



VISIONARY

Cornea Research Foundation of America - Bringing Vision to Future Generations



June 2006

Book Launch Party Attended By 130 Celebrants

On Sunday, May 21, a festive event, hosted by the Board of Directors at the Ritz Charles in Carmel, officially welcomed our book, *Celebration of Light*. Special guests included seven patients from the book, the Price Vision Group and Surgery Center staff, as well as friends of the Foundation. A welcome by Elaine Voci, Development Director, was followed with remarks by Dr. Price and a moving invocation by Indianapolis Senior Pastor Clarence Moore, a patient in the book.

An inspirational and educational program featured a sample of the planned audio version of the book being produced in July 2006. Elaine read three book excerpts accompanied by local composer John Cannaday who played an original score on the Clavinova, a digital piano, as an in-kind donation to the Foundation. The Clavinova was provided by Eric Murzyn of Meridian Music as an in-kind donation and Rachel French-Brosius, of French Rose Garden, provided beautiful rose corsages and boutonnieres worn by special guests.



Marlene Hatch, Director of Marketing & Public Relations for Prevent Blindness Indiana, presents a chapter sponsor check to Dr. Price.

The program theme was inspiring "stories" that helped put a human face on the work of the Foundation. Although we

associate it with scientific data collection and medicine, the true value of its work can best be seen in stories of how people have been served for almost 20 years.

Books are available for \$20 from Price Vision Group at 9002 North Meridian Street, at the Authorhouse website, www.authorhouse.com, or at 1-888-519-5121. All proceeds benefit the Foundation, so if you are interested in learning more about eye conditions such as glaucoma, cataracts, or corneal transplants, it provides an excellent source of information. The book also makes a thoughtful gift for someone who may be struggling with vision challenges.

Patients in the book include: Claire Brenner, Bob Brock, Pat Cowan, Michael Cruz, Linda Flinchum, Bob Higginbotham, Doris Hinderliter, Ed Jagiela, Donald Lane, Pastor Clarence Moore, Ken Swedo, Laurie Wolcott, Chris Wright, Donald Wright, Joe Young, and Trischa Zorn.



Eric Murzyn presents a chapter sponsor check to Dr. Price

Audio Book Chapter Sponsorships

Celebration of Light is a wonderful collection of stories of 16 patients who overcame vision challenges. It provides inspiration and information to help people make decisions about eye surgery and treatment. We want to share that same guidance with those who cannot read because of visual impairments. Therefore, we are going to produce an audio book on CDs which will have beautifully-stirring music to signal chapter breaks and lend continuity to the overall work. John's music (www.johncannaday.com) adds an uplifting dimension to the audio quality.

Sixteen chapters in the audio book are available for sponsorship. A \$200 donation will cover costs, but we are accepting gifts of \$200 - \$1,000 for the project. Sponsors already include People of Vision, auxiliary to Prevent Blindness Indiana; the family of Connor Belanger to honor his recovery from a rare form of childhood cancer of the eye; Marty Faust, a grateful patient of Dr. Price in Florida; the Fuchs' Dystrophy Foundation; and the Wellness and Music Division of Meridian Music.

You might consider sponsoring a chapter in honor of someone, or in memory of a loved one who is deceased, or in the name of your organization. Contact Elaine Voci at elainevoci@cornea.org or by phone at 317-814-2993.

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OUR MISSION & HOW WE MEASURE SUCCESS

Mission Statement

To be a world-class research and educational organization dedicated to the preservation and restoration of vision.

What We Do

Our mission can be summarized by this acronym: **RISE**.

R stands for Research – We do a minimum of 12 research projects a year; see our website for an updated list of projects.

I stands for Innovation – Dr. Price is a talented entrepreneur who has already been awarded several patents; he is always seeking the best and the newest ways to provide the highest quality vision care.

S stands for Service to Humanity – A servant leader, Dr. Price approaches his work as a God-given gift that he is stewarding on behalf of patients all over the world who will benefit from his expertise, surgical skills, and research.

E stands for Education – The Foundation sponsors an annual Focus on Education series for optometrists in Indiana, and monthly Advanced Cornea Courses in which surgeons from around the world are taught the latest techniques and procedures being pioneered.

We Measure Our Success By...

Providing comprehensive databases to support the analysis and publication of the latest innovations in ocular medical and surgical techniques.

The extent of our research activities and by our achievement of international recognition of our leadership role in research devoted to corneal transplants, intraocular lens complications, refractive surgery and other specialized procedures.

Achieving the highest levels of patient satisfaction with care provided as the result of our research activities.

How Donations Are Applied

- 80% goes toward research and education programs
- 10% goes toward fund-raising
- Management and administration receive the remaining 10%

New Alliance With Bosma Industries

Surgical gloves are a daily necessity in the clinical world and the surgery center where Dr. Price operates is no exception. At the urging of Dr. Kathy Kelley, gloves distributed by a local business, Bosma Industries For The Blind, were recently used for a few weeks and proved to be a success. Dr. Price and his surgical team are now using the gloves every day. As Dr. Kelley explained, "We decided to switch because we felt their business model of employing the visually impaired was something we wanted to support, as well as the fact that their gloves are more cost effective."

The mission of Bosma Industries is "...to enhance opportunities for individuals who are blind or visually impaired to achieve their potential in vocational, economic, social, and personal independence." The need is great: the average unemployment rate among the blind or visually impaired is a crushing 70%. Bosma provides help in three ways: they offer rehabilitation counseling and life skills training to help people adjust to the loss or impairment of their sight; they employ blind and visually impaired people and provide a living wage with full insurance benefits; and, lastly, they advocate for constituents so that the public is informed and sensitive to the issues. (Visit their website to learn more: www.bosma.org.)

Bosma Industries' largest glove customer is the Veterans Administration and their hundreds of hospitals and clinics. The sales contract with Price Vision Group is among their first major commercial sales. Nancy Brodt, Business Development Manager for Bosma, says, "This is a wonderful win-win for both of our organizations, and we are very pleased and proud to work together."

FROM THE RESEARCH CORNER



Marianne Price, Ph.D.

The Cornea Research Foundation is at the forefront of the biggest advances to occur in corneal transplantation in the last 30 years as we lead the way on cornea-sparing and laser-assisted grafts. Recently, we've been attending eye meetings on a monthly basis to share our findings, learn from others, and forge new research collaborations. Although the Internet is invaluable for information exchange, it can't substitute for direct, personal interaction.

There are three important benefits to attending national and international meetings:

- Surgical procedures have subtle nuances, such as how the surgeon holds the instruments, which cannot be fully appreciated by simply watching a video. Dr. Price has taught new transplant procedures by performing live surgery in Italy, Germany, India, and Nepal so doctors watching the technique can ask questions and see patient outcomes.
- International meetings help us appreciate how other areas of the world differ from the USA and provide a global perspective on the most beneficial way to direct our research. For example, visiting Asia showed us the importance of developing tissue-engineered corneas to help address the shortage of human donor corneas, and the need for new surgical techniques, which require less patient follow-up, because many people in remote areas have limited medical access.
- Meetings provide the opportunity for leaders in the field working on similar problems to come together, share findings, and brainstorm solutions. Many discussions lead to research collaborations. For example, we recently laid the groundwork to join forces with others to compare rejection and survival rates after different types of transplants. We are also collaborating to help determine the causes of corneal diseases, such as Fuch's dystrophy, through large-scale genetic studies, and evaluate innovative solutions to vision-threatening conditions, such as glaucoma and keratoconus.

By sharing findings and new ideas, the Foundation is contributing to the acceleration of innovative treatments to help the people we serve.

v Fuch's Dystrophy Research Study Underway

Carol Campbell and her sister Nancy Spriggs each have Fuch's dystrophy, a condition that has gradually caused their corneas to swell and their vision to become cloudy. Last fall, Carol's doctor said that her vision was so poor she should give up driving, and he suggested she visit Dr. Price to see about having a new cornea-sparing transplant that would provide faster recovery and stronger healing. Carol asked Nancy to join her, and in January they traveled to Indianapolis from their home in Arizona to have Dr. Price treat each sister's more severely affected eye. In May, the sisters returned to Indianapolis to have the second eye transplanted.

Both sisters have one daughter and they worry that their daughters may have inherited Fuch's dystrophy, which typically shows up later in life. So they were excited to learn that the Cornea Research Foundation is participating in a study to find the cause. This nationwide study, funded by the National Eye Institute with 23 sites across the U.S., hopes to recruit 500 families that have two or more members affected with Fuch's who are willing to provide a blood sample for genetic analysis.

Carol and Nancy were the first to enroll in the study at our site, and they encourage other Fuch's families to contact the Cornea Research Foundation about participating. Finding the genes involved could help lead to earlier diagnosis and eventually result in new treatments to halt the progression of this disabling disease.

If you, or someone you know, are interested in participating in this landmark study, please call Sara Dugdale, R.N. (317-814-2994), Clorissa Quillin (317-814-2996), or Marianne Price (317-814-2990).



Carol Campbell and Nancy Spriggs

Dr. Francis W. Price, Jr. Recipient of Award

We are proud to announce that Dr. Price has been named a recipient of the American Academy of Ophthalmology's *For Achievement Award* in recognition of his service contributions to the Academy through presentations, research papers, and active involvement. Congratulations, Dr. Price!



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ASK THE DOCTOR



Dr. Francis Price, Jr.

Q: Can you tell me where I can find a doctor in my area who has trained with you in the new DSEK procedure?

A: Finding a good doctor for this new technique is an important concern. I have trained 200 doctors in DSEK from all over the world, but I maintain a busy practice myself, and it is beyond my capacity to make referrals. I don't have enough time or resources to follow them after they leave my course.

Having said that, let me share some thoughts with you that come from our new book, *Celebration of Light*, about finding a doctor you want to work with as you undertake eye surgery.

In order for you to make a good team, it is essential that you trust your doctor, have confidence in and feel comfortable with his/her skills and style of communicating. So my first advice is to call the medical society and find a list of ophthalmologists in your area. Begin narrowing that list by calling their offices and finding out if they are doing the procedure, how long they have been doing it and what their "success" rate is. The Fuchs' Foundation and Keratoconus Foundation can also provide additional information.

Once you have identified a potential partner, make an appointment and visit the clinic in person. Be observant: look at the equipment to see if it is modern or outdated. Observe how staff interacts with patients; are they sincerely interested and attentive to their feelings and needs? Finally, sit and talk with the doctor; does s/he look at you when talking? Does s/he seem patient with your questions, or rushed? Does the doctor inspire your confidence?

One other thing: continue to have faith in the future, and be grateful for each and every day for it is a blessing. Overcoming vision challenges is as much a matter of your outlook as it is in finding the best doctor, so stay positive and maintain an attitude of gratitude.

EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2006: Dr. Francis Price, Jr. attended the World Ophthalmology Conference in São Paulo, Brazil.

MARCH 2006: Both Drs. Price attended the ASCRS Conference (The American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery) in San Francisco, California where their individual presentations each took a "Best Papers" award. Congratulations, Drs. Price!

APRIL 2006: Both Drs. Price attended the Northwest Lions Eye Bank Surgeons Meeting in Seattle, Washington, and the ARVO Conference (The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology) in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.