

# YEAR IN REVIEW

## A CULTURE OF INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION

MICHAEL KALLONIATIS, CENTRE DIRECTOR

At the end of 2019, the Centre for Eye Health (CFEH) celebrated 10 years of operations. This momentous occasion presented an opportunity to reflect on the enormous amount that has been accomplished over this time and also a chance to look to the future to see where we are heading.

Much of 2019 was spent planning for the future – specifically in preparation for the 2020 opening of a new collaborative hub in Parramatta (The Cameron Centre) which will allow Guide Dogs NSW/ACT (GDN) and CFEH to more closely align their operations. An important aspect of this new hub will be the development of a low vision clinic that will allow the strengths of both organisations to be realised in a synergistic way. By working together, CFEH and GDN will be able to positively impact the lives of people living with vision impairment.

Geographic expansion of CFEH's core imaging and management services will be an associated benefit of the Cameron Centre opening in 2020, particularly given many people from this catchment area come from a low socio-economic background. CFEH services will be more accessible to those who are in most need, removing potential barriers to care.

Concurrently, the Centre will participate in the Community Eye Care (C-Eye-C) program, working with A/Prof Andrew White and his ophthalmology team from Westmead Hospital to ensure those requiring medical intervention are seen in a more timely manner than is achievable without this program.

Clinical service has always been the cornerstone of CFEH operations and 2019 saw significant evolution of these services.



Prof Michael Kalloniatis

## 2019 IN BRIEF

### 9729 PATIENT APPOINTMENTS

Increased 4% from 2018

### GLAUCOMA MANAGEMENT CLINIC (GMC) PERSONNEL COST RECOVERY 153%

A POWH Ophthalmology/CFEH collaborative clinic

### DEVELOPMENT OF NEW CLINICAL PATHWAYS WITH PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL

Transfer of patients with stable glaucoma and referral assessment

### \$1.1 MILLION IN RESEARCH GRANTS TO CFEH-BASED STAFF

Includes 2 prestigious NHMRC grants

### 17 PEER-REVIEWED PAPERS ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION

Includes several in high impact journals

### 1 PATENT REGISTERED

Novel method for the early detection of ocular diseases such as glaucoma

### 55 EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS GIVEN

And one boutique glaucoma education course



The CFEH clinical team (2019)

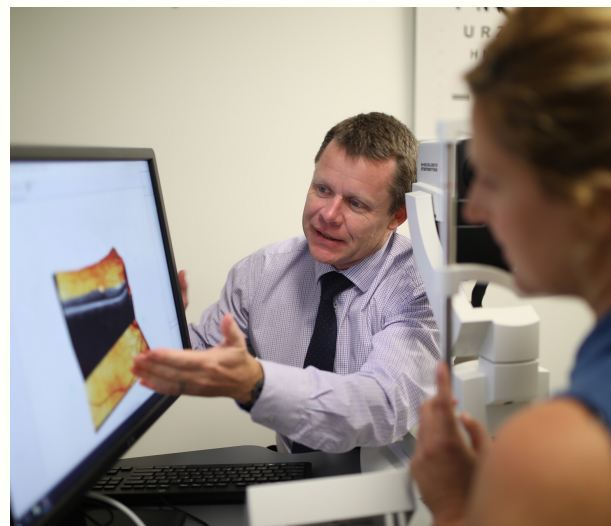


The Cameron Centre, Parramatta - due to open early 2020

CFEH operations however are not limited to clinical service delivery. 2019 saw many great achievements also in the areas of research and education. Of significant note was the awarding of two NHMRC research grants totaling \$1.1 million. One grant will support the ongoing work of Dr Lisa Nivison-Smith who is looking at outer retinal changes in macular degeneration, and the second will support the research led by Prof Michael Kalloniatis and Dr Barbara Zangerl who are investigating the link between structure and function in ocular disease.

The CFEH research team had 17 papers published in peer review journals, either in print or online ahead of print in 2019 while the education team delivered a third year undergraduate course through UNSW as well as hosting final year optometry students for a six week clinical rotation. They also delivered 55 external educational activities (lectures and workshops) - an impressive output for a small but dedicated team.

In the period 2018-2019 the Centre ran a non-urgent referral triage clinic for Prince of Wales Hospital (POWH) Ophthalmology patients, resulting in waiting times being halved. Following on from the success of this project, new referral pathways are now being developed with POWH to, firstly, enable the transfer of stable glaucoma patients to CFEH for ongoing management. Secondly, a new referral assessment pathway will allow those referred to POWH to be assessed by CFEH optometrists with tele-ophthalmology review. Development of these innovative pathways have been made possible by the collaborative support and hard work of ophthalmologist A/Prof Michael Hennessy. They will help to reduce waiting times for POWH patients, allowing those most in need of ophthalmological intervention to access these services in a more timely manner and potentially reducing vision loss from co-existing conditions that may otherwise lie undetected while patients remain on the wait list.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

None of the Centre's significant achievements over the last decade would have been possible without the support and vision of Guide Dogs NSW/ACT. 2020 heralds an exciting opportunity to collaborate more closely with Guide Dogs and the CFEH leadership team are confident we have the solid foundation required to make the expansion of our core services every bit as successful as our other initiatives over the last 10 years.

**Guide Dogs**  
NSW/ACT   
**Sight lost, freedom found.**



**UNSW**  
SYDNEY