2010 – 2011

YEAR in REVIEW

EBAA Celebrates 50 Years
What does 50 years signify to those who have never known it, or attained it themselves? Revisiting that time through pictures, stories, movies and books paints a portrait of a landscape that since that time has been filled in, embellished and greatly improved with the innovations that have become accepted practice today. These mediums allow us to “look back” and appreciate where we are today.

But this “time travel” accomplishes something else that zooms us forward: it challenges us to respect the past and carry it into the future in ways unknown to those who “pioneered” eye banking and corneal transplantation. Imagine not having the ease of communication that today allows us to treat international cooperation and distribution as “local;” this, in turn, has created opportunity to spread eye banking worldwide.

In our current Strategic Plan, adopted by the Board of Directors in 2009, the EBAA recognized this opportunity and revised our mission to reach the goal of “...restoring sight worldwide.” We must create pathways which enable us and others to do just that.

This is but one example of new frontiers that today are complex and challenging and that 50 years from now will not be questioned or understood for the talent, vision and creativity that it took to get there.

At this moment in time – our 50th Anniversary – we have the leisure to not just celebrate the past but to acknowledge its trials and tribulations, its leaders and visionaries, its short term objectives and long term goals that were met, and then carried on and expanded. Please join us in reviewing this past with nostalgia and appreciation for those who made us who and where we are today, poised to continue the journey.

Respectfully yours,

Patricia Aiken O’Neill
President and CEO, 1990 – 2011
Eye Bank Association of America
Chair’s Address

This past year as Chair of the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) has proven to be an exciting, rewarding and historic experience. From last year’s Annual Meeting in Hilton Head, SC, to this year’s 50th Annual Meeting and Anniversary Celebration in Tucson, AZ, the EBAA has continued to promote quality leadership, medical standards, education, and groundbreaking developments in the transplantation community.

It is difficult to pinpoint just one central highlight of this past year – there have been many. But there are two events in particular that exemplified the strength and initiative of the Association.

In 2010, Dr. Mark Mannis and I drafted a preliminary plan for a Physician Leadership Program, an effort that grew out of Strategy III (increasing physician involvement in the EBAA). In February 2011, the EBAA held its inaugural physician leadership program in New Orleans, LA, introducing a new generation of corneal surgeons to the world of eye banking as participants rather than spectators. I could not have been more pleased to have the class of 17 attending physicians show such enthusiasm and excitement at the opportunity to learn more about the eye banking process and what role they may play in it. All attendees have become Paton Society members and have shown themselves to be eager to develop and maintain the strong partnership with eye bankers that has long been a hallmark of the EBAA. Physician Leadership Program participants are working on a variety of projects that came out of the program, including an eye banking course to be delivered at the 2011 AAO meeting.

The other “stellar” event of the past year was the EBAA’s 50th Annual Meeting and Anniversary Celebration, June 22–25, 2011. The Meetings Committee and the 50th Anniversary Steering Committee put together a meeting of great educational value that looked at EBAA’s significant achievements to date and set the stage for those to come in the future. Sessions on topics ranging from social media, to employee performance combined with workshops on quality assurance, technician skills and donor development provided attendees with a plethora of information to take back to their respective eye banks. A Chairs Panel, one of several panels focusing on the past, present, and future, gave 11 past EBAA Chairs a chance to reflect on innovations within their tenure, and to share their vision for the future. After many informative sessions and social activities (including pool volleyball and the “Party Like It’s 1961” event), the Annual Meeting culminated in the Anniversary Gala – an event drawn right out of a scene from an Academy Award telecast. Lights, a red carpet and a “Walk of Fame” for myself and the 13 past Chairs in attendance were only a few of the things that made the Anniversary Gala so captivating.

But what made the overall event such a success and a true crowning moment of the past year was the presence of eye bankers, physicians, vendors, and others in the transplantation community who came together for one common goal – to celebrate the EBAA, its accomplishments and the difference eye banking has made not only in the transplantation community, but in the lives of over 1,000,000 people who have received sight-restoring corneal transplants since 1961.

As we look forward to the next 50 years and beyond, our mission to restore sight worldwide remains unchanged. For the past 21 years, EBAA President/CEO Patricia Aiken-O’Neill, Esq., who has been a stalwart leader, has been a champion for this mission, and with the EBAA staff, has continuously added to the proficiency and success of the EBAA. I cannot think of one of the many successes of this organization that has not been touched by Pat’s expertise. She has led us through challenges of reimbursement for tissue with the Federal Government to ensure that corneal tissue would remain a “pass through.” She has tirelessly led us through all of our challenges with the Food and Drug Administration from inspections and testing, to writing our responses to every Guidance Document. Pat has also helped formalize our relationship with other organizations, from the American Association of Tissue Banks to the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, always seeking to further the impact of the EBAA.

But, the truest sign of a great leader is his or her ability to develop leadership in others, and in this regard, Pat has been flawless. She has developed leadership programs for eye bank professionals as well as physicians, and brought our organization to a new level of professionalism that has helped the EBAA to be recognized as the pre-eminent association of eye banks worldwide. Her influence has not only helped restore sight for those who are suffering from corneal blindness in the Americas, but worldwide. Few individuals have been able to achieve such a lasting effect in their lives, and Pat is one of those rare individuals who manages to do it all. Her feet may be small but the shoes she will leave behind will be difficult to fill. The search committee has been working on this daunting task and will continue to do so this summer and fall.

After such an outstanding year, I can only look forward to what the next year will bring for our community and the lives of corneal recipients worldwide.

Marian Macsai, MD
EBAA Chair
A poem Aaron wrote many years ago sums up his philosophy to enjoy every moment of each day.

Wildflowers
As fall draws near with shorter days
and summer bows out from center stage,
Autumn waits to steal the show
in a flash of splendor, with a yellow-orange glow.

Tiny soldiers guard each passing day
and summer’s warmth is given way,
To clear nights shrouded in the season’s chill
but summer’s tiny guards stand proudly still.

As bright beacons they guard the harvest fields
til the frost claims all and to winter they yield,
The tiny specks dropped from an artist’s brush
are oft forgotten in our daily rush.

They are the warmth of life that we may borrow
for our journey from yesterday til tomorrow,
Don’t wait for the big things or the band to play
enjoy the Wildflowers in the meadow every day.

In Aaron’s memory, enjoy the wildflowers each day and give others the opportunity to do the same by registering your decision to be a donor at www.donatelife.net.

Submitted by: Christina P. Jenkins
Old Dominion Eye Foundation, Inc, Richmond, VA
New Developments in Corneal Surgery Techniques

In recent years, eye banks have become more involved in tissue preparation as selective keratoplasty has replaced full thickness keratoplasty for certain blinding conditions. “Only that which is diseased is replaced” is the new mantra for corneal surgeons. New procedures have garnered attention as the ultimate in achieving the goal of perfect anatomical replacement of the diseased portion of the cornea. Descemets Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty (DMEK) and Descemets Membrane Automated Endothelial Keratoplasty (DMAEK) both hold promise as procedures that could supplant Descemets Stripping Automated Endothelial Keratoplasty (DSAEK) as the current standard of care for endothelial dysfunction. DMEK and DMAEK both provide the central corneal optical zone with the perfect anatomic replacement of the diseased endothelium and Descemet’s membrane. Clearly, it is tough to stay on top of the new alphabet soup of surgical techniques!

This year, the EBAA celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a spectacular gala. Tucked away amongst the revelry were important presentations and posters from eye bankers working hard on novel tissue processing techniques. Some of the highlights (in no particular order of importance) follow:

• Greg Schmidt of the Iowa Lions Eye Bank presented on eye bank DMEK and DMAEK tissue preparation during the Technician Skills Workshop.

• Iowa also presented a poster on femtosecond laser prepared DMAEK tissue.

• Patrick Gore of the Lions Eye Institute for Transplant and Research was the co-author of a poster describing DSAEK grafts pre-loaded into an injector.

• Diego Ponzin, MD, of the Veneto Eye Foundation, presented on ultra-thin DSAEK graft preparation at the Scientific Symposium.

• Mark Soper of the Indiana Lions Eye and Tissue Transplant Bank presented on eye bank prepared DMAEK grafts at the Scientific Symposium.

All of these posters and presentations share something in common—they describe techniques intended to improve patient outcomes. Whether it is shorter operating room times or improved visual outcomes, eye banks are pushing the technological envelope with new processing techniques. We are lucky to have membership so willing to share information as these techniques take huge investments in time and resources to perfect.

The EBAA serves as an information exchange to foster innovation, establish best practices, and ultimately ensure safety through the accreditation process. The new procedures and technology highlighted at this year’s 50th Annual Meeting may or may not be as commonplace as DSAEK precut tissue is in the coming years. One thing that is certain is that the EBAA will play an important role in whatever new technologies are adopted by eye banks in the future.

Chris Stoeger, CEBT, CTBS
Director of Operations
Lions VisionGift
EBAA Innovations

Leadership Institute

The EBAA, in conjunction with SightLife and Vision Share, launched a leadership program for executives and board chairs in 2008. Two leadership meetings were held in 2008 and 2009 in Hawaii and San Antonio, respectively. The EBAA undertook a needs assessment of the membership to assist the Association in the development of this program and in early 2009, the “initiative” expanded into an “institute,” under the development of Marsha Link, PhD, and a committee of EBAA members.

A Leadership Institute meeting was held in Palm Springs, CA, March 2–3, 2010. While the previous two programs focused exclusively on eye bank Executive Directors/CEOs and their Board Chairs, this meeting included professional development opportunities for those mid-level and senior-level eye bank staff who are Rising Stars/Future Leaders in their respective organizations.

Building on previous Leadership Institute meetings and recommendations from the eye bank community, the largest Leadership Institute to date was held February 23–25, 2011 in New Orleans, LA. During this meeting, all 76 participants attended several plenary sessions together and were able to choose between different breakout sessions depending on their professional development goals and their eye bank responsibilities.

Physician Leadership Program

In 2010, Drs. Mark Mannis and Marian Macsai drafted a preliminary plan for a physician leadership program, a program based on “Strategy III” of the EBAA’s long-term Strategic Plan—increasing physician involvement. The details of that preliminary plan led to the creation of an organizing committee, who developed a weekend-long program designed to introduce newer corneal surgeons to eye banking, promote individual professional growth and leadership development, encourage innovation and foster collaboration between corneal surgeons and the eye banking community. The program prototype was put into action when the EBAA launched its inaugural Physician Leadership Program, February 26–27, 2011, in New Orleans, LA.

A group of 17 corneal surgeons were selected from a group of applicants to participate; each candidate was first nominated by an EBAA member bank and then submitted an application before the selection process. As part of their pre-event “homework,” each physician participated in the “Follow the Cornea” activity, meeting with his or her local sponsoring eye bank to learn about a cornea’s journey, from donation to transplantation. As a post-program activity under the leadership of W. Barry Lee, MD, the attendees are collectively drafting a Physician Handbook, introducing corneal surgeons to eye banking. Also, to date, all attendees are members of the R. Townley Paton Society, the EBAA’s society of corneal surgeons, which provides a link and working relationship between corneal surgeons and eye banking.

2010 Inaugural Class of the Physician Leadership Program
**EBAA Connect**

During the EBAA’s Board of Directors meeting in October 2010, Brian Phillippy, Chair of the Statistical Report Task Force, reported on innovative plans for online statistical reporting for member eye banks. The EBAA publicized requests for proposals from companies that could provide an online statistical reporting system; several were analyzed and in November 2010, Transplant Connect was chosen as the website designer/developer for the reporting system.

The new reporting system, named EBAA Connect was developed to launch in multiple Phases:

- **Phase I**, which focused on data entry and data validation and allowed eye banks to adjust to the system and begin inputting their data, launched in April 2011;

- **Phase II** launched in June 2011 and consisted of the graphical representation of data; Phase IIB launched in August 2011 and included a dashboard showing the status of the eye banks’ monthly data submission and enhanced functionality;

- **Phase III** will be completed at the end of 2011 and will include the EBAA Administrative Report, additional graphical presentation of data and the ability to export data to Excel.

- **Phase IV** will allow eye banks to perform comparison analysis of their data with the EBAA average and with eye banks in their geographic region, or like-sized eye banks.

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**Statistical Report Information**

The report is a compilation of information provided to the EBAA by 79 U.S. and nine international eye banks and reflects an essentially complete picture of eye banking activity in the United States.

In 2010, the number of donations reported by EBAA U.S. members increased 3.1% to 110,630, up from 107,289 in 2009. This was the second year the number of donations exceeded 100,000. Total corneal grafts provided for transplant by EBAA U.S. member eye banks also decreased 0.9% to 59,271 from 59,784 in 2009. The number of transplants performed in the U.S. was essentially unchanged from 42,606 in 2009 to 42,642 in 2010. The increasing trend in the number of corneas provided for endothelial keratoplasty (EK) procedures continues, with 19,159 corneas provided for EK in 2010, a 5.1% increase from 18,221 corneas in 2009. The amount of tissue offered for research increased by 18.7%, from 14,547 to 17,260. Eyes provided for training and education decreased by 19.5% to 5,726 from 7,113.

For statistical reporting purposes, eye banks count all of their facilities that distribute from a centralized area, under one legal entity. When the EBAA reports a higher membership total in its materials, it bases its count on an accreditation list that separates each facility that is inspected, even if it belongs to an umbrella agency.
$20,000 AND ABOVE
Allergan
Bausch & Lomb
Midwest Eye-Banks
The North Carolina Eye Bank
SightLife
Transplant Connect

$10,000 TO $19,999
Donor Network of Arizona
Georgia Eye Bank, Inc.
HAI Laboratories, Inc.
Iowa Lions Eye Bank
Konan Medical USA, Inc.
Krolman LABS, Inc.
Lions Eye Institute for Transplant & Research, Inc.
Minnesota Lions Eye Bank

$5,000 TO $9,999
Alabama Eye Bank
American Academy of Ophthalmology
The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration, Inc.
Indiana Lions Eye and Tissue

$1,000 TO $4,999
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
Baton Rouge Regional Eye Bank
Cincinnati Eye Bank
CORE
Fort Worth Eye Bank
Idaho Lions Eye Bank
LifePoint, Inc.
Lions Eye Bank of NW PA
Lions VisionGift
Lone Star Lions Eye Bank

$1,000
Paul J. Dubord, MD

$300
Sadeer B. Hannush, MD
The Eye Bank Association of America wishes to thank the individuals and organizations who have contributed to our mission of restoring sight worldwide throughout the year. Our efforts would not be possible without their support.

$250
Christopher Croasdale, MD
Debra Graham, MD
Mark J. Mannis MD
Robert Schultze, MD
Mark A. Terry, MD

$200
Donald J. Doughman, MD

$150
James D. Lehmann, MD

$100
Gregg J. Berdy, MD
Anne & Charles Bouchard, MD
Jill Brody, MD
John W. Cowden, MD
Henry F. Edelhauser, PhD
Jerry Ford, MD
Ezra Maguen, MD

Gregory J. Pamel, MD
Alan Sugar, MD
Joel Sugar, MD

$75
Gerald Zaidman, MD

$50
Bradford Tannen, MD

2011 EXHIBITOR PROGRAM
Abeamed, Inc.
Allergan
Bausch & Lomb
Beaver-Visitec International
Creative Testing Solutions
DHL Same Day
Donate Life America
Donor Services Center
Global Sight Network
Haag-Streit USA
HAI Laboratories, Inc.
Iowa Lions Eye Bank
Konan Medical USA
Krolman
LABS, Inc.
LaserShip, Inc.
Med-Logics, Inc.
Midwire Systems
Moria, Inc.
National Disease Research Interchange (NDRI)
Network Global Logistics
North Carolina Eye Bank, Inc.
Numedis, Inc.
Ocular Systems, Inc.
Optovue, Inc.
Providence Packaging
Refractive Technologies, Inc.
SightLife

Southland Medical Corporation
Stephens Instruments
Sterling Courier
Transplant Connect
ViroMed Laboratories
Vision Share
VRL Laboratories
Yourway Transport, Inc.
2010 R. Townley Paton Award Recipient

The Eye Bank Association of America awarded the 2010 R. Townley Paton Award to Woodford Van Meter, MD, Medical Director for the Lions Eye Bank of Lexington, based in Lexington, Kentucky. The R. Townley Paton Award is the EBAA’s highest honor for corneal surgeons and is presented annually to an ophthalmologist in recognition of his/her outstanding contribution to the EBAA’s development and for exemplifying the precepts of R. Townley Paton, M.D., the father of modern eye banking and the founder of the first eye bank established in the United States.

Dr. Van Meter is Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Kentucky and has been active in the EBAA since 1994. He has served on the Executive Committee as Treasurer since 2008. Dr. Van Meter is a former Accreditation Board Co-Chair (2004–2008), and previously served on the Medical Advisory Board and the Technician Education, International Relations, Research and Finance Committees. In addition to his dedication to the EBAA and its mission of sight restoration, for the past 25 years, Dr. Van Meter has served as a volunteer surgeon for ORBIS International, a non-profit global development organization dedicated to eradicating blindness worldwide. As a result of his volunteer effort, he has traveled to 25 countries to perform corneal transplants. Dr. Van Meter is currently President of the Kentucky Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons. He has been a member of the American Ophthalmology Society since 1996 and received the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Senior Achievement Award in 1993.

2011 Crystal Cornea Award Recipient

Christina-Taylor Green, the youngest victim of the Tucson shooting, was posthumously awarded the Crystal Cornea Award on May 24, 2011 at the Omni Tucson National Resort in Tucson, Arizona. Leslie Shultz Crist, President of the Christina-Taylor Green Foundation, accepted the award on her behalf.

The Crystal Cornea Award is presented to media organizations, lawmakers or individuals who have made outstanding contributions through creative design, speaking, writing, publishing or airing information that advances the mission of the EBAA.

The Greens selflessly donated their daughter’s organs and with the assistance of EBAA member organization, the Donor Network of Arizona, Christina’s corneas were successfully transplanted, restoring sight to two children.
2011 Gift of Sight Award Recipients

The Murphy Family of Arizona was awarded the 2011 Gift of Sight Award at the 50th EBAA Annual Meeting on June 23, 2011 in Tucson, Arizona.

The Gift of Sight Award is presented to an individual (or group of individuals) who work closely with the eye banking community and has gone above and beyond the call of duty in support of eye and corneal donation. This award honors a person who has had an impact on eye banking and made an extraordinary contribution to sight restoration.

Parents Kevin Sr. and Susan and son Kevin Jr.’s passion for sight restoration began in 2000 when, during a family vacation, they met a Moroccan family whose son was going blind and had no access to medical care or resources to receive a corneal transplant. When they returned home, they diligently searched for information on how they could help the young man and were finally put in contact with the Donor Network of Arizona.

The Murphy Family paid for the surgical fees for the patient and the Donor Network of Arizona provided the gratis tissue. Dr. Salah Mahjoub, an ophthalmic surgeon in Tunis, Tunisia, with whom the Donor Network of Arizona has a long standing relationship, performed the surgery pro bono.

Since then, the Murphys have promoted the gift of sight in collaboration with the Donor Network of Arizona, funding nearly 100 transplants in Tunisia. To continue their mission, they began their own non-profit organization, Let There Be Sight, for which Kevin Jr. donated his own funds to provide the first transplant.

For additional information on the Let There Be Sight organization, please visit www.letherebesight.org.

2011 Leonard Heise Award Recipient

The Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) presented Bruce H. Varnum with the 2011 Leonard Heise Award during its 50th Annual Meeting in Tucson, Arizona.

The Leonard Heise Award is presented to a non-physician within the eye-banking community who is recognized for outstanding devotion to the EBAA’s development and for exemplifying the precepts of Leonard Heise, a major contributor to the fight against blindness and one of the EBAA’s original founders.

Mr. Varnum has been Chair, President & CEO of Georgia Eye Bank, Inc. since 1998. He also served as Chair of Georgia Eye Bank’s Executive Advisory Board from 1987–1996. Prior to his tenure at Georgia Eye Bank, Mr. Varnum served in senior management positions in banking and certified public accounting for 28 years before retiring in 1996.

Mr. Varnum is the Immediate Past Chair of the Board of Directors for the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) and has served in various capacities on the Board since 2001. He has also served on various EBAA committees, including 10 years on the Executive Committee, terms as Chair of the Audit and the Constitution & Bylaws Committees and membership on the Finance Committee. He is currently the Chair of the 50th Anniversary Steering Committee and the CEO Search Committee.

A double corneal transplant recipient, Mr. Varnum has dedicated himself not only to the EBAA’s mission of sight restoration worldwide, but to the transplantation community as a whole. He volunteered on the Georgia Coalition on Donation from 1998–2004 and was Treasurer of the Coalition in 2002. Mr. Varnum sits on the Governor’s Advisory Board on Anatomical Gifts in Georgia, of which he has been a member since 1998.

A Milton, GA resident, Mr. Varnum obtained both his Bachelor’s degree in Accounting and his Master’s of Science degree in Business Economics from Lehigh University in Pennsylvania. He is married to Ellen Varnum and they have a daughter and son-in-law, Sara and Brian Barnes.
GRANT INFORMATION

2011 EBAA/Richard Lindstrom Research Grants

The EBAA awarded a total of $47,148 to the following recipients of the 2011 EBAA/Richard Lindstrom Research Grants. Research grants are awarded annually to provide support for proposals specifically concerned with issues directly related to eye banking and/or corneal transplantation. The EBAA research grant program is made possible through the Bausch & Lomb, Lindstrom Fund for Corneal Research.

Effect of Soluble VEGFR-3 on Corneal Neovascularization and Transplant Survival

*Principal Investigator:* Parisa Emami-Naeini, MD, MPH, Schepens Eye Research Institute – Boston, MA

*Eye Bank Affiliation:* New England Eye Bank

*Aim of this study:* To determine the effect of soluble VEGFR-3 on corneal heme- and lymph- angiogenesis, corneal allograft survival, antigen presenting cells and direct and indirect pathways of allosensitization.

*Amount Awarded:* $6,000

Corneal Transplantation in Dry Eye Disease

*Principal Investigator:* Jing Hua, Schepens Eye Research Institute – Boston, MA

*Eye Bank Affiliation:* New England Eye Bank

*Aim of this study:* To determine effect of dry eye disease (DED) on corneal allograft survival, the role of lymphangiogenesis on corneal allograft survival on DED and the allosensitization pathways in DED following corneal transplantation.

*Amount Awarded:* $8,000
Reinnervation After Corneal Surgery

**Principal Investigator:** Sandeep Jain, MD, UIC Department of Ophthalmology – Chicago, IL

**Eye Bank Affiliation:** N/A

**Aim of this study:**
1) To investigate the paracrine effect of fibroblast-derived brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) isoforms on transected axons. In vivo and in vitro experiments will be performed using Thy1-YFP+ neurofluorescent mice. 2) Indirect neuronal actions of activated fibroblast due to processing of BDNF isoforms by fibroblast-derived protease.

**Amount Awarded:** $8,000

Effect of IL-6 Blockade on Corneal Allograft Survival

**Principal Investigator:** Shilpa Kodati, Schepens Eye Research Institute – Boston, MA

**Eye Bank Affiliation:** New England Eye Bank

**Aim of this study:**
To determine the effect of Interleukin-6 (IL-6) inhibition on allo-sensitization, the effect of IL-6 inhibition on CD4+CD25+Foxp3 T regulatory cell (Treg) frequencies and function and the effect of IL-6 inhibition on corneal allograft survival.

**Amount Awarded:** $7,000

Towards a Nanoparticle Based Therapy of Fuchs’ Dystrophy

**Principal Investigator:** Mario Matthaei, MD, Wilmer Eye Institute; Johns Hopkins University – Baltimore, MD

**Eye Bank Affiliation:** N/A

**Aim of this study:**
1) To select an efficient gene carrier to transfect mouse corneas with minimum inflammation, maximum tissue distribution and maximum gene transfection efficiency and 2) to test the knock-down effect of selected carriers for the mutant COL8A2 gene in Fuchs’ Dystrophy animal model.

**Amount Awarded:** $8,000
Nanotechnology Application for Corneal Transplantation Rejection

*Principal Investigator:* Qing Pan, Wilmer Eye Institute; Johns Hopkins University – Baltimore, MD

*Eye Bank Affiliation:* N/A

*Aim of this study:* 1) To obtain more specific and less toxic agents in the management of corneal graft rejection, 2) investigate the ability of nanoparticles to deliver a potentially antiangiogenic gene to donor cornea to reduce post-operative neovascularization and graft failure and 3) test the effect of a combination of steroid and antiangiogenic-gen loaded nanoparticles on corneal graft survival.

*Amount Awarded:* $5,148

Increasing Cornea Graft Survival: Use of Therapeutic Vaccines

*Principal Investigator:* Alexander Rowe, PhD, University of Pittsburgh, Office of Research – Pittsburgh, PA

*Eye Bank Affiliation:* N/A

*Aim of this study:* To demonstrate that transplant-induced viral reactivation correlates with graft rejection and that an inhibition of viral reactivation through a therapeutic vaccine will increase the efficacy of keratoplasty treatments for herpes stromal keratitis.

*Amount Awarded:* $5,000
Networking Grants

Networking grants are awarded annually to promote an educational interchange of ideas between eye banks.

Lions VisionGift will work with Midwest Eye-Banks to determine successful training and monitoring practices regarding new hires and seasoned technicians.

*Amount Awarded: $1,500*

The Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank will work with Cleveland Eye Bank to survey and compare operational activities to pinpoint best practices and develop a plan for sharing, combining and/or consolidating services (where appropriate and feasible) between two neighboring eye banks.

*Amount Awarded: $1,500*

Mary Jane O’Neill Fellowship in International Eye Banking

The Mary Jane O’Neill (MJO) Fellowship in International Eye Banking is designed to provide medical and technical personnel from eye banks in developing countries with the skills necessary to develop, operate, and maintain successful eye banks—ultimately, reducing blindness due to corneal disease or injury.

The 2011 MJO Fellowship has been awarded to Sandra van den Berg of Pretoria, South Africa. Ms. van den Berg is an employee of the Pretoria Eye Bank and is currently enrolled at the University of South Africa as a Public Relations Management major.

With the Center for Organ Recovery and Education (CORE) as the host eye bank, Ms. van den Berg will intern at CORE as well as attend the EBAA Fall Leadership Meeting, the American Academy of Ophthalmology’s Annual Meeting and the American Association of Tissue Banks/Eye Bank Association of America Quality and Donor Suitability Conference during her four-week stay in the U.S.
Board of Directors (2010–2011)

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CHAIR

David Korroch
CHAIR-ELECT

Bruce Varnum
IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

Donna Drury
SECRETARY

Woodford Van Meter, MD
TREASURER

Ex-Officio, Per Article 4.6

David Glasser, MD
MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR

Patricia Aiken-O’Neill, Esq.
PRESIDENT & CEO

Monty Montoya

Jason Woody

Executive Committee At-Large Members

Representatives by Size

Representative: Small Eye Bank

Ginger Miller

Representatives: Medium Eye Bank

Victoria Adler

Noel Mick

Representatives: Large Eye Bank

Doyce Williams

Jason Woody
Board of Directors

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Michael Nordlund, MD, PhD
Cynthia Reed, PhD
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David Karcher

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Monty Montoya
Doyle Stulting, MD, PhD
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Carly Lawrence
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EBAA Staff