vision News

Lions Eye Institute

Autumn 2024

Tackling rare eye disease

Research that's first of its kind

Sight saving surgery

Lions Outback Vision to the rescue

Boost for kids

Critical support for vital research

Rishi, a patient of the Lions Eye Institute, with his mum Tina

From the Managing Director

Welcome to the Autumn 2024 edition of Vision News.

With a new year comes new beginnings, as we set our sights on the future.

For me, the new year fosters a spirit of personal growth and anticipation over the changes that lie ahead. After much consideration, and with mixed feelings, I have decided to step down as Managing Director of the Lions Eye Institute as of May 2024.

I will not be leaving the Lions Eye Institute, as it is very much a part of my life. I will continue my clinical work as an ophthalmologist in our Nedlands clinic, and by the middle of the year I will also start seeing patients in our Midland clinic.

As part of our 40th birthday celebrations, we launched our very first photographic competition called Eye to Eye. I was absolutely thrilled with the response from photographers, amateur and professional.

I am also keen to focus my energy on several large projects. These include initiatives such as the non-invasive intracranial pressure project, glaucoma research, clinical and research work in Indonesia, and the potential establishment of a public eye clinic in Midland.

The board of the Institute has established a committee tasked with the responsibility of identifying a suitable successor. In the meantime, I am highly confident in the capability of our Chief Executive Officer, Dr Glen Power, to take on further leadership responsibilities.

To other news, in late 2023 as part of our 40th birthday celebrations, we launched our very first photographic competition called Eye to Eye. I was absolutely thrilled with the response from photographers, amateur and professional, from around Western Australia. We received an incredible number of high quality entries. Our esteemed panel of judges, namely Frances Andrijich, Steve Wise and Chris Barry, spent long hours deliberating over the winners in early February. Winners and shortlisted entries will be showcased in an exhibition at QEII Medical Centre in March and early April. Find out more on page 15.

In this edition of Vision News you can also read about research into a rare genetic eye disorder that's first of its kind in Western Australia. Learn how Lions Outback Vision saved the sight of a young boy from a remote Indigenous community, and read about six incredible projects that will go ahead in 2024 thanks to ongoing support from Telethon.

As I sign off from this column for the last time, I am reminded of how grateful I am to you for the unwavering support afforded to me as Managing Director since 2019, and to the Lions Eye Institute over the last forty years. Together we have made many great changes propelling the Institute to become the world-class clinic and medical research institute that it is today.

Best wishes

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

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Blame computers not phones for short-sightedness

A new study from the Lions Eye Institute and The University of Western Australia has found the world is experiencing a myopia (short-sightedness) epidemic and the main cause is computer screens rather than mobile phones or tablets.

Senior research fellow Samantha Sze-Yee Lee used data from the Raine Study collected from 600 young adults to discern the types of digital screens that contributed to the development of myopia.

Dr Lee found that short-sightedness worsened faster in those who reported six or more hours per day of computer usage compared to those with low computer use while time spent on mobile phones did not have any effect.

“The reason for this difference may be due to a phenomenon called ‘peripheral defocus’,” Dr Lee said.

“When you look at your mobile phone, everywhere in our peripheral vision, with the exception of the small phone screen, is further away and relatively blurred.

“The brain registers things are generally far away and there is no need for the eye to become more short-sighted.

“When you focus on a large screen such as a desktop computer, more of our peripheral vision is taken by the screen.

“The brain sees that more short-distance work is involved, triggering the eyes to become more short-sighted.”

Myopia is associated with increased risk of future eye problems, such as glaucoma and retinal degeneration, so understanding how our modern world affects our risk is important.

Dr Samantha Sze-Yee Lee

“In this day and age, it is almost impossible to avoid digital screens,” Dr Lee said.

“Mobile phones can easily be used outdoors, as opposed to laptop and desktop computers, and spending more time outdoors is known to be protective against myopia."

> “It is hoped the findings will help scientists develop techniques to mitigate the detrimental impact of computer screens on eyesight.”

Based in Perth, Western Australia, the Raine Study is one of the largest and longest-running studies of human health from pregnancy through childhood, adolescence and adulthood to be carried out anywhere in the world.

First of its kind research in WA for rare genetic eye disorder

Congenital aniridia is a rare genetic eye disorder that impacts all parts of the eye, causing numerous serious complications including cataract, glaucoma, problems in the cornea and retina, and eventually severe vision impairment. While management of cataract and glaucoma is possible, other complications of the condition are demanding for the patient and very challenging to treat.

Dr Danial Roshandel, from the Lions Eye Institute, is conducting first of its kind research in Western Australia, investigating ways to manage issues caused by congenital aniridia on the surface of the eye, the cornea.

Current treatments limited

The cornea is the clear front part of the eye, covered by surface cells that maintain its health and transparency. Corneal surface cells, originating from stem cells at the cornea's edge, are regularly replaced. If these stem cells are absent from birth due to congenital aniridia, or damaged due to factors like burns or prolonged contact lens use, the cornea can become irregular and cloudy. This can cause progressive vision loss and significant pain like a severe eye abrasion.

Current treatment involves transplanting stem cells from a donor's eye. However, the transplanted stem cells can be rejected by the recipient's body. Therefore, suppression of the recipient's immune system is required, which can lead to adverse side effects. The risk of rejection and failure is high, usually occurring after a few years and resulting in the need for more treatment or surgery.

An alternative being explored by Dr Roshandel and his team is using a patient's own skin cells to generate corneal epithelial stem cells, eliminating the risk of rejection and the need for immune suppression.

Two-pronged approach

Dr Roshandel said his team are using a two-pronged approach to develop new treatments to address the corneal issues caused by congenital aniridia.

The first approach entails converting the patient's skin cells into corneal epithelial stem cells and subsequently transplanting them into the patient's eyes to address the eye surface problems. This technique helps the eye surface to regenerate, without the need of suppressing the patient's immune system. Since corneal problems associated with congenital aniridia are progressive, timely intervention is crucial for better long-term vision prognosis. Additionally, this technique may also be used for treating other corneal epithelium diseases caused by chemical burns, overuse of contact lenses, and immune disorders.

> "In our lab at the Lions Eye Institute, we've successfully generated corneal epithelial stem cells from normal human skin."

"With further optimisation and standardisation, these cells can be isolated and grown on a membrane which enables us to transplant them onto damaged eyes. If successful, this technique could offer a long-term solution for patients with corneal epithelial stem cell damage, regardless of the underlying condition or cause."

The second approach involves correcting the mutation that causes the disease. The team will try to repair the gene defect in the cultured patient stem cells using cutting-edge gene editing techniques. This approach could potentially be used as a sole treatment to repair the gene defect or in combination with transplantation to improve its outcome.

Breakthrough

Dr Roshandel and his team have been working on developing the technique for regenerating corneal epithelial cells from human skin cells and repairing the genetic defect that causes congenital aniridia for over two years. However more work is needed to improve efficiency and ensure the process will be safely translated to clinical practice.

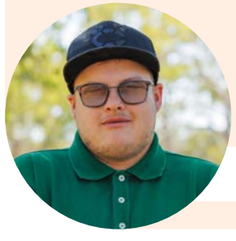
Dr Roshandel has vast experience in transplanting cultured stem cells onto the eye for the treatment of different eye surface diseases. He is currently setting up the methods for growing the corneal epithelial stem cells on a special membrane which is an important step for transplanting these cells onto the diseased eye.

Congenital aniridia is a rare disease that affects all parts of both eyes, including the optic nerve, retina, crystalline lens and cornea.

People with congenital aniridia are born missing part or all of their iris, the coloured part of the eye. Serious ocular complications, such as surface disease, glaucoma and cataract, are common. Congenital aniridia can be passed on to children from an affected parent, or it can occur in a child without an affected parent.

Did you know?

Meet Rishi



Rishi was diagnosed with cataracts in both eyes at just one day old. During Rishi's cataract surgery, doctors discovered he had a rare genetic eye disease called congenital aniridia. Now 19 years old, it has caused complete blindness in his right eye and glaucoma in the other. Rishi also has corneal degradation in both eyes, a painful condition relieved only by hourly drops during the day and ointment at night. He is now under the care of Professor Bill Morgan, however treatments for the corneal degradation are only temporary and do not improve his vision.

Please support our research that can help people like Rishi maintain their vision for as long as possible.

Sight saving surgery thanks to Lions Outback Vision

Five-year-old Joaquin lives in the remote community of Jimbalakudunj, 100 kilometres northwest of Fitzroy Crossing. Last year he almost lost sight in one eye, however with swift intervention from Lions Outback Vision his vision was restored.

In late 2023, Joaquin's right eye was punctured in an accident. He was immediately taken to Fitzroy Crossing Hospital Emergency Department where staff assessed his condition as needing urgent intervention to save his sight.

Initially, a decision was made to transfer Joaquin to Perth via a Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) flight. However, after looking at the case RFDS and Fitzroy Crossing Hospital doctors recommended treatment in Broome, where Lions Outback Vision's resident eye care specialists Dr Vaibhav Shah and Dr Yachana Shah were on hand.

Dr Vaibhav Shah and Dr Yachana Shah at the Kimberley Eye Hub in Broome. Credit: The West Australian

After transfer to Broome Hospital that very same day, Joaquin underwent surgery for a full-thickness corneal laceration. Following successful treatment he was discharged, and returned to his community the day after surgery. A comprehensive follow up plan was developed by the Lions Outback Vision team, to be carried out by visiting ophthalmology and optometry services near to the remote community where he lives.

Dr Yachana Shah said the presence of the Lions Outback Vision team at the Kimberley Eye Hub in Broome not only freed the RFDS plane to attend five other transfers waiting in the area, but enabled Joaquin and his family to avoid a lengthy trip and stay in Perth.

Despite scar marks and some deformities in the front of the affected eye, she remains optimistic about Joaquin's visual prognosis. "He will have some permanent vision loss due to the scar, however his eye will continue to be useful in what it will contribute to his field of vision and depth perception," she said.

Joaquin with his mum Margaret and Dr Vaibhav Shah after surgery

Prompt assessment, interdisciplinary collaboration, and thorough follow-up care are of critical importance in managing paediatric eye trauma, especially in remote locations. Despite multiple challenges, Joaquin's recovery remains promising.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Associate Professor Angus Turner (pictured left), McCusker Director of Lions Outback Vision, who was named **winner of the Digital Health Technology Award in the 2023 Health and Medical Research Awards**. The award recognises Australian innovators at the forefront of digital health technologies.

Associate Professor Turner partnered with Google to use artificial intelligence tools to detect eye disease in remote Western Australia. He was recognised for his groundbreaking work and its implications to dramatically shift health outcomes for vulnerable populations.

Professor David Mackey AO awarded two prestigious grants

Congratulations to Professor David Mackey, Head of the Genetics and Epidemiology Research Group at the Lions Eye Institute, who has been awarded two prestigious grants to continue his world-leading research into myopia and glaucoma.

Stan Perron Charitable Foundation Grant

Over a period of three years, funding from the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation will support Professor Mackey's critical research into the genetic and environmental factors interacting to cause myopia and glaucoma.

Glaucoma is the leading cause of irreversible blindness in the world. Myopia is a risk factor for glaucoma and increasing levels of myopia will greatly increase glaucoma. Professor Mackey said the research will involve two of Western Australia's outstanding cohort studies: the Raine Study, which commenced in 1989, and the Origins Project, which commenced in 2017.

> "Our myopia focus is now on the primary school-aged children in the Origins Project and the Raine Study generation-3, where we will analyse genetic data to predict high risk children."

"We will monitor children for early signs of eye growth and biometric change that precedes the onset of myopia. We will then look at interventions such as increased time outdoors or low-concentration atropine eye drops to decrease the risk of myopia in childhood, adolescence and early adult life."

Glaucoma Australia Quinlivan Research Grant

Glaucoma Australia recently awarded its Quinlivan Research Grant to Professor Mackey, who will use the grant to determine the normal range of intraocular pressure (IOP) in children and young adults, and if this can predict glaucoma in later life.

The main risk factors for glaucoma are family history, genetics and elevated eye pressure. According to Professor Mackey, there is surprisingly little information on eye pressure in young adults and children.

"We lack data on the normal range of IOP in children and have presumed it is the same as for adults," he said.

"We will collect and analyse data from young participants in the Raine Study, whose parents have been followed by researchers for their entire lives. This will enable never-before possible research into the genetic, lifestyle and intergenerational aspects of IOP, as well as the creation of an IOP reference range for children."

The team will also use new technology to more easily, and less invasively measure eye pressure in children, with minimal discomfort or the need for stinging anaesthetic eye drops.

Thank you **Thank you to the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation, Glaucoma Australia and our donors for supporting Professor Mackey's vital research into myopia and glaucoma to continue.**

Leaving a lasting legacy for better vision

Together, we can make a lasting impact on the world of eye research and beyond.

In every lifetime, there's a chance to make a difference. By including the Lions Eye Institute in your Will, you can leave a legacy that ensures better vision for generations to come.

Your support means more than you know. It fuels groundbreaking research that's unlocking new treatments, improving eye health, and bringing hope to millions worldwide. From innovative therapies to cutting-edge technologies, your bequest paves the way for better vision for all.

> My journey with the Lions Eye Institute began with a deeply personal connection.

My son Hamish was born with Marfan syndrome, an inherited disorder that also impacted his eyes. He faced significant challenges with his vision throughout his life. As he entered his twenties, his sight deteriorated rapidly, leading us on a quest to find the best possible care.

After encountering discouragement elsewhere, we turned to the Lions Eye Institute, where we found hope and expertise. Professor Graham Barrett not only offered a solution but also instilled confidence in us.

Hamish underwent two life-changing surgeries, in 2019 and 2020, restoring his vision and allowing him to embrace life fully. The compassionate care he received inspired me to support the Lions Eye Institute's mission further. Tragically, we lost Hamish's daughter Elizabeth in 2020 and as a result we donate to the Lions Eye Institute every year. I have also made a bequest in Elizabeth's memory.

Judith's son Hamish

By leaving a bequest to the Lions Eye Institute, I hope to contribute to ongoing research and treatments, ensuring that families facing similar challenges find the support they need.

My message to others is simple: never lose hope, and every contribution matters.

The impact of vision research extends beyond individuals – it touches entire families and communities, offering a brighter future for all. I encourage anyone considering leaving a bequest to do so without hesitation. It's a simple yet powerful way to make a lasting difference in the lives of others.

I am grateful for the opportunity to support the Lions Eye Institute's vital research and for the transformative impact it has had on my family."

Judith, Lions Eye Institute supporter and Visionary

If you are thinking of leaving a gift in your Will, please call Darren Nicholls on (08) 6382 0551 for a confidential chat or email darren.nicholls@lei.org.au

New Telethon grants critical for children's eye health

The Lions Eye Institute is delighted to announce we are a beneficiary of Channel 7 Telethon Trust, with six critical programs to receive significant funding in 2024. The Telethon grants, three of which are generously supported by Wen Giving and Hawaiian will enable researchers at the Lions Eye Institute to identify children at high risk of myopia, revolutionise therapies for inherited retinal diseases, and implement crucial screening programs.

Congratulations to the following Lions Eye Institute researchers, whose life-changing work will ensure the children of Western Australia will continue to receive world-leading treatment and care for blinding childhood conditions.

Professor David Mackey AO: Creating eye growth curves for children

The World Health Organization predicts that half the world's population will have myopia (short-sightedness) by 2050. Myopia is associated with excessive growth of the eye and associated blinding conditions. Professor Mackey aims to create standard eye growth charts for Western Australian children to predict those at greater risk of myopia, allowing for early intervention. Professor Mackey and Dr Sam Lee will be working together on the program and recruiting participants from the Raine Study.

Dr Jessica Mountford: Determining the mechanistic causes of childhood myopia

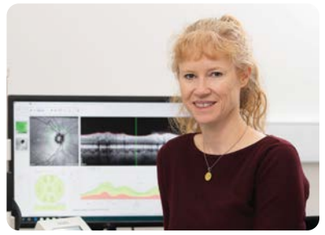
The younger a child develops myopia, the greater the risk of these children developing high myopia and other severe vision complications. Understanding how genetics and environmental factors interact is essential for mitigating a global pandemic. Dr Mountford and her team will use her zebrafish myopia genetic screening platform to screen for genes of interest, with an aim to develop recommendations for treatment strategies.

Associate Professor Angus Turner: Kids on Country in the Pilbara

Lions Outback Vision has launched a new paediatric eye screening service to remote areas of the Pilbara, identifying children at risk of vision impairment, especially myopia. The program involves employing a Pilbara-based nurse to ensure adequate school screening is conducted. Eye care needs are met via the provision of visiting optometry and ophthalmology teams, and coordinating care pathways. Providing timely intervention at an early age is crucial to prevent permanent vision problems.

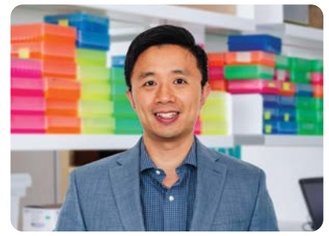
Dr Livia Carvalho: Validating RNA base editing for treatment of inherited retinal disease

Inherited eye diseases are significant contributors to global blindness with no cure to date. Current gene replacement therapies only cater to limited conditions. Dr Carvalho will use RNA (Ribonucleic Acid) gene editing technology to precisely identify the underlying genetic mutations of children living with inherited retinal diseases. This approach will revolutionise current therapy approaches, providing safer and more efficient treatments.



Professor Allison McKendrick: Peripheral vision testing in childhood eye/brain disorders

Professor McKendrick's program aims to develop new efficient methods for evaluating and monitoring vision in children with eye/brain disorders. Peripheral vision can be damaged by a diverse range of eye and brain conditions in childhood including glaucoma, inherited retinal disease, side effects from medication, neurological disorders and tumours. The vision testing strategies that will be developed and evaluated in this program will enable vision loss in children to be identified earlier and more accurately.



Dr Jason Charng: Evaluating treatment efficacy in paediatric retinal gene therapy

Inherited retinal diseases are a major cause of permanent blindness in children and patients with the disease often have poor eyesight which they lose over time. Loss of vision greatly affects the emotional and mental wellbeing of these children as they grow older. Dr Charng is investigating child-friendly methods to assess the degree of vision improvement following retinal gene therapy.

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY telethon 7

wen giving & hawaiian

Thank you to Telethon, Wen Giving and Hawaiian, and the Western Australian community for supporting the researchers at the Lions Eye Institute to continue their investigations into blinding eye conditions threatening the vision of children living in Western Australia.

Chiu Chi and Mei Wen from Wen Giving and Hawaiian

Introducing Lions Vision Trials – where breakthroughs happen

The Clinical Trials Team at the Lions Eye Institute now has a new brand, a new name and a new logo. This is part of the rebranding initiative launching in early March 2024 at the Lions Eye Institute. The newly minted Lions Vision Trials is powered by the same great team with the mission of translating research discoveries into new treatments for our patients.

Director of Clinical Research, JoAnne Forrest, said the new brand initiative was driven by the need to establish a unique identity that better represents the capabilities and strengths of the team, both nationally and internationally.

"Our new branding supports our focus on building strong research collaborations. We are the same team that prides ourselves on quality, experience and excellence but with a new name and look," she said.

Want to know more about participating in clinical trials? Visit lei.org.au/lions-vision-trials, call (08) 9381 0777 or email lionsvisiontrials@lei.org.au.

Barry and Gillian recently completed a 12 month clinical trial managed by the team at Lions Vision Trials. The team is investigating the efficacy of a new drug to treat wet age-related macular degeneration (AMD). The drug is delivered by intravitreal injection. It is already approved for treating some forms of cancer.

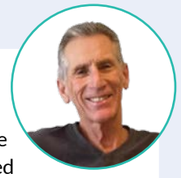
Gillian's story

During a holiday in 2022, Gillian noticed the words on her Kindle were starting to look "zig-zagged". What she was seeing just didn't make sense. Her optometrist immediately referred her to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital where she was diagnosed with wet AMD in her right eye. Specialists informed her of a clinical trial at Lions Vision Trials.

> I was very willing to be part of the trial. I felt grateful to live in Perth and have access to that treatment," she said.

"At the monthly appointments I was very well cared for. The team was wonderful, very efficient and professional. We had a lot of laughs. They made what could have been an ordeal a very pleasant experience."

"I wholeheartedly believe in clinical trials. Being involved is a privilege, and if we get the opportunity we certainly should because anything that helps others down the track is invaluable."



Barry's story

Barry was referred to the Lions Eye Institute in late 2022 by his optometrist for suspected wet AMD in his left eye. He had experienced no obvious symptoms, however was previously diagnosed with dry AMD in both eyes. His treating ophthalmologist, Professor Chandra Balaratnasingam, informed him of a new treatment available through a clinical trial.

"I signed the papers straight away. I wasn't happy with the diagnosis and I wanted to find a treatment to stop the disease getting worse," he said.

"The trial involved monthly visits to the clinic in Nedlands, usually around four hours long. Each visit involved a general check up, blood tests, scans, and the injection."

> I was so impressed with the Lions Vision Trials team. We were all on a first name basis, they were very friendly. I couldn't praise them enough."

"The treatment appears to have halted any deterioration of my sight. I'm continuing to see Dr Bala every eight to ten weeks."

World-first study to improve glaucoma management

Professor Allison McKendrick

In the Spring 2023 edition of Vision News we wrote about Professor Andrew Turpin's research into customised visual field testing for people with glaucoma. Thanks to your donations, a new large scale clinical trial for this customised testing commenced in October 2023.

Accurate prediction of whether a patient is likely to have progressing vision loss from their glaucoma is vital to ensure that people who need more aggressive treatment are identified early, potentially saving vision.

This world-first study is headed up by Professor Turpin's colleagues Professor Allison McKendrick and Dr Vanessa Tang. To date, 65 people with glaucoma have been recruited. Professor McKendrick said the team is on track, aiming to recruit a total of 140 people.

"Potentially suitable participants are being introduced to the study by their consultant ophthalmologist. At this stage both Professor Bill Morgan and Dr Geoff Chan are actively collaborating in the project and involved in recruiting participants, who are then put into contact with Dr Tang or myself to find out about the study," she said.

Professor McKendrick said participants will be assessed every four months over three years, during their routine glaucoma management visits to the Lions Eye Institute in Nedlands. The assessment will involve two tests.

The first is a personalised visual field test. The team will use different placement of test points to avoid retesting locations that are already severely damaged and unlikely to change further. Instead they will test new areas along the borders of these regions. "We are implementing the tests on a new form of visual field testing machine that compensates for any eye movements made during the test. This technology improves the confidence with which we know that the same locations are being tested from one visit to the next," she said.

Dr Vanessa Tang and Jane during a recent assessment

Jane, patient of Professor Bill Morgan and clinical trial participant

The second test involves ocular coherence tomography angiography (OCT-A) imaging to measure blood flow at the back of the eye, in addition to structural scans of the eye. "We plan to combine the imaging and novel visual field data using computational techniques to be able to improve identification of worsening damage."

Participants will also take part in one additional baseline visit at the beginning of the study.

> The study was designed alongside standard appointments to minimise inconvenience for participants and encourage involvement," said Professor McKendrick.

"Participation in the study is entirely voluntary, however it is imperative to the integrity and progress of our research. Without the cooperation of willing participants, we can't improve on current tests for glaucoma," she said.

Thank you again for your generous support of this project.

New board directors appointed

After careful consideration and with an eye toward enhancing the Institute's future strategic direction, the Lions Eye Institute recently appointed two new directors to its board.

Associate Professor Angus Turner is McCusker Director of Lions Outback Vision. His research is conducted through UWA's Centre for Ophthalmology and Visual Science and he serves as a clinical lecturer for the Rural Clinical School at UWA, Notre Dame University and Curtin University.

Dr Antony Clark is a consultant ophthalmologist at the Lions Eye Institute, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and Perth Children's Hospital. Dr Clark has many research interests and leads the WA ATOM (Atropine for the Treatment of Myopia) Study into childhood myopia.

Nikon Small World Competition winners

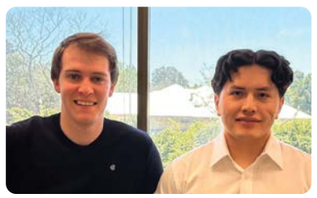
We are thrilled to share that the 2023 Nikon Small World Photomicrography Competition has been won by two researchers from the Lions Eye Institute.

Hassanain Qambari and Jayden Dickson from the Physiology and Pharmacology research group used a Nikon Confocal microscope to image the optic nerve head in the retina. They used a technique called perfusion to stain the different structures, revealing the intricate nature of the retinal vasculature – all in a tissue sample barely 1mm wide.

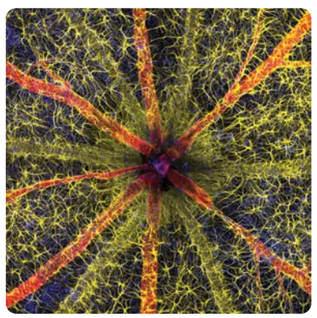
Hassanain said, "I entered the competition because I thought it would be a great way to showcase how intricate the retina is and why the study of retinal diseases poses such a challenge."

As part of his research, Hassanain is investigating ways to detect diabetic retinopathy, a complication of diabetes, earlier in the disease progression.

Thank you to the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation and our donors for supporting this research.



Above: (L-R) Jayden Dickson and Hassanain Qambari
Below: The winning image of a rodent optic nerve head



Join us at the HBF Run for a Reason!

Calling all supporters of the Lions Eye Institute. It's time to lace up your walking/running shoes, hit the pavement, and make a difference in the fight against vision-related diseases.

We're thrilled to invite you to join us at the HBF Run for a Reason on **Sunday, 19 May 2024**, and help raise funds for life-changing eye research.

Run for a cause, run for vision

The HBF Run for a Reason isn't just any fun run – it's an opportunity to run or walk with purpose and passion. By registering for this event and fundraising for the Lions Eye Institute, you're not only taking strides toward a healthier you but also supporting groundbreaking research initiatives that are paving the way for better vision for all.

How you can get involved

1 **Register for the event:** Visit **hbfrun.com.au** to sign up. Choose the Lions Eye Institute as your charity of choice during registration to ensure that your fundraising efforts directly support our mission.

2 **Set up your fundraising page:** Once registered, create your personalised fundraising page. Share your page with friends, family, and colleagues, and encourage them to support your fundraising efforts.

Together we can make a difference

By participating in the HBF Run for a Reason and fundraising for the Lions Eye Institute, you're helping to fund critical research that has the potential to transform lives.

Let's come together as a community to run for vision, run for hope, and run for a brighter future. Register for the HBF Run for a Reason today and help us pave the way for better vision for all. Need help? Call Leah on (08) 9381 0809.

Ready to make your mark? Visit hbfrun.com.au to register today and support the Lions Eye Institute. Together, we can make a world of difference – one step at a time.

Eye to Eye Photographic Competition *Exhibition*

In late 2023 the Lions Eye Institute held its very first Eye to Eye Photographic Competition.

The competition closed in January 2024. An exhibition showcasing all shortlisted entries and the winners is being held in March. If you are planning a visit to our Nedlands clinic be sure to visit the exhibition and vote in the People's Choice Award.

Dates	Monday to Friday, **13 March to 3 April 2024** (excluding public holidays)
Time	**8.00am to 5.00pm**
Location	**Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research**, 6 Verdun St Nedlands (located at QEII Medical Centre, behind the Lions Eye Institute clinic)

More information: **lei.org.au/exhibition**

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 McAdam 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.

☐ I would like to be included in donor recognition.
We recognise the generosity of donors in materials such as our annual report and recognition boards.

Be a sight saver

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