



**SEB is now recognized to be one of the top eye banks in Asia, with the highest quality standards and success in our eye-banking program. The establishment of a national corneal transplant registry by SEB and the Singapore National Eye Centre has resulted in the Singapore Corneal Transplant Study (SCTS), which currently is the largest Asian corneal transplant database tracking over 2,700 transplants over a 19-year period. With new clinical programs in SNEC for the more advanced and emerging forms of corneal transplantation, and with our strong corneal research program in the Singapore Eye Research Institute (SERI), Singapore has now become a leading international centre for corneal transplantation development, and SEB is recognized as one of the top eye banks in the region with regards to high quality standards.**

**Boosted by our ongoing campaigns for local eye donation, and establishment of 2 Hospital Eye Donation Programs in SGH and TTSH, SEB now provides corneas for up to 250 transplant patients performed each here in all public and private sector hospitals. SNEC alone performs well over 200 transplants a year, with almost 50% of patients coming from the region for sight restoration. However, we are only successful in procuring local corneas for only about a third of the 250 transplants performed yearly, and SEB still needs to import foreign corneas from the US for the other two-thirds of transplant patients, which is now becoming prohibitively expensive for our patients. A cornea from the US may cost up to S\$4000, which is now out of the reach of many low income Singaporean patients.**

**Our ultimate aims are a) to provide a 100% local donor rate for all Singaporean corneal transplant patients, and b) to lead Asia in developing eye banking initiatives which will help alleviate corneal blindness in many Asian countries. To achieve this goal, we are initiating several key programs, mainly through 3 major new**

**initiatives, which we hope to achieve in collaboration with the Lions SaveSight Centre. These are :**

- 1. Phase 2 development of the Singapore Eye Bank: We hope to raise sufficient funds to increase the local donor rate, and build up a larger team of professionals, so as to achieve our ultimate goal of a 100% local donor rate for all Singaporean transplant patients.**
- 2. A new collaborative partnership between SEB and the Sri Lanka International Eye Bank (SLIEB): As all Singapore Lions are aware, previously local Lions Clubs helped to bring in corneas from SLIEB, as SLIEB is very successful in procuring many donors, and in previous years, exported many corneas to Asian countries. However, in recent years, their program has languished due to lack of financial support, which has resulted in a drop in quality standards, such that Asian countries no longer accept Sri Lanka corneas. SLIEB, with the support of the Sri Lankan government, has asked SEB to work with them to rebuild infrastructure, redevelop operating procedures to international standards, and restore tissue quality. If we are successful, we will be able to help many thousands of patients throughout Asia who are in urgent need of corneas.**
- 3. Establishment of the Asian Eye Banking Association (AEBA): In Singapore, we recently established the Asia Cornea Society (ACS), an organization of leading corneal specialists throughout Asia. Headquartered in SNEC, ACS to date has over 400 members from many Asian countries, including China, India, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Philippines, and Thailand. By the**

end of this year, ACS will have established a subsidiary organization, AEBA, whose remit will be to link Asian eye banks under a single umbrella organization, to collaborate on developing unified Asian eye banking standards, educational programs in eye donation, and most importantly, to provide a network of exporting and sharing of corneal tissue throughout Asia. AEBA will help coordinate corneal distribution from our SEB/SLIEB initiative.

How can LSSC, Singapore Lions Clubs and we Singapore Lions help achieve all of this? Lions Clubs International is world-renown for their sight restoration initiatives and the establishment and support of eye banks throughout the globe. The tremendous philanthropic success of Lions Clubs in promoting sight saving and awareness programs, coupled with individual Lions' help and experience in organizing various charitable initiatives, through LSSC, will be invaluable. In particular, fund-raising activities will enable us to achieve our 3 major programs, and we need all of you to contribute your time, expertise, advice, and fundraising skills! Fellow Lions, let us work together on corneal blindness, in addition to our other LSSC prevention of blindness initiatives in diabetes and glaucoma, and together, we can restore blindness to millions in Asia, and show the world that we can indeed make a difference!

**Prof Donald Tan**

## **Lions SaveSight Centre (Singapore) GENERAL MEMBERSHIP**

This Centre is founded by  
Lions Club of Singapore (Host)  
Lions Club of Singapore Fort Canning  
Lions Club of Singapore City  
Lions Club of Singapore Metropolitan

And all duly chartered Lions Clubs, who are operating and registered under the Societies Act (Cap311), Singapore are all welcomed to join this Centre as ordinary voting members. **All that is required is the Lions Club pass a Club Resolution (see attached), signed by Club President or Club Secretary, to endorse and support the Lions SaveSight Centre (Singapore) with a simple majority vote in the Club General Meeting (or alternatively an email resolution).** The completed resolution to be sent to PDG Han Thien Fong for due processing.

Good news, Lions Club of Singapore Emerald has sent in their Club's support and endorsement and shall be processed by the Management Board. Additionally, LCS Bedok, Changi, Chatsworth and Fullerton have made enquiries. Now, how about your club?

Any other person who is a non-Lions Club member can also join as ordinary non-voting member.



## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- **November 2008**  
- LCI Diabetes Awareness Month
- **November 14, 2008**  
- LCI Application deadline for January 2009 SightFirst grants
- **December 7-13, 2008**  
- LCI Lions Eye Bank Week
- **January 2009**  
- LCI Glaucoma Awareness Month
- **January 9, 2009**  
- LCI Application deadline for Winter 2009 Standard Core 4 and IAG grants
- **January 13, 2009**  
- LCI Melvin Jones Birthday
- **March 2009**  
- LCI Eye Donor Awareness Month
- **March 13, 2009**  
- LCI Application deadline for May 2009 SightFirst Grants
- **March 13, 2009**  
- LCI Lions Day with the United Nations
- **April 1, 2009**  
- LCI 2009 International Hero Awards nominations due
- **May 2009**  
- LCI Recycle for Sight Month
- **May 11-17, 2009**  
- LCI White Cane Week
- **June 1, 2009**  
- LCI Helen Keller Day
- **July 1, 2009**  
- Lions SaveSight Centre (Singapore) 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

**“I appeal to you Lions –  
you who have your sight,  
your hearing –  
you who are strong  
and brave and kind.**

**Will You**

**not constitute  
yourselves  
Knights of the Blind  
in this crusade  
against darkness?”**

**- HELEN KELLER**

June 30, 1925

9<sup>th</sup> Lions Clubs International Convention  
Cedar Point, Ohio, USA



## Sight Conservation

The Lions heard Helen Keller and accepted her challenge.  
We implemented hundreds of sight-related projects.  
In 1976, Sight Conservation and Work with the Blind  
became an official activity of Lions Clubs International.

The mission of the Lions Sight Conservation and Work with the Blind program is:

**To provide programs and assistance to aid people  
who are blind and visually impaired, and  
to work at eliminating  
preventable and reversible blindness.**

Fulfillment of this mission remains a foremost objective  
among Lions clubs around the world. Lions provide essential services  
and support people who are blind or visually impaired due to disease, aging, or injury.

**"I am your opportunity."**

Helen Keller

Fellow Lions,

Come forward, seize the opportunity and join the

**LIONS SAVESIGHT CENTRE (SINGAPORE)**

be the Knights of the Blind in this crusade against darkness.

All you have to do is to get your Lions Club  
to pass a club resolution, with a majority vote, signed by the Club President or Club Secretary  
to endorse and pledge support for the project.

Nobody will ask you to do more than what you are prepared and want to do.

Let us join hands with

**LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL,**

**Honorary Lion Prof Arthur Lim & Honorary Lion Prof Donald Tan**

to conquer darkness, preventable and reversible blindness.

To know more, contact  
PDG Han Thien Fong - 94234535



## **Lions SaveSight Centre (Singapore)**

### **Object**

1. To establish a centre for the prevention for the blindness with a strong emphasis on the blinding complication of diabetes, known as diabetic retinopathy
2. To develop prevention to other important causes of blindness such as corneal disease, cataract and glaucoma
3. To create care services, education & training, screening & counseling and research to complement current developments in the prevention of blindness
4. To coordinate outreach programs to reach out to the neighboring countries, in Asia and further beyond on the prevention of blindness
5. To establish eye banking and corneal grafting with links to Lions Clubs International and its networks & links on sight conservation and eye banks
6. To attain the above objectives, the Lions Save Sight Centre (Singapore) shall:
  - a. undertake any activities as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above project
  - b. join or become affiliated to any organization, local or internationally, which would further the cause of the Lions SaveSight Centre (Singapore); and/or
  - c. raise funds for the above purposes.



**Specimen Copy**

**Dated: ???**

**To Chairman, Lions SaveSight Centre (Singapore)**

**c/o PDG Han Thien Fong (email: [han194982@yahoo.com.sg](mailto:han194982@yahoo.com.sg))**

**CLUB MEMBERSHIP IN**  
**LIONS SAVESIGHT CENTRE (SINGAPORE)**

**Lions Club of Singapore ??? at a regular Club Members Meeting on ??? (date) decided by majority (or unanimous) vote to endorse and support the Lions SaveSight Centre (Singapore) and would be happy to join as General Member in Lions SaveSight Centre (Singapore).**

**(signed)**

**Lion ??? (Name)**

**Club President (or Club Secretary)**



## LIONS CLUB OF SINGAPORE (HOST)

### **HONORARY LION MEMBER**

Presented to

### **PROFESSOR DONALD TAN**

#### Citation

Professor Donald Tan is the Medical Director, Singapore National Eye Centre, Chairman, Singapore Eye Research Institute, Medical Director, Singapore Eye Bank. He is also full tenured professor and Head of the Dept of Ophthalmology, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, at the National University of Singapore.

Professor Tan received his corneal and external disease fellowship training in Moorfields Eye Hospital, London. Professor Tan has published over 180 scientific peer-reviewed articles to date, and has written 13 book chapters on cornea, ocular surface stem cells and pterygium surgery. In addition, he has presented over 300 papers at international meetings, and delivered over 70 guest lectures at international and regional meetings. He is also active in teaching and has conducted more than 60 teaching courses on corneal surgery, refractive surgery and myopia, both locally and internationally. He is on the editorial board of the The Ocular Surface Journal, the Philippines Journal of Ophthalmology, and is a reviewer of 9 ophthalmic and visual science journals. Professor Tan has also trained to-date 14 corneal fellows, including international fellows from the UK, Netherlands, Philippines, Mexico, Thailand, India and China.

Professor Tan was awarded the Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology Distinguished Service Award in 1997, and for his contribution to ophthalmic and vision research in Asia, he was awarded the 2001 De Ocampo Lecture by the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology, and is the youngest recipient of this award for excellence in Asian research. In 2004, 2005 and 2007, he was an award winner at the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS) Film Festival for new surgical procedures, and also received consecutive awards at the 2005, 2006 and 2007 ASCRS meetings for Best Paper at corneal and keratoplasty symposia. In 2006, his contribution to the field of international ophthalmology was recognized in an Achievement Award from the Board of Trustees of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. Professor Tan is Singapore's first recipient of this international award. In 2006, Professor Tan was awarded the first Minister for Health Award For Outstanding Performance In Public Health in Singapore for leading the Singapore team which first identified the cause of the global outbreak of Fusarium Keratitis. This year for his outstanding contribution to Ophthalmology and research, Professor Donald Tan was awarded the National Outstanding Clinician Scientist Award 2008.

**Singapore Host Lions Club takes pride and happy to confer**

**PROFESSOR DONALD TAN**

**Honorary Lion Membership**

17 October 2008

PETER LIM  
President 2008/09