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Head's Report

2019 is already shaping up to be a busy year for the Department. Summer has been spent preparing for the new teaching year, writing research grants, visiting our international collaborators, and having some well-deserved holiday time.

I was particularly pleased to participate in a whirlwind trip to India in late January, along with Bang Bui and Anthea Cochrane, to visit our optometry colleagues at Manipal University. Manipal University has been awarded the status of "Institute of Eminence" by the Indian government in 2018 and has a strong program in Allied Health. We are looking forward to increasing our collaboration with Manipal in both educational and research.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome several new staff to the Department.

1) Dr Cirous Dehghani joins us in the role of Clinical Vision Research Fellow: a new joint research position between our department and the ACO/NVRI. Cirous will be leading collaborative research that intersects the research interests of the ACO/NVRI and the department.



2) We also welcome Dr Lauren Ayton, who is returning to the University of Melbourne after a period as Director of Clinical & Regulatory Affairs at Bionic Eye Technologies, New York. Lauren will be leading a translational research program in the domains of low vision and visual rehabilitation, in addition to continuing her research interests in macular degeneration.



3) Ms Meg Colasante has joined us in the role of Curriculum Development Coordinator. Meg is a highly experienced educational specialist with a focus on online and technology enhanced teaching and learning. Meg's role will include enhancing our online Masters of Clinical Optometry program, in addition to contributing to the ongoing development and review of our Doctor of Optometry program.



Department News

Graduation

The Graduation Ceremony for the Doctor of Optometry Class of 2018 took place on Tuesday December 11th at the Royal Exhibition Building in Carlton.

The ceremony was a fantastic way to celebrate this class and we wish all of our graduating students the best in their professional careers!

Pictured right are those that were in attendance at the Graduation ceremony on Tuesday December 11th.



Victorian Optometrists Training and Education



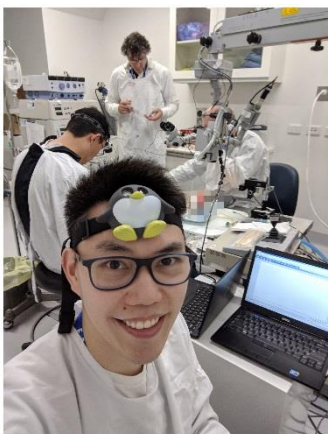
Dr Bao Nguyen (pictured left), along with co-investigators Prof Allison McKendrick and Dr Laura Downie, have been awarded a 2019 Victorian Optometrists Training and Education (VOTE) Trust grant to undertake a project titled 'Improving headache screening in optometric practice'. The project aims to understand current behaviours of optometrists regarding migraine screening in optometric practice, and to educate optometrists about the utility of a validated migraine screening tool. Optometrists will be encouraged to participate in a pilot program to implement the tool and to provide feedback on whether the screening tool has influenced their patient management. The results of the project will assist the development of future educational resources for optometrists about headache disorders and improve the diagnosis and management of migraine in the community. For further information and to discuss this project further please contact Bao Nguyen: bnguyen@unimelb.edu.au.

Rebecca L. Cooper Medical Research Foundation

The Department's Laura Downie (pictured right) attended the Rebecca L. Cooper Medical Research Foundation Award dinner in Sydney on the 5th of March 2019. Laura was very honoured to receive the Kevin Cahill Memorial Award for the Best Project Grant Application in Vision Sciences. The award was presented to Laura by Dr. Thomas Cromer, who is one of the founding directors of the Foundation. Laura's successfully funded grant is titled "Tear film neuropeptides as a non-invasive biomarker of peripheral nerve health". The grant is worth \$100,000, for research to be conducted over the next 2 years.



Guelma Alexander Clinical Fellowship in Neuroscience



In December 2018 Jeremiah Lim (pictured left) was awarded the Guelma Alexander Clinical Fellowship in Neuroscience. The fellowship is awarded to clinicians with a PhD, who would like to further their research in the clinical domain. As the inaugural recipient of this award, the funds will be used to develop a new clinical test for the early detection of diabetes. This work involves the imaging of flicker-induced dilation of small vessels in the retina using optical coherence tomography angiography. This is correlated against spatial retinal function which is assayed using the new multifocal ERG system at the University of Melbourne Eyecare Clinic. A separate suite of auditory testing is being developed at the University of Melbourne Audiology and Speech pathology clinic.

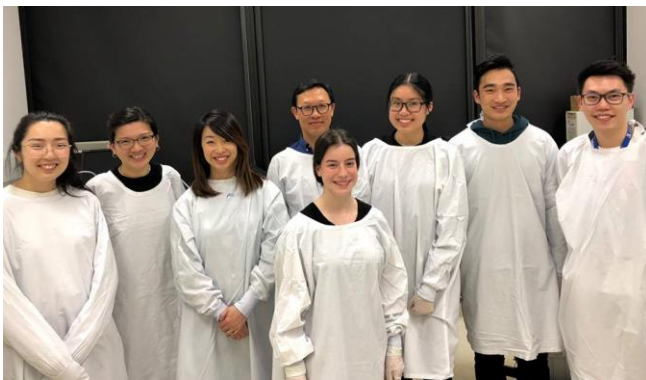
This work is underway in collaboration with A/Prof Bang Bui, A/Prof Wilson Heriot (Retinology), A/Prof Andrew Metha and A/Prof Gary Rance (Dept Audiology and Speech Pathology). Data collection is expected to complete by December 2019. For further information about the award please visit: <https://mdhs.unimelb.edu.au/news-and-events/guelma-alexander-clinical-fellowship-in-neuroscience>.

Future Leaders Networking Event

Students, Staff and Alumni from Optometry, Nursing, Speech Pathology, Audiology, Physiotherapy, Oral Health and Dentistry recently attended a Future Leaders Networking Event in October 2018. This event was held in collaboration between Dr Kwang Cham (pictured right) and the MDHS Alumni Team and has been generously supported by the Student Services and Amenities Fee Grant 2017. The aims of the event were to: improve the student experience in transition to the workforce by increasing their understanding of the opportunities for future employment; improve job readiness by providing insights into career options in the health sector; strengthen connections within the alumni community, and to increase the profile of the Faculty by highlighting the successes of its alumni community. A big thank you to our Departmental alumni who attended this event including Mel Wang, Laurence Fusillo and Alex Kaye.



Community Engagement



Melbourne Neuroscience Institute work experience program

In October the Department had the pleasure of hosting Taylor (Thornbury HS) and Amy (Pascoe Vale Girls College) in our laboratories as a part of the Melbourne Neuroscience Institute work experience program. Taylor and Amy had a chance to learn about the latest in visual neuroscience, including ways to assess the retina using the electroretinogram, visual evoked potentials and optical coherence tomography angiography.

Science Experience 2019

On Tuesday January 18th, the Department's A/Prof Andrew Anderson gave a talk to a hundred year 9 & 10 students participating in the three day "Science Experience 2019" summer camp. Participants had the opportunity to learn a bit about how the eye and brain process information, how this processing can be tricked by visual illusions, as well as how the world appears to those with vision loss from glaucoma.



International Engagement

Chennai India Visit

In September Christine Nearchou (pictured second from the right) visited The Sankara Nethralaya Eye Hospital and Elite School of Optometry in Chennai India. She presented lectures on vision care in children to a large group of optometrists, ophthalmologists and students and also worked closely with research optometrists appraising the data collection methods for a joint research project: Evaluating the effectiveness of a dot pattern task in children to assess visual sequencing and visualisation aptitude in elementary school children.



Manipal Visit

In January, Allison McKendrick, Anthea Cochrane and Bang Bui (pictured left) had the opportunity to interact with staff and research higher degree student at the Manipal Academy of Higher Education in Manipal India. As representatives of both the Department and the School of Health Sciences, the group conducted rich discussions about teaching philosophy and shared research interests between the respective institutions.

Outreach eye care program

Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences, OD students, Ellin, Molly and Andrea have volunteered for an outreach eye care program in Sri Lanka in December 2018, working in collaboration with Global Hand Charity and Rotary, who organise yearly eye camps. Christine Nearchou has been leading the department's involvement over the past few years, recruiting volunteer OD students and coordinating the eye care requirements for the program. The eye care team was made up of optometrists, allied health professionals, support volunteers and students. Together with Rotary, Sri Lanka, they tested over 2000 pairs of eyes over four days and provided much needed eye care to under-served rural regions in Sri Lanka.



Student Achievements

2018 Research Colloquium

Thank you to students and staff of MDHS's Melbourne School of Health Sciences for organising an outstanding 2018 Research Colloquium which took place on Thursday November 1st, 2018. Our masters and PhD student did an excellent job presenting their research studies. Particular highlights were Pei Ying Lee (why older ganglion cells are more sensitive to high pressure), Summer Singh (how well do optometrist understand blue light damage) and Juan Sepulveda (why motion perception declines in ageing) who won awards for their oral presentations (pictured right). Well done to all!



Recent PhD Completions

Alexandra Jaworski

It is with great pleasure to announce that Optometry & Vision Sciences GR candidate Alexandra Jaworski has had her thesis titled 'A structural and functional profile of high myopia as a function of eye size' passed by examiners and fulfilling the requirements to be awarded a PhD degree.

Jeremiah Lim

Congratulations to Jeremiah Lim has his thesis titled 'Characterising the ocular phenotype in a murine model of Alzheimer's Disease' passed by examiners fulfilling the requirements to be awarded a PhD degree.

Yamni Mohan

Congratulations to Yamni Mohan on completing her PhD titled "Origins of feature selectivity in the visual system of two mammalian species". This PhD was supervised by Prof. Trichur Vidyasagar and Dr. Ekaterina Levichkina.

Alumni

Reunion Tours

The Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences held an evening of reunion tours on Friday March 22nd for the classes (final year) of 2009, 1999, 1989, and 1979. 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 your peers and see what has (or hasn't changed). It was a great night enjoyed by all!



Please stay connected with us through our Alumni network:



alumni.unimelb.edu.au/alumni

Teaching Matters



2018 Learning and Teaching Funding Round

Dr Kwang Cham and Ms Anthea Cochrane (pictured left) are continuing work on their digital assessment tool and were successful in receiving \$29,871 LTI funding in the 2018 learning and teaching funding round to improve the functionality of this tool along with colleagues from Nursing, Physiotherapy, Speech Pathology and Dentistry.

Dr Kwang Cham was also successful in receiving funding with Dr Heather Gaunt in a \$20,000 museum engagement grant. With this funding

Kwang and Heather produced an innovative way of teaching professionalism to first year optometry students using object-based learning techniques. Kwang and Heather presented their ideas in New Zealand at Auckland University in September.

University of Auckland Visit

Dr Kwang Cham (pictured right) and Dr Heather Gaunt were invited to the University of Auckland School of Medicine to present on educational scholarship and conduct an object-based learning workshop. This visit was supported by the University of Melbourne Engagement Grant 2018.



Clinical Placement Program – Opportunities to host student placements

External clinical placements are an integral component of the Doctor of Optometry (OD) course. The final year of this four-year course is an intensive clinical internship year with students being exposed to various external practice settings.

Optometry at Melbourne understands the importance to students of authentic participation and is working hard to prepare them for the diverse challenges of practice. The OD program admits postgraduate students who have a mature commitment to their professional pathway.

Placements in are metropolitan, rural, interstate, and overseas venues. The aim of the placements is to integrate optometric knowledge gained during the students' first three years of study with clinical presentations in a variety of clinical settings. It will consolidate what students have learned and help them in developing and improving the clinical skills necessary to practice optometry and serve patients in a safe and effective manner.

We are currently looking for additional rural placement partners as well as interested practices in metropolitan locations that might host students.

We are interested in working with practices that would take a student for 3-4 days per week for 2 weeks.

Ideally:

- The Intern Supervisor will ideally hold an endorsement for scheduled medicines (except for certain specialist placements);
- The Intern Supervisor has a minimum of 3 years' experience post-graduation/ registration in the field;
- The External Placement Practice is committed to quality improvement processes;
- The External Placement Practice has a patient base that will expose students to a wide range of optometric presentations; and ideally allow for some one on one consultations over the two-week period
- The External Placement Practice is able to occupy the student in a variety of tasks that will meet the objectives of the placement;
- Ability to commit to the duration of the external placement (dependant on the type of practice);
- Be able to obtain patient consent prior to consultation.

If you are interested in learning more about our clinical placement program, please contact: Ms Anthea Cochrane: antheac@unimelb.edu.au

Seeing Beyond Lecture Series

Seeing Beyond Lecture Series October 2018

On Wednesday the 3rd of October Associate Professor Andrew Anderson (pictured right) and Associate Professor Larry Abel presented at the Department's Seeing Beyond Lecture Series. Thank you to all who attended (and rural practitioners who joined us online). A/Prof Larry Abel provided insights into abnormal eye movements and how they change perception. A/Prof Andrew Anderson spoke about how eye disease might impact art posing such questions such as: did El Greco have astigmatism? Why did Monet destroy many of his canvases after having cataract surgery?



Seeing Beyond Lecture Series April 2019: Diabetic eye disease and the retinal vasculature

When: Wednesday 3rd April 2019

Guest speakers: A/Prof Bang Bui and A/Prof Wilson Heriot from the Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences, University of Melbourne

Times: 6.30pm – 8.00pm (please arrive at 6.00pm to sign in)

Location: Theatre 1 (B103) 207-221 Bouverie Street, The University of Melbourne
(<https://maps.unimelb.edu.au/parkville/building/379>)

CPD points: 6 CPD points

Registration Link: <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/q5z6>

Presentation Summaries

A/Prof Bang Bui

Effective vascular autoregulation is critical for maintaining retinal neuronal health. This talk explores the mechanisms underlying retinal vascular autoregulation and how optical coherence tomography angiography (OCT-A) can aid in understanding these processes.



A/Prof Wilson Heriot

Optimisation of individual diabetic patient's outcomes requires identification of the onset and the rate of progression of pathologic dysfunction, but retinopathy severity is currently graded by visible structural changes alone. We are investigating the predictive power of microvascular autoregulation anomalies for functional decline as a more representative grading of diabetic disease progression.

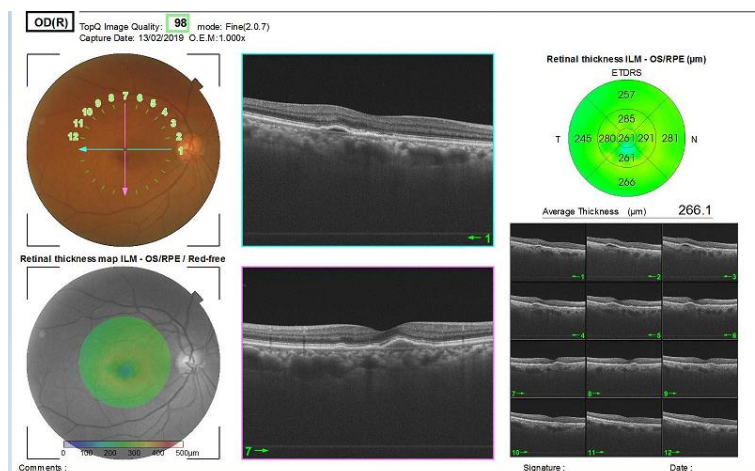
UMEyecare

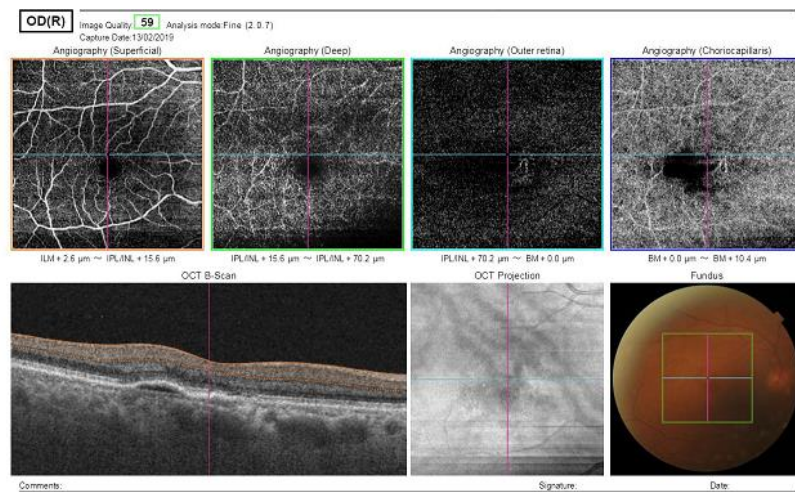
Having farewelled last year's OD4's, we are now well in the swing of this year's group. Over the Christmas period the regular attending Clinical Teaching Instructors seeing the patients. These include our regular 0.6 staff Tim Martin, Maria Bui and Joe Wang. Also, many of our regular casual staff come in to help us provide services during the non-teaching time from November through to mid-January: Justin Maher, Katrina Yap, Catherine Cheah Kent Snibson, Lahiru Kulathunga, Andrew Huhtanen, Russell Lowe and Luke Arundle keep seeing patients. The clinic seems to run more smoothly without the students being around, but we really miss the life and vitality that the students provide with their enthusiasm and engagement. Now that the students are back, do we think back to the quieter times?

Last year UMEyecare was able to purchase an OCTa. This has been very useful in the provision of clinical services and in the diabetic research the clinic is involved in. As an aside a PhD student the clinic is hosting, Felecia Widyaputri (an Indonesian ophthalmologist), has the honour of being granted an oral presentation at the upcoming ARVO resulting from some of her work on the natural history of diabetic retinopathy in pregnant females with pre-existing diabetes. ARVO is the largest and most highly respected eye and vision research organization in the world. Membership includes nearly 12,000 researchers from over 75 countries.

The OCT-a has been useful to privately practising optometrists. For example, a private practitioner in the northern suburbs referred a 66-year-old female patient referred for OCT-a. The referring optometrist had previously found multilobular PED's with effect on vision in the right eye on his own OCT. An opinion sought at the time was that the changes were benign but required monitoring. The patient had reported recent changes in vision and so the optometrists was concerned that there was a potential for change to the PED's.

The OCT's of the RE were:





Note the small neovascular net in found in the OCT (red arrow). As a result, further specialist opinion was sought and a decision was made for no treatment at this stage. But we are to repeat the OCTa's at 3 monthly intervals to monitor the net. UMeyecare will take the OCTA returning the results the referring practitioner to fulfil the management plan.

Save the date for the 2019 Myopia Management Masterclass

We are pleased to announce the dates for the 2019 Myopia Management Masterclass.

This two-day, interactive course is designed for optometrists seeking to further their expertise in the management of childhood myopia.

The 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 31st August and Sunday 1st September 2019

Where: The University of Melbourne – Parkville campus

Cost: 1) Early bird at \$900 + GST (\$990), register on or before the Friday 26th July 2019.
2) Later registration at \$1200 + GST (\$1320).

CPD points: 36 points, with 18 of these as therapeutic points (pending approval)

Enquiries: For further information, please contact Kathy Griffiths, Program Coordinator – Melbourne School of Professional and Continuing Education (MSPACE), University of Melbourne. Email: TL-Optometry@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.

Publications

DOVS publications appearing in PubMed over the September 2018 - January 2019 period

Detecting glaucomatous progression with infrequent visual field testing.

Anderson AJ, Asokan R, Murata H, Asaoka R.

Ophthalmic Physiol Opt. 2018 Mar;38(2):174-182.

Testing visual field less frequently than recommended guidelines does not dramatically alter positive and negative predictive values for detecting rapid progression at 2 years, but does substantially delay when significant progression may first be detected.

Home Monitoring of Retinal Sensitivity on a Tablet Device in Intermediate Age-Related Macular Degeneration.

Adams M, Ho CYD, Baglin E, Sharangan P, Wu Z, Lawson DJ, Luu CD, Turpin A, McKendrick AM, Guymer RH.

Transl Vis Sci Technol. 2018 Oct 29;7(5):32.

It is feasible to use a home-based tablet device to monitor retinal sensitivity in intermediate age-related macular degeneration, with results comparable to clinic based measures.

Comparison of Rates of Fast and Catastrophic Visual Field Loss in Three Glaucoma Subtypes.

Anderson AJ, Chaurasia AK, Sharma A, Gupta A, Gupta S, Khanna A, Gupta V.

Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci. 2019 Jan 2;60(1):161-167.

The proportion of Indian tertiary-care patients with rapid field loss was around half that reported in a Canadian dataset, despite median progression rates differing little. Examining full progression rate distributions is important, therefore.

Is experience in multi-genre video game playing accompanied by impulsivity?

Azizi E, Stainer MJ, Abel LA.

Acta Psychol (Amst). 2018 Oct;190:78-84.

Gaming was related to a more impulsive response style on attention and eye movement tests, but this wasn't action game specific.

Contrast-dependent phase sensitivity in area MT of macaque visual cortex.

Cloherty SL, Ibbotson MR.

Neuroreport. 2019 Feb 6;30(3):195-201.

A general feature of cells in motion processing area MT is that they can be divided into pattern and component selective types. We found no correlation between this classification and contrast-dependent phase sensitivity.

Regional and functional heterogeneity of antigen presenting cells in the mouse brain and meninges.

Dando SJ, Kazanis R, Chinnery HR, McMenamin PG.

Glia. 2018 Dec 26. doi: 10.1002/glia.23581. [Epub ahead of print]

We compared the ability of resident immune cells from discrete brain and meningeal regions to present antigen to T cells. We found that dural dendritic cells were the most potent at activating naïve T cells.

Relating optical coherence tomography to visual fields in glaucoma: structure-function mapping, limitations and future applications.

Denniss J, Turpin A, McKendrick AM.

Clin Exp Optom. 2018 Nov 29.

This review article provides an update on relating structural parameters from OCT to visual fields test results in the context of glaucoma.

Appraising the Quality of Systematic Reviews for Age-Related Macular Degeneration Interventions: A Systematic Review.

Downie LE, Makrai E, Bonggotgetsakul Y, Dirito LJ, Kristo K, Pham MN, You M, Verspoor K, Pianta MJ.

JAMA Ophthalmol. 2018 Sep 1;136(9):1051-1061.

The methodological quality of systematic reviews in the field of age-related macular degeneration varies considerably. Clinicians need to be aware of this heterogeneity in methodological rigour when using this evidence to inform patient care.

Tear film inflammatory cytokine upregulation in contact lens discomfort.

Gad A, Vingrys AJ, Wong CY, Jackson DC, Downie LE.

Ocul Surf. 2019 Jan;17(1):89-97.

Contact lens discomfort is associated with higher tear film levels of the pro-inflammatory cytokine IL-17A, supporting an association between the discomfort response and low-grade, ocular surface inflammation.

A Model of Glaucoma Induced by Circumlimbal Suture in Rats and Mice.

He Z, Zhao D, van Koeveerden AK, Nguyen CT, Lim JKH, Wong VHY, Vingrys AJ, Bui BV.

J Vis Exp. 2018 Oct 5;(140).

This visual demonstration provides a range of tips for successfully implementing the circumlimbal suture model of chronic intraocular pressure elevation. It also provides a summary of expected outcomes in two common laboratory species.

Anterior segment optical coherence tomography: its application in clinical practice and experimental models of disease.

Jiao H, Hill LJ, Downie LE, Chinnery HR.

Clin Exp Optom. 2018 Oct 1.

We reviewed recent studies involving spectral domain optical coherence tomography to investigate the anterior segment of the eye in both clinical and experimental settings.

An Electrophysiological Comparison of Contrast Response Functions in Younger and Older Adults, and Those With Glaucoma.

Lek JJ, Nguyen BN, McKendrick AM, Vingrys AJ.

Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci. 2019 Jan 2;60(1):442-450.

Our study demonstrates that retinal and cortical responses to increasing contrast differ between healthy older adults and glaucoma patients, suggesting that glaucomatous effects are not a simple extension of ageing.

A Comparison between the Compass Fundus Perimeter and the Humphrey Field Analyzer.

Montesano G, Bryan SR, Crabb DP, Fogagnolo P, Oddone F, McKendrick AM, Turpin A, Lanzetta P, Perdicchi A, Johnson CA, Garway-Heath DF, Brusini P, Rossetti LM.

Ophthalmology. 2019 Feb;126(2):242-251.

The Compass perimeter is a new commercially available device that performs fixation stabilised perimetry (based on retinal IR image). This is the first study to compare to the HFA.

Midbrain dysfunction in anorexia nervosa.

Phillipou A, Abel LA, Castle DJ, Gurvich C, Hughes ME, Rossell SL.

Psychiatry Res Neuroimaging. 2018 Nov 6. pii: S0925-4927(18)30198-7.

A letter to the editor highlighting how recent findings have suggested dysfunction of midbrain regions in individuals with anorexia nervosa.

White matter microstructure in anorexia nervosa.

Phillipou A, Carruthers SP, Di Biase MA, Zalesky A, Abel LA, Castle DJ, Gurvich C, Rossell SL.

Hum Brain Mapp. 2018 Nov;39(11):4385-4392.

Extensive changes in white matter were observed on functional anisotropy and mean diffusivity in individuals with anorexia compared to matched controls. This may contribute to some of the pathophysiology.

An Overlooked Brain Region in the Aetiology of Anorexia Nervosa: The Importance of Behaviourally Driven Neuroimaging Analysis.

Phillipou A, Castle DJ, Abel LA, Gurvich C, Rossell SL.

J Exp Neurosci. 2018 Dec 20;12:1179069518820068.

Square wave jerks were an unexpected finding in anorexia patients. Hypotheses about possible loci of pathology led to the observation of white matter differences in the area of the superior colliculus.

Application of Pattern Recognition Analysis to Optimize Hemifield Asymmetry Patterns for Early Detection of Glaucoma.

Phu J, Khuu SK, Bui BV, Kalloniatis M.

Transl Vis Sci Technol. 2018 Sep 4;7(5):3.

Contrast sensitivity contours across the visual field grouped with pattern recognition provides a means for guiding test point selection for asymmetry analysis in glaucoma assessment.

Crowdsourcing critical appraisal of research evidence (CrowdCARE) was found to be a valid approach to assessing clinical research quality.

Pianta MJ, Makrai E, Verspoor KM, Cohn TA, Downie LE.

J Clin Epidemiol. 2018 Dec;104:8-14.

Crowdsourcing critical appraisal via CrowdCARE (crowdcare.unimelb.edu.au) is a valid approach to assessing clinical research quality and has the potential to transform evidence-based practice by distributing the appraisal load across a global group of clinicians.

Irregularly timed electrical pulses reduce adaptation of retinal ganglion cells.

Soto-Breceda A, Kameneva T, Meffin H, Maturana M, Ibbotson MR.

J Neural Eng. 2018 Oct;15(5):056017.

We find that that retinal stimulation with random timed electrical pulses result in lower adaptation rates than stimulation with regularly timed pulses, which might reduce perceptual fading in retinal prostheses for bionic vision.

Improving Spatial Resolution and Test Times of Visual Field Testing Using ARREST.

Turpin A, Morgan WH, McKendrick AM.

Transl Vis Sci Technol. 2018 Oct 31;7(5):35.

A new approach to visual field testing that doesn't waste time testing locations that are already known to be blind or be highly variable. Instead, additional test points are added to spatially describe the scotoma.

Optical coherence tomography angiography findings in a case of adult-onset vitelliform dystrophy.

Wang J, Tan J, Snibson K, Cham KM.

Clin Exp Optom. 2018 Oct 1.

OCT-A may reveal retinal blood flow disruption in adult-onset vitelliform dystrophy. As visualisation of the choriocapillaris is more difficult compared to inner retinal layers, artefacts should be considered.

Visual Snow: Visual Misperception.

White OB, Clough M, McKendrick AM, Fielding J.

J Neuroophthalmol. 2018 Dec;38(4):514-521.

This review article describes current understanding of the often misunderstood neurological disorder known as "visual snow".

UMOSS

2018

With exam season approaching, the optometry students of Melbourne University exchanged tonometry probes for extravagant dresses and suits at the annual 'Eyeball'. The 2018 edition boasted the theme of: 'Black and Goldmann', held grandiosely at the Pavillion in the Arts Centre. It was the perfect end to celebrate the successes of the UMOSS committee of 2018. Congratulations to the 2018 team for their dedication and innovation displayed throughout the year! We wish you all the very best in the next chapter of your optometry journey. Both 2018 and 2019 committees would like to thank our numerous events sponsors for ensuring that 2018 was a great success!

Following the conclusion of the exam period, three students from the OD Class of 2019 (Andrea Smith, Ellin Wong and Moleshri Paliwal) participated in outreach eye camps in Sri Lanka, in partnership with Global Hand Charity. The team included both Australian and Sri Lankan optometrists, as well dispensers, optometry students and volunteers from Global Hand Charity. In four previously unvisited disadvantaged villages, more than 2200 people had their eyes examined and 3000 pairs of glasses were dispensed.

One of the sites included Jaffna, a city once stricken by a civil war. Optometric care here in particular proved to be a much appreciated rarity. While the conditions were trying, the joy of "seeing" displayed by the local community made the experience rewarding and worthwhile. The students had raised \$600 during the student conference, which helped provide additional educational supplies for 88 children at an orphanage visited during the trip. The remaining funds are set to contribute to future projects in April 2019.

2019

2019 promises to be the biggest year yet for UMOSS with the largest OD cohort to date! In light of that, this year's committee's focus will be 'student engagement', to ensure OD students maximise their university experience by making life-long relationships with future colleagues and potential employers. The committee has refurbished the bulletin board in the Alice Hoy Common Room, set up an Instagram page to provide alternative means of communication to students, and has acquired a new mascot in Owlbert the Owl!

In this academic year, we aim to channel our energy into providing the student body with worthwhile social and educational events, ample notice and information regarding them, as well as tips and guide on both educational and wellbeing matters.

2019 has already had several landmark changes with the committee establishing and organising a series of UMOSS Educational Nights: where industry heavyweights have the opportunity to create and host educational workshops to supplement the OD curriculum. Furthermore, the Big Brother Big Sister Program lead by OD2 Students, David Yosua and Ravindri Weerasingha will now be incorporated underneath the UMOSS umbrella, to ensure that both groups develop and flourish cohesively with the larger cohort sizes. These students will be assisted by our newly elected OD3 Student Representatives, Ashviney Vigneswaran and Chamasha Dissanayake.

Amongst these changes, the core DNA of UMOSS will remain the same with our beloved: Eyemazing Race, Laser Tag & Bowling Night, Trivia Night and the Annual Eyeball all confirmed for the 2019 Calendar. Also not to be forgotten is the DOVS futsal team's ongoing quest for championship glory. These events are a staple in the UMOSS calendar, and a tradition we are averse to part with.

As February ends, the UMOSS committee would like to warmly welcome this year's OD1 cohort and wish them all the very best as they embark on their optometric journey. We look forward to having you on board this year and are excited to show you just how the UMOSS community can complete the OD experience.

The UMOSS 2019 committee has worked with vigor over the summer to bring together plans to make this year a meaningful and memorable one for all our members. We are excited to take on 2019 and hope you too await with enthusiasm to see UMOSS transcend.

Warm regards,

Kieren Do & Julia Nguyen

UMOSS President & Vice-President 2019



Top: Sam Stephenson (Social), Jack Nguyen (Treasurer), Kieren Do (President) and Baturay Ozcelik (Social)

Bottom: Julia Nguyen (Vice-President), Bryant Wong (Education), Owlbert (mascot) and Tiffany Lee (Social)

Stay in touch



<http://www.optometry.unimelb.edu.au>