**MECA Eye and Laser Center**
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## MECA Now Offers BLADE-FREE LASIK Surgery
## World's Most Advanced Laser Eye Surgery Technology

The 100 percent blade-free IntraLase Method™ provides patients with a safe, highly effective alternative with fewer complications and faster recovery.

(Memphis, Tenn. – Jan. 15, 2007) – Doctors at MECA Eye and Laser Center have recently acquired the advanced IntraLase FS® Laser (femtosecond), which will enable them to perform complex eye surgeries such as LASIK vision correction and corneal transplantation with greater efficiency and fewer recovery complications.

Traditionally, the laser eye surgery known as LASIK has relied on the use of a microkeratome, a hand-held, oscillating blade which creates the corneal flap. An excimer laser is then used to reshape the cornea and the flap replaced. LASIK has proven to be a successful and safe procedure. Though few, most complications and patient concerns have been associated with the use of the microkeratome.

Instead of using a blade, the IntraLase Method™ uses tiny, rapid pulses of laser light to create the corneal flap during the critical first step of a LASIK procedure. Each pulse of light passes through the top layers of the cornea and forms microscopic bubbles at a specific depth and position within the eye. The IntraLase® laser moves back and forth across the eye, creating a uniform layer of bubbles just beneath the corneal surface. The corneal flap is created by separating the tissue where these bubbles have formed. The unique way in which the IntraLase Method constructs a precisely positioned layer of bubbles just beneath the eye's surface creates a smooth, even surface after the flap is lifted. With the IntraLase Method, a blade never touches the eye.

The IntraLase Method gives doctors the ability to tailor the dimensions of a corneal flap based on what is best for each individual's eye. Everything from the diameter of the flap to the angle of its edges can be precisely determined, which is important because everyone's eyes are shaped a little differently. Having a corneal flap that's custom made for the patient contributes to excellent

postoperative outcomes. In addition, a corneal flap created with the IntraLase Method™ tends to "lock" back into position after the LASIK procedure is performed.

Patients in clinical trials have reported better overall vision quality with the IntraLase Method, particularly in their ability to see well in low light experienced at dusk or at night. More than a million LASIK procedures have been performed safely and effectively using the IntraLase Method™.

This advanced laser is also revolutionizing corneal transplants, representing one of the most significant technological breakthroughs in corneal transplantation in more than 50 years. The IntraLase laser's infrared light beam, generating 60,000 pulses per second, is precisely focused to a point within the cornea where bubbles are formed to gently create an incision. The surgeon programs the laser to create incisions which will form individualized edges of both the patient's cornea and the transplanted tissue, which then fit together much like a puzzle. This optimized wound architecture may provide for a more stable graft, requiring fewer sutures, speedier healing and more rapid visual recovery.

"We are very excited about this new laser because it represents the future of corneal surgery and allows a new level of precision and safety in making corneal incisions," says Dr. John Freeman of MECA Eye & Laser Center. "The laser allows the surgeon to make practically any type of incision in the cornea with micron level precision. In corneal transplants, it allows a tongue and groove relationship between the donor and recipient tissue that previously was impossible."

"We feel that the IntraLase method is a definite incremental improvement in the Lasik technique", says Dr Jerre Minor Freeman of MECA Eye & Laser Center, "but we are most impressed with the ability to bring greater precision to corneal transplantation."