Eye-Bank Board Appoints New President and Vice President

On June 9, The Eye-Bank’s Board of Directors elected long-time member, James Fabian, Esq. as President and Kathleen O’Donnell as Vice President. The Board comprises 15 to 20 members who have wide-ranging expertise in a variety of industries and assists The Eye-Bank in fulfilling its mission of sight restoration through strategic fund raising, financial planning, programming and marketing. There are no term limits to Board membership.

Mr. Fabian has served on the Board since 2002 and has been its Vice President for the last seven years. Mr. Fabian brings a wealth of experience to his new position having been a practicing health care attorney for the last 35 years, including ten years as an in-house counsel at New York Presbyterian Hospital. Since 1994 he has been a member of the Health Care Practice Group at the international law firm, Nixon Peabody LLP. Mr. Fabian recently retired as a senior partner at Nixon Peabody, but still remains as senior counsel to the firm.

Mr. Fabian graduated from St. John’s University School of Law and received his undergraduate degree from Oberlin College and for the last eight years, has been recognized by Chambers USA as one of America’s Leading Lawyers in Health Care.

Newly elected Vice President, Kathleen O’Donnell, has been a Board member for the last four years. Ms. O’Donnell’s background is in financial and administrative management and she currently serves as Senior Vice President at New York Academy of Medicine responsible for finance, grants management, human resources, information technology and facilities management.

Previously, Ms. O’Donnell was Vice President and Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Administration at Columbia University Medical Center from 1991 to 2007. Ms. O’Donnell has been a pro-bono consultant on governance, finance and administration for a Rwanda program with the non-governmental organization (NGO), Women’s Equal Access to Care & Treatment. A graduate of Columbia University, New York, NY, with an MBA and MPH, Ms. O’Donnell also holds an MA from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Boston, MA, and an undergraduate degree from Ohio University, Athens, OH.

The Eye-Bank’s Executive Director, Patricia Dahl, congratulates both Jim and Kathy and looks forward to collaborating with them to further the sight restoring mission of the organization.

The Eye-Bank Hosts Wet Lab

The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration hosted a one-day Transitioning to Descemet Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty (DMEK) course and wet lab for 30 area surgeons on February 7. Conducted in collaboration with Midwest Eye-Banks, the course included DMEK Techniques and Tips, Post-op Care and a surgeon’s perspective on transitioning to DMEK.

The afternoon session was a wet lab offering 18 surgeons a hands-on learning experience with DMEK prepared tissue. In DMEK, a technique on the forefront of ophthalmic surgery, a 10 microns thin layer of cornea tissue is transplanted in a partial thickness graft procedure as opposed to performing a full-thickness penetrating keratoplasty (PK) procedure.

Guest faculty for this unique course included Drs. Mark Gorovoy of Gorovoy M.D. Eye Specialists, Ft. Myers, FL; Sadeer Hannush of Wills Eye Institute, Philadelphia, PA; and Michael Straiko of Devers Eye Institute, Portland, OR. Additional faculty included Dr. George Florakis, Chairman of The Eye-Bank’s Medical Advisory Board and Mudassir Razvi, CEBT, Tissue Processing Manager at The Eye-Bank.
Medical Advisory Board Announces New Officers

This past June, The Eye-Bank’s Medical Advisory Board appointed Stephen C. Kaufman, M.D., PhD, as secretary and welcomed four new members. They are Douglas R. Lazzaro, M.D., Richard D. Najac M.D., and Kimberly C. Sippel, M.D. who are returning to the Board after having rotated off for at least one year and Jules A. Winokur, M.D. who is joining the Medical Advisory Board for the first time.

Those seated on the 24-member Board are elected to either two or three year terms and collaborate with the Medical Director to ensure best practices in laboratory quality control and adherence to technical, medical and research regulatory standards.

Stephen C. Kaufman, M.D. (Secretary) currently serves as Vice Chairman and Professor of Ophthalmology and Director of Cornea and Refractive Surgery at the State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate. He also serves as Director of the 2015 American Academy of Ophthalmology Subspecialty Day Program. Previously, Dr. Kaufman was Professor and Lyon Endowed Chair of Ophthalmology and Director of Cornea and Refractive Surgery in the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

After undergraduate studies at Dickinson College in Pennsylvania, Dr. Kaufman received his medical degree from Louisiana State University and a Doctorate in Philosophy from the School of Medicine in New Orleans, LA. He interned at St. John Hospital and completed his residency at Henry Ford Hospital, both in Detroit, MI. Fellowships in cornea, anterior segment and refractive surgery followed at Louisiana State University Medical Center.

In addition to The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration, Dr. Kaufman serves on the Medical Advisory Board of the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA), and on the Board of the Cornea Society. He is a member of various professional societies including the Paton Society and the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

Douglas R. Lazzaro, M.D. is the Richard C. Troutman, M.D. Distinguished Chair of Ophthalmology and Ophthalmic Microsurgery and Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at the State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate Medical Center. He also serves as Director of Ophthalmology at Kings County Hospital Center.

A medical graduate of SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Dr. Lazzaro interned at Staten Island University Hospital and completed his residency training at SUNY Downstate where he was appointed Chief Resident during his last year. His fellowship in cornea, external diseases and refractive surgery was at Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital and Cornell Medical Center.

Board certified in Ophthalmology, Dr. Lazzaro has made numerous national and international presentations and is currently pursuing an MBA at Drexel Lebow School of Business. He holds memberships in various professional societies including the American Medical Association, the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, the Cornea Society, the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery and the American College of Surgeons.

Richard D. Najac, M.D. serves as Director of Cornea Service and Attending in the Department of Surgery at The Jamaica Hospital System and Associate Attending in the Department of Ophthalmology at New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai. Since 1994, he has been in private practice at Najac Vision in Kew Gardens, NY.

He is actively involved in teaching new residents in two of New York City’s Ophthalmology residency programs.

With an undergraduate degree from Amherst College, Dr. Najac received his medical degree from Weill Cornell University Medical College, NY, and interned at Danbury Hospital in CT. Both his residency and a fellowship that focused on cornea, refractive surgery and external diseases were completed at New York Eye & Ear Infirmary.

Dr. Najac specializes in cornea transplantation, pterygium and cataract surgery. He has a particular interest in partial corneal transplants and complex anterior segment surgeries and has participated in various research studies. His professional society memberships include, the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons.

Kimberly C. Sippel, M.D. is Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York and previously served as Associate Clinical Surgeon at Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary. Prior to that, she was Staff Surgeon at Northeast Hospital Corporation in Massachusetts and taught at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary.

Dr. Sippel also served as Assistant Attending Ophthalmologist at New York Presbyterian Hospital in New York City.

A graduate in Biochemical Sciences from Harvard College in Cambridge, MA, Dr. Sippel’s medical degree is from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. She interned at Massachusetts General Hospital and completed an ophthalmology residency and fellowship at Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary, Harvard Medical School. Her clinical interests include corneal transplantation and complex cataract surgery.

She is a member of several professional societies including, the Cornea Society, the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology.

Jules Winokur, M.D. is an Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at the Hofstra University, North Shore—Long Island Jewish (NS-LIJ) School of Medicine in New York. He is the Program Director for the ophthalmology residency at the NS-LIJ Health System and is on staff at both NS-LIJ Eye Center in Great Neck, NY, and the Manhattan Eye, Ear & Throat Hospital.

Dr. Winokur graduated from the Sackler School of Medicine and completed his internship at Montefiore Medical Center in New York. He was a resident in Ophthalmology at the NS-LIJ Health System before completing a fellowship in cornea, refractive and external disease at the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary at the University of Illinois in Chicago. Dr. Winokur has authored abstracts, articles and book chapters and was recently selected as a “Rising Star” by New York Super Doctors. Memberships in professional organizations include the American Academy of Ophthalmology, New York State Ophthalmologic Society, the American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery and the American College of Surgeons.

"
New Yorker Speaks Poetically about Receiving the Gift of Sight

By Marilyn Kim Oliver

Aspiring author and illustrator, Darlene Rivera-Davis, is thrilled to have her sight back and be able to plan for a future with restored eyesight which she does not take for granted.

In 2000, as a twenty-one-year-old, Darlene was diagnosed with keratoconus, a disease that causes the cornea, the clear outer covering of the eye, to become cone shaped, eventually leading to blindness. As a teenager, Darlene had also suffered a traumatic injury to her eyes which caused them to turn to the sides, so in addition to keratoconus, she was also diagnosed with diplopia, double vision. Darlene’s doctor told her she would eventually lose her eyesight.

The diplopia caused her to see multiples of the same image and because of these visual challenges, she was forced to forego a scholarship to Brooklyn College. It was in this fuzzy world of being legally blind that Darlene lived for the next 10 years — one in which, simply walking in the street by herself was unthinkable, and the faces of family members and friends were unrecognizable, even that of her son, Prince.

Interestingly enough, writing and drawing became Darlene’s lifeline during this time and in spite of her vision impairment, she wrote poems, short stories and illustrated them, even though the writing was slanted.

As luck would have it, in 2011, while accompanying her son to Weill Cornell Medical Center for a doctor’s visit, a chance encounter changed Darlene’s fortunes. Her son, who was only 11 years old at the time, began speaking with an employee at the hospital who had also been diagnosed with keratoconus and had had a successful cornea transplant. Prince was so excited that he encouraged his mother to see the employee’s doctor who had performed the transplant.

Darlene and her husband, Aaron, visited Kimberly Sippel, M.D., corneal surgeon and ophthalmologist, who, according to Darlene, gave her hope. For the first time since her diagnosis, she was offered the possibility of having restored or improved eyesight — the chance of a life which had seemed lost forever. Dr. Sippel recommended cornea transplants to both eyes and realignment surgeries.

In July 2011 at Weill Cornell Medical Center, Dr. Sippel performed a cornea transplant to Darlene’s left eye with donor cornea tissue provided by The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration. The second transplant was done in April, 2013 on Darlene’s right eye. Prior to the surgeries, Darlene’s visual acuity only allowed her to count fingers, and now with eyeglasses, she has 20/20 vision. Another surgeon performed realignment surgeries on Darlene’s eyes in 2012. Now Darlene can cross the street without assistance and perform everyday tasks which were impossible for her to do before the corneal transplants.

 Darlene is grateful to her doctor and especially her donors, along with their families, for offering her a chance for improved eyesight and life.

Darlene is grateful to her doctor and especially her donors, along with their families, for offering her a chance for improved eyesight and life. Since her corneal transplants, Darlene has attended her son’s Junior High School graduation and while sitting 13 rows back was overjoyed to see his face clearly as he crossed the stage. Darlene is currently enrolled in a writing course offered at Hunter College in Manhattan — the first step in her pursuit of a degree in writing and illustration.

The Eye-Bank thanks the donors and their families who so willingly gave this precious gift of sight. We call on all New Yorkers to sign up in the Donate Life Registry by logging on to www.eyedonation.org and clicking on the Donate Life logo or signing up at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) when applying for or renewing a driver’s license and See What Your Eyes Can Do for Others®.

Save the Date: Swing for Sight

The Eye-Bank is eagerly anticipating our 6th annual Swing for Sight golf outing scheduled for Monday, October 19, 2015 at the exclusive Tuxedo Club in Tuxedo, NY. We are looking forward to another year of fun on the green and seeing who will take home first-place honors at the end of a challenging 18 holes. This year’s golf event will be chaired by Eye-Bank Board member Joseph D’Ambrosio and Medical Advisory Board member Richard Gibralter, M.D. So gather your foursome and save the date! For more information, please contact our Development Director, Catherine Sui, at csui@ebsr.org.
This report provides information about the activities of The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration that occurred in conjunction with the corresponding financials for 2014.

In 2014, The Eye-Bank recovered a total of 1,712 eye/cornea donations in 2014, resulting in a two percent (2%) decrease compared to the 1,745 tissues recovered in 2013. The number of transplants for which The Eye-Bank supplied tissue remained even with 2013. In 2014, The Eye-Bank provided tissue for a total of 1,296 transplants using 1,911 local donations and importing 276 cornes from other U.S. eye banks accredited by the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA).

There was a significant increase of 22 percent (22%) in 2014 in the number of pre-cut tissues that The Eye-Bank provided to surgeons for endothelial keratoplasty (EK) procedures. In 2014, The Eye-Bank provided 442 pre-cut tissues for EK surgeries compared to 362 pre-cut tissues provided in the previous year. Additionally, 53 percent (53%) of all corneal transplants performed were EK procedures and 91 percent (91%) of the tissue supplied for those procedures was pre-cut by The Eye-Bank’s own laboratory specially-trained CEBTs (EBAA Certified Eye Bank Technicians).

In terms of oversight and counsel for The Eye-Bank laboratory, Michelle Rhee, M.D. became The Eye-Bank’s new Medical Director on October 1, 2014. She skillfully fills the role vacated by Mark Rosenblatt, M.D. who relocated to be Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Illinois-Chicago. We wish Dr. Rosenblatt the best in his new position and welcome Dr. Rhee as The Eye-Bank’s Medical Director.

Also new to The Eye-Bank are Leo Corbett and Edith Greenwood who were elected to the Board of Directors in June, 2014. Both bring expertise to the Board in the areas of finance and business administration. Please join me in welcoming them.

The Eye-Bank hosted its last A Live Auction and Wine Tasting, with the 11th rendition of that highly successful event being held in April at the Bohemian Benevolent and Literary Association in Manhattan. Thanks to the efforts of Committee Co-Chairs Eugene and Joan Daly and Dr. James and Elizabeth Auran, the evening raised more than $73,000 for The Eye-Bank’s public and professional education programs. A new type of Spring Benefit will be conducted in 2015.

An additional $30,000 was raised in September at The Eye-Bank’s 5th Annual Swing for Sight golf outing, held once again at the historic Tuxedo Club. Returning as Co-Chairs were Eye-Bank Board Vice President James Fabian and David Haight, M.D., of the Medical Advisory Board. I’m proud to say yours truly and team won first place net and Director Edith Greenwood’s foursome took the prize for lowest gross.

A new multi-media ad campaign was created in the fall and footage was shot in November at a studio in lower Manhattan. The “Eye signed up” campaign, created by ADZ (Advertising Zen Design), a firm headed by David Goodnight and Lou Maurio, features actual New Yorkers who have enrolled in the New York State Donate Life Registry as well as cornea transplant recipients who attest “Eye can see again,” in other ads, The outdoor ads began to appear in the subway the last week in December with the full launch of radio, TV and newspaper scheduled for January, 2015.

The Eye-Bank’s Public Education Department was joined by supportive volunteers in creating 90-second, in-house videos that appeared on Facebook and featured the personal testimonies of donor families and grateful transplant recipients. Their moving stories help to encourage others to enroll in the Donate Life Registry.

Lastly, it is a heartfelt honor to express our sincere gratitude to our hundreds of donor families. On behalf of all our cornea transplant recipients, we thank you and especially your loved ones for leaving the beautiful gift of sight so that someone else might see again.

Joseph J. D’Ambrosio
President
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION DECEMBER 31

2014 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents $161,513</td>
<td>$188,971</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable, net 995,743</td>
<td>831,676</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other current assets 204,967</td>
<td>257,349</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, net 2,081,431</td>
<td>2,251,146</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments, at fair value 19,447,304</td>
<td>17,324,722</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beneficial interest in charitable trusts 4,413,657</td>
<td>4,411,107</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total assets $27,804,615 $25,665,571</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and other liabilities $190,819</td>
<td>$246,970</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contract payable</td>
<td>51,483</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred rent payable</td>
<td>449,380</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred revenue</td>
<td>435,401</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total liabilities $649,749 $711,854</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net assets</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted – undesignated $2,785,205</td>
<td>$2,955,488</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted – designated for long-term investment $19,343,204</td>
<td>$17,420,622</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total unrestricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>22,128,409</td>
<td>20,376,110</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>660,656</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted</td>
<td>3,096,381</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total net assets $27,154,866 $24,911,717</td>
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STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES DECEMBER 31

2014 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public support and operating revenue</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and foundation grants $188,220</td>
<td>$247,462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions from charitable trusts 204,415</td>
<td>222,736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributed services and materials 44,486</td>
<td>49,482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special events 78,466</td>
<td>95,801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processing fees 4,008,207</td>
<td>4,671,185</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment return appropriated for operations 865,697</td>
<td>155,837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other 7,466</td>
<td>13,013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total public support and operating revenue $5,996,717</td>
<td>$5,655,716</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transplant and research of ocular tissue $3,789,917</td>
<td>$3,116,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public and professional education 1,466,415</td>
<td>1,441,191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and general 445,103</td>
<td>433,234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising 486,046</td>
<td>493,991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses $6,187,481</td>
<td>$5,884,121</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Deficiency of operating revenue over expenses $190,764 | $228,807 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-operating revenue</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions from legacies and bequests $1,835,639</td>
<td>$70,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in value of beneficial interest in charitable trusts, net 2,150</td>
<td>285,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment return designated for long-term investment 576,124</td>
<td>2,995,189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net (loss) on disposal of property and equipment $120,822</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total non-operating revenue $1,410,859</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Change in net assets $2,223,149 $3,092,052   |       |

2014 OPERATING EXPENSES $6,187,481

2014 TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT AND OPERATING REVENUE $5,996,717

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offsetting Sources of Support</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and Foundation Grants</td>
<td>$188,220</td>
<td>$247,462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions from Charitable Trusts</td>
<td>$1,835,639</td>
<td>$70,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transplant and Research of Ocular Tissue</td>
<td>$3,789,917</td>
<td>$3,116,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public and Professional Education</td>
<td>$1,466,415</td>
<td>$1,441,191</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>$445,103</td>
<td>$433,234</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$486,046</td>
<td>$493,991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$6,187,481</td>
<td>$5,884,121</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Deficiency of operating revenue over expenses       | $190,764 | $228,807 |

| Non-operating revenue                               | $1,410,859 |       |

| Change in net assets                                 | $2,223,149 | $3,092,052 |

This data has been extracted from our financial statements which were audited by Condon O’Meara McGinty & Donnelly LLP, One Battery Park Plaza, New York, NY 10004-1405.

CAPITAL TRANSACTIONS

The Eye-Bank, in association with outside, independent counsel, has its investment portfolio under continuous review. The review’s purpose is to improve dividend and interest income with securities, which, in the carefully considered opinions of all concerned, are of sound value. With these objectives in mind, changes in holdings are made from time to time.

A copy of the Annual Report BSW-497 can be obtained on request from the Attorney General’s Office, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271 or from The Eye-Bank.

The Eye-Bank office and laboratory are located at 120 Wall Street, New York, NY 10005. Telephone (24 hours): (212) 742-9000, Fax: (212) 269-3119. E-mail: info@ebsr.org, Internet address: wwweyedonation.org.

These statements of conditions and results for the years ending December 31, 2013 and December 31, 2014 have been prepared by Condon, O’Meara, McGinty & Donnelly LLP and presented in condensed form by management to provide a capsule view of our finances. Since January 1, 1978, in order to meet day-to-day expenses, The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration, Inc., like other eye banks throughout the country, has assessed a fee for the processing of corneas.

The Eye-Bank has been able to build up a financial reserve thanks to the receipts from legacies. However, legacy income is largely unpredictable. We hope that our benefactors and good friends, a major source of support, will continue to aid us and, through this means, greatly help The Eye-Bank meet its daily operating needs. To include The Eye-Bank in your will, just add the following language: “I give and bequeath to The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration, Inc., the sum of $____ to be applied to the uses and purposes of the corporation.”

Officers and Board Members as of December 31: Mel M. Immergut, Honorary Director; David Paton, M.D., Honorary Director; George B. Snell, Honorary Director; Joseph J. D’Ambrosio, CPA, President; James Faham, Esq., Vice President; Rachel A. Heider, Secretary; Umbur Ahmad, Treasurer; Donna G. Banks; Marilyn L. Castaldi; Leo J. Corbett; Giovanni F. DiCenzo; Edith Greenwood; Paul Kavain; Richard A. Mittenthal; Andrea Nordquist; Kathleen O’Donnell; Carla H. Skodinski; Michael Zambrelli


Patricia Dahl, Executive Director/CFO; Michelle K. Rhee, M.D., Medical Director
The Eye-Bank is pleased to recognize the staff of Elmhurst Hospital Center for their outstanding dedication to sight restoration. The hospital’s many departments work together to ensure a successful donation process.

Units include Admitting/Information Desk staff who provide hospital visitors with donor registry forms and make referral calls to Nursing staff who collaborate across departments to ensure timeliness of referrals.

Chief Nursing Officer, Joann Gull, has directed her team to attend Eye-Bank monthly in-service training and these orientation sessions are also presented to Operating Room and other personnel. In addition, Intensive Care Unit directors allow The Eye-Bank to address medical doctors and physicians’ assistants as they rotate; while Hospital Police and Mortuary staff accommodate Eye-Bank technicians who recover tissue. With a Donor Council that analyzes best practices and seeks ways to increase eye, organ and tissue donations, Elmhurst puts donation at the forefront.

The commitment to donation is exemplified by the hospital’s Labor Caucus who invited The Eye-Bank to present and register new donors at its meetings. According to the hospital’s Executive Director and Senior Vice President of the Queens Health Network, Chris Constantino, “Elmhurst Hospital Center is extremely proud to partner with The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration to raise awareness about the need of eye donation in our community. We want to make sure that our patients and their families know about the donation process.”

On May 12, The Eye-Bank participated with other members of the New York Alliance for Donation (NYAD), a statewide organization of eye, organ and tissue recovery agencies, in the annual Legislative Education Day in Albany. This year the day set for meeting with legislators in the state’s capital included attending a legislative press conference announcing the group’s two agenda items—an amendment to Lauren’s Law which makes addressing the decision about organ, eye and tissue donation a required field on DMV forms for a new driver’s license and the new Young Adult Enrollment Legislation which allows individuals 16 years of age or older to enroll in the Donate Life Registry.

With the help of The Eye-Bank and the rest of the NYAD membership and donation community, the legislation amending Lauren’s Law was passed by the New York State Senate and Assembly in June. This will restore the statute’s original goal of requiring the organ donation section to be completed by individuals applying for a New York State’s Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) driver’s license. This section of the DMV application raises awareness about signing up as an organ donor and offers applicants to either check “yes” to be a donor or check “skip this question.”

NYAD also requested support for the new Young Adult Enrollment Legislation, a bill introduced by Assemblyman Felix Ortiz and supported by Senator Kemp Hannon but this proposed bill did not go for a vote in the most recent legislative session.

The Eye-Bank is grateful to the staff members, volunteers, cornea transplant recipients and donor families who traveled by bus to the capital to meet with the state’s senators, assembly members or their staff to discuss ways to increase the number of New Yorkers who are enrolled in the New York State Donate Life Registry.
Eye-Bank Launches First-Time Casino Night

On April 27, the ballroom at the Bohemian Benevolent and Literary Association in Manhattan was filled with excitement as guests let the good times roll at The Eye-Bank’s first-ever Casino Night Spring Benefit. More than 180 guests tempted lady luck at poker, roulette and black jack as they supported The Eye-Bank, which is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year.

Attendees enjoyed specialty cocktails and hors d’oeuvres throughout the evening. Lucky gamblers played for chances to win one or more of the exciting prizes on hand, such as Dinner at the Skybox at Daniel Restaurant, a one-week stay on Marcos Island, FL, tickets to Major League Baseball games and passes to Disney World. The entire evening was a complete success with appreciative patrons lending their support which ultimately raised $50,000 for The Eye-Bank’s public and professional programs.

The Eye-Bank wishes to acknowledge the Spring Benefit Co-chairs Paul Kayaian and Douglas Lazzaro, M.D. and the entire Benefit Committee for their time and effort in creating a successful event. The Eye-Bank also thanks the evening’s Gaming Table Sponsors — The Association of Macular Diseases, The Macula Foundation and Manhattan Eye, Ear & Throat Hospital — as well as the many advertising sponsors for their generous support of the event. Lastly, The Eye-Bank appreciates the expertise of The Big Eastern Casino Company for their role in helping us launch our first casino night and making it an exciting and successful fundraiser.

Honor/Memorial Gifts from January 1, 2015—June 15, 2015

Memorial and honor gifts are given to recognize loved ones or to mark a special occasion. To make a gift in honor or memory of someone, please use the enclosed envelope, visit www.eyedonation.org/give or contact The Eye-Bank’s Development Department at 212-742-9000.

In Memory of…

B
Sheldon Brown
C
Phyllis Galese
Alice Cefola
Wing Chun, M.D.
Michael Cortidi
D
SONIA DEMENT
Cecile DeLaurentis
E
Martin Elias
F
Albert Farrell
Lenore Fleischer
Norma Foderer
G
Gary Geyer
H
Ira Harkavy
Curtis E. Harris
J
Brian M. Jackel
Johnny Jankowski
K
John Soorin Koolan
L
Peter Long
M
F. Mallori
William A. Matthews
John McNulty
Julia Michelson
O
Deb Ogas
R
Rodney A. Rohrbaugh
Sadie Rosentrauch
Jean Russo
S
Donald Seligman
Edna Schaefer
Claude Mike Simpson
Maharaj Solomon
R. David Sadalsky, M.D.
T
Warren Teufel
U
Laura Ulvestad
W
Lynn Weed
Y
Dominick Yacono
Israel Yosef
Dara A. Yono

In Honor of…

A
Transplant Donors and Donor Families
B
Kirk Brouwer’s 17th Birthday
C
Jeanette Calder
Gerald Cantor
Rayleen Cioffi
Mary Ellen Cronin, C.S.W.
D
Eugene and Joan Daly
Mary DeLeo
F
James Fabian
Marie Frangella
G
Orazio Gilberti, M.D.
Michael Goldman, M.D.
H
Curtis E. Harris
J
Martin and Lyse M. Jackel’s grandson, Ryan A. Jackel’s birth…
M
Sid Mandelbaum, M.D.
Roy Marshak
N
NY State Society of Southern Dames Association Charter Ceremony
O
Mary Jane O’Neill’s Birthday
P
Robert Passikoff’s speedy recovery
Q
Jeanne Ptak
R
David Ritterband, M.D.
Hilda Rosentrauch
S
Howar Safar
John A. Seedor
Luigi and Rose M. Squitteri
Z
Gerald Zaidman, M.D.
…of Interest

Mudassir Razvi was a presenter at the Eye Bank Association of America’s (EBAA) annual meeting in Atlanta, GA, June 3–6. The topic of Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT): Tips & Tools, was a presentation offering 1 CEU credit to eye bank technicians in attendance. Mudassir shared his evaluation of OCT technique using the Zeiss Visante — an emerging technology for performing high-resolution cross-sectional optical imaging that uses light as opposed to sound as in ultrasound imaging. When evaluating corneal tissue, this state-of-the-art technology offers highly accurate measurements of corneal thickness reducing the risk of contaminating or damaging the corneal tissue that is being examined for transplant and helps to identify the extent of anomalies such as ulcers, scars, foreign bodies and previous Lasik surgeries.

It’s a Girl — Twice!
The Eye-Bank congratulates Medical Advisory Board Member, Himani Goyal, M.D., and Junior Council Member, Matthew Lambert, on the wonderful additions to their families — each welcomed a baby girl!

Dr. Goyal gave birth to Tatiana Laxmi Venkataraman on April 21, 2015 who weighed 6 lbs, 6 oz. and measured 19 inches. Matthew welcomed 7 lb., 8 oz. Mia Jane Lamberta on April 28, 2015. Congratulations to both families!

Diane Marinho, M.D., (left) Medical Director of the Eye Bank of Hospital de Clinicas de Porto Alegre in southern Brazil was the recipient of the Eye Bank Association of America’s (EBAA) 2015 Mary Jane O’Neill Fellowship in International Eye Banking Award which includes attendance at the EBAA annual meeting and spending a week with a host eye bank member. This year, The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration was honored to be the host eye bank. After attending the EBAA’s 54th Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA, Dr. Marinho, an ophthalmologist and cornea surgeon, came to New York City where she spent a week at The Eye-Bank meeting with all Eye-Bank departments as well as observing and preparing tissue for DSEK and DMEK procedures in The Eye-Bank’s cornea laboratory. According to Dr. Marinho, endothelial keratoplasty (EK) procedures such as DSEK and DMEK are not currently being performed in Brazil and learning how to prepare the donor corneal tissue for EK will allow her to use this advancement for the improved treatment of her patients. In DSEK and DMEK procedures, a thin layer of corneal tissue is transplanted as opposed to a full thickness graft resulting in a speedier recovery for the patient.

It was The Eye-Bank’s pleasure to host Dr. Marinho’s visit and share best practices in eye banking. The EBAA fellowship to advance international eye banking was established in honor of Mary Jane O’Neill, retired Executive Director of The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration (1980–2000).

Mary Jane O’Neill Fellowship recipient, Diane Marinho, M.D. (L) with Eye-Bank Executive Director, Patricia Dahl

The Eye-Bank’s Tissue and Processing Manager Mudassir Razvi with Eye-Bank Executive Director, Patricia Dahl