



Layton Vision Foundation Ltd
ABN 48 610 760 604
Level 10, 12 Creek St
Brisbane 4000

Layton Vision Foundation Ltd
ABN: 48 610 760 604

Annual Report

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30 2022

Directors

The names of each person who has been a director during the year and to the date of this report are:

- Professor Christopher James Layton
- Dr Simone Becker
- Professor Terry Richard Walton AM
- Mr Emmanuel Georga

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report.

Principal Activities

The principal activity of the company during the financial year is to promote the prevention or the control of diseases in human beings. In this case, the prevention and the control of blindness in human beings in Australia. Border closures in previous years have meant activities elsewhere, especially in the South Pacific Nations, have now been curtailed and research efforts to provide treatment options suitable for use in these countries have commensurately increased.

Short-term Objectives

- Establish and fund a high quality local research program with the aim of developing single intervention therapies suitable for use in low resource settings
- Establish a sustainable profile in the Australian vision, science, international aid and wider communities to support and enable these objectives

The company's **Long-term Objectives** are to:

- Discover single intervention therapies for use in both low and high resource settings for the prevention and treatment of blindness which are suitable for regulatory approval
- Provide specialist ophthalmology and optometry services especially where access to care is limited by physical barriers
- Provide world class clinical education opportunities for local eye health practitioners
- Promote effective public awareness and health intervention to treat and prevent blindness, particularly in Australia and the Asia Pacific region, and to develop improving low vision and visual rehabilitation services both in the first world and in international development settings

Strategies

To achieve its stated objectives, the company has adopted the following strategies:

- To support research programs and projects through industry, government and philanthropic partnerships which aim to advance development of curative single treatment interventions for blinding diseases
- To maintain Queensland based research fellowships and laboratory infrastructure to allow the development of the next generation of visual scientists and ophthalmic surgeon-scientists, thereby helping to establish a critical mass of eye research professionals in Australia capable of addressing the burden of incurable blindness.
- To promote public awareness and to develop health interventions to reduce the burden of currently treatable blinding disease particularly in Australia and Pacific.

Key Performance Measures: The company measures its own performance through the use of both quantitative and qualitative benchmarks. The benchmarks are used by the directors to assess the financial sustainability of the company and whether the company's short-term and long-term objectives are being achieved. Note that research output this year was affected by maternity leave commitments from our most senior fellow.

Research Impact	2023/4		2022/3	
	Actual	Benchmark	Actual	Benchmark
Peer Reviewed Publications	2	2	2	3
Conference Presentations	3	2	5	3
Peer reviewed citations per fellow	40	15	34	15
Trainee/Fellow destinations to NFP aligned research positions	100%	80%	100%	80%
Staff and Volunteers				
Staff and Volunteers	2023/4		2022/3	
	Actual	Benchmark	Actual	Benchmark
Ophthalmologist Volunteer Hours	1440	600	1440	600
Eye Research Volunteer Hours	500	500	500	500
LVF Senior Research Fellow	1976	960	1976	960
LVF PhD Research Fellow	1040	960	Successful recruitment	960
Fundraising Manager	590	590	0	0
FTE Volunteers/Fellows	3.05 FTE	1.8 FTE	2.0 FTE	1.5 FTE
Operational and Financial				
Operational and Financial	2023/4		2022/3	
	Actual	Benchmark	Actual	Benchmark
Donations	100	70	100	70
Outside Grants	0	25	0	25
Investments	0	5	0	5
Percentage of Funds Spent on				
Percentage of Funds Spent on	2023/4		2022/2023	
	Actual	Benchmark	Actual	Benchmark
Programs and Research	80	60	98	60
Promotions and Fundraising	20	20	1	20
Administration	0	20	0	20

FUNDED PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS FOR 2023/4

Conference Presentations:

1. Castro, B.F.M.; Kozlov, S.; Layton, C.J. Optimising Gene Therapies for Acquired Retinal Diseases - Controlled Expression and Engineered AAV Capsids. **Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research (ASSCR) ECR Symposium**, Brisbane, 2023. Oral Presentation.
2. Castro, B.F.M.; Kozlov, S.; Steel, J.C.; Layton, C.J. Engineered AAV capsids and inducible systems as strategies for an optimised gene therapy targeting acquired retinal diseases. **One TRI Conference**, Brisbane, 2024. Oral Presentation.
3. Castro, B.F.M.; Kozlov, S.; Steel, J.C.; Layton, C.J. Next generation retinal therapeutics and gene delivery vectors. **TRI Biotech Stage**, Brisbane, 2024. Oral presentation.

Publications:

1. Castro, B.F.M.; Steel, J.C.; Layton, C.J. AAV-based strategies for treatment of glaucoma and uveitis: are we there yet? *Expert Reviews in Molecular Medicine* 26 e9.
2. Castro, B.F.M.; Steel, J.C.; Layton, C.J. AAV-based strategies for treatment of retinal and choroidal vascular diseases: advances in age-related macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy therapies. *Biodrugs*, 2023 38 (1), 73-93.

Information on Directors:

Professor Christopher Layton

Qualifications

B.App.Sc (Hons) MBBS (Hons) D.Phil (Oxon) FRANZCO

Experience

Professor Layton is a specialist ophthalmologist and holds academic appointments in Ophthalmology at the University of Queensland and Central Queensland University. He is director of 5 private companies and is the past president of the Oxford University Society Qld. He has 30 years' experience in the eyecare industry and has won multiple awards, including QUT Young Alumni of the Year and the Rhodes Scholarship. He is a Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmology

Special responsibilities

Advising the Foundation's activities in research and ophthalmic health care and directing eye care and research efforts of the foundation.

Dr Simone Becker

Qualifications

B.Sc (Hons), MBBS, FRANZCP.

Experience

Dr Becker is a specialist medical practitioner and registered specialist psychiatrist in the Worcester NHS Trust. She acts as director of 1 other private company and has 25 years' experience in the medical industry. She is a Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists.

Special responsibilities

Advising on psychiatric, rehabilitative and well being aspects of visual disability, blinding disorders and interventions.

Professor Terry Richard Walton AM

Qualifications

BDS MDS (Pros)

Experience

Prof Terry Walton is a specialist prosthodontist and holds the position of Professor (Affiliate) at the University of Sydney. He is a member of many dental organisations including the International College of Prosthodontists, of which he was co-president in 2000- 2001, the International College of Dentists and the Pierre Fauchard Academy, and is on the Editorial Board of the International Journal of Prosthodontics. He is a Member of the Order of Australia (General Division).

Special responsibilities

Professor Walton provides senior academic guidance from a generalist perspective to the Foundation's research focuses, especially in the areas of product development, medical devices and medical prostheses.

Mr Emmanuel Georga

Qualifications

B. Bus & Bus Law & Tax, CA, CTA

Experience

Emmanuel Georga is an accountant and partner at AH Jackson & Co Chartered Accountants. He is a Member of the Chartered Accountants Australia & New Zealand and a Chartered Tax Advisor with the Tax Institute.

Special responsibilities

Advising the Foundation on financial, compliance and governance matters.

MEETINGS OF DIRECTORS

During the 2023-2024 year, 1 meeting of directors were held due to personal family circumstances of the directors. The next AGM will be on November 30, 2024. Attendance was:

	Number Eligible to Attend	Attendance
Prof Christopher Layton	1	1
Dr Simone Becker	1	0
Mr Emmanuel Georga	1	1
Prof Terry Walton	1	1

Members' guarantee

Layton Vision Foundation Ltd is a company limited by guarantee. In the event of, and for the purpose of winding up of the company, the amount capable of being called up from each member and any person or association who ceased to be a member in the year prior to the winding up, is limited to \$10 for members, subject to the provisions of the company's constitution.

At 30 June 2022 the collective liability of members was \$ 40 (2020: \$ 40).

Auditor's independence declaration

The lead auditor's independence declaration in accordance with section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001*, for the year ended 30 June 2022 has been received and can be found at the end of the financial report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:

Director:

Director:

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Professor Christopher James Layton

Mr Emmanuel Georga

Dated this day of 2022

Disclaimer

The additional financial data presented is in accordance with the books and records of the company which have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our statutory audit of the company for the year ended 30 June 2022. It will be appreciated that our statutory audit did not cover all details of the additional financial data. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on such financial data and we give no warranty of accuracy or reliability in respect of the data provided. Neither the firm nor any member or employee of the firm undertakes responsibility in any way whatsoever to any person (other than Layton Vision Foundation Ltd) in respect of such data, including any errors of omissions therein however caused.

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