### I ONCE WAS BLIND, BUT NOW I SEE.

100 million people in the developing world need cataract surgery to restore their lives.

ANNUAL 2017

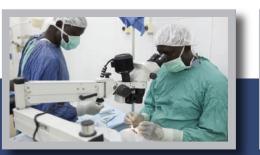
In the past, an instructor could train two or three cataract surgery specialists each year during live surgery.

In the foreseeable future, each Eye Surgery Simulator under development by HelpMeSee will enable the comprehensive training of twenty cataract surgeons per year for every simulator we send abroad.

# HelpMeSee































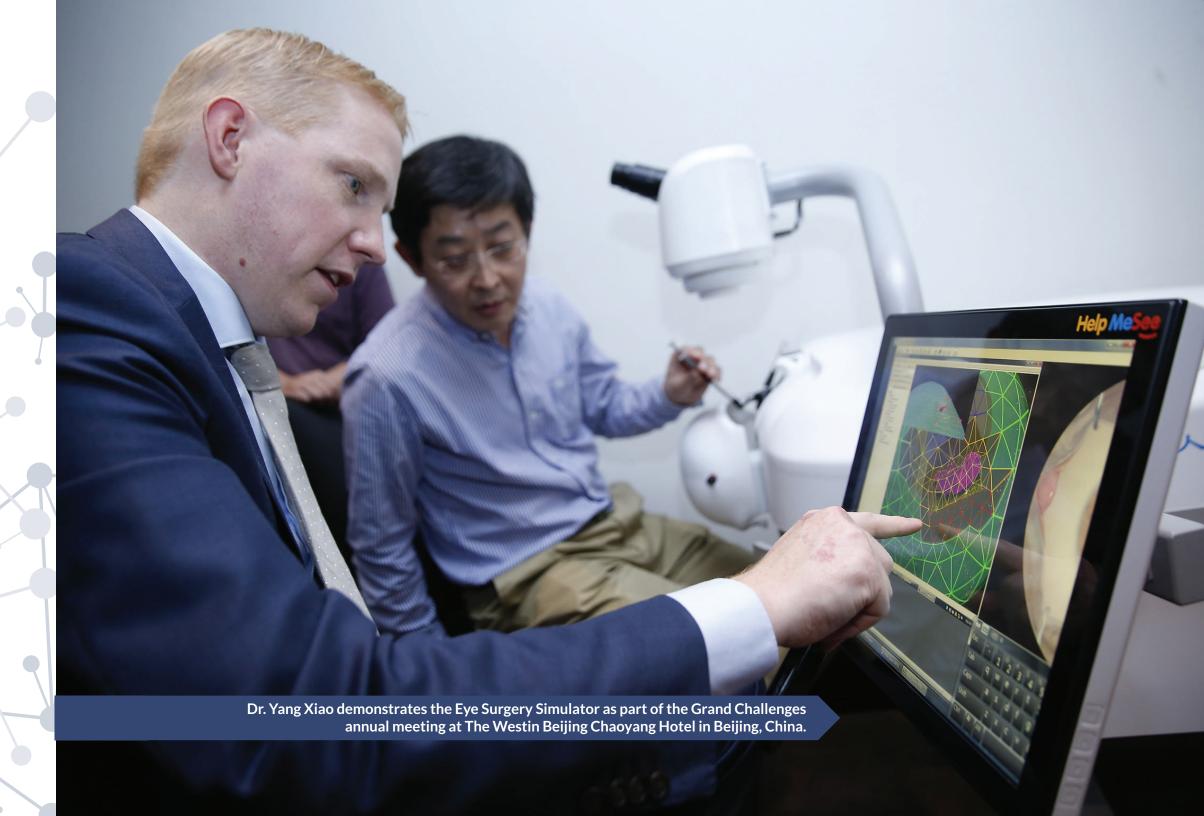


Click on a picture for the story behind each image.

HelpMeSee.org

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### Welcome Letter from the **Board of Directors**

To Friends and Family.

Looking back at 2017, we would like to thank our donors and medical partners for supporting the development of the HelpMeSee Eye Surgery Simulator and our mission to make it the standard for Manual Small Incision Cataract Surgery (MSICS) training worldwide.

This year presented our first opportunities to showcase the Simulator with healthcare communities in the United States and India. In August the Simulator was demonstrated at the Christian Ophthalmology Society's Annual Meeting in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. In December, attendees at the Comprehensive Cataract Conference in Chennai, India also

tested our Simulator. At these events, ophthalmologists reviewed the simulated virtual reality experience of scleral tunnel incision with the guidance of our medical officers and subject-matter experts. Many of those who used the Simulator are MSICS professionals who were aware of our work. Many were thrilled to learn about and see our progress. We received rave reviews.

As we introduce our Eye Surgery Simulator to the ophthalmology sector with more hands-on experiences similar to these, experts quickly see the value of our Simulator while also providing us with feedback to fine-tune our technology.

I hope you enjoy this Annual Report and its look back at 2017. It seems as if we have been moving at the speed of light over the last few

Our partner surgeon performing Manual Small Incision Cataract Surgery on a patient in Africa.

years. We look forward to sharing more exciting news with you on our website and through our emails.

Miltochi Paroli Mohen Thaghether

Chairman & Treasurer

Jacob Mohan Thazhathu President & CEO

Member, Board of Directors

# Key Leadership

### Operations

JON POLLACK, Chief of Training Operations

MICHAEL POGOSE,

Director of Project Management, QA and Compliance

Subject Matter Experts (SME) & Simulation Based Training Systems

GLENN STRAUSS MD,

Chief Subject Matter Expert

VENUDHAR BHATT,

Chief Learning Officer SATYAJIT PATNAIK.

**Director-Courseware Development** 

AKSHAY GOPINATHAN NAIR, MBBS, MS, Simulation Subject Matter Expert

ASHISH BACCHAV, MBBS, DNB, FAEH, Lead Instructor and SME

CHETAN AHIWALAY, MS, Senior Instructor and SME

TEJAS SHETH, MBBS,MS, Instructor

### **Medical Officers**

VAN CHARLES LANSINGH, MD, Chief Medical Officer

RANJIT MANIAR MBBS, MS,

Medical Officer - Asia

JEAN-MARIE ANDRE, MD, Medical Officer - Africa

YANG XIAO, MD,

Medical Officer - Asia

KAYODE ODUSOTE, MBBS, FWACP Medical Officer - Africa

### **Program Management**

STEFANY MARRANZINI,

Global Campaign Operations Manager

HINABEN PATEL, Ph.D,

Business intelligence and Quality Assurance (OA)

MATTHEW WALDEN,

Clinical Research Coordinator

MARIE LIU,

Managing Director Chief China Representative

Legal

ABHAY SAHAI, BC Das Gupta India

### **Fundraising**

STEVEN MOORE.

Senior Directors Major Donors

VIVIANNE POTTER,

**Direct Response Marketing** 

FLORA IP,

Direct Response Marketing, Hong Kong

IRIS PANG,

Administrative Manager, Hong Kong

LIYIN KELLY TANG,

Marketing and Development Coordinator

### Communications

**BRADLEY JOBLING,** 

Global Social Media Manager

Finance

MADGE BIAN,

**Accounts Controller** 

Audit

TAIT, WELLER & BAKER, LLP,

**Certified Public Accountants** 

RSM,

**Program Auditors** 

VENKAT SAMBANDHAMOORTHY,

Chief Internal Auditor

# Mission and Technology

HelpMeSee is a global-health nonprofit dedicated to the large-scale treatment of cataracts, the leading cause of blindness in the world. Our mission is to use our simulation-based training program to teach tens of thousands of cataract specialists to perform Manual Small Incision Cataract Surgery (MSICS), thereby addressing the shortage of cataract surgeons needed to treat the backlog of people waiting for this surgery.

Our plan is to bring quality eye care to people in the remotest regions of the world where Isolated communities find it difficult to sustain health-care systems that support quality medical care and well-equipped surgery facilities. The rural hospitals in developing countries are often understaffed and often the surgeons do not have the time to train the desperately needed new practitioners.



 Attendees at a cataract outreach camp in India express gratitude for their treatment by sending thank you cards to donors.



We are addressing this dire situation through our standardized training program to teach MSICS to medical specialists. As we increase the numbers of eye care practitioners that can operate, they can restore sight in a procedure that takes just five to ten minutes and costs less than \$100 in most countries where it is available.

The impact of this training goes beyond restoring sight. Restored vision enables individuals who once were blind, and their caregivers, to return to work and support themselves and care for their families. Our program will also create employment opportunities for those medical professionals who can perform surgery after our training.



# Success! 2017 Matching Gift Campaign for Training

Our 2017 year-end fundraising campaign launched with a promise from a private donor to match every donation with a gift of up to \$250,000. The gifts collected for this campaign were earmarked for the training of cataract surgeons in Manual Small Incision Cataract Surgery (MSICS).

On October 1, we announced this Matching Gift Campaign on social media, in emails, on our website and in direct mail letters. By March, six months later, we exceeded our \$250,000 goal, collecting \$277,000 from individual donors and \$50,000 in foundation gifts. With the matching gift, we raised a total of \$527,000 for this training fund.

**\$527,000** 

GOAL

REACHED!

\$ 133,061



Thanks to everyone who supported us in this vital campaign.



 Dr. Jean-Marie André (second from right) instructed hospital workers on the use of the HelpMeSee Surgery Reporting System.

### Profiles of our First Master Trainers

In 2017 we hired three extraordinary ophthalmologists as our Master Trainers for our Manual Small Incision Cataract Surgery (MSICS) training program. They will train others to teach MSICS using our simulation-based training program.

#### **Ashish Bacchav**

Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery, Diplomate National Board, Fellow of Arayind Eve Hospital

Ashish Bacchav MBBS, DNB, FAEH Lead Instructor and SME - Mumbai, IN

Dr. Ashish Bacchav was hired as a Lead Instructor and Subject Matter Expert. In addition to his role at HelpMeSee, Dr. Bacchav is a Fellow of Cornea & Microsurgery at Aravind Eye Hospital in Tirunelyeli, India, and is a senior consultant with eve hospitals in Thane, India. Dr. Bacchav is a registered corneal transplant surgeon in his private practice. Throughout his career, Dr. Bacchav has performed a combined 10,000 MSICS, phacoemulsification, LASIK, and cornea and refractive surgeries...

On joining us, Dr. Bacchav commented that "My future goal is to help HelpMeSee with the training of new MSICS instructors and MSICS practitioners. I want to help with the training of one hundred instructors in China. I am happy, fortunate and excited

to be a part of this important mission to cure cataract blindness."

#### **Chetan Ahiwalay Master of Surgery**

Dr. Chetan Ahiwalay joined HelpMeSee as a Senior Instructor and Subject Matter Expert for our MSICS training programs. Dr. Ahiwalay is a recipient of a phacoemulsification fellowship at the Sankara Nethralaya Hospital and a fellowship in medical retina care at Aravind Eye Hospital; two of India's top-rated eye hospitals. In his role at HelpMeSee, Dr. Ahiwalay assists Dr. Bacchay in the training and management of our MSICS instructors.

Dr. Ahiwalay will also provide advice on the development of the eye surgery simulators from the training perspective. In addition to his work with HelpMeSee, Dr. Ahiwalay has a private practice in cataract and anterior segment surgery. He comes to HelpMeSee with extensive experience in MSICS practice and training."



Senior Instructor and SME – Mumbai. IN

#### **Tejas Sheth** Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, Master of Surgery

Dr. Tejas Sheth joined Help-MeSee as an MSICS Instructor bringing six years of practice in trust and private hospitals. Before coming to HelpMeSee. Dr. Sheth worked in pharmacovigilance (medical review) for four vears at Tata Consultancy



Instructor - Mumbai. IN







• Dr. Bacchay demonstrates our Eye Surgery Simulator at the Comprehensive Cataract Conference in Chennai, India.

Services in Mumbai, India, At Help-MeSee, Dr. Sheth is responsible for training MSICS surgeons using the simulation-based learning system with Drs. Bacchav and Ahiwalav.

Dr. Sheth said that he "feels immense pleasure to be part of the initial cadre of HelpMeSee instructors, who will be training the many eye specialists to perform MSICS that will resolve the backlog of cataract blindness in the world. In the future, I see myself working with the training program globally and developing several centers to fight preventable blindness caused by the lack of surgeons available to perform eye surgery."





# Wenzhou Medical University Global Health Leadership Development Students Visit HelpMeSee

Ten students from the Global Health Leadership Development Program (GHLDP) at Wenzhou Medical University (WMU), one of most prestigious eye programs in China, visited the HelpMeSee New York office in July to learn about

• Asia Pacific Marketing & Development Coordinator Kelly Tang assisting a Wenzhou Medical University student with the simulator.

our Eye Surgery Simulator. GHLDP is run in collaboration with the State University of New York (SUNY) College

> of Optometry and is made up of top students in their third through sixth years at WMU.

> During their visit, the students learned about the HelpMeSee simulation-based training program, the advantages of Manual Small Incision Cataract Surgery (MSICS), and our ongoing mission to expand eye health care access to the millions of people impacted by cataract blindness.

HelpMeSee was excited to provide this opportunity to these future healthcare leaders and we hope to see a few working with us after graduation.



## Comprehensive Cataract Conference in Chennai, India

In December 2017, HelpMeSee participated in the Bi-Annual Comprehensive Cataract Conference (CCC) hosted by The International Society of Manual Small Incision Cataract Surgeons (ISMSICS) in Chennai, India. The conference included demonstrations of our Eye Surgery Simulator, Surgery Kit, Reach App, Surgery Management System and Cataract Surgery eBook.

The HelpMeSee team conducted a panel at the conference describing our current progress in simulation-based Manual Small Incision Cataract Surgery (MSISC) training. More than 100 ophthalmologists tested our Eye Surgery Simulator at CCC. One reviewer, Eric D. Hansen, MD, an ophthalmologist at the University of Utah,

reported that he "was quite impressed by the realism of the visuals and the optics and instruments. The feel and ergonomics of sitting at the microscope are realistic."

Dr. Glenn Strauss, our Chief Simulator Subject Matter Expert, received the first Albert Lee Ueltschi Award for Simulation in Ophthalmology in a ceremony at

CATARACTS: THE GLOBAL HEALTH C

the event. Dr. Strauss was recognized for his years of dedication serving those in need of medical treatment, his leadership role in building our training program, and the forwarding of the legacy of our founder, Albert Ueltschi.

# "Snap The Vision" Campaign

### Helpmesee Hong Kong and A New Vision Launch "Snap The Vision"

In August 2017, the HelpMeSee Hong Kong office partnered with Singaporean non-profit, A New Vision, to launch a photo exhibition entitled "Snap the Vision." This exhibit was a look at the history of the partnership of HelpMeSee and A New Vision. HelpMeSee and A New Vision share a similar mission of eliminating preventable blindness. This exhibit was a look at the history of that partnership.

Singaporean photographer Lee Siew Yian, the photographer for first joint Help-MeSee and A New Vision campaigns in Central Java, Indonesia, attended this exhibit. In Indonesia, Lee took a picture of a ten-year-old girl assisting her grandmother during a visit to the hospital for the removal of the grandmother's

eye bandages. The girl was missing an important exam at school to attend to her grandmother during this hospital visit. When the medical staff removed the bandages, and the grandmother could see again, the room filled with joy and excitement. Lee said, "My life was also transformed as a witness to this life-changing experience." The granddaughter was also freed from any further caregiving duties and could once again attend school.



• HelpMeSee Hong Kong and Singapore partner, A New Vision, raise public awareness for cataract surgeries during a photo exhibition in Hong Kong, China.

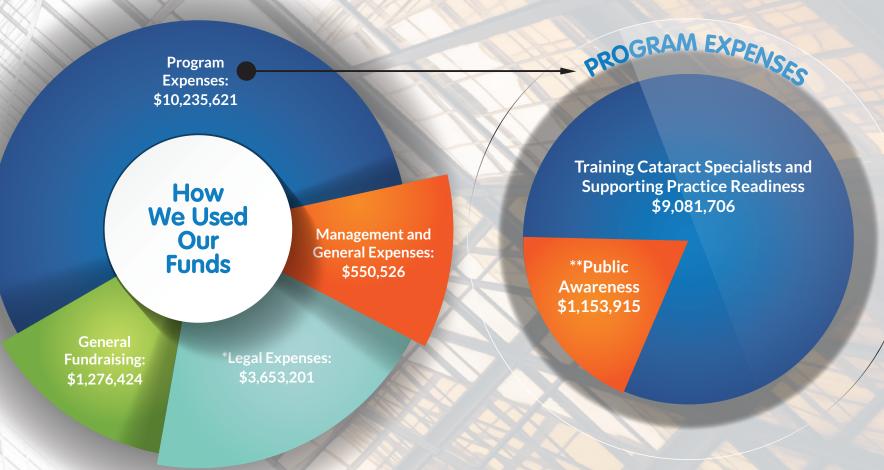




# HelpMeSee 2017 Financials



# **Activities and Expenses**



<sup>\*</sup>Public contributions were not used to fund legal expenses incurred in a proceeding against a former contractor. This case was settled in our favor.





<sup>\*\*</sup>Public awareness expenses are the costs associated with educating the public on the issue of cataract blindness. These include trade show and outreach event expenditures as well as specific communications expenses

• Villagers having eye exams in Dawang, a remote area in the Shandong Province of China.









twitter.com/HelpMeSee



### New York:

### Hong Kong:

香港灣仔軒尼詩道226號寶華商業

### Mumbai:

HelpMeSee, India Foundation

HelpMeSee

www.HelpMeSee.org