

# the VISIONARY

A PUBLICATION FROM THE CENTRAL OHIO LIONS EYE BANK

## Eye Bank Partners with Researchers in Ground-Breaking Studies

The Eye Bank is now more than halfway through its work with researchers at Vision Optimization, LLC, employing the use of a prototype device for detection of laser refractive surgery in donor eyes. The two-year project is funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Data and images of the shape of donor corneas are collected by the Eye Bank and will be used to analyze surface patterns that will reveal past surgical interventions. Such surgeries could affect the transplant suitability of the corneas, and this prototype portable topographer is expected to help quickly and easily identify them.

The signs of previous LASIK surgery are subtle and may not be recognized with the use of current examination technology. More than five million patients in the US have had Lasik surgery, a number that could significantly reduce the supply of donor corneas that are able to be transplanted. In addition, one of the most vexing problems in corneal transplantation is post-surgical astigmatism. Corneal curvature measurements, taken with the study's prototype, will help determine a surgical and clinical course to better address this outcome.



Cynthia Roberts, PhD

Heading the NIH-funded research is Cynthia Roberts, PhD, an OSU professor with appointments in both ophthalmology and surgery in the medical college, as well as in biomedical engineering. Dr. Roberts speaks passionately about her research. "I love working with the eye. It's all right there," she says, referring to the complexity of the organ and the fact that its study is so remarkably



The prototype instrument being used in the study will aid eye banks in identifying previous refractive surgery that could have an impact on the transplant suitability of a donor cornea.

encompassing in form and function. The lack of engineers in academic eye research before recent decades also attracted her to the field. After 20 years in cardiovascular research, where a myriad of bioengineers make it difficult to have singular impact, applying her background to ophthalmology "gave me the chance to be a trailblazer."

Dr. Roberts has worked closely with the Eye Bank for many years. Her work depends on people who donate their eyes for research. "It's very important for this work to look at human eyes," Dr. Roberts says, pointing out that animal eyes differ in shape and structure from human eyes. Eye donors for research make it possible, she says, "to translate what we learn to the living population." Columbus is one of only three sites in the world where her current research is being done – the others being Milan, Italy, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The enthusiasm Dr. Roberts has for her work is irresistible. "I love discovery," she says, explaining that she especially enjoys "that huge 'Aha' moment, when something you didn't expect happens," in the course of her investigations. That, she says, has "only" occurred three times to her so far, and she is eager to experience the next. Although these moments have secured Dr. Roberts' world-class reputation in her chosen field, her ultimate, driving passion is clearly – as she describes it – that "it's so much fun!"

# Thanks for Being a Part of Our Vision in 2011!

*A message from Phyllis McNabb, executive director, Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank*

Dear Friends,

What my mother used to tell me is true: time flies much more quickly with each passing year. And as it does, each new generation in the family brings a deeper appreciation of what it means to “see the world through the eyes of a child.” On a different level, each year brings me new opportunities to hear from those who have been blessed with the ability to see the world truly “through new eyes.” Getting to meet and talk with patients who have been given the wonderful gift of restored sight is a profound pleasure. It is a joy for all of the Eye Bank staff when a patient shares a personal “success story” with us. It means a lot to hear from you.

This year we also heard from many hospital staff members and administrators who expressed support for the mission of the Eye Bank and a continuing commitment to their essential role in the Eye Donor Program. Many of you who work with us, day-in and day-out, made a point of communicating this, for which we are more grateful than I can begin to express. Your efforts to care for - and about - eye donors and their families are inspiring.

To our Board members whose terms are ending (especially our nominations committee!) – I have to smile when I see you discovering what I’ve known all along: that you are each irreplaceable in so many, many ways. We’re excited to have new Trustees becoming involved. Though they have huge shoes to fill, their eagerness to bring their unique talents to the Eye Bank promises the contribution of more ideas, new directions, and a bright future. And

thanks to the great fact that “former” Board members tend to remain very active in the Eye Bank’s endeavors, new Trustees don’t replace or replenish, but rather make our family grow.

Our volunteers have taken our needs to heart, as always, but this year perhaps more than ever – Lions; the Eye Express; Development Advisory, Lions and Operating Board members; ophthalmologists across our service area; funeral professionals who so generously give your time; and contributors who help us purchase needed equipment and keep us moving forward. Your value and service to the Eye Bank and the patients who depend on us are immeasurable.

As for the Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank’s staff – you have met many challenges over the past year, and there are always more to come, but you rise and rise. This has been a year of professional peaks for the Eye Bank. Thank you – Jason, David, Cristina, Rusty, Donna, Paul, Megan, Mike, and Tabitha – for striving to build and strengthen the quality we value in our organization, for truly shining in accreditation and regulatory inspections, for the research work, and most important, on behalf of the 350 (and still counting) patients who have been the beneficiaries of your hard work this year.

There is no doubt that the achievement of our mission requires a symphonic effort. To all who were instrumental in giving patients in our community sight-restoring, life-changing experiences in 2011 – our heartfelt thanks.

Happy Holidays, Healthy New Year!

*Phyllis*

## Thanks to All Our Generous Supporters

### \$1–\$99

Alliance Realty Group  
Mona Anderson  
Arlington Optical  
Paul & Dixie Awbrey  
Dorothy J Baier  
Jennifer Ball  
James J Barritt  
Ron Barber  
Beechcroft Lions Club  
Aurelia Brombacher  
Nancy K Burba  
Central Ohio Eye Physicians & Surgeons  
Stan Collins  
Cynthia Crane & Tim Lipetz  
Danville Lions Club  
Oreste R Gallo

Michael & Kathy Garman  
Joseph & Marian Glatterman  
Phyllis Harper  
Thomas, Tommy & Pamela Hawk,  
Mike & Leah Negrite  
Healthdirect Insurance  
Heath Lions Club  
Shirley Jacobs  
Dwight & Mary Ellen Kurtzman  
Carol S Kurtzman  
Lake Waynoka Lions Club  
Virginia Lilly  
Lynchburg Lions Club  
Madison High School Class of 1951  
Midwest Retina Group  
Ophthalmic Anesthesia Assoc  
Ed Otte  
Victor Paini

Phillip E Ridenour  
Marvis A Schaaf  
James Shively  
Donna L Correll Smith  
Southeast Lions Club  
Karl F Wilson  
Ranauda Wildrow  
Virginia Zimovan

### 100-249

Robert & Carol Anderson  
Anonymous  
Arena Eye Surgeons  
Mary T Babcock  
Beavercreek Lions Club  
Mary G Campbell  
Carroll Lions Club  
Duncan Falls-Philo Lions Club  
Frankfort Lions Club

Elizabeth Glass  
Dr. Victor & Katy Hinrichs  
Judy Kammerdiener  
Marysville Evening Lions Club  
The Retina Group  
Ann Schiele

### 300-499

Licking Valley Lions Club  
Millersport Lions Club  
Marylin Scheier  
Zanesville Host Lions Club

### 500-999

Bellbrook Lions Club  
Dublin Lions Club  
Marion Noon Lions Club

### 1000-1499

Bexley Lions Club  
Chillicothe Evening Lions Club  
Good Hope Lions Club  
Dr. Richard & Geraldine Lembach

### In Honor of

In honor of Carrie Lembach  
& Darin Hupp's Wedding by  
Richard & Geraldine Lembach  
In honor of Neal & Kelly  
Cantrell's 15th Wedding  
Anniversary by Shirley Jacobs  
In honor of Phyllis McNabb by  
Joseph & Marian Glatterman

In honor of Dr. Richard Lembach  
by Dorothy J Baier

### In memory of

In memory of Karlene Kress by  
Madison High School Class  
of 1951  
In memory of Mabel Albright by  
Paul & Dixie Aubrey, Aurelia  
Brombacher, Thomas, Tommy  
& Pamela Hawk, Dwight &  
Mary Ellen Kurtzman, Carol S  
Kurtzman, Mike & Leah Negrite,  
Marvis A Schaaf, Donna L  
Correll Smith  
In memory of Mary Eswine by  
Mary G Campbell

**Donations given from May through October 2011.** As a non-profit organization, the Eye Bank relies on private donations to make services available to those who need us. If you would like to help us give the Gift of Sight with a contribution, please contact the **Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank, 262 Neil Avenue, Suite 140, Columbus, Ohio 43215, 614.545.2057** or visit our Web site at [www.DonateMyEyes.org](http://www.DonateMyEyes.org).

## Eye Bank Receives \$1500 From “The Big Give”

Thanks to our generous contributors who participated in the Columbus Foundation’s recent on-line matching campaign, the Eye Bank will receive over \$1500. “The Big Give” was the Foundation’s one-time, 24-hour opportunity for each contributor’s on-line gift to be matched with a pro-rated amount from a \$1,000,000 fund made available by the Foundation.

The Eye Bank continues to be a participant in the Columbus Foundation’s program, a searchable database of local non-profits that also provides an in-depth profile of the organization and facilitates charitable contributions.



## A Chance to Help

It’s the end of another year. What’s on your list? Snow shovel? Check. Furnace filter? Check. Family? Check. Feast? Check. Gifts? Check. Gift check? In the spirit of the season, we respectfully hope that you will consider using the envelope in your newsletter to support the Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank’s mission.

Several weeks ago, the Eye Bank received a note written anonymously by a cornea transplant patient:

“I am beginning to see out of my left eye, something I haven’t been able to do for at least 30 years. I just celebrated my birthday, and the new cornea was my special gift. As my eye(sight) worsened, my world became smaller and smaller. No more driving, and a dependency on other people. I was scared taking care of my grandchildren and crossing a street. And now after the transplant I can see objects and faces and dimples, and even read a little. At this time there is less pain and better sight, and it’s going to get even better. I hope to get a new lease on life and do things that I could only dream about before.”

Patients can only write such letters thanks to you - those who very kindly help make cornea transplants possible through charitable giving. Your support provides opportunities for patients to have the life-altering experience of new sight. Regained activities that may seem mundane to those of us fortunate enough to have our vision are thrilling and re-energizing to someone who has lost this most precious sense. Many patients like this one emphasize their loss of independence. It is not uncommon for blindness to be accompanied by depression, as well. Quality of life – the “spark,” even – can be greatly diminished.

The great news is that we have the ability to turn things around for some patients with sight-impairing corneal diseases or injuries. But we need help to make it happen. If you can, please help us give other patients like this one that “new lease on life” that s/he “could only dream about before.”

**Thank you for your generosity!**

## Lions Board Announces Fund to Honor Eye Bank Medical Director

At their December meeting, the Lions Board of the Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank announced the establishment of the **Richard G. Lembach, M.D., Eye Banking Education, Research, and Development Fund**. Established to support endeavors intended to bring about progress, innovation, and development, the new fund will award educational and research opportunities to Eye Bank staff and qualified eye researchers for the purpose of advancing the mission of the Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank and the field of eye banking.



Dr. Lembach has been the Lions Eye Bank’s Medical Director since 1989. Under his guidance, the Eye Bank has achieved and maintained a reputation for excellence in providing quality services and leading-edge surgical options for physicians and their patients. Dr. Lembach, a professor of ophthalmology at OSU, has also been a leader in promoting the Eye Bank’s support of, and participation in, eye research. Thanks to his leadership, the Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank has provided many thousands of donor eyes over the years for research at OSU and elsewhere; conducted and participated in scientific studies; and been cited as a significant resource in medical journal articles, posters, and presentations that all grew from the Eye Bank’s active pursuit of the research aspect of our mission. Dr. Lembach is also a passionate advocate for the advancement of the Eye Bank through staff development and education. He continues to volunteer an exceptional amount of his time to ensure the technical and medical quality of the Eye Bank’s work.

## Eye Bank Awarded Special Status on Non-profit Web Site

The Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank has received the GuideStar Exchange Seal, a symbol of transparency and accountability provided by GuideStar USA, Inc., a premier source of nonprofit information. The Seal demonstrates to the Lions Eye Bank’s support base and the general public our ongoing commitment to providing easily-accessible, accurate, and comprehensive information about our organization.

In order to be awarded the GuideStar Exchange Seal, the Eye Bank completed an extensive report on [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org), including detailed financial data and program descriptions.

# Quality: Full-Service, Fully-Accredited

The Eye Bank's mission not only underscores the reasons for our existence – connecting eye donors with cornea transplant patients, educating physicians, and enhancing eye research - it also emphasizes the means by which we accomplish our goals: through quality eye banking services. In 2011, the Eye Bank's commitment to quality resulted in passing our regulatory inspection with flying colors. We were also re-accredited by the Eye Bank Association of America as a full-service eye bank, again achieving the highest designation possible. This – and the fact that we offer advanced technology in the preparation of corneas for transplantation - makes the Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank the only full-service and fully-accredited eye bank in the state of Ohio.

Credit the Eye Bank's staff, and above all our Medical Director, Richard Lembach, M.D. He set the quality bar high when he took over that position in 1989, and has only raised it in the ensuing years. Our Associate

Medical Director, John Stechschulte, M.D., is in full accord.

The Eye Bank's interpretation of the word quality is three-fold: commitment, commandment, covenant. It is a goal, an internal expectation, and a responsibility we have to our community. While we are thrilled to have recognition for sustaining a high mark... we humbly acknowledge that the effort is never over. And it won't be, until the last patient in our community who ever needs a transplant has received a new cornea.



**Richard Lembach, M.D. and John Stechschulte, M.D.**

The Visionary is published by the Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank. Please report all changes of address to: Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank, 262 Neil Avenue, Suite 140, Columbus, OH 43215, or email at [info@coleb.org](mailto:info@coleb.org).

#### 2010-11 Board of Trustees

John Stechschulte, M.D.  
*Chairman*  
PDG Jay Carey  
*Treasurer*  
Ann Schiele, PhD  
*Secretary*  
Richard Lembach, M.D.  
*Medical Director*  
John Stechschulte, M.D.  
*Associate Medical Director*  
Ron Barber  
PDG Ron Keller  
Raymond Mazzotta  
Victor Paini  
Brian Turner

#### Development Advisory Board

Victor Paini  
*Chairman*  
Richard Colby  
Stan Collins  
Matt Dole  
Tahnda Hawkins  
Mike McMasters  
John Stechschulte, M.D.  
Al Tucker

#### 2010-11 Lions Board

Melody Brent  
*Chairman*  
Bill Christensen  
*First Vice Chairman*  
David Jordan  
*2nd Vice Chairman*  
George Barnes  
*Secretary*  
Barbara Berry  
David Black  
Jeff Cromwell  
Norm Cupps  
Don DeVault  
Paul Geiger  
David Haines  
Gary Herdman  
Ann Knight  
Jennifer Luttrell  
Robert Nelson  
Norm Neuberger III  
Marty Savage  
Brian Shapiro  
James Shively  
John Smith  
Charles Spellman  
Brian Turner



CENTRAL OHIO LIONS  
**EYE BANK**

Be a part of the vision.

*the* **VISIONARY**  
A PUBLICATION FROM THE CENTRAL OHIO LIONS EYE BANK



IN THIS ISSUE

- Partnering with a world-class researcher
- Providing quality eye banking services
- An opportunity to help restore sight
- Lions Board fund honors Eye Bank Medical Director

**OUR MISSION** | To restore, improve, and preserve vision by connecting eye donors and transplant recipients, educating physicians, and enhancing research through quality eye banking services.



CENTRAL OHIO LIONS  
**EYE BANK**

Be a part of the vision.

262 Neil Avenue, Suite 140,  
Columbus, OH 43215

