# The Lions Eye

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



Summer 2015

## **CATARACTS**

"What are cataracts?" and "Do I have cataracts?" are two of the most common questions asked during an eye examination.

What are cataracts? A cataract is formed when the crystalline lens of the eye becomes cloudy. The lens is the part of the eye that helps focus light or an image on the retina. When the lens is cloudy, it will interfere with the light entering the eye and imaging on the retina (light sensitive tissue at the back of the eye, similar to film in cameras).



#### Diagram of eye with natural lens

Hence, vision will be blurred or hazy. Colors will be less vivid or intense and more difficult to distinguish. There may be increased sensitivity to glare from lights, especially when driving at night and difficulty seeing at night. Reading and other routine activities become more difficult to perform.



#### How patient might see with cataract

According to Prevent Blindness America and National Eye Institute, more than 22.3 million Americans have cataracts and more than half of all Americans have cataracts or have had cataract surgery by age 80. The World Health Organization has estimated that cataracts are the cause of approximately 51% of all blindness or about 20 million people worldwide in 2010. Most of the blindness from cataracts is seen in underdeveloped nations around the world

where access to health care is extremely limited or may be non-existent.

Most cataracts, approximately 95%, are typically age-related, in adults over age 40. Congenital cataracts are seen in babies at birth; these are typically caused by infection, such as measles, during pregnancy or possibly inherited. Cataracts can be caused by trauma or damage to the lens, such as a hard blow, cut, puncture, intense heat or chemical burn. Other risks for developing cataracts are diabetes mellitus, certain medication, ultraviolet radiation, smoking, alcohol, and nutritional deficiency. "While there are no clinically proven approaches to preventing cataracts, simple preventive strategies include reducing exposure to sunlight through UV blocking lenses, decreasing or discontinuing smoking and increasing antioxidant vitamin intake through consumption of leafy green vegetables and nutritional supplements."

A cataract can develop in one or both eyes. It is not contagious and cannot be spread from eye to eye. Cataracts typically develop slowly and can have a range of vision effects from minimal to blindness.

When there is minimal vision effect, no treatment is needed and the patient will be advised to monitor visual changes and follow a regular eye examination schedule. When cataracts start to interfere with a person's

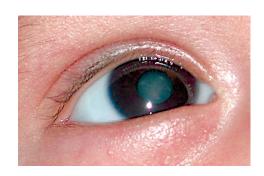
## CATARACTS (continued)

daily activities, then surgical intervention may be warranted. Blindness can occur when cataracts are left untreated and cause significant blockage of light from entering the eye.

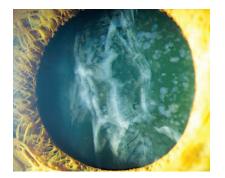
In most developing and developed nations, cataract surgery involves removing the lens of the eye and replacing the lens with an artificial lens to restore vision. The artificial lens can greatly improve vision and possibly eliminate the need for eyeglasses. In the United States, more than two million cataract surgeries are performed annually.



Very advanced "Mature" cataract



Baby with advanced "congenital" cataract



Cataract





**Cataract Surgery** 

Actual photo of an Intraocular Lens Implant or "IOL"



Rachelle Rebong, MD

## LEF Resident Rachelle Rebong, M.D.

Rachelle Rebong, MD was born in the Philippines and grew up in Daly City, California. She received her undergraduate degree in Biology from the University of San Francisco and her medical degree from Duke University in North Carolina. There she found fantastic mentors who introduced her to the field of ophthalmology. She was instantly drawn to the field's mix of clinical and surgical opportunities and the chance to make a significant impact on patients' daily lives.

She completed her intern year at CPMC's Department of Internal Medicine and was very excited to continue her residency at CPMC's Department of Ophthalmology. She chose CPMC because of the program's supportive environment, its breadth of clinical training and its commitment to resident education. She feels very lucky to work with her amazing coresidents and the many talented ophthalmologists who call the Bay Area home.

Rachelle's favorite part of being an ophthalmologist is getting to know her patients and seeing the difference eye care can make in their lives. Working in the Bay Area allows her the chance to meet people from all walks of life and to serve the community she grew up in and loves.

After residency, she plans on practicing as a general ophthalmologist because she enjoys the variety this path offers her and the opportunities it allows her to build lasting relationships with her patients and community. In her free time she enjoys traveling, reading, hiking, and cheering for the San Francisco Giants.

## STANAWAY FELLOWS

The Following two Clubs have donated \$50,000.00 per club to the Lions Eye Foundation in order for each member of their respective clubs to become a Stanaway Life Member and a Stanaway Fellow. The Clubs and their members are:

#### **Santa Cruz Host Lions**

Dennis Alameda **Edward Ferrell** Donald McPherson Linda Alameda-Strawn John M. Fleming Andrew Munez John Alsman Karen Flores Michael Olson John Amin Warren P. Grande Gary Owen Robert L. Ash Kenneth W. Haber Garry L. Perkins Norman Bedell Robert Howard Hall David B. Regan Scott S. Bedell Tiffany D. Hammer John Schroeder Gary Benito

Ben Hicks

Sylvia Schroeder Stephen Benson Peter Huemer Robert Scott Jeffrey J. Bosshard Edward A. Jenkins Mari Segura Jeriann Bosso Debbie Johnson Stephen M. Shaw James Bosso William A. Jones Jerry Smeltzer Bernie Bourriague J.J. Kaye George Stagl Andy Breda William A. Kiff Timothy L. Terry Firman E. Brown Gary Knutson **Douglass Thorne** 

John L. Burke Marcy V. Kohler Nick Torres Frederick L. Caiocca Kenneth F. Kohler Richard J. Vote Ron Cash Arnold Levine Kenneth Waldvogel Christopher M. Codiga George J. Mainis Jeff Wickum Gregory B. Cole Douglas W. Martine Beata B. Willison Leon Costello **Ernest Mccoy** Lucas J. Zaballos Myrtle F. Disman

Donovan L. McNeal

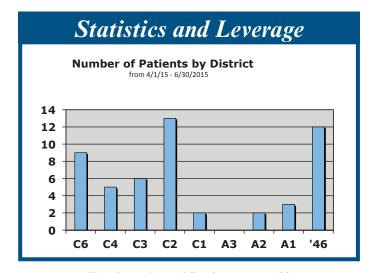
Robert B. Zufall

Michael C. Fagan

### Freedom Lions Club in Santa Cruz County

Wes Ball Carolyn Cover Maureen Moore LeeRoy Bowles Terry Godwin Tom Moore Marlene Bowles Marissa Gonzales Connie Norris **Greg Caput** Sam Gonzales Myra Rodriguez Gina Casteneda Linda Haines Alex Sanchez Patricio Castenda Ponciano Hernandez **Becky Stewart** Jess Ceballos Marcia Hope Kelly **Bob Stewart** 

Chickie Lam LeRoy Zenker Norma Conrad Marina Lopez



#### **Total number of Patients ----- 52** New Referrals ----- 66 Actual Dollars Spent --- \$135,780 Estimated Value ----- \$1,305,690 **LEVERAGE 9.6:1**

#### Fast Facts

- The most prevalent surgery was for cataracts
- There were 13 surgeries for retina, cornea or strabismus problems that would have cost \$25,000 - \$35,000 each
- The youngest patient was 5 years old; and the oldest was 85 years old
- There were also 37 Laser Procedures and 106 Intravitreous injections and 310 Opthalmic procedures with an estimated value of \$244,690 (incl. in \$'s above)

## Acknowledgements and Thanks

## April - June 2015

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

Jerry Cissna

Sally Torrito Wong

#### **New and Progressive Helen Keller Fellows:**

- Robin Brown Kent Christensen John Craig
- Karen Fillmore Larry Marcum Ronnie Martin
- Dave Mead (Ruby) Patricia Parker Roy Patterson
- Frank Seidel (Diamond) PID Eugene Spiess
- Tom Stark (Diamond) Dr. Wing Kun Tam
- Capital or General Donations (at least \$200)
- Lou Milani Geneva Excelsior Lions Club
- Modesto Sunset Lions Club Mokulmne Hill Lions Club

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

- Castro Lions Club Foster City Lions Club
- Smerdel Trust

#### **Capital Campaign Don Stanaway Fellows**

• 74 total (66 from Santa Cruz Lions Club)

#### **New Don Stanaway Life Members:**

• 76 total (71 from Santa Cruz Lions Club)

#### **Total Received:**

**General Fund** \$16,620 **Capital Campaign** \$89,940

## ANNUAL REPORT: For Year 2014 - 2015

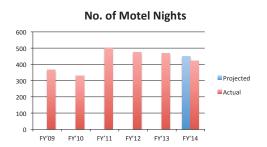
The past year reflects the impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on the number of uninsured patients being referred to the Lions Eye Clinic. Since the ACA was passed, over 700 of our existing patients received insurance and are no longer seen in our clinic. The good news is that CPMC and the LEF are actively talking to referring doctors, clinics, and schools to search out and refer eligible patients. As a result, the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter saw a marked increase in referrals (64) and surgeries (52). We are continuing our outreach program to find and treat the still estimated 4 million uninsured residents in our areas of California and Nevada.

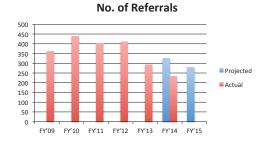
**Surgeries** decreased by 36% this year. Through our outreach program, we are projecting a 15% increase in the coming fiscal year. Due to the reduced volume, wait times between referrals and surgery have decrease dramatically. For example, cataract patients can have surgery within 6-8 weeks from the date of referral.

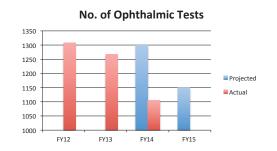
Laser surgeries Referral of patients with severe diabetic retinopathy have increased significantly, but other treatment options are now available. Patients can now be effectively treated with both Laser and Intravitreal injections. Thus our projections stay flat.

**Motel nights** decreased slightly as the number of new patient appointments and surgical cases slowed. Expect a slight increase in the coming year.

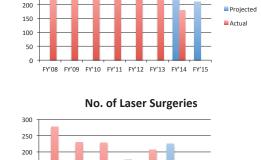
**Patient clinic visits**\_decreased due to the reduced number of referrals and surgeries. The projection reflects these changes.





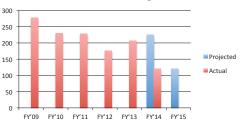


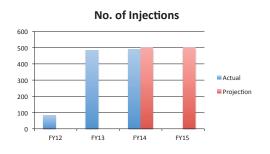
**Referrals** reflect the uncertainty surrounding the ACA. Doctors, clinics, and patients did not submit applications to the LEF, but instead held those referrals until the picture became clearer. All involved are still working

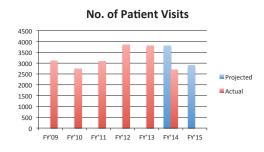


No. of Surgeries

350 300 250







through this process, but the picture is much clearer. We still feel there is an untapped group of potential patients that will be referred in this year.

The **Ophthalmic** Diagnostic Center provides free imaging, measurements and eye tests for all Lions patients. This year will see a slight increase in the number of tests performed on our patients.

**Intravitreal Injections** may be received by patients with the following diagnoses as part of their care and treatment; macular degeneration, retina edema, central vein occlusion and diabetic retinopathy. It is a procedure that patient derive a clear benefit from, thus the number of procedures will continue to remain about the same.

From a financial perspective, we again show a gain due to larger than historical bequests. If bequests had been in the range normal for the past 2-3 years, our expenses would have exceeded our income by about 18 percent. However, annual expenses for coming years will increase by \$50,000, this being our contribution to CPMC to support the Ophthalmic Diagnostic Center.

## ANNUAL REPORT: Financial Overview Fiscal Year Ending June 2015

| EXPENSES                 | General       | End | dowment* | Sum           | % of Prior<br>year |
|--------------------------|---------------|-----|----------|---------------|--------------------|
| Administration           | \$<br>20,510  | \$  | _        | \$<br>20,510  | 86.8%              |
| Resource Development     | \$<br>108,730 | \$  | -        | \$<br>108,730 | 88.4%              |
| Progam Services          | \$<br>464,430 | \$  | 3,960    | \$<br>468,390 | 97.0%              |
|                          | \$<br>593,670 | \$  | 3,960    | \$<br>597,630 | 95.0%              |
| INCOME                   |               |     |          |               |                    |
| Club Contributions       | \$<br>91,440  | \$  | -        | \$<br>91,440  | 104.1%             |
| Donations, Mem. & Gen.** | \$<br>155,150 | \$  | _        | \$<br>155,150 | 418.8%             |
| Helen Keller             | \$<br>23,820  | \$  | _        | \$<br>23,820  | 79.1%              |
| Life Members             | \$<br>-       | \$  | _        | \$<br>-       | 0.0%               |
| Bequests                 | \$<br>345,450 | \$  | -        | \$<br>345,450 | 36.1%              |
| Interest & Dividends     | \$<br>260,920 | \$  | 69,370   | \$<br>330,290 | 92.2%              |
| Other                    | \$<br>2,960   | \$  | -        | \$<br>2,960   | 8.1%               |
|                          | \$<br>879,740 | \$  | 69,370   | \$<br>949,110 | 62.8%              |

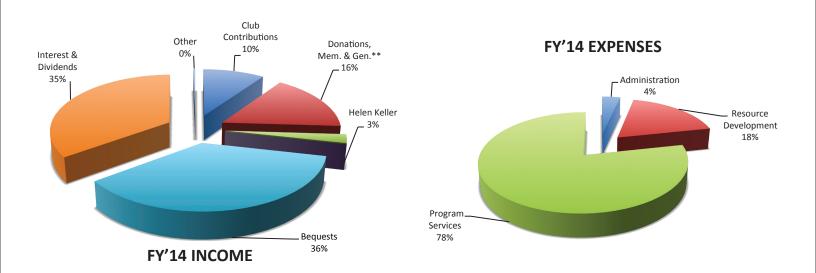
#### **NOTES**

The **Endowment Account\*** principal can never be touched, and only the earnings are used for direct patient expenses (Hospital, Pharmaceuticals, and Motel) for patients 18 years or younger. The General Account covers all other administrative expenses, except for direct bank charges for a separate bank account. The reason that the expenses are so low is because of the California insurance program for children that covered a majority of the patients.

The **Endowment Account\*** interest can be transferred to the General Account after three years. Thus the bulk of the \$69,370 stays restricted and is not available until FY'17.

\*\* The **General Donations** include \$100,000 from a grateful former patient.

Program Services for the General Account include direct patient expenses, equipment and library purchases for the dedicated residents at CPMC performing surgeries on our patients, and our LEF contributions to the hospital. Because of this direct contribution, CPMC provides space and pays for the Program Coordinator, the Adminstrative Assistant, and additional staff as needed.





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## Letter From The Editor



**Pat Neal** 

A big thank you goes out to the Santa Cruz Lions Club and the Freedom Lions Club for their purchase of Stanaway Fellows and Stanaway Life memberships for 100% of their membership. Each of those clubs donated \$50,000.00 to LEF's capital campaign in order to achieve that goal. It should also be noted that the San Francisco Castro Lions Club recently donated \$20,000.00 and the Scotts Valley Lions Club has given \$15,000.00 to the capital campaign. Thank you to all those who are working so hard to make the new Lions Eye Clinic at the Eye Institute at 711 Van Ness in San Francisco a soon to be reality.

The Lions Eye Foundation held their annual meeting in San Francisco the weekend of July 18th. It's always such a pleasure to hear from the leadership at

CPMC and PVF and to listen to the Residents speak about their specialties in eye care. This year we heard from the new CEO of PVF Michael Mahoney, Chair of CPMC Dept. of Ophthalmology Dr. Kevin Denny, Program Director CPMC Dept. of Ophthalmology Dr. Taliva Martin and Chief Admin Officer of CPMC Davies Campus Mary Lanier. Thank you all for taking the time from your busy schedules to attend this annual event. It is hoped that the new Eye Clinic will be open for next years' annual meeting and we will be touring the new clinic at that time. If you have never attended the July meeting you may want to put us on your calendar for next year. If you have attended before, you may still want to put us on your calendar.