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FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

JUNE 2015

SIGHT-GIVING
TREATMENT

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MONTHLY
DONATION

2014 SPENDING

MAKE A BEQUEST

Lasting Results From New Sight-Giving Treatment

Australia's first patients to have their sight restored with a Boston Keratoprosthesis continue to do well nine months on.

The successful treatment for Marie Robinson and Alfred Lee was announced at Christmas in a letter to supporters of the Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation. The Boston Keratoprosthesis provides a solution for patients with corneal blindness who are unsuitable for a corneal graft.

A collaborative effort between Sydney Eye Hospital surgeons, partnering with the Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation, is bringing this new sight-giving treatment to Australians.

"Patients we are helping with the Boston Keratoprosthesis have lost surface stem cells from their corneas and have severe corneal scarring," explains surgeon Dr Greg Moloney. "Experience has shown that a corneal graft for these patients fails rapidly. Many artificial corneas have been designed over decades to meet this need. Now the Boston Keratoprosthesis has become the most prominent one worldwide. It was designed in the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary.

"This device is essentially a plastic telescope mounted within a rim of human corneal tissue. The device is fixed onto the surface of the patient's eye in a similar procedure to a standard corneal transplant. We have now transplanted three devices, thanks to funding from the Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation."



Australia's first Boston Keratoprosthesis recipient, Marie Robinson

First in Australia

Marie Robinson was the first person in Australia to receive a Boston Keratoprosthesis nine months ago. She was born with a genetic condition called Aniridia, which affects the entire eye, including the cornea.

Until the Boston Keratoprosthesis restored her vision last year, she lived in a visual world she describes as 'a blur'. She had just enough sight to see the movement of a hand in front of her eyes, but she couldn't make out the details of faces of loved ones.

Two corneal grafts had previously failed.

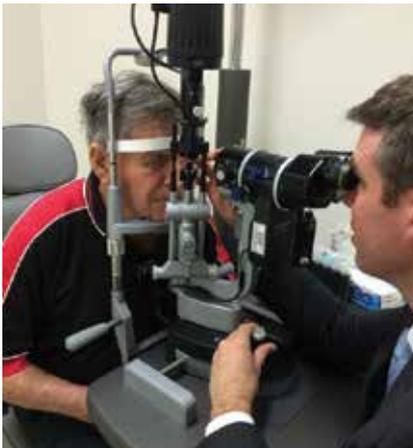
First in Australia (continued)

“After a long consent process, Marie agreed to be the first patient in Australia to receive the Boston Keratoprosthesis,” Dr Moloney reports. “After the device was transplanted into her eye, Marie’s vision improved to 6/60, which has allowed her to get around without assistance and return to work. She has seen her own face in a mirror for the first time in 30 years and has the confidence to walk to the shops on her own.

“Marie is the model patient, taking excellent care of her prosthesis by diligently applying drops and attending all follow-ups. Problems in her retina, caused by her Aniridia, still limit her vision in low lighting.”

Unexpected Consequences

Alfred Lee, the second patient to receive a Boston Keratoprosthesis, experienced unexpected consequences from the return of his sight.



Alfred Lee

“After the device was implanted into his eye, he was able to see his home environment and surrounds for the first time in many years,” Dr Moloney explains. “This prompted some overconfidence on his part. Trying out his new independent mobility, he tripped and required hip surgery. He has recovered well and is,

I hope, following our advice to take things more easily. His family reports that he is now able to administer all his own

drops and medications without their assistance for the first time in many years.

“Alfred had been highly dependent on his family and his life was mostly confined to his home. Corneal scarring and growth of blood vessels had caused low vision in both eyes.”

After he received a Boston Keratoprosthesis in his left eye, his vision improved to 6/9, better than the legal benchmark for driving.

“Our third patient, Sandra Cooper, also suffered from Aniridia and corneal blindness. Since she received a Boston Keratoprosthesis, her vision has improved to 6/36 and she no longer relies on a cane to walk.”

More People to Benefit

“We expect to provide these devices to two more people before the end of the year,” Dr Moloney predicts. “We have developed what we believe is a unique screening protocol for candidate patients. It involves testing the optic nerve’s electrical function and looking at the retina with a micro-endoscope to ensure we are only performing the procedure on eyes with visual potential. We intend to publish this protocol.

“We are very pleased with the progress of the Boston Keratoprosthesis program so far. The multidisciplinary care approach at Sydney Eye Hospital includes contributions from Dr Clement in the glaucoma service, Dr Gorbатов in the retinal service and Dr Fraser in neuro-ophthalmology. Dr Fraser and Dr Gorbатов have performed essential screening investigations to ensure only patients with visual potential receive the surgery. We look forward to offering more people the hope of restored vision.”

Consider a Monthly Donation

Monthly giving can make a significant difference to our fundraising capabilities and planning for future projects, as we know we have these pre-committed funds. By giving up a cup of coffee or tea once a week or even monthly, you could contribute \$5 to \$10 a month. It may only be small but the accumulation makes a significant difference to what we as a Foundation can do for eye disease and research.

If you would like to become a Monthly Donor, please tick the appropriate box on the enclosed coupon. Alternatively, for more information please contact Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation on (02) 9382 7408. Please help us to continue to develop Sydney Eye Hospital as a centre of ophthalmic excellence – your donation might just save your sight or a relative’s.

How the Money Was Spent in 2014

CLINICAL FELLOWSHIPS

Graham Lovett Vitreoretinal Fellowship	\$52,063
Dr. Eddie Donaldson Vitreoretinal Fellowship	\$52,417
Corneal Fellowship	\$50,993
Glaucoma Fellowship	\$49,064
Oculoplastic Fellowship	\$27,726
Professorial/Medical Retina Fellowships	\$166,440
Sub-Total	\$398,703

RESEARCH

Keratoconus Research Project	\$47,500
Corneal Unit Herpes Keratitis Study	\$20,000
The Serious Ocular Infections Research Project	\$13,109
Postgraduate Research Project	\$30,000
MRI Linking Eyes to MS	\$21,657
Sub-Total	\$132,266

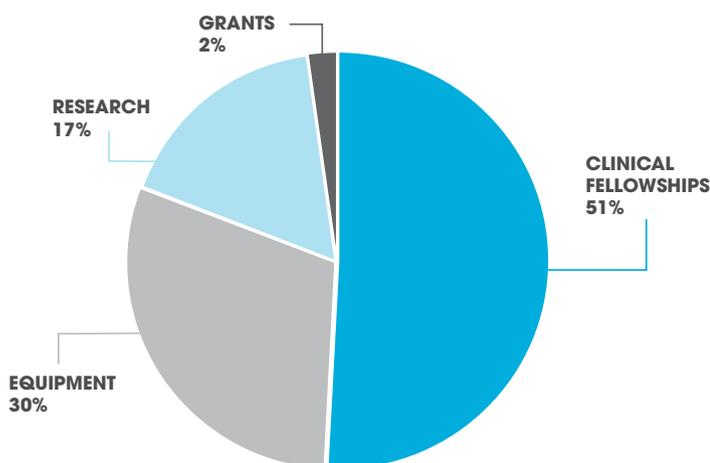
EQUIPMENT

Boston K PRO	\$16,500
Ellex YAG/SLT Laser Combination	\$58,990
Carl Zeiss Visucam for Operating Theatres	\$59,195
Bicentennial Eye Clinic – Casia SS-1000 OCT	\$93,841
Kogarah Eye Clinic – Instruments	\$4,072
Sub-Total	\$232,598

GRANTS

Nurses Grant including Orthoptists	\$11,145
Sydney Eye Hospital Alumni Grant	\$3,320
Sub-Total	\$14,465

TOTAL \$778,032



Letter of Appreciation

Dear all the staff at Sydney Eye Hospital,

I visited the Emergency Unit of Sydney Eye Hospital at midnight on Monday 9 March. I was in excruciating pain from a Primary Angle Closure on my right eye.

I had a Laser Peripheral Iridotomy with Dr. David Dudok. He shot one laser and it was done! I had the same treatment at another hospital but ended up needing a Surgical Iridectomy. From this previous experience, I was extremely worried and terrified about the prospect of Laser Iridectomy. When he calmly said to me 'done', I honestly couldn't believe it! When I finally realised that it was true, I was overwhelmed and cried. I still cry just thinking of it.

I can't thank the doctors and nurses enough who looked after me. A lady Ophthalmologist (I think her name was Katherine) who came to the hospital around 2am and a nurse, Briana Schwartz who held my head during the Laser Iridotomy so that I didn't faint (my blood pressure was 80/50). She frequently checked my condition and cheered me up.

Please accept my sincere appreciation. I hope Sydney Eye Hospital will continue to develop their first class eye care.

*Best Regards,
A.S*



A Bequest is a Gift of Vision – for Today and Tomorrow

A bequest is your personal legacy to the future. You can make provisions in your Will, ensuring that money, property or valuables from your estate are donated to the cause of your choice. We recently received this letter from an enthusiastic supporter. They wrote:

“I apologise for being unable to make donations at this time. Like many of your supporters, I am now a pensioner. However, I have included a request for information on how I can arrange a Bequest. I feel it is one way I can express my thanks for the help I received while in NSW. I do hope others read your IN-FOCUS Newsletter and decide to consider a Bequest. Keep up the wonderful work you do.” (T.F. Redcliffe).

We appreciate the dedication this supporter has shown by considering including us in their Will. Their enthusiasm for the work of the Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation continues through this warm gesture of generosity.

A Bequest is a 'delayed' gift to the Foundation on behalf of the Hospital. No matter how large or small, this is a simple but very effective way of helping the Sydney Eye Hospital. It means that you can make a valuable contribution to help save the sight of the thousands of adults and children who come to the Hospital for help each year.

Should you decide to make a Bequest to Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation, clear instructions in your Will are necessary to ensure your wishes are carried out. If you would like more information, please contact the Foundation's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Kevin Gardner, on (02) 9382 7408 or email: kevin.gardner@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au He will be pleased to assist.

Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation Board of Management

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

Current Board Members:

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- Prof. G. Sutton
- Mrs C. Wilkinson
- Mr K. Gardner (Chief Executive Officer)
- Mrs A. Sharma (Office Manager)

YES! I Proudly Support the Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation



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Mr Mrs Miss Ms Other _____

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

Please accept my gift of:

\$50
 \$35
 \$100
 OR My choice:

My cheque/money order is enclosed OR Please debit the amount above to my credit card:

 Security Code

Card No.

Cardholder's Name _____ Expiry Date _____ / _____

Signature _____

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

Thank you for your generosity.

All cheques and money orders to be made payable to: SYDNEY EYE HOSPITAL FOUNDATION.