

**For Immediate Release**

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## **EBAA Awards Dr. Mark McDaniel High Impact Research Grant**

### ***Study Will Help Mitigate the Global Shortage of Surgical-Quality Donor Corneas***

Washington, D.C., November 12, 2019 —The Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) awarded its 2020 High Impact Research Grant to Dr. Mark McDaniel MBBS, FRANZCO, FRACS, from Centre for Eye Research Australia.

The grant of \$50,000 funds the proposal, “Tissue Engineered Corneal Endothelium.” Dr. Daniel is affiliated with Eversight, which will provide the tissue for his research.

Dr. Daniel’s work aims to increase the number of usable donated corneas for corneal transplant to restore sight around the world.

“While there is a surplus of cornea tissue in the United States, that is not the case around the world,” said EBAA President & CEO, Kevin Corcoran. “Dr. Daniel’s project will help make more corneas viable for transplant surgery, and combat the 12 million corneal disease cases worldwide that result in blindness or vision impairment.”

The High Impact Grant was awarded at the 2019 Cornea and Eye Banking Forum; the funding cycle will be November 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>.

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The **Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA)**, established in 1961, is the oldest transplant association in the U.S. and sets standards, provides education, and engages in advocacy to support eye donation, cornea transplantation, and research. EBAA leads the transplantation field by establishing medical standards for eye banking, and comprehensive training and certification programs for eye bank personnel. Over 73 member eye banks operate in the United States, Canada, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. These eye banks made possible 80,000 sight-restoring corneal transplants, and provided nearly 23,000 corneas for research and education purposes, last year. To learn more, visit [www.restoresight.org](http://www.restoresight.org).