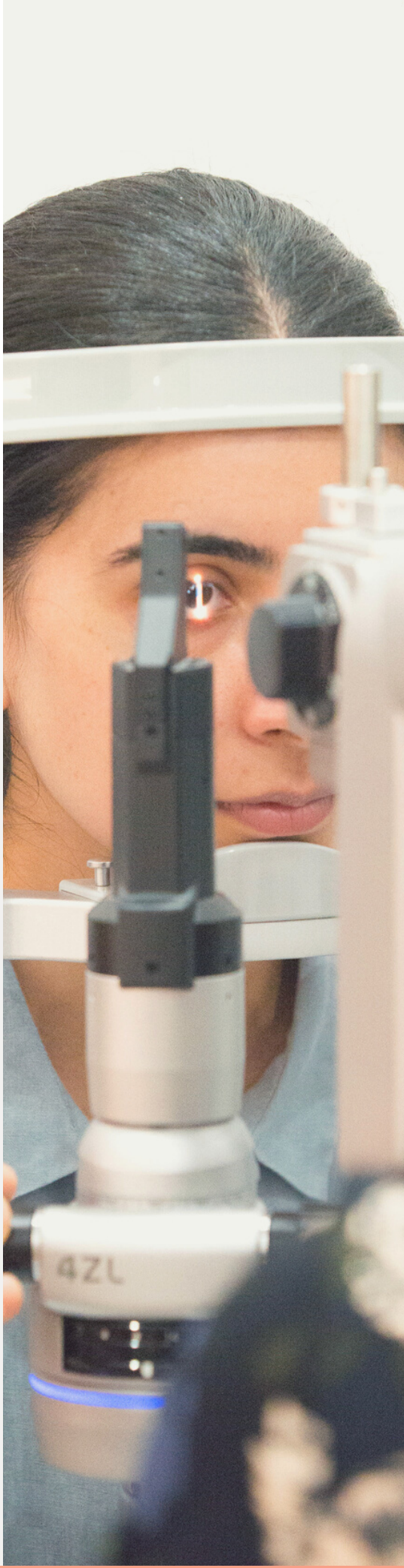
Centre for Eye Health

YEAR IN REVIEW

2023



2023 was a defining year at the Centre for Eye Health (CFEH) as our clinical operations were refined with the goal of ensuring that we are helping the most vulnerable people in our population.

Continued growth in patient referral numbers led to the introduction of new referral criteria to ensure those in our community who are most in need or at increased risk of eye disease are able to access our services. With this same goal in mind, our clinical team were working on ways to improve access to eye care for both culturally and geographically vulnerable populations within our community as 2023 drew to a close.

Our CFEH clinicians continue to educate both emerging and qualified Optometrists through their work in the areas of both undergraduate and continuing professional education. The primary focus of these educational activities is to equip optometrists with the latest evidence-based knowledge of eye disease, thereby helping to facilitate early detection and appropriate management, with the goal of reducing preventable blindness within our community.

At the end of 2022 the Centre's research arm was moved to UNSW, however CFEH still works closely with the UNSW School of Optometry and Vision Science and other prominent collaborators, supporting a wide variety of research relevant to the early detection of eye disease. In this way, we continue to contribute to the evolution of the existing knowledge base.

Finally, it is important to acknowledge that none of this work would be possible without the ongoing support of Guide Dogs NSW/ACT. With this incredible support, we reached over 12,000 patients directly in 2023, and many thousands more indirectly through our optometrist education and research contributions.

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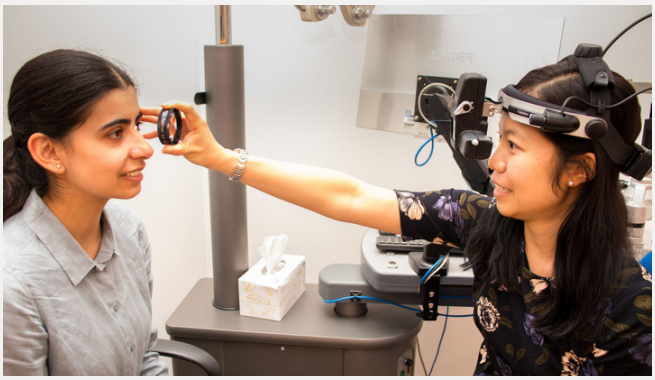

CFEH Clinical Operations

Michael Yapp, Head of Clinical Operations

The introduction of referral criteria for the CFEH clinic has helped ensure that the most vulnerable in our community are able to access appropriate eyecare in a timely manner.

Further to this aim, we have been exploring ways to connect with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities and recent refugee arrivals to identify any gaps or barriers to care experienced by these groups that we may be able to help address. We also continued to work closely with both Prince of Wales and Westmead Ophthalmology departments to refine pathways and work towards the premise of the 'right person being seen in the right place at the right time'.

Our clinical team have been utilising telehealth review of patient files for many years both internally and with consulting ophthalmologists from Prince of Wales Hospital. This has been an efficient and highly beneficial means of ensuring appropriate patient care and the best use of valuable resources. With this in mind, we are now exploring a wider application of telehealth technologies to help guide and educate optometrists within the community in areas of image interpretation as well as disease diagnosis and management. These initiatives will be extended and expanded upon during 2024, allowing us to increase our reach in early detection and prevention of vision loss with our existing resources.

In 2023, the achievements of the Centre's clinical operations over the last 14 years was recognised when we were named as a finalist in the Central and Eastern Sydney Primary Health Awards in the category "Excellence in Allied Health Practice".

Our historical reputation for clinical excellence, our drive to explore opportunity through the use of new technologies and our focus on helping the most vulnerable in our community will, in 2024, form a basis for advocacy. Together with other stakeholders in the industry, we are working towards creating new referral pathways to ensure timely and appropriate care of all.

CFEH General Manager Sarah Holland and Senior Staff Optometrist Gonzalo Jacome at the CES-PHN awards at the Hazelhurst Arts Centre in Gymea. Photo credit: CES-PHN

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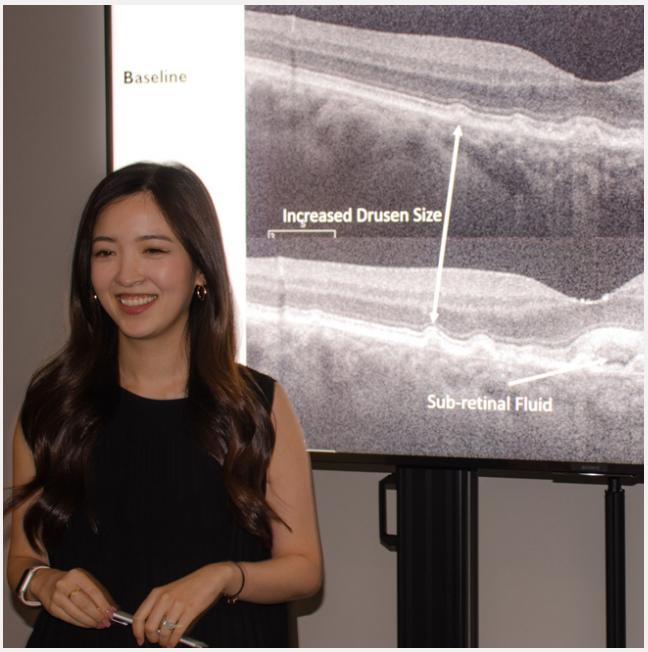
CFEH Education

Michele Clewett, External Knowledge Development Lead



The education of both qualified and soon-to-be qualified optometrists has long been an integral part of CFEH operations.

Internally, CFEH has a strong focus on the continual development and education of our team of exceptional Clinicians, and our ethos has always been to share this knowledge with our peers through educational presentations.

Continuing Professional Development

In 2023, our team delivered an online interactive education program to 230 subscribers and also enabled access to our portfolio of education lectures for both NZAO (New Zealand Association of Optometrists) members and Luxottica Australia/New Zealand employees. In addition, our clinicians were invited to present at numerous national and international conferences including the American Academy of Optometry congress, Optometry Australia's Virtually Connected conference, O=MEGA23 and Optometry NSW/ACT's Super Sunday Conference.

Our education team also contributed evidence-based articles to industry publications, including Optometry Connection, Insight and Mivision in 2023, covering topics ranging from angle closure glaucoma through vitreo-macular interface disorders to low vision.

Undergraduate Education

Throughout the year, the Centre hosted a total of 70 final year UNSW Optometry students for a 6 week clinical rotation in 2023. During this rotation, students are able to gain experience with operating and interpreting imaging equipment as well as diagnosing and managing ocular disease. The tutorials, lectures and online material provided all help to refine and develop the students' knowledge of eye disease, helping to prepare them for clinical practice once they graduate. Historically, and again in 2023, feedback from students has been overwhelmingly positive with many reflecting on the immense value of this learning experience.

"It was a great learning experience to be able to have exposure to so many different cases of pathology that would not often be seen in usual clinical practice"

"Thank you for giving us such a great opportunity to work at CFEH. I learnt a lot from this rotation and it was very different from anywhere else"

-Sample feedback from final year Optometry students, 2023

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The Future

Sarah Holland, General Manager

We are excited to continue to focus our services on those most vulnerable across our community in the coming year. To enable us to build capacity we will be working with our community Optometry partners to build care pathways across the state enabling us discharge patients as appropriate.

To support this, we will continue to be an industry leader with regards to innovation in this space. We have already begun trailing telehealth services and will continue to build our capacity in this space. One of our Optometrists has been granted the Optometry Australia LOOK scholarship in 2024 which will see her travel to the UK to gain a greater understanding of how telehealth and AI has vastly improved efficiency, and will bring her learnings back to CFEH.

We are very proud of our Education offerings and are excited to offer an interactive webinar series across 2024 as well as free access to our online ATLAS for all those who subscribe. We hope to continue to build and support knowledge across our industry and welcome feedback to ensure we tailor our offering appropriately.

Finally, 2024 will see us take an increased focus in the advocacy space, with an aim to increase awareness and funding for efficient collaborative care pathways across the state. Our success in this space is aided by our excellent external stakeholders including UNSW, Glaucoma Australia, Macular Disease Foundation Australia and Vision 2020.

Acknowledgement

The clinical, education and advocacy work undertaken by the Centre for Eye Health would not be possible without the ongoing, financial support of Guide Dogs NSW/ACT.

If you are interested in supporting the Centre and our work in the diagnosis and management of conditions such as age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy, you can do so by visiting https://nsw.guidedogs.com.au/get-involved/donations/

Your support can make a difference to the early detection of eye disease within our community.

Centre for Eye Health

2023 Research Publications Supported by CFEH

Cheung R, Ly A, Wang H, Kalloniatis M, Nivison-Smith L. *Evaluating the clinical relevance and reliability of outer retinal band length on optical coherence tomography in retinal disease: a cross-sectional study*. BMJ Open. 2023 Dec 12;13(12)

Cheung R, Ho S, Ly A. *Optometrists' attitudes toward using OCT angiography lag behind other retinal imaging types*. Ophthalmic Physiol Opt. 2023 Jul;43(4):905-915.

Cheung R, Ly A, Wang H, Kalloniatis M, Nivison-Smith L. *Evaluating the clinical relevance and reliability of outer retinal band length on optical coherence tomography in retinal disease: a cross-sectional study*. BMJ Open. 2023 Dec 12;13(12)

Ho S, Doig GS, Ly A. *Diagnostic accuracy of community optometrists for age-related macular degeneration using colour fundus photographs: A pilot evaluation*. Ophthalmic Physiol Opt. 2024 Jan;44(1):17-22.

Ho S, Ly A, Ohno-Matsui K, Kalloniatis M, Doig GS. *Diagnostic accuracy of OCTA and OCT for myopic choroidal neovascularisation: a systematic review and meta-analysis*. Eye (Lond). 2023 Jan;37(1):21-29.

Phu J, Rafla D, Kalloniatis M. *Which glaucoma patients benefit from 10-2 visual field testing? Proposing the functional vulnerability zone framework*. Clin Exp Optom. 2023 Dec 6:1-13.

Rafla D, Khuu SK, Kashyap S, Kalloniatis M, Phu J. *Visualising structural and functional characteristics distinguishing between newly diagnosed high-tension and low-tension glaucoma patients*. Ophthalmic Physiol Opt. 2023 Jul;43(4):771-787.

Tan JCK, Agar A, Kalloniatis M, Phu J. *Quantification and predictors of visual field variability in healthy, suspect and glaucomatous eyes using SITA-Faster*. Ophthalmology. 2023 Dec 16

Tan JCK, Phu J, Go D, Nguyen D, Masselos K, Bank A, Kalloniatis M, Agar A. *Evaluation of the Consistency of Glaucomatous Visual Field Defects Using a Clustered SITA-Faster Protocol*. Ophthalmology. 2023 Nov;130(11):1138-1148.

Tan JCK, Kalloniatis M, Phu J. *Frontloading SITA-Faster Can Increase Frequency and Reliability of Visual Field Testing at Minimal Time Cost*. Ophthalmol Glaucoma. 2023 Sep-Oct;6(5):445-456.

Tong J, Alonso-Caneiro D, Kugelman J, Phu J, Khuu SK, Kalloniatis M. *Characterisation of the normal human ganglion cell-inner plexiform layer using widefield optical coherence tomography*. Ophthalmic Physiol Opt. 2023 Nov 22.

Tong J, Khou V, Trinh M, Alonso-Caneiro D, Zangerl B, Kalloniatis M. *Derivation of human retinal cell densities using high-density, spatially localized optical coherence tomography data from the human retina*. J Comp Neurol. 2023 Aug;531(11):1108-1125. doi: 10.1002/cne.25483. Epub 2023 Apr 19. PMID: 37073514

Tong J, Phu J, Alonso-Caneiro D, Khuu SK, Kalloniatis M. *High sampling resolution optical coherence tomography reveals potential concurrent reductions in ganglion cell-inner plexiform and inner nuclear layer thickness but not in outer retinal thickness in glaucoma*. Ophthalmic Physiol Opt. 2023 Jan;43(1):46-63. doi: 10.1111/opo.13065. Epub 2022 Nov 23.PMID: 36416369

Trinh M, Kalloniatis M, Alonso-Caneiro D, Nivison-Smith L. *Spatial Cluster Patterns of Retinal Sensitivity Loss in Intermediate Age-Related Macular Degeneration Features*. Transl Vis Sci Technol. 2023 Sep 1;12(9):6.

Wang E, Kalloniatis M, Ly A. *Effective health communication for age-related macular degeneration: An exploratory qualitative study*. Ophthalmic Physiol Opt. 2023 Sep;43(5):1278-1293. Epub 2023 May 30.