

The Lions Eye

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Spring 2016

A Vision of Hope - by Rachelle Rebong, MD and Margaret P. Liu, MD

After six surgeries to his only seeing eye in the last 13 years, Mr. Cornelio Resendiz was running out of options. To Cornelio and his son Eduardo, a visit to the Lions Clinic had become a monthly occurrence. Diagnosed with advanced glaucoma several years ago, Cornelio had already lost vision in his right eye and had only a small island of vision remaining in his left eye. He was referred to the clinic by Jason Bacharach, MD for ongoing care, and over the last 20 years, Cornelio and his doctors have tried everything to halt the progression of his disease and protect the remaining vision in his left eye.

“I have four brothers and one sister, and I am the youngest one in the family,” declared Eduardo. “My parents live with me and I feel the need to care for them. We all love my dad and we suffer when we see him struggling with his illness.”

Glaucoma is a condition associated with elevated eye pressures and damage to the optic nerve, the cable that connects the eye to the brain. Damage from glaucoma causes a gradual decrease in a patient’s peripheral vision; if the glaucoma is advanced, central vision may be affected as well. Unfortunately, damage from glaucoma is irreversible, so doctors and patients must work together to slow down its progression as much as possible with medicine and surgery.

To control Cornelio’s eye pressures, the only known modifiable risk factor to slow down the progression of glaucoma, specialists at the Lions Eye Clinic recommended surgery when eye drops alone were no longer enough. With the help of glaucoma specialists, doctors at the Lions Clinic put a small medical device with a tube inside Cornelio’s left eye to shunt fluid from the inside to the outside, thus lowering the intraocular pressure and helping to protect the eye from further glaucoma damage. The initial tube worked, but Cornelio eventually went on to need two more tubes to keep his pressure under control.

“My whole family has a great appreciation for Dr. Bacharach. He was the doctor that referred us to the Lions Eye Clinic over 15 years ago and he has attended many of my dad’s glaucoma surgeries,” noted Eduardo.

With every surgery, there are risks, and when stressed with multiple surgeries, the cornea can lose its ability to stay clear and compact. If our window to the world becomes cloudy and swollen, making it extremely difficult to see, another surgery in the form of a corneal transplant can restore sight.

After many glaucoma surgeries, Cornelio eventually sustained significant damage to his cornea and needed corneal transplants, a total of three over the last 13 years. When his most recent corneal transplant again became cloudy, his doctors knew that the chance of another corneal transplant, his fourth, having long-lasting success was slim. Given that this was his only seeing eye, Cornelio was desperate for options.

Fortunately, in 1992 the FDA approved the use of an artificial cornea called the Boston Keratoprosthesis for cases like Cornelio, where standard corneal transplants are not a good option. Unlike standard corneal transplants that use only tissue from human donors, the Boston Keratoprosthesis uses an “artificial cornea” made up of a clear medical-grade plastic optical stem and front plate, a titanium back plate, and donor tissue. It has the advantage of a quicker visual recovery and resistance of the optical stem



Connie Jackson, LEF Surgical Coordinator; Jason Bacharach, MD, Glaucoma Specialist; Cornelio Resendiz, (our patient); Eduardo Resendiz, (son)

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.”

A Vision of Hope (cont.)

from getting cloudy when compared to the standard corneal transplant and can provide another option for patients who are not good candidates for the standard transplant. Since 2000, over 7,000 of Boston Keratoprotheses have been implanted at centers across the United States and the world – including at the Lions Eye Clinic.

Before surgery, Mr. Resendez could barely count the fingers held directly in front of his face and seeing letters on the eye chart was impossible. After a long discussion of the risks and benefits of another surgery, Cornelio decided to undergo placement of the Boston Keratoprosthesis with doctors and specialists from the Lions Eye Clinic. When he came in for his check up the day after surgery, he was happily surprised to be able to read the letters on the eye chart again!

“Before the surgery, my dad was very frustrated because he could not see and he was not able to do anything by himself,” stated his son. “After the surgery, my dad says it was like being born again. He is able to see, to walk without assistance and be independent again. His independence is a great feeling for him.”

With 20/200 vision, Mr. Resendez is now able to more safely navigate through unfamiliar places and make out a friendly face. He will need close follow up to make sure his new artificial cornea stays healthy but Cornelio, his family, and his doctors at the Lions Eye Clinic are all committed to doing everything they can to make his latest surgery a continued success and maintain his vision of hope for a brighter, clearer future.

“We are very thankful for Dr. Liu and Dr. Rebong, my dad’s cornea surgeons,” professed Eduardo. “They are great doctors, but more than that, they are great human beings.”

Bequests & Future Vision Society of the Lions Eye Foundation

The Lions Eye Foundation (LEF) depends on donations and bequests to assure our annual income is sufficient to meet our expenses. Club contributions, interest, dividends and miscellaneous income only provide for around 60% of our expenses. There are various ways you can donate now that are listed on our web page (www.lionseyefoundation.com). Many different options for a future donation to LEF will allow you to become a member of the Future Vision Society. As an example of a future donation to LEF, we interviewed an individual who has made a bequest, but wishes to remain anonymous.

Lions Eye. Your application for the Future Vision Society is very recent. Can you share what prompted your decision to name the LEF a beneficiary in your will?

Anonymous Donor. *My wife and I are both Lions and we know about the LEF. Our club has referred a patient. We are impressed with the LEF and want to donate now. Unfortunately, in the last few years, money has been somewhat tight, so we thought the best way was to make a future donation.*

LE. Can you share how you went about putting the LEF in your future plans?

AD. *We had to estimate what our needs were expected to be for the remainder of our lives. As we are close to retirement, we had been working with our CPA and Estate Planning attorney who helped us to decide the best way to give to LEF given our situation. We talked it over and together came up with a solution that we felt comfortable with.*

LE. Wow, that sounds complicated.

AD. *Because we have always been good at managing our finances, it really was not.*

We have cash, an IRA, own stocks, a house, and have other assets. Our CPA came up with one possible solution. She suggested that we might designate the LEF as a beneficiary of our IRA.

LE. Why is that?

AD. *Our CPA stated that while currently any remainder in our IRA will go to our designated beneficiary after we both pass away-but this may be subject to possible taxes. Having a charity be the beneficiary, avoids this.*

LE. So what did you finally decide?

AD. *Our last step was to work with our Attorney. We discussed trusts and other options and how to make sure the LEF would get the amount we had in mind. Eventually we decided to give LEF a percentage of our estate by including LEF in our will. Our attorney also made sure that the legal wording, name and address of the LEF was used so there would not be any ambiguity.*

LE. Is there anything else you would like to add?

AD. *Yes! Since we are unable to attend this year’s District Convention, we have decided to give each of us a Don Stanaway Fellow with the money we would have spent.*

LE. Thank you for your generosity.

As you can see, there are many considerations when you designate the LEF as a beneficiary. We **strongly** suggest that you consult with a CPA, Financial Analyst and/or an Estate Planning Attorney to make sure that you make the decisions that are best for you. Once you are finished, fill out the form from our web site and become an elite member of our Future Vision Society and receive a certificate and special lapel pin.

LEF Honors Member Hal Guill

Lion Hal Guill, a longtime member of LEF, was recognized by the Foundation at our quarterly meeting in Selma, California in April. Many of you may remember Lion Hal who joined the Visalia Lions Club in 1965. Hal became an Advisor with LEF in 1974, and then went on to become a LEF Trustee. Eventually Lion Hal became President of LEF in 1983. After his presidency, Lion Hall served as Secretary of LEF for 10 years. Hal has been honored by LEF as a Past President Exemplar and continues to attend all of the quarterly meetings of the Foundation.

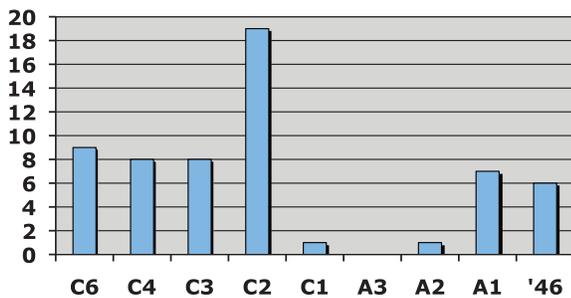
Thank you Lion Hal for your 42 years of dedicated service to Lions and the Lions Eye Foundation.



Roger Dodge, Phillis Neitling, Hal Guill, Mark Paskvan, Dennis Noble

Statistics and Leverage

Number of Patients by District
from 1/1/16 to 3/31/16



Total number of Patients ----- 59
 New Referrals ----- 66
 Actual Dollars Spent --- \$123,650
 Estimated Value ----- \$1,383,440

LEVERAGE 11.2:1

Fast Facts

- The most prevalent surgery was for cataracts
- There were 15 surgeries for retina, cornea or strabismus problems that would have cost \$25,000 - \$35,000 each
- The youngest patient was 16 years old; and the oldest was 92 years old
- There were also 10 Laser Procedures and 126 Intravitreal Injections, 2 minor surgeries and 4462 Ophthalmic procedures with an estimated value of \$216,440 (incl. in \$'s above)

Acknowledgements and Thanks

January - March 2016

Memorial Donations (at least \$200)

- Jan Ahearn • Everett "Sam" French • Shirley Twitchell-Johnson
- Joan Peterson • Sally Territo Wong

New and Progressive Helen Keller Fellows:

- Peter Carey • Darlene Horn-Ridle (D) • Claudia Miller
- Jeremiah "Doc" Myers • Michael Rogalski • Aron Whealy
- Nancy Hansen

Capital or General Donations (at least \$200)

- Geneva Excelsior Lions Club • Madera Evening Lions Club
- John & Silvia Schroeder • Lisa Adukia • Mrs. Jihong Shan

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

- Cabrillo Host Lions Club

Capital Campaign Don Stanaway Fellows

- Scot Marsters • Bay Area Special Olympics Lions Club

New Don Stanaway Life Members:

- Krista Wendt Brassfield • Sue Carner • Jamie Hart

Total Received:

General Fund	\$10,065
Capital Campaign	\$ 8,175



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For More Information: www.lionseyefoundation.com

Letter From The Editor



Pat Neal

I would like to welcome the Gonzales Lions Club from District 4-C6 to the Lions Eye Foundation. The Gonzales Lions Club was officially accepted into LEF at the quarterly meeting of Trustees and Advisors in Selma, CA on April 17, 2016.

The election of new officers was also held at the Selma meeting. Effective July 1, 2016 our new officers will be: John Posey, President; Mike Rogalski, 1st Vice President; Dr. Leila Chinn, 2nd Vice President; Jan Ahearn, Secretary and Pat Casey-Gillum, Treasurer. Congratulations to all of you, it is going to be a pleasure to work with you.

The renovations of the new location of the Lions Eye Clinic at 711 Van Ness, San Francisco are moving forward. This is a collaborative effort between Sutter Health/CPMC, the Pacific Vision Foundation and the Lions Eye Foundation. Move-in date is anticipated by the end of 2016.

The annual membership meeting in July is undoubtedly the most interesting and informative of all the quarterly meetings. If you attend the meeting, you will learn what is happening at LEF and be able to meet the resident physicians and ask them questions. After a great lunch, you will be able to join the guided tour of the Lions Eye Clinic. I encourage all Lion members and their guests to attend this meeting. So talk to your club, put a group together and join us in San Francisco on Saturday July 23rd. Contact Mark Paskvan at (415) 600-3950 for further details.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS: The LEF Advisors are spearheading a fund drive for the Lions Eye Foundation. They have established a 10 million penny drive that translates into \$100,000. Pennies can be dropped off at the annual membership meeting in San Francisco, the Rocky Lombardi Memorial Wine Tasting fundraiser which be held at the Mission Blue Center in Brisbane, CA on October 9, or at your local Lions Club. So come on everyone, dig in those pockets for all your change and donate to a good cause.

Please do not hesitate to refer patients to LEF. While we are always looking for patients, according to LEF Clinic Coordinator Mark Paskvan, today there is a special need for cataract, pediatric and plastic cases. For more information, call Mark at CPMC or go to the Lions Eye Foundation web site at www.lionseyefoundation.com.