

CENTRE FOR EYE HEALTH

MID-YEAR UPDATE 2020



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Centre Director Prof. Michael Kalloniatis

At the mid-point of 2020, I have taken the time to reflect on the achievements of the Centre over the last 6 months. Despite the interruption to everyday activities caused by the global pandemic, the Centre has managed to take several significant strides forward in our mission to reduce the incidence of preventable vision loss.

The opening of the Cameron Centre in Parramatta early this year presented the opportunity for us to work more closely with Guide Dogs NSW/ACT. Having this amazing facility in Parramatta has allowed us to help those communities most in need in Western Sydney, and presented the opportunity for us to work with Prof Andrew White and his team from Westmead Hospital ophthalmology under the Community Eye Care (C-Eye-C) program.



The goal of this collaboration is to allow those patients on the Westmead ophthalmology waiting lists more timely access to eye care, allowing the earlier detection of sight-threatening eye disease while also freeing up the ophthalmologists to treat those most in need.

CFEH Research into sight-threatening eye disease such as glaucoma and macular degeneration has also made significant progress so far this year with two substantial NHMRC projects currently underway. In early 2020 we also received news that a collaborative investigative project with Big Picture Medical had been successful in obtaining a Cooperative Research Centre Project (CRC-P) grant to develop artificial intelligence capabilities to aid the diagnosis of ocular disease.



The biggest challenge of 2020 so far has been the need to continually adapt to rapidly changing external factors as the national response to COVID-19 has unfolded. This has necessitated the introduction of new hygiene procedures and extended operating hours among many other changes. Throughout this uncertain time however, the CFEH team have been our strength and their dedication and resourcefulness has allowed the Centre to remain open, even during the height of the pandemic to ensure care was not delayed for urgent cases.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS


JAN - JUNE 30

- Opening of the Cameron Centre at Parramatta with the first patients seen February 2020.
- Commenced working with Westmead Hospital Ophthalmology under the Community Eye Care (C-Eye-C) project.
- Involved in a CRC-P funded collaborative investigative project with Big Picture Medical to develop artificial intelligence capabilities to aid the diagnosis of eye disease.
- 8 peer-reviewed publications with 4 more papers accepted for publication later in 2020.
- Delivered one undergraduate and two post-graduate courses on posterior eye disease through the School of Optometry and Vision Science at UNSW Sydney.
- Presented three national webinars for practicing optometrists in collaboration with Optometry Australia and one in collaboration with the New Zealand Association of Optometrists.

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Acknowledgement and sincere gratitude must go to Guide Dogs NSW/ACT for their financial support without which none of the Centre's achievements would be possible. If you would like to support Guide Dogs and the services provided at CFEH please visit the Guide Dogs NSW/ACT website, or phone 1800 436 364



Sight lost, freedom found.

CFEH is a joint initiative of Guide Dogs
NSW/ACT and UNSW Sydney



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