



Centre for Eye Research Australia

## Annual Report for 2003

Includes a review of the activities  
of the University of Melbourne Department of Ophthalmology  
and the Eye Research Australia Foundation





# Centre for Eye Research Australia

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# Chairman's Report

## Ms Tina McMeckan

**In addition to the Vision CRC, other highlights for 2003 include our work on The Vision Initiative and the promotion of Dr Robyn Guymer to Associate Professor.**

**It was a great honour and pleasure to be appointed Chairman of the Centre for Eye Research Australia, a nationally significant force in the field of advanced research into the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of eye disease, vision loss and blindness.**

In my first report as Chairman, I begin by paying tribute to the outstanding leadership of my predecessor, Mr Charles Macek, who retired as both Chairman and Director in November this year. Charles joined the Centre at its inception in 1996 as the representative of the Ansell Ophthalmology Foundation, one of the Centre's stakeholders. Over the following seven years, Charles has been a dedicated and committed Board member, also providing invaluable expertise and counsel as Chairman of our Finance and Audit Committee. Fortunately, he is not lost to us completely as he will continue in his role as Trustee of the Eye Research Australia Foundation, for which we are most grateful!

At the same time, I would also like to compliment and thank our Managing Director, Professor Hugh Taylor, for the outstanding job he does in leading the Centre's numerous research projects and collaborations. His enthusiasm and energy are infectious and the Centre's successes throughout 2003 are a testament to these qualities. A prime example of this has been his ongoing role in the establishment, formulation and supervision of research programs for the Vision Co-operative Research Centre (CRC), an enormous and ambitious venture of which the Centre is one of four core partners. Professor Taylor is also a Director on the Vision CRC Board and member of the Vision CRC Executive Committee.



In addition to the Vision CRC, other highlights for 2003 include our work on The Vision Initiative and the promotion of Dr Robyn Guymer to Associate Professor. All these achievements reflect very favourably on our staff and I wish to congratulate them all.

I would also like to thank all our private and public benefactors for their continued support of the Centre's important work. We are also indebted to our stakeholders, the University of Melbourne, Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind, Vision Australia Foundation, Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital, Christian Blind Mission International, Ansell Ophthalmology Foundation, Victorian Lions Foundation and Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists Victorian branch for their much valued support on which we will continue to build.

**Ms Tina McMeckan**

# Managing Director's Report

## This year we celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the University of Melbourne Department of Ophthalmology

**This year we celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the University of Melbourne Department of Ophthalmology. It was the first Academic Department of Ophthalmology in Australia; in fact it was also the first medical speciality Department of any sort. The Centre for Eye Research Australia was established in 1996 and incorporated the activities of the Department. The Centre is a World Health Organisation (WHO) Collaborating Centre for the Prevention of Blindness, the only such centre in Australia. It is recognised for its contributions, skills and leadership in eye research, teaching and public health programs. Our success comes from the commitment and effort of our staff, linked with the support and encouragement of our stakeholders.**

This has been a year of planning and preparation. We have had some notable achievements and successes during the year and it is with pleasure that these are detailed in this report. However, my sense of the future is encapsulated in the old line "you ain't seen nothing yet!" A lot of programs and activities were set up over the past year and the real benefits and achievements will flow over the next few years. These include the Vision Co-operative Research Centre (CRC), The Vision Initiative in Australia, work with Vision 2020 especially in the Pacific and, much closer to home, our own administrative policies and procedures.

**Staff** The single most important resource the Centre has is clearly our staff. We now have over 50 people working with the Centre and the Department, either full-time or part-time. Without their intelligence, commitment and initiative, in whatever position they hold, we would not be able to achieve what we have.

It was wonderful at the start of the year to celebrate with Robyn Guymer her promotion to Associate Professor. She surely represents the future of academic ophthalmology, a young mother of two who has become Australia's leading clinical authority on macular degeneration and whose research is published in the world's foremost journals. In December we were thrilled to learn that Robyn had been awarded a prestigious National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Career Development Fellowship that funds her position for the next five years.

**This has been a year of planning and preparation. We have had some notable achievements and successes during the year and it is with pleasure that these are detailed in this report.**



*The Hon. Bronwyn Pike MP, Minister for Health, opening the Colloquium to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the University of Melbourne Department of Ophthalmology. On her left is Professor James Angus, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences, University of Melbourne, on her right, Professor Hugh Taylor*







*Associate Professor  
Tien Wong*

Last year I wrote about Associate Professor Hector Maclean's contribution over the previous 26 years before his retirement in January. We were delighted to welcome Associate Professor Tien Wong who joined us in a part-time capacity in July and starts full-time in January 2004. Tien is from Singapore and has also trained in the US and Australia. His work on retinal vascular changes as an indication of systemic disease has revolutionised the field and been published in the world's leading journals. We are proud that we were able to attract him to Melbourne and I know he has a superb future ahead of him.

Associate Professor Jill Keefe has also had an extremely successful year. She leads a number of our largest programs, such as the Lions Eye Health Promotion and Lions Low Vision programs discussed elsewhere in this report. She also has a major role in The Vision Initiative and the Vision CRC.

Unfortunately we cannot keep her skills and expertise "under a bushel" and she is in high demand to advise on low vision and eye health programs around the world with the WHO, Lions International, Christian Blind Mission International (CBMI) and other organisations.

I would also like to recognise the great contribution that Rod Watts has made since he joined us as Executive Manager at the end of 2002. Over the last year he and his staff have done much to streamline our administrative and financial procedures so our researchers can confidently get on with their jobs and research. With help from Clive Mitchell, our executive team has built a firm basis for our future activities.

**Research** Our staff is renowned for their world-class research on eye disease. Their success is documented throughout this report. The essential prerequisite for good research is said to be a "good idea and running water". Often you can get away without the running water, but a good idea is essential. In addition, you must have the grants and funds to support the work. Although we were disappointed this year to have several key grants not funded by NHMRC, our success with other applications was pleasing and we are most grateful to the organisations, trusts and individuals who had faith in us and our work and who supported us.

The Centre is a recognised research institute. As such we are eligible to receive infrastructure funding from the Victorian Government. Although we have had to wait some years for this funding to build up, it now makes a vital and critical difference to our ability to get on with the job. We gratefully acknowledge this support.



*Dr Xavier Csar (left), Manager, BioMedical Research, Dept. Innovation, Industry and Regional Development, and the Hon. Matt Viney MP (third from left), Parliamentary Secretary - Innovation and Industry, with Professor Taylor and the Centre's Unit Heads*

# Managing Director's Report

## **Vision Co-operative Research Centre (CRC)**

Our biggest success this year has been the Vision CRC. The CRC Program was set up by the Federal Government as a way to bring different research and academic groups together within industry to develop and commercialise new ideas. A lot of time was spent in establishing the new Vision CRC that was initiated on 1 July 2003 and formally launched by the Minister for Science, the Hon. Peter McGauran MP on 30 October 2003. The Centre is one of four core partners in the Vision CRC, the others being the Institute for Eye Research and the International Centre for Eye Care Education in New South Wales, and the LV Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad, India. There is a total of 34 partners from leading centres around the world. The Vision CRC is the largest CRC, it receives \$32 million over seven years from the Commonwealth Government and with the contribution in cash and in kind from the parties, the total will be over \$360 million. It aims to eliminate refractive error as a cause of visual impairment and is truly a prodigious undertaking.

## **Collaboration**

### **University of Melbourne**

The Centre for Eye Research Australia grew out of the University Department of Ophthalmology and the University is a stakeholder in the Centre. The Centre has greatly enhanced research and training in ophthalmology and we greatly value the close linkage and relationship with the University. The University is also specifically linked to the Vision CRC and supports its activities.



### **Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital**

The Hospital is also a stakeholder in the Centre. We both value the close links and shared resources for clinical activities, research and teaching. In many ways the Centre is the research arm for the Hospital.

### **WHO and International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness**

As a WHO Collaborating Centre we work closely with the WHO on a number of programs and activities. The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) is the global body of non-government organisations and others working on the prevention on blindness. I serve as Chairman for the Western Pacific Region for IAPB. In 1999, the WHO and IAPB launched Vision 2020 – The Right to Sight, an ambitious global initiative to eliminate avoidable blindness by the year 2000.

We host the Vision 2020 regional co-ordinating offices for the Western Pacific. Dr Richard Le Mesurier is the Western Pacific Regional Co-ordinator and he has wide ranging responsibilities in East Asia and the Pacific countries. His position is supported in part by CBMI – another stakeholder. Associate Professor Keeffe and I serve on a number of WHO/IAPB groups dealing with Vision 2020, trachoma, low vision services and training.

*Professor Brien Holden OAM  
at the launch of the Vision  
Co-operative Research  
Centre at the University of  
New South Wales in October*





## **Vision 2020: The Right to Sight Australia**

As part of the global program a national body, Vision 2020 Australia was established in 1999. With Professor Brien Holden OAM, I was the foundation Co-Chairman and continue to serve as a Deputy Chairman. The current Chairman is the Hon. Dr Barry Jones AO. The Centre has close links with Vision 2020 Australia and participated in the World Sight Day activities (the second Thursday in October) that in 2003 were held in Parliament House in Canberra.

The Centre is also a major player in The Vision Initiative. The campaign, publicly known as "Save your Sight – Get Tested", is funded by the Victorian Government and co-ordinated by Vision 2020 Australia. The Centre is evaluating the impact of this Initiative as part of its Vision CRC activities.

## **Lions Clubs**

The Lions continue to provide us with great support. In addition to being a stakeholder, they assist with the Lions Corneal Donation Service (Eye Bank), which is part of the Centre. They also support the Lions Eye Health Project, the Lions Low Vision Project and other work on diabetes performed by the Eye Health Promotion Unit.

A team of dedicated bike riders from the Centre participated in the Lions Mallacoota to Melbourne 650 km bike ride. This was the 10th Annual Ride for Sight the Lions in Gippsland have organised that helps support our work. It was a fantastic effort and the Lions of District V2 donated the \$40,000 they raised to help us renovate new offices for our expanding staff. We are most grateful for this generous gift.





# Managing Director's Report

## **Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind and Vision Australia Foundation**

Although still two separate organisations, these two stakeholders are well advanced in the process of combining with the Royal Blind Society of New South Wales to form a new organisation. Each organisation gives us tremendous support - Associate Professor Guymer is the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind Fellow, and the Vision Australia Foundation support Associate Professor Keefe's research. In addition, each organisation collaborates with us on a number of research projects.

## **Eye Research Australia Foundation**

A report of the Foundation's activities is presented later, but we at the Centre very much appreciate their hard work to support us. Our staff has welcomed the opportunity to meet Foundation supporters on a number of tours of the Centre to discuss their research activities.

We are excited by the prospects of additional funding through the G.W. Crock Fellowship when it becomes established and fully funded.

Many of the Centre's staff also participated in the Foundation's Melbourne Marathon. It was not only hard work, but also a lot of fun and raised a significant amount of money.

## **Neurosciences Victoria**

In July 2003, the Centre became a member of Neurosciences Victoria. We are very pleased to be in partnership with the Howard Florey Institute, National Stroke Institute, University of Melbourne, Brain Research Institute, Monash University and Mental Health Research Institute of Victoria in this venture.

**Thank You** I want to thank all the members of the Centre's Board for their commitment and expertise throughout the year and especially Chairman Charles Macek. Charles was a founding Board member and Chairman for two years. We have greatly benefited from his insightful and wise counsel that has been freely and warmly given. I am delighted to welcome the new Chairman, Tina McMeckan, who has enthusiastically accepted the challenge. I also want to thank all our staff, more than 50 in all, for their dedication and hard work. Together we are making progress in understanding more about eye disease and our ability to reduce the amount of vision loss and disability in our community.



**Professor Hugh R. Taylor AC**



*Associate Professor Jill Keefe with a reporter after the launch of the Diabetic Retinopathy Handbook in May 2003*







*Dr Ecosse Lamoureux*

## **Research Award: Dr Ecosse Lamoureux**

Dr Ecosse Lamoureux has displayed a high level of professionalism in his research work at the Centre. In addition to his own research, he is a nominated supervisor of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Advanced Medical Science students. He provides support to other students in the design and analysis of their research. He has accepted a leadership role within the Eye Health Promotion Unit for administrative functions and also in the mentoring of other staff.

During 2003 he has had two first author papers and three as co-author accepted for publication in high-ranking international journals. A further two papers were published from his PhD thesis, one as first author. Ecosse has been named chief investigator on two successful grants and has made major contributions to other grants that are still awaiting decision on award.

## **Travel Award: Dr Amy Cohn**

Dr Amy Cohn is a Masters Student with the University of Melbourne who plans to enter the ophthalmology training program at the Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital.

Amy worked very hard during 2003 and has received a University scholarship to support her studentship for 2004. Her thesis will be titled "Autosomal Dominant Optic Atrophy: Correlating Disease Severity and Optic Disc Appearances". Her supervisor is Associate Professor David Mackey.



*Dr Amy Cohn*



*Ms Judy Carrigan*

Amy presented a paper detailing her research at the Neuro-ophthalmology Society of Australia meeting in December that received very good reviews. She will present further findings at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology meeting in Fort Lauderdale in April 2004 and we are pleased that this award will help subsidise her travel to this meeting.

## **Administration Award: Ms Judy Carrigan**

As Professor Taylor's Personal Assistant, Judy performs a key role as the interface between the Centre and the outside world. She has important responsibilities in managing the activities of the Centre's Board and its various committees and other meetings.

In addition, she plays a key role in the effective functioning of the Centre. As a senior member of the Administrative Unit she provides timely and invaluable support to all the Units and their staff. She is an excellent role model to newer members of staff for whom she is a great mentor.

Often the answer to many problems in the Centre is "Ask Judy"; she is sought by staff and students for advice that she readily provides. Her commitment and high standards are an example to us all.

# Activities as a WHO Collaborating Centre

## During 2003, the Centre undertook a wide range of WHO-related activities for the prevention of blindness

**The Centre for Eye Research Australia was originally designated a WHO Collaborating Centre for the Prevention of Blindness in 1992. In 2002, this designation was renewed for a third time, to 14 August 2006.**

The terms of reference of the Centre are to:

- participate actively in the development of activities for the prevention of blindness
- provide facilities for the training of personnel at different professional levels, especially from developing countries
- conduct applied field research on the epidemiology, management and operational aspects of avoidable blindness
- foster a multidisciplinary approach to the promotion of eye health and to the delivery of eye care, including rehabilitation, to all
- participate in the collection, elaboration and distribution of pertinent information.

During 2003, the Centre undertook a wide range of WHO-related activities for the prevention of blindness. Included in this category is the global initiative for the elimination of blindness described in later parts of this report, also the work that Associate Professor Keeffe and her Unit undertake on behalf of the WHO Low Vision Working Group which she chairs. Professor Taylor plays an important role as an advisor to the WHO Alliance for the Global Elimination of Trachoma, and attended meetings in Geneva in January and August in this capacity. Similarly, Dr Deb Colville produced an educational publication in the form of a multi-author teaching manual entitled

“An International Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming in Health”, based on a collaboration with the WHO and UN at Bellagio, Italy, in 2001. This work is continuing in Australia and the Centre participated in the National Medical Educators Gender Skills Workshop held at Monash University in December 2003.

We were very pleased to host WHO Visiting Fellow Dr Huanming Liu from Shandong Provincial Qianfoshan Hospital, Jinan City, Shandong Province, People's Republic of China. She came to the Centre in September on a six-month placement to work with Associate Professor Keeffe and her staff on The Vision Initiative.



*WHO Visiting Fellow Dr Huanming Liu*



# Vision 2020: The Right to Sight Australia

provides a platform for Australian eye health professionals to work together

Each year, Vision 2020 Australia participates in World Sight Day activities designed to promote awareness of the problem of global blindness.

**The WHO has established that globally there were around 45 million people who were blind and an additional 135 million people who suffered from visual impairment. This led to the establishment in 1999 of Vision 2020: The Right to Sight, a global initiative to eliminate avoidable blindness by the year 2020. This initiative builds on the alliance between WHO and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness.**

Vision 2020: The Right to Sight - Australia, which was launched one year later, provides a platform for Australian eye health professionals to work together. It has three areas of interest; the Australian Community, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities, and Global Eyecare.



*The Hon. Julie Bishop MP, the Hon. Dr Barry Jones AO and Professor Taylor at the launch of World Sight Day at Parliament House, Canberra, 9 October 2003*



Each year, Vision 2020 Australia participates in World Sight Day activities designed to promote awareness of the problem of global blindness. In 2003, the newly appointed Federal Minister for Ageing, the Hon. Julie Bishop MP, launched World Sight Day at Parliament House, Canberra on 9 October. She was joined by the Hon. Dr Barry Jones and Professor Taylor in speaking about the importance of eye health and the role of Vision 2020 Australia in raising awareness both nationally and on a global basis to help prevent avoidable blindness and vision loss throughout the world.

**Further information on Vision 2020 Australia is available at:**  
[www.vision2020australia.org](http://www.vision2020australia.org)



# Global Initiative for the Elimination of Blindness

**Dr Richard Le Mesurier is the Regional Co-ordinator for the Western Pacific for Vision 2020 and Professor Taylor is the Regional Chairman.**

Highlights for 2003 included Declarations of Support for Vision 2020 in five more countries, with Mongolia, Nauru, South Korea, Tonga and Vanuatu now being added to the large list of countries that support Vision 2020. A number of Vision 2020 workshops and seminars have also been held throughout the region that have facilitated the development

of National Action Plans for countries such as Fiji, Mongolia and South Korea.

A strong relationship with the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office in Manila and the WHO country representatives has been forged. In addition, the introduction of the Vision 2020 Government Toolkit, the World Health Assembly Resolution on Prevention of Avoidable Blindness passed in Geneva in May, and the publication of an important paper on the health economics of blindness and Vision 2020 intervention, are all powerful advocacy tools for the region.



Professor Taylor (seated 2nd right) and Dr Richard Le Mesurier (standing 4th from right) at the signing of the South Korean Declaration of Support for Vision 2020, 27 October 2003



# The Vision Initiative

is the world's first large-scale public eye health program committed to improving the vision of the community



*Vision Initiative cards*

**In October 2002, the Victorian Government granted \$1.8 million over three years to Vision 2020 Australia to fund The Vision Initiative. This program, that grew directly out of the Centre for Eye Research Australia's research findings and public health activities, has a steering committee that includes the Centre, Optometrists Association Australia, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists, Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital, Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind and Vision Australia Foundation.**

It promotes professional best practice and allows ophthalmologists, optometrists, general practitioners, pharmacists and other vision specialists to promote a consistent message to their community regarding eye care.

The Vision Initiative is the world's first large-scale public eye health program committed to improving the vision of the community by health promotion and developing best professional practice for eye care services.



*Part of The Vision Initiative team*

On 25 November, the Victorian Minister for Health, the Hon. Bronwyn Pike MP, launched The Vision Initiative's public campaign, the slogan for which is "Save Your Sight - Get Tested." Also speaking at the launch, the Hon. Dr Barry Jones AO, Vision 2020 Australia Chairman, reiterated the campaign's key messages.

The Vision Initiative's public campaign promotes the simple things that we can do to protect our vision. Health promotion messages for the public, including community service announcements kindly donated by satirists John Clarke and Bryan Dawe, have been produced to alert people to the need for regular eye tests and indicate high-risk groups.

Any program such as this needs to be carefully evaluated. As part of its work in the Vision CRC the Centre is monitoring and evaluating the impact of The Vision Initiative.



*The Hon. Bronwyn Pike MP, the Hon. Dr Barry Jones AO and Professor Taylor at the launch of the "Save Your Sight - Get Tested" campaign in the Melbourne City Square, 25 November 2003*



# The Vision Co-operative Research Centre (CRC)

**The Centre for Eye Research Australia is one of the four core participants in the Vision CRC, other core participants being the International Centre for Eyecare Education, LV Prasad Eye Institute (Hyderabad, India) and the Institute for Eye Research. In addition, there are a number of supporting participants including Vision 2020 Australia, WHO, IAPB, CBMI, Lions, and Save Sight Foundation. Professor Taylor is a member of the Board of the Vision CRC. The objectives of the Vision CRC are to become a leader in research, education and the delivery of vision correction; improve international eyecare; and maximise commercial opportunities.**

Although the official start-up date for the Vision CRC was 1 July, the Centre's staff have been engaged in numerous planning activities and meetings related to this exciting venture since the announcement of its funding in December 2002. These activities have involved the finalisation of contractual and program agreements, together with the detailed development of various research programs. Professor Taylor, Associate Professor Keeffe and researchers from the Eye Health Promotion Unit worked closely with Professor Brien Holden, Associate Professor Debbie Sweeney, Professor Nag Rao and other researchers from the Vision CRC in a two-day meeting in April to work on one of the five major program areas, Vision Care Delivery. There was also a four-day meeting in March attended by Professor Taylor, Dr Paul Baird and their Vision CRC colleagues to develop the myopia research program.



*Attendees at the Vision CRC workshop held in April to work on the Vision Care Delivery program*

Detailed project agreements have now been formulated within each of the program areas and are being finalised. The Centre is involved in six project agreements; myopia genetics, eye care delivery, enabling technology - the retinal camera, enabling technology - low cost spectacles, Aboriginal eye health, and The Vision Initiative.





# Teaching

## Postgraduate research training is an important component of the Centre's activities



PhD student Ms Shiao-Lan Chou

**Teaching activities focus on integrating within the education of a number of "student" groups the Centre's research on the determinants of eye disease, ophthalmic clinical care, and eye health promotion in the community. The activities are curriculum development, face-to-face teaching, support for ophthalmologists as teachers, and educational research and publications. The Centre also has an active program of research degree students.**

This year our research students have benefited from the Journal Club organised by the Eye Health Promotion Unit for all researchers. Our medical school undergraduate research students have also participated in preparatory courses in laboratory methods, epidemiology and biostatistics, and qualitative methods.

Student groups include eye registrars, medical students, general practitioners, undergraduate and postgraduate research students. Postgraduate education in ophthalmology is conducted under the direction of the Hospital Clinical School, while the Centre assists with the teaching program and occasional research projects generated by registrars. The Centre also participated in the development of the Epidemiology Module within the new Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists ophthalmology curriculum.

Postgraduate research training is an important component of the Centre's activities, and includes medical and science graduates in Masters or PhD courses and medical graduates doing MD degrees. The following students are currently enrolled:

### Degrees Awarded

#### Master of Medicine (Ophthalmology)

Dr Andrew McAllan: "The relative values of diagnostic criteria in glaucoma: diagnostic criteria and glaucoma screening."

#### Bachelor of Science (Honours)

Mr Elie Khalil: "Analysis of two cholesterol pathway genes in age-related macular degeneration."

#### Advanced Medical Science

Mr Jason Lee: "The use of the laser flare meter in the diagnosis and management of corneal graft rejection."

Miss Xiang Hua Loh: "Laser flare readings in a cohort of patients following corneal transplant."

### Theses Submitted

#### Doctor of Medicine

Dr Anthony Chiu: "The role of cholesterol-lowering medications ("statins") in the progression of Age-related Macular Degeneration."

Dr Niro Narendran: "Genetics of age-related macular degeneration."

### Theses in Progress

#### Doctor of Philosophy

Ms Shiao-Lan Chou: "Economic evaluation of rehabilitation programs for people with impaired vision."

Ms Gillian Cochrane: "Development of a model of care for children with vision impairment."

Dr Van Lansingh: "Primary health care approach to trachoma control."

#### Doctor of Medicine

Dr Matthew Chamberlain: "Heritability of features of early age-related macular degeneration: a twin study."

Dr Claire Hooper: “Does cataract surgery precipitate choroidal neovascular membranes in susceptible eyes?”

Dr Reuben Phiri: “Diabetic retinopathy screening; use of the Polaroid non-mydiatic camera versus the digital non-mydiatic camera.”

Advanced Medical Science

Mr Shane Battye: Project related to protein analysis of donor age-related macular degeneration tissue.

Ms Sing Pey Chow: Project related to diabetic retinopathy studies.

Ms Cheryl Leung: Project related to vision and quality of life measurements.

Ms Kay Yan Lo: Project related to monitoring and evaluation of The Vision Initiative.

Alcon Visiting Professor Program

Alcon Australia continued to fund a Visiting Professor Program in 2003. We are most grateful for their ongoing support of this important program. The three invited speakers listed below each spent one day with us and Hospital staff. During this time, they gave two lectures on their particular area of speciality and participated in ward rounds and public clinics.

June 2003 Dr Andrew Chang, Sydney

September 2003 Dr Mark Gillies, Sydney

October 2003 Associate Professor  
Graham Barrett, Perth



Dr Mark Gillies, Alcon Visiting Professor Program, September 2003

# Research

## Activities at the Centre for Eye Research Australia revolve around the work of our five Units

**The Lions Corneal Donation Service is primarily a service provider, supplying donor corneal tissue, sclera and amniotic membrane to surgeons for transplantation procedures performed in Victoria, Tasmania and occasionally other states.**

**Research activities at the Centre for Eye Research Australia revolve around the work of our five Units, each of which utilises the skills and expertise of its specialised staff to fulfil the Centre's vision of eliminating vision loss and blindness in our community.**

### Corneal Research Unit

The Corneal Research Unit includes the work of the Lions Corneal Donation Service, research activities of the Melbourne Excimer Laser Group and affiliated Hospital Corneal Unit consultants, and projects undertaken by Corneal Fellows under the supervision of Corneal Research Unit staff.

The Lions Corneal Donation Service is primarily a service provider, supplying donor corneal tissue, sclera and amniotic membrane to surgeons for transplantation procedures performed in Victoria, Tasmania and occasionally other states. Research activities are focused on issues relating to corneal transplantation and related procedures and may be summarised as follows:

- (a) **The Artificial Cornea Trial:** This is an international multi-centre trial of the AlphaCor Keratoprosthesis, a new form of artificial cornea.
- (b) **Cultivation of Corneal Epithelial Cells:** This study aims to reconstruct a healthy ocular surface in patients with total limbal stem cell deficiency by grafting "stem cells" grown on amniotic membrane carrier which has been cultivated from donor eyes.

- (c) **Early Graft Failure:** An extensive analysis of our donor database indicates that no one factor contributed to a higher incidence of graft failure. This suggests that a close study of recipient charts may be invaluable to shedding light on reasons for graft failure.



*Dr Grant Snibson performs eye surgery on a patient*

### Refractive Surgery Research

The Centre continues to play a role in the ongoing evaluation of excimer laser procedures, both in the correction of refractive error and in the treatment of corneal disease. Current projects include:

- (a) Evaluation of current treatment algorithms for LASIK using Bausch and Lomb 217z Excimer laser and the AMO Amadeus Microkeratome in the treatment of myopia, astigmatism and hyperopia.
- (b) Genetics of myopia.
- (c) The role of excimer laser phototherapeutic keratectomy in the treatment of painful bullous keratopathy.



## Cyclosporin Studies

Two clinical trials of cyclosporin A are currently in progress, one on the management of corneal allograft rejection, the other on treatment of steroid dependent atopic and vernal keratoconjunctivitis.

## Topical Antibiotic Prophylaxis

A clinical study to evaluate the effect of three topical preparations on the conjunctival flora of patients with sutures in place following corneal transplantation has been completed. The results are currently being analysed.

## Microbial Keratitis Study

A clinical trial of three topical antibiotic regimes for the treatment of microbial keratitis commenced in 2002. This study, which is funded by Alcon, will be finalised in 2004.

## Eye Health Promotion Unit

This Unit, under the leadership of Associate Professor Keeffe, has grown significantly in size and output over the last 12 months. Core research focuses on projects related to The Vision Initiative, quality of life and economic impact of vision impairment, low vision and diabetic retinopathy.

## The Vision Initiative

The Unit is responsible for conducting the research and evaluation components of The Vision Initiative, a comprehensive public health program designed to prevent avoidable blindness and to reduce the impact of vision impairment on individuals and the community.

The first recruitment stage of The Vision Initiative has been completed. By November 2003, 1,700 participants aged between 70 and 79 years from randomly selected metropolitan postcode areas, stratified by socio-economic status, had been enrolled.

Each responded to a self-administered questionnaire designed to evaluate the eye health promotion strategies used, after which an eye examination was performed. The second stage of The Vision Initiative will be repeated in two years time to assess changes due to its implementation.

## Vision Impairment and Low Vision

Four separate studies are currently underway that focus on factors related to vision impairment and low vision:

### (a) Burden of Eye Disease - Impact of Vision

**Impairment:** This study has been designed to determine the vision-specific rehabilitation needs of people with vision impairment and to measure the outcomes of vision rehabilitation programs. To accomplish this, a 32-item questionnaire, the Impact of Vision Impairment, has been developed. Using this tool, 319 participants with low vision have been tested pre- and post-rehabilitation services, generating a comprehensive data set that has allowed us to identify factors related to the need for low vision services and the impact of age-related macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy.

Guide Dogs Victoria Neurological Mobility Service is also working with the Centre on a study into people's quality of life resulting from a sudden acquired vision loss, most commonly the result of stroke, accident or substance abuse.

### (b) Economic Evaluation of Rehabilitation

#### Programs for People with Impaired Vision:

The Vision and Quality of Life index (VisQoL), which addresses six categories important to quality of life in people with vision impairment, was developed for use in conjunction with the generic quality of life utility instru-





*The Low Vision Online website developed by Ms Sarah Squire and Associate Professor Jill Keefe*

ment, AQoLII. The second phase of the pilot study to test the validity of VisQoL has now been completed and results indicate that it should be a useful add-on dimension to the existing AQoLII. Specially designed expense diaries have been used to obtain the indirect costs for people with impaired vision. Three groups of participants have been enrolled, representative of all age groups, including children. Data collection will be completed by July 2004.

(c) **Lions Low Vision Initiative:** In many developing countries there is no vision care and a barrier to the establishment of services has been the lack of affordable vision devices such as magnifiers. A source of low-cost vision devices has been identified and these are to be compared with the "gold standard" high-quality devices to demonstrate no significant difference in their performance. A website, to be launched early in 2004, has also been developed to increase awareness about low-vision issues and educate people working with those with low vision. The website address is: <[www.lowvisiononline.org](http://www.lowvisiononline.org)> The Lions Low Vision Initiative continues its weekly radio segment on 3RPH. A series of Technology Information days was also conducted in regional Victorian centres to inform people with low vision of the range of devices available to assist them.

(d) **Development of a Model of Low Vision Care for Children:** Globally, less than 10% of school age children with vision impairment are able to receive a school education. This study will assess the needs of such children and categorise them into three levels so that the requirements for human resources, equipment and infrastructure can be incorporated into National Vision 2020 plans.

### Diabetic Retinopathy

The Eye Health Promotion Unit continues to pursue various approaches to aid with the early detection of diabetic retinopathy.

#### (a) Diabetic Retinopathy Screening:

A Department of Human Services (DHS) funded resource guide for community-based partnerships such as Divisions of General Practitioners and Primary Care Partnerships has been published and distributed through the DHS and the Centre's website.

(b) **Diabetic Retinopathy Screening:** This study aims to show that screening for diabetic retinopathy with the polaroid camera, which is easy to use and does not require computers or computer literacy, is as effective as screening with the digital camera, a more technologically advanced instrument. As part of the Centre's ongoing research into enabling technology for the Vision CRC, a new portable non-mydriatic camera that is small, portable, easy to use and cheap is also being developed for testing.

#### (c) Lions Eye Health Program-Australia:

The Lions Eye Health Program-Australia (LEHP-Australia) is a community-based public awareness and education program delivered through Lions Clubs, the objective of which is to prevent vision loss or blindness resulting from diabetic retinopathy or glaucoma. This year saw the program's continued introduction nationally. A LEHP-Australia Challenge was also issued to all 1,350 Lions Clubs in Australia to ensure that all Lions members themselves heed the LEHP-Australia message, namely the need for regular, comprehensive eye examinations.

(d) **AusDiab Study:** Dr Alex Harper has graded all the retinal photographs from participants of a population-based study of diabetes in Australia undertaken by the International Diabetes Institute to provide accurate information on the prevalence of diabetes and retinopathy in Australia.

## Glaucoma Research Unit

The Glaucoma Research Unit, which Dr Julian Rait heads, is currently running three clinical trials:

- (a) A five-year post-marketing safety study of Latanoprost (Xalatan) compared to usual care (Pharmacia).
- (b) A trial of a prostaglandin drug (Alcon) that has now been in train for four years with a further year to go.
- (c) A trial of a neuroprotector (Allergan) that will be completed at the end of 2006.

Dr Rait has also been working on the development of a computerised decision support system for the management of open-angle glaucoma. The aim of this project, which is funded by Allergan Australia, is to improve visual functioning and quality of life for people with this condition.

## Macular Research Unit

The Macular Research Unit, under the leadership of Associate Professor Robyn Guymer, has grown significantly in size and output during 2003. This Unit's studies continue to investigate the genetic and environmental risk factors for age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and to define treatments to slow progression of this disease.

## AMD Inheritance Study Database

The database of individuals with AMD continues to grow. Information gained from this database allows genetic analyses to be undertaken that hopefully will lead to a better understanding of roles genes play in the pathogenesis of this disease.

## Genetics of AMD

**Twin Study:** This study, conducted in collaboration with the Ocular Genetics Unit, Australian Twin Registry and Professor John Hopper from the Centre for Genetic Epidemiology at the University of Melbourne, aims to better define the heritability of AMD and uncover potential new risk factors.

## Epidemiology of AMD

**Dietary and Genetic Risk Factors in AMD:** This study, conducted in collaboration with the Ocular Genetics Unit, Professor Hopper and Professor Graham Giles, Director of the Cancer Epidemiology Centre, Cancer Council of Victoria, simultaneously investigates dietary, genetic and other protective/risk factors for AMD in a large cohort of elderly participants of the Cancer Research Centre's Health 2000 Study. If a genetic/environmental interaction is found, it will indicate potential ways to modify the course of AMD in those at higher risk.

## Clinical Studies

- (a) **Functional test to monitor and predict outcome in AMD:** In collaboration with Associate Professor Algis Vingrys from the Victorian College of Optometry, tests of retinal function are being developed that will provide a better assessment of early AMD and be a sensitive and specific way to predict risk of severe complications in AMD.



Dr Liubov Robman who is researching the epidemiology of AMD



Poster used to recruit participants for the Twin Study to investigate the genetics of AMD



**A major new research thrust was established on the genetics of myopia as part of the Vision CRC.**

(b) **Cholesterol lowering medications (statins) in the progression of AMD:** This randomised control trial aims to determine whether statin treatment, administered over three years to people with high-risk fundus changes, can slow the progression of AMD.

(c) **The Geelong Osteoporosis Study:** In collaboration with Professor Geoff Nicholson and his team at Geelong Hospital, retinal photographs will be taken of their cohort of women aged 50 years and over who participated in a study that monitored the protective role of statins for osteoporosis over a decade, to determine the prevalence of AMD. This study will help provide evidence as to what, if any, role statins have in delaying the progression of AMD.

(d) **Cataract Surgery and Age-related Maculopathy:** This study sought to determine if cataract surgery in people with high-risk AMD eyes induces the neovascular complications of AMD. It also addressed whether the quality of life for people with both AMD and cataracts improved after surgery. Analysis of the 70 participants enrolled in this study indicates a tremendous benefit to the quality of life of a patient with successful cataract surgery as seen by our assessment pre and post surgery. Analysis is underway to determine the risk of AMD complications.

(e) **The EYETECH Anti-Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor International Multicentred Study:** In this study, a drug that blocks the action of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) is injected intravitreally into the eyes of people with classic choroidal neovascularisation secondary to AMD in the hope that this drug will halt the growth of new blood vessels beneath the retina. Fourteen people have been enrolled in this study that

involves six-weekly injections of this anti-VEGF drug over a two-year period.

(f) **The ALCON Anocortave acetate study for choroidal neovascular membranes secondary to Age-related Macular Degeneration:** This study is investigating a different anti-angiogenic drug with a different mode of delivery to the anti-VEGF drug being tested in the EYETECH Study. As one of two recruiting sites in Australia, the Centre has 15 participants enrolled in this trial.

## Animal Studies

### Hypercholesterolaemic rats: can statins reverse the damage in Bruch's membrane?

This study, undertaken in collaboration with Associate Professor Vingrys, aims to determine whether the administration of the cholesterol-lowering medication "statins" will reverse the lipid build up in Bruch's membrane of rats that have been fed a high fat, Western-style diet, thereby improving retinal function.

## Ocular Genetics Unit and McComas Family Laboratory

Dr Paul Baird oversees the research in this area. The laboratory-based aspects of the genetics of glaucoma concluded this year, while studies on the genetic basis of age-related macular degeneration (AMD) continued throughout 2003. A major new research thrust was established to investigate the genetics of myopia as part of the Vision CRC.

The outcome of the various glaucoma studies may be summarised as follows:

### The Myocilin Gene

(a) **The Glu368STOP mutation of myocilin in the Blue Mountains Eye Study:**

The Glu368STOP mutation of the myocilin gene is the most common mutation so far

identified in glaucoma. Two thousand individuals from the Blue Mountains Epidemiological Eye Study conducted in New South Wales were screened for this mutation. Although not identified in the glaucoma cases within this population (reflecting its low disease prevalence), it was identified in two individuals, both of whom did not appear to have a history of glaucoma. This finding corroborates earlier reports of the presence of this mutation in individuals from the general population.

**(b) Establishing a global haplotype of the Glu368STOP mutation of myocilin:**

A collaboration with Dr Vincent Raymond from Quebec was established to compare the Glu368STOP disease haplotype of French-Canadian families from Quebec with Glu368STOP containing families from South East Australia. This study confirmed that all examined glaucoma families shared the same haplotype and were therefore most likely descended from a common ancestor.

**(c) Genetic discovery in glaucoma:** Statistical analysis of a large glaucoma family, undertaken in collaboration with Dr Alexandre Bureau from the University of Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, has identified a second putative disease locus on chromosome 3. Additional statistical analysis of this family is also underway using individual clinical parameters of glaucoma to try and identify putative gene regions. This work is being undertaken in collaboration with Ms Jacqui Charlesworth from the Menzies Centre, Hobart.

**The Optineurin Gene**

Mutation screening of the optineurin gene, a second glaucoma gene, was completed in individuals from the Blue Mountains Eye Study. A risk factor allele, M98K, was identified at a higher, but not significant level, in

glaucoma patients. Two other variants were also identified within this gene but appear unlikely to be associated with disease. Research into the genetic basis of AMD continues. A number of different but related studies undertaken by the Unit involve:

**Retinal Tissue Bank**

A more efficient process was established to allow retrieval of donor eyes for the purpose of investigating protein and RNA expression in AMD. Initial protein studies have been undertaken using a monoclonal antibody to  $\beta$ -amyloid, a protein typically associated with Alzheimer's disease. A number of other monoclonal antibodies are now being applied to identify the proteins found in the drusen of AMD patients.

**The Role of Cholesterol genes in Age-related Macular Degeneration**

**(a) The Apolipoprotein Gene (ApoE):** Statistical analysis of a large cohort of cases and control samples confirmed that the common polymorphic variants ( $\epsilon 2$ ,  $\epsilon 3$  and  $\epsilon 4$ ) of the apoE gene are associated with AMD. The  $\epsilon 4$  allele appears as a protective factor in individuals who have an  $\epsilon 3\epsilon 4$  genotype, leading to an approximate halving of disease risk for end-stage AMD relative to those with the  $\epsilon 3\epsilon 3$  genotype. This protective effect appears to be greatest in individuals who have the dry form of disease and are male. However, individuals with the  $\epsilon 2\epsilon 3$  genotype appear to have an earlier age of diagnosis of disease relative to those with the  $\epsilon 3\epsilon 3$  genotype. This was most apparent in individuals with the wet form of disease who were female.

**(b) The Serum Paraoxonase Gene:** Analysis of the serum paraoxonase (PON1) gene, an important component in the cholesterol



*Dr Paul Baird, Head of the Ocular Genetics Unit and McComas Family Laboratory*

pathway, has identified an association between this gene and AMD in Japanese individuals. Two genetic variants within the gene were identified in our cohort of Anglo-Celtic individuals and were assessed for their association with AMD. No significant association was detected in Anglo-Celtic individuals but a significant difference in the frequency of these alleles was found in Anglo-Celtic compared to Japanese individuals.

#### Early Onset Drusen

Individuals who presented with clinical signs of AMD, but at an earlier age than would be expected (less than 60 years), were identified with the aim of pinpointing a genetic component to this disease.



*Ms Pam Garoufalidis "at the bench" in the McComas Family Laboratory*

In the first study, a single point mutation (Arg345Trp) in the EFEMP1 gene that has previously been associated with both Malattia leventinese and Doynes Honeycomb retinal dystrophy, both early onset macular diseases, was screened in this cohort of early onset drusen patients. However, neither this change nor any other mutation in the EFEMP1 gene was detected in these individuals, indicating that this gene was unlikely to be involved in disease.

An early onset drusen family with an index case of clinical Doynes Honeycomb Retinal Dystrophy was identified. All family members were screened for the Arg345Trp mutation of the EFEMP1 gene, previously described as causing all cases of this disease. However, no members of this family presented with this mutation. A second disease gene for Doynes Honeycomb Retinal Dystrophy may explain this finding.

A third study involved a large early onset drusen family presenting with both early onset AMD and polycystic kidney disease (PKD). Analysis of a known mutation in the PKD2 gene in this family was undertaken and revealed that onset of maculopathy occurred at an earlier age in individuals who also inherited the PKD2 gene mutation. These findings support the hypothesis that this mutation may act as a modifier of macular disease.

#### The Genetics of Myopia (Shortsightedness)

As part of the Vision CRC, the Ocular Genetics Unit has commenced a study in collaboration with the Melbourne Excimer Laser Group (MELG) to investigate the genetic basis of myopia. MELG has approximately 8,000 individuals (index cases) with refractive errors (-1 to -20D) in its database and these will act as an initial point of contact to identify families with myopia. The aim of this study is to identify disease genes involved in the causation of myopia.

#### Retinal Vascular Unit

Associate Professor Tien Wong joined the Centre in a part-time capacity mid-way through 2003. He will take up a full-time position at the beginning of 2004 as Head of the newly created Retinal Vascular Unit.

# 40th Anniversary

## University of Melbourne

### Department of Ophthalmology

**To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the University of Melbourne Department of Ophthalmology, a two-day colloquium was held at the Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital on Thursday 24 and Friday 25 July 2003.**

Entitled "Changes in Ophthalmology", this meeting was opened by the State Minister for Health, the Hon. Bronwyn Pike MP. It celebrated and honoured those who have worked over the last 40 years to make the Department of Ophthalmology recognised both nationally and internationally for its teaching, research and clinical contributions. The colloquium also included a challenging and provocative assessment by renowned experts of the issues in the provision of eye care that face us now and in the future.

Many Department alumni from Melbourne, interstate and overseas attended this meeting that also attracted a wide audience including hospital staff, optometrists, representatives of Government departments, agencies and non-government agencies.

A highlight of our celebrations was the function hosted by the Governor of Victoria, John Landy AC MBE and Mrs Landy at Government House on 24 July in honour of the Department and to recognise and thank a number of our very generous donors to the Eye Research Australia Foundation, of which Governor Landy is Patron. We were also thrilled to have the Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, Mrs Fay Marles AM, propose the toast to the Department at our Colloquium dinner on 25 July at University House.



*The audience at the 40th Anniversary Colloquium on Thursday 24th and Friday 25th July 2003*



*Guests at the Colloquium dinner held at University House on 25th July 2003*



*Mr John Simpson addressing the Colloquium on "What do they need to know about eye disease? - Diabetic Support Staff"*





# Attendance at Conferences and Meetings in 2003

## Overseas

7th Meeting of the WHO Alliance for the Global Elimination of Blinding Trachoma, Geneva, January - Professor Hugh Taylor

Singapore Eye Research Institute/Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Meeting, Singapore, February - Professor Hugh Taylor, Dr Ecosse Lamoreux, Associate Professor Tien Wong

International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) Task Force and Executive Meeting, Geneva, February - Professor Hugh Taylor

Alcon Research Institute Meeting, Fort Worth, March - Professor Hugh Taylor

ARVO Meeting, Fort Lauderdale, May - Professor Hugh Taylor, Associate Professor Robyn Guymmer, Associate Professor Jill Keefe, Dr Paul Baird, Dr Niro Narendran, Dr Elaine Wong

American Ophthalmological Society Meeting, Santa Barbara, May - Professor Hugh Taylor

Royal College of Ophthalmologists (UK), Birmingham, May - Dr Niro Narendran

WHO Global Scientific Meeting on Trachoma, Geneva, August - Professor Hugh Taylor

IAPB Task Force and Executive Meeting, Hyderabad, September - Professor Hugh Taylor

IAPB / Vision 2020 Meetings, Ulaanbaatar, Beijing and Seoul, October - Professor Hugh Taylor, Dr Richard Le Mesurier

National Eye Institute Meeting on Age-related Macular Degeneration, Washington DC, October - Associate Professor Robyn Guymmer

Christian Blind Mission International Meeting, Bensheim, Germany, October / November - Associate Professor Jill Keefe



*Professor Taylor speaking at the signing of the South Korean Declaration of Support for Vision 2020, October 2003*

# Attendance at Conferences and Meetings in 2003

Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists Congress, Auckland, November - Professor Hugh Taylor, Associate Professor Robyn Guymer, Associate Professor David Mackey, Dr Matthew Chamberlain, Dr Amy Cohn, Dr Deb Colville, Dr Alex Harper, Dr Richard Le Mesurier, Dr Graeme Pollock, Dr Julian Rait, Dr Grant Snibson, Associate Professor Tien Wong

Improving Women's Eye Health Symposium, Boston, November - Professor Hugh Taylor invited speaker: "Translating Research Into Public Health Action"

International Trachoma Initiative 5th Anniversary Meeting, United Nations, New York, November - Professor Hugh Taylor keynote speaker: "Priorities and challenges in attaining the elimination of blinding trachoma"

American Academy of Ophthalmology, Anaheim, November - Professor Hugh Taylor

First Taiwan Symposium on Community Ophthalmology, Taiwan, November Associate Professor Jill Keeffe invited speaker: "Vision Impairment and Eye Care, Diabetic Retinopathy Screening; and Foreign Experience of Prevention of Blindness Eye Care Delivery Models"

Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology Meeting, Bangkok, December - Professor Hugh Taylor, Dr Richard Le Mesurier

## Australia

Vision CRC Myopia Meeting, Sanctuary Cove, March - Professor Hugh Taylor, Dr Paul Baird

Vision CRC Workshop, Woodend, April - Professor Hugh Taylor, Associate Professor Jill Keeffe, Dr Richard Le Mesurier, Dr Reuben Phiri, Dr Hien Vu, Ms Karen Bradshaw, Ms Shiao Lan-Chou, Ms Gillian Cochrane, Ms Tamara Pollard, Ms Jennifer Hassell

International Congress of Genetics, Melbourne, July - Dr Paul Baird

Changes in Ophthalmology Colloquium, Melbourne, July - all staff

National Health and Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Panel, Canberra, August - Professor Hugh Taylor

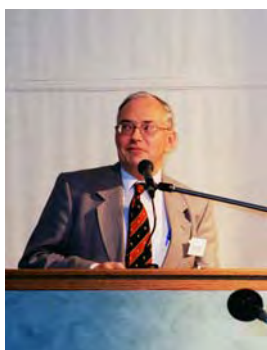
University of Melbourne Faculty Planning Conference, Lancemore Hill, October - Professor Hugh Taylor

Australasian Ophthalmic and Visual Sciences Meeting, Melbourne, November / December - Meeting Convenor Dr Paul Baird, Dr Khin Zaw Aung, Dr Ecosse Lamoreux, Dr RoseAnne Misajon, Dr Reuben Phiri, Dr Luba Robman, Mr Shayne Battye, Ms Gillian Cochrane, Mr Peter Dimitrov, Ms Pam Garafoulis, Ms Jennifer Hassell, Ms Nicola Hunt, Ms Andrea Richardson



*Professor Hugh Taylor, Dr Richard Le Mesurier and Dr Serge Resnikoff during their visit to the IAPB / Vision 2020 Meetings, held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, Oct 2003*

# Visitors to the Centre in 2003



Associate Professor Hector Maclean



Ms Carley Nicholls, Executive Director, Vision2020 Australia

## January

Dr Lesley Russell, Advisor to Shadow Minister for Health, the Hon. Julia Gillard MP

## February

Ms Vicki Taylor, Program Manager, Centre for Remote Health  
Professor Frank Larkins AM, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), University of Melbourne

## April

Hon. Evan Walker AO  
Professor Gullapalli Rao, LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, India  
Hon. Robert Doyle MP, Leader of the Opposition  
Hon. David Davis MLC, Shadow Minister for Health  
Hon. Bill Forwood MP, Member for Templestowe Province

## May

Mr Peter Jovic, Partner, KPMG  
Mr Wayne McMaster, Allens Arthur Robinson

## June

Mr Raymond Mow and Mrs Leah Mow  
Dr Andrew Chang, Sydney  
Professors Dang Van Phuoc, Phan Quan Chi Hieu, Truong Dinh Kiet and Dang Van Giap, Ho Chi Minh City  
Ms Kim Dung Nguyen, Centre for the Study of Higher Education, University of Melbourne

## July

Hon. Matt Viney MP, Parliamentary Secretary - Innovation and Industry  
Dr Xavier Csar, Manager, BioMedical Research, Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development

Mr Peter Clemenger AM, Director, Clemenger BBDO  
Dr Subhabrata Chakrabarti, LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, India  
Dr Vince Harley, Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research, Melbourne

## 40th Anniversary of the University of Melbourne Department of Ophthalmology Colloquium included:

Hon. Bronwyn Pike MP, Minister for Health  
Dr Noel Alpins, Cheltenham Eye Centre  
Professor James Angus, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences, University of Melbourne  
Professor Frank Billson AO, Head, Department of Ophthalmology, University of Sydney  
Dr Garry Brian, Chief Executive Officer, International Centre for Eyecare Education  
Ms Lisa Briggs, Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation  
Mr Craig Butler, Director, Professional Education, Vision CRC  
Dr James Cairns, Former First Assistant, University of Melbourne Department of Ophthalmology  
Professor John Catford, Dean, Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences, Deakin University  
Mr Joe Chakman, Optometrists Association Australia  
Professor Doug Coster, Head, Department of Ophthalmology, Flinders Medical Centre  
Professor Emeritus Gerard Crock AO, Inaugural Professor, University of Melbourne Department of Ophthalmology  
Dr Peteris Darzins, Associate Professor of Geriatric Medicine, Monash Ageing Research Centre



# Visitors to the Centre in 2003

Hon. John Dawkins AO, Treasurer,  
International Agency for the Prevention  
of Blindness

Dr J.E.K. Galbraith, Director, ASPECT  
Foundation

Ms Jayne Gallo, General Manager,  
Community Services, Vision Australia  
Foundation

Dr William Glasson, President, Australian  
Medical Association

Dr Robert Grogan, Executive Director,  
Clinical Services, Royal Victorian Eye &  
Ear Hospital

Mr Bob Guest, Chief Executive Officer, Royal  
Australian & New Zealand College of  
Ophthalmologists

Dr Peter Henderson, President, Royal  
Australian & New Zealand College  
of Ophthalmologists

Professor Brien Holden OAM, Chief  
Executive Officer, Vision CRC

Mr Graeme Houghton, Chief Executive Officer,  
Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital

Hon. Dr Barry Jones AO, Chairman, Vision  
2020 Australia

Ms Dorothy McDiarmid, Managing Director,  
CIBA Vision

Ms Carley Nicholls, Executive Director,  
Vision 2020 Australia

Professor Denis O'Day, Executive Director,  
American Board of Ophthalmology

Associate Professor Justin O'Day,  
Representative, Royal Australian & New  
Zealand College of Ophthalmologists

Dr Joseph Reich, Camberwell Eye Clinic Day  
Surgery and Laser Centre

Ms Helen Robbins, Past President,  
Optometrists Association Australia

Professor Graeme Ryan AC, Chairman,  
Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital Board

Dr Hugh Ryan, Former Chairman,  
Ophthalmic Research Institute of Australia

Professor Richard Smallwood AO, Immediate  
Past Chief Medical Officer, Department of  
Health and Aged Care

Dr Damien Smith AM, President, World  
Council of Optometry

Dr Shane Solomon, Executive Director,  
Metropolitan Health and Aged Care  
Services, Department of Human Services

Mr Craig Stamp, Managing Director, Australia  
and New Zealand, Bausch & Lomb

Associate Professor Deborah Sweeney,  
Vision CRC

## August

Dr Ross Bury, Manager, Biomedical and  
Public Health Research, Department of  
Human Services, and Ms Rosemary  
Calder, PPR Consulting Pty Ltd

## September

Dr Mark Gillies, University of Sydney  
Professor Brien Holden OAM, Chief  
Executive Officer, Vision CRC

## October

Associate Professor Graham Barrett, Perth  
Mr George Pappas, Under Secretary,  
Department of Premier and Cabinet, and  
Mr Alan Gray, Senior Advisor, Policy and  
Strategy Projects

## November

Mr Steve Gow and Ms Kerri Martin, Service  
Planning, Programs Branch, Metropolitan  
Health & Aged Care Services, Department  
of Human Services

Mr Peter Clemenger AM, Director,  
Clemenger BBDO



Associate Professor Jill Keefe and  
Mr David Newport, Dept of Education  
and Training, at the launch of CERA's  
report on "Analysis of Support to  
Students with Visual Impairment"



Mr Bal Chansi, visiting WHO  
ophthalmic theatre nursing trainee,  
with Professor Hugh Taylor



# Research Grants for 2003

**We are most grateful to the organisations, trusts and individuals who had faith in us and our work and who supported us.**

## Granting Body

\$

### Corneal Research Unit

Alcon Australia \$41,450

### Eye Health Promotion Unit

Lions Clubs International Foundation \$312,160

Commonwealth Government CRC \$221,000

Wagstaff Fellowship \$159,090

International Agency for Prevention of Blindness \$130,365

Victorian Department of Human Services \$127,000

Vision Australia Foundation \$100,000

Christian Blind Mission International Australia \$100,000

Australian Research Council \$72,772

The Jack Brockhoff Foundation \$40,000

Department of Education, Science & Technology \$15,000

Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital (RVEEH) Research Committee \$11,523

Fred Hollows Foundation \$5,272

Ian Potter Foundation \$2,000

William Angliss Charitable Fund \$1,000

### Glaucoma Unit

Allergan \$232,163

Alcon Australia \$4,350

Pharmacia & Upjohn \$2,500

### Macular Research Unit

PPD Development \$165,503

Alcon Australia \$156,500

John T Reid Charitable Trusts \$135,650

Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind (RVIB) \$90,909

## Granting Body

\$

RVEEH Research Committee \$25,818

Pfizer CVL Research \$22,600

National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) \$22,039

Macular Vision Loss Support Society \$14,000

Collier Charitable Fund \$10,000

Ophthalmic Research Institute of Australia (ORIA) \$6,507

### Ocular Genetics Unit

Commonwealth Government CRC \$96,500

Helen Macpherson Smith Trust \$50,000

L.E.W. Carty Charitable Trust \$50,000

Mr and Mrs Peter Clemenger \$50,000

Myra Stoicesco Trust Fund \$33,000

NHMRC \$14,243

RVEEH Research Committee \$7,909

### Other Research

Victorian Department of Human Services \$170,983

Ansell Ophthalmology Foundation \$150,000

ORIA \$126,705

Department of Innovation, Industry & Regional Development \$120,798

Victorian Lions Foundation \$60,000

Alcon Australia \$48,750

RVIB \$38,181

Vision Australia Foundation \$25,000

Commonwealth Government CRC \$23,076

Leon Mow Nominees \$15,000

Medownick Laser Clinic \$10,000

F J Wiseman Estate \$9,500



# Publications in 2003

## Refereed Publications in Scientific Journals

- 1** Arvind H, Paul PG, Raju P, Baskaran M, George R, Balu S, Sripriya S, Ramesh SV, Mukesh BN, Vijaya L, Kumaramanickavel G, McCarty C. Methods and design of the Chennai Glaucoma Study. *Ophthalmic Epidemiol* 2003; 10; 5: 337-348.
- 2** Baird PN, Craig JE, Richardson AJ, Mackey DA, Sim P, Foote SJ, Ring MA, Stanwix S. Analysis of 15 primary open-angle glaucoma families from Australia identifies a founder effect for the Q368STOP mutation of myocilin. *Hum Genet* 2003; 112: 110-1106.
- 3** Burdon KP, McKay JD, Sale M, Russell-Eggitt IMRE, Mackey DA, Wirth MG, Elder JEE, Nicholl A, Clarke MP, Fitzgerald M, Stankovich J, Shaw MA, Sharma S, Gajovic S, Gruss P, Ross S, Thomas P, Voss AK, Thomas T, Gecz J, Craig J. Mutations in a novel gene, NHS, cause the pleiotropic effects of Nance-Horan Syndrome, including severe congenital cataract, dental anomalies, and mental retardation. *Am J Hum Genet* 2003; 73: 1120-1130.
- 4** Burdon KP, Wilkinson RM, Barbour JM, Dickinson JL, Stankovich JM, Mackey DA, Sale MM. Investigation of albinism genes in congenital esotropia. *Mol Vis* 2003; 9: 710-714.
- 5** Burdon KP, Wirth MG, Mackey DA, Russell-Eggitt IMRE, Craig JE, Elder JEE, Dickinson L, Sale MM. Investigation of crystallin genes in familial cataract, and report of two disease associated mutations. *Br J Ophthalmol* 2003; 88: 79-83.
- 6** Carnicelli AP, Keeffe JE, Martin K, Carbone J, Balding LC, Taylor HR. Vision screening for older people: the barriers and the solutions. *Australas J Ageing* 2003; 22; 4: 179-185.
- 7** Chan SW, Mukesh BN, Sizeland AM. Treatment outcome of N3 nodal head and neck squamous cell carcinoma. *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surgery* 2003; 129;1:55-60.
- 8** Chou S, Misajon R, Gallo JG, Keeffe JE. Measurement of indirect costs for people with vision impairment. *Clin Exp Ophthalmol* 2003;31:336-340.
- 9** Colville D, Guymer R, Sinclair RA, Savage J. Visual impairment caused by retinal abnormalities in mesangiopapillary (membranoproliferative) glomerulonephritis type II ("dense deposit disease"). *Am J Kidney Dis* 2003 Aug; 42 (2): E2-5.
- 10** Craig JE, Clark B, McLeod JL, Kirkland MA, Grant G, Elder JEE, Toohey MG, Kowal L, Savoia HF, Chen C, Roberts S, Wirth MG, Mackey DA. Hereditary Hyperferritinemia-Cataract Syndrome. *Arch Ophthalmol* 2003; 121: 1753-1761.
- 11** Dandona L, Dandona R, Anand R, Srinivas M, Rajashekar V. Outcome and number of cataract surgeries in India: policy issues for blindness control. *Clin Exp Ophthalmol* 2003; 31: 23-31.
- 12** Dandona R, Dandona L. Childhood blindness in India: a population-based perspective. *Br J Ophthalmol* 2003; 87: 263-265.
- 13** Dandona R, Dandona L. Corneal blindness in a southern Indian population: need for health promotion strategies. *Br J Ophthalmol* 2003; 87: 133-141.
- 14** Dimitrov P, Mukesh BN, McCarty CA, Taylor HR. Five-year incidence of bilateral cause-specific visual impairment in the Melbourne Visual Impairment Project. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci* 2003;44: 5075-5081.
- 15** Essex RW, Qureshi SH, Cain MS, Harper CA, Guymer RH. Photodynamic therapy in practice: a review of the results of the first 12 months experience with verteporfin at the Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital. *Clin Exp Ophthalmol* 2003; 31: 476-481.
- 16** Francis BH, Thomas AK, McCarty CA, Permezel JMH. The impact of rubella immunization on the serological status of women of childbearing age: a retrospective longitudinal study in Melbourne, Australia. *Am J Public Health* 2003; 93; 8:1274-1276.
- 17** Gole GA, Schluter PJ, Hall J, Colville DJ. Comparison of the Retinomax autorefractor with hand-held retinoscopy in 1-year-old infants. *Clin Exp Ophthalmol* 2003; 31: 341-347.
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# Centre for Eye Research Australia Board Eye Research Australia Foundation Trustees Centre and Department of Ophthalmology Staff

	<p><b>Centre for Eye Research Australia Board of Directors</b>  Ms Tina McMeckan, Director (from September 2003), Chairman (from November 2003)  Mr Charles Macek, Director &amp; Chairman (until November 2003)  Professor James Angus (from July 2003)  Ms Rosanne Cunningham  Mr Malcolm Daubney (from January 2003)  Professor John Funder AO  Mr Graeme Houghton  Mr John Jeffries  Hon. Dr Barry Jones AO  Professor Richard Larkins AO (until July 2003)  Dr Mark McCombe  Mr Philip Molyneux, Treasurer  Professor Hugh R. Taylor AC, Managing Director  Mr David Welsh  Hon. Dr Michael Wooldridge (from July 2003)  Company Secretary: Mr David Doyle</p> <p><b>Centre for Eye Research Australia Finance and Audit Committee</b>  Mr Philip Molyneux, Chairman  Mr Charles Macek (until November 2003)  Ms Tina McMeckan (from November 2003)  Professor Hugh R. Taylor AC  Mr David Welsh</p> <p><b>Investment Committee</b>  Mr Charles Macek  Mr Philip Molyneux</p> <p><b>Centre for Eye Research Australia Research Committee</b>  Associate Professor Justin O'Day, Chairman  Professor James Angus  Professor John Funder AO  Mr Philip Molyneux  Professor Terence Nolan  Professor Hugh R. Taylor AC</p>	<p><b>Eye Research Australia Foundation</b>  <b>Patron:</b>  John Landy AC, MBE, Governor of Victoria</p> <p><b>Governors:</b>  Mr Brian Ansell  Professor Emeritus Gerard Crock AO  Mr Andrew Fairley</p> <p><b>Trustees:</b>  Professor John Funder AO, Chairman  Professor Gerard Crock AO (until September 2003)  Professor Derek Denton (until July 2003)  Mr David Doyle, Secretary  Mrs Anne Grindrod  Ms Belinda Hope  Mr Charles Macek  Mr Philip Molyneux, Treasurer  Mr David Rath  Professor Hugh R. Taylor AC</p> <p><b>Fundraising:</b>  Mr Greg Romanes, Executive Director (until December 2003)  Ms Elizabeth Douglas, MA, Bequests Manager</p> <p><b>Fundraising Committee:</b>  Mr Peter Nankivell, Chairman  Mrs Myriam Wylie, Deputy Chairman  Mrs Susie Daniell  Associate Professor Elizabeth Dax AM  Mr Roger Harley  Ms Barbara Inglis  Commander Tony Murphy AFSM  Mrs Sally O'Day  Mr Andrew Skinner  Professor Hugh R. Taylor AC</p>
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# Centre for Eye Research Australia Board Eye Research Australia Foundation Trustees Centre and Department of Ophthalmology Staff

## Head of Department and Ringland Anderson Professor of Ophthalmology

Professor Hugh Ringland Taylor AC,  
MD FRANZCO

## Corneal Research Unit including Lions Corneal Donation Service

Dr Grant Snibson, MB BS DipRACOG  
FRCOphth (UK) FRANZCO FRACS  
FAICD, Senior Lecturer, Medical Director,  
Lions Corneal Donation Service  
Dr Graeme Pollock, PhD, Deputy Director,  
Lions Corneal Donation Service  
Ms Melinda Cain, RN, Senior Research  
Nurse, Senior Clinical Trial Co-ordinator  
Mr Anthony Carnicelli, BOrth, Transplant  
Co-ordinator, Lions Corneal Donation  
Service (from July 2003)  
Mr Marios Constantinou, BSc (Hons) BOrth,  
Research Assistant (from November 2003)  
Dr Prema Finn, PhD, Transplant  
Co-ordinator, Lions Corneal  
Donation Service  
Ms Melissa Goodman, BSc (Hons),  
Transplant Co-ordinator, Lions Corneal  
Donation Service (until April 2003)

## Melbourne Excimer Laser Group

Mr Terry Couper, BAppSc (Orth), MOAA,  
Unit Manager  
Ms Kate Craig, BSc (Orth), Orthoptist  
Ms Caroline Gibbs, BSc (Orth), Orthoptist  
Ms Ilona Probyn, Receptionist

## Eye Health Promotion Unit

Associate Professor Jill Keeffe, PhD,  
Principal Research Fellow, Unit Head  
Dr Alex Harper, FRANZCO FRACS,  
Senior Lecturer  
Ms Sharon Amira, Research Assistant  
(from September 2003)

Ms Karen Bradshaw, DipDT, Cert Health  
Promotion (Oral), Cert Health Promotion,  
Senior Research Fellow, Program  
Manager (until May 2003)  
Mr Marios Constantinou, BSc (Hons) BOrth,  
Research Assistant (from September 2003)  
Mr John Ferraro, BSc BOrth,  
Research Assistant  
Ms Jennifer Hassell, BA BAppSc DipEd,  
Research Assistant  
Dr Ecosse Lamoreux, BEd Grad Dip (Sports  
Sc) M App Sc PhD, Research Fellow  
Ms Melanie Larizza, BBSc Grad Dip (Sec),  
Research Assistant  
Mrs Leanne Mazzoni, BAppSc (Hons),  
Research Assistant  
Dr RoseAnne Misajon, BA BSc (Hons) PhD,  
Senior Research Assistant  
Ms Tamara Pollard, BOptom, Project Officer  
(until August 2003)  
Mr Todd Robin, MHS, Research Fellow  
(until May 2003)  
Mr John Simpson, Project Officer (until June  
2003), Program Manager (from July 2003)  
Ms Jessica Towers, BA (Hons), Administrative  
Assistant (from November 2003)  
Dr Elaine Wong, MB BS, Research Associate



*Dr Prema Finn, Dr Graeme Pollock  
and Mr Anthony Carnicelli of the  
Lions Corneal Donation Service*



*Eye Health Promotion Unit staff*



# Centre for Eye Research Australia Board Eye Research Australia Foundation Trustees Centre and Department of Ophthalmology Staff



*Dr Khin Zaw Aung from  
the Macular Research Unit*

## **Postgraduate Students**

Ms Shiao-Lan Chou, Adv Dip Bus MComm  
Ms Gillian Cochrane, BSc(Hons) MCOptom  
Dr Claire Hooper, MB BS  
Dr Van Lansingh, MD  
Dr Reuben Phiri, MBCHB Dip Ophth

## **Advanced Medical Science Students**

Ms Sing Pey Chow  
Ms Kay Yan Lo  
Ms Cheryl Leung

## **WHO Visiting Fellow**

Dr Huanming Liu

## **Department of Human Services Public Health Trainee**

Dr Alison Seccull, MB BS MPH

## **Glaucoma Research Unit**

Dr Julian Rait, FRANZCO FRACS,  
Senior Lecturer, Unit Head  
Ms Danielle Healey, BSc (Hons), Grad Dip  
(Couns), Research Co-ordinator  
Associate Professor David Mackey,  
MD MB BSTas, FRANZCO FRACS  
Ms Rachel McKinstry, BOrth, Grad Dip  
Journ, Orthoptist

## **Macular Research Unit**

Associate Professor Robyn Guymmer, MB BS  
PhD FRANZCO, RVIB Research Fellow,  
Unit Head  
Dr Penny Allen, MB BS FRANZCO, Fellow  
Dr Khin Zaw Aung, MB BS (Rgn) GDipAppSci  
(Health Stats), Research Assistant  
(from July 2003)  
Ms Melinda Cain, RN, Senior Research  
Nurse, Senior Clinical Trial Co-ordinator  
Mr Anthony Carnicelli, BOrth, Research  
Assistant, Clinical Trial Co-ordinator  
(until July 2003)  
Mr Peter Dimitrov, BOrth, Orthoptic  
Research Assistant  
Dr Colin Foo, MB BS FRANZCO,  
Retinal Fellow (until June 2003)  
Dr Alex Harper, FRANZCO FRACS,  
Senior Lecturer  
Ms Nicola Hunt, BSc (Hons), BOrth,  
Research Assistant (from August 2003)  
Dr Lyndell Lim, MB BS, Retinal Fellow  
(from July 2003)  
Mrs Caroline Nicholas, BSocSc (Hons)  
(Family Studies), Research Assistant  
(until December 2003)  
Dr Salmaan Qureshi, MB BS FRANZCO, Fellow  
Dr Liubov Robman, PhD MB BS (Alma-Alta),  
Research Fellow  
Dr Gabriella Tikellis, BSc Grad Dip  
(Epi & Biostat) PhD, Research Assistant  
Mrs Fulya Torun, Administrative Assistant

## **Postgraduate Students**

Dr Matthew Chamberlain, MB BS  
Dr Anthony Chiu, MB BS  
Dr Claire Hooper, MB BS  
Dr Niro Narendran, BSc MB BS  
MRCOphth (UK)



*Macular Research Unit staff*

# Centre for Eye Research Australia Board Eye Research Australia Foundation Trustees Centre and Department of Ophthalmology Staff



*Ocular Genetics Unit and McComas  
Family Laboratory staff*

## **Ocular Genetics Unit and McComas Family Laboratory**

Dr Paul Baird, BSc (Hons), PhD,  
Research Fellow, Unit Head  
Ms Diep Chu, BSc, Research Assistant  
(until July 2003)  
Ms Pam Garoufalidis, BSc BScOrthop,  
Research Orthoptist (from October 2003)  
Ms Elizabeth Guida, BSc (Hons),  
Lab Manager, Senior Research Assistant  
(until April 2003)  
Dr Liam Lim, MB BS  
Ms Andrea Richardson, BSc (Hons), Research  
Assistant, Lab Manager (from May 2003)

## **Postgraduate Students**

Dr Matthew Chamberlain, MB BS  
Dr Niro Narendran, BSc MB BS MRCOphth (UK)

## **Advanced Medical Science Student**

Mr Shane Battye

## **Undergraduate Summer Student**

Ms Debbie Farrell (from December 2003)

## **Retinal Vascular Unit**

Associate Professor Tien Yin Wong,  
MB BS MPH FRCS MMed PhD, Unit Head  
Mrs Fulya Torun, Administrative Assistant

## **Research Staff**

Dr Richard Le Mesurier, FRCS FRCOphth,  
IAPB/Vision 2020 Regional Co-ordinator  
(Western Pacific)  
Dr Wendy Marshman, MB BS MD FRANZCO  
FRACS, Senior Lecturer  
Dr Hien Thi Van Vu, BSc (Hons) PhD,  
Biostatistician

## **Undergraduate and Registrar Teaching**

Dr Deb Colville, MB BS FRANZCO FRACS,  
Grad Dip Epidemiology MPH Grad Cert  
Vocational Ed & Training  
(Clinical Instruction)



*Dr Deb Colville (centre), Ms Tamara Pollard (left) and Dr RoseAnne Misajon (right)  
with the Centre's four AMS students*





# Centre for Eye Research Australia Board Eye Research Australia Foundation Trustees Centre and Department of Ophthalmology Staff



*Ms Sarah Squire of the  
Visual Communications Unit*

## **Administrative Staff**

Mr Rod Watts, MBA FCPA FPNA,  
Executive Manager  
Ms Judith Carrigan, BSc (Hons) BA,  
Communications Co-ordinator  
Mr Peter Coates, Finance and Personnel  
Assistant  
Ms Irina Kalpakidis, BBus,  
Finance and Administrative Assistant  
(from March 2003)  
Ms Anna Koutsiafaras, Administrative  
Assistant and Receptionist  
(from July 2003)  
Ms Amanda Lancaster, Administrative  
Assistant and Clinical Receptionist  
(from March 2003)

Ms Jennifer Marshallsea, Finance  
and Administration Manager  
(from September 2003)  
Mr Colin Miles, BAppSc (Computer Science  
& Software Engineering), IT Manager  
(from May 2003)  
Mr Trevor Stone, Dip Info Tech, Cert Bus,  
Network Administrator (until April 2003)  
Ms Fiona Warden, Grants Administration  
Officer

## **Visual Communications Unit**

Ms Joanna Ong, BAppSc (Photography),  
Unit Head  
Ms Sarah Squire, BAppSc (Photography),  
Technical Assistant



*Administrative staff*



# Centre for Eye Research Australia Board Eye Research Australia Foundation Trustees Centre and Department of Ophthalmology Staff

## Professors Emeritus

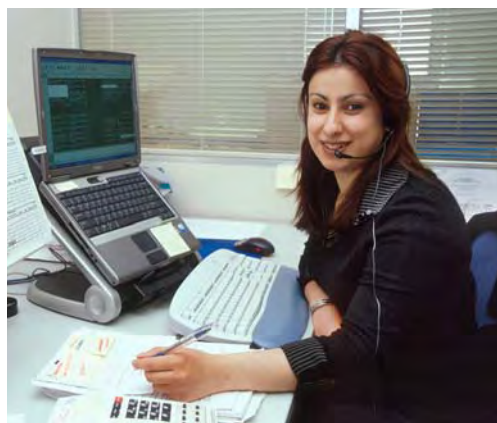
Professor Gerard W. Crock AO, KStJ MB BS  
FRCS FRACP FRANZCO FRACS  
Associate Professor Hector Maclean, MB  
ChB St And DO Lond. FRCS Edin.  
FRANZCO FRCOphth

## Principal Fellows

Associate Professor David A. Mackey  
Associate Professor Catherine A. McCarty  
Associate Professor Justin O'Day

## Senior Fellows

Dr Anne M.V. Brooks  
Dr William Campbell  
Dr Trevor Gin  
Dr Robert S. Grogan  
Dr Anthony J.H. Hall  
Dr Peter N. Henderson  
Dr Alan Isaacs  
Dr Alicia Jenkins  
Dr Lionel M. Kowal  
Dr James H. La Nauze  
Dr Mark G. Lazarus  
Dr Sanduk Ruit  
Dr Richard J. Stawell  
Dr Robert H. West



*Ms Melanie Larizza from the  
Eye Health Promotion Unit*



*Dr Hien Vu, Biostatistician*

## Fellows

Dr Penelope J. Allen  
Dr Lawrence Carroll  
Dr Richard B. Clark  
Dr Joan M. Cosgrove  
Mr Terry Couper  
Dr Jamie E. Craig  
Dr Mark Daniell  
Mr Andrew Dudley  
Dr James E. Elder  
Dr Kevin P.Y. Foo  
Dr Wilson J. Heriot  
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Dr Elaine Y.H. Wong  
Dr David M.S. Workman  
Dr Julian Sack  
Dr Laurence J. Sullivan



# Eye Research Australia Foundation Report

## This has been a year of growth for the Eye Research Australia Foundation



**This has been a year of growth for the Eye Research Australia Foundation. Income from our major fundraising event, the Melbourne Marathon, doubled, as did the number of donors and the number of notified bequests. In addition, we have received strong support from a number of corporate donors including Alcon Laboratories (Australia) Pty Ltd, the Clemenger Foundation, John T. Reid Charitable Trusts, Sunglass Hut International, and the University of Melbourne Floral Group.**

The mission of the Foundation is to enable the further development of eye research. Our focus is thus on raising funds through our regular mail approaches and events. However, success in this endeavour is dependent upon public awareness of both the Foundation and of the need for eye research. Many people still believe that the majority of vision impairment cannot be treated. In particular, it is often erroneously accepted that it is part of the ageing process that cannot be alleviated.

The Foundation's biannual newsletter, Vision, is an excellent way to extend the community's understanding of eye disease, as are our brochures on the five main causes of vision impairment: Aged Macular Degeneration, Cataract, Diabetic Retinopathy, Glaucoma and Refractive Error. They are available free of charge from the Foundation and from ophthalmologists. Written in lay language, they outline the causes, symptoms, risk factors and treatment of each condition, and also include details of current research and sources of further information.

Our donors are the most important element in the achievement of our mission. We value every donor and each donation, large or small. We show our appreciation in a number of ways, not least the prompt banking and acknowledgement of donations. In 2002 we established an honour board to record the names of our major donors and a beautifully inscribed donor book listing the names of our regular donors. Each year more names are added to both these forms of permanent recognition, provided the donors have given their consent.

The success of our mission is also dependent upon the growth of our cohort of donors. Since our establishment in 1996, we have built up a loyal and supportive group of donors. The continuing need for increased funds and the natural attrition of our donor list means that we need regularly to recruit new donors. However, we are mindful of ensuring that this is achieved in the most cost effective way. We are also vigilant about the integrity of our donor list and use an Australia Post bar-coding and address verification program.

Towards the end of the year, the Trustees agreed to some administrative changes designed to strengthen the public profile of the Foundation and to emphasise its relation to the Centre for Eye Research Australia. The Foundation and the Centre now share the same logo and stationery design. The word "Australia" has been added to the Foundation's title, and the key words, "Eye Research Australia", are prominent in the names of both organisations on stationery and publications. In an era when branding is an integral part of marketing, these changes will assist us to provide a consistent message about the critical importance of eye research.

# Eye Research Australia Foundation Report

The Foundation calendar comprises a series of regular events for our donors and some one-off highlights. Donors are always welcome at the launch of the Annual Report at which researchers from the Centre present updates on their work. In addition, our program of tours of the Centre for Eye Research Australia continues to receive very positive feedback. These tours enable our donors to meet our researchers in their laboratories. Supporters are rightly concerned that their donations are applied to essential work and our guests leave in awe of the way the Centre's internationally applauded research is undertaken in such modest facilities.

In July, the Governor of Victoria, John Landy AC MBE, and Mrs Landy kindly hosted a late afternoon reception at Government House for the Foundation and also to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the University of Melbourne Department of Ophthalmology from which the Centre for Eye Research Australia developed. Mr Landy, who is Patron of the Foundation, presented Honorary Governor awards to Mr Brian Ansell, Professor Emeritus Gerard Crock AO and Mr Andrew Fairley in recognition of their long service to the Eye Research Australia Foundation and, prior to that, to the Ansell Ophthalmology Foundation.

**The success of our mission is also dependent upon the growth of our cohort of donors. Since our establishment in 1996, we have built up a loyal and supportive group of donors.**



*The Governor of Victoria, John Landy AC MBE, presents an Honorary Governor award to Professor Emeritus Gerard Crock AO, in recognition of his long service to the Foundation*



# Eye Research Australia Foundation Report

Our main fundraising event this year was the Melbourne Marathon in October from which we raised more than \$80,000. Most of our team of 94 walked the half marathon or the fun run of 10.4 kms. Thanks to Ms Lihla Wyles and four members of the Association of Massage Therapists Aust. Inc. who generously donated their time and skills, we were able to offer each team member a 20-minute massage. This was a strong incentive for participants and was greatly appreciated by everyone. We were also grateful for the support of Ego Sun Sense sunscreen, and Go Natural Energy Bars and Toscano's of Kew who provided part of the welcome sustenance at our hospitality marquee. What made the event an outstanding success, however, were the participants, their sponsors and the ever-generous donors of the Foundation, many of whom also responded to our annual appeals.



*Professor Taylor, the Hon. Bronwyn Pike MP, Minister for Health, and the Hon. Glenyys Romanes MLC proudly display their medals after participating in the Melbourne Marathon in October*



*Associate Professor Robyn Guymer addresses guests at one of the tours of the Centre*

The Foundation's Bequest Program continues to grow. We need to build up a substantial capital fund to enable the Centre's research to be expanded on a long-term basis and it is bequests that will make this possible. Only the interest from this capital fund will be applied to eye research, the principal remaining in perpetuity. Leaving a bequest is thus a practical way to make a permanent contribution to eye research. Some believe that bequests have to be large but this is not the case at all. A small proportion of a residual estate represents a greatly appreciated gift to the Foundation.

This year of growth would not have been possible without our volunteers. For their assistance in the administration of the office we offer our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Maureen Moore, Ms Leanne Nguyen, Mr Jude Sebastian and Mr Ken Wright. They not only give their time and talents each week to assist with sometimes repetitive tasks, but they bring to the office a range of life experiences that helps to make it such an enjoyable work place.



# Eye Research Australia Foundation Report

Mr Greg Romanes, Executive Director of the Foundation, left us at the end of the year to take up new challenges. We thank him for his involvement in the development of the Foundation, especially in the area of donor acquisition, and wish him every success for the future.

The Committee members also give generously of their time, providing advice and support in the form of attendance at events and sponsors for our fundraising events. Mr Peter Nankivell has once again chaired the Fundraising Committee with verve, leading by example with his unfailing support. We thank all members of the Committee for their efforts during 2003. At the end of the year we were sorry to farewell two foundation members, Mrs Sally O'Day and Mrs Myriam Wylie, the Deputy Chair. Despite having many demands on their time, they have given sterling service to the Foundation over a number of years. We greatly appreciate all that they and their husbands did to help us and we will miss them.



Professor John Funder AO,  
Foundation Chairman

The Foundation is governed by a board of Trustees chaired by Professor John Funder AO. They provide specialist guidance and are always willing to make themselves available for consultation. We place on record our sincere appreciation of their commitment. This year we were sad to farewell Professor Emeritus Gerard Crock AO and Professor Derek Denton, two long-serving Trustees who were also members of the Ansell Ophthalmology Foundation. Between them they have given many years of service to eye research. Though incredibly busy, they always made us feel that they had all the time in the world for the Foundation. We were also sorry to farewell Mrs Annie Grindrod and thank her for her contribution, particularly in the area of governance.

Finally the Foundation would like to thank the administrative staff of the Centre, in particular Mr Rod Watts and Mr Peter Coates, Ms Judy Carrigan and Ms Anna Koutsiafaras, and all the staff who assist us in the daily operation of the Foundation. Professor Hugh Taylor AC, Managing Director of the Centre for Eye Research Australia, is always willing to give his time to assist the Foundation; whether it be as a Trustee, Committee member, leader of tours, or Marathon runner extraordinaire, nothing is ever too much trouble. In both his world-renowned research and his leadership in many spheres of eye health, he provides an inspiring example.

With the support of our donors and volunteers we look forward to 2004.

## Donations to the Eye Research Australia Foundation

may be made via:

- **Annual appeal:**  
reply-paid coupons  
mailed in May and October
- **Telephone:**  
on 1300 737 757
- **Web site:**  
[www.eraf.org.au](http://www.eraf.org.au)
- **Our Community:**  
the national donation  
service that operates at  
no cost to donors or the  
charities they support:  
[www.ourcommunity.com.au](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au)



# Centre for Eye Research Australia Ltd

## Abridged Financial Statements

### for the year ended 31 December 2003

<b>Income and Expenditure</b>	<b>2003 \$</b>	<b>2002 \$</b>
Revenue		
Federal Government	281,860	416,476
State Government	291,782	314,552
Charitable Contributions	2,315,579	2,468,518
	<b>2,889,221</b>	<b>3,199,546</b>
Less: Expenditure	<b>2,884,419</b>	<b>2,587,218</b>
Surplus (Deficit) for the year *	<b>4,802</b>	<b>612,328</b>
<b>Balance Sheet</b>		
Current Assets	1,429,515	927,106
Non-Current Assets	266,220	244,155
Total Assets	<b>1,695,735</b>	<b>1,171,261</b>
Current Liabilities		
Payables	610,183	103,547
Provisions	75,328	57,838
Other	274,563	279,017
Total Current Liabilities	<b>960,074</b>	<b>440,402</b>
Non-Current Liabilities	-	-
Total Liabilities	<b>960,074</b>	<b>440,402</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>735,661</b>	<b>730,859</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>735,661</b>	<b>730,859</b>

\* The Centre for Eye Research Australia Limited is operated as a not for profit organisation. Accordingly, accumulated surpluses are held in the form of working capital and fixed assets to support committed and planned research projects.

# Eye Research Australia Foundation

## Abridged Financial Statements

### for the year ended 31 December 2003

<b>Income and Expenditure</b>	<b>2003 \$</b>	<b>2002 \$</b>
Revenues from ordinary activities	327,692	353,344
Less: Expenditure	323,518	323,849
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	<b>4,174</b>	<b>29,495</b>
<b>Balance Sheet</b>		
Current Assets	265,057	250,400
Non-Current Assets	0	3,107
Total Assets	<b>265,057</b>	<b>253,507</b>
Total Liabilities	<b>26,273</b>	<b>18,897</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>238,784</b>	<b>234,610</b>
<b>Funds and Reserves</b>	<b>238,784</b>	<b>234,610</b>



# Acknowledgements

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**Messrs John Clarke & Brian Dawe**

**Mr William Fazio, Partner, Herbert Geer & Rundle**

**Mr Peter Jovic, Partner, KPMG**

**Ms Sarah Lacey, Messrs Wayne McMaster,  
Ashley Midalia and Stephen Natoli of Allens Arthur Robinson**

**Ms Jenni Lightowlers, Partner, Francis Abourizk Lightowlers**

**Mr Lindsay Davies, J&J Printing (Aust)**

**Mr Peter Nankivell, Partner, Herbert Geer & Rundle**

**Ms Yvonne von Hartel and staff, peckvonhartel**

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