



BFS E-Bulletin Issue 1 Vol 2 January 2011

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Visit our new Blog - Connected Visions!

A Tool for Living Well With Corneal Disease

We here at BFS could not be more excited to announce that our new blog, [Connected Visions](#), is up and running - just waiting for your comments!



We created [Connected Visions](#) to be one more way of supporting our community to live well with corneal disease. BFS's Online Community Advocate will post regularly about things that connect you to more empowering information, support and collective action.

Anyone can read the blog simply by visiting [Connected Visions](#). If you would like to make comments on the posts (and we certainly hope you will be inspired to do so!) you will need to [register and sign in](#). As when using any BFS on-line media, please take a moment to review the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#).

If we can do anything to make your experience at Connected Visions easier or more satisfying, please contact [Online Community Advocate Janice M. Epstein](#).

Patient Profile: Ray Carpentier

In 1995, Ray Carpentier was enjoying his retirement in Florida when he was stricken by a form of herpes that infects the eyes. The herpes simplex virus (HSV), which affects 60% of the world's population by the age of 5, had manifested as a cold sore on Ray's lip a few times per year for 30 years. Excessive exposure to sunlight is a common trigger for cold sore development and Ray had been badly sunburned while snorkeling. This time the virus attacked his right eye.



Ray's ophthalmologist diagnosed him with the ocular form of HSV which affects 500,000 Americans annually. Ray was one of the unlucky few (10% or less) that developed a severe recurrent variant of the disease. In the years since the first episode he has suffered multiple attacks; each requiring a full year of treatment and healing.

By 2009, Ray's cornea had become so scarred from the disease that he was forced to keep his eye closed. The pain and light sensitivity were intense - every blink became agonizing. Reading, using a computer or driving were out of the question.

Luckily, Dr. Mark Herschel of the McGruder Eye Institute in Orlando, FL, who began treating Ray in 2005, had referred several patients with other corneal conditions to Boston Foundation for Sight for PROSE treatment with great results and he was optimistic that BFS could help Ray as well. A conversation with another PROSE patient with ocular herpes convinced him to make the trip to Boston.

Upon inserting the first trial prosthetic device into his eye, Ray "immediately felt considerable reduction in light sensitivity along with significant vision improvement." Two weeks later, Ray completed the PROSE treatment and returned to Florida with his new prosthetic device.

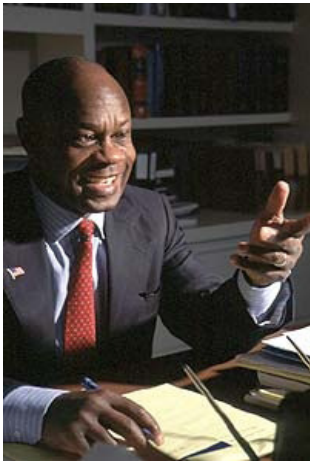
Today, Ray wears his prosthetic device for most of his waking hours (up to 16 hours per day) along with a pair of prescription glasses with prisms in the lenses to help his right and left eye work together. He can now read, drive and use the computer and, according to Ray, "Life is wonderful again."

Ray is incredibly grateful to Dr. Herschel, and BFS doctors Deborah Jacobs and Alan Kwok, and hopes that others suffering with severe chronic ocular herpes will read his story and find inspiration and hope.

Please [click here to visit our website](#) and learn more about ocular herpes.

BFS Staff and Board of Directors Updates

BFS Bids Farewell to Two Longtime Board Members



After ten years of dedicated service to Boston Foundation for Sight, Harry T. Daniels and Alan Strassman have resigned from the Board of Directors.

Harry T. Daniels, Esquire, joined the BFS board in February of 2001. A Senior Partner at WilmerHale, Mr. Daniels has served as an assistant managing partner of the firm and as a member of the Executive Committee. We are grateful that WilmerHale continues to provide substantial pro bono legal services to the Foundation in areas of intellectual property, employment, regulatory compliance and general corporate counsel.

In addition to being a valuable contributor to the Board of Director's work and a generous donor, Mr. Daniels has provided sound guidance to both our Founder and our CEO. A BFS patient, he has been a passionate supporter of BFS's mission and a strong advocate of providing treatment regardless of the patient's ability to pay. You can read his story here. At his departure, Mr. Daniels was a member of the Executive

Committee and Co-chair of the Governance and Nominating Committee.

Alan Strassman joined our board in November of 2001. Mr. Strassman is currently a Partner and Chairman of the Board at Martingale Asset Management in Boston and active on numerous nonprofit boards in the community.

In addition to being a generous donor, Mr. Strassman was most recently a member of the Board's Executive Committee and Chair of the Finance Committee. In these roles he oversaw the introduction of improved financial reporting to the Board and a detailed budget planning process. He also regularly provided advice on investment of BFS's financial assets, advancing the "no surprises" school of management - a philosophy which BFS strives for today.

All of us here at BFS are deeply appreciative of their collective 20 years of service to the organization and we wish them the best in their future endeavors.



Welcome Our New Employee - David Loomis!



"How do you go from where you are to where you want to be? I think you have to have an enthusiasm for life. You have to have a dream, a goal, and you have to be willing to work for it." -Jim Valvano

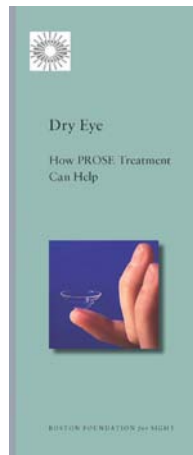
Please join us in welcoming Dave Loomis to the BFS family; he is serving as the Assistant to the Director of Operations. Dave was born and raised in East Bridgewater, MA. He graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a Bachelor's degree in Health Management and Policy in 2009. Dave joined the BFS staff in November of 2010, and he assists in all business aspects of the foundation, including financial reporting and insurance reimbursement. Prior to employment at BFS, Dave interned at South Shore Hospital in South Weymouth, MA as a clinical informatics analyst.

Please turn to page 6 to read about our newest PROSE Fellow, Dr. Rajeswari Mahadevan

What's New in Communications?

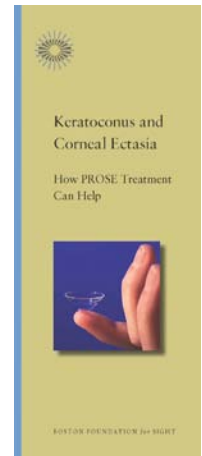
Check out the BFS Website Makeover!

Visit our website at <http://www.bostonsight.org> to see our new graphic design and color changes we have made after getting feedback from our online community. We hope you like the changes as much as we do!



New Keratoconus and Dry Eye Brochures Available Now

We are pleased to announce the expansion of our disease-specific brochure series. In addition to brochures about Chronic Ocular Graft Versus Host Disease and Stevens Johnson Syndrome, we now have brochures dealing with Dry Eye and Keratoconus. Our keratoconus brochure is available in both regular type and large print versions. Please contact Melissa at webmistress@bostonsight.org to request a copy of one of these informative brochures. When writing, please include your mailing address and the name of the brochure(s) you are interested in.



Updated BFS Contact Information

Boston Foundation for Sight has recently updated our contact information for people who have questions about or are experiencing any difficulties with their prosthetic devices during regular business hours. In this circumstance, please call our main number - (781) 726-7337 - and ask for Robert Ruscansky or Darlene Fonseca.

Please visit the [Contact Information page](#) on our website for a complete list of BFS contacts.

Office Closures and Delayed Openings Now Online

Any office closures or delayed openings due to holidays or inclement weather will be announced on the home page of our website as soon as the information is available. Please go to <http://www.bostonsight.org> for more information.

Patient and Community Support Resources

Save the Date! SJS Kids Week 2011

We're thrilled to announce that BFS will be sponsoring our second annual SJS Kids' Week, for BFS pediatric patients and their families, scheduled for July 29 – August 5, 2011. Details will be forthcoming on how to participate and how to volunteer.



Lodging Resources for PROSE Clinic Patients

New lodging resources for PROSE patients who are visiting one of our partner clinics are now available on our website. We hope you find these resources helpful to you when planning a trip to one of our clinics in Manhattan, Houston, Ann Arbor, Los Angeles or Chicago. For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.bostonsight.org/index.cfm?pg=560&pgtitle=Transportation-and-Lodging---National>

Alcon Cares - Free Eye Care Products Available

Alcon helps those with financial difficulty to obtain eye care products, whether it's an individual patient, clinic or hospital. Alcon Cares, Inc. is a foundation offering a voluntary public service program that provides medication to qualified individuals at no charge. Each request is subject to approval and fulfillment is based upon current available resources. Please visit their website at

<http://www.alcon.com/en/corporate-responsibility/patient-clinic-inst-assistance.aspx> for more information.

Professional Research and Education News

Latest BFS Publications

- Reinhart WJ, Musch DC, Jacobs DS, Lee WB, Shtein RM. *Ophthalmology*. 2011 Jan;118(1):209-18. [*Deep Anterior Lamellar Keratoplasty as an Alternative to Penetrating Keratoplasty.*](#)
- Tanhehco T, Jacobs DS. *Semin Ophthalmol*. 2010 Sep-Nov;25(5-6): 233-8. [*Technological Advances Shaping Scleral Lenses: The Boston Ocular Surface Prosthesis in Patients with Glaucoma Tubes and Trabeculectomies.*](#)

PROSE Partner Publications

- Gumus K, Gire A, Pflugfelder SC. *Cornea*. 2010 Dec;29(12): 1465-8. [*The Successful Use of Boston Ocular Surface Prosthesis in the Treatment of Persistent Corneal Epithelial Defect After Herpes Zoster Ophthalmicus.*](#)
- Gumus K, Gire A, Pflugfelder SC. *Am J Ophthalmol*. 2011 Jan 24. (In press). [*The Impact of the Boston Ocular Surface Prosthesis on Wavefront Higher-Order Aberrations.*](#)

BFS Staff and Board of Directors Updates - Continued

Introducing our Newest PROSE Fellow - Dr. Rajeswari Mahadevan

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Rajeswari Mahadevan to BFS. Dr. Mahadevan is our latest PROSE Fellow and she will be here for nine weeks completing her fellowship; she will then return to India to head up our newest International PROSE Clinic in Chennai, India. Dr. Mahadevan is in charge of the Department of Contact Lenses at Sankara Nethralaya and is also an Assistant Professor at the Elite School of Optometry; she has been a member and fellow of the International Association of Contact Lens Educators since 1999. Her areas of interest include contact lenses, low vision, ocular surface disease, clinical trials, and pediatric optometry.



Look for more information on our upcoming clinic opening in Chennai, India in a future edition of the e-bulletin!

Thank You and Happy New Year!

Happy New Year to you from all of us at Boston Foundation for Sight! We hope 2010 was a great year for you and that 2011 is even better! Here at BFS we have a lot going on, and we hope you will continue to read our e-bulletins for the latest news and happenings.

Thanks to the generosity of all those who participated in BFS' Gift Matching Challenge (announced in the December edition of the E-Bulletin) we not only met but exceeded our fundraising goals. Your support of BFS is very much appreciated! In 2011, we intend to rollout creative community fundraising opportunities in the weeks and months to come. These new programs will be announced in future e-bulletins.

Thank You from the Communications and Community Networks Team!
~Beth Beard, Melissa Hatch, Tara Stepanian, Janice Epstein and Ville O'Dell.

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