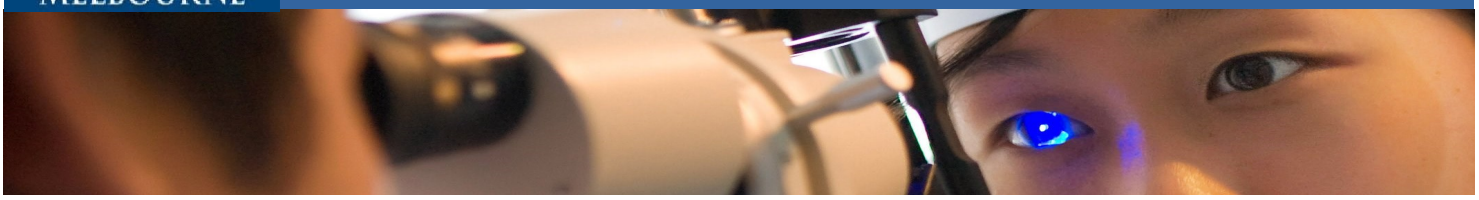
Department Newsletter

September 2017 Optometry & Vision Sciences



Highlights

If you have any suggestions or items for the next newsletter, please email:

Tom Cougan
(tcougan@unimelb.edu.au)

Items need to be submitted by February 27th 2018

Head's Report

Prof Allison McKendrick

Welcome to our second newsletter for 2017. It has been a busy year for both staff and students, with many of the activities of the past six months illustrated herein.

A highlight of this time of year is the OD Student Conference (ODSC) (September 21-22nd, 2017). The ODSC is a student led and operated initiative, which brings together the entire OD cohort, from 1st to 4th year, for two days of learning, inspiration, and social events. The students gain experience in event organisation, in liaising with professional colleagues and sponsors, and have the opportunity to create a program of talks and workshops that steps outside the standard curriculum. I would like to congratulate the organising committee for all their efforts in putting together a wonderful program. I would also like to thank the numerous speakers for kindly giving up your time to present at this conference and also thank the sponsors for your support of this student run event. For details of the ODSC please visit the ODSC website: http://www.odsc.com.au/

As always, we welcome visits to the department from our alumni and friends. We also welcome any feedback regarding our programs. We hope you enjoy reading this latest newsletter.

Building Healthy Communities Project

Our Department's participants in the Building Healthy Communities project.

On Friday 26 May 2017, Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences staff and students took part in health promotion activities held in Derrimut Primary School. This is part of the Building Healthy Communities in Melbourne's West project led by Western Melbourne Regional Development Australia Committee with University of Melbourne as one of the key organisers.

We promoted key health messages on UV protection, and nutrition and eye health. Additionally, together with our colleagues from Medicine and Dentistry, we taught children about health care through fun activities in the Teddy Bear Hospital. At least 700 students of Derrimut Primary School turned up for the event with their families. Our students had a great time interacting with the school children and their parents, teaching them about eye care. It was a fun and fruitful day for everyone involved in the event!

Good Friday Teddy Eye Check Station

Staff member Christine Nearchou (middle)

On Good Friday, our Optometry students had an exciting day volunteering at the Teddy Bear Hospital. Eye checks were given to teddy bears and other toy animals, which children brought to the event. Students were able to have a taste of Paediatrics, interact with children and promote optometry. The station consisted of many activities, including mock screening and binocular vision tasks to help children overcome fears of eye consultations.

This year, many optometry students expressed interest in participating in the event. As a result, the Teddy Eye Check Station has been able to expand in size and some optometry students assisted at other stations, including Teddy Doctor and Teddy Surgery. Over $26,000 has been raised in total at Teddy Bear Hospital for the Good Friday Appeal.

University of Melbourne Teaching and Learning Conference

Staff presented at the University of Melbourne Teaching and Learning Conference in May. Dr Kwang Cham and Anthea Cochrane presented Integration of Technology to Enhance Student Education Experience and gave a presentation and a poster. Dr Laura Downie and Dr Michael Pianta presented a workshop on CrowdCARE (Crowdsourcing Critical Appraisal of Research Evidence) which was awarded the best presentation/workshop at the conference.

CrowdCARE

The recently-launched, CrowdCARE (Crowdsourcing Critical Appraisal of Research Evidence) is a free online clinical tool developed by Dr Michael Pianta and Dr Laura Downie. CrowdCARE is an electronic platform that uses crowdsourcing to enable people to share and access critically-appraised research evidence, as the basis for informing evidence-based practice.

This exciting new technology can be used in your daily optometric practice, to stay up to date with the latest, best-available evidence. You can create a free account, undertake tutorials to learn how to undertake critical appraisal, and use the system to help with providing patient care.

Overseas Externships for final year students

Most of our current final year students have completed their overseas capstone experience for 2017. Students have travelled to a wide range of locations including various locations in the USA, Asia and even South Africa. We have also had exchange students come to our clinics. Most recently three students from Hong Kong and a student from Illinois College of Optometry have done externships here in Melbourne. Dr Jim Thimons continues to be a strong supporter of the overseas experience and is picture here (left) with Anne Le-Pham, Victor Liu and Emily Glover from final year.

Dr Jim Thimons , Anne Le-Pham, Victor Liu and Emily Glover.

Myopia Management Masterclass

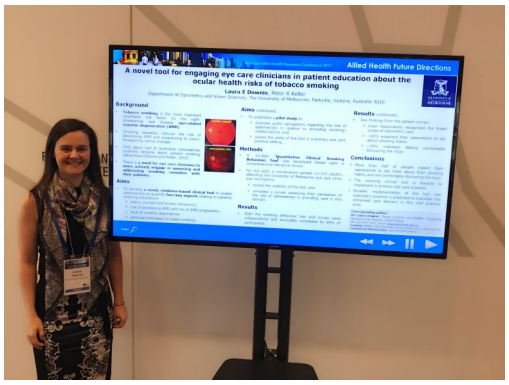
The Department's inaugural Myopia Management Masterclass was held in June 2017. This two-day, interactive course was led by Dr Laura Downie and facilitated by a team of experienced researchers and clinicians, to provide practical insights into contemporary myopia management. The program involved a combination of lectures, case scenarios, collaborative discussions and workshops. The course was extremely well received by an engaged group of local and interstate optometrists, in particular the practical, clinic-based session that provided a hands-on experience with orthokeratology contact lens fitting; we even witnessed some impressive refractive shifts in less than half an hour of overthokeratology lens wear! Thank you to the optometrists who participated, from locally and interstate, for their engaging discussions and contributions to the program. For further information regarding this course and to register your interest please visit: http://commercial.unimelb.edu.au/custom-education/search-courses/optometry/myopia

June's Myopia Masterclass

Victorian Allied Research Health Conference

Three staff, Dr Kwang Cham, Dr Laura Downie and Ms Anthea Cochrane, attended and presented at the 2nd Victorian Allied Research Health Conference in March 2017. This provided an important platform to bring together experienced and emerging allied health researchers, clinicians and service providers to translate knowledge and embed research activity into the Allied Health culture. The presentations reflected the increasing investment in developing research capacity that has been occurring in the Victorian health services over the past decade. The poster presented by Dr Downie reported findings from her NHMRC Translating Research Into Practice Fellowship relating to a novel tool to engage eye care clinicians in patient education about the ocular health risks associated with tobacco smoking. The poster presented by Dr Cham and Ms Cochrane that looked at the use of digital technology to provide students with feedback won an award for the best e-poster presentation.

Ms Anthea Cochrane and Dr. Kwang Cham



Dr Laura Downie

ANZAHPE Conference

Dr Kwang Cham attended and presented at poster at ANZAHPE conference in Adelaide in July 2017. The title of his poster was Optometry Transitions in Response to Allied Health Education.

Alumni

Some things never change.
Welcome back to the Classes of 1977, 1987, 1997 and 2007, who joined us at UMEyecare for our reunion tours in June. It was a great opportunity to hear about their lives and careers since graduating from the University of Melbourne. We all enjoyed the evening, and those of you who were not able to be there this time; I hope we might get the chance to meet another time. The tours provided an opportunity to visit the teaching, research and clinical facilities of the Department, to chat with current academic staff and most importantly to catch up with peers.

The combined classes of 1977,1987,1997 and 2007

Student Achievements

We are very proud to have a number of recent PhD graduates.

Flora Hui examined similarities between blood vessels in the eye and brain. Using dynamic fluorescein angiography she showed that blood vessels in both locations showed similar leakage following a systemic insult. Thus imaging the readily accessible retinal blood vessels provide useful information about the health of the blood vessels in the brain. Flora was supervised by A/Prof. Bang Bui, Prof. Algis Vingrys and Dr. Christine Nguyen.

Prof. Algis Vingrys, Flora Hui and A/Prof Bang Bui

Marzieh Salehi Fadardi examined the interaction of mental workload and gaze direction on visual performance in infantile nystagmus syndrome, thereby suggesting ways in which patients' vision could be better and more realistically assessed and the effects of treatments better understood. She was supervised by A/Prof. Larry Abel.

Prof. Algis Vingrys, Marzieh Fadardi, A/Prof Larry Abel and A/Prof Bang Bui

Psychiatrist Dr Frank Giorlando was awarded of his PhD for his thesis entitled "Temporal disintegration: a phenomenological and neurophysiological investigation".
Frank used various behavioural measures – including eye movements - to investigate the mechanisms that cause the disruption to time perception seen in bipolar disorder and in certain drug use, and was supervised by Prof. Michael Berk and co-supervised by Dr. Andrew Anderson.

Frank Giorlando and Dr. Andrew Anderson

A/Prof. Andrew Metha and Xiaolin Zhou

Congratulations to Xiaolin (Joe) Zhou for completing his PhD entitled "Improving adaptive optics image quality in high powered eyes".
He investigated novel ways of improving how living eyes can be imaged at microscopic scales using "adaptive optics". This work will guide the development of future ophthalmoscopes, and is important because of the enormous potential for in-vivo high-resolution retinal imaging to increase our knowledge of eye disease; validate rodent models of ocular disease; and accelerate development and testing of novel therapies. Xiaolin was supervised by A/Prof. Andrew Metha and Dr. Phil Bedggood.

Amanda Douglass and A/Prof Larry Abel

Congratulations to Amanda Douglass for completing her PhD entitled "Eye movements in neurocognitive disorders and frontotemporal dementia" . Amanda was supervised by A/Prof Larry Abel.

Authorised by the Head of Department, Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences

Seeing Beyond Lecture Series April 2017

On Wednesday the 5th of April Prof. Algis Vingrys and Dr, Bao Nguyen presented at the Department's Seeing Beyond Lecture Series.
Thank you to all for coming along and joining in our discussion about mobile visual field testing, its implications for home monitoring and our role as primary eye care providers in this growing area. We also had some excellent insight as to the importance of migraine and how it might impact other ocular disease such as glaucoma.

April's Seeing Beyond Lecture

Seeing Beyond Lecture Series October 2017

When: Wednesday 4th October 2017
Guest speakers: Dr Laura Downie and Dr Holly Chinnery, from the Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences
Time: 6.30-8.00pm (please arrive by 6.00pm to sign in)
Location: Fritz Loewe Theatre, McCoy Building, 253-275 Elgin Street, The University of Melbourne, Carlton 3053.
Map: https://maps.unimelb.edu.au/…/build…/200/fritz_loewe_theatre
CPD points: 6 therapeutic points (approved)

Presentation summaries

(1) Dr Holly Chinnery - Using mouse models to understand the neuroimmunology of the ocular surface.

The cornea is the only tissue in the body where nerves and immune cells can be visualised non-invasively using in vivo confocal microscopy (IVCM). Whilst a there is no shortage of
Studies describing an association of corneal immune cells and alterations in nerve architecture in a range of ocular and systemic conditions, the functional relevance of these observations is unclear. Using the mouse as a model, we can investigate the micro anatomical features of corneal immune cells and nerves, and their spatial inter-relationship, in a range of clinically relevant conditions including corneal trauma and inflammation, ageing and dry eye disease. By investigating the factors that influence the morphology, distribution and density of corneal nerves and immune cells in mice, we hope to translate this information to better understand and interpret the clinical importance of corneal imaging in patients.

Dr. Holly Chinnery

(2) Dr Laura Downie – The Alpha to Omega of fatty acids for treating ocular surface disease

Over the past several years, there has been increasing clinical interest in the use of omega-3 fatty acid supplements for treating ocular surface diseases, including dry eye disease. However, some of the challenges faced by clinicians include what dose to prescribe patients, what form of omega-3s (e.g., fish oil, krill oil or other oils) are optimal and the required length of treatment to impart clinical benefit. This presentation will outline the latest evidence relating to the use of omega-3s for treating ocular surface disease, including their proposed mechanism of action, clinical trial evidence relating to their efficacy, and some exciting recent findings from our laboratory relating to the effects of omega-3 fatty acid supplementation on corneal nerve integrity.

Dr. Laura Downie

UMeyecare

UMeyecare has been expanding its services. We have added an extra two paediatric sessions a week and have been seeing more patients seeking advice regrading myopia management. Although we get referrals from a variety of sources, the second opinions from other optometrists are valuable and excellent teaching opportunities. We are happy to provide second opinions and return the patient to the care of the referring practitioner or can follow through on care if the referring practitioner prefers. Following are a couple of recent cases to give you a taste of recent intraprofessional referral we have received and the outcome.

Appointments can be made by ringing 9035 6666 or you can email uni-eyecare@unimelb.edu.au and ask us to make an appointment for the patient.

CASE 1:

A 5 ½ year old boy was referred from country Victoria to UMeyecare for an opinion regarding possible Atropine penalisation for amblyopia management.

Six months prior his kindergarten teacher had suspected a strabismus and he had an examination with his local optometrist. A small angle right esotropia (10-12^ unaided) and mild left amblyopia (R: 3/3.8 & L: 3/6 with Lea Shapes) and suppression on Titmus fly testing was found.

He was prescribed full Cycloplegic refraction (R: +1.00/-0.50x180 & L: +1.25DS). There was minimal improvement in left VA and alignment with spectacle wear alone over the first two months. This was followed with 2-3 hour patching for a few months following.

He had improvement in visual acuity to R: 3/3.8 & L: 3/4.8 and rudimentary stereopsis was evident (elevation of Titmus fly wings). There was a persistent small angle (6-7^ esotropia).

At this point his local optometrist referred the boy to UMeyecare for an opinion regarding Atropine penalisation for his amblyopia as he led an active life and both his (and his parents) quality of life was suffering with patching.

Clinical findings at our assessment were consistent with his local optometrist's referral letter and a diagnosis of mild left esotropic amblyopia was confirmed.

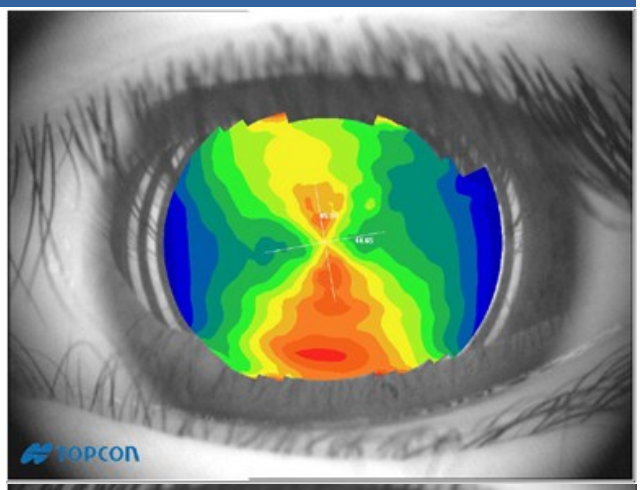
Discussion regarding use of Atropine for amblyopia management was had with the young boy and his parents, including potential complications. A handout summarising Atropine use for amblyopia was given and a prescription was provided for use of 1% Atropine in the right eye each weekend (1 drop Saturday and Sunday).

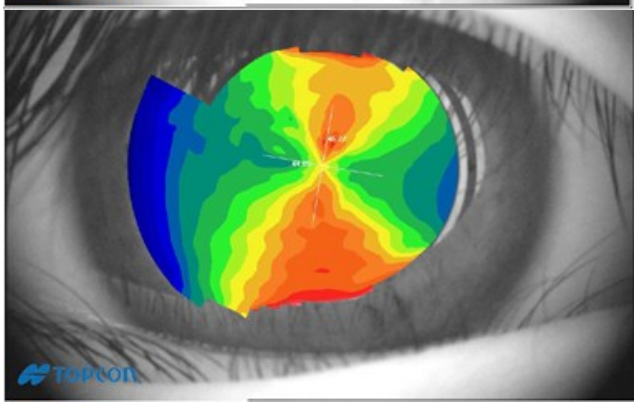
A reply letter was sent to his local optometrist and review was recommended there in six weeks with a plan to watch for more latent plus in the right eye which may become manifest following Atropine use. We also queried the possibility of left anomalous retinal correspondence and counselled the parents regarding the possibility of persistent small angle esotropia.

CASE 2:

A 9 year old boy was referred for opinion regarding myopia management options. He had a history of asymptomatic convergence insufficiency. At most recent review with his regular optometrist he had reduced unaided vision of R: 6/9.5 & L: 6/24 with dry retinoscopy and subjective findings of R: -1.00DS (6/6) & L: -1.50/-0.50x55 (6/6).

Both parents were of East Asian descent and he was an avid reader. His mother was a -6D myope.





Initial findings were consistent when seen at UMeyecare. Cycloplegic subjective refraction found slightly less prescription of R: -0.50DS ($6/6^{2+}$) & L: -1.25/-0.25x45 ($6/4.8^{2-}$).

Topography revealed mild corneal with-the-rule astigmatism (R>L).

An in depth discussion was had about myopia and why myopia management would be desirable given his risk for higher myopia and associated complications later in life.

Lifestyle modifications of rest breaks and longer working distance for near activities were discussed. An evidence-based conversation about more active intervention options such as dilute Atropine, Ortho-K and soft multifocal contact lenses was had.

Axial measurement were taken with an IOL Master with lengths of R: 22.98 & L: 23.31mm, consistent with his myopia (L>R).

Although the evidence supports greatest efficacy with dilute Atropine or Ortho-K, his parents preferred not to start with these options. They were interested in soft contact lenses as he played lots of sport, so he returned to his regular optometrist to be fitted with centre-distance multifocal contact lenses to hopefully provide modest slowing of myopia progression.

Review at UMeyecare in 12 months for repeat axial length measurements and cycloplegic refraction was recommended. Four to six monthly reviews with his regular optometrist were suggested in the meantime and if there was evidence of rapid progression other options of management could be revisited.

Axial length values

OD right				OS left			
Phakic				Phakic			
Comp. AL: 22.98 mm		(SNR = 228.0)		Comp. AL: 23.31 mm		(SNR = 186.4)	
AL	SNR	AL	SNR	AL	SNR	AL	SNR
22.97 mm	9.0			23.29 mm	11.7		
23.01 mm	5.3			23.31 mm	15.2		
22.97 mm	5.7			23.33 mm	14.2		
23.00 mm	10.2			23.30 mm	10.1		
23.01 mm	9.2			23.32 mm	9.0		

Departmental & Staff Publications (February 2017 - July 2017)

What do patients think about the role of optometrists in providing advice about smoking and nutrition?

Downie LE, Douglass A, Guest D, Keller PR.

Ophthalmic Physiol Opt. 2017 Mar;37(2):202-211.

We used a survey to show that most patients expected their optometrist to ask them about their smoking and diet habits, and felt comfortable discussing these topics with their primary eye care provider.

Optical Coherence Tomography Reveals Changes to Corneal Reflectivity and Thickness in Reactivity in the human retinal microvasculature measured during acute gas breathing provocations.

Duan A, Bedggood PA, Metha AB, Bui BV.

Sci Rep. 2017 May 18;7(1):2113.

Using adaptive optics and gas breathing to induce hyperoxia or hypercapnia, we show that capillary beds play an important role in the retinal response to changes in carbon dioxide levels, previously only documented for retinal arterioles and venules.

TFOS DEWS II Management and Therapy Report.

Jones L, Downie LE, Korb D, Benitez-Del-Castillo JM, Dana R, Deng SX, Dong PN, Geerling G, Hida RY, Liu Y, Seo KY, Tauber J, Wakamatsu TH, Xu J, Wolffsohn JS, Craig JP.

Ocul Surf. 2017 Jul;15(3):575-628

This review provides an evidence-based synthesis of current therapies and management options for dry eye disease, including its dominant sub-types of aqueous-deficient and evaporative dry eye.

Coding of spatial attention priorities and object features in the macaque lateral intraparietal cortex.

Levichkina E, Saalmann YB, Vidyasagar TR.

Physiol Rep. 2017 Mar;5(5). pii: e13136.

The posterior parietal cortex (PPC)is known to be involved in controlling spatial attention. This study investigates neurons in one part of the PPC, the lateral intraparietal area (LIP), which show enhanced responses to objects at attended locations.

Departmental & Staff Publications cont.

The Effect of Aging and Attention on Visual Crowding and Surround Suppression of Perceived Contrast Threshold.

Malavita MS, Vidyasagar TR, McKendrick AM.

Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci. 2017 Feb 1;58(2):860-867.

We show that aging does not affect visual crowding but does increase surround suppression of contrast, suggesting that crowding and surround suppression may be distinct visual phenomena.

Vision science and adaptive optics, the state of the field.

Marcos S, Werner JS, Burns SA, Merigan WH, Artal P, Atchison DA, Hampson KM, Legras R, Lundstrom L, Yoon G, Carroll J, Choi SS, Doble N, Dubis AM, Dubra A, Elsner A, Jonnal R, Miller DT, Paques M, Smithson HE, Young LK, Zhang Y, Campbell M, Hunter J, Metha A, Palczewska G, Schallek J, Sincich LC.

Vision Res. 2017 Mar;132:3-33.

The editors of this feature issue have posed a series of question to scientists involved in using adaptive optics in vision science, regarding its use in behavioural testing, retinal imaging, and understanding the neurophysiology of vision.

Behavioral measures of cortical hyperexcitability assessed in people who experience visual snow.

McKendrick AM, Chan YM, Tien M, Millist L, Clough M, Mack H, Fielding J, White OB.

Neurology. 2017 Mar 28;88(13):1243-1249

Visual snow is a recently recognised visual disturbance. This is the first study to provide evidence for abnormal perceptual testing in people with visual snow.

The Proportion of Individuals Likely to Benefit from Customized Optic Nerve Head Structure-Function Mapping.

McKendrick AM, Denniss J, Wang YX, Jonas JB, Turpin A.

Ophthalmology. 2017 Apr;124(4):554-561.

Anatomically, individual, customized mapping shifts the map between DNH and Visual field markedly in approximately 12% of the general population in the important nasal step region, where visual field locations can map to the opposite pole of the optic nerve head than conventionally considered.

Tablets at the bedside - iPad-based visual field test used in the diagnosis of Intrasellar Haemangiopericytoma: a case report.

Nesaratnam N, Thomas PBM, Kirollos R, Vingrys AJ, Kong GYX, Martin KR.

BMC Ophthalmol. 2017 Apr 24;17(1):53.

We describe how an iPad visual field test (Melbourne Rapid Field) undertaken at the bedside of a 73-year-old lady aided in directing timely investigation and management of this patient.

Retinal biomarkers provide "insight" into cortical pharmacology and disease.

Nguyen CT, Hui F, Charng J, Velaedan S, van Koeverden AK, Lim JK, He Z, Wong VH, Vingrys AJ, Bui BV, Ivarsson M.

Pharmacol Ther. 2017 Feb 5. pii: S0163-7258(17)30023-2.

Objectively measured characteristics that are an indicator of normal or pathogenic processes, or pharmacological responses to therapies, are known as biomarkers. This review examines the strength of retinal biomarkers and their future potential both in preclinical and clinical domains.

Masking of random-walk motion by flicker, and its role in the allocation of motion in the on-line jitter illusion.

Park ASY, Bedggood PA, Metha AB, Anderson AJ.

Vision Res. 2017 Jul 13;137:50-60

We find that flickering a pattern showing random-walk motion impairs the detection of this motion, but not enough to explain why flickering regions appear stable in an illusion used to expose tiny, fixational eye movements.

The interpretation of results of 10-2 visual fields should consider individual variability in the position of the optic disc and temporal raphe.

Tanabe F, Matsumoto C, McKendrick AM, Okuyama S, Hashimoto S, Shimomura Y.

Br J Ophthalmol. 2017 Jul 8.

Individual variation in the position of the disc and raphe affects the mapping between structure and function with respect to superior and inferior hemifields, and so should be considered when mapping between structure and function for the 10-2 test pattern.

A comparison of the self-reported dry eye practices of New Zealand optometrists and ophthalmologists.

Xue AL, Downie LE, Ormonde SE, Craig JP.

Ophthalmic Physiol Opt. 2017 Mar;37(2):191-201.

New Zealand eye-care professionals combine subjective and objective techniques to diagnose and stratify dry eye management. There is potential to improve research evidence dissemination, with continuing education via conferences the favoured delivery mode.

Characterization of the Circumlimbal Suture Model of Chronic IOP Elevation in Mice and Assessment of Changes in Gene Expression of Stretch Sensitive Channels.

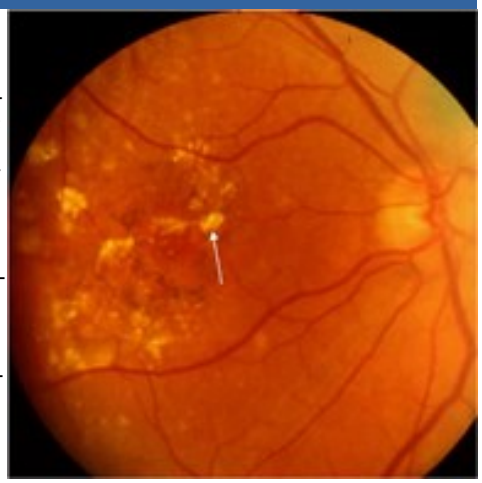
Zhao D, Nguyen CT, Wong VH, Lim JK, He Z, Jobling AI, Fletcher EL, Chinnery HR, Vingrys AJ, Bui BV.

Front Neurosci. 2017 Feb 10;11:41.

A simple loop placed around the eye successfully elevated intraocular pressure in mouse eyes. Chronic intraocular pressure elevation in this model changed ganglion cell structure and function, resembling human glaucoma. These deficits was associated with changes in purinergic signalling.

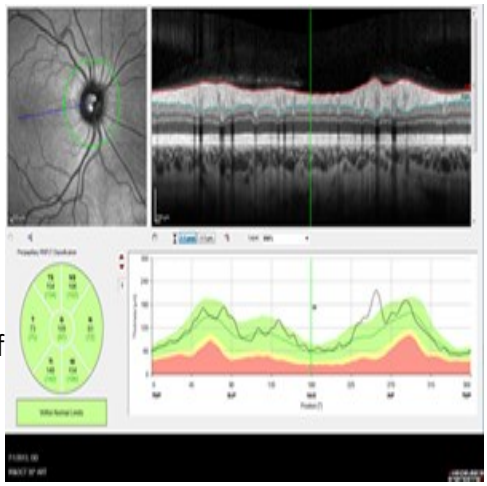
Postgraduate Courses

New Online Postgraduate Courses Offered 2018



The Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences strives to disseminate cutting edge evidence-based education to all participants of the optometry profession, including students and practicing optometrists. The latest additions to the suite of subjects, which can contribute to Specialist Certificates and/or Master of Clinical Optometry, address areas where latest research is informing changes to clinical practice and keeping abreast of research developments.

The Specialist Certificate in Glaucoma and Retinal Disease is a newly developed online, postgraduate course, offered in semester 1, 2018. This course/subject is designed to allow optometrists to advance their capabilities in the day-to-day management of eye disease by affording them the opportunity to review the most current ideas on the pathophysiology, diagnosis and management of ocular disease affecting the back of the eye, thus also preparing them for any further shifts in the scope of optometric practice in this area. This review will include a critical examination of how the state-of-the-art diagnostic and imaging tools can be incorporated into clinical practice. Given the explosion in the literature of health sciences, the course will concentrate on developing a deep understanding in a select group of eye diseases regularly seen in optometric practice (for example, glaucoma, diabetes, age-related macular degeneration). The course will, however, provide optometrists with the tools necessary to develop a deeper, evidence-based understanding in other eye diseases of their choosing.



The Specialist Certificate in Anterior Eye Disease and Dry Eye is also a newly developed online, postgraduate course, to be offered in semester 2, 2018. This course/subject will allow optometrists to advance their clinical capabilities in the day-to-day management of eye disease by affording them the opportunity to review the most current theories on the pathophysiology, diagnosis and management of anterior eye disease, thus preparing them to better embrace changes in the scope of optometric practice. Given the explosion in the literature of health sciences, the course will concentrate on helping optometrists to develop a deeper understanding of a select group of common anterior eye diseases. It is expected that optometrists will, as a result, develop enhanced clinical capabilities in these areas. The course will also provide optometrists with the tools necessary to develop a deeper, evidence-based understanding in other eye diseases of their choosing, thus empowering them to improve their clinical skills across a gamut of anterior eye disease.

Co-contributors to both courses include academics whose contribution align with their field of research.

Specific details of all the Specialist Certificate courses and the Master of Clinical Optometry (MClinOptom) being offered in 2018 are available at the following weblinks.

Semester 1, 2018

Specialist Certificate in Glaucoma and Retinal Disease - https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/courses/sc-gard
Specialist Certificate in the Management of Contact Lens Patients - https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/courses/gc-mclp
Semester 2, 2018Specialist Certificate in Anterior and Dry Eye Disorders - https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/courses/sc-aded

Specialist Certificate in the Management of Paediatric Patients - https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/courses/gc-mpp

UMOSS

It's been an incredibly busy year for everyone, but it hasn't been all work and no play. With only 6 weeks left in the second semester, there are still many exciting events to look forward to!

Recap:
The Big Brothers Big Sisters program (led by OD2 students Kieren Do & Jacky Truong) kicked off the year with a game day event that welcomed the OD1's into the program and introduced them to their OD2 mentors. UMOSS' first event of the year, the Welch Allyn Eyemazing Race, was a nail-biting fight to the finish but the LG Slayers (Jaka Bambang OD4, Brandon Ninh OD4, Baturay Ozcelik OD2 & Yokim Bonggotgetsakul OD2) captured 1st place winning the grand prize MIO PanOptic Ophthalmascopes. At mid-semester, Designs For Vision's 'Strike Night" bowling and laser tag event was a fun way for students to kick back, relax and mingle with their peers. Optometry Victoria closed out semester 1 by hosting the OD4 students at the Southern Regional Congress. Not only was this a great opportunity that provided future graduates with excellent insight on jobs but also reunited students with former Doctor of Optometry Alumni.

With second semester well under way, Optimed's Welcome Back BBQ was a massive turnout and the lucky OD4 Jessica Healey won the raffle for a brand new foreign body kit. The DOVS Futsol Team has begun their season and is at the top of the leader board with 8 wins, 1 draw, and 3 losses. Wildly argued as our second most anticipated event, the Coopervision Trivia Night was a packed house filled with much cheering, singing, dancing and laughter. Undeniably a huge success, the Flange Bearers (OD3's Erica Barclay, Liesl Forward, Chelsea Lane & Stacey Furness) rose victorious after flaunting their impressive knowledge of tricky trivia questions.

Looking Forward:
Our next big event is the greatest inter-professional collaboration yet from all MDHS student societies; the MDHS Sports Cup Dodgeball Game is being held on 10th September. Immediately following is the annual ODSC scheduled to take place on the 21st & 22nd of September. Tickets for The Enchanted Eyeball (6th October at The Park Melbourne) have already been released and are on par to sell out well before the end of the week!

Last but not least, a special thanks goes out to our 2017 student reps who have been doing an incredible job not only looking after their year level but providing endless support to UMOSS, helping to keep the year running smoothly (Top Row Left to Right: Rachael Lim OD1, Victor Liu OD4, Scott Panozza OD3, Kieren Do OD2, Jeremy Oppez OD1. Bottom Row Left to Right: Moleshri Paliwal OD2, Anne Fernandez OD3, Anjalee Athukoralage OD4) .

Victor Liu | UMOSS 2017 President

UMOSS 2017

Authorised by the Head of Department, Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences

Acknowledgements

In addition, we would like to thank Bob Tupper from A.C.T., for his continued and ongoing financial support of Trichur Vidyasagar's research lab.

The department would also like to thank the following companies for their contribution to our preclinical teaching with the donation of:

1) A BIO kit from BOC (supported by Welch Allyn) and ScanOptics.

2) A diagnostic set, BIO kit with soft case.