

Save Sight Institute

# Eyedeas

March 2021

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## From the Director

Dear SSI Supporters,

Welcome to the new look SSI Eyedeas!

Did you know we're a teaching and research centre within the University of Sydney?

To acknowledge this longstanding relationship, we've adopted the University's brand identity. We might look a little different from now on, but nothing has changed.

We will continue to deliver teaching, research and patient care to thousands of people in partnership with the University of Sydney.

It's the same us, with a different logo.

Sincerely,  
Peter

**Peter McCluskey**  
Director, Save Sight Institute

## News Stories

**The role we all have to play in  
keratoconus**

**A keen eye for science**

“Will my keratoconus get worse? What will happen if I have cross-linking? And what will I be able to do?”. These are common questions for people with keratoconus or their carers. They are seeking answers that are relevant to them and want to understand the ongoing impact of keratoconus and the benefit of any treatments. [Read Professor Stephanie Watson's article in Insight Magazine](#) to learn how data from everyday practise is helping answer these common questions.

### **Improving Eye Care for Remote Indigenous Communities**

For remote communities, access to health care is often costly and time consuming. SSI Director, Professor Peter McCluskey, is involved in a new outreach service that streamlines the patient journey, resulting in improved visual outcomes for Aboriginal people in the Top End. Read more about their sight-saving work on the [SSI news page](#).

## **Research Highlights**

### **Trialling new 'heads up' enhanced 3D microscopes**

The Professorial Unit is trialling new “heads up” enhanced 3D microscopes, along with other specialist eye units at Sydney Eye Hospital.

The enhanced 3 dimensional effect and increased magnification of ocular structures

International Day of Women and Girls in Science celebrates women in STEM and encourages young women to pursue their passion in science, and other STEM fields. To mark the occasion, we spoke to Pauline Khoo, a PhD student and researcher from the Save Sight Institute and Save Sight Registries about her work, and why she decided to pursue a career in research.

[Read the full interview here.](#)

### **Research and Commercialisation**

Sydney Knowledge Hub invited Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Dr Jingjing You to have a fireside talk about research and commercialisation at the [Spark Festival](#). Dr You's research in corneal bioengineering has been successfully commercialised and led to two startup companies.

Her research team is continually working on finding the causes of corneal diseases and developing novel interventions to prevent and treat blindness.

[Watch the full interview](#) to find out how having a startup company and experience was both inspiring and helpful in attracting funding that enabled her to spend more time on research.

### **Analysis of Parvocellular and Magnocellular Visual Pathways in Human Retina**

Associate Professor Ulrike Grünert and Professor Paul Martin's recent publication in *J Neurosci* depicts a new map of cells in the human retina that will help researchers better understand visual perception by locating the cell types that allow high resolution

provided by this new cutting edge technology, allows more precise intraocular surgery in complex cataract, glaucoma, corneal and vitreoretinal surgery.

[Find out more about their work on the SSI news page.](#)

analysis of the visual scene. This map also makes a baseline reference for measuring changes in visual diseases such as macular degeneration and glaucoma.

[Read the full publication in J Neurosci.](#)

### **'Cell types and cell circuits in human and non-human primate retina'**

Associate Professor Ulrike Grünert and Professor Paul Martin's recently published article in Science Direct offers a detailed comparison of the fine structure of the retina in humans, monkeys, and mice. This review will help researchers to translate discoveries made in mouse visual system into new treatments for visual disease in humans.

[Read the full publication in Science Direct.](#)

### **Living with diabetes? Get your eyes checked**

Professor Mark Gillies joined Channel 9 News for a special segment on eye health for Australians living with diabetes.

Professor Gillies co-authored a newly published University of Sydney study that found only half the people living with diabetes get the recommended diabetes eye checks, putting them at risk of significant vision loss and blindness.

[Find out more about the study in FMH News.](#)

## **Podcasts and Videos**

### **Herpes Simplex Keratitis**

In this episode of the Sydney Eye Podcast, Dr Maria Cabrera-Aguas chats with Corneal specialist, Professor Stephanie Watson about 'Herpes Simplex Keratitis'. Professor Watson explains how to identify a corneal infection caused by this virus and offers recommendations on how to prevent infection.

### **Antimicrobial resistance in corneal infections**

In this episode of the Sydney Eye Podcast, SSI researcher Dr Maria Cabrera-Aguas talks about antimicrobial resistance in corneal infections and explains antimicrobial resistance causes and preventions.

### **Corneal infections and contact lenses**

In this episode of the Sydney Eye Podcast, Corneal specialist, Professor Stephanie Watson talks with Dr Maria Cabrera-Aguas about what causes a corneal infection, how to recognise it, and how to prevent it.

### **Big push into nano medicine at the University of Sydney**

Nano health or nano medicine is the construction of devices at the cellular level which move around the body monitoring health or delivering medicine or genes for therapy. The ABC's

'Science Show' delves into the opportunities in nano medicine and how it has become a big focus at The University of Sydney bringing together researchers from a range of disciplines.

### **Community Information Webinar**

The inaugural Community Information Webinar features keynote Speakers Darren Fittler, Murray Elbourn and Amy Ridley, who delivered inspiring accounts of their experience living with vision impairments.

### **Coles Colloquium**

The Coles Colloquium is held every year to share developments in ophthalmology, named in honour of longtime supporter, Mr Ken Coles AM. Our keynote speaker was 2020 Australian of the Year, Dr James Muecke AM, who delivered his keynote address, 'Blinded by Sugar.'

### **KeraClub**

The 5th annual community event for people with keratoconus included talks on the impact of COVID on keratoconus, the effects of eye-rubbing and keratoconus and research updates from Save Sight Keratoconus Registry.

**At the Save Sight Institute we are passionate about caring for people with eye conditions, leading the way in research to find new and better ways to preserve and restore vision, and teaching the next generation of eye doctors in Australia and beyond.**

**Our leading research relies entirely on grants and donations.**

**Support our Research**

Keep in touch

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