

VISIONARY

Volume 7, Number 2

Cornea Research Foundation of America

October 1997

Restoring Vision Through Research

The Cornea Golf Classic To Benefit the Cornea Research Foundation of America

Early Bird Announcement

What: The Cornea Golf Classic

Sponsored by: The Cornea Research Foundation of America and Indiana Lions Eye Bank

Date: June 4, 1998

Where: Pebble Brook Golf Club

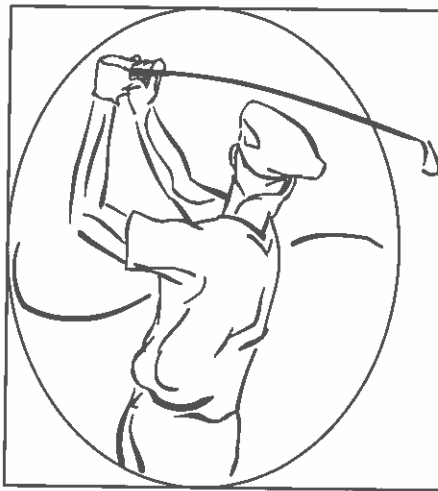
Time: 1:00 p.m.

Format: Florida Scramble

Benefits: The Cornea Research Foundation of America, an international research and educational center specializing in clinical research and education programs relating to corneal disease and transplantation, intraocular lens surgery, glaucoma and refractive surgery.

Fee Includes: Lunch, green fees, cart and dinner.

Sponsorships Available: See page 2 to learn how you or your company can participate as a sponsor.



For More Information: Please contact the Foundation at 844-5610.

Volunteers Needed

We need people to help with mailings, registration and other administrative tasks. We will also need volunteers on the day of the golf tournament. If you are interested in helping us, please call 844-5610.

If calling before or after normal working hours (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.), please leave a voice message with your name, phone number and availability.

New LASIK Study is Under Way

Corneal Consultants of Indiana has been given approval by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to begin another investigational study of laser-assisted in situ keratomileusis (LASIK). LASIK is the latest refractive surgery available to correct distance vision and lessen the need for glasses and contacts. The Cornea Research Foundation will provide the administrative and research support needed to conduct the non-clinical aspects of the study.

The Chiron Technolas excimer laser, an investigational device, will be used in the study which will be submitted to the FDA. The laser provides a variety of treatment capabilities not found on the excimer lasers already approved by the FDA. We anticipate that the advantages of this laser will lead to improved accuracy and improved astigmatism treatment with less glare or distortion compared to the currently approved machines.

This new study will be evaluating the role of topical cortico-

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1 - Golf Tournament)

Sponsorships Available

Titanium \$5,000

Title sponsorship, primary sponsor on all event materials and in media coverage, two teams of four golfers, two hole sponsorships, and four golf cart sponsorships.

Platinum \$2,500

Two teams of four golfers, recognition as secondary sponsor on all event materials and in media coverage, one hole sponsorship, two golf cart sponsorships, and one beverage cart sponsorship.

Gold \$1,000

Recognition of sponsorship on all event materials and in media coverage, one team of four golfers, and two golf cart sponsorships.

Silver \$500

Signage on day of event and listing in program.

Bronze \$100

Signage on one golf cart.

(continued from page 1)

steroids after LASIK treatment. Steroid drops are routinely used by most doctors in this country after excimer laser surgery, but some investigators around the world are questioning if steroids are actually needed at all. We hope to answer this question and help determine the best possible treatment for individuals having LASIK surgery.

Another advantage of this study is that participating patients can have both eyes treated at the same time if they desire.

Patients in the northern Indiana area will now be able to participate in this study without having to travel to Indianapolis. This is made possible because of the newly acquired Chiron Technolas excimer laser now available in the Ft. Wayne office of Corneal Consultants of Indiana.

Dr. Whitson Treats Haitian Boy in Attempt to Restore Vision

Wiltsie Juna Charlemagne is a 3-year-old Haitian boy stricken with congenital glaucoma and severe corneal scarring. In addition to his physical problems, his mother passed away when he was a baby, and he was later abandoned by his father. But then Terry Ridge, a registered nurse from Indianapolis who was volunteering medical services in Haiti with the Haiti Parish Twinning Program, became aware of Wiltsie's situation, and both their lives were forever changed.

"There was no reason for a little boy like Wiltsie to suffer that way," explained Ridge. "I knew that he had a fighting chance to see and to have a real life if he could get proper medical attention and care. Something told me I had to find the way to get him to Indianapolis."

When Wiltsie arrived in Indianapolis this past June, the medical community rallied to help save the little boy's vision. St. Vincent Hospital; the Indiana Lions Eye Bank; ophthalmologists William E. Whitson, M.D. and Keith Riddle, M.D.; and anesthesiologists Steven L. Priddy, M.D. and James P. Bastnagel, M.D. all offered their services and waived their fees.

"We have every reason to expect that Wiltsie will be able to see," said Dr. Whitson. He has come a long way thanks to some very caring people.

Analysis Will Begin on 900 Eyes Treated With LASIK Surgery

The first LASIK study sponsored by Corneal Consultants of Indiana, and monitored by CRFA, has now completed its enrollment. This study involved approximately 450 patients and 900 eyes. It was designed to determine the safety of performing bilateral simultaneous LASIK surgery compared to delayed surgery between a patient's two eyes.

The standard practice around the world has been to perform the surgery on both eyes at the same time. However, prior to our study, no other study evaluating bilateral simultaneous surgery had been completed and submitted to the FDA.

Initial results look very good, but it will be 6-12 months before data analysis is complete. Preliminary results indicate that bilateral simultaneous surgery with LASIK is the desired method. In fact, many patients were disappointed when they had to wait fourteen days between the two eyes!

A new LASIK study, in which both Corneal Consultants of Indiana and CRFA will participate, will allow bilateral simultaneous LASIK surgery if the patient desires it.

Visit Us at

[w.w.w. cornea.org](http://www.cornea.org)

The world wide web seems to be one of the most effective ways to provide information to the general public. We are proud to announce that we have established a web site on the world wide web. You can reach us at <http://www.cornea.org>. This project is the foundation's newest ongoing educational activity covering eye diseases, their treatments, and what the Foundation is doing to improve vision. We are very excited about our program which we see as a growing and evolving project. To provide some of the many services available through the Internet, however, we need support from people like you who want to have access to the latest and most reliable information on eye care.

With your financial help, we hope to be able to hire a person who can coordinate this project. We would like to provide detailed information on keratoconus, Fuchs' corneal dystrophy, myopia, acute glaucoma, chronic glaucoma, herpes simplex infections in the eye, corneal transplants, glaucoma surgery, cataract surgery, normal development and aging of the eye, and the role of antioxidants and vitamins in eye diseases including glaucoma, retinal degeneration and wound healing.

Please send your tax deductible contribution and any comments or suggestions to CRFA, 9002 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46260. If you have any questions, please call Sally at 844-5610 or e-mail her at sally@cornea.org.

FOCUS ON EDUCATION October 18, 1997

Each year the Foundation sponsors a day-long educational seminar for optometrists throughout Indiana. We expect approximately 200 persons to attend the meeting. Allergan Pharmaceuticals, a division of Allergan Inc. and Alcon Foundation are co-sponsors of this year's event.

Some of this year's topics will include:

- ◆ Decision Making in Glaucoma: Tips on Treatment Options
- ◆ Advances in Vitreo-Retinal Surgery
- ◆ New Pharmaceutical Agents for corneal and external disease
- ◆ Ophthalmic Plastic, Reconstructive and Orbital Surgery
- ◆ Topical NSAIDS for the treatment of Post-Surgical Ophthalmic Pain and Inflammation
- ◆ Corneal Graft Rejection: Signs and Symptoms

Visionary is published by the
Cornea Research Foundation of America

The Foundation's mission is to restore and preserve vision for thousands of visually impaired people through clinical research and education programs relating to corneal diseases, corneal transplantation, intraocular lens surgery, glaucoma and refractive surgeries.

As a not-for-profit organization, the Foundation depends entirely on financial contributions to continue our mission to restore and preserve vision through research. Your tax-deductible gifts, large or small, are greatly needed and most appreciated.

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a publication of

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Macular Degeneration Study

Antioxidants play a significant role in cellular physiology and are believed to protect cell structures from the harmful effects of free radicals released during cell metabolism. Thus, there appears to be direct connection of antioxidants to slowing down the aging process of cells.

Corneal Consultants of Indiana and the CRFA plan to conduct a study to determine if antioxidants, such as Vitamin E, can slow down or even reverse the process of macular degeneration. Macular degeneration is a retinal disorder seen in about 25% of people over the age of 65 years. It causes a slow, but progressive deterioration that can lead to serious loss of vision. There is currently no medicine or surgery that can prevent the occurrence of macular degeneration.

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