



## PROSE Eye View Issue 4 Vol 2 April 2011

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### Introducing - PROSE Eye View!

Thank you all so much for your wonderful suggestions for a name for the BFS e-bulletin! We ended up with a number of really great choices and it was a hard decision, but we put it to a vote and the BFS staff chose **PROSE Eye View!**

### A Slice of Life

#### Meet Susan - BFS' Resident Poet

Susan Hebard. Longtime BFS employee by day, creative poet by night.

Susan, who has worked at BFS for almost 8 years, started writing poetry when she was 10 years old. She uses her poetry to help her through hard times, and then looks back at what she has written to remind herself how far she has come.

Susan enjoys working at BFS because she knows she is making a difference in the lives of our patients. "The emotional strength and humor I see patients demonstrate while here is inspiring."

Below is a haiku Susan recently wrote about BFS and our treatment. Thank you, Susan!

*Rainbows Pulsing Light  
Plastic Arch Restores Sight  
Horizon Opens*



# Tech Tips Corner

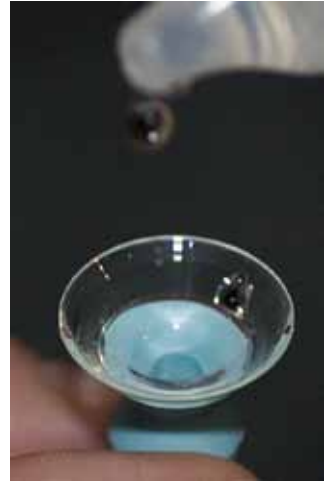
## Update on PROSE devices

All PROSE prosthetic devices will now be shipped dry. Please see Q and A below for updated handling instructions.

### **Q: I just received my device(s) from BFS. How do I prepare them for insertion?**

A: Devices will be shipped dry in a case. Upon receiving your PROSE device(s), please follow the steps below:

1. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water and dry your hands.
2. Clean device(s) as follows:
  - Place one device in the palm of your hand.
  - Place one to two drops of Miraflow (Ciba) or Optimum ESC (Lobob) on the outside surface of the device and rub for 15 seconds, then flip the device to rub the inside surface for the same amount of time.
  - Rinse the device thoroughly with sterile non-preserved saline (use of sterile saline in an aerosol can is fine for this purpose).



PROSE device(s) are now ready for insertion.

Please visit our website to download the most recent [PROSE Treatment Guide: Prosthetic Device Use and Care](#).

## Submit a Question for Tech Tips!

Do you have a question about the care and use of your PROSE prosthetic devices you would like us to answer? First check our frequently asked questions for current PROSE patients section on our website. If you still can't find the answer you are looking for, please email BFS Senior Technician Robert Ruskansky at [rruskansky@bostonsight.org](mailto:rruskansky@bostonsight.org) and ask him. We will publish the most pressing questions and their answers in the next edition of our e-bulletin. Thank you!!

# Patient Profile - Cyndee Williams

## Patients Helping Patients at BFS

Cyndee Williams was a young woman, in the prime of her life, when a devastating disease began to steal her eyesight.

She and her husband, a student in medical school, had just moved to Philadelphia when Cyndee began having trouble seeing street signs. As her symptoms worsened, she developed sharp headaches. Finally, one terrifying day, she simply couldn't see. She consulted a specialist who diagnosed her with keratoconus, a disease that causes the cornea to become progressively thinner and cone-shaped. She was fitted with rigid gas permeable contact lenses (RGPs), which improved her vision slightly, but caused her significant pain when they rubbed against her extremely sensitive corneas.



Cyndee's life became more and more limited as her condition progressed. She could no longer safely drive, and the pain became so intense that she could no longer tolerate her RGPs. Also afflicted with severe light sensitivity, she lived in a world of dark rooms and dark sunglasses.

Then, in 2003, Cyndee's aunt read about Boston Foundation for Sight and quickly shared the good news with her niece; the foundation's unique treatment uses prosthetic devices that, unlike her painful RGPs, do not touch the sensitive cornea. In September of that year, Cyndee traveled to Boston, where she completed PROSE treatment. She and her husband Brian were thrilled - not only could Cyndee see, but her symptoms of pain and photophobia no longer dominated her life! And with Boston Foundation for Sight's financial assistance the potential financial burden of her treatment was alleviated as well.

Today, Cyndee is a mother of three, and, thanks to PROSE, leads a full and happy life. "The Foundation is like a second home to me. Not only did it give me my life back eight years ago, but it keeps on giving. Doctor Rosenthal and the entire staff continue to work out new therapies and adjustments for improved vision and pain reduction. I am forever grateful."



In April 2011, Cyndee was at BFS for her annual appointment when she met [Greta Ehlers](#). They struck up a conversation while they were both sitting in BFS' patient lounge. Cyndee suggested that Greta's recent, unexplained ocular irritation may be caused by an allergy to Unisol 4. Greta in turn suggested this to her BFS doctor; they switched solutions and lo and behold! The irritation went away!

BFS is proud to offer our patients and their families the opportunity to meet and get support from one another in our communal lounge and kitchen while they are receiving treatment. We encourage them to stay connected through patient events like [SJS Kids Week](#), this e-bulletin, our [Connected Visions Blog](#), the BFS [Facebook page](#), and through online networks and face-to-face events facilitated by our many [community partners](#). With the help of a supportive community, we encourage our patients and their families to be their own best advocates for living well with corneal disease.

Please visit the [patient profiles area of the website](#) to read more inspiring PROSE patient stories!

## Research and Education News

### New PROSE Publication!

Sleeper, Ana; Jacobs, Deborah S.; and Carrasquillo, Karen G. (2011) Management of vascularized limbal keratitis (VLK) with prosthetic replacement of the ocular surface system. *Eye and Contact Lens*, in press.

### Dr. Jacobs Goes to Cincinnati



BFS Medical Director Dr. Deborah S. Jacobs was invited to Cincinnati, Ohio, on March 9 for a joint meeting of the University of Cincinnati Department of Ophthalmology and the Cincinnati Society of Ophthalmology. She served as a Visiting Professor to the University of Cincinnati and presented *Scleral Lenses: A Promise Fulfilled* as part of their Grand Rounds. *The "Bandage Lens": Update for Clinical Practice* was presented by Dr. Jacobs for the Cincinnati Society of Ophthalmology. Both presentations were well received by the 40 ophthalmologists and optometrists in attendance.

### ASCRS/ASOA Meeting - San Diego CA - March 25 - 29, 2011

March was a busy month for Dr. Jacobs! She traveled to the Annual Meeting of The American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS) held March 25-29 in San Diego. As Scientific Program Chair for the Contact Lens Association of Ophthalmologists, Dr. Jacobs moderated a symposium entitled "Advances for Contact Lens and the Anterior Segment in Health and Disease" in which she presented *Update on Specialty Lenses for Ectasia and Astigmatism*. Her free paper on research conducted at BFS with Research Assistant Trisha Hussoin on *The Effects of Asphericity on Rehabilitation of Corneal Ectasia with Prosthetic Device* was also accepted for presentation among other research papers.

### Doheny Eye Institute Presents Modern Corneal Transplantation

BFS PROSE partner Doheny Eye Institute in Los Angeles, CA, will present a course entitled [Modern Corneal Transplantation](#) on May 14, 2011. Faculty include PROSE doctors John Irvine, MD; Gloria Chiu, OD; and Ronald Smith, MD; and the course is directed by Neda Shamie, MD. Upon completion of the course, participants will be able to:

- Identify how modern day advances evolved
- Distinguish different types of lamellar corneal transplantation
- Highlight the use of PROSE prosthetic devices in complex post corneal transplant patients

Pre-registration is required and a light breakfast will be served. To register, email Wilma at [wmconnell@doheny.org](mailto:wmconnell@doheny.org).

## What's New in Communications?

### BFS Website Updates

We have recently updated many of our common conditions webpages! Please click the names below to check them out.

[Dry Eye Syndrome](#)

[Keratoconus and Corneal Ectasia](#)

[Chronic Ocular Graft Versus Host Disease \(GVHD\)](#)

[Stevens Johnson Syndrome \(SJS/TENS\)](#)

[Sjögren's Syndrome](#)

[Complications Post-Corneal Transplant](#)

[Complications Post-LASIK](#)

## Patient Support Resources

### San Diego Vision Symposium

The Discovery Eye Foundation is presenting a FREE one day symposium in San Diego on May 14, 2011. Topics include keratoconus, age-related macular degeneration and glaucoma. Registration is required to attend; please visit their website at <http://www.nkcf.org/en/resources/upcoming-events.html> for more information.

### National Dry Eye Conference

The Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation is hosting a National Dry Eye Conference on June 18, 2011. Numerous topics will be covered, including:

- Overview of Dry Eye and Potential Causes
- Management of Dry Eye – What's in the Aisle?
- Clinical Trials Explained including a Dry Eye Patient Panel
- Contact Lens Wear for Dry Eye Patients
- Dry Eye Treatment Pipeline

The location and speakers will be announced shortly. Please visit their website at <http://www.sjogrens.org/home/get-connected/patient-seminars/dry-eye-conference> for more information.

## BFS Staff and Board Updates

BFS recently bid farewell to board members Steve Demirjian and Todd Faber.

Mr. Demirjian joined the BFS board in 2005. The Founder and Managing General Partner of Integrity Capital Management, Mr. Demirjian is involved in numerous nonprofit boards throughout Boston, focused primarily on healthcare and youth initiatives.

Mr. Todd Faber joined the board in 2008 and was a member of the Governance and Nominating Committee at his departure. Mr. Faber focuses on commercial real estate consulting and business development. He has spent much of his time during the last several years helping nonprofit organizations realize their fundraising abilities.

All of us here at BFS are deeply appreciative of their collective nine years of service and support to the organization and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

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