

Year in Review



Queensland Eye Institute Foundation

Delivering first class eye care underpinned
by scientific research and education.

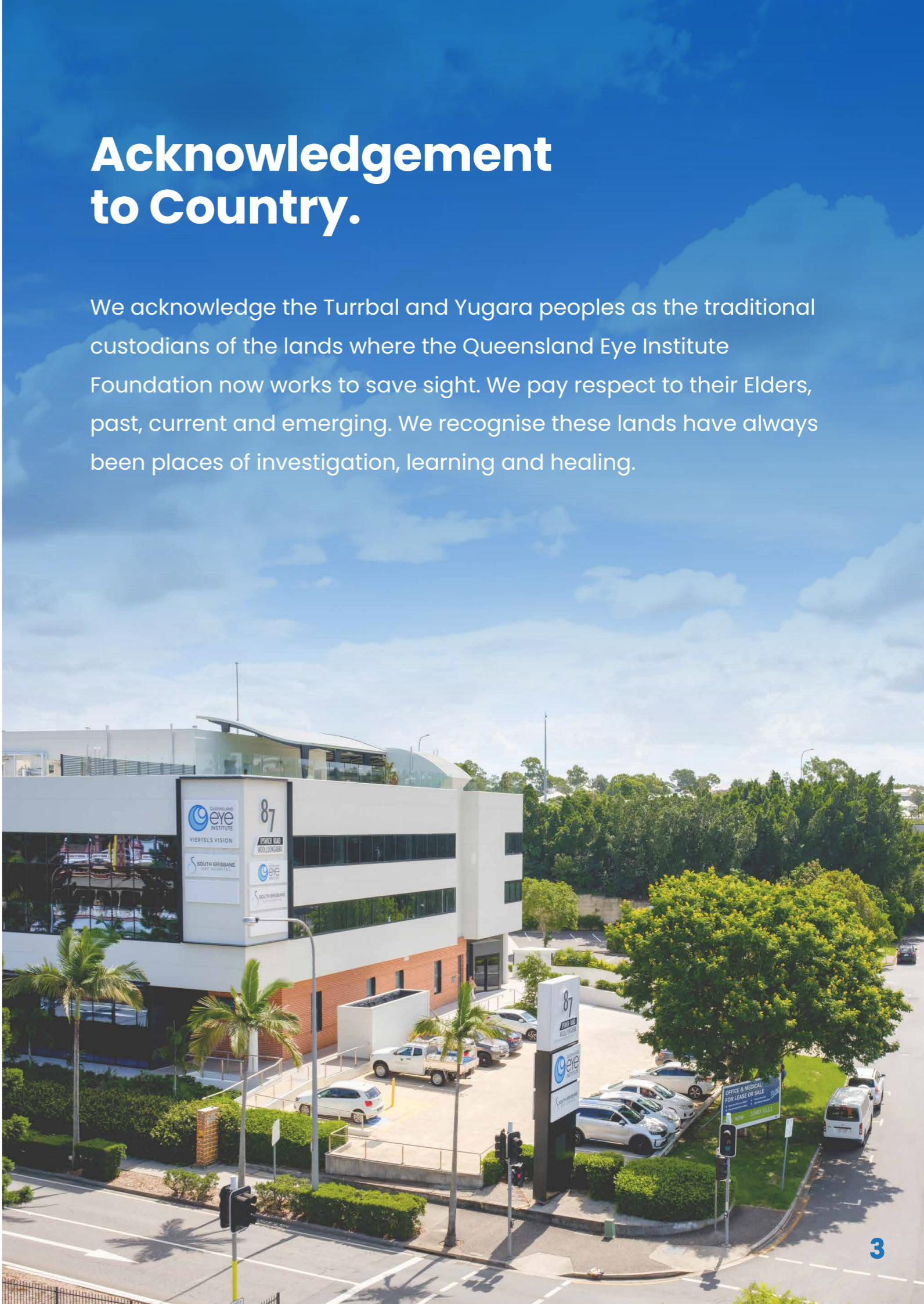


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Acknowledgement to Country.

We acknowledge the Turrbal and Yugara peoples as the traditional custodians of the lands where the Queensland Eye Institute Foundation now works to save sight. We pay respect to their Elders, past, current and emerging. We recognise these lands have always been places of investigation, learning and healing.




Our History.


In 1965, Dr John Ohlrich (far left) and a group of dedicated Queenslanders began raising money for vision research. They established a Queensland division of the Australian Foundation for the Prevention of Blindness, to support scientists and researchers working to eradicate preventable blindness. They recognised eye health education was critical, and

committed to ensuring the Queensland public, front line health workers and training ophthalmologists had access to the latest information about eye disease, its prevention and treatment.



 Dr John Ohlrich (first on left) and supporters



 QEI researcher Dr Shuko Suzuki at work in the Franquin Trust Laboratory

Our Purpose.

Today, the Queensland Eye Institute, supported by the Queensland Eye Institute Foundation, is Queensland’s largest independent academic research institute devoted to eye-related health and diseases.

QEI works to save sight by providing innovation and excellence in research, education and clinical care to reduce eye disease, improve eye health, and ultimately eliminate preventable blindness in the community. Its state-of-the-art

facilities in Woolloongabba and Clayfield include tertiary referral clinics run by ophthalmologists active in research, the Queensland Electro-Diagnostic and Imaging Centre (QEDIC) and medical research and microsurgical teaching laboratories. With no government funding, QEI’s research program relies on the generosity of donors, businesses and the community.

Introduction by Chairman and CEO.

2023 marked another landmark moment for QEI. Following months of planning, in November the organisation moved all operations to 87 Ipswich Rd, Woolloongabba, three kilometres from its previous location in South Brisbane.

In recent years there has been a realignment in how QEI works to save sight. The clinic and clinical trial teams have expanded, while education and training are increasingly delivered online. The new facility in Woolloongabba allows QEI to implement efficiencies and expand its clinical services. The associated entity South Bank Day Hospital (now renamed South Brisbane Day Hospital), a profit-for-purpose enterprise which helps fund QEI research, also moved to Woolloongabba.

QEI's unique environment, offering multi-disciplinary team support for laboratory research, clinical trials and education, continues to attract highly qualified scientists, clinicians and researchers to Queensland. Two new ophthalmologists joined the QEI clinic in 2023.

Despite the disruption caused by the relocation, QEI's research program made headway in the fight to save sight, with findings published in international, peer-reviewed journals and successful grant applications a measure of the scientific community's regard for QEI's work. Close collaboration with colleagues around Australia and overseas continues to underpin its scientific endeavours, with multi-centre laboratory research, clinical trials and registry development key to future success.

QEI ophthalmologists continued to be at the forefront of clinical advances in ophthalmology, bringing new treatment options to Queenslanders living with vision loss, and drawing on their professional networks to offer education opportunities to Queensland's eye health sector.

In the first quarter of 2023, months of work culminated in another edition of Last Seen, an artistic showcase paring blind Australians with artists and composers to depict their last, or most cherished, visual memory. With significant support from QEI Director Ms Jemma Elder and QEI's Corporate Services team, Last Seen was a resounding success, raising more than \$210,000 to support the QEI research program.

On a more sombre note, QEI marked with great sadness the sudden passing of Professor Ravi Thomas, an internationally recognised glaucoma researcher and specialist, and former clinician, educator and researcher at QEI.

Corporate and community donors continued to support us, responding generously to fundraising campaigns throughout the year. In 2023 QEI received another five-year grant from the Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation. That grant will defray operating costs, ensuring donations directly fund QEI scientists and their work.

The milestones recorded here are a snapshot, offering some insight into the dedication of QEI's clinical, scientific, corporate and administrative teams and their collective commitment to saving sight.

Mark Sheridan
Chair

Professor Mark Radford
Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director



 QEI Franquin Trust Laboratory

Research.

QEI's research program addresses five major themes:



Big Data and Integrative Clinical Epidemiology



Corneal and Ocular Surface



Genetics and Eye Disease



Ocular Diagnostics and Devices



Ophthalmic Bioengineering and Biomaterials

In 2023 work continued across projects within the ophthalmic bioengineering and biomaterials platform and the vitreoretinal lymphoma registry.

Research.

Ophthalmic Bioengineering and biomaterials.

QEI researchers are working to develop materials to treat or replace damaged or diseased tissue in the eye, with a particular focus on therapies to treat floppy eyelid syndrome and glaucoma.

These projects are directed from QEI in Brisbane with significant work undertaken through the George E. Palade University of Medicine, Science, Pharmacy and Technology in Romania. This collaboration offers potential for research funding from the European Economic Community.

In 2023 work continued on:

- Therapies from photochemical crosslinking of collagenous tissues

- Silk proteins to treat degenerative eye diseases
- Therapies addressing vision loss caused by dermal fillers

HIGHLIGHTS

- Results from the evaluation of tarsal collagen crosslinking in human tissue were finalised, and a report submitted for publication
- Results from the evaluation of ultraviolet radiation on the enzymolytic and biomechanical profiles of abdominal aortic adventitia tissue were reported and submitted for publication

Vitreoretinal Lymphoma Registry.

This real-world registry is a joint project between Flinders University and QEI led by Professor Justine Smith.

Vitreoretinal lymphoma is an aggressive non-Hodgkin B-cell lymphoma that affects the back of the eye. Vision loss is common, and there is no cure.

Eye lymphoma is rare, so most of what is known about the disease comes from small studies. By collecting and analysing high quality real-world data on current diagnostics, treatments and outcomes of vitreoretinal lymphoma, this registry project aims to identify the most effective management approaches.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Vitreoretinal Lymphoma Registry Study Group published preliminary findings, reporting clinical features and management of vitreoretinal lymphoma patients between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2022
- New partnership with the International Ocular Inflammation Society, which includes clinicians from around the world who diagnose and treat vitreoretinal lymphoma
- Awarded a three-year research grant from the Tour de Cure



Research.

Floppy eyelid syndrome.

Floppy eyelid syndrome describes eyelids that are so loose they will easily twist or turn inside-out. When they do this, the eyelids don't spontaneously spring back into their correct position. It is estimated floppy eyelid syndrome affects from 3.5 to 15.8% of the general population.

Floppy eyelid syndrome is caused by changes in the structure and organisation of the elastic fibrous proteins which form the tarsal plates of eyelids. It is a potentially blinding condition due to corneal complications and associations with other eyelid disorders.

QEI is developing a method to increase the strength and stiffness of the eyelid's tarsal plate, which consists of collagen and elastin. If successful, the new approach would offer significant advantages, including no toxic residues and no alteration to the basic structure and microarchitecture of the tarsal fibrocartilage system and macroscopic eyelid anatomy, allowing for prolonged benefit when combined with tightening procedures.



Research.

Silk protein.

Antioxidants based on sericin (a protein isolated from silk) show promise in reducing vision loss for patients suffering retinal diseases including glaucoma, age-related macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy. QEI scientists, in collaboration with Bond University, are working to develop an advanced drug-delivery system to administer protective antioxidant compounds to the retina.

QEI scientists hope vision loss in glaucoma patients will be significantly reduced or prevented by effective retinal protection with next generation, biologically stable, dual-acting anti-inflammatory antioxidant compounds. Moreover, when bound to a fluorescent dye, they would enable the damage caused to the retina through oxidative stress to be measured in real time.

Clinical Trials.

The Queensland Eye Institute supports initiatives aimed at improving health outcomes for patients with eye disease, including improved access to new drugs which may be more effective than those currently available. Clinical trials are essential to the development of new medications. Each study is designed to answer questions and find better ways to screen, diagnose, prevent or treat a disease or condition.



QEI ophthalmologist and clinical trial lead investigator Assoc Prof Anthony Kwan



Clinical Trials.

In 2023, QEI recruited and managed 134 patients across the following clinical trials.

NACUITY

Safety and efficacy of NPI-001 tablets versus placebo for treatment of retinitis pigmentosa associated with usher syndrome.

Clinical Indication: Usher Syndrome

Principal Investigator:
Assoc Prof Abhisek Sharma

Sponsor: Nacuity Pharmaceuticals

VELODROME and SubStudy

Assessment of the port delivery system with ranibizumab in subjects with Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration.

Clinical Indication: Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration

Principal Investigator: Assoc Prof Tony Kwan

Sponsor: F.-Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd

DRAGON

Assesses the efficacy of tinlarebant in slowing the rate of growth of atrophic lesion(s) in adolescent subjects with stargardt disease.

Clinical Indication: Stargardt Disease 1

Principal Investigator:
Assoc Prof Abhisek Sharma

Sponsor: BeLite Bio

Acelyrin (ValenciaBio)

A Phase 1b, randomized, double-masked, placebo-controlled, multiple ascending dose study evaluating the safety & tolerability, pharmacokinetics, and clinical efficacy of VB421 in subjects with thyroid eye disease.

Clinical Indication: Thyroid Eye Disease

Principal Investigator: Dr Alexandra Manta

Sponsor: Acelyrin (previously ValenzaBio Inc)

ONL1204-GA-001

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the safety and tolerability of intravitreal injection of ONL1204 Ophthalmic Solution in patients with geographic atrophy associated with age-related macular degeneration.

Clinical Indication: Geographic Atrophy

Principal Investigator: Assoc Prof Tony Kwan

Sponsor: ONL Therapeutics

PORTAL

Evaluate the long-term safety and tolerability of the port delivery system with ranibizumab in patients with Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration.

Clinical Indication: Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration

Principal Investigator: Assoc Prof Tony Kwan

Sponsor: F.-Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd

Cylite

Clinical Investigation Plan: HP-OCT Clinical Study II – Evaluation of Measurement Agreement and Precision and Fundus Visualization.

Clinical Indication: Non-inferiority comparison with current standard of care imaging systems

Principal Investigator: Dr Cronin

Sponsor: Cylite

PHOENIX

This Phase 3, multicenter, double-masked, parallel-group, placebo-controlled, randomized, fixed-dose clinical study is designed to evaluate the efficacy and safety of tinlarebant (LBS-008) in subjects diagnosed with geographic atrophy.

Clinical Indication: Geographic Atrophy

Principal Investigator: Assoc Prof Tony Kwan

Sponsor: BeLite Bio

Clinical Trials.

QEI's Clinical Trial Manager Brett Caldwell spoke to parents and family members of children with Usher syndrome at the Usher Kids Australia Family Day in Brisbane in October. Brett outlined a clinical trial looking at the safety and efficacy of an oral drug treatment. QEI is the only Queensland research centre participating in the trial and work is ongoing.



Trainees learning in the Lawrie Hirst Microsurgical Workshop



QEI clinical trials team (L-R) Kay O'Regan, Brett Caldwell, Mukund Pant

Education and training.

QEI has adapted its education program to capitalise on new online delivery systems and respond to the needs of students and professionals for flexibility in their continued learning. The close ties between QEI clinicians and international centres of excellence continue to benefit Queenslanders, with overseas experts routinely visiting QEI to share their expertise with local trainees.



Dr Alexandra Manta spearheaded QEI training courses in 2023



Education and training.

ELECTRODIAGNOSTIC IMAGING

Professor Graham Holder from the National University of Singapore, previously from Moorfields Eye Hospital London, visited the Queensland Eye Institute in March and November 2023, offering training to QEI's electrodiagnostic imaging technicians. During his time in Brisbane, the world leader also delivered lectures to local ophthalmic trainees and shared his expertise with local retinal specialists.

OCULOPLASTIC AND ORBITAL DISSECTION COURSE

QEI convened a panel of Australian and international experts to give practical guidance for cosmetic practitioners and ophthalmologists on safe practices in facial rejuvenation using dermal fillers. The educational event responded to recent regulatory reforms affecting the sector, and new guidelines published by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO).

OPHTHALMIC RESEARCH FOCUS MEETINGS FOR OPHTHALMOLOGY REGISTRARS

Meetings for ophthalmology registrars were held throughout 2023, covering topics including Cosmetic Filler Related Blindness and Other Complications and Ocular Adnexal B-Cell Lymphoma.

FILLER-RELATED BLINDNESS AND OTHER ADVERSE EVENTS

QEI developed a two-day course in oculoplastics and orbital dissection presented by leading oculoplastic surgeons. The course involved an overview of anatomy, disease presentation, evaluation, and surgical treatment at QEI and demonstrations of surgical techniques at the University of Queensland dissection lab.

INTERNSHIPS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

QEI maintains strong links with Aix-Marseille Université-Polytech in Marseille, hosting students from the French university seeking to increase their knowledge of ophthalmic biomaterials and tissue engineering.



Education and training.



Thirteen-year-old Darwin school girl Eva Susanto wants to be an ophthalmologist. Determined to make her dream a reality, Eva came to Brisbane with her mother to spend a week with QEI's research team under the guidance of Chief Scientist Professor Traian Chirila. Her time with QEI was a prize for winning the Brain Bee Challenge (Northern Territory division), a competition run by the Australasian Neuroscience Society to promote careers in science and technology.

Eva did more than simply watch QEI scientists Shuko Suzuki and Onur

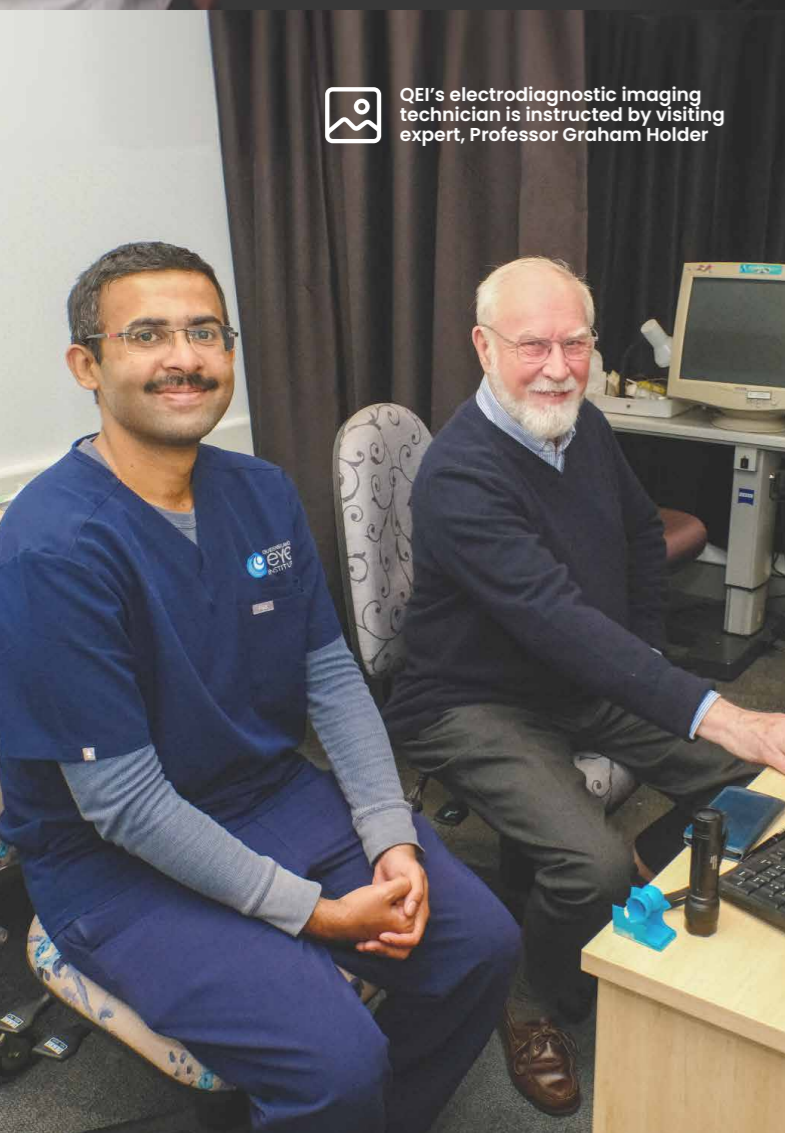
Sakiragaoglu at work. She grew retinal photoreceptor cells for testing the antioxidant effect of silk protein sericin, one of the key research projects currently underway at QEI. Eva learned how to extract sericin using an autoclave to purify it, then how to apply electrophoreses to estimate the distribution of molecular weight.



L-R Dr Onur Sakiragaoglu, Eva Susanto, Prof Traian Chirila and Dr Shuko Suzuki



Visiting Professor Graham Holder lectures Queensland ophthalmic trainees at a dinner meeting organised by QEI



QEI's electrodiagnostic imaging technician is instructed by visiting expert, Professor Graham Holder



Dr Rob Henderson of Great Ormond Street Hospital and Moorfields Eye Hospital in the United Kingdom spoke to Queensland ophthalmology trainees about his work on paediatric retinal gene therapy at the invitation of QEI's Assoc Prof Anthony Kwan.



Clinical Care.

The QEI clinical faculty is spearheaded by ophthalmologists with advanced training and a commitment to teaching the next generation of Queensland's eye health care providers. Supported by dedicated team of optometrists and optical assistants, in 2023 they provided clinical care to patients from Queensland and interstate at the following locations:



South Brisbane Clinic
Woolloongabba from November 2023



Clayfield Clinic

NEW OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

QEI expanded its clinical care faculty in 2023, welcoming two additional ophthalmologists with advanced training and an interest in ongoing teaching and research.

Dr Angela Richards brings additional expertise in cataract surgery, eyelid and tear drainage surgery, macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy. Dr Lee Holland brings advanced skills in cataract, corneal and refractive surgery.

SIMPLIFYING THE SURGERY JOURNEY

In 2023 the QEI clinic introduced an electronic booking pathway for patients undergoing surgery. As the new system is fully implemented, patients will be invited onto a unique electronic pathway designed by their treating doctor, which can be viewed from a computer, phone or other handheld device. Patients will be able to sign their consent electronically and pay for their procedure securely using this convenient electronic pathway.

QEI'S ELECTRODIAGNOSTIC IMAGING SERVICE RE-OPENED

The Queensland Electro-Diagnostic and Imaging Centre (QEDIC) re-opened in March with new equipment, purchased with the support of the donations made to the Queensland Eye Institute Foundation and a Bridge-to-Brisbane fundraising event organised previously by Associate Professor Anthony Kwan.



Dr Brendan Cronin (L) and Dr David Gunn (R)

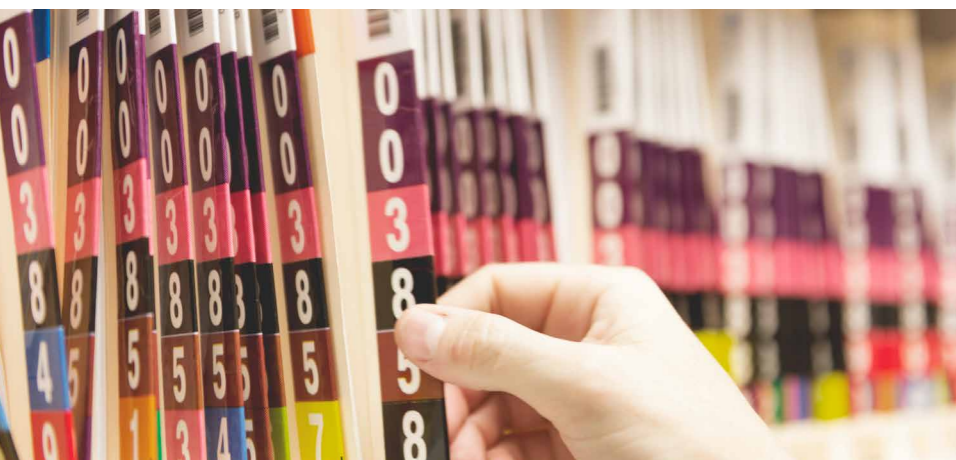
Drs Brendan Cronin and David Gunn, who pioneered a new surgical approach in Australia for treating Kerataconus in 2021, are now helping ensure the new approach is accessible to other surgeons around Australia. In 2023 the QEI ophthalmologists designed a free online tool to assist

surgeons undertaking corneal allogenic intrastromal ring segment (CAIRS) surgery. The website allows ophthalmologists to upload corneal topography scans of the patient's own cornea and create a map of where to accurately place the grafted corneal ring segments.



Commitment to Sustainability.

In 2021 QEI adopted the United Nation's Sustainability Development Goals (SDG). Since then, operations and processes have been reviewed for opportunities to reduce environmental impact.



In 2023 QEI undertook a large-scale digitisation project, scanning medical records to digital files and moving to electronic medical record keeping. In addition to slashing its print demands, QEI no longer needs a dedicated medical records storage room.

Advocacy and Outreach.



QEI's reputation as a leading institute for research and education ensures it regularly participates in national and international events addressing vision health. While pursuing its own, self-funded, research and education, QEI has also advocated for better eye health funding from government and supported increased clinical capacity in the Asia Pacific region.

NATIONAL EYE RESEARCH NETWORK ROADMAP PRESENTATION TO ISER CONFERENCE

QEI's Executive Director and CEO, Prof Mark Radford, helped introduce a new National Eye Research Network and its 10-point roadmap at the International Society for Eye Research (ISER) conference on the Gold Coast in February 2023. Professor Radford co-chaired the conference session with University of Sydney's Save Sight Director, Professor Peter McCluskey.

The National Eye Research Network, created by Vision 2020 Australia to advocate for eye and vision-related research, brings together some of Australia's leading eye research institutes to address preventable blindness. The collaborative presentation to ISER outlined the group's 10-point, multi-disciplinary road map for eye and vision research. QEI has been instrumental in building the network and developing the road map and continues to play a leading role in advocating for its objectives.

GLOBAL EYE HEALTH SEMINAR AND GLAUCOMA WORKSHOP

QEI's Prof Mark Radford and Dr Alexandra Manta were instrumental in organising the Global Eye Health Seminar and Glaucoma Workshop at RANZCO's annual meeting in Perth, with the theme "Glaucoma and uveitis diagnosis and management in low resources environments".

The Global Eye Health initiative supports exchanges between RANZCO Fellows and colleagues from low-resource settings, offering enriching experiences and networking opportunities for ophthalmologists beyond Australia and New Zealand.

WORLD SIGHT DAY, QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT, BRISBANE OCTOBER 2023

Prof Mark Radford met with Queensland's Minister for Health, Shannon Fentiman MP,

on World Sight Day in October. Prof Radford discussed the important contribution QEI makes to eye health and saving sight at an event organised by Vision2020 Australia at Queensland's Parliament House.

FRIENDS OF PARLIAMENT, CANBERRA NOVEMBER 2023

QEI participated in a Vision2020 Australia event in Canberra in November. The Parliamentary Friends group is a non-partisan forum for Australian policy and lawmakers to meet experts in eye health and vision care.

QEI exhibited reproductions of Last Seen artwork at the event, including tactile versions. The Last Seen artwork and the stories behind them added some personal context to vision loss discussions, and highlighted QEI's research, education and clinical efforts in the sector.

Fundraising.

Last Seen.



Global Eye Health Workshop, RANZCO Congress 2023



QEI's Professor Mark Radford (R) meets with Hon Shannon Fentiman MP (C), Queensland Minister for Health, at Queensland's Parliament House



Hon Christopher Pyne, Chair of Vision 2020 Australia, with QEI's Professor Mark Radford at a Friends of Parliament event in Canberra

Two years of planning culminated in the QEI Foundation's signature fundraising event, Last Seen – a creative showcase pairing ten vision impaired Australians with renowned artists and composers to depict their last visual memory.

Produced in partnership with Griffith University, Last Seen offered a multi-sensory experience and demonstrated the value and importance of accessible cultural events.

Some of the original artworks were auctioned at a gala preview in March before a week-long exhibition at Griffith University Art Museum.

The Last Seen performance took place at the Griffith Conservatorium in April. Featuring new music by established and emerging composers, the performances told the stories of the vision impaired Australians through music, voice and film supported by the artworks, which appeared, enlarged and zoomed in, on a giant screen above the stage. The multi-media event prompted the audience to consider – how would you feel if you lost your sight?

Profits from the art and performance ticket sales supported QEI's research program.



Profit-for-purpose day hospitals.

The South Bank Day Hospital and Kingaroy-based Lady Bjelke-Petersen Community Hospital are both operated by the South Bank Medical Group. All profits generated by the hospitals are invested back into the work of the QEI Foundation.



 **\$13,909,206**

2023 REVENUE

 **8,651**

2023 PATIENT NUMBERS

 **\$11,760,019**

2022 REVENUE

 **7,569**

2022 PATIENT NUMBERS



 **\$3,028,479**

2023 REVENUE

 **2,090**

2023 PATIENT NUMBERS

 **\$2,001,684**

2022 REVENUE

 **1,771**

2022 PATIENT NUMBERS

Financial Snapshot.

BALANCE SHEET

CURRENT ASSETS	2023	2022
Cash and cash equivalents	3,491,022	2,578,458
Trade and other receivables	504,682	618,129
Other current assets	31,761	326,076
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	4,027,465	3,522,663
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Trade and other receivables	2,003,434	1,628,361
Investments in subsidiaries	30,137	30,137
Financial assets	1,941,039	5,265,820
Property, plant and equipment	2,123,514	5,772,969
Intangible assets	83,819	77,529
Right of use assets	2,034,799	3,546,871
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	8,216,742	16,321,687
TOTAL ASSETS	12,244,207	19,844,350
LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	450,924	437,669
Employee benefits	982,992	953,429
Other financial liabilities	9,974,175	12,014,287
TOTAL LIABILITIES	11,408,091	13,405,385
NET ASSETS	836,115	6,438,965

Extracted from the company's management accounts which form part of the audited financial Report for January 1 to December 31 2022.

INCOME STATEMENT

REVENUE	2023	2022
Slyvia & Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation	1,872,540	1,872,540
Bequests and other donations	806,973	342,586
Clinical cost recoveries	3,608,245	3,451,205
Investment Income	299,499	- 910
JobKeeper and government support	-	50,000
Other income	382,845	160,982
TOTAL INCOME	6,970,102	5,876,403
EXPENSES		
Occupancy costs	4,158,252	787,254
Research costs	1,697,616	1,060,547
Fundraising costs	315,941	158,472
Clinical costs	4,445,003	4,463,300
Administration costs	1,956,140	935,029
TOTAL EXPENSES	12,572,951	7,404,602
NET ASSETS	- 5,602,850	- 1,528,199

Extracted from the company's management accounts which form part of the audited financial Report for January 1 to December 31, 2023.

Board of Directors.



Mark Sheridan
OAM – CHAIRMAN

Mark Sheridan is a consultant with leading business advisory firm Forvis Mazars in Brisbane. He has a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) and is a Fellow of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand. He is also a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He was appointed a Director of the Prevent Blindness Foundation in 2003 and Chairman of the Foundation from April 2011.



Kelly Langdon
COMPANY SECRETARY

Kelly Langdon has been associated with the Queensland Eye Institute since 2004 in a General Management consulting capacity. Kelly's qualifications included a Bachelor of Human Resource Management and Economics. Kelly enjoys the variety and scope of working with the Queensland Eye Institute; it provides the opportunity to bring commercial business experience to the not-for-profit sector.



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 was 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.



Jane Prentice
DIRECTOR

Jane Prentice is a former Australian politician who served as a member of the House of Representatives from 2010 to 2019, representing the Division of Ryan in Queensland. She previously served on the Brisbane City Council from 2000 to 2010. Jane is currently President of both Tennis Queensland and Scouts Queensland, as well as being a Patron of several not-for-profit organisations in Queensland.



Mark Radford
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Prof. Mark Radford has been Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer for the Queensland Eye Institute since March 2010. Mark completed his first undergraduate degree at Flinders University of South Australia in 1978. After being awarded a Japanese Government (Mombusho) Fellowship, Mark completed his Doctor of Medicine at Nagasaki University School of Medicine in 1992 and a PhD at Flinders University (1989). In 2006, Mark returned to Australia to become CEO and Managing Director of Symbiosis Group Limited – a life science investment, management and commercialisation company based in Brisbane, Australia.



Jemma Elder
DIRECTOR

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



John Lowes
DIRECTOR

John is a retired special counsel and previously a partner with Shand Taylor Lawyers. Prior to that he was the principal of Lowes & Company, a predominantly property and commercial law firm which he headed for 11 years, following eight years with the international law firm Phillips Fox (now DLA Piper). John's law practice concentrated on all aspects of property, business law and private client advisory. He has also acted for a broad range of health professionals and specialist medical groups.

Research Advisory Committee.

Prof Mark Radford

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 Australian Institute of Company Directors, the Institute of Managers and Leaders, and the Queensland Academy of Arts & Sciences, and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists.

Mario Pennisi AM

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.

Prof Helen Chenery

Professor Chenery is former Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine at Bond University. In previous academic roles – as Director of a translational clinical research centre in neuromodulation and Deputy Executive Dean (Academic), Faculty of Health Sciences at The University of Queensland – she has led policy and practice reform in dementia care, health workforce and service design, and interprofessional education/practice.

Prof Peter McCluskey AO

Professor Peter McCluskey is Director of the Save Sight Institute at Sydney Eye Hospital and Professor and Chair of Ophthalmology at the University of Sydney. Peter is an inflammatory eye disease specialist with more than 25 years' experience in the field. He has received distinguished service awards from APAO, RANZCO and AAO for his teaching contributions.

Our 2023 Team.

Board of Directors

Mark Sheridan
CHAIRMAN OAM

Prof Mark Radford
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jemma Elder
DIRECTOR

John Lowes
DIRECTOR

Mario Pennisi
DIRECTOR AM

Jane Prentice
DIRECTOR

Kelly Langdon
COMPANY SECRETARY

Management Team

Prof Mark Radford
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kelly Langdon
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Anna Blake
CLINICAL SERVICES MANAGER

Jane Dodds
COMMUNITY RELATIONS MANAGER

Laura Kittela
COMPANY ACCOUNTANT

Jared Wilford
CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

Carmel Johnston
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO CEO

Research Advisory Committee

Prof Mark Radford

Mario Pennisi AM

Prof Helen Chenery

Prof Peter McCluskey AO

Clinical Faculty

Dr Brendan Cronin
CORNEA & ANTERIOR SEGMENT

Dr David Gunn
CORNEA, CATARACT &
REFRACTIVE

Dr Lee Holland
CORNEA, CATARACT, REFRACTIVE
& GLAUCOMA

Dr Elias Kehdi
PAEDIATRICS

Associate Prof
Anthony Kwan
RETINAL DISEASES

Dr Anthony Pane
NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY

Dr Angela Richards
CATARACT, EYELID & TEAR DRAINAGE,
MACULAR DEGENERATION &
DIABETIC RETINOPATHY

Dr Geoffrey Ryan
CATARACT, GLAUCOMA &
CORNEA

Associate Prof
Abhishek Sharma
MEDICAL & SURGICAL RETINAL
DISEASES

Research Faculty

Prof Traian Chirila
CHIEF SCIENTIST

Dr Shuko Suzuki
SENIOR RESEARCH OFFICER

Dr Alexandra Manta
CLINICAL RESEARCHER

Dr Onur Sakiragaoglu
RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Prof Damien Harkin
VISITING SENIOR SCIENTIST

Dr Audra Shadforth
VISITING SCIENTIST

Honorary Research Faculty

Prof Murray Baker
UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN
AUSTRALIA

Associate Prof
Nigel Barnett
BOND UNIVERSITY

Associate Prof
Idriss Blakey
THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Dr Tim Dargaville
QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF
TECHNOLOGY

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

Prof Justine Smith
FLINDERS UNIVERSITY

Assoc Prof Shuan Dai
VISITING CLINICAL RESEARCHER

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