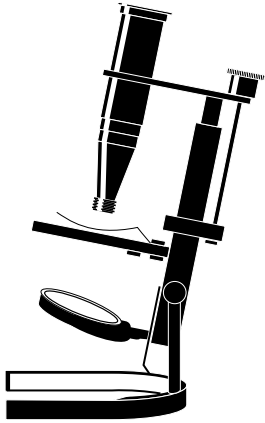


**R/FLETB awards \$79,500 to local researchers**



This year, the R/FLETB stepped up its grant funding by awarding a total of \$79,500 for five transplant-related research projects.

Since 1952, the agency has awarded more than \$1 million in seed money to local investigators to ensure continued successes in transplant research.

Funding for this year's research projects is made possible by the agency's research restricted fund and through the generous contributions from individuals, Lions and Lioness Clubs throughout our region.

**2004-2005 Research Grant Recipients**

**Gaurang Shah, M.D., F.R.C.S.**, Resident in Urology, SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, NY, will receive \$20,000 for research to

develop extra corporeal perfusion of kidneys. Co-investigator for the project is Dilip Kittur, M.D., Sc.D.

**Kristopher G. Maier, Ph.D.**, Department of Surgery, SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, NY, will receive \$20,000 for the study of immunosuppressive therapy and its effect on graft and renal function. Co-investigator for the project is Dilip Kittur, M.D., Sc.D.

**Jianhua Wang, M.D., Ph.D.**, Research Assistant Professor, University of Rochester Eye Institute, Rochester, NY, will receive \$14,350 for work in establishing an eye model for better predicting intraocular pressure. The goal is to improve methods for measuring intraocular pressure in eyes that have undergone refractive surgery. Co-investigators for the project are Krystal

Huxlin, Ph.D., and Scott MacRae, M.D.

**James Aquavella, M.D.**, Professor, Department of Ophthalmology, University of Rochester Eye Institute, Rochester, NY, will receive \$12,675 for work in the development of a method to evaluate tear film integrity using real-time corneal optical coherence tomography. Co-investigator for the project is Jianhua Wang, M.D., and Ph.D.

**Steven Ching, M.D.**, Associate Professor, Department of Ophthalmology, University of Rochester Eye Institute, Rochester, NY, will receive \$12,475 for a study to establish a novel method for screening donor eye bank eyes using corneal optical coherence tomography. Co-investigators for the project are Jianhua Wang, M.D., Ph.D., and Scott MacRae, M.D.

**2 Become a Donor...  
...Become a Hero**

The SUNY Geneseo Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Committee held an "Organ Awareness Week" on campus March 15 – 19. The committee, headed by seniors Rebecca Sutherland, Kara Sweeney, and Laura Taczak, hosted a series of events throughout the week to increase awareness of organ and tissue donation on the college's campus.

A "Late Knight Carnival" was held on Friday, March 19. This event provided an alternative choice to students for weekend entertainment, and featured a picture booth entitled, "Who Should You Tell You're a Donor?" Closing out the events for the week was a Bingo game during Siblings Weekend. As members of the committee stated, "Like Bingo, waiting for a needed organ or tissue transplant is also a contest of chance and anticipation."

"The major goal of our program is to increase the number of college students who communicate their intent to donate by enrolling in the NY State Organ and Tissue



Thursday, March 18, the committee hosted a Donation Discussion Panel on campus, and included (l to r) Karen Guarino, R/FLETB communications director; Karen Gledhill, Transplant Awareness Organization president; and Lynne Kelsey, RN, Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network coordinator.

Donor Registry and notify their family members of their decision to enroll," says committee member Laura Taczak.

"We will also be presenting our project on donation awareness at the Rochester Institute of Technology Conference for Undergraduate Research in Communication in April," adds Kara Sweeney.

*Note: SUNY Geneseo is one of four NY State college campuses to take part in the New York Alliance for Donation's College Awareness Project.*

*For more information about this project visit [www.alliancefordonation.org](http://www.alliancefordonation.org) and click on Current Projects.*

*The SUNY Geneseo committee members are those students who have pursued a Directed Study stemming from Dr. Mary Mohan's Comn 200 class project begun in the fall of 2002. This is the third semester that students have carried on with the project of organ and tissue donor awareness.*

## 2003 January through December Eye and Tissue Donations

The R/FLETB is grateful to the healthcare professionals in the hospitals and facilities listed below who provide support and comfort to many families by offering them the choice of donation. We thank our donor families for continuing to give others the Gift of Life and Sight.

Hospital/Facility	2003 Eye Donors	2003 Transplant Eyes	2003 Tissue Donors	Hospital/Facility	2003 Eye Donors	2003 Transplant Eyes	2003 Tissue Donors
Cayuga Medical Center at Ithaca	6	10	4	Robert Packer Hospital	25	20	*
Charles Cole Memorial Hospital	2	4	*	Samaritan Medical Center	11	8	*
Claxton Hepburn Medical Center	4	6	4	Schuyler Hospital	5	2	2
Clifton Springs Hospital & Clinic	14	10	6	Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hospital	5	6	1
Coming Hospital	10	13	5	St. James Mercy Health System	2	2	1
E.J. Noble Hospital, Gouverneur	2	4	1	St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center	20	19	*
F.F. Thompson Health System	15	7	12	Strong Memorial Hospital	103	70	35
Geneva General Hospital	13	10	3	Troy Community Hospital	3	4	*
Highland Hospital of Rochester	27	8	4	Unity Health, Genesee St. Campus	1	2	0
Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital	4	2	1	Unity Health, Park Ridge Hospital	34	18	9
Lakeside Memorial Hospital	15	4	3	Via Health of Wayne, Newark	11	8	1
Lewis County General Hospital	3	6	1	ViaHealth, Rochester General Hospital	72	43	26
Monroe Community Hospital	1	0	0	Monroe County Medical Examiner's Office	1	0	2
Nicholas H. Noyes Memorial Hospital	6	5	2	Other (non-acute facilities)	24	4	3
* eye donors only NOTE: The <i>transplant eyes</i> column indicates how many eyes were used for transplant procedures.				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>126</b>

3

### A LOOK BACK AT 2003

#### Last year R/FLETB:

- ☀ attended 52 health fairs
- ☀ presented the topic of organ and tissue donation to more than 1,180 students in grade 7 – college level
- ☀ received 540 completed donor cards (adding these to the R/FLETB registry which now holds over 86,000 pledge cards)
- ☀ trained 59 healthcare professionals as Designated Requestors

#### Did You Know...

- The first cornea transplant was performed in 1905
- Poor eyesight or having cataracts does not prevent one from becoming an eye donor
- Over 90 % of all cornea transplant surgeries successfully restore the recipient's vision
- The sclera (white part of the eye) can also be used for ocular graft surgery in the treatment of trauma, cancer and other diseases

#### Requestor Training Class Schedule

☀ Healthcare professionals interested in attending one of the Requestor Training Classes below, which are held at the agency office, please call Tammi Sharpe, regional coordinator, at 1-800-568-4321.

**Friday, June 11, 2004,**

**9am-1pm**

**Friday, September 10, 2004,**

**9am-1pm**

**Friday, December 10, 2004,**

**9am-1pm**



The agency is grateful to these individuals and organizations that have so generously contributed to the agency's programs. This list includes financial contributions to the agency between August 1, 2003 and February 29, 2004. Should there be an omission or error, please call the office so it can be corrected.

**2003 Annual Appeal**

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the R/FLETB, a nonprofit organization, is to recover and distribute eyes, organs and tissues for use in transplantation, therapy, medical education and research; to promote awareness of the need for and the benefits of donating; and to conduct or support related medical research, all to improve the quality of life for individuals and their families.



Kidney-pancreas transplant recipient Sue Sprague at Saturn of Syracuse showroom, Carousel Mall



Kidney transplant recipients (l to r) Paula McKay and Karen Gledhill at Saturn of Rochester

### What did Saturn car dealerships in Syracuse and Rochester have in common on Saturday, February 14?

☀ If you guessed — cars — it's not the answer. Do you give up?

It was their participation in the largest one-day life-saving donation drive in the U.S. — National Donor Day.

Local Saturn dealerships partnered with the Council for Donation of Organs and Tissues (C-DOT), of which R/FLETB is a member organization, to celebrate this nationwide event.

Todd Zilkey, general sales manager for Saturn in Rochester, reported that 35 units of blood were collected at the blood drive hosted at both dealerships in Rochester, NY. "We also had several individuals sign organ donor cards," said Karen Gledhill, president of Transplant Awareness Organization of Rochester (TAO), herself a kidney transplant recipient of 20 years. "This day means a lot to me. My father had cornea transplants because of an accident that damaged his corneas, and my sister also had the same kidney disease I had and needed a transplant."

Karen's counterpart in Syracuse, Transplant Awareness Group of Central NY's (TAG) co-president Sue Sprague, a kidney-

pancreas transplant recipient, was on hand at the Saturn of Syracuse showroom at the Carousel Mall to help with the day's event. "These types of events are just wonderful in raising the public's awareness of donation," Sue said. "We're just delighted that Saturn is so committed to this cause and has been so supportive over the years."

"We're already beginning to plan for next year's National Donor Day," says Coleen Masucci, special events coordinator for Saturn in Syracuse.

National Donor Day, launched in 1998 by Saturn and its UAW partners, is America's largest annual one-day life-saving donation drive. Over the past six years Saturn has collected approximately 48,000 units of blood, added more than 8,000 potential marrow donors to the National Marrow Donor Program Registry, and informed thousands of Americans about the urgent need for organ and tissue donors.

**Participating Saturn dealers in our service region were: Saturn of Rochester and Saturn of West Ridge Road in Rochester, NY, and Saturn of Syracuse and Saturn of Rt. 31 in Syracuse, NY.**

## BioEthics Symposium

The second annual community-wide BioEthics Symposium will be held on Tuesday, October 12, 2004, at Finger Lakes Community College, Canandaigua, NY.

For more information please call Charlotte Wytias, RN, MS, at (315) 462-0396

# APRIL

## National Donate Life Month



eye.organ.tissue

Talk to your family about donating...LIFE  
Contact R/FLETB for information and materials 1-800-568-4321

## Volunteers Needed

If you would like to find out more about volunteer opportunities at the agency, please call Karen Guarino at 1-800-568-4321.

**A Team Effort**

☀ Thanks to the team effort by Pittsford High School's Swim Team, hundreds of brochures were labeled, counted, banded and stacked, and are ready to be distributed to individuals who want to learn more about organ and tissue donation.

Any teacher interested in finding out more about volunteer opportunities for their students at the R/FLETB, please call Karen Guarino at 1-800-568-4321.



(Seated l to r:) Wills DeMoulin, Matt Joseph, Zach Whitman. (Standing l to r:) Dan Nunn, Taylor Topping, Gregory Conklin, Jeffrey Jozefsk, Jimmy Prezzano, Charlie Ruff, Derek Lasher.

**H i g h l i g h t s**



Eric Haake

☀ Eric Haake has been hired as a Tissue Bank Coordinator. His responsibilities include the recovery and distribution of donated ocular tissue as well as coordinating recovery of cardiovascular, skin and musculoskeletal tissues for transplant, medical education and research.

**It's our new website.**

*Check It Out!*

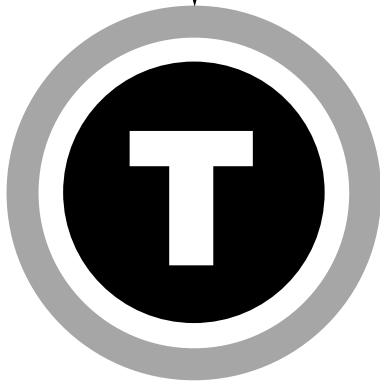
**www.rehpb.org**

The Rochester/Finger Lakes Eye & Tissue Bank is a nonprofit organ and tissue donation agency that serves the Finger Lakes, Central and Northern New York Regions as well as North Central Pennsylvania. We hope you enjoy your issue of Tissues. If you wish your name removed from the mailing list, please call the agency office, (585) 272-7890, 1-800-568-4321, e-mail [info@rehpb.org](mailto:info@rehpb.org), web [www.rehpb.org](http://www.rehpb.org)  
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## I N S I D E

- 2 **R/FLETB Awards \$79,500 to Local Researchers**
- 3 **2003 Donations**
- 5 **National Donor Day Celebrated**

### **Gift of Life Medal of Honor**

*A tribute to those who have given the gift of life and sight*



Four hundred and eighty-three medals were sent by R/FLETB this past November to donor families whose loved ones were eye and tissue donors in 2002.

"We are forever grateful to the donors and their families for giving others a brighter tomorrow," says Linda Fraser, R/FLETB executive director. "On behalf of the thousands of transplant recipients who have been helped by the gifts of donations, the medal symbolizes and acknowledges the unselfish generosity of those who have donated."

The medal features a sugar maple tree, the official tree of New York State, and comes in a box with two matching lapel pins that can be worn by donor family members. The medal was designed and produced in such a way that it allows family members to have the medal affixed to the donor's head stone, or some type of other display, as a means of recognizing

their life-saving decision.

Governor George E. Pataki signed legislation in 2002 establishing the New York State Gift of Life Medal of Honor Program and at that time commissioned the medal that will be offered to families of organ and tissue donors and to living organ, bone marrow and peripheral blood stem cells donors.

According to legislation, the medals will be distributed by local organ procurement organizations, tissue and eye banks, as well as transplant facilities, to donors or families for donations since January 2002. For donations which occurred prior to 2002, families should contact the recovery organization or transplant facility involved at that time of donation for information.

R/FLETB will recognize 2003 eye and tissue donors from our region in June, during the Celebration of Caring reception.

