

JANUARY 2012

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



Join Us in Our Celebrations!

50TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Don't miss this special open house highlighting five decades of achievements

Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

Presentations • Historical Displays & Memorabilia • Tours • Dinner

900 N.W. 17th Street • Miami, FL

50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA DINNER

Saturday, March 24, 2012

Weston Hills Country Club

Reception • Gala dinner • Displays • Presentations

Grammy-nominated singer and songwriter Karen Taylor-Good is scheduled to perform

Turn to the back page for more information on sponsorship and tickets

REVIEW THE YEAR-TO-YEAR HISTORY OF

THE FLORIDA LIONS EYE BANK

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CELEBRATING FIFTY

Prior to 1962, South Florida had no local means of providing donor eye tissue to ophthalmologists for corneal transplantation. Seeking to fill this void, Lions International and area Lions Clubs worked with the University of Miami School of Medicine to establish the Florida Lions Eye Bank. It was the first eye bank in Florida and would quickly grow. By the 1980s, it was one of the top three largest in the nation.



Founding Medical Director Victor T. Curtin, M.D.

Its opening coincided with the completion of UM's Bascom Palmer Eye Institute/ Department of Ophthalmology, where the eye bank was located. The eye bank began operation in January 1962 with a pathology technician, a part-time secretary and volunteer medical director, Victor T. Curtin, M.D. The first president was Lion Jimmy Nelson and the more than 100 Lions Clubs in the South Florida region were the main source of support and leadership for the organization.

While 62 patients received cornea tissue from the FLEB in 1962, the organization's operations grew rapidly. By developing partnerships with hospitals, funeral directors and medical examiners, FLEB was providing



1963
"Eyeball Network" is formed by ham radio operators throughout Florida to aid in the collection and distribution of eye tissue.



Precious cargo

Without a dedicated volunteer network of airlines, buslines, Florida Highway Patrol officers and local law enforcement, the eye bank could not have provided tissue to patients.



January 1962
FLEB operations begin in the newly opened Bascom Palmer Eye Institute.

May 1961
Sanctioned by Lions International

1964 - Spreading the word
Dr. Norman Sanders went on a local radio to promote the new eye bank. The name of the show's loquacious host? Larry King, before his CNN fame.

1968
The first Board of Directors Installation Dinner, now an annual tradition.

Funeral director training
Dr. Curtin and Dr. Richard Forster host the first "Morticians Course" in 1971 to train funeral directors to recover tissue. The program would become a major source of eye tissue over the next 30 years with hundreds completing the class and supporting the eye bank.

1962

1972

October 1961
Chartered by the State of Florida



First President
James "Jimmy" Nelson leads the eye bank in 1962-63. That year, 200 eyes were donated and 62 corneas used for transplant. Total expenses were \$17,000.

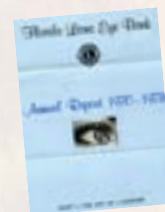
1965
Eye bank begins providing eyes for ophthalmic research and the first two ophthalmic residents receive training – a tradition of research and education that continues today.

1967
FLEB Trust Fund established by Lion Jack Washer.



1966
The "Fifth Year Army" was a committee formed to support fund raising and included (L-R) Erik Ericksson, Paul Sacher, Leonard Margolis, James Nelson, Dave Graves and Bud Thaw.

1972
Century Club established for donors to financially embrace FLEB on a personal level.



1973
Florida Governor Rubin Askew proclaims a week in March Florida Lions Eye Bank Week. In later years, March became Eye Bank Month in Florida.

YEARS OF GIVING

an average of 40 corneas per month by 1980 and 80 per month by 2000.

The Florida Lions Eye Bank's principal mission has always been and continues to be providing the gift of sight. But from its first days, it did much more than provide corneal tissue. It continues to operate one of the nation's few ophthalmic pathology labs, each year providing thousands of physicians with scientific analysis of tissue, aiding in diagnosis of medical cases and disease trends.

Throughout the decades, FLEB has provided millions of dollars to the support of ophthalmic and biomedical



*Executive Director
Pearl Goldberg,
1965-84*



research. Dozens of projects supported by the eye bank have resulted in medical breakthroughs and many others resulted in newly patented ophthalmic instruments and technologies. And

the publication of countless research papers have furthered scientific knowledge world-wide. Finally, the eye bank remains a center for ophthalmic teaching and training, welcoming residents, fellows, researchers and visiting doctors and eye bankers from across the globe.

1962-72 First Decade Statistics

- 27,470 donor cards signed
- 5,277 eyes collected
- 1,609 corneas transplanted
- 5,936 specimen studies

1978
Modified McCarey-Kaufman media used for corneal tissue preservation, allowing corneas for surgical use to be stored up to 3 days after removal.

1979
President Jim Hayes receives a proclamation from Dade County Mayor Steve Clark (R) during Eye Bank Month.

- 1983**
- Eye bank moves to larger, more modern facilities across the street on the third floor of the Anne Bates Leach Eye Hospital.
 - For the first time, 1,000 corneas provided for surgery in one year.
 - Florida Lions establish Victor T. Curtin Chair in Experimental Pathology.



1984
Elina Hackworth joins the eye bank and would become the longest current serving employee: 28 years.

1975
First \$50,000 Bequest given to the eye bank.

1977
Florida Statute 732.919 allowing corneal removal by Medical Examiners was passed, a critical milestone. By the mid-1990s, as many as 80 percent of tissue would come from the Dade and Broward medical examiners.

1962-82 Total Statistics (20 years)

- 101,121 donor cards signed
- 15,526 eyes collected
- 6,361 corneas transplanted
- 16,360 specimen studies



1982



1976
The dedication of a "rock-solid" sign outside of the original FLEB/Bascom Palmer facility marked the coming of age of the eye bank.

1980
Board of Directors first votes to provide financial support to the Ophthalmic Biophysics Lab.



1982
World-famous singer and actor Harry Belafonte signs a donor card while visiting the eye bank.

- 1984**
- New corneal storage media expands storage to 5 -7 days.
 - *Below:* Pearl Goldberg retires as Executive Director and Mary Anne Taylor (R) is appointed.

1975
Past presidents (L-R) James Nelson, Leroy Diamond, Erik Eriksson, Matt Gissen, Cliff Whyte, Ron Shayne, George Mercer, Ed McGown and Marshall Ruff.



1970s
Thousands of dollars were raised through the popular "Sightation Award" a yearly honor given to Lions Clubs who donated \$1,000 or more to the eye bank. It was named for Lion Walter Campbell, past president of Lions International.



THE GIFT OF SIGHT

DECADES OF ADVANCING OPHTHALMIC RESEARCH

Through the donation of both funds and eyes for research, the Florida Lions Eye Bank has played a crucial role in advancing hundreds of scientific projects that have contributed greatly to ophthalmology world-wide. Below are just a sample of the numerous breakthroughs credited to the Ophthalmic Biophysics Laboratory and supported by the eye bank:

- A miniature pair of scissors used to cut and peel microscopic membranes within the eye (1980)
- Tiny biodegradable biopin retinal tacks used to repair retinal detachments and as part of laser treatments (1986)
- The creation of an improved synthetic cornea or keratoprosthesis to treat corneal blindness (1996)
- An instrument to provide controlled intraocular delivery of drugs through an iontophoresis method (1997)



Dr. Jean Marie Parel (R) has led the Ophthalmic Biophysics Lab for more than 30 years.

- Invention of an improved mechanical system for the ophthalmic examination of premature infants, the Pediatric OCT (2006)
- The dramatic and highly publicized first osteo-odonto keratoprosthesis procedure, creating an artificial cornea using part of a patient's own tooth and bone tissue (2009)
- Development of the soon-to-be-a-reality Remote Controlled Slit-Lamp Biomicroscope, a futuristic device that will allow doctors to examine eye patients on the other side of the world in real time (2010)



1985
The eye bank had been promoted via billboards since 1965. Above is its first bus sign.



1986
25th Anniversary celebrated Oct. 18, 1986

1989
FLEB holds an open house for eye bankers world-wide as Miami hosts the Lions International annual convention

1962-92 Total Statistics (30 years)

- 139,286 donor cards signed
- 39,367 eyes received
- 22,666 corneas transplanted
- 16,701 eyes provided for research
- 33,539 pathology studies

1990
FLEB begins to provide sclera tissue for glaucoma and other eye surgeries. In 1993, 322 were provided. Today, along with preserved corneas, more than 13,000 have been provided.

1993
New Policy and Procedures Manual completed for cornea laboratory. Lab passes inspection from the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration. More than 2,000 pathology specimens processed.

1994
Manuel Solis retires after 27 years as the supervisor of the Ocular Pathology Lab.



1996
Dr. Victor T. Curtin is honored upon his retirement for 35 years of service as founding medical director.



1998
30,000th cornea provided for transplant. Facilities undergo major remodeling and expansion.

2000
All of Miami-Dade County's drivers license stations participate in the FLEB's donor registry project.

1992

1987
Elizabeth Dawson, first female President serves 1987-88. In another first, her husband, PDG Bob Dawson, would also serve as President in 1996-97.



1980s
FLEB began supplying ORBIS with eye tissue for transplants in underserved corners of the world. The tradition continues today as patients receive the gift of sight from surgery performed inside a jet aircraft.



1991
20,000th eye furnished for corneal transplant. This, despite a new era of more stringent screening standards, serologic testing and regulations regarding donated tissue.



1994
Passing of FLEB's first president, James Nelson, and the founder and chairman of Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Edward W.D. Norton, M.D.

1997
• FLEB ranked by Eye Bank Association of America as the largest charitable eye bank in the country, providing millions of dollars of service each year.
• Robert Rosa, M.D. named new medical director.



1999
Technical Director Jorge Pena, M.D. begins FLEB's International Grafts Project, gathering excess corneas from U.S. eye banks and distributing to Caribbean, Central and South America.



OCULAR PATHOLOGY LAB

SERVING OPHTHALMOLOGISTS WORLD-WIDE FOR 50 YEARS

When the Florida Lions Eye Bank was first envisioned by Drs. Victor T. Curtin and Edward W.D. Norton, they wanted to include a premier ocular pathology laboratory that would serve ophthalmologists and further medical knowledge.

Today, it remains one of only a handful of specialized ophthalmic pathology labs and one of the busiest in the nation. To date, more than 83,000 pathology specimens have been processed and examined in the past 50 years. Doctors from all over the world have sent material seeking aid in the diagnosis of infection, injury and malignancy.

The processing includes various solutions, sectioning, staining and placing on a slide for viewing by the lab's medical director, Sander Dubovy, M.D. Often



Blanca Montero, pathology technician from 1968-1999.

digital photos are recorded and a report of the findings prepared for the ophthalmologist. All services are performed for no financial compensation.

As conceived by the eye bank's founders, the lab also remains a valuable center of teaching for medical students, technicians, fellows, residents and visiting doctors, with multi-headed microscopes that allow

simultaneous viewing of slides.

1962-2002 Total Statistics (40 years)

- 64,069 eyes received
- 34,607 corneas transplanted
- 25,744 eyes provided for research pathology studies
- 53,694 scleras & preserved corneas provided



2003
Lion Vincent Hughes retires as Trust Chair after 40 years of assisting with the FLEB finances



2005
After 42 years of providing its services free of charge, FLEB begins charging tissue processing fees for corneal and scleral tissue.

2006
VITAS Innovative Hospice becomes a new FLEB partner, training their Miami Dade and Broward employees on eye donation and the consent process.

2007
Passing of first Executive Director Pearl Goldberg – a research fund established in her name. To date, two have received this prestigious fellowship.

1962-2011 Total Statistics (50 years)

- 81,717 eyes received
- 41,485 corneas transplanted
- 30,819 eyes provided for research pathology studies
- 83,509 scleras & preserved corneas provided

2001
FLEB's annual budget exceeds \$1 million.

2002
More than 4,400 patients receive tissue provided by FLEB.

2002

2012

2000
• First inspection by U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
• Dr. Sander Dubovy becomes third FLEB Medical Director.



2003
The Pathology lab becomes one of the most prolific in the nation, processing record numbers of specimens, including 172 evaluations from Florida Medical Examiners for evidence of shaken baby syndrome.

2005
• Executive Director Mary Anne Taylor retires after 21 years and is succeeded by Elizabeth Fout Caraza.
• The organizational by-laws were revised.



2006
Lion Bill Arthur installed as President for a second term after also serving 20 years earlier in 1986.

2007
Under the guidance of Medical Director Sander Dubovy, M.D. and Drs. Eduardo Alfonso, William Culbertson, & Sonia Yoo, the eye bank begins providing pre-cut corneas for DSAEK surgery – a faster, safer method of cornea transplant.

2009
The eye bank joins forces with Donate Life Florida, a state-wide alliance of organ, tissue and eye donor programs that allows donors to quickly and easily register as donors through a state-wide website.



2010
FLEB become a member of the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) and receives accreditation.



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BE A PART OF SOMETHING **BIG!** BE A SPONSOR OF OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

All eyes will be on you or your organization as you support the Florida Lions Eye Bank's programs at our 50th Anniversary on March 24, 2012 at Weston Hills Country Club. Your support at this once-in-a-lifetime event will assist us as we provide corneas and scleras for eye surgery, eyes and funding for sight-saving research, ocular pathology studies. Depending on your level of support, you will receive advertising and a descriptive story in our Commemorative Program, your name on lobby signage, a banner in the cocktail party, acknowledgement from podium and slide show and complimentary tickets. Please contact the eye bank regarding in-kind donations.

- Diamond Level - \$10,000*
- Platinum Level - \$7,500*
- Gold Level - \$5,000*
- Silver Level - \$2,500*
- Bronze Level - \$1,250*
- Table Sponsor - \$1,000*
- Friend Level - \$500*
- Individual tickets - \$100*

Contact the eye bank for more information or view a sponsorship brochure on our website, fleb.org

Name _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

_____ Sponsoring Organization or individual(s) name (As it should appear in all printed material)

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

_____ Contact Name (Person in charge of making sponsor arrangements)

_____ Signature of contact person

Commemorative Program advertising

For information on rates and deadlines for individual ads in our Commemorative Program please contact the eye bank at **(305) 326-6359** or email **info@fleb.org**.

Charitable donations can lessen your tax liability. Contact your financial advisor.

After completing this form, fax to the eye bank at (305) 482-5106 or email to info@fleb.org.

*Payments by check should be made payable to:
Florida Lions Eye Bank
900 NW 17th Street #347
Miami, FL 33136*

Please contact the eye bank regarding in-kind donations.

I will charge my gift to a major credit card VISA M/C Card # _____

Exp. date _____ Card holder name _____ Signature _____