



Chilly Winter Edition!

As the year marches on, we are pleased to share with you some of the most recent developments and achievements that our hard-working research, clinical and patient support teams have been making.

It's almost end-of-financial year so we'd like to take the opportunity to remind all of our supporters that *our sight saving research relies 100% on grants, donations and bequests.*

All gifts over \$2 are tax deductible and now is a really great time to help us find new and improved ways of preserving and restoring vision.

Funding is an ongoing challenge for Australia's researchers so if you are in a position to support our work, please know that every dollar counts and we are very grateful. [Click here](#) to support our hardworking researchers.

We are excited to let you know that this year our [Information Day](#) for parents, carers, teachers and teens living with impaired vision will be on Saturday 27th August at the St Andrews Cathedral School near Town Hall in the Sydney CBD.

We again have a unique and really interesting lineup of speakers, the vast majority living with low vision and blindness and proving everyday that it need not hold you back from greatness. [Register](#) early to avoid disappointment.

I'm also pleased to introduce you to one of our Youth Ambassadors, 15 year old

Sacha Thomas, who has penned a great [letter to her 8 year old self](#) passing on some ideas that she wished she'd known at the time. Well done Sacha.

Our Ambassador, elite paratriathlete Jonathan Goerlach, has also written about how he uniquely [sees the world](#), sharing his own personal vision to help others understand the different ways in which people can and do see the world.

Please read through some of our most recent achievements below, and I look forward to sharing more news from SSI later this year!

Yours sincerely,



Professor Peter McCluskey

Director



news from
SAVE SIGHT INSTITUTE



2016 Information Day for Parents, Teachers and Teens now open for registration

Our free information day for 2016 will take place on Saturday 27th August in the city CBD (St Andrews Cathedral School at Town Hall) and is now accepting registrations from parents, carers, teachers and teenagers/young adults. Don't miss out on this full day extravaganza showcasing the many opportunities available to young people living with impaired vision.

Our exemplary lineup of speakers will again feature Australia's best and brightest who prove everyday that low vision and blindness need not hold you back from success and full participation. Limited places available, register early to avoid disappointment. [More here.](#)



Support eye research and boost your tax return!

Tax time is fast approaching, and now is the time to start thinking about making a gift to support a cause or organisation that is close to your heart. All donations to the Save Sight Institute over \$2 are tax-deductible, and go towards helping fund much needed equipment, resources, infrastructure and resource support. [Donate here](#)



Could chewing gum prevent blindness & save lives?

Researchers from Save Sight Institute have reported a simple 'chewing gum' test that could be the key to identifying and treating Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA), a disease that causes blindness, strokes and death. [Read more.](#)



SSI researcher wins Vivid Sydney health pitch

In response to alarming rises in health care costs and a rapidly ageing population, Vivid Sydney hosted an "Ideas Tournament" to find and invest in fresh, new ideas with C/Prof Stephanie Watson being awarded first prize for her 'Sutureless Surgery" product design. [Read more](#)



Musicus Medicus raises \$10,000 to save sight!

The Save Sight Institute was honoured to be selected by the NSW Doctors Orchestra as its chosen charity for a magnificent musical journey 'Around The World in 80 Minutes' held in May. Some of our littlest SightFighters were on hand to help out on the day and enjoy the musical extravaganza. [Read more](#)



PhD student awarded best lens poster at ARVO

With over 6000 presentations and over 11,000 registrants from more than 75 countries at the recent Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) 2016 meeting in Seattle, WA, USA, we are proud to announce that one of our PhD students, Daisy Shu, from the Lens Research laboratory, took home the title of best poster for the Lens section. [Read more](#)



How I see the world

A post from elite paratriathlete and SSIs ambassador Jonathan Goerlach.

Ever wondered what being vision-impaired actually means? Are you one of the many people who think that someone is either totally blind or is able to see everything? [Read more](#)



A letter to my 8 year old self

Dear 8 year old Sacha, this is your fifteen year old Year 10 self, writing to inform you of the many exciting, sad, happy, and scary things that are to come.

[Read more.](#)



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Keratoconus support group

If you have been diagnosed with keratoconus, you may like to join a new support and information group that is being formed at Save Sight Institute. Facilitated by patients (including Michelle Urqhart who has lived with keratoconus for many years including a number of corneal transplants), the first meeting will take place at 10am on Friday 7th October at SSI and clinicians and doctors will be on-hand to answer questions. Share experiences with others who know what it's like, followed by morning tea. [Register by emailing us here.](#)



Need an extra hand adapting to vision loss?

Adjusting to life with eye disease and vision loss can be tough. You often have many questions and concerns which bother you in between appointments with your specialist. You may also find that vision loss impacts your day-to-day life but are unsure about whether to ask for help, and where to go to with your questions.

Save Sight Institute understands the many ways in which life can be disrupted because of eye disease, and has partnered with the Walter and Eliza Hall Trusts to introduce an innovative new Care Coordination Programme which will help join the dots for people in the community who need some guidance adjusting to life with vision loss.

Available to anyone in NSW or the ACT with a diagnosed eye condition, this programme will focus on helping people understand their condition, and the potential implications of not complying with treatment regimes, as well as linking people to relevant support services in a timely manner, including

- orientation and mobility;
- adaptive technology;

- school assessments;
- counselling;
- occupational therapy;
- any other relevant services relevant to living with eye disease and vision loss.

The Care Coordination Programme has links with a very wide network of different service providers throughout NSW and the ACT. After talking to you and developing a good understanding of your individual needs, the Care Coordinator will put together a tailored support plan to connect you with services that will help.

To contact Kevin Elder, Care Coordinator at Save Sight Institute please call [\(02\) 9382 7300](tel:(02)93827300) or else complete the relevant [Request for Care Coordination](#) form (for patients/carers) or [Referral for Care Coordination](#) form (for ophthalmologists, orthoptists and other orthoptic professionals).



Join our City2Surf team

Join our City2Surf team. Have fun and raise funds! Sunday 14th August 2016!

Run or walk beside the doctors and researchers at SSI who are working hard to cure eye disease.

If 14 kilometres is not your thing – [sponsor one of us!](#)

There are so many ways to get involved.

The City2Surf is a great way to have fun, get fit and raise much-needed funds to support the life-changing research which takes place at Save Sight Institute. Show the doctors and researchers how important their work is by

participating or sponsoring our efforts.

Get your family and friends to join up, or [sponsor](#) you.

[Register your interest](#) here and we'll be in touch with more details.



SAVE SIGHT
INSTITUTE

CELEBRATING **30** YEARS
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