

# Editorial

The [Barcelona Principles](#), an agreement on the use of human donated tissue for ocular transplantation, research, and future technologies, drafted by the Global Alliance of Eye Bank Associations sets forth nine principles that perhaps warrant review. Designed to reflect ethical standards and transparency in all phases of obtaining and utilizing the altruistic gift of cells, tissues and organs it addresses certain parameters that with the technology advancements in corneal transplantation become less clearly applied. Principle 2 “Protect the integrity of the altruistic and voluntary donation and its utility as a public resource for the shared benefit of all.” This Principle reminds us to “Prevent commercialization during custodianship “, with commercialization defined as “Trade in ocular tissue where a fee is charged for the purpose of making a profit, that may be paid to owners or investors.” Principle 3 seeks to “Support sight restoration and ocular health for recipients” by encouraging the development and use of “new technologies and methods in conjunction/collaboration with the ophthalmic community, that seek to reduce the burden on donor need, and enhance treatment options for recipients.”

- How do these two principles interact?
- Will advancement occur without some degree of commercialization?
- What level of development cost, including research, trials and planning for replacement obsolescence is still not for profit and what becomes “corporate profit”?
- Where in the Barcelona Principles does the changing technology and advancing spectrum of eye banking for the improvement of recipient outcome fall to be in accordance with these principles?

Perhaps now is the time for all eye bankers to review the nine principles and discuss them with their boards, medical directors, and transplanting physicians to assess and reaffirm their level of compliance with these principles if we are to value them as an integral part of our practices in the profession of eye banking.

**PRINCIPLE 1:** Respect the autonomy of the donor and their next-of-kin in the consent process.

**PRINCIPLE 2:** Protect the integrity of the altruistic and voluntary donation and its utility as a public resource for the shared benefit of all.

**PRINCIPLE 3:** Support sight restoration and ocular health for recipients.

**PRINCIPLE 4:** Promote fair, equitable and transparent allocation mechanisms.

**PRINCIPLE 5:** Uphold the integrity of the custodian’s profession in all jurisdictions.

**PRINCIPLE 6:** Develop high-quality services that promote ethical CTO management, traceability, and utility.

**PRINCIPLE 7:** Develop local/national self-sufficient services.

**PRINCIPLE 8:** Recognise and address the potential ethical, legal and clinical implications of cross-border activities.

**PRINCIPLE 9:** Ensure ethical practice and governance of research (non-therapeutic) requiring CTO.

The International Journal of Eye Banking welcomes letters to the editor to foster an ongoing dialogue in response to this editorial. Please address them to [info@restoresight.org](mailto:info@restoresight.org).