

Dear Surgeon Partners,

We value our partnership with you in providing corneal tissue to restore sight to thousands of people each year. Without you, we would not be able to fulfill our mission to set new standards for ocular endeavors that will improve visual outcomes and quality of life for those who are blind or visually impaired. **You make our vision to help people see, a reality.**

The Lions Eye Institute for Transplant and Research was founded in 1973 by a group of Tampa Lions Club members who saw the need for an eye bank in central Florida. Since then, we have grown to be one of the largest combined eye banks and ocular research centers in the world. We are a nonprofit organization that believes that everyone deserves the gift of sight regardless of their ability to afford it.

Our **Gratis Ocular Tissue Program** provides corneal tissue to patients who cannot afford sight-saving surgery. Through this program, this past year we helped restore the sight of 214 people in the United States and in 14 other countries around the world.

We encourage you to use this resource for your international mission trips or for your patients here in the U.S. who do not have the means to pay for a cornea transplant. There is a simple application process for you to request tissue. We ask that you help facilitate in providing us with your patient's testimonial. Their stories of restored sight help our Foundation raise funds to ensure the continuation of this program.

Our Foundation raises funds for the Gratis Ocular Tissue Program through our signature fundraising gala, the Eye Ball. It is our hope that you will attend this annual event so that we can recognize you in person and highlight your success stories associated with our gratis tissue program.

As a valued surgeon partner, we want to make sure that you are aware of and use this program to benefit your patients with financial needs. Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Best Regards,



Art Kurz  
Chief Marketing Officer  
Lions Eye Institute for Transplant & Research



*Dr. Ravi Patel of Florida Eye Specialists in Jacksonville with his patient Takeeya Woods, a 2019 Lions Eye Institute gratis cornea recipient.*

## Gratis Ocular Tissue Program: Guidelines

Our goal is to assist as many patients as possible. The number of requests we are able to fulfill depends upon the success of fundraising for this program from the previous year. With funds in place, all types of tissue and processing can be provided, however tissue selection is dependent upon availability.

### Instructions

Please submit the following forms at least two weeks prior to surgery by emailing them to: [cornea@lionseyeinstitute.org](mailto:cornea@lionseyeinstitute.org)

- Surgeon Application
  - Transplant Patient Need (*completed by your office*)
  - Surgeon Testimonial and Media Release (*completed by surgeon*)
- Patient Application
  - Patient Pre-Op Questionnaire (*completed by patient*)
  - Patient Testimonial and Media Release (*completed by patient*)

### What's Next

- Upon approval, we will notify you and have you schedule the case by using our tissue management system, [www.oneworldsightalliance.org](http://www.oneworldsightalliance.org)
- Tissue will be offered one to two days prior to the case

### Please Note

- We will strive to provide tissue within your preferences, but tissue quality and availability is unpredictable. If you have the ability to schedule surgery around times in which the demand is low and quality tissue is more likely to be available, we encourage you to do so.
- Use the **Surgeon Application** to provide a brief case summary including the patient's current condition, expected outcome, and reason for the gratis request (*financial need*).
- Please present the **Patient Application** to your patient and ask if they would be willing to share their story and their experience with others. Explain how their story can bring awareness of cornea donation and the gift of sight while promoting the Lions Eye Institute's Gratis Ocular Tissue Program. At a future date, we will follow up with your patient to discuss their story in more detail and collect photos.
- After reviewing your application the Lions Eye Institute Foundation will determine our capability to provide reduced or gratis ocular tissue service fees.

If there are any questions regarding the Gratis Ocular Tissue Program or the application process, please reach out to us at **813.289.1200** or send an e-mail to [cornea@lionseyeinstitute.org](mailto:cornea@lionseyeinstitute.org).

**Gratis Ocular Tissue Program: Surgeon Application**

Reduced fee amount for LEITR Foundation's consideration: \$\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_%

**Patient Information:**

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Patient Health Insurance\_\_\_\_\_

None  Coverage Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Patient Summary and Tissue Type Requested

Urgent  Non-urgent

Please provide a brief description of the patient's diagnosis, expected outcome, tissue type needed, and reason for the gratis request (financial need):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Surgeon Information:**

Surgeon Name\_\_\_\_\_

Surgeon Email\_\_\_\_\_

Amount Waived by Physician and Facility \$\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_% (if applicable)

Surgeon Signature\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

Requester's Name (if different from surgeon)\_\_\_\_\_

Requester's Signature\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

LEITR Signature\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_



**Gratis Ocular Tissue Program: Surgeon Testimonial and Media Release**

I hereby authorize Lions Eye Institute for Transplant and Research, Inc. (“LEITR”) and Lions Eye Institute for Transplant & Research Foundation, Inc. (“LEIF”), including the agents, officers, directors, affiliates, employees, and contractors of each, to take and publish photographs and visual and/or sound recordings of me, my likeness, and/or my voice, including any statements given during an interview (collectively “Recordings”), with or without my name and/or other biographical information, for use in any LEITR and/or LEIF print, promotion, advertisement, illustration, online or video-based marketing materials, and/or any other LEITR and/or LEIF publications, in any manner or medium, without restriction (collectively “LEITR and/or LEIF Publications”). Further, I understand that LEITR and LEIF shall have the right to use the Recordings in LEITR and/or LEIF Publications for any purpose, including but not limited to, promotion, trade, advertising, or publicizing LEITR and/or LEIF.

I further acknowledge that participation is voluntary, and I will not receive financial compensation of any type associated with the taking, publication, or use of these Recordings or participation in LEITR and/or LEIF Publications. I acknowledge and agree that publication of said Recordings confers no rights of ownership or royalties whatsoever to me and waive any right to compensation. I acknowledge that LEITR and LEIF are the exclusive owners of all rights in, and to, the Recordings pursuant to this Photo/Video Release Form, and LEITR and LEIF both have the right to use or reproduce the resulting Recordings as often as LEITR and/or LEIF find necessary.

I agree to release and hold harmless LEITR and LEIF, including the agents, affiliates, contractors, officers and directors, and employees of each, as well as any third parties involved in the creation, promotion or publication of LEITR and/or LEIF Publications, from liability for any claims by me or any third party relating to the taking, use or distribution of these Recordings in any form or medium.

I have read this Photo/Video Release Form before signing and fully understand the contents, meaning, and impact of my consent. I understand that I am free to address any specific questions and have done so prior to signing this Photo/Video Release Form.

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Print Name

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Signature