

Dear Readers,

The Boston Keratoprosthesis newsletter is undergoing a redesign and we look forward to sharing the new format in Spring 2023. In the meantime, we have some leadership transition news from Dr. James Chodosh.

And we want to offer our congratulations to Dr. Claes Dohlman on his recent 100th year milestone and his 2022 Champalimaud Vision Award.

Sincerely,

Swati Sangwan

Manager, Business Operations, Boston Keratoprosthesis

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am very excited to report that I have accepted the position of Professor and Inaugural Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine. This means however, that I must relinquish my leadership position at Boston Keratoprosthesis. It has been the honor of my lifetime, and I am so very grateful to Drs. Claes Dohlman, Reza Dana, and Joan Miller for recruiting me to Boston 15 years ago.

Working with Larisa Gelfand, who retired earlier this year, and countless fellows and colleagues, we made major strides forward during my time in Boston. Complications of implantation, particularly for glaucoma, infection, and retinal detachment, were reduced through improvement of preoperative and postoperative guidelines for implantation. Our understanding of how best to manage candidates for keratoprosthesis after severe chemical injury or autoimmune disorders led to better patient selection and improved perioperative care, including for the type II design. The Boston keratoprosthesis was CE marked for use in the European Union. The titanium backplate was approved by the FDA. A completely new design developed to reduce costs and improve cosmesis for our patients, the 'Lucia' type I keratoprosthesis, was conceived, actualized, and FDA approved. And in the not-too-distant future, keratoprosthesis devices, preassembled in donor corneas and sterilized by E-beam irradiation for room temperature storage, may become available for off-the-shelf use.

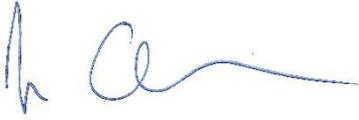


Perhaps most importantly, we successfully trained and prepared new leadership. [Dr. Eleftherios Paschalis](#), formerly Director of Innovation for Boston Keratoprosthesis, and someone I worked with closely to develop the Lucia design, will now be Director of Research and Regulatory Affairs. [Dr. Thomas Dohlman](#), who I am humbled to have helped to train when he was our award-winning cornea fellow, and who is now a valued colleague on the Cornea Service, will assume the role of Medical Director. **Ms. Swati Sangwan**, a graduate of the London School of Economics and the University of Sydney, and who learned the ropes at Boston Keratoprosthesis from Larisa Gelfand the last four years, has been ably leading Business Operations since January. These three remarkable

individuals bring great synergy to the work and will provide a near-seamless leadership transition. I feel extremely confident that Boston Keratoprosthesis is in terrific hands.

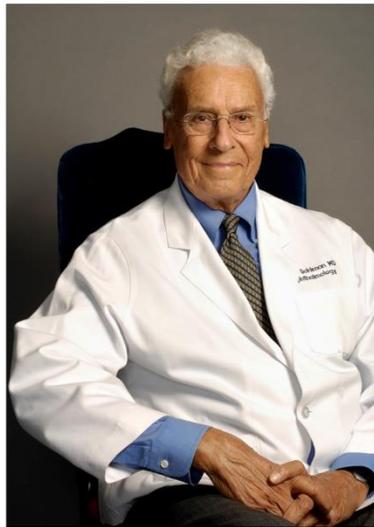
Finally, I am eternally grateful for all my past interactions with Boston Keratoprosthesis surgeons, many of you now also my dear friends, and I hope to stay in touch with and remain available to all of you.

Thanks and best,



James Chodosh, MD, MPH

Claes H. Dohlman, MD, PhD



Inspiring in 2022

We would like to convey our sincere congratulations to Dr. Claes H. Dohlman for celebrating a 100th year!

Other than the most evident achievements in his life and family, which include the development of the Boston Keratoprosthesis (KPro), and recently receiving the Champalimaud Vision Award, Dr. Dohlman has been persevering with full-time research and collaborations on improving the long-term safety of artificial cornea surgery.

A top priority has been to investigate the most feared complication, which is secondary glaucoma, and we continue to strive of one day being able to prevent the worst, untreatable, and unaccounted-for diseases following eye trauma, surgery, or infection (see the attached bibliography on TNF- α inhibitors).

Along with our gratitude for his persistence in the field, we thank him for being a great teacher, colleague, and friend to countless many around the world. With 19,000 implantations of the Boston KPro to date worldwide, it is such unceasing efforts that have produced a viable option for the

hopelessly blind, and hopefully many more will be able to benefit in the future as we continue to improve long-term safety and delivery.

Dr. Dohlman's presence—and his “unbroken spirit”—continues to enliven the scene alongside many of the world's most dedicated ophthalmologists and scientists. Currently there are millions of corneal blind (best eye) in total, and with likely increasing need for such treatments of the eye, we look forward to many more of his insights and help.

Congratulations, Dr. Dohlman, to a most honorable century and beyond!

“THANK YOU!” -Claes-