vision News

Lions Eye Institute

Autumn 2022

Breakthrough treatments

How our all-female research team are leading the way.

The gift of sight

Providing a vision for the future.

Vital boost for kids' vision

A helping hand for research into childhood blindness.

From the Managing Director

Welcome to the Autumn 2022 edition of Vision News.

Many people are not aware that the inspiration for the Lions Eye Institute came from American author, disability rights advocate and political activist, Helen Keller. This incredible woman urged Lions Clubs around the world to join her in 'a crusade against darkness' in 1925, a call that prompted the Lions Clubs in Western Australia to form the Lions Save Sight Foundation (WA) during a conference in Albany.

In 1975, the Foundation established the Lions Chair in Ophthalmology at The University of Western Australia, with Professor Ian Constable AO at the helm. Prof Constable, our founding Managing Director and now Patron as well as a current clinician, went on to create the Lions Eye Institute in 1983.

Helen Keller once said,
"The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision".

This quote is not just a clever play on words; it speaks to the need to look beyond the challenges of today and develop plans and strategies that will continue to help people well into the future. At the Institute, our goal is 'better vision for all', and we are committed to addressing the critical need for sight-saving research and clinical practice throughout our state and neighbouring countries.

While COVID-19 has hindered our work in places such as Indonesia in recent times, I am pleased with our expansion plans in Western Australia. We are relocating our Midland clinic (see the article on page 6) and are looking to develop a comprehensive public clinic in Midland in the near future. Our work in rural and remote Western Australia continues apace with the second phase of development at the Kimberley Hub in Broome and work of the Vision Van.

COVID-19 continues to throw up many challenges, and clearly, we are not alone there. Our number one priority throughout this turbulent period is the safety, health and wellbeing of our patients, staff, collaborators and stakeholders, and their loved ones. We will continue to focus on screening questions, hygiene, cleanliness and physical distancing at all of our sites. In accordance with WA Government directions, our staff are fully vaccinated, and we urge all patients and visitors coming to the Institute to have their vaccinations up to date.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity express my sincere appreciation to our many supporters, who are helping us to continue the vital research into eye disease that is saving the sight of millions. We could not do this work without you, and your generosity is inspirational.

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

Bill Morgan MB BS, PhD, FRANZCO
Managing Director, Lions Eye Institute

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Ben, a patient of Associate Professor Chandra Balaratnasingam

Update

Ben's journey

You are giving hope to future generations living with type 1 and 2 diabetes.

You may have read about Ben's journey living with diabetic retinopathy. Ben awoke one morning in April last year to find he was blind in his left eye. On his visit to the doctor, he was told his retina had detached due to his type 1 diabetes and his sight would never be restored in his left eye.

Sadly, diabetes is affecting more and more people's sight. In children and teenagers, both type 1 and 2 diabetes are a major cause of severe and irreversible vision loss. To ensure children with type 1 diabetes do not share the same fate as Ben at a later stage in their life, we are so grateful for initiatives like the Perron Paediatric Retinopathy Initiative clinic. Through this generosity, and that of our supporters, children can now be screened, assessed and treated for diabetes-related vision changes before it's too late.

Ben is grateful for your overwhelming support.

"I am pleasantly surprised that people are so generous, especially in the hard times we are having at the moment. For people to reach into their own pockets and help other people out is amazing," he says.

After surgery on his 'good' right eye in September of last year, Ben had further surgery in December to preserve his vision. We were so glad to hear from Ben that the surgery was successful.

While he may never regain his vision in his left eye, he is now back to his active life. His goal is to concentrate on recovering and doing the right thing for his health. He is also looking forward to the start of the football season and this time, he can witness the goals scored by his beloved South Fremantle Football Club without needing his dad to be the commentator.

Thank you once again for your support and generosity to help give the gift of sight to people like Ben.

Creating breakthrough treatments for retinitis pigmentosa

Dr Livia Carvalho with some of her team

Dr Livia Carvalho, head of the Retinal Genomic and Therapy research group at the Lions Eye Institute, and a determined team of researchers are racing against the clock to solve the mysteries behind a group of inherited retinal diseases called retinitis pigmentosa.

Retinitis pigmentosa is caused by faulty genes passed from a parent to their child. The disease often presents in childhood and early symptoms are usually tunnel vision and night-blindness. The condition progressively worsens, and can cause total blindness. There are no standard treatments available, and there is no cure.

There are around 260 genes that cause inherited retinal diseases, and roughly 50 of those are known to cause retinitis pigmentosa. Using high end genomic technologies, Dr Carvalho's team are investigating different broad-based therapies that are non-gene specific. Their approach means any resulting treatments could be used to treat multiple faulty genes at the same time – helping to save more people's sight.

The neuroprotection approach

In someone with retinitis pigmentosa, the faulty genes have either stopped making a vital protein, or make it incorrectly. As a result the retinal cells are unable to work properly and eventually they die. Unlike skin cells that renew, once you lose your retinal cells the body is unable to make any more – they do not grow back or regenerate.

Dr Carvalho's team is looking into how retinal cells are dying in the hope they can find ways to potentially slow or stop the process. By keeping the cells alive for longer, not only will the team help to preserve patients' sight, they will buy extra time to find therapies to fix the cells permanently.

The method, known as a neuroprotection approach, involves looking at existing medicines (mostly cancer medications), and whether they can be re-purposed. The team is currently investigating one drug that is showing some promising results.

"This drug has the potential to give people with retinitis pigmentosa a few more years with good daylight vision, which is what we use most of the time," says Dr Carvalho.

"It would allow them to keep recognising people's faces, driving, and reading. It's a huge impact as it helps to maintain their autonomy, and prolongs their vision as much as possible before they start really needing more support and are considered legally blind.

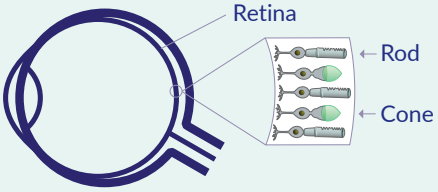
"In the future we hope to find a cure for retinitis pigmentosa and save their sight, and in the meantime we will keep working to prolong their vision for as long as we can."

Read about the team behind the research on the next page.

Did you know?

How retinitis pigmentosa affects vision

In the retina you can find two types of cells responsible for our vision: **cone photoreceptors** and **rod photoreceptors**. The rods provide black and white night vision and the cones are for colour, daylight vision and acuity (the ability to see things clearly).



Celebrating our female researchers

International Women's Day is on 8 March 2022, and what better way to celebrate than to showcase some of our incredibly talented researchers? We asked our all-female powerhouse Retinal Genomic and Therapy team, working to eradicate retinitis pigmentosa, about their roles and what they enjoy the most about working in the medical research field.

Dr Livia Carvalho **Research Fellow and Group Leader**

I'm the head of the Retinal Genomic and Therapy research group where I manage a team of brilliant researchers and students. I love seeing my students or researchers get excited about a new experiment that shows what we're trying to do is working. I also enjoy talking to patients and the public about our work and hearing their life stories. I especially enjoy seeing their relief when I tell them that their pet dog or cat does not see in black and white!

Dr Paula Fuller-Carter **Postdoctoral Researcher and Lab Manager**

I undertake research and manage lab activities for the group. My current focus involves analysing genetic information from individual photoreceptor cells to identify, target and eventually treat the faulty cells. I take pride in knowing that our research contributes to creating treatment options to help people keep their vision.

Dr Rabab Rashwan **Postdoctoral Researcher**

I test novel therapies that help to save the vision of our patients. My work gives me the opportunity to find balance between practicing medicine and medical research, as the research is directly translational to patients. Successful outcomes from our experiments make me excited and optimistic.

Annie Miller **PhD student in Ophthalmology and Visual Science**

In my role I look into the cause of cell death, and then target those causes to develop new treatment options. I enjoy the fact that I'm able to develop new treatment options that may delay the loss of eyesight in patients, or eventually restore it.

Alicia Brunet **PhD student in Ophthalmology and Visual Science**

I investigate the role of why cone photoreceptors die in people with retinitis pigmentosa to discover new treatment options to preserve vision. I was drawn to work in medical research knowing I can make a difference in the world and that my life would contribute to the advancement of scientific technology and research.

In many types of retinitis pigmentosa it is the genes specific to the rods that are affected, meaning a lot of people with this eye disease will initially have problems with night vision, while their daylight vision and acuity – powered by the cone cells – is mostly unaffected. Eventually the disease also affects cone cells, resulting in progressive daylight vision loss and eventually blindness. **We do not yet know exactly how the cones become affected, but researchers at the Institute are working hard to try to understand this process better.**

A new clinic for Perth's eastern corridor

The Lions Eye Institute is relocating its Midland clinic to a new location, in a move that will strengthen the level of service provided to patients in Perth's eastern suburbs and surrounding regions.

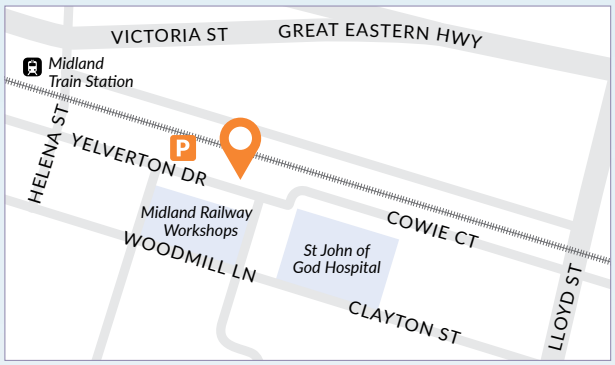
The Institute has operated a clinic in Midland since 2016, with eye surgeon Dr Hessom Razavi leading a practice that has a deep commitment to ensuring eye health services are available to everyone.

The new Lions Eye Institute clinic will be located at the historic Midland Railway Workshops precinct, within the Midland Specialist Centre and Day Surgery building at 81 Yelverton Drive. It is expected that the doors will be open to patients in April/May.

Dr Razavi says the premises will enable patients in April/May to enjoy a state-of-the-art clinic that is only 100 metres from the proposed new relocated Midland train station, and directly opposite the St John of God Midland Public and Private hospital.

"Over the past five years we have been privileged to be able to look after the eye health of many Western Australians in the eastern suburbs and Wheatbelt, and the new clinic is an exciting development for everyone," he says.

The new clinic will feature the same friendly faces: Dr Razavi, clinic nurses Rochelle and Nyssa, ophthalmic assistant Mark and secretary Rebecca. Lions Eye Institute clinician Dr Antony Clark will also see patients in Midland.



Dr Razavi is highly experienced in routine, complex and premium cataract surgery, plus pterygium and selected eyelid operations. Both public and private surgery is performed at St John of God Midland Hospital.

Contact the Lions Eye Institute to book an appointment at the new Midland clinic on (08) 9381 0777 or email carecentre@lei.org.au

Did you know?

The Midland Railway Workshops precinct is a historic area comprising buildings and equipment that were vital to the maintenance of the state's rail system for 90 years. Since closing in 1994, the precinct has undergone significant restoration through a comprehensive heritage strategy.

(L-R) Rochelle, Mark, Dr Hessom Razavi, Nyssa and Rebecca from the Midland clinic

Lions Eye Institute

On the road with Lions Outback Vision

(L-R): Paul Kilcullen, Dr James Wiffen, Dr Joshua Taylor, Dr Raj Prasad, Associate Professor Angus Turner, Dr Jamie Chew and Barry Catanach outside the Lions Outback Vision Van

The Lions Eye Institute's Chief Executive Officer, Dr Glen Power, recently joined the Lions Outback Vision team on the road, an experience that gave him a new appreciation of the extraordinary work of the team in rural, remote and regional Western Australia. He writes of his experience here.

Dr Glen Power

It was a privilege to rendezvous on the 28th of January with the Lions Outback Vision Van team at their departure for the southeast and Goldfields leg of the van's first service provision for 2022. The day was bright, and the morning surprisingly fresh for a summer day that gave Perth a high 30s maximum. So much cooler at the southerly latitudes! After a few quick photos of the magnificent seascape from the side of Mount Clarence, it was off for a team meeting and breakfast in town.

After breakfast, we drove to the Albany Showgrounds where the van had been garaged, for 8am final briefings. By the time we arrived, the van had been meticulously checked by van operators Barry Catanach and Paul Kilcullen. The clinical staff comprised McCusker Director of Lions Outback Vision, Associate Professor Angus Turner, Dr Raj Prasad (Optometrist), Dr Joshua Taylor and Dr James Wiffen (Resident Medical Officers) and Dr Jamie Chew (Fellow). Dr Turner explained comprehensively the referral management, patient reception and flow, the diagnostic equipment suite on board, and the patient information management processes. It was very impressive that a customised medical record had been developed for the service, and that an electronic summary was so easily transmitted to referrers following a patient's diagnosis/treatment on the van. All the ocular imaging on the van is remotely accessible for telehealth support in remote areas.

Later in the morning, I joined Dr Turner and Dr Taylor at Albany Health Campus for the beginning of Dr Turner's surgical list. The perioperative team at the base hospital theatre complex was fully organised as the Lions Outback Vision team arrived to scrub and begin preoperative consultations with the patients. It was great to chat to staff at the hospital, and see first-hand how our visiting surgeons are so warmly welcomed in the regions we serve.

I left Albany with a strong sense of how important the work of Lions Outback Vision is in meeting unmet need across Western Australia's vast network of regional health care providers. Enhancing regional workforce self-sufficiency to enable patients to receive care much closer to home also doubtless has important economic benefits to the regions, retaining economic value locally and offering far less disruption to patients, their families, businesses and employers when long trips back to the city for admitted care can be fully avoided.

Did you know?

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

Give the gift of sight

Did you know?

Approximately 90% of blindness or vision impairment is preventable or treatable.

Making a Will is a simple way to take care of your family and the people you love. It is also one of the most powerful ways to support research into preventing blindness and preserving the gift of sight.

Yet many of us struggle to get a Will written, with studies showing that approximately 70 per cent of Australians don't have a legally binding Will.

Research and medical advancements can change the world as we see it today, by leaving a gift in your Will to the Lions Eye Institute your support can continue for years to come.

Introducing Safewill

The Lions Eye Institute has teamed up with Australia's leading online Will writing platform, Safewill.

It's a fast, convenient and cost effective way to get your Will written online, all from the comfort of your own home. For a limited time, we are offering supporters and their families an opportunity to write a Will, for a special discounted rate of just $80 (half price).

Writing a Will with Safewill will take about 20 minutes to complete – you have the option of saving a draft and can stop at any time if you find the platform is not for you. There are guided tips from Safewill's legal advisers, and you can have the confidence that every Will written is checked by an Australian solicitor to ensure it has been completed correctly. Plus, Safewill's team is available to help should you need any support – there is live support seven days a week via phone or online chat, and their team can even complete the Will with you over the phone.

We understand writing a Will online might not suit everyone, especially those with more complex estates. However, if you feel writing your Will online is right for you, we hope you are able to take advantage of the opportunity by visiting the Safewill website: **safewill.com/lei**

The Lions Eye Institute has long been a recipient of generous bequests, with approximately a quarter of all donation income received being from generous supporters leaving a gift in their Will.

If you choose to take up this offer and include a gift in your Will to the Lions Eye Institute*, then on behalf of us and all the people you will help in the future...

thank you!

Safewill

The offer to supporters and their families to write their Will for just $80 runs from 1 March 2022 to 12 April 2022.

If you have any questions about Safewill or this offer, please do not hesitate to contact **Darren Nicholls** at the Lions Eye Institute on **6382 0551** or by email **darrennicholls@lei.org.au**

Alternatively, you can call the Safewill team directly on 1800 103 310 should you have any questions regarding writing your Will online or about their services.

Exciting breakthroughs in research are made possible by the many generous individuals who have left a gift for the Lions Eye Institute in their Will.

Meet some of our cherished visionaries who share with us what inspired them to leave a gift in their Will to the Lions Eye Institute.

John and Elizabeth,
Lions Eye Institute Visionaries

"As a child growing up in Shanghai I have the memory of my father always having to wear strong glasses; he even needed them while swimming. So later as I grew up, went to work and took to sports, I was always concerned about the health of my eyes. Both my wife and I, as we aged, found we had to wear glasses and through the Lions Eye Institute had these prescribed. Since then neither of us have had any real problems and so we appreciate the value of sight in our lives. Some years ago when rewriting our Wills we made provision for a substantial sum to go to the Lions Eye Institute so they can continually be funded to carry on the valuable and sometimes expensive work and research they undertake, which leads to such benefit to so many people who suffer from eye problems."

Maria, Lions Eye Institute
patient and Visionary

"I would have loved to have been able to contribute more to the medical care of people at a higher level professionally, but my lack of opportunity to access formal education in my younger years prevented me from doing so. Leaving a legacy to the Lions Eye Institute is one way I can contribute to the future care of people with serious eye conditions and disease. It gives me comfort knowing that I will leave a legacy in vital research and clinical treatment to others in coming years."

** Please note it is not a requirement that a gift in your Will is left to the Lions Eye Institute, to take up this generous offer.*

A vital boost for kids' vision

Critical research into treatments and cures for conditions that are resulting in blindness and vision loss in children, is receiving a welcome boost through Channel 7 Telethon Trust.

Proudly supported by telethon 7

>$2 million
from Telethon

Over the past year, the Lions Eye Institute has received more than $2 million from Telethon to support work in inherited retinal diseases, gene therapies, myopia and paediatric community outreach.

"Thanks to Telethon and the generosity of the Western Australian community, we are able to conduct Australian-first research into conditions that are greatly affecting the quality of life of kids throughout the state," says Professor Bill Morgan, Managing Director of the Lions Eye Institute.

"It is crucial that we all pull together to care for the health of some of our most vulnerable citizens. Our children are our future, and we want to give them every chance to shine."

Dr Livia Carvalho and Dr Jessica Mountford

Lions Eye Institute

Lions Eye Institute projects being supported by Telethon include:

Investigating the progression of early-onset myopia in children

Brian King Research Fellow, Dr Jessica Mountford, is researching the increasing prevalence of myopia in children as young as six years old. Early-onset myopia can lead to high-myopia in adulthood, causing devastating impacts on vision and quality of life. With more than 23,000 myopic children aged 0-14 years in Western Australia, this research is crucial.

Purchase of a Nikon AX-R confocal microscope

Confocal microscopy is an advanced imaging technique with a multitude of applications in biomedical research. The new microscope will expedite research into blinding childhood diseases at the Lions Eye Institute, enabling scientists to reconstruct high-resolution, three-dimensional models of disease samples such as patient-derived stem cells and retinal organoids.

Development of personalised medicine for children with inherited retinal diseases

In Australia, one in every 1,500 children is born with an eye disease, and inherited retinal disease (IRD) is the most common cause of childhood eye disease. Associate Professor Fred Chen is developing new gene-based therapies to treat and cure IRDs, such as the replacement of a faulty gene or addition of a new gene.

Purchase of a stem cell robot

Mrs Rhonda Wyllie and her family, through the support of Telethon, last year pledged an incredible $750,000 to enable the Institute to buy Western Australia's first stem cell robot. This will potentially save the sight of hundreds of children by accelerating the development of therapies for patients with inherited retinal diseases.

(L-R) Associate Professor Angus Turner, Fat Cat, Eamon Doak (front), Associate Professor Fred Chen, Bronwyn Doak, Tonya McCusker AM and Professor Bill Morgan

Development of a paediatric ophthalmology service in the North West

Led by McCusker Director Lions Outback Vision, Associate Professor Angus Turner, this project will provide early intervention in vision challenges in the Pilbara and Kimberley, in order to reduce the long-term health effects and educational setbacks of untreated vision issues. The project will also embed public health messages for preventative eye care, and work towards matching the urban access to ophthalmology services for children in regional areas.

Creation of novel nanotechnology-based gene therapies to cure vision loss in children with Usher syndrome

Usher syndrome is a rare and devastating genetic disorder affecting young children that results in both deafness and blindness. Dr Livia Carvalho is leading this project, which will use novel technologies to optimise a gene therapy to treat Usher type 1 vision loss, tested directly on the affected cells using specialised patient-derived disease models. One of the 2020 Little Telethon Stars, Eamon Doak, and his brother Kealan, have Usher syndrome; they were born deaf and will gradually lose their eyesight.

Telethon has provided equipment, services, opportunities and research funding to support children in Western Australia, for more than half a century. The Lions Eye Institute is grateful for the generosity of Telethon, and the support of the Trustees on the Channel 7 Telethon Trust and Team Telethon, the management team behind the organisation.

Optometry school students in class

A strong future for UWA Optometry

The newly established Doctor of Optometry program at The University of Western Australia (UWA) is gaining momentum, with the inaugural students now in their second year, and a strong cohort kicking off their studies this year.

The Lions Eye Institute is proud to partner with UWA in developing the course, which focuses on the challenges of an ageing population and increased ocular complications from chronic health conditions. As well as producing high-calibre optometrists with a focus on early detection, diagnosis and treatment of eye disease, the program's three-year postgraduate Doctor of Optometry degree includes a comprehensive research curriculum.

Here, Professor Garry Fitzpatrick, Foundation Head of the program, reflects on its achievements.

Professor Garry Fitzpatrick

"We are able to celebrate many achievements if we look back and reflect on the past year. Keeping in mind the uncertainties associated with COVID-19, the UWA Optometry team successfully delivered the first year of the program to a cohort of 42 students.

With help from the Lions Eye Institute, our students undertook their first observational clinical placements and were able to shadow Lions Eye Institute ophthalmologists, optometrists and orthoptists to gain an in-depth understanding of ocular diseases, interdisciplinary care, and vision care in general.

Students were also able to accompany a UWA academic and an ophthalmologist on a medical trip to the Ngaanyatjarra Lands. Trips to rural communities enable the students to recognise how social determinants of health pose significant challenges to Indigenous eye health. They also enable the students to appreciate the many challenges to health and healthcare delivery in rural and remote communities.

We take a collaborative approach to education delivery and the above examples are representative of our vision – to graduate socially accountable optometry professionals (clinicians and researchers), who are lifelong learners committed to delivering culturally safe and responsive, person centred care, which meets individual and societal health care needs and improves health outcomes.

This year, the program has welcomed a cohort of 58 students."

Student representative Bec Howells provided an insight into the course.

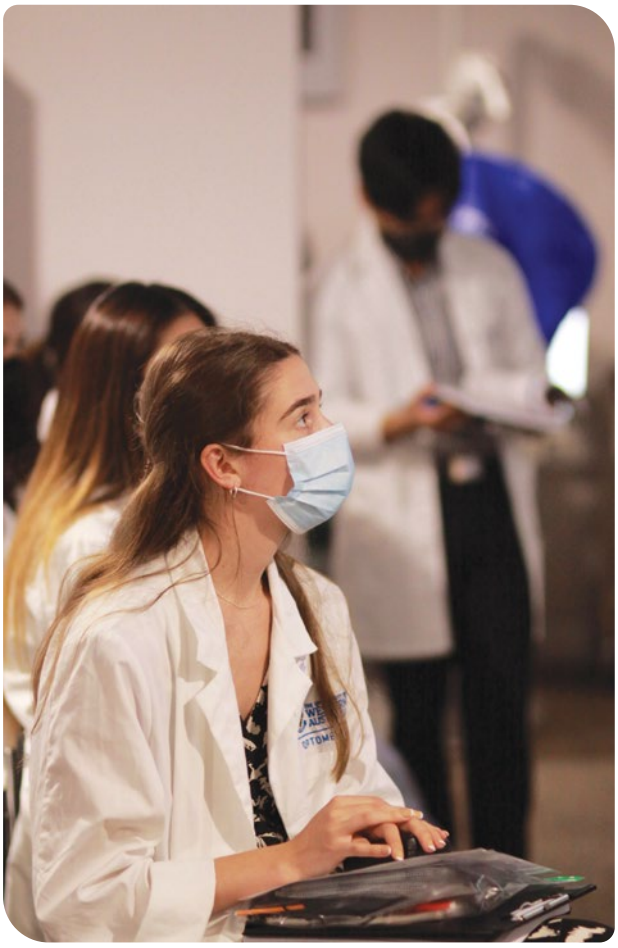
If you asked most of the students in my class why they chose to study optometry at UWA, they'll likely tell you one of two things – either that they always wanted to, because they frequently visited an optometrist growing up, or they'd never thought about it before the course was announced.

Myself however, I'd never had much to do with eyes, until 2019, when I lost complete vision to my left eye while holidaying in Bangkok. I was devastated when I learnt I had toxoplasmosis and needed to fly home only three days into my first international holiday, to have it treated. After a few months of treatment, appointments, and tests, the toxoplasmosis was no longer active, and my vision had improved, but I was told that I still had permanent vision loss, due to scarring on my macula, and I'd never see clearly again in my left eye.

Eyes suddenly became so fascinating to me, I researched about toxoplasmosis, vision, and whether glasses would help me to see clearer. When UWA announced they were starting an optometry course, my personal experiences led me to apply because I knew first-hand how devastating it is to lose vision and I wanted to be a part of helping others to see.

I am so glad I decided to pursue optometry as even though it is challenging, with so many concepts and techniques to understand and master, it is such a rewarding field to practise in. The last year has been one of the greatest years of my life.

I have already learnt so much, made lifelong friends and developed relationships with peers and mentors that I will cherish forever. The facilities at UWA are outstanding for preclinical practice and the connections UWA has to the wider community have meant we've already had the opportunity to do placement at the Lions Eye Institute, community practices and even in rural health clinics. The academic staff have gone above and beyond to get the course up and running and make it as exceptional as it is, while supporting the students in their studies.



Optometry school student Bec Howells

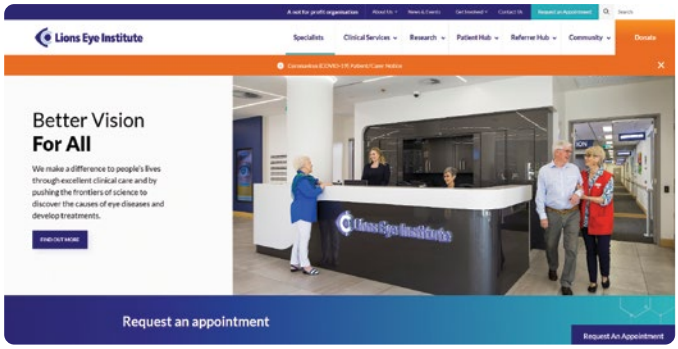
When I graduate, I will be proud to call myself a UWA optometry graduate, as I believe this course has the potential to become the best in the country.

Lions Optics

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

As part of our collaboration with UWA, and to further support the Doctor of Optometry program, the Lions Eye Institute has committed to expanding the facilities at Lions Optics (our optometry division) to accommodate students on clinical placement.

A fresh look for Lions Eye Institute online



A new year heralded a new look for the Lions Eye Institute online, with the launch of the Institute's revamped website, lei.org.au, in February. The refreshed site will help to position the Institute as a leading provider of health care services and a dynamic medical research organisation.

The site has been designed to provide a repository for information about the Institute that is compelling and easy to navigate. In particular, patients will find a trove of resources about various eye conditions and research that is under way to treat and cure eye disease.

Go to lei.org.au and have a look around.

Support for Stargardt disease

Do you know someone living with Stargardt disease?

A new Perth-based support group has been formed for people with Stargardt disease. The group meets regularly at The Perron Centre, located in Victoria Park. If you would like to find out more, contact:

Lynne on (08) **9381 0790**

Magda on (08) **9382 0707**

Or join the Facebook group **https://www.facebook.com/groups/885153075505728**

New national register to support research efforts

Many generous people, just like you, tell us they would like to be involved in research. However, in practice less than one percent of Australians ever join a clinical trial.

Researchers in Australia, including at the Lions Eye Institute, work hard to tackle some of the biggest health challenges. But we need your help! The ability to conduct research depends on being able to recruit enough people into studies, which can take many months and consume enormous resources.

The problem is connecting the right people to the right researchers. To address this issue, a new national research register, Join Us, has been established. Join Us is open to any Australian, and by signing on you will be helping researchers all around the country to prevent, treat and find cures for diseases.

To register or find out more visit **joinus.org.au**

Welcome to Dr Geoffrey Chan

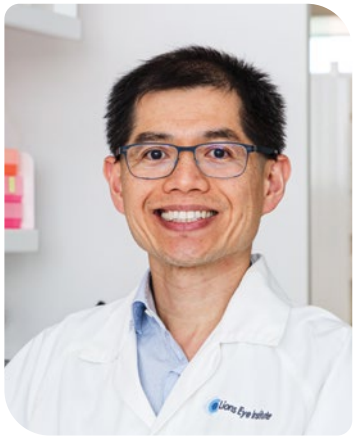
Late in 2021 the Lions Eye Institute welcomed a new ophthalmologist to the Nedlands clinic. Dr Geoffrey Chan comes to the Institute having undertaken a Fellowship position in both complex cataract and glaucoma at Fremantle and Royal Perth Hospital, before a subsequent Glaucoma Fellowship at the world-leading Addenbrooke's Eye Clinic, Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Dr Chan is an expert in all forms of medical, laser and surgical treatments for glaucoma, as well as the modulation of wound healing after ocular surgery.

While at the Institute, Dr Chan will conduct research into advancing minimally invasive surgical techniques and the imaging of aqueous drainage pathways.

To make an appointment with Dr Chan, call (08) 9381 0777 or email carecentre@lei.org.au

Dr Chan's areas of expertise include general ophthalmology, glaucoma, cataract surgery and laser.



Anti-malarial medication shows promise

The Lions Eye Institute's very own Associate Professor Fred Chen was invited by the United States Army to contribute towards a study into the safety of using tafenoquine, a commonly prescribed anti-malarial medication.

Significantly, the study showed tafenoquine was safe to use weekly over a 12-month period. Prior to the study, prescribing information only permitted the use of the medication for up to six months, and independent medical experts had recommended further longer-term studies to rule out any impact on vision.

Associate Professor Chen's involvement included looking for ophthalmic changes in clinical trials participants over the 12-month period. "The medication can, in theory, cause two eye conditions known as corneal deposit and retinal degeneration," he says.

"The study showed that corneal deposits were common and reversible with no impact on vision, and that retinal degeneration did not occur after twelve months of dosing.

"These findings are significant as it allows people to use this medication continuously over a 12-month period without the fear of developing retinal degeneration."

The results of the study mean that travellers to malaria pandemic regions may be able to safely take the anti-malarial medication for twice as long as previously recommended.

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)

☐ Please make my donation monthly, I want to be a Sight Saver

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

Card No: __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ Expiry Date: __ __ / __ __

Cardholder's Name: ..... Signature .....

Tax receipt details:

Name: .....

Address: .....

Suburb: ..... Postcode: .....

Telephone: ..... Email: .....

☐ 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.

Be a sight saver

Your donation helps eradicate blindness

Mail to:
Lions Eye Institute
Reply Paid 62815
Nedlands WA 6009
(No stamp required)

Or call (08) 9381 0777