

# New Zealand Vet Attends Dr. Price's DSEK Course

## Dogs' eyes and human eyes are remarkably similar and distinctly different



**Dr. Nick Whelan**

Ever worry about your dog's eyesight and wonder what could be done in the event that your family pet became blind or had diminished sight? There's good news: a lot can be done today to help restore or preserve your family pet's sight. We learned that recently when Dr. Nick Whelan, BVSc, attended Dr. Price's DSEK Advanced Cornea Course.

Veterinary medicine has specialties just like human medicine. Dr. Whelan specializes in ophthalmology, performing surgeries on dogs' eyes and treating them for various conditions that threaten eyesight and diminish their quality of life. He is from New Zealand by way of Guelph, Canada where he teaches courses on ophthalmology to veterinary medicine students at the Ontario Veterinary College.

The first veterinarian to ever attend the DSEK course, Dr. Whelan was motivated by his long-standing interest in finding a better way of treating corneal edema (swelling caused by accumulation of fluid in the cornea) than using sodium chloride eye drops. Even though corneal surgery is more expensive than eye drops, it looks like it could provide a longer lasting solution and is gradually becoming more attractive as an alternative.

## Do You Know About IRIS?

### 24 - Hour Service for the blind and those unable to read conventional print material

WFYI, our local Public Broadcasting Service for TV and radio, hosts IRIS, which stands for Indiana Reading and Information Services. It operates 24 hours a day with volunteers reading local and national newspapers, magazines, Great Books, weekly retail and grocery advertising and other material for all age groups.

### Dogs' Eyes and Human Eyes

The eyes of dogs are similar to human eyes and are affected by some of the same conditions that affect humans, such as cataracts and glaucoma. The procedures and equipment used to remove cataracts in dogs, for example, are the same as those used in humans. A small incision is made in the eye and a hole is made in the capsular bag that holds the lens. After the entire lens is removed, an artificial replacement lens, called an intraocular lens, or IOL, is placed in the bag and the eye is closed with small sutures.



**“dogs are similar to humans and are affected by some of the same conditions that affect humans, such as cataracts and glaucoma.”**

Human eyes and dogs' eyes are also different; dogs' eyes are more prone to inflammation after intraocular surgery and in this species glaucoma presents quite differently, with a very sudden increase in intraocular pressure rather than the slow insidious rise seen in people. Overall, ophthalmology for dogs has become as high tech as it is for humans; diagnosis commonly includes the use of advanced imaging tools such as ocular ultrasound, MRIs and CT scans, and treatments

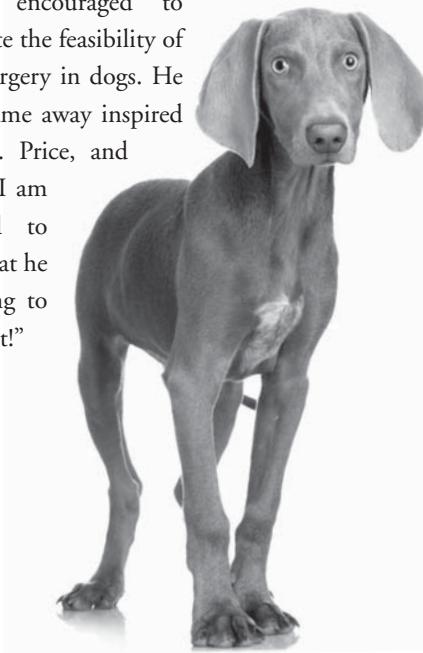
Any person who is print impaired may apply to receive IRIS broadcast services. Once approved, a special radio receiver is sent to the applicant. This can be retained at no cost as long as it is needed.

IRIS users can also get news toll free through the Nina Mason Pulliam Statewide

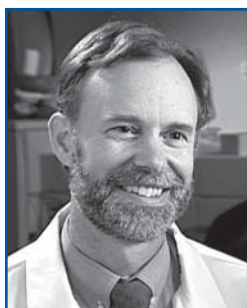
include placement of glaucoma shunts and retinal reattachment and laser surgery.

Reassuringly, Dr. Whelan emphasizes how resilient dogs are and points out that “even blind dogs do just fine; they can be trained to respond to verbal commands and most adapt to their environment and live a full life without sight.” He recommends a book, *Living with Blind Dogs*, by Caroline Levin, R.N. for inspiration and information.

Glad that he came to Indianapolis to take the course with Dr. Price, he cites takeaways that include learning about and seeing the DSEK technique; learning what equipment is needed for use in veterinary medicine; and being encouraged to evaluate the feasibility of this surgery in dogs. He also came away inspired by Dr. Price, and said, “I am excited to see what he is going to do next!”



**Cornea Research Foundation of America**  
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## Ask Your Doctor

### By Dr. Francis Price, Jr.

**Q.** I have a three year old grandchild with aniridia; how old does a child have to be in order to receive artificial iris implants?

**A.** Artificial iris implants are only placed when someone has a cataract that needs to be removed. Some aniridia patients develop those as children, but most cataracts occur in adults. Rarely will we remove a natural lens in someone who does not have a cataract and this would only be done in individuals who have lost their ability to focus up-close (over 45 years of age). For children I always advise that they should wait until they have a cataract.

**Q.** I have cataracts and my optometrist recommends cataract surgery; what should I expect during and after surgery? How long will it take for my eyes to heal?

**A.** What you should expect depends on who provides surgical care of your cataract. At Price Vision

Group we typically only use eye drops and special medications within the eye to provide pain free surgery. (Some surgeons still use needles to inject anesthetics around the eye and these do provide more risk of damage to the delicate structures around the eye.) With the use of topical anesthesia, supplemented by medications from an IV, the surgery is not only pain free, but you can start seeing better immediately after surgery.

During surgery it is like watching an interesting light show because ultrasound is used to remove the cataract. Vision is usually stable from one day to two weeks after surgery. Many patients choose to have their astigmatism corrected, as well as receive a premium intraocular lens which allows you to regain some of the focusing ability to see both up-close and far away without glasses – just as you did when you were younger and did not need reading glasses or bifocals. With new incision styles there are usually no weight or activity restrictions after the first day after surgery other than not rubbing the eye or getting water in it.

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## Dr. Francis Price Is Health Care Hero Award-Winner

### Recognized for Advancements in the Health Care category by the IBJ



For the past eight years, the IBJ (Indianapolis Business Journal) has sponsored an inspiring Health Care Heroes awards program. The newspaper solicits nominations from the public in five categories, and then a committee of a dozen judges picks three finalists, including a winner, in each category: Community Achievement in Health Care; Advancements in Health Care; Physician; Non-physician; and, Volunteer.

Dr. Price was named a finalist in *Advancements in Health Care*, the category which honors a company or an individual primarily responsible for a scientific discovery, or for development of a new procedure, device or service that can

save lives or improve quality of life for a large number of people. Dr. Price was recognized for his pioneering efforts in tracking corneal transplant outcomes and revolutionizing the way that transplants are performed.

At the breakfast held on March 7, 2008, suspense was in the air as finalists were recognized and then winners were announced. Attending the ceremonies were Marianne Price and their son Patrick Price, Mr. and Mrs. William O'Connor (Marianne's parents), Development Director and nominator Elaine Voci, Tony Sterrett, Practice Manager from Price Vision Group, and Foundation Board members, Mike Dickerson and Phil Gibson.

In a published interview with Dr. Price in a special insert, IBJ writer Stacey McArthur

noted that he “thinks globally but acts locally” in “creating a global foundation here in Indiana that would provide research and training for doctors around the world.” Dr. Price is quoted, “I think we've been able to make a difference and bring new techniques to this area that wouldn't be here for several years...I feel if I have the opportunity to do something and make the world better, I should do it.”

Congratulations to you, Dr. Price! You faced tough competition for this award and were in outstanding company with others who have devoted their lives to transforming healthcare in Indiana and beyond. We are very proud of you!

## The 11th Annual Golf Outing to be Held on June 19

### Newly upgraded Wood Wind Golf Course in Westfield Chosen

The Foundation's largest fund raiser of the year will be held this year on Thursday, June 19 at the Wood Wind Golf Course (formerly Bent Tree) in Westfield, Indiana. Foursomes are forming now and the day promises to be another fun outing for avid golfers interested in supporting vision research. The schedule is as follows:

- 11:30 AM Registration
- 12:00 PM Lunch
- 12:30 PM View Silent Auction
- 1:00 PM Shotgun Start
- 6:00 PM Reception and Dinner (Cash bar)

Golf Committee Chairman, Harry Scheid, and Co-Chairman Walter Gross, Jr. look forward to playing golf and hosting the outing's Silent Auction, evening banquet and Raffle drawing. Dr. Francis Price, Jr. will serve as “MC” at the banquet; our new video, *Amazing Grace*, created for the 20th anniversary of the Foundation, will be shown to attendees.

Individual player fees are \$175; foursomes are \$700. Sponsorships are also available. For more information, contact the Foundation at 814-2993.





Francis W. Price, Jr., M.D.  
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Elaine L. Voci, Ph.D.  
*Development Director*

Clorissa D. Quillin  
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Sara Dugdale, B.S.N., R.N.  
*Clinical Research Nurse*

Kelly Fairchild  
*Research Intern*

Peter Hayes  
*Summer Intern*

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## Calendar

Where we've been on your behalf and upcoming events of interest to you

<b>March 2008</b> Singapore	<b>Inaugural Asia Cornea Society Meeting</b> Both Dr. Price and Marianne were special guest speakers. Over 450 delegates from 30 countries attended the meeting.
<b>April 2008</b> Chicago, Ill	<b>ASCRS: American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery</b> Both Dr. Price and Marianne made several presentations at ASCRS, an international educational and scientific organization whose 9000 member ophthalmologists specialize in cataract and refractive surgery.
<b>May 2008</b> Naples, Italy	13th Annual International Joint Symposium of SOI, OSN and AICCER Dr. Francis W. Price made presentations and served as a symposium chair.

## Summer Intern Joins Foundation Splits time between Foundation and Clinic

Peter Hayes got hooked on science early in his high school education at Trinity High School in Louisville, Kentucky. Mr. Budniak, his high school biology teacher, provided the spark of inspiration when he assigned Peter in his senior year to a special experience at a local hospital – to perform a supervised knee surgery on a cadaver leg. The experience was life-changing and, from that moment on, Peter knew that he wanted to become a surgeon.

Born in Indianapolis, Peter grew up in Louisville; he was six years old when his family moved there. Then in August 2006, his father, Matt Hayes, Ph.D., accepted a new position as President of Brebeuf, a Catholic high school located on the city's north side. That same year, Peter began his undergraduate studies at St. Louis University in Missouri, majoring in Biology and Pre-Med with a minor in theology. Next year will be his junior year.

Peter is working at the Foundation one full day a week on a transplant study, and then spending the other four days in the clinic as an ophthalmic

technician, seeing patients each day. His first impressions of the Foundation and Price Vision Group teams are very positive. "Everyone is really nice; people have been warm and welcoming – it's going to be a good summer!" he enthused. "It is pretty amazing to talk to Dr. Price and Marianne about the work of the Foundation; it's all so cutting edge," he continues, "They have a blend of science and treatment which will give me a rich and varied experience."

Peter has set some goals for the summer internship:

- To gain a basic understanding of the eye
- To take it all in – absorb all that this experience has to offer
- To further the transplant study even though it will not be finished by the time he leaves in the fall
- To have as much patient interaction as possible because it is in this area that he derives some of his greatest satisfaction

**Welcome on Board, Peter!**  
**We are glad to have you with us!**

## How We're Having an Impact With Your Support

By Marianne Price, Ph.D.



We recently had a chance to travel half-way around the world to speak at the first annual meeting of the Asian Cornea Society. We didn't even change our watches, because the meeting was held in Singapore, which is exactly 12 hours ahead of Indiana!

The meeting organizers weren't sure how many doctors would attend the first meeting, so they were surprised and excited when over 450 doctors from 30 countries signed up. To us, it felt like a class reunion as we renewed friendships with doctors from Japan, Korea

and Singapore who had been to Indianapolis to attend our DSEK course.

These doctors were interested to learn about new advances we're making with DSEK. Dr. Price also shared findings from his work using a high precision laser to create interlocking incisions for full-thickness transplants.

The Asian doctors shared the ways they have fine-tuned the DSEK technique to address the different types of problems they have with smaller Oriental eyes. Compared with the USA, Fuchs' dystrophy is much less common in Asia, but corneal damage after glaucoma treatment is more common.

What impressed us the most were the strides that Japanese and Singapore doctors have made in culturing cells to treat the outer surface of the eye. When this part of the eye has problems, it's a challenging area to treat because large donor grafts are so likely to be rejected. We were amazed by the success these doctors are having with harvesting cells from the patient's other eye or even from the inside of the mouth. The patient's own cells are then grown into sheets to help restore vision to eyes that have been severely damaged by a chemical injury or by an autoimmune disease. It is our goal to now make these techniques more available in the USA.

## Women's Luncheon Sparks New Women's Initiative

Marianne Price, Keynote Speaker, outlines discoveries in vision research

On a perfect spring day on April 17th a group of women gathered at the Brick Street Inn for lunch in Zionsville, Indiana, in honor of the Foundation's 20th anniversary. Marianne Price, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Foundation, provided an interesting presentation about the latest research studies being undertaken. Over a delightful lunch, the participants were also the first audience to view the Foundation's new video, Amazing Grace, and the videotaped Health Care Heroes award given to Dr. Francis Price for advancements in health care. Door prizes were awarded and each woman took home a gift bag from the Foundation.

Dr. Marianne Price also announced the start of a Women's Initiative at the Foundation which focuses on women and philanthropy. Its goal is to support continuing education and vital research into the visual challenges faced by women as they age. Limiting conditions such as cataracts, glaucoma and corneal disorders, reduce the quality of life for older women and their families. The

Foundation's innovative research studies have a direct impact on these conditions and promise hope for the future.

The Initiative is open to women who have the time, energy and commitment to meet over a one year period, starting in September 2008, with other like-minded women who share a passion for improved sight. Their first task will be to select an annual project that will support the Foundation's research. Several women volunteered at the luncheon and the first meeting will be held on Tuesday morning, July 15, 2008, with Elaine Voci, Development Director, providing initial guidance.



**What will the Women's Initiative help accomplish?** The spirit of giving engendered by the Initiative...

- Provides a mechanism through which women can create new solutions to old problems through research
- Gives a chance to visibly make a difference and follow the progress of our research investments through our quarterly newsletter
- Join with other like-minded women who have a passion for improved sight
- Commit philanthropy to a cause whose mission is to give people back the use of their eyes
- Collaborate with other women to determine an annual project

Sound interesting? Please e-mail Elaine [Elainevoci@cornea.org](mailto:Elainevoci@cornea.org) or call her at (317) 814-2993 to find out more. You may also write Elaine at 9002 N. Meridian Street in Indianapolis, IN 46260.

# You Are Invited!

## To a Cookbook Party on September 28, 2008.

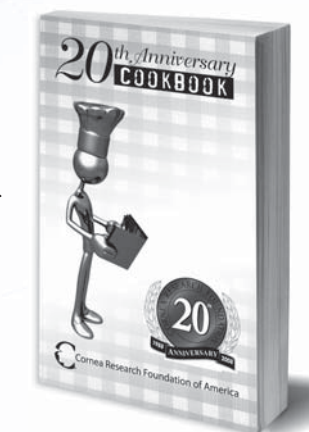
Stutz Building, Home to Antique Car Collection, is chosen as the site

Thanks to you, we are celebrating our **20th anniversary** this year. Join us for a relaxed, informal cookbook party. We think it sounds a lot more fun than a formal event, and hope you do, too. We're "puttin' on the Stutz." **Join us!**

### About the Cookbook

You may be asking yourself, why is a research foundation selling a cookbook? Seems a bit unusual, we know. So let us start by telling you how this cookbook came about. The Foundation is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2008 and we formed a Special Events Committee a year ago to map out some ways to commemorate the milestone. The five women on that team, Pat Cowan, Ruth Hubner, Rae Hostetler, Elaine Voci and Pat Chastain, selected three ideas to raise money for the Foundation, including a cookbook.

This is no ordinary cookbook. It is filled with the fond memories, love, and talent of our patients, staff and Board members of the Cornea Research Foundation of America. The spiral-bound custom cookbooks are only \$10 apiece and contain over 100 recipes in 7 categories (including appetizers, soups and salads, vegetables and side dishes, main dishes, breads, cakes and desserts, cookies, bars and candy, and "this and that"). Through our recipes, we are giving you a glimpse into our lives, our homes and our family traditions. We hope this book, reaching from our homes to yours, will bring you many hours of happy dining with your loved ones.



### Puttin' On the Stutz

On Sunday afternoon, September 28, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., we will officially introduce the cookbook with live music, samples of recipes from inside the cookbook, a special showing of our video, "Amazing Grace" and some wonderful appetizers and desserts catered by Happy Everything of Carmel, IN. Live music, great food, old and new friends, antique cars to enjoy and a terrific new cookbook to add to your collection! What could be more fun? This will be a great party you won't want to miss!

### About the Stutz Building

Harry Stutz, founder of the Stutz Motorcar Company, built and headquartered his car company at the present buildings from 1911 to 1919. Stutz is remembered for many things, including the Bearcat which raced in the first Indianapolis 500 and was built at his factory.

Today, Stutz's building is owned and managed by Indianapolis commercial developer Turner Woodard, who refurbished the turn-of-the-century factory complex into a bustling business center for small- and mid-sized businesses and artists' studios and galleries. An avid racer, Woodard has amassed a marvelous collection of antique cars since the 1970's, so come and enjoy looking around at the gems in his collection...some are even for sale!

### How to Reserve Your Place at the Party

The party is open to staff, donors, patients, family and friends of Drs. Marianne and Francis Price and the Foundation. Tickets are \$50 per person which includes a copy of the cookbook, live music, a delicious catered dessert and appetizer buffet, and viewing a commemorative video about the 20th anniversary of the Foundation and more! If you would like to attend, please make your reservation by contacting Elaine at (317) 814-2993 or e-mail her at [ElaineVoci@cornea.org](mailto:ElaineVoci@cornea.org). Reservations can be paid by credit card, check or cash.

