

ANNUAL REPORT
2016



give
SIGHT



A Letter From Our Co-Chairs

Thanks to our volunteers, donors, corporate supporters, and nonprofit partners, the ASCRS Foundation was able to give sight to a record number of individuals in 2016. In this report, we celebrate the successes made possible through their hard work and generosity.

As we reflect on 2016, we also look to the future. In 2017, the ASCRS Foundation will continue to support physician education and to provide humanitarian cataract surgery in the United States and internationally. The Foundation has set the following ambitious objectives:

1. To provide humanitarian cataract surgery to those in need.
2. To provide the support and education needed to address cataract blindness worldwide.
3. To encourage, enable, and promote innovative new treatments through funding and research.

Internationally, this means maintaining a commitment to the Foundation's Robert Sinskey Eye Institute in Ethiopia, while also seeking to address the root cause of global cataract blindness – the severe shortage of eye surgeons in developing countries. The long-term solution will come from creating local ophthalmic centers of excellence and through training. To achieve this, we have aligned with a network of partner organizations: Himalayan Cataract Project, the Moran Eye Institute, Project Vision, Vision Care, and the Global Sight Alliance.

But cataract issues extend beyond the developing world. Here in the United States there are neighbors in our communities who struggle. Uninsured – or underinsured – and unable to afford care on their own, they now turn to the ASCRS Foundation's Operation Sight program and its nationwide network of ASCRS member volunteers. In 2017, we'll look to provide even more free cataract surgery to Americans in need, and will work to further scale our outreach to at-risk populations by growing our network of volunteer surgeons.

Finally, in 2017 the ASCRS Foundation will provide \$5,000 seed grants to pursue innovative new research in ophthalmology to ten promising young physicians – bringing our lifetime investment in research to more than \$800,000.

Our goals are lofty, but they wouldn't be achievable without the continued support of our industry partners. In 2016 small, mid-sized, and large companies responded with record-breaking contributions to fund the foundation's rapidly-expanding programs. Their ongoing commitment to patient care and physician education makes our work possible, and we thank them for their unwavering support.

We appreciate all – individuals and industry – who've shared our goals in 2016, and we look forward to renewing our important partnerships in the year to come. If you've yet to become involved with the ASCRS Foundation, please consider joining our community of sight givers in 2017! You can contribute or volunteer by visiting www.ascrsfoundation.org or by giving us a call at 703-788-5781.

Sincerely,



David F. Chang, MD
Chairman
International Initiatives



Stephen S. Lane, MD
Chairman
Domestic Initiatives



Jim V. Mazzo
Chairman
Industry Relations

Financial Statements

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	<i>Years Ended August 31</i>	
	2016	2015
REVENUE		
Contributions	\$301,471	\$660,718
Investment Income	466,117	(20,662)
Special Events (net)	14,830	13,196
TOTAL REVENUE	782,418	653,252
EXPENSE		
Programs	346,627	597,526
Fundraising	39,708	13,267
General & Administrative	198,388	159,236
TOTAL EXPENSES	584,723	770,029
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$197,695	\$(116,777)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	<i>August 31</i>	
	2016	2015
ASSETS		
Cash & Equivalents	\$204,597	\$241,990
Investments	6,924,295	6,478,939
Pledges	67,333	134,000
Other	-	10,585
TOTAL ASSETS	\$7,196,225	\$6,865,514
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Liabilities	\$601,311	\$468,295
Net Assets	6,594,914	6,397,219
TOTAL LIAB. & NET ASSETS	\$7,196,225	\$6,865,514

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2016
A YEAR OF

giving SIGHT

Humanitarian Eye Care

Partnering to Give Sight

We have built a network of 6 partner organizations dedicated to humanitarian eye care and reducing the shortage of eye surgeons globally: Himalayan Cataract Project (HCP), the Moran Eye Center, Project Vision, Vision Care, and Global Sight Alliance. Through our combined efforts in 2016 we were able to:

- Conduct a successful surgical glaucoma training course for Ethiopia's leading ophthalmic surgeons.
- Aid in the development of a pilot telemedicine program in Nepal. In partnership with HCP and DigiSight, doctors can now use cell phones to share high-quality fundus and anterior segment photos, and patients in even the remotest areas can be reached.

- Deliver the first New York/ New Jersey Local Eye Camp in November 2016 with Vision Care. With a focus on Korean immigrants, the camp diagnosed over 100 people.
- In partnership with the Global Sight Alliance, organized and hosted MSICS training events in Honduras, the Dominican Republic, Paraguay, and Ecuador, and helped to equip a clinical space.

Operation Sight

Our Operation Sight network continues to grow. 600 free cataract surgeries were provided to eligible American patients across the United States in 2016.

The first-ever National Sight Week in October 2016 was a huge success with 71 volunteer ASCRS surgeons performing 214 charitable cataract surgeries.

The Operation Sight volunteer network has grown from 60 volunteer surgeons in 2014 to more than 250 in 2016. Surgeons now provide charitable cataract surgery in 35 states.

The Robert Sinskey Eye Institute

Now in its 12th year of continuous operation, The Robert Sinskey Eye Institute (SEI) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia treated more than 22,000 patients in 2016 - up from just 5,000 a decade ago.

SEI has a staff of 18, including 2 ophthalmic surgeons, and is helping to train even more ophthalmologists.



“

Seeing their first smiles when you say you can help. Then seeing their faces light-up again when they first see with their improved vision - everyone wins when we do good for others.

”

- Jeffrey Whitman, MD,
Key-Whitman Eye Center
Operation Sight Volunteer



Physician Education & Research

In 2016, the ASCRS Foundation awarded \$50,000 to support the innovative research efforts of ten inspiring young ophthalmologists. The awardees and the projects were:

- Durga Borkar, MD: Utility of the postoperative week 1 examination and postoperative month 1 dilated examination after cataract surgery
- Emily Sara Charlson, MD: Exon usage and splicing variation in human age-related meibomian gland dysfunction (ARMGD)
- Heather Durkee, MSBME: Interaction between accommodating intraocular lens and ciliary muscle using real-time optical coherence tomography
- Allen Eghrari, MD: Cataract surgical outcomes among survivors of Ebola virus disease
- Rachel Wozniak MD, PhD: Development of novel ophthalmic antibiotics
- Ilya M. Sluch, MD: MMP9 levels after cataract surgery
- Nishant Soni, MD: Time between DMEK preparation and use on endothelial cell viability
- Brian Stagg, MD: Evaluation of resources required for measurement of cataract surgery outcomes
- Ivey Thornton, MD: Experimental model of keratoectasia for testing a potential "lenticular insertion" therapy in ex-vivo porcine corneas
- Aazim A. Siddiqui, MD: Three-dimensional characterization of modern post-refractive intraocular lens formulas to generate a singular post-refractive IOL calculation solution and maximize accuracy

Through our Residence Excellence Awards, we provided travel grants to enable ten outstanding ophthalmology residents to attend the 2016 ASCRS Annual Symposium in New Orleans. Selected through competitive application process, the 2016 award winners were:

- Sourabh Arora, MD
University of Alberta
- Seanna Grob, MD
Harvard Medical School
- Anton Kolomeyer, MD, PhD
University of Pittsburgh
- Nambi Nallasamy, MD
Duke Eye Center
- Walter T. Parker, MD
Baylor College of Medicine
- Zeba Syed, MD
Harvard Medical School
- Reid Turner, MD
Med. Univ. of SC, Storm Eye Institute
- Guadalupe Villareal Jr, MD
Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins
- Kunyong Xu, MD
Queens University, Ontario
- Luna Xu, MD
NY Eye & Ear Infirmary of Mt. Sinai

2016 Corporate Partners

Without the dedicated support of industry, it would be very difficult for the ASCRS Foundation to deliver our much needed programs. Our generous industry partners provide the financial resources, equipment donations, and even volunteer time necessary to achieve our mission.

Diamond (\$75,000+)

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We want to say thank you to a loyal supporter...



Shire's purpose is to enable people with life altering conditions to lead better lives by developing innovative medicines for rare and specialty conditions. This commitment to developing specialty medicines in areas of unmet need has driven Shire's entry into ophthalmics. Shire believes that eye health is critical to overall health and wellness at every stage of life. Shire is working to develop innovative medicines in dry eye disease, infectious conjunctivitis, retinopathy of prematurity, autosomal dominant retinitis pigmentosa and glaucoma to help patients and eye care professionals better manage these conditions.

Shire is proud to support ASCRS Foundation's Operation Sight program - from its inception. In 2016, Shire was not only a supporter of our Operation Sight program, but became a co-sponsor of the annual Run for Sight 5k/1 mile walk at the ASCRS Annual Symposium & Congress.

"We believe it is important that industry and advocacy organizations collaborate to benefit the patients we all serve in our work each day, and we look forward to continuing to support ASCRS Foundation and its ongoing efforts to improve access to eye care around the world." -Robert Dempsey, Vice President, Eye Care, Shire

...and welcome to a new supporter...



For more than 122 years, OCULUS has been a partner for eye care professionals around the world. OCULUS provides support for the challenging daily tasks these specialists encounter by developing sophisticated technology-based instruments of the highest quality and by providing them with in-service training for these instruments' efficient operation. For cataract surgeons, OCULUS is manufacturing technology for planning accurate IOL calculations. OCULUS joined the ASCRS Foundation as a Silver level partner in 2016. They hope their donation will help the ASCRS Foundation bring humanitarian eye care to more underserved communities.

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Edward J. Holland, MD



Most ASCRS members know Edward J. Holland, MD from his 2011-2012 service as ASCRS President. What you might not know is that Dr. Holland was the founding chair of the Cornea Clinical Committee, and one of the driving forces behind the establishment of Cornea Day at the ASCRS Annual Symposium & Congress. After his presidential and executive committee terms, Dr. Holland stepped up to chair the Annual Symposium & Congress, and has served in this volunteer position for the last four years. "My goal is to make the annual meeting the preeminent meeting for anterior segment surgeons in ophthalmology worldwide," says Dr. Holland. But this is just a snippet of his work within the field of ophthalmology. He has truly dedicated his life to making people see again. His passion for treating blindness has driven his career and volunteer work, and it's also why he supports the ASCRS Foundation. He first heard of the Foundation through Stephen S. Lane, MD - our current chair of domestic initiatives.

"My first interest in supporting the organization came with the tremendous endeavor of establishing the Robert Sinskey Eye Institute in Ethiopia. SEI has done great work and I am very excited that our international work has continued to broaden. But then," Dr. Holland continues, "I credit Steve again, for highlighting the individuals in the United States with the same need for free cataract surgery. So, the launching of Operation Sight has very much interested me, too. I would say I am passionate about all the work the Foundation is doing." Dr. Holland demonstrates his support with a generous annual gift each year. He believes, "as the leading anterior segment surgery organization, it is quite appropriate that we not only teach surgery but then provide what we teach, which is excellent surgery to patients in need domestically and internationally." For those ASCRS members considering their first gift to the Foundation, **Dr. Holland had this to say, "We went into this field because we were passionate about treating blindness and making people see. The Foundation is great way to help us do that. Why not give your money to a field you spent your life working in? And you know it's going to great use!"**

Volunteers #GiveSight



Kimberly Holland (Dallas, Texas) found herself trapped in a vicious cycle. Unemployed when her declining eyesight affected her job performance, she had also lost her insurance coverage. And without coverage she couldn't afford the care needed to find another job. And around again. Determined to do something, Kimberly used a credit card to pay for an eye exam. Sitting in the darkened room, she couldn't read any of the stark black letters on the white chart. Everything was blurry. Kimberly's doctor informed her that her eyesight had worsened dramatically, and that corrective lenses wouldn't solve her problem. She had cataracts in both eyes. There was no way Kimberly could afford cataract surgery. Straining to see was causing her severe headaches, and she now found it nearly impossible to complete the assignments required to earn her paralegal degree. "I feared that without surgery, I would become completely unemployable. This terrified me, and I felt overwhelmed," she said.

But Kimberly didn't give up. While Googling information about how to pay for cataract surgery, she found the ASCRS Foundation's Operation Sight website. Kimberly completed a patient application, was found eligible, and was matched with Jeffrey Whiteman, MD, of the Key-Whitman Eye Center. Through the generosity of the volunteers at Key-Whitman, and the support of the ASCRS Foundation, Kimberly had the cataract surgery she desperately needed – all at no cost to her. Dr. Whiteman operated on Kimberly's eyes during the ASCRS Foundation's National Sight Week in October 2016. She now feels things coming into focus – literally and figuratively. Her eyesight improves each day thanks to her "phenomenal miracle worker," and Kimberly is back working towards her degree with plans to rejoin the workforce. **Kimberly has a special message for ASCRS Foundation supporters: "You are saving and changing lives. You prevent blindness. You restore a sense of pride, confidence, and courage, as well as give hope where there was none to begin with."** She goes on to say "please give a miracle to someone" in need by volunteering or donating to the Operation Sight program: www.ascrsfoundation.org/operation-sight

Thank you to all of our volunteer surgeons who give their time so generously through our domestic and international humanitarian eye care programs.

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ASCERS Foundation
4000 Legato Road, Suite 700
Fairfax, VA 22033
703.591.2220

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