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Eye Banking

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Preface

Corneal transplantation has been performed with increasing success for more than 100 years. In the last 20 years, standards, outcomes and developments in the field of corneal transplantation and eye banking have been discussed at the annual meetings of the European Eye Bank Association (EEBA) to share and promote good practice and guarantee a high level of safety for the recipients. The EEBA standards for donor selection and eye banking provide professional advice and guidance to eye banks and corneal surgeons.

The EU Tissues and Cells Directive (2004/23/EC) and its accompanying technical directives (Commission Directives 2006/17/EC and 2006/86/EC) came into force in 2006, setting mandatory standards for the procurement, processing, preservation, storage and distribution of human tissue for therapeutic use. This includes eye banking and the supply of ocular tissue for transplantation. The transposition of these EU directives into law is the responsibility of individual EU member states. There is still, however, a need for tissue-specific guidance from professional organizations such as the EEBA to provide more detailed advice not covered by the EU directives and, ultimately, to help improve standards for the quality and safety of tissues for human application.

This book highlights the history and development of eye banking and all significant steps including the donation, processing and distribution of corneas for transplantation. Additional contributions on the sclera, amnion and retinal pigment epithelium provide further insights into ocular surgery and the future potential for transplantation. This book contributes the essentials in eye banking activities for ophthalmologists and eye bankers as well as for regulatory and legislative authorities.

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