



Eye Bank Association of America...*restoring sight worldwide.*

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Dr. Jonathan Lass to be Awarded 2012 R. Townley Paton Award**

Washington, DC – During the Paton Luncheon on Friday, October 21, 2011, Jonathan Lass, MD, Medical Director for Cleveland Eye Bank, was announced as the 2012 R. Townley Paton Awardee. Dr. Lass will be presented with the award during the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA)/Cornea Society Fall Educational Symposium in Chicago, IL, on November 9, 2012.

The R. Townley Paton Award is the EBAA's highest honor for corneal physicians, and is presented annually to an ophthalmologist in recognition of his/her outstanding contribution to the EBAA's development and for exemplifying the precepts of R. Townley Paton, MD, the father of modern eye banking and the founder of the first eye bank established in the United States.

Dr. Lass has over 30 years of experience in clinical research. He is the Department Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Dr. Lass is also Director of the University Hospitals Eye Institute and Medical Director of the Case Cornea Image Analysis Reading Center (CIARC). He has served on the EBAA Medical Advisory Board and is a member of the R. Townley Paton Society, the EBAA's society of corneal surgeons.

The Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA), established in 1961, is the oldest transplant association in the nation. The EBAA champions the restoration of sight through core services to its members which advance donation, transplantation and research in their communities and throughout the world. It has led the transplantation field with the establishment of medical standards for the distribution of eyes and comprehensive training and certification programs for eye banking personnel. These standards have been used as models for other transplantation organizations. Member eye banks operate in the United States, Canada, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. These eye banks make possible more than 52,000 sight-restoring corneal transplants annually.

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