

NEWSIGHT

FLORIDA LIONS EYE BANK

BASCOM PALMER EYE INSTITUTE • UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



Eye Bank Awarded National Accreditation - Page 2

2010 INSTALLATION DINNER OH, WHAT A KNIGHT!

Helena Keller's *Knights of the Blind* were decked out in grand style on Saturday, May 22nd for the Florida Lions Eye Bank's 2010 annual installation dinner. This year's event was held at Hotel Sofitel in Miami with contemporary French ambiance. The celebration took place in a room draped in white fabric, filled with white orchids and overlooking a peaceful blue lagoon.

In addition to the installation of incoming officers and new President Stacey Jones, PCP, the festive evening included a silent auction, cocktail party featuring gourmet cheeses from Wisconsin, raffle prizes, a DJ providing music and the backdrop of a dramatic sunset. Jim Klug, Eye Bank President for 2009-10, made a presentation of



(L) Incoming President Stacey Jones, PCP and past president and the night's emcee Richard Vidal, PDG.



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Eye bank Medical Director Dr. Sander Dubovy (far right) addresses the audience in the white-draped dining room.



FLEB Awarded Accreditation from the Eye Bank Association of America

The Florida Lions Eye Bank recently passed the required inspections to achieve accreditation from the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA). The accreditation process required months of preparation and adjustments by the FLEB staff. The Florida Lions Eye Bank joins 80 eye banks accredited in the U.S. and seven international eye banks accredited by the EBAA, which focuses on setting standards, education and advocacy.

“We are proud to be a part of the EBAA and to have been awarded accreditation,” said Executive Director Elizabeth Fout

Caraza. “Our staff worked tirelessly to ensure all standards were met.”

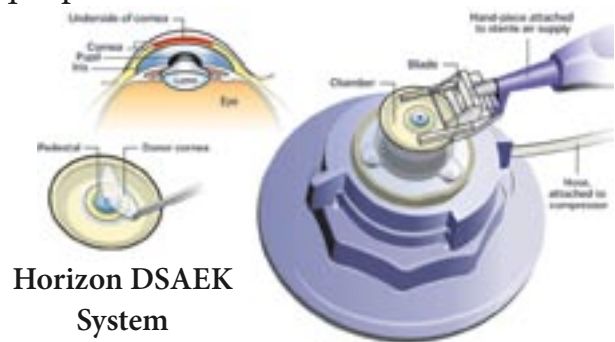
The Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) accredits facilities that provide human eye tissue for surgical use, research and ophthalmic training. The EBAA has developed extensive medical standards (MS) and procedures for procurement, preservation, storage and distribution of human eye tissue for transplantation and research, as well as an on-site inspection program to accredit eye banks. This inspection program was developed to ensure consistently acceptable evaluation of eye banks.

Bonita Springs Lions Fund New Equipment

Thanks to a generous donation by the Bonita Springs Lions Club, the Florida Lions Eye Bank will be able to increase the number of corneal patches available to treat patients undergoing glaucoma tube shunt surgery.

The Horizon DSAEK system, which was purchased with the monies, allows the eye bank to slice each donor cornea in half resulting in a thin cornea button and a thin corneal bed. These two pieces are each then cut in half, resulting in four corneal pieces that can be preserved in glycerin and then used for glaucoma surgery. Previously, each donor cornea preserved in glycerin would result in two pieces cut in half and those

then had to be thinned out in the operating room by the surgeon. Essentially, this new equipment allows FLEB to double the amount of tissue available while eliminating wasted tissue and saving time in the operating room. A special thanks to the Bonita Springs Lions Club for making this new innovative technique possible!



Horizon DSAEK System

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Make certain that you have indicated on your driver's license that you want to be a donor or that you have registered as a donor on www.donateliflorida.org. Most importantly, share your desire to be a donor with your family. By doing this, you will have joined with us in achieving our mission: *To Give the Gift of Sight.*

Ecuadorian Eye Bank Director Visits

Dr. Diana Navia, an ophthalmologist from Guayaquil, Ecuador, recently spent three days at the Florida Lions Eye Bank to observe and learn more about processing eye tissue and operating an eye bank.



Dr. Diana Navia learns from the Florida Lions Eye Bank.

Dr. Navia was recently appointed to serve as the new director of an eye bank in Guayaquil. Dr. Navia comes from a family with strong ties to eye banking. Her late father was also an ophthalmologist who served as Ecuador's first eye bank director and her paternal grandmother donated Ecuador's first cornea. Her father had an on-going relationship with FLEB for many years.

Dr. Navia observed activities with technicians in the lab and also harvesting tissue. She also received promotional materials in English and Spanish to bring back to Ecuador. Eye bank staff wish her and her associates success in their mission *To Give The Gift Of Sight* to the people of her country.



(L-R) Eye bank employees at the Health Fair are Elina Hackworth, Paul Sojo and Michelle Sieira.

Raising Awareness at Health & Fitness Fair

The Sixth Annual NBC 6 Health and Fitness Expo drew thousands of visitors this year and the Florida Lions Eye Bank's staff were there to tell others of the importance of eye donation.

Expo participants visited the eye bank booth to sign donor cards and learn how donated eye tissue provides the gift of sight. An impressive 70 new donors were added to Florida's Donate Life registry that day!

Many thanks to the staff who helped out, including Elizabeth Fout Caraza, Elina Hackworth, Michelle Sieira, Jorge Pena, Paul Sojo, Paola Rodriguez, Pam Pitcher and Judith Cornille.

EYE BANK & LIONS SHINE AT 2010

Continued from Page 1

last year's accomplishments and Medical Director Sander Dubovy, M.D. provided A Year In Review.

Special award presentations included the Ross Carr Award, given to Robert S. Dawson, PDG. The Jimmy Nelson Award, presented to the Lions Club that has provided outstanding support to the eye bank, was given to the Buena Vista Biltmore Club.

The previous year's Board was thanked for their dedicated service before the coming year's Board took the oath of office. New President Stacey Jones discussed his goals for the coming year, including continuing the eye bank mission and working to keep the organization as one of the world's best eye banks.

Executive Director Elizabeth Fout Caraza announced the winners of the dozens of silent auction items.



Past President Bill Arthur (L) presents the Ross Carr Award to Robert Dawson, PDG.



(L-R) Elizabeth Tejera, Nina Loaiza PDG, District Governor Edgar Roa, Julie Sweeten, Ellie Sickle and Emily Scavo.



Guests consider the array of silent auction items.



(L-R) Juan Tejera, Selleywn Skinner, Dr. James Brauss and Huldah Skinner.



Judith Cornille and mother Jean Cornille, an eye bank volunteer.



INSTALLATION DINNER



Kenneth Shivel, PDG, (R) presents the Jimmy Nelson Award to members of the Miami Buena Vista Biltmore Club.



Incoming President Stacey Jones PCP, addresses the crowd.



Nelson and Sandra Gonzalez, Elina Hackworth, Rosa Galliani, Alma Miron, Blanca Hernandez, Judith Cornille, Dorothy Letakis, Dalgy San Juan, Nubia Mora, Maria Rawlings and Ana Padron.



Medical Director Dr. Sander Dubovy and wife, with special guest Mary Anne Taylor-Rollins, former eye bank Executive Director.



Incoming Board includes (L-R) President Stacey Jones PCP, Vice President James Brauss, OD, Vice President Bud Mansolilli, Vice President Rosa Galliani, Director George Letakis, Director Blair Anderson, Director Bob Woomer PDG, Director Bill Arthur, Secretary Colleen Pinkerton PDG, Past President Jim Klug.

Donations

RECEIVED FROM JULY 1, 2009 - JUNE 11, 2010

THE FLORIDA LIONS EYE BANK IS GRATEFUL FOR THE GENEROSITY OF OUR MANY CONTRIBUTORS. WE APPRECIATE THEIR SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION TO SUPPLY CORNEAS AND SCLERAS FOR SIGHT-SAVING SURGERY.

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*Dear FLEB:
I am very grateful for the
caring and loving service
you provide. Thank you for
the cornea you provided
for me! Bless you all,
Ana,
Miami, FL*

*To my donor's family:
On May 18, at Bascom Palmer Eye In-
stitute, I underwent a complete cor-
nea transplant. Even though it's
too soon to tell if the transplant
is working, I wanted to thank
you as a donor family for
the chance you have given
me to restore the vision
in my eye. I will be
forever grateful for
this opportunity.*



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FLEB Hosts Two Open House Events



Future eye bankers include (L-R) Michael Maza, Carly Caraza and Justin Maza. The boys are sons of Cindy Maza of the Pathology Lab and Carly is the daughter of Executive Director Elizabeth Fout-Caraza.

To reach out to more Lions wanting to learn about the work of the Florida Lions Eye Bank, open houses were held in March and last fall. One event was held on a week-day evening and the other on a Saturday afternoon.

About 100 Lions, guests and staff attended each open house to see and hear about what's new in ophthalmology and cornea transplantation.

In addition to the learning experience, there was lots of fun, with music provided by a DJ, prizes and great food. Young and old alike had great time.

The afternoon open house featured a delicious barbecue lunch (with plenty of aprons for all the helpers) and a paella dinner topped off the evening open house in March. Both events were successful – we hope to see you at an upcoming eye bank open house.



Cornea technician Michelle Rivera, with her son, DiAngelo.

Evette Parra of caterer Shorty's Barbecue signs a donor card.