

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.

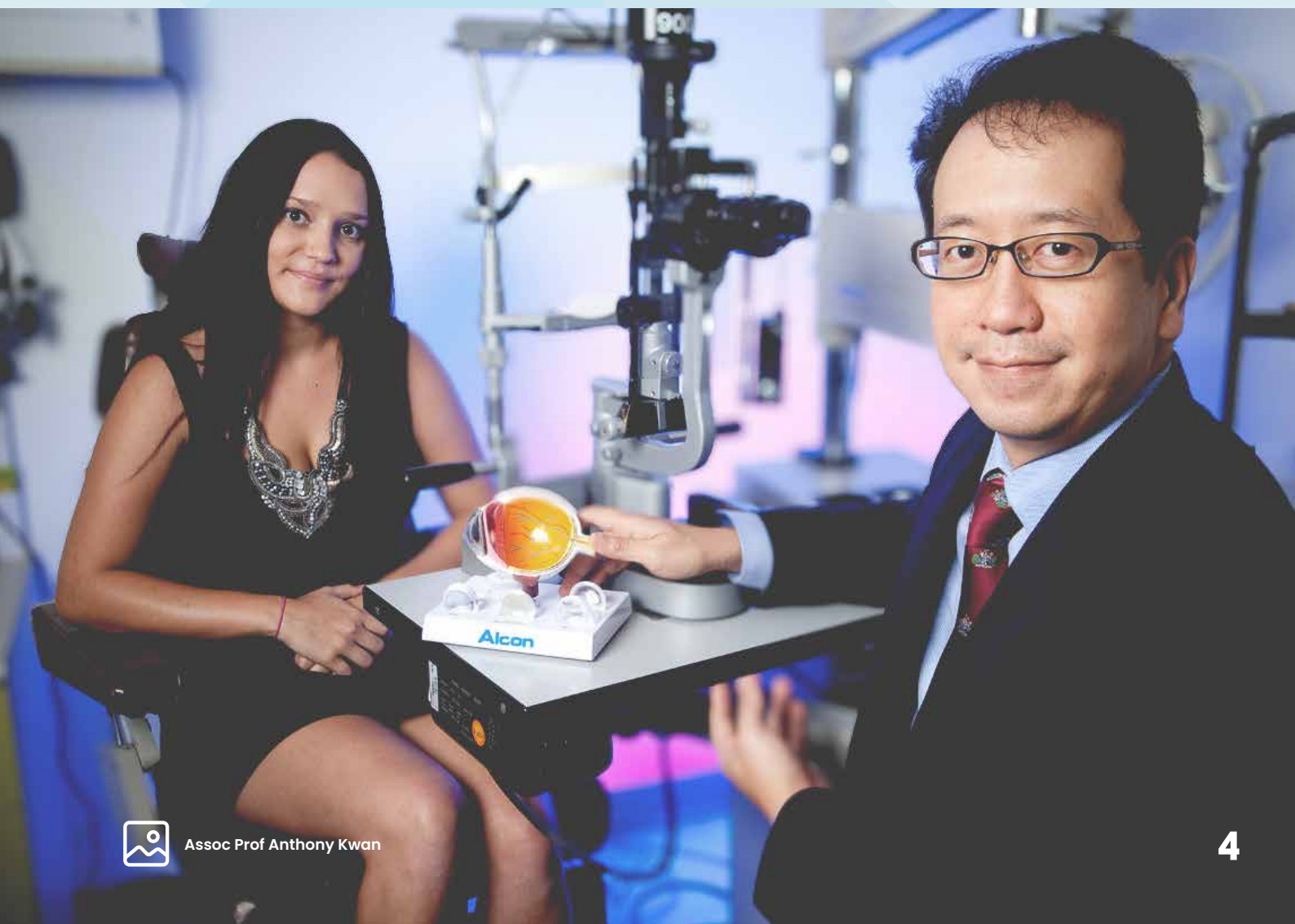
We acknowledge the Turrbal and Yuggera peoples as the traditional custodians of the lands where the Queensland Eye Institute Foundation now works to save sight. We pay respect to their Elders, past, current and emerging. We recognise these lands have always been places of teaching, research, learning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



Our Purpose.

The Queensland Eye Institute (QEI) is Queensland's largest independent academic research institute devoted to eye-related health and diseases. Supported by the Queensland Eye Institute Foundation and profits from South Brisbane Day Hospital, 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, and medical research and microsurgical teaching laboratories.



Assoc Prof Anthony Kwan

Introduction by Chairman and CEO.

This review of activity and outcomes for 2024 is a pleasing reflection of QEI's impact on vision health for another year.

Inspired by the ambitions of its founders articulated nearly 60 years ago, QEI has continued to deliver world-best eye care to Queenslanders while contributing to the education and development of the eye health sector here and abroad.

More than a clinical service, the QEI campus nurtures ideas and supports clinical and scientific staff to collaborate, explore and expand our knowledge across a broad spectrum of vision-related science. QEI has also assumed a leadership role in the Pacific, strengthening the capacity of our near neighbours through its management of the Global Eye Health initiative.

This steady progress was highlighted in August when Her Excellency the Honourable Doctor Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland, officially opened QEI's new home at 87 Ipswich Road Woolloongabba.

The next chapter in QEI's evolution has commenced with this latest building upgrade. The new building provides more space for expanding clinical services and more efficient facilities for research and administration teams. It also supports QEI's contemporary education program, research projects and collaborations with fewer overheads and less waste. Its intelligent and energy-efficient design will save on running costs, ensuring more of the Foundation's resources can be channelled into its research, just as its founders envisaged.

In 2024 we bid farewell to two valued team members. Community Relations Manager Jane Dodds retired after more than 12 years supporting our donors, and Director Jemma Elder, the driving force behind QEI's Last Seen fundraising events, resigned from the QEI Board after almost a decade of service. We thank them both for their contribution.

Please enjoy the 2024 Year in Review.



Mark Sheridan
Chair



Professor Mark Radford
Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director

Official opening.

Her Excellency the Honourable Doctor Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland, officially opened QEI's new home at 87 Ipswich Road Woolloongabba in August. The event provided an opportunity to catch up with past staff members, research colleagues from around Australia and longstanding donors to the Foundation. We were particularly pleased to welcome Justice Debra Mullins, President of the Queensland Court of Appeal and Chair of the Sylvia & Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation, trustees of the Sylvia & Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation, past CEO Professor Lawrie Hirst and His Excellency Mr. Radu Safta, Romanian Ambassador to Australia, to the event.



L-R Assoc Prof Anthony Kwan, Assoc Prof Nigel Barnett, Dr David Gunn



L-R Prof Mark Radford, Jane Prentice, Mark Sheridan OAM, Her Excellency the Honourable Doctor Jeannette Young AC PSM, Jemma Elder, Mario Pennisi, John Lowes



L-R Prof Mark Radford, His Excellency Mr. Radu Safta, Romanian Ambassador to Australia, Prof Justine Smith, Mr Ciprian Popescu, Romanian honorary consul (Queensland)



L-R Dr Alexandra Manta, Mark Sheridan OAM, Justice Debra Mullins, Her Excellency the Honourable Doctor Jeannette Young AC PSM, Prof Mark Radford



L-R Prof Lawrence Hirst, Mary Peden, Alec Peden



Her Excellency the Honourable Doctor Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland, with QEI clinic team



Research.

19

Lectures and presentations

9

Journal articles

4

Other publications

4

Student research interns

2

Posters

2

Patent applications

1

Grant applications

In 2024 work continued across projects within the ophthalmic bioengineering and biomaterials platform and the vitreoretinal lymphoma registry.

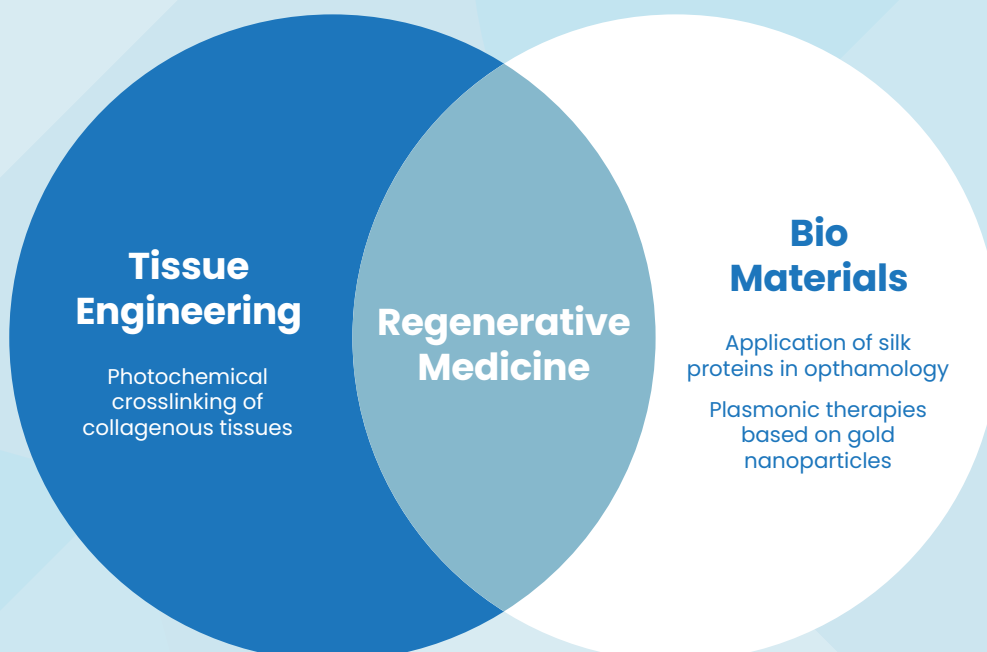
Ophthalmic Bioengineering and biomaterials.

QEI researchers are working to develop materials to treat or replace damaged or diseased tissue in the eye. 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.

In 2024 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

How QEI's Bioengineering Program works to save sight.



The International Vitreoretinal B-Cell Lymphoma Registry.

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. The International Vitreoretinal B-Cell Lymphoma project collects and analyses real-world data on current diagnostics, treatments and outcomes to find the best management approaches to the disease.

The quality of the register increases as it collects more information from diverse patient communities. In 2024, the International Vitreoretinal B-Cell

Lymphoma Registry team, operating at Flinders University under the leadership of Professor Justine Smith, focused on building the registry and expanding its reach. Lectures at national and international meetings led to recruitment and training of more ophthalmologists to support the registry. By the end of 2024, there were 62 ophthalmologists and other expert clinicians from 15 countries actively contributing to the register, in addition to the Flinders University-Queensland Eye Institute team.

Research highlights.

IMPORTANT FINDINGS CONFIRM THE ROLE OF COLLAGEN IN PRESERVING SIGHT.

Promising findings by QEI researchers were published in the journal of The American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

QEI researchers are working on materials to treat or replace damaged or diseased tissue in the eye. The research investigates how to strengthen collagen naturally occurring in the eye, using light energy to promote chemical and structural changes to the collagen and make it more resilient.

Following promising results on animal collagen, QEI researchers advanced to examine the effects of this method on human tissue. Results from those experiments confirm the irradiation of tarsal tissue with ultraviolet-A light appears to be a safe and effective method for reducing eyelid laxity in human patients.

While these early results are promising, many challenges remain in translating the crosslinking method into a safe and reliable clinical treatment. Understanding the role of different crosslinking agents is also crucial for developing useful collagen-based biopolymers to treat other eye diseases.



Dr Alexandra Manta (L), Dr Shuko Suzuki (centre) and Prof Traian Chirila (R) with visiting students Noah Guenneguez, Leo Venturini, Marc Parisot and Sofiene Moqrich

› Research

International student internships.

French university students Sofiene Moqrich, Marc Parisot, Noah Guenneguez and Leo Venturini from Aix-Marseille Université, Marseille, studied at QEI from March to July 2024 under the tutelage of QEI's Chief Scientist, Professor Traian Chirila, assisted by Drs Shuko Suzuki and Alexandra Manta.

Professor Chirila is a world-renowned expert in polymer science and leads QEI's research projects under the ophthalmic biomaterials and tissue engineering umbrella.

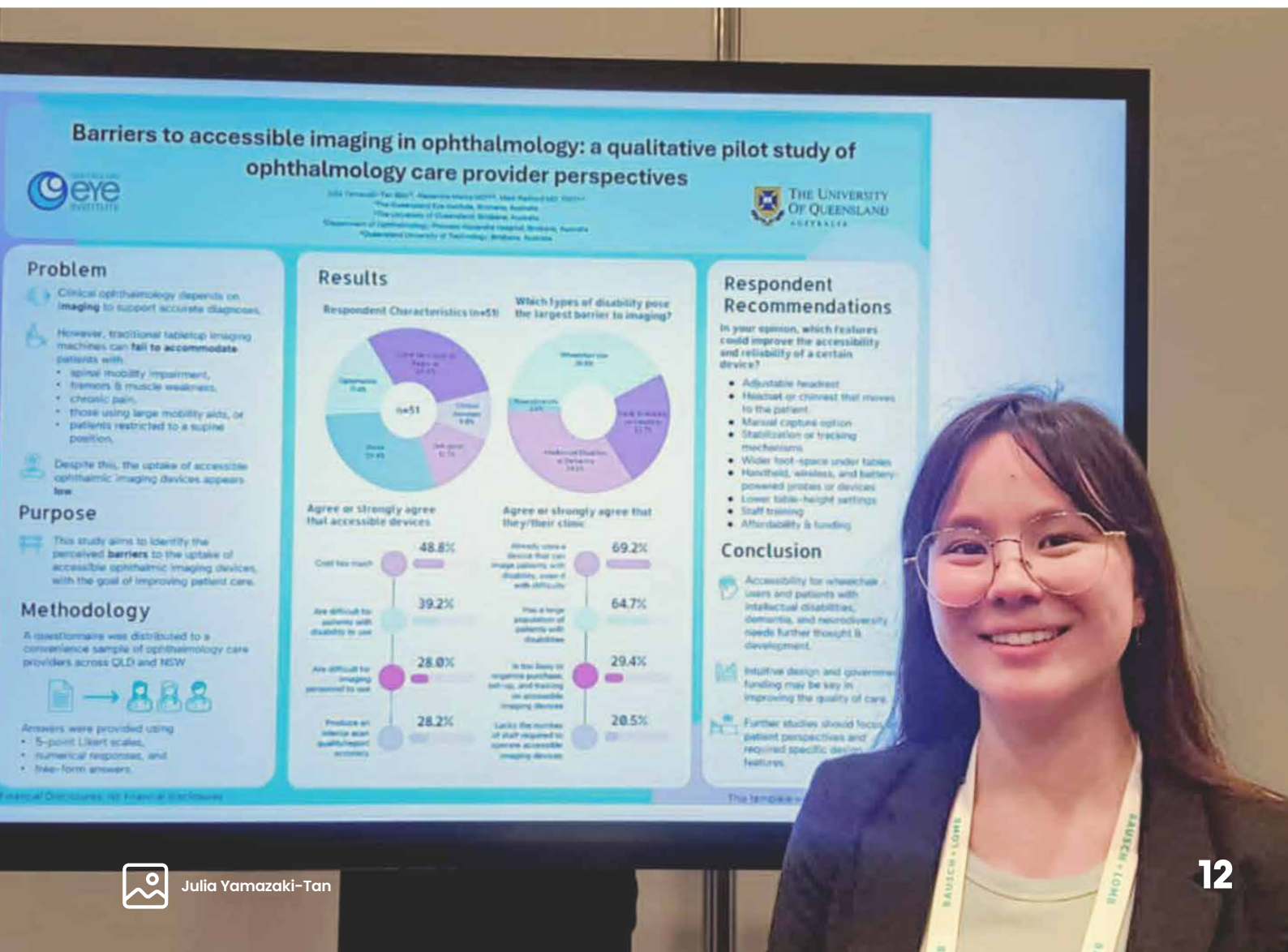
QEI's research culture supports student to shine.

Julia Yamazaki-Tan, a medical student and part-time clinical assistant at QEI, investigated barriers faced by eye care providers when examining patients with physical impairments.

Her study explored the availability of ophthalmic imaging machines to accommodate disability, and any barriers affecting their use by optometry and ophthalmology practices. With support

from Dr Alexandra Manta and Professor Mark Radford, Julia designed a survey and collected data from more than 50 ophthalmology care providers in Queensland and New South Wales.

Julia presented her research findings at the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmology (RANZCO) annual congress in November.



Research publications.

1. Arbănași, E.M., Ciucanu, C.C., Mureșan, A.V., Suzuki, S. and Chirilă, T.V. (2024) 'Effect of Ultraviolet Radiation on the Enzymolytic and Biomechanical Profiles of Abdominal Aortic Adventitia Tissue', *Journal of Clinical Medicine*, 13(2), p. 633. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.3390/mps7060090>
2. Chirilă, T.V. (2024) 'Reinforcing the aneurysmal aorta by additional layering: old and new strategies to prevent rupture', *Exploration of Cardiology*, 2(3), pp. 134–147. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.37349/ec.2024.00027>
3. Corbett, D., Black, D., Roberts, T.V., Cronin, B., Gunn, D., Bala, C., Versace, P., Tsai, L., Papadatou, E., Alarcon, A. and Vilupuru, S. (2024) 'Quality of vision clinical outcomes for a new fully-refractive extended depth of focus Intraocular Lens', *Eye (London)*, [online] Published: 5 April 2024. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41433-024-03039-8>
4. Cronin, B., Gunn, D. and Chang, C.Y. (2024) 'Oxygen-supplemented and topography-guided epithelium-on corneal crosslinking with pulsed irradiation for progressive keratoconus', *Journal of Cataract & Refractive Surgery*, 50(3), pp. 209–216. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1097/j.jcrs.0000000000001339>
5. Ion, A.P., Asztalos, A., Ciucanu, C.C., Russu, E., Mureșan, A.V., Arbănași, E.-M., Chirilă, T.V., Strnad, G. and Arbănași, E.-M. (2024) 'Optimizing Arterial Tissue Thickness Measurement Protocols: Digital Vernier Caliper Versus Digital Thickness Gauge', *Methods and Protocols*, 7(6), p. 90. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.3390/mps7060090>
6. Ion, A.P., Asztalos, A., Ciucanu, C.C., Russu, E., Mureșan, A.V., Arbănași, E.M., Bartus, R., Radu, C.C., Chirilă, T.V. and Arbănași, E.M. (2024) 'Superior Measurement Accuracy of Digital Thickness Gauge Versus Digital Vernier Caliper in Determining Venous Tissue Thickness', *Cureus*, 16(9), p. e68442. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.3390/mps7060090>
7. Manta, A.I., Pop, N.E., Tripon, R.G., Vultur, F., Suzuki, S., Cordos, B.A., Radu, C.C., Hoge, T., Carasca, C., Horvath, K.U., Muntean, G.A., Siserman, V.C., Cotoi, O.S., Radford, M.H.B. and Chirila, T.V. (2025) 'Photochemical Crosslinking of Tarsal Collagen as a Treatment for Eyelid Laxity: Evaluation in Ex Vivo Human Tissue', *Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*, 41(1), pp. 28–35. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1097/IOP.0000000000002709> (Published digitally: 9 May 2024).
8. Manta, A.I., Schlect, D.J., Wang, D.D. and Sullivan, T.J. (2024) 'Two-year Outcomes of Ultra-low-dose Radiotherapy in the Treatment of Ocular Adnexal B-cell Lymphomas', *Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1097/IOP.0000000000002747> (Accessed: 19 August 2024).
9. Androudi, S., Apivatthakakul, A., Arevalo, F.J., Berkenstock, M.K., Carreño, E., Chee, S.P., Choovuthayakorn, J., Cimino, L., Cornish, E.E., Farrall, A.L., Gehl, Z., Gentile, P., Gerges, T.K., Gozzi, F., Hernández-Pons, A., Issa, S., Kim, H.M., Kim, M., Knickelbein, J.E., Kunavisarut, P., Lee, S.M., Lim, L.L., Lin, M.L., Llorenç, V., López-Sierra, S., Martínez-Costa, L., McCluskey, P., Mochizuki, M., O'Day, R.F., Pai, A.S., Palestine, A.G., Pathanapitoon, K., Radford, M.H.B., Silpa-Archa, S., Smith, J.R., Terada, Y., Waduthantri, S., Weaver, T.R.E., Williams, K.L., Woo, S.J. and Younan, C. (2024) 'Presentation, Diagnostic Testing and Initial Treatment of Vitreoretinal Lymphoma', *Ophthalmology Retina*, 8(1), pp. 72–80. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.oret.2023.08.012>

Other publications.

1. Radford, M. H. (2024, January 25). Queensland – a powerhouse for life sciences, biotechnology and medical sciences. Innovatia, (June 2024 Live Edition), 669–672.
<https://publications.innovatia.au/view/835428525/669/>
2. Kwan, A. S. (2024, May 1). Faricimab Real World Treatment for AMD and DMO. Mivision, (May 1, 2024).
<https://mivision.com.au/2024/05/faricimab-real-world-treatment-for-amd-and-dmo/>
3. Kwan, A. S. (2024, May 20). Everything you need to know about age-related macular degeneration. Insight, (20 May, 2024). <https://insightplus.mja.com.au/2024/19/everything-you-need-to-know-about-age-related-macular-degeneration/>
4. Cronin, B. (2024, June 1). Corneal Biomechanics in Anterior Segment Disease & Refractive Surgery Screening. Mivision, (June 2024), Online. <https://mivision.com.au/2024/06/corneal-biomechanics-in-anterior-segment-disease-refractive-surgery-screening/>



Lectures, presentations and posters.

1. **Online CAIRS surgical planning tool**
Dr David Gunn and Dr Brendan Cronin
39th Annual Cornea Society & Eye Bank Meeting, Melbourne, 7/03/2024
2. **Myopic traction maculopathy**
Assoc Prof Anthony Kwan
FOCUS 2024 vitreoretinal symposium, Sydney, 22/03/2024
3. **Initiating a difficult peel**
Assoc Prof Abhishek Sharma
FOCUS 2024 vitreoretinal symposium, Sydney, 22/03/2024
4. **CAIRS Progress in Australia & Future Developments**
Dr David Gunn
FOCUS 2024 Cataract and Refractive Symposium, Sydney, 23/03/2024
5. **Femto CAIRS**
Dr David Gunn
Indian Intraocular Implant and Refractive Surgery Convention 2024, Chennai, 6/07/2024
6. **Boost Curv – customised topography guided O2 enriched epithelium on cross linking – technique and clinical results**
Dr David Gunn
Indian Intraocular Implant and Refractive Surgery Convention 2024, Chennai, 6/07/2024
7. **Wave Light plus early results (Alcon ray tracing lasik)**
Dr David Gunn
Indian Intraocular Implant and Refractive Surgery Convention 2024, Chennai, 6/07/2024
8. **CAIRS multiverse**
Dr David Gunn
Indian Intraocular Implant and Refractive Surgery Convention 2024, Chennai, 7/07/2024
9. **Use of the Phorides Analytic Engine for PTK combined with cross linking for Keratoconus: 12 months results**
Dr David Gunn
The I-Land: Creating Connections, Hamilton Island, 27/07/2024
10. **Femto-CAIRS for keratoconus and post-LASIK ectasia: 6 months results**
Dr David Gunn
The I-Land: Creating Connections, Hamilton Island, 27/07/2024
11. **Filler Blindness Mechanism of Action, Prevention and Current Treatment Protocols**
Dr Alexandra Manta
COSMETEX 2024, ACCSM Cosmetic Surgery and Medical Expo, Sydney, 9/08/2024
12. **Education session RANZCO meeting**
Assoc Prof Anthony Kwan
RANZCO Qld Branch Annual Scientific Meeting 2024, Gold Coast, 30/08/2024
13. **Glaucoma – Trabeculectomy Revision: case presentation**
Dr Jonathan Lai
RANZCO Qld Branch Annual Scientific Meeting 2024, Gold Coast, 31/08/2024
14. **Management of Glaucoma with the Preserflo Microshunt – clinical pearls**
Dr Lee Holland
RANZCO Qld Branch Annual Scientific Meeting 2024, Gold Coast, 31/08/2024
15. **Efficacy of a Tetracaine-Based Pain Management Protocol After Topography-Guided Epithelium-On Crosslinking**
Dr Brendan Cronin
ESCRS 42nd Congress 2024, Barcelona, 6/09/2024
16. **Femtosecond Laser Created Corneal Allogenic Intrastromal Ring Segments (CAIRS)**
Dr David Gunn
ESCRS 42nd Congress 2024, Barcelona, 7/09/2024
17. **Phorides Guided Topographic Ptk Combined With Cross Linking For Keratoconus**
Dr David Gunn
ESCRS 42nd Congress 2024, Barcelona, 7/09/2024
18. **Dry eye is awful, but your treatment doesn't have to be**
Dr Brendan Cronin
Specsavers clinical conference 2024, Gold Coast, 14/09/2024
19. **Barriers to accessible imaging in ophthalmology: a qualitative pilot study of ophthalmology care provider perspectives**
Julia Yamazaki, Dr Alexandra Manta and Prof Mark Radford
RANZCO 2024 Congress, Adelaide, 1/11/2024
20. **Flaps and Grafts in Periocular Reconstruction**
Dr Alexandra Manta
GLOBAL EYE HEALTH WORKSHOP, RANZCO 2024 Congress, Adelaide, 1/11/2024
21. **Exploring genetic therapy avenues and basic science research in thyroid eye disease**
Dr Alexandra Manta
RANZCO Congress 2024, Adelaide, 3/11/2024

Clinical Trials.

The Queensland Eye Institute supports initiatives aimed at improving health outcomes for patients with eye disease, including improved access to new treatments which may be more effective than those currently available. Clinical trials are essential to the development of new treatments. Each study is designed to

answer questions and find better ways to screen, diagnose, prevent or treat a disease or condition.

In 2024, QEI conducted 155 visits for internal trials and an additional 18 visits to support external trials. Internal trials included:

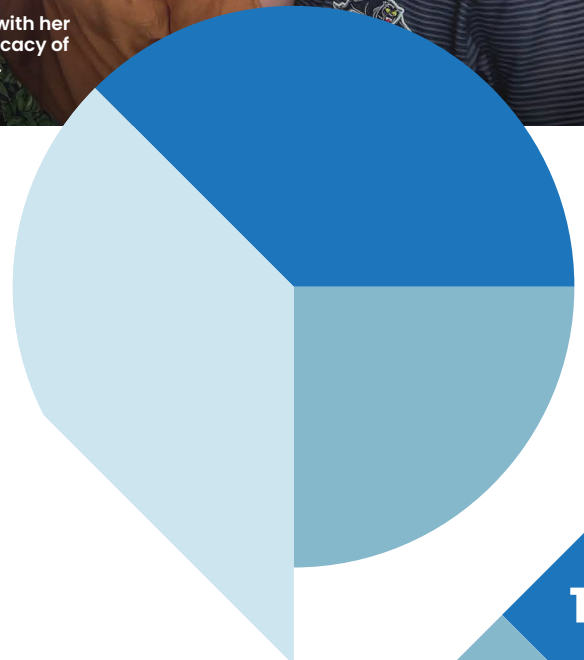


Clinical trial participant Nicola Danielson (second from right), pictured with her husband and children, is part of a clinical trial testing the safety and efficacy of a new drug therapy for retinitis pigmentosa caused by Usher syndrome.

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



Clinical Trials.

INSITE

Treat-and-extend versus fixed-dosing with Fariciman for management of Diabetic Macular Edema.

Clinical Indication: Diabetic Macular Edema
Principal Investigator: Assoc Prof Tony Sharma
Sponsor: McMaster | Roche

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

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

DRAGON

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

Clinical Indication: Stargardt Disease 1
Principal Investigator: Assoc Prof Abhisek Sharma
Sponsor: BeLite Bio



Clinical Trials.

TEPEZZA

Phase 3, randomized, double-masked, placebo-controlled, parallel-group, multicentre trial to evaluate the efficacy, safety and tolerability of subcutaneous teprotumumab in participants with moderate to severe active Thyroid Eye Disease.

Clinical Indication: Thyroid Eye Disease
Principal Investigator: Dr Manta
Sponsor: Horizon Therapeutics

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)

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 tinalarebant (LBS-008) in subjects diagnosed with geographic atrophy.

Clinical Indication: Geographic Atrophy
Principal Investigator: Assoc Prof Tony Kwan
Sponsor: BeLite Bio

SPECTRUM

An observational study program to investigate the effectiveness of aflibercept 8 mg used in nAMD in a real world setting.

Clinical Indication: Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration
Principal Investigator: Assoc Prof Tony Kwan
Sponsor: Bayer



QEI Clinical Trials Manager
 Brett Caldwell training in
 a virtual reality setting
 to perform procedures
 related to clinical trials.



Dr Lee Holland instructing at a QEI optometry education event

Education and Training.

4

Seminars and workshops

3

Registrar training sessions

2

Continuing Professional Development modules

1

Wetlab teaching

1

Optometry teaching

1

Books

Optometrists learn at QEI.

More than 150 of Queensland's eye health professionals learned about modern surgical techniques at a hands-on skills session at QEI in February. Optometrists were invited to QEI's new home in Woolloongabba to sharpen their skills, including corneal foreign body removal at the slit lamp using Alger brushes and needles on a specially imported eye model. Other interactive stations included basic suturing and surgical skills and virtual reality surgery.

New edition of seminal textbook.

Dr Anthony Pane published an updated edition of his textbook *The Neuro-Ophthalmology Survival Guide* in mid-2024. Now in its third edition, the textbook is a practical, symptom-based guide for all trainee and practising ophthalmologists, optometrists, and physicians whose practice includes patients with eye or brain issues.

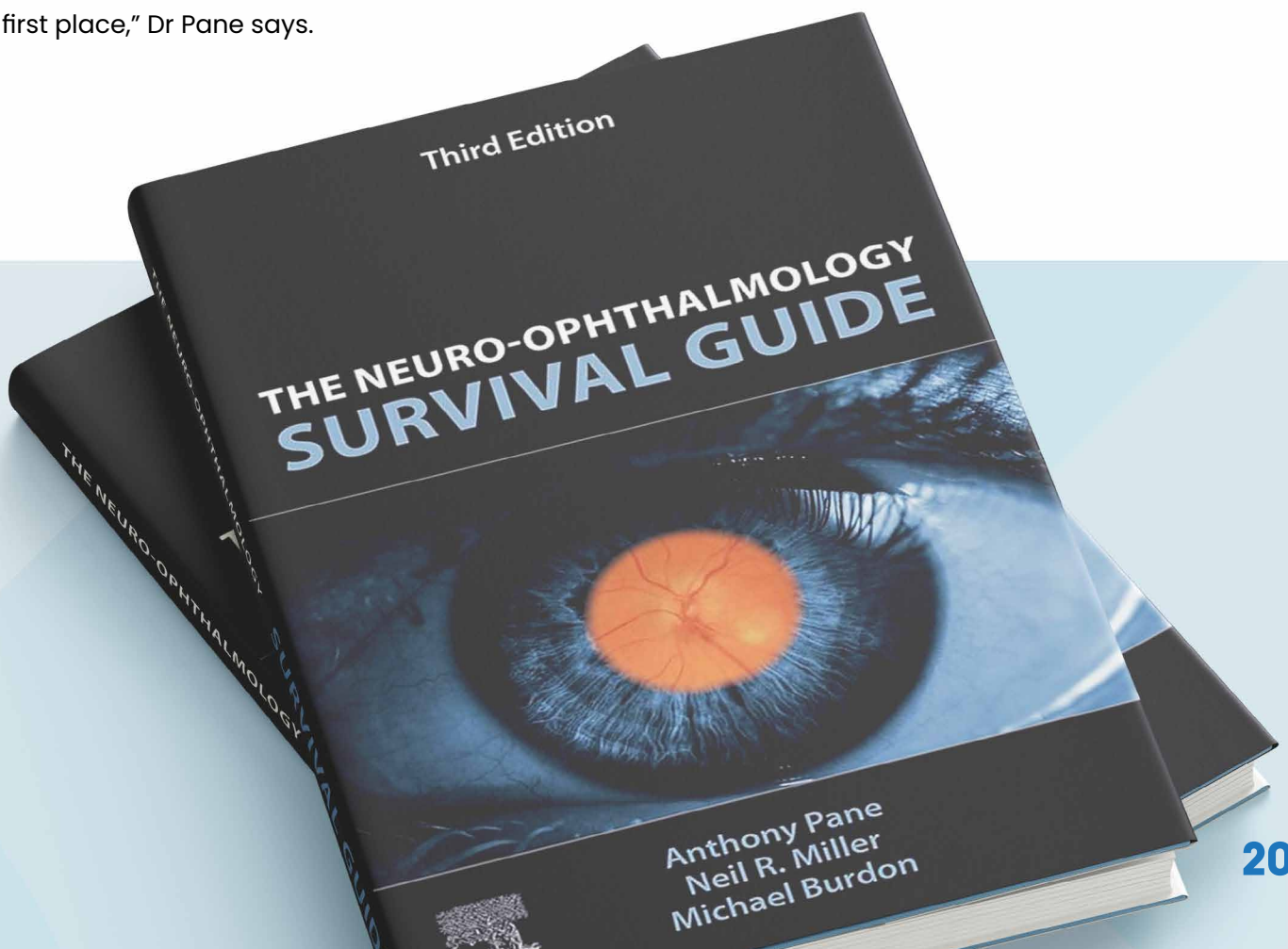
Dr Pane says the book filled a big gap in vision care training at the time.

“When I started my advanced training 20 years ago, I realised there were plenty of textbooks for doctors once they’d diagnosed a disease of the optic nerve or brain that affected vision, but no books about how to make the diagnosis in the first place,” Dr Pane says.

“For example, if a new patient came in complaining of blurred vision, doctors need to know how to determine if they could have a brain tumour as the cause of their symptoms, not just an eye disease,” he says.

The first edition was published in 2007 and has featured on bookshelves of trainee and practising eye professionals around the world ever since.

Dr Pane collaborated with two international colleagues from his field, Professor Neil Miller of Johns Hopkins University in the USA and Dr Michael Burdon of Birmingham Eye Centre in the UK, to develop the concept and write the text.





> Education and Training

Working for better vision care in the Asia Pacific region.

QEI's Professor Mark Radford and Dr Alexandra Manta continue to play a leading role supporting vision health professionals in neighbouring countries. Professor Radford co-chaired the Global Eye Health Workshop at the The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO) Annual Scientific Congress in November. With a focus on retinal and macular diseases, the workshop covered diagnosis, management and treatment in communities which have limited resources.

Dr Alexandra Manta organised an additional workshop, also co-chaired by Professor Radford, focusing on oculoplastic and orbital surgery. The workshop addressed unique challenges faced in low resource environments, while exploring innovative solutions and future directions in the field.

Ophthalmologists from Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands attended the workshops, sharing their own experiences and learning from expert panels of Australian and New Zealand clinicians.



Prof Mark Radford and Dr Alexandra Manta (back, centre)
with members of the Global Eye Health Network



Clinical Care.

In 2024 there were 10 sub-specialist ophthalmologists practising at QEI, covering eyelid, cornea, retina, glaucoma and neuro ophthalmology. The breadth of clinical practice at QEI ensures patient needs can be met by more than one clinician at the same location. It also provides doctors with more opportunities to pursue research.

Supported by dedicated team of optometrists and optical assistants, in 2024 QEI ophthalmologists cared for patients from Queensland, Australia and the Pacific at the following locations:



**South Brisbane
Clinic**



**Clayfield
Clinic**

Past student returned to QEI as clinical ophthalmologist.

Dr Jonathan Lai, a past student at the Queensland Eye Institute (QEI), returned as a clinician in January 2024.

Jonathan spent a year of his undergraduate medical degree with QEI's corneal transplant cell research team. He says it was a great experience and cemented his commitment to become an ophthalmologist.

Dr Lai went on to complete medical and surgical residencies in Brisbane followed by further subspecialty training in glaucoma and neuro-ophthalmology in Brisbane,

Perth and London. With such an impressive resume, Dr Lai's career could have taken him anywhere. But he chose to return to Brisbane, joining the clinical faculty at QEI.

"I've kept connections here ever since I was a student," Dr Lai says. "QEI just feels like home.

"And as a training ophthalmologist, QEI has been the home for education because the teaching sessions and the wet lab have been here," he says.



Dr Jonathan Lai (standing) teaching suturing skills at a QEI optometry education event



Dr Geoffrey Ryan

> Clinical Care

Queensland first glaucoma treatment device.

QEI's Dr Geoffrey Ryan forged a path for Queensland ophthalmology with a successful glaucoma surgery using a new, minimally invasive device to halt vision loss in January.

Dr Ryan's expertise in advanced anterior segment surgery and subspecialty training in glaucoma and cornea made him an

ideal candidate to spearhead the roll out of this new device in Queensland.

Glaucoma is the leading cause of irreversible blindness in Australia, with primary open-angle glaucoma accounting for around 90 percent of cases.

QEI clinician recognised for contributions to ophthalmology.

Dr David Gunn earned a gold medal for services to ophthalmology from the Indian Intraocular Implant and Refractive Surgery Society, awarded at its annual meeting in Chennai in August.

Dr Gunn is committed to gathering data and investigating clinical processes, then sharing his findings with the Australian and international ophthalmology community.

In 2024 he presented findings at conferences in India, Spain, Sydney, Melbourne and Hamilton Island. He's often on the steering committees for these conferences, assuming an additional workload to help shape agendas and encourage discussion. At the meeting in India he was an invited faculty member and delivered four talks over two days.



Dr David Gunn receiving his gold medal for services to ophthalmology from the Indian Intraocular Implant and Refractive Surgery Society



Commitment to Sustainability.

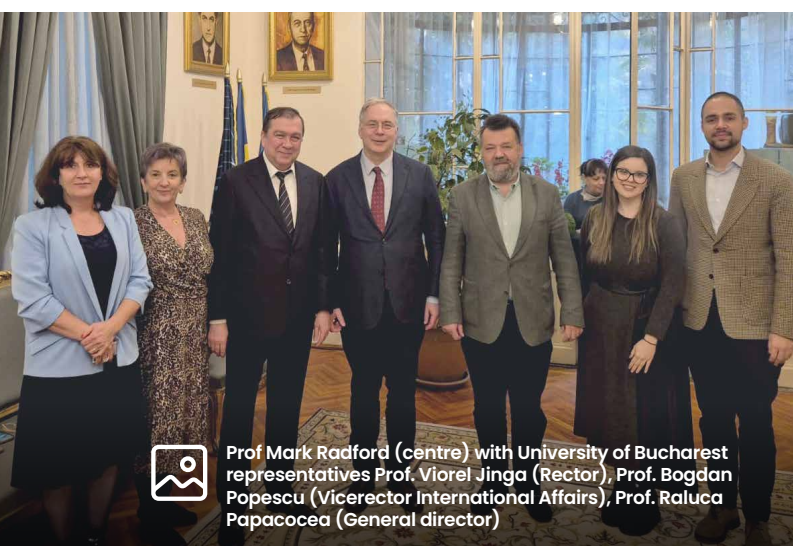
QEI installed a new solar energy system at its premises in Woolloongabba. The new system will help save money on energy bills, allowing more funding to be channelled into research and education programs. A special-purpose grant from the Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation allowed QEI to invest in renewable energy. Envision Energy, a 100% Indigenous-owned and operated electrical company with a focus on social impact for First Nations communities, managed the installation.



Advocacy and Outreach.

Strengthening bonds with Asia Pacific region.

Professor Mark Radford travelled to Bali for the 39th Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology Congress, continuing to strengthen bonds between the Australian eye health sector and colleagues in the Asia Pacific. In his role with the RANZCO Global Eye Health Committee he met with the International Association for the Prevention of Blindness, the All-India Ophthalmological Society, the American Academy of Ophthalmology and United States National Eye Institute, building relationships and laying the foundation for future collaboration.



Closer ties with European colleagues.

Professor Radford met with scientists in Bucharest and Marseilles to further develop links with the Romanian research community and to discuss QEI's student exchange program with Aix-Marseille Université.

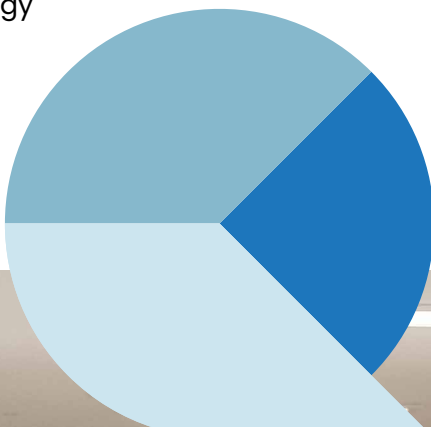
Romanian Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency Mr Radu Gabriel Safta, introduced Professor Radford to representatives of the Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, and the Romanian Health Minister, to discuss QEI's research program and explore opportunities for collaboration.

Professor Radford met with senior members of the International Affairs Department, and the Materials and Biomedical Engineering Departments of Aix-Marseille Université to discuss options for strengthening the student exchange program. French students have travelled to Brisbane to learn from QEI's Chief Scientist Professor Traian Chirila and Dr. Shuko Suzuki, and contribute to QEI's research program, for more than 10 years.

Visit by Romanian ambassador.

In April, QEI welcomed Romanian ambassador to Australia, His Excellency Mr Radu Gabriel Safta, to tour its research laboratories in Woolloongabba. QEI enjoys close ties with Romania through its collaborative research projects operating at G.E. Palade University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Science and Technology (UMFST) in Târgu Mureş.

His Excellency toured QEI's laboratories, conversing in his native language with QEI's Chief Scientist, Professor Traian Chirila, and Dr Alexandra Manta, who, coincidentally, were both born and educated in Romania.



L-R Mr Ciprian Popescu, Romanian honorary consul (Queensland), His Excellency Mr Radu Gabriel Safta, Ambassador of Romania, Dr Alexandra Manta, Prof Traian Chirila, Prof Mark Radford

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.



\$17,022,685

2024 REVENUE



9,616

2024 PATIENT NUMBERS



\$13,909,206

2023 REVENUE



8,651

2023 PATIENT NUMBERS



\$3,183,322

2024 REVENUE



2,100

2024 PATIENT NUMBERS



\$3,028,479

2023 REVENUE



2,090

2023 PATIENT NUMBERS

Financial Snapshot.

BALANCE SHEET

CURRENT ASSETS	2024	2023
Cash and cash equivalents	3,390,430	3,491,022
Trade and other receivables	468,019	504,682
Other current assets	20,468	31,761

TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	3,878,917	4,027,465
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NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Trade and other receivables	2,040,185	2,003,434
Investments in subsidiaries	100	30,137
Financial assets	1,998,927	1,941,039
Property, plant and equipment	6,195,696	2,123,514
Intangible assets	96,356	83,819
Right of use assets	21,724,863	2,034,799

TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	32,056,127	8,216,742
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TOTAL ASSETS	35,935,044	12,244,207
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LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	173,786	450,924
Employee benefits	1,000,027	982,992
Other financial liabilities	27,767,376	9,974,175

TOTAL LIABILITIES	28,941,189	11,408,091
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NET ASSETS	6,993,855	836,115
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Extracted from the company's management accounts which form part of the audited financial Report for January 1 to December 31 2024.

INCOME STATEMENT

REVENUE	2024	2023
Sylvia & Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation	2,146,986	1,872,540
Bequests and other donations	1,338,553	806,973
Clinical cost recoveries	4,860,009	3,608,245
Investment Income	256,829	299,499
JobKeeper and government support	-	-
Other income	7,556,329	382,845

TOTAL INCOME	16,158,706	6,970,102
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EXPENSES		
Occupancy costs	2,081,990	4,158,252
Research costs	1,533,957	1,697,616
Fundraising costs	134,979	315,941
Clinical costs	5,241,836	4,445,003
Administration costs	1,003,223	1,956,140

TOTAL EXPENSES	9,995,985	12,572,951
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NET ASSETS	\$6,162,721	- 5,602,850
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Extracted from the company's management accounts which form part of the audited financial Report for January 1 to December 31 2024.

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.



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

[Resigned September 2024]



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.

[Resigned July 2024]

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 2024 Team.

Board of Directors

Mark Sheridan
CHAIRMAN OAM

Prof Mark Radford
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jemma Elder
DIRECTOR [Resigned SEP 2024]

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
[Resigned SEP 2024]

Jane Dodds
COMMUNITY RELATIONS MANAGER
[Resigned DEC 2024]

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 Jonathan Lai
NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY,
GLAUCOMA

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

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

Prof Damien Harkin
VISITING SENIOR SCIENTIST

Prof Audra Shadforth
VISITING SCIENTIST

Assoc Prof Shuan Dai
VISITING CLINICAL RESEARCHER

Dr Jaclyn White
VISITING CLINICAL RESEARCHER

Prof Timothy Sullivan
SENIOR CLINICAL SCIENTIST

Dr Lauren Gomes
RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Help the Queensland Eye Institute save sight.

Donate

Our research program receives no government funding and relies on charitable donations and grants. For as little as \$10 a week you can help strengthen our financial position, allowing us to continue our sight saving research.

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Or call +61 7 3239 5050

Join a clinical trial

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Follow our journey



QueenslandEyeInstitute

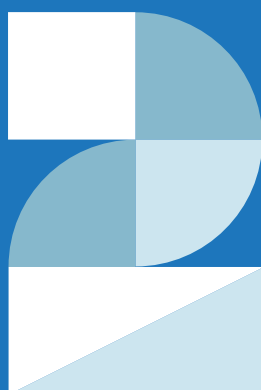


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