



Retina Australia National Congress

GLOBAL EYES 2015

Melbourne | October 23rd - 25th

BIONICS, GENE THERAPY, STEM CELLS & MORE

DRAFT PROGRAM

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:

Phone: +61 3 9650 5088
Email: support@retinavic.org.au

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

9.00 - 9.20 **Official Opening**

Mr Graeme Banks OAM

President of Retina Australia

Proposed - *The Right Honourable Lord Mayor Robert Doyle*
City of Melbourne

9.20 - 10.20 **Keynote Lecture**
“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/MEEI,
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 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, Quantum and Pacific Vision.

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.

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 24 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

Professor Jan Provis

ANU Medical School

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,
Children's Hospital 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 **TOPIC: 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 **TOPIC: 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** – Summary of Scientific Presentations

Dr Gerald Chader
- 15.50 – 16.00 **Closing Remarks**

Mr Graeme Banks OAM
President of Retina Australia

Registration Fees:

Full payment will be required by Friday 9 October 2015. If electing to pay an EARLY BIRD* fee, full payment must be received prior to Friday 14 August 2015. All amounts are GST inclusive.

General Delegates:

Welcome Function, Dinner & all sessions Saturday and Sunday
All inclusive package

\$360.00

Early Bird: All inclusive package*

\$250.00

Welcome Function - Friday 23 October from 6 to 8pm (Drinks not included)

\$25.00

Saturday 24 October Day Session includes Morning/Afternoon Tea & Lunch \$130.00

Early Bird: Saturday 24 October Day session only *

\$100.00

Congress Dinner - Saturday 24 October from 7 to 10.30pm (Drinks not included) \$75.00

Sunday 25 October Day Session includes Morning/Afternoon Tea & Lunch \$130.00

Early Bird: Sunday 25 October Day session only * \$100.00

Professional Delegates:

Welcome Function, Dinner & all sessions Saturday and Sunday
All inclusive package

\$460.00

Early Bird: All inclusive package*

\$350.00

Welcome Function - Friday 23 October from 6 to 8pm (Drinks not included)

\$25.00

Saturday 24 October Day Session includes Morning/Afternoon Tea & Lunch \$180.00

Early Bird: Saturday 24 October Day session only *

\$150.00

Congress Dinner - Saturday 24 October from 7 to 10.30pm (Drinks not included) \$75.00

Sunday 25 October Day Session includes Morning/Afternoon Tea & Lunch \$180.00

Early Bird: Sunday 25 October Day session only * \$150.00