Dr. Jacobs promoted to Associate Professor

It is with great pleasure we announce that BostonSight® Medical Director, Deborah S. Jacobs, MD, has been promoted to Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, part-time, at Harvard Medical School. A promotion from Assistant to Associate Professor is an indication of the scholarly and leadership impact that Dr. Jacobs has, on a national level, in her field of expertise.

Dr. Jacobs joined BostonSight in April 2006 with the goals of increasing awareness, acceptance, and availability of our life-changing approach to complex corneal disease. Her contributions to the development, standardization, and refinement of the medical model for BostonSight PROSE treatment cannot be overstated. Dr. Jacobs has conducted and published research related to PROSE treatment, contributing substantially to the peer-reviewed publications (there are now more than 50) that document the effectiveness and value of PROSE treatment. She has established ties with Massachusetts Eye and Ear for clinical care, teaching, and research, and has become an authority at the national and international levels on the use of prosthetic devices to treat corneal disease.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Jacobs for achieving this outstanding recognition!

Best wishes,

The PROSE Eye View Editorial Team
PROSE treatment for glaucoma patients

Gloria Chiu, OD, FAAO, BostonSight PROSE Clinical Fellow at USC Eye Institute, recently joined several other doctors on the publication *Glaucoma Surgical Considerations for PROSE Lens in Patients with Ocular Surface Disease*, which was published in the February 2016 edition of the journal Contact Lens & Anterior Eye. The study concluded that surgical considerations and prior planning for glaucoma drainage implants allow for the continued use of PROSE devices after glaucoma surgery.

OSD course to be held at Bascom Palmer

Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, home of the BostonSight PROSE clinic in Florida, will offer a course on *Ocular Surface Disease*. The course will feature a segment entitled “Prosthetic Replacement of the Ocular Surface Ecosystem” PROSE: What and When to Use It, taught by BostonSight PROSE Clinical Fellow Priscilla Sotomayor, OD (pictured), who will also moderate a panel discussion at the end of the day. The course will also feature segments taught by several PROSE-affiliated doctors, including Stephen C. Pflugfelder, MD, of Alkek Eye Center; and Guillermo Amescua, MD, and Victor L. Perez, MD, of Bascom Palmer Eye Institute.

Clinical trials for eye disease

Are you interested in learning about or participating in a clinical trial related to your disease or condition? Clinicaltrials.gov, a service of the U.S. National Institutes of Health, is a registry and results database of publicly and privately supported clinical studies. A clinical study involves research using human volunteers that is intended to add to medical knowledge.

Available clinical trials can be sorted by disease type, geographic location of the study, study status, and other factors. For example, there are currently 52 open studies listed that focus on keratoconus; and 121 focusing on dry eye. Please note that BostonSight is not affiliated with, and does not endorse or recommend, any of the studies listed on this website.
Kevin Howe - a patient’s story

When Karen DeLoss, OD, BostonSight PROSE Clinical Fellow at Kellogg Eye Center, could only correct the vision in Kevin Howe’s left eye to 20/40, she apologized. The police academy that Kevin (pictured with wife Brandy) wanted to attend required that his vision be correctable to 20/20 in both eyes, and Dr. DeLoss felt as if she had failed him. Kevin, however, has a very different perspective. “She did something amazing with my vision! I was 20/1250 before I got my PROSE device. I couldn’t even see the one foot tall letter ‘E’ on the vision chart – it was just a blob.”

Kevin’s struggles were the result of a horrific car accident in 1990 which left him in a trauma unit for two weeks. Kevin’s journey back to health required him to undergo numerous surgeries over the next three years, as doctors reconstructed more than 98% of his facial bone structure, using photos as a guide. “There was nothing left but bone powder and dust,” remembers Kevin.

As his overall health improved, it became clear that Kevin’s badly damaged left eye was not healing and was, in fact, deteriorating. Additionally, he was diagnosed with keratoconus, a disease in which the cornea becomes distorted and cone-shaped. These issues were exacerbated by significant corneal scarring and severe dry eye.

Over the next few years, the clinical team at Kellogg tried a number of therapies to improve Kevin’s vision, without success. Further complicating things, his upper eyelid had been damaged in the accident and would not close completely, making him a poor candidate for corneal transplant surgery.

Kevin was determined to overcome his disability, and he thrived. He found meaningful work as a Sheriff’s Deputy, doing marine, snowmobile, and off-road vehicle patrol, and learned to live with his impairment. Wanting to do even more for his community, in 2015 Kevin looked into the possibility of becoming a police officer. Learning that 20/20 vision was a requirement of the job prompted a visit to his eye doctors at Kellogg, to see if there were advanced new technologies available that could help him. Enter Dr. DeLoss and BostonSight PROSE treatment.

Kevin will never be 20/20, but he is thrilled with the improvements in vision and comfort provided by PROSE treatment. “PROSE is allowing me to become an EMT (emergency medical technician). I will still be able to help people and give back to the community,” said Kevin. “And, for the record, we did not fail - we just changed directions! I will never be able to explain the feeling of having been on the receiving end of a miracle. A miracle that happened because of science. A miracle that caring people in the scientific community like Dr. DeLoss and everyone else at Kellogg and BostonSight made happen. Thank you all, from the depths of my heart!”
EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Ocular Surface Workshop III at LVPEI

This month, LV Prasad Eye Institute, home to the BostonSight PROSE clinic in Hyderabad, India, will host their third Ocular Surface Workshop. This year’s program features BostonSight Medical Director Deborah S. Jacobs, MD, as a keynote speaker; she will give a talk entitled Scleral Lenses and Outcomes with PROSE. Also participating in the workshop is Guillermo Amescua, MD, who is affiliated with the PROSE clinic at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute; Dr. Amescua will also give a keynote address. Additionally, both doctors will participate in panel discussions and clinical sessions throughout the four-day workshop.

BostonSight at Global Specialty Lens Symposium

BostonSight doctors and staff members recently traveled to Las Vegas to participate in the 2016 Global Specialty Lens Symposium (GSLS). As a sponsor of the event, our literature and research were included in the exhibit hall. A breakout session presented by BostonSight doctors Karen G. Carrasquillo, OD, PhD, FAAO, and Alan Kwok, OD, FAAO; and a seminar conducted by Karen S. DeLoss, OD, FAAO (pictured left), of Kellogg Eye Center, and Gloria Chiu, OD, FAAO (pictured right), of USC Eye Institute, were both well-attended.
COMMUNITY NEWS

BostonSight patient satisfaction

At BostonSight, each member of our staff strives to provide a satisfying experience for every patient who walks through our doors. Some members of our staff were recently asked what patient satisfaction means to them. Here is what they had to say:

“Patients often come to BostonSight in situations where their ability to live the live they want for themselves is severely compromised. Restoring their visual function and reducing their pain gives them their lives back. Having them tell me over and over what a great and unique organization we have makes me proud of what we do every day.” - Gene Bonte, President and CEO

“BostonSight patient satisfaction is when patient-centered care is at the forefront of every medical encounter and decision making. A satisfied patient is one who realizes that the symptoms and realities faced by such are understood. One who receives full support from a network of professionals at all levels. Ultimately, one who is able to reclaim their life.” - Dr. Karen Carrasquillo, Director of Clinical Care (pictured)

“BostonSight patient satisfaction to me means making sure each patient is given a good first impression of our facility and what we do here. Whether the patient becomes a PROSE patient or not, all patients are treated and cared for in the same manner and all patient questions are answered to the fullest. Although not every patient is able to leave BostonSight with PROSE devices, my goal for all patients is to provide them with the satisfaction of knowing they received top quality care and the utmost attention at our facility.” - Rita DeFlaminis, Established Patient Intake Coordinator

“I know our patients are satisfied when we deliver a product with quality. It makes me feel good that we have done our job well.” - Manoel Carvalho, Lab Manager (pictured)

“Feedback is important to us about a patient’s satisfaction because it allows us to improve in areas where we fall short. Ultimately, what we want to accomplish is to bring the patient to a better place than they were when they come in. This encompasses objective measures but also goes hand in hand with how the patient feels about the process and outcome. In some instances, we are unfortunately unable to improve the situation, but a patient can still report a satisfaction with his/her experience here if it is evident that we have given our all and pulled out all the stops. A satisfied patient is one who often, but not always, gets a positive outcome but in the end knows that we have given it our best.” - Dr. Alan Kwok, BostonSight Clinician
COMMUNITY NEWS

Announcing SJS Care Weeks 2016

Again this year, BostonSight will solidify our commitment to providing PROSE treatment to Stevens Johnson syndrome (SJS) survivors. To allow us to serve as many SJS patients as possible, this year we are designating two weeks (July 25 – August 5) as “SJS Care Weeks”; we will be devoting the majority of our resources during this time to providing medical treatment, hotel accommodations for our out-of-town patients, and travel assistance to those patients and their families in need.

Members of our SJS patient community should expect to receive a letter in the mail within the next few weeks. For more information, please call our front desk at 781-726-7337. We look forward to seeing you this summer!