

Media Contact:

Chris Wilkerson
813-281-0088
813-334-6690 (mobile)

Lions Eye Institute Bolsters Board with New Directors and Extends CEO Contract

Tampa – Looking to strengthen the organization and build upon recent success, the Lions Eye Institute for Transplantation & Research (LEITR) Board of Directors recently named three new board members and voted to extend the contract of CEO Jason Woody.

New board members include: Brian Springer, Vice President of Research Administration and Associate Center Director at Moffitt Cancer Center; Mark Andrzejewski, former Chief Financial Officer at Laser Spine Institute; and Tampa City Council Member Mike Suarez. Their board terms begin immediately. Two of the three come to LEITR with experience in growing health care businesses.

“Our leadership is making strategic moves to position Lions Eye Institute for its next growth phase,” said Board of Directors Chairman John LiVecchi, MD. “It was important for us to find executives who have expanded here in Tampa and know how to lead in a very complex environment. Brian, Mark and Mike all will play a role as the Lions Eye Institute begins to sharpen its focus in becoming a preeminent institution in ocular science.”

Woody, who has been with LEITR for 26 years, signed a contract to keep him as the CEO through 2021. Woody already is among the longest tenured Tampa Bay nonprofit leaders. The contract extension gives the organization stability for focus on growth.

“Jason Woody continues to lead this organization in a way that stays true to the mission while always looking for opportunities to do it better,” LiVecchi said.

Brian Springer has about 20 years of experience leading research initiatives and more than 15 years in NCI cancer center administration. He leads research development, planning, direction, finance, operation and evaluation at Moffitt Cancer Center.

Mark Andrzejewski most recently led Laser Spine Institute through a period of expansion.

Mike Suarez has been on Tampa City Council for more than five years. His experience with municipal policy and with commercial risk management in his role with Insurance Office of America make him a valuable part of the new Board of Directors.

About the Lions Eye Institute for Transplant & Research

The Lions Eye Institute for Transplant & Research, Inc., is a nonprofit, charitable organization dedicated to the recovery, evaluation and distribution of eye tissue for transplantation, research and education. LEITR's Eye Bank, located in Tampa, Fla., is one of the largest combined eye banks and ocular research centers in the



world. Since its inception, it has brought the “Gift of Sight” to more than 67,000 men, women and children worldwide. For more information, visit www.lionseyeinstitute.org.