

# The Lions Eye

A Publication of the  
Lions Eye Foundation of California-Nevada, Inc.



Spring 2015

## The Trip of a Lifetime Turns Dangerously Serious

### LEF Patient - Juliet Warren



Juliet Warren

What started as an adventure and opportunity of a lifetime, quickly turned into a medical crisis. Ms. Juliet Warren explains her situation: "I had been wearing contacts almost every day for the past twelve years when my husband and I arrived in southern China to teach English in 2013. Unfortunately, as soon as we arrived, I experienced some health problems that showed me I might not be cut out for the humid climate in this region. When I woke up with a painful red eye one August morning, the doctor diagnosed it as merely pink eye. It wasn't until almost one month later when my right eye was bloodshot and extremely sensitive to light that we learned it was a condition called acanthamoeba keratitis. It was very serious and if not taken care of, they told me I could lose my eye. I read everything I could find about my eye condition and also became very familiar with making doctor's appointments. Lots of doctor's appointments (laughs)."

Dr. Adrian Dokey, current chief resident in the Lions Eye Clinic, discusses Juliet's diagnosis, "Acanthamoeba is a type of protozoa that is notorious for causing difficult-to-diagnose and difficult-to-treat infections of the cornea. Because the organism is present in

the soil and water, it classically occurs in contact lens wearers whose eyes are exposed to tap water or natural bodies of water. The Acanthamoeba organism does not respond to the antibiotics that treat the vast majority of bacterial corneal infections, so several ineffective medications are often tried before the correct diagnosis is suspected and the process can start to be controlled."

Ms. Warren continues, "When I told my mother about the seriousness of the situation, she knew immediately that I should apply for assistance through the Lions Eye Foundation. My grandfather, the late Ray Kliewer, had been a devoted Lion for over 50 years and a staunch supporter of the Foundation. I sent in my information and very soon after the Foundation staff said I was approved for care and for me to come as soon as possible. I was on a plane home to California within the next few days."

Dr. Dokey notes that, "Even with prompt diagnosis and treatment of Acanthamoeba infections, patients are often left with a scar that blocks their vision. In these cases, the opaque, scarred cornea can be replaced with a clear cornea during a cornea transplant surgery."

"At the start of my care at the Lions eye clinic, the vision in my eye was limited and my cornea was so scratched it had become a cloudy white color that covered my pupil and most of my iris," stated Juliet. "I was incredibly lucky to receive the care that I did with the Lions Eye Foundation. Since that first clinic appointment, I have spent a whole year and a half with the team. Working together, the doctors and staff grew to feel like family. I am extremely grateful to my ophthalmologists, Dr. Margaret Liu (cornea service chief) and Dr. Michael Clamp (chief resident and my cornea surgeon), who's expert care ensured that I had the best chance for a successful operation. On January 16th of this year, I had my cornea transplant and the next day, amazingly, I had vision acuity of 20/70. It felt miraculous to see out of that eye again and it is a great comfort to know in the coming months of my recuperation, I will continue to have the skilled help of the team at the Lions Eye Foundation."

Juliet will need continued care in the Lions Eye Foundation clinic to ensure that her cornea continues to heal, but is on the road to an excellent visual recovery.

Of note: Dr. Michael Clamp and Dr. Adrian Dokey are both starting corneal fellowships in July. Dr. Clamp will be going to Wake Forest in North Carolina and Dr. Dokey will be at the Oregon Health & Science University.

*Mission Statement: "The Lions Eye Foundation preserves and restores the gift of sight by providing free ophthalmic examinations, operations and medications to the less fortunate members of our community."*

## Meet Dr. Denny, Acting Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at CPMC



**Dr. Kevin Denny**

Dr. Kevin Denny, the newly appointed Acting Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC), has a long track record in clinical practice and community service, two hallmarks of a CPMC medical education. A Harvard College graduate with Honors, he received his M.D. degree from New York University and arrived at CPMC in 1980 for his internship and ophthalmology residency.

Dr. Denny is part of a medically focused family: His mother is a nurse who worked until she was 80; his wife Susan Denny, M.D. is a radiologist at CPMC and one of his sons, Matt, is a 4<sup>th</sup> year medical student at Tulane School of Medicine and interested in ophthalmology. Their other son, Peter, is also visually inclined—as a graduate film student in the producer’s program at the University of Southern California.

When asked what he has enjoyed thus far in his tenure as Chair, Dr. Denny responded “the opportunity to work together with a fabulous organization like the Lions. I’ve never seen a group more willing to roll up their sleeves and get the job moving forward. Pacific Vision Foundation and CPMC are so fortunate to have a partner like the Lions. It’s like having a

booster rocket that lifts us to heights we could not have achieved alone. If there is an organization that better represents what’s best about America than the lions, I’d like an introduction.”

In addition to his new position, Dr. Denny is Chief of Cataract Surgery on the CPMC faculty, with particular interests in complex cataract surgery and specialty intraocular lens replacement. “I’m in awe of the people who have gone before me in the role of chair,” said Dr. Denny. “Dr. Susan Day was so excellent at building a team and reminding us how we’re better working together. I’m eager to demonstrate that there’s another generation of ophthalmologists who are eager to carry the torch.”

In addition to his own practice, Dr. Denny has volunteered frequently in Guatemala along with other CPMC faculty and was joined by son Matt on a recent trip to Aravind Eye Care system in India.

Aravind is one of the inspirations for the new Pacific Vision Foundation Eye Institute, which is being developed in collaboration with several local partners including CPMC and the Lions Eye foundation of California-Nevada. “What we are trying to do is increase access to the underserved population, and we hope to do that with increased efficiency and philanthropic support.”

“I see the Eye Institute as a triple win-win-win,” said Dr. Denny. “It is going to be fabulous for the ophthalmology residents to be in the geographical vicinity of the attending physicians, which is great for resident education. The second win is for faculty who use the center to have a state of the art facility that enables us to share equipment and collect ideas that benefit us all. And the biggest win is for the patients, who will be able to get timely care, prompt consultation and a great facility in which to have their procedures done—all centrally accessible by public transport and a parking garage.”

He added: “With all this, I feel that I’ve been lateraled the ball on the 10-yard line and my job is to get it into the end zone.”



**Adrian Dokey, MD**

### *LEF Resident Adrian Dokey, M.D.*

Adrian Dokey, MD grew up in Sacramento, CA and earned his bachelor’s degree in Molecular and Cell Biology from the University of California, Berkeley. There, he enjoyed participating in various intramural sports, playing music, tutoring high school students, and conducting research on patterns of disease transmission in primates. He went on to earn a medical degree from Johns Hopkins University, where he found exceptional mentors who helped guide him onto a career path toward ophthalmology.

Before starting at California Pacific Medical Center, Dr. Dokey completed a preliminary year in internal medicine at Kaiser Permanente in San Francisco. For him, the biggest draws of CPMC were the exceptional medical/surgical training and the truly unique culture that has built a family of residents who are both highly accomplished but still easygoing and genuinely invested in each other’s success. Outside of medicine, Dr. Dokey continues to enjoy playing basketball and tennis, playing and listening to music of all genres, and exploring the many different parts of the San Francisco Bay Area. Dr. Dokey will be a resident at CPMC through June 30, 2015. Following his residency, he will be pursuing a fellowship in Cornea and External Disease at the Casey Eye Institute in Portland, Oregon.

## Update: New Lions Eye Foundation Clinic

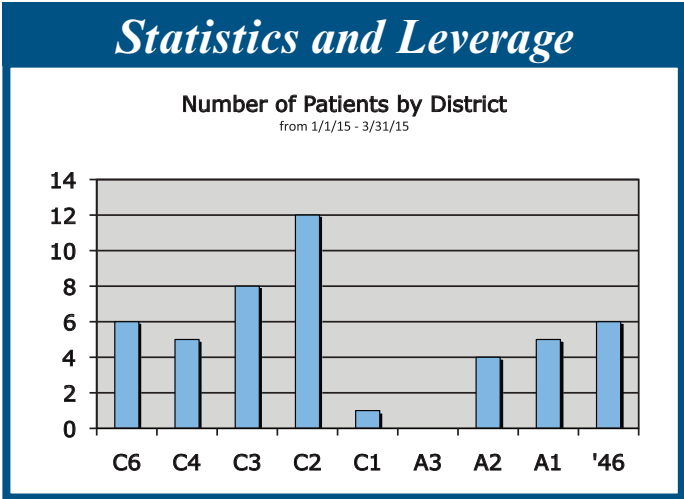


(left to right) LEF 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Mike Rogalski, LEF 1<sup>st</sup> VP John Posey, Treasurer Leila Chinn, PVF Exec Director Jo Burnett, LEF President Dennis Noble, PVF CEO Michael Mahoney

The Lions Eye Foundation and Pacific Vision Foundation, along with California Pacific Medical Center, are working diligently to facilitate the move of the Lions Eye Clinic and the CPMC residency program to new facilities located at 711 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco. Michael Mahoney, the new CEO of Pacific Vision Foundation, attended the Board of Trustee's meeting of the Lions Eye Foundation in Fairfield on April 25 & 26 where he presented an update on the progress of the renovation of the new facility.

LEF President Dennis Noble would like to invite all LEF member Clubs to the Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, July 18, 2015 in San Francisco at California Pacific Medical Center.

For more information, please contact Mark Paskvan at [paskvam@sutterhealth.org](mailto:paskvam@sutterhealth.org).



Total number of Patients ----- 47  
 New Referrals ----- 63  
 Actual Dollars Spent --- \$136,600  
 Estimated Value ----- \$1,262,500

LEVERAGE 9.2:1

#### Fast Facts

- The most prevalent surgery was for cataracts
- There were 17 surgeries for retina, cornea or strabismus problems that would have cost \$25,000 - \$35,000 each
- The youngest patient was 2 years old; and the oldest was 91 years old
- There were also 32 Laser Procedures, 137 Intravitreal injections, 2 minor surgeries and 247 Ophthalmic procedures with an estimated value of \$235,500 (incl. in \$'s above)

### Acknowledgements and Thanks

#### January - March 2015

**Memorial Donations (at least \$200)**

- Sigrid Engelen • Shirley Twitchell • Sally Territo Wong
- Kings Lions Club • Stockton Pacifica Lions Club

**New and Progressive Helen Keller Fellows:**

- Darlene Horn-Riddle (Diamond) • Wayne Lackey (Ruby) • Charles "Chaz" Nelson • Todd Riebe (Ruby)
- Doug Smallfield (Ruby) • Becky Strange
- Barbara Ann Swain

**Capital or General Donations (at least \$200)**

- Milton Debuhr • Don Stanaway • Wolzinger Family Foundation • Geneva Excelsior Lions Club • Madera Lions Club • Oildale Lions Club

**General or Capital Campaign Donations (at least \$1000)**

- Mark Paskvan • Mike Rogalski • Gravenstein Lions Club • San Francisco Castro Lions Club • San Francisco Park Presidio Lions Club • Seaside Lions Club

**Capital Campaign Don Stanaway Fellows**

None

**New Don Stanaway Life Members:**

None

**Total Received:**

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$13,310</b>
<b>Capital Campaign</b>	<b>\$ 9,600</b>



P.O. Box 7999  
San Francisco, California 94120  
www.lionseyeca-nv.org  
**415.600.3950**

### **Officers & Key Personnel**

President – Dennis Noble  
First Vice President – John Posey  
Second Vice President – Mike Rogalski  
Treasurer – Leila Chinn  
Secretary – Jan Ahearn  
Executive Director – John Schroeder  
Program Coordinator – Mark Paskvan

### **Contributors**

Editor – Pat Neal  
Photography – Norene Mirande, Fred Sommer, John Schroeder, Roger Dodge  
Articles – Mark Paskvan, John Schroeder  
Contributor – Fred Sommer  
Layout & Production – Roger Weiner  
Printing – Forté Press Corporation, Burlingame  
Distribution – Precise Mailing, S. San Francisco



*Check out our new QR Code and connect to us with your smartphone.*

***For More Information: [www.lionseyeca-nv.org](http://www.lionseyeca-nv.org)***

## ***Letter From The Editor***



**Pat Neal**

Welcome Leones En Accion from district 4C2 in Santa Rosa, CA. Newly chartered with Lions International, and with 27 new members, the first order of business called by President Magda Retamoza was for Leones En Accion to join LEF. Welcome again to all the new Lions and THANK YOU for joining the Lions Eye Foundation.

I have never yet spoken with a patient from the LEF clinic who was not thankful for the care they receive, but most LEF members are not available to hear their appreciation. I would like to share with all of you who work so hard to support LEF the gratitude of two LEF patients. First, Sharon Ledford, who traveled to Fairfield for LEF's Board of Trustees meeting, to personally thank everyone for her care, and then a heartfelt thank you note from a young lady in Reno.

Sharon, an artist, never thought she would be in the position of needing help, but when she was diagnosed with cataracts she found herself not knowing where to turn. Her husband had lost his job and their insurance, the cataracts were progressing rapidly, she had lost depth perception and was legally blind in one eye. Luckily for Sharon, along comes a Lions member who belonged to LEF. She was soon referred to the LEF clinic and now, states Susan, "I can write, I can read, and most of all, I can paint again. I am so thankful to the Lions Eye Foundation."

Past LEF President Steve Laden shared with me a lovely thank you note from a young lady named Amy who was referred to the clinic by Reno Lions. Amy stated in her note "Thank you and the foundation for all you did for me. Not only did you give me back my sight, but you also gave me back my life."



**Sharon Ledford, Debbie West  
Benecia Lions Eye Glass Chair**