



infocus

FOR A BETTER TOMORROW



MAY 2011

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was spent

Joy Mawson's *Gift from the Heart*

Remembering the Sydney Eye Hospital in her Will, Joy Mawson ensured that special commitment she had shown to people with eye diseases will continue beyond her lifetime.

Bequests are a very important source of funding for our research programs. Through her generosity of a bequest, our research programs continue to make real advances that can save many people's vision and spare their families and friends from a devastating loss of sight. This warm gesture of generosity ensures the continued ability of Sydney Eye Hospital to provide first class eye care to the public of Sydney and beyond.

It must be said that, despite the excellent support we are receiving from donors like Joy, there is an ongoing need for further donations to keep up with the latest technologies and equipment.

Joy's donation really makes a difference to the support we can provide to the Sydney Eye Hospital and research

into eye disease and the prevention of blindness. The gift of sight is such a wonderful thing. Most of the time we take our eyesight for granted, but when something happens and we lose it, then we realise 'what a real gift sight is'.

We would like you to let us know if you are planning to include the Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation in your Will. We would like to answer any questions you may have, acknowledge and recognise your generosity, and help you by providing the appropriate wording for your Will.

If you would like more information, please tick the Bequest box on the coupon or contact the Foundation's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Kevin Gardner, on (02) 9382 7408. Email: kevin.gardner@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au He will be happy to assist.



Fellowships

The Foundation funds a number of Fellowships involving the following specialists Units - Retinal, Glaucoma, Corneal, Oculoplastics, Intra - Ocular Implant and The Save Sight Institute within the Hospital. Candidates (Eye Doctors) for these Fellowships come from overseas and each position is for 12 months and includes a research component.

Sydney Eye Hospital benefits in many ways from these programs, including clinical research and publication both nationally and internationally. Sydney Eye Hospital is a teaching hospital and has a continuing program in place to teach qualified doctors to become Eye Specialists. These Registrars benefit in their training by the availability of already qualified Eye Doctors who are engaged full time for the period of their Fellowship. Some of these Fellows are from third world countries and return to their country with their skills enhanced from their 12 months in this fully operational Eye Hospital.

The following is an extract from the previous Graham Lovett Vitreoretinal Fellow Dr Saumil Sheth

“Considering the fact that Sydney Eye Hospital (SEH) is the ‘last word’ in retina care and referral for the state of New South Wales, it is no less than a heaven for retina Fellows to be exposed to and performing surgeries on cases of every kind and perplexity. It is difficult to comprehend that SEH, despite managing its humongous volume of over 2,000 surgeries a year in retina alone with such great panache, still succeeds in maintaining such a humble profile. Its Fellowship position advertisements are kept rather low key and are given, after rigorous scrutiny, to a select few. I do not know of many Fellowship positions where a Fellow could easily perform over 500 retinal surgical procedures within a year and get to work with such an immaculate mix of thinking minds, including Dr Justin Playfair, Dr Malcolm Capone, Dr Andrew Chang, Dr John Downie, Dr Alex Hunyor Jr, Dr Mark Gorbатов, Dr Ivan Ho and of course, Dr John Gregory-Roberts; each a master of the craft of

retinal surgery in their own right. I have never seen eight perspectives to any case be put together and dealt with such finesse. It was like reading eight textbooks on surgical retina that had been woven into one. It was like immersing oneself into the science of surgical retina that had been made into an art.”

“The Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation deserves the final applause, without which the above would not have been possible. In reciprocation, I can assure Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation that it will be fulfilling a noble cause towards educating eye care professionals that will practise and pass on skills to areas, states and countries where they are most needed.”

The current Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation Fellows are as follows:

Dr Vincent Dubois – Glaucoma Fellow is a UK based Ophthalmologist, trained in Liverpool - a centre of excellence in Glaucoma. He is hoping to gain further surgical skills here and experience patients with complex and challenging glaucomas in Sydney. He is trained in an alternative form of glaucoma surgery, not practised at the Sydney Eye Hospital. He hopes to share that training with local experts to help improve the care of glaucoma patients in New South Wales. Along with his colleague, Dr Jay Yohendran, they are responsible for the care of glaucoma-related emergency admission.





Dr Alexandros S. Ioannidis –

Corneal Fellow is from Greece.

He has completed his specialist registrar training at Moorfields Eye Hospital in the UK. Together with the corneal consultants, he deals with patients with various corneal

pathologies from infection, inflammation,

genetic or degenerative causes. Patients requiring corneal transplants are likewise managed by the corneal team.

Dr Selva Raja – Graham Lovett

Vitreoretinal Fellow hails from

Malaysia. He completed his ophthalmology training in 2006 and is accredited by the Ministry of Health,

Malaysia. He began his Fellowship training in Malaysia in vitreoretinal surgery in 2009. He is currently continuing his training in Sydney Eye Hospital as the Graham Lovett Vitreoretinal Fellow. He will return to Malaysia on completion of his Fellowship to contribute to retinal services in a public hospital in Kuala Lumpur.



Dr Ryan Rush – Dr Eddie

Donaldson Vitreoretinal

Fellow is an American based Ophthalmologist, trained at the University of Texas Health

Science Centre. In 2008 he

took up a Retinal Fellowship at the

Bascom Palmer Eye Institute of the University of Miami.

Dr James Leong – Oculoplastics Fellow

completed his ophthalmology training

at Sydney Eye Hospital. He works with the

oculoplastic unit in the management

of diseases affecting the eyelids,

lacrimal system and orbit. This

includes reconstructive surgery

following removal of eyelid tumours

and dealing with emergency trauma

cases. He plans to undertake further overseas

Fellowship training in North America.



Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation Postgraduate Scholarship Awards

Over the years, the Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation (SEHF) has generously provided critical support to the Save Sight Institute, enabling us to launch innovative eye research projects. The resulting impetus to research has often led to these project leaders being able to generate ongoing funding from national and international funding bodies such as the National Health and Medical Research Council (Australia) and the National Institute of Health (USA) respectively. In a similar 'value adding' vein, the SEHF recently provided funding for postgraduate scholarships to assist deserving students to get into their chosen eye research program. Postgraduate students are the lifeblood of any biomedical research organisation and the Save Sight Institute is no exception, with our many postgraduates contributing significantly to our scientific successes and high international standing.

Importantly, the SEHF scholarships have allowed us to attract new research talent. Awards have been given to Ms Narelle Jay and Ms Sook Hyun Chung. Subsequently,

through their outstanding contributions to understanding the molecular basis of retinal degenerative diseases, Narelle and Sook won highly competitive Australian Postgraduate Awards that will provide support for the remainder of their studies. Other students who have received SEHF postgraduate scholarships are Mr Tony Succor and Ms Michelle Hooi. Tony is currently writing his PhD thesis on the subject of interactive teaching methods in Ophthalmology and will submit early this year. Michelle has already published one paper on her cataract research work, has two others in the pipeline and will complete her PhD studies later this year.

Without the SEHF scholarships, we would not have been able to attract these talented students to the Save Sight Institute. Through helping us add this 'new blood', the SEHF has made a very important contribution towards ensuring that strong eye research activity continues on the Sydney Hospital & Eye Hospital Campus for many years to come.

How the money was spent in 2010

Over the years the Foundation has managed to provide more than \$8 million for the benefit of Sydney Eye Hospital. This in turn benefits many thousands of public patients attending the Hospital. With the help of our loyal supporters, we have assisted with the building of the new Eye Hospital in Macquarie Street, purchased state-of-the-art equipment and funded numerous research projects into the prevention of blindness.

Today, more than ever, with demand increasing, and government funding always under pressure, your generous support is vital to ensure that the Sydney Eye Hospital can continue to provide the excellent eye care that it has done for some 120 years.

Clinical Fellowships

Graham Lovett Vitreoretinal Fellowship - Dr. Shumil Sheth	\$46,000
Graham Lovett Vitreoretinal Fellowship - Dr. Selva Raja	\$545
Dr. Eddie Donaldson Vitreoretinal Fellowship - Dr. Rajesh	\$23,000
Dr. Eddie Donaldson Vitreoretinal Fellowship - Dr. Ryan Rush	\$23,470
Corneal Fellowship - Dr. Wanna Euasobhon	\$46,000
Glaucoma Fellowship - Dr. Assaf Kratz	\$46,000

Oculoplastic Fellowship - Dr. A. Segal	\$18,750
Oculoplastic Fellowship - Dr. James Leong	\$23,000
Save Sight Institute Fellowship - Dr. Victor Menezo	\$23,000
RANZCO Fee paid for two Fellows - Dr. A.S. Ioannidis & Dr. V Dubois	\$800
Immigration fees for two Fellows - Dr. A.S. Ioannidis & Dr. V Dubois	\$290
Bi-Annual Conference - Sydney Eye Hospital Alumni	\$2,875

Research

Save Sight Institute Fellowships - M. Hooi & T. Succar	\$25,000
Save Sight Institute Student Scholarship - Sook Hyun Chung	\$12,500
Glaucoma Study - Dr. Annat Mishra & Dr. Ivan Goldberg	\$1,275

Grants

Nurses Conference Grant including Orthoptists	\$10,000
Eye Operations DVD Grant	\$10,000

Equipment

Video Slit Lamp upgrade - Dr. John Grigg	\$90,282
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Total	\$402,787
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Keratoconus Research at Save Sight Institute

The Keratoconus Research Team has grown with the appointment of two new scientists. Dr Li Wen and Dr JingJing You have both become involved, but in different aspects of the research. Dr You will be looking at protein expression in tears and Dr Wen will be looking at aspects of the metabolic pathway that we have previously identified as being abnormal in keratoconus.

The other major initiative is the establishment of a keratoconus registry, which will allow all patients with keratoconus to be assessed. Information collected will allow a better and deeper understanding of many aspects of keratoconus, including the genetic causes.

The findings of our research will be presented at a

number of meetings. Dr Michele Madigan will present the results of our research at the upcoming Australia and New Zealand Cornea Society Meeting. Professor Gerard Sutton will present the research at the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology, the Cornea and Contact Lens Society meeting in Queenstown and the British Columbia Ophthalmology Society meeting in Vancouver.

Sydney University have reviewed the results of the research and have decided to extend the patent protection on the intellectual property.

The Keratoconus Research Team are very proud to be associated with and supported by the Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation and are working hard to help find a cure for this common and visually debilitating disease.