



ROCHESTER EYE & TISSUE BANK COMMUNICATOR

A Bulletin For The Healthcare Professional

SPRING MAY 2003

JANUARY – MARCH

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DONOR STATISTICS :

Facility	Eye	Tissue	Transplant Corneas
Cayuga Medical Center at Ithaca	0	0	0
Charles Cole Memorial Hospital	1	*	2
Claxton Hepburn Medical Center	0	0	0
Clifton Springs Hospital & Clinic	3	2	0
Corning Hospital	3	2	3
E. J. Noble Hospital, Gouverneur	1	0	2
F. F. Thompson Health System	1	1	0
Geneva General Hospital	3	3	4
Highland Hospital of Rochester	4	1	2
Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital	2	0	1
Lakeside Memorial Hospital	2	1	2
Lewis County General Hospital	0	0	0
Nicholas H. Noyes Memorial Hospital	5	2	5
Robert Packer Hospital	2	*	1
Samaritan Medical Center	2	*	1
Schuyler Hospital	1	0	0
Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hospital	0	0	0
St. James Mercy Health System	1	0	0
St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center	7	*	4
Strong Memorial Hospital	21	8	19
Troy Community Hospital	1	*	0
Unity Health, Genesee St. Campus	1	0	2
Unity Health - Park Ridge Hospital	12	2	6
ViaHealth of Wayne, Newark	4	0	4
ViaHealth, Rochester General Hospital	18	3	10
Monroe County Medical Examiner's Office	0	0	0
Other (non-acute facilities)	7	2	3
TOTAL	102	27	71

* eye donors only

KUDOS korner

HATS OFF TO . . .

RGH & Annette Grindle, RN

Applause for Rochester General Hospital's (RGH) Emergency Department (ED) staff, especially Annette Grindle, RN, ED clinical resource nurse. RGH ED reverted to using its own staff as Designated Requestors for eye and tissue donation. Their support of donation and determination to keep the consent process in their hands provided stimulus for improving donor numbers and yielded a 33 % consent rate in 2002. The smooth transition would not have been possible without timely and meticulous assistance from Annette. Great job, RGH ED!

Good Luck, Best Wishes Carol!

After 6 years of service to RETB, Carol Rutigliano, RN, has left this position to return to patient care. She will continue to work with the RETB as a volunteer for the agency. "We are thankful for Carol's diligent and undivided commitment demonstrated through her work at RETB over the years, and are delighted that she will remain connected to the agency and help us with our mission . . . giving others a brighter tomorrow," states Linda Fraser, executive director.

Carol wishes to thank each and every one of you who over the years assisted her in the success of her endeavors at the agency.



Carol Rutigliano, RN

From the Director of Professional Services



Jennie Towne, CEBT (Certified Eye Bank Technician) has been appointed Director of Professional Services. Many of you may recognize her name, or her picture, for Jennie has been working at RETB since March 1999. Jennie comes to this position with much expertise in the field of tissue recovery, hospital development and requesting consents.

Jennie first joined the agency as a tissue recovery specialist, working on an on-call basis recovering tissue other than eyes. In June 1999, she was hired full-time as Tissue Bank Coordinator responsible for coordinating eye and tissue recovery and distributing ocular tissue. In March 2000 she was named Project Coordinator and was instrumental in developing our services as Finger Lakes Eye & Tissue Bank to hospitals in Central and Northern NY. She most recently served as Regional Data Coordinator, responsible for tracking referral information, completing compliance reports, and functioning as designated requestor.

"We feel very fortunate to have Jennie move into her newest role at the agency," says Linda Fraser, executive director. "Her multi-faceted knowledge base, along with her experience with eye and tissue recovery specialist will support her responsibilities as Director of Professional Services."

"I look forward to my new role as Director of Professional Services and the opportunity to work with you. I am excited to continue to build upon my past responsibilities and work at the agency, and am delighted to be able to do this with so many dedicated supporters of eye and tissue donation. Please feel free to call me at anytime if I can be of assistance to you. If you have a story idea, question or comment about tissue donation, kudos to pass along, or wish to see your facility featured, please call me."



NEWS to SHARE

- ≡ **Designated requestor training instructor:** Tammi Sharpe, CEBT, regional coordinator, teaches RETB's requestor training classes. She and other RETB colleagues achieved a 49% consent rate last year with RETB responsible for the consent process at several hospitals in our service area.
- ≡ **Different name, same agency:** We are now using Rochester Eye & Tissue Bank on many of our materials provided to the public and healthcare professionals. Look for our new exhibit board and signage at upcoming events and health fairs!
- ≡ **Admission packet donation insert:** Several hospitals are using RETB's single sheet donor card to include in their hospital admission packets, meeting JCAHO standards and patients' rights to make known their wishes about organ and tissue donation upon admission. Please call our office if your facility is interested in utilizing these inserts.
- ≡ **A place for your requestor ID #:** New stethoscope ID tags with *RETB Designated Requestor* logo will soon be available to write your name and requestor identification number.

Happy Nurses Week May 6 – 12

Thanks to all the hardworking nurses who call in donation referrals, provide decedent information for screening purposes and make donation requests for eyes and tissues. Your efforts continue to give others a brighter tomorrow!



Mark Your CALENDAR

June: Requestor Training Class @ RETB 6/27 (9a-1p)

Aug: Requestor Training Class @RETB 8/22 (9a-1p)

Call Jennie Towne to register at least 2 weeks prior to class dates, 1-800-568-4321.



Rochester Eye & Tissue Bank

524 White Spruce Blvd.
Rochester, NY 14623



During a presentation given to SUNY Brockport's EOC Surgical Technologists class on March 13 at RETB's office, everyone got the chance to try on glasses that simulated what it's like to have corneal blindness. "Being able to put a person in the shoes of someone in need of a transplant is pretty powerful," says Karen Guarino, communications director. "Even though these students were smiling and took it all in stride, they realized the importance of donation and the work of the RETB."



Do you have suggestions for improving our services?
We would like to hear from you.
Call or e-mail me at jtowne@rephb.org with your ideas.



Our current topic for discussion is:
Recognizing healthcare professionals'
support for organ and tissue donation.

Let us know what you think.

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The Rochester Eye & Tissue Bank is a nonprofit agency serving the Finger Lakes, Central and Northern NY regions as well as North Central PA.
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