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**LASER VISION CORRECTION MARKET GROWTH CONTINUES FOR THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR, THE
REFRACTIVE SURGERY COUNCIL REPORTS**

U.S. Procedure Volume of LASIK and Other Laser Vision Correction Procedures Increases in 2018

DALLAS (Feb. 7, 2019) – U.S. laser vision correction procedure volume grew for the third straight year in 2018, reflecting continued strong demand for LASIK and other forms of laser vision correction, according to figures released today by The Refractive Surgery Council (RSC).

More than 843,000 laser vision correction procedures, including LASIK, PRK and small incision lenticule extraction (SMILE), were performed in 2018. The figure represents a 6.2 percent increase in procedures over 2017 and continues a three-year upward trend since 2015.

“Our reporting shows an average year-over-year growth of 7.5 percent over the past three years, reflecting strengthening consumer demand for laser vision correction and broad confidence that it is safe and effective. With the enormous need for vision correction among today’s adult populations and the widespread availability of advanced laser vision correction technologies, we foresee a return to annual procedure volumes in excess of 1 million,” said RSC Chairman Jim Wachtman. “To foster that demand, and to ensure that as many people as possible who are good candidates for laser vision correction benefit from the procedures, RSC continues to expand upon its patient education efforts to ensure quality, accurate information about refractive surgery is available to those people considering their vision correction options.”

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RSC's educational efforts work to ensure public awareness and understanding of the benefits of LASIK and other laser vision correction procedures. The goal of these programs is to ensure that people considering laser vision correction have access to information they can trust to be accurate and, therefore, have confidence in its credibility and authority. Developed specifically for the laser vision correction prospect, RSC material is reviewed by experts in the field to ensure people have the information they need to make decisions about which options are right for them. Bearing the "RSC Verified" seal, the RSC patient information content is accessible through its Eye-You.org website.

About Refractive Surgery Council

Formed in 2010, the Refractive Surgery Council (RSC) is a leading voice in the field of refractive surgery. Its members are comprised of industry representatives (Alcon, Bausch + Lomb, Johnson & Johnson Vision, Zeiss, and Ziemer) and medical professional organizations, including the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS), the American-European Congress of Ophthalmic Surgery (AECOS), the International Society for Refractive Surgery (ISRS), and the Refractive Surgery Alliance Society (RSA), which work together to ensure that people who are considering refractive surgery make decisions that are right for them.

Through its educational programs, RSC helps people make informed choices about the way people see the world. RSC supports clinically accurate and productive discussions with current and prospective patients, medical professionals and educators, legislators, the media and the refractive surgery industry.

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