

DonateLife Week 2018 Official Ambassador– Sydney Corneal Recipient

This DonateLife Week, NSW residents are urged to register their donation decision via donatelife.gov.au and to discuss their wishes with their loved ones.

Tissue donation is at the forefront of the DonateLife Week campaign this year thanks to 25 year old corneal recipient, Jessica Southers.

Sydney resident Jessica Southers noticed in high school that her sight was rapidly decreasing over a short space of time. "I was identifying those I knew by their shapes, hairstyles and movements as faces and details were incredibly unclear," Jessica said.

Jessica suffered from Keratoconus. However she is one of the "lucky ones" only waiting a few months before she found herself at Sydney/Sydney Eye Hospital preparing to receive the "most incredible gift".

As an official campaign ambassador, Jessica is sharing her story to increase public awareness and understanding of tissue donation.

As part of the campaign, Jessica is featured across a variety of media sources and has participated in a selection of interviews such as the *Inner West Times* and the *Australian Women's Weekly*.

Donate sight DonateLife



Jess, 25, corneal recipient

Jess' life was changed by an eye donor.

What are you waiting for?

Register to be a donor today at donatelife.gov.au



#donatelife
#endthwait
#makeitcount

Facebook: @DonateLifeAustralia, Twitter: @DonateLifeToday, Instagram: @donatelife.today

Jessica Southers, 25 yrs., Corneal recipient

Hip Hip Hooray! The NSW Tissue Banks Turn Five

In June we commemorated a milestone worth celebrating – five years since we moved into our purpose built office and laboratories at Sydney/Sydney Eye Hospital as the combined entity known as the NSW Tissue Banks! The last five years have been a very busy and productive time, a few of the highlights include:

- Total of 3,681 corneas & 1,346 scleras transplanted;
- 80% increase in living donor Femoral Head donations;
- 150% increase in number of deceased musculoskeletal retrievals;
- Regulation approval for three new tissue grafts (pre-cut corneas, skin and amnion) prepared for transplantation;
- Establishment of the Australian Ocular Biobank;
- Commencement of the Corneal Bioengineering Research and Development Program.

To achieve this success we have increased our team and establishment by 46%, which now includes dedicated research and development staff for the very first time. See page two to meet our newest team member.

A First Of Its Kind Ocular Agreement



In June the *Global Alliance of Eye Bank Associations* unveiled the world's first global agreement on the use of donated human tissue for ocular transplantation, research, and future technologies – *The Barcelona Principles*.

The agreement will improve tissue access to millions of waiting recipients, without compromising personal moral integrity and custodian responsibilities to the donor, recipient and the extended community. For more information, the document can be found at <http://www.gaeba.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/GAEB-2018-The-Barcelona-Principles-FINAL.pdf>



Health
NSW Organ & Tissue
Donation Service

Incorporating:
NSW Bone Bank
Lions NSW Eye Bank
Australian Ocular Biobank



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Save the date! The BAA 2018 AGM & Scientific Meeting is approaching

The Biotherapeutics Association of Australasia (BAA) 2018 AGM and Scientific Meeting is just around the corner and is being hosted by NSW.

The BAA is the peak body representing cellular therapy and tissue bankers in Australia and New Zealand and is a proud partner of the DonateLife network.

The meeting will be held on the **12 & 13 of September 2018** at Cliftons Conference Suite, Sydney, and will cover an exciting array of topics, including:

- Regulatory update and biovigilance and hazard alert reporting
- Donor risk assessment
- National and local updates on tissue banking & cell therapy



Biotherapeutics
Association of
Australasia

Registration details and the preliminary program can be found at baa2018.org



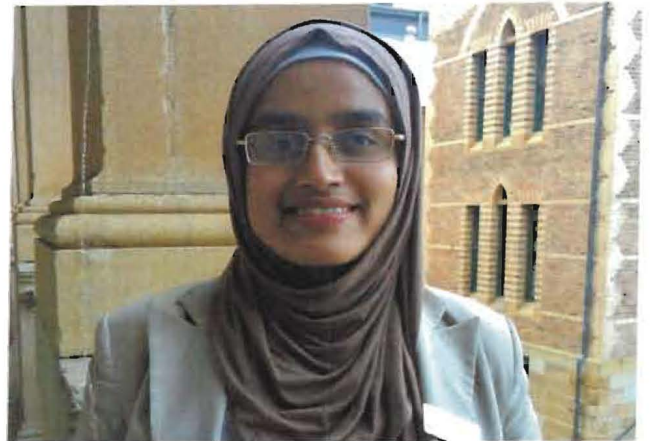
Welcoming Monira to the team

We are pleased to welcome a new face to the NSW Tissue Banks. Dr Monira Hoque joins us as the Research & Development Hospital Scientist and first member of the research and development dedicated team.

Pictured right, Dr Hoque commenced in the role in July and in 5 short weeks has already proved to be a great addition to the team.

Monira has extensive experience with pharmacy and research and her focus in this new role will be corneal endothelial cell culturing and its potential use with transplantation.

Welcome to the team Monira!



Dr Monira Hoque, Research & Development Hospital Scientist

Donate a Minute this DonateLife Week: 29 July – Sunday 5 August 2018

Donate a minute...
DonateLife

What are you waiting for?
Register to be an organ donor
donatelife.gov.au

#donatelife
#endthewait
#makeitcount

The theme for DonateLife Week 2018 is simple:

‘Donate a minute’ by registering your decision at donatelife.gov.au.

Contact

Please contact the staff of the Lions NSW Eye Bank on 02 9382 7288 if you have any questions or would like a speaker for a meeting, dinner or event. To book facility tours on the 1st Wed of Month, at 11am please ring 02 9382 7855