

vision News



Autumn 2021



Future of optometry

The future is bright for WA's optometry students.

Partnership with Perth Children's Hospital

Working to save sight in children with diabetes.

Gift of sight

One family's journey to overcome vision loss.



From the Managing Director

Hello and welcome to the Autumn 2021 edition of Vision News. With a new year comes new aspirations, and we certainly hope this year will be a little different to the last.

COVID-19 continues to affect people and organisations across the world and we at the Lions Eye Institute are no different. However, we have continued to respond to the pandemic with best practice protocols. In the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, we liaised with ophthalmology colleagues in countries dealing with the virus before Australia, such as Hong Kong and Singapore. This enabled us to glean valuable insights and apply practices here at the Institute that ensured we were ahead of the game.

New Board member for Lions Eye Institute

Professor Jane den Hollander AO joined the Lions Eye Institute Board in October 2020. She is a highly experienced Board director with a particular interest in higher education.



I am pleased to say we were well prepared for the most recent lockdown in Western Australia, and were able to respond swiftly and decisively. Many of our office staff were able to work from home, and increased safety measures were immediately introduced to our clinics. Unfortunately, the lockdown meant some appointments were unavoidably rescheduled. If you were affected by this, please accept my sincerest apologies. As the pandemic continues, we will carefully monitor the situation and adjust our response accordingly.

To other news, we are delighted to have appointed Professor Jane den Hollander AO (pictured below) to the Board of the Lions Eye Institute. Professor den Hollander joined the Board in late 2020 and brings a wealth of experience to the Institute. In 2020 Professor den Hollander served as interim Vice-Chancellor of The University of Western Australia. She is currently a Director of UniSuper Limited and Trustee and chair of its Remuneration Committee. She is also chair of the Victorian Government International Education Advisory Council and chairs the Global Health Alliance Australia.

In this edition of Vision News, read about Western Australia's first and only optometry school and why it is so important to the future of optometry and ophthalmology in Australia. Find out about a groundbreaking new initiative between the Lions Eye Institute and Perth Children's Hospital that will see children with diabetes screened and treated for blinding eye disease, as well as a research project to develop innovative new treatments for diabetic retinopathy. Don't miss an inspiring and emotional story from one of our supporters, Norman Hogg, who shares his family's experience of living with vision impairment.

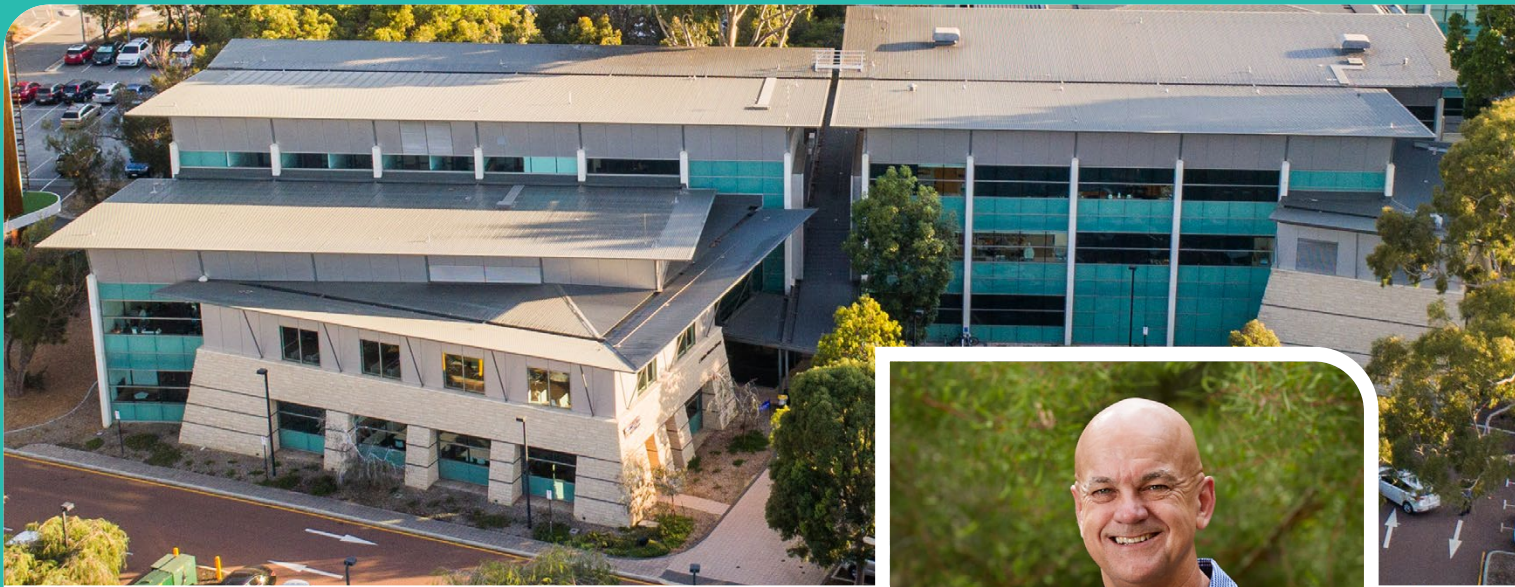
We are excited for the opportunities ahead, and this is only made possible because of your generosity and continued support. Thank you.

I hope you and your loved ones stay safe and well.

Professor Bill Morgan MBBS, PhD, FRANZCO
Managing Director, Lions Eye Institute

Follow us on social media

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Optometry school a first for Western Australia

The Lions Eye Institute has partnered with The University of Western Australia (UWA) and optometry industry leaders to launch Western Australia's first Doctor of Optometry degree. The new degree will help address a chronic shortage of eye care professionals in Australia.

Eye disease is projected to increase significantly over the next three decades, primarily due to our ageing population, and this is expected to increase demand for quality eye health care in Australia.

Western Australia's first and only optometry school, based at UWA, will help to increase quality eye health outcomes by training world-class optometry graduates in primary and secondary eye health care.

The three-year postgraduate degree program has the capacity to accept 64 Doctor of Optometry students per annum starting in 2021 and will graduate its inaugural cohort in December 2023. Over 180 applications were received from prospective students for this new doctoral program. Fifty students were offered a place including five rural students.

Foundation Professor Garry Fitzpatrick

The Doctor of Optometry program will bring new career opportunities to Western Australians, who were previously required to relocate to the east coast of Australia at significant personal cost. The program will be led by Foundation Professor Garry Fitzpatrick and supported by the new Professorial Chair in Optometry Translational Vision Research.

Lions Eye Institute Managing Director, Professor Bill Morgan, said graduates of the new degree will become the next generation of highly innovative optometric practitioners, and will be highly sought after by employers.

"The Doctor of Optometry postgraduate three-year degree combines collaborative academic teaching with research," he said. "Students will have exposure to researchers and clinicians at the Lions Eye Institute, as well as assessment of patients by working directly with optometrists and ophthalmologists in Western Australia's biggest hospitals."

"We are very pleased to be partnering with UWA to bring the ophthalmology and optometry disciplines closer together in a way that will greatly benefit patients all over the State."



Supporters dig deep to help save sight

Thank you for your generosity!

We were overwhelmed with the response to our last appeal, and we would like to thank you - our supporters - for your continued generosity.

In December we shared Sarah's story with you. Sarah, a 35-year-old wife and mother of two, was diagnosed with myopic macular degeneration in May 2020. There is currently no cure, and Sarah could become blind within ten years. As part of the appeal we asked you to send in your holiday wishes, and your responses were truly from the heart (read some of these messages above right).

Without you, our loyal supporters, we would not be able to continue the work we do to help people like Sarah. We look forward to sharing more stories about the life-changing work you support throughout 2021.

Your holiday wishes

"That Sarah and many others who are vision impaired will be the beneficiaries of eye research and treatments." *Woolley family*

"My holiday wish is that the Lions Eye Institute raises funds to support research for treatments of macular degeneration." *G Roberts*

"For good quality sight to be available and affordable to people of all ages." *A Fedrico*

Did you miss Sarah's story?

Read about Sarah's fight to save her sight, or make a donation, at lei.org.au/donate/

Consumer Advisory Panel to inform best practice

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new Consumer and Community Advisory Panel. Feedback and guidance provided by the panel will help to inform best practice in our research, clinical services, clinical trials, teaching, communications and community outreach.

Facilitator Diana Vasov said the panel will include up to 12 community members who will meet several times a year. Many of the panel members have lived experience of vision impairment.

"The panel currently includes patients and Lions Eye Institute volunteers, however we are looking for additional panel members," she said. "We believe that feedback will help the Institute to better understand the needs and interests of people facing visual impairment or blindness."

Would you like to join our Consumer and Community Advisory panel? To find out more, call (08) 9381 0777 or email communications@lei.org.au

North West Hub nearing completion

The Lions Eye Institute's new North West Hub is almost ready to welcome patients with final fit outs scheduled for March and first clinics due to start in April 2021.

Our builders have continued their work throughout Broome's wet season, with car park surfacing complete and the inside of the building starting to resemble a clinic. The opening of the Hub will allow the Lions Eye Institute to deliver timely and affordable eye health care to residents of Broome, as well as surrounding remote communities in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions. This will reduce the need for patients to travel thousands of kilometres from family to access basic treatment. It will also help to close the gap in eye health between rural and remote Western Australians, and those living in metropolitan areas.



The internal fit-out is almost complete.

Lions Outback Vision McCusker Director, Associate Professor Angus Turner, has been kept busy setting up outreach services from the Broome Hub, as well as training new doctors for the Lions Outback Vision Van which has recommenced its twice annual circuit of rural and remote communities in Western Australia.

"We have welcomed a number of new staff in anticipation of the new clinic opening," Associate Professor Turner said. "Practice Manager Amy Kerr and Registrar Dr Rachael Heath Jeffrey arrived in Broome just in time for the humid and stormy weather. They are settling in well to Broome life."

The Hub will house the latest diagnostic equipment, along with an optometrist and three resident doctors, and eventually will operate as a multi-disciplinary clinic sharing space with a range of visiting specialists, such as dentists.

Did you know?



There is a substantial gap in eye health between rural and remote Western Australians and their urban counterparts.

3x

The rate of blindness among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders is three times higher than non-indigenous Australians.



People living in rural and remote Australia needlessly experience higher rates of blinding eye disease.



Preparing the car park at the North West Hub.

New clinic to improve vision outcomes for children with diabetes

A new eye clinic to treat children and adolescents will help to reduce blindness in Western Australian children diagnosed with diabetes. The Perron Paediatric Retinopathy Initiative includes the new clinic, and a significant research project, that will facilitate the development of new therapies to reverse sight-threatening complications due to diabetic retinopathy. The clinic opened in February and is based at the Lions Eye Institute in Nedlands.

With referrals from Perth Children's Hospital Departments of Endocrinology and Diabetes, and Ophthalmology, Lions Eye Institute ophthalmologists Associate Professor Chandra Balaratnasingam and Dr Antony Clark will screen, assess and treat children for juvenile diabetic retinopathy complications.

Associate Professor Balaratnasingam said vision loss due to diabetes had profound physical, psychological and social consequences in children and young people.

"When you consider that almost 100 per cent of children with type 1 diabetes will develop diabetic retinopathy in their lifetime, this is a very serious issue for these young people and their families," he said. "Screening children at regular intervals will enable us to detect the onset of complications at the earliest stages, prior to the occurrence of irreversible structural and functional injury."

"Detecting the earliest changes to retinal circulation due to diabetic retinopathy is the key to avoiding irreversible vision loss in children. Understanding changes to the retina through robust screening programs also provides an opportunity to develop better diagnostic techniques and new treatments to prevent disease progression," Associate Professor Balaratnasingam said.



The Perron Paediatric Retinopathy Initiative is a partnership between the Lions Eye Institute and Perth Children's Hospital, generously supported by the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation.

What is diabetic retinopathy?

Diabetic retinopathy occurs when small blood vessels inside the retina, at the back of the eye, become damaged as a result of diabetes, impacting sight and often causing blindness.

Symptoms include

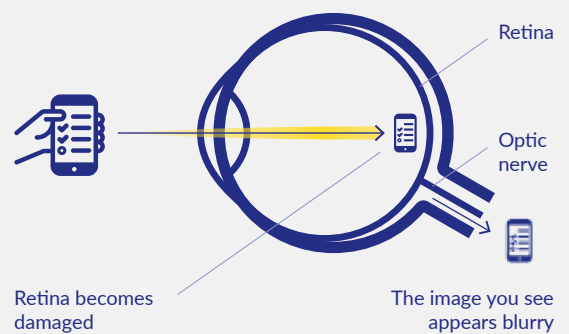
Blurred or patchy vision
Increased sensitivity to glare
Difficulty reading or watching TV
Difficulty seeing at night

It is recommended children with Type 1 diabetes are screened for diabetic retinopathy five years after they are first diagnosed, and regularly thereafter.

Most children will not display any symptoms until they have advanced disease, which is why screening is so important.

More information about diabetic retinopathy

Did you know?



The retina is a thin layer at the back of the eye that acts like the film inside a camera. It sends messages to the brain through the optic nerve, that 'tell' the brain what it is seeing. Like a camera, if the film (or retina) is damaged, the quality of the image will be affected.

Without treatment, diabetic retinopathy can cause vision loss and blindness.



Children can develop diabetic retinopathy at any age, though usually not before the age of 10.



In some children, diabetic retinopathy progresses rapidly. Regular screening will help the Lions Eye Institute learn more about this high-risk group of children and develop better treatments.





Dr Jessica Mountford

Researcher spotlight

Meet Dr Jessica Mountford, one of our newest recruits. Jessica joined the Lions Eye Institute in February, and will be investigating the impact of COVID-19 and lockdown on myopia in our children.

Dr Jessica Mountford is the Lions Eye Institute's new Brian King Fellow. The Brian King Fellowship is a three-year position generously funded by the Lions Save-Sight Foundation WA Inc., and supports a scientist to run an independent research project contributing to the Institute's key research areas.

You moved to Perth from Melbourne. What was that like with COVID-19 restrictions?

My family and I relocated from Melbourne, Victoria. In 2020, we experienced a total of 112 days strict lockdown, and although challenging at first we adapted rather well. The thing we missed most was not being able to spend time outside. We then had to quarantine here in Perth, which was interesting with our two young boys River, four years old, and Bowie who is two.

What drew you to Perth and the Lions Eye Institute?

I previously spent four and a half years living in Perth, from 2013 to 2017. Before leaving I held an honorary position at the Lions Eye Institute and gained an appreciation of the multi-disciplinary team comprising ophthalmologists and researchers within a world-class facility. Consequently, when I came across an advertisement for the Brian King Fellowship I immediately thought it would be an excellent opportunity to continue my research focus on myopia. Also my time in Perth previously was so lovely.

What is your research background?

I have a strong background in molecular biology, haematology and virology. I completed my PhD at the Australian Centre for Blood Diseases, Monash University. Following my PhD I completed two post-doctoral positions at The University of Western Australia and I worked on projects studying the molecular genetics of inherited retinal diseases, including myopia.

Can you tell us about your proposed research?

My proposed research titled "The Myopia Generation - Exploring the rise of early-onset myopia following the digital age and a world post COVID-19 lockdown" was inspired by my experience of lockdown in Melbourne and witnessing the move to online learning as a result of educational institutions being closed. As children have increased their screen time completing school work at home, they have increased their environmental risk of developing early-onset myopia by limiting the amount of time they spend outdoors in natural light. I will investigate any effects this may pose on long-term eye health in school age children, in particular early-onset myopia.

Against all odds

“The gift of sight is undoubtedly our most precious gift”, Norman Hogg, Lions Eye Institute supporter.

The gift of sight is undoubtedly our most precious gift. I speak as one who has served a 55-year long apprenticeship in the field. I courted and married a lovely girl with a night blindness problem. At 20, Kaye's ophthalmologist said she would be blind in six months and showed her the door. Fortunately, he was wrong. After searching for a diagnosis for years, Professor Ian Constable from the Lions Eye Institute entered into our story, “You have retinitis pigmentosa, a blinding inherited eye disease”. Legally blind at 50, Kaye died at 76 of lymphoma with a small central window of usable sight.

A dying wish

At 15 our son was diagnosed with the same genetic eye condition, retinitis pigmentosa. Kaye's dying wish was to donate her eyes to medical research at the Lions Eye Institute. Upon her passing Dr Fred Chen was at Hollywood Hospital at 2.30am to fulfil her request. Our son Paul, now 50, is in Dr Chen's care and research programs. This is part of my motivation for being a regular donor and for leaving a gift in my Will to the Lions Eye Institute.

Born blind

But that's not all. A tiger for punishment, three years ago I married an amazing woman. Freda was born blind on the tiny island of Bermuda to a very poor family with a long history of blindness and heart disease. Her grandfather was one of 12 children, the only one who could see. All the others were totally blind. Freda's father was also totally blind. Freda gained some vision in her right eye following surgery in New York at the age of six and a half. By the age of eight, when the family could afford to take her back to New York, surgery on her left eye was unsuccessful.

Freda was kicked out of school at five because of her blindness. She returned 18 months later with “coke bottle” glasses, to be mercilessly teased and bullied. She lost six months schooling at 13 with hepatitis. Three weeks before her final year 12 exams she had an accident, ending up under a truck. Freda had to



learn to write with her left hand in two weeks to sit the Cambridge University set and marked examinations. She graduated successfully. With an indomitable spirit this story is typical of her life's journey. Against enormous odds personal and health and vision-wise, too many to mention, she has triumphed.

As to vision surgery: three operations on the left eye and more than ten on the right. Countless consultations with Lions Eye Institute specialists including Professor Ian Constable, Professor Bill Morgan, Dr Fred Chen, Associate Professor Steve Wiffen and others.

Eternally grateful

We are eternally grateful for the incredible care and effort to save what little vision Freda has. Sadly, when the last stitches of the second corneal transplant were removed, colour and clarity rapidly disappeared. She now has no useful vision. Disappointed but not despairing, her positivity has kicked in.

We love the Lions Eye Institute and the research they are doing. Leaving a gift in our Will to the Lions Eye Institute will bear witness to our gratitude long after we die. If you haven't already, we encourage you to write a generous percentage of your estate into your Will. Let your support live on.

If you would like to leave a gift in your Will, please call Darren Nicholls on (08) 9381 0777 for a confidential chat or email darrennicholls@lei.org.au

Lions Eye Institute and VisAbility team up to offer support

If you or someone you know has recently been diagnosed with eye disease or a loss of eyesight, you may benefit from a new collaboration between the Lions Eye Institute and NDIS service provider VisAbility.

A new diagnosis of an eye condition can be overwhelming. You may have many questions, ranging from financial support such as concessions cards, to vision loss related services and therapy. To help answer your questions, the Lions Eye Institute has partnered with VisAbility to offer the services of a social worker at our clinic in Nedlands.

Marija Clark has more than twenty years' experience in eye health. She also has lived experience of low vision. Marija will be based at the clinic two mornings a week, offering guidance and advice to those who are seeking it.

To make an appointment with Marija, please call (08) 9381 0777.

General Manager Clinical Services, David Harrison, said the collaboration would provide critical support to Lions Eye Institute patients living with eye disease.

"The Lions Eye Institute's purpose is to prevent and cure blindness and eye disease. Unfortunately there are a number of conditions that we cannot cure, so it is important for those patients to have access to services that improve their quality of life," he said.

"The collaboration with VisAbility assists our patients to receive appropriate support and guidance. Having a VisAbility social worker on site makes it easier for our patients to access these services and get the support they need."

VisAbility has been supporting people with low and no vision in Western Australia since 1913. Formerly known as the Association for the Blind WA, VisAbility offers a range of support services to people living with blindness or vision impairment including:

Social work, occupational therapy, speech therapy and orthoptics.



Talking book library, accessible information and assistive technology.



Employment services and group programs.



Training and workshops.



(L-R) Lions Eye Institute Allied Ophthalmic Leader Amanda Poulson with VisAbility Social Worker Marija Clark.

Small focus to make a big difference

Glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy and age-related macular degeneration are three of the leading causes of blindness in Australia. Here at the Lions Eye Institute, our dedicated researchers are using donated eye tissue to study disease related changes in the eye, in hope of discovering new and improved treatments for these blinding eye diseases.

Lions Eye Institute Associate Professor Chandra Balaratnasingam, and his team, use donor eye tissue from the Lions Eye Bank, the only facility in Western Australia that coordinates the collection, processing and distribution of donor eye tissue for transplantation. They use this tissue to understand what happens within the cells of the eye at different stages of eye disease.

Professor Balaratnasingam said not only are they looking for new treatments, they are also looking for something known as biomarkers.

“Our hope is to develop therapeutic strategies for our patients which are more personalised, less invasive, and will either slow or stop disease progression,” he said. “Additionally we are looking for biomarkers to help predict the likelihood of a person’s eye disease progressing.”

“Understanding if a person is at high risk of progressing helps to guide treatments. It could allow us to use preventative measures to stop eye diseases advancing, or to start intervention earlier than we would otherwise,” he said.

Thanks to generous community support the Lions Eye Institute can continue to conduct pioneering research to prevent vision loss caused by glaucoma, macular degeneration and other eye diseases.

Did
you
know?

The number of people with age-related macular degeneration is projected to rise by 47% within 20 years.

47%

Glaucoma is known as the ‘sneak thief of sight’, with no obvious symptoms in the early stages. 50% of people with glaucoma remain undiagnosed.



The risk of developing diabetic retinopathy increases the longer you have diabetes. It is the leading cause of vision loss worldwide.



Associate Professor Chandra Balaratnasingam



New Professorial chairs to boost local world-class research and treatments for improved eye health

The Lions Eye Institute is pleased to announce recruitment is underway for three professorial chairs in a move that will significantly increase the Institute's capacity to uncover new treatments and cures for blinding eye diseases, as well as boosting access to optometric and ophthalmic eye care in the State.

Chair in Optometry Translational Research

This new professorial chair will build world-class optometric research capacity at the Lions Eye Institute and The University of Western Australia. Research will focus on new or improved methods of detecting and managing ocular disease earlier, and evolving new eye care pathways with the primary goal of reducing preventable blindness within the community by making eye care services accessible to all. The position will require collaboration with the Ian Constable Chair in Discovery and Translational Ophthalmic Science, and the Lions Curtin Chair in Ophthalmic Big Data.

(L-R) Dr Antony Clark,
Professor Ian Constable
and Dr Livia Carvalho.

Ian Constable Chair in Discovery and Translational Ophthalmic Science

The Ian Constable Chair will create a world-leading vision neuroscience group that will contribute to Western Australia's reputation as a premier medical research hub. Glaucoma is the third most common cause of blindness globally, and retinal vascular diseases are a major and growing contributor to blindness all over the world. This position aims to develop new techniques for earlier diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma and retinal vascular diseases. The position has been funded by the many generous supporters of Lions Eye Institute Founder, Professor Ian Constable AO.

Lions Curtin Chair in Ophthalmic Big Data

Big data holds the key to overcoming some of the biggest challenges facing the optometry and ophthalmic sector. The new Big Data chair will work in collaboration with Curtin Medical School and will use artificial intelligence, medical imaging analysis, rural and remote eye health, and dataset linkages to improve eye health outcomes. This position is being jointly-funded by Lions Save-Sight Foundation WA and Curtin University.

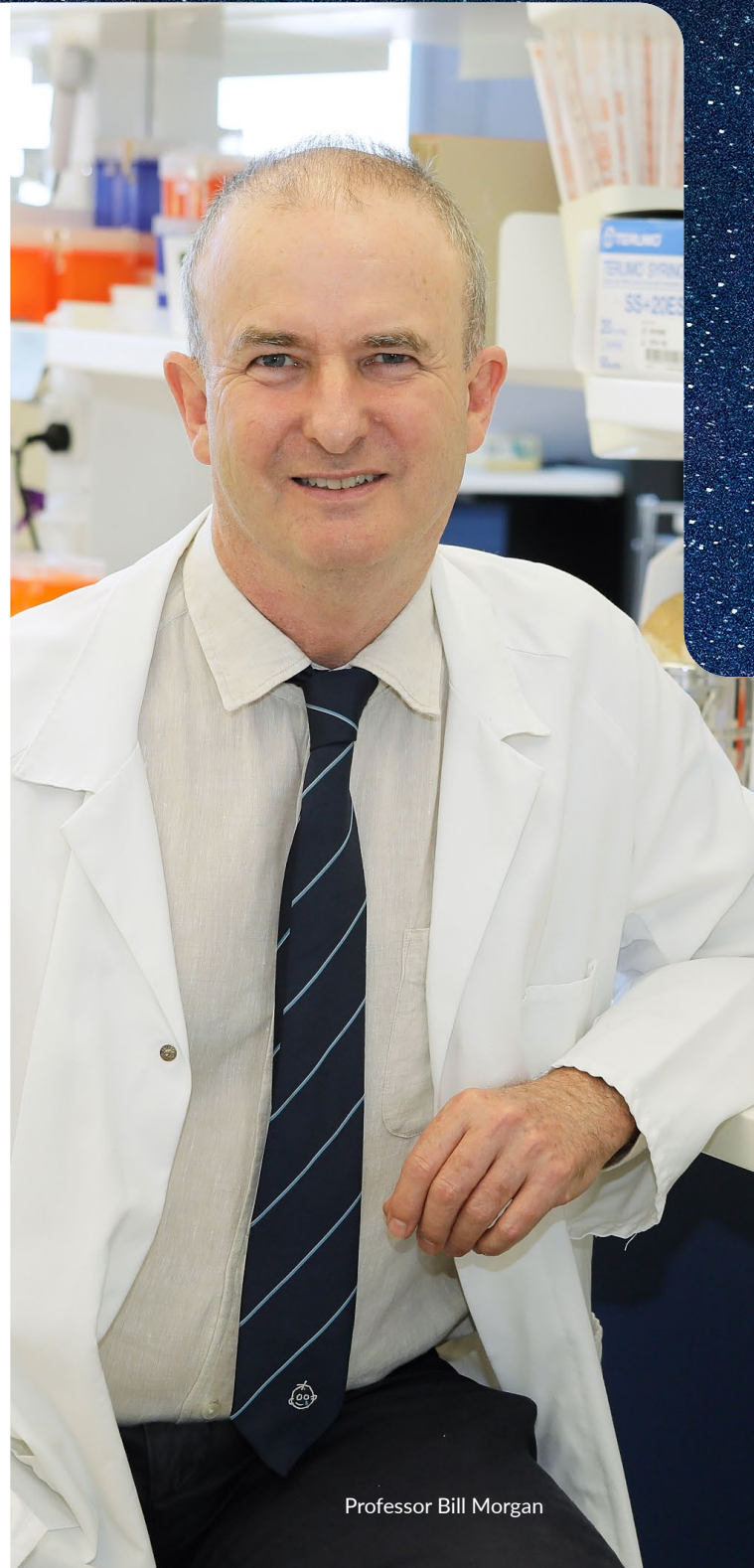
International Space Centre launch

The Lions Eye Institute is a foundation member of the International Space Centre (ISC) and will work with NASA to further develop research into intracranial pressure in astronauts, which can lead to vision loss.

The recent launch of the ISC at The University of Western Australia will see world-leading space research conducted right here in Perth. Intracranial pressure can rise to unsafe levels in astronauts who are in space for more than six months. Not only can intracranial pressure be an issue for astronauts, it is also known to affect recovery from traumatic head injury, brain tumours, optic nerve swelling and glaucoma.

The Lions Eye Institute's Managing Director, Professor Bill Morgan, is a key member of the space physiology and medicine research group at the ISC, and will also sit on the interim Board. His research team will focus on refining current techniques for measurement and treatment of intracranial pressure. The aim is for regular monitoring of astronaut intracranial pressure, as well as treatments to reduce or eliminate dangerous levels that can be applied in space. It is anticipated that technological advances gained for space travel will have direct flow on effects into diagnostic devices on Earth.

"Although still in its early days, the International Space Centre will provide opportunity for many new discoveries in a wide range of fields, including space exploration and of course medicine in space," Professor Morgan said. "We are excited for what the future holds, and how this will translate to improvements in eye health care and treatment right here in Western Australia."



Professor Bill Morgan

Access to eye care essential in Perth's eastern corridor



The Lions Eye Institute is working to address a chronic shortage of accessible eye health services in the metropolitan area by investigating options for a new service in Perth's north eastern corridor and surrounding regions.

The Institute currently has clinics in Nedlands, Murdoch and Broome, as well as a small Midland service. A new enlarged service could provide care at no cost to patients.

Managing Director Professor Bill Morgan said people from the north eastern suburbs of Perth, the Wheatbelt and the Goldfields who rely on public health services are disadvantaged by a lack of local services. Public eye health clinics are located in central Perth at Royal Perth Hospital, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in Nedlands, and Fremantle Hospital.

"There is a high standard of care and treatment provided at these locations, however a shortage of ophthalmologists combined with a growing need for services means many public patients are already waiting longer than recommended for an appointment through our public health system," Professor Morgan said. "These patients may experience further unnecessary and irreversible impairment or loss of vision as a result."

Midland and surrounding regions

Professor Morgan said the new service would benefit people living in Midland, nearby suburbs and surrounding regions. "People living in these areas make up almost a quarter of the public patients waiting on appointments. They rely primarily on the public health system, and the region has no public eye health services."

Around 30 per cent of the State's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population also live in this area. In Australia, vision loss among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is more than double the rate of non-Indigenous Australians. Many of the blinding eye conditions experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are treatable, yet without access to public clinics their rate of vision loss remains high.

Tackling major eye disease

Without sufficient access to eye care, people living with common eye diseases such as diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma and macular degeneration are at risk of further complications or possibly losing their sight. These three conditions alone cause 75 per cent of all blindness, yet timely intervention will help reduce this.

"The Lions Eye Institute is committed to better vision for all. This includes supporting the growing number of people who need access to public eye health services in the eastern metropolitan area," Professor Morgan said. "We are currently looking at all possibilities."

Lions Eye Institute recognised by industry

We are proud to congratulate our staff
on their remarkable achievements.



"It's a great honour to join leaders in Australian health and medical science as part of the great interdisciplinary team we have in this nation,"
Professor Ian Constable.

Professor Ian Constable

Professor Ian Constable AO was elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences (AAHMS). Professor Constable joins an elite group of Australia's top medical and health researchers recognised for their outstanding achievements and commitment to health and medical science in Australia.



Dr Carla Mellough

Dr Carla Mellough was awarded the Ophthalmic Research Institute of Australia (ORIA) R & L Lowe Grant for investigating human vascular endothelial growth factor physiology.



Dr Fred Chen

Dr Fred Chen has been formally recognised as a Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO) 2020 Trainer of Excellence. Dr Chen volunteers his time in his capacity as a Fellow at RANZCO to supervise, train and mentor trainee ophthalmologists.



Dr Samantha Lee

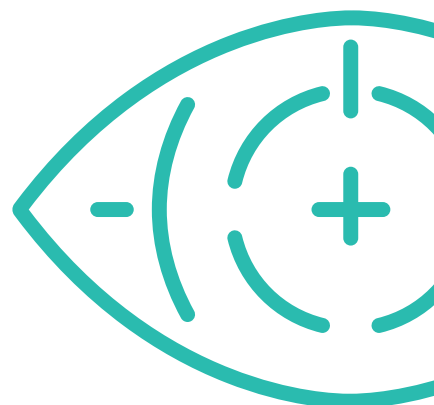
Dr Samantha Lee was awarded the Raine Medical Research Foundation's 2021 Strachan Memorial Prize for the best published research by an early-career clinical researcher. Dr Lee's research, *Associations between optic disc measures and obstructive sleep apnea in young adults*, was published in renowned journal Ophthalmology.

"As an educator I feel fortunate to live in a time and a country where there is so much information and research available to inform high quality eye care," Dr Fred Chen.



Dr Jason Charng

Dr Jason Charng was awarded the Ophthalmic Research Institute of Australia (ORIA) Perth Eye Foundation Grant for applying machine learning to efficiently analyse fundus autofluorescence images in preparation for gene therapy.



Become a sight saver today

90% of vision loss is preventable or treatable. Together we can be the solution.

By becoming a Sight Saver, and donating to the Lions Eye Institute each month, you can help uncover research breakthroughs, transform lives and give hope to those facing blindness and eye disease.

Sight Saver members receive:

- research updates
- event invitations throughout the year
- a tax deductible receipt at the end of each financial year

Giving monthly allows the Lions Eye Institute to plan ahead for future sight saving research with the knowledge that your support is ongoing.

Setting up your regular donation is easy.

- You choose the donation amount.
- All donations over \$2 are tax-deductible and a receipt is sent automatically at the end of each financial year.
- You can opt out or change your donation amount at any time.

Please fill out the form below (indicating monthly payment) and return it to our reply paid address, or call Carolyn in fundraising on (08) 9381 0777 to set up your automatic monthly donation.



Yes I want to save sight

Please accept my donation of \$..... (Donations over \$2 are tax deductible)

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Please find enclosed my ☐ cheque ☐ money order OR, please debit my ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express ☐ Visa

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☐ I would be interested to learn more about how I can include the Lions Eye Institute in my Will.

☐ I have already provided for the Lions Eye Institute in my Will.

☐ I would like to be included in donor recognition.
We recognise the generosity of donors on our donor recognition board, website and in our annual report.

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