

Newsletter - September 2009

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Volunteer with SEE Foundation: Ecuador



Dr. Elkins recently returned from Guayaquil, Ecuador where he spent a week as a volunteer performing free cataract surgery on the poor. A Santa Barbara based charity called SEE, Surgical Eye Expeditions, sponsors about 90 cataract surgery missions a year all over the world. A "host" ophthalmologist is responsible for screening potential patients, preoperative exams, and postoperative care. American surgeons travel across the globe to participate in "Project 100" in which enough supplies are donated to provide free surgery to

100 blind patients per expedition.

We are all born with a lens inside of the eye that is responsible for focusing light onto the retina. As we age, the lens becomes increasingly cloudy which is referred to as a cataract. Cataracts are the leading cause of blindness in the world. In the USA, cataract surgery is a safe, easy, and painless 10 minute surgery and thus is usually performed before the cataract is extremely advanced. In many parts of the world though, especially India and Africa, it is quite common to see grandchildren leading their blind grandparents around as the cataracts can become so advanced that they are white. These white cataracts completely block out all light.

In most of the 3rd world, there is a lack of qualified surgeons, limited operating rooms, minimal supplies and equipment, and a complete lack of access to care for the poor. Although conditions in Ecuador were better than in many other parts of the developing world, most of the patients that Dr. Elkins operated on spent 3 hours on buses coming from remote mountain villages. It truly is tragic that such an easily treatable problem can cause blindness anywhere on this planet.



Dr. Elkins was accompanied by his son Ryan as well as a fellow ophthalmologist from Ohio.

[Click here for more information about Dr. Elkins](#)

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Testimonials

Three generations of perfect cataract surgery in our family, thanks to Dr. Zeegen and its great to see without glasses!
– M.T.

Dr. Aizuss is Great! He is very professional, gave me confidence and eliminated my concerns and fears. It's wonderful not looking for my glasses.
– C.H.

I love waking up in the morning and being able to see. Not having to grab for my glasses and

LASIK Surgery = Beautiful

Comparison of Night Driving Performance after Wavefront-Guided and Conventional LASIK for Moderate Myopia from the April journal of "Ophthalmology" analyzed the difference in night driving vision between 2 groups of LASIK patients. The group that had a microkeratome flap (blade) and a conventional laser treatment did significantly worse in night driving simulator testing as compared to the group that had an Intralase flap (bladeless) and a custom treatment.



The results are very interesting for many reasons. First, the type of technology used during LASIK has a significant effect on daily tasks such as night driving. Second, as the LASIK technology has developed and improved, OAV has evolved right along with it. Whereas some LASIK surgeons and commercial LASIK centers offer the out dated methods for a cheaper fee, OAV strongly feels that a nominally higher price is well worth a safer and better result. By utilizing Intralase and wavefront guided LASIK, we can offer our patients state of the art surgery that leads to outstanding day and night vision. Finally, all branches of the military, as well as NASA, now recognize that LASIK is a safe and effective way of treating refractive errors and therefore offer this benefit to active military personnel.

[Click here for more information about LASIK](#)

put in my contacts is amazing! I have been a patient of Dr. Elkins for over 10 years. He and his staff do a good job at being very thorough
- M.G.

Dr Saulny - is a fabulous doctor! Fabulous cosmetic surgeon!
- D.N

I drove to see Dr. Kramar today without any glasses. I can now read street signs, that I couldn't see before. I am very pleased with my cataract surgery and the care I received from Dr. Kramar.
- M.P.

Learning disabilities not caused by vision problems, according to research



San Francisco—No scientific evidence supports the view that subtle eye or visual problems cause learning disabilities, according to a revised policy statement on learning disabilities, dyslexia, and vision issued by the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO).

The revised statement, which the AAO issued with the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus, and the American Association of Certified Orthoptists, expands on

the previous policy and includes extensive scientific references.

Dyslexia and learning disabilities are complex problems that have no simple solutions, "This policy statement applies the available evidence to develop recommended steps for the best possible outcome for children with these disabilities. We hope that the statement will be helpful for the physicians who play an important role in the care of children with learning disabilities."

The policy states that numerous studies have shown that children with dyslexia or related learning disabilities have the same visual function and ocular health as children without such conditions. Altered visual function is not a cause of most reading disabilities, according to the statement.

The statement also notes that no scientific evidence supports the use of vision therapy, tinted lenses or filters as effective direct or indirect treatments for learning disabilities. No valid evidence exists that children participating in vision therapy are more responsive to educational instruction than children who do not participate, according to the organizations.

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Congratulations to Jeannie on her 10 years of dedication and service to OAV



Jeannie celebrated her 10 year anniversary this month as part of the OAV family. Working as one of our surgery coordinators, Jeannie's energy and enthusiasm has brought smiles to the faces of thousands of our patients. Thank you Jeannie for all your great work. We're so lucky to make this Texas girl our own and share her with her husband Doug and their two children, Edward and Paige.

Premium IOL's



Recently an 82 year old patient came to see Dr. Aizuss complaining of a gradual decrease in vision in both of her eyes, her left eye worse than her right eye. Her examination showed that her vision was 20/80 in her right eye and was down to hand motions in her left eye. She had developed a severe cataract in her left eye and was very fearful about undergoing cataract surgery. Dr. Aizuss reassured her and using special techniques was able to remove her cataract and place the latest generation intraocular lens implant. On her first postoperative day, her uncorrected vision was dramatically improved from only being able to see hand motions to actually reading the eye chart across the exam room. At her one week postoperative visit her vision was 20/20. This was a dramatic improvement over only being able to see Dr. Aizuss move his hand in front of her eye. The happy patient and her doctor are seen in the attached picture.

[Click here for more information about Premium IOL's](#)

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