

INTRODUCTION

The Ocular Surface Research and Education Foundation (OSREF) is an independent not-for-profit medical research foundation established in 1999.

We seek to develop, evaluate, and offer programs that create differential value in ocular surface treatment. While educating and training ophthalmologists worldwide, we also strive to increase the ophthalmologists understanding of the mechanism of ocular surface diseases to provide clinical solutions to patients suffering from eye discomfort or loss of vision.

What are ocular surface diseases?

These are diseases that cause unhealthy eye surface. The eye surface controls our vision and comfort. Patients with diseases affecting the eye surface generally suffer severe discomfort or loss of vision. Examples of these diseases include dry eyes, chemical and thermal burns, pterygium, trachoma, etc. The severe ocular surface diseases account for the major causes of corneal blindness especially in developing countries.

The research director of OSREF, Dr. Scheffer Tseng, is a world renowned expert in ocular surface diseases. He was a professor at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, University of Miami, School of Medicine for 16 years until January 2002. He had published more than 200 scientific papers and trained more than 50 international scholars during his tenure with University of Miami. He is the leading authority in eye surface stem cell research and a pioneer in eye surface stem cell transplantation. He has also introduced and popularized the concept of using preserved human amniotic membrane for eye surface reconstruction. Dr. Tseng is also known for his research in the new diagnosis and treatment of “dry eye” syndrome, one of the most common eye diseases in the world.

A Fellowship Training Program for Exchange Visitors has been established with the Department of State to provide the international scholars an opportunity to perform research under the direction of Dr. Tseng. After completion of training, the scholars are expected to return to their home country to apply and spread the knowledge acquired in training, continue further research in the field and participate in the activities offered by the international community in ocular surface subspecialty.