

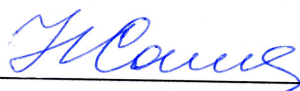
28403-Institutional review board statement

The study reviewed and approved by the Emanuel Institute of Biochemical Physics Institutional Review Board.

Human and/or animals subjects were not involved in our experimental study.

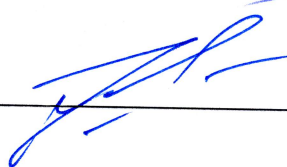
Cadaver eyes from 40 - 75 years old donors without any ophthalmic diseases were kindly provided by the Eye Tissue Bank of the Sv. Fyodorov Eye Microsurgery Institute, Moscow. Experiments on tissue isolated from human-cadaver eyes were performed in compliance with officially accepted procedures, in particular Russian Federation law N 4180-I dated 22.12.1992, "On human organs or tissue transplantation" (with modifications and additions dated 20.06.2000, 16.10.2006, 09.02.2007, and 29.11.2007); section II "Removal of organs or tissue from dead bodies"; clause 8 "Presumption of consent for removal of organs or tissue"; clause 10 "Permission to remove organs or tissue from dead bodies". According to section II (clause 8) of this law, consent from the donor or the next of kin to use organs or tissue is not required [29]. On the basis of the Russian Federal Service on Surveillance in Healthcare (Roszdravnadzor) licenses No. 99-01-005317 dated 30.04.2008 and No. FS-99-01-008251 dated 18.02.2013, the Eye Tissue Bank located in the Sv. Fyodorov Eye Microsurgery Complex (Beskudnikovsky bld. 59a, Moscow, Russia, 127486, http://www.mntk.ru/mntk-moscow/Scientific-units/biology/glaznoy_bank/) obtains human cadaver eyes from the mortuary departments of the Moscow Forensic Medical Examination Bureau. These licenses permit the use of tissue isolated from human-cadaver eyes for transplantation and scientific research. Permission was obtained from the chief medical officer of the Sv. Fyodorov Eye Microsurgery Complex, under a scientific collaboration agreement between the Complex and the Emanuel Institute of Biochemical Physics dated 11.01.2011, to perform scientific research in the Laboratory of Physical and Chemical Bases of Vision at the Institute with RPE from cadaver eyes. Cadaver eyes, after removal of corneas for transplantation, were delivered by the Eye Tissue Bank to the Laboratory by road in a box for human organs. Cadaver eyes after isolation of RPE were returned to the Eye Tissue Bank for use, in compliance with officially accepted procedures.

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