

# infocus

## FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THE GIFT OF SIGHT



Sydney Eye Hospital  
FOUNDATION

## “As a surgeon, most of my patients would become rapidly blind without emergency surgery”



Andrew trained at Sydney Eye and remains dedicated to training future generations.

***“We all work together to care for patients and serve the community with a unified vision to save sight.”***

Meet Dr Andrew Chang, vitreoretinal surgeon, Head of the Vitreoretinal Unit and the Head of Ophthalmology at the Sydney Eye Hospital.

Dr Chang says his favourite part of working at the Hospital is the strong team culture.

*“As I walk into the hospital it is wonderful to join other dedicated eye surgeons, registrars and fellows, nursing, orthoptic and support administration staff.*

*“Together, we give an uncompromising care to patients.*

*“We share a genuine desire to*

*care for patients using our skills, research and technologies. It is essential to work well together in a team setting, training the next generation of eye surgeons for a sustainable future.*

*“Our operating rooms are busy seven days a week all year round treating emergency retinal conditions such as retinal detachment, infection and trauma.*

***“Most of our patients would become rapidly blind without emergency surgery.***

*“The Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation is extremely important to me. It supports patient care, research and teaching next generation eye surgeons from around the world. I'm so grateful to everyone who makes the Foundation's work possible.”*

## Thanks for supporting the Eye Donor App!

**Kind supporters like you have helped develop an app to encourage more eye tissue donations.**

Called Eye Donor Aust, it was developed by Amy Chumkasian, registered nurse at Sydney Eye Hospital and PhD candidate.

The demand for donated eye tissue is increasing year on year. Up to 70% of people are able to donate their eye tissue, but not

enough people know about it.

Sydney Eye Hospital nurse Amy Chumkasian set out to help solve this problem. She developed an app to tell people about the benefits of eye tissue donation, check their eligibility and make it easier for them to register their wish

You can download the app for free from Apple and Google Play stores. Search for Eye Donor Aust.



# Meet your 2021 Fellows

## It is an honour to introduce you to this year's Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation Fellows.

Fellowships at Sydney Eye Hospital are highly sought after, and are offered to the very best ophthalmic specialists from around the world.

These Fellowships are fully funded by the Foundation, and are possible only thanks to the kindness of people like you.

Through the generosity of donations, these global specialists are able to share their

knowledge with registrars and learn new skills from our own expert surgeons and clinicians.

Foundation Fellows treat and diagnose patients, perform surgery, help train students in their speciality and participate in research. In turn, they take their improved knowledge and skills back to their home countries, bringing the gift of sight to thousands – all thanks to the kindness of people like you.

We are thrilled to be able to continue the Fellowship Program in 2021, despite the challenges of COVID-19.

## Dr Blanca Benito Pascual

### Mabs Melville Corneal Fellow

Blanca studied medicine in Valladolid, Spain, and completed her ophthalmology training in Madrid, where she is completing her PhD. She is an enthusiastic researcher, with a masters degree in statistics, 22 published papers and collaborations in books and journals. She has already trained in Romania, South Korea and Canada. She is enthusiastic to start her Fellowship in Sydney Eye Hospital and is ready to reach her dream of becoming a cornea specialist.



## Dr Tung Hoang

### Glaucoma Fellow

A clinical lecturer of Hanoi Medical University, Tung is the first Vietnamese Fellow of the program. He has published 10 papers in international peer-review journals. His aim for this Fellowship is to enhance his medical and surgical skills by working with highly-trained glaucoma subspecialists. Tung's long-term goal is to provide the first glaucoma Fellowship in Vietnam.



## Dr Thiyagaraj Krishnan

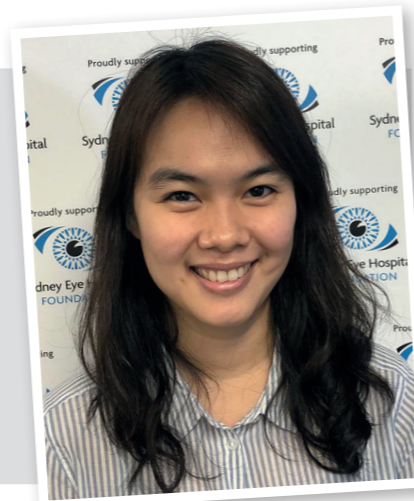
### Professorial Uveitis Fellow

Thiyaga studied Medicine at the University of Otago and completed his ophthalmology training in New Zealand. He is looking forward to expanding his knowledge and experience in the field of Uveitis, which is a common eye condition that causes eye inflammation that affects the middle layer of tissue in the eye wall. He is also eager to be a part of our world-renowned research team. Thiyaga plans to return to New Zealand to work in the Midland Region as the primary Uveitis specialist.

## Dr Khin Thida Oo

### Honorary Graham Lovett Vitreoretinal Fellow

After completion of her medical degree in Yangon, Myanmar, Khin joined Myanmar Eye Centre (MEC) for her postgraduate training in ophthalmology. She is excited to join the Sydney Eye Hospital as a Vitreoretinal Fellow and is looking forward to improving her ophthalmology practice and her vitreoretinal surgical skills in particular.



## Dr James Dalglish

### Oculoplastics Fellow

James studied medicine at the University of Sydney and then went on to train in ophthalmology in the Sydney Eye Hospital Network. After completing his final exams James went on to undertake an 18 month Fellowship in oculoplastics at Christchurch Hospital in New Zealand. James is now returning to Sydney to further build on this foundation of knowledge. As a keen teacher James also hopes to continue to pass on his knowledge during this Fellowship and further into the future.



## “What other job do you get to meet so many people?”

**Our staff in focus for this edition is Irene Chan, registered nurse.**

If you've ever been in our outpatient or emergency departments, chances are you would have met Irene.

She's been working there as a full-time nurse since 1986.

In fact, she's going strong as a nurse since 1961, and says she's nowhere near ready for retirement!

*“Life is too short to feel tired,”* says Irene.

*“I'm continuously inspired by my job at the Sydney Eye Hospital.”*

*“I love the variety of people, the patients, colleagues, volunteers – what other job do you get to meet so many people?”*

On her days off, Irene still doesn't rest. She volunteers at Taronga Zoo.

*“I help visitors with directions and staying on the paths. I use the Zoo to charge my inbuilt battery. It helps me face the challenges at Sydney Eye Hospital.”*

Irene is also a loyal donor to the Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation. *“I give to the Foundation because I can see how they allocate the money. I know it gets to where it is needed!”*



## Free Wi-fi coming soon for all guests of Sydney / Sydney Eye Hospital

Your wellbeing and the wellbeing of your loved ones is our absolute top priority. We want to make it easy for you to stay connected with family and friends during your stay or visit and manage your everyday lives.

That's why we're in the process of installing free Wi-Fi

across the Sydney / Sydney Eye Hospital in coming months.

This Wi-Fi is just one of many new technology initiatives funded by the kind people who donate to the Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation.

Another Foundation initiative has included Sydney / Sydney

Eye Hospital in a navigational app for people who are blind or have low vision. This audio app directs visitors to inside the hospital from the train station and bus stops, or to clinic and ward entrances. Once activated it will warn users about hazards such as stairs or obstacles.