

Global View



Newsletter of the Global Alliance of Eye Bank Associations

Foundation Partners

Launch of the Global Alliance of Eye Bank Associations

Welcome to the new *Global Alliance of Eye Bank Associations* (The Global Alliance) which was launched this February 2014.

The foundation signatories of the new Global Alliance, include the; *Eye Bank Association of America, European Eye Bank Association, Association of Eye Banks of Asia, Eye Banks Association of Australia and New Zealand, Pan American Association of Eye Banks, and the Eye Banks Association of India.*

The Global Alliance key aims include sharing knowledge, expertise, best practice guidelines, sharing information on scientific meetings, conferences and education events, establishment of a worldwide register of eye banks, developing and promoting global coding, traceability and bio-vigilance systems for ocular tissue and through the provision of global advocacy support for eye donation and eye banking.

With a collective Memorandum of Understanding in place between these foundation partners, each association will retain their independence, identity and position as a regional association.

While creating international platforms, the Global Alliance will not disrupt business or any existing, prior or future arrangements of the association, and their individual eye bank members will continue to participate with their local eye bank association.



The Global Alliance will compliment regional associations, by providing a forum for each key partner to meet, discuss and develop collective and cooperative ways to integrate best practice, education and data into their individual regional strategies, and in line with their member's needs.

While still in the foundation phase, the Global Alliance key stakeholders have launched the new initiative, and a new website www.gaeba.org ready to provide the platform for dialogue and communication around the world.

For further information, please contact info@gaeba.org



The Global Alliance Partner Representatives

Association of Eye Banks of Asia

Professor Donald Tan, and
Pang Chia-Li

European Eye Bank Association

EO Gary Jones, and
CEBT Andrea Gareiss-Lok

Eye Bank Association of America

CEO Kevin P. Corcoran, and
Dave Korroch

Eye Bank Association of Australia and New Zealand

Dr Graeme Pollock

Indian Eye Bank Association

Dr Samar K Basak, and
Dr Usha Gopinathan

Pan American Association of Eye Banks

Dr Luciene Barbosa, and
Dr Mark Mannis

Development

Heather Machin

All foundation partner associations have selected their own representative to assist in the establishment and long term development of the Global Alliance.

Global Alliance Aims

Sharing of Best Practices and Guidelines

The Associations agree to facilitate active sharing of established eye banking best practice, procurement and medical guidelines including available information on education, training and research initiatives with the aim of ultimately harmonizing global practices of eye banking.

Establishment of Worldwide Register of Eye Banks

The Associations will collectively establish a register of eye banks worldwide with the goal of facilitating collection and publication of data pertaining to world wide eye donation and ocular tissue transplantation activity.

Development and Promotion of Global Coding, Traceability Efforts and Bio-Vigilance Systems for Ocular Tissue

The Associations will undertake to collaboratively work on the development and promotion of global coding, traceability efforts and bio-vigilance systems for ocular tissue.

Provide Global Advocacy for Eye Donation and Eye Banking

The Associations agree to work closely together to address emerging and current challenges in eye donation and eye banking; positioning the Global Alliance of Eye Bank Associations as the global advocate of eye donation and eye banking, providing guidance and promotion of safe and ethical practices in the donation and transplantation of ocular tissue.

Sharing of Information on Scientific Meetings / Conferences / Workshops

The Associations agree to share information regarding upcoming scientific meetings/conferences/workshops to facilitate coordination of these activities, foster reciprocal participation and promote joint organization efforts of specific symposia and workshops whenever applicable. The Associations will endeavor to cross-promote upcoming events through communication channels available to the individual Associations including but not limited to website, newsletters and other related publications.

Contact the Global Alliance: For further information or to submit news articles, please contact Heather Machin via: heather.machin@unimelb.edu.au or info@gaeba.org

Representative Message - *Dr Graeme Pollock*

The *Global Alliance of Eye Bank Associations* has been discussed as something that the global community wanted, and needed. And, today, I am pleased to see that the ideas and efforts of many have come to fruition.

I can remember being at the 2009 Seattle - Sightlife, and the 2011 Tucson EBAA meetings with enthusiastic groups of eye bankers from around the world discussing the idea of developing a global collective, not to diminish the importance of local and regional alignment, but to strengthen it.

Those enthusiastic groups of eye bankers, who are still around, have been involved in the development of what we have now named, the *Global Alliance of Eye Bank Associations* (the Global Alliance).

It has, admittedly, taken quite some time to reach the stage of developing an international understanding and agreement on the objectives and strategies, but we are now thrilled to be in a position where all 6 leading peer Eye Bank Associations have signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

By no means are we yet to achieve the goals of the Global Alliance and we recognize that it will be a long, and at times, bumpy road ahead, but as we look to the horizon, to our colleagues, and to our peers around the world, we see avenues of hope, optimism, opportunity and collaboration.

Having personally worked in the eye banking sector for over 20 years, coming from a science background, I have seen many changes take place, from technology and standards, to training and techniques, and I see the future continuing on this path as our ophthalmologists continue to research and implement new and exciting technologies and techniques.

On the other side of the coin, and perhaps the part that is most concerning, is that while, in my world, our services are advancing at a greater rate than ever before, that there remains an increased divide between the developed, developing and emerging economy nations who continue to battle with bulging recipient wait lists, minimal suitable donor tissue, limited funding, and reduced access to technology, training and support.

As a global group of professionals, and with vast experience and knowledge, then it is timely for the *Global Alliance of Eye Bank Associations* to develop and support eye bank staff around the world regardless of location. Surely by working together we can find inroads and develop mechanisms to support the global advancement of the profession.

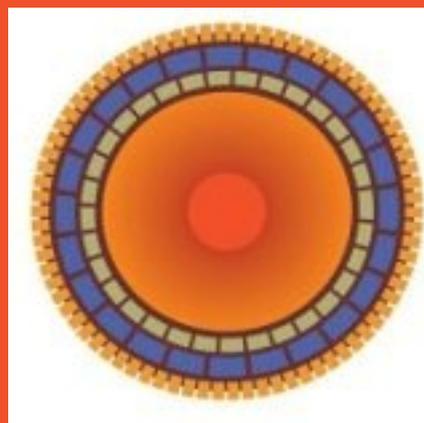
With similar sectors, such as the organ transplant groups, already successfully developing global alliance and agreements, and witnessing the global impact of their success, I believe that our eye banking community can also provide a positive impact on a global scale.

Our launch has only just touched the surface, but I am glad to be here, at these foundation stages, with such an experienced cohort of professionals who will help see this into the next phase of development.

Lastly, on behalf of the representative committee of the Global Alliance, I would like to thank each of you who have, over the years, put forward your ideas and suggestions regarding the development of the global cooperative, and for taking the time to support its development. The achievements of the Global Alliance to date are testament to the commitment passion and professionalism of the eye banking community world wide.

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF EYE BANKING

www.EyeBankingJournal.org





News Up-dates from Partner Associations

EEBA— Committee Leadership Changes

The EEBA have announced changes to their 2014 leadership committee. The new committee is:

President: Professor Jesper Hjortdal MD, PhD (Denmark)

Vice-President: Professor W. John Armitage BSc, PhD (UK)

Secretary: Helga Reinshagen (Switzerland)

Treasurer: Andrea Gareiss-Lok (Germany)

Committee Members:

Diego Ponzin (Venice)

Annemiek Rijnveld (Beverwijk)

Lisa Dahlstroem (Oerebro)

Esteve Trias-Adroher (Barcelona)

Katerina Jirsova (Prague)

Isaac Zambrano (Manchester)

Stefan Ek (Moelndal)

Philip Maier (Freiburg)

EBAA— Scientific Research Grants

Each year, the EBAA awards scientific research grants, to its EBAA members, through the Richard Lindstrom/EBAA Research Fund, in order to provide support for proposals specifically concerned with issues directly related to eye banking and/or corneal transplantation.

The deadline to apply is **Monday, April 7, 2014**.

Please visit the EBAA for further details:
www.restoresight.org/awards-grants

EBAANZ— Competency Development

The EBAANZ team are currently developing an eye bank competency framework, which has been piloted within the Lions Eye Donation Service—Melbourne. The pilot seeks to ascertain the usability and suitability of each competency on a national platform in comparison to the EBAANZ national framework. Eye Banks in New South Wales and South Australia are also commencing the first stages of their competency framework development, with Western Australia, Queensland and New Zealand to follow.

Showcasing a Global Alliance Partner:

Asian Eye Bank Association



The Association of Eye Bank of Asia (AEBA) was formed under the auspices of the Asia Cornea Society in January 2009 as a supranational networking organization to bring eye banks, in the region, together to provide for:

- Co-operative efforts to enhance, regularize and unify eye banking standards and tissue procurement guidelines. This will lay the path for more high quality eye banks in developing countries making tissue-sharing initiatives a reality and ultimately resulting in more corneal transplants in Asia, and thus, one major step towards alleviating corneal blindness in the region.
- Promote advocacy and educational support for eye donation programs specific to Asian cultures and religions.
- Assistance in further development of current eye banks in Asia, and establishment of new eye banks where they are most needed, and the establishment of Centre of Excellence for eye banking education and training.

What is ISBT Coding?

ISBT coding was originally an acronym that stood for the *International Standards in Blood Transfusion*, however it now referred to the *International Standards for Blood and Transplantation*.

It is a globally recognised standard for coding medical products and devices and encompasses terminology, labelling and distribution of human blood, cells, tissues and organs that are termed as medical devices of human origin.

While an ISBT system is not routinely in place around the world, the implementation of such a system has been suggested, by the World Health Organization, as beneficial to eye banking, in order to standardise retrieval and transplantation services, globally.

A Global Alliance initiative is to explore international tracking and coding systems.

If you would like to share your thoughts on this topic, please email: info@gaeba.org



Get Involved with the Global Alliance:

An invitation to share your ideas

The Global Alliance welcomes partner eye banks and their staff to be part of the development of new international projects conducted under the umbrella of the Global Alliance.

How can you get involved?

- * Volunteer to be part of the foundation stage of a Global Alliance sub-specialty project
- * Volunteer to host an education event
- * Submit materials which you would be happy for the Global Alliance to place on the open-access web- resource page, e.g. standards or training tools

What are the sub-specialty project groups?

In order to achieve the goals of the Global Alliance, several key project groups have been proposed to assist in ascertaining the needs of the eye bank community. The groups we are currently seeking to develop include the international development of:

- * Practice recommendations
- * Educational programs
- * Conference and training events
- * Ethics and advocacy frameworks
- * Tracing and tracking systems
- * Eye banking register (global mapping)
- * Research projects

Who are we looking for?

- * Individuals currently employed or associated within an eye bank
- * Regular access to the internet and emails
- * Knowledge or willingness to learn about the sub-specialty group of interest
- * Both veteran and novice staff
- * Diplomacy
- * Variety of professional backgrounds

What would you need to do?

- * Email your interest to your local representative or directly to the Global Alliance via: info@gaeba.org. (Please also outline any financial or other potential conflict points of interest)
- * Agree, during the foundation stages of project development, to participate in communication and meetings, via: email or Skype
- * Attend meeting which may take place outside of regular business hours in order to facilitate the multiple time-zones of group members
- * Attend any face-to-face meetings as necessary
- * Participate in discussions, assist with project activities, such as: exploring options and resources, developing training modules, policies or standards, critiquing and investigating alternative options.

What is the timeline for the foundation stage of the sub-specialty project groups?

At this stage, as the Global Alliance is seeking only to develop the foundation framework/strategy aspect of each group, it is anticipated that your involvement will be between 3—9 months.

Once the foundations have been developed, and passed through the Global Alliance Board for final sign-off, individuals may decide if they would like to continue with the project long term.

Who will manage the sub-specialty project group?

The Global Alliance Developer will guide all sub-specialty groups, with; research, investigation, submission to the Board, and communication between trans-national, eye bank and peer based associations, and the World Health Organization. The Global Alliance Developer will also work with each sub-specialty group to develop objectives, timeframes, and an equitable division of tasks.

EVENTS

2014

March

5—7 EBAANZ Annual Meeting, and the 31st Australia and New Zealand Cornea Society Meeting, Brisbane, Australia. www.ranzco.edu/images/documents/Events/cornea_final_060613_2.pdf

April

1 Practicum—Best Practice in Eye Banking. World Ophthalmology Congress. Tokyo, Japan. www.woc2014.org

May

21—23 Ukrainian Congress of Ophthalmology. www.tou.org.ua

June

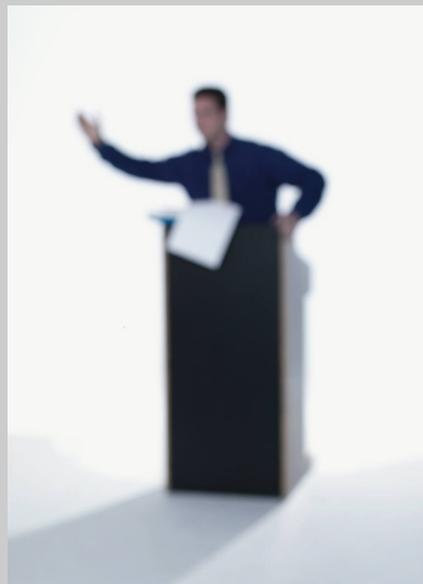
26—30 The Transplant Society. World Transplant Congress. San Francisco, USA. www.tts.org

25-28 53rd Annual Meeting, Eye Bank Association of America. Portland, USA. www.restoresight.org

September

26-28 6th National Eye Bank CME. Hyderabad, India. www.ebai.org
Please contact Mr. G Ganesh, Executive Director, EBAl, email: ebai@vsnl.net

27—29 International Transplant Nurses Society Symposium. Texas, USA. www.itns.org



October

18-21 Corneal Society/EBAA at American Academy of Ophthalmology Conference. Chicago, USA. www.aao.org

2015

January

16—17 EEBA Annual Meeting. Venice, Italy. www.europeaneyebanks.org

April

15-17 World Corneal Congress, San Diego, USA www.cornealsociety.org

2016

February

5—9 World Ophthalmology Congress. Guadalajara, Mexico. www.icoph.org/events/event_detail/194/World-Ophthalmology-Congress-WOC-

The New Logo



As a new organization, the Global Alliance conducted an international competition to design the new logo.

With over 300 designs submitted, from all around the world, the selected logo, designed by an Indonesian designer, was selected for its simplicity and significance to eye banking. It represents:

- * The sun rising over the world – a global appearance of growth, warmth and optimism
- * The eye, eyelid and eye lashes
- * A sutured cornea
- * The sun (which is one continuous line) and 5 individual sun rays, which together, represent the joining of 6 founding partner associations
- * The colours are globally acceptable colours of strength and knowledge, and
- * The colour tones are calm and respectful to eye bankers, donors and recipients

Share your story or event

The Global Alliance would like to share your stories, experiences and up-coming events with other members within your region and around the globe.

Please submit your story or event by May 2014 for submission in the July 2014 edition

Email to: info@gaeba.org