CLAIMS

We Claim:

1. A forceps comprising:

a first arm, the first arm comprising a first grasping tip adjacent a distal end of the first arm, the first arm further comprising a notch located along an inside surface of the first grasping tip, wherein the notch transverses the width of the first grasping tip, and wherein the notch is a rounded indentation in the inside surface having a width and a depth configured to fit an outer edge of an inner conformer ring on an amniotic membrane insert; and

a second arm, the second arm comprising a second grasping tip adjacent a distal end of the second arm, wherein the first and second arms are connected at a proximal end, wherein an inside surface of the second grasping tip is covered in a second set of grooved transversal anti-slip elements, wherein a plurality of the grooved anti-slip elements are located opposite the notch on the first grasping tip and are configured to interact with an inner edge of the inner conformer ring of the amniotic membrane insert, wherein an inside surface of the second grasping tip is devoid of a notch and

a coupling section connecting the first and second arms at a proximal end, wherein application of an inward pressure on a first and second gripping section on the first and second arms moves the first and second distal ends together to lock the inner conformer ring between the notch and the grooved anti-slip elements opposite the notch to prevent the inner conformer ring from moving, and wherein releasing the pressure on the gripping portion of the first and second arms allows the first and second arms to return to an initial open position and release the inner conformer ring

~~wherein an inside surface of the second grasping tip is devoid of a notch~~.

2. The forceps according to Claim 1, wherein the second arm has the same length as the first arm.

~~3. The forceps according to Claim 1, wherein the notch transverses the width of the first grasping tip.~~

~~4. The forceps according to Claim 1, wherein the notch is rounded or semi-circular in shape.~~

~~5~~3. The forceps according to Claim 1, wherein an inner surface of the notch includes one or more anti-slip elements ~~is located adjacent the distal end of the first grasping tip~~.

~~6~~4. The forceps according to Claim 1, wherein the first and second grasping tips ~~are curved at their distal ends~~have substantially rounded ends.

~~7~~5. The forceps according to Claim ~~6~~4, wherein the distal ends of the first and second arms are curved downward from a horizontal axis of the forceps.

~~8. The forceps according to Claim 1, wherein the inner surface of the second grasping tip has a plurality of grooved transversal anti-slip elements.~~

~~9. The forceps according to Claim 5, wherein the inner surface of the first grasping tip has a plurality of grooved transversal anti-slip elements, and wherein the notch is located between the distal end of the first grasping tip and the plurality of transversal anti-slip elements.~~

~~10. The forceps according to Claim 8, wherein the width of the notch is configured to hold an edge of an amniotic membrane insert.~~

~~11. The forceps according to Claim 10, wherein the edge of the amniotic membrane insert is locked into place between the notch on the first grasping tip and the grooved transversal anti-slip elements of the second grasping tip.~~

~~12. The forceps according to Claim 11, wherein the amniotic membrane insert is configured for placement on an ocular surface.~~

~~13~~6. The forceps according to Claim 1, wherein an exterior surface of the gripping portions of the first and second arms have a plurality of anti-slip elements ~~further comprise an intermediate portion between their corresponding proximal and distal ends, wherein an exterior surface of the intermediate portion has a gripping portion comprising a plurality of anti-slip elements~~.

~~14~~7. The forceps according to Claim 1, further comprising a protective cover for the first and second grasping tips.

~~15. A method for removing a cryopreserved amniotic membrane insert from a patient's eye, the amniotic membrane insert comprising an amniotic membrane fastened to a conformer ring set comprising an inner ring abutting the amniotic membrane and an outer ring abutting the inner ring, the method comprising:~~

~~providing a pair of ophthalmic forceps, the forceps comprising:~~

~~a first arm, the first arm comprising a first grasping tip adjacent a distal end of the first arm, the first arm further comprising a notch located along an inside surface of first grasping tip; and~~

~~a second arm, the second arm comprising a second grasping tip adjacent a distal end of the second arm, wherein the first and second arms are connected at a proximal end, and wherein an inside surface of the second grasping tip is devoid of a notch;~~

~~holding an edge of the inner ring within the notch of the first grasping tip; and~~

squeezing the first arm and second arm together by hand to bring the first grasping tip and second grasping tip towards each other, wherein the inner ring is securely held between the notch and a plurality of grooved transversal anti-slip elements configured on the inside surface of the second grasping tip.

16. The method according to Claim 15, further comprising lifting the amniotic membrane from its inner ring thereby avoiding contact between the forceps and cornea.

17. The method according to Claim 15, further comprising instilling a drop of a topical anesthetic in the eye prior to removing the amniotic membrane insert.