

EYECURE.

NEWS FROM THE QUEENSLAND EYE INSTITUTE FOUNDATION
ISSUE 12 | MARCH 2020

WELCOME

Welcome to the latest edition of Eyecure. This issue will feature a recap on Last Seen, QEIF's Exhibition to save sight. After a successful launch and a public exhibition, Last Seen has aided QEIF in raising vital funds for sight saving research, whilst generating awareness about vision impairment and how we take our eyesight for granted.

There have been many exciting changes happening lately within the QEI Clinic, including the implementation of a cutting edge cross-linking machine and a feature on Channel 10 by our very own Dr David Gunn.

We would like to introduce you to Dr Ye Chen and Dr Geoffrey Ryan, our latest ophthalmologists to join the QEI Clinic. And finally, we are excited to welcome our new researcher, Dr Onur Sakiragaoglu to the QEIF laboratories.

I wish you a safe and enjoyable autumn.

Best wishes,
Mark Radford, CEO.



LAST SEEN EXHIBITION

We are happy to announce that QEIF's Last Seen Exhibition has been a huge success! The Preview Lunch, Cocktail Party & Auction and QPAC Exhibition have all aided QEIF in furthering our mission of saving sight through raising valuable funds for medical research, as well as raising awareness of the effects of visual impairment.

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QEIF CEO Prof Mark Radford, COO Kelly Langdon and EA Carmel Johnston at Last Seen

NEW OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

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QEI CLINIC WELCOMES TWO NEW DOCTORS

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Ophthalmologist,
Dr Geoffrey Ryan

Dr Geoffrey Ryan, who joined the QEI Clinic in October 2019, is an advanced anterior segment surgeon with a special interest in cataract surgery. He has additional subspecialty training in glaucoma and cornea.

Dr Ryan graduated from Bond University with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery. He also holds a Bachelor of Science degree from The University of Queensland and a Masters of Medicine in Ophthalmic Science from the University of Sydney.

Completing his ophthalmology training in Queensland, he elected to undergo additional sub-specialty training in glaucoma and cornea alongside leading world experts at the prestigious Moorfields Eye Hospital in London, and the Birmingham Midlands Eye Centre. Dr Ryan has an active interest in research and has published several articles in Ophthalmology journals. Currently he holds an honorary position at the University of Queensland and through this position he will continue to educate our future doctors and ophthalmologists.

We are also pleased to have welcomed Dr Ye Chen to the QEI Clinic in December 2019. Dr Ye

Chen is an ophthalmic surgeon with sub-specialty training in eyelid, lacrimal and orbital surgery (oculoplastics). He has special interests in Asian eyelid surgery, nasolacrimal duct intubation, endoscopic DCR surgery, thyroid eye disease and eyelid reconstruction following tumour excision. Dr Chen speaks fluent English, Mandarin and Shanghainese dialect.

Dr Chen graduated from the University of Melbourne and interned at St. Vincent's Hospital Melbourne. After winning the Victorian Rhodes Scholarship, he undertook further studies at the University of Oxford (UK), obtaining a DPhil in Medical Science.

Following his ophthalmology training at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, Dr Chen undertook two years of oculoplastics sub-specialty training in Adelaide with Professor Dinesh Selva and Dr Garry Davis. He also spent time in Japan with Professor Akihide Watanabe and in Korea with Professor Yoon-Duck Kim.

Dr Chen has considerable experience in the treatment of eyelid disorders (including 'droopy' eyelids, eyelid malpositions, brow ptosis, eyelid tumours), orbital disorders (including thyroid eye disease, orbital tumours, socket disorders) and lacrimal disorders ('watery eyes', blocked tear duct). He has published widely in both scientific and clinical journals and is actively involved in oculoplastics research.



Ophthalmologist,
Dr Ye Chen

QEI CLINIC REVEALS CUTTING EDGE CROSS-LINKING TECHNOLOGY

We are excited to now offer topography guided corneal collagen cross-linking to patients with keratoconus, using the new Avedro Mosaic machine. QEI Clinic's Dr Brendan Cronin and Dr David Gunn are the only ophthalmologists in Australia who are currently able to offer this technology – a huge advancement in the field of cross-linking diseased corneas.

Keratoconus is a condition that causes the cornea to lose its regular shape and become distorted, resulting in impaired vision. Corneal collagen cross-linking is the main form of treatment for this disease, using ultraviolet light and riboflavin to enhance the chemical bonds between the layers of the cornea to increase its strength. Traditionally cross-linking machines have only been able to strengthen corneas. However, this new technology both strengthens the cornea and improves the shape.




The Avedro Mosaic machine is the only cross-linking machine available that can deliver extra energy to the more distorted parts of the cornea to work towards regularising a patient's cornea and their vision.

QEI Clinic's Dr Brendan Cronin on what this means for patients with keratoconus; "The mosaic machine uses extremely advanced iris recognition technology to correctly identify a patient, their pupil and track the movements of the eye. It can then deliver a custom designed

treatment aimed at improving the patient's vision."

Representatives from Avedro flew in from Singapore and the USA to install the machine and conduct training for QEI Clinic staff on how to use the technology. Whilst visiting, Grace Lytle and TC Kok from Avedro also attended QEIF's Last Seen Cocktail Party and Auction!

 L-R: QEI Clinic's Dr Brendan Cronin, Grace Lytle (Avedro), QEI Clinic's Dr David Gunn and TC Kok (Avedro)

DR GUNN ON CHANNEL 10'S SCOPE

At the end of 2019, QEI Clinic's Dr David Gunn was interviewed by Channel 10 for the national children's program, Scope. The episode, focussed on 'Sight and Sound' aired at the beginning of this month. In his feature, Dr Gunn educated audiences about colour blindness and the importance of protecting your eyes from the sun by wearing UV resistant sunglasses. For those who missed the segment, a short clip is available on the QEI Facebook page.

 QEI Clinic's Dr David Gunn with the team from Scope



LAST SEEN EXHIBITION RAISES SIGHT SAVING FUNDS FOR QEIF

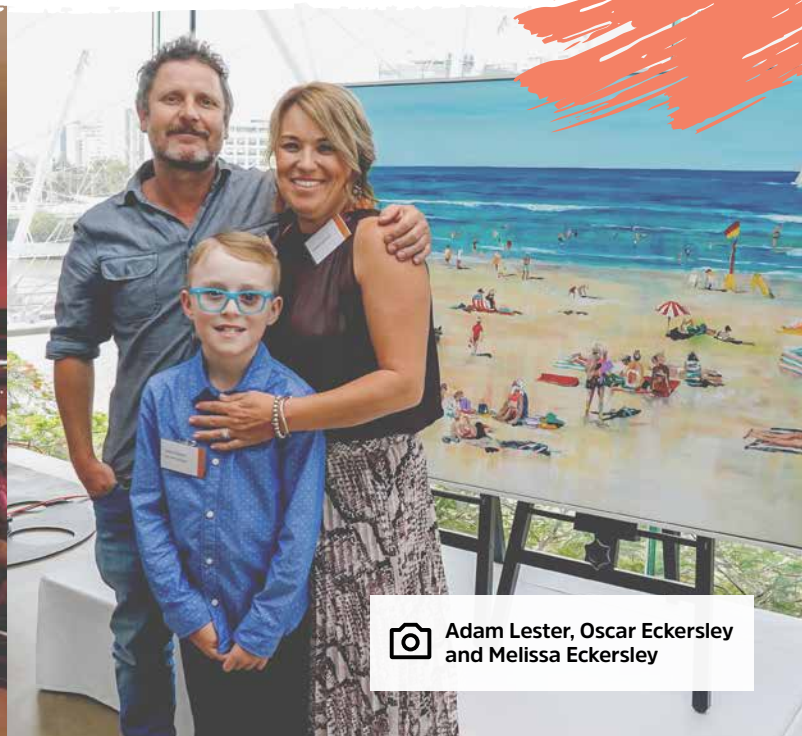
We are happy to announce that QEIF's Last Seen Exhibition has been a huge success! The Preview Lunch, Cocktail Party & Auction and QPAC Exhibition have all aided QEIF in furthering our mission of saving sight through raising valuable funds for medical research, as well as raising awareness of the effects of visual impairment. The Last Seen launch events were hosted at GOMA on 13 November, with tickets for both the Preview Lunch and Cocktail Party & Auction completely selling out prior to the date.

The Novartis Preview Lunch gave guests a unique opportunity to preview the Last Seen artworks prior to the evening's proceedings. Guests were able to fully immerse themselves in the

stories of the Last Seen participants through the emotive artworks and back stories. Additionally, courtesy of Southern Cross Austereo, customised soundscapes were placed next to select artworks to enhance the sensory experience of Last Seen. Guests were also given further insight into the Last Seen Exhibition through a panel of some of those heavily involved in the project. The engaging Last Seen Preview Lunch panel consisted of Last Seen participants Wayne Sticher and Oscar Eckersley as well as Oscar's Mum Melissa and Last Seen artists Adam Lester and Guy Morgan. QEIF Executive Director & CEO, Professor Mark Radford engaged the panel in a conversation about Last Seen and what the Exhibition has meant to each of them.




 Auctioneer Haesley Cush from Ray White New Farm



 Adam Lester, Oscar Eckersley and Melissa Eckersley




 Guy Morgan and Phoebe Young



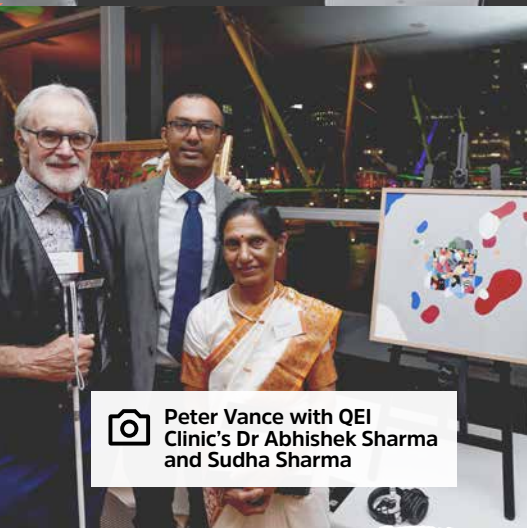
 Gail Rutherford, Jane Dodds, Cheryl Heuston and Prof Mark Radford



 Jenny Rens and Lara Lonsdale from Mazars



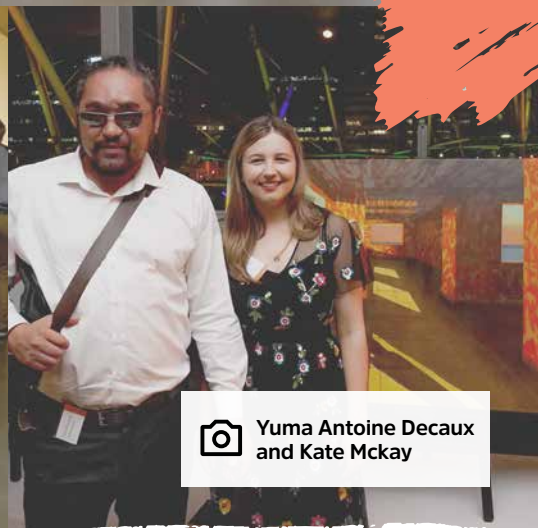
QEIF CEO, Prof Mark Radford with the Last Seen Preview Lunch Panel: Guy Morgan, Wayne Sticher, Oscar Eckersley, Melissa Eckersley and Adam Lester



Peter Vance with QEI Clinic's Dr Abhishek Sharma and Sudha Sharma



Pip Spiro and Lisa Cox



Yuma Antoine Decaux and Kate Mckay

At the Last Seen Cocktail Party & Auction, sponsored by the Kevin and Thelma Driscoll Foundation, live music fuelled the excitement of the evening, courtesy of Last Seen participant Peter Vance and The Mark Pradella Band. Soon enough, it was time for the auction, conducted by the talented Haesley Cush from Ray White New Farm. The anticipation of the evening had come to a head and by the end of the auction, each and every Last Seen painting had been sold, raising important funds for QEIF's sight saving work.

After the launch events at GOMA, the Last Seen artworks were transported to QPAC, to give the general public a chance to experience the Exhibition, free of charge.

QEIF would like to thank everyone who attended the Last Seen Exhibition, those who volunteered at the GOMA launch, the generous Last Seen sponsors and Publicis Worldwide for all of their tremendous help. Thanks to everyone who supported Last Seen, QEIF have raised valuable funds to continue our mission to eliminate preventable blindness.



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING PETER & QEIF'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The 2019 Christmas Appeal featured the story of Peter Vance; a talented musician and long time supporter of QEIF. Peter was diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP) in 1983, a condition he inherited from his Mother. Eventually declared legally blind in 1994, Peter experienced night blindness, gradual loss of vision and now only has a small tunnel of central vision left.

A regular performer at jazz venues, festivals and community events, Peter was also involved in Last Seen, QEIF's fundraising and awareness initiative to save sight. At the Last Seen Cocktail Party & Auction, Peter performed his original song "Last Seen", written as a tribute to the Exhibition and his fellow participants. The song is now available for purchase on iTunes, and Peter will be generously donating all proceeds to QEIF.

Currently there is no treatment or cure for RP, however Peter hopes that one day a cure will be discovered and other people with RP, such as one of his children who inherited the condition, can be helped.

Thank you for supporting QEIF's sight saving research through the Christmas Appeal and providing hope for visually impaired Australians, such as Peter.

GLAUCOMA DAY - PLEASE JOIN US FOR A FREE SEMINAR

We would like to invite you to a free seminar and morning tea for World Glaucoma Week at QEI. The event will be hosted on **Thursday, 12 March 2020 from 9:30am until 12:00pm** on Level 2 at 140 Melbourne Street, South Brisbane. Please join us for a discussion focussing on glaucoma, with special guests and speakers.

If you would like to attend the event, please contact Jane Dodds, QEIF's Community Relations Manager on **07 3239 5050** or via email at jane.dodds@qeif.org.au



DR ONUR SAKIRAGAOGU JOINS QEIF RESEARCH LABORATORIES

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Research Assistant, Dr Onur Sakiragaoglu, who joined QEIF in February. Originally from Turkey, Dr Sakiragaoglu studied BSc (Biology) and MSc (Medical Sciences) at Ankara University and in 2017, he obtained a PhD from Griffith University. Dr Sakiragaoglu's research interests include stem cells, regenerative medicine, gene therapy, anti-ageing strategies, RNA interference, drug discovery and bacterial oncolysis.

Joining our research team, Dr Sakiragaoglu will oversee the cell biology sector, as well as the maintenance of the research laboratories. He will also be involved in applications related to cell therapies and ophthalmic biomaterials.



CLINICAL TRIALS AT QEI

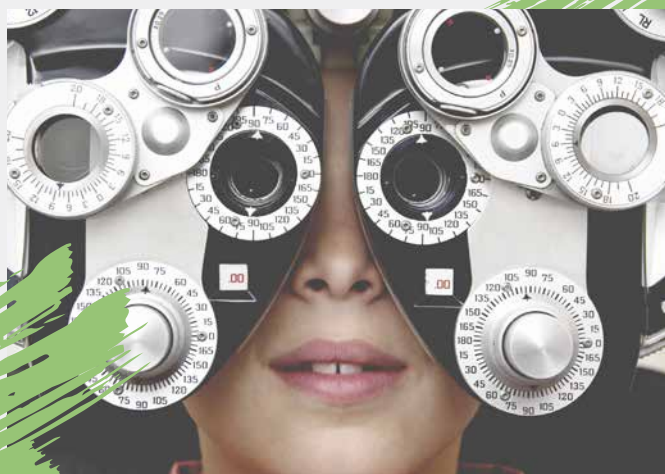
Did you know that QEI runs clinical trials to bring the world's best treatments to patients with eye disease? We are committed to supporting initiatives that better health outcomes, including improved access to new drugs and treatments that may be more effective than those currently available.

Clinical trials confirm whether new medicines are safe and effective to introduce as new treatments for particular diseases or conditions. Two of the clinical trials currently being conducted at QEI are focussed on amblyopia and "wet" age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

Amblyopia (known commonly as "Lazy Eye") is a neurodevelopmental disorder of vision, typically manifesting as reduced visual acuity in one eye and abnormal binocular function. Amblyopia develops during infancy and early childhood, and the condition affects 3% of the population. Current treatments for amblyopia are usually administered in childhood and include occlusion or "patching". QEI's amblyopia trial involves treatment using a prototype device, worn in a manner like spectacles. The purpose of this trial is to assess if there is any improvement in visual acuity and binocular function in people with amblyopia.

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the leading cause of blindness in people over 50 years of age. In the wet form of AMD, abnormal blood vessels grow in the back of the eye leaking blood or fluid that causes blurred or distorted vision. QEI's current clinical trial on wet AMD aims to evaluate the safety, tolerability, and efficacy of a drug called axitinib in the OTX-TKI implant in participants with wet AMD.

If you would like to read more on clinical trials at QEI, including information on past trials and how you can participate, please see the QEI website.



PLAY FOR PURPOSE

Recently, QEIF has partnered with charity raffle Play for Purpose, for an exciting opportunity. Play for Purpose is an entirely not-for-profit online raffle, that sells tickets at \$10 each, with \$5 from each ticket sold going to QEIF when purchased through our page. At the end of every draw, winners are randomly selected to receive their share of some incredible prizes. There are thousands of prizes to be

won, with the previous draw featuring a \$250,000 prize package (inclusive of \$150,000 in cashable gold), a pair of VW Polo Cars, a \$20,000 travel voucher and much more.

A huge thank you to everyone who purchased tickets via the QEIF page in the last Play for Purpose draw. The current draw is now open and closes 17 July 2020. Enter to win at: playforpurpose.com.au/qei



Your donation is gratefully appreciated. Help us save money by donating online. Visit qei.org.au or call 07 3239 5050.

Your donation today will help the QEI Foundation save sight through its research, education and clinical care.

Yes, I want to help the QEI Foundation.

☐ Enclosed is my donation of: ☐ \$15 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ Own choice (please specify amount):

☐ Please find enclosed a: ☐ cheque ☐ money order (made payable to Queensland Eye Institute Foundation).

☐ Please debit my card: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Amex

Card Number: Expiry: /

Name on card:

Signature:

☐ Please send me information on leaving a gift in my will

☐ I intend on leaving a gift to the QEI Foundation in my will

☐ Please send me information on joining 'SightFund', QEI's monthly giving program

☐ Please send me information on joining QEI's Workplace Giving Program for immediate pre-tax donations via payroll

Thank you! Your gift of \$2 or more is tax deductible. Please complete this form and return it in the reply paid envelope. Please help us keep our records up to date by making any changes below:

☐ Phone: ☐ Mobile: ☐ Email:

☐ I would prefer to receive all future updates and campaigns from the QEI Foundation via email

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