



News from the School of Optometry and Vision Science

Never Stand Still

UNSW Science

School of Optometry and Vision Science

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GREETINGS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

It is a pleasure for me to welcome our new optometry and vision science students and to congratulate

our class of 2014 as they join the profession and move into the next part of their career as eyecare providers.

I'm delighted to be able to share our recent news. We particularly congratulate Juno Kim on receiving an ARC Future Fellowship in 2014 to study "Image constraints on the perception of surfaces and materials" which will lead to innovations in image-based pattern recognition algorithms. Many of our staff were recognised this year through both University and International prizes awards. Charles McMonnies is to be awarded a Doctor of Science (DSc) from UNSW Australia based on his published work and contributions to the body of scientific and clinical literature. Barbara Junghans was recognised for excellence in community engagement through the Vision Education Centre, which has provided vision screening to over 17,000 local primary school children. Dale Larden also received the 2014 Faculty of Science Award for Excellence in Professional Services. In other staff news, Michele Madigan was promoted to Associate Professor. Pauline Kang to Lecturer and Maitreyee Roy joined us from the National Measurement Laboratory at CSIRO to lead our optics teaching and research. The academic staff will shortly be joined by Alex Hui from the University of Waterloo, Jerome Ozkan and Debarun Dutta. We were sad to lose Ben Ashby, Maria Bui, Pam Vorias and Gurdeep Bidesha from the optometry clinic this year as they moved on in their careers but we were very pleased to welcome Tracy Kane, Nicole Keller, Dominique Smajstr, Jasmine Larden, Katherine Wong and Thomas Desmond to the clinic team.

Highlights in the student experience include well-received new or revised courses in the programme including ocular anatomy and physiology, introduction to clinical optometry, and ocular diseases, using innovative teaching

methods. Evidence based teaching resources, developed through the collaborative Australian Learning and Teaching Council Grant, have been incorporated within our programmes and we are measuring the impact on graduates' ability to practice as evidence based practitioners. We are undertaking a review of our postgraduate coursework programmes to ensure these are relevant to the needs of the profession and allow increased access through partly or fully online delivery. We continue to expand on our clinical teaching and have worked to deliver an increase in patient experiences for 4th and 5th year students, including increased therapeutics and primary care experiences in 2014.

Research highlights include success in national competitive grant schemes including the NHMRC Development Grant scheme, ARC Discovery and ARC Linkage awards. The Ocular Surface Science and Dry Eye Conference attracted international and local researchers, clinicians, industry and patient advocacy groups. Ten new PhD students started with the School in August 2014 and we congratulate the 12 PhD students who graduated in 2014.

My thanks and gratitude as always go to ODMA and our volunteer clinic mentors, clinical supervisors, visiting committee and staff and students who have worked very hard to deliver these outcomes for the School. I hope all our alumni and supporters had a well-earned break over the recent holidays and I look forward to catching up with many of you at our alumni events in 2015.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Stapleton'.

With best regards,
Fiona Stapleton

EVENTS

- 31 MARCH 2015**
- Postgraduate Reviews**
- Open to Alumni, Optometrists and the Public
- CPD points have been applied for

- 18 JUNE 2015**
- Class of 2014 Graduation**

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EyeBall 2014



Glamorous 5th year UNSW Optometry
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Now is the time to upgrade your professional qualification!

Enrol now for 2015 Postgraduate Coursework at the School of Optometry and Vision Science, UNSW Australia.

MASTER OF OPTOMETRY / MASTER OF COMMUNITY EYE HEALTH

- Flexible study options/Online learning
- CPD points
- Improve your standard of patient care

- Available topics include:
 - Advanced contact lens fitting
 - Business skills

- Evidence-based practice
- Public and community health
- Advanced ocular disease

Individual courses can be taken as a non-award program

If interested, please contact **Ms Fiona Anderson**, or tel: +61 2 9385 6289, or for further online information, please see [here](#).

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

The Vaegan lecture series are seminars coordinated in 2014 by Dr Juno Kim, Senior Lecturer at SOVS. The lecture series has been named in memory of a colleague and friend, Vaegan who passed away in 2008.

Vaegan was a long standing academic at the School and was an accomplished physiologist and clinical electrophysiologist.

All staff, students and interested parties are welcome to attend any Seminar hosted by the School. These are advertised on our [website](#). From July 2014 the School had the pleasure in hosting the following visitors as part of this lecture series:

- Professor Shinji Nakamura, Nihon Fukushi University: "Perceptual mechanisms of visually induced self-motion perception (vection)"
- Associate Professor Elaine Cornell, University of Sydney: "Eye movement responses to Otolithic Stimulation"
- Dr Ehsan Vaghefi, University of Auckland: "MR imaging of solute delivery to the ocular lens – implications for developing anti-cataract medication"
- Dr Harold Hill, University of Wollongong: "The hollow-face illusion: effects of and on accommodation?"
- Associate Professor Claudia Mello-Thomas, University of Sydney: "Adventures in medical image perception and other stories"



Dr Vaegan

- Dr Maitreyee Roy, National Measurement Laboratory, CSIRO: "Seeing under the surface: 3D optical imaging via low coherence interferometry"
- Dr Judith Flanagan, Brien Holden Vision Institute and University of New South Wales: "When acid mine drainage meets dry eye"
- Pat Arthur, University of New South Wales: "Music to my eyes"
- Cecilia Chao, University of New South Wales: "Dry eye symptoms and nerve changes following LASIK"
- Sharon Oberstein, University of New South Wales: "Driving with central vision impairment: Bioptic telescope spectacles as a strategy for driving with central vision impairment"
- Dr Moniesha Gokhale, Deakin University: "Supplements for the eye"
- Dr Debarun Dutta, University of New South Wales: "Antimicrobial Contact Lenses: Keeping Infection at Bay"
- Dr Edward Lum, University of New South Wales: "A picture tells a thousand nerves' – investigations on corneal innervation using in vivo confocal microscopy"

If you are interested in participating in the Vaegan Lecture Series, please contact **Nicola Kapo** to register your interest. The 2015 Vaegan Lecture Series is in the process of being timetabled and will be posted on our website in due course.

RESEARCH NEWS

AAO: At the American Academy of Optometry meeting, held in November 2014, the School was very well represented. The meeting was attended by several members of the School (who all survived despite the record low temperatures - it got down to minus 22°C on some nights!), with several giving presentations and posters.

Representing the School were Mei Ying Boon, Stephen Dain, Blanka Golebiowski, Brien Holden, Barbara Junghans, Michael Kalloniatis, Pauline Kang, Maria Markoulli, Vinod Masedupally, Jerome Ozkan, Eric Papas, Helen Swarbrick, Kathleen Watt, Mark Willcox, Michael Yapp. For more about what they were up to, see the Staff News section.

Facilities: The School was very successful in the recent round on equipment grant funding provided by the University of New South Wales. We are delighted that our biological science laboratories will be updated with new equipment for conducting tissue culture (including a new inverted microscope that can provide high resolution fluorescent photographs). Our clinical facility will be getting a new Tomey OCT, a highly sophisticated, state-of-the-art non-contact and noninvasive anterior eye optical coherence tomographer that will help us better visualise the anterior segment of the eye. This will be housed in the ROK group's facility in the School. Furthermore, members of the School were also successful in obtaining funding for a new fluorescent screening facility for cellular drug discovery, which will be housed in the School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences at UNSW.

Recent publications from the School showing the breadth and depth of our research include the following:

1. Changes to corneal aberrations and vision after Presbylasik refractive surgery using the MEL 80 platform, by **Gifford P, Kang P, Swarbrick H, Versace P.** J Refract Surg. 2014;30:598-603. The findings from this research were that PresbyLASIK offers an improved response over LASIK when correcting myopes due to an apparent increase in depth of focus resulting from changes in spherical aberration. For hyperopes, PresbyLASIK provided a more consistent spherical aberration effect independent of refractive change.
2. Contact Lens Storage Case Hygiene Practice and Storage Case Contamination, by **Vijay AK, Willcox M, Zhu H, Stapleton F.** Eye Contact Lens. 2014. This paper found that biofilms formed by the *S. aureus* were less dense but more resistant to hygiene procedures than those of *P. aeruginosa*. The experiments also found that rinsing (with disinfecting solution or hot water (never recommended in practice for soft lenses)) followed by 6 hr of air-drying was insufficient to remove these heavy biofilms. Rinsing using the disinfecting solution followed by tissue wiping and air-drying was the most effective practice for removing biofilms of both bacterial types from lens cases.
3. The short-sighted perspective of long-term eye health-care, by **Jamous KF, Kalloniatis M, Boon MY, Jalbert I, Zangerl B.** Clin Exp Optom. 2014;97(6):565-7. The paper suggests that the increasing case load and relative decrease in ophthalmologists predicted over the next few years portend of an upcoming bottleneck in care delivery. To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of patient care within a rapidly changing health system, the authors propose that minor adjustments to existing services could improve the proficiency of resources. Read the paper for more details.
4. Assessment of the performance of automated focimeters in the measurement of single vision spectacle lenses, by **Chu BS, Ngo TP, Cheng BB, Dain SJ.** Clin Exp Optom. 2014;97(4):364-8. This paper showed that accurate and precise performance of an automated focimeter over its working life cannot be assumed. Checking before purchase with a set of calibrated lenses and some dark sunglass tints will indicate the suitability of a focimeter.
5. Sex hormones and the dry eye, by **Truong S, Cole N, Stapleton F, Golebiowski B.** Clin Exp Optom. 2014;97(4):324-36. This review paper concluded that sex hormone influences on the immune system suggests that oestrogen may modulate a cascade of inflammatory events, which underlie dry eye
6. Power profiles of single vision and multifocal soft contact lenses, by **Wagner S, Conrad F, Bakaraju RC, Fedtke C, Ehrmann K, Holden BA.** Cont Lens Anterior Eye. 2014. This paper examined the power profiles of several contact lenses and found that these varied greatly, many having a negative spherical aberration profile that might exacerbate myopia.
7. Consensus statement on the immunohistochemical detection of ocular lymphatic vessels, by **Schroedl F, Kaser-Eichberger A, Schlereth SL, Bock F, Regenfuss B, Reitsamer HA, Lutty GA, Maruyama K, Chen L, Lütjen-Drecoll E, Dana R, Kerjaschki D, Alitalo K, De Stefano ME, Junghans BM, Heindl LM, Cursiefen C.** Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci. 2014;55:6440-2. This paper provided a consensus statement on how to reliably examine with immunohistochemistry the ocular lymphatic system
8. Texture-shading flow interactions and perceived reflectance, by **Kim J, Marlow PJ, Anderson BL.** J Vis. 2014;14(7). The findings from this research demonstrate that separation of texture flow from shading, and thus perceived pigmentation, depend not only on the local structure of orientation fields in an image, but also on midlevel representations of shading and illuminance flow.
9. Age-related macular degeneration: linking clinical presentation to pathology, by **Nivison-Smith L, Milston R, Madigan M, Kalloniatis M.** Optom Vis Sci. 2014;91:832-48. This review paper emphasized the contribution of recent noninvasive imaging technologies to the clinical assessment of early and more advanced AMD including optical coherence tomography, fundus autofluorescence, and infrared reflectance.



Professor Mark Willcox, Dr Maria Markoulli about to present research after braving the record cold.

STAFF NEWS

Farewell Dr Andrew Whatham (1971-2014)



With sadness we remember that our colleague and friend, Andrew Whatham, passed away on 26 September 2014. At the same time, we shall not forget Andrew's considerable achievements and are forever grateful that we had the privilege to work with him.

Andrew was most recently a Principal Staff Optometrist at the Centre For Eye Health at the University of New South Wales, a role he enjoyed. Countless patients of the Centre are indebted to his tireless efforts towards the Centre's mission to reduce preventable blindness by identifying eye disease before irreversible damage occurs. Prior to that role, Andrew was a distinguished alumnus of UNSW, graduating with first class honours in 1994 and receiving the award for Best Academic Record in the Bachelor of Optometry Course. His classmates cherished his kindness, friendliness and gentlemanly sportsmanship during studies, play and later on after entering the workforce. Following a year in private practice in Tasmania, Andrew was accepted into the postgraduate program at Oxford University, UK. He graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy degree in 2000 following completion of his thesis entitled 'The effects of optical and pharmacological perturbation of focus on refractive development and ocular growth in the common marmoset'. After a six month post-doctoral research position in the physiology laboratory at the University of Oxford, he moved to Switzerland where he was a research fellow in the University of Geneva Ophthalmology Department for six years, focusing on reading strategies in people with low vision who had a central scotoma. He returned to Sydney in 2006 and worked in a number of clinical and research positions within the UNSW School of Optometry and Vision Science, Brien Holden Vision Institute and in private optometric practice. In 2009, he completed his Graduate Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics at UNSW and took up a position as a Principal Staff Optometrist at Centre for Eye Health. Over the course of his career he produced 19 peer reviewed papers and has reviewed numerous articles for the journals of Optometry and Vision Science, Investigative Ophthalmology and Vision Science and Vision Research. He also presented nearly 20 abstracts at various national and international conferences. His colleagues recall his great intelligence, kindness, humbleness, dedication and enthusiasm for optometry and vision science. Andrew is greatly missed by all who knew him.

UNSW Staff and Students Achieve Fellowship at the American Academy of Optometry Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado

Dr Maria Markoulli, Professor Michael Kalloniatis, Dr Mei Ying Boon, Michael Yapp, Jack Phu, Daniel Tilia, FFAO, (pictured left to right) were awarded Fellowship in the American Academy of Optometry at the 93rd Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Optometry held November 12-15,

2014 in Denver, Colorado. The theme of the meeting was *Today's Research, Tomorrow's Practice®*. Professionals who become



Fellows of the Academy must complete a rigorous candidacy process. Candidates submit extensive written work and must also pass an oral examination. A panel of leading optometrists and vision scientists must approve both the written work and oral examination. Less than 10% of practicing optometrists are Fellows of the Academy. Fellows of the American Academy of Optometry constantly strive for the highest professional standards. Fellows of the Academy are committed to the premise that learning is a lifelong obligation of a professional, as is the commitment to expand the profession's knowledge base through ongoing fellowship and exchange. The American Academy of Optometry annual meetings are recognized as presenting the latest in research and information on patient and vision care. Highlights of the meeting included nearly 250 hours of continuing education (CE) courses, scientific presentations and an exhibit hall with more than 150 booths. More than 6,200 optometrists, vision care professionals, vision scientists and optometry students from around the world attended this prestigious meeting.

Optometry's Highest Honour for Professor Brien Holden



Professor Brien Holden, from UNSW and CEO of the Brien Holden Vision Institute, was awarded the Charles F. Prentice Medal (established in 1958), optometry's highest scientific honour at the annual American

Academy of Optometry meeting in Denver, U.S. on 14 November, 2014. Professor Holden has spent nearly 50 years studying the cornea, the requirements and solutions for safe and comfortable contact lens wear, surgical vision technologies, the major causes and solutions to blindness and impaired vision from refractive error and the global epidemic of myopia.

Professor Holden recalls, "In 1971, I returned to Australia from London to take up a position as lecturer at UNSW Australia. This proved to be an incredibly fertile research and educational environment in the early 1970s. At that time, contact lenses were hard, uncomfortable, oxygen impermeable and compromised ocular health with attendant side-effects including distortion, ocular oedema, mechanical

damage, infection and corneal exhaustion. In 1973, alongside several postgraduate students, I began research to determine what was needed in contact lenses to maintain eye health." Working as part of the Cornea and Contact Lens Research Unit (CCLRU) at UNSW, and by establishing the Cooperative Research Centre for Eye Research and Technology (CRCERT) with funding support from the Australian Government, and with extended collaborative links, this work has underpinned the huge growth in soft contact lens wear globally, including the development of the first silicone hydrogel contact lens. More recently his focus has been on development of new methods to control the progression of myopia, to help meet the growing threat of blindness associated with high myopia. Professor Holden has also made a major contribution to the next generation of researchers, through opportunities provided by the Brien Holden Vision Institute and UNSW to over 160 postgraduate students. The award is in recognition of a career-long record of advancement of knowledge in vision science.

New Optics Lecturer Appointed

Dr Maitreyee Roy has been appointed as a Senior Lecturer at the School at the School of Optometry and Vision Science, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. Dr Roy was awarded her PhD in Physical Optics from School of Physics at the University of Sydney. She is an accomplished Physicist with wide research and development experience in 3D Optical Imaging and Nanometrology in government and academic institutions. Her main research interest is in the area of Coherence Domain Microscopy and she has published numerous papers in high impact Optics journals.

Dr Roy's other research interests are in the area of nano particle characterization in collaboration with international research institutions. She holds numerous memberships with optics societies and is a reviewer for a number of optics journals.

Dr Roy will be responsible for the teaching of geometrical and physical optics and visual optics to students of both Optometry and Vision Science.



Dr Maitreyee Roy



Professor Charles McMonnies

Charles McMonnies, DSc

Charles McMonnies, an Adjunct Professor at the School of Optometry and Vision Science, is to be awarded a Doctor of Science (DSc) from UNSW Australia based on his published work and contributions to the body of scientific and clinical literature.

Professor McMonnies graduated from UNSW with a BSc in 1966 and MSc

in 1971. He is widely regarded as a clinical expert in contact lenses, keratoconus, dry eye, visual acuity measurement and children's vision. He has held numerous professional leadership positions within Australia and has Chaired the School of Optometry and Vision Science's Visiting Committee for the past 15 years. Professor McMonnies, currently holds executive positions with the Optometric Vision Research Foundation and the Brien Holden Vision Institute

He is a Fellow of the Contact Lens Society of Australia, was awarded a UNSW Jubilee medal, the Joseph Lederer award, the Keith Woodland Memorial award, an award for distinguished research by the University of Houston, the

British Contact Lens Association medal, and life membership in the Cornea and Contact Lens Society of New Zealand.

Recognition of Excellence in Community Engagement for Associate Professor Barbara Junghans



Associate Professor Barbara Junghans

Associate Professor Barbara Junghans' work with the Vision Education Centre (VEC) over the last 24 years was given a 'Highly Commended' in the 'Excellence in Community Engagement' category at the 2014 UNSW Staff Excellence Awards. The Vision Education Centre was the initiative of Barbara and Professor Sheila Crewther (now at La Trobe) to attract more paediatric patients for our students. Local primary schools are invited to send a class for a half-day excursion to UNSW so children can have a lesson on eyes and vision, along with an age-appropriate eye examination. Associate Professor Junghans says "Everyone is a winner. The children see inside a university. The school teachers have the best science lesson about eyes and vision ever given to their class and our Year 2 students' child-interaction skills are developed when helping with hands-on science activities during the lesson. Our Year 4 students see many 'normal' eyes and get a feel for a routine eye exam on a youngster. The parents are sent a letter with the outcome and are made aware of our UNSW Optometry Clinic. By the time our students are in Year 5 VT clinic, they feel very comfortable with kids and can focus on the difficult optometric issues. We have also been able to use the clinical records for research into children's vision". The three publications thus far are often cited and were used by the Optometrists Association to underpin their early 2000's media campaigns targeting children. Close to 17,000 children have been seen over the years and the VEC is now a valued component in the curriculum.



Professor Serge Resnikoff

Visiting Professorial Fellow Serge Resnikoff recognised with the Carel C. Koch Memorial Medal Award

The American Academy of Optometry recognised Professor Resnikoff as having made "outstanding contributions to the enhancement and

development of relationships between optometry and other professions."

In the Popular News

Professor Mark Willcox was featured on the ABC science program Catalyst in Thursday 23rd October 2014.

This piece concerned why humans cry - indeed, humans are possibly the only animals that do cry with emotion. Professor Willcox conducted biochemical analyses of different types of tears for the program.

Watch online at <http://www.abc.net.au/catalyst/stories/4112797.htm>



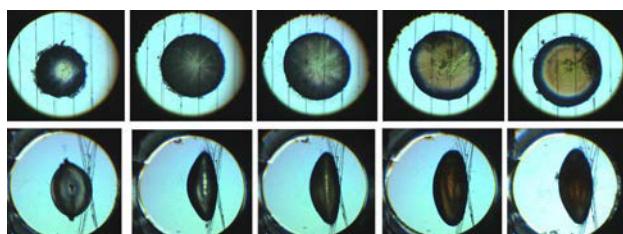
HIGHLIGHTS IN POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH EDUCATION



UNSW Postgraduate Review Week

At the beginning of Session 2, 2014 we welcomed a record 10 new students to our postgraduate research family including a number of local optometrists wanting to explore the world of research.

The School's Annual Progress Reviews for PhD and MSc students were held on 29 September to 1 October 2014. Students presented the fruits of their labour - the quality of which was exceptional. We plan to invite optometrists to hear the student presentations in the near future, so stay tuned. The winner of this year's best presentation award went to Sharon Oberstein with Aryati Yashadhanan a close runner-up. The student photo competition proved to be a lot of fun, and Ashik Mohamed Azafali's photo "Minishadowgraphy images of isolated human donor lenses" was awarded first prize.



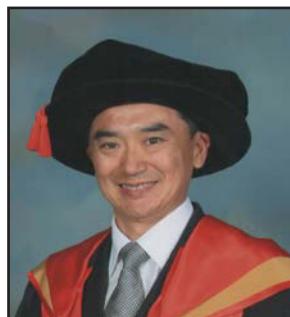
In 2014 the students have presented their research around the world at scientific meetings including ARVO (Orlando, USA), the International Conference on the Lens (Hawaii, USA), the Dutch Contact Lens Conference (Veldhoven, The Netherlands), American Academy of Optometry (Denver, USA), and the 11th International Conference on Low Vision (Melbourne).

Congratulations to Jack Phu on becoming a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry at the recent meeting.

With interest in higher degree research at the School growing, 2015 is shaping up to be another bright but busy year for our postgraduates.

Higher Degree Research Graduations:

At the UNSW November Graduation Ceremony, seven students were awarded their PhD: Dr Nina Tahhan, Dr Benjamin Ashby, Dr Moneisha Gokhale, Dr Taghreed Alnahedh, Dr Ingrid Jimenez Barbosa, Dr Venkata Konda, Dr Debarun Dutta, and Dr Edward Lum. Congratulations to all! Another nine students are snapping at their heels and eagerly awaiting their examiners' reports.



Dr Edward Lum



Dr Debarun Dutta



Dr Ben Ashby



Dr Ingrid Jiminez

CONSIDERING A HIGHER DEGREE?

Do you have a keen interest in an aspect of your clinical work and want to find out more?

Would you like to broaden your horizons and try something new?

Have you longed for your student days?

Then this may be just the thing for you...

The School of Optometry and Vision Science at UNSW has numerous opportunities for higher degree research across diverse areas including:

- clinical optometry
- pure and applied research with clinical significance
- basic research in optometry and vision science

Students with an optometry background study alongside graduates from a variety of disciplines including ophthalmology, microbiology, psychology, education, bio-engineering and pharmacology.

The School is co-located with some of the most active optometric and vision research facilities in Australia: the Research in Orthokeratology Group (ROK), the Brien Holden Vision Institute

(BHWI), the Vision CRC, the Centre for Eye Health (CfEH), and the Optics and Radiometry Laboratory (ORLab). We are regarded internationally for strengths in ocular surface, posterior segment and vision science research and our research students are supervised by advisors at the forefront of their field. Students have access to excellent facilities, opportunities for conference travel and collaboration with optometric colleagues across the globe.

Scholarship opportunities are available and studies can be commenced at any stage during the academic year.

If you would like to find out more, please contact our Postgraduate Research Director, Dr Blanka Golebiowski (b.golebiowski@unsw.edu.au or (02) 9385 4502).

Sharon Oberstein Awarded the 2015 Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Research Scholarship in the Allied Health Sciences

This research scholarship is awarded to a graduate of the health sciences who is enrolled in a PhD program of an Australian University and who has completed the first stage of the doctoral program. Sharon Oberstein was recognised for her work by a selection committee and panel of assessors nominated by the Menzies Foundation. Sharon is combining her part time work as Senior Staff Optometrist at the Low Vision UNSW Optometry Clinic with PhD studies and will be embarking on the next stage of her research studies in the area of driving and central visual impairment.



Sharon Oberstein and John Howard at the Menzies Foundation Award Function

Sharon Oberstein presented with the Menzies medallion by the Governor of Victoria, His Excellency the Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC.



MEETING A POSTGRADUATE STUDENT: Sailesh Kolanu



Tell us a little about yourself and why you decided to do a PhD

I completed a Bachelor of Science in Optometry in the year 2008 from Bausch & Lomb School of Optometry, India. After about four years of practicing in India with various organisations, I realised that my interests were always inclined towards research. The thought of being on a quest of answering specific

research questions in a systematic and scientific manner under the guidance of top-notch academics excited me a lot. That's when I decided to apply for a PhD program.

Tell us about your research section and why you decided to go into this area

My area of research is ocular allergies. My research is on characterising a new set of clinical and bio markers of ocular surface in subjects with ocular allergies and itchy eyes. Understanding the neuronal aspects of ocular allergies is one of the most interesting areas of my research.

I decided to go in this area because I understand how much of a problem allergies are in Australia. A large number of people in Australia suffer from perennial forms of ocular allergies due to dust mites and seasonal forms of ocular allergies (Hay Fever) due to grass pollen. Despite the high prevalence, there are a lot of unanswered questions about ocular allergies and there is a scope for much more research to be done in this area.

Has doing research affected the way you practice optometry?

I don't practice optometry in a clinic anymore due to my full time commitment in research. However, I can definitely say that being in research for the past two and half years has changed my perspective towards clinical practice. If I were to practice optometry in a clinic again, my approach would be much more evidence-based.

Any advice for anyone thinking of doing a research degree in optometry (MSc or PhD)?

If you are passionate about research and if you can dedicate two or three years of your life in facing challenges every day, you will fit in to this league. So it is important that you choose a topic that excites you a lot.

A PhD is a journey packed with surprises. In a short span of three years, there will be good times and bad times too. Having a quality of being composed during bad times and retaining focus on work, is very important for anyone who is thinking of doing a PhD or MSc research degree.

OPTOMETRY CLINIC UPDATE

We have had another successful year in the clinic made possible by the efforts of our dedicated team of supervisors, visiting clinical supervisors, mentors and industry partners. With more students in Stage 4 the students have gained invaluable experience in patient consultations, thanks to record patient numbers.

Three clinic rooms were refurbished and updated with the help of our industry partners, BOC, Device Technologies and Optimed. We plan to continue the updating of clinic facilities to ensure that students have access to the latest ophthalmic equipment throughout their time in the clinic.

We were sad to farewell Maria Bui, Staff Optometrist, Gurdeep Bidhesa, Resident Optometrist and Pam Vorias, Dispenser and we wish them well in their future endeavours.

We are very happy to welcome to our team: Tracy Kane, Clinic Business Manager, Katherine Wong and Thomas Desmond as Resident Optometrists and Nicole Keller, Dispenser.

With another year of record student numbers in 2015, we thank our Alumni and supporters of the UNSW Optometry Clinic.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Since 1972 the School of Optometry and Vision Science at UNSW Australia has been providing optometric services to Stewart House, based at South Curl Curl Beach, NSW.

Stewart House is a children's charity who provides respite care for school children in need for a twelve day placement period. During this time all children are provided a number of health and other services including comprehensive eye examinations.

Staff Optometrist Nikki Delaveris, from the School of Optometry and Vision Science has been leading the team from UNSW. She has been travelling to Stewart House two days per week for the past five years to supervise and provide guidance to the students at the School who are conducting eye screenings on the children as part of their paediatric clinical training. All children are assessed and parents are advised by letter that their child needs a full eye examination if a visual problem is detected. Lenses and spectacles are provided by the Teachers Health Fund if required. Each week around 40 children are screened as part of this service.

During 2014, the Optometry team at Stewart House were fortunate to receive a donation allowing for the purchase of much needed new equipment. We were grateful to be able to purchase a new Ellex DRS fundus camera two LED screens and a vertometer. The Optometry team at Stewart House also received a kind donation of a keratometer from Insight Optics.

The School is looking forward to its continued relationship with Stewart House in 2015, both to provide much needed optometric services to the children and to offer a wonderful learning opportunity for our 4th year students. For more information on Stewart House, please go to:

www.stewarthouse.org.au





A new affiliation agreement between Guide Dogs NSW/ACT and Funding for the Centre from Guide Dogs NSW/ACT has been renewed for a further four years, and the Sydney Executive Business Lions Club has also pledged support to CFEH for the next four years.

Since its opening in November 2009 the Centre for Eye Health (CFEH) has performed over 21,000 client assessments and conducted over 135,000 individual tests. In 2014 CFEH received 6,077 referrals from its 1,092 optometrist and 82 ophthalmologist registered practitioners. During the year the Centre assessed 5,811 clients and conducted more than 36,000 advanced imaging tests.

Outreach services continued to be developed in collaboration with the Outback Eye Service of The Prince of Wales Hospital Ophthalmology Department, targeting remote and regional communities.

The Centre maintains its contribution to education at UNSW Australia, and the continuing professional development of Optometry. CFEH is also proud that three of its own staff optometrists are undertaking PhD studies utilising data collected in the clinic.

Over the past four years, the Centre has made a significant impact in helping people who are at-risk of losing sight, and looks forward to making further progress in the future.

Our statistics reflect that in the last financial year:

- Appointments increased by 10%;
- 10% of appointments were for regional and rural clients;
- Average client waiting time was three weeks;
- Total cost to assess each client decreased by a further 5% on top of last year's 6% reduction.

Outreach Services – Outback Eye Service

In an effort to extend community reach through collaborative partnerships, CFEH has continued working with the Outback Eye Service of The Prince of Wales Hospital –

Ophthalmology Department. This year two additional sites, Maari Ma and Taree, were added, with three more in the planning stages. The program initially was launched at four locations: Bourke, Broken Hill, Cobar and Brewarrina.

Continuing Professional Development

The Centre for Eye Health has always maintained the importance of educating current referrers as well as future referrers in order to ensure standards of clinical care increase throughout the profession. This year CFEH provided 2,100 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points or the equivalent of approximately 900 hours of training. LearningforVision, which features a range of online CPD activities and modules, delivered 836 of these points. Through the delivery of CPD, the Centre is indirectly ensuring better healthcare outcomes by improving practitioner diagnostic skills.

Student Education

The Centre for Eye Health has increased its contribution to student education on behalf of SOVS with fifth year students actively taking part in clinical work on a four week rotation.

Staff located at CFEH have conducted the Ocular Diseases 3B (Posterior Eye Disease) for third year students and also support four PhD students.

Research

CFEH had a very successful year in 2014 with six papers published since July elucidating major findings on glaucoma diagnosis and management, current knowledge on age-related macular degeneration, and retinal changes with models for Retinitis Pigmentosa. The research activities included a number of graduate and post-graduate students resulting in additional manuscripts accepted for publication, under review or in preparation. Findings greatly help to formulate recommendations to improve clinical accuracy in the profession.



BHVI NEWS

A New Era for Optometry in Vietnam

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, 29 October 2014: October 2014 heralded a historic moment in the growth of Vietnam's education and eye health sectors with the official opening of Vietnam's first optometry program at the Pham Ngoc Thach University of Medicine in Ho Chi Minh City. A joint initiative between Brien Holden Vision Institute, the Pham Ngoc Thach University of Medicine and the Ho Chi Minh City Eye Hospital, the school's opening was the culmination of a ten year plan to introduce optometry to the country, with the primary goal of alleviating the burden of uncorrected refractive error in Vietnam in line with the Vietnamese National Eye Health Plan. There are an estimated 21 million people in Vietnam with uncorrected refractive error, three million of those children. Uncorrected refractive error is also the main cause of childhood blindness. The 20 new optometry students commenced their program at the Pham Ngoc Thach University of Medicine in November 2014.

Professor Brien Holden, from UNSW, opened proceedings at the ceremony which was also attended by Mr John McAnulty, the Australian Consul General – Ho Chi Minh City, Associate Professor Nguyen Thi Ngoc Dung, Rector at the Pham Ngoc Thach University of Medicine and Associate Professor Tran Anh Tuan, Director of the Ho Chi Minh City Eye Hospital. "This day marks a momentous and celebratory occasion in the development of eye health services for the people of Vietnam and a glimpse into the future for the country's long term, sustainable vision care framework," said Professor Holden.

Ms Ly Huynh, Vietnam representative for the Brien Holden Vision Institute said, "I would like to extend our thanks to the funders of this initiative, the Vision 2020 consortium and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Optometry Giving Sight, without whose generous support this would not have been possible."

ALUMNI NEWS

In July 2014, our School hosted both the Ocular Surface and Dry Eye Conference and our Alumni Continuing Education Evening. Professor James Wolffsohn was visiting from Aston University, United Kingdom, and gave some insight into how research informs the best way to fine tune contact lens history and symptoms, methods of documenting signs and to understand their role as drivers of soft contact lens fit. Both functions were well attended.



We are in the planning stages for future alumni events. We would like to hear from you about the kinds of events you would like to see on our calendar, who you would like to hear from, what you would like to attend, the best timing for events. 2015 also marks the 50th Anniversary of the graduation of the first cohort of the Bachelor of Optometry course from UNSW so we are planning to run an event

commemorating this occasion and reunions for our alumni to catch up over a meal or drinks. To help us plan our calendar for 2015, please click on this [link](#) which will take you to a survey which we will use to collect your views. Please tell your friends to fill this in too and feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone you think may be interested.

ALUMNUS PROFILE

TIMOTHY GRANT B.Optom, MBA, FAAO

Tim graduated from UNSW in 1979, and then made the journey across the Hay Plains to practise in the Riverland of South Australia, based in Renmark. At this practice he learnt the importance of patient care and the business of running a successful optometric practice. After two years in the Riverland and a short stint in Dubbo he decided to embark on the European adventure, arriving in London at the height of the Falklands War and the Maggie Thatcher era. Initially in order to become registered, regular trips to the London Refraction Hospital were necessary in order to complete the 'bridging course' which was mainly to learn the famed UK National Health Service and check if he was able to complete a full refraction. Working at the David Clulow 'house' practice in Earl's Court gave Tim an appreciation for the art and science of contact lenses. It is at this practice he learnt to fit all manner of contact lenses from PMMA to RGPs to HEMA based materials, plus the importance of lens care and their effect on different lenses and ultimately the patient. As David Clulow was also a manufacturer of contact lenses and lens care, he developed an interest in all types of manufacturing and material research and development. Of course the obligatory tour of Europe in a kombi van followed his time in London.

In 1984, on returning to Australia, Tim joined the Cornea and Contact Lens Research Unit at UNSW for a six month assignment. This turned into 6.5 years of exciting research and learning. During these years Tim managed large scale clinical research trials for sponsoring companies and, together with several colleagues, established the health benefits of frequent replacement hydrogels lenses. The contact lens industry was on a significant growth phase with US, Japanese and Australian companies developing materials and manufacturing processes requiring on-eye testing. There are many stories of success and failure at this time. With the clinical results Tim was a frequent speaker at Australian and International scientific and clinical conferences.

When least expecting a change, Tim was offered a role based in Zurich with Ciba Vision as the Head of Global Clinical Trials in 1991. During this time clinical trials were conducted on a worldwide scale to compare and contrast the performance of Ciba Vision products to their competitors and to determine how the products performed under various conditions. A significant learning for Tim was the variation in optometric clinical practice in each country he set up clinical trials.

In 1994 Ciba Vision moved their HQ to Atlanta USA which provided an opportunity for Tim to return to the Research



and Development group. When the SEE3 international collaborative program was established to develop a contact lens suitable for 30 days and nights of continuous wear, Tim was appointed as the Head of Clinical and Regulatory Affairs for the program. In this role he had the responsibility of ensuring the lens was appropriately tested for safety and efficacy in the laboratory as well as the clinical setting to meet individual country regulatory requirements. Over 100 on-eye clinical trials were conducted before a final decision was made to determine which material and process would be used to manufacture the lens. During this period regular trips to Washington DC to meet the officials at the Food and Drug Administration was also required. In 1998, the final year prior to launch of Focus Night and Day, Tim was 'embedded' within the manufacturing facility where he learnt the mass production of contact lenses and the logistics required to support their manufacturing and distribution. The innovation from this project has had far reaching effects by changing the material used for contact lenses and the silicone hydrogel materials which followed being based on this unique technology. After the first launch of Focus Night and Day in November 1998 Tim returned to the Australian Ciba Vision organisation to begin his 'business' career.

During the next phase the only constant was change. Gaining experience of General Management in Australia and New Zealand he then returned to Zurich in 2001 where his responsibilities covered the distributor markets of Eastern Europe, the Middle East, the Balkans and North Africa. With this culturally diverse territory travel was a constant companion though there was always time for the slopes of the Swiss Alps. Many happy memories of encounters with colleagues and customers serve as a reminder to him that most of our fellow man are simply after a regular job with family security and happiness.

With the rapid development of Asia, at the beginning of 2004, a move to Singapore was required to establish the Ciba Vision regional office. During this time Tim initially headed up the Professional Affairs group to develop materials to train contact lens fitters and to ensure the products sold by the Eye Care Practitioners was correctly prescribed and the wearers appropriately managed. In addition to this, Tim also managed the business of the distributor markets of Asia which included India, China, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Returning to Australia in 2006 so the children could begin high school and return to the family to home, Tim returned to the Professional Affairs role based in Sydney which he continues to this day. Since the integration into Alcon his territory now covers Russia and Asia excluding Japan but he still has time to cycle on Sunday mornings using it as an excuse for coffee and a yarn.

Tim has established himself as an expert in the contact lens industry with knowledge ranging from clinical trials, regulatory affairs, materials science, manufacturing process, logistics and on-eye performance as well as the commercial world of a global organisation and that of optometry. With Global, regional and national experience cultivated over many years Tim is truly a "citizen of the contact lenses world".