

vision News

 **Lions Eye Institute**
CELEBRATING **40** YEARS

Autumn 2023



years of saving sight



From the Managing Director

Welcome to the Autumn 2023 edition of Vision News. Autumn is a season that symbolises **maturity, abundance and harvest**, and these are all apt terms for the Lions Eye Institute as we celebrate our 40th birthday this year.

Established in 1983, the Institute has chalked up four decades of ground-breaking research, excellent clinical practice and committed service to Australian and international communities.

Maturity – As we have developed, we have evolved and changed in line with growing expectations from our patients and other important stakeholders. Our deep experience has enabled us to add significant value to the global knowledge bank of ocular research, and our ophthalmologists have led the way in treating complex eye disease.

I am truly excited about what is ahead for the Lions Eye Institute.

Abundance – We are fortunate to have a profusion of talented researchers, clinicians and professional staff. Abundance also refers to the incredible generosity of our donors, without whom we wouldn't be where we are today.

Harvest – After 40 years, we are at a turning point in the organisation's history, where we are well positioned to reap the benefits of our work and expand our research and clinical footprints.

I am truly excited about what is ahead for the Lions Eye Institute. We only need to look back to 2022 to see how far we have come. Last year, we officially opened new sites in Midland and Broome, appointed two new Chair positions to spearhead exciting fields of investigation in big data and optometric research, and commenced commercialisation of a non-invasive intracranial pressure device (OcuLinx™).

Along the way we continued to treat tens of thousands of patients in our clinics, deepen our numerous research projects, collect and distribute corneal and sclera tissue for transplants, and facilitate more than 70 clinical trials.

Importantly, we remained engaged with our supporters, including the big-hearted donors who remain our mainstays despite COVID, inflation and interest rate rises. Our gratitude is immense.

2023 promises to be another highly productive and busy year for the Institute, and some of our ongoing initiatives are featured in this issue of Vision News. These include our research into central retinal vein occlusion, projects that have been awarded Telethon grants, and the important work of Lions Outback Vision.

Best wishes

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

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Exciting collaboration set to change the landscape for treating inherited eye diseases

An exciting new collaboration between researchers at the Lions Eye Institute and Curtin University is poised to deliver a breakthrough treatment for inherited retinal diseases.

Dr Livia Carvalho, head of the Retinal Genomics and Therapy group at the Lions Eye Institute, and her team have joined forces with Associate Professor Hani Al-Salami from Curtin University. The partnership combines Dr Carvalho's expertise in retinal treatment development with Associate Professor Al-Salami's pioneering knowledge of nanocapsules. Together they will work to develop a new way of delivering vital medicines into the eye. This research has been made possible with funding from the National Foundation for Medical Research and Innovation, and our supporters.

In a person with retinitis pigmentosa, loss of vision is caused by the death of rod and cone photoreceptor cells in the retina. Dr Carvalho's team were the first in the world to test a particular drug that can prevent the cone cells from dying. "Research published by my team in 2022 showed that cone cell death, which contributes to central vision loss in different types of inherited blindness, can be halted by continuous release of a drug called GSK-J4," said Dr Carvalho.



Dr Livia Carvalho

"GSK-J4 is delivered via injection, however, to be effective it would need to be injected into the eye every two weeks and this is not viable as a treatment for patients due to the increased risk of complications," she said.

"The nanocapsule technology developed by Associate Professor Al-Salami's team is very exciting as it could offer a new way to provide long-term sustained delivery of treatments into the eye. By joining forces, we aim to develop a treatment we hope can prolong vision for patients suffering from inherited retinal diseases for as long as possible."



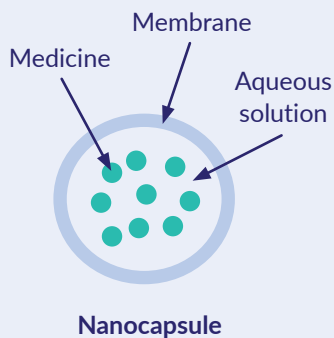
Associate Professor Hani Al-Salami

If successful, next steps for the team would be to take the ground-breaking treatment to clinical trials.

Did you know?

What is a nanocapsule?

A nanocapsule is a tiny sphere that can carry medicine via injection to a specific location within the body. Roughly 200 times smaller than the width of a human hair, nanocapsules can be tailored to ensure the medicine they carry is released in a controlled manner, allowing it to last longer.



Thanks to the National Foundation for Medical Research and Innovation and our loyal supporters for continuing to support our research. Without you, many research projects would be unable to continue.

Happy 40th birthday

to the Lions Eye Institute!



Where was the world at in 1983?

Australia II won the America's Cup and Bob Hawke was appointed Prime Minister of Australia. Everyone who could do the moonwalk was doing it and MTV brought Madonna, Michael Jackson and Midnight Oil to our living rooms.

In film, the top US box office hit was Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi and the Australian film Pharlap was released. In popular culture, Cabbage Patch Dolls were starting to take the world by storm and the children's show Fraggle Rock debuted in the US, Canada and Europe.

How the Lions Eye Institute was founded

1983 was also the year that Professor Ian Constable AO started the Lions Eye Institute, with not much more than an office and an assistant. He was recruited back to Australia from Boston and was attracted to the role as he could see the enormous need for improved eye health care in Western Australia. Fortunately, he had the support of the Lions clubs, the Lions Save-Sight Foundation WA, federal and state governments and the generosity of philanthropic supporters, many who have been on the journey with us ever since.

Building on early eye health screening programs for glaucoma and amblyopia (lazy eye), Professor Constable expanded the screening programs to new regions to include diabetic retinopathy. He also cemented the Lions Eye Institute in the fabric of the Perth community by raising much needed funds to support the establishment of both research and clinical facilities, located at the QEII Medical Centre in Nedlands.



Professor
Ian Constable AO

Timeline of innovations, discoveries and inventions

1960s & 1970s

Lions clubs establish mobile eye health screening programs

1985

One of the world's first intra-ocular lenses for cataract surgery

1986

Lions Eye Bank begins supplying donated corneas for transplant

1990/1991

Australian-first excimer laser surgical system for refractive treatment of myopia

1993

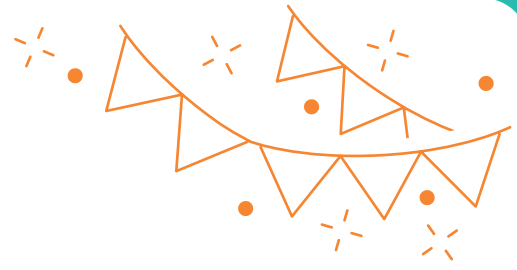
Barrett Universal II Formula, one of the most accurate intra-ocular lens power calculation formulas

1998

World's first artificial cornea, the AlphaCor

1999

Central retinal vein occlusion bypass surgery procedure



Creativity meets science

Fundraising in the early days was a creative pursuit. Lions clubs created a Miss Personality Quest competition in 1974 that went



on to raise \$4.5 million, with significant funds directed to eye research. At one point, Professor Constable's research was controversially a recipient of profits from 'beer tickets' – a pub-based competition in South Australia that encouraged people to purchase beer for a chance to win a cash prize.

“The first week we made \$2,500, by the fourth week we made \$28,000 and during the fifth week I had a call from the gaming authorities saying if you don't shut this thing down in the next 24 hours you'll be in hot water,” Professor Constable said.

With generous philanthropic support, Professor Constable was able to recruit a team of leading clinician researchers, who in turn attracted their own research teams. Over time this led to exciting discoveries, breakthroughs and inventions, some of which are on the timeline on this page.

The future is in good hands

Over the years, the leadership baton for the Lions Eye Institute has been passed from Professor Constable to Professor David Mackey AO and then to the current Managing Director, Professor Bill Morgan. Ongoing philanthropic support has enabled us to create research partnerships with The University of Western Australia (UWA), Curtin University and universities in Indonesia as well as becoming a founding partner for the new Optometry School at UWA. With recent investments into professorial chairs in ophthalmic big data and optometry, we look forward to further research breakthroughs and innovations in the future.



Philanthropic support has been the cornerstone of our success.

Expanding our footprint to enable better vision for all

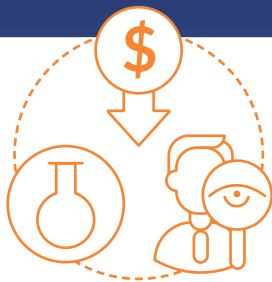
As well as the research breakthroughs, we expanded our reach to Murdoch and Midland and established Lions Outback Vision, with a new clinic in Broome and outreach to rural and remote communities through the Lions Outback Vision Van.

2003	2005	2018/2019	2019	2020	2022
Commenced teleophthalmology trials	Leading gene therapy research for wet age-related macular degeneration	XEN® Gel Stent for treating glaucoma. Launched the Virna Glaucoma Drainage Device in Indonesia	Eureka Prize for world-first pre-clinical models to test the use of immunotherapy to control cytomegalovirus	Prototype device for non-invasive intracranial pressure measurement	Appointed the inaugural Lions Eye Institute UWA Chair in Optometry Research and the Lions Curtin Chair in Ophthalmic Big Data

A decades-long commitment to finding a cure for central retinal vein occlusion



Professor Ian McAllister has made it his life's work to restore vision. Specifically, his work has focused on retinal venous occlusive disease.



It can take many years to translate research outcomes into clinical practice. Our achievements are only made possible because of people like you who share our vision to save people's sight.

Retinal venous occlusive disease causes bleeding and leakage into the retina reducing vision. The more severe form is central retinal vein occlusion (CRVO), which occurs when the main vein carrying blood out of the eye through the optic nerve becomes blocked. This can lead to vision loss and blindness.

In CRVO, the exact location of the blockage cannot be seen as it lies within the optic nerve making attempts to unblock it impossible. Over a period spanning 25 years Professor McAllister and his research team explored a number of avenues to overcome this, resulting in the development of a bypass laser treatment to permanently restore vision in people with CRVO.

"The vein itself, which is about the diameter of an eyelash, is in an incredibly high-risk area of the eye," said Professor McAllister.

"Even if you manage to remove the blockage, the circumstances that created it are still present and it will likely re-occur. If you can't unblock it, the other thing is to try and work out how to bypass it. This creates an alternative passage for the blood to exit the eye."

How the bypass procedure works

A special high-powered laser is used to create a channel between the blocked vein (which is under high pressure), through a tough barrier called Bruch's membrane, and into a nearby choroidal vein (which has

lower pressure). The difference in pressure encourages blood to flow through to the choroidal vein and exit the eye. In a normal eye there are no connections between these two vascular layers.

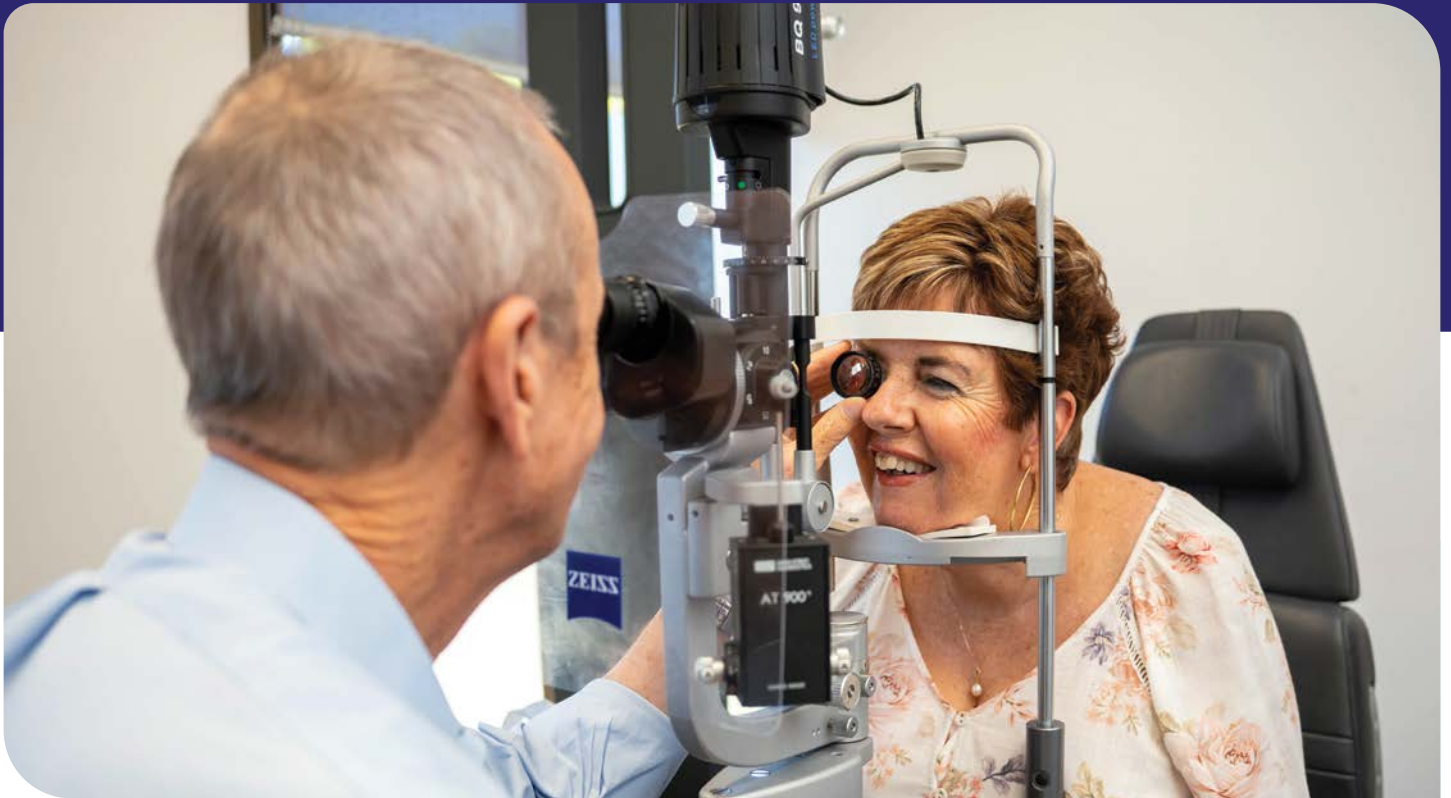
"It's called creating an anastomotic connection. The procedure can be done as an outpatient treatment, is completely painless and requires no anaesthetic or surgery," said Professor McAllister.

The lasers used are custom-built and only available in Australia.

"Over the years we have treated around 400 patients, with some referred from the eastern states, Indonesia and America. Additionally, we've been able to increase our success rate to around 85 per cent," he said.

Combining treatments for the best outcomes

Prior to Professor McAllister's ground-breaking discovery, the only treatments available for CRVO were painful, regular injections into the eye. These injections can be expensive, and some people need them for the rest of their life. The injections contain vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) inhibitors, which slow blood leaking into the eye from the blocked vein. It is this leakage that can cause vision loss.



Professor McAllister with patient Dianne, who took part in a clinical trial to treat CRVO using a combination of laser and injections

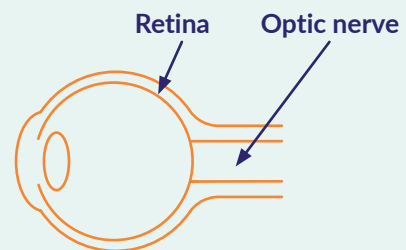
“The injections give some improvement in vision, but this doesn’t last very long and doesn’t resolve the blockage which continues to cause high pressure within the vein.”

Clinical trials led by Professor McAllister showed that using injections in conjunction with his laser anastomosis treatment offers the best success rate for patients.

“Now we use a combination treatment. One treatment, the laser, addresses the pressure in the vein and the other treatment, the injection, prevents further leakage,” he said.

Results from the trials have shown that patients who receive the combination of treatments still need some injections, but very few compared to patients who have injections alone. Additionally, patients who receive the combination of treatments end up with better vision. In many cases vision is completely restored within a few months, and soon after some patients can stop the injections completely.

“Patients can then resume their normal daily activities such as working, driving or looking after their grandchildren.”



What is central retinal vein occlusion?

The retina is a thin layer of tissue at the back of the eye, near the optic nerve. It needs a constant supply of blood to function properly.

Central retinal vein occlusion, or CRVO, is a blockage of the main vein carrying blood out of the retina. There is only one exit point for the blood, through the optic nerve. When this vein is blocked it causes pressure in the vein to rise resulting in swelling and leakage of blood into the surrounding retinal tissue. Complications include loss of central vision, severe pain and eventually blindness.

CRVO is more common in people over the age of 70. Most people who develop CRVO will notice a gradual, painless loss of vision. Usually only one eye is affected although in about seven per cent of people it will affect both eyes.



The gift of vision

Often referred to as the most valued of our senses, our sight is a gift to be treasured, allowing us to navigate our way through the world and appreciate it's beauty. The Lions Eye Institute has spent the last 40 years saving and restoring vision to as many people across Western Australia as we can. Recently, we asked a few of our patients to share what the Lions Eye Institute means to them.

Anna and John

“ John and I are very grateful to Professor Ian Constable for saving John's eyesight back in 2001 when he had a detached retina. Professor Constable used a new treatment at the time that avoided the need for a lengthy operation. Around 2007, Professor Constable also removed cataracts from both of John's eyes. Then last year Professor Constable fixed cloudiness in John's right eye with laser treatment.

We are delighted to support the Lions Eye Institute so that others may continue to benefit from their work.”

Judith “ I have been having treatment at the Lions Eye Institute since I was diagnosed with glaucoma a few years ago. I see Dr Antonio Giubilato and he has been very supportive. Over the last few years I have had quite a few surgeries and post-surgery check ups. Now I only need to see Dr Giubilato every two months to monitor my condition. I am only in my mid-forties and my eye disease, glaucoma, has impacted me in every way. It changed my life.

The research at the Lions Eye Institute keeps my hope alive to retain my vision and continue to have a normal life for as long as possible.”

Stephen

“ I was referred to the Lions Eye Institute by my ophthalmologist when I was diagnosed with macular degeneration around 10 years ago. I saw Professor Ian McAllister and he started me on monthly eye injections. Initially, the injections alleviated some major symptoms and steadied my vision. Ongoing injections have helped prevent the disease from progressing. My vision has been steady now for the last seven to eight years, and I only need the injections every 12 weeks.

I wasn't aware of any issues with my eyesight. Initially I was diagnosed with diabetes, so I made sure I had my eyes checked every 12 months. At one of these appointments the optician said 'I think you need to go around the corner to the ophthalmologist'. We thought it was cataract at the time, and I had a cataract operation. Once he got rid of the

cataract he could see through to the back of the eye and said 'I think you need to go see Professor McAllister at the Lions Eye Institute'.

When I first started treatment I was living 20 kilometres from the nearest shop. I wasn't allowed to drive. Without a car, having to get someone to drive you everywhere is a real pain. You feel like a burden on your family. Then I started the course of injections, and now at each appointment Professor McAllister lets me know if I am still allowed to drive. It's an absolute relief to maintain that independence. I'm keeping my fingers crossed it will stay.

I admire the researchers and people who take part in clinical trials to help improve research and treatments.

I am grateful to Professor McAllister and his team for treating my macular degeneration and I look toward supporting the Lions Eye Institute for many years to come.”



Denise

“ I was born with congenital cataracts in both eyes. I've worn glasses since I was seven years old, so for around sixty years, and I never knew until recently that I had them.

I'm a tall person, and at school I always sat at the back of the class. One day, I asked the teacher why she hadn't spelled a word correctly on the black board. It turns out I couldn't see the board properly. Straight away I was sent off to the eye doctor. My prescription was a minus 10 and a minus 12, I had really bad vision. I wore 'coke bottle' glasses from then on.

When I was in my sixties, an ophthalmologist referred me to Dr Steven Wiffen to remove the congenital cataracts. After surgery on the first eye, Dr Wiffen took the bandage off and I cried because I had never before seen colour like that, so brilliant. The joy I felt when I saw colours as they actually are – for the first time in my life – was amazing. And I am still amazed, even now.

After the first cataract was removed I was able to compare one eye to the other. On my other eye it was like there was

a grey-green mesh over it. But of course, I didn't know that before the surgery.

After the cataract surgeries, Dr Wiffen was also able to put lenses in so I wouldn't need my glasses for distance vision. I don't wear glasses anymore. Only recently I had to get some glasses for reading. Other than that, my vision is fantastic.

I think a lot of people don't know about the medical research at the Lions Eye Institute. It's really important.”



Dr Jessica Mountford



Dr Antony Clark



Professor Dao-Yi Yu AM



Dr Geoffrey Chan



Professor David Mackey AO



Dr Samantha Lee

New research to shed light on childhood blindness

2023 is shaping up to be an exciting year for medical research into paediatric eye conditions.

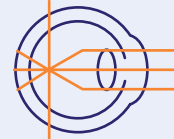
The Lions Eye Institute is delighted to confirm that thanks to Channel 7 Telethon Trust's generous support, totalling over \$500,000, the following four projects now have the critical funding needed to proceed.



Closing the gap for pediatric screening in the North West

The Kimberley and Pilbara regions of Western Australia have been identified as an area of concern by the Commissioner for Children and Young People, with School Entry Health Assessment figures sitting at 73 and 85 per cent respectively, when compared with the rest of regional Western Australia (92.4 per cent). There is also no data available specifically related to the number of Aboriginal children tested in remote regions.

From the Kimberley Eye Hub in Broome, Lions Outback Vision will use specialist screening equipment to monitor healthy eye development of children in areas where School Entry Health Assessments are not currently being done. The screening will identify children who may be at risk of eye health and eye developmental concerns, providing equity of service for regional and vulnerable children, and allowing for early intervention or treatment to prevent vision loss later in life.



Development of myopia-associated genetic screening

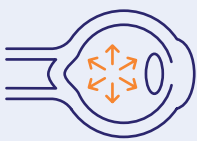
An estimated 23,000 Western Australian children suffer from early-onset myopia, a progressive disease affecting vision. Unfortunately, the prevalence of myopia is predicted to rise beyond 50 per cent of the global population in coming decades due to a combination of both genetic and environmental factors, including lack of time outdoors and increased near-work such as reading.

Researcher Dr Jessica Mountford, and clinician-researcher Dr Antony Clark, will work to identify how genetic and environmental risk factors lead to the development of early-onset myopia. As part of this work, they will establish Western Australia's first genome wide association study (GWAS) screening for myopia-associated gene variants in school-aged children.

The long-term outcomes of this research include the development of new methods for screening and identifying children at risk of developing myopia, personalised treatment options and prevention strategies. This work is complementary to the early-onset myopia research already being conducted by Dr Mountford and Dr Clark.



Associate Professor Angus Turner with a young patient at the Kimberley Eye Hub



Improving outcomes for glaucoma in children and babies

Babies and children born with glaucoma experience severe vision impairment, with congenital glaucoma responsible for up to 18 per cent of childhood blindness. The only way to treat congenital glaucoma is via surgery, however surgical success rates are low. This research, led by Professor Dao-Yi Yu AM, Dr Geoffrey Chan and Dr Antony Clark, will help increase successful outcomes of surgery and reduce loss of sight.

The team will develop a world-first non-invasive imaging system to enable safe visualisation of lymphatic vessels, as current lymphatics imaging technology is not suitable for children. The system will potentially improve glaucoma surgery success, reducing the risk of complications which means less follow-up appointments, less operations, less reliance on medications and faster recovery.

This research has the potential to prevent severe vision impairment and blindness, providing children with the ability to live a normal life including fully participating in education, which opens up career opportunities and allows for greater independence.



Understanding how infection from common diseases causes blindness

Infectious diseases were a major cause of childhood blindness a century ago. The availability of effective antibiotics and vaccination have almost eliminated blindness from rubella, measles, meningococcus, Haemophilus influenzae, chickenpox and herpes zoster. However, there remain several infectious diseases that can cause blindness for which we have no regular vaccinations. They are Epstein-Barr virus, cytomegalovirus, herpes simplex virus 1 and toxoplasmosis.

Although many children with these infectious diseases have only mild illness, others experience devastating outcomes that can lead to blindness or even death. In addition, these four diseases can trigger other conditions later in life. Epstein-Barr virus is estimated to cause approximately one per cent of all cancers, and increases the risk of multiple sclerosis.

A team of researchers led by Professor David Mackey AO and Dr Samantha Lee will use data from the Raine Study to understand infection rates in Australian children, as well as the need for and best timing of vaccination. In addition, information from the research will be used in the Raine Study for the next 50 years to determine whether infections in childhood increase the risk of diseases in later life.



Thanks to Channel 7 Telethon Trust and the Western Australian community for supporting children to have the best start in life.

Where there's a will there's a way



Lions Outback Vision addresses the unique challenges of delivering specialist eye care to some of the most remote corners of our vast state.



A small and dedicated team of eye health professionals, they are firmly committed to improving outcomes for rural, remote and Indigenous Western Australians. Led by McCusker Director, Associate Professor Angus Turner, the team at Lions Outback Vision is known for their ability to overcome almost any hurdle in their quest to provide equitable, innovative and sustainable eye health care.

The Lions Eye Institute and Lions Outback Vision have a long and proud history of saving and improving the sight of people living across Western Australia. In this special 40th birthday edition of Vision News we take a look at key moments in this history.

1970s

Early leaders in eye care services to the regions

In 1976, our founder Professor Ian Constable AO joined Professor Fred Hollows AC in the Kimberley region to conduct eye screening programs. Professor Constable then continued to make regular trips to the Kimberley and Ngaanyatjarra Lands in the Blackstone Ranges.

Through the 1980s and 1990s ophthalmologists from the Lions Eye Institute, including Professors Bill Morgan and Ian McAllister, continued this outreach work throughout Western Australia, treating common eye problems including cataract, diabetic retinopathy and trachoma.

2010

The birth of Lions Outback Vision

In 2010, the Lions Eye Institute developed the Indigenous and Remote Eye Health Unit with Associate Professor Turner at the helm. The unit was desperately needed to address the inequity in accessible eye care faced by people living in remote areas of the state. In 2013 the unit changed its name to Lions Outback Vision.

Associate Professor Turner's dream of a custom-built travelling ophthalmology clinic came to life in 2016 with the creation of the Lions Outback Vision Van. Consisting of three consulting rooms filled with specialist equipment, the van travels over 26,000 kilometres each year to treat patients from Port Hedland in the north to Albany in the south.

2020

Lions Outback Vision Kimberley Eye Hub

Accessibility is crucial in dealing with the challenges of remote eye health. The Kimberley Eye Hub, located in Broome, provides a base for Lions Outback Vision's ophthalmologists and optometrists to treat local residents, as well as provide outreach to 20 communities and five regional towns across the Kimberley.

Future plans include a healthy eating program to tackle the growing incidence of diabetes-related vision complications, and a day surgery to alleviate pressure on Broome Hospital and enable more timely surgical and treatment interventions.

Over the years, the ongoing commitment of generous partners and supporters has enabled Lions Outback Vision to keep extending their services, as well as build on the capacity of local health care workers in regional hospitals and health centres.



Associate Professor Angus Turner on the plane with team member Adele Sangster

Did you know?

The recent 'one in 100 year' floods experienced in the Kimberley region didn't stop Lions Outback Vision from reaching their patients in Derby earlier this year. Thanks to the Royal Australian Air Force, the team were able to catch a lift in a Hercules transport aircraft in order to reach the town and patients waiting for sight saving treatment.

How Lions Outback Vision is tackling vision loss and blindness in 2023 and beyond



Vision Van

A custom-built mobile health clinic which now visits 19 communities twice a year, supporting Western Australians living in these areas to access specialist eye health services and treatment.

Visiting optometrists

Reaching 30 different locations of identified need, improving the coordination and integration of eye health services and quality of ongoing patient care.

Outreach clinics

Coordinated visits by ophthalmologists to regional hospitals to support specialist eye health procedures and surgeries, including clinical assessment, review and follow up.

Diabetic retinopathy screening

Supporting primary health care services around the state to integrate vital diabetic retinopathy screening into their existing services.

Telehealth

Real-time consultations and access to specialist eye care for patients, either in their own home, or facilitated by a local health clinic.

Kimberley Eye Hub

A permanent clinic providing much needed eye health services to the Kimberley, including three resident ophthalmologists and two resident optometrists.

Lions Outback Vision is incredibly grateful to the generous supporters who share their vision including Lotterywest, Channel 7 Telethon Trust, Wen Giving Foundation, and the state and federal governments.



Awards for innovation and community outreach



Two Lions Eye Institute researchers are being celebrated for their outstanding contributions to technology innovation and community outreach in Western Australia.



Professor Dao-Yi Yu

This award honours the late distinguished neuropathologist Emeritus Professor Byron Kakulas AO, founding Director of WA's Perron Institute.

Professor Dao-Yi Yu AM has been awarded the prestigious inaugural Byron Kakulas medal. The award is for innovators who have changed the face of medical research, clinical practice, service delivery or community outreach to improve the health and wellbeing of the Western Australian community.

Professor Yu led his research team (Professor Bill Morgan, Professor Paula Yu, Professor Stephen Cringle and Dean Darcey) to invent a glaucoma treatment system that would cause minimal damage to the eye yet create long term fluid drainage. The XEN[®] Gel Stent invention revolutionised glaucoma treatment globally and has been implanted into over 100,000 patients worldwide since approval by the FDA (US Food and Drug Administration) in 2016.

With his invention, Professor Yu simplified what was once a very invasive procedure with long recovery times and high rates of failure, transforming it into the most minimally invasive surgical technique with proven long term effectiveness.

Professor Yu has worked with the Lions Eye Institute since 1984, and now leads the Physiology and Pharmacology research group. His main areas of research include diagnostics and therapeutics for retinal diseases and glaucoma.



Dr Danuta Sampson

Dr Danuta Sampson is a Senior Research Fellow at the Lions Eye Institute. She has been awarded the 2023 SPIE (international society for optics and photonics) Diversity Outreach Award for her contribution to promoting diversity in the education, training and participation of women and minorities in optics, photonics, electro-optics and imaging technologies and applications.

Dr Sampson is driven by personal experience. Coming from a low-income background, she was the first in her family to graduate from university, persisting in her desire to learn despite discouragement from professors regarding her pursuit of physics. Dr Sampson now leads mentorship programs and outreach groups to build self-confidence and the development of a more inclusive society.

Dr Sampson is a member of the Institute's Ocular Tissue Engineering Laboratory research team, led by Associate Professor Fred Chen. Her work involves developing a standardised procedure of eye image analysis and discovering new biomarkers of retinal diseases and progression. She also teaches part time at The University of Western Australia's Optometry School.

Take up a health challenge in 2023 and do it for eye research



Do you have a 'health and fitness' goal in 2023? What better way to get your health kick started than by participating in a community event.

There are several fun events to choose from throughout the year. You can do one or you can do them all. Get some exercise and fresh air, all while having a great time.

When you fundraise for us, you become a Lions Eye Institute community supporter. Our community supporters play a significant role in our quest to provide better vision for all by making sure our sight saving research continues.

You don't have to be super fit to participate in most of the following events. You just need to have the will to make your way across the finish line!

Community events are a great way to get active, support a good cause, and are suitable for people of all abilities.



Western Australia's favourite mass participation events

Euroz Hartleys Port to Pub

Saturday, 18 March 2023
Register at porttopub.com.au

Asics Bridges Fun Run

Sunday, 2 April 2023
Register at wamc.org.au/event/asics-bridges-fun-run

HBF Run for a Reason

Sunday, 21 May 2023
Register at hbfrun.com.au

Perth Half Marathon & 5km

Sunday, 6 August 2023
Register at wamc.org.au/event/perth-half-marathon-5km

City to Surf for Activ

Sunday, 27 August 2023
Register at perthcitytosurf.com

Perth Running Festival

Sunday, 8 October 2023
Register at perthrunningfestival.com.au

We look forward to welcoming you as a community supporter of the Lions Eye Institute.

For more information, please visit the specific event website above.

When you are ready to start your fundraising journey with the Lions Eye Institute, please visit lei.raisely.com. We have a dedicated Fundraising Coordinator, Yoke Lim, to answer any questions you have. Yoke can be contacted on (08) 9381 0809 or by email yoke.lim@lei.org.au.



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 people 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) 6382 0566 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.

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We recognise the generosity of donors on our donor recognition board, website and in our annual report.

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