

## With Your Help, We Celebrate 20 Years of Achievements

### Foundation marks 20th anniversary with pro bono eye surgeries

As eyesight fails and a person's world grows dark, hopelessness ensues. For the past twenty years, the Cornea Research Foundation of America has been dedicated to giving people back the use of their eyes and restoring hope. With your help, the Foundation undertakes 12 research studies annually, engages in innovation, provides service to humanity and educates ophthalmologists and optometrists.

In recognition of our 20th anniversary, the Foundation wanted to give back to the community in a meaningful way that would symbolize our mission. Dr. Price chose to partner with Prevent Blindness Indiana to provide surgical services to patients without

medical insurance, or the means to pay. PBI conducts vision screening for adults and children throughout central Indiana and encourages those with vision problems to get appropriate treatment. They already had partners to provide free eye exams or eye glasses, but they didn't have anyone to provide free surgery. So they were thrilled when the Foundation found a way to fill that gap by bringing them together with Price Vision Group where the surgeries would be performed pro bono.

So far, free cataract surgery for 7 patients has been provided. Some have had both eyes treated. All have received a boost in hope and increased life satisfaction. As one patient, Diane

Anderson, described her experience, "Thank you for referring me to Price Vision Group in order to get my cataract surgery done. I had surgery on June 19 and everything went great. What a blessing to have my vision restored."

With your outstanding generosity, the Foundation has been able to help hundreds of people, trained almost 500 doctors in DSEK, surpassed 100 articles published in peer-reviewed clinical journals, and accepted awards for innovation, service to humanity, and achievements in ophthalmology. Thank you for helping us – without you, we couldn't do the work that makes a difference in the lives of people like Diane.

**Cornea Research Foundation of America**  
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## Marianne Price Recognized for Making A Difference

### WFYI Salutes Three Individuals at Sold-out Conference

She read books to the blind, imagining how it felt to hear the stories through her voice, and as she read, she deepened her appreciation for the precious gift of sight. Marianne Price and two other exceptional individuals who have had a positive influence on the lives of Hoosier women were honored for their work on September 12th at the Indiana Convention Center during WFYI Broadcasting's annual Speaking of Women's Health conference. The award presentations took place before a sold-out audience of 1, 200 women during the conference luncheon. Besides Marianne, honorees included Sue Anne Gilroy, vice president of development at St. Vincent Hospital and executive director of the St. Vincent Foundation; and Joann Hofer-Varela, a heart attack survivor and tireless advocate for women's heart health.

Marianne was introduced as "...a respected scientist, author and recipient of the Melvin Jones Fellows award from the Lions Clubs International Foundation. She holds a Ph.D. in Medical and Molecular Genetics from Indiana University School of Medicine, and serves on the Prevent Blindness Indiana Board, the I.U. Kelley School of Businesswomen MBA Alumni Advisory Council, and the Research and Scientific Programs Committees of the Eye Bank Association of America. For her early

volunteer work reading to the blind and for her work through the Cornea Research Foundation of America helping preserve and

result, the left side of her heart was damaged and a defibrillator was chosen as the best course of action. She has learned to cope



From left to right, Emily Freeze, conference chair; Sue Anne Gilroy, honoree; Marianne Price, honoree, and Lloyd Wright, President WFYI Broadcasting.

protect vision, we honor Marianne."

Sue Anne Gilroy, the first woman to hold the office of secretary of state in Indiana, was the first female UNIGOV director and is now Vice President of Development for St. Vincent Hospital and executive director of the St. Vincent Foundation.

Three years ago, soon after her second son was born, Joann Hofer-Varela survived a dissected artery that may have been caused by a shift of hormones during labor. As a

with the reality of living with a defibrillator and today volunteers with Women Heart, the only national organization dedicated to promoting women's heart health.

We are proud and delighted that Marianne's volunteerism and her hard work at the Foundation have been recognized at this enduring event that celebrates Hoosier women's health. Congratulations to you, Marianne, and your fellow honorees!

## Man's Transplanted Cornea In Use For a Record 123 Years

### That's before the Eiffel Tower was built!

"This is the oldest eye in Norway — I don't know if it's the oldest in the world," Bernt Aune, an 80-year-old Norwegian and former ambulance driver, told Reuters by telephone on Thursday, October 23, 2008.

He had a cornea transplanted into his right eye in 1958 from

the body of an elderly man who was born in June 1885. The operation was carried out at Namsos Hospital, in mid-Norway. "I wouldn't be surprised if this is the oldest living organ in the world," eye doctor Hasan Hasanain at Namsos hospital told the Norwegian daily newspaper, Verdens Gang.

In the 1950s, doctors expected it to work for just five years Hasanain said. Such cornea operations date back to the early 20th century and were among the first successful transplants.

(See Visionary December 2005 for a story about that first transplant surgery.)

"It wasn't unusual to use corneas from elderly people who had died," Aune said. The oldest person who had documents to prove it was France's Jeanne Calment, who was 122 years old when she died in 1997, according to the Guinness Book of Records. (By the way, for all you history buffs, the Eiffel Tower was built in Paris, France from 1887 to 1889.)

## Distinguished Speaker Visits Foundation

### Guest lecturer instructs clinical team in use of Pentacam

When you are getting ready to have LASIK ("refractive surgery") at Dr. Price's office, you will be given a Pentacam screening to examine your eye's structure. The resulting measurements will be used by Dr. Price to determine if your eye is capable of making the changes that will be required. One of our recent guest speakers, Michael W. Belin, M.D., explains it this way, "If you were building a house and wanted to move a piano into your living room, you would need to tell the builder so that he could be sure the floor was strong enough to support the extra weight. Likewise, by using the Pentacam the surgeon can determine if the eye's structure will support the changes going to be made during LASIK."

Dr. Belin, Professor of Ophthalmology at the Albany Medical College (Albany, New York) and adjunct Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Ottawa, (Ontario, Canada) is a Fellow of the Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Ophthalmology. He and Dr. Price have similar interests and frequently meet one another at international eye conferences. When Dr. Price invited him to come to Price Vision Group to teach staff about the Pentacam's features, Dr. Belin was happy to oblige. In December, he returned and attended Dr. Price's Advanced Cornea Course.

Dr. Belin is associated with a long list of contributions to ophthalmology, and it is likely that he will best be remembered in the areas of

topography and the use of topical cyclosporine. His practice is busy and he enjoys teaching fellows, giving lectures at medical programs, performing complicated surgeries, and being a bridge builder through his active participation in the field of ophthalmology. In his free time, he enjoys being an active bicyclist which helps him stay fit, and provides a scenic experience that is often memorable.



Michael W. Belin, M.D.



## Ask Your Doctor

### By Dr. Francis Price, Jr.

## Q. Why is DMEK better?

**A.** As you probably know, DSEK is already much better than a standard PK (traditional transplant) because it leaves the eye stronger and less susceptible to injury, and it has much faster visual recovery. DMEK takes this a step further - with DMEK, we only transplant a single healthy cell layer from the donor cornea. This exactly replaces the single diseased cell layer that we remove, so it is truly a disease-specific surgery.

DSEK transplants more of the donor corneal thickness and this helps provide greater strength and shape to the donor tissue, thus making it easier for the surgeon to handle. But when we just transplant a

single cell layer in DMEK, we can make an even smaller incision in your eye. The smaller incision means there should be even less chance of changing the refraction, or glasses prescription, in a way we do not want.

The most common reason we have had to repeat DSEK surgery is because of folds, or wrinkles, in the donor tissue that occur when it conforms to the back of the patient's cornea. These wrinkles are often unavoidable due to differences in the natural curvature of the donor and recipient corneas. However when we transplant just a single cell layer in DMEK,

the thin membrane seems to conform without wrinkles, and this should give you much clearer vision. So far, in the initial cases of DMEK, we are finding the average vision at one month is 20/30 and that more people get 20/20 vision than in DSEK.

Better, and more predictable, results with DMEK may also allow more transplant patients to take advantage of premium intra-ocular lens implants which allow better near and distance vision without glasses after cataract surgery.

## OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, March 8, 2009

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Join us for this free event to celebrate  
**National Eye Donor month**

9002 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis  
(Dr. Price's offices)



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How We're Having An Impact with Your Support

By Marianne Price, Ph.D.

Have you ever had to switch to a different antibiotic because the one you were taking just wasn't doing the job? Maybe you still felt sick and started to worry about whether you'd get over it. Then you started a new medicine, and you may have begun feeling better the very next day!

Antibiotics are amazing weapons against disease. In fact, they're so effective that we often use them as "shields" to help prevent us, and our animals, from getting sick. Yet sometimes the "bugs" develop defenses that make them resistant to antibiotics. When that happens we switch to a new one that attacks them in a different way. Luckily, over the years, we've developed new antibiotics before resistance to the old ones becomes widespread. But now the development of new antibiotics seems to be slowing down. What does that mean for you if you have eye problems?

Our biggest concern is to prevent any infection from getting inside your eye because it could cause you to lose your vision and your eye. We use antibiotic eye drops to treat eye infections and we also use them during, and after, eye surgery to help prevent eye infections.

To help figure out whether the bacteria that cause eye infections are becoming resistant to the antibiotic eye drops we use, we conducted a study with cataract surgery patients to see what kinds of bacteria were hiding on their eyelids and in their eyelashes. We found that 1 out of every 3 patients had resistant bacteria on their eyelids!

As a result of this finding, what are we doing differently now to help protect you?

We...

- Ask you extra questions to find out if you may be at increased risk for developing a resistant infection in your eye
- If you work in health care, or around farm animals, or have ever been told that you have "MRSA" or a resistant infection, then you are at increased risk. If that's the case, we will give you special wipes called Sterilids so that you can scrub your eyelids and eyelashes each night for a week before having eye surgery to help get rid of any resistant bacteria that may be hiding there.

Thanks so much to all of you who participated in this important study. We plan to repeat the study periodically to help us stay on top of the situation, so we can continue to provide you with the safest possible eye surgery.

Meet Our New Fellows, Dr. Kwon and Dr. McCauley

Your Support Allows Us to Train New Leaders for Tomorrow



Dr. Robert Kwon

Dr. Robert Kwon

Born in Philadelphia and raised in Andover, Massachusetts, Dr. Robert Kwon's family favors medicine as a career. He has an identical twin brother who is a general surgical resident and his dad is an anesthesiologist. Both he and his brother were active in winter sports and played ice hockey from the age of four. They served as Co-Captains on their high school Varsity team. As Dr. Kwon recalls, "Hockey was fun to play but I learned a lot about teamwork, building great relationships and leadership skills from it, too." Today, his sports include golfing, scuba diving and watching Red Sox baseball in the summer and Patriots football in the fall.

Dr. Kwon completed his undergraduate and medical school education at Northwestern University in Chicago, and a residency in Ophthalmology at the University of Missouri. He chose to pursue a one year Fellowship with Dr. Price for specific purposes which he explains, "I felt I was an excellent general ophthalmologist but I wanted to specialize in corneal and refractive surgery. The field is exciting because it is evolving rapidly and there are new technologies emerging that allow doctors to make a difference in the lives of their patients. Of course, Dr. Price is a pioneer in performing DSEK transplants and I wanted to learn those skills from him."

Dr. Kwon is single and finds the Midwest a very comfortable region in which to live and work. He hopes to eventually establish a practice on the East Coast and to continue to learn new skills, helping as many patients as possible improve their quality of life through improved vision.



Dr. Matthew McCauley

Dr. Matthew McCauley

There are some people who know the truth of the phrase "home is where the heart is" and Dr. McCauley is one of them. Born in Dallas, but raised from the age of four in Longmont, Colorado, he reflects values learned while being raised in a "medical" family. His dad is a gynecologist and his mom is a nurse; he enjoyed growing up in the beauty of Colorado and acquired a passion for snow skiing and the outdoors. He also found a love of traveling which would play a key role in some of his later career decisions.

He completed an undergraduate degree at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. Dr. McCauley had been accepted to the University of Colorado Medical School when he applied for a Health Professions Scholarship offered by the U.S. Army. There were two major advantages in pursuing it: ample opportunities to travel the world while serving his country, and the ability to remain debt-free while getting a medical education.

After completing medical school, a one year internship was spent at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, followed by a one year "general medical tour" in which he served as chief of an emergency room and primary care clinic in Korea. His three-year ophthalmology residency was completed at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. Following residency, Dr. McCauley was asked to stay on staff to teach future residents cataract and refractive surgery. He completed his 12 year military career this past summer and applied for a fellowship with Dr. Price. After being accepted, he set goals to improve his surgical maturity and acquire a mindset that would allow him to tackle new techniques with comfort. He especially appreciates learning the new DSEK procedure, a remarkable advance over standard corneal transplants with its quicker vision recovery and improved results.

Cookbook Sales Celebrate 20 Years of Your Partnership with Us

Life is just a bowl of cherries...and angel biscuits and caramel rolls...

The Cornea Research Foundation of America's 20th anniversary cookbook sales are going great! Thanks to each of you who took the time to send in your family recipes, and who have purchased copies for yourself, family and church groups. One of those individuals, Annie Castelnovo-McMullen, sent along this note with her recipes, "So glad to be able to contribute to the cookbook. My mother, Mary Castelnovo, had a cornea transplant performed by Dr. Price in September 2006 and she is doing great at 87 years of age now! We traveled from Rhode Island to Indianapolis for the procedure and are so thankful that we did. You are all the very best! And you have a lovely city!"

The laminated cookbooks contain 100 recipes and cost \$10 each, plus \$3 shipping and handling for mailing. They can be purchased by phone using your credit card, or copies can be picked up at the office of Price Vision Group in Indianapolis, or you can mail a check made out to CRFA and send it to Elaine Voci at 9002 N. Meridian Street in Indianapolis, IN. With the holidays approaching our cookbook makes a nice gift!



Focus on Education Seminar Attended by 140 Optometrists

On Saturday, November 15, the weather dawned cold and rainy, but inside the Ritz Charles in Carmel, Indiana, there was a warm and comfortable mood as optometrists gathered for the annual Focus on Education seminar. Jointly sponsored by Price Vision Group and the Foundation, the seminar featured seven topics led by luminaries in the field of ophthalmology and optometry. Seminar facilitator, Kathy Kelley, OD, provided ample opportunities for participants to network with one another and to visit sponsor display tables.



Jerome Abrahms, O.D. attendee and a door prize winner



Seminar presenters, Jeffrey Gilbard, M.D. and Matt McCauley, M.D.