Executive Director's Report from Marianne Price, Ph.D.
In 2010, we made exciting advances in restoring vision. We effectively utilized a corneal strengthening treatment to stop the progression of a visually debilitating condition, keratoconus, which strikes teenagers and young adults. We introduced a new method of combating eye infections. We have successfully fine-tuned vision after cataract surgery with a novel light-adjustable lens. Importantly, we succeeded in convincing surgeons worldwide that small-incision cornea transplants are much safer and last as long or longer than older transplant techniques. We have trained over 500 surgeons from 26 countries in the latest transplant techniques, and we are now taking cornea transplants to the next level by showing that ultra-thin tissue restores the clearest possible vision.

We envision a future where many corneal problems are detected early, before they can cause debilitating vision loss. We continue to investigate what causes the most prevalent corneal problems, such as Fuchs dystrophy and keratoconus, and we’re developing treatments that address the underlying problem, instead of just treating the symptoms.

Currently there is a worldwide shortage of donor corneas. To address this need, we are developing techniques to expand tissue from a single donor cornea so that it can help multiple patients. Ultimately we aim to use a patient’s own adult stem cells to replace damaged areas of the cornea and eliminate the risk of graft rejection.

Helping people regain vision and return to a normal life is an immensely rewarding endeavor made possible through the generous support of our donors and the dedication of our staff.

Report from the President, Francis W. Price, Jr. M.D.
When I founded the non-profit Cornea Research Foundation of America in 1988, I envisioned a world-class research and development organization that would serve doctors and patients around the globe. It has been a long and exciting journey and my dreams for what the Foundation could accomplish have become more real with each passing year. Our hard work and efforts over the past 22 years have been rewarded in many different ways, most importantly with the service to our patients, and awards from leading universities and eye care organizations.

2010 has been a breakthrough year for us across our four pillars: research, innovation, service to humanity and education of doctors and patients. We have participated in clinical research studies that have helped provide more comfortable sight for those born without
irises or whose irises have been damaged, and new hope for those whose sight is failing through cataracts, glaucoma or other challenging vision problems. Our educational programs for doctors have led to unprecedented acceptance of new surgical procedures even in the face of uncertain reimbursement. Our publications on new transplant techniques and outcomes have been among the most influential and highly cited in the field. Through it all, we have enjoyed our work; seeing someone regain sight after years of lonely darkness brings an inner peace that is hard to describe. It inspires us and we are honored to help.

Our successes demonstrate that we have a clear vision of the future, sufficient determination and entrepreneurial spirit to convert that vision to reality and a terrific Board of Directors. Our talented clinical staff is dedicated to our mission to “give people back the use of their eyes”. We are looking forward to continuing to serve people by easing their suffering and changing their lives for the better in the years to come.

Board of Directors

Jim Butler, retired, U.S. Steel
Pat Chastain, retired, Vice President Indianapolis Water Company
Michael Dickerson, Vice President Huntington Bank Private Investment Group
Phil Gibson, retired, Eli Lilly and Interim Director, Better Business Bureau
Walter Gross, Jr., Goelzer Investment Management
Bill Grube, President, Calumet Specialty Products Partners, LP
Trischa Zorn Hudson, J.D., attorney at law
David Huse, DVM, Purdue University
Toula Oberlies, community volunteer and board member Blind Children’s Foundation
Jerry Semler, Chairman Emeritus, American United Mutual Holding Company
Francis Price, Jr. M.D. President and Founder

Fiscal Responsibility: Sources and Uses of Funds
Prepared by Clifton Gunderson LLP

Revenue
Year ending June 30, 2010

Expenses
Year ending June 30, 2010

2010 Accomplishments:
Investigated new ways to provide better vision including:
  o Ultra-small incision cornea transplants
  o Light-adjustable lens to provide sharper vision for cataract patients
  o Treatment to prevent vision loss in young adults with keratoconus
Collaborated on vision-restoration studies with colleagues at the Indiana Lions Eye and Tissue Transplant Bank, Case Western Reserve University, University of Chicago Illinois, and the Indiana University Wells Center for Pediatric Research
Published 10 peer-reviewed articles on new ways to restore vision
Published a text book on corneal and external eye disease problems and treatments
Hosted 8 training courses for eye surgeons from around the world.
Hosted day-long Focus on Education seminar for optometrists
Sponsored Working Vision, a fledgling non-profit devoted to reducing the incidence of work-related eye injuries by distributing new and slightly used safety eyewear to workers in developing nations
Received Achievement Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology in recognition of the Executive Director's contributions through presentations, educational programs and active involvement
Initiated an annual research fellowship position for ophthalmologists and welcomed Dr. Frederico Guerra from Rio de Janiero, Brazil as the first fellow to occupy the position.
Redesigned website to be more informative for people with vision problems
Hosted successful Golf Outing and Women's Luncheon.
Featured by Indiana Business Journal as a "Not for Profit of Note"
Strengthened collaborative relationships with vision-related nonprofits in Indiana, including WFYI-IRIS, Bosma Industries, and American Council of the Blind

Cornea Research Foundation of America:  www.cornea.org
Phone: 317-814-2993  Fax: 317-814-2806  Email: jessica@cornea.org