

Looking Back on the First 18 Months of Publication and Forward to Opportunities to Come

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The *International Journal of Eye Banking* launched 18 months ago with the vision that an eye bank specific, peer reviewed, online journal would help advance eye banking research and initiatives worldwide.

After publishing 20 articles by 60 different authors from around the world, the journal is becoming an important platform to publish relevant and timely eye bank information. Past articles that generated much interest include Picture Challenges (What is this? Is this Cornea Transplantable?), *Eye Banking in the 21st Century*, *Potential Adverse Effects on the Cornea Donor Pool in 2031*, and *Donor Endothelial Specular Image Quality in Optisol GS and Life4^o C*. Global perspectives offer a rare look at how different eye bank associations were formed and what their missions are today.

In this issue, the reader will find a broad scope of articles including research on freezing whole eyes, comparison four eye bank media, ultra-thin tissue processing and cryopreservation of corneal limbal stem cells. Important reports cover the first standardized terminology for ocular tissue (ISBT 128) and the launch of the *Global Alliance of Eye Bank Association*. Picture Challenges offer an image and ask the reader to determine if a cornea is suitable for transplant or not. View this and past issues by logging in at <http://www.eyebankingjournal.org/ebj/index.php/ebj/login>

To date, the journal has 449 subscribers, 86 registered reviewers, and 134 registered authors. The journal's website has had more than 10,000 visits by 5,695 unique visitors from 112 different countries. All articles published have undergone a thorough peer review process.

We wish to thank the authors and reviewers for their important contributions (see Reviewer Acknowledgement 2012-2013 in this issue). This publication is possible because of the guidance and support of numerous individuals, our editorial board, eye bank associations, various organizations, and our sponsors. Please view our sponsors at www.eyebankingjournal.org.

Upcoming goals for the journal include speeding up the publication process by publishing articles as soon as they are ready, applying to become indexed, considering alternative, easier systems for managing the submission and peer review process, and increasing awareness and funding of the journal. Our authors and reviewers can help improve the process by submitting articles, accepting (or not) invitations to review articles, and completing reviews and responses to reviews in a timely manner.

Readers and authors are the focus of this publication. Please continue to send your ideas and suggestions to: editor@eyebankingjournal.org.

Please note, effective immediately, the editorial boards have been combined and moving forward will be referred to as the Editorial Board. The journal continues to welcome suggestions for additional editorial board members—especially those who could help round out areas of expertise or represent a regions of the world not currently represented on the board.

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