From October 6 to 12, 2018, Loyola Ophthalmology partnered with a team of doctors and volunteers from Humanity First USA for the 8th Gift of Sight trip in Guatemala. Dr. Charles Bouchard, Dr. Michael Henry, Dr. Joel Mann, and Janette Jury nec joined with 10 other volunteers from six U.S. states and Canada to serve patients from remote areas of Guatemala. In the months leading up to the camp, screening eye clinics were performed and ultimately over 250 patients were sent to the Gift of Sight camp for evaluation. A total of 70 surgeries (34 cataract, 35 pterygium and 1 removal of ocular surface tumor) were ultimately performed by the team.

Dr. Bouchard worked around the clock performing ocular surface surgery as well as instructing local resident surgeons.
Dr. Henry performed pre-operative A-scans, manual keratometry, placed IV’s, and assisted Dr. Bouchard with pterygium surgery.

Three ophthalmology residents (two from Guatemala and one from Mexico) were also trained in surgical techniques.
In addition, Dr. Charles Bouchard delivered a lecture to the Guatemalan Ophthalmological Society on October 9, attended by 40 local eye surgeons discussing advanced surgical techniques.

The team also toured the newly established Nasir Hospital—a new, state of the art hospital built by Humanity First to serve local Guatemalans and future location for more Gift of Sight trips.
Loyola Ophthalmology has a long history of service to the local and international community. Since 2012, volunteers from Loyola have partnered with Humanity First to provide week-long eye camps. The establishment of the Nasir Hospital will provide year-round care from local providers. The surgical mission achieved its goal of providing immediate care to many in need as well as promoting sustainable solutions to health disparities through education and partnership with local surgeons.