebrated its 50th anniversary with an unforgettable gala dinner event at the Weston Hills Country Club. More than 200 friends of the eye bank gathered for a stroll down memory lane: reminiscing and reviewing historical displays and memorabilia from the decades past. Guests were treated to a cocktail party, an elegant dinner, awards and entertainment by the Grammy-nominated singer and songwriter, Karen Taylor Good.



May
Sancti
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October 1961
founded by
State of

1968
The first Board
Director
lat
now
tradit

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James "Jimmy"
Nelson leads the

residents
tradition of training - a
and education that
continues today

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1972

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