



Queensland Eye Institute Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Our Purpose

The 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

Welcome to our 2020 Annual Report

2020 was a challenging year for everyone. Australia started the year with bushfires and floods. Then came the COVID-19 pandemic which changed the world. At the Queensland Eye Institute (QEI), nonessential clinics were cancelled during the early part of COVID, and again during any lockdowns. By the end of the year our clinics had returned to about 90% of capacity. Our education activities, as well as most conferences (state, national and international) were cancelled for the year, although many returned in a 'virtual format' in late 2020. Much of our clinical research, including clinical trials, were also impacted during 2020. The short-term financial impact on business was mitigated to some extent by a number of government initiatives (e.g. JobKeeper), and the implementation of specific financial and operational processes.

In response to the pandemic, we developed a COVID-19 Response Plan, consistent with Queensland and Australian government and health department guidelines. At all times everything we did was guided by what was in the best interest (health, well-being and safety) of our staff, patients, suppliers and visitors.

Despite the challenges we faced, we took the opportunity to look at what we are currently doing, how we could do things better, and what QEI's role would be in a post-COVID-19 world.

One initiative we were able to start was to look at how QEI could align itself with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

(see later in this report). As a Foundation and Institute, we understand the importance of these goals and our impact on society and our environment as part of a global and local community.

As mentioned in our 2019 Annual Report, we undertook a review of our research strengths and capabilities and came up with a plan to guide our research programmes for the next five to ten years. While COVID-19 restricted the implementation of some of our plans, we were able to start on two new exciting research projects.

The first was the Vitreoretinal Lymphoma Registry. Vitreoretinal lymphoma is an aggressive cancer that affects the posterior part of the eye, causes serious visual symptoms, and carries a high risk of death despite treatment. Our project aims to establish an international clinical registry for the purposes of measuring and improving treatment outcomes. Ophthalmologists across the world will lodge clinical data from patients who suffer from vitreoretinal lymphoma in the registry, without identifying information, and the data will be analysed to assess outcomes. Analyses from the registry are expected to impact clinical practice worldwide and improve the outcomes for individuals who suffer from vitreoretinal lymphoma. This project is being led by Professor Justine Smith (Flinders University) and Professor Mark Radford. We received matching grant funding from a special grant from AusIndustry's Innovation Connections to allow us get the project of the ground.

The second project aims to develop an Inherited Eye Disease Registry, which currently does not exist in Queensland. This study involves creating a database which includes genetic, electrodiagnostic, and clinical information from patients with inherited eye diseases in Queensland. This database is essential to conducting gene therapy trials in Queensland.

This project is being led by Associate Professor Abhishek Sharma, with involvement from Associate Professor Tony Kwan, Associate Professor Shuan Dai (Queensland Children's Hospital) and Dr Jaclyn White.

We are emerging from a very challenging 2020 and early 2021, with natural disasters across the country as well as the pandemic and a range of societal and economic factors impacting us all. We are still doing our best to achieve our vision of improved eye health.

We are proud of our team of dedicated clinicians, researchers, staff and volunteers who continue to make QEI the institute that it is - an outcome focused medical research and teaching institute. Given the challenges of 2020, everyone's patience and commitment to our goals and our patients is greatly appreciated and acknowledged.

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.

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

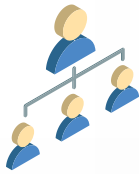
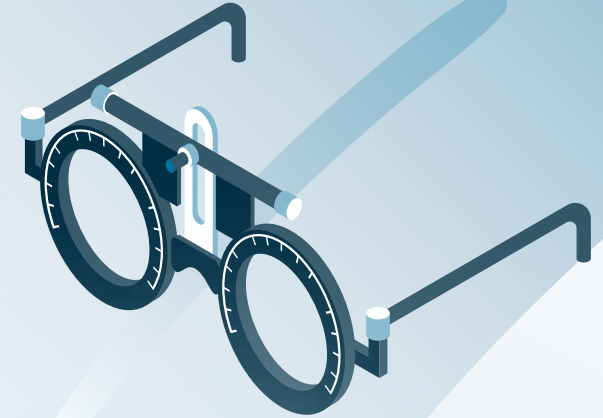
Mark Sheridan
CHAIRMAN



Professor Mark Radford
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO



2020 Snapshot



61

QEI STAFF



2

CLINICAL TRIALS



7

RESEARCH PROJECTS



6

RESEARCH
PUBLICATIONS



23,896

PATIENT
CONSULTATIONS



31.92%

INCREASE IN WEBSITE
DONATIONS

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.



Gemma Elder
DIRECTOR

Gemma is an accomplished Managing Director with a strong track record of performance in Australia and New Zealand. She was previously

with Publicis, one of the world's largest media and communications agency networks, where her remit spanned leadership of Personalised Plates Queensland, KiwiPlates and Qantas Corporate Sales.

Gemma brings extensive business, technology, sales and marketing experience having previously worked in senior positions with ASX listed companies.

Gemma holds a Bachelor of Business and Graduate Certificate in Applied Finance. She is a GAICD and sits on the board of the Southbank Medical Group and the Gold Coast Titans rugby league football club. She is also a member of the Greater Outcomes Advisory Committee that fosters entrepreneurial learning & social 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, AM
DIRECTOR

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

2020 has been a year of new challenges and successes for the Queensland Eye Institute (QEI) Clinic. Our world has seen many changes with a global pandemic, including how we do business at QEI. Extra safety precautions for staff and patients have been of paramount importance. Sneeze screens at the front desk and on slit lamps have been installed to help provide added protection for our staff and patients. We also installed extra hand sanitizers throughout both clinics, in the lifts and increased signage about signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Extra text messages prior to patient appointments and screening questions were also introduced along with temperature testing. Increased provision of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) in the form of masks were provided to both staff and patients during this period based on advice from Queensland Health.

We have also seen the introduction of Telehealth clinics as Specialists have not been able to travel interstate during various periods throughout the year. Patients who required review would still attend the clinic for a clinical assistant review and testing. This would then be followed with a Telehealth consultation by the Specialist who was able to log in to the patient management system to access the records and results of tests performed.

Unfortunately the pandemic did impact our ability to provide education to students and other health

care providers that we would normally be able to bring into the clinic for training. As the number of people entering the clinics were reduced, there was a need to put all placements on hold during this time. A strategic decision was also made to suspend services at our Clayfield rooms and consolidate services to our South Brisbane rooms. This coincided with the introduction of JobKeeper which assisted the clinic in being able to secure all job roles and create some security of employment for our staff.

While the pandemic has impacted how we do business it has not stopped our ability to forge ahead with new initiatives. We have been able to get our Patient Liaison Centre up and running where we have dedicated staff ready to answer our incoming calls. This has helped to increase our call answer rates which in turn has improved patient and provider satisfaction.

We also instigated some training and education around 'Living our Values'. This was a good opportunity to look at our values and commitments to these values across the entire clinic. There was a large focus on how we should interact with patients and colleagues to achieve best practice outcomes.

Another initiative that has proven to be a very effective training tool is the development of an in house newsletter called 'Eye News'. Each week a new topic is overviewed in the publication and distributed to all staff to raise awareness of a



particular topic and provide further educational information. Topics covered include both clinical and non-clinical topics of relevance. This initiative has been well received by all staff and Specialists and we look to continuing with this initiative.



QEI CLINIC

Patient consultations: 23,896
Staff total: 46



QEDIC

Total patients: 281
Children: 55
Adults: 226



Impact & Outcomes Research Projects Overview

PURPOSE: To save sight through excellence in targeted research, by focussing on understanding, early detection and best treatment and cure, to ultimately eliminate preventable blindness in the community.



BIG DATA AND INTEGRATIVE CLINICAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

- Development of a comprehensive database for commonest, anterior and posterior segment eye diseases in Queensland
- Improve understanding of the burden of eye disease in Queensland and analyse services necessary throughout the state



CORNEAL AND OCULAR SURFACE

- Focuses on the refinement of techniques in corneal collagen cross linking
- Using artificial intelligence to assist in creating customised treatment profile for individual patients
- Assessing novel therapeutic substances for disorders of the ocular surface and tear film



GENETICS AND EYE DISEASE

- Creation of a database of inherited eye disease in Queensland and conducting trials in genetic eye conditions
- Aims to improve understanding of genetic eye conditions and the phenotypes that may benefit from advances in gene therapy and new surgical techniques



OCULAR DIAGNOSTICS AND DEVICES

- Focuses on developing new diagnostic protocols and devices that will aid in quicker, more accurate and cost effective diagnoses and understanding of ocular related conditions



OPHTHALMIC BIOENGINEERING AND BIOMATERIALS

- Research is dedicated to the development of materials that aim to treat or replace damaged or diseased tissue in the eye
- Silk-based templates for tissue-engineered constructs
- Novel surgical adhesives
- Therapies based on photochemical crosslinking of collagenous tissues
- Antioxidants for retinal pathologies



CLINICAL TRIALS

- Designed to answer questions and find better ways to screen, diagnose, prevent or treat various eye diseases and conditions



Impact & Outcomes Research Summary

Professor Traian Chirila CHIEF SCIENTIST

Research activities in the Queensland Eye Institute (QEI) laboratories have continued within the frame of our Ophthalmic Bioengineering and Biomaterials research program.

The evaluation of antioxidative properties of a protein isolated from silk cocoons (sericin) in retinal cell cultures has continued. The control of oxidative stress is extremely important in treating degenerative eye diseases such as AMD, glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy. Japanese scientists have created mutant silkworms that produce a cocoon that contains exclusively sericin meaning no extraction and purification steps are required. Moving forward with this project, QEI Senior Research Officer Dr Shuko Suzuki and Research Assistant Dr Onur Sakiragaoglu have been using sericin produced by these mutant silkworms.

Work has been conducted on the development of microparticles for on-command release of enzymes that could have potential applications in ophthalmology. This is a collaborative project with University of Queensland (Professor Idriss Blakey).

QEI Chief Scientist Professor Traian Chirila and Senior Research Officer Dr Shuko Suzuki have continued research collaborations with the University of Western Australia, involving Professor Murray Baker and two PhD students. The collaboration focuses on two projects; one dedicated to surgical adhesives and the other focussing on polymer-nanoparticle composites. The results of the surgical adhesives project have been finalized in a thesis, and a continuation of the project is being planned. The polymer-nanoparticle composites project has so far generated one published paper and two submitted manuscripts (currently under review). In February 2020, Professor Chirila and Dr Suzuki presented the results of the project with the University of Western Australia researchers at the International Conference on Nanoscience and Nanotechnology held in Brisbane. The presentation focussed on hydrogels doped with silver nanoparticles.

In a first of its kind study, QEI scientists have collaborated with Aston University in Birmingham, United Kingdom (Professor Brian Tighe's group). The collaboration



Left: Prof Traian Chirila
Right: Silk cocoons and a 5 micrometers thick membrane of silk protein

aims to investigate the permeation and water-structuring properties of silk fibroin membranes. This research has been conducted through extremely advanced methods and the results have been submitted for publication. Knowledge of transport properties of such membranes is essential when they are employed as cell growth substrates.

The results of a past project on antimicrobial agarose gels for ophthalmic applications have been published in collaboration with scientists from University of Freiburg, Germany.

Throughout the year, our scientists published a total of six articles in scientific journals, and have submitted an application to NH&MRC for funding. Communication was maintained during the year with the G. E. Palade University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Science & Technology (UMFST), in Targu Mures, Romania, where two of QEI's research projects will be carried out in collaboration with their scientists. Due to restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, a planned working visit had to be postponed.

During the year, the QEI research team have maintained ongoing collaboration and communications with University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology, and Griffith University.

FIGURES



Research publications: 6



Research presentations: 1



Research projects: 7



Research students: 0



Researchers: 12



Initiated Internal Clinical Trials: 2

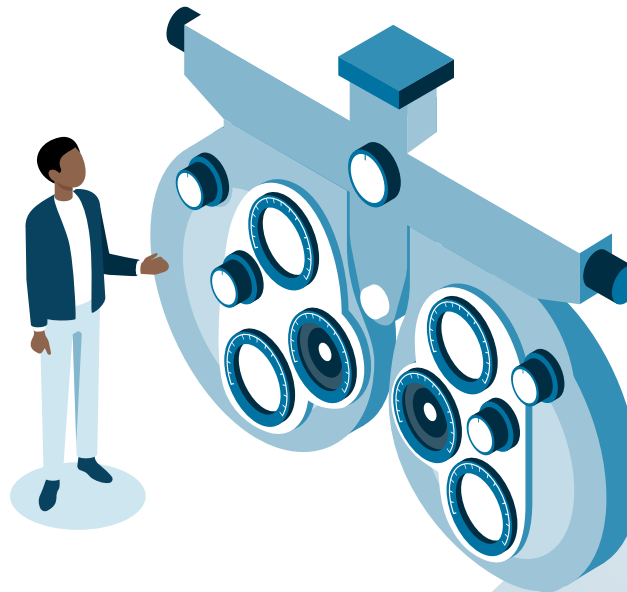


External Clinical Trial Patient Visits: 108

Impact & Outcomes

Research Publications

- ① 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), 156: e60762, 2020.
- ② Hirst L.W. and Smith J.: Accuracy of diagnosis of pterygium by optometrists and general practitioners in Australia. Clin. Exper. Optom., 103: 197-200, 2020.
- ③ Praveen, Suzuki S., Carson C.F., Saunders M., Clode P.L., Myers M.B., Chirila T.V. and Baker M.V.: Poly(2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate) sponges doped with Ag nanoparticles as antibacterial agents. ACS Appl. Nano Mater., 3: 1630-1639, 2020.
- ④ Alexander N., Walshe J., Richardson N.A., Futrega K., Doran M.R., Harkin D.G. and Shadforth A.M.A.: Stromal cells cultivated from the choroid of human eyes display a mesenchymal stromal cell (MSC) phenotype and inhibit the proliferation of choroidal vascular endothelial cells in vitro. Exp. Eye Res., 200: 108201, 2020.
- ⑤ Liu T., Bolle E.C.L., Chirila T.V., Buck M., Jonas D., Suzuki S., Smith T., Shastri V.P., Dargaville T.R. and Forget A.: Transparent, pliable, antimicrobial hydrogels for ocular wound dressings. Appl. Sci., 10: 7548, 2020.
- ⑥ Hirst L.W.: Long term results of P.E.R.F.E.C.T. for PTERYGIUM®. Cornea, in press 2020.



Impact & Outcomes Lymphoma Registry

Did you know that all profits from QEIF's partner organisation, the South Bank Day Hospital (SBDH) are invested directly into our research to save sight? Whilst a significant amount of this research is conducted in the South Brisbane facilities, QEIF also invests in external research partnerships that aim to improve understanding and best treatments for various eye diseases and conditions.

In 2020, a partnership was established between the Flinders University research team led by Professor Justine Smith and QEIF CEO Professor Mark Radford to create a registry for an unusual eye cancer. Funding for the project has been made possible by financial support from SBDH and an Innovation Connections Grant funded by the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources. This will be the first international registry aimed at better understanding the effectiveness of various treatments for lymphoma inside the eye.

Lymphoma is a blood cancer. Rarely this cancer can occur inside the eye, involving the retina and other tissues at the back of the eye that are critical for vision. "Lymphoma of the eye causes distressing symptoms, including loss of vision and severe floaters. Sadly, the largest problem for almost all patients is that this cancer usually progresses to

involve the brain," says Professor Smith. Currently, treatments include chemotherapy, radiotherapy and even bone marrow transplantation. Once the brain is affected, most patients cannot be cured with today's treatments. The latest data from the Australian Cancer Database tells us that only one-third of patients with lymphoma of the eye live for five years once the cancer spreads to the brain.

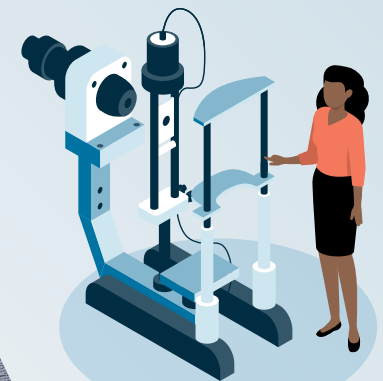
Unfortunately it is not possible to run clinical trials to identify the best treatments, as lymphoma of the eye is rare (roughly one case per million Australians). In this situation, an alternative approach to collecting medical information and improving treatments is a registry. This involves entering information about the cancer into a secure database.

The information can then be used to perform statistical testing to show general trends in outcomes of different treatments. Unlike clinical trials, the registry approach also provides information about medical practice in the real world.

It is hoped that the registry will assist doctors and researchers to better understand the most effective treatments for lymphoma of the eye and provide better outcomes for patients.



Dr Alix Farrall (left) and Professor Justine Smith (right)



Impact & Outcomes Education

Dr Brendan Cronin

CORNEA, CATARACT AND ANTERIOR SEGMENT
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

The COVID-19 pandemic presented many challenges for QEI's education events in 2020. A grand round evening was held at QEI South Brisbane in February. This grand round was sponsored by Mazars, a globally integrated tax and advisory firm. Unfortunately, this was the only education event QEI was able to host in person for the year, as COVID-19 restrictions came into place shortly after.

Throughout the rest of 2020, five grand rounds were hosted by QEI Clinic's Dr Brendan Cronin through a virtual platform. Topics covered include oculoplastics, uveitis and oncology, retina, cornea, glaucoma and neuro-ophthalmology and squint. No education events for optometrists were hosted at QEI South Brisbane in 2020. Towards the end of the year, as restrictions began to ease, QEI Clinic's Associate Professor Abhishek Sharma, Dr David Gunn and Dr Geoff Ryan conducted an education session for early career optometrists, in conjunction with Optometry Queensland and Northern Territory. This event was held at an external venue with limited capacity, and the option for optometrists to tune in online.

FIGURES



Onsite Grand
Round: 1



Online Grand
Rounds: 5



Onsite Optometry
Nights: 0



Students:
0



Representatives from Mazars, sponsors for
QEI's first grand round of 2020

QEI Clinic ophthalmologist
and Director of Education,
Dr Brendan Cronin



Impact & Outcomes Foundation

Glaucoma Day

In March 2020, QEIF held an information session and morning tea in support of World Glaucoma Week. The session was aimed at keeping patients and carers up to date on the latest in glaucoma research, clinical care and support services. Speakers from the QEI Clinic, Glaucoma Australia, QIMR and Quantum gave presentations and answered questions on glaucoma.

Tax Appeal

Due to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, mid-year fundraising activities looked a little bit different for QEIF in 2020. In acknowledgement of the immediate social and financial pressures the pandemic placed on QEIF's donor base, the decision was made to cancel the Tax Appeal campaign. Instead, an email was sent out to our database, with well wishes and an update on COVID-19 procedures at QEI. Whilst overall fundraising revenue dropped, the percentage of those opting to give through the website (opposed to via mail or in person) increased significantly from 2019.

Christmas Appeal

The QEIF Christmas Appeal focussed on the story of Abigail Dawit, a patient of QEI Clinic's Dr Mark Chiang. Young Abigail is a PhD student, with a promising career in plant biology. Sadly, Abigail suffered from a retinal detachment at an early age. Throughout her life, this has led to an array of vision problems; from cataracts and dry eyes to a dislocated lens and glaucoma. The campaign was supported by digital elements, including a video of Abigail telling her story whilst taking a tour of the QEIF laboratories.

FIGURES



Christmas Appeal
2020 ROI: 303%



Increase in website donations:
31.92% (compared to 2019)

In Memory of Sister Regis Mary Dunne

QEIF remembers Sister Regis Mary Dunne who sadly passed away in April 2020 at the age of 93. Sr Regis Mary was a dedicated supporter of QEIF and was well known for her work in the field of medical science and bioethics. As a Sister of Mercy, Sr Regis Mary would strive every day to make a positive difference in the lives of others through her faith and her work. Among her many career achievements, Sr Regis was the first to introduce cytogenetics – the study of the number and structure of chromosomes in cells – into a laboratory and led pioneering work in that field. In addition to this, she established the first genetic counselling clinic in 1961 to assist clinicians, patients and families to deal with the complexities of genetic diagnosis. Sr Regis Mary received many awards for her work, including an Order of Australia. We are eternally grateful for her many years of support and she will be sadly missed by those who had the privilege of knowing her.



Left: QEIF Patient, Abigail Dawit
Right: Glaucoma Day special guests and speakers

Impact & Outcomes Digital Marketing



QEI WEBSITE

37,387 sessions -
increase of 7.5%
since 2019



DONATIONS

Online donations
increase of 32%



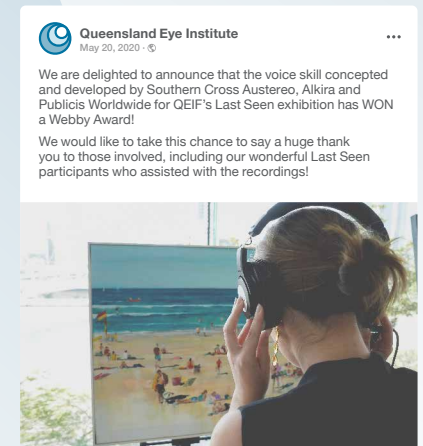
INSTAGRAM

Instagram followers
increase of 59%



FACEBOOK

Facebook like
increase of 5%



Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations have adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals to make our world more prosperous, inclusive and sustainable.

The Queensland Eye Institute Foundation (QEIF) understands the importance of these goals and our impact as a part of a global and local community. As part of our commitment to growing and operating responsibly, QEIF has developed framework goals for sustainable development across our research, education and clinical activities. Our staff are updated and educated on the importance of these goals so that together, we can work towards creating a sustainable environment for growth and prosperity.

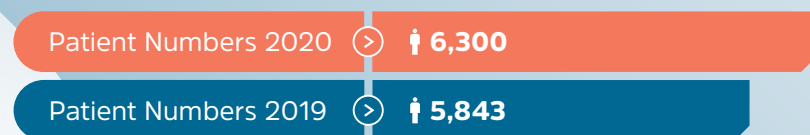
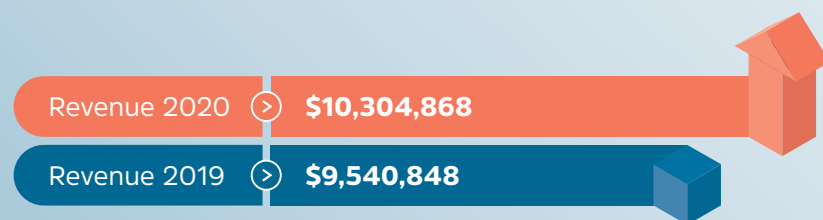


Sustainable Funding

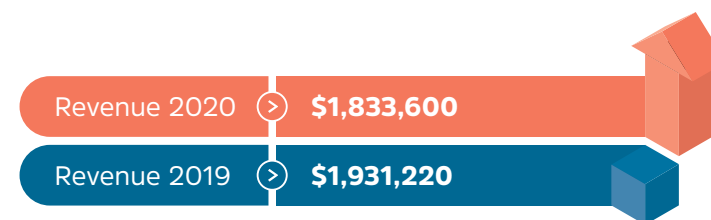


The South Bank Day Hospital (operated by South Bank Medical Group) provides a unique partnership with the QEI Clinic enabling patients to have their clinical diagnosis, procedure, treatment and care all under one roof at 140 Melbourne Street, South Brisbane.

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

Jemma Elder
DIRECTOR

John Lowes
DIRECTOR

Mario Pennisi AM
DIRECTOR

Kelly Langdon
COMPANY SECRETARY

Management Team

Kelly Langdon
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Anna Blake
CLINICAL SERVICES MANAGER

Jane Dodds
COMMUNITY RELATIONS MANAGER

Carmel Johnston
EA TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO

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, CATARACT & REFRACTIVE SURGERY

Dr Elias Kehdi
PAEDIATRICS

Associate Professor Anthony Kwan
RETINAL DISEASES

Dr Anthony Pane
NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY

Dr Geoffrey Ryan
CATARACT, GLAUCOMA AND CORNEA

Dr Abhishek Sharma
MEDICAL AND SURGICAL RETINAL DISEASES

Professor Ravi Thomas
GLAUCOMA AND CLINICAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

Research Faculty

Professor Traian Chirila
CHIEF SCIENTIST

Professor Lawrence Hirst
SENIOR CLINICAL SCIENTIST

Dr Shuko Suzuki
SENIOR RESEARCH OFFICER

Dr Onur Sakiragaoglu
RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Professor Damien Harkin
VISITING SENIOR SCIENTIST

Dr Audra Shadforth
VISITING SCIENTIST



Honorary Research Faculty

Professor Murray Baker
UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Associate Professor Nigel Barnett
THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Associate Professor Idriss Blakey
THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

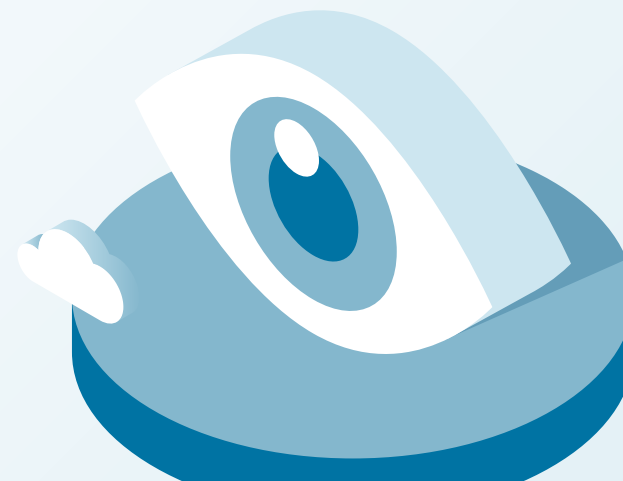
Professor Paul Dalton
UNIVERSITY OF WURZBURG, GERMANY

Dr Tim Dargaville
QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

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

Dr Neil Richardson
QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Financial Snapshot



Balance Sheet Comparatives

ASSETS	2020 \$	2019 \$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,971,312	3,554,056
Trade and other receivables	1,004,939	1,522,454
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	3,976,251	5,076,510
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Trade and other receivables	1,261,542	405,969
Investments in subsidiaries	30,037	37
Financial assets	4,734,863	4,484,193
Property, plant and equipment	7,294,077	7,912,857
Intangible assets	67,907	56,803
Right-of-use assets	16,740,122	18,732,941
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	30,128,549	31,592,800
TOTAL ASSETS	34,104,799	36,669,310
LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	192,732	206,157
Employee benefits	684,087	716,278
Other financial liabilities	23,870,712	25,303,193
TOTAL LIABILITIES	24,747,531	26,225,628
NET ASSETS	9,357,268	10,443,682

Income Statement Comparatives

	2020 \$	2019 \$
REVENUE		
Sylvia & Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation	1,854,000	1,800,000
Bequests and other donations	593,121	1,959,723
Clinical cost recoveries	2,211,261	2,697,713
Investment income	166,155	683,879
JobKeeper and Government support	1,624,824	-
Other income	50,471	62,486
TOTAL INCOME	6,499,833	7,203,801
EXPENSES		
Occupancy costs	684,047	956,986
Research costs	1,278,940	1,401,229
Fundraising costs	124,903	416,564
Clinical costs	3,837,032	3,649,238
Administration costs	1,661,324	1,877,701
TOTAL EXPENSES	7,586,246	8,301,718
NET COMPREHENSIVE INCOME / (LOSS)	(1,086,414)	(1,097,916)

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. We would like to thank the Board of Trustees, former Chair George Curphey and current Chair Justice Debra Mullins.

In 2020 we faced our greatest challenge yet in the form of the COVID-19 pandemic. We would like to thank our supporters for helping us get through what has been a difficult time for many charities and individuals. Our purpose to SAVE SIGHT would not be possible without the unstinting support of our donors, corporate partners and community members. Again, thank you for your support in 2020 and we look forward to what the future may bring.



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