I ONCE WAS BLIND, BUT NOW I SEE.

100 million people in the developing world need cataract surgery to restore their lives.
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.
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Dr. Yang Xiao demonstrates the Eye Surgery Simulator as part of the Grand Challenges annual meeting at The Westin Beijing Chaoyang Hotel in Beijing, China.

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

James Tyler Ueltschi
Chairman & Treasurer

Jacob Mohan Thazhathu
President & CEO

Jeff Mullen
Member, Board of Directors
Mission and Technology

HelpMeeve 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 goal is to bring quality care close 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.

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.

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

RANJUT MANJAR MBBS, MS, Medical Officer - Asia

JEAN-MARIE ANDRE, MD, Medical Officer - Africa

YANG XIAO, MD, Medical Officer - Asia

KAYODE ODUOTE, MBBS, FWACP, Medical Officer - Africa

Program Management

STEFANY MARRANZINI, Global Campaign Operations Manager

HINABEN PATEL, Ph.D, Business intelligence and Quality Assurance (QA)

MATTWILDEN, Clinical Research Coordinator

MARI LIU, Managing Director

Chief China Representative

Legal

ASHAY SAHAI, BC Dan Gupta India

Fundraising

STEVEN MOORE, Senior Directors Major Donors

VIVIANNE POTTER, Direct Response Marketing

FLORA IR, Direct Response Marketing

HONG KONG

IRIS PANG, Administrative Manager, Hong Kong

LYVIN KELLY TANG, Marketing and Development Coordinator

Communications

BRADLEY JOBLING, Global Social Media Manager

Finance

MUDGE BIAN, Accounts Controller

Audit

TAIT, WELLER & BAKER, LLP, Certified Public Accountants

RSM

Program Auditors

VENKAT SAMBHANAMOORTHY, Chief Internal Auditor

Key Leadership

Information included in this document is preliminary, subject to change, and may vary from the final release.

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The virtual reality eye as seen on the training view of the Simulator’s monitor.

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

• The virtual reality eye as seen on the training view of the Simulator’s monitor.
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.

Thanks to everyone who supported us in this vital campaign.
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, Diplomatic National Board, Fellow of Aravind Eye Hospital

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 Tirunelveli, India, and is a senior consultant with eye 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 Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery, Diplomate National Board, Fellow of Cornea & Microsurgery at Aravind Eye Hospital in Tirunelveli, India, and is a senior consultant with eye hospitals in Thane, India. Dr. Ahiwalay has performed a combined 10,000 MSICS, phacoemulsification, LASIK, and cornea and refractive surgeries.

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 adequate practice in cataract and anterior segment surgery. He comes to HelpMeSee with extensive experience in MSICS practice and training.

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

Dr. Tejas Sheth joined HelpMeSee as an MSICS Instructor for six years of practice in trust and private hospitals. Before coming to HelpMeSee, Dr. Sheth worked in high care cataract medical retina for four years at Tata Consultancy Services in Mumbai, India. At HelpMeSee, Dr. Sheth is responsible for training MSICS surgeons using the simulation-based learning system with Dr. Bacchav and Ahiwalay.

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.”

Dr. Ashish Bacchav
Senior Instructor and SME – Mumbai, IN

Dr. Chetan Ahiwalay
Senior Instructor and SME – Mumbai, IN

Dr. Tejas Sheth
Instructor – Mumbai, IN

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Dr. Ashish Bacchav
Senior Instructor and SME – Mumbai, IN

Dr. Chetan Ahiwalay
Senior Instructor and SME – Mumbai, IN

Dr. Tejas Sheth
Instructor – Mumbai, IN
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 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.
The HelpMeSee booth at the Comprehensive Cataract Conference in Chennai, India, where attendees learned about our Cataract Surgery eBook and Eye Surgery Simulator.

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


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 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 the joint HelpMeSee 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.

The Indonesian vision campaign restored vision to Taalim, a 61-year old husband who developed severe cataracts over six years ago. Blindness due to cataracts resulted in the loss of Taalim’s construction supervisor job. With restored vision, Taalim can work again.
HelpMeSee 2017 Financials

Total Assets: $5,721,603
Total Liabilities: $4,194,061
Net Assets: $1,527,542

Foundations: $14,253,009
Individuals: $1,054,196
Other: $368,894
Corporations: $92,477

Who Supported Us This Year

2017 Financial Position

Program Expenses: $10,235,621
Management and General Expenses: $550,526
Legal Expenses: $3,653,201
General Fundraising: $1,276,624
Public Awareness Expenses: $1,153,915

Activities and Expenses

How We Used Our Funds

Training Cataract Specialists and Supporting Practice Readiness $9,061,706

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