



Retina Australia National Congress

GLOBAL EYES 2015

Melbourne | October 23rd - 25th

BIONICS, GENE THERAPY, STEM CELLS & MORE

VENUE:

ibis Melbourne Hotel
15-21 Therry Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

HOSTED BY:

Retina Australia (Vic) Inc.
4th Floor Ross House
247-251 Flinders Lane
Melbourne 3000

ENQUIRIES:

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CPD ACCREDITATION:



RANZCO has approved this CPD activity for 1 point per hour in the Clinical Expertise category, level 1.



The Optometry Board of Australia has approved this CPD activity for 23.5 points.

Retina Australia (Vic) would like to acknowledge the generous support of the following organisations:



PROGRAM DETAILS

Friday 23 October

17.30 - 18.00 Congress Registration - Victoria Room Foyer

18.00 – 20.00 **Welcome Function** – Victoria Room

Saturday 24 October

8.30 – 9.00 Congress Registration - Victoria Room Foyer
All Congress sessions, apart from the concurrent workshops, will be held in the Victoria Room.

8.50 - 9.00 Housekeeping

Master of Ceremonies

Leighton and Rosemary Boyd
Retina Australia Directors

9.00 - 9.20 **Official Opening**

Mr Graeme Banks OAM
President of Retina Australia

Frank McGuire MP
Parliamentary Secretary for Medical Research

9.20 - 10.20 **Keynote Speaker**
“Retinal Degeneration: Moving from Scientific Darkness to the Light of Clinical Trials”

Dr Gerald J Chader
Executive Director
California Project to Cure Blindness
University of Southern California, Los Angeles, USA

10.20 - 10.50 Morning Tea Break

10.50 - 12.30 **TOPIC: *Bionics***

**Phoenix 99 Suprachoroidal Retinal Prosthesis:
Progress and Future Directions**

Professor Nigel Lovell

Graduate School of Biomedical Engineering

University of NSW

**An update on the Bionic Vision Australia retinal prosthesis
clinical trial**

Dr Lauren Ayton - Bionic Eye Clinical Research Team Leader

Centre for Eye Research Australia

The University of Melbourne

Vision processing: how do we make bionic eyes better?

Associate Professor Nick Barnes

Bionic Vision Australia

National Information and Communications Technology Australia

Australian National University

**The Australian Bionic Eye Research: A Participant's
Perspective**

Dr Di Ashworth

Deakin University

The Gennaris Cortical Bionic Eye

Dr Collette Mann - *Monash Vision Group*

Monash University

12.30 - 13.30 Lunch Break

13.30 - 14.40 **TOPIC: *Genes, Gene Therapy, Epigenetics,
Genomics - What Does It All Mean?***

Overview of the genetics of retinal disease

Associate Professor Alex Hewitt

Menzies Institute for Medical Research

University of Tasmania and Centre for Eye Research Australia

University of Melbourne

Retinal Gene Therapy: overview and future developments

Dr Livia S Carvalho

School of Animal Biology, University of Western Australia

Schepens Eye Research Institute

Massachusetts Eye and Ear Institute

Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA

Inherited retinal dystrophies: individuals and families

Ms Lisa Kearns

Centre for Eye Research Australia

The Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital

Genetic Spectrum of Inherited Retinal Diseases in Australia

Ms Tina Lamey

Australian Inherited Retinal Disease Register & DNA Bank

Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Perth WA

14.40 – 15.00

Seeing through their eyes: lived experiences of people with retinal diseases

Dr Mallika Prem Senthil

Discipline of Optometry and Vision Science

Flinders University, South Australia

15.00 - 15.30

Afternoon Tea Break

15.30 - 17.00

Concurrent Workshops

A: Technology for the Vision Impaired – Victoria Room

An overview of aids and equipment available for personal or professional use for persons who are blind or vision impaired provided by Humanware, Pacific Vision, Quantum and Vision Australia.

B: Strength, Balance & Positive Thinking – Elizabeth Room

This is a unique workshop where people with vision loss will be able to explore the impact of low vision and blindness on their body, particularly in relation to balance, posture, coordination of movement and general physical wellbeing. The workshop will be led by Dieu Nguyen and Vildana Praljak from Vision Australia.

C: Scientific Round Table - Swanston Room

A scientific workshop for researchers and eye-health professionals to discuss their work in a round-table participatory style. This workshop will be led by the members of the Retina Australia Scientific and Medical Advisory Board, Professors Michael Kalloniatis, Erica Fletcher and Jan Provis.

18.30 - 19.00 Pre-Dinner Drinks – Victoria Room Foyer

19.00 - 22.30 **Congress Dinner** – Victoria Room

After Dinner Speaker – Miss Betty Amsden AO

Sunday 25 October

8.30 – 9.00 Congress Registration - Victoria Room Foyer
All Congress sessions will be held in the Victoria Room.

8.50 - 9.00 Housekeeping

9.00 - 10.15 **TOPIC: *Stem Cells***

Barriers in clinical application of stem cell therapy

Associate Professor Fred Chen
Centre for Ophthalmology and Visual Science
The University of Western Australia
Lions Eye Institute
Royal Perth Hospital

Stem cell modelling of retinal dystrophies

Associate Professor Alice Pebay
University of Melbourne
Centre for Eye Research Australia

Correcting inherited mutations in stem cell models of retinal disease

Dr Sandy Hung - Research Fellow
Centre for Eye Research Australia

Seeing the full picture: hype, hope and progress in stem cell science

Associate Professor Megan Munsie
Education, Ethics, Law and Community Awareness Unit
Stem Cells Australia
The University of Melbourne

10.15 – 10.35 **Developing the Low Vision Activities of Daily Living (LoVADA) tool**

Dr Lauren Ayton - Bionic Eye Clinical Research Team Leader
Centre for Eye Research Australia, University of Melbourne

10.35 - 11.00 Morning Tea Break

11.00 - 12.40

TOPIC: *Mechanisms of Retinal Disease*

Chaired by Professor Jan Provis and Professor Erica Fletcher

Does the state of the inner retina affect vision restoration ?

Professor Erica Fletcher

Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience

University of Melbourne

Inflammation in the retina as a mediator of degeneration

Dr Matthew Rutar

ANU College of Medicine, Biology and Environment

Australian National University

**Genomics, gene correction and understanding function:
pathways to therapy for retinal dystrophies**

Associate Professor Robyn Jamieson

Head, Eye Genetics Research Group

Children's Medical Research Institute, Save Sight Institute and

The Children's Hospital at Westmead, University of Sydney

**The diagnostic journey – advances in electrophysiology
and ocular imaging**

Associate Professor John Grigg

Eye Genetics Research Group

Save Sight Institute, Children's Medical Research Institute,

The Children's Hospital at Westmead, University of Sydney

**Hyperspectral funduscopy for non-invasive detection of
retinal ischemia**

Dr Marc Sarossy

RMIT University

12.40 - 13.40

Lunch Break

13.40 - 14.10

**Current status and outcomes of the Australian Inherited
Retinal Disease Register and DNA Bank**

Dr John De Roach & Ms Terri McLaren

Australian Inherited Retinal Disease Register & DNA Bank

Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Perth, WA

- 14.10 – 14.30 **Viagra impairs vision in carriers of retinitis pigmentosa**
Professor Michael Kalloniatis
Centre for Eye Health
School of Optometry and Visual Science
University of NSW
- 14.30 - 15.30 **PANEL: *Future of Bionics, Gene Therapy, Stem Cells and more, including information about clinical trials in Australia***
- Chair – Professor Erica Fletcher
Dr Gerald Chader
Professor Michael Kalloniatis
Professor Jan Provis
Associate Professor Fred Chen
Dr Lauren Ayton
Dr Alex Hewitt
Dr Collette Mann
Ms Tina Lamey
- 15.30 - 15.50 **Plenary Session**
- Dr Gerald Chader
- 15.50 – 16.00 **Closing Remarks**
- Mr Graeme Banks OAM
President of Retina Australia