

**KKESH Sets a New Record**  
**1000 Corneal Transplants in Less than a Year**



King Khaled Eye Specialist Hospital has accomplished an impressive record of one thousand corneal transplants in ten months since the beginning of this year 2008, the highest number ever at KKESH since it has started operation.

Making that announcement, Dr. Abdul Elah Al-Towerki, General Executive Director, added that the Hospital's Eye Bank is considered to be the first of its kind in both Saudi Arabia and the Middle East and it is a member of the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) and the International Federation of Eye and Tissue Banks (IFETB). KKESH Eye Bank continues to render its optimal services to provide corneas and scleras to patients undergoing corneal / scleral transplants by providing corneas through organ donation program in the Kingdom and by importing corneas from international eye banks in America and Europe. The donated corneas are kept in a medium that allows the donated cornea to remain clear and usable for two weeks. This would allow enough time to import the cornea and prepare the next patient on the patient waiting list. The Eye Bank also thoroughly tests the imported corneas to check for infectious diseases before being transplanted into the patient's eye. Dr. Al-Towerki also added that the Hospital succeeded in preparing amniotic membranes in the Hospital's Eye Bank, and distributing 204 corneas to other hospitals around the Kingdom through the Outreach Program. Dr. Al-Towerki expressed his thanks to Dr. Hamad Al-Fraikh, Eye Bank Chief, and to everyone who has contributed to this achievement.

Dr. Al-Towerki stated that this remarkable achievement has been accomplished with the guidance and care of the Government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and His Crown Prince, in order to provide high quality healthcare for citizens and residents of this generous country. Also, Dr. Al-Towerki expressed his thanks and gratitude to His Excellency the Minister of Health for his continuous supervision.

As a late note, Dr. Al-Towerki indicated the importance of organ donation to enhance the cooperation among community members in order to serve the public interest. The locally-donated organs, which are obtained with the permission of the deceased's relatives, are far more readily accessible and available for patients who extremely need them.