Editor's Page

International Fight Against Blindness
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As our global community becomes more cohesive, technology transfer from the more developed to the less developed countries is accelerating across a broad spectrum of human activity. This is particularly true of eye banking and penetrating keratoplasty surgery.

In this issue, Guest Editor Simon Holland, MD has assembled a broad spectrum of information attesting to the growth of international eye banking and the viability of penetrating keratoplasty on an international scale. The development of modular eye-bank designs and the emergence of simple test kits for AIDS and Hepatitis B virus allow the establishment of a modern eye bank that conforms to the highest medical standards with only modest financial investment. More complex, however, is the training of technical personnel in the eye bank to maintain high medical standards and of ophthalmologists who use the eye bank to utilize best medical judgment and skills in patient selection, surgical execution, and postoperative management of the corneal transplant. Only the establishment of global communication among individuals, the facilitation of direct skills transfer, and the prolongation of follow-up support will allow successful corneal transplantation to flourish internationally.

The contributors to this special section in Refractive and Corneal Surgery provide evidence that the investment of money, time, and effort to develop corneal transplantation internationally will reap ample rewards in our fight against blindness. I thank Simon Holland and his colleagues for creating this valuable perspective.

ANNOUNCEMENT:
OPHTHALMOLOGY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
An International Symposium
March 12-13, 1992
San Francisco, Calif

Presented by the Francis I. Proctor Foundation for Research in Ophthalmology of the University of California School of Medicine at San Francisco, this course will prepare participants for eye care and blindness prevention in the developing world. In a specific and practical way, the course will define eye needs and teach participants how to address them. It is intended for physicians, nurses, public health workers, health administration, policy makers, and health planners.

A distinguished group of national and international faculty will lead the Symposium. The program will provide:
- An overview of how eye care relates to general health issues in the developing world, with discussion of problems of technology, manpower and skills, social barriers, and economic limitations;
- An understanding of the major causes of blindness in the developing world, with a review of the essentials for field diagnosis and major controversies;
- An in-depth investigation of the problem of cataract blindness with an emphasis on present approaches for delivering cataract surgery to all those in need; and
- A review of simple oculoplastic field techniques for surgical problems that arise in patients with trachoma, leprosy, trauma, and extensive lid tumors.

The program is being sponsored by Extended Programs in Medical Education which is ACCME approved to provide Continuing Medical Education. The Symposium will meet the criteria for 15 hours of Category 1 credit.

For further information, contact Extended Programs in Medical Education, Room LS-105, University of California, San Francisco, CA 94143-0742, or call (415) 476-4251.