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Visit our You Tube channel.



BFS Hosts Open House



BFS recently held an Open House in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Academy of Optometry, held in Boston from October 12 – 15. It was hosted by the BFS clinical team, including Drs. Perry Rosenthal, Deborah Jacobs, Ryan Ridges, Lynette Johns, Karen Carrasquillo and

Alan Kwok.

We were thrilled with the reception to our invitation from the medical community who made the commitment to attend, including optometrists from our PROSE clinics across the United States (pictured above, from left to right: Corina Busuioc, Evelyn Reyes-Cabrera, Karen DeLoss, Gloria Chiu, Ellen Shorter, and Anisa Gire). The Open House featured a self-guided tour through the BFS clinic and PROSE manufacturing lab with six interactive stations, including: patient treatment (featuring several guest patients); an insertion and removal training demo; a demonstration of our Design to Fit™ software; and an up-close look at our unique device manufacturing process.

Our guests represented many of the premiere medical institutes and eye care organizations in the US and around the world, including the Mayo Clinic, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Case Eye, University of New South Wales (Australia) and the Hogeschool Utrecht School of Optometry (Netherlands).

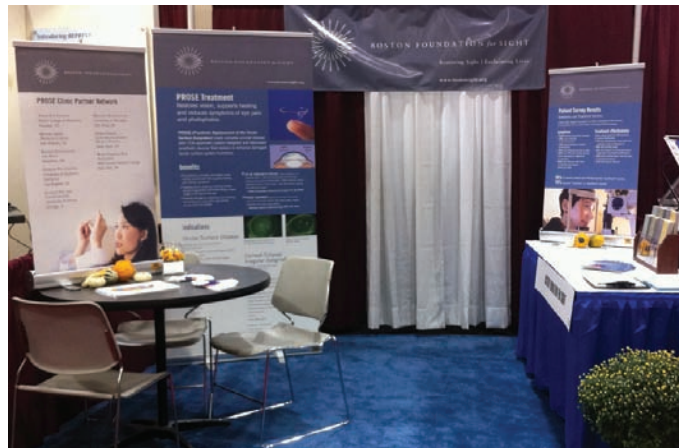
This could not have happened without the kind sponsorship of Bausch + Lomb, to whom we offer our thanks. We look forward to creating other opportunities for eye care professionals to learn first-hand about BFS and PROSE treatment.

Please visit our [Facebook page](#) to see more photos from the event!

Research & Education

American Academy of Optometry Meeting Highlights

Optometrists from Boston Foundation for Sight and our PROSE partner clinics attended the annual meeting of the American Academy of Optometry in Boston MA on October 12-15, 2011. In addition to our information booth in the exhibit hall (photo at right), PROSE optometrists presented a number of posters, papers and lectures. Below are some PROSE highlights:



- BFS' Lynette Johns, O.D., joined Geunyoung Yoon, Ph.D., and Ramkumar Sabesan, Ph.D. candidate, in presenting a paper entitled *Wavefront-Guided Customized Scleral Lens to Correct Higher Order Aberrations in Keratoconus*
- Dr. Johns and Muriel Schornack, O.D., presented a lecture entitled *Scleral Lenses: What We Know, What We Need To Know*
- Karen Deloss, O.D., PROSE Clinical Fellow at Kellogg Eye Center, presented a poster: *Prosthetic Replacement of the Ocular Surface Ecosystem Treatment for a Neurotrophic Cornea*
- Anisa Gire, O.D., PROSE Clinical Fellow at Alkek Eye Center, joined Ryan Dimit, O.D., and Jan Bergmanson, O.D., Ph.D., to present a poster entitled *Distribution of Patient Ocular Conditions and Clinical Outcomes in a Scleral Lens Clinic*
- Dr. Johns presented a paper entitled *Higher Order Aberrations Reduce Visual Function in Ectatic Corneas Treated With a Prosthetic Device*
- BFS' Alan Kwok, O.D., joined Dr. Schornack to present a lecture entitled *The Optometrist's Role In Managing cGvHD*

BFS Medical Director Presents at 27th Biennial Cornea Conference

BFS Medical Director Deborah S. Jacobs, M.D., co-presented a session entitled *Dry Eye and Ocular Surface* at the 27th Biennial Cornea Conference, in Boston MA on September 30. Her co-presenters were Darren Gregory, M.D., of the University of Colorado Denver; Sunil Chauhan, Ph.D., of Schepens Eye Research Institute; and Michael Stern, Ph.D., of Allergan, Inc.

Please visit [the research section of our website](#) to see more PROSE research!

The Language of Eyes

Patient Profile: Lea Morrison

When Lea Morrison, a marathoner and tri-athlete, and her husband Billy wanted to start a family, Lea scheduled a visit with her OB/GYN for a normal pre-pregnancy checkup. After several appointments and multiple tests, Lea received devastating news — a diagnosis of chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML). Lea weighed and tried other options, but ultimately chose to undergo a bone marrow transplant in December 2007.

The transplant saved her life, but led to a new problem: graft versus host disease (GVHD), a life-threatening autoimmune condition. Lea's eyes burned and itched with dryness, and she became so light sensitive that she was forced to wear sunglasses 24/7, even when she went to bed.

Everyday communication between a husband and a wife became complicated for the Morrisons. Husband: “*Are you OK?*” Wife: “*Yes, my eyes just kill me right now.*” Lea frequently had to clarify what she was thinking and feeling because her face often reflected only her painful struggle with GVHD.

But this athlete turned cancer survivor was not used to giving up. At just over two years cancer free, Lea's doctors gave her the go-ahead to live her life to the fullest. For Lea and Billy, that meant adopting newborn baby Henry. Lea mothered Henry in all the ways that new mothers do — she caressed him, sang to him and took care of his every need. Yet she instinctively knew that looking at him through strained red eyes was interfering with his ability to see all of her love for him.

In February 2011 that all changed when she went home from BFS with PROSE devices. Not only is Lea no longer burdened with chronic pain and the need for frequent naps to rest her eyes, but her face now accurately represents her love for her family and zest for life. Lea: “It is unbelievable to be able to interact with Henry without my sunglasses on, for him to really engage in my eyes. To be a more active mom for him is a huge gift, and the bonding and attachment through the eyes is just beyond words.”

“I have had the pleasure to know Lea since we were soccer teammates in high school. Even then her fierce determination and passion drew in everyone around her. Being a witness to the transformation that PROSE had on my courageous friend - her beautiful blue eyes and smile lit up the entire room - was priceless.”

-Beth Beard, Director of Communications

[Please visit our website to read more patient stories.](#)



Patient Resources

New FAQ - Health Canada

Question: Does Health Canada cover PROSE treatment?

Answer: Canada has a publicly-funded health insurance system that is individually governed by the provinces. Since PROSE treatment is not currently available in Canada, provincial health insurance carriers will consider coverage. They have covered the initial consultation and more than half of PROSE treatment costs for over 90% of the PROSE patients treated at BFS. Please note that BFS and PROSE Partner Clinics have no involvement in attaining pre-authorization for Canadian patients. The patient's ophthalmologist or family doctor must submit a request to the appropriate province for out-of-country medical authorization.

Please see our [website for more new patient FAQs!](#)



Dry Eye Zone Catalog Available

The Dry Eye Zone carries many products that PROSE patients may need, including insertion and removal plungers and the PROSE case. Download their [online catalog here](#). Please note that the catalog is a large file that may take several minutes to download.

Connected Visions - the BFS Blog

October was a busy month on Connected Visions!

- [Got Questions? We've Got Answers!](#) - introducing our new FAQs for people new to PROSE
- [Sjogren's Syndrome: Awareness Matters](#) - all about the Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation
- [Empowered Patients](#) - featuring information on The Empowered Patients Coalition

PROSE Treatment Guide: Prosthetic Device Use and Care- New Partner Clinic Versions Available

PROSE Treatment Guide: Prosthetic Device Use and Care manuals are now available for most of the PROSE Clinics in the US. [Download them on our website here](#). If you are a patient at one of our partner clinics, please use the applicable guide, as it will contain contact and other information specific to your PROSE clinic.

PROSE Network Updates



Meet our Newest PROSE Fellow

Please join us in welcoming Michelle M. Hessen, O.D., to the PROSE network! Dr. Hessen is our newest PROSE Clinical Fellow, and she comes to us from The Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Hessen received her Doctorate in Optometry from Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry in Florida and holds Bachelors degrees in both Biology and Vision Science.

What's New in Communications

Annual Report for 2010 Now Available Online!

BFS Medical Director Dr. Deborah S. Jacobs is your guide to this Annual Report, which will give you a look Behind the Vision of patient-centered compassionate care. Our 2010 donors received the annual report in the mail recently. [Download an electronic copy here](#) to learn how the generous support of our donors made an invaluable contribution towards advancing compassionate care as we educate, empower, treat, innovate and transform the lives of patients, families and the eye care field.

BFS YouTube “Favorites”

Please visit our [You Tube channel](#) to check out two videos featuring SJS Kids Week participants that we recently added to our favorites: a video of Julie McCawley singing “A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes” as a thank you to BFS; and a WNYT News Channel 13 clip featuring Karyl Bell and her struggle with SJS.

In Appreciation

From the Desk of Edythe Jablonsky

Dear Boston Foundation for Sight,

There are not enough superlatives to describe my experience with Dr. Perry Rosenthal, Anita Sperber and Boston Foundation for Sight. I was first diagnosed with Sjögren's syndrome in 1996, and those ten years prior to meeting Dr. Rosenthal were filled with such unbearable pain that I did not have any hope that there would be a light at the end of the tunnel. This disease is progressive and debilitating, both physically and psychologically.

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In Appreciation - Continued

I remember all the obstacles – the irritation caused by the paint fumes when they were painting my classroom, the dust-up from chalk, the sensitivity to light that prevented me from being able to function on a day-to-day basis. A job that I loved was turning into a nightmare. I was putting drops in my eyes every three minutes. I felt myself falling into a deep depression and life was becoming a struggle. Some days I did not even want to get out of bed.

Then, through the wonder that is Dr. Rosenthal and Boston Foundation for Sight, I met hope. Dr. Rosenthal inserted a pair of prosthetic devices, and life started to improve dramatically. In fact, I remember leaving his office and dancing in the streets because, for the first time in ten years, I was able to see without pain.



Thankfully, two good pain-free years followed. However, in 2008 my school was painted, and the dust, fumes and paint particles irritated my eyes so much that I needed to take time off from work. I called Dr. Rosenthal in a panic because I felt that I was regressing back to all my old symptoms. He responded by offering me a place in his new therapeutic study – in fact, I was the first patient in his study. When I went to have my hair and nails done for the first time in ten years, I was afraid that the pain would recur due to the fumes present in the salon. But Dr. Rosenthal assured me that this was unlikely to happen. I called him from the salon like a kid in a candy store! He was right, and I felt “normal” again.

I have been coming to Boston regularly for new medications and follow-up appointments, and am happy to say that I experience more pain-free days than I ever thought possible. Over these past five years I have come to rely on your compassion, expertise and professionalism to help guide me through this challenging and troubling time in my life.

Dr. Rosenthal and Ms. Sperber have been instrumental in my acceptance and my determination in learning how to cope with this disease and all the various difficulties that it presents from day to day. Because of their personal and professional efforts, I am able to once again share in the joys of everyday life with my family and friends.

Today, as many as four million Americans are living with Sjögren’s syndrome. I hope and pray that each one of them has a team as dedicated as the one at Boston Foundation for Sight, to offer hope, medical expertise, comfort and a taste of tomorrow.

With Deepest Gratitude and Admiration,

Edythe (Edy) Jablonsky

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