



Eye Banking Fast Facts

- The cornea is the clear, dome-shaped surface that covers the front of the eye.
- The entire eye cannot be transplanted, only the cornea. However, the entire eye can be used for research and education.
- The first human corneal transplant was performed in 1905 by Dr. Eduard Zirm.
- The first U.S. transplant was performed in New York City by Dr. R. Townley Paton in 1937.
- An eye bank is a non-profit organization that recovers, evaluates and distributes eyes donated by caring individuals for use in corneal transplantation, research, and education.
- The first eye bank opened in 1944 in New York City.
- The Eye Bank Association of America is the oldest transplant association and was formed in 1961 by a group of ophthalmologists and eye bankers.
- Each EBAA member eye bank has a Medical Director who oversees and provides advice on all medical aspects of the eye bank.
- Certified Eye Bank Technicians are re-certified every 3 years.
- Anyone can be an eye donor! Cornea donation is not dependent on age, eye color, blood type or even eye sight quality.