



# YEAR IN REVIEW



# CHAIR'S ADDRESS

Woodford S. Van Meter, MD

Chair 2018-2020



**"EYE BANKING HAS  
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COMPETITION, MEDICAL  
REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
AND CONSOLIDATION OF  
EYE BANKS."**

It is both an honor and a privilege for me to serve as your chair for 2018 – 2020, a position for which I feel well-groomed after more than 30 years as a medical director and more than twenty years of EBAA Board and Committee service, the last ten of which were as treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee. Past chairs David Glasser and Donna Drury have left the organization in excellent shape, and I pledge to continue their collaborative efforts.

Eye banking has seen much change in the last few years due to increased competition, medical regulatory affairs and consolidation of eye banks. 2018 ushered in a huge change in EBAA's volunteer leadership, as our streamlined governance structure, which was planned over the past two years and approved in the House of Delegates in 2017, was implemented at the Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. We now have a smaller, more nimble Board, which will spend more time on strategic planning rather than reviewing previous actions. A Board directory can be found on the back pages of this report.

Throughout the pages of this report, you will find evidence of EBAA's work to advance our profession. Whether



hosting our inaugural Quality Assurance Seminar in September, the Fall Leadership Symposium and the Cornea and Eye Banking Forum in October or beginning to develop a strategic plan to guide the association for the next three years, our volunteer leaders are committed to your success, and the success of the cornea recipients we all ultimately serve.

Change is constant, and 2019 will bring more changes to eye banking. We are constantly working to anticipate what the future will bring and to develop products, services and educational programming to help our members maintain the quality and efficient distribution of tissue for various corneal procedures.

Your Board would like to hear from you about any questions or concerns you have about eye banking in 2019, so we can advance our collaborative mission and build on our accomplishments in 2018.

*Woodford Stan Wete*

# PAST CHAIR'S ADDRESS

Donna Drury, MBA, CEBT, CTBS

Chair 2016–2018



**"EXCITING  
ADVANCES  
ARE BEING  
MADE ON THE  
RESEARCH AND  
DEVELOPMENT  
FRONTS."**

**E**ye banking and corneal transplantation continues to evolve, and the first half of 2018 showed accelerated changes on several fronts. Exciting advances are being made in research and development. These include, but are not limited to, improved processing and insertion techniques for EK surgeries, endothelial cell transplantation, decreasing graft rejection, and decreasing fungal infections post-endothelial transplant.

Changes in supply and demand and the increased involvement of the for-profit sector in our profession continue to amplify the level of competition and consolidation between eye banks. Maintaining a collaborative culture within our association and protecting the uniqueness of eye banking, which is driven by mission rather than by money, remains a challenge. We must continue to work together to prevent ocular tissue from being treated as a commodity and constantly remind others, both internal and external to our organizations, that it is a precious gift from a donor and should be treated as such.

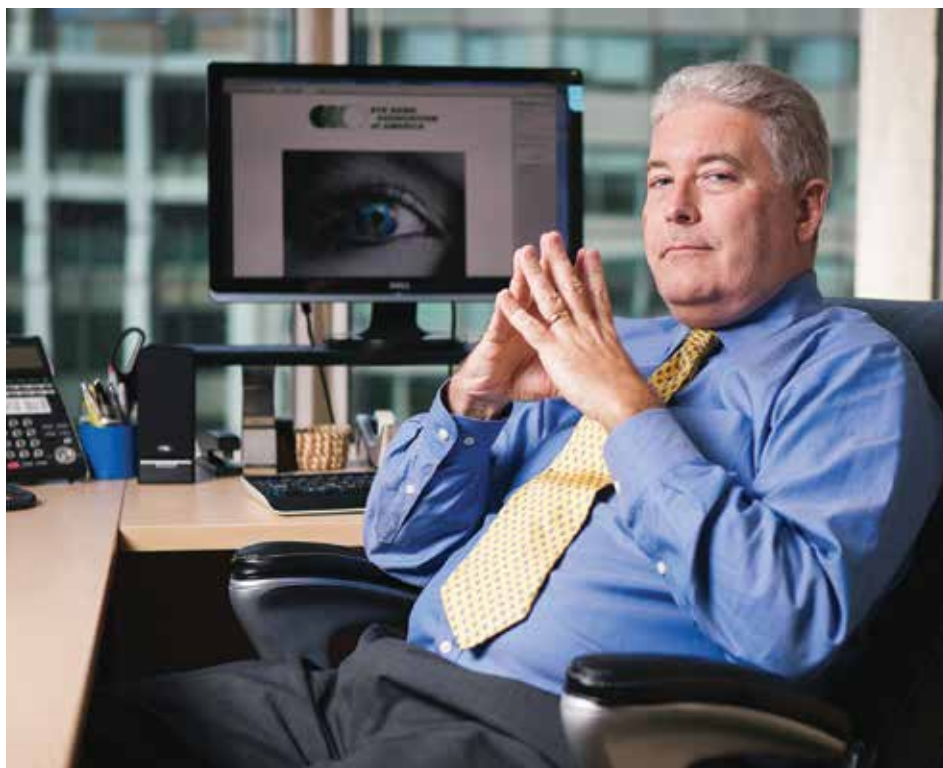
Thanks to the hard work and dedication of EBAA leadership, EBAA staff and the many eye bankers and physicians serving on committees and task forces, we continued to lead the profession forward. The association also continued to improve its ability to support its members' evolving professional development and business needs. At the June meeting, we completed the last step of our governance changes by electing a smaller and streamlined Board of Directors. This new Board has more equitable member representation and is designed to be strategic in all of its processes.

It has been my honor to serve the Association for the past two years and I am confident that as we move forward under the leadership of Dr. Van Meter, EBAA is well positioned to meet any and all new challenges.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donna Drury'.

# PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Kevin P. Corcoran, CAE



**"AS YOU READ  
THROUGH THIS  
REPORT, PLEASE  
CONSIDER HOW YOUR  
EYE BANK OR YOUR  
MEDICAL PRACTICE  
CAN BENEFIT FROM  
THE PRODUCT  
AND SERVICES  
EBAA OFFERS TO  
ITS MEMBERS."**

**W**hen change is the only constant, recording and reflecting on one's response to that change is essential to evaluating one's progress.

Eye banking is a profession in the midst of rapid operational, strategic, financial and cultural change – this is not news. EBAA has sought to support our members as they navigate these changes by introducing new services, resources and insights; many of these are documented in this report, others are being launched as I write this letter. All of these initiatives are tools; like a carpenter's hammer or an artist's brush, they'll yield vastly different outcomes depending on the skill and the creativity of those who wield them, and will accomplish nothing if they remain unused.

As you read through this report, please consider how your eye bank or your medical practice can benefit from the product and services EBAA offers to its members. Frequently that may mean changing your processes or your perceptions, and that can be uncomfortable. But if everything is changing around you anyway, the status quo is no longer a viable option.

This annual report also represents the fulfillment of our obligation to you, our members and partners. You have lent us your support, in both time and money, and we have a responsibility to tell you what we've done with the resources you have given to us. I hope that, upon review, you feel that we've translated your support into outcomes that reflected your intent and enhanced EBAA's value to you.

None of our accomplishments could have been achieved without the contributions of countless volunteers. The back pages of this report include the names of our Board of Directors and committee chairs; these individuals, plus the countless others who serve on committees and workgroups, or who informally share their insights with us, deserve the credit for the results you're going to read about.

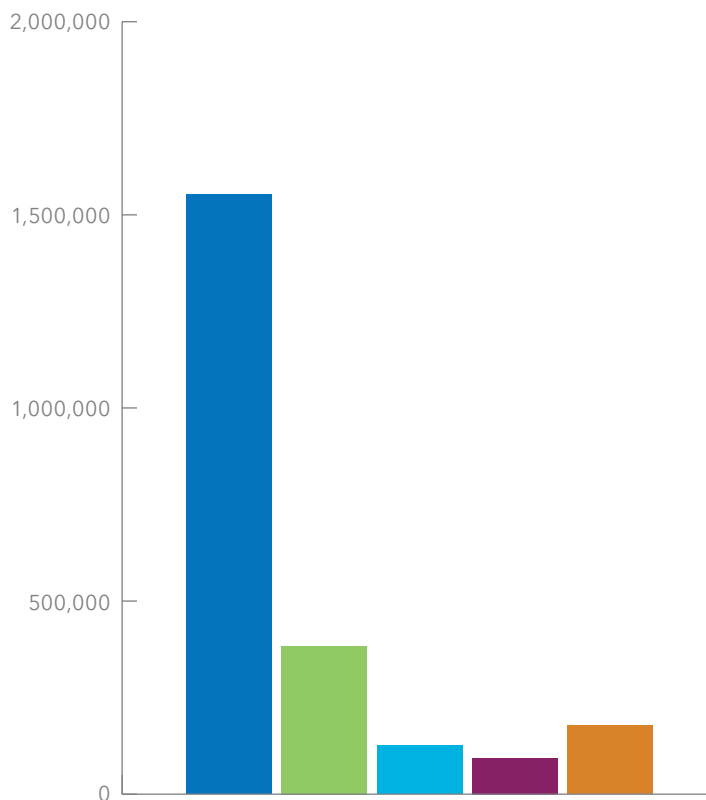
Of course, the changes keep coming, so we keep working. Please do not hesitate to contact us to provide feedback and suggestions for how we can serve you, and the eye banking profession, more effectively.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin P. Corcoran".

# FINANCIAL REPORT

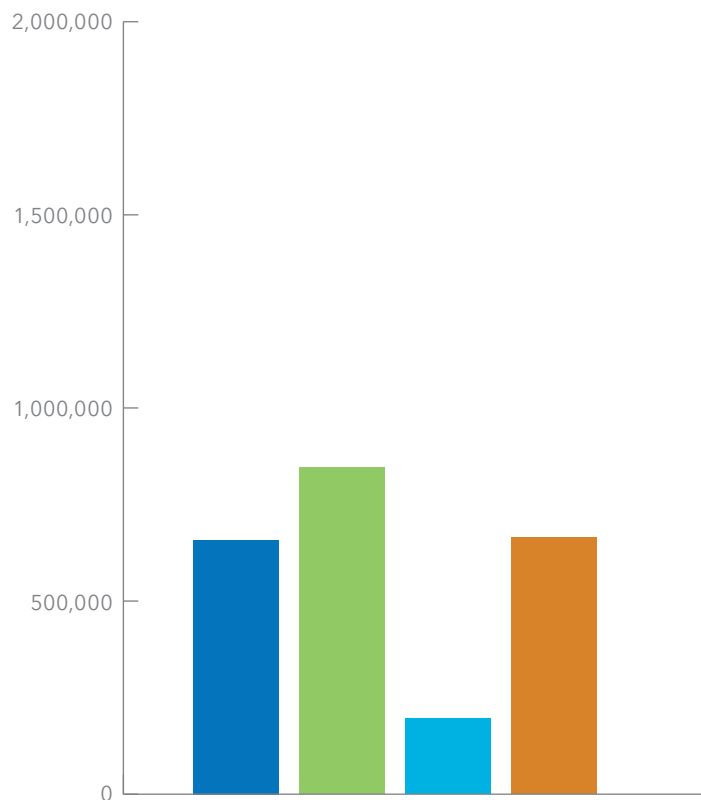
Reporting is for fiscal year July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

## Revenue



Member Dues	1,552,057
Meeting Registration	383,253
Accreditation Fees	125,914
Technician Exam/Recertification	93,975
Other Contributions	177,836
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,333,035</b>

## Expenses



Member Services	658,102
Member Meetings	845,070
Accreditation	196,166
Administrative	665,104
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,364,442</b>

*Note: Excludes Investment Income and Unrealized Gain/Loss*

# 2017 STATISTICAL REPORT

The Eye Banking Statistical Report includes data from all 57 U.S. and 11 international member eye bank reporting entities for the calendar year 2017 and represents an essentially complete picture of eye banking activity among eye banks in the United States and around the world.

In 2017, EBAA member eye banks in the U.S. and internationally recovered 142,264 corneas and facilitated 87,978 sight-restoring transplants! Since 1961, member eye banks have provided tissue for over 1,865,396 people whose sight was restored through corneal transplants.

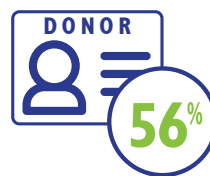
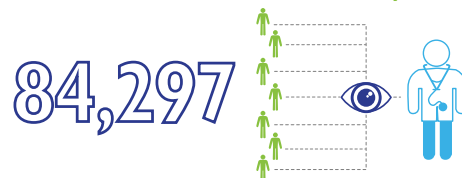
Here are a few key stats from U.S. Eye Banks for 2017:

- Total Donors: **68,565**
- Total Corneal Grafts: **84,297**
- Total eyes and corneas donated: **135,203**
- Domestic Transplants (intermediate-term preserved corneas): **50,934**
- International Transplants (intermediate-term preserved corneas): **26,645**
- Long-term Preserved Corneas: **12,543**

The infographics in the column to the right show the impact that our members and their recovery and transplant partners, have on individuals, families and communities; in the United States and around the world.

## 2017 EYE BANKING BY THE NUMBERS

Total Number of Corneal Transplants

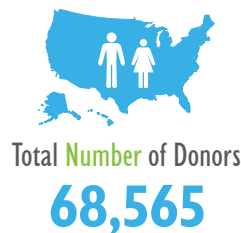


Percentage of Corneas  
Recovered from  
Registered Donors

135,203



Total Corneas Donated



Total Corneas and  
Eyes Used for  
Research and Training



Total Number of Transplants Performed using tissue  
from Member Eye Banks since 1961



1,865,396

Estimated Lifetime Value of Cornea  
Transplants Performed in 2017

\$6.0  
Billion





Members of the Global Alliance of Eye Bank Associations Board of Directors after signing the Barcelona Principles in Barcelona, Spain.

# GLOBAL EYECARE COMMUNITY UNVEILS ETHICAL AGREEMENT FOR USE OF OCULAR TISSUE

On June 14, 2018, the global community of eye care and corneal transplantation organizations unveiled the world's first agreement on the use of donated human tissue for ocular transplantation, research, and future technologies.

The document titled, *The Barcelona Principles*, was launched during the World Ophthalmology Congress in Barcelona, Spain. EBAA CEO, Kevin Corcoran, along with his counterparts from the other five multi-national eye banking associations, signed the Principles during a ceremony hosted by the Catalan government and presided over by the Minister of Health of Catalonia and representatives of the World Health Organization.

The agreement's key 9 strategies include:

1. Respect the autonomy of the donor and their next-of-kin in the consent process.
2. Protect the integrity of the altruistic and voluntary donation and its utility as a public resource for the shared benefit of all.
3. Support sight restoration and ocular health for recipients.
4. Promote fair, equitable, and transparent allocation mechanisms.
5. Uphold the integrity of the custodian's profession in all jurisdictions.
6. Develop high-quality services that promote ethical CTO management, traceability, and utility.
7. Develop local/national self-sufficient services.

8. Recognize and address the potential ethical, legal and clinical implications of cross-border activities.

9. Ensure ethical practice and governance of research (non-therapeutic) requiring cells, tissue and/or organs.

*The Barcelona Principles* adhere to the World Health Organization's Guiding Principles on Human Cell, Tissue and Organ Transplantation. They were developed in partnership with the Global Alliance of Eye Bank Associations, along with International Council of Ophthalmology, International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, the Cornea Society, and various ophthalmology societies around the world.

# LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ADVOCACY

## FDA Responds to Inquiry Regarding Amphotericin B Supplementation

At the request of several members, EBAA sent an inquiry to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), regarding regulatory requirements for antifungal supplementation of corneal storage solutions. The following response was received on December 22, from Brychan “Brandy” Clark, MD, EBAA FDA Liaison.

*Thank you for sending your inquiry. You state that eye banks will likely be supplementing Optisol-GS with Amphotericin B by next year, and that performing that step will be considered processing by FDA and require validation studies and ongoing environmental monitoring. You ask if eye banks need “special FDA approval” for this modification of Optisol-GS because eye banks regularly engage in interstate distribution.*

*Based on limited information provided, an HCT/P establishment that modifies Optisol-GS with Amphotericin B must, at a minimum, follow applicable requirements in FDA regulations in 21 CFR Part 1271 including Subpart D – Current Good Tissue Practice. For example, I direct your attention to the requirements in § 1271.210, applicable to preparing a reagent. Reagents used in preservation of HCT/Ps must be sterile where appropriate. See 21 CFR § 1271.210(b). I also direct your attention to the requirements for environmental control and monitoring in 21 CFR § 1271.195. We recommend that environmental control and monitoring occur during preparation of sterile reagents.*



## Medicare Pass-Through Maintained for 2019

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) formally ruled that Medicare will continue to designate corneal tissue acquisition as contractor-priced based on the invoiced costs of acquiring corneal tissue for corneal transplant procedures.

CMS will update ASC payment rates using the hospital market basket rather than the consumer price index-urban (CPI-U) for 2019 through 2023. This change will help to promote “site-neutrality” between hospitals and ASCs and encourage the migration of services from the hospital setting to the lower cost ASC setting.

[CMS finalizes Medicare Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System \(OPPS\) and Ambulatory Surgical Center \(ASC\) Payment System changes for 2019.](#)

## FDA Releases Updated Zika Donor Screening Guidance

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released updated guidance for establishments that make donor eligibility determinations for those donating human cells, tissues, and cellular and tissue-based products (HCT/Ps), with recommendations for screening donors for infection with Zika virus.

This guidance updates and supersedes the guidance of the same title dated March 2016 which identified ZIKV as a relevant communicable disease agent or disease (RCDAD) as defined in 21 CFR Part 1271. Non-heart beating (cadaveric) donors with a medical diagnosis of ZIKV infection in the past 6 months should be considered ineligible. This update supports the continuation of recommendations to screen living donors of HCT/Ps for risks of infection with ZIKV based on geographic areas with risk.

## EBAA Represented at European Commission Meeting in Brussels

Marian Macsai, MD, and Jennifer DeMatteo, EBAA Director of Regulations and Standards, represented the EBAA at the *Global Vigilance Networking for Safer Transfusion, Transplantation and Assisted Reproduction* — a joint meeting of EU VISTART Joint Action and the WHO Notify Project hosted by the European Commission held in Brussels on March 1 - 2, 2018.

Dr. Macsai reported on EBAA's Ocular Adverse Reaction Reporting System (OARRS), the dissemination of adverse reaction summary data at each Medical Advisory Board (MAB) meeting and the publication of seven years of adverse reaction data by the Medical Review Subcommittee ([Cornea. 2016 Jul; 35\(7\):917–926](#)). Dr. Macsai shared the recent incidence of ocular infections in the U.S., and the increase in fungal infections which correlates to the



increase of endothelial keratoplasties being performed. Dr. Macsai also mentioned that EBAA had awarded \$100,000 in research grants to proposals submitted in response to the RFP on Safety, Efficacy, and Cost-Effectiveness of Antifungal Supplementation.

Michael Nalesnik, MD, who chairs the NOTIFY Malignancy Group highlighted the EBAA's actions and prompt notification following a report of transmission of malignant melanoma in a limbal stem cell transplant in October 2016, which resulted in a Medical Standard change which would exclude these donors in the future.

The Joint Action (JA) is meant to support EU Member States in developing and strengthening their capacity for monitoring and control in the field of blood, tissues, and cell transplantation. The key objectives are to promote and facilitate the harmonization of inspection, authorization, and vigilance systems and to increase collaboration and confidence in each other's inspection and vigilance programs. VISTART stands for Vigilance and Inspection for the Safety of Transfusion Assisted Reproduction and Transplantation.

## EBAA Meets with CMS Staff

On January 31, 2018, Kevin Corcoran, EBAA President and CEO, and Jennifer DeMatteo, Director of Regulations and Standards, met with eleven representatives from the Hospital and Ambulatory Policy Group (HAPG), of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Since this was the first meeting in a while, our goal was to reacquaint CMS with EBAA, to discuss what eye banks do and how it benefits both individual patients and society as a whole. We shared key eye banking statistics and the *Cost-Benefit Analysis of Corneal Transplant* study and discussed the implications of CMS reimbursement policy on eye banking.

Our message was well received as we were not asking for a change in policy. The CMS participants asked a number of questions about both the recovery and surgical process and about eye banks' operations and financial position. They appreciated our cost benefit analysis because most groups that visit them are unable to quantify their impact. Most importantly, we were able to make personal connections with the administrators who will help shape the most important policies facing eye banks and to lay the groundwork for future meetings.

## Florida AHCA Releases Final Standards

The Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) released its final regulations for 59A-1.005, Standards for OPOs, Tissue Banks, and Eye Banks, effective as of January 17, 2018.

EBAA had previously filed a Petition for Variance or Waiver on behalf of member eye banks with the State of Florida, Agency for Health Care Administration, relating to HTLV testing and had been granted a waiver for a period expiring on October 1, 2018.

These regulations finally remove the specific requirement to test all tissue donors using an “FDA-licensed HTLV test,” requiring HTLV screening of viable, leukocyte rich cells or tissues only. If donor screening for HTLV has been performed, a negative screening test shall be obtained and documented prior to release of tissue for transplantation.

## Guide to Medical Examiner and Coroner Cases

The American Association of Tissue Banks (AATB) and EBAA have partnered to develop and release a guide on ways to improve relationships, preserve evidence and increase the opportunity for donation to take place on eye and tissue donation cases under investigation.

The [Guide to Medical Examiner and Coroner Cases for the Donation Community](#) provides examples of best practices and recommendations including communication and requesting recovery release, documentation, physical findings, toxicology sample collection, and radiography. These practices can improve interactions on cases shared by death investigators and recovery organizations, reducing death investigator restriction of tissue donation.

## EBAA Alert Regarding Eye Wash Contamination Leads to Nationwide Recall

EBAA issued an Informational Alert on October 27, 2017, entitled *GeriCare – Eye Wash Solution Contamination* after we received a report from a member eye bank about contaminated eye wash lots. Alabama Eye Bank was notified from four different surgeons about a cluster of positive surgical cultures growing *Achromobacter* spp. with Gram negative rods. Their investigation revealed a possible common source contaminant, since all involved use of a particular lot of a sterile eye irrigation solution manufactured from Geri-Care Pharmaceuticals Corporation in their Korean plant.

A MedWatch report was filed with the FDA, which led to a nationwide recall of 60,000 lots of GeriCare Eye Wash Sterile Eye Irrigation Solution. The product has been found to have potential microbial contamination which compromises sterility.

**A MEDWATCH  
REPORT WAS FILED  
WITH THE FDA,  
WHICH LED TO  
A NATIONWIDE  
RECALL OF 60,000  
LOTS OF GERICARE  
EYE WASH.**



A technician demonstrates a laboratory excision using a whole eye.

# BUILDING AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

## THE POWER OF **YOU**

Some see a surgeon;  
we see someone who  
**transforms lives**  
through corneal  
transplants.

Neda Sharnie, MD  
Corneal Surgeon



#eyedonationmonth2018  
[www.eyedonationmonth.org](http://www.eyedonationmonth.org)



### Eye Donation Month 2018 and The Power of You

Thank you to every member eye bank that celebrated Eye Donation Month in November! We appreciate you sharing valuable information about eye donation in your communities and through your social media platforms and websites.

This year's campaign, *The Power of You*, demonstrates the “power” that individuals have in building hope, restoring sight and changing lives, including healthcare professionals and partners, researchers, eye bank staff, corneal surgeons, and recipients and donor families. Between the new logo, online marketing toolkit, television interviews and social media activity, we can state with confidence that the month was a resounding success.

We were honored to have Congressman Raul Ruiz, MD (D-CA 36th District) read into the Congressional Record a proclamation honoring November 2018 as Eye Donation Month. Our members also worked with elected officials across the country to have the month of November proclaimed as Eye Donation Month in various cities, counties, and states.

Below highlights the various channels we used to make an impact during Eye Donation Month,

### Marketing Toolkit Use

- The Eye Donation Month [video](#), featuring Cameron Whittle, cornea recipient, received 1,243 views as of February 11 and is still available to share.
- There were nearly more than 1,350 of the Marketing Toolkit materials including the FAQs, infographics, Myths vs. Facts, posters, social media images, and tent cards.

### Media Coverage

- Donor and recipient stories aired in seven television markets reaching an estimated 591,000 viewers. Cities included Birmingham, AL; Montgomery, AL; Rapid City, SD; Atlanta, GA (two interviews); Lake Charles, LA; Detroit, MI.
- Six stories appeared in print or online articles, with an estimated reach of 143,525 readers.
- A press release, distributed via PR Newswire, was picked-up by news outlets 185 times, with potential audience reach of 10.3 million.

### Social Media

EBAA's Facebook page realized significant increases in activity and gained 30 new followers.

#### Twitter


- The hashtag #eyedonationmonth2018 was included in more than 269 tweets between November 1 - 30, 2018, generating 509,000 impressions.
- The EBAA Twitter account achieved 24,000 impressions throughout the month.
- The EBAA Twitter account received 170 likes.


From all of us at EBAA, we thank you for helping to raise awareness about cornea donation and transplantation throughout the month of November. It's the Power of You that made this year's efforts a success. We hope you'll continue to join us in raising awareness and shining a light on this important cause all year round!

### Eye Bank Association of America and Social Media

EBAA continues to build and invest in our social media reach and engagement across platforms and audiences. EBAA messages and other content are shared with our members and the public to promote the goodwill of the eye banking profession and to further establish the Association as a go-to resource for cornea donation and transplantation education.

Social media also offers the opportunity and tools to increase awareness of cornea donation and transplantation, touches the hearts of others with donor and recipient stories, and allows for everyone to be champions of the gift of sight.

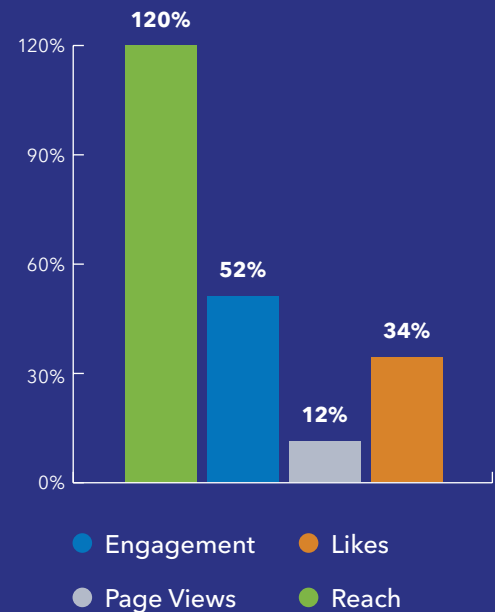
 [Facebook.com/RestoreSight](https://www.facebook.com/RestoreSight) | 2,194 likes

 [@RestoreSight](https://twitter.com/RestoreSight) | 1,245 followers

Over the course of 2019, EBAA will work to build our presence on Instagram and LinkedIn.

## Facebook Activity Increase

Nov. 1-30, 2018



# MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

## eyeLEARN: Introducing EBAA's New Online Educational Portal!

EBAA is bringing education to the fingertips of the EBAA Membership with the new online education portal, [eyeLEARN](#). This exciting platform offers individuals access to on-demand webinars, event recordings, and so much more!

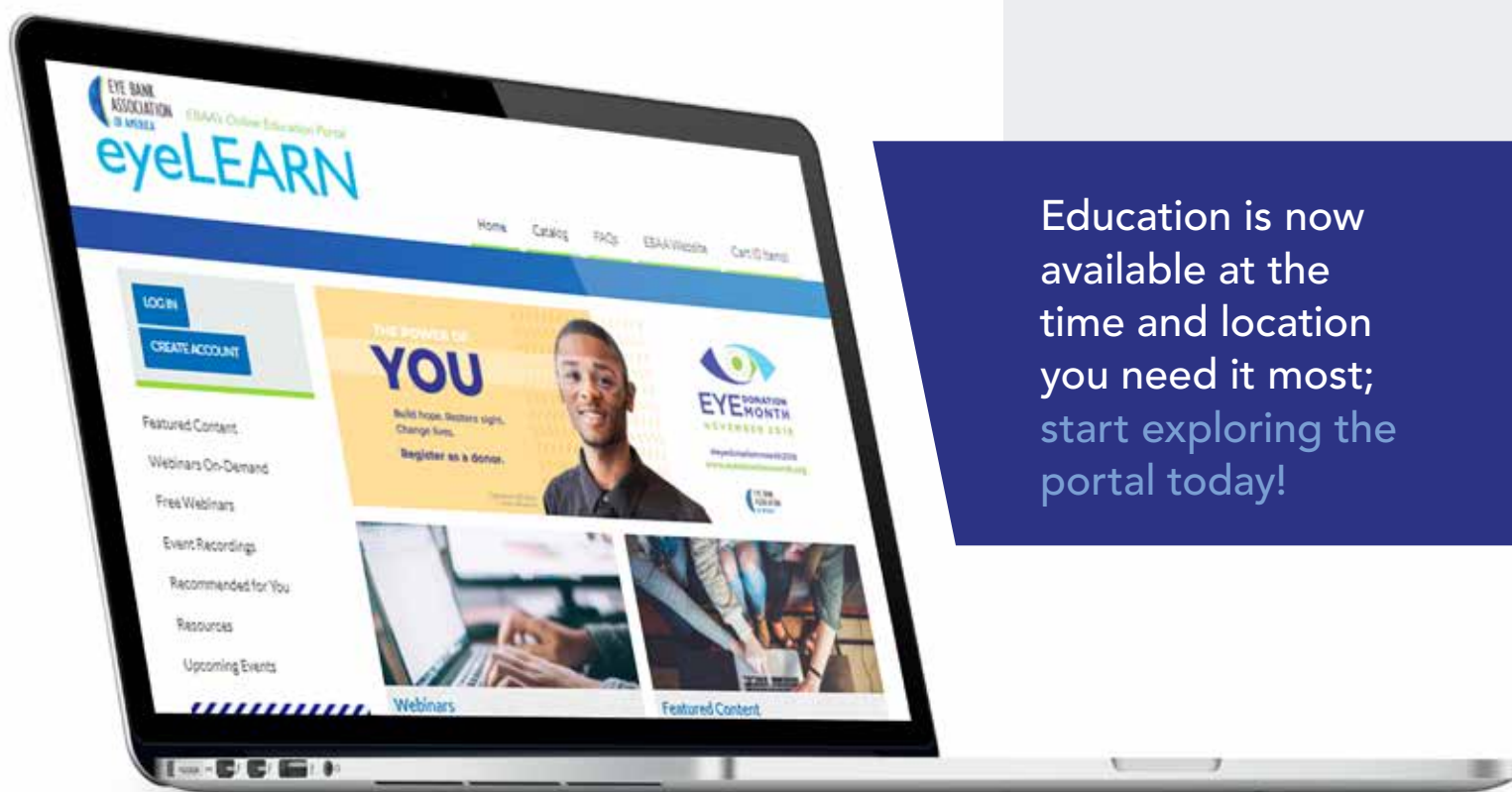
eyeLEARN is the home to pre-recorded webinars, live session recordings, various lectures, free sessions, resources and more. Currently featured on eyeLEARN is the 2018 Cornea and Eye Banking Forum recording package. For the first time ever, members have the opportunity to listen to and view the research that was presented during the Cornea and Eye Banking Forum after the event is over. Visit eyeLEARN today to learn

more and purchase the [Forum package](#), comprised of over 30 presentations, including the abstract presentations and the two invited mini-symposia. Learners are also able to listen to and view the [2018 R. Townley Paton Award Lecture](#), presented by Dr. Barry Lee for free.

The first step to accessing the resources and recordings on eyeLEARN is to sign into the site, using your EBAA credentials. Once you are logged in you will be able to explore everything eyeLEARN has to offer. If you still aren't sure what eyeLEARN is all about, check out this [tutorial](#) to help you get started exploring EBAA's new education portal!

## EBAA Educational Webinars

Throughout the year, EBAA hosts webinars on a variety of topics specifically for eye bank professionals. If you missed a webinar from this past year, visit [eyeLEARN](#), to view the available sessions and to attend a presentation at any time!



Education is now available at the time and location you need it most; start exploring the portal today!



## 2018 Technician Education Seminar January 31- February 3, 2018

### Host Eye Bank

Lions Eye Institute for Transplant and Research (LEITR)

### Faculty

Josh Galloway, CEBT, *Lions VisionGift*

Kristen McCoy, CEBT, CTBS, *Eversight*

Sam Ramos, CEBT, CTBS, *Sierra Donor Services Eye Bank*

George Rosenwasser, MD, CEBT, *Gift of Life Donor Program Eye Bank*

Ingrid Schunder, MBA, CEBT, *Miracles in Sight*

EBAA welcomed 47 attendees from the U.S., Canada, and Pakistan, to Tampa, Florida, for the 2018 Technician Education Seminar (TES). This year's successful event included a knowledgeable faculty, excited and engaged attendees, and perfect weather!

The seminar began with heartfelt presentations highlighting both donor family and cornea recipient perspectives on the gift of sight. EBAA Education and Programs Manager, Genevieve Casaceli spoke about the death of her father, the [lasting legacy](#) he left behind as a cornea and tissue donor, and how it inspired her to work at the EBAA. Robert Perez, a cornea recipient from Tampa and a volunteer with LEITR, shared [his story](#) about receiving the gift of the sight through a cornea transplant.

He expressed his gratitude for his donor as well as for those in the eye banking profession. To him the mission to restore sight is extremely personal because his 9-year-old daughter is also suffering from the same condition and will need a transplant as well. These personal accounts helped attendees understand both sides of the gift of sight, the donation and the transplant, and why each role at an eye bank is important in the entire continuum of sight restoration.

The seminar under the direction of an experienced faculty flew by quickly with dynamic presentations, live demonstrations, case study discussions, breakout sessions, games, and networking opportunities. This year's seminar also featured polling technology, which encouraged interaction and engagement.

### Here are a few comments from the 2018 TES attendees:

"Overall a great learning experience, I had a great time!"

"This was an incredibly informative seminar. There were a lot of topics to cover and the days were full but this gave me a better understanding of the areas of eye banking that I am not familiar with and I know better now where to focus my time when studying for the CEBT exam."

"TES offered me with the best experience possible! A big thank you to everyone that made it possible."

"The best 4 days I could imagine. The team was most effective and had such a great delivery. Highly organized and truly the best investment of time."

After the seminar, many attendees expressed how much they enjoyed the course and that it was an instrumental learning experience for them.

Thank you to the dedicated faculty for the experience and knowledge that they shared with EBAA and the attendees. Thank you to LEITR for hosting the event and for providing tissue, staff, equipment and materials for the course. We look forward to another successful event in 2019!



Check out photos from the event on our Facebook page!

## EBAA Open House

A lively crowd gathered on April 12, 2018, at the EBAA office in Washington, DC. EBAA invited local friends, colleagues, and those who were in town to attend the 2018 ASCRS meeting to our first ever open house.

We were grateful for the opportunity to mingle with members, give tours of the office, and chat with everyone who was in town for Cornea Day 2018 and the ASCRS ASOA 2018 Annual Meeting.

Thank you to all those who took time out of your schedule to visit with us!



Check out photos from the evening on our Facebook page!

## EBAA 57th Annual Meeting

EBAA's 57th Annual Meeting, themed "The Spirit of Eye Banking," was a testament to how EBAA and its members continue to take steps to elevate eye banking in the ever-changing world of the profession. Taking place June 6 – 9, 2018, the four-day event welcomed over 400 attendees, exhibitors and guests to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the city of brotherly love. This year's meeting was highlighted by a number of well-received sessions and workshops on a myriad of topics as well as lively receptions and meaningful awards presentations.

The conference kicked off with over 250 attendees and exhibitors making their way to the historic Reading Terminal Market for the Wednesday night party where the association took over the space and attendees were able to sample a variety of Philadelphia's best food and drinks.

EBAA was honored to welcome Dr. Kenneth Moritsugu, former U.S. Surgeon General to give the keynote presentation, "Donation and Transplantation – Everyone's Opportunity, Everyone's Responsibility." During his presentation Dr. Moritsugu discussed his experience with donation as his wife and daughter each passed away in two separate car accidents and both became eye, tissue and organ donors. Everyone was moved by his presentation and were left to think about how the donation process is for the family members and what can be done to make sure that this is an easy and comforting process for the family.

Over the next three days, attendees had the opportunity to learn from a plethora

of speakers on a number of topics. Highlighted sessions included standard meetings and workshops as well as: *Considerations for the Technical Trainer, Building a Robust Fundraising Program from Scratch, Avoiding the Lawyers in the Midst of the #MeToo Movement, The Physical Inspection: An Interactive Look and Collaborative Effort, and Cultured Endothelial Cells for Cell Replacement Therapy: Recent Advancements.*

During the Annual Dinner, celebration and good cheer were in the air, as attendees gathered for dinner and to honor the recipients of the Leonard Heise Award, the Gift of Sight Award, and the Crystal Cornea. Each recipient took the stage to receive their award and mentioned what the gift of sight has meant in their own lives and work.

On the last day of the meeting, research, science and the role of the Medical Director were the focus during the Scientific Symposium and the Medical Director Symposium. The Scientific Symposium highlighted

the latest research in eye banking and corneal transplantation. The Best Paper of Session Award was presented by the *International Journal of Eye Banking* to Trent Chiang, MS, medical student at Case Western University School of Medicine, for his presentation, "Cost-Benefit Analysis of Amphotericin B Supplementation of Corneal Storage Media with EK-Prepared Tissue". The award was supported by an unrestricted educational grant from the International Journal of Eye Banking (IJEB). The majority of the abstracts from the Scientific Symposium were included in the [summer issue of the Journal](#). The Annual Meeting wrapped up with the Medical Directors Symposium which included panel discussions reviewing difficult cases and how to get involved with the EBAA, an invited session on identifying infectious diseases and important.

EBAA would like to send a special thank you to Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley for being this year's host eye bank. We would also like to take the time to thank all our generous sponsors who supported the 57th Annual Meeting – their support was critical to its success. We look forward to seeing everyone in Scottsdale, Arizona, for the 2019 Annual Meeting!



Make sure you check out our 57th Annual Meeting Photo Album on Facebook for a glimpse of the action.

## Thank you to our Sponsors and Exhibitors

### SUPPORTERS

Medline  
Konan Medical USA, Inc.  
Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley  
Lions VisionGift  
Gebauer Medizintechnik GmbH  
Mid-America Transplant

### EXHIBITORS

Bausch + Lomb  
BB&T Insurance Services, Inc.  
BIONIKO  
Donate Life America

Donate Life Rose Parade  
Float  
ECL2/Q-Pulse  
Eurobio Ingen  
Gebauer Medizintechnik GmbH  
Global FIRST  
KODIAKOOLER  
Konan Medical USA, Inc.  
Krolman  
Medline  
Moria, Inc.  
NanoCool  
National Disease Research Interchange

Numedis, Inc.  
NuVista Solutions Group LLC  
Ofalmedia LLC  
QualTex Laboratories  
Quick Specialized  
Healthcare Logistics  
Restore Sight International  
Statline  
Stephens Instruments  
Stradis Healthcare  
Transplant Connect  
VRL Eurofins



2018 Quality Assurance Seminar attendees gather in front of the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas.

## 2018 Quality Assurance Seminar

EBAA hosted the first ever EBAA Quality Assurance Seminar on September 27 – 28, 2018. A total of fifty eye bank professionals from across the country and Canada traveled to San Antonio, Texas, for the two-day event. During this seminar, Quality Assurance was the main focus and attendees heard in-depth presentations on various QA topics, participated in discussions on interesting case studies, took part in interactive sessions and activities, had lively table discussions, played a fun informative game, and were treated to a personal walking tour around San Antonio!

After years of planning by the Quality Assurance Committee, the faculty took the materials that had been produced by previous committee members and really developed them into a cohesive and extensive course. A special thanks to Elizabeth Ellett from Alabama Eye Bank for being a guest lecturer and presenting on “Auditing.” All of the speakers shared a lot of information, and really fostered an environment of learning, hands-on activities, discussion, and information sharing.

During our time in San Antonio, the attendees and faculty were invited to participate in a special walking tour of San Antonio with San Antonio Eye Bank’s Medical Director, Dr. Kenneth

Maverick. SAEB provided special headsets and receivers to enable the entire group to hear Dr. Maverick as he spoke about the history of San Antonio, his family’s personal connection to the city, and the current layout of the town while walking around the Riverwalk, the streets of San Antonio, and the Alamo.

EBAA would like to thank the faculty for dedicating their time and expertise to

the development and facilitation of the course, Dr. Maverick and San Antonio Eye Bank for the wonderful walking tour, Elizabeth Ellett for sharing her expertise on conducting audits, the Quality Assurance Committee for suggesting and planning the initial outline of the course and the attendees for being ready to learn and willing to share and interact. It was a great event and we look forward to holding another one in the future!

### Here’s what attendees had to say about this unique educational experience:

“I enjoyed this seminar from the minute I stepped in the conference room to the end of the afternoon on Friday everything was wonderful. The networking possibilities were great!”

“The presenters were very informative and well prepared. Having interaction between fellow eye bankers kept everyone engaged. Hotel and its location, along with food and time of year were great. Thank you.”

“It was amazing to meet my fellow QA-ers! The camaraderie that was built is something I don’t think will be soon forgotten. Thank you EBAA!”

“Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed the workshop. It was excellent.”

“I thought this seminar was very well done. Great selection of topic, good engagement with the audience throughout, and a superb location for it. Had a great time and took a lot away from it.”

“The whole seminar was so worthwhile and informative!”



Past and present recipients of the R. Townley Paton Award.

## 2018 Cornea and Eye Banking Forum

On October 26, EBAA and Cornea Society jointly hosted the [2018 Cornea and Eye Banking Forum](#) in Chicago, Illinois. This year, we saw our largest crowd yet with a total of 424 ophthalmologists and eye bank professionals from around the world gathering for the day-long event.

This year's Forum, moderated by Michelle K. Rhee, MD, and Anthony J. Aldave, MD, featured the presentation of 26 scientific abstracts highlighting new research followed by lively discussion during the Q&A sessions; two mini-symposia with invited speakers, two award lectures, the presentation of four awards, lively debates and discussion, and much more.

The invited sessions included, "What I Learned from My First 50 Cases," and "Controversies in Eye Banking: Postkeratoplasty Fungal Infections".

The first session, "What I Learned from My First 50 Cases" featured presentations by Dr. Deepinder Dhaliwal, Dr. Peter Veldman, and Dr. Mark Gorovoy. Each presenter

shared several videos and discussed surgical pearls regarding their experience with DALK, DMEK, and DWEK respectively.

Then the debates heated up during "Controversies in Eye Banking: Postkeratoplasty Fungal Infections" which welcomed six presenters who shared pro or con viewpoints regarding the utility of donor rim fungal cultures, antifungal supplementation of donor storage media, and the appropriate

response to a positive donor rim fungal culture. The debates were friendly, but the speakers meant business!

During the Forum, the R. Townley Paton Award was presented to **Barry Lee, MD**, in recognition of his many contributions to EBAA, eye banking, corneal transplantation and sight restoration. After being introduced by the 1996 R. Townley Paton Award recipient, Dr. Mark Mannis, Dr. Lee gave the [R. Townley Paton Lecture, "Planning for the Next Generation: The Art of Mentorship."](#) During his lecture Dr. Lee discussed the importance of mentors in his life and career and how mentorship can help shape the next generation of leadership in eye banking and corneal transplantation.

The Best Paper of Session was awarded to **Drew Salisbury, MD**, Cornea Fellow at Eye Consultants of Atlanta for his presentation, *"Increasing Betadine Exposure During Cornea Tissue Preparation Decreases Positive Rim Cultures and Postoperative Infections."* The Best Paper of Session, is supported by an unrestricted educational grant from CorneaGen, and is awarded by the EBAA and Cornea Society for the best paper presented by a medical student, resident, or corneal fellow.



Cornea and Eye Banking Forum Program Chairs,  
Michelle K. Rhee, MD and Anthony J. Aldave, MD



The event also included two awards presented by the Cornea Society.

**Ronald Smith, MD**, was posthumously honored with the Claes H. Dohlman Award in recognition of a lifetime of teaching excellence in the field of cornea and external disease and for his contributions to the profession.

**Gregory Moloney, MBBS**, received the Richard C. Troutman Prize for his paper, *"Descemetorhexis Without Grafting for Fuchs Endothelial Dystrophy—Supplementation with Topical Ripasudil."*

With the presentation of new research, dynamic Q&A following each presentation, and open discussions and debates, the Cornea and Eye Banking Forum continues to be a success and a favorite among corneal surgeons and eye bank professionals.

Thank you to review committee, speakers, moderators, and attendees for making this year's Forum a successful event!

## 33rd Annual Run For Vision

On Sunday, October 28, 2018, EBAA hosted the 33rd Annual Run for Vision 5K, sponsored by Bausch + Lomb, in Chicago.

Over 200 ophthalmologists, eye bankers, donor family members, corneal transplant recipients, and others braved the early rain to run along the shores of Lake Michigan. Thankfully, the rain subsided just minutes before the starting gun, and by the race's conclusion, the skies had begun to clear. Because a grant from Bausch + Lomb underwrote all the race expenses, these runners' entry fees raised \$13,000 to support EBAA's mission.

Since its inception in 1985, the Run for Vision has raised nearly \$350,000 to support EBAA's mission to restore sight. We thank Bausch + Lomb for their decades-long partnership and continued support of this event.

Mark your calendars now...the 2019 Run for Vision will take place on Sunday, October 13, in San Francisco.

### The attendees have been excited sharing their feedback about the program:

"Excellent new ideas by young presenters and well discussed debates on controversial topics."

"I loved the debates/point to point."

"I better understand factors that influence the outcomes of endothelial keratoplasty."

"The Paton lecture was fantastic!"

"The selection of material and speakers, organization and attention to staying on schedule was excellent."

"This meeting continues to be the best cornea meeting of the year!"

**THIS YEAR, A TOTAL  
OF 50 CANDIDATES  
TOOK THE CERTIFIED  
EYE BANK TECHNICIAN  
EXAM, WITH 37  
INDIVIDUALS PASSING  
THE EXAM.**

# **CERTIFICATION UPDATE**

Since 1981, EBAA has administered an exam to enable individuals in the eye banking profession to become a Certified Eye Bank Technician (CEBT). The certification program is a long-standing well-respected program that ensures that eye bank technicians are well versed in the standards and regulations in eye banking. This past October, the exam received a makeover when the Exam committee released an updated content outline reflective of the changes in standards, practice, and regulations. The new outline is now available on the EBAA website, along with additional study resources.

This year, a total of 50 candidates took the Certified Eye Bank Technician Exam, with 37 individuals passing the exam. Allison Andersen from Lions VisionGift and Ann Kent from Georgia Eye Bank tied for the highest score for the spring exam, while Jackie Clark from the Eye Bank of Canada received the highest score for the fall.

Congratulations to all of the individuals listed who passed the exam this year and are now Certified Eye Bank Technicians!

## **CEBT Recognition Video— Spring 2018/Fall 2017**

During the 57th Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, EBAA premiered the CEBT Recognition Video for the classes of Fall 2017 and Spring 2018. The recognition video for the classes of Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 will premiere at the 2019 Annual Meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona.

## Class of Spring 2018

**Allison Andersen, CEBT**

*Lions VisionGift*

**Justin Bork, CEBT, CTBS**

*Center for Organ Recovery & Education*

**Alan Bush, CEBT**

*Sierra Donor Services Eye Bank*

**James Cagle, RN, CEBT**

*Mississippi Lions Eye Bank*

**Josh Cope, CEBT**

*Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin*

**Alyssa Davis, CEBT, CTBS**

*Eversight*

**Kate Dorhout, CEBT**

*Lions Medical Eye Bank & Research Center of Eastern Virginia*

**Alyse Fisse, CEBT**

*KeraLink – Pacific*

**Jocelyn Fronk, CEBT**

*Utah Lions Eye Bank – John A. Moran Eye Center*

**Susanne Giggey, CEBT, CTBS**

*New Brunswick Organ and Tissue Program*

**LaPrintence Gunn, CEBT**

*Alabama Eye Bank*

**Cameron Gupton, CEBT**

*Sierra Donor Services Eye Bank*

**Emily Harris, CEBT**

*Eye Bank of Canada – Ontario Division*

**Alex Jasinski, CEBT**

*KeraLink – Pacific*

**Lauren Johnson, CEBT**

*Eversight*

**Ann Kent, CEBT**

*Georgia Eye Bank*

**Virlynda Luciano, CEBT**

*KeraLink – Pacific*

**Nikki Miller, CEBT**

*Lions Medical Eye Bank & Research Center of Eastern Virginia*

**Stacey Paskowski, CEBT, CTBS**

*Lifebanc*

**Yi Ling Wa, CEBT**

*Eye Bank of Canada – Ontario Division*

**Samantha Winsett, CEBT**

*Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank*

## Class of Fall 2018

**Abid Al-Talhi, CEBT**

*King Khaled Eye Specialist Hospital Eye Bank*

**Nikkia Alvarez, CEBT**

*Lions Eye Bank for Long Island*

**Lyndsey Chastain, CEBT**

*Mid-South Eye Bank for Sight Restoration*

**Jackie Clark, CEBT**

*Eye Bank of Canada – Ontario Division*

**Eugene Dennis, CEBT**

*Eversight*

**Kelly Gruber, CEBT**

*The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration*

**Omar Herrera, CEBT**

*UT Southwestern Transplant Services Center Lions Eye Bank*

**Alyssa Hoffmann, CEBT**

*Southern Eye Bank*

**Anna Jackson, CEBT**

*Mid-South Eye Bank for Sight Restoration*

**Daniel Jernberg, CEBT**

*New England Donor Services*

**Lisa Kelley, CEBT**

*Dakota Lions Sight & Health*

**Ka-Pui Leung, CEBT**

*Hospital Authority Eye Bank*

**Michelle Liao, CEBT**

*OneLegacy*

**Siu-kin Ng, CEBT**

*Hospital Authority Eye Bank*

**Priya Sohi, CEBT**

*Lions Eye Bank for Long Island*

**Jeremy Whitlock, CEBT**

*Southern Eye Bank*

# AWARDS AND HONORS



## Leonard Heise Award

**Beth Binnion, CEBA**

Executive Director  
Cincinnati Eye Bank

Beth Binnion, CEBA, has been in eye banking for more than thirty-seven years, beginning her career in 1981 with the Cincinnati Eye Bank as their first eye bank technician. Binnion attended the inaugural EBAA

Technician Training Course and earned her EBAA Certified Eye Bank Technician (CEBT) designation in 1981 and has maintained her certification throughout her career. Binnion went on to serve as technical director of the Cincinnati Eye Bank for ten years and has been in her current role as executive director for the past twenty-one years.

Binnion has actively served on various EBAA Committees and Boards during her career. She has served on the Accreditation Board for sixteen years including service as Co-Chair and Forms Committee Chair. She has also served on the Medical Advisory Board since 2012, Meetings Committee (Chair), Ad Hoc Committee for Principles of Professional Conduct (Chair), Exam, Continuing Education, Scientific Programs and Meetings, Technician Education and Computer Committees. Binnion has served on numerous subcommittees for both the Accreditation Board and the Medical Advisory Board and is currently a reviewer for the International Journal of Eye Banking. Binnion has also been active locally, serving in leadership roles on Donate Life Ohio and the Second Chance Trust Fund.

Binnion has made several presentations at EBAA meetings throughout her career and recently created a lecture on Quality Systems in Eye Banking for the inaugural Graduate Certificate in Eye Banking from the University of Melbourne in Melbourne, Australia.

Binnion earned her Bachelor of Science in biology from Denison University. In her spare time, Binnion especially enjoys computer gaming, listening to music and live music shows, reading, and spending time with her husband of 38 years, David, and their schnauzer, Pippin.



## Gift of Sight Award

**Alfarena T. Ballew, MBA**

Chief Deputy Coroner  
Marion County Coroner's  
Office

*Nominated by VisionFirst*

Alfarena T. Ballew, MBA, is the Chief Deputy Coroner for the Marion County Coroner's Office (MCCO) in Indianapolis, Indiana. Ballew

earned her undergraduate degree from Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis (IUPUI) and completed her master's degree in business administration from Indiana Wesleyan University with a specialization in healthcare and business management.

Ballew is a strong advocate of eye, tissue, and organ donation. Her passion for donation comes from having a close cousin who needed a kidney transplant after suffering from Type I diabetes. Receiving a kidney transplant added precious years to her cousin's life. In every possible situation, Ballew educates the African American community about the importance of not only becoming a registered donor, but also how to share their wish with their family members.

Ballew passionately facilitates coordination between the MCCO and VisionFirst to assure that donation is completed in even the most complex cases. Because of her assistance, countless lives are being changed through corneal donation. In the last five years, the MCCO has been involved in 258 donor cases, providing the potential for over 500 people to receive corneal transplants. Of those cases, 64 were direct referrals to VisionFirst; giving the possibility for over 120 people to receive the gift of sight.

Holding an associate faculty position at IUPUI's School of Public and Environmental Affairs since 2013, Ballew also has been a visiting lecturer at local colleges and universities. She has taught new recruits with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) as well as the new Homicide Detective School hosted by the IMPD and the prosecutor's office.

The VisionFirst staff has worked alongside the Marion County Coroner's office for many years. VisionFirst knows that day or night, the MCCO will work diligently to honor the decision of the donor or the family. Ballew and the MCCO's efforts have helped to ensure that those suffering from corneal blindness will have the chance to see again.



### Crystal Cornea Award

**Peyton Barkalow**

First Grade Student

*Nominated by Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley*

Peyton Barkalow is a first-grade student at William H. Ross Elementary School in Margate City, New Jersey. Peyton was just one day old when he was diagnosed with a rare eye condition called

Peters' Anomaly, a disorder of the eye which involves thinning and clouding of the cornea and attachment of the iris to the cornea, causing blurred vision, which affected both of his eyes. At six-months of age, Peyton had his first cornea transplant surgery and has had three additional transplants since then. Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley (LEBDV) recovered, processed, and ensured the safety of the tissue used for each of Peyton's surgeries.

Peyton has a loving and supportive family who have been tremendous and enthusiastic advocates of LEBDV and the gift of sight. When it comes to the eye bank, "where and when" is their motto. With four children, including Peyton, the family of six never misses an eye bank function. In addition to attending events and functions, the family fundraises for LEBDV's Gratis Tissue Program, which has benefited hundreds of community members and helped to educate the community about the importance of cornea donation.

For the past seven and a half years, Peyton and his family have gone above and beyond to share the story of his restored vision. Because of the precious gift of sight and his supportive family, Peyton is thriving. Peyton's parents continuously update the LEBDV staff with his progress by sending report cards, awards, and pictures. The LEBDV staff can see that they make a difference in the lives of people like Peyton through his achievements.

Peyton is an exceptional, intelligent, and talented young boy with a contagious smile and a great attitude with a bright future ahead.



### Mary Jane O'Neill Fellowship in International Eye Banking

**Maya Alba, MD, PhD**

Executive Director

Eye Bank at Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center

Maya Alba, MD, PhD, is the Executive Director for the Eye Bank at Tel Aviv Sourasky

Medical Center in Tel Aviv, Israel. Dr. Alba is responsible for tissue recovery, obtaining family consent, evaluating ocular tissue using slit-lamp and specular microscopy, and managing the day-to-day operations of the eye bank. In addition to her responsibilities at the eye bank, Dr. Alba also collaborates with the Israeli Forensic Medicine Institute, where she recovers corneas, completes endothelial cell counts, and submits corneal evaluations, making the information available at the governmental level.

As part of the Mary Jane O'Neill Fellowship in International Eye Banking, Dr. Alba attended the 57th Annual Meeting and spent one week at Eversight in Chicago, Illinois, where she learned about the organization, the structure of a U.S. eye bank, and how to prepare and evaluate pre-cut corneal tissue.

The Mary Jane O'Neill Fellowship in International Eye Banking was established in 2001 to provide medical and technical personnel from eye banks in other countries with the skills necessary to develop, operate and maintain successful eye banks - ultimately, reducing blindness due to corneal disease or injury. Each year, the Fellowship brings an individual to the United States to intern at an EBAA member eye bank to learn the clinical, technical, and business aspects of a U.S. eye bank. The Eye Bank Association of America and The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration in New York City established this Fellowship to honor Mary Jane O'Neill, The Eye-Bank's Executive Director from 1980 to 2000.

To read about Dr. Alba's experience, [please read her personal account.](#)

*Thank you to Eversight in Chicago, Illinois for hosting the 2018 Mary Jane O'Neill Fellow and to the Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration for continuously supporting the Fellowship.*



## Patricia Aiken O'Neill Scholarship

### Kayla Gray, CCRP

Research Recovery and  
Processing Specialist

Kayla Gray is a Research Recovery and Processing Specialist for Eversight in Cleveland, Ohio. Prior to joining Eversight, Gray received her bachelors of

science from Case Western Reserve University with honors in Chemical Biology. With over a decade of research experience, Gray works tirelessly to further Eversight's research initiatives in Cleveland, Ohio.

In her short tenure, Gray was instrumental in the design and build out of the Eversight biorepository laboratory and has become part of the greater biobanking community. Gray has also authored and implemented new standards of practice, presented at several conferences across the country, and won awards for her innovative work including Nottingham Spirk Vertical Innovation Award, Movers and Shakers 25 under 35, and Proud Product of Ohio Public Schools.

To read about Kayla's experience at the Annual Meeting and why it was so meaningful, [check out her personal account](#).



## Jachin Misko Scholarship for Technical Advancement in Eye Banking

### Scott Van Oss, CEBT, COA

Donor Eligibility Specialist  
Iowa Lions Eye Bank

Scott Van Oss, CEBT, COA, began working as a Donor Eligibility Specialist at the Iowa Lions Eye Bank in

Coralville, Iowa in December of 2015 after holding a position as a clinical technician with the Ophthalmology department at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

Van Oss is a native Iowan, however, he and his wife spent time in Texas pursuing educational and work experience. After earning his certification as an ophthalmic assistant working for a pediatric ophthalmologist, Van Oss returned to Iowa and began his work with the University of Iowa. Since earning his Certified Eye Bank Technician (CEBT) designation in November of last year, Van Oss became the recipient of the Jachin Misko Memorial Scholarship and had the honor of representing his eye bank at the Technician Education Seminar (TES) in Tampa, Florida earlier this year.

In his free time, Van Oss enjoys trying different varieties of craft beer, various outdoor activities, and spending time with his wife and daughter.

[Here is an excerpt from Scott's personal account about his experience at the TES.](#)

# RESEARCH AND GRANTS

## EBAA Funds Research and Innovation Through Two Grant Opportunities

EBAA is proud to support research and innovation by offering two grant opportunities to fund research specifically concerned with issues directly related to eye banking, sight restoration and/or corneal transplantation.

The EBAA Richard Lindstrom Research Grants are awarded each year to fund pilot projects, well-defined short-term protocols, and initial studies directed toward new research initiatives. In 2018, the EBAA Research Committee selected eight projects to receive funding, for a total of \$39,200. Each year, this grant is awarded to fund smaller research projects up to \$5,000.

### The 2018 Richard Lindstrom Research Grant Recipients

#### Anthony Aldave, MD

Stein Eye Institute, UCLA  
*In Vitro Expansion of Human Corneal Endothelial Cells Using Differing Cell Culture Systems*

#### Alex Bauer

Lions VisionGift  
*A Phase II, Randomized Treatment, Double-Blind, Single-Center Study of the Effects of Ripasudil on Cornea Clearing after Descemet Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty in Subjects with Fuchs' Endothelial Cell Dystrophy*

#### Marjan Farid, MD

Gavin Herbert Eye Institute  
*Micro/Nanobubbles: A New Modality for Corneal Transplant Preservation*

#### Joshua Hou, MD

University of Minnesota  
*Determining Which Donor Characteristics are Predictive of Donor Cornea Limbal Stem Cell Viability in Cultures*

#### Zala Luznik, MD, MPH

Schepens Eye Research Institute/  
Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary,  
Harvard Medical School

*The Role of Neuropeptide Alpha-Melanocyte Stimulating Hormone in Preventing Corneal Endothelial Cell Loss in Tissue Storage and Transplantation*

#### Behnam Rabiee, MD, MPH

University of Illinois at Chicago  
*The Effect of Corneal-Limbal Derived Mesenchymal Stromal Cell Secreted Factors on Preservation of Corneal Endothelial Cells*

#### Alfonso Sabater, MD, PhD

Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, University of Miami – Miller School of Medicine  
*Plasma Rich in Growth Factors (PRGF) Enhances Corneal Endothelial Cells Survival and Proliferation*

#### Gregory Schmidt, CEBT

Iowa Lions Eye Bank  
*Assessing the Effects of Vasoactive Intestinal Peptide (VIP) on Human Corneal Endothelial Cell Bioenergetic Activity*

This year, EBAA offered the new EBAA High Impact Research Grant. The grant was established to make a larger impact on corneal and eye banking research. The committee requested proposals on “Maintaining Endothelial Viability During Tissue Processing and Transport” and award the grant to Khoa Tran, PhD, for his proposal “*Viability and Function of Cultured Human Corneal Endothelial Cells for Transplantation*.” In 2019, EBAA will be collecting proposals on “Ex vivo Corneal Endothelial Cell Expansion.” The application will be posted in the Spring.

Congratulations to this year's recipients, we look forward to hearing about the results!

### Antifungal Supplementation Research Grants

Investigators who received the EBAA Antifungal Supplementation Research Grants, presented their findings during the June and October Medical Advisory Board meetings. Some of the key findings were:

- 2.5ug/ml is the ideal target dose without causing appreciable damage to tissue (necrosis). – Benjamin T. Aldrich, PhD
- Amphotericin B (0.255 ug/ml) was effective at reducing the amount of fungi in storage media. It was most effective when added initially and after the warming period (which stimulates tissue processing). – Stephen C. Kaufman, MD, PhD
- Amphotericin B supplementation will be a cost-effective intervention if it can prevent 48% of current post-EK fungal infections. – Trent Tsun-Kang Chiang, MS
- In vitro models for hypothermic storage with Amphotericin B suggest endothelial toxicity ~10 mcg/ml
- Organ culture systems reduce culture rim positivity primarily through culture screening and tissue wastage. Amphotericin B 0.25 – 2.5 mcg/ml do not sterilize contaminated tissue and may have marginal effect at lower concentrations. – Elmer Tu, MD

Bennie Jeng, MD discussed the interim results of his clinical trial entitled *Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Study of the Safety of Amphotericin 0.255 µg/ml in Optisol-GS* at the MAB meeting this June.

# 2018 HOST EYE BANKS: THANK YOU

Throughout the year, EBAA plans, produces, and holds a variety of events and programs that occur thanks to the generosity of member eye banks who volunteer as host eye bank. A host eye bank typically lends staff and resources to EBAA that are instrumental to the success of the program or event. EBAA would like to thank the following eye banks for hosting EBAA programs and events over the course of 2018.

## Lions Eye Institute for Transplant and Research

*Host of the 2018 Technician Education Seminar*



## San Antonio Eye Bank

*Host of the 2018 Quality Assurance Seminar*



## Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley

*Host of the 57th Annual Meeting*



## Eversight Chicago

*Host of the 2018 Mary Jane O'Neill Fellowship*



## EBAA Volunteers: THANK YOU

Thank you to all the volunteers who have given their time and expertise to the association. Throughout the year, EBAA leans on volunteers who serve on committees and boards, present on specific topics during meetings and webinars, inspect eye banks, plan educational programs, review submissions for grants and meetings, write and review exam questions, and much more.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered in any capacity with EBAA this year, we appreciate you!

# LEADERSHIP

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At-Large Member  
Lions VisionGift

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Chris Stoeger, MBA, CEBT, CTBS – Co-chair

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Elizabeth Fout-Caraza

**Continuing Education**  
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**Donor Development**  
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**Exam**  
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Corrina Patzer

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**Statistical Report**  
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