It has been a pleasure and privilege having the opportunity to care for you. Thank you for entrusting your eye care to the Department of Ophthalmology of the Antwerp University Hospital.

In addition to caring for patients, my colleagues and I are deeply committed to leading innovative research to better understand the conditions that impact better treatments and cures to alleviate pain and save vision.

Being a recognized scientific institution, the Antwerp University Hospital will deliver you a tax exemption certificate for each gift higher than 40 €.

In case you wish, you can help us facilitate our scientific research. Generous donors making a gift of 5.000 € or higher will be recognized on a plaque that will be on display on a highly visible location in the department of ophthalmology

Laboratory work, clinic and bedside teaching are time consuming activities which are done with love and dedication by all team members. We would be happy to talk more about these activities on your request.

Thank you again for your trust and confidence in our care. Most importantly, please note that your interest or ability to support our research will in no way affect the relationship we have as doctor and patient.

Marie-José Tassignon, MD, PhD, FEBO *on behalf of the Department of Ophthalmology Antwerp University Hospital*

Member of the Royal Academy of Medicine of Belgium

Member of the Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis

Member of the European Academy of Ophthalmology

Foreign member of the Academy of Ukraine

68706T

Handtekening(en)
Signature(s)
Unterschrift(en)

OVERSCHRIJVINGSOPDRACHT
ORDRE DE VIREMENT
ÜBERWEISUNGSAUFTRAG

Bij invulling met de hand, één HOOFDLETTER of cijfer in zwart (of blauw) per vakje
Si complété à la main, n'indiquer qu'une seule MAJUSCULE ou un seul chiffre noir (ou bleu) par case
Beim Ausfüllen mit der Hand ein GROSSBUCHSTABE oder Zahl in schwarz (oder blau) pro Feld

Gewenste uitvoeringsdatum in de toekomst / Date d'exécution souhaitée dans le futur / Gewünschtes Ausführungsdatum in der Zukunft

Bedrag / Montant / Betrag EUR CENT

Rekening opdrachtgever (IBAN)
Compte donneur d'ordre (IBAN)
Konto des Auftraggebers (IBAN)

Naam en adres opdrachtgever
Nom et adresse donneur d'ordre
Name und Adresse des Auftraggebers

Rekening begunstigde (IBAN)
Compte bénéficiaire (IBAN)
Konto des Begünstigten (IBAN)
BE31 0010 8931 5555

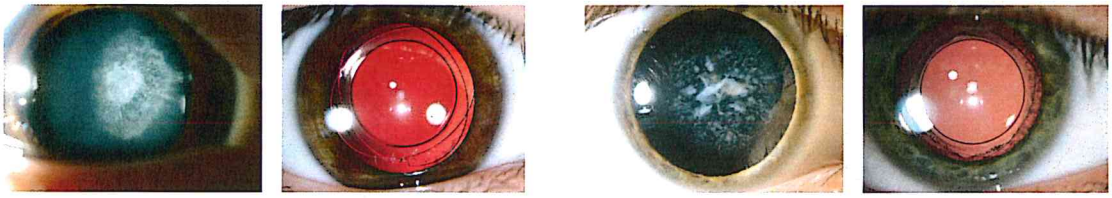
BIC begunstigde
BIC bénéficiaire
BIC Begünstigten
GEBA BEBB

Naam en adres begunstigde
Nom et adresse bénéficiaire
Name und Adresse des Begünstigten
"Gift" Dienst Oogheelkunde
21OHK12
Prof. M.J. Tassignon

Mededeling
Communication
Mitteilung

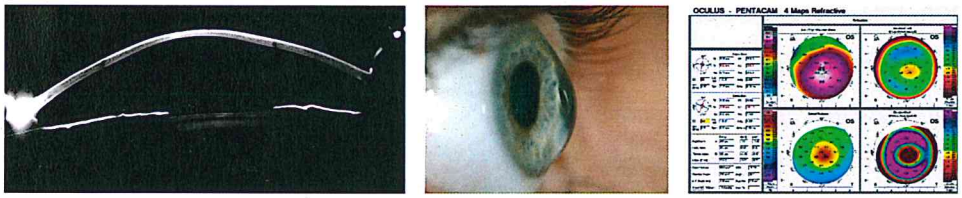
Cataract in children

For many years, our department was involved in the development of a novel technique for cataract surgery aiming at eradicating secondary cataract (bag-in-the-lens technique). This development received two patent recognitions and is now launched all over the world. We currently are focusing on cataract in babies and children who most often present developmental anomalies (genetically or acquired). We are on a very good track to unravel this eye condition that we hope can be approached and cured very early after conception. This project has been honored by grants of the Funds for Research in Ophthalmology and Philanthropie Royale de Bruxelles, and was awarded the best poster of the European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons.



Early detection/treatment of keratoconus

For many years, our department has been a reference center for keratoconus, a condition where the cornea gradually and irreversibly deforms. If detected on time this condition can be treated with good results using crosslinking, a technique that slows, or even terminates the deformation. It is therefore important that keratoconus is detected as early as possible, preferably before a severe decrease in visual acuity occurs. One of our research projects focusses on early detection of keratoconus for which we received several research grants from the Flemish Agency for Innovation by Science and Technology (IWT) and Fund for Research in Ophthalmology.



Corneal stem cell research

Since 2007, our department has been focused on stem cell research for corneal regeneration. We have successfully been able to grow the superficial layer of the cornea in the laboratory from stem cells present in small corneal biopsies. We have successfully transplanted these grafts in patients with corneal blindness with a 67% success rate in a uni-center study. This research was awarded "The most innovative research on regenerative medicine with cells and tissues by The Belgian Association for Bioindustries" in 2011 and has received funding by the Agentschap voor Innovatie door Wetenschap en Technologie, The Braille Ligue, Société Royale de Philanthropie and Funds for Reserch in Ophthalmology Belgium. We have now initiated a multicenter study in Flanders to reach a larger patient group. In 2013 we obtained funding from the Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek-Vlaanderen to develop a fully lab grown cornea using stem cells and 3D printing. This will pave the way for development of customized, artificial corneas and address the lack of donated human corneas worldwide.