



VISIONARY

Cornea Research Foundation of America - Bringing Vision to Future Generations

September 2006

Dr. Price to Be Honored as The "Person of Vision" for 2006

Each year, Prevent Blindness of Indiana presents a "Person of Vision" award to an individual (or couple) who has demonstrated outstanding leadership, dedication, and creativity to giving the gift of sight in the Indianapolis community and beyond. We're pleased to announce that Dr. Francis W. Price, Jr., was chosen for this year's award and will be the guest of honor at a gala dinner to be held at the new Conrad hotel in Indianapolis on Saturday, November 4, 2006.

As a Person of Vision award recipient, Dr. Price joins an illustrious group of past honorees such as Lorene and John Burkhart, Marilyn and Eugene Glick, and Dr. Lou Cantor. This award is intended to create a legacy of honoring visionaries in the Indianapolis community who, by their compassionate leadership example and dedication to eye health, make Indiana a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Tickets for the 2006 Eye Ball Awards Dinner and Gala are \$150 per person and include valet parking, a cocktail reception followed by dinner, a Silent Auction, and a dessert and Cappuccino buffet with live entertainment. Black tie is optional. All proceeds benefit Prevent Blindness. The public is invited to attend; more information can be found at www.pbi.org, or by calling Marlene Hatch at (317) 955-9580, ext.26.

Congratulations, Dr. Price! We are very proud of you!

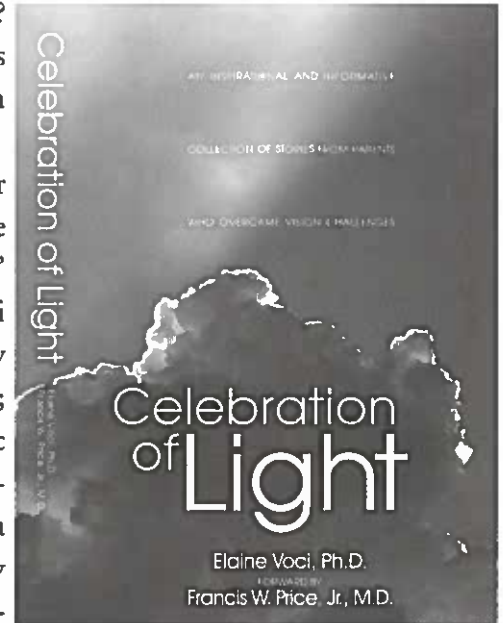
Celebration of Light Now Available on CD!

Do you know someone whose vision prevents them from being able to read? The first book published by the Foundation has been recorded on CD and is available for purchase in the lobby of Price Vision Group in Indianapolis, or through www.CD-Baby.net.

The cost is the same as the \$20 paperback; the four-CD set contains a paper insert listing chapter sponsors and Friends of the Foundation who helped underwrite the project. We are grateful to Bosma Industries; Marty Faust of Sarasota; the Fuchs'

Corneal Dystrophy Foundation in San Diego; the Voci and Belanger families in honor of Connor Belanger; Sherry Kaderli in honor of Dr. Sylvia Norton in Syracuse, New York; Eric Murzyn of Meridian Music, the Wellness and Music Division; Jake Requard and Visionshare in North Carolina; Marlene Hatch of Prevent Blindness, Indiana; Nyla Johnson in honor of her son-in-law, Bob Brock; Patty Garlick; Kristine Smith; J. Martin Hall, attorney and grateful patient; Mark Lucas of the United States Association of Blind Athletes in Colorado; and, Indiana composer, John Cannaday, whose music graces the CD book version.

If you know someone with vision challenges who would benefit from hearing this inspiring and informative book on CD, or you are looking for an inspirational gift for someone special who is visually impaired, this book on CD is perfect. All proceeds benefit the Foundation, enabling it to continue its life-changing work. For more information, please contact Elaine Voci at 317-814-2993, or at elainevoci@cornea.org.



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*Cornea Research
Foundation of America*

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New Hope For Victim of Tragic Crime

Debi Bailey from Sarasota came to Indianapolis in July to see Dr. Francis W. Price, Jr., in hopes of regaining her vision. In 1972, she was standing near her father when he opened a package that turned out, tragically, to contain a bomb. The explosion killed her father instantly and permanently damaged one of her eyes and made her legally blind in the other. Almost fatally injured, Debi lost 50% of her hearing, suffered internal injuries and second and third degree burns. She endured a great deal of suffering and, over the years, her vision continued to worsen. She had numerous surgeries, but the cornea in her left eye was badly scarred and cloudy.

With the help of her community and the Lions Club in Sarasota, Debi flew to Indianapolis for a combination of two procedures in her severely damaged left eye. Dr. Price performed a corneal transplant to replace the cloudy cornea she had and implanted an artificial iris. Using a new laser technology to create ultra-small incisions, Dr. Price and his assistants performed the delicate transplant surgery known as "top hat" because of the unique shape of the tissue cut. Dr. Price was encouraged by how the surgery went and noted, "We're hoping that the use of the laser to create a top hat incision will provide faster healing with fewer visual fluctuations compared with traditional techniques."

Ms. Bailey is hoping to see things she thought she might never be able to, including "...sunsets at the beach in Sarasota, my children's faces, the stars at night." Complete healing will take place over the next six months and she will return to Indianapolis for a check-up in 90 days. Dr. Price said he hopes the FDA will sign off on the iris implants this fall so that many others might be helped.

We will follow Debi's story and provide an update in the December newsletter.

Foundation Board News Update

Two major milestones will be recognized by the Board of Directors during its September meeting. They represent two important transitions: an ending and a new beginning.

Board Accepts Resignation of Founding Member

After serving on the Board since its inception, Dr. Francis W. Price, Sr., has tendered his resignation in order to retire full-time in Florida with his wife, Marion. One of the original members of the Board, Dr. Price worked with passion and commitment to the Foundation's life-changing work carried out by his son and namesake, Dr. Francis W. Price, Jr.

In the early days, Mrs. Price worked as her son's receptionist in the office of Price Vision Group while Dr. Price, Sr., worked to bring recognition and awareness of the Foundation's mission to many different areas of the business, medical, and social community in Indianapolis. Through his diligent efforts, the Board of Directors grew to its present composition of ten members.

Dr. Price, Sr., also contributed to the growth of the Foundation through various fund raising activities such as the annual golf outing held each June for the past nine years. His role has been vital to the Foundation, and we are indebted to him far beyond what words can convey. As Dr. Price, Jr., recently said, "My father is a wonderful inspiration, and we would not have been able to progress as much as we have without his guidance, persistence, and energetic pursuits of our shared goals. On behalf of the Board, I want to publicly thank him for all of his help these many years." A special recognition service will take place at the September Board meeting to mark this transition and express gratitude to Dr. Price, Sr.



Johnston Erwin

New Member Joins the Board

We are pleased to announce that Johnston Erwin will begin serving on our Board in September. Joe Kack, a former Board member and Lilly employee, worked with Johnston for many years and nominated him. Johnston has been employed by Lilly since 1983 and currently serves as the Vice President, Global Brand Development. He brings a varied background of leadership experience and compassion for those who are visually challenged.

Meet the Associates

You may have noticed a double row of photographs of people with smiling faces in a hallway of the clinic and wondered, "Who are they?" The answer is simple: they are surgeons who have studied with Dr. Price as Associates for a period of one to two years. We are pleased to announce that we have added two new faces to this distinguished roster and would like to introduce them to you here:



Christopher Jordan, M.D.

Dr. Christopher Jordan grew up in Scranton, Pennsylvania, in an "ophthalmology" family. His father, an uncle, and grandfather are all ophthalmologists, while yet another uncle is an optometrist, as is one of his sisters! He has a clear memory of sitting with his dad in the family room at night looking at slides together, when he was about ten years old, and realizing that he wanted to follow the same career path.

A graduate of Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, Dr. Jordan completed his residency last year at Drexler University College of Medicine and joined Dr. Price as an Associate in July. He is single and plans to relocate to Scranton, Pennsylvania to join his father's practice when his year-long work with Dr. Price has been completed.

When asked why he selected Price Vision Group in which to serve as an Associate, Dr. Jordan responded, "The amount of technological advances in surgery that are being performed by Dr. Price is remarkable; few people in the world are doing what he is in his practice. The opportunity to learn and then bring it back to my own patients is outstanding. I also like the research that is being done at the Foundation, and I may want to stay involved in research as my career progresses. In the future, I hope it might be possible that my practice patients may be participants in a joint study with Dr. Price someday."

Dr. Rafael Trespalacios was born in New Jersey, but from the age of nine he lived in Inverness, a small town north of Tampa, Florida, so he considers himself a Floridian. Both of his parents are Cuban-Americans; he has one sister who is an optometrist and another is attending pharmacy school. As a boy growing up, he often heard conversations around the dining room table that had to do with medicine; one of his uncles is a psychiatrist, and there were often fascinating stories told that intrigued him.

Dr. Trespalacios attended the University of Central Florida in Orlando for his undergraduate degree and medical school at the University of South Florida in Tampa. He comes to us from the University of South Carolina where he served as Chief Resident in Ophthalmology.

Dr. Trespalacios made the decision to come to Price Vision Group because, as he explained, "Dr. Price's work is truly cutting edge and there is no other environment that offers the same level of expertise. I also appreciate that he encourages independence and provides the opportunity to pursue special areas of interest."

In his case, that special interest lies in reaching out to the Hispanic community to provide ophthalmology services. Dr. Trespalacios is excited about the chance to make a difference in the lives of those families that live in the greater Indianapolis area. As an ethnic group, Hispanic families are under served and remain at risk for Glaucoma and have a high incidence of diabetic eye disease.

Dr. Trespalacios provided a final comment about his future work at the clinic, "I look forward to helping advance the field of cornea research at Price Vision Group and to serving patients in the community. It's exciting to be here!"



Rafael Trespalacios, M.D.

Sara Dugdale, Clinical Research Nurse Joins Foundation



Sara Dugdale

The Foundation conducts at least 12 annual studies, and that number is increasing. In light of this growth, Marianne Price, Ph.D., Director of Research and Education, recruited Sara Dugdale to add needed resources to our team. Sara holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from DePauw University and worked as a staff nurse in critical care, cardiovascular surgical, and medical-surgical intensive care units in Chicago and Indianapolis. In addition, she worked at Walker Clinical Evaluations as a clinical research nurse.

Many people are inspired to follow a career by a life-changing event, and that is true of Sara. She chose nursing after being part of three mission trips to Guatemala, Honduras, and Peru while she was in college. Eventually, she thought she might like to join the Peace Corps and use her nursing skills to improve the lives of people living in developing world countries.

Then she met her future husband, Jeff, and those plans came a bit closer to home. Sara and her husband are busy raising three children who range in age from 12 to 18 years. Jeff has his own company, and Sara is an active volunteer in the community.

When asked what she likes most about working at the Foundation, Sara replied, "My Dad has had vision problems as the result of a childhood accident, so coming here and seeing the wonderful things that Dr. Price is doing makes me feel good. I feel as if I am contributing to helping people like my Dad improve the quality of their lives."

Events

May 21, 2006

Celebration of Light book party hosted in Carmel, Indiana.

May 25, 2006

19th Congress of German Ophthalmic Surgeons International Symposium, Nuremberg, Germany. Dr. Price gave presentations on new corneal transplant techniques and performed live surgery beamed via satellite to attendees.

June 16-17, 2006

Corneal Dystrophy Symposium, Lake Mary, Florida. Drs. Price and Elaine Voci attended. Dr. Price gave a presentation on corneal transplants; Marianne Price, Ph.D., presented information on the new Fuchs' Dystrophy Genetics Study now underway. Elaine signed and sold copies of Celebration of Light.

July 6, 2006

Bascom Palmer Eye Institute/ Miller School of Medicine University of Miami, New Horizons in Ophthalmology conference in Aspen, Colorado. Dr. Price gave presentations on new corneal transplant techniques.

August 2006

Dr. Price spoke in Minneapolis at a gathering of Minnesota corneal surgeons.

Save the dates!

October 21, 2006

Foundation staff will participate in the first Clinical Research Education and Awareness Day presented by the Aware for All organization being held at the University Place hotel on the downtown campus of IUPUI. The educational program provides the public and patients with information to help them make informed decisions regarding clinical research study participation. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, go to www.awareforall.org/india or call 1-888-CISCRP3.

November 4, 2006

Daylong annual Focus on Education seminar for Midwest optometrists to be held at the Ritz Charles in Carmel, Indiana; proceeds benefit the Foundation. Program registration materials will be mailed in September.

November 4, 2006

Dr. Price to receive Person of Vision award at the annual Eye Ball Awards Dinner & Gala, hosted by Prevent Blindness Indiana at the Conrad Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana.

November 17, 2006

Foundation staff and Dr. Rafael Trespalacios of Price Vision Group will participate in the third annual Hispanic/Latino Health Summit being held at the downtown Marriott hotel. The information exchange program brings together doctors, public agencies, health care professionals and Hispanic/Latino businesses to discuss barriers to health care access.

November 19, 2006

Open House from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m., hosted by the Foundation at the Price Vision Group office, 9002 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis, Indiana. Invitations will be mailed in mid-October for a presentation of "The Artemis-2 and Fuchs' Dystrophy Update." The event is free, but reservations are requested. Come join us for an informative afternoon, and help mark National Philanthropy Day!

FROM THE RESEARCH CORNER



Marianne Price, Ph.D.

Throughout its almost 20-year history, the Cornea Research Foundation of America has worked to improve outcomes for cornea transplant patients. With support from the Indiana Lions Eye Bank, CRFA began tracking outcomes of traditional full thickness grafts and eventually developed the largest cornea transplant database in North America, with information on over 4,000 grafts.

Recently, as Dr. Price has pioneered new cornea-sparing transplants known as DSEK, the Foundation has again been at the forefront of tracking and reporting outcomes to help improve the technique.

This past spring, with support from the Indiana Lions Eye Bank, Vision Share Eye Banks, the Cornelius Family Foundation, and other generous donors, including patients of Dr. Price, the Foundation purchased a \$100,000 Artemis ultrasonic eye scanner, which images the cornea with incredible detail. In DSEK, a single diseased cell layer is removed from the inner surface of the person's cornea and is replaced with a thinly sliced piece of donor tissue implanted through a small incision. The Artemis enables us to carefully examine eyes with DSEK grafts to help figure out how to best match the donor tissue to the recipient's eye in order to optimize visual recovery.

Currently, the DSEK donor tissue is thinly sliced using a bladed device, but within a year it should be possible to program an extremely precise laser, known as a femtosecond laser, to cut the donor tissue. Our studies with the Artemis ultrasonic scanner will provide important information on optimal donor tissue thickness and contour so that patients will recover the best vision. We want to thank the many DSEK patients who have generously agreed to have their eyes scanned with Artemis to benefit future DSEK recipients!

9th Annual Golf Classic is Great Success

With the energetic leadership of our Chairman, Harry Scheid, and a great golf committee, the Foundation raised a net total of \$27,200, our most successful outing in the history of the Foundation. Mother Nature cooperated by providing a "perfect-blue-sky-and-cool-breeze" day at Bent Tree Golf Course in Westfield. The evening banquet featured Derek Daley as Master of Ceremonies and a delicious buffet catered by Jug's. A fantastic Silent Auction and a fast-paced raffle drawing added excitement and brought the event to a close on a positive note. We will hold our June 12, 2007, golf outing at Bent Tree and hope to see you there! Save the date!

Looking for a Speaker?



Elaine Voci, Ph.D. please contact her at 317-814-2993.

Elaine Voci, author of *Celebration of Light*, is available to speak to groups at no cost, in exchange for the opportunity to make book copies available for sale to audience members. Her 30-minute presentation includes inspiring highlights of the 16 patients' stories included in the book. The individuals in the book are ordinary people who suffered visual impairments caused by accidents, genetic disorders and aging. Audiences are touched, amused and enthralled with these heroic individuals, as well as amazed by learning about new technologies and procedures available today. To make arrangements,

Words From the Heart

Dear Dr. Kelley,

I just have to tell you how happy I was last night when I drove my car. Before surgery when driving at night, headlights were so bright that it was painful for me to continue looking straight ahead. Last night, not only could I see the road ahead very clearly, even with oncoming traffic, but I could also look at the car approaching from the opposite direction and actually see it, not just a blinding glare! Before surgery, I estimated that I had another year before I would have to stop driving, and I was also planning for the possibility that I would have to retire early. Now, my vision is better than it has been at any time after my surgery. When these little miracles happen, I think fondly of all of you. May God bless you for all the wonderful work you do.

Sincerely,
Peter Burchanowski



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ASK THE DOCTOR



Dr. Francis Price, Jr.

Q: “Is there an alternative treatment for nearsightedness besides laser eye surgery?”

A: Over one quarter of the U.S. population is nearsighted and, as always, they have the option of wearing glasses or contact lenses. While millions have opted for laser surgery to reshape their corneas and to free them from having to wear glasses or contact lenses, there is a new surgical alternative that has become available in the U.S. A lens, called a “phakic intraocular lens” is implanted permanently in the eye to supplement the eye’s natural lens. The procedure costs more than laser surgery and is currently not covered by insurance. It is also considered a more invasive procedure. However, there are significant advantages, especially for people who are severely nearsighted:

- The implant is better for those with thin corneas, or for those who are very nearsighted because the more nearsighted you are, the more tissue has to be removed by laser surgery, which increases the risk of a poor outcome or long-term complications.
- If the results are not satisfactory to you, you can have the lens removed and return to your original level of vision (not an option with laser surgery).
- As new technology comes along, you can have the implant removed and get the latest procedure.

The new lenses take about 15 minutes to implant under local anesthetic in the eye. Patients usually receive a light sedative to relax them, and a small incision is made; stitches may or may not be required. I usually do only one eye at a time. The new lenses have a high rate of success in achieving improved vision; one company reports that 95% of their patients three years after implantation, enjoy vision quality of 20/40.

We were involved in the original clinical trials of the lenses, and, therefore, we have implanted them for over eight years. We’ve included two stories of patients who received lens implants in Celebration of Light, if you would like to read firsthand accounts from the patient’s perspective.