



For Immediate Release

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SightLife Eye Bank Laboratory Begins Processing EK Tissue in California

March 4, 2013, Brisbane, CA - Corneal surgeons in California have few local options for obtaining pre-cut tissue for endothelial keratoplasty (EK) procedures. As one of the largest providers of corneal tissue in the state, SightLife will begin processing corneal tissue for EK from our eye bank laboratory in the San Francisco Bay Area, beginning March 4, 2013. SightLife's new EK tissue processing will offer local surgeons access to pre-cut tissue reliably, seven (7) days a week.

Our Seattle laboratory has also begun preparing tissue for Descemet's Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty (DMEK) procedures and Descemet's Membrane Automated Endothelial Keratoplasty (DMAEK) procedures.

SightLife's eye bank laboratory in the San Francisco Bay Area is equipped with the latest technology for recovering, storing, evaluating, processing and distributing superior tissue. Its location in Brisbane, just 15 minutes between San Francisco and the San Francisco International Airport, allows for tissue to be transported quickly and efficiently. This facility is accredited by the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA), registered with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and licensed by the State of California.

An EK tissue processing facility is only as good as the staff processing the tissue. SightLife has relocated one of its most experienced tissue processing technologists to the Bay Area from Seattle. Adam Fox has evaluated almost 10,000 corneas over his career and has worked for SightLife since 2009. He obtained his eye bank technician certification in 2010 and has processed over 1,250 corneas for endothelial keratoplasty. "Adam's experience and knowledge allow our Bay Area laboratory to begin providing the highest quality pre-cut tissue beginning Day 1," said Monty Montoya, President and CEO of SightLife.

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To obtain more about SightLife's tissue services, to schedule a tour of our facilities, or to begin ordering tissue contact Christina Psalms at 909-248-5847 or via email at Christina.psalms@sightlife.org.

Founded in 1969, SightLife is the only non-profit global health organization solely focused on eliminating corneal blindness in the U.S. and around the world. Driven by an entrepreneurial spirit, the organization leverages innovative technologies and best business practices to transform lives and unlock life's possibilities for the corneal blind. SightLife works in partnership with surgeons and health organizations in more than 29 countries. SightLife and its global eye bank partners combined provided nearly 14,000 corneas for transplant in 2012.

For more information, visit www.SightLife.org