



2022

**GP LENS INSTITUTE**

**Annual Report**

*Our Year in Review*



**FIRST in Education**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

About the GP Lens Institute	2
The GP Lens Institute Mission	3
Letter from the Executive Director	4
GPLI Board of Directors	5
GPLI Advisory Board	7
Thank You to Our Industry Partners	11
Thank You to Our Friends of the GPLI	12
Program Highlights	13
Supporting Our Mission – Financials	15
2022 Award Winners	16
Things to Celebrate	19

## ABOUT THE GP LENS INSTITUTE



**FIRST in Education**

The Gas Permeable (GP) Lens Institute (GPLI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing eye care professionals and students with unbiased educational and practice-building resources and programs pertaining to GP and custom soft contact lenses. Since 1985, the Institute has been nationally recognized by leaders in the contact lens profession and education system, providing focused webinars, clinical programs, hands-on workshops, innovative online resources, and more. GPLI helps students, residents, and ECPs gain the experience they need to provide patients with the advantages of GP and custom soft lenses.

## HELP SUPPORT THE GPLI

After decades of established success and national recognition, GPLI is committed to evolving, growing, and becoming an even more essential part of the eye care community. You can help us reach goals that will serve to realize the full benefit of GP and custom soft contact lenses, including:

- Emphasis on the importance** of GP education and experience
- Increasing awareness** that GP lenses can change lives and provide unparalleled vision
- Boosting professional satisfaction** and practice-building for eye care professionals
- Helping others by paying it forward** & partnering with those who have benefited from GP lenses
- Expanding access to education** through new and innovative programs

**[www.gpli.info/donate](http://www.gpli.info/donate)**

## *Mission*

The Gas Permeable (GP) Lens Institute is dedicated to providing the eye care community with unbiased education, practice-building, and resources to realize the full benefits and advantages of GP and custom soft contact lenses.

# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the second annual GP Lens Institute (GPLI) Annual Report. 2022 was truly a very productive and rewarding year as is described in this report and 2023 should be even more exciting due to the large expansion in our programs, resources, committees, and the outstanding experts who help us on a daily basis. Our Development and Marketing Coordinator, Beth Anderzhon, has demonstrated her creativity and innovativeness in everything we are able to accomplish as her fingerprints are all over our programs, resources, and a greatly updated website. We are very excited to announce that well respected clinician, author, lecturer, and leader, Dr. Tom Quinn joined our family as Associate Director on January 1, 2023. Beth and Dr. Quinn compliment the efforts of our dedicated GPLI Board of Directors, our renown group of experts – the GPLI Advisory Board, the Cornea and Contact Lens Resident Advisory Board, our 10 committees consisting of Advisory Board members and “Rising Stars”, and the ongoing assistance provided by CLMA Administrative Director, Pam Witham and Ursula Lotzkat and Wink Productions.



We continued to revise our resources in 2022. Our monthly newsletter has a new and improved look and format. Our Cornea and Contact Lens Residents Symposium at the Indiana University School of Optometry, under the direction of Advisory Board member Dr. Jason Jedlicka, was a huge success. We continued to provide workshop programs at colleges of optometry and we continued to have outstanding attendance at our monthly educational webinars to ECPs and quarterly webinars to students. COPE approval was available for the last seven webinars of the year. Our development program continues to grow and we are so appreciative of the support of our CLMA Industry Partners, as well as donations provided by many of our Advisory Board members and other supporters who are prominently listed in this report. In particular, Drs. Stephanie Woo and Shannon Steinhauer were very supportive of an annual award in the name of Dr. Art Epstein. Our clinical externships program, with the goal of increasing the number of sites for 4th year optometry students to receive specialty contact lens experience under the direction of committee chair Dr. Gloria Chiu, continues to grow along with our first of four “How To” modules – “I Have a GP Wearer in My Chair: What Do I Do” under the direction of committee co-chairs Drs. Jennifer Harthan and Michelle Man.

2023 is off to an outstanding start with the introduction of our most ambitious program, our GPLI Eye Care Professionals membership program which includes 14 benefits to members for a low annual fee. This includes “The Advisor”, a bimonthly online clinical journal edited by Drs. Jennifer Harthan and Melanie Frogozo, and quarterly podcasts (“GPLI Radio”) as moderated by Dr. Tom Quinn. Again, the GPLI was a Gold Sponsor of the Global Specialty Lens Symposium held January 18–21, in Las Vegas. The GPLI sponsored a track of education, the registration of contact lens educators, a booth, and the social highlight of GSLS, the Rising Stars reception. This year the GPLI honored six very deserving individuals at this reception with the Naomi “Jo” Svochak GPLI Practitioner of the Year award to Dr. Gloria Chiu; the Dr. Edward S. Bennett Educator of the Year Award to Dr. Langis Michaud; the Thomas J. “Tommy” Pham Keratoconus Practitioner of the Year award – presented by Tommy personally – to Dr. Clark Chang, the Thomas E. Anastor Distinguished Service Award to Pam Witham and Ursula Lotzkat, and the newly established Dr. Arthur B. Epstein GPLI Award of Excellence in Specialty Contact Lenses and Anterior Segment Disease presented to Dr. Epstein with the award accepted by Dr. Steinhauer. The “I Have a GP Wearer in My Chair: What Do I Do” module should be introduced in 2023 while initial development of the second module, “I Have a Young Myope in My Chair: What’s Next?” will be occurring.

Our goal continues, as always, to be THE source for GP and custom soft lens education. Thank you for your support in helping us reach this goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward S. Bennett MD, MSEd".

Dr. Ed Bennett  
President and Executive Director, GP Lens Institute



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GPLI was born two years after I graduated optometry school and it has been my most constant and valued professional companion. In my 40th year of specialty contact lens practice, I continue to benefit from GPLI's incredibly robust suite of resources. These assets strengthen my continuing education, staff training and patient communications. Membership in GPLI, with its nominal cost and incredible value, should be one of the first professional organizations all new grads should join.

*Dr. Susan Resnick*  
*Drs. Farkas, Kassalow, Resnick*  
*and Associates*

# GPLI ADVISORY BOARD

Over 80 experts from around the globe sit on the GPLI Advisory Board. Our members are some of the best specialty contact lens fitters and educators in the world. They participate in ongoing meetings and conferences, serve as our webinar faculty, and are authors for many contact lens journal articles. These Advisory Board members play a major role in developing ideas for GPLI resources and content. They are some of our best ambassadors, promoting our mission, messages, and resources across the country.

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GPLI is an amazing organization! As a contact lens educator, I truly appreciate how they provide us with resources not only for our students but also for our patients. With our specialty lens patients, we provide them with application/removal and contact lens hygiene/care guides in their "take-home kits." For our students, their website provides amazing resources such as the GP "Click N' Fit" that allows our second year students to see how the fluorescein pattern can be influenced with different fit changes. This was extremely helpful especially during COVID when we utilized our hybrid learning platform. We appreciate all of their help throughout the years! Thank you!

*Dr. Vakishan Nadarajah*  
Midwestern University,  
Chicago College of Optometry

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Our Industry Partners help support the GPLI programs and services and are recognized in many ways. For more information, email [donate@gpli.info](mailto:donate@gpli.info) and ask for our sponsor benefits package.

[www.gpli.info/donate](http://www.gpli.info/donate)

## PRESIDENT'S SOCIETY

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# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



2022 Cornea and Contact Lens Residents, Symposium Faculty, & CLMA Ambassadors at Indiana University

## 2022 PROGRAMS & SERVICES – WHAT WE WORKED ON

- Clinical Excellence Awards • Monthly Eye Care Professional Webinars
  - Quarterly Student Webinars • Annual Cornea and Contact Lens Residents Symposium • Specialty Contact Lens Externship Site Program
- Consumer Educational Brochures Sent Nationwide • GSLS Participation
  - COPE Continuing Education Administration • Eye Care Professional Membership • Newsletters • Social Media Outreach • GPLI Experts Facebook Group • Revised Clinical Pocket Guide • Student Workshops
- Website Redesign • Professional Awards • Updates to the Find a GP Specialist Database • Comprehensive Educational Online Module



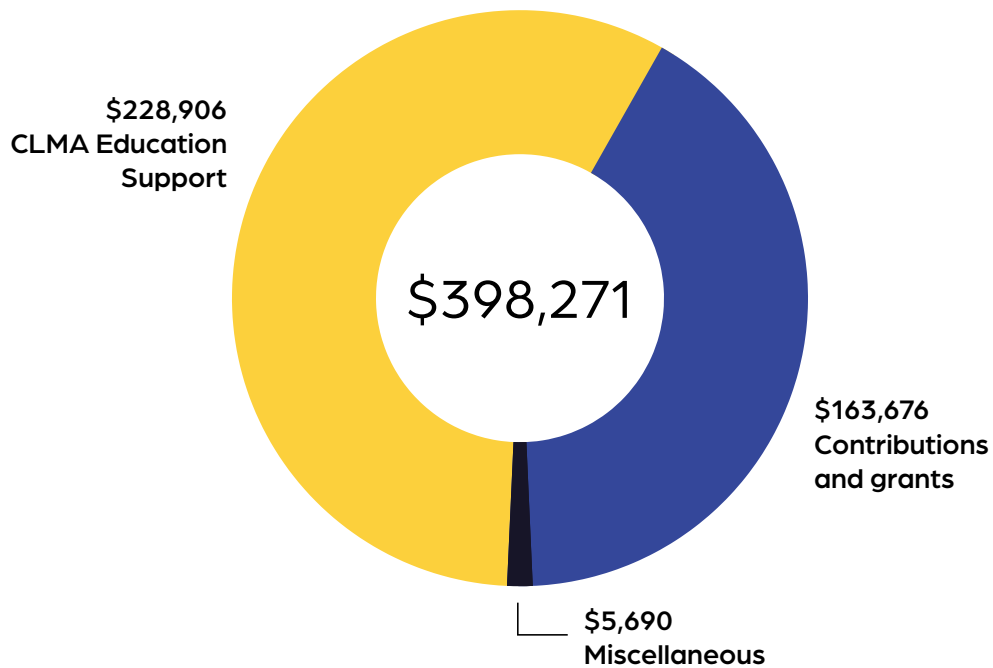


How wonderful is it for this industry  
to receive the gift of 100% non-branded  
education, sponsored by the GPLI? We are all  
still learning how to better fit scleral lenses and  
having access to the giants in the field is priceless.  
The GPLI is the only organization I know whose  
mission is truly to make us all better doctors.

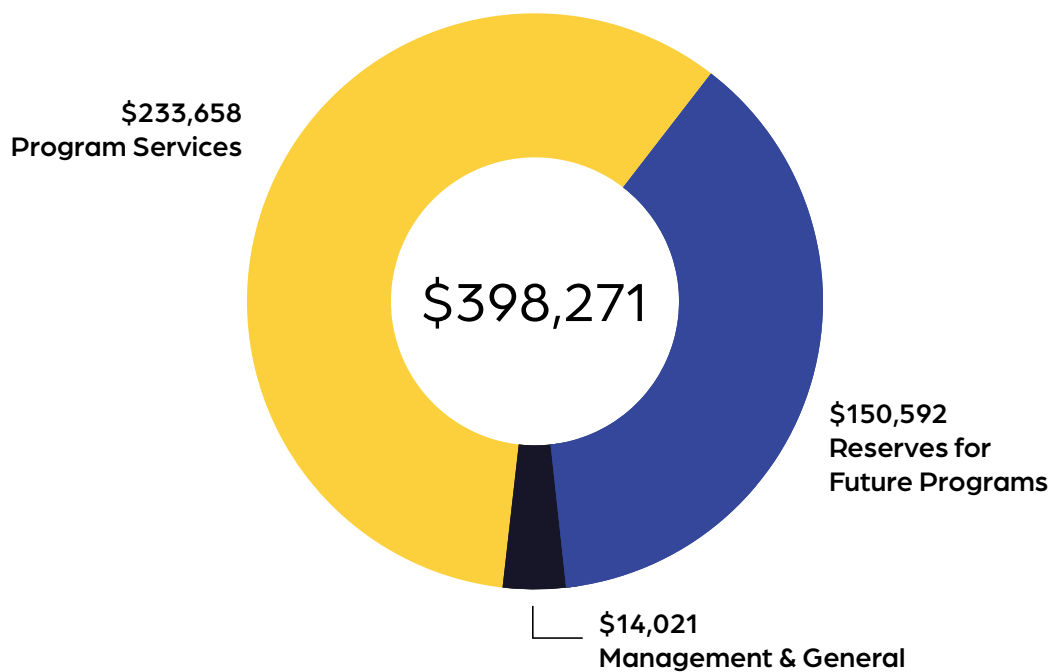
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and Eyeris

# SUPPORTING OUR MISSION – FINANCIALS

## 2022 REVENUE



## 2022 EXPENSES



## 2022 AWARD WINNERS



### 2022 NAOMI "JO" SVOCHAK GP PRACTITIONER OF THE YEAR

*presented to:* **Dr. Stephanie Woo**

"For outstanding professional expertise in fitting customized contact lenses to benefit patients with improved vision and corneal health, and to advance the contact lens field."

### 2022 DR. EDWARD S. BENNETT GPLI EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

*presented to:* **Dr. Jennifer Harthan**

"For outstanding achievement as an educator in the area of GP and custom soft contact lenses."



## 2022 AWARD WINNERS



### 2022 THOMAS J. "TOMMY" PHAM GPLI – NKCF KERATOCONUS PRACTITIONER OF THE YEAR

*presented to:* Dr. S. Barry Eiden

"For exceptional expertise in keratoconus education and management."

Dr. Eiden is the first to receive this award.

### 2022 THOMAS E. ANASTOR GPLI DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

*presented to:* Dr. Edward Bennett

"For outstanding service toward the goals, mission, and programs of the GP Lens Institute."

Dr. Bennett is the first to receive this award.



I have had the unique opportunity to utilize GPLI's educational resources as a student, resident, faculty member, and practitioner. The commitment that GPLI has towards gas permeable and custom specialty soft contact lens education has allowed me to personally grow in my clinical practice, my knowledge, and in my teaching skills. I am honored to be able to collaborate with colleagues who share the same passion for GP lenses while serving on committees within the GPLI. I can't thank everyone at the GPLI enough, especially Dr. Ed Bennett, for all that they do!

*Dr. Jennifer Harthan*  
Illinois College of Optometry



# THINGS TO CELEBRATE

We revised the **Contact Lens Clinical Pearls Pocket Guide**, with contributions from 19 experts in the field.

We earned the **Candid Silver Seal of Transparency** on GuideStar.

**2 new awards** were presented for the first time at our Rising Stars Reception: the Thomas J. "Tommy" Pham GPLI – NKCF Keratoconus Practitioner of the Year award and the Thomas E. Anastor GPLI Distinguished Service Award. Major league baseball player Tommy Pham, who has keratoconus, served as keynote speaker, presented his award, and stayed for photos.

We **educated 3,000 people** via webinars, workshops, and presentations.

**25 GP Clinical Excellence Awards** were given to 4th year optometry students at the colleges of optometry for outstanding achievement with GP contact lenses.

We laid the groundwork for a program to establish new **specialty contact lens externship sites**, providing resources for efficient and successful integration.

We fulfilled **427 orders** and shipped **56,945 educational resources** to eye care professionals nationwide.

The decision was made to hire additional staff to assist with program development, and longtime GPLI advocate Dr. Tom Quinn was offered the **Associate Director** position beginning January 1, 2023.

We **redesigned the GPLI website** with an updated look and functionality.

The **GPLI ECP Membership Program** was established and set to begin in 2023, with 14 premier resources available to members.

The 24th annual **GPLI Cornea and Contact Lens Residents Symposium** was hosted by the Indiana University School of Optometry and involved 38 residents and fellows. The program included 8 virtual lectures & CLMA resource videos, a 3 hour live online grand rounds program, and 3 days of in-person workshops, lectures, and panels at IU.

Beth Anderzhon became a COPE administrator, and we began offering **COPE accredited** webinars.