



BOSTON FOUNDATION for SIGHT

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BOSTON FOUNDATION FOR SIGHT ANNOUNCES AGREEMENT WITH THE JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL

PROSE Treatment Now Offered at the Wilmer Eye Institute

NEEDHAM, MA (January 4, 2012) – Boston Foundation for Sight (BostonSight), a leader in the treatment of patients with complex corneal disease, announced today that prosthetic replacement of the ocular surface system (PROSE) treatment is now being offered at the Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute, ranked #2 in the country for ophthalmology by U.S. News and World Report, in collaboration with Boston Foundation for Sight.

Pioneered by Boston Foundation for Sight, PROSE restores vision, supports healing, reduces symptoms and improves quality of life using FDA-approved (1994) custom designed and fabricated prosthetic devices to replace or support impaired ocular surface system functions that protect and enable vision. For many thousands of patients, PROSE can be the ideal, and sometimes only, treatment capable of restoring vision and dramatically reducing eye pain and light sensitivity.

BostonSight's PROSE treatment is delivered by a highly-trained, interdisciplinary team that include ophthalmologists who specialize in patients with complex corneal disease, optometrists who have completed an intensive BostonSight PROSE Clinical Fellowship, ophthalmic technicians and device manufacturing engineers.

With Esen K. Akpek, M.D., Associate Professor of Ophthalmology as its director, the Ocular Surface Diseases and Dry Eye Clinic at Wilmer Eye Institute, known for providing the best possible surgical and medical care to patients with dry eye and chronic problems of the surface of the eye, will offer PROSE treatment to patients with conditions including Stevens Johnson Syndrome, Keratoconus, Sjögren's syndrome and chronic ocular graft-versus-host disease (GVHD). Dr. Akpek said "Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute is one of the handful of institutions in the nation with a dedicated Ocular Surface Diseases and Dry Eye Clinic. We are pleased to join the PROSE provider network and offer this innovative treatment to our patients with complex corneal diseases."

Michelle Hessen, O.D., from the Comprehensive Eye Service at Wilmer Eye Institute, recently completed the BostonSight PROSE Clinical Fellowship and began to see PROSE patients at Wilmer in January 2012. Dr. Hessen received her Doctorate of Optometry degree from Nova Southeastern University in Florida and completed her optometry residency in ocular surface disease at the Baltimore VA Medical Center.

There are an estimated 2 million individuals in the United States alone who suffer with complex corneal disease. Of that number, Boston Foundation for Sight estimates that more than 400,000 could potentially benefit from PROSE treatment. "Our relationship with Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins Medicine is another step towards our goal to make the BostonSight PROSE treatment available in major population centers across the United States" said Boston Foundation for Sight President and CEO, Eugene A. Bonte.

About Boston Foundation for Sight:

Boston Foundation for Sight (BostonSight) is an internationally renowned nonprofit eye healthcare organization with a mission to improve the quality of life for patients and their families by transforming the understanding, treatment and care of complex corneal disease. Compassionate care is at the heart of their approach to medical treatment; since 1992 they have restored vision to thousands of patients around the world.

Their headquarters in Needham, MA, includes a state-of-the-art manufacturing lab, a Medical Institute with 13

exam and training rooms, a Clinical Research Center and a Patient and Community Support Center. They enjoy educational partnerships with the renowned Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary and the New England College of Optometry. BostonSight PROSE treatment is being provided nationwide through agreements with eight (8) of the top 18 centers of excellence for ophthalmology as ranked by U.S. News and World Report.

BostonSight PROSE treatment teams work with each patient, his/her support system and other medical providers to form a collaborative care network in which all members work to understand each patient's specific needs and reach treatment goals together.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.bostonsight.org>.

About The Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute:

For more information, please visit: http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/wilmer/services/cornea_dryeye.html.

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