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[John Jacob Requard, III](#) began his career as a part-time eye bank technician while still in college. He broadened his experience to work at a combined organ/eye and tissue recovery agency, and then developed the largest eye tissue distribution network for corneal transplantation in the world. He has experience in all phases of organ donation, from obtaining donor referrals to distribution of human tissues for transplantation. Early in his career, Jake served as Executive Director of the St. Louis Eye Bank at the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at Washington University. The eye bank there became part of Mid-America Transplant Services (MTS), the first eye bank to combine its activities with an organ procurement organization and tissue bank.

Throughout his career, Jake has been involved in research-related activity including the establishment of a large tissue bank of donor retinas with Gregory S. Hageman, PhD. at St. Louis University and later at the Center for Macular Degeneration at the University of Iowa. Data from this tissue bank contributed to the identification of genes that predisposed individuals for age-related macular degeneration (AMD) via the complement pathway. Jake was instrumental in developing the Vision Share Eye Bank Consortium in 1996. He served as Managing Director, and then President/CEO, of Vision Share. Vision Share became the largest coordinated source of donor eye tissue for transplantation, research, and medical education in the world.

Since 2010, Jake has been involved with a number of start-up companies, including his involvement with Lung Banks of America, which supports research into the use of donor lungs for transplant from uncontrolled Donation After Circulatory Determination of Death donors (uDCDDs). Jake lives with his wife Martha in Apex, North Carolina (Raleigh-Durham) and enjoys swimming and fishing.