

# Global View



## **GAEBA to host Eye Bank Symposium in South Korea**

The Global Alliance is honoured to announce that they have accepted an invitation from the Asian Corneal Society to host the Eye Banking symposium at their 5th Biennial Scientific Meeting in December, in Seoul, South Korea.

The Asian Corneal Society, through the Association of Eye Banks of Asia, initiated the opportunity with the intent to engage both the local and international communities on matters of both universal and local application and appeal.

This marks the first opportunity for the Global Alliance to connect with members in Asia and support their implementation of their global and local activities.

It is also an opportunity for the Asian community to meet several international representatives and engage in open dialogue about the needs and directions of the region and the sector in general.

Eye bank and corneal members are actively encouraged to attend.

[www.asc2016seoul.com](http://www.asc2016seoul.com)



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### **About the Asian Eye Bank Association**

The Association of Eye Banks 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.

AEBA seeks 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 the region, making tissue-sharing initiatives a reality and ultimately resulting in more corneal transplants in Asia—which is one major step towards alleviating corneal blindness in the region.

[www.eyebankingasia.org](http://www.eyebankingasia.org)

## Global Alliance Representatives

### Association of Eye Banks of Asia

Professor Donald Tan, and  
Pang Chia-Li

### European Eye Bank Association

EO Gary L. A. Jones, and  
Andrea Gareiss-Lok

### Eye Bank Association of America

CEO Kevin P. Corcoran, and  
David Glasser, MD

### Eye Bank Association of Australia and New Zealand

Dr Graeme Pollock

### Indian Eye Bank Association

Dr Samar K Basak, and  
Ganesh Ganapathy, ED

### Pan American Association of Eye Banks

Dr Enrique O. Graue-Hernández , and  
Dr Mark J Mannis

### Development

Heather Machin, RN, MBA

Please Contact the Global Alliance via:

[info@gaeba.org](mailto:info@gaeba.org) or via [www.gaeba.org](http://www.gaeba.org)

## Representatives Report— *Graeme Pollock*

The importance of global eye banking and the need to have a global perspective continues to grow. The recent European Eye Bank Association Annual meeting, held in Aarhus Denmark in late-January, featured a session on Global Eye Banking which featured speakers from around the world presenting on both transnational and national issues. The emphasis was on learning from each other's experience. More than that though, there were recurrent themes that emerged across the few days of the meeting - international coding and traceability, ethics and logistics of transnational tissue exchange, the need for harmonisation of competent authorities (regulators) standards between nations, and the benefits of a global approach to vigilance and surveillance of ocular tissue safety and quality.

The Global Alliance has now been officially incorporated for two years, and its interests lay in those global issues identified above. Important projects such as the Global Data Collection initiative and the Global Mapping exercise are underway. Having knowledge of the size and activity of the international eye banking community is the beginning of understanding what issues lay beyond each of our own national borders and the way in which they may affect us, and hopefully also identify what resources and experiences can be “brought to the table” to provide collective solutions for those issues. A particular avenue that I personally hope we can develop is one of providing global expertise and opinion to national regulatory bodies, to assist eye banks in dealing with their local regulators in regard to world's-best-practice and evidence based standards for eye banking.

Although the Global Alliance is still in its infancy and still finding its way in the world, it is beginning to achieve its primary goal – providing a conduit for open and free discussion and debate, sharing of knowledge and experience between members, and enabling networking on a global basis. I believe the Alliance will continue to grow and develop with this collaboration as its primacy.

*Thank you*

*Graeme*



## ***Dr Enrique O. Graue-Hernández appointed as APABO Representative to the Global Alliance***

Dr Enrique O. Graue-Hernández of Mexico has been appointed as the new Pan American Association of Eye Banks (APABO) Representative to the Global Alliance - replacing out-going and founding Representative Dr Luciene Barbosa of Brazil. Dr Graue-Hernández presented at the Global Alliance meeting in San Diego last year and is eager to support eye bank development in his region and engage with members globally.

Dr Graue-Hernández is the Director of the Cornea & Refractive Unit at the Instituto de Oftalmología Fundación Conde de Valenciana, México, Medical Director of

the Red-Cross Eye Bank, Mexico City and Assistant Professor in Cornea, Refractive Surgery and External Disease and the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. His interests include corneal refractive surgery in keratoconus, wound healing, and revention of blindness.

*The Global Alliance would like to take the opportunity to thank Dr Luciene Barbosa for her support and assistance as a founding member of the Global Alliance Rerepresentative Committee.*

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## ***Global data collection—commenced***

On the 1st January 2016, the Global Alliance of Eye Bank Associations commenced their first global statistical data collection period.

The project, advised by the WHO, will capture valuable data to help determine service gaps – and ultimately where and how the international community can support each other.

Initially, the Global Alliance will be collecting annual figures for total donors and total corneal transplants per country. Over time the data frame may change but the intent is to commence with these two items.

All partner Associations have been asked by the Global Alliance to submit their region's data for each calendar year – starting with 2016 (which means that these will be sent to the Global Alliance in early 2017).

Members who are already submitting data to their Association, do not need to do anything as their Association will automatically add their data to their national total.

Data collected by Associations will be de-identified and submitted to the Global Alliance as one national tally for each country.

The Global Alliance will present and publish the global data for examination by the WHO, transplant, and ophthalmology communities. This will assist these professional bodies, as well as our own, with determining equitable access.

The Global Alliance would like to thank Brian Phillippy, member of the EBAA, for his assistance with the development of this initiative.

For eye banks not currently providing data to a regional body, please contact Heather Machin to discuss inclusion [heather.machin@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:heather.machin@unimelb.edu.au)



## EBAA Medical Advisory Board Alert

**February 2, 2016**

The Medical Advisory Board met by conference call in an urgent session on February 1, 2016 to discuss a potentially life threatening adverse event. A recipient of a keratolimbal allograft developed a malignant melanoma in the operative eye within two months of surgery. The donor tissue came from a patient with a history of malignant melanoma. While formal testing to confirm that the melanoma is donor derived is pending, all clinical evidence suggests it is. During the conference call, the MAB discussed the specifics of this case and several published articles on the behavior of malignant melanoma identified from a cursory review of current literature.

Following the discussion, the unanimous consensus of the MAB was that until a more formal analysis could be performed:

1. Ocular tissue from donors with any history of melanoma may not be released *for any surgical use*.
2. Ocular tissue from donors with any history of metastatic solid tumors may not be released for surgical use of vascular components, such as conjunctiva or keratolimbal tissue. Cornea and scleral distribution is acceptable.

These restrictions take effect immediately and will remain in effect until the EBAA Fall Meeting on October

13, 2016, when it is expected more targeted updates to the Medical Standards will be made to minimize the risk of tumor transmission from ocular tissues. This moratorium creates additional restrictions on ocular tissue donor eligibility determination and does not alter the current EBAA Medical Standards (November 2015).

To more thoroughly analyze the risks of tumor transmission and propose appropriate medical standard changes to the MAB at the Fall Meeting, a special subcommittee was created. Members of the subcommittee are:

- Jennifer Li, MD (Chair)
- Brian Philippy
- Jason Brosious
- Alan Sugar, MD
- Mary Gatien
- Michael Nalesnik, MD (Professor of Pathology, Medical Director, Histology and Immunocytochemistry Laboratories Division of Transplantation and Hepatic Pathology, UPMC Montefiore)

Questions regarding these changes can be directed to Michael Nordlund, MD, PhD, Chair of the Medical Advisory Board ([mnordlund@cincinnatieye.com](mailto:mnordlund@cincinnatieye.com)).

**Global Mapping:** We are continuing with our global mapping activity. We have currently tracked 877 eye banks. While we are not clear on the full function of all the eye banks we are pleased to report that a majority are linked to their region's eye bank association.

**Bioethical Framework:** Post the San Diego conference, we remain enthusiastic about developing a global bioethical framework. In order to commence this activity, the Global Alliance needs funding support. If you are in a position to assist please contact [heather.machin@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:heather.machin@unimelb.edu.au).

The Global Alliance proudly supports



[www.EyeBankingJournal.org](http://www.EyeBankingJournal.org)



[www.iapb.org](http://www.iapb.org)