



## Get to Know LEITR

**Continually Expanding Services in Eye Banking,  
Surgical Training, Research & Development**

*Since our founding in 1973,  
our efforts and partnerships  
have made it possible for  
150,000 men, women, and  
children around the world to  
receive the gift of sight.*

# Comprehensive Cornea Service

## Precision Processing Down to the Micron\*

**DMEK** Dissected to 10-15 microns

**DSAEK** Precision prepared to your specifications

- Ultrathin 40-100 microns
- Traditional 100+ microns

**ALK/DALK** (custom thickness)

**PRE-CUT PKP** (full thickness)

## Customize Your Specifications

### Preloaded DMEK, DSAEK

- Precut, Prestained, Premarked, Prepunched, Preloaded\*\*

### Non-Preloaded DMEK, DSAEK

- Precut, Prestained, Premarked, Prepunched\*\*\*

### Orientation Mark Options for Premarked Tissue

- “S” stamp
- “I II” peripheral marks
- Custom markings



\*+/- 20 microns for DSAEK and DMEK thicknesses vary based on tissue anatomy.

\*\*Choose one, or a combination of options.

\*\*\*Non-Preloaded DSAEK is not prepunched.

Lions Eye Institute for Transplant and Research (LEITR) is the largest combined eye bank and ocular research center in the U.S. As a nonprofit organization, our focus is on innovating and collaborating with our surgical partners with the objective to ease cornea transplantation and improve clinical outcomes.

## Mission

It is our honor to serve as the bridge from tissue donation to transplantation through ocular tissue recovery, evaluation, preparation, research, surgeon training, and innovative technologies. It is our mission to set new standards in eye banking that will improve visual outcomes and patients' quality of life.

## Rich Traditions. Strong Foundations.

Sponsored by the Lions Club in Tampa and founded in 1973, Lions Eye Institute for Transplant and Research (LEITR) has long been at the forefront of research, development and education in corneal tissue processing and corneal transplantation. But our roots go back much further, to June 30, 1925, when Helen Keller addressed the Lions Clubs International Convention in Cedar Point, Ohio. It was there that the Lions found their mission when during her historical speech she asked, “Will you not constitute yourselves Knights of the Blind in this crusade against darkness?” LEITR continues to honor Keller’s challenge to the Lions Clubs by advancing surgical techniques and developing services to support surgeons and the adoption of new and more effective procedures.

## Eye Bank Services

As an accredited member of the Eye Bank Association of America, LEITR is dedicated to preparing and providing the highest quality ocular tissue for transplantation by setting new standards and leading the industry in innovation and service. Our comprehensive tissue services include tissue recovery, evaluation, and preparation of live cell tissue for penetrating and endothelial keratoplasty; TransplantREADY™ preloaded services for DMEK and DSAEK. In addition, OptiGraft, our sterile line of premium allografts is available for glaucoma and corneal applications including lamellar keratoplasty, and keratoprosthesis.

## Research and Clinical Development

Our longstanding collaboration with leading ophthalmologists has led to numerous ground-breaking innovations in tissue preparation and endothelial keratoplasty, which have restored sight and quality of life to thousands each year. LEITR is proud to have performed studies and developed numerous innovative tissue preparations and technologies, including the following:

- Preloaded DSAEK in the EndoGlide\* — 2012
- No-touch DMEK hydro-dissection technique\*\* — 2012
- Nano-cut DSAEK grafts 40-60 microns\*\* — 2014
- DMEK in Straiko modified Jones Tube — 2015
- DMEK in 2.0mm modified Jones Tube\*\* — 2017
- DMEK in EndoGlide — 2019
- DSAEK in 3.0mm modified Jones Tube\*\* — 2020
- Precut PKP\*\* — 2021

\*published in Cornea Volume 36, Number 1, January 2017

\*\*abstracts presented during major ophthalmology conferences

The Jones Tube is registered with FDA by Gunther Weiss as a generic manual ophthalmic surgical instrument, which is a Class I device exempt from premarket review by FDA. The Jones Tube is not cleared or approved by the FDA for use in DSAEK or DMEK procedures.

## Founding Member of the One World Sight Alliance (OWSA)

### *Online tissue management portal for surgeons and eye bank members*

Branded as One World Sight Alliance, this robust online communication center promotes collaboration between 25 U.S. eye bank members to fulfill ocular tissue requests across the United States and around the world. Upon registering with OWSA, surgeons can access all aspects of tissue management within their personal account and receive offers from this unparalleled source of corneal tissue to meet the needs of their patients. This portal facilitates and simplifies the logistics of managing tissue preferences, requests, approvals, and post-op reporting. Through OWSA, eye banks and surgeons are aligned and tissue placement is maximized to honor each donated gift of sight.



*From tissue evaluation to the most precise processing, our expertly trained, certified eye bank technicians prepare tissue daily for transplant cases, including PKP, ALK, DALK, DSAEK, and DMEK. Over 3,500 corneas are prepared for endothelial keratoplasty a year, nearly 70 per week.*

## The Ocular Research Center at Lions Eye Institute

### Supplying Critical Research Requests

Meeting the challenging requirements and requests for new treatments of ophthalmic diseases is the goal of our Ocular Research Team, who work tirelessly to arrest and cure blinding eye diseases by testing new drugs and treatment options using ocular tissue recovered for research.

The team collaborates with industry and leading institutions to develop new pre-clinical research models offering unparalleled quality and volumes of human ocular tissue. This unique research facility for pharmaceutical or medical device studies, features dedicated laboratory space and equipment that allows real-time studies of healthy or diseased ocular tissue. This one-of-a-kind facility has the flexibility and resources to meet the most time-sensitive and demanding research parameters.

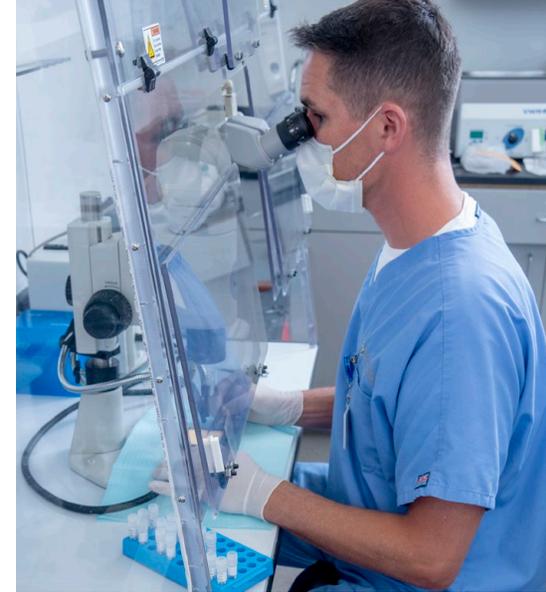


## Lions Eye Institute Foundation

*Through the Lions Eye Institute Foundation funds are raised to support our mission and provide programs to restore sight.*

### Gratis Ocular Tissue Program

Our Gratis Ocular Tissue Program allows us to partner with surgeons to provide sight-restoring surgery for patients without insurance or financial resources. The program is supported by the Lions Eye Institute Foundation through funds raised at our annual Eye Ball Gala. Last year, 214 people in the United State and 14 other countries received the gift of sight.



### Surgical Training Programs

LEITR is also committed to training surgeons worldwide and has hosted training courses on advanced surgical techniques for ophthalmologists from the US, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Central Asia, South America, and South Africa. Our surgical instructors are experts in corneal transplantation and include internationally recognized corneal specialists. Training sessions range from remote wet labs to on or off-site multi-day courses with the goal of training surgeons in the latest surgical techniques, with immediately transferable skills providing better visual outcomes for their patients.



*New Surgeon Training Center provides a dedicated space and state-of-the-art equipment to host surgeons in Tampa or stream live with surgeons around the world.*



### Building History

Hundreds of large brick cigar factories were built during the late 1800s and early 1900s in Ybor City, a section of Tampa known as the “Cigar Capitol of the World”. Today only a few remain standing and Lions Eye Institute for Transplant and Research is honored to call the F. Lozano Cigar Factory building headquarters to our state-of-the-art eye banking and research divisions. Through preservation grants LEITR continues to restore this historic community asset.

We invite you to visit us, tour our facility and stay for hands-on training in our dedicated surgical training area within this important piece of Ybor City history.



*As stewards of the precious donated gift, we are honored to serve each day with the commitment to and deepest respect for the donor and their family, who make the gift of sight possible.*