Imagine finally getting the clearest vision of your life when you're in your 80's. Surprisingly, this happens more frequently than one would think; individuals go through life not finding treatments for their conditions until later years of life. Once they hear of a possible solution, patients often ask if they are too old for cornea transplant surgery. Our response, "Are you ever too old to see?"

We were recently fortunate to speak in depth with Dr. Clayton Ingham, a retired dentist and recreational cartoonist. As a patient at Price Vision Group, Dr. Ingham received two cornea transplants at the age of 88 in 2010. After asking him what he enjoys most now that his vision has been improved, his answer was simple, "I've been having a wonderful time with the television. I was never able to watch hockey because I could never see the puck. It would be nice to go back and watch high school games that I couldn't enjoy when I was younger."

As an avid cartoonist, Dr. Ingham has traveled to approximately 35 art shows each year throughout Indiana selling his art, helping to put his two children through college. After his transplants, he sent the Foundation a series of illustrations highlighting various times when visual impairment affected his quality of life. The cartoon begins with an image illustrating Dr. Ingham growing up in Montana in the 1920's, unable to see the blackboard in grade school, yet too tall to sit in the front of the class. A later image represents Dr. Ingham's teen years in which he was limited to certain sports positions due to poor vision. Finally, we see a humorous representation of Dr. Ingham as an adult memorizing eye charts in order to pass his vision tests as a combat medic in the US Army. You can view Dr. Ingham's illustrations at www.cornea.org.

Dr. Ingham routinely visited his optometrist, but was never able to achieve great vision. After a diagnosis of Fuch's Endothelial Dystrophy (a condition in which the back part of the cornea goes bad) was made, Dr. Ingham was sent to Dr. Price because of his experience in performing new cornea transplant techniques. After his visit with Dr. Price, Dr. Ingham was told he would be best suited for the DMEK procedure. DMEK is a type of partial-thickness corneal graft operation in which only the innermost corneal layers are replaced, providing quicker visual recovery than a full thickness cornea transplant.

Dr. Ingham has marveled at the progress he has experienced, and shares with others, "Age 88 is not too late!"
CORNEA RESEARCH FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

Welcome New Board Members

Robert L. Grimm, Ed.D. is a full-time Clinical Associate Professor of Business at the Kelley School of Business-Indiana. His expertise includes teaching and coaching evening MBA students on professional development. Bob also serves as President of the Indiana 4-H Foundation. Bob stated, “as a new board member who has experienced two cornea transplants through DSEK procedures performed by Dr. Price, I look forward to helping expand the reach and impact the foundation will have on a local and global scale.”

Frank Clifford is a business founder and accomplished global leader, with expertise in human resources, leadership, team building and strategic planning. He excels at creating and implementing sustainable business solutions. Frank commented, “The Cornea Research Foundation leads a victory over darkness, clouding, distortion, and scarring. Assisting in this battle for visual clarity and focusing power is an honor. The Foundation recognized Pat Chastain with emeritus status at the May board meeting for her 15 years of service.

Golf Outing Success

The Foundation would like to thank all of those who served on our Cornea Classic Golf Committee for organizing a successful golf outing on June 2, 2011 at Wood Wind Golf Club in Westfield, Indiana. The event raised nearly $28,000.00 to fund our mission to provide research and education to preserve and restore vision. Thanks to all who donated, sponsored and participated in the event. The outing will be held on June 21, 2012 next year. If you would like to receive the registration form in February, give us a call at 317-814-2993.

How We Are Making an Impact With Your Support
by Marianne O. Price, Ph.D.

In a small village outside Kathmandu, Nepal, 24-year-old Anju Sapkota was cutting tree branches to feed her family’s cows and buffalos, when suddenly one of the branches snapped back and hit her in the eye, causing severe pain. Arriving at the eye clinic several hours later, the young wife and mother of 3 small children couldn’t read any of the letters on the eye chart and could barely even perceive light in her injured eye. The hospital chief explained that she needed to have her eye sewn up immediately, and that the injury had also caused a cataract that could be treated later.

Anju and her family were barely covering daily living expenses and could not afford the needed surgery. Anju recalls, “At the time of my injury, I was totally hopeless that my vision would be restored.” Fortunately, Anju was able to have cataract surgery and regained almost 20/20 vision, because of the Working Vision program, sponsored by the Cornea Research Foundation of America.

Working Vision was originated by a medical student, Grant Moore, who became passionate about restoring vision while completing a summer internship with Price Vision Group and the Cornea Research Foundation. Grant spent the following summer at the Tilganga Eye Clinic in Kathmandu, Nepal, where he was struck by the number of patients who came in with work-related eye injuries that could have been prevented with use of protective eye wear.

Upon returning to the U.S., Grant began collecting new and gently used safety eyewear for distribution in developing countries, and he named this program Working Vision. With backing from the Cornea Research Foundation, Working Vision now sponsors Eye Safety Awareness programs in factories throughout central Nepal.

Golf Committee

Harry W. Scheid, Chairman
 Vern Rensing, Vice Chairman
 Pat Chastain
 Mike Dickerson
 Phil Gibson
 Walter C. Gross, Jr.

Mark Horton
 Joe Kack
 Francis W. Price, Jr., M.D.
 Marianne Price, Ph.D.
 Francis W. Price, Sr., M.D.
 Clorissa Quillin

Happenings

The Women’s Luncheon and Purse Auction, a fabulous affair to benefit the foundation will be held on September 30th at the Renaissance Hotel in Carmel, Indiana. For sponsor or ticket information, contact Jessica at 317-814-2993 or Jessica@cornea.org. November 12th is the Focus on Education optometrist seminar at the Ritz Charles in Carmel, Indiana. Optometrists from throughout the region attend to earn continuing education credit and learn more about the latest advancements.

Get involved! If you’re looking for ways to give back, consider volunteering in our office or joining the Women’s Luncheon planning committee. Call 317-814-2993.