



**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY CORRECTS
ERRONEOUS DATA ABOUT CATARACT SURGERY COSTS
REPORTED IN NEW YORK TIMES
FEBRUARY, 2012**

The American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), during the week of Jan. 24th, 2012, responded to a January 21, 2012, column in the *New York Times*, which compares U.S. health-care costs to those of other nations. The column includes a graphic, which indicates that the average cost in the U.S. for cataract surgery is \$14,764.00 across public and private sectors. The paper unknowingly pulled the erroneous figure from an early version of the 2010 Comparative Price Report released by the International Federation of Health Plans. A corrected version of the report is on the federation's website, reflecting \$3,161.00 as the average cost for cataract surgery in the U.S. The Federation apparently had erroneously listed the cost of the 0.1% of cataract procedures that result in hospitalization in earlier versions of the report.