



Hope after trauma

Peter Colquhoun, architect and “Better Homes and Gardens” star has lived in the public eye for more than two decades.

While holidaying near the Blue Mountains in 2021, his life took a dramatic turn when a splinter shot into his right eye while chopping wood.

Peter’s mum has suffered for many years with eye diseases and infections.

“As a seven-year-old, my mother said to me, ‘Listen, if anything happens with your eyes you’ve got to go to Sydney Eye Hospital.’ Fifty years later they were the first words that came to me,” says Peter.

Dr James Leong, a surgeon instrumental in setting up the Sydney Eye Hospital Trauma team explains that eyes are complex sensory organs involving many sub-specialties.

“When someone has a serious eye injury, coordination across cornea, retina, glaucoma and plastics is vital in order to strategically plan surgeries and rehab,” says Dr Leong.

The extent of Peter’s injuries was immediately obvious to Dr Alex Hamilton, the specialist who first saw Peter in Emergency and who took a lead role in the Trauma team caring for him.

“The splinter had a catastrophic effect. He was completely blinded in his right eye. All he could perceive was light and dark,” says Dr Hamilton.

To restore any useable vision, a team of sub-specialists had to create, match and implant an artificial iris along with performing reconstructive lens and cataract surgery.

Collaboration of the Trauma team meant that multiple complex surgeries could be done in one day at Sydney Eye



Peter and his mum

Hospital, a public hospital, where all the expertise is available freely to the community.

“My family would have done anything to get me in front of the best surgeons on the planet,” says Peter. “We didn’t have to do that. Sydney Eye Hospital is the best.”

The Trauma team and the multi-disciplinary program it offers is still in its infancy, but already it’s giving hope to patients like Peter.

With more funding, this sight-saving service can expand to be a platform for promoting prevention, teaching, and research.

FROM THE CEO

With thanks to our strong community of donors and grateful patients who give back, we continue to support the “best” eye hospital as Peter describes above. Recent donations have helped fund an Eye-drop App, the first of its kind in Australia; specialist ophthalmic education for two nurses; eye health education for outpatients; and two exciting research projects. Visit our website to learn more.

You may have heard that Australia will soon abolish cheques as currency. Please be assured you can always give online or call our Foundation during office hours (see details below).

Thank you for being on this journey with us and for supporting our vision to save yours.

Linda Fagan
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Introducing our 2024 Fellows



Medical Retinal Fellow Dr Adjoa Quaicoe graduated as an ophthalmologist from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana. Her residency was at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, and she is a member of the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons. At the end of her fellowship, Adjoa hopes to become Ghana's first female medical retina specialist and to establish a retina clinic which will serve as a referral centre.

Honorary Professorial (Uveitis) Fellow Dr Alex Newman is an ophthalmologist from Queensland. After obtaining his MD at Griffith University, he completed a Fellow year at the Mater Hospital Brisbane with subspecialty focus on ocular immunology, medical retina, ocular oncology and glaucoma. Alex is excited to join the Sydney Eye Hospital team and has future plans to provide a public ophthalmology service to deliver subspecialty uveitis and medical retina care.



Honorary Glaucoma Fellow Dr Yew Jen Goh (Vikki) graduated with honours in medicine from the National University of Ireland. She then accepted a scholarship to pursue her Master of Ophthalmology from the University of Malaya. Throughout her training, Vikki has actively participated in cataract camps and delivered talks at local and international ophthalmological symposiums. She looks forward to collaborating with and learning from globally recognised experts in the field while here in Australia.

Honorary Mabs Melville Corneal Fellow Dr Nina Asrini Noor is the first female Indonesian ophthalmologist to train as a cornea fellow at Sydney Eye Hospital. She completed ophthalmology training at Universitas Indonesia and has taken on several observerships across Asia and Europe. Upon returning to Indonesia, Nina is committed to applying her newfound knowledge to provide corneal and external disease services, with a focus on treating corneal blindness through corneal transplant surgery.



Honorary Graham Lovett Vitreoretinal Fellow Dr Sahila Parathan obtained her MBBS and MD in ophthalmology from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. She has trained in general ophthalmology and vitreoretinal surgery at well-known teaching hospitals in Sri Lanka including the National Eye Hospital and was an acting vitreoretinal surgeon in Jaffna Teaching Hospital before accepting this fellowship. The knowledge gained from world-renowned surgeons here will be applied when she returns to Sri Lanka.