



**International Association of Lions Clubs
District 2-A2, Multiple District 2, Texas**

FINAL REPORT – JANUARY 12, 2021

REPORT ON LCIF GRANT AGREEMENT

Grantee: District 2 A2

Grant administrator: Juanita Garza, District Governor 2019-2020

Project Coordinator: Sam E. Pantusa, PDG

Grant number: MAT17433/2 A2

Amount of grant: US\$99,915

Purpose of grant: Equip and Expand Texas Diabetes Institute

Approval date: January 10, 2020

Project Description:

The project is an expansion of the existing Lion Dr. Eugene W. Eberlin Clinical Research and Imaging Facility which is located within the Ophthalmology Clinic at the Texas Diabetes Institute in San Antonio, Texas

The specifics of this expansion project are:

- The addition of a New Exam Room
- The replacement of an existing OPTOS fundus camera with a New Ultra-wide Retinal Imaging unit
- The addition of a New Optical Coherence Tomography Angiography machine

Chronology:

Funding and Payments:

May 6, 2020: District Clubs Contributions Deposited into Special Projects Account

May 6, 2020: UT Health San Antonio Grant Partner Funds Deposited into Special Projects Account

June 29, 2020: Electronic Funds Transfer LCIF to District Account

July 2, 2020: LCIF Funds transferred from District 2-A2 Account to Special Projects Account

July 6, 2020: Special Projects Account Check # 102 written to Zeiss Meditec for OCTA Machine – Check cleared July 9

July 29, 2020: Special Projects Account Check # 103 written to Lombart for Exam Room Equipment – Check cleared August 4

September 15, 2020: Special Projects Account Check # 101 written to Optos Inc. for Optos Wide-field Imaging Equipment – Check cleared September 21

September 22, 2020: Special Projects Account Check # 104 written to University Health System, Landlord for subcontracted exam room renovations – Check cleared September 25 - FINAL PAYMENT

Project Progress:

June 29, 2020: Optos Imaging Equipment ordered

June 30, 2020: Zeiss OCTA Equipment ordered

July 6, 2020: Optos Imaging Equipment on site and set up

July 17, 2020: Lombart Exam Room Equipment ordered

July 20, 2020: Exam Room Renovation begins (minor demolition, patching / painting, floor replacement, minor electrical, plumbing rough-in)

August 3, 2020: Exam Room Renovations complete

August 7, 2020: Zeiss OCTA Equipment on site and set up begins

August 11, 2020: Lombart Exam Room Equipment on site and set up begins

August 13, 2020: Zeiss OCTA technician finishes programming

August 20, 2020: Lombart Exam Room Equipment set up finishes

At September 30: Project renovations, equipment installations, all payments are complete.
Staff is utilizing new exam room and all equipment in patient examination and treatment.

Appendices:

- A. Special Projects Account Bank Statements (May, June, July, August, September)
- B. Invoices / Quotations and copies of checks (Optos, Zeiss, Lombart, UT Health System)
- C. Budget Spreadsheet
- D. Project Progress Pictures
- E. Outcomes
- F. Recognition

Following:

Final Project Report has been submitted to District at District Mid-Winter Conference prior to submission to LCIF.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam E. Pantusa

Lion Sam E. Pantusa, PDG
Project Coordinator

APPENDIX A Bank Statements



We're here for good.

1177 N.E. Loop 410
San Antonio, TX 78209

Account Number
4100096265
Page 1 of 2



broadway.bank
800.631.7650

DISTRICT 2-A2 LIONS SIGHT AND TISSUE
FOUNDATION INC.
SPECIAL PROJECTS
4502 CENTERVIEW STE 120
SAN ANTONIO TX 78228-1303

Bank Statement

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

Account Type	Account #	Balance as of May 31, 2020	YTD Interest
NON PROFIT CHECKING	4100096265	\$100,100.93	\$0.00

This statement reports your balances and activity from Apr 30, 2020 thru May 31, 2020 on the following accounts.

NON PROFIT CHECKING		Account # 4100096265	Balance: \$100,100.93
Balance Last Statement			100.93
Deposits/Credits			100,000.00
May 05	CUSTOMER DEPOSIT		50,000.00
May 06	CUSTOMER DEPOSIT		50,000.00
Total Debits			0.00
Balance This Statement			100,100.93
Running Balances			
Date	Balance	Date	Balance
04-30	\$100.93	05-06	\$100,100.93

END OF STATEMENT

Bank Statement

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

Account Type	Account #	Balance as of Jun 30, 2020	YTD Interest
NON PROFIT CHECKING	4100096265	\$100,100.93	\$0.00

This statement reports your balances and activity from May 31, 2020 thru Jun 30, 2020 on the following accounts.

NON PROFIT CHECKING		Account # 4100096265	Balance: \$100,100.93
Balance Last Statement			100,100.93
Total Debits			0.00
Balance This Statement			100,100.93
Running Balances			
Date	Balance	Date	Balance
05-31	\$100,100.93		

END OF STATEMENT

Bank Statement

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

Account Type	Account #	Balance as of Jul 31, 2020	YTD Interest
NON PROFIT CHECKING	4100096265	\$112,850.93	\$0.00

This statement reports your balances and activity from Jun 30, 2020 thru Jul 31, 2020 on the following accounts.

NON PROFIT CHECKING	Account # 4100096265	Balance: \$112,850.93
Balance Last Statement		100,100.93

Deposits/Credits	99,915.00
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Jul 02	CUSTOMER DEPOSIT	99,915.00
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Total Debits	87,165.00
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Checks Written	87,165.00
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Check #	Date Paid	Amount	Check #	Date Paid	Amount
102	07-09	87,165.00			

Balance This Statement	112,850.93
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Running Balances

Date	Balance	Date	Balance	Date	Balance
06-30	\$100,100.93	07-02	\$200,015.93	07-09	\$112,850.93

END OF STATEMENT

Bank Statement

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

Account Type	Account #	Balance as of Aug 31, 2020	YTD Interest
NON PROFIT CHECKING	4100096265	\$82,575.93	\$0.00

This statement reports your balances and activity from Jul 31, 2020 thru Aug 31, 2020 on the following accounts.

NON PROFIT CHECKING	Account # 4100096265	Balance: \$82,575.93
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Balance Last Statement	112,850.93
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Total Debits	30,275.00
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Checks Written	30,275.00
----------------	-----------

Check #	Date Paid	Amount	Check #	Date Paid	Amount
103	08-04	30,275.00			

Balance This Statement	82,575.93
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Running Balances

Date	Balance	Date	Balance	Date	Balance
07-31	\$112,850.93	08-04	\$82,575.93		

END OF STATEMENT

Bank Statement

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

Account Type	Account #	Balance as of Sep 30, 2020	YTD Interest
NON PROFIT CHECKING	4100096265	\$100.93	\$0.00

This statement reports your balances and activity from Aug 31, 2020 thru Sep 30, 2020 on the following accounts.

NON PROFIT CHECKING	Account # 4100096265	Balance: \$100.93
Balance Last Statement		82,575.93 ★

Total Debits	82,475.00 ★
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Checks Written	82,475.00 ★
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Check #	Date Paid	Amount	Check #	Date Paid	Amount
101	09-21	74,995.00	104*	09-25	7,480.00

* DENOTES MISSING CHECK NUMBER

Balance This Statement	100.93 ★
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Running Balances					
Date	Balance	Date	Balance	Date	Balance
08-31	\$82,575.93	09-21	\$7,580.93	09-25	\$100.93

END OF STATEMENT

APPENDIX B Invoices; Quotations; Copies of Checks



Ship To: Lions Sight Research Foundation
 Andy Sanchez
 University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
 701 South Zarzamora Street
 San Antonio TX 78207

Optos Inc
 500 Nickerson Road
 Suite 201
 Marlborough, MA 01752

Bill To: Lions Sight Research Foundation
 4502 Centerview, Suite 120
 San Antonio TX 78228

Invoice: INVCAP015799
 Date: 6/29/2020
 Page: 1 of 1

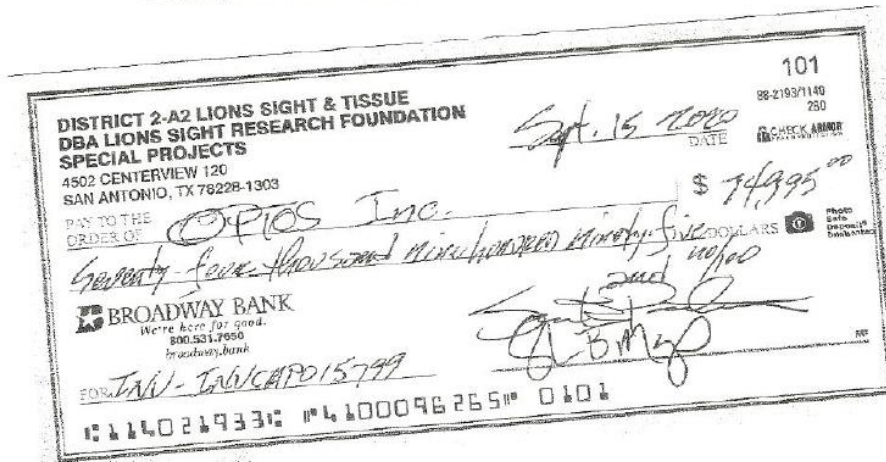
Remit to: Optos Inc
 PO Box 370079
 Boston, MA 02241-0079

Customer PO No.	Debtor ID		
USATN30615	ACC-M4RRLN		
Ordered	Item Number	Description	
1	CALIFORNIA	CALIFORNIA SYSTEM - CAPITAL SALE	
1	OPTOS ADVANCE	OPTOS ADVANCE	
12	WARRANTY-CALIFORNIA-ICG	WARRANTY - CALIFORNIA-ICG	
1	MISCELLANEOUS SOFTWARE	MISCELLANEOUS SOFTWARE	
1	INSTALL & TRAIN	INSTALLATION AND TRAINING	

Subtotal \$74,245.00
 Misc \$0.00
 Tax \$0.00
 Freight \$750.00
 Trade Discount \$0.00
 Total \$74,995.00

Payment Terms 30

Send payment to: Optos Inc
 PO Box 370079
 Boston, MA 02241-0079





111 - 3/6/2020

Carl Zeiss Meditec, Inc. Dublin CA 94568

Texas Diabetes Institute
Ophthalmology Eye Clinic

701 S Zanzamora St
San Antonio TX 78207-5209
US

Carl Zeiss Meditec, Inc
5160 Hacienda Drive
Dublin CA 94568

Your commercial contact:

Name: Christopher Scofield
Telephone:
Fax:
Email: christopher.scofield@zeiss.com

Date: 06/29/2020

Page: 1 of 3

Quotation

Quotation Number: 00058811
Customer Number: 0000747748

Comment

Premier Contract #
PP-OR-1574 Price includes
1 year complete warranty.

Item	Product ID / Product Description	Quantity	Item Price (USD)	Total Price (USD)
00141021	266002-1175-541 CIRRUS 6000 ANGIO Consisting of the following items: 10CR6KAU	1	128,224.00	128,224.00
	CIRRUS 6000 AngioPlex™ instrument (version 11.5.1) includes OCT/OCTA scanning at 100 kHz, line-scanning laser ophthalmoscope with FastTrac™ Retinal Tracking Technology, reference databases for macula/RNFL/ONH/GCL&IPL, AngioPlex OCT Angiography Module, Anterior Segment Basic Module, Instrument Review Software, DICOM support, integrated Windows 10 computer with external widescreen HD monitor, accessory kit, keyboard, mouse, and table.	1		

Please see full Terms and Conditions of Sales at: <https://www.zeiss.com/meditec/us/imprint/terms-and-conditions.html>



Quotation No. 00058811
 Date: 06/29/2020
 Page: 2 of 3

20TBL120	1
Power Table	
30ASLPRM	1
Anterior Segment Premier Module	
20PRT120	1
Printer	
40US1151	1
CIRRUS6000 BUNDLE DOCS 11.5.1 US	

Sub Total	\$128,224.00 USD
	- \$41,779.00 USD
Sub Total after discount	\$86,445.00 USD
Freight:	\$720.00 USD
Tax	As Applies
Total including Taxes	\$87,165.00 USD

102
 98-2193/1140
 250
 CHECK 20 MARK

DISTRICT 2-A2 LIONS SIGHT & TISSUE
 DBA LIONS SIGHT RESEARCH FOUNDATION
 SPECIAL PROJECTS
 4502 CENTERVIEW 120
 SAN ANTONIO, TX 78228-1303

DATE July 6, 2020

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Carl Zeiss Meditec Inc. \$ 87,165.00

Eighty seven thousand one hundred sixty five and no/100 DOLLARS

BROADWAY BANK
 We're here for you.
 800.531.6556
 broadway.bank

FOR ZEISS OCTA #0058811 Quotation

⑆114021933⑆ ⑆4100096265⑆ 0102

[Signature]



July 17, 2020

Quotation No:
 Quotation Date: 1188072
 07/17/20

Customer No: LI0847

DISTRICT 2-A2
 LIONS SIGHT RESEARCH FDN
 4502 CENTERVIEW STE 120
 SAN ANTONIO, TX 78228-1303
 USA

WE IMPOSE A SURCHARGE OF 2.75% ON
 THE TRANSACTION AMOUNT ON CREDIT
 CARD PRODUCTS, WHICH IS NOT GREATER
 THAN OUR COST OF ACCEPTANCE

We appreciate the opportunity to quote the following:

QUANTITY	ITEM NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	LOMBART UNIT PRICE
1	CS0RLFX920L20	Reliance FX-920-L Chair, #20 Pearl.Requires Upholstery color CS0RLFX920U	6,215.00 EA
1	CS0RLFX920UCH	Reliance FX-920 Cushion Set, #206 Charcoal	0.00 EA
1	DI0RLTEACH	Lombart/Reliance Teaching Institution Discount	-311.00 EA
1	CS0RL7900IC20FG	Reliance 7900-IC Floor Stand with Instrument Console, #20 Pearl	4,748.00 EA
1	DI0RLTEACH	Lombart/Reliance Teaching Institution Discount	-238.00 EA
1	SL0HS900BQLEDU	Haag-Streit 900 BQ LED Slit Lamp, Unit Model	19,242.00 EA
1	DI0HSTEACH	Lombart/Haag-Streit Teaching Institution Discount	-963.00 EA

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



DISTRICT 2-A2
July 17, 2020
page 2

Quotation No: 1188072
Quotation Date: 07/17/20

QUANTITY	ITEM NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	LOMBART UNIT PRICE
1	TOUHSR900	Pre-Owned Haag-Streit R900 Applanation Tonometer	887.00 EA
1	ST0RL5346CHFG	Reliance 5346 Pneumatic Stool, #206 Charcoal	572.00 EA
1	DI0RLDISC	Reliance Special Discount	-572.00 EA
1	CP0LOCVSEFG	Lombart CVS Essential Acuity System	1,495.00 EA
1	DI0LODISC	Lombart Special Discount	-1,495.00 EA
1	ZZMZZDELIVERY	Delivery & Installation	695.00 EA

2 year warranty on the above products, 1 time only
1 yr warranty on used tonometer

Haag-Streit/Reliance approved the teaching discount for this quote

Quote Total: \$30,275.00
(Applicable Sales Tax Not Included)

Any quotation for used equipment is subject to availability at the time the order is placed, and will not be considered a firm order until its availability is confirmed and customer is notified of its availability.

Prices are good for 21 days from the quotation date and reflect a cash payment discount. Applicable sales tax, shipping and installat

David Vincent, Jr.

dvincentjr@lombartinstrument.c
(210) 410-6030

**DISTRICT 2-A2 LIONS SIGHT & TISSUE
DBA LIONS SIGHT RESEARCH FOUNDATION
SPECIAL PROJECTS**
4502 CENTERVIEW 120
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78228-1303

103
88-2193/1140
Z6C

July 29 2020 DATE CHECK ARMOR

FAY TO THE ORDER OF *Lombart* \$ 30,275.00

Randy Howard Two hundred seventy-five

BROADWAY BANK Quote # 1188072
We're here for good. 800.331.7588
lombart@broadwaybank.com

FOR *TDI Exam Room Equipmt.*

1003

⑆ 1140 219331 ⑆ ⑆ 41000962651 ⑆ 0103

University Health System

PO Box 2096
 San Antonio, TX 78297-2096
 Tax ID# 74-6002164

Invoice

Date	Invoice #
9/22/2020	9896

Bill To
Lions Sight Research Foundation, District 4502 Centerview, Suite 120 San Antonio, TX 78228

P.O. No.	Terms	Project

Quantity	Description	Rate	Amount
	<p>This is to invoice for the construction renovation for the Eye Clinic according to agreed contract.</p> <p>Please attach a copy of invoice #9896 when making a payment</p> <p>Post payment to account # 10-100-1000-15407</p>	7,480.00	7,480.00

DISTRICT 2-A2 LIONS SIGHT & TISSUE
DBA LIONS SIGHT RESEARCH FOUNDATION
SPECIAL PROJECTS
 4502 CENTERVIEW 120
 SAN ANTONIO, TX 78228-1303

104
 89-2152/1140
 280

Sept 22 2020

UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM \$7,480.00

Secondly Seven thousand Eighty and no/100th

BROADWAY BANK
 We're here for good.
 800.531.7560

Eberlin Clinic Exam Area Renovation

FOR Inv. # 9896

John B. Mayo

1111021933 104100096265 0104

Revenue.Accounting@uhs-sa.com (210)358-9318	Total	\$7,480.00
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APPENDIX C Budget Spreadsheet

**LCIF MATCHING GRANT # MAT17433/2A2
INTERIM REPORT BUDGETED EXPENSES October 14, 2020**

<i>ITEM / BY</i>	<i>BUDGETED EXPENSE</i>	<i>ACTUAL EXPENSE</i>	<i>DATE PAID</i>	<i>CK #</i>	<i>BALANCE</i>
OPTOS - California AF/FA/ICG system By Optos, Inc.	\$74,995.00	\$74,995.00	9/21/2020	101	0
OCTA - Cirrus HDOCT Mod. 6000 w/Angioplex OCT By Zeiss Meditec	\$87,165.00	\$87,165.00	7/9/2020	102	0
TDI Exam Room Renovations By UT Health System - subcontract	\$7,480.00	\$7,480.00	9/25/2020	104	0
Exam Room Equipment, includes Exam Chair, Instrument Stand, Slit Lamp, Visual Acuity System, Tonometer, Stool By Lombart	\$30,275.00	\$30,275.00	8/4/2020	103	0
TOTAL	\$199,915.00	\$199,915.00			0

APPENDIX D Project Progress Pictures



NEW EXAM ROOM AND EQUIPMENT



OPTOS WIDE FIELD RETINAL IMAGING EQUIPMENT



**ZEISS OPTICAL COHERENCE
ANGIOGRAPHY MACHINE**



APPENDIX E Outcomes

Metrics: The primary purpose behind the expansion and equipment upgrade of this project was to offset a typical year patient backlog of 850+ patients.

The targeted goals were to increase by:

- 6-7 more Comprehensive examinations daily
- 29 more Comprehensive examinations weekly
- 125 more Comprehensive evaluations monthly
- 1,500 more Comprehensive evaluations yearly

The annual actual base of Comprehensive evaluations yearly had been 23,365

For the months following the completion of the project, Dr. Sohn reports the following:

TDI completed patient appointments Before LCIF Project Completion (average 1806)

=====

Aug 2020 1742

Sep 2020 1870

TDI completed patient appointments After LCIF Project Completion (average 1995)

=====

Oct 2020: 2046

Nov 2020: 1943

The LCIF grant proposal expected 125 monthly increase in the patient number. However, we had an average **189 monthly increase** in the patient number after LCIF Project Completion.

An extrapolation of these monthly patient encounters with a discounting of 10% for variance in following months would indicate an annual result of an increase of **over 2,000 more Comprehensive evaluations yearly.**

Anecdotal Comments:

Here are comments from staff, faculty, and patients about our new equipment from LCIF.

Staff

1. Quick and easy test procedures for staff and patients
2. Patients do not need to have the intravenous injection of fluorescein contrast and wait for a lengthy procedure of Fluorescein angiography. No risk of allergic reaction from the contrast.

3. Widefield fundus photography provides a valuable tool to monitor and share the patient's retina findings for evaluation and management as well as patient education.

Patients

1. "Previously I was worried about getting the angiography because I had nausea, vomiting and hives. However, with this new machine, the testing was a breeze without dye related side effects."
2. "For the first time, I can see my entire retina and realize what I have in my eye."
3. "I am happy that I am not blinded by the repeated flashes from the old fundus camera anymore. With only one flash, my retina shows up wonderfully."

Faculty & Residents

1. The acquisition of this equipment has enabled us to pursue additional research grants and collaboration opportunities with other departments to study diabetic retinopathy and sickle cell disease that jeopardize the vision in young patients.
2. It is helpful to understand the pathology and manifestation of retina disease by having wide-field fundus photography and optical coherence tomography angiography. Also, it is great to present cases to colleagues and faculty for education.
3. The imaging is invaluable for our research purposes and presentation as well as publication.

Jeong-Hyeon Sohn, MD
Associate Professor
Chief, Retina Division
Director, Surgical Retina and Vitreous Fellowship Program
Medical Director, TDI Ophthalmology Clinic
Department of Ophthalmology
University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

APPENDIX F Recognition

Video: We are fortunate that within our District and through our partnership with UT Health San Antonio we have a wealth of resources to pass along information about projects such as this LCIF Matching Grant Project. To best spread the word, we created a video explaining that the Project could not have been completed without the support of LCIF working hand in hand with the Lions of District 2-A2 while featuring the value of our long standing partnership with UT Health San Antonio. The video is posted on our District website, on the District 2-A2 Lions Sight Research Foundation website and Facebook page and has been shared with UT Health SA Communications office and Development Office. It can be seen at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZE-sIEiEF3A&feature=youtu.be>

Also featured within the video are pictures of the Dedication Plaque that has been placed at the entry to the Eberlin Imaging Facility –



Press Release: Our UT Health SA partner's Communications Office developed a Press Release describing the project and the LCIF and District Lion support that they have disseminated through their own network of resources. The Press Release was first posted at the UT Health San Antonio Online Newsroom and is currently being offered to San Antonio area media but has already been published on numerous outlets as explained in this excerpt from an email sent by Will Sansom of the Communications Office:

At the bottom of this message, please see the Lions Clubs gift news release as it appears on Yahoo Finance. I am so pleased to share this with you.

In addition to Yahoo's coverage of the Lions' wonderful gift, we also have these 18 links to share:

SFGate.com, San Francisco, CA

WFMJ.com, Youngstown, OH

[WBOC.com, Salisbury, MD](#)

[KTVN.com, Reno, NV](#)

[WICZ.com, Binghamton, NY](#)

[RFDtv.com, Nashville, TN](#)

[WRAL.com, Raleigh, NC](#)

[Rockford Register, Rockford, IL](#)

[International Business Times](#)

[Jot / Up.com](#)

[BizWire Express.com](#)

[Benzinga.com](#)

[Canadian Insider.com](#)

[TDAmeritrade.com](#)

[ADVFN.com, Germany](#)

[MarketWatch.com](#)

[MedIndia.net, India](#)

[Spoke.com](#)

Kind regards,

Will Sansom

Executive Director of Media Communications

UT Health Science Center at San Antonio

(Also referred to as UT Health San Antonio)

Sansom@uthscsa.edu

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/ut-health-san-antonio-celebrates-114000982.html>

UT Health San Antonio celebrates \$150,000 gift from Lions Clubs that expands diabetic retinopathy care in South Texas

Fri, December 4, 2020, 5:40 AM CST·6 min read

Lions Clubs in South and Central Texas donated equipment that will enable 1,500 more people a year to be screened for diabetic retinopathy at the Texas Diabetes Institute, a partnership of The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and University Health.

SAN ANTONIO, Dec. 4, 2020 /PRNewswire-PRWeb/ -- The Lions Clubs International Foundation, in collaboration with South and Central Texas Lions Club members of District 2-A2, have increased their commitment to the prevention of blinding eye diseases with a \$150,000 gift to UT Health San Antonio's Department of Ophthalmology.

The gift, augmented by \$50,000 from UT Health San Antonio, recently expanded the Lion Dr. Eugene W. Eberlin Clinical Research and Imaging Facility at the Texas Diabetes Institute (TDI) Ophthalmology Clinic. The TDI, a partnership of University Health and UT Health San Antonio, is located at the University Center for Community Health, 701 S. Zarzamora St.

The 47 Lions Clubs in San Antonio and surrounding counties participated in raising funds for this vision-saving project, along with other clubs in District 2-A2.

The renovated Eberlin Facility now includes:

- An ultra-wide retinal fundus camera that increases clinicians' ability to diagnose diabetic retinopathy, the leading cause of blindness in working-age adults. The retina is the tissue lining the back of the eye that senses light and sends visual information via the optic nerve to the brain, where an image is formed.
- A unit to perform optical coherence tomography (OCT) angiography, which complements the fundus camera and makes it possible to non-invasively detect retinal blood circulation.
- An additional eye examination lane, increasing by 1,500 the number of comprehensive evaluations that can be performed annually and decreasing patient wait time.

"We live by the phrase, 'Where there is a need, there is a Lion,'" said Lion Sam Pantusa, president and chief operating officer of the Lions Sight Research Foundation, which is supported by the 64 Lions Clubs in District 2-A2, Texas. "The most primary of our areas of service is to help the blind and visually impaired. The expansion of the Eberlin Facility is a wonderful project to help the highly regarded ophthalmic researchers and physicians serve our fellow community members who are suffering with diabetic retinopathy."

"This expansion through the great generosity of the local Lions, in collaboration with the Lions Clubs International Foundation, will allow us to continue our research, make eye care safer during the COVID-19 pandemic, and provide incredible diagnostics for our patients," said Daniel Johnson, MD, professor and chairman of ophthalmology in UT Health San Antonio's Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long School of Medicine.

The TDI is located in a medically underserved area of San Antonio's West Side with high prevalence of diabetes and diabetic retinopathy.

The TDI Ophthalmology Clinic conducted about 23,000 patient visits annually before the expansion and will now be able to reach 24,500.

Imaging of the eye is imperative to identify changes in blood vessels, including thickening of the vascular layers, capillary non-perfusion, leakage of plasma proteins, ischemia and proliferation of new vessels. One mode of imaging is called fundus color photography.

"The Lions' valuable support enabled the purchase of a wide-field fundus camera that allows a 200-degree view of the retina, compared to a 30-degree view afforded by our previous camera," said Jeong-Hyeon "John" Sohn, MD, director of the TDI Ophthalmology Clinic and the Retina Division of the Department of Ophthalmology.

"Not only can the new unit take images through a non-dilated pupil, but it can capture up to 82% of the retina in a single image," Dr. Sohn said. "This allows our clinicians to see at least 50% more of the retina, which is essential to diabetic retinopathy evaluation and management."

Both the fundus camera and the OCT angiography instrument enable earlier detection of diabetic retinopathy, which typically begins years before it is diagnosed, causing irreversible damage.

The imaging is easier and quicker for patients, because both pupil dilation and injection of dye to obtain images are no longer needed.

"Interestingly, we are starting a clinical study to see the effect of specific diabetes medications on diabetic retinopathy progression using the wide-field fundus camera," Dr. Sohn said.

"Words can't really express how grateful we are to the local and international Lions for providing this expansion, which will enhance our research and patient care missions," Dr. Johnson said.