

**SAVE SIGHT  
INSTITUTE**

## Overview

---

A report on the use of funds generously provided by the Lions NSW-ACT Save Sight Foundation to the Save Sight Institute for use in 2021. The purpose of Lions funding is to improve outcomes for New South Wales patients with vision impairment by enhancing clinical facilities at the Save Sight Institute, University of Sydney. Funds provided by the 2021 grant have been used for the purchase of new equipment that directly benefits patient outcomes.

## SSI Vision

---

Our vision is that transformative research, innovative teaching and world's best practice clinical care will make Save Sight Institute & Ophthalmology at the University of Sydney recognised globally as a centre of research excellence that prevents blindness and improves the lives of patients with vision impairment.

## SSI Background

---

As the equal lead ophthalmic research institute in Australia, rated as 'Well Above World Standard' by the Australian Research Council and with an ERA (evaluation of research activity (max grading is 5)) of 5 since 2009, SSI is the number one eye institute in NSW.

SSI is internationally recognised, has far-reaching collaborations and supports highly regarded Ophthalmologists, clinician scientists and vision science researchers.

SSI is the principal research institute of the Speciality of Clinical Ophthalmology and Eye Health at the University of Sydney. We have been ranked sixth in the world for ophthalmology by the Centre for World University Rankings (CWUR) in the last two surveys. This is an outstanding result which has been achieved through strong collaborative efforts by members of SSI & the Speciality in conjunction with support and infrastructure from the Faculty and University.

To achieve our vision we aim to become one of the top five eye institutes in the Asia Pacific region by by 2025, which we will achieve by continuing to strengthen and further develop our internationally acknowledged excellence in basic science and translational research. SSI and the Specialty's international reputation in education and patient care add further domains of excellence. As most SSI group leaders are clinician scientists, research findings can be more rapidly and simply translated into clinical outcomes and major clinical questions can be detected and investigated.

Collaborations with international education institutes and investment in e-learning technology have been key to the growth in provision of SSI and the Specialty's education programmes.

Developing and strengthening international partnerships, including with the University of Otago and University College London and our partnerships with institutions in Vietnam and India, while continuing to innovate in online learning have secured the reputation of SSI and the Specialty of Ophthalmology at The University of Sydney as a leader in ophthalmic education across the Asia Pacific region.

Our community engagement activities include: our longstanding partnership with the Lions NSW-ACT Save Sight Foundation, the provision of a broad offering of patient and community information sessions, an annual family day for vision impaired and blind patients and their families, and strong collaborations with organisations such as Guide Dogs NSW/ACT and Vision Australia. As the primary eye carer of NSW and ACT patients and as an important source of information for people with vision impairment, SSI is able to use its influence as an opinion leader to provide valued information to people.

## Grant

---

Year 2021    Funds received \$110,000

## Expenses

---

Equipment (Spectralis OCT System):	\$170,571.50
SSI Contribution:	\$60,571.50
Lions funding:	\$110,000.00

## Activity Update

---

To achieve our vision of transformative research and world's best practice clinical care, Save Sight Institute must take advantage of the rapid advances in ocular imaging technology. In particular, multimodal imaging, which assists in the evaluation and monitoring of ophthalmic disease, in a way that has not previously been possible.

With the support of the Lions NSW-ACT we have been able to purchase the state-of-the-art Spectralis OCT imaging system, which is invaluable when testing patients with inherited retinal disease, optic nerve diseases such as MS, age related macular degeneration, diabetic eye disease and glaucoma.



A patient receiving testing with the Spectralis OCT imaging system.

Additionally, SSI staff use this equipment to train the next generation of the eye healthcare workforce (medical students, ophthalmologists, nurses and orthoptists).

#### **Previous Lions support 2013 – 2020**

- Purchase of Haag Streit slit lamp and digital imaging equipment, enabling streamlined clinical care and the education of SSI patients and their families.
- Purchase and installation of Reliance procedure chairs to meet increasing demand for the administration of intravitreal injection therapy, for diseases such as wet ARMD, diabetic maculopathy and uveitic macular oedema, within the SSI clinic.
- Maintenance and upgrade of equipment including networking the Spectralis and Cirrus OCT's together with the Optos widefield camera to ensure optimal function of the equipment and to ensure back up of data and records

- Installing review licenses for all three machines on approximately 10 computers in the clinic so clinicians could review test results immediately and in real time
- Purchase of three Topcon PC visual acuity monitors;
- Purchase of new colour vision and near vision books for testing – to replace old books in poor condition
- Modification of electro testing rooms to ensure optimal testing outcomes. Items upgraded and/or modified included new stand for the testing machine, upgrade and change of technical cables, a new patient chin rest, new Espion, and some modifications to room layout to minimise background 'noise/interference' in electrical traces
- Purchase of new diagnostic electrophysiology system
- Upgrade to the Clinic's Houston VIP patient medical record and billing system to a new version 'VIP.net' – which improved efficiency. This requires purchase of the system upgrade and additional licences, together with a new SQL server
- An additional office was constructed to provide shared space for the Clinic Manager and Orthoptic Manager, freeing up other space for additional testing to improve patient throughput and patient flow
- Purchase of an Optos ultrawide field retinal camera system

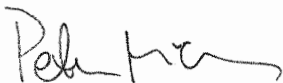
## Summary

---

Over the past 12 years with the generous support of the NSW & ACT Lions Save Sight Foundation, we have been able to update technology and equipment to improve the quality of diagnostics and service delivery, redesign testing rooms to improve the patient experience and update networking, software and licencing to ensure compliance with data management policies and procedures and to provide clinicians with ready access to results and images to support the consultation. Upgrades of equipment and facilities will continue over the next few years as this is a critical process to keep abreast of the latest treatment for the complex eye disorders we manage at SSI.

Each piece of equipment and infrastructure that has been funded by NSW & ACT Lions Save Sight Foundation is another step in improving the diagnosis management and visual outcomes for our patients. We and our patients are extremely grateful for the ongoing support and partnership we have with the NSW & ACT Lions Save Sight Foundation.

Peter McCluskey



Director SSI

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022