

MARCH 2019

DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THE GIFT OF SIGHT

GIVE THE DOCTOR SOME ROOM!

Our major fundraiser will create a more open space for surgery with considerable benefits.

An eye surgery operating theatre can get crowded. The surgeon, the anaesthetist, theatre nurses, and of course the patient, are all in there. Throw in an intern or resident learning vital new skills, and a support person for the patient... that's a fair number of bodies and twice as many elbows.

What if the surgeon had more room? What if there were more opportunities for trainees and visiting experts to watch the operation in progress, in intricate detail, without being in the way?

Right now, Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation is raising funds to give an operating theatre a makeover that will take much of the equipment off the floor and suspend it from the ceiling.



New equipment and more space will make a real difference in the theatre.

A collection of state-of-the-art technologies will enable our skilled surgeons to work more efficiently and less invasively. Crystal-clear 4K screens will reveal the surgery area under brilliant new lights.

The result? More efficient and effective surgeries, saving time and improving training.

We're helping to buy some superb gear to fit out the theatre, such as

- a surgical video machine that can work with a range of eye operations, particularly the naso-lacrimal duct, the "waterworks" of the eye;
- brilliant new lights;
- a StealthStation navigation device, an imaging array that lets the surgeon accurately target the treatment area, through non-invasive 3D visualisations.

The technology will also be a great teaching aid, training the next generation of surgeons. The whole team can watch.

Head of Oculoplastic Surgery, Associate Professor Ross Bengier, tells us how thrilled the team are by the prospect: "Through this support we'll be getting a fantastic new OR lighting system.



A/Prof. Ross Bengier

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With the old system we had to bring someone in to move the lights. These you can move with one hand. And there's none of the shadowing effect, where the surgeon gets in the road of the light. In fact the image is vividly shown on a screen in real time."

The StealthStation will be a boon for one of the most challenging surgeries, of the orbital area behind the eye. "There's a jelly-like fat there hiding the optic nerve. This viewing system will give us amazing accuracy and safety. We'll clearly see how far our tools are from a tumour or the nerve."

The high initial cost of the StealthStation will be covered by the foundation. After that software upgrades can be easily afforded by the hospital's own budget. "Everybody is very excited, and grateful for the Foundation's support," says Ross.

The new theatre will especially suit oculoplastic surgery – from traumatic injuries, to unresponsive eyelids, to defects around the eye in newborn children.

We started fundraising for this just before Christmas. On this page you can read one inspiring letter that shows how much the campaign has touched people.

Help us today to make the new operating theatre a reality. A donation for this new theatre will make a serious difference where it counts, on the ground, in the surgery, for every patient, and take some of the mental load off the doctors as well.

An inspired donor writes:

This Christmas donation is a little late – but better than never.

I'm excited about this new project – a futuristic state-of-the-art operating theatre with a lot of equipment suspended from the ceiling. Paint a few stars on a blue background and patients will think they're in space.

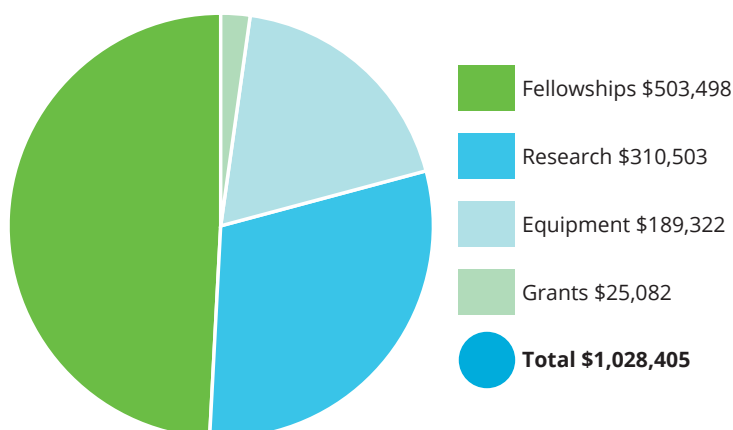
I view all this with great wonderment, marvelling at the great strides modern technology is continually making. So many people will benefit from this, and the associated devices mentioned in your letter.

What next? I'll watch this space as eagerly as Neil Armstrong watched his.

Best wishes for your continued good work.

Ailsa N.

Every dollar counts – where your donations went in 2018



MAJOR DONORS CREATE EXTRA-ORDINARY OPPORTUNITIES

A significant donation can mean something can happen – something that might have seemed but a gleam of a dream.

Keith Walkerden has made two major donations to the Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation, both in the field of eye cancer treatment.

His first gift a few years ago helped the Hospital to provide improved outcomes in radiation therapy for intraocular melanoma, a rare type of eye cancer. The treatment is to sew radioactive “plaques” onto the eyeball and remove them soon after. Traditionally the plaques are of Iodine 125: there’s an excellent 95% cure rate, but vision can start to decrease within two years of treatment.

With a newer isotope, Ruthenium 106, the cure rate is just as good, but vision is better preserved. Even many years after the radiation, most affected individuals can keep good sight in the treated eye.

The problem is cost. Ruthenium 106 eye plaques cost over \$30,000 each, making them virtually unaffordable, even for Sydney Eye Hospital, which is the sole provider of this treatment in NSW.

Enter our generous benefactor ... And his gift has “kept on giving” as NSW Health has since agreed to keep supporting the purchase of the Ruthenium plaques, which need to be renewed annually due to the radioactive half-life of that isotope.



Keith Walkerden

Keith’s second donation has given us the chance to have our first ever Fellowship in Ocular Oncology (see below).

So we’d like to say thank you. Thank you from the Foundation. Thank you from the treating doctors Conway and Giblin. And thank you from those patients who have benefited from this wonderful advance in eye cancer treatment.

Interested in being a major donor?

If you would like to make a major donation supporting the Eye Hospital, we are happy to discuss options and targets. The hospital has ongoing needs and a wishlist and we’d love to match those dreams with your own.

New fellowship focuses on eye cancer

Since early November, Dr Victoria Mouvet from the Jules-Gonin Eye Hospital in Lausanne, Switzerland, has been working at Sydney Eye Hospital. Victoria has taken up our first ever Fellowship in Ocular Oncology. She already has strong knowledge in the area. The Jules-Gonin Hospital has notable expertise in managing eye tumours in children and adults.

After four months in Sydney Dr Mouvet will do four more at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital in Melbourne before finishing with four months in Brisbane.



Dr Giblin, Dr Mouvet and Dr Conway

Sydney Eye Hospital specialists Michael Giblin and Max Conway say they’re honoured to be supervising her – there has already been much cross fertilisation of ideas. We hope Victoria’s fellowship will prove to be the start of an enduring relationship between the two great hospitals from opposite sides of the world.

HOW TO DONATE...

 **DONOR HOTLINE** 02 9382 7408

 **ONLINE** www.sehf.org.au/donate

 **MAIL** Post the completed form below to
Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation

You can give the gift of sight

- A visiting Fellow in ocular oncology.
- A better source of radiation treatment.
- A state-of-the-art operating theatre.
- The latest & best equipment.

These are fund-raising goals of the Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation, all making a difference to the patients and doctors of the Hospital.

Your dollars are gifts – and in the end those gifts boil down to one thing – the gift of sight. Old or young, rich or poor, the Sydney Eye Hospital delivers extraordinary benefits to people in Australia and across the world.

Not everyone has the means to gift significant sums. Every dollar counts and is appreciated.

A bequest is your personal legacy to the future.

You can make provisions in your will to ensure that money, property or valuables from your estate are donated to the cause of your choice. It's a good idea to contact us first to make sure the instructions in your will are clear.

Your "delayed gift" can be an effective way to save the sight of thousands each year, buy crucial equipment and help to train eye surgeons. If you'd like to investigate the possibility of donating through a bequest, check the box in the donation form below. You can also contact the Foundation on (02) 9382 7408 or email bequest@sehf.org.au.

The support is truly appreciated.

Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation Board of Management

All Members of the Board of Management are financial members of the Foundation. They also give their time freely in the interests of enhancing the ability of Sydney Eye Hospital to provide first class eye care to the public of Sydney and beyond.

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YES! I WANT TO HELP SYDNEY EYE HOSPITAL TAKE EYE CARE TO A NEW LEVEL



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☐ Please deduct \$ _____ each month from my credit card until I advise otherwise.

Yes, I would like further information on (please tick) ☐ Bequests ☐ Planned Giving (eg: monthly)

☐ I have already included Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation in my Will ☐ Volunteering

All donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible, a receipt will be sent to you shortly.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY