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### World's First Corneal Transplant with Newest ORange™ Technology

Largo, Florida February 23, 2010 - The Eye Institute of West Florida is proud to announce a ground-breaking event in vision-restoring eye surgery. This week, Dr. Neel Desai, an internationally recognized specialist in Cornea, Cataract, and Refractive Surgery, performed the world's first cornea transplant using the most sophisticated wavefront technology, in order to provide his patients better visual outcomes. News of this achievement will be announced worldwide in an article appearing in the May issue of the Journal Cataract and Refractive Surgery Today.

Wavefront technology, like the device used by Dr. Desai during this ground-breaking surgery, is based on optical imaging technology first developed by NASA for the Hubble Space Telescope, which allows the telescope to capture and interpret clear images of planets, stars, and galaxies millions of miles away. The ORange® intraoperative wavefront aberrometer, developed by Wavetec Vision, utilizes this technology in a device designed for use by elite eye surgeons during advanced cornea, cataract, and refractive surgery and is available to only ten eye surgery centers in the country. The Eye Institute of West Florida's cataract surgeons, including Dr. Desai and Dr. Robert Weinstock, are the first and only center in Florida utilizing this technology for cataract surgery. By sending an invisible ray of light into the eye during surgery, and capturing the reflected light as it exits the eye, the device generates a map of the patient's vision that is as unique as a fingerprint. This customized data allows a surgeon to make ultra-precise decisions in real-time, to improve the patient's quality of vision and quality of life, with cataract surgery, astigmatism correction, and refractive surgery.

On Tuesday, February 23, 2010, Dr. Desai of The Eye Institute of West Florida became the first surgeon in the world to apply this cutting edge technology for his advanced corneal transplant patients with startling results. Traditional corneal transplant surgery involves replacing a cloudy or diseased cornea (the front window of the eye) with an entirely new one, using meticulously

placed sutures in a circular pattern. This old technique has been used by eye surgeons in much the same way for the last 100 years, and can result in very unpredictable and poor visual outcomes since each suture imparts an irregular shape to the cornea-- much like the tie strings on a domed tent, if not precisely placed, can distort the shape of the tent. Recent advances in partial thickness corneal transplant and suture-less corneal transplants, as those performed by Dr. Desai, have revolutionized the surgery and its benefits for patients. Now, by using this exclusive wavefront technology for the first time during corneal transplant surgery, Dr. Desai is able to adjust the sutures during the surgery to produce a better outcome for his patients than achieved with the traditional techniques. Just one day after her surgery, Dr. Desai's patient with a corneal disorder, called keratoconus, was seeing and reading better than both she and Dr. Desai expected!

Dr. Desai is a fellowship-trained specialist in Cornea, Cataract, and LASIK surgery at The Eye Institute of West Florida, with offices in Largo, St. Petersburg, and Clearwater. Dr. Desai was a top graduate of the Penn State College of Medicine, and obtained his advanced subspecialty training at the world renowned Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins Hospital, where he later served as a member of their esteemed teaching faculty. He is a highly sought after lecturer and has published prolifically on advanced eye surgery in medical journals and international surgical textbooks. He is also the founder of three non-profit medical organizations for the underserved.