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Visit our You Tube channel.



PROSE Provider News

PROSE Service at Wilmer Now Open!

We are pleased to announce that the PROSE Service at The Wilmer Eye Institute, The Johns Hopkins Hospital, in Baltimore Maryland, is now open and seeing patients! To make an appointment, please call Jamee Paterniti, Patient Coordinator, at 410-955-5257.

Meet Our Newest PROSE Fellow

Priscilla Sotomayor, O.D., our newest PROSE Clinical Fellow, comes to us from Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at the University of Miami. PROSE treatment will be available at Bascom Palmer in late spring, 2012. A 2011 Dean's List graduate of the Doctor of Optometry program at Nova Southeastern University in Florida, Dr. Sotomayor earned her Bachelor of Science at the University of Miami. Welcome, Priscilla!



BFS Expands PROSE Provider Training Program

BFS has expanded our PROSE Provider Training Program to include administrative and support staff. Since the summer of 2011, administrators, patient coordinators, billing and technician staff have been invited to BFS to learn first-hand about operating and supporting a PROSE clinic. Our newest partners have sent staff to spend two to three days on-site in Needham observing and meeting with members of our intake, scheduling, billing, contracting, leadership, communications and technical teams. We customize the training schedule to the specific audience visiting with us. The response has been overwhelmingly positive. Our partners have described their experiences as "instrumental in helping to frame what needs to be accomplished to run a successful PROSE clinic." We hope to make this optional training mandatory as we continue to expand and grow our network.

Coming Full Circle

Veronica Zenkner

It was the spring of 2003. As millions do every day, 13 year old Veronica Zenkner took two ibuprofen for her headache. It wasn't the first time that she had taken ibuprofen, but it would be the last. Because this time, Veronica's life was forever changed.

This time, Veronica developed Stevens Johnson syndrome (SJS), a violent reaction to certain medications that can cause severe blistering of the skin and mucous membranes, including the eyes. She survived, but was left with scarring on her face and body, and her eyes were badly damaged.

She was able to return to her studies in the fall as an 8th grader in DeKalb, Illinois, but found middle school to be a hostile, isolating place: "I went back to school and saw how differently people were treating me, how they looked at me." Depression soon followed.

Over the next few years, as she lived with red, itchy eyes that she covered with sunglasses, rain or shine, her depression continued to deepen. "I felt so ugly because of my eyes. I just didn't want to go out at all." Veronica was approached by friends and strangers alike with insensitive questions ("Are you crying?" "Are you on drugs?"). As a teenage driver, she was even pulled over by the police and subjected to field sobriety tests because of her bloodshot appearance. She tried "every over the counter eye drop there is" with no improvement to her dry and painful eyes. (A [2011 article on MSNBC.com](#) further details her harrowing journey.)



Looking for a sense of community and the support of others who shared her journey, in 2010 Veronica posted her story on the SJS Foundation website. She was contacted by Joe Zienowicz, a fellow SJS survivor, who shared with her his transformational experience with Boston Foundation for Sight and PROSE treatment.

Soon after, Veronica traveled to BFS and met with her PROSE treatment team, BFS' Dr. Karen Carrasquillo and Dr. Michelle Hessen, a PROSE Clinical Fellow from Johns Hopkins Medical Center. Veronica was the first patient that Dr. Hessen treated with PROSE. "Being able to successfully fit Veronica with a PROSE device was an extremely rewarding experience. It was quite obvious that PROSE treatment would have a tremendous impact on her life," said Dr. Hessen.

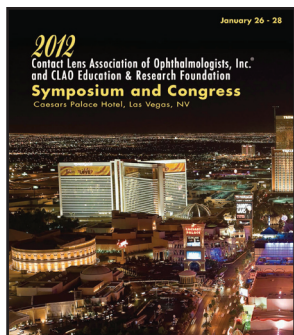
The outcome? "I feel like I have my life back. Now that I have my eyes back I can go and do what I want to do and not be scared."

Veronica is thrilled to debut her "new eyes" as a college freshman this spring. Already a certified nursing assistant, she had originally intended to go to nursing school. But now the possibilities of what she can be are limitless. Veronica is very grateful for the people in her life that supported her through thick and thin. "Now they can appreciate me in a whole new way. I have come full circle, back to the Veronica I used to be, not one who is hiding with her head down, thanks to my doctors and PROSE!"

[Read more patient stories here.](#)

Research and Education

Drs. Jacobs and Johns at CLAO



BFS' Medical Director, Deborah S. Jacobs, M.D., and Lynette Johns, O.D., were among the presenters at the 2012 Contact Lens Association of Ophthalmologists, Inc. (CLAO) and CLAO Education and Research Foundation Symposium and Congress, held January 26 – 28, in Las Vegas. Dr. Johns presented a talk entitled *Scleral Lenses: What We Don't Know*. Dr. Jacobs, who currently serves as the Chair of CLAO's Scientific Programs, collaborated with others to present the welcome and introduction and closing remarks, and she also co-moderated three sessions: *Scleral Lenses: Updates, Innovations and Unanswered Questions*; *Innovations in Fitting / Innovations in Therapeutics*; and *Perspectives on Performance*.

Dr. Jacobs also attended the Sports Vision Symposium, held in Las Vegas, where she joined Geunyoung Yoon, Ph.D., in presenting a talk entitled *Perspectives on Performance*.

Patients Helping Patients

BFS is grateful for our supportive patient community. This month we would like to recognize Marion Phillips for her generous donation of books, written by her friend, for the patient lounge. When Marion regained her sight, she derived great pleasure looking at the beautiful photographs and inspirational quotes and wants other BFS patients and their families to enjoy them as well.

We also recognize Elizabeth Myers, who was recently treated with PROSE and stayed at the BFS apartment. Elizabeth bought a few items for the apartment - a sugar bowl, shelf paper - because "I just wanted others who stay at the apartment to feel like it's a home away from home." Thank you, Elizabeth, for your generosity and desire to help others.

[Click here to learn how you add your support!](#)

Patient Resources

PROSE Treatment Guide Available in Spanish!

Nos complace anunciar que nuestra [Guía del Tratamiento PROSE: Uso y Cuidado de Dispositivos Prostéticos](#) ya está disponible en español! We are pleased to announce that our PROSE Treatment Guide: Prosthetic Device Use and Care is now available in Spanish!

Angel Bus Offering Free Transportation

Angel Bus is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to providing compassionate, non-emergency long-distance ground transportation to patients in need who meet financial guidelines. If you need their assistance, please call 800-768-0238 or visit www.angel-bus.org.

Download the New Patient Resources Guide!

A new printable guide to patient support organizations and travel, financial and lodging resources [is now available for download](#).

Connected Visions Blog Posts

[Successful Steps for Managing Difficult Health Insurance Issues](#)
[Get Fit and Support the Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation](#)
[Traveling Safely with PROSE](#)
[Be Your Own Advocate](#)
[Mobile Apps for Health](#)
[Evaluating the Accuracy of Health Care Information in the Media](#)

Participating in Connected Visions is easy – [visit the blog and become a member today!](#)



BFS Board and Staff Updates

Prominent Doctors Join BFS Board

We are excited to announce that Michael B. Raizman, M.D., and Clifford Scott, O.D., M.P.H., as the two newest members of the BFS Board of Directors.

Dr. Raizman, the Co-Director of the Cornea Service at New England Eye Center, Tufts Medical Center, is an internationally recognized cornea specialist and leader in LASIK, PRK and cataract surgery. Dr. Raizman was selected by his peers to be included in the latest and multiple previous editions of Best Doctors in America. Boston Magazine has repeatedly recognized him as one of the top ophthalmologists in the Boston. He has been with Ophthalmic Consultants of Boston since 1991.

In December 2009, Dr. Scott was named the New England College of Optometry's (NECO) 12th President. Dr. Scott, a member of the NECO faculty since 1970, was formerly the Dean of Academic Affairs and Chair of the Department of Community Health. As the former Chief Optometrist at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in West Roxbury, Dr. Scott brings 38 years of clinical experience in hospital-based optometry to the BFS board. He has lectured nationally and internationally on topics related to eye disease and is an experienced clinical researcher.

[Meet other members of the BFS Board of Directors here.](#)



Welcome Loren Stead to BFS

BFS' newest employee is Loren Stead, who joined us on December 19 as a Patient Account Resolution Specialist. Loren, who has a Bachelors degree from Bowdoin College and a Masters Degree from Western New England College, previously worked in the law enforcement and security fields. In his free time, he enjoys motorcycling, traveling, and spending time with friends and family. Welcome to BFS, Loren!

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I still wear PROSE devices if I have eye allergies?

A: Patients with allergies typically have more eye itching and mucus than other patients. Allergies often interfere with contact lens tolerance. Allergies are not a reason to avoid PROSE treatment, as our protocol for device care avoids agents that trigger allergy and a PROSE device functions differently than a contact lens. Because allergy often accompanies the conditions for which PROSE treatment is indicated, it is not unusual for patients to require concurrent treatment of ocular allergies while undertaking PROSE treatment.

Q: How often do I need to replace my basket disinfection case and plungers?

A: With proper use as outlined in the PROSE Guide: Prosthetic Device Use and Care, the plungers should be replaced every 6-12 months; sooner if the edges become rough or uneven or the suction is no longer sufficient. The basket case should be replaced every 1-2 years; sooner only if it breaks. Baskets and plungers are available at The Dry Eye Shop - <http://www.dryeyeshop.com/lens-care-c32.aspx>.

Q: What is involved in getting a new plasma treatment for my devices?

A: Your devices are plasma treated as the last step of their manufacturing. The plasma treatment makes them more wettable so that vision and comfort are both improved. Simple wearing and handling as well as the device care solutions can wear off the treated surface making them cloudy, requiring more frequent blinking, rewetting and 'squeegeeing' to clear them. They can also become increasingly more uncomfortable to wear because of increased dryness. As to how often they may need treatment, this varies greatly from not at all to every 3-4 months or so.

If you suspect or have been told that your devices need to be plasma treated you should:

- Send them to us 'Attention: Device Administration'
- Include a note explaining why you've sent them
- Include a telephone number and email address for us to contact you

It is recommended that you send devices via FedEx or UPS or by some means that will allow you to track them to reduce the chances they may be lost. Once we receive them, we will treat them and send them back to you as soon as possible.

If you choose to have your device(s) returned to you via USPS regular mail there will be no shipping cost. Requests for expedited shipping using Fed Ex will incur a charge. Please note that payment for FedEx shipping must be made by credit card before your device(s) are returned and all packages, regardless of shipping method, require a signature on arrival.

Visit www.bostonsight.org/faq and www.bostonsight.org/new-faq for more frequently asked questions.

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