



Queensland Eye Institute Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Our Purpose

Queensland Eye Institute Foundation (QEIF) is Queensland's largest independent academic research institute devoted to eye-related health and diseases. QEIF works every day to save sight by providing innovation and excellence in research, education and clinical care to reduce eye diseases, improve eye health, and ultimately eliminate preventable blindness in the community.

Its state of the art facilities in South Brisbane and Clayfield, include the QEI Clinics, South Bank Day Hospital, Queensland Electro-Diagnostic and Imaging Centre (QEDIC), medical research and microsurgical teaching laboratories, medical library and the home of QEIF.

With no government funding, QEIF's survival relies solely on the generosity of donors, businesses and the community.



Introduction

2019 was an exciting year for the Queensland Eye Institute Foundation (QEIF) with new collaborations and opportunities enabled by individuals and organisations committed to making a positive impact on our community.

This year we established a new QEI Clinic in Clayfield to continue delivering an outstanding level of clinical care to our patients and expand our services. The QEI Clinic welcomed two new ophthalmologists, Dr Geoffrey Ryan and Dr Ye Chen, providing specialist care and treatment for our patients.

QEIF continued fostering national and international research collaborations, and we had the pleasure of hosting Professor Leonard Azamfirei, Rector (President) of the George Emil Palade University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Science and Technology of Târgu Mureș, Romania (UMPhST). During this meeting, the foundations for research collaborations for 2020 were established, focusing largely on biomaterials and tissue engineering.

Our researchers attended the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Annual Meeting in Vancouver, Canada, which is the largest eye and vision research organisation in the world that includes nearly 12,000 researchers from over 75 countries.

We've been looking for a way for our patients and donors to see the connection between how the research we undertake connects to the treatments and cures our ophthalmologists deliver every day in our QEI Clinics. To enable this, together with creative agency Publicis we launched an

awareness and fundraising campaign, Last Seen, that partnered vision impaired Australians with influential artists to paint a treasured visual memory before their sight started to deteriorate. The paintings were exhibited and auctioned to raise vital research funds for QEIF. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our participants for sharing their stories, and the artists and sponsors for making Last Seen a reality.

In the last part of 2019, QEI started a process to review our research strengths and capabilities, and to identify current and future research needs. QEIF hosted a series of workshops and interviews with both internal researchers and stakeholders, as well as key stakeholders from other institutions both within Queensland and the rest of Australia, to develop a research plan for the next five to ten years.

Our team of dedicated clinicians, researchers, staff and volunteers continue to make QEIF the institute that it is - an outcome focused medical research and teaching institute. We thank them for their dedication, commitment and enthusiasm.

Finally, we thank all our supporters during this past year, especially our donors, who continue to support us along the path of eliminating avoidable blindness in our community. In a time when access to medical research funding continues to be a challenge, it is your support that helps make the difference.

As always, we particularly acknowledge the Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation, its Trustees and its Chair, Justice Debra Mullins for their continued support.

Mark Sheridan
CHAIRMAN



Professor Mark Radford
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO



Whilst preparing the 2019 Annual Report, we have found ourselves in new and uncharted waters. COVID-19 has exploded into our lives in ways few could have imagined. Everyone has been affected personally and professionally. While the immediate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on QEIF and many other organisations has been considerable, its long-term impact is still unknown. We know things will change, but we still do not know how. 2020 will be a year of challenges, but we hope and believe also opportunities.

Board of Directors



Mark Sheridan
CHAIRMAN

Mark is a Partner with Mazars (formerly Hanrick Curran) in Brisbane. He has a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) and is a Fellow, Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand. He is also a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the Australian Institute of Managers and Leaders. Mark was appointed a Director of QEIF in 2003, and Chairman in 2011. He is also Chairman of South Bank Medical Group, which operates day surgery facilities to support QEIF's long-term objectives



Professor Mark Radford
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mark has been Executive Director and CEO of QEIF since 2010. He has a Doctor of Medicine from Nagasaki University, Japan and a PhD from Flinders University of South Australia.

Mark is a Fellow of both the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the Institute of Managers and Leaders, and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists.



Professor Jeff Dunn, AO
DIRECTOR – RESIGNED MARCH 2019

Jeff is Research Leader of Social and Behavioural Science at Cancer Council Queensland (CCQ)'s Cancer Research Centre and was previously CEO of CCQ for over 15 years. He is

Professor and Chair of Social and Behavioural Science at the University of Southern Queensland (USQ). He currently holds Professorial appointments with USQ and Griffith University School of Medicine. Jeff was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia in 2014 for distinguished service to medical administration through leadership roles with cancer control organisations, and to the promotion of innovative and integrated cancer care programs. Jeff is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD) and holds a PhD from The University of Queensland.



Gemma Elder
DIRECTOR

Gemma Elder is a Managing Director with Publicis Australia, an entity of the Publicis Groupe one of the world's largest media and communications agency networks.

Her remit spans the management of businesses in commercial partnership with Publicis including Personalised Plates Queensland (Department of Transport and Main Roads), KiwiPlates (New Zealand Transport Agency). Gemma brings extensive business, sales and marketing experience having previously worked in senior positions with ASX listed companies. Gemma holds a Bachelor of Business and Grad Certificate Applied Finance. She is a member of the AICD and sits on Advisory Committees that foster entrepreneurial learning & enterprise development.



John Lowes
DIRECTOR

John is a Special Counsel with Shand Taylor Lawyers which he joined as a Partner in 2007. Previously he was the Principal of Lowes & Co, a predominantly property focused

law firm which he ran for 11 years. Prior to this he was a Partner for eight years with an international law firm. With over 39 years as a practising solicitor, John has

concentrated on all aspects of property, small business law and private client advisory. He has also acted for a broad range of health professionals and specialist medical groups. John gained Specialist Accreditation in Property Law from the Queensland Law Society in 2002 and served for ten years as a member of their Specialist Accreditation Board.



Mario Pennisi
DIRECTOR – APPOINTED MAY 2019

Mario is a strategic advisor and consultant with more than 30 years' experience in managing and growing commercial operations in the life sciences industry. He is

a government-appointed Member of the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) Council, and associated committees, including as Chair of the IHBI External Engagement Committee. He is also the Chair of Griffith University's Clinical Trials Advisory Committee and a Member of the Queensland Government's Biofutures Industry Advisory Group. Mario's Non-Executive Director roles include Elo Life Systems Australia Pty Ltd, Alpine Immune Sciences Australia Pty Ltd, Integral Scopes Pty Ltd, and Chair of Suncare Community Services Ltd. Previous roles include executive positions at Sullivan Nicolaides Pathology and Mayne Group as well as serving as CEO of Life Sciences Queensland Ltd. and Queensland Clinical Trials Network Inc.



Kelly Langdon
COMPANY SECRETARY

Kelly has been associated with QEIF since 2004 in a general management capacity. Her qualifications include a Bachelor of Human Resource Management and Economics. Kelly

was appointed as Company Secretary in 2015 and enjoys the variety and scope of the work together with the opportunity to bring her strong commercial acumen to the not for profit sector.

Impact & Outcomes

Clinical Care & Treatment

Anna Blake
CLINICAL SERVICES MANAGER

It is a pleasure to report that 2019 has been a very successful year for the QEI Clinic where we have seen extensive growth and the introduction of new services. One of our major achievements has been the opening of our new QEI Clinic at Clayfield. With the increased service area for new referrals, this has helped to increase our patient numbers and to bring more patients to South Bank Day Surgery for their in-patient procedures.

With the increase in patient numbers we have also seen an increase in telephone calls received. This led to the introduction of a new phone system for the QEI Clinic and a dedicated team whose primary responsibility is to answer calls for both clinics. With the increased reporting functionality and the increase in staff numbers, we have been able to focus on customer satisfaction and fast response times to incoming calls.

We were also delighted to welcome Dr Geoffrey Ryan and Dr Ye Chen to our QEI team. Dr Ryan has started in our outreach clinic in Kingaroy and will look to start consulting at QEI Clayfield and South Brisbane in Brisbane in 2020. We welcomed Dr Chen to our team in December 2019 as our Oculoplastic Specialist.

Our commitment to education has also been a focus throughout 2019. While we have continued to host many Medical and Optometry

student placements there has also been a large focus on training our staff. We introduced a new communication and education platform known as Practice Hub by Avant. Practice Hub is an online practice management platform that integrates practice policies and procedures and secure document management to include personalised training and compliance modules with customisable registers. This program has also enabled us to upload customised education videos while ensuring staff compliance with individual staff sign off for risk management compliance.

We have also seen an increase in new procedures and treatments that we can offer our patients to include Lipiflow treatment for Meibomian Gland Dysfunction (performed in rooms) and Laser Refractive Services (performed in theatre). Our Laser Refractive Services include treatments for both Refractive and Therapeutic conditions with the only Excimer Laser in Queensland to have guaranteed private health insurance approval for therapeutic conditions.

The QEI Clinic has worked very closely with South Bank Day Hospital to ensure the smooth introduction of these new treatments for our Doctors and patients. We have also continued to work with South Bank Day Hospital on referrals received via the Surgery Connect Program for outsourced services from the public to the private sector. We look forward to continuing this relationship in the year ahead.

Dr Geoffrey Ryan



QEI Clinic,
Clayfield

Dr Ye Chen



QEI CLINIC

Patient consultations: 25,570
New clinics opened: 1
New ophthalmologists: 2
Staff total: 50



QEDIC

Total patients: 310
Children: 79
Adults: 231



CLINICAL TRIALS

Trials undertaken: 9

Impact & Outcomes Research

Professor Traian Chirila CHIEF SCIENTIST

Research activities in our laboratories have continued within QEIF's major research programs. Work has continued on tissue-engineered cell-biomaterial constructs based on proteins isolated from silk, developed at QEIF for cellular therapies aimed at treating ocular surface disorders, at regenerating corneal endothelium, and as substrates for retinal cell transplantation. A study has been dedicated to assess the antioxidative properties of a particular silk protein (sericin) in retinal cell cultures, which is of relevance to age-related macular degeneration (AMD) aetiology. In the meantime, Dr Jenny Young and Professor Harkin continued their investigations into the regeneration of the corneal endothelium. By invitation from the Journal of Visualized Experiments, we have published a part of this research, which included a video presentation.

The results from a large collaborative project involving QEIF, Lions Eye Institute (Perth), and Centre for Eye Research Australia (Melbourne), supported by an NH&MRC grant, had been published. In this research project, we developed silk-based membranes that were able to support the development of functional retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) cells derived from induced pluripotent stem cells.

The second report on the UV-induced crosslinking of collagen as a general procedure to treat conditions caused by the eyelid laxity has been published in the prestigious Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Journal, having been accepted outright by the editor.

Professor Chirila and Dr Suzuki participated in collaborative projects with the University of Western Australia, involving Professor Murray Baker and two PhD students, on surgical adhesives and on polymer-nanoparticle composites. The results from the latter were recently published.

The Macular Disease Foundation Australia awarded our scientists a grant for the project "Investigating the potential for scar-less wound healing in age-related macular degeneration", with Dr Audra Shadforth, Professors Damien Harkin and Traian Chirila as investigators.

Our scientists published a total of seven articles in scientific publications, and attended a number of national and international conferences.

Communication was maintained during the year with the University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Science & Technology (UMFST), in Targu Mures, Romania, with the aim to implement a program of scientific and educational collaboration. The UMFST's Rector, Professor Azamfirei visited QEIF, and discussions with the research management were held.

Three internship students from France - Kamsana Vijayakumar, Pierre-Guillaume Champavier and Noémie Gallorini - were hosted in our laboratories and carried out work on specific research projects under the supervision of Drs Suzuki and Young, and Professor Chirila.

During the year, we have maintained ongoing collaborations with the following institutions: The University of Queensland; Queensland University of Technology; University of Western Australia; University Aix-Marseille-Polytech, Marseille, France; National Agriculture & Food Research Organization (NARO), Tsukuba, Japan; Aston University, Birmingham, UK; Clemson University, USA.

FIGURES



Research
publications: 9



Research
presentations: 3



Research
projects: 13



Research
students: 3



Researchers: 13

Impact & Outcomes Research Publications

- ① Hirst L.W. and Battistuta D.: Eight-year trend in the Australian surgical approach to pterygium removal. *Clin. Experim. Ophthalmol.* 47: 15-19 (2019).
- ② Suzuki S., Rayner C.L. and Chirila T.V.: Silk fibroin/sericin native blends as potential biomaterial templates. *Adv. Tissue Eng. Regen. Med.* 5: 11-19 (2019).
- ③ Suzuki S., Shadforth A.M.A., McLenachan S., Zhang D., Chen S.-C., Walshe J., Lidgerwood G.E., Pébay A., Chirila T.V., Chen F.K. and Harkin D.G.: Optimization of silk fibroin membranes for retinal implantation. *Mater. Sci. Eng. C*, 105: 110131, 2019. [12 pages].
- ④ Smith T.M., Suzuki S., Sabat N., Rayner C.L., Harkin D.G. and Chirila T.V.: Further investigations on the crosslinking of tarsal collagen as a treatment for eyelid laxity: optimizing the procedure in animal tissue. *Ophthalmic Plast. Reconstr. Surg.*, 35: 600-603, 2019.
- ⑤ Goldis A., Goldis R. and Chirila T.V.: Biomaterials in gastroenterology: a critical overview. *Medicina (Kaunas)*, 55: 734, 2019. [22 pages].
- ⑥ Walshe J., Abdulsalam N.A.K., Suzuki S., Chirila T.V. and Harkin D.G.: Growth of human and sheep corneal endothelial cell layers on biomaterial membranes. *J. Vis. Exp. (JoVE)*, in press 2019.
- ⑦ Hirst L.W. and Smith J.: Accuracy of diagnosis of pterygium by optometrists and general practitioners in Australia. *Clin. Exper. Optom.*, in press 2019. DOI: 10.111/cxo.12916.
- ⑧ Lie S., Rochet E., Segerdell E., Ma Y., Ashander L.M., Shadforth A.M.A., Blenkinsop T.A., Michael M.Z., Appukuttan B., Wilmot B. and Smith J.R.: Immunological molecular responses of human retinal pigment epithelial cells to infection with *Toxoplasma gondii*. *Front. Immunol.*, 10: 708, 2019. [18 pages].
- ⑨ Wang N., Qing Z., Zhang Y., Xin C., Mao Y., Jane C., Guo C., Thomas R. and Cao K.: Determinants of maximum cup depth in non-glaucoma and primary open-angle glaucoma subjects: A population-based study. *Eye*, (2019).



Impact & Outcomes Education

Dr Brendan Cronin

CORNEA, CATARACT AND ANTERIOR SEGMENT,
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

2019 was an exciting year for QEI's education events. We now have unprecedented demand to accommodate optometry students from not only QUT but a number of universities throughout Australia and also internationally. Most doctor sessions now include a student from optometry, orthoptics or medicine. Our optometry education events continue to be extremely popular with many more requests for nights than we can obviously accommodate. The events held at the Clayfield QEI Clinic were very well received by the local medical and optometric community.

The microsurgical wet lab continues to be popular with Johnson & Johnson sponsoring cataract surgery wet labs which the Registrars have requested again for next year.

The Grand Rounds for Ophthalmologists events again continue to move from strength to strength. We have been focusing on having the QEI Ophthalmologist for each individual specialty drive the Grand Rounds for their area to increase the number of interesting cases and patients for the attendees to experience.

FIGURES



Grand Round
attendees: 170



Optometry night
attendees: 140



Wetlab
attendees: 6



Optometry
students: 46



Ophthalmology
medical students: 1



Impact & Outcomes Donations

Macula Day

In May, QEIF held a very successful Macula Day information session focusing on age-related macular degeneration (AMD) to support Macula Month. We welcomed over 110 guests who learnt about the symptoms, risk factors and treatment options of AMD, including prevention measures, low vision aids and technologies. Thanks to our speakers: QEI Clinic Retina, Macula Specialist and Vitreoretinal Surgeon, Associate Professor Anthony Kwan, QEIF Research Officer, Dr Audra Shadforth, Macula Disease Foundation Partnership Manager, Colette Kinsella and Quantum State Manager, Peter Cracknell. Special thanks to QEI Clinic patient, Margaret who shared her story of living with AMD.

Tax Appeal

The QEIF Tax Appeal highlighted the story of QEI Clinic's young patient Oscar. Back in 2015 we featured Oscar in our Christmas newsletter and shared his story of enduring over 15 operations by the age of five to control his congenital glaucoma. In 2018, Dr Chiang told Oscar and his mum Melissa, that Oscar had sadly developed a cataract in his glaucoma affected eye and surgery will only take place if the cataract worsens. Oscar is currently on 10 eye drops a day to maintain his eye pressure. His cataract will have to worsen for him to have surgery which means Oscar will lose even more of his current sight.

FIGURES



Tax Appeal 2019
ROI: 696%



Christmas Appeal
2019 ROI: 388%



Christmas Appeal

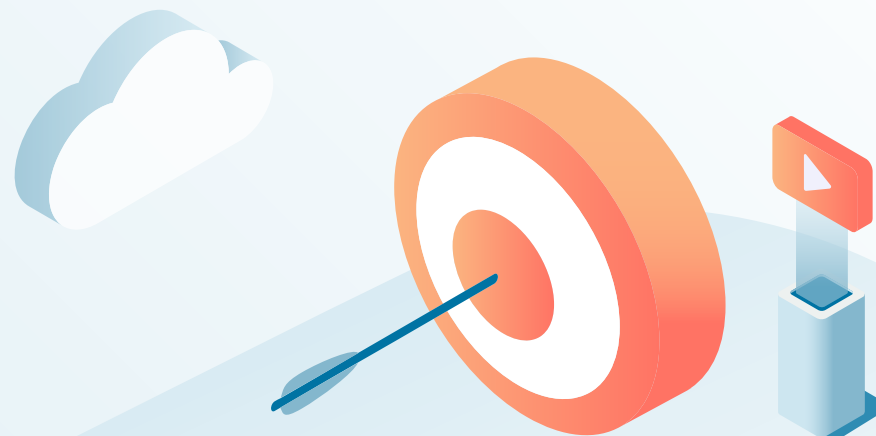
The QEIF Christmas Appeal featured the story of Peter Vance, a well-regarded singer and songwriter who has a long relationship with QEI, dating back to before the Institute was established when in 1996 Professor Lawrence Hirst removed Peter's cataract at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. Since then, Peter has been a regular supporter of QEIF and this year he was also involved in Last Seen, QEIF's fundraising and awareness initiative to save sight. In 1983, Peter was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa (RP), a condition he inherited from his mother. RP is a genetic condition that causes cells in the retina – the light sensitive tissue that lines the back of the eye – to degenerate.

Viertel Visit

In July, George Curphey, former Trustee and Chair of the Sylvia & Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation and current Trustee, Rex Freudenberg visited QEIF to share their memories of Charles Viertel as a friend and businessman, and how the relationship between the Foundation and QEIF has developed over the last 30 years. QEIF CEO, Professor Mark Radford chatted to George and Rex about the impact achieved via the Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation funding, including the special grant which saw QEIF establish its state-of-the-art facilities at 140 Melbourne Street, South Brisbane.



Impact & Outcomes Digital Marketing



QEI WEBSITE

34,756 website sessions
– an increase of 6%
on 2018 thanks to
the new website being
launched in June 2019



DONATIONS

Online donations
increase of 12%



INSTAGRAM

Instagram followers
increase of 107%



FACEBOOK

Facebook like
increase of 29%



Impact & Outcomes

Last Seen



lastseen.com.au



An Exhibition to Save Sight

In 2019, QEIF partnered with creative agency Publicis for the launch of the very first Last Seen. The concept involved bringing nine vision impaired Australians together with nine influential Australian artists to illustrate a dearly held visual memory from before their sight began to deteriorate. These artworks became the Last Seen Exhibition – with an aim to raise awareness about the effects of visual impairment and raise funds for QEIF's sight saving research.

A Last Seen microsite was launched in September. The site was used to provide more information on the Exhibition and those involved – a link to the ticket page, a news page and an option to vote for the “People's Choice Award” were also features. In addition to this, a series of powerful and emotive videos were filmed to help share the story of each Last Seen participant.

The Last Seen Preview Lunch sponsored by Novartis was hosted at the Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA) on 13 November 2019. An exclusive opportunity to preview the artworks, the Last Seen Preview Lunch also gave guests further insight into some of the stories behind the exhibition through a panel discussion. The Last Seen Preview Lunch panel consisted of participants Wayne Sticher and Oscar Eckersley, as well as Oscar's Mum Melissa and artists Adam Lester and Guy Morgan.

The Last Seen Cocktail Party & Auction sponsored by the Kevin & Thelma Driscoll Foundation was hosted on the evening of 13 November 2019. Here, guests were treated to live music, courtesy of the Mark Pradella Band and Last Seen participant Peter Vance, who performed his original song 'Last Seen' written as a tribute to the event.

The following day, another Last Seen lunch was hosted at GOMA with women from the Brisbane based networking group, The Coterie.

Last Seen would not have been possible without the help of our dedicated volunteers, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their time and energy. Volunteers were from Mazars, Publicis, QEIF, the QEI Clinic and our research laboratories, as well as family and friends of QEIF staff.

Both GOMA launch events completely sold out prior to the day, and all nine artworks were sold at the auction, thanks to our fantastic auctioneer, Haesley Cush from Ray White New Farm.

After the GOMA events, the Last Seen artworks were transported to Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) for free public viewing. Whilst at QPAC, the Exhibition ran from 15 November until 1 December 2019.

QEIF's very first Last Seen Exhibition to save sight was a large success. The Preview Lunch, Cocktail Party & Auction and QPAC Exhibition have all aided QEIF in generating awareness about the effects of visual impairment, and how precious our sight is. Valuable funds raised from the exhibition have been placed into a Last Seen research grant to aid QEIF's scientists in discovering new treatments to prevent avoidable blindness.

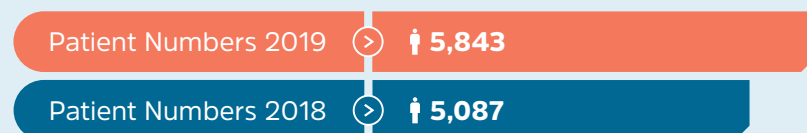
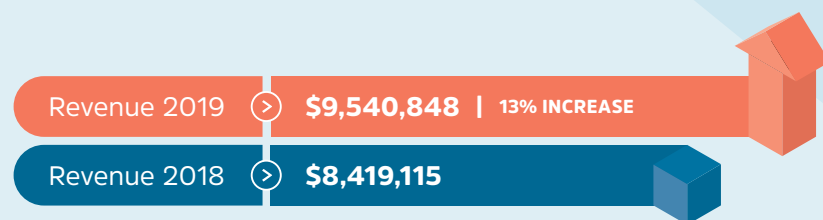


Sustainable Funding

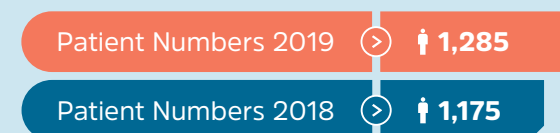
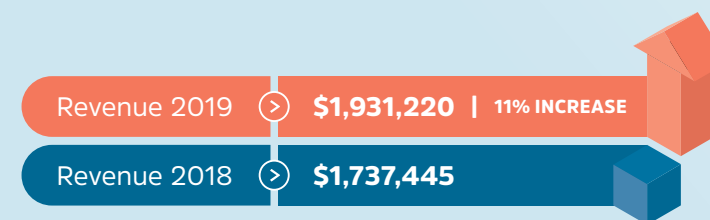


The South Bank Day Hospital (operated by South Bank Medical Group) provides a unique partnership with the QEI Clinic enabling patients to have their clinical diagnosis, procedure, treatment and care all under one roof at 140 Melbourne Street, South Brisbane.

All profits generated by the hospital are invested back into the work of the QEI Foundation.



The Kingaroy-based Lady Bjelke-Petersen Community Hospital is also operated by South Bank Medical Group and provides vital services in the South Burnett region of Queensland.



Our Team

Board of Directors

Mark Sheridan
CHAIRMAN

Professor Mark Radford
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO

Professor Jeff Dunn
DIRECTOR – resigned March 2019

Jemma Elder
DIRECTOR

John Lowes
DIRECTOR

Mario Pennisi
DIRECTOR – appointed May 2019

Kelly Langdon
COMPANY SECRETARY

Clinical Faculty

Dr Ye Chen
OCULOPLASTICS

Dr Mark Chiang
GLAUCOMA, CATARACT AND DISEASES
OF THE RETINA

Dr Brendan Cronin
CORNEA AND ANTERIOR SEGMENT

Dr David Gunn
CORNEA, CATRACT & REFRACTIVE SURGERY

Dr Elias Kehdi
PAEDIATRICS

Associate Professor Anthony Kwan
RETINAL DISEASES

Dr Anthony Pane
NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY

Dr Geoffrey Ryan
CATARACT, GLAUCOMA AND CORNEA

Associate Professor Abhishek Sharma
MEDICAL AND SURGICAL RETINAL DISEASES

Professor Ravi Thomas
GLAUCOMA AND CLINICAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

Research Faculty

Professor Traian Chirila
SENIOR SCIENTIST

Professor Lawrence Hirst
SENIOR CLINICAL SCIENTIST

Dr Shuko Suzuki
SENIOR RESEARCH OFFICER

Professor Damien Harkin
VISITING SENIOR SCIENTIST

Dr Audra Shadforth
VISITING SCIENTIST

Dr Jennifer Young
RESEARCH OFFICER

Honorary Research Faculty

Professor Murray Baker
UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Associate Professor Nigel Barnett
BOND UNIVERSITY

Associate Professor Idriss Blakey
THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Professor Paul Dalton
UNIVERSITY OF WURZBURG, GERMANY

Dr Tim Dargaville
QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Dr Beatrix Feigl
INSTITUTE OF HEALTH & BIOMEDICAL
INNOVATION (IHBI)

Dr Neil Richardson
QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Dr Allison Sutherland

Management Team

Kelly Langdon
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Anna Blake
CLINICAL SERVICES MANAGER

Jane Dodds
COMMUNITY RELATIONS MANAGER

Dorottya Geczi
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Carmel Johnston
EA TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO



Financial Snapshot



Balance Sheet Comparatives

ASSETS	2019 \$	2018 \$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	3,554,056	3,972,613
Trade and other receivables	1,522,454	2,108,822
Financial assets	-	3,205,728
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	5,076,510	9,287,163
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Trade and other receivables	405,969	546,241
Investments in subsidiaries	37	37
Financial assets	4,484,193	-
Property, plant and equipment	7,912,857	7,846,092
Intangible assets	56,803	52,056
Right-of-use assets	18,732,941	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	31,592,800	8,444,426
TOTAL ASSETS	36,669,310	17,731,589
LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	206,157	5,404,305
Employee benefits	716,278	677,163
Other financial liabilities	25,303,193	108,521
TOTAL LIABILITIES	26,225,628	6,189,989
NET ASSETS	10,443,682	11,541,600

Income Statement Comparatives

	2019 \$	2018 \$
REVENUE		
Sylvia & Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation	1,800,000	1,680,000
Bequests and other donations	1,959,723	3,152,666
Clinical cost recoveries	2,697,713	2,502,422
Other income	847,498	691,834
TOTAL INCOME	7,304,934	8,026,922
EXPENSES		
Employee benefits expense	3,226,069	3,856,722
Depreciation and amortisation expense	3,019,432	999,043
Research costs	300,050	47,337
Occupancy costs (recoveries)	(437,381)	1,687,600
Administrative expenses	102,648	88,742
Fundraising expenses	414,499	139,010
Clinical costs	168,603	227,692
Other general expenses	534,856	959,145
Finance costs	1,074,073	29,887
TOTAL EXPENSES	8,402,849	8,035,178
NET COMPREHENSIVE INCOME / (LOSS)	(1,097,915)	(8,256)

Impact & Outcomes

Our History



1965 The Australian Foundation for the Prevention of Blindness (Queensland Division) incorporated with Dr John Ohlrich as the driving force.

1986 UQ Chair of Ophthalmology established at the Princess Alexandra Hospital with the generous support of Charles Viertel OBE, Optical Prescription Spectacle Makers, and the Royal Australian College of Ophthalmologists, Lions International and Perpetual Trustees. Lawrence Hirst appointed Chairman and Executive Director.

1991 Australian Foundation for the Prevention of Blindness name changed to Prevent Blindness Foundation (PBF).

2005 QEI officially opened at the Mater Hospital with Professor Lawrence Hirst as its first CEO. The realisation of a dream shared by many people.

2010 Professor Lawrence Hirst relinquished his role as CEO to concentrate on his clinical work. Professor Mark Radford appointed as CEO of PBF and QEI.

2013 Sylvia & Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation awarded PBF a special grant to redevelop 140 Melbourne Street, South Brisbane to be PBF's future home and establish South Bank Day Hospital. PBF name changes to Queensland Eye Institute Foundation (QEIF).

2014 QEI Clinic opens in South Brisbane and QEIF acquires Dr Denis Stark's Visual Electro-Diagnostic and Imaging Centre.

2015 QEIF celebrates its 50th Anniversary whilst QEI celebrates its 10th anniversary.

2019 A new QEI Clinic opens in Clayfield.

TODAY Today QEIF is Queensland's largest independent academic research institute devoted to eye related health and diseases working every day to save sight and prevent blindness. Our state of the art facilities in South Brisbane and Clayfield, include the QEI Clinics, South Bank Day Hospital, Queensland Electro-Diagnostic and Imaging Centre, medical research and microsurgical teaching laboratories, medical library, auditorium and the home of QEIF. All of this is the result of the efforts of many people who had the strategic vision and drive to succeed, but, in particular, the support of the Sylvia & Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation has been crucial.



Thank You

Thank you from the team at the QEI Foundation.

The work of the Queensland Eye Institute Foundation is due to the support of so many people: our generous donors, supporters, partners, volunteers, our staff and our Board.

As always we are grateful for the moral and financial support of the Sylvia & Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation, and especially its Board of Trustees and its former Chairman, George Curphey and current Chair Justice Debra Mullins.

Our purpose to SAVE SIGHT would not be possible without the unstinting support of our donors and we would like to sincerely extend our thanks to each of you. And to the many other individuals and organisations that provide assistance in numerous different ways, thank you again for your support in 2019.



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