

Thank you for helping people like Reginald

One of the most common reasons people need care at Sydney Eye Hospital is an infection of the cornea.

What's more, one of the most common causes of corneal infection is herpes simplex keratitis. It's a major cause of blindness, is irreversible and affects all ages.

Yet treatment is varied, and with varied outcomes for patients. In addition, the cornea has several layers, and the right treatment is different for each layer.

Now, thanks to your generous support, Sydney Eye Hospital researchers have developed new guidelines for standardised treatment.

The guidelines are now being used by clinicians across the hospital – and across the country.

One patient to benefit from the new guidelines is Reginald Vollmer.

Reginald says he had been suffering from a corneal infection for quite a while

before Sydney Eye Hospital were able to diagnose and treat the problem.

"Everyone needs their eyes, and I'm so grateful that the Sydney Eye Hospital doctors were able to fix mine!" says Reginald.

The researchers based the new guidelines on a thorough

review of more than 1700 patients, their treatment and outcomes. They also studied the most successful treatments around the world.

The guidelines are reviewed and updated every six months and have proven to be invaluable to clinicians.



Reginald with his doctor, Professor Stephanie Watson, who also led the research into better treatment guidelines.

“It’s time to tell our story”

New Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation Chief Executive, Linda Fagan acknowledges the world has turned on its head since commencing in March.

“It’s heart-warming to see the Australian community responding to this global health crisis and our thoughts are with all those affected,” says Linda.

“Amidst all this upheaval we’ve seen deep appreciation for our health care, our essential workers and the work carried out at Sydney Eye Hospital.”

Linda says she’s looking forward to working with supporters and donors to write a new chapter in the Foundation’s book.

“We have an amazing story to tell,” she says. “And supporters like you are integral to our story. Together with your help, we can expand and deepen the impact of the Foundation.”

“As we navigate these uncertain times together, I am optimistic we will get through 2020 stronger than



ever before. We have the expertise, we have the passion, and we will continue to bring the gift of sight to Australians and countless others around the world.”

Linda joins the Foundation with over twenty years’ experience in executive leadership, fundraising, marketing and communications, and stakeholder engagement.

She’s held leadership positions with The Kids’ Cancer Project, NSW Police Force, Canberra Grammar School, Sydney Children’s Hospital Foundation, and Australian Red Cross Blood Service.

Thanks and farewell to a pioneer



Dr Justin Playfair (right) with Dr Alex Hunyor.

It’s a name many patients would be familiar with: Dr Alex B Hunyor.

Dr Hunyor has just retired as Director of the Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation after more than 40 years of service.

Former Head of the Retina Unit at Sydney Eye Hospital, Dr Hunyor was one of the founders of the Foundation when it was established in 1981.

“We believed additional funding would allow the Sydney Eye Hospital to achieve world-class status,” Dr Hunyor said.

“And thanks to our supporters, we are achieving exactly that,” said Dr Playfair, Board Chair.

“Alex was instrumental in establishing the Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation. His legacy lives on through our Fellowship Program.”

You're helping reduce a global health threat

With your support, Sydney Eye Hospital is tackling antimicrobial resistance in relation to corneal infections.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a global health threat. When bacteria becomes resistant to antibiotics, it means medication is no longer effective. It's a serious issue that's predicted to escalate in the future.

The World Health Organisation recommends programmes to monitor whether AMR is emerging.

Thanks to your generosity, Sydney Eye Hospital has established its first programme to monitor AMR in microbial keratitis, a type of infection of the eye's cornea. It's called the Keratitis Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Program.



Professor Stephanie Watson, who led the AMR research, won the NSW Premier's Award for Leadership in Innovation. Pictured here with Premier Gladys Berejiklian and NSW Governor Margaret Beazley.

We identified trends, risk factors and causes of infection in 1568 adults and 80 paediatric patients. We also produced an instructional training video of 16 proven, effective steps for eye doctors and trainees to improve diagnosis.

This research helps reduce the impact of AMR by improving diagnosis, management and prevention of microbial keratitis.

Thank you for making this possible!

Patients say Thank You!

"I had a very, very pleasurable experience. Hats off to staff for being nice in spite of the pressures." – G.V.

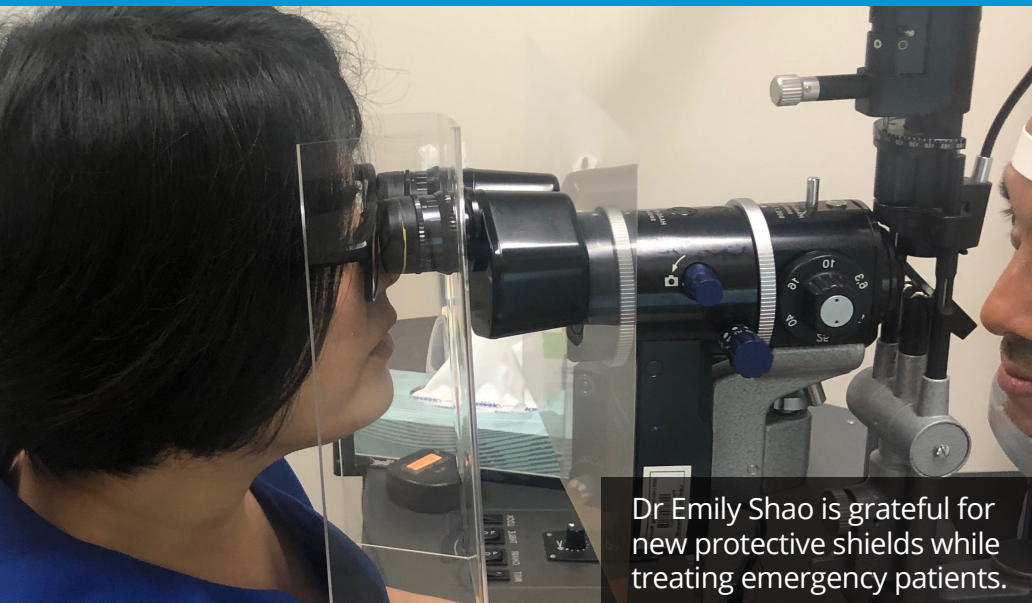
"The care I received was phenomenal over the three-day stay. I would like to thank Dr Wang and staff including Paris and Kerry for above and beyond care of myself. I doubt whether I will find this excellence of care elsewhere." – C.B.

"I was recently admitted twice as an inpatient at Sydney Eye Hospital for an eye infection and Corneal Ulceration.

"The medical staff who saw me were busy but were always able to spend time giving me the support and explanations I required.

"Without this care, my recovery would have been prolonged and painful." – A.M.

Tell your story: <https://www.careopinion.org.au/>



Dr Emily Shao is grateful for new protective shields while treating emergency patients.

Keeping our patients safe from COVID-19

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Sydney Eye Hospital team has remained committed to saving sight.

Coronavirus has not stopped the flow of emergency patients. Dr Emily Shao (pictured) is one of many working on the frontline. She's a current vitreoretinal surgical fellow, who received a Fellowship with Sydney Eye Hospital, thanks to the generosity of supporters like you.

"The current environment has by no means reduced the amount of urgent work or indeed training opportunities, we are still so busy!" says Dr Shao.

"Clinic appointments and surgery are currently reserved for urgent cases only. This minimises the risk of exposure and saves precious resources such as facemasks during the pandemic."

Dr Shao is often only inches away from patients during eye examination, and like all staff, has been applying scrupulous measures to control the spread of the virus.

This includes enforcing the 1.5m recommended distance between people, vigilance with handwashing, the meticulous cleaning of clinical surfaces and the implementation of new protective Perspex shields for slit-lamp microscopes.

A huge thank you to all on the frontline during the COVID-19 pandemic!

Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation Board

All Members of the Board 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 care to the public of Sydney and beyond.

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