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DEC 2012

**New Intraocular
Endoscopy**

Fellowships

Update on Keratoconus Research

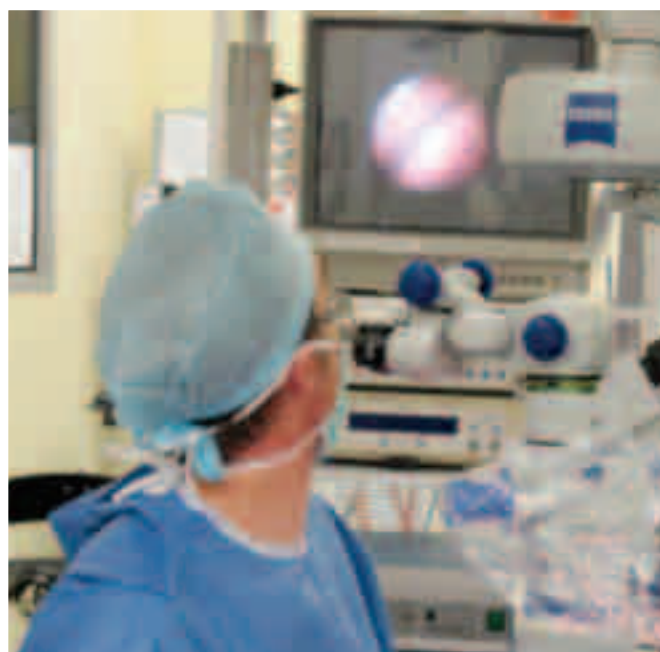
New Intraocular Endoscopy Equipment Puts us at the Forefront

Every now and then we come across patients with complicated eye health problems which are particularly difficult to treat. Thankfully, as new technology develops, we are given the opportunity to meet these challenges more effectively.

We have just purchased the Intraocular Endoscopy Equipment for the Eye Hospital Theatres. Pictured, right, are doctors using this equipment, which now makes it possible for us to handle cases that would traditionally be considered inoperable.

Endoscopic vitreo retinal surgery is a rarely indicated procedure. Some cases involve eyes that have multiple problems and a poor prognosis. On other occasions, endoscopy makes it possible to salvage vision where other techniques cannot. It can lead to a simple solution for what otherwise would be a complicated problem.

Clearly the team were keen to acquire the equipment but the biggest challenge was finding the funds to add it to their arsenal. Thanks to your support, we have been able to provide \$43,000 to purchase the actual equipment that was used in the trial for Sydney Eye Hospital (at considerable discount). We believe the system, which includes numerous state of the art components, is the only one of its kind in Australia, once again placing Sydney Eye Hospital at the absolute forefront of eye surgery.



Current Fellowships *at Sydney Eye Hospital*

The Foundation funds a number of Fellowships involving the following specialist units: **Retinal, Glaucoma, Corneal, Oculoplastics, Intra-Ocular Implant and Professorial Clinical Fellowship.**

Candidates (Eye Doctors) for these Fellowships come from overseas. Each position is for 12 months and includes a research component. Sydney Eye Hospital benefits in many ways from these programmes, including clinical research and publication both nationally and internationally. Sydney Eye Hospital is a teaching hospital and has a continuing programme in place to teach qualified doctors to become Eye Specialists. These Registrars benefit in their training from 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 current Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation Fellows are as follows:

Dr Gustavo Reis

Dr Gustavo Reis completed his specialist registrar training in Brazil at the Santa Casa de Misericordia Hospital. He has also done a round year as a Glaucoma and Cataract Fellow with Prof. Felicio Silva, a recognised Glaucoma specialist in Brazil.

Dr Reis expects to enhance his studies from the qualified staff attached to the Glaucoma Unit of the Sydney Eye Hospital, improve his clinical and surgical skills and carry out some useful research and development. When not in surgery, Dr Reis supervises in the Outpatients Department providing patient care that has helped him to achieve a better knowledge of eye disease diagnoses and patient management.



Dr Gustavo Reis

Dr Kapil Bhatia - Dr Eddie Donaldson Vitreo retinal Fellow

Dr Kapil Bhatia began his Vitreo Retinal Fellowship in Sydney Eye Hospital in August 2012. He completed his ophthalmology training in New Delhi, India and completed a Vitreo Retinal Fellowship at LV Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad, India in 2010. He hopes to learn not only clinical and surgical skills but also learn more about culture and language diversities and will return to start his own practice in India.



Dr Kapil Bhatia

Dr Avinash Gurbaxani – Professorial Fellow

Dr Avinash Gurbaxani is the Uveitis and Medical Retina Fellow working with the Professorial Unit. He has trained at Moorfields and St. Thomas' Hospitals in London as well as the Oxford Eye Hospital. He plans to return to work as a Uveitis MR consultant in the UK after his Fellowship.



Dr Avinash Gurbaxani

Dr Nathaniel Knox Cartwright – Corneal Fellow

From the UK, Nat Knox Cartwright started at the Sydney Eye Hospital in July 2012. Nearly all of his ophthalmology training, including his just completed Cornea Fellowship, was in Bristol. He hopes to learn from the different clinical and surgical approaches taken by the consultants at Sydney Eye Hospital and will be applying for consultant posts in the UK on his return.



Dr Nathaniel Knox Cartwright

Dr Manju Meena - Oculoplastic Fellow

Dr Manju Meena comes to us from India and started the Oculoplasty Fellowship in Sydney Eye Hospital in October this year. She completed her ophthalmology training in New Delhi and also completed an Oculoplasty and Ocular Oncology Fellowship from LV Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad, India in 2010. She hopes to learn facial reconstruction, aesthetics and cultural diversities and plans to apply her skills for patient care back home in India.



Dr Manju Meena

Dr Ee Ling Ang - Graham Lovett Vitreoretinal Fellow

Dr Ee Ling Ang trained in Vitreoretinal surgery at Penang Hospital, Malaysia. She will return to Malaysia in February, after a year of comprehensive training in medical and surgical retinal diseases in Sydney Eye Hospital, to run the Vitreoretinal Unit at Penang Hospital.



Dr Ee Ling Ang

Update on the Keratoconus Project

The Keratoconus Research Group, which is based at the Sydney Eye Hospital, is fortunate enough to receive funding from the Foundation. Without the funding and support of the Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation, the Keratoconus Research Group would not be able to continue its exploration into the causes of keratoconus.

Keratoconus is a common condition which causes significant visual disability and loss of sight of Australians. It is the most common indication for a corneal transplantation. Recent studies are suggesting that keratoconus is much more common than previously thought and often runs in families.

Our research team includes Dr Jing Jing You, Dr Li Wen, Associate Professor Michele Madigan, Professor John McAvoy, Mr Chris Hodge and Professor Gerard Sutton (team leader). Our work has resulted in a number of new findings in the underlying cellular problems of keratoconus. We have published our findings in prestigious journals such as Clinical & Experimental Ophthalmology and Experimental Eye Research. We have two further publications that we expect to be in press early in 2013.

In addition to the publications, the research has been presented at meetings around the world, including the Australasian Ophthalmic and Visual Sciences meeting in Melbourne, the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology in Korea, the World Cornea Congress in Boston, the Keratoconus

Research Meeting in France and the most esteemed ophthalmic research meeting in the world Association of Research in Vision and Ophthalmology in the United States of America.

Our papers and lectures have sparked further research in the area, with our publications forming the basis of other scientists' work around the world. Our team has also established the first-ever Australian registry for patients with keratoconus, which will form part of an Ethics Committee-approved ongoing review of patients with keratoconus. Without the support of the Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation and donors in the community, this work would not be possible.

Our research is receiving international recognition and a new collaboration with Professor Charles McGhee at Auckland University has been established for further international research projects.

We are pleased to say that a book co-authored by Professor Gerard Sutton on keratoconus has been very useful for many sufferers of keratoconus. The small profits from the sale of books are put back into ongoing research in keratoconus.



Books available from
kati.kenny@visioneyeinstitute.com.au
or the Foundation office.

YES! I Proudly Support the Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation



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