



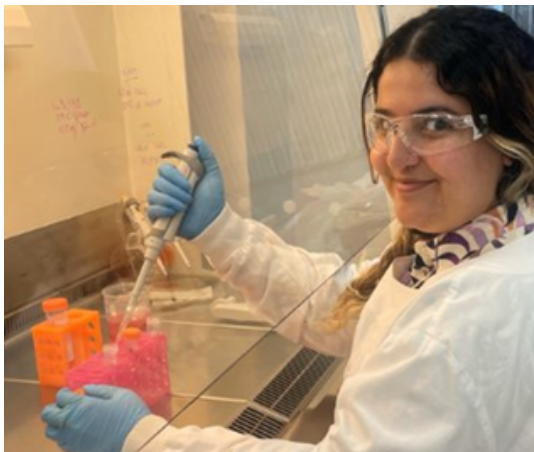
In this edition you will see our exciting developments, such as our new PhD student and the opening of a new location. Read about our most recent Optometry Education dinner event which gave attendees 2.5 CPD hours, and book your tickets to the Optometry night of nights!

Read these articles in depth on the back page.

## Optometry Educational Dinner

On Wednesday 22nd March we held our first Optometry Educational Dinner for the 2024 series. Professor Chris Layton presented on modern treatment options in medical retinal disease.

Our next Optometry education dinner is scheduled to be held at the Tattersalls Club on Wednesday 22nd May. Spots are limited and are filling up fast.



## Centre welcomes new PhD Student

The LVF Eye Centre welcomes Naushene Sial as she embarks on her PhD journey, delving into the untreatable aspects of Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD).

Naushene Sial comes to us from the University of Canberra with first class honours in a project searching for biomarkers of ARM. Naushene aims to use our capsid delivery technology and select therapeutic genes to target dry macular degeneration.

Naushene will be the Centre's 4th PhD student to be supported by the Layton Vision Foundation.

## New Carina Location

We are excited to announce that later this year the LVF Eye Centre will be opening a new location in the Clem Jones Centre Wellness Precinct.

The new facility is set to be the largest ophthalmology clinic in the Eastern suburbs and is designed to provide a single site service for specialist ophthalmology assessment and procedures.





# LVF Eye Centre NEWS

## Centre welcomes new PhD Student

Professor Christopher Layton, Clinical Director of the LVF, welcomes Ms Naushene Sial to the LVF Eye Research Centre team. Having completed her Bachelor of Medical Science degree at the University of Canberra, Naushene Sial continued pursuing her dream of curing blindness with an Honours in Science and Technology, focusing on AMD. Professor Layton said Naushene's journey exemplifies the kind of passion we seek in young researchers and she brings a wealth of knowledge and dedication to our research teams.

"Her work during her Bachelor's and Honours studies has deepened her understanding of the complexities of retinal pathologies but also ignited her passion for pushing the boundaries of knowledge through research, and we are excited to see how her current PhD research unfolds." Professor Layton said.

Naushene's research is centered on exploring potential gene therapies for the treatment of the currently untreatable dry, or atrophic form of AMD, a debilitating condition affecting a significant portion of the global population.

An esteemed authority in the field, Professor Layton expressed his admiration for Naushene's commitment and potential impact on AMD research.

"In the early stages of her academic career, Naushene aspires to make meaningful contributions to the field of eye research. Her focus on gene therapies reflects the cutting-edge nature of her work and showcases the LVF Eye Research Centre's commitment to pushing the boundaries of scientific discovery."

Naushene is optimistic that her Ph.D. research will be a crucial step towards the development of a better prognosis for AMD patients worldwide. The LVF Eye Research Centre is proud to support Naushene in her pursuit of groundbreaking discoveries that have the potential to shape the future of AMD treatment.

## Optometry Educational Dinner Series

On Wednesday 22nd March we held our first Optometry Educational Dinner for the 2024 series. Professor Chris Layton presented on modern treatment options in medical retinal disease.

During the presentation Professor Chris explained how Progress in medical retinal disease diagnosis and treatments in the last two decades have astounded clinicians, with several previously untreatable conditions routinely now being associated with good long-term outcomes when treated in subspecialty practices. Recent advances are less well known and many can be applied cheaply and effectively into optometric practice. Examples include affordable full colour widefield imaging devices, FDA approved web based AI diagnostic tests for diabetic retinopathy with better accuracy than most experts, automated tools for macular degeneration prognosis and others showing efficacy for general retinal disease diagnosis and referral triaging.

The need to reduce the treatment burden on patients with exudative and inflammatory disease continues to be a priority, and longer lasting anti-VEGF agents, sustained release implants and treatment approaches like gene therapy are either in use in the LVF Eye Centre clinic or are being assessed by regulatory agencies.

The availability of effective dry macular degeneration treatment will change the medical retina landscape forever this year and the latest information on these new agents was presented. To finish he gave an update of new systemic therapies for the diseases which cause most medical retina disease.

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In the new facility we will be providing safe care and treatment in line with the overall philosophy of a high quality service, cutting edge technology, a caring environment and a vision that incorporates advanced treatments in ophthalmic surgery with compassion and wellbeing.

Our Greenslopes rooms will still be maintained and will be available for medically complicated patients. For more information about our new facility, get in touch with us today.

## Save the Date

Join us for the Optometry event of the year! Our annual Love Your Eyes Charity Dinner, raising funds for eye research. Held in the luxe Ballroom at Victoria Park, guests will enjoy live entertainment, silent auctions and raffles, among other fun surprises.

We are inviting you to help us in our campaign and fundraising efforts. Ways that you can do this is by joining us as a valued partner, sponsor or attendee, donate a prize or an auction item. Follow this link for more information.

Grab your earlybird tickets now via our website: [lvfeyecentre.org.au/events/fundraising](http://lvfeyecentre.org.au/events/fundraising)