

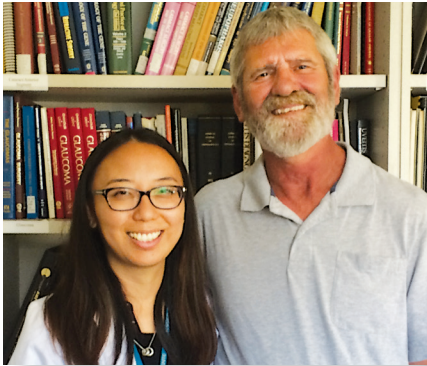
# The Lions Eye

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



Fall 2014

## LEF Patient - Rodney Greenough



*Dr. Ako Takakura Rodney Greenough*

Vision plays such an important role in a person's life experiences. Growing up in Colorado, the youngest of five boys, Rodney Greenough was 4-5 years old when his parents first had his vision checked. According to Rodney, "my vision was the worst of all the boys and that was saying a lot since every member of my family wore glasses. I began seeing the doctor on a regular basis, and to correct my vision I wore glasses with lenses that were like the bottom of a coke bottle. I was also teased a lot in school because of my thick lenses, but just before entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade I began wearing contact lens which was a good experience," stated Rodney. The contact lens provided better visual acuity and the coke bottle glasses and teasing were a thing of the past. "In my senior year, I decided to pursue a career in the Navy. However, in the mid 70's, they did not let you wear contact lens in the service. The military was also worried that you would break or lose your glasses, so they required some vision without glasses. Unfortunately, I could only read the big E at the top of the eye chart and I was denied enlistment in the armed services."

More recently, Rodney's vision started to change. "I had been seeing Chris Iwata, O.D., in Angels Camp for over ten years. He noticed I had developed cataracts years ago, but they were not causing me any problems. However, in the last 1 ½ years my vision changed rapidly. I needed a prescription change every 4-6 months, and it became apparent that the cataracts were causing my vision loss. The time to remove my cataracts had arrived." But surgery only brought up more questions...when, where and how?

Rodney had been a truck driver for over 34 years, but after a serious injury in 2010 he soon lost his employment and his insurance coverage. To make matters worse, his wife also lost her full time employment 4 months later. "Without insurance, my paying for cataract surgery was just not possible," stated Rodney, "I knew I needed help to make this happen." It just so happened that Dr. Iwata's wife knew of the Lions Eye Foundation and contacted the Murphy's-Angels Lions Club. With the help of Lion Ken Bourgault, Rodney was soon referred to LEF. "Once accepted for care, I was on my way to San Francisco," said Rodney.

Dr. Takakura, chief resident and Rodney's surgeon noted, "Mr. Greenough had an advanced cataract in the right eye (cortical and posterior subcapsular) and a moderate cataract (nuclear sclerosis and posterior subcapsular) in the left eye. He also had a long history of high myopia and keratoconus for which he wore rigid gas permeable contact lenses. Because of his history of keratoconus and resultant astigmatism, he was counseled that he will probably need to wear RGPs even after the cataract surgery. After the surgeries, his vision in both eyes improved significantly even without contact lens correction, and he ended up needing only a mild prescription to see 20/20 in both eyes. As always, it was a pleasure to help Mr. Greenough and all of our Lions patients with their vision".

"The first surgery was on my right eye," Rodney stated. "The results after surgery can only be described as surreal as I could immediately see better. That same day, at my post-op appointment, I was seeing 20/40 uncorrected. My shock and amazement at the surgical results had my wife Ginny crying tears of joy. The following week Dr. Takakura performed surgery on my left eye, and again proved her surgical skills. I have never been able to see this well, ever. This experience has changed my life in a very different way, as colors are so bright and vivid. Words cannot describe how I feel and how I have been blessed with this truly remarkable experience. Everyone at the Lions eye clinic, Dr. Ako Takakura, MD, and the entire staff, have been truly outstanding." Thank you all.

*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."*

## *All Hands On Deck*



### **All Hands On Deck!**

All Hands on Deck! The Lions Eye Foundation Lions Eye Clinic needs your help. We are looking to increase the number of patients served by our great doctors in San Francisco.

Finding patients in need of our services can be as easy as checking in with your local ophthalmologist or optometrist, visiting local medical clinics and talking to the school nurses in your community. All are great ways to establish a relationship with key people who can then identify and refer patients to us. We are asking our Lion members to help get the work out: We are looking for

patients to help and that all services at our clinics are free.

**WE KNOW THOSE IN NEED OF OUR HELP ARE OUT THERE; WE JUST NEED YOUR HELP TO FIND THEM.**

A quick reminder ——— All referrals must meet the following guidelines:

No Insurance

Limited Income

One year residency in the areas of California and Nevada that we cover

**Please check our website since income criteria has been increased so that more patients can be served.**

Referral forms and guidelines are located on our website: [www.lionseyefoundation.com](http://www.lionseyefoundation.com)

Questions: Please do not hesitate to contact me at the Lions Eye Clinic.

My phone number is: 415.600.3950. Email: [paskvam@sutterhealth.org](mailto:paskvam@sutterhealth.org)

Thank you for your help!

Lion Mark Paskvan, Program Coordinator, Lions Eye Foundation

## *LEF Resident - Mike Clamp, MD*



*Mike Clamp, MD*

**Michael Clamp, MD, MA** was born and raised in Florida. He studied Behavioral Neuroscience at the University of Florida and conducted research related to macular degeneration at the Whitney Laboratory in St. Augustine, FL. An avid outdoorsman, he spent many a weekend guiding rock climbing trips for the University's Travel Recreation Program. After his undergraduate years he worked on a sailboat in the Caribbean and backpacked throughout Central America. He spent two years studying Western Classics at St. John's College in Santa Fe, NM, while working as a tech and fundus photographer for a local retina specialist. He returned to the University of Florida for medical school where he enjoyed electives in medical humanities and participated in medical missions to Peru and Nicaragua.

Dr. Clamp was drawn to CPMC's Ophthalmology program because of the supportive atmosphere, exceptional clinical training and ample international training opportunities. He took advantage of the time afforded by CPMC's staggered start to get married, study macular hole formation, and work at a surf camp in Indonesia. During his internship at Shands Hospital Dr. Clamp received a teaching award from the medical students and he looks forward to sharing ophthalmology with students and colleagues throughout his career.

## Meet Chris Barness of CPMC



**Chris Barness**

I was born in Big Ten Country, in the town of Madison WI. Badger football suffused the days of my youth. A wondrous spirit filled the air. Weekday afternoons each fall we heard the UW Marching Band practicing its music. On Saturdays we enjoyed sneaking into Camp Randall Stadium where we attended the team's games, hoping against hope we might catch an errant ball. It was great fun too watching broadcasts of the Rose Bowl, which back then always featured the Pac 8 Champion vs the Big 10 Champion.

In those days, during the telecasts I would watch with incredulity as coatless Californian's frolicked outside in warm air during the month of January. To a Wisconsin boy soon nothing seemed better than living with surf, sand, and palm trees. Leaving behind frozen lakes, enormous icicles and glistening snow that would cover the large grassy lawn I mowed in summer and raked in fall. So I committed myself. Move west young man. California is the place to be.

Well, along the way and before reaching the beautiful beaches of California, I spent many years in colorful Colorado. At first I lived in Ft. Collins. There I attended Colorado State University learning accounting. It was during those college years that my eyesight finally succumbed to the havoc of diabetic retinopathy. (I had been diagnosed with Type I at age four.) In my sophomore year I took leave for a series of laser procedures. And after my junior year I underwent bi-lateral vitrectomy surgeries.

It was a difficult time, but made easier because it was a turn of events that introduced me to my future wife, Denice. She was part of the medical team that restored my eyesight. Well, to one eye at least! My other was removed and I now wear a prosthetic eye.

Eventually I found my way to California. Dreams do come true. In 1990 Denice and I were married in Carmel. We chose San Francisco as our home and it's been that way ever since. We share a son born in 1995. A few years later, in 1999 my history was made even more remarkable. I underwent a very successful pancreas-kidney transplant ending 19 months of dialysis. The organs came from a young man in Stockton, CA. Amazingly, in the 15 years since waking up in the ICU, I haven't had a single drop of insulin other than "my own."

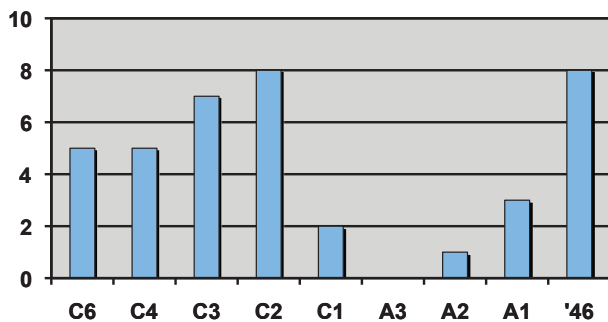
My journey out west has been truly amazing. Equally amazing is Lions Eye Foundation. I feel a close kinship with those dedicated to Preserving and Restoring the Gift of Sight. While sharing pursuit of this mission I experience a profound connection with the patients. Perhaps it's because I'm a walking advertisement for practically every procedure and treatment available from Lions Eye Clinic. I'm not sure but the world works in mysterious ways.

I stand in awe of the team assembled here—committed to helping patients who are earnestly, desperately seeking the same care and compassion I once sought. And received, release from the fear of darkness and the experience of joy when gazing once again upon a loved one's face. Indeed, I am grateful to be here.

Chris, an Administrative Assistant at CPMC, has been working with Program Coordinator Mark Paskvan in the Lions Clinic helping to verify eligibility of patients and scheduling their care.

### Statistics and Leverage

**Number of Patients by District**  
from 7/1 - 9/30/14



**Total number of Patients ----- 39**  
**New Referrals ----- 51**  
**Actual Dollars Spent --- \$110,070**  
**Estimated Value ----- \$1,128,200**

**LEVERAGE 10.2:1**

#### Fast Facts

- The most prevalent surgery was for cataracts
- There were 18 surgeries for retina, cornea or strabismus problems that would have cost \$25,000 - \$35,000 each
- The youngest patient was 9 years old; and the oldest was 82 years old
- There were also 31 Laser Procedures and 119 Intravitreal injections and 292 Ophthalmic procedures with an estimated value of \$238,200 (incl. in \$'s above)

### Acknowledgements and Thanks

#### July-September 2014

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

- Eunice Bartowick • Sam French • Sandra Gleason
- Lou Milani • Mark Paskvan • John Schroeder • Fred Sommer
- Sally Torrito Wong • Monterey Peninsula Host Lions Club

##### New and Progressive Helen Keller Fellows

- Ida Marcum • Derek Miyano • Dr. Win Adler
- Dorella Heller • John A. Whitehead

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

- Darlene Horn Riddle • Geneva Excelsior Lions Club
- The Lions Club of Walnut Creek

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

- Danford Foundation • Foundation for Crippled and Burned Children • SF Park Presidio Lions Club
- Castro Lions Club

##### Capital Campaign Don Stanaway Fellows

- Jo Burnett • Glenn Dunning

##### New Don Stanaway Life Members:

- Carol Bevans • Carol Crowson • Joe Pelaez

##### Total Received:

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$27,710</b>
<b>Capital Campaign</b>	<b>\$48,200</b>



P.O. Box 7999  
San Francisco, California 94120  
[www.lionseyeca-nv.org](http://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  
Articles – Mark Paskvan  
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**

In recent e-mails with Chris Barness, featured in the “Meet Me” article of this edition of the LEF newsletter, Chris happened to send me some interesting information on how referrals are handled at the LEF Clinic. In tying in with another article in this newsletter seeking the referral of patients to LEF, I thought everyone, especially those who have not visited the eye clinic, would be interested in knowing what happens after a club has submitted a referral.

Chris begins with the first step in the process. “Each application arriving at LEF is logged, noted for completeness, and the initial review begins to determine eligibility. Applicants appearing to meet LEF guidelines enter our work flow at which time any missing information is requested and collected.

Eligible applications are submitted to the Chief Resident or Retina Fellow who reviews the case history and determines the appropriate sub-specialty clinic for consultation.

If there’s a need for diagnostic testing the Chief or Resident will complete an order. All testing occurs with the Ophthalmic Diagnostic Center (ODC). It’s also at this juncture LEF makes reservations at the Coventry Motor Inn for our patients traveling a great distance to San Francisco.

Those applicants satisfying LEF’s guidelines receive a phone call informing them that she/he’s been accepted into LEF’s program. We then register our “Lions New Patient” in EPIC, Sutter Health’s electronic healthcare software. We conclude by coordinating and scheduling an appointment with Lions Eye Clinic and, if needed, with the ODC, too. And there you have it—a brief summation of the role I’ve enjoyed filling here at LEF since December of last year.”