

# THE VIEW

CORNEAL RESEARCH GROUP AT THE SAVE SIGHT INSTITUTE  
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SEE  
THE  
FUTURE

## PROF STEPHANIE WATSON

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In this issues of The View, I am pleased to share with you some of our multidisciplinary team of researchers, clinicians and our projects. These projects are all working towards improving outcomes for patients with eye disease and improving eye health.

The work that we do would not be possible without the generosity of donors and supporters. I thank these visionary individuals and organisations for the immense trust that they put in our team.



# FIGHT CORNEAL BLINDNESS!

The Save Sight Registries: Fight Corneal Blindness! (FCB!) Project is a web-based registry, which enables clinicians to securely enter clinical and patient-reported data, and monitor outcomes over time.

The purpose of this project is to understand the effectiveness and safety of emerging therapies and surgical techniques to improve the management of corneal diseases such as keratoconus and dry eye disease.

## KERATOCONUS REGISTRY

by **Himal Kandel**

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The Save Sight Registries Keratoconus Registry was established in 2015. The project has shed light on the natural history of keratoconus and the treatment outcomes of corneal cross-linking which is the only treatment available for halting progression.

A recent study found patients who had never undergone treatment had steeper corneal curvature (kmax) and younger age were the most clinically useful baseline predictors of progression. Another study compared the effectiveness and safety of two common types of cross-linking and showed that both methods improve outcomes. The study recommended that the shorter method may be more appropriate for time and convenience.



## DRY EYE REGISTRY

by **Pauline Khoo**

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The Save Sight Registries Dry Eye Registry was launched in December 2020 and is the first registry to incorporate both ophthalmologists and optometrists. The data obtained from this registry will allow us to evaluate disease progression and treatment outcomes for patients with dry eye disease. To date, the registry is being used in 25 sites across 8 countries.

This registry also collects patient reported outcome measures that can help us understanding patients' symptoms.



**TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE SAVE SIGHT REGISTRIES GO TO [SAVESIGHTREGISTRIES.ORG](https://www.savesightregistries.org)**

## OCULAR TRAUMA

by Annette Hoskin

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Children account for almost 1/3 of eye injuries. The most devastating of these is an open globe injury and up to 40% of these injuries result in significant vision loss. Our study found that in 30% of eye injuries, another child was involved. The most common open globe injury was from wooden sticks and branches and boys aged 12 - 14 years were most likely to be affected.



## OCULAR SEALANT

by Jackie Tan

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Can we avoid sutures during corneal surgeries? Our team is developing a film composed of sugar molecules which sticks to the eye on exposure to infrared laser. This new technology is easier and quicker to apply, and our experimental models have demonstrated higher resistance to wound leak than sutures.

We hope to translate the use of this technology onto humans soon.



## LIMBAL STEM CELL DEFICIENCY

by Maria Cabrera-Aguas

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Our group is working on optimising the first stem cell treatment, known as 'Sight Cells' to treat a condition called 'limbal stem cell deficiency', towards the clinic through a Phase I clinical trial. In addition, we are developing educational resources for patients, patient support groups and health professionals about stem cell-related eye research.



## LISTEN TO SYDNEY EYE PODCAST

Want to explore topics related to eye health and get answers to some commonly asked questions about eye conditions? Listen to Sydney Eye Podcast, created by Dr Maria Cabrera-Aguas. You can access the podcast here: <http://bit.ly/3mrqUIU> or scan the QR code. It is also available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, Sticher and Youtube.



## MEET THE REST OF THE TEAM



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We can't do what we do without the support of our patients and community. Our research is funded 100% by grants, donations and bequests. To help us find new and improved ways to save sight please consider making a donation to the Corneal Research Group via our donation form online at <https://www.sydney.edu.au/save-sight-institute/support-us/donate.html> and selecting 'Corneal Research Group'. **Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.**