Each and every day you restore sight to your patients. But there are patients who aren’t lucky enough to have access to, or the ability to afford, cataract surgery. The ASCRS Foundation extends your impact as a sight giver.

We are excited to report to you on the major milestones of 2018. None of these would have been possible without the ASCRS and ASOA members who donate their time and money to our cause, as well as the industry partners that amplify member efforts with their support.

Operation Sight is our domestic charitable cataract surgery program. It is the only nation-wide program of its kind that matches patients unable to afford care with volunteer surgeons. In 2018, the program continued its exponential growth and saw its 3,000th free cataract surgery.

Our Robert Sinskey Eye Institute in Ethiopia now serves more than 24,000 patients annually. We’ve made good on our promise to build ophthalmic centers of excellence to train more surgeons. In partnership with others, we are now in Year 2 of our Ethiopian Residency Education Initiative.

Thousands of patients at our Sinskey Eye Institute in Ethiopia, and hundreds here in the U.S. through Operation Sight, have benefited from the generosity of members and industry. Join them today with your gift: http://www.ascrsfoundation.org/donation

Sincerely,

![Photo of three men](image-url)

David E. Chang, MD  
Chairman  
International Initiatives

Stephen S. Lane, MD  
Chairman  
Domestic Initiatives

Jim V. Miezaas  
Chairman  
Industry Relations
NATIONAL SIGHT WEEK
SPONSORED BY THE ASCRS FOUNDATION
Giving the Gift of Sight

ASCRS Foundation
IMPROVING THE WORLD'S VISION
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF Cataract AND Refractive SURGERY

Fichte Endl & Elmer EYECARE
Partner Practice

operation eyeight
Thanks to the below volunteers, Operation Sight provided a record breaking 1,124 free cataract surgeries in 2018. This represented a 28% increase from the previous year.

2018 Operation-Sight Volunteers

- Nestor Alperovitz, MD
- Danil Amoroso, MD
- Bruce Auer, MD
- Larry Atwood, MD
- Zufar Akhter, MD
- Karin Alpers, MD
- Karen Anthony, MD
- Jeffrey Arnold, MD
- Brian Aronson, MD
- Brandon Barrington, MD
- Mark Brandon, MD
- Bruce Brown, MD
- Todd Bruner, MD
- Scott Butler, MD
- David Cabral, MD
- Karen Caldwell, MD
- James Cannarella, MD
- Michael Capone, MD
- Victor Chiang, MD
- Craig Chen, MD
- Jennifer Cheng, MD
- James Chiolero, MD
- John Chiu, MD
- Paul Cheng, MD
- Robert Chen, MD
- David Chiu, MD
- Geoffrey Cooper, MD
- Alex Croxton, MD
- Charles Cremo, MD
- Leonardo D'Aniello, MD
- Albyy Denn, MD
- Alexander Doss, MD
- Jordana D'Orsini, MD
- Karen D'Amore, MD
- Robert D'Angelo, MD
- Dan Decker, MD
- Shelly Deering, MD
- Matthew Dilley, MD
- Simon Dimovski, MD
- Jere Dinov, MD
- Andrew D'Inca, MD
- Joseph Doria, MD
- Matthew Donovan, MD
- Kevin Doolan, MD
- John Doukas, MD
- Eric Dow, MD
- Joseph Dow, MD
- Matthew Dowden, MD
- Robert Dowd, MD
- Jamie Dobbin, MD
- Robert Dobson, MD
- Timothy Do, MD
- Aaron Doria, MD
- Brad Dorfman, MD
- John Dormer, MD
- Jennifer Dorsey, MD
- Michael Dorian, MD
- Joseph Doss, MD
- John Douglas, MD
- Mark Douglas, MD
- William Douglas, MD
- Philip Drabkin, MD
- Mark Draper, MD
- Matthew Draper, MD
- Michael Draper, MD
- Daniel D'Amore, MD
- Anthony D'Angelo, MD
- John D'Angelo, MD
- Richard D'Amore, MD
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**The ASCRS Foundation welcomed Barbara Erny, MD, to the team in 2018 as the ASCRS Foundation Medical Liaison for International Programs. This was a new volunteer position created to support the expanding scope of the Foundation’s international work, which includes a diverse and growing network of nonprofit partners including Himalayan Cataract Project, Orbis, Seva Foundation, Vision Care, Global Sight Alliance, Moran Eye Institute, and DigiSight.**

Dr. Erny fostered collaboration and coordinates our efforts with partner organizations committed to eliminating curable cataract blindness in the developing world. Dr. Erny recently retired from private practice in Silicon Valley. A driving force behind her decision included the opportunity to fully devote her energies to advancing ophthalmology and cataract surgery in developing countries.

Dr. Erny earned her medical degree from Stanford University School of Medicine, where she also completed her ophthalmology residency. Before her transition into the Medical Liaison role, Dr. Erny spent 26 years as the leading cataract surgeon at the Palo Alto Foundation Medical Group. She has been on our ASCRS Foundation International Committee for several years and is uniquely suited to this new role given her long-term commitment to charitable eye care.

For the past 25 years Barbara has volunteered with Himalayan Cataract Project, SEE International, The Flying Doctors, International Aid, Amazon Promise, and others teaching and providing humanitarian service in South and Central America, Africa, and Asia. She has twice made extended visits to Ethiopia where she has taught and mentored local ophthalmologists at the ASCRS Foundation Sinskey Eye Institute.

Dr. Erny’s work will focus on helping the Foundation and our partners address the root cause of global cataract blindness – the shortage of eye surgeons. Together, we are committed to long term solutions that build local surgeon capacity in developing countries.
### September 2019

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Endowed by a generous gift from David and Victoria Chang the ASCRS Foundation Chang Humanitarian Award honors outstanding humanitarian work with a focus on cataract blindness and disability. Richard Litwin, MD, embodies this purpose through extensive humanitarian work that has become a family affair.

Dr. Litwin began with a high-volume cataract surgery mission trip in 1982 to a then little-known facility in South India, Aravind Eye Hospital. The trip would be the beginning of a now 4-decade length of service.

"Witnessing my first eye camp in Pondicherry, India, in a few days I saw a thousand patients cured of cataract," he said. "I saw the good that an ophthalmologist can do in an area devoid of doctors. I was hooked."

On this same trip, he demonstrated how IOL implantation to Aravind’s founder, Dr. Govindappa Venkatasamy, at a busy eye camp. When Dr. Venkatasamy noted the patient—a carpenter—could return to gainful employment postop, Dr. Litwin committed himself to making an IOL available to every patient.

With Dr. Litwin’s advocacy, and support from Seva Foundation, Aravind began manufacturing IOLs at its own facility, AuroLab, in 1992. Later, he focused on instructing local doctors on how to perform these vital procedures themselves. Dr. Litwin worked with the World Health Organization to launch what has become perhaps the most effective ophthalmic training program in the world, the Aravind Eye Care System.

At this time in his storied career, he has shifted his focus to diplomacy, advocating internationally on behalf of humanitarian eye care organizations. Dr. Litwin has earmarked the $50,000 grant to support Seva Foundation.

“Dr. Litwin is a great role model for ophthalmologists from developing countries. He cultivates long-term friendships and mentorships,” said Dr. Chundak Tenzing, medical director of Seva.

"Dick personifies the unsung hero—someone who neither seeks, nor receives recognition for a lifetime of great deeds," added Dr. Chang. "Indeed, very few will have heard of this ophthalmologist in solo private practice, who’s had tremendous impact on the treatment of cataract blindness in the developing world.”
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"I can never repay you. Thank you so much. I’m enjoying eyesight like I haven’t had since I was about nine-years-old. I’m so excited with this new lease on life. I can drive myself and handicapped parishioners to church again,” Leslie, an Operation Sight patient.

Operation Sight was launched by the ASCRS Foundation four years ago to meet the needs of American patients like Leslie. Through Operation Sight, the ASCRS Foundation has created a national network of volunteer ASCRS-member surgeons who give their time and expertise to treat needy cataract patients who have no other option. The program has seen an exponential growth in volume, with more than 3,000 free cataract surgeries provided to date.

This growth was reflected in the celebration of our 3rd Annual National Sight Week (October 14-20), when our surgeons, staff, and volunteers outdid themselves and treated 310 patients!

While the Operation Sight program runs year-round, the ASCRS Foundation began the National Sight Week initiative to increase overall understanding of patient need and encourage surgeons to join the growing volunteer network.

The ASCRS Foundation provides the administrative support needed to identify and pre-qualify patients and then matches them with local volunteer surgeons.
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**2018 Resident Excellence Award Winners**

Through our Resident Excellence Awards, the ASCRS ASOA Foundation provides travel grants to enable 10 outstanding ophthalmology residents to attend the ASCRS ASOA Annual Meeting. The categories for consideration include research, patient care, leadership, and education. Congratulations to the 2018 winners:

- Jonathan Chou, MD, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary
- Thomas Johnson, MD, PhD, Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute
- Michele Lee, MD, Dept of Ophthalmology Stanford University Medical Center
- Shawn Lin, MD, MBA, UCLA Stein Eye Institute
- Katy Liu, MD, PhD, Duke Eye Center
- James Lockwood, MD, Emory University
- Jeffrey Ma, MD, Northwestern University
- Jacob Rullo, MD, PhD, Queen's University Ophthalmology
- Nakul Shekharwats, MD, MPH, University of Michigan-Kellogg Eye Center
- Swarup Swaminathan, MD, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

**2018 Research Grant Winners**

The ASCRS Foundation has awarded more than $750,000 in research grants to fund studies and new treatment options. This research grant supports the innovative research efforts of ten inspiring young ophthalmologists. The 2018 awardees and projects are:

- Keri Allen, MD - "Safety and Efficacy of Cataract Surgery in Urban and Rural Ethiopia"
- Igor Bussel MD, MS, MHA - "Bent Al-Intra Needle Goniotomy (BANG) Clinical Trial: A Micro-Invasive Glaucoma Surgery Option for the Developing World"
- Kara Casavonte, MD - "Impact of Infectious Bacterial Keratitis on the Ocular Surface Microbiome"
- Joshua Ehrlich, MD - "The Impact of Social Isolation on Receipt of Cataract Surgery in Older Adults"
- Natasha Nayak Kolomey, MD - "Refractive and Visual Outcomes of Minimally Invasive and Traditional Filtering Glaucoma Surgeries"
- Melina Morkin, MD - "Neuropathic Corneal Pain: Review of Patient Characteristics, Diagnostics, and Management"
- Lara Newman, MD - "Polymerase Chain Reaction for Rapid Detection of Fungal Contaminants in Corneal Donor Tissue: A Proof of Concept and Feasibility Study"
- Vito Romano, MD - "Corner Dome Lens"
- Bryan Roth, MD - "Effect of Scleral Contact Lens on Dry Eye and Associated Biomarkers"
- Soshann Sarrafpour, MD - "Randomized Clinical Trial Assessing the Effects of Blue-light Filtering Glasses on Ocular Performance, Cornea/Macular Health, and the Sleep-Wake Cycle"
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In 2005, a back injury on a construction site prompted James Ross to switch jobs and start driving trucks. A few years later, medication prescribed for the back injury presented a side effect that would stall his truck driving career—cataracts. At age 51, James was desperately in need of cataract surgery, but could not afford the cost of surgery. After a quick google search, James learned about the Operation Sight program. James was matched with volunteer surgeon Jeffrey Whitman, MD, from Key-Whitman Eye Center in Dallas, Texas.

“Everyone I’ve seen through this program wants to work or get back to work. Like a truck driver who loses his license because he can’t see well enough to drive or a teacher who can’t see to do what she needs to in the classroom, we’ve seen all of that. There are many ways you can get people back on their feet, but these folks just want to get back to a normal useful participation in the workforce. They simply need the vision for it,” explains Dr. Whitman.

For James, the road to regaining his vision after cataracts was a long journey. “In 2010, I got one of the cataracts removed. After that, my wife and I were dealing with some financial and family issues, so I’ve been trying to get the second cataract removed for some time,” James says.

His cataract was so bad that James had a driving restriction on his license. He also had to give up the activities he once enjoyed doing like playing basketball and baseball.

After cataract surgery with Dr. Whitman, Ross’s vision has improved drastically. At his post-operative exam following cataract surgery at Key-Whitman, Ross’s visual acuity was 20/30 without correction. Even better, he has a letter from Dr. Whitman stating that his vision has been corrected, so he can go to the DMV and get the restriction removed from his driver’s license.

“The best thing about having cataract surgery for me was regaining control of my life. I can drive again. I can work again. It’s just awesome, and I’m so thankful,” Ross says.
### January 2020 Calendar

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<td><strong>Kwanzaa Ends</strong> New Year’s Day</td>
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<td><strong>DEADLINE</strong></td>
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**2020 Society Summit**

Innovative Techniques and Conferences in Ophthalmology

**31st to 2nd January, 2020**
### February 2020

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**Spotlight on a Supporter**

William T. Koch, COA, COE, CPC has worked in the field of ophthalmology for 32 years. He is the Administrative Director of Texas Retina Associates in Dallas, Texas. He is also the past president of the ASOA Board of Directors.

Bill has been a generous supporter of the Foundation, taking the rare step of making a monthly, recurring donation as part of our Sustainers Circle. Foundation Staff caught up with Bill to find out why he gives.

**Foundation Staff:** How did you first hear about the Foundation?

**Bill:** I first became aware of the ASCRS Foundation and the wonderful work they do as part of my role with the ASOA Board of Directors.

**Foundation Staff:** Why did you decide to donate?

**Bill:** The decision was very easy. The gift of sight is one of the most precious gifts that anyone can give or receive! I was also inspired by Dr. David and Mrs. Victoria Chang, and their Chang Humanitarian Award. Their commitment, dedication, and generosity is truly inspiring.

**Foundation Staff:** Why do you feel it is important to offer charitable cataract surgery?

**Bill:** Not everyone can possess the gift of sight for medical or other reasons. To offer sight to those that have the capability is a profound opportunity to do what is right.

**Foundation Staff:** What would you tell someone thinking about making their first gift?

**Bill:** As a manager I lost touch with our true professional mission. The ASCRS Foundation has reminded me that what we do is extremely important and lifesaving. It will provide you with a sense of gratitude like no other. Not only for the people the Foundation is helping but for your own gifts in life.
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$250 per month. That is the salary of an ophthalmology resident in Ethiopia. You might think that works because of a lower cost of living. But in the cities, it is not much lower than in the U.S.

Ethiopia has five ophthalmology residency programs. Some of these four-year training programs have most sub-specialties covered, but there is no neuro-ophthalmologist in the entire country of 105 million people and only a handful of retinal specialists. Ethiopia has approximately one practicing ophthalmologist per million people, and about 1 million people completely blind from cataracts.

To become an ophthalmologist is a long process. After high school, a student goes to college/medical school for 6 years. The last year is spent at that university hospital doing an internship. After that, the student is assigned to “serve” as a low paid primary care doctor somewhere in the region. During that time, they can apply for any specialty, or decide to stay a GP. It is very attractive to become a general surgeon or internist I was told, because graduates can match right away, and “they will be rich.”

Ophthalmology is not well supported or well-paid compared to other fields, as eye care is not a government priority. The young doctors wait a long time to match in an ophthalmology residency, having to serve between 2-6 years as a GP. To train sub-specialists and support residency programs, the ASCRS Foundation relies on your kind donations. Because of you, the quality of ophthalmologist training is rapidly improving, and the number of residents is increasing each year. Only with enough funds to help pay for residency directors, the doctors teaching at Sinskey Eye Institute, and fellowship training, can we help tackle the cataract blindness and countless other eye conditions in Ethiopia.
### Statement of Activities

**Revenue**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$1,382,385</td>
<td>$895,708</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>298,352</td>
<td>368,525</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pledge Write-Off</td>
<td>(1,333)</td>
<td>31,027</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Events (net)</td>
<td>7,456</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,686,860</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,295,260</strong></td>
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**Expense**

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
<td>705,168</td>
<td>502,693</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>General &amp; Administrative</td>
<td>221,128</td>
<td>228,516</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>960,099</strong></td>
<td><strong>750,558</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td><strong>$726,761</strong></td>
<td><strong>$544,702</strong></td>
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### Statement of Financial Position

**Assets**

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<th>2017</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Equivalents</td>
<td>$36,218</td>
<td>$335,940</td>
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<td>Investments</td>
<td>7,702,617</td>
<td>7,129,588</td>
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<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>150</td>
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<td>Pledges</td>
<td>533,158</td>
<td>1,333</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,272,493</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,467,011</strong></td>
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**Liabilities & Net Assets**

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<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td>$406,116</td>
<td>$327,395</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
<td>7,866,377</td>
<td>7,139,616</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,272,493</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,467,011</strong></td>
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Thank you to our 2018 supporters (continued from January)

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