



For Immediate Release

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ARVO and EBAA Launch EyeFind
New online tool designed to help researchers locate eye tissue

Washington, D.C. (April 29, 2019) – The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) and the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) have partnered to launch EyeFind, a new online tool that will connect eye and vision researchers with eye banks to more efficiently obtain eye tissue that is critical for their research.

“Providing ocular tissue for research is central to fulfilling eye banks’ mission to restore sight to those in need,” said Kevin Corcoran, EBAA’s President and CEO. “EyeFind will help connect eye bankers with researchers whose work can transform the lives of countless people around the world.”

Over a year ago, a working group was formed with representatives from both organizations to develop a tool to improve communication between researchers and eye banks while speeding up and easing the process of bringing human eye tissue into labs. EyeFind users can conduct a search based on a number of parameters to identify the type of tissue needed by the researcher. The results will then list eye banks around the United States that can provide the tissue. Users can then contact an eye bank to discuss their project and secure tissue.

Prior to EyeFind, researchers located eye tissue by successively calling or emailing eye banks directly until they found the tissue needed for a study – a process that could take significant time and resources for both researchers and eye banks. Removing the burden, and facilitating closer relationships with eye banks, allows researchers to spend more time in the lab and less time on the phone.

“Obtaining human eye tissue is vital to the work of many vision researchers. Yet, it can be challenging to obtain such tissues,” said Dan Stamer, ARVO’s President-elect and the Joseph A. C. Wadsworth Professor of Ophthalmology as well as a professor of biomedical engineering at Duke University, who led the project for ARVO. “EyeFind was developed to better connect researchers with the crucial human eye tissues they need so they can better understand the underlying causes of blinding human eye diseases that lead to treatments.”

To access EyeFind, visit www.EyeFind.org.

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The **Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)** is the largest eye and vision research organization in the world. Members include nearly 12,000 eye and vision researchers from over 75 countries. ARVO advances research worldwide into understanding the visual system and preventing, treating and curing its disorders. Learn more at ARVO.org.

The **Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA)**, established in 1961, is the oldest transplant association in the nation and sets standards, provides education, and engages in advocacy to support eye donation, and cornea transplantation and research. EBAA has led the transplantation field with the establishment of medical standards for eye banking, and comprehensive training and certification programs for eye bank personnel. Over 85-member eye banks operate in the United States, Canada, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. These eye banks made possible 85,441 sight-restoring corneal transplants, and provided nearly 25,000 corneas for research and education purposes, last year. To learn more, visit www.restoresight.org.