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Head's Report

Prof Allison McKendrick

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2017. Since our last newsletter, we have said farewell to the Class of 2016 (photo below) who are now our professional colleagues. Some have commenced their professional journey "just down the road" in metropolitan Melbourne, however many others are now scattered throughout rural Victoria, in rural areas interstate, in interstate capital cities and across the sea in New Zealand. We are very proud of their achievements and welcome them into the community of University of Melbourne Department of Optometry & Vision Sciences alumni.

The Department is now well integrated into the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences. This is beginning to yield increasing interdisciplinary collaborations in both teaching and research. Working with a variety of health disciplines at both a staff and student level has the potential for substantial future integration and understanding of the vital role of optometry within the broader health care sector.

In this newsletter, we highlight a range of programs undertaken by both our staff and students over the past 6 months. We also include information regarding our upcoming reunion tours and our latest "Seeing Beyond Lecture". These lectures are designed to be informative for optometrists, to provide a gateway between research and practice, and to welcome our alumni and friends back onto the university campus for the evening. We hope that you'll be able to join us.

A significant goal for 2017 is to strengthen our connections with our alumni. If you have not visited the department for a while, or would like to know more about the Doctor of Optometry, or our research, or how you can be involved in the work of the department, our doors are always open.



Pictured are those that were in attendance at the Graduation ceremony on Wednesday December 14th, 2016.

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
August 30th 2017



Prof. Shitij Kapur, A/Prof Daryl Guest, Prof. Allison Mckendrick and Premier Daniel Andrews

Glasses 4 Kids launch

On November 23, 2016, the Victorian Premier along with the Dean of Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences launched the Glasses4Kids program at UMeyecare.

Through this program the Department's OD4 students will be assisting in the screening of Prep to Grade 3 kids in some of the most disadvantaged school communities in Victoria. For further details please visit : www.premier.vic.gov.au/glassesforkids. For further information please read the UMeyecare report on Page 7.

Thankyou function 2016

Thank you to all those who attended our end of year celebration to recognise and celebrate the clinical teaching staff associated with the Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences. The event was a wonderful opportunity to publicly recognise the importance of contributions from a wide variety of individuals and industry stakeholders to the education of our future optometrists. For those of you who couldn't make it, thank you for your support of the Department and we hope to see you at the next thank you function.



Attendees at the 2016 DOVS Thank You Function

Melbourne School of Health Sciences Awards

Congratulations to Dr Kwang Cham who was awarded the Department's 2016 Teaching and Learning prize for "Embracing new challenges in Teaching and Learning". This award was presented at the School of Health Sciences End of Year event. In addition to his excellent daily face-to-face teaching role, Kwang has recently embarked on an interdisciplinary teaching and learning project with members of staff from Physiotherapy and Nursing.



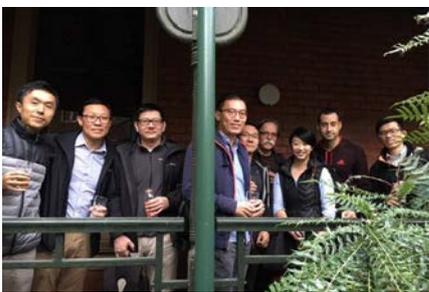
Prof. Allison Mckendrick and Dr. Kwang Cham

Visitors from Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Since early 2014, the department has been strengthening its collaborative links with the School of Optometry at Hong Kong Polytechnic University. This initiative has included collaborative research grant applications, collaborative workshops on optometric teaching, and the exchange of students for international clinical placements. In late 2016, we hosted Dr Henry Chan, Dr ChiWai Do and Dr. Bing Zuo from the School of Optometry at Hong Kong Polytechnic for a week to specifically work on collaborative approaches to study mechanisms of retinal changes in development and disease.

Research grant news

- Research grant funding is always highly competitive, but in recent years the competition has been greater than ever for limited resources. Consequently, we are extremely proud of our researchers that have been awarded funding late in 2016.
- Dr Bao Nguyen has been awarded a prestigious Melbourne Neuroscience Institute Fellowship for 2017. Her project title is: "Ultra high field imaging of metabolite levels in the eye."
- Dr Holly Chinnery was awarded an NHMRC project grant entitled 'Making sense of novel ocular neuroimmune interactions'. Paul McMenamin (Monash University) is also a chief investigator (B) with associate investigators Dr Laura Downie (Optometry) and Jason Ivanusic (Dept of Anatomy and Neuroscience).
- Prof Trichur Vigyasagar was awarded an ARC Discovery Project entitled 'Neuronal Origin of functional maps on the mammalian visual cortex'. The project is in collaboration with Ulf Eysel from Ruhr-University-Bochum, Germany.
- Prof Michael Ibbottson was awarded an NHMRC Development Grant entitled "Development of a high acuity retinal prosthesis".



Members of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University during their visit to Melbourne.



Jeremiah Lim (centre) at the ISCEV meeting

Prestigious international award

Congratulations to DOVS PhD student, Jeremiah Lim, who has been awarded the prestigious Eberhard Dodt Memorial Award, for the most outstanding young presenter at the 54th International Society for Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision (ISCEV) Annual Symposium held in Singapore. The award is presented to a young scientist who, in the opinion of the Adjudication Panel, makes the best presentation at the Annual Symposium of the International Society for Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision (ISCEV). Jeremiah's study entitled "Functional and structural insights into ageing and Alzheimer's disease in a murine model" has implications for our understanding of ocular manifestations of Alzheimer's disease.

Inspiring Student Optometrist Award

Congratulations to OD3 student Emily Glover on being awarded the Inspiring Student Optometrist Award, sponsored by Collins St Optometrists. The award was presented at the OD Student Conference 2016. Emily was acknowledged for promoting rural health initiatives.



Willie Gunawan and Emily Glover

International Clinical Placements for OD4 students

A unique feature of the University of Melbourne Doctor of Optometry program is the international clinical placement experience that all students undertake in their final year of study. All OD students travel overseas for a period of 6-8 weeks and learn about optometry and eyecare in a global context. To help support these overseas placements the department was awarded funding to support students under the Australian Government Endeavour scheme. Ten awards were received to support students travelling to any destination in the world, and ten to support students to travel to destinations in Asia. Eligible students receive funding of \$2000 each to assist in their travels. We look forward to hearing about their experiences and seeing the transition in their skills and outlook post their travel in 2017.



OD4 Placement Students

Melbourne School of Health Sciences Research Higher Degree Colloquium

Our RHD students (PhD, Masters) all participate in the MSHS RHD colloquium. The colloquium provides an opportunity for our PhD and MPhil students to share their latest research with other research students and staff from across the school, with an emphasis on presenting work in an engaging fashion to other health care disciplines.

Presentations included: Angela Duan "Reactivity to gas breathing perturbations in human retinal microvasculature"; Marzier Salehi Fadardi "The effect of task condition on infantile nystagmus syndrome varies with gaze position"; Mojtaba Kermani: "Role of feature selectivity in the macaque's Posterior Parietal Cortex"; Jeremiah Lim: "Functional and structural insights into ageing and Alzheimer's disease in a murine model"; Menaka Malavita: "The effect of ageing and attention on visual crowding and surround suppression"; Nicholas Owen: "Investigating biomarkers for early age-related macular degeneration using optical coherence tomography"; Adela Park: "The allocation of motion and reference frame in the absence of perceptual stabilization of small eye movements"; Kabilan Pitchaimuthu: "Foveal centre surround contrast suppression reveals differential effect of ageing on binocular and interocular suppression"; Nikki Rubinstein: "Incorporating probabilistic graphical models into visual field testing". While these titles sound complicated, the projects can more simply be described as contributing to improving methods for diagnosing eye disease, brain disease, understanding changes to the brain that impact vision in the elderly, and improving methods for clinical detection of visual field loss, nystagmus, and AMD.

Research higher degree students represent the future of knowledge creation in optometry and vision sciences. During their candidature, most attend national and international conferences, hence are the young face of the future development of the discipline. Our current PhD students come from all around the world, including local optometrists that have moved back to the department after a stint in practice, or who are combining their research work part-time with optometric practice. We welcome enquiries about our research program at any time.



Prof. Allison Mckendrick, the Department's RhD students & Early Career researchers



Dr. John Parkes, Tim Martin and Dr. Graham Lakkis.

Seeing Beyond Lecture Series 2016

On Wednesday the 5th of October Graham Lakkis, Tim Martin and Dr John Parkes presented a number of case studies from the University of Melbourne Eyecare clinic. Dr John Parkes presented a number of clinical cases illustrating how combined colour vision and optometric assessment establish fitness for duty, and how to put this information into context for patients. Graham Lakkis described pigment dispersion syndrome and pigment dispersion glaucoma and the optometrist's role in managing these conditions. Tim Martin presented his experience in the management of a case of a young progressing myope, over a four-year evaluation period. Thank you to everyone for who came along and participated in this session.



Prof Algis Vingrys

Seeing Beyond Lecture Series 2017

Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences - 'Seeing Beyond Lecture' – Wednesday 5th April 2017

Guest speakers: Prof Algis Vingrys and Dr Bao Nguyen from the Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences

Times: 6.30-8.00pm (please arrive by 6.15pm to sign in)

Location: School of Population Health Theatre 1, 207 Bouverie Street, University of Melbourne. Map: <http://maps.unimelb.edu.au/parkville/building/379>

CPD points: 6 therapeutic points (approved)

Presentation summaries

Prof Algis Vingrys - Perimetry developments to extend and complement your practice

The face of perimetry has changed little over the past 30 years, we still have a Humphrey or a Medmont. But surely the time has come to embrace the contemporary reality of Uber and AirBnB. New perimetry technology and test procedures have been developed on an iPad that are accurate, reliable and allow you to utilize broadband to monitor your patients remotely (tele-medicine). This presentation will describe one such app (Melbourne Rapid Fields) giving examples of test outcomes. It will discuss how the app can be adopted by optometrists in clinical practice or for the monitoring of suspects and those who have chronic eye diseases, such as AMD, neurological disease, diabetes or glaucoma, to identify patients who need prompt intervention.

Dr Bao Nguyen – Why optometrists should care about migraine.

Migraine is a common, debilitating primary headache disorder that typically affects people of working age. There are several reasons why migraines are of interest to optometrists. In particular, clinical tests of visual function for glaucoma diagnosis and monitoring can be confounded when there is a history of migraine. This talk will provide practical, evidence-based recommendations for managing patients with migraine who attend for eye care.



Dr Bao Nguyen

Registration: <http://alumni.online.unimelb.edu.au/seeingbeyond2017>



2016 Alumni Award
Winner John Farmer (left)

2016 Alumni Award

Congratulations to John Farmer for his 2016 DOVS Alumnus award for his outstanding contributions to Optometry. The award was presented at the OD Student Conference in September 2016, where John inspired students with his story of his career journey in optometry. Nominations for the 2017 Alumni Award will open in late March.

Australia Day Awards

Following on from his DOVS Alumnus Award, in January 2017, John Farmer was recognised in the Australia Day Awards as a recipient of the Order of Australia Medal for his service to optometry. Associate Professor Mark Roth was also a recipient of the Order of Australia Medal for services to optometry in particular his role in Optometry gaining access to therapeutics. We are extremely proud of both of their achievements.

Department of Optometry & Vision Sciences 20-, 30- & 40-year Reunion Tours

The Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences at The University of Melbourne is holding evening reunion tours in June for the classes (final year) of, 1997 (13th June), 1987 (15th June) and 1977 (8th June). Please save the date.

20 year: Class of 1997 – Tuesday 13th June 6-7:30 pm

30 year: Class of 1987 – Thursday 15th June 6-7:30 pm

40 year: Class of 1977 – Thursday 8th June 6-7:30 pm

The tours provide 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 your peers.



Associate Professor
Mark Roth



The 2016 Class of 1976
Reunion

Clinical Matters

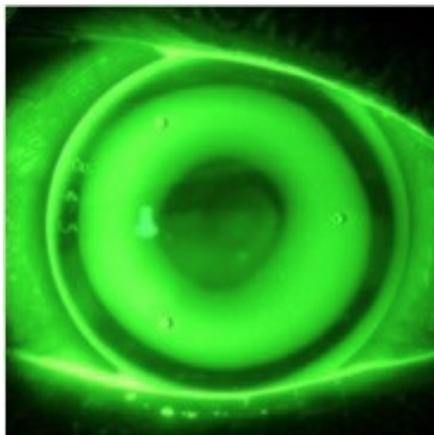
Clinical Teaching Opportunities

We are currently seeking Clinical Supervisors for our 4th Year Doctor of Optometry Rural Clinical Placement Program.

In 2017, we are hoping to offer our OD4s each a 2-week rural placements during the year. This can only be achieved with the assistance of practices throughout Australia allowing our students to experience the unique opportunities and challenges of working within a rural setting.

For more information, please contact our Clinical Placements Officer, Ms Bronwyn Thomson (E: bosha@unimelb.edu.au P: 03 8344 7008)

We are grateful for the generous contribution clinical supervisors make to clinical training. We have received wonderful feedback from both Supervisors and OD4 students regarding the value of this rural placement and hope to continue to provide all students this experience into the future.



Participate in our myopia practice survey

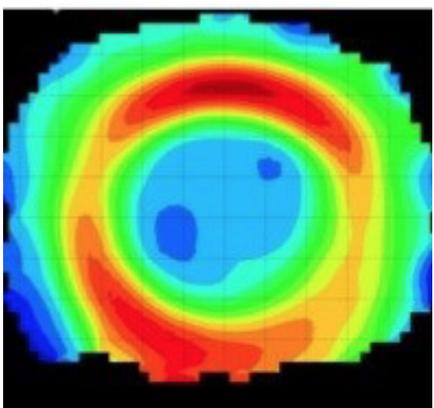
We invite practicing optometrists to participate in a short online survey for some research that is investigating the current practices of Australian optometrists, as related to the management of childhood myopia.

Completing the survey, which remains open until 24 March 2017, is voluntary and should only take about seven minutes. Confidentiality will be strictly maintained. Completion of the questionnaire will be regarded as consent to use the information for research purposes. The study has been approved by the University of Melbourne Human Research Ethics Committee.

Access the survey via the following link:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MyopiaSurvey2016-Practitioners>

The Principal Investigator for this project is Laura Downie.



“New DOVS workshop offering: ‘Myopia Management MasterClass’”

We are pleased to announce an exciting, new short course focussing upon the management of myopia, which is designed for optometrists seeking to further their expertise in the management of childhood myopia.

The two-day, interactive course will be held at the University of Melbourne, and will be facilitated by a team of experienced researchers and clinicians, to provide practical insight into contemporary myopia management.

The program, coordinated by Dr Laura Downie, will involve a combination of lectures, case scenarios, collaborative discussions and workshops. The course includes a practical, clinic-based session to provide a hands-on experience with orthokeratology contact lens fitting.

Dates: Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th June 2017
Where: The University of Melbourne – Parkville campus
Cost: Early Bird (before May 1st) \$900 +GST (\$990)
Late Registration (after May 1st) \$1200 +GST (\$1320)

CPD points: 36 points (pending approval)”

Enquiries: For further information, please contact
Kathy Griffiths, Program Coordinator – Research, Innovation &
Commercialisation, The University of Melbourne.

Email: kg@unimelb.edu.au, Ph (03) 8344 2601.

Catering (morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea), course materials and a certificate of attendance will be provided.

Please note: numbers are strictly limited, so please enquire early to register your interest.



The Glasses 4 Kids launch



The Glasses 4 Kids launch



The UMeyecare children's clinic

Each year presents its own changes and challenges. We have a new batch of OD4's and OD3's starting in the clinic. It seems impossible for us to get jaded when we have groups of keen young adults for whom every patient is a new adventure. We, as staff, have to match that sense of adventure and discovery.

A couple of recent activities at UMeyecare demonstrate the steps forward we are taking to further develop the expertise of the students and the resources of the profession. As well as our own sense of discovery.

Glasses 4 Kids

Glasses 4 Kids is an initiative of the Victorian Premier, Daniel Andrews. University of Melbourne OD4 students will be part of the school screenings, which will help identify Prep to Grade 3 kids who would benefit from glasses. The bringing together of the Department of Education and Training Victoria, State Schools Relief and the University of Melbourne in the formation of the program has demonstrated the value of having different expertise in devising, planning and implementing a program. OD4 students will be going onsite to screen children at some the most disadvantaged schools in Victoria.

The launch for Glasses 4 Kids was held at UMeyecare in November last year. We were able to showcase the clinic, and more importantly our students, to the Premier, the Deputy Premier James Merlino and the new Dean of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, Professor Shitij Kapur.

Clinical Research

UMeyecare has been undertaking a number of clinically based research projects. A new project is the validation of a forced choice test for children based around the principles of the D15. This tests was originally devised by Dr John Parkes, the Occupation Health Physician consulting at UMeyecare. The test is a very novel approach to an old problem: how do you test the colour vision of very young children?

Ethics approval has been granted and we are just starting to organise the initial testing of adults. Presenting the test to children will start once we have analysed the initial trials.

For this, and another trial, we are interested in putting together a register of adults and children with significant colour vision deficiencies. Tritans are so hard to find! If you have any patients with colour vision deficiencies who have the time and inclination to spend a couple of hours at UMeyecare to undergo research around colour vision testing we would love to hear from you; particularly those with a tritan defect.

For further queries please contact:

Daryl Guest

daryl.guest@unimelb.edu.au

Do Intense Perimetric Stimuli Saturate the Healthy Visual System?

Anderson AJ, McKendrick AM, Turpin A.

Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci. 2016 Nov 1;57(14):6397-6404.

A recent proposal is that glaucomatous perimetric sensitivities are variable because intense perimetric targets saturate retinal ganglion cell responses. We find good contrast discrimination between intense targets, suggesting significant saturation does not occur.

Significant Glaucomatous Visual Field Progression in the First Two Years: What Does It Mean?

Anderson AJ.

Transl Vis Sci Technol. 2016 Nov 1;5(6):1.

Statistically significant visual field progression in a short period after diagnosis may not necessarily indicate the presence of rapid progression, and so confirmatory signs of rapid progression should be sought before implementing treatment changes.

Automatic identification of the temporal retinal nerve fiber raphe from macular cube data.

Bedggood P, Tanabe F, McKendrick AM, Turpin A.

Biomed Opt Express. 2016 Sep 15;7(10):4043-4053.

We evaluated several approaches for automatic location of the temporal nerve fiber raphe from standard OCT macular cubes. The best approach involved projection of a fan of lines from each of several locations across the foveal pit.

Stretch Sensitive Channels in Retinal Blood Flow Autoregulation.

Bui BV.

Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci. 2016 Oct 1;57(13):5648.

A short editorial highlighting some excellent work in the journal describing novel findings from McGahon et al (2016) showing that TRPV2 channels contribute to constriction in retinal arterioles.

A Randomized, Double-Masked, Placebo-Controlled Clinical Trial of Two Forms of Omega-3 Supplements for Treating Dry Eye Disease.

Deinema LA, Vingrys AJ, Wong CY, Jackson DC, Chinnery HR, Downie LE.

Ophthalmology. 2016 Nov 3. pii: S0161-6420(16)31373-2.

Moderate doses of long-chain omega-3 supplements, for three months, reduce tear osmolality and increase tear stability in dry eye. Krill oil may confer additional therapeutic benefit compared with fish oil, through differentially modulating ocular inflammation.

Impact of Peripheral Field Loss on the Execution of Natural Actions: A Study With Glaucomatous Patients and Normally Sighted People.

Dive S, Rouland JF, Lenoble Q, Szaffarczyk S, McKendrick AM, Boucart M.

J Glaucoma. 2016 Oct;25(10):e889-e896.

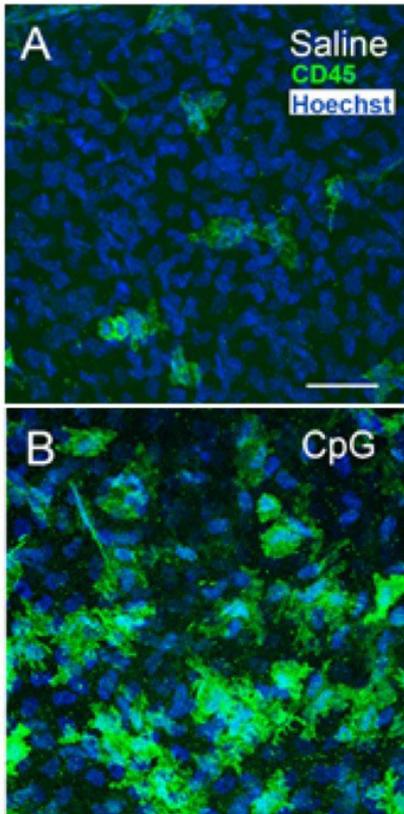
Although slower than controls, patients with glaucoma can accomplish natural actions efficiently even when the task requires discrimination of small structurally similar objects (nuts and screws in a model-building task).

Visual Neuroscience: Unique Neural System for Flight Stabilization in Hummingbirds.

Ibbotson MR.

Curr Biol. 2017 Jan 23;27(2):R58-R61.

The pretectal visual motion area in the hummingbird brain codes for motion in all directions through 360°, instead of emphasizing horizontal motion as in other birds, possibly offering precise visual stability control during hovering.



Green stain showing an increase in inflammatory cells in injured cornea

A/Prof Larry Abel

label@unimelb.edu.au

Dr Andrew Anderson

aaj@unimelb.edu.au

Prof Trichur Vidyasagar

sagar.t@unimelb.edu.au

A Comparison of Perimetric Results from a Tablet Perimeter and Humphrey Field Analyzer in Glaucoma Patients.

Kong YX, He M, Crowston JG, Vingrys AJ.
Transl Vis Sci Technol. 2016 Nov 3;5(6):2.

We find that portable tablet perimetry (MRF) allows fast and accurate assessment of visual fields in 90 patients especially when HFA or Medmont is unavailable or unsuitable.

Glial Cell Contribution to Basal Vessel Diameter and Pressure-Initiated Vascular Responses in Rat Retina.

Li H, Bui BV, Cull G, Wang F, Wang L.
Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci. 2017 Jan 1;58(1):1-8.

Changes in blood or eye pressure initiates compensatory reaction from blood vessels throughout the body. In the eye this compensatory response is altered when the support cells, or glial cells surrounding blood vessel is removed.

The Eye As a Biomarker for Alzheimer's Disease.

Lim JK, Li QX, He Z, Vingrys AJ, Wong VH, Currier N, Mullen J, Bui BV, Nguyen CT.
Front Neurosci. 2016 Nov 17;10:536. Review.

A review of the ocular changes associated with Alzheimers disease, with commentary on how these might be used to develop vision tests and ocular imaging methods as "biomarkers" for early detection and monitoring of Alzheimer's.

Reversal of functional loss in a rat model of chronic intraocular pressure elevation.

Liu HH, He Z, Nguyen CT, Vingrys AJ, Bui BV.
Ophthalmic Physiol Opt. 2016 Oct 24.

A simple circumlimbal suture can be used to raise rodent IOP. We show that after suture removal and consequent IOP lowering, ganglion cells retain the capacity to recover despite an extended period of intraocular pressure elevation.

Intraocular Pressure Induced Retinal Changes Identified Using Synchrotron Infrared Microscopy.

Shen HH, Liu GS, Chow SH, Wang JH, He Z, Nguyen C, Lin TW, Bui BV.
PLoS One. 2016 Oct 6;11(10):e0164035.

We demonstrate that synchrotron infrared imaging (SIRM) can quantify the effect of IOP elevation on specific retinal layers, suggesting it may be a useful tool for laboratory studies of localised tissue changes in glaucoma and other eye diseases.

Temporal changes in contact lens comfort over a day of wear.

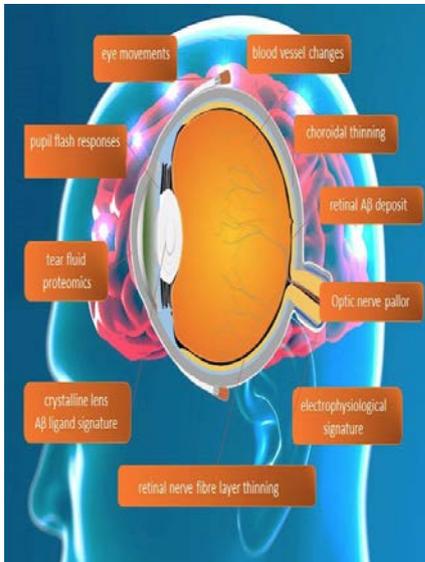
Woods CA, Bentley SA, Fonn D.
Ophthalmic Physiol Opt. 2016 Nov;36(6):643-648.

Symptomatic contact lens wearers report progressive decrease in comfort, independent of material; asymptomatic wearers do not. Exclusion of asymptomatic wearers may increase sensitivity of comfort ratings in contact lens research.

A Possible Role for End-Stopped V1 Neurons in the Perception of Motion: A Computational Model.

Zarei Eskikand P, Kameneva T, Ibbotson MR, Burkitt AN, Grayden DB.
PLoS One. 2016 Oct 14;11(10):e0164813.

We present a model of the early stages of processing in the visual cortex, in particular V1 and MT, to investigate the potential role of end-stopped V1 neurons in solving the aperture problem.



Changes in the eye that might help with diagnosing Alzheimer's disease

Outreach Eyecare in Sri Lanka by Tom Morton (OD4, 2017)

In early January 2017, an optometry team from Melbourne travelled to Sri Lanka with Global Hand Charity to run several outreach eye care clinics across the country. The Essilor Vision Foundation, Rotary Club of Millpoint (in Australia) and the Rotary clubs of Colombo & Matara (in Sri Lanka) were invaluable partners of the project. Students and staff from the University of Melbourne have previously volunteered with Global Hand Charity for eye-care projects in Laos from 2013-2016.

The Sri Lanka 2017 eye care team included four final year University of Melbourne Doctor of Optometry students Anjalee Athukoralage, Victor Liu, Tom Morton & Noni Rupasinghe; DOVS lecturer Dr Kwang Cham; and Melbourne optometrists Helen Lee, Dr Abirami Sribalachandran (OD graduate of 2014) and David West. Regina Lau from the Global Hand Charity organised the trip and coordinated the operation of each clinic with assistance from volunteers Gordon West and James Lai. Present in spirit was DOVS senior lecturer Christine Nearchou, who previously attended previous projects in Laos and was heavily involved in organisation of the Sri Lanka project.

Primary eye-care services in Sri Lanka have only existed for a few years, and infrastructure is developing slowly. Although smaller than Tasmania by landmass, the population of Sri Lanka is 21 million and many people are simply unable to access or afford basic eye care. Most opticians & optometrists are based in large cities - consequently, many poorer people living in rural areas have never had their eyes examined.



The 2017 Outreach Eyecare team

Lights. Camera. Action! 2016 awarded us with another year to remember as the UMOSS committee closed the year out with a glamorous Eyeball event. The Oscar-themed “Eyecademy Awards” was held at the dazzling Regent Theatre where every student dressed to impress, leaving many jaws-dropped on the red carpet. We applaud the tremendous effort of last year’s UMOSS committee and wish all the best to the graduating class of 2016.

The Big Brothers Big Sisters program celebrated its 2nd successful year mentor-ing OD1 students and welcoming them into the optometry family. After found-ing the program in 2015, I had never imagined it would have gotten as far as it has. Last year the club has boasted record numbers of student involvement that has soared above expectation. This couldn’t have been done without the leadership of the 2016 Big Sister, Anne Fernandez. With help from her fel-low student representative, Erica Barclay, they polished the program with many creative new ideas for the students to partake in, including the end of year game day picnic at the park. This has left an inspiring benchmark to those applying to take over as the new OD2 Big Brother/ Sister for the incoming OD1 cohort.



UMOSS 2017

The intramural soccer team is a new exciting initiative led by OD4 Jaka Bam-bang. This effort has further united the year levels in an activity that promotes teamwork and fitness. In its first year, the team blazed through the fellow sci-ence faculty competition landing them into the semi-finals. Although they did-n’t walk away with a victory, we are all very proud of the players for their com-mitment and hard work. Show them support by attending their games, which are held every Wednesday evening.

Earlier this year, 3 UMOSS committee members (Anjalee Athukoralage, Noni Rupasinghe and myself), fellow OD4 student Tom Morton, and supervisor Dr. Kwang Cham joined Global Hand Charity in the Sri Lanka Eyecare Team Pro-ject.

The UMOSS committee of 2017 has been working diligently as we prepare for another exciting year. Continuing on our hallmark traditions, we are also hop-ing to introduce some new surprise events. We have teamed with Dr. John Parkes on a project in a remarkable endeavour to re-ignite optometrists’ role in colour vision testing. Furthermore, optometry students have always held a strong presence in IPEP (Inter-Professional Education Program). This year we are working closely with President Eva Windle to collaborate with other facul-ties to create new and exciting multi-disciplinary events.

Needless to say, we are thrilled about 2017 and can’t wait to meet our new OD1s as we are sure they will have an unforgettable experience. Welcome students and good luck this year!

Victor Liu

President
UMOSS 2017

UMOSS

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